Da Zheng’s “Silent Traveller” Biography Inspires Exhibit

Chieng Yee and Da Zheng never met, yet their lives have interesting parallels.
Both were born in China but moved to the West to pursue higher education. Though of different generations, they shared a fascination with art, literature and education.
Zheng, an English Department faculty member, first learned of Chiang Yee when a friend sent him Yee’s English-language book on calligraphy, initially published in 1938. Zheng, then studying in Shanghai, worked with friends to translate the volume into Chinese.
Zheng moved to the United States in 1986. One day a book on a friend’s coffee table caught his eye. It was called The Silent Traveller in Boston, and on the cover was a watercolor of Park Street Church, a landmark Zheng had not yet seen.
“I saw the name Chiang Yee and was amazed,” said Zheng. “I didn’t know that the author of Chinese Calligraphy was also a travel writer.”
The artist-author piqued Zheng’s interest, and he began to read more about him. Zheng’s research is focused on Chinese-American literature, and Yee, who covered art, travel, memoir and children’s stories in more than 25 published books, made a fascinating subject.
In February Zheng published Chiang Yee: The Silent Traveller from the East, a cultural study of a man who spent more than half his life in the West writing and illustrating a series of travel books from the point of view of an outsider looking in.
“This is a book I really put my heart into,” said Zheng. “To a large extent I was writing about someone like myself.”
Yee was a close friend of historian and Boston Athenaeum Director Walter Muir Whitehill, and the illustrations for The Silent Traveller in Boston are now in the Athenaeum’s collection. The Athenaeum has allowed the University to reproduce them for an exhibit at the Adams Gallery.

The exhibit Chiang Yee: The Silent Traveller from the East, celebrating both the author of the Silent Traveller books and Zheng’s comprehensive study of his life and times, will run from March 26 through May 30.
Zheng will speak on “Chiang Yee, the Boston Athenaeum, and Cultural Understanding” at 6 p.m. Thursday, April 15, at the Boston Athenaeum.

Center Spearheads Efforts to Teach Advocacy Skills at U.N.

Laura Roskos and Amy Agigian of the Center for Women’s Health and Human Rights will offer experience in the art of advocacy at the United Nations through sessions to be held in conjunction with the 2010 Non-Proliferation Treaty Review Conference and the meetings of the Commission on the Status of Women.
The 20 participants chosen for each session will gain temporary delegate status, attend official and non-government organization (NGO) sessions, and contribute to the documentation of both official and NGO meetings at the United Nations in New York.
In addition to learning about negotiation, advocacy points and networking, practicum participants complete several assignments, the most important of which is to create an advocacy project when they return to their home campuses.
“We teach the women how important citizen engagement is,” said Roskos. “They figure out the ropes, learn how to network with NGOs, meet government officials and participate in turning specific proposals into documents that can be adopted by U.N. bodies. This success empowers them to engage in successful civic campaigns in their home environments.”
Faculty Publications


Giana Eckhardt, Marketing. Her paper “A Brief History of Branding in China” (co-authored with Anders Bengtsson) was published in the Journal of Macromarketing, Nov. 2009.

C. Gopinath, Strategy and International Business. His opinion column “Google is upset with China” was published in The Hindu Business Line on Feb. 1, 2010.

Liz Drexler-Hines, Health and Wellness Services. Her article “Peer Education: Is it Working?” was published in College Health in Action, the American College Health Association’s newsletter.

Peter Jeffrey, English. His edition of C.P. Cavafy’s Selected Prose Writings will be published by the University of Michigan Press this spring. The volume, which is part of the University of Michigan’s series Writers on Writing, will be jointly published in the United Kingdom as part of the University of Birmingham’s Modern Greek Translations Series. It is the first English translation of Cavafy’s prose works to date. Also, Jeffrey’s book The Forster—Cavafy Letters: Friends at a Slight Angle was reviewed in the Dec. 4, 2009, London Times Literary Supplement (TLS) and will be translated into Greek and published by the Ikaros Press (Athens) this summer.

Micky Lee, Communication and Journalism. Her article “Revisiting the ‘Google in China’ Question from a Political Economic Perspective” will be published in China Media Research.


Amy Marks, Psychology, has published the book Immigrant Stories: Ethnicity and Academics in Middle Childhood, 2009.


