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Professor Lam to Retire

Our Chinese program faculty share their memories of Professor Yuan-Chu (Ruby) Lam as she prepares to leave Wellesley College.

In her forty years of service to the Chinese program, Professor Lam has touched the lives of countless students, colleagues, and friends, and has left an indelible legacy to the Wellesley College community. When asked to share their memories of Ruby over the years, our Chinese program faculty recalled her dedication to the department and to scholarship, and the slice-of-life moments that they'll always treasure.

Dai Chen describes Ruby as someone who likes to help people, but who prefers to keep her charitable work quiet. "She once traveled to Tibet," Dai recalls, "and met a teenage waitress girl in a roadside restaurant. After she learned the girl didn't go to school because she couldn't afford tuition, Ruby offered to pay her tuition through college. One summer, I accompanied Ruby when she visited the girl in Jinan, where she was attending high school. It was a very touching moment for all of us."



Photo: Professor Lam.

Lili Foti recalls sitting in on one of Ruby's classes as an intern teacher, and can still remember her energetic teaching style and the great atmosphere in the classroom. Lili writes, "I would like to thank her for letting me observe her class 21 years ago, making a trip to Cambridge to drop a stereo set left to me by another language intern the year after, providing advice to me when I developed my textbooks, referring technique specialists to help me learn more about Sakai, introducing the library resources to me, bringing me to the faculty club to enjoy the great food and great view, and referring me to the department as a visiting scholar, and later, a visiting lecturer. And, most importantly, for being a friend. I'll always remember her humbleness and care and love to her students and colleagues. I hope she will visit often, and maybe join us for lunch at Collins or at Chinese Table again as she did in the past. I'm happy for her retirement, but I'll surely miss her."

"All her kindness to us, and her great contribution to the college, will be remembered in our hearts." —Weina Zhao

Ruby once invited Mingwei Song and Qiuyan Tang to a Catholic church in New Hampshire, where the resident pastor, Father Bolduc, had amassed an expansive collection of Mongolian, Manchu, and European-language texts about Chinese civilization. "We also saw thousands of books, documents, and materials, something that I saw for the first time, such as the Imperial Yellow Jacket, granted by the Manchu Emperor, the highest honor during the Qing Dynasty," Mingwei writes, (continued on page 8).

Faculty & Staff Updates

EALC faculty and staff are always up to something, whether it's here at Wellesley or somewhere else around the world. Here's what they've been busy with this year.

Lauren Cote has worked as the Department's Academic Administrator since August 2016. In October, she married her



Photo: Cote with her husband.

longtime partner, Cody Schaefer, in a private ceremony near their home in Attleboro, Massachusetts. Over spring break, she traveled to Iceland, where she was most excited to visit Star Wars filming locations and ride Icelandic horses. They are pictured here on Reynisfjara, a black sand beach along the south coast. She's

look-king forward to a summer of working in the Newhouse Center for the Humanities with Eve Zimmerman.

Incoming department chair **Sun-Hee Lee** is planning to present her latest research project—a critical discourse analysis of a media corpus on North Korean defectors—at conferences in Lancaster, England and Landau, Germany this summer.

She has also been hard at work helping her daughter, Juyeon Lee '18, finish her senior thesis project. She has also fallen in love with spin classes, and is spinning almost daily! Of course, her heart still lies with hot yoga.



Photo: Professor Lee with her daughter.

has also fallen in love with spin classes, and is spinning almost daily! Of course, her heart still lies with hot yoga.

In April, **Seok Bae Jang** welcomed biathlete and Korean program alumna Clare Egan '10 back to Wellesley as a guest lecturer in his Korean 102 and 202 classes. His students



Photo: Korean program students with Jang.

conversed with Clare in Korean about her experience at the 2018 Winter Games in Pyeongchang. Seok Bae will be leaving Wellesley at the end of this year to head the Korean program at Vanderbilt University. Our department's loss is Vanderbilt's gain.

