

北美華人教育研究及策劃協會

Chinese American Educational Research
and Development Association

Newsletter

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Editor of This Issue

Yann-Yann Shieh

In Memory of Dr. Duc-Le To: A Great Mentor, Friend, and Colleague

from CAERDA President Dr. Chuang Wang

Dear CAERDA members and friends,

January 1st, 2010, marks the first day of the second decade in the 21st century. It is also a day when the Big Dipper fell for Chinese American Educational Research and Development Association (CAERDA). As the President, I lost the guidance for future directions and I did not know how to express my feelings. Dr. Duc-Le To, Past President of CAERDA, Past Director of Membership, Past Award Committee Chair, left us with a sudden heart attack.

I met Duc-Le three years ago in Washington D.C. on a business trip. He invited me to a dinner. We walked up and down the streets several times in Chinatown before finally finding a place to eat, because we were so deeply involved in conversation. The food was delicious, but what impressed me the most were his personal stories and the history of CAERDA. We were both so much involved that we stayed until the restaurant was about to close. I was touched by his stories about the immigration process from Vietnam to Taiwan and to the United States. I was also encouraged by his selflessness and passion for the Chinese community in the United States. The tie between us became stronger and stronger as we started working together on CAERDA conferences.

In addition to countless email exchanges in the fall of 2007, Duc-Le and I had phone conferences every month together with Dr. Aubrey Wang, the Controller and Past President of CAERDA, to talk about the logistics of the 2008 Conference in New York City. Without the leadership of Duc-Le, the conference would not be as successful as it was. The 2008 conference turned out to be the largest one in CAERDA history with regard to the number of presenters. Duc-Le was my mentor for this conference. He was so detail-oriented and thorough that I almost had nothing to add. Every person who worked with Duc-Le was impressed with the lengthy but organized email messages from him. In his message, Duc-Le not only listed what to do but also provided rationale for why these issues were important. As the most senior person in the Board of Directors, Duc-Le always shared us with the history of CAERDA, how things were done in the past, what directions CAERDA should be going, what changes were necessary, etc. Considering the fact that many doctoral students and junior faculty members come to the conference, Duc-Le saw the demand of professional development opportunities. Therefore, as the Past President of 2009, Duc-Le successfully secured funding (\$2650) from the Taiwan Department of Education to provide three professional development workshops to CAERDA members at the Conference in San Diego, California. Duc-Le also served as the President of CAERDA

during the period of 2002 -2004. In addition to his presidency during 2007-2008, Duc-Le served as the President for three years, the longest among all past presidents.

Since the budget for CAERDA is tight and conference registration fees can barely cover the cost, Duc-Le tried all means to save every penny for CAERDA. In order to receive a discount from Kinko's to print 2008 conference program, Duc-Le applied for a Kinko's card and rearranged color and black-and-white pages so that the total number of color pages could be reduced. To save the shipping cost, Duc-Le took buses and subways to personally carry the boxes from Kinko's in Washing D.C. to New York City. At 2009 Conference, Duc-Le used his own pocket money to purchase copies of the first book of CAERDA book series – *Model minority myth revisited: An interdisciplinary approach to demystifying Asian American educational experiences* and donated them to CAERDA as door-prizes for people who came to the closing session of the conference.

As the 2010 conference is approaching, I miss Duc-Le more and more. Although all Board Members are supportive, and the Vice-President, Dr. Youmei Liu, has been working extremely hard on the program, the conference and the future of CAERDA will be different without Dr. Duc-Le To.



