

Gulfcoast Chinese-American Association (GCAA) Newsletter

Issue Jan-Feb 2008 - Released on Jan 03, 2008

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Highlights of this issue

- Please attend our monthly social on **Sunday Jan 6**, a volunteers meeting will be held for the Chinese New Year '08 celebration activities at **4:30PM** at the restaurant. [See restaurant address under Monthly Social.](#)
- Chinese New Year Celebration is planned to be held on **Feb 10 '08**, there will be 2 parts: performance and dinner. Please [see detailed schedule under item 3](#), RSVP required.
- GCAA Table Tennis Tournament, [see details under item 3](#), participant registration required.

GCAA warmly welcome our new members: **Hong Lin** and **Cheng Xiao (Angelina)**, students at LECOM, School of Pharmacy.

1. Message from the President

By Dr. Xueji Zhang

Dear GCAA members,

Time flies and the end of year is fast approaching. Thanks to the support of our volunteers, sister communities and our directors, GCAA has been able to sustain not only its long existing services, but also to expand into new and needed services for our members and friends. We are proud to acknowledge that our membership continues to grow.

Like previous years, we have been in partnership with other organizations and communities in organizing large events such as New Year Party and Mid-autumn Festival Party. There are many "the-first-times" in this year. In October, together with other communities, GCAA hosted a party for Xiamen delegation. This was the first time the Chinese Community participated in this kind of event in the greater Sarasota area. This year, GCAA organized its dancing party the first time in its history. And for the first time, GCAA cooperated with Sarasota city to help a local Chinese women correct code violation and avoid fines of thousands of dollars.

In promoting cancer awareness, Dr. R.J Zhao was invited to give a talk on the cancer prevention seminar organized by GCAA. Another seminar was organized for computer virus prevention, and Mr. Feng Hou, ITO of MCC was invited to be the main speaker.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our staff, directors and volunteers for all their hard work, especially to Ed, Helen, Nancy, Sean, Jason G, Jason, L, Linda, Libin, Barry, Jian, Rong, Henry, Kai, Carolyn, Qinghong...and etc. I also would like to extend debt of gratitude to Dr. R.J Zhao and Mrs. Zhao, who donated \$1000.00 to GCAA. I truly appreciate Dr. Zhao and Mrs. Zhao's generosity.

The world needs peace; people need cooperation; countries need development and societies need progress. This is the irreversible trend in time. I truly believe the human race will enjoy a bright future of development. Although GCAA is a small organization, I hope we can work together with other organizations to promote the glorious cause of peace and development and create a shining future for world peace and prosperity.

Table of contents

1. Message from the President

2. Program Committee reports

Christmas dance party

3. Schedule of GCAA activities

CNY 08, Table tennis tournament...

4. Kudos and spotlight on our members and families

Kudos: Helen Pollak

Spotlights: Carolyn Bloomer family, St. Denis family, Qinghong & Zhigang, Hexiang Zhu & Wen Tan....

5. Upcoming events & attractions

Architecture and Culture China tour

6. Feature Articles and Reports

Special: EEOC Turns Attention to Asian American Workers

Book review: "Mindset: The new psychology of Success"

7. Helpful info and articles of interest

IRS warns taxpayer of new email scams

ID & credit card fraud: how to protect yourself

8. The Funnies

Volunteers needed

to help with various programs of GCAA. This is your chance to develop personal growth and derive satisfaction at the same time by serving your community. Please contact Dr. Xueji Zhang, or Cheyenne Wu if you are willing to do your part. "We all can make a difference, and we must!"

TRANSLATORS sought to translate our GCAA newsletter into Chinese so we can reach out to the Chinese in our area who have limited proficiency in English. We are not seeking to translate the entire newsletter; we can start with a few sections that are important for helping maintain channels of contact and social activity. We also need help with translations for our website. Please volunteer to help. Thanks!

Solicitation for Articles and Reports

If you have any news or announcements of

Finally, On behalf of GCAA officers, and the Board of Directors, I wish you all a very happy and prosperous new year.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

interest or pride and relevance to the GCAA, FCC and USCPFA, please send it to elin@ingenious.com or Mrs. Libin Huang libinh@linkingt.com. Letters to the Editor are also welcome. Thank you.

Thoughts worthy of reflection

Joy increases as you give it, and diminishes as you try to keep it for yourself. In giving it, you will accumulate a deposit of joy greater than you ever believed possible.
- Norman Vincent Peale

Everyone thinks of changing the world, but no one thinks of changing himself.
- Leo Tolstoy

You have to do your own growing no matter how tall your grandfather was.
- Abraham Lincoln

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Position wanted

Freshly-minted graduate with Bachelor's degree in Accounting from USF seeking accounting/finance position. Hard working, dedicated fast-learner with excellent bilingual skills in English and Chinese. Give me a chance to prove my worthiness. You won't be disappointed. Please contact Zhigang at 941-726-6789 or via email zhigang89@yahoo.com.

