In the first year of my undergraduate study, I told people that I wanted to work in a think tank. For some reason, my words came true (and my exam results were strong enough for me to realize that dream). I managed to become employed in a think tank. In my four years and six months at ISIS Malaysia, I realized that securing a dream job meant nothing if you were not welcomed as part of the ‘tribe.’ And Dr Mahani Zainal Abidin was the head of this tribe.

My first introduction to Dr Mahani was as a student of the Malaysian economy. Her book, *Rewriting the Rules: The Malaysian Crisis Management Model* made me realize how important it is for the economic lessons learned in the classroom to be translated into clear actions. Despite the clear-cut solutions presented in this textbook, her book is an example of why economic policymaking is an art, a process, the outcome of which can be uncertain.

The book was based on her experience as a member of the Working Group of the National Economic Action Council (NEAC) formed during the 1998 Asian Financial and Economic Crisis (AFC). As you may recall, the proudest moment of the NEAC’s existence was when it convinced the nation that Malaysia could ride the AFC without the help of international bodies like the International Monetary Fund.

One of the questions that Dr Mahani asked me during my job interview was, ‘Why do you want to work in ISIS?’ My answer was, ‘because I’ve always wanted to work in a think tank.’ I got my bubble burst a few weeks later when my boss, Steven Wong, Director of Economics in ISIS, made this remark, ‘Sometimes, you like the food in a restaurant. Then you work in the restaurant’s kitchen and find out that it is a messy process.’

In this respect, I’ve learned the importance of being coy. Coyness in this case need not be a bad thing, but rather, can be an advantage, especially if you are dealing with a multitude of audiences, ranging from politicians to the ordinary Pak Mat on the street. You will need to break down your point of view and disseminate it in a variety of forms, so that in the end, the
person on the other side changes his or her perspective while believing he or she arrived at this new perspective on their own. I admit I never really mastered the process but I’m glad that I got to see it being done by a master. I still don’t know whether to call it coyness or a Jedi mind-trick.

Formerly an academician who worked on international trade and economics, Dr Mahani tried her best to bring the world of academia and policymaking together. We worked together on issues that required instant solutions and those that would be important in the future. However in an institution that employed only around 20 thinkers there was only so much that we could do.

There were times when I felt that, as an institution, we could do more, but she often brought me and my youthful notions down to earth. It took me awhile to realize that there is a clear distinction between throwing my efforts in different directions and on focusing on a specific area. As an economist-in-the-making, one is always hammered with the term ‘trade-off’ but once it is in front of you, you ‘freak out.’ In a way, we traded a small multitude of issues for a singular vision and dream. I wish I had learned this lesson earlier.

I admit I made a lot of mistakes in ISIS and I am glad Dr Mahani was there to correct some of them (she even corrected my grammatical errors). She was kind to the new. She took a lot of young researchers in and provided them with many avenues to interact, and to shape each others’ views. She started the tradition of yearly presentations for the research staff. I did not do very well in most of my presentations. I must say she took a risk on a ‘newbie’ like me, without a graduate degree and with mediocre writing skills; she ‘shaped’ me. She opened up many doors for me, such as when she wrote countless reference letters for my scholarship applications. I’m now in Nottingham University due to the last recommendation letter she wrote.

We also had some adventures together. I still cannot forget the time when she fearlessly took me gate-crashing at an event we didn’t RSVP to (the trick is to walk in with confidence). Then there was the time she saved me when she bailed me out in Bangkok after I got my pocket picked.

I’m going to miss dropping by at her office around 6pm everyday and talking about small and big matters. I’m going to miss her laugh. Most of all I’m going to miss her admonitory tone of ‘Izzatina!’ whenever she was exasperated with me.

I never managed to say my last goodbye to her, physically. Being currently more than ten thousand kilometres away in Nottingham, UK, this essay is my way of voicing my feelings on a friend and a mentor.

Goodbye, Mahani, I wish you all the best in the afterlife.
Bye-bye, teacher and once again thanks for everything. Sir/ma’am, you are a truly inspirational counselor who sacrifices everything just to make sure your students have the best. We will never forget you, dear tutor. You made school the most exciting place to be. You are not just a teacher to me, but an inspiration, a mentor and someone who selflessly imparts knowledge to me. It saddens my heart greatly to say goodbye. I must say that we are all beyond downcast to hear that you are leaving us because you are the greatest teacher we’ve ever had. From the deepest bottom of our hearts, we say thank you for everything. Goodbye Quotes For Friends.

Friends are the family that you get to choose. Your closest friends are your confidants, therapists, sidekicks and some of your biggest supporters. Make sure that they know however near or far they are, you always be there for them. You have been my friend. Saying goodbye to a significant other is one of the worst types of goodbyes. Whether the goodbye is permanent or temporary, it’s still very hard to be away from the person that you love. For him, Best Saying Goodbye To a Friend on MemesBams.com.

Here are some suggested ways to cope after separating from a friend:

1. Acceptance. The reason for the friendship breakup may simply be beyond you and your friend’s control. Sustaining friendship, for instance, can be hard if separated by great distances. Accept you got to walk your journey on your own and then meet new friends along the way.

2. Evolve. Though you may have been used to dealing with your daily struggles with your pal by your side, realize this could be the time for you to grow and become the person you want to be.

3. It’s all right a. It is good to wish him or her well. Find some great farewell messages for boss that will enable you to show your gratitude as well as thank them for the work done.

4. Farewell to a boss who showed us what leadership means. We will always miss your company in this organization.

5. Since you have stepped done as the caption of this ship, who will lead us through the stormy waters. Farewell, boss.

6. It has been so exciting working with a boss like you; it’s time to take on a bigger challenge. All the best and farewell boss! Farewell Message to Boss Who Is Leaving.

1. Farewell boss, you are a great leader. You showed us the steps to success and we always remember you for that.