Vietnam Honors Marchant

English Professor Fred Marchant displays the Commemoration Medal for the Advancement of the Arts and Literature in Vietnam awarded during a ceremony held on the eve of the 2010 International Conference on Vietnamese Literature in Hanoi. Marchant, with Nguyen Ba Chung of the William Joiner Center, has published a translation of From a Corner of My Yard, the earliest book by the beloved Vietnamese writer Tran Dang Khoa. (Photo by John Gillooly)
Robert Allison, History, was named an honorary member of the Massachusetts Society of the Cincinnati. The officers in the Continental Army founded the Society of the Cincinnati in 1783 to honor Washington, whom they compared to Cincinnatus, a Roman general who gave up power and returned to private life after saving the Republic. Membership is limited to descendants of Washington’s officers, though occasionally the Society will honor a citizen with membership.

William Berman, Law School, received the Community Project of the Year Award from the Chelsea Human Services Collaborative in recognition of the work that he and his clinical students are doing in Chelsea for tenants in foreclosed properties who are facing eviction.


Lydia Martin, NESAD, and student Tyler Tornaben, volunteer their time to teach arts and crafts workshops at the Heritage Apartments, a government subsidized residence for the disabled in East Boston.

Samantha Moppett, Law School. Her poster “Acknowledging America’s First Sovereign: Incorporating Tribal Justice Systems Into the Legal Research and Writing Curriculum,” selected by The Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Section on Legal Writing, Reasoning, and Research, was presented at the AALS meeting held in New Orleans in January.

Jeff Rhind of University Media Services and Dania Swartz were married on Dec. 16, 2009.

Yong Xue, History, appeared on the National Public Radio program “On Point” discussing the recent confrontation between Google and China.

Lydia Martin’s valentine project.
No More Excuses…
Eat Your Breakfast!

If you are someone who thinks you don’t have enough time to eat breakfast, think again. We often spend our mornings running around getting our families ready for the day, yet we forget ourselves in the mix. Most of us know the benefits of feeding our children breakfast: They will concentrate better in school, have fuel for the day to be more physically active and have fewer sick days from school. Why don’t we apply the same rules to ourselves?

 Skipping breakfast decreases your metabolism and makes it harder for you to concentrate. This ultimately leads you to snack impulsively later in the day. Why not try some of these healthy and quick breakfast ideas to start your day off on the right foot?

• Smoothies are great options. Blend low-fat yogurt with fruit (frozen or fresh is fine), put it in a travel mug and go.
• Whole grain cold or hot cereals can satisfy you for hours.
• Whole grain bagels with a little peanut butter can keep you full until lunchtime.
• Try baking a batch of bran muffins or even hard boil some eggs the day before. You can easily grab one in the morning.

Even if you are short on time, quick and flexible options can give you plenty of healthy ways to put breakfast back on your “To Do” list.

Of course, always speak with your medical provider about any health concerns you may have.

Fitness Buddies Get Workday off to an Energetic Start

Early-bird habits, an affinity for exercise and a convenient workout facility have created an informal exercise group at the Rosalie K. Stahl Center.

Associate Dean of Students Rich DeCapua usually starts the workday at the first-floor fitness room at 73 Tremont St., where he is likely to encounter regulars Marguerite Dennis, vice president for Enrollment & International Programs; Yvette Velez, director of Off-Campus Housing; Joshua Cheney, associate director of Residence Life and Summer Programs; and Kinga Pastuszak, assistant professor in the Counseling Center.

“The same group is always there,” said DeCapua, who arrives around 6:30 a.m. “We kind of have a system of going from one machine to another.”

The fitness area is equipped with weight-lifting and aerobic exercise equipment and offers lockers, showers and televisions. It is open morning through night to University employees for a one-time membership fee of $20.

“I try to get in there five days a week, and I love it,” said DeCapua, an avid runner who averages 50 miles per week and has participated in five marathons. “I feel much better after working out, both mentally and physically. You feel more energized and refreshed, and that helps you work better.”

Dennis, too, talked about the energizing aspect of the fitness center.

“Working out here helps me to set the tone for the day,” she said. “It’s very convenient and a wonderful benefit of being in this building.”

Said Velez: “I’m fully awake after working out; it motivates me. Exercise always helps to relieve stress in a person’s life. You need that outlet, especially in the cold weather when it’s not that easy to run outside.”

Haiti Relief Effort

The campus community was quick to respond to the devastation wrought by the earthquake in Haiti, with faculty and students from all three schools coordinating efforts through SU ONE: Helping Haiti Together.

SU ONE activities had raised $1,600 by late February, according to Dave DeAngelis, director of Student Leadership and Involvement.

As part of the effort, Facilities Management has organized a campus bottle and can drive, with collection bins in the lobbies of each campus building.