Sponsors

The GCAA Newsletter is sponsored in part by **Feng Shui advisor-practitioner, Gigi Freeman**, member of GCAA since 2005, now available for consultations for those interested. Gigi has been practicing Feng Shui for more than 20 years under the guidance of her Chinese-Filipino-Spanish father who was knowledgeable in Feng Shui principles. She has a certificate from the New York School of Feng Shui where she studied Classical Feng Shui focused on the Compass School and Form School. Feng Shui aims to balance the environment in your home or office, very much like an "acupuncture of your living or work space" to achieve harmony in your life, promote prosperity, success, good health, and good relationships. Gigi has lived most of her life in Asia and Mexico; she moved to Venice, Florida in 2004 with her Cuban-Canadian husband, Larry. You may call her at (941) 484-3917 or (941) 932-1642 for appointments.

The GCAA Newsletter is sponsored in part by **J&K Kitchen & Bath, 4141 Tamiami Trail S**. Sarasota, FL 34231 Phone: (941) 922-6981 Mobile: 646-831-8181 email : jks58inc@hotmail.com

The new owners, Mr. KongBiao Ni and Ms. JinXing Yang, started their business in January 2007 They warmly welcomes GCAA members and friends with a 20% discount. If you are planning a remodeling or building a custom home, put J&K to work for you. They are also hiring sales staff. If you are a good salesperson and have computer skills, please call Ms. Yang as soon as possible.

GCAA acknowledges with sincere thanks the generous support and sponsorship of the **Marco Polo Restaurant** in our past annual CNY and MAF festivities.

The Marco Polo International Buffet & Grill is located at 549 US Highway 41 Bypass North, Venice, FL 34292 in Bird Bay Plaza (near Big Lots), just south of the bifurcation of Business 41. Tel: 941-412-3988. When you visit the restaurant for their wide selection of seafood (including crawdad, oyster and crab) and Chinese, Mongolian, Japanese and

2. Program Committee Reports

GCAA Christmas Dance Party

By Jason (Guoming) Guan

The GCAA Christmas dance party was held on Dec 14, 2007. Cheyenne Wu and Ian Kempner taught Cha Cha at the beginning and led the dance for most of the night. Cheyenne demonstrated how to move the body in Cha Cha and other Latin music. When I was watching "Dancing With the Stars" in ABC, I thought the body movement was easy. It turned out that it was very hard to move smoothly. Cheyenne did so well and so naturally just like a fish swimming in the water. Ian told me privately that Cheyenne loves to dance like that. Cheyenne and Ian did a great job to get everybody into the dance mood all night. Great thanks to the Faith Presbyterian Church for providing the gymnastic building, to George Arvay for his help with dance teaching, to Peter Mondello and John Hengstebeck for setting up the gymnastic building, to Cheyenne Wu, Ian Kempner, Xueji Zhang and Lin Jie for coming early to set up the decoration, to Yuhong Wan for spending time to purchase the drinks and refreshments for the party, and most of all, sincere appreciation to all the people who came to the party despite it was raining. Your involvement and support is the key to the success of GCAA organization.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

3. Schedule of GCAA activities:

Chinese New Year (CNY) Celebration

GCAA's Chinese New Year Celebration will be held on February 10, 2008 (Sunday) from 1:00-5:30pm. There will be two parts to the celebration: **Performance Program and Dinner**.

The performance program will be held at the Venice Community Center, 326 Nokomis Ave S, Venice, FL (941) 486-2311

The approximate timeline:

1:00 -2:30pm Registration and socialization. Refreshments and snacks will be served.

2:30-4:30pm Performances start promptly and audience must be seated at 2:30 pm.

4:30-5:30pm Dancing

(Please look for CNY 08 program details in future email)

The performance program is **FREE to members** provided we receive your 2008 membership dues by 1/15/08, otherwise there is an additional \$5 fee to your membership dues. We will extend a courtesy rate of \$5 per person for admission to members of the US-China Peoples Friendship Assoc. (USCPFA) & Families with Children from China (FCC). All other non-members: \$10 per person for admission to CNY performance program.

For non-members, if you wish to join GCAA, please go to: http://www.gulfcoastchineseamerican.org/resources/Membership_data_form_0707.pdf for membership application form. Please make checks payable to GCAA and mail to GCAA, c/o Dr. Henry Zhu, 8467 Sailing Loop, Bradenton, FL 34202 \$25 for family; \$15 for individual.

Dinner: 5:30-8:00 pm

Marco Polo International Buffet and Grill (549 US Highway 41 Bypass N Venice, FL 34285 phone: 941 412-3988)
At this time the **estimated cost is \$10 per adult and \$5 per child under 6 years old**. You will pay directly to the restaurant at the time of service.

Please RSVP for the performance and/or dinner as soon as possible with the number in your party to rsvp4event@gmail.com

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

GCAA Table Tennis Tournament

GCAA is planning to host a table tennis championship game, the "GCAA Tournament", in January or February. We hope to complete the tournament before the 2008 Chinese New Year party so that we may present awards to the winners during CNY08.

Games:

Mixed single: allows both men and women to compete against each other.
Women's single: only women can participate in the competition.
Mixed double: allows a two-person team of a man and a woman to compete against another team.

Rules and format:

The game will be the best five format, i.e., whoever wins three out of five games first is the winner of the match. Each game plays to 21 points. If the game is tied, whoever wins two points above is the winner.

