

CHSNE 150 YEARS OF CHINESE STUDENTS IN AMERICA INITIATIVE – CALLING FOR INFORMATION!

PLBO Br. York Lo (羅元旭)



The website for the “CHSNE 150 Years of Chinese Students in America Initiative” will launch before the end of the year and the objective is to turn this site into an information hub for photos, materials and links related to the first three waves of Chinese students in America – the CEM or Chinese Educational Mission by reform-minded officials of the Qing dynasty to educate a group of 120 Chinese students in the United States in the 19th century, the Boxer Indemnity scholars in the early 20th century (including the founding Brothers of Phi Lambda), and the post-War years up to the 1970s. In addition to financial support, we would appreciate if PL members can contribute articles and pictures about yourself or relatives who might have been a CEM student from 1872-1882, a Boxer Indemnity scholar from the 1900s-1940s, or a student in US colleges and high schools in the 1950s-1960s.



Gathering of Chinese students from different colleges in the Northeast in 1911

By way of example, PLNY Br. Julian Suez (史濟良) has contributed an article in the 2020 PLUS Bulletin about his time as a student at the University of Texas and MIT in the 1950s and also provided information on his many relatives who were early Chinese students in America. We would also be happy to conduct an oral history interview with you or your friends and relatives to preserve their history. If you are interested in submitting any materials or would like us to conduct oral history interviews, please feel free to reach out to me at yorklo@alum.mit.edu and our executive director Brianna Allen at director@chsne.org. The materials will be archived and posted on the website (with your permission) and might also be included in our annual publication the *CHSNE Chronicle*, or potentially published in a standalone book if we have a sufficient quantity of quality materials.

The first event for the initiative will be a webinar in January/February 2022 (meeting details will be provided when available) with panelists Professor Gabriel “Jack” Chin of the UC Davis Law School, Professor Mike Duvall of the College of Charleston and Edward Rhoads, retired professor of Chinese history at University of Texas at Austin on the lives of three CEM students who stayed in America:



Hong-Yen Chang (張康仁, 1859-1926), educated at Phillips Academy-Andover, Yale and Columbia Law, Class of 1886 - the first Chinese immigrant to practice law in the United States;

https://yalealumnimagazine.com/blog_posts/2056-after-125-years-living-yalies-help-first-chinese-american-lawyer-win-admission-to-the-bar



Yan-Phou Lee (李恩富, 1861-1938?), educated at Hopkins School and Yale, Class of 1887 – the first Asian author to publish a book in English in the United States;

<https://yalealumnimagazine.com/articles/5324-yan-phou-lee>



Yung Kwai (容揆, 1861-1943), educated at Springfield High and Yale, Class of 1884 – freelance writer and reporter, diplomat with the Chinese Legation in Washington, D.C.;

https://www.cemconnections.org/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=173

Editor’s Note: The photo that leads off this article is one that was taken in 2019 before Br. York Lo was initiated into PLUS. He is shown with Michelle Wu (吳弭), daughter of Taiwanese immigrants and an American lawyer and politician. She was the first Asian American woman to serve on the Boston City Council, initially elected in 2013 and serving from 2014 to 2021, including a stint as council president from 2016 to 2018. Wu was a candidate in the 2021 Boston mayoral election and won decisively, becoming the first woman, first person of color, and first Asian American elected to serve as the mayor of a major American city. According to the 2020 census, Boston is the 21st largest city in the United States with a population of 695,506, ranking just behind Washington, D.C.