Mingwei Song was invited to give lectures on posthuman narratives in the Sinophone world at Uppsala University, the oldest university in Scandinavia, and at the University of Stockholm.

He is also a key organizer for the 2018 Brandeis Novel Symposium at the Mandel Humanities Center at Brandeis University. His new book, *The Reincarnated Giant*, is set to be released in July (and is now available for preorder on Amazon)!



Photo: Professor Song with scholars after his lecture.



Photo: Dai Chen, Weina Zhao, and Qiuyan Tang pose with students at our department's dinner with President Johnson.

Dai Chen is spending the spring semester in Shanghai.

Weina Zhao just finished her second year as director of our Chinese program. This year, she oversaw a record number of Chinese language placement tests!

Qiuyan Tang recently published her translation of Ha Jin's novel, the Boat Rocker. She is planning to start on another translation project soon.

Eve Zimmerman is finishing her fourth and final year as Department Chair. In July, she will take over as Director of the Newhouse Center for the Humanities. With her kids in college, she has taken up traveling far and wide. This year, she has visited Santiago, Chile, Tel Aviv, Mexico City, Puerto Vallarta, and Los Angeles.



Photo: From left, Professor Widmer and professor Zimmerman.

Ellen Widmer delighted us with a poem in Eve's honor at this semester's final department meeting. (Photo left below) In the spring semester, her mailbox served as a depot for department chocolates. Whoever had any stored them there, and whoever needed one knew where to go. Many alert and energized faculty owe their vim and vigor to her mailbox!

Japanese program co-directors **Yoshimi Maeno** and **Eiko Torii-Williams** pose with Mikuko Nagashima, and Japanese speech contest winners Elisabeth Clemmons '19 and Megumi Murakami '17. They are already hard at work planning next year's contest, which will be held at Wellesley!



Photo: Students with professors at Japanese Speech Contest.

Robert Goree took a year-long sabbatical to work on his upcoming book. We look forward to having him back in the department next fall!



Photo: professor Goree.

Meet Our Language Assistants

Each year, we are privileged to welcome three young scholars to our Department who assist our faculty with language instruction. Maggie Jennings '18 sat down with Joy-Ann Tso, Mikuko Nagashima, and Chanyoung Lee to discuss their experiences at Wellesley.

What's something that surprised you when you first came to Wellesley?

Joy: Before I came to Wellesley I watched that movie, *Mona Lisa Smile*, so I was worried that the girls would be hard to deal with. But it was a nice surprise that the students were so easy going and not snobbish!

Mikuko: For me, it was the beauty of the campus. It was really surprising for me since I went to a university in Tokyo in the middle of the city, so it didn't have any trees or anything like this.

What do you like the most about being a Language Assistant?

Joy: The food, the gym, the PE classes! And it's so enjoyable to teach the students. They're so willing to learn and we get to really interact and share culture both ways with students.

Mikuko: Wellesley students are super smart so that really helps us. I hear that the other TA from our program at another school has students that don't always do their homework or memorize dialogues, so it really makes it easier for us.

What's the hardest part of your job?

Joy: It's been a challenge, but also a good opportunity for me to grow as well. I'm from Taiwan and we use the traditional characters, but the textbooks here use both traditional and simplified characters, though the students mostly use simplified characters, so I've had to check before I tell them the right answer. I try to get them more practice



Photo: Joy-Ann Tso (left) and Mikuko Nagashima (right) are from Taiwan and Japan, respectively.

with the traditional characters and it's been a good opportunity for me to learn the simplified.

Mikuko: For me, I would really like to have more time with students. But they're just so busy with work and activities, it's hard for me to take their time or for them to make time for me. I always want to have more events, but it can be hard for students to schedule.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Joy: We work out a lot!

Mikuko: Last winter, we did a 5K run called the Miss Santa run!

Joy: Yeah, it was the first day of snow so it was fun.

Mikuko: I was so miserable, I almost died. But we try to be active!