To make the game interesting and more competitive, the skill of every player will be evaluated at levels from 1 to 10 (1 is the lowest, level 5 is the average and 10 is the highest). When players of different levels play, higher-level player gives points of the level difference to the lower-level player. For example, when level 10 player competes with level 5 player, level 10 player gives level 5 player 5 points, i.e. points start from 0:5.

We will have qualifying games first to decide the player level before the championship tournament starts. In this format, every player should have a fair chance to win the championship. The top three in each single or double competition would be awarded prizes in the CNY08 party if the games could finish before Feb 10, 2008.

Registration:

GCAA members are free to register for the competition. Non-members can register

Italian food, please say hello to the owners: Mr. & Mrs. Lau and let them know GCAA appreciates their support.

Recommended Services

Stitches

Looking a good local seamstress for all your alteration needs, or looking for some embroidery work to be done? Well, look no further! Sara Malave, a FCC parent and magna cum laude graduate of Fashion Institute of Design and Merchandising can help. Stitches is a home owned business that has been in operation since 1998. She also offers sewing kamps for children at various times throughout the year. Call 366-4406 with any questions or for an appointment.

First National Travel

I have a top notch travel agent I'd like to recommend:

Toni Liang of
FNTC (FIRST NATIONAL TRAVEL)
3166 CHESTNUT DR
CONNECTOR
SUITE 101
ATLANTA GA 30340
TELEPHONE: 678 530 0840 or 800-888-0208
FAX : 678 530 0768
Email: toni.liang@att.net

For sale or wanted

HOUSE FOR SALE Lovely freshly painted Bruce Williams Laurel Hill pool home features 2 bedrooms and a large den which could easily be converted to a 3rd bedroom. 1673 SF under central air, 2241 SF under roof. Home has extensive upgrades to include a waterfall pool with 6 ft. private fence, security system, hurricane film windows, built-in surround sound. Lanai is extended and home is located near shopping, hospital, entertainment and excellent schools! Ask **\$269,900** or lease at \$1400/month. Sarasota MLS Number: 361389; Manatee MLS Number: 562214. Please contact Henry Zhu at <mailto:hexiangzhu@hotmail.com> or 941-907-9178.

FOR SALE: Heavy duty hitch in almost new condition. Used twice. Complete with tongue, locks, etc. Originally \$175. Asking only \$50. Two matching green-cushioned rocker recliner with glider foot stool. Like new. Originally \$110, now only \$50 each. Call Ed 966-0690

FOR RENT/SALE JUST RENOVATED and ready to move in. (\$130,000.00)

first and pay \$5 one-time entrance fee when the tournament starts.

Please send your registration to Jason (guoming) Guan: guanguoming@gmail.com or Jason Liu: liu5051@hotmail.com. Please include the following: your name, email, phone number, games interested in participating: mixed single, mixed double or women's single, and your estimated level (level 5 is the average). Men can register for mixed single and mixed double. Women can register for all three competitions. **The registration deadline is January 15, 2008.** It is free to register and cancel. So please register ASAP. We will charge the late registrations \$2 per player if register after January 15. The charge will be collected when the game starts.

Facility/Location:

We are still in need of finding a facility/location to hold this tournament. Please send me your suggestions for places with table tennis facility, such as churches. We are also hoping that an establishment will voluntarily loan GCAA their private table tennis facility without charge for the game. If we use private facility, we could have several small groups competing in the same time and each group consists of 5 players.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Saturday double feature Chinese film series

*******Thanks to Dr. Carolyn Bloomer, Admission is free!!!!**

Series is designed by Dr. Carolyn Bloomer to support her Cultural Beliefs course Modern China, and is co-sponsored by the Gulfcoast Chinese American Association and the Sarasota Chapter of the U.S.-China People's Friendship Association. For more information contact: cbloomer@Ringling.edu

Double feature series is scheduled at 1:30 and 3:30, either the 3rd or the 4th Saturday of the months of January, February, March, and April. **Due to location change, detailed movie schedule will be sent out by separate e-mailing.**

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Monthly Social

Our monthly social is held at 5:30P on the first Sunday of each month. These are not official meetings, just an opportunity to meet other families who share or are interested in Chinese friendship, culture and heritage. If you plan to attend, please RSVP the number in your party to Qinghong Wei at qhwei89@gmail.com by Friday so the restaurant can plan space and waiters accordingly. A discount is extended to all attendees. When a major program is approaching (such as Chinese New Year), the Programs Committee and other volunteers often meet earlier, at 4:30PM, to discuss planning matters. Please join them and lend a hand. This is YOUR association and it can become better with you being an active part of it. Thank you.

For odd numbered months, Jan/Mar/May/July/Sept/Nov 2008, it will be at: Grand China Buffet (Tel: 341-9868) 3969 Cattlemen Rd., Sarasota, FL 34233 At the southwest corner of I-75 (Exit 207) and Bee Ridge, between Burlington Coat Factory and Home Depot.

