



北美華人教育研究及策劃協會

Chinese American Educational Research
and Development Association

Newsletter

July 2007

Inside this issue...

- Message from the President
- CAERDA Board Members Updates
- 2007 International Conference Highlights
- Focus Group Summary
- Welcome New Board Members
- Membership Renewal
- Upcoming 2008 Conference

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Editor of This Issue

Yann-Yann Shieh

Message from the 2007-2008 CAERDA President Dr. Lihshing Leigh Wang

Dear CAERDA members,

I am greatly honored to be elected the 2007-2008 President of CAERDA. With great honor comes great responsibility. I hope to follow the footsteps and legacy of our past presidents in continuing to build a strong association. Please allow me to take this opportunity to extend my gratitude and share with you a few of my ideas for the upcoming year.

I would like to first thank the two outgoing board members, Dr. Ji-Mei Chang and Dr. Wu-Tien Wu, for their many years of outstanding service, leadership, and contribution to CAERDA. Without their strong and relentless support, we would not be where we are today. Please also join me in welcoming two new board members, Dr. Duc-Le To and Dr. Chuang Wang, for their commitment to help shape the future of CAERDA. Dr. To is a returning veteran board member and past president of CAERDA. His mentorship and guidance has supported me through the most difficult moments during my vice presidency. Dr. Chuang Wang is a new blood to the executive core. He will be playing a pivotal role in transforming CAERDA's official journal.

The 2007 CAERDA International Conference in Chicago turned out to be a big splash. With extremely limited resources, we managed to provide the best possible service we could afford. Everyone spoke highly of the strong program we were able to put together, thanks to the many distinguished speakers, panelists, and presenters. Our keynote speaker and honorable guest Dr. Ling-chi Wang, Professor Emeritus of University of California at Berkeley, was like a magnet that attracted



(From left to right) Dr. Aubrey Wang, Dr. Lihshing Leigh Wang, and Dr. Ling-chi Wang

other famed scholars to join the event. Among them are Jinfa Cai of University of Delaware, David Yun Dai of State University of New York at Albany, Julia Dmitrieva of Temple University, Jamie Lew of State University of New Jersey at Rutgers, Guofang Li of Michigan State University, Jin Li of Brown University, Vivian Louie of Harvard University, and Min Zhou of University of California at Los Angeles. It was a rare and heartwarming moment to see so many accomplished scholars putting their heads together to "demystify" the Model Minority Myths. In the hindsight of the Virginia Tech massacre, with the mass killer being an Asian American living in the shadows of the Model Minority Myths, our conference theme seemed eerily timely and sadly opportune.

Complimenting the success of our program was the housing service we offered for the first time in the CAERDA history. Thanks to our Housing Coordinator Dr. Chi-en Hwang, the service was very well received. Another success factor was the free book give-away at the closing ceremony. The publishers I contacted were overwhelmingly supportive of our event and donated some forty books on the conference theme worth over one thousand dollars. The after-conference focus group working lunch was also well attended, and we were able to collect a lot of ideas and suggestions for improving the Association and its services.

Looking ahead, I have many big dreams about the future of CAERDA. The *CAERDA Book Series* is being launched, with Jinfa Cai serving as the Book Series Editor and Guofang Li as the 2007 Theme Book Editor (with me as the Co-editor). The CAERDA's official journal *New Waves: Educational Research and Development* will be undergoing a major overhaul. The hope is to move away from in-house publishing and transform into a peer-reviewed scholarly journal with broad appeal to educational researchers and practitioners. I also hope to expand on the reach-out efforts the former president Dr. Aubrey Wang has initiated during the past year. In particular, I expect to strengthen our collaborative relationship with AERA and other national and international associations to increase our visibility and

presence. Another major undertaking will be to redesign our website using a new web development tool for added functions and features. We were very fortunate that our Webmaster Dr. Steve Yuen had volunteered many years of service and expertise to build a website from scratch. Building on his work, our new Webmaster Dr. Rong Yuan with assistance from E. Shen will be taking over this important task. Of course, my top responsibility and biggest challenge as CAERDA President will be fundraising. CAERDA has struggled with limited financial resources for many years. We need to change things around by raising enough funds to make the above dreams come true.

Most importantly, none of the above would be possible without your support. We need each and every one of you to be as actively involved as possible in helping to shape the future of CAERDA. We need you to volunteer your time, offer your expertise, and share your thoughts as we move forward with the above agenda. I look forward to an exciting and productive year ahead.

Sincerely,
Lihshing Leigh Wang, PhD
2007-2008 CAERDA President



2007 CAERDA International Conference Highlights
Renaissance Chicago Hotel, April 8-9, 2007, Chicago, IL

The 15th annual international conference was held in the Renaissance Chicago Hotel in Chicago on April 8 and 9, 2007. The conference was a huge success. The theme of the 2007 Conference is “Demystifying Model Minority’s Academic Achievement: Implications of Chinese/Asian Educational Principles and Practices for a Global Learning Community.” The 15th CAERDA conference had a very rich program, which included two keynote speeches, two presidential panels, seven paper sessions, two poster sessions, and one career development strategies seminar.

