ASIAN J. MATH.
Vol. 4, No. 1, pp. iv–iv, March 2000

002

STUDENT REMINICENSES OF KODAIRA AT STANFORD*

REESE HARVEY† AND BLAINE LAWSON‡

Kunihiko Kodaira was a shy, unassuming man. Nevertheless, for us, and for most of the graduate students at Stanford at that time, Kodaira was an immense presence. The sheer majesty of his work spoke for him. We were all more than a little proud just to share his corridors.

Kodaira's courses and seminars were idiosyncratic. For lectures he would prepare each word carefully in advance, and then write everything out in beautiful script on the blackboard. The material would be crafted in his clear and elegant style and always bore the hallmark of his penetrating vision. What had appeared to be a difficult and technical subject seemed quite natural when he finished explaining it.

One of the common sights for a Stanford graduate student in those days was that of Kodaira and Spencer walking together and talking – the tall Spencer bent attentively over Kodaira, listening and responding. It was a symbol of our time.

*Received June 6, 2000.
†Department of Mathematics, Rice University, Houston, TX 77251-1892, U.S.A. (harvey@math.rice.edu).
‡Department of Mathematics, SUNY at Stony Brook, Stony Brook, NY 11794-3651, U.S.A. (blaine@math.sunysb.edu).