For even numbered months, Feb/Apr/June/Aug/Oct/Dec 2008, it will be at: Oriental Buffet (Tel: 377-6699) 4458 Bee Ridge Rd, Sarasota (Take Exit 207 and head west for 2 mi; turn left before MacIntosh into the plaza at the southeast

Village Green Golf Course Condo 2BR/2BA, 1st. floor corner unit w/enclosed balcony and great golf course view. 960 SF, hard-wood floors in 3 rooms, and tiles in kitchen, bathrooms, hallway and balcony. Designated covered parking for 1 non commercial vehicle. Close to beach, shops, schools and downtown Sarasota. Near I-75 and US 41. NO PETS allowed.

\$ 1000.00 security deposit and 1st month rent of \$ 850.00 unfurnished, or \$995.00 furnished incl. water and Cable, and there are community pool and washer and dryer right there for your convenience.

Please call +1 9413237565, or E-mail retcolsas@yahoo.com for details.

PC for sale

Dell SC430 Desktop Computer
Pentium 4 3.0 GHz Processor w.
Hyperthreading
80 GB SATA Hard Drive
48X CD burner
DVD ROM Drive
Creative Audigy 2 ZS PCI Soundcard
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USB keyboard and mouse

Windows XP Professional SP2
Microsoft Office 2003 Pro
ZoneAlarm Personal Firewall
Avast! Antivirus Home Edition

Whisper Quiet. Asking \$200. Call Bryan 941-544-8058

PC for sale

Dell Dimension 8300 Desktop Computer
Pentium 4 3.0 GHz Processor w
Hyperthreading
60GB ATA Hard Drive
CD ROM Drive
128mb Radeon 9800 Pro Video Card with
Arctic Cooler technology
1GB DDR400 RAM
Keyboard & Mouse

Windows XP Pro Service Pack 2
Microsoft Office 2003 Pro
ZoneAlarm Personal Firewall
Avast! Antivirus Home Edition

Asking \$200. Call Bryan, 941-544-8058

17" Dell CRT color Monitor \$50

Who to contact about what

intersection with McIntosh).

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

GCAA basketball games *on Friday evenings*

Location: Isles basketball court (outdoor, lighted)

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm on Fridays

Address: 5918 Benevento Dr., Sarasota, FL 34238

Directions: Head towards the south end of Honore. After passing Central Sarasota Pkwy, take the second street on the left (Aviano Ln) into Isles community and pass the bridge, make a left turn on Benevento, continue 100 feet, the basketball court is on your right side.

For more information: contact Jason Liu 941-320-3814.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

4. Kudos and spotlight on our members and families

Kudos

Don't be shy. Please let us know what's happening in your family that our community should know about. We'll all crow along.

In the interest of helping members to be better acquainted with each other, beginning with this issue, we will randomly feature profiles on several members. Be sure to check each issue to see if you or someone you know has been selected for the "Spotlight." Please submit capsules of about 250 words to elin@ingenious.com and Ms. Libin Huang libinh@linkingbt.com.

GCAA warmly welcomes new secretary, Qinghong Wei. Qinghong is taking over responsibilities for Helen Pollak.

Helen Wu Pollak, GCAA's long-serving secretary and perennial Outstanding Volunteer Award recipient is retiring effective CNY08. Helen has been immensely helpful in many facets of laying the foundation for GCAA's recent past and future. From corporate minutes to mission statement, IRS matters to event venue reservations, there is hardly anything that Helen has not pitched in to give a hand. Helen will continue to serve as a member of the GCAA's Board of Directors. We are grateful to Helen for the exemplary spirit of service she has demonstrated. Thank you, Helen. You are one in a million! Enjoy your well-deserved rest.

Stepping into Helen's oversized shoes is Ms. QingHong Wei. Congratulations and thanks to Qinghong for answering the call to service. See below for an intro on Qinghong.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Spotlight on members and families

Carolyn Bloomer & Lynn E Stauffer

Carolyn Bloomer, a public school art teacher, was never the same after taking lessons in Chinese painting in 1967 from Professor I-Hsiung Ju (祝一雄), who gave Carolyn her Chinese name – and her destiny -- 白伦美 (Bai Lunmei). From that time on, Carolyn's interest in Chinese culture was insatiable. By 1985, she was pursuing

General info and past issues of Newsletters:
www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org for updates

Info and articles to be included in upcoming issues of Newsletter:
Editor, Mrs. Libin Huang libinh@linkingbt.com
(248) 701-0878

Matters relating to GCAA Programs:
Co-Director, Dr. Sean Kuang, xkuang1@lsu.edu, 941-538-8525
Co-Director, Valentina Pippin, mvpc@comcast.net, (941) 961-3044
Co-Director, Cheyenne Wu cheyennewu1@yahoo.com, (941) 400-8540

Matters relating to membership and how to join
Co-Director of Membership, Jian Wang jian@doctorhan.com 941-924-2278
Co-Director of Membership, Linda Fung elfunkkee@verizon.net; 941 918-8505

Matters relating to monthly socials
Qinghong Wei, Secretary qhwei89@gmail.com, (941) 284-1379

Matters relating to sports programs
Jason Guan guanguoming@yahoo.com, 941-379-4180
Jason Liu Liu5051@hotmail.com, (941) 923-2959
GCAA website

www.GulfcoastChineseAmerican.org
Barry Zhang, WebMaster: barry.w.zhang@gmail.com
Asst. WebMaster John Zhu juntaozhu15@yahoo.com

Community Relations
Director of: Dr. Carolyn Bloomer, cmbloomer@comcast.net (941) 351-0995

Other issues:
Dr. Xueji Zhang, President zxj001us@yahoo.com 941- 926-3273

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Your email address will be promptly removed from the list of ALL GCAA newsletters and other electronic notifications.