What do you miss the most about Japan/ Taiwan?

Joy: I think I miss the health insurance. When we go to see the doctor, we only pay about \$2. I'm really appreciative of the insurance we have here, but it's a much more complicated system.

Mikuko: Trains, definitely. I think we I first got on the commuter rail here, I had my first culture shock! I didn't know how to pay on the train here and you just tap your card in Tokyo, which is so easy.

What will you miss the most about Wellesley?

Joy: The free gym, the free courses, the free food... and of course, the students. They're so hard-working and motivated, they even remind me when I forget to pick up homework. If I teach Chinese anywhere else, I'm sure I'll miss them.

Mikuko: Torii-sensei and Maeno-sensei. They're so caring, they're like moms to me. I'll also miss the air, it's so clean and refreshing, even though it's cold.



1,600+ Hours!

Over the course of this year, Chanyoung, Mikuko, and Joy spent a combined total of more than 1,600 hours teaching, preparing for classes, and preparing events for our students in our department's language corridors.

Here are just a few of the events they participated in with students:

- Japan and Korea Corridor Karaoke/Noraebang Night. This was hugely popular with students and faculty, and we are hoping to make this an annual event.
- Trips to Chinese, Japanese, and Korean restaurants in Boston and Wellesley
- Student organizations' culture shows
- Card-making, calligraphy lessons, and other craft projects
- Cooking demonstrations

Next year, we will have a Chinese language corridor for the first time in many years! We're hoping to host joint events will all three language corridors.

Photo: Lee is preparing Ddeokguk in Korean corridor.

What's something that surprised you when you first came to Wellesley?

Chanyoung: As you know, I am the only male language assistant, which was a surprising situation. But I got used to it, and one more thing was the consideration for gender. Because this is one of the most liberal colleges, the students and people here are very thoughtful about that. I was very surprised and learned a lot from them here, and it was a very good and important experience for me.

What is it like to live with the students?

Chanyoung: Actually, it was my first time to teach students, so I was very nervous, but the students here have a lot of energy and power. So I've gotten a lot of energy from them, and it's been very fun.

What do you like the most about being a Language Assistant?

Chanyoung: I'm studying linguistics in South Korea and I'm going to teach

students later, so it was a very good experience for me to teach, even in the US. I had several classes throughout these two semesters and it was very helpful for my career. I learned how to communicate with students, get feedback from them, and how to teach them better.

What's the hardest part of your job?

Chanyoung: This is not very important, but I am a night person, so the first 8:30 class was really hard to wake up for. I also regret not studying English more (before I came) because I could have taught students better.

What do you like to do in your free time?

Chanyoung: I had a lot of free time, time more than when I was in Korea, so I did a lot of things. I like to read, so I read a lot of contemporary novels (Korean and translated). I got to get to know American writers. I was in a musical band in Korea, so I bought an electric piano and used my computer to make music. I also joined Wellesley

Blue Jazz last semester and it was a really good time.

Do you have a favorite spot in Wellesley or Boston?

Chanyoung: I really like to walk around the lake. I went there yesterday and on weekends I usually walk around there. In Boston, my favorite spot is Newbury Street. I didn't do much there, but I just walk around and it's really nice.

What do you miss the most about Korea?

Chanyoung: I like to be in America, but sometimes I miss my friends. I talk to them a lot.

What will you miss the most about Wellesley?

Chanyoung: The wonderful campus. I was surprised when I arrived here, I really love the campus and I'll miss it when I go.

Year in Review

Our department holds countless events throughout the year, including special lectures, class visits, concerts, and, of course, dinner parties! Here are just a few of our highlights from 2017- 2018.



Photo: President Johnson exchanges business cards with Daniela Gomez '20

In December, we hosted a dinner complete with Chinese, Japanese, and Korean foods, a sushi demonstration, some cultural presentations, and even some dancing. President Paula Johnson graciously joined us as our guest of honor for the evening. Above, she exchanges business cards with Daniela Gomez '20 as part of a business etiquette demonstration.