The conference was opened with a keynote speech given by the distinguished scholar Dr. Ling-chi Wang, Professor Emeritus of Asian American Studies, University of California at Berkeley, on *Myths and Realities of Asian American Success: Reassessing and Redefining the "Model Minority" Stereotype*. Since the 1960s, Professor Wang has been a scholar/activist at the forefront of Asian American politics and education, including bilingual education, admissions quotas, the 1996 presidential campaign finance scandal, Wen Ho Lee debacle, obtaining justice for Henry Liu (Jiang Nan), Chinese diaspora studies, and U.S./China relations. His international stature in promoting the welfare of Asians and Asian Americans, in particular Chinese and Chinese Americans, is unparalleled across the globe.



Keynote speaker: Dr. Jinfa Cai

Dr. Jinfa Cai, Professor of Mathematical Sciences, University of Delaware, gave the conference with an insightful keynote speech on *Searching for Explanation of Model Minority’s Excellence in Academic Achievement from an Educational Perspective: Evidence from Cross-National Studies in Mathematics Education*. Professor Cai is an internationally renowned scholar in cross-cultural learning of mathematics and problem solving. He is the Principal Investigator of a longitudinal study of mathematics education awarded by the National Science Foundation and has published extensively on the teaching and assessment of mathematics. He will present his recent findings on cross-national studies in mathematics education as one piece of evidence for explaining the Asian Americans’ academic excellence.



Presidential Panel I session

In addition to the two keynote speeches, two presidential panels were also presented. Presidential panel I: **Revising Model Minority Myth**, includes four presenters: Dr. Vivian Louie from Harvard University: *Ethnic Culture, Immigration, and Race in America: A Look at 2nd Generation Chinese Americans*; Dr. Jin Li from Brown University: *Chinese and European American Conceptions of Learning*; Dr. David Yun Dai from State University of New York at Albany: *Chinese Culture and Creativity: Where Chinese Students Fall Short and What Education Can Do about It*; and Dr. Julia Dmitrieva from Temple University: *Whither "Whiz Kids" Went: Asian American Students' Transition to College*.

Presidential panel II: **Policy Implications of Model Minority Research**, also consists of four presenters: Dr. Min Zhou, from University of California at Los Angeles: *Behind the Model Minority Myth: What Else Can Be Said About the Extraordinary Educational Achievement among Chinese Americans?*; Dr. Guofang Li from Michigan State University: *Old Myths, "New" Realities: What Can We Do About Them?*; Dr. Vivian Louie from Harvard University: *Educational Policy & Asian Americans: Structural Solutions for a Structurally-based Social Problem?*; and Dr. Jamie Lew from State University of New Jersey, Rutgers: *Education Reform for Asian Americans: Equity and Access for all Minority Children*.



Conference book display and give-away

Every year CAERDA welcomes new members and reunites old acquaintances at the annual conference dinner banquet. We gather to catch up with one another, make new friends, and join or renew membership with CAERDA, while enjoying good Chinese food at a discount. This year, the dinner banquet was held at P.F. Chang's Bistro in downtown Chicago on April 8. The dinner was well attended by CAERDA members, their family members and friends.



Conference dinner banquet

The 15th CAERDA international conference would not be made possible without the diligent work of the 2007 Conference Planning Committee. Special recognition should also go to all the conference participants, because it was their participation that made the conference a big success.



Focus Group Working Lunch Summary

As part of this year's conference, we conducted a focus group study to learn how CAERDA can better serve its members and improve its services. Two focus groups were conducted at Singha Thai Restaurant, Chicago, on April 9, 2007. There were thirteen participants and findings from the two focus groups are summarized below.

Overall Impression of CAERDA Conference

- CAERDA does provide a good channel for junior academics /graduate students.
- People would present their paper here only when their paper has not been accepted by AERA. We should try not to be their second choice and should insist on having two different papers, one for CAERDA and one for AERA.
- CAERDA can consider organizing some mentorship programs for young scholars. Round table and poster sessions are also helpful. It can also ask some senior members to help or give advice to the junior members.
- The quality of the conference is reasonably high, and they are satisfied with the number of participants.
- The thematic approach for the conference is good (i.e., one main theme is good). Model minority is a well-chosen topic. It is nice to have the quantity and quality that we have achieved this year.
- What participants like the most are the social events organized by CAERDA. Networking among Chinese is important and the association provides channels for research collaboration.

Suggestions to Improve CAERDA Conference

- We can increase the registration fee for full members to US\$50. Other conferences are charging much more (US\$100 to \$200).
- The scheduling of the poster sessions has to be changed because few people visited the posters.