Featured Links

a Ph.D. in Anthropology at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, specializing in contemporary China, supported by her ever-patient husband, Lynn E Stauffer (林理音), and advised by Dr. Judith Farquhar, a scholar of Chinese traditional medicine. Carolyn's 缘分 *yuanfen* with China was unmistakable when in 1986 Beijing University Press published a pirated Chinese translation of her book *Principles of Visual Perception* as 视觉原理 (*Shijue yuanli*), which was read by most intellectuals in the visual arts. In 1989 (before, during, and after the student demonstration period), Carolyn conducted her Ph.D. field research as a Visiting Scholar in the Xiamen University Art Department. In 1992, Ph.D. completed, destiny smiled again, bringing Carolyn to Ringling College of Art and Design to teach anthropology in the Liberal Arts Program. Over the years, Carolyn has returned to China many times, and has designed and assisted numerous specialized travel groups, most recently the delegation to sign a Sister City agreement between Sarasota and the Siming District of Xiamen. Lynn accompanied her two times, and loves China, too. Both Carolyn (a wood pig) and Lynn (a fire pig) are intensely devoted to the practice of Chinese home cooking; this year they celebrate their 31st wedding anniversary. Congratulations!

Carolyn serves on the Board of Directors of GCAA. In addition to sound advice, she also provides us each year with a fabulous Chinese Movie Program. Thank you, Carolyn!!

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Dr. Henry Zhu (Current GCAA Vice President) and Mrs. Wen Tan

If it were true that diamonds are a girl's best friend, our Dr. Zhu would be mobbed. As the Director of Research and Development at the fast-growing Sarasota-based Gemesis Corporation, Dr. Zhu is a modern day alchemist and is hooked, dare we say, on some really hard stuff: he turns graphite into glittering gem-quality diamonds. His lovely wife, Wen Tan, chose the real treasure that is Henry. They both graduated from Southwest Jiaotong University in 1987, where Henry majored in Physical Metallurgy and Wen in Civil Engineering. Wen then worked as an editor in Southwestern Jiaotong University Press House, while Henry continued his M.Sc. graduate studies. From 1990 to 1996, Henry had worked as an assistant professor in Southwestern Jiaotong University and Guangdong Technology University. In 1996, Henry and Wen immigrated to the US and Henry began his PhD studies in Materials Science and Engineering at the University of Florida. Since graduation, Henry joined the Gemesis Corporation which began as a Gainesville UF-spawned enterprise. Wen became the Core Laboratory Technician for the same company in 2001.

Whether it is romancing the stone or romancing each other as they rumba, this young couple is a sight to behold as Henry leads the dance gracefully like water flowing over a stony brook. Those of you who have attended our dance events know just what we're talking about. They have one son, John Zhu, who is an 11th grader at Lakewood Ranch High School. John is a talented musician and very active in community service. We are proud and thankful to have them in our Association.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Wei Qinghong (GCAA's in-coming Secretary) & Zhang Zhigang

We are delighted to introduce to you, Wei Qinghong—GCAA's new Secretary and her husband, Zhang Zhigang.

Qinghong is a native of Beijing, while Zhigang is from Urumqi, Xinjiang. This young couple both graduated from Tsinghua University, where they met. Qinghong has a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and a Master's in Community Planning from the

Chinese American Heroes:

<http://www.chineseamericanheroes.org/>

Here visitors can read about great scientists and seemingly "ordinary" Chinese Americans who are anything but.

I am particularly touched to read about Betty Ann Ong who made such crucial contribution to the 911 Commission through her immense courage. What an incredible lady!

--- Edward Lin

University of Cincinnati. She is a Senior Planner in the City of Sarasota's Planning and Redevelopment Department, chairs the City's Development Review Committee and also serves as the Vice City Director for Sarasota-Siming Sister Cities. Zhigang has a Bachelor's Degree in Thermal Engineering and in December 2008 earned a second degree in Accounting from USF. He is now actively seeking a job in the accounting field.

Qinghong and Zhigang have lived in Sarasota for four years. They live in downtown Sarasota with two hilarious bunnies: Floppy and Little B. Zhigang loves tennis while Qinghong likes to read, write, draw, and think what she calls "nonsense." So when Zhigang is hopping about the tennis court like a bunny defending its own territory, Qinghong is more likely staying at home like a couch potato reading either a fashion magazine or some ancient Chinese literature – Yes, Qinghong is very into ancient Chinese poetry, Yi Jing, Taoism and Buddhism (not so much into Confucianism though - no wonder Confucius complained that "women are difficult to deal with" even thousands of years ago! Just kidding!).