Photo: A Chunhogarang ensemble member shows Gigi Gabeau '21 how to play the gayageum.

In March, our department hosted Chunhogarang, an all-male gayageum and traditional music ensemble from Seoul, South Korea. While they were on campus, we were treated to a concert and personalized workshop with our Korea Corridor. In the above photo, a Chunhogarang ensemble member shows Gigi Gabeau '21 how to play the gayageum.



Photo: Jae Young Song, Sun-Hee Lee, Lauren Cote, and Seok Bae Jang gather for a photo(above) with Chunhogarang after their concert.



Photo: From left, EAS majors Vanessa Willoughby '18 and Linda Zhou '18 pose with professor Sun-Hee Lee.



Photo: Graduating Japanese majors and minors with professors.

In May, we gathered for one last dinner with our graduating EALC and EAS majors and minors. In the photo, above are our Japanese majors and minors.

Chinese majors and minors are in the photo below. Congratulations to all of you, and we miss you already!



Photo: Graduating Chinese majors and minors with professors.

Professor Lam (continued)

“That was when we began to learn about Ruby’s scholarship, her academic work inspired by her own mentor, Professor Francis Cleaves, who left all his collection, as well as his drafts of translations and commentaries on some important Yuan Dynasty documents, to Father Buldoc. I recently learned that Ruby has single-handedly further developed the library in the church into a sort of research institute, where scholars interested in working on the topic could spend time reading, researching the materials and furthering the study in the field.” He continues, “I am obliged and happy to share this story I know about Ruby Lam, our dear colleague, her own mentor, and her mentor’s friend, as well as an important thread that helped shaping the contemporary Sinology. Weina Zhao, who has served as director of the Chinese program for the past two years, is thankful for Ruby’s support, advice, and mentorship. “Since I came to Wellesley College in 1996,” she says, “Ruby has been a big sister, good mentor, and good colleague for me. I still remember the day for my first-time car inspected, she went to the garage with me because I did not know what to do. “Being the program director in the past two years, I really appreciate the advice, mentoring, and help she gave me. Ruby always gave me great support in all kinds of ways. Although she is a much senior faculty in the college, she is so humble, so thoughtful and respectful to all her colleagues. All her kindness to us, and her great contribution to the college will be remembered in our hearts.” Xie xie, Ruby! Thank you for all you have done for our department. We will miss you.

Alumnae Spotlight

A year after graduation, Korean program alumna Amanda Kraley '17 spoke with us about her experience as a Knafel Fellow.

I’m halfway into my year as a Knafel Traveling Fellow, during which time I’ve been researching gender equity in Internet policy in South Korea, Japan, and South Africa. I’m currently in France, and in the coming months will be in Norway and the UK.

One of the things to come out of my time on the road so far is a project called 21st Century Public Service (21PS). There is a critical need for tech-savvy policymakers and



Photo: Kraley '17.

civic-minded technologists to navigate our shifting technological and social landscape. A wide range of organizations have done a great job at connecting and encouraging young women for public service and for STEM roles independently, but fewer are focused on intersections between the two. There is an increasing support for individuals that work

in this space, but it is targeted more at mid-level professionals – in short, the critical ‘first step’ is missing.

With that in mind -- and being inspired by other Wellesley students who already do great work in both tech and public service -- I recently launched 21PS. A bit about us: 21PS is a newsletter and community that gives young women actionable tools to make change at the intersection of tech and public service.

21PS curates a bi-weekly emailed newsletter, connecting young women with jobs, internships, conferences, workshops, and highlighting people and organizations doing interesting work in these overlapping fields. You can find us online at www.21stcenturypublicservice.com. “

EALC and EAS alumnae, we want to hear from you! If you would like to be featured in our next issue, please write to Anna Park at hpark12@wellesley.edu

KEEP UP WITH US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

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