Eulogy for Dr. Duc-Le To

*Delivered by Dr. Steve Yuen
at Mt. Tamalpais Mortuary and Cemetery
San Rafael, CA on January 16, 2010*

Family, friends, colleagues of Dr. Duc-Le To,

Sorrow fills our hearts in this sad moment, a sorrow that is deep and personal. Dr. Duc-Le To has silently closed the door of life and has departed from us. Our lives will be empty in the areas that he had brightened for us. I have known Dr. Duc-Le To since we met in October 1999 at the 7th CAERDA (Chinese American Educational Research and Development Association) International Conference in Fairfax, Virginia. Since 1999, we worked very closely for CAERDA, a non-profit, non-political, professional organization. Dr. Duc-Le To has led CAERDA tirelessly for 18 years, serving in multiple roles, from president to director of membership. His unselfish commitment and devotion to the association has kept CAERDA going all these years. Dr. Duc-Le To was a strategic thinker, a visionary who was brilliant, innovative and creative, a great educator, as well as a caring mentor. He contributed much to the development of CAERDA in his last years and also made significant contributions toward Chinese American education. His impact will be felt for generations to come.

Albert Einstein once said, "The value of a man should be seen in what he gives and not in what he is able to receive." Dr. Duc-Le To was a man who gave. He generously gave us his knowledge, his expertise, and his skills. Dr. Duc-Le To was a very knowledgeable and experienced researcher and scholar. He has contributed greatly toward Chinese American education, built relationships with government agencies, foundations, and other organizations on behalf of CAERDA, offered sound advices and mentored many CAERDA members. Dr. Duc-Le To touched many of the lives of our members. He always provided thoughtful, detailed, constructive suggestions and advice to CAERDA members. Those of us who worked with him at the conference planning committee knew well that he took the review process seriously. He provided very detailed comments and constructive suggestions to each author. It was not uncommon that he wrote more in a review than the author did in a proposal or presentation. Dr. Duc-Le To worked tirelessly and unselfishly for CAERDA, providing his great visions, strong leadership, integrity, and conscientious devotion. Most importantly, Dr. Duc-Le To was a wonderful human being. He was an unselfish,

supportive, inspirational, and trustworthy gentleman. He is a role model for all Chinese Americans.

Duc-Le and I have share a great deal in common. We both attended a university in Taiwan as oversea Chinese students. We both came to the US for our graduate study in Pennsylvania. He was a student at the University of Pittsburg and I studied at Penn State. After graduation, we both settled in the US and began our career in the field of education. Though we never met in Taiwan or in Pennsylvania, the CAERDA conference in Fairfax, Virginia somehow brought us together. Because of our common backgrounds and interests, we became good friends very quickly. We frequently shared stories of our college lives in Taiwan as oversea Chinese students. Since both of us were football fans, we also heckled each other about the good days of the big rivalry in college football between University of Pittsburg and Penn State. We attended many CAERDA conferences together in the US and Canada over the past decade and spent a great deal of time getting to know each other. Also, we took many sight-seeing trips together after working hard at these conferences. In December 2005, my family and I took a family vacation to D.C. Duc-Le was so kind and took time to show us around D.C. personally. It was one of the best vacations our family has ever had. My wife and children love Duc-Le dearly because of how kind, generous, caring, and knowledgeable he was. Duc-Le and I often talked about our personal lives. Interestingly, we communicated in three languages: Cantonese, Mandarin, and English. We frequently talked about our families, our jobs, and our association. These were always our main topics since we both love our mothers, our families, our jobs, as well as our association very much. From our conversations, I learned that his family in California was the most important part of his life. He was a true family man who held onto many traditional Chinese values. Dr. Duc-Le To was a genuinely warm and wonderful individual—one whom we will miss greatly. Our sorrow is lessened only slightly with the comforting thought that we had the privilege to know him.

Ladies and Gentlemen, please allow me to share with you this poem (author unknown):



*Life is but a stopping place,
A pause in what's to be,
A resting place along the road,
To sweet eternity
We all have different journeys,
Different paths along the way,
We all were meant to learn some things,
But never mean to stay...
Our destination is a place,
Far greater than we know.
For some the journey's quicker,
For some the journey's slow.
And when the journey finally ends,
We'll make a great step forward,
And find an everlasting peace,
As our special reward.*

To Dr. Duc-Le To's family, our hearts and prayers are with you at this most difficult time. Adlai Stevenson, former US Ambassador to the United Nations (1961-65), once commented about man and his contribution: "It is not the years in a life that counts; it is the life in the years." Ladies and Gentlemen, Dr. Duc-Le To lived. We will all miss him. Goodbye, Duc-Le.