Both Qinghong and Zhigang love to travel. Either camping and hiking in the wildness, or visiting marvelous cities, they always enjoy the inspiring experience. They also love to meet new friends. So if you are up to something fun, do give them a call at 726-6789!

GCAA is thrilled and thankful to have QingHong as our new secretary. She will take over Helen's responsibilities after CNY08.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Laurie, Bruce & Hannah St. Denis

Bruce, Laurie, and Hannah St. Denis have happily called Sarasota their home since 1996 but also enjoy spending family time together in the mountains of North Carolina.

Bruce is the Town Manager of Longboat Key, a position he's enjoyed the past 11 years. His continual challenge is whittling down his golf score which comes as a source of both joy and frustration! Though not from Alabama, (at home) Bruce's often found with a banjo (or guitar) on his knee ;o)

Their daughter Hannah, is 11 years old and was born in Jiangxi Province, China. Hannah is in fifth grade at Sarasota Christian School, but it's horses not academics that is her greatest pleasure! Hannah spends as much time as possible with horses, whether it's competing in shows or helping taking care of 17 horses in North Carolina.

Born in New Mexico, Laurie has seen the red thread of China woven through out her life from her earliest years. At 16 she studied the Mandarin language, later managed a Chinese catering company, then traveled to China for the first time in 1997 to bring Hannah home. Her deep respect and love for the Chinese people and culture has been instrumental in guiding her efforts in orphan care the last 8 years. In addition to being a wonderful volunteer for GCAA, Laurie also serves on the Sarasota Chinese Academy Board and is in the process of forming a non profit organization, **Seeds of Hope China**. **Seeds of Hope China** is a demonstration of faith in action - meeting the needs of China's orphans and children in extreme poverty in China. Please contact Laurie to help.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

5. Upcoming events & attractions

ARCHITECTURE AND CULTURE TOUR OF CHINESE CITIES

Beijing / Shanghai / Xiamen / Hong Kong

May 24 - June 7 (14 days)

Tour leaders: Carolyn Bloomer and Wei Qinghong

In addition to sightseeing, in each city we will meet with architects and urban planners for in-depth discussion of contemporary issues and strategies.

Group will be limited to 12 people to insure comfort and convenience in travel and personalized meetings with professionals.

Details will be available by mid-January from either Carolyn cbloomer@ringling.edu or Qinghong qhwei89@gmail.com

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

6. Feature Articles and Reports

EEOC Turns Attention to Asian American Workers

By [Stephen Barr](#)

Wednesday, October 24, 2007; Page D04

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/10/23/AR2007102302126.html?referrer=emailarticle>

Concerned that federal agencies are not paying adequate attention to their Asian American employees, the [Equal Employment Opportunity Commission](#) has set up a working group to study how they are treated and promoted across the government.

The group will try to pull together a report by next year that examines allegations of discrimination against Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders who work in the federal government, how they are treated when it comes to promotions and whether they are reluctant to file discrimination complaints.

"Our work will begin with testing perceptions and gathering the realities Asian Pacific Americans face in the federal workplace," *Naomi C. Earp*, chairman of the EEOC, said.

Of the 2.6 million employees in the federal sector, 5.9 percent are Asian Americans, according to data collected by the EEOC. The [Office of Personnel Management](#) has described the overall representation of Asian Americans in the federal workplace as generally satisfactory when measured against the broader national workforce.

But relatively few Asian Americans make it into the highest ranks of the government -- 146 out of 6,349 career members of the Senior Executive Service, according to a congressional audit released in May.

That raises the question of whether Asian Americans face a "bamboo ceiling," said *Gazal Modhera*, who will head the working group.

Modhera met yesterday with federal executives to roll out a survey to collect information from agencies on how they staff, finance and organize programs for Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders, compared with other minority groups.

She said the working group will use the survey to help gauge anecdotal accounts from Asian Americans. Some say they are being denied time off to attend conferences or to take advantage of training opportunities, Modhera said. Others have noted that their agencies do not sponsor activities or programs for them to the extent that they do for other groups, such as African Americans, Hispanics and gays.

The EEOC's survey will ask agencies to provide information on who manages diversity programs, which committees oversee diversity initiatives, what activities are sponsored and whether they have identified issues and problems that lead to an under-representation of Asian Americans in the government.

In addition to looking at possible workplace barriers encountered by Asian Americans, the EEOC also is interested in why this group appears reticent to file discrimination complaints against their agencies.

A survey by the [Gallup Organization](#) in 2005 found that 31 percent of Asian Americans thought they had been discriminated against, but EEOC records show that only 2 percent of Asian Americans file discrimination complaints, regardless of whether they work in the federal or the private sector.

Most of the federal Asian American complaints cited race or national origin as the basis for harassment or for the denial of promotions, EEOC records show.

Members of the working group include *Suzan Aramaki* of the [Commerce Department](#), *Linda Bradford-Washington* of the Housing and Urban Development Department, *Sherrie Davis* of the [National Institutes of Health](#), *Robert Jew* of the [National Archives and Records Administration](#), *Farook Sait* of the [Agriculture Department](#), *James Su* of the Federal Asian Pacific American Council, and *Sharon Wong* of the Asian American Government Executives Network. All are leaders in civil rights, diversity management or equal employment opportunity at their agencies or groups.

