

It's an honor to have this opportunity to share my experiences regarding Mr. JQ Johnson.

I have known JQ for about 8 years; he was my supervisor for 5. When I first met him I realized he was very serious and dedicated to his profession but also very friendly. I usually am not intimidated by people, because of his intense nature I was. I had sat before someone who had a wealth of knowledge that was unprecedented.

I remember he asked me a couple of times if I felt comfortable working closely with certain male employees that had appeared to be a potential issue. The social & gender dynamics were on his radar which was reassuring for me.

I would always try to use his thorough perspective as a guide for how I handle requests and think about Educational Technology implementation.

When I was getting ready to address a topic for my dissertation, I met with various individuals, JQ being one, and nothing compared to the advice he gave me. He pointed out many aspects I would not have even considered.

Back when JQ had undergone his first series of chemotherapy, I remember I went to see him after he started accepting visitors. I brought him an iPad thanks to many of your contributions. I was so nervous; it was as if I was going to meet with the President. And I remember he said, "Nargas, don't get sick" with a slight smile on his face. He had a positive and pragmatic attitude about everything.

A co-worker once referred to him as Einstein due to his ingenuity, and another as Yoda because of his mastery ;)

The morning of July 7th, I had a dream that JQ was assisting me with a Blackboard trouble-ticket and he had a big smile on his face and was quite pleased at how I responded to the problem, he patted me on the back. There was a bright light of orangish hue surrounding him and he seemed happier than usual. I then awoke. This was the only time I recalled JQ coming to my dream and thought to myself oh my gosh I have to see if anything happened. But forgot to follow-up as I was getting ready to start my day. That evening I received a call from a co-worker informing me of JQ's passing. I immediately got all choked up, and when I hung up I could not stop crying for some time. I became weak and thought of that dream. It was as if JQ was saying goodbye and that he felt he left his dedication in good hands. I owe what I have acquired to JQ, his professional perspective has impacted many. JQ was an immense role model and mentor and it will not be the same without him...I will truly miss JQ.

Nargas