- For the annual banquet, we should have an introduction. Perhaps it is only the problem for this year.
- The timing of the CAERDA is good because most (or all) people are also joining the AERA conference.
- It is possible to host the conference in the local university.

Suggestions to Improve CAERDA

- We should liaise more with other similar interest groups, such as the AERA SIG Research on the Education of Asian and Pacific Americans and perhaps run some joint programs. But it is uncertain whether we should become an AERA SIG because the above SIG is not active either.
- To promote the CAERA, we should encourage members to link or put background of CAERA under their respective homepage.
- For the journals, we can create passwords so that only paid/subscribed members can read the online journals.
- We can advertise ourselves through Asian American studies program in various universities.
- Building a better website seems to be important.
- CAERDA identity is important. CAERDA should set its goal to help Chinese people to grow in the field of education.

Awareness of CAERDA

- Focus group participants included first-time and returning members. Most got to know CAERDA through friends and their first "encounter" with CAERDA was through the CAERDA annual banquet.
- There is great variation in the channel as well as when they have heard of CAERDA. Some heard of the CAERDA since 2001, while some just heard of it in 2005.



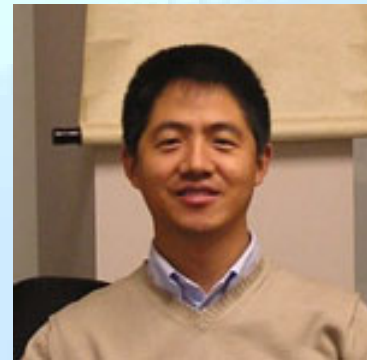
Welcome New Board Members

Two new members were elected to join CAERDA's board member team during our board meeting in Chicago this April. Below are their brief biographies. Welcome aboard!



Dr. Duc-Le To is a senior research scientist at the Institute of Education Sciences (IES), U.S. Department of Education. His current work at IES includes working with the Deputy Director for Science to set standards and implement peer review processes for IES research grants and publications. His responsibilities include organizing review panels for all IES research grant applications and conducting technical and peer review of all IES publications, including NCES research products. Dr. To has worked with IES and the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI – the former IES) since 1985. During his career with the research branch of the U.S. Department of Education, he has conducted research and monitored research in a wide range of topics including education policy, school finance, higher education and teacher quality. He was the center monitor for the Consortium for Policy Research in Education (CPRE) and the project officers for many important research projects including two Congressionally mandated studies on education finance equity and productivity (conducted by the National Academy of Sciences) and class size reduction (conducted by RAND Corporation).

Dr. To is an expert in education finance, education policy, higher education and research methods and statistics. Dr. To is also actively involved in professional activities outside the government. He was the founder and the first program chair for the AERA Charter School Special Interest Group (SIG) and the former President of the Chinese American Educational Research and Development Association (CAERDA). Dr. To received his Ph.D. degree in economics and is an active member and peer reviewers of many associations including American Educational Research Association (AERA), American Education Finance Association (AEFA), and American Economic Association (AEA).



Dr. Chuang Wang is an assistant professor and is currently teaching educational research (both quantitative and qualitative) courses at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He earned his doctorate with two cognate areas (educational research and teaching English as a second language) and the master of applied statistics degree from The Ohio State University. He has taught qualitative research methods, descriptive and inferential statistics, advanced statistics, and applied research method courses during the past two and a half years. He has received four internal grants. He also served as an independent program evaluator for two federally funded research grants: Behavior and Reading Improvement Center at UNC Charlotte and Translating Inquiry-Based Learning into Environmental Biotechnology Course at Four Institutes within a University System. Dr. Wang has published four books, three book chapters, five journal articles, and over 20 paper presentations at national and international academic conference.

Membership Renewal

We were pleased to see many CAERDA members show up at our conference and dinner in Chicago this April. We particularly appreciated those members who renewed their memberships before and at the conference/dinner. If you have not renewed your membership for 2007, please do it now!

Here is what to do: Download the membership application/renewal form from our membership website: <http://www.caerda.org/membership.htm>. Fill it out and send the completed form along with a check for the annual membership fee to the following address: **CAERDA, P. O. Box 612, Ardmore, PA 19003-9998**. If you have problems with downloading the form or any questions concerning your membership, please contact: duc-le.to@ed.gov. When you fill out the form, please make sure that the e-mail address and mailing address on the form are correct.

Thank you for your support for CAERDA. The Association will not be able to survive without your support.



Upcoming Conference: 2008 CAERDA International Conference

Coming soon!

The 2008 CAERDA Conference will be hosted by Chinese American Educational Research and Development Association. This one-and-a-half-day conference will take place from Sunday morning, March 23 to Monday noon, March 24, 2008 in New York City, New York, USA. For more information on the conference, please visit www.CAERDA.org or contact Conference Chair Dr. Duc-Le To at duc-le.to@ed.gov.



Questions or Comments? Please email Yann-Yann Shieh at yann-yann.shieh@ed.gov