"We want to break through and get to what are the issues," Modhera said.

A message from Dr. Edward Lin, Director of 80-20 Initiative

When there is overwhelming evidence of unfair labor practices and discrimination, what's an expedient way to make the problem "disappear?"

In yet another example of creative administration, the US Dept of Labor (DOL) is quietly proposing to stop collecting important data on applicants, hires, promotions, terminations and full-time workers by race, sex, and ethnicity, and compensation by minority or non-minority and by women or men. Why should you care?

No data = no monitoring = no accountability!!!

This is especially insidious in light of the fact that careful analyses of DOL statistics revealed shocking discrimination of Asian Americans FAR WORSE than ever realized before! In 1965, President Johnson signed Executive order 11246 (EO 11246) requiring race-neutral affirmative action, by all federal contractors receiving federal dollars of \$10,000 or more (that includes all universities and companies of any significant size) to providing proportionally equal opportunity. This has helped to ensure blacks and Hispanics rise to managerial positions. However, the DOL has refused to enforce it for Asian Americans! We have a dismal number of 6 (instead of 36) federal judges on the bench. Not one of the 179 Federal judges on the Appellate courts is Asian American. This is in spite of the fact that there are more Asian Am lawyers than African Am. and Hispanic Am. lawyers combined. The disparate inequality is too overwhelming to ignore, Asian Americans have only 1/20 the number of Federal judges of those two groups.

Our nation can achieve its full potential only when advancements in careers are truly based on equality and meritocracy. 80-20 Initiative is a nonpartisan organization working for equal opportunity and justice for all Asian Americans. Join 80-20 today and do your part to help America be true to its core values. It's YOUR future. Do it

now! www.80-20initiative.net

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

Other featured articles:

Fraud on desperate homeowners

<http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/content/article/2007/12/15/AR2007121500101.html?wpisrc=newsletter>

Book Review: "Mindset: The new psychology of success" by Carol Dweck

Sources: http://www.amazon.com/Mindset-Psychology-Success-Carol-Dweck/dp/0345472322/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1198981130&sr=8-1

From Publishers Weekly

Mindset is "an established set of attitudes held by someone," says the Oxford American Dictionary. It turns out, however, that a set of attitudes needn't be so set, according to Dweck, professor of psychology at Stanford. Dweck proposes that everyone has either a fixed mindset or a growth mindset. **A fixed mindset** is one in which you view your talents and abilities as... well, fixed. In other words, you are who you are, your intelligence and talents are fixed, and your fate is to go through life avoiding challenge and failure. **A growth mindset**, on the other hand, is one in which you see yourself as fluid, a work in progress. Your fate is one of growth and opportunity. Which mindset do you possess? Dweck provides a checklist to assess yourself and shows how a particular mindset can affect all areas of your life, from business to sports and love. The good news, says Dweck, is that mindsets are not set: at any time, you can learn to use a growth mindset to achieve success and happiness. This is a serious, practical book. Dweck's overall assertion that rigid thinking benefits no one, least of all yourself, and that a change of mind is always possible and is welcome.

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[<Back to table of contents>](#)

7. Helpful info and articles of interest

IRS Warns Taxpayers of New E-mail Scams

Updated Nov. 7, 2007 — In a variation, an e-mail scam claims to come from the IRS and the Taxpayer Advocate Service (a genuine and independent organization within the IRS whose employees assist taxpayers with unresolved tax problems). The e-mail says that the recipient is eligible for a tax refund and directs the recipient to click on a link that leads to a fake IRS Web site. The IRS recommends that recipients do not click on links in, or open any attachments to, e-mails they receive that are unsolicited or that come from unknown sources.

Updated Nov. 2, 2007 — A new scam e-mail that appears to be a solicitation from the IRS and the U.S. government for charitable contributions to victims of the recent Southern California wildfires has been making the rounds. A link in the e-mail, when clicked, sends the e-mail recipients to a Web site that looks like the IRS Web site, but isn't. They are then directed to click on a link that opens a donation form that asks for personal and financial information. The scammers can use that information to gain access to the e-mail recipients' financial accounts. The IRS does not send e-

mails to taxpayers soliciting contributions to a charitable cause.

Updated Sept. 19, 2007 — Another recent e-mail scam tells taxpayers that the IRS has calculated their "fiscal activity" and that they are eligible to receive a tax refund of a certain amount. Taxpayers receive a page of, or are sent to, a Web site (titled "Get Your Tax Refund!") that copies the appearance of the genuine "Where's My Refund?" interactive page on the genuine IRS Web site. Like the real "Where's My Refund?" page, taxpayers are asked to enter their SSNs and filing status. However, the phony Web page asks taxpayers to enter their credit card account numbers instead of the exact amount of refund as shown on their tax return, as the real "Where's My Refund?" page does. Moreover, the IRS does not send e-mails to taxpayers to advise them of refunds or to request financial information.