Tribute to Dr. Duc-Le To



Your profound dedication and unwavering support to the Chinese American Educational Research and Development Association has made a significant impact on Chinese American education. Your impact will be felt for generations to come. Thank you for your guidance, support, and friendship.

-Lungching Chiao, Ph.D.

Duc-Le was a man of heart and passion, and a good role model.

-Sam Peng, Ph.D.

Duc-Le will be long remembered as a wonderful colleague.

- Jie-Qi Chen, Ph.D.

Duc-Le was such a wonderful mentor, a big brother to me. We had several lunch together at the Department headquarter and numerous phone conversations to discuss CAERDA and other activities. I am honored to have Duc-Le as a good friend. Thank you so much for your friendship. You will be greatly missed.

- Yann-Yann Shieh, Ph.D.

A friend and colleague, Duc-le was gentle, insightful, loyal, and committed. His devotion to public service was unparalleled. He will be missed so dearly. His legacy will continue as he had touched so many lives.

- Jianping Shen, Ph.D.

For someone whom I have met only twice (but exchanged numerous emails), Duc-Le touched my life in a very unique way. During my two years of service to CAERDA, he was more than a mentor and a role model--he was, and still is, the heart and soul of CAERDA. I never imagined that my path would cross with an association like CAERDA until he inspired me with his passion for and dedication to Chinese American education. He was a scholar and a scientist with whom I had the most pleasant experience collaborating with, and yet he also had a soft spot in his big heart for his fellow Chinese Americans. His visionary leadership left behind a legacy that will be remembered for a long time to come.

- Leigh Wang, Ph.D.

Duc-Le was a compassionate mentor, visionary leader, and a considerate friend. As a mentor, Duc-Le taught me what it meant to provide service to the Chinese American community. He showed me the impact of putting your heart into your work, of caring for each individual as a person, and of being selfless in serving others. As a leader, Duc-Le has helped shape the growth and development of the association. He was active in aligning the association with AERA, in the development of the edited book series, and in the planning and coordination of numerous conferences. Duc-Le will be very much missed.

- Aubrey Wang, Ph.D.

On behalf of Korean-American Educational Researchers Association, I convey our deepest condolence to Dr. To's beloved family and friends on his passing. I am shocked beyond belief by such a sad loss. I remember Dr. To as an extremely intelligent and warm scholar who has made many contributions to the mainstream American education and research community as well as to the Chinese-American society in general. Knowing his devotions to CAERDA, I sought his advice on how to lead our nascent organization. He was more than happy to offer me brilliant practical ideas that seemed to be free flowing from his rich experiences. I believe that many of you have been very fortunate to benefit from his willing advice and unselfish contribution. He will be immensely missed by many who know him well.

To many of us, Dr. To will be remembered as a brotherly colleague who has laid a firm foundation for collegial and collaborative working relationship between our two organizations that will last for many years to come. May he rest in peace!

Kwang Suk Yoon, Ph.D.
President of Korean-American Educational
Researchers Association

I can always recall his pleasant personality and whole-hearted support to our organization... All treasured memories. It is our great loss to lose such a great mentor.

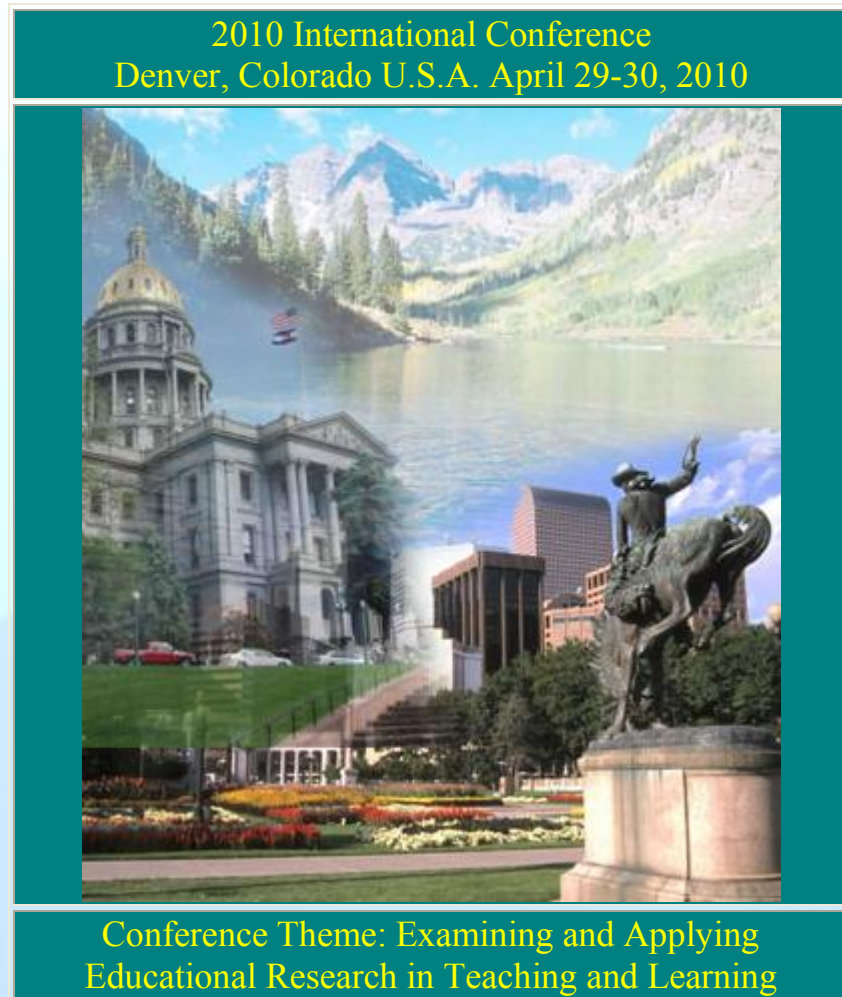
- Rong Yuan, Ph.D.

Duc-Le's name first caught my attention when I was compiling the membership directory, as the Secretary of CAERDA, many years ago. I had a hard time figuring out which of the Chinese dialects would pronounce the last name "蘇" as "To". Finally we met in one of the CAERDA dinner at the AERA. Between the years of 2000 and 2002, we worked closely on planning of the conferences. I often called him at the office around 5:30 p.m. or later, and he was always there. The phone calls might last half an hour to an hour as we went through all the details, and most of the time I was "picking his brain" for ideas. He was always very patient in listening, and provided me great insights and advises. Duc, as many of us called him, is so dependable that you can almost count on him for anything, large and small.

I remember that he and I walking from hotel to hotel with flyers of CAERDA dinner invitation to get as many Chinese as we could at the last minute. I also remember when we were touring the San Francisco China Town, Steve Yuen and I wanted to buy some Chinese herbs and spices, and Duc took us to one particular store he considered as "trustworthy" so we could get the best deal. I know that I'll always remember him when I look at the index card with his phone number written on it, when I attend the CAERDA meetings and dinners, and when I walk down the streets of San Francisco China Town.

-Chi-en Hwang, Ph.D.

2010 CAERDA International Conference



The CAERDA Annual International Conference serves as an open forum for interdisciplinary discussion and scholarly exchange among educational researchers and practitioners from around the world. The participants, with or without an ethnic Chinese background, get together to present their recent research findings and draw implications for issues related to CAERDA's mission.

The 18th Annual International Conference of the Chinese American Research and Development Association will be held from Thursday morning, April 29 to Friday noon, April 30, 2010 at one of the AERA headquarter hotels in Denver, Colorado, USA. Conference registration is open for everyone. Please visit the CAERDA website (www.CAERDA.org) or the direct Conference site (<http://www.caerda.org/conference.htm>) for more information. If you have questions or concerns regarding the conference, please contact Dr