Updated Aug. 24, 2007 — The Internal Revenue Service today warned taxpayers of a new phishing scam, in which an e-mail purporting to come from the IRS advises taxpayers they can receive \$80 by filling out an online customer satisfaction survey. The IRS urges taxpayers to ignore this solicitation and not provide any requested information. The IRS does not initiate contact with taxpayers through e-mail.

Updated June 19, 2007 — In another recent scam, consumers have received a "Tax Avoidance Investigation" e-mail claiming to come from the IRS' "Fraud Department" in which the recipient is asked to complete an "investigation form," for which there is a link contained in the e-mail, because of possible fraud that the recipient committed. It is believed that clicking on the link may activate a Trojan Horse

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

ID & credit card fraud: how to protect yourself

Provided by Dr. Edward Lin

Immediately notify all your credit card companies to deactivate the cards, so you will not be liable for unauthorized purchases.

You should have zero liability if you notified them promptly upon discovery of loss/theft. In other words, if you did not discover that you have left your Visa card at the last restaurant you dined which was 14 days ago, but you call them as soon as you discovered you no longer have your Visa card, you have fulfilled your legal obligation to notify the credit card issuer promptly. Know your rights. Do not let the bank hold you liable for unauthorized purchases!

Immediately file fraud security alert with Equifax Fraud Alert 800-525-6285

Note down the Confirmation # they provide you:

Call Equifax and ask them do two things:

- 1) Remove your name from the list of pre-approved credit offers (if you have a history of established good credit, you will be on such a list). This will stop the thief from easily and almost automatically succeed in opening more loan accts in your name. In 12/07 when I called Equifax for updated info, I forgot to ask how long the name would be kept off the pre-approved credit list.
- 2) Add a 90-day fraud alert to your Equifax credit file. As recently as 2006, they provided upon request and for free, a 6-month alert. They now only provide for free a 90-day alert upon request. During this 90-day period, any business receiving a credit application in your name will be notified that there has been a fraud alert on

your credit profile. This typically results in the credit issuer calling you to verify that it is indeed you who has applied for the loan. However, it is at the credit issuer's discretion whether they want to bother with that and take extra precaution. If you want the alert to last longer, the next category is a 7-year fraud alert. However, to get this, you must submit a copy of the filed police report as well as ID documentation (that you are indeed the person you claim to be). Naturally, they sell a monitoring service of \$12.95/mo (with yearly contract available) that would notify you of any new loan applications in your name in any of the major credit data banks. This allows you to take protective action quickly but may not be worthwhile. The fraud alert often results in the need to get your verified approval (such as you calling the business back from your home phone and confirming that you indeed applied for the loan) for any new loans in your name during that period.

Equifax has an agreement with Experian and TransUnion (the other top credit reporting agencies in the US) to share with each other-- within 24 hours--all fraud alert reports, so there is ?low need to file with these two companies separately, unless you want to play it safe.

I asked Equifax what precautions they take to reduce the likelihood of employee theft of personal ID info. The lady I spoke to told me they are not allowed to bring in purses, bags, pens, paper, etc.. into the data center. They have cameras overhead and supervisors patrolling the cubicles. Any paper or pen found on the person is a security breach. If she has to blow her nose, she needs to go the supervisor for Kleenex which is disposed immediately. Didn't say how supervisors are monitored, though or how the IT guy lurking in the servers farm with a 5G USB drive ;o)

Credit Data Services Inc, Experian affiliate bureau 800-749-7576

Experian 888-397-3742

Trans Union 800-680-7289

SSA Fraud Line 800-269-0271

Can also report fraud on line at www.ssa.gov/org

Reporting the theft to the credit agencies and REQUEST with each that NO additional loans can be approved in your name without your specific approval. This will prevent whoever stole your identity from opening up credit and loan applications in your name.

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

8. The Funnies

Thawing out in hell

Shared by Edward Lin

A Minneapolis couple decided to go to Florida to thaw out during a particularly icy winter.

They planned to stay at the same hotel where they spent their honeymoon 20 years earlier.

Because of hectic schedules, it was difficult to coordinate their travel schedules. So, the husband left Minnesota and flew to Florida on Thursday, with his wife flying down the following day.

The husband checked into the hotel. There was a computer in his room, so he decided to send an e-mail to his wife. However, he accidentally left out one letter in her e-mail address, and without realizing his error, sent the e-mail.

Meanwhile, somewhere in Houston, a widow had just returned home from her husband's funeral. He was a minister who was called home to glory following a heart attack.

The widow decided to check her e-mail expecting messages from relatives and friends. After reading the first message, she screamed and fainted.

The widow's son rushed into the room, found his mother on the floor, and saw the computer screen which read:

To: My Loving Wife

Subject: I've Arrived

Date: November 16, 2007

I know you're surprised to hear from me. They have computers here now and you are allowed to send emails to your loved ones. I've just arrived and have been checked in. I see that everything has been prepared for your arrival tomorrow. Looking forward to seeing you then!

Hope your journey is as uneventful as mine was.
PS. Sure is freaking hot down here

Other featured funnies:

12 Days of Chinese food

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5_fvQqBqt-4&NR=1

[<Back to table of contents>](#)

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[<Back to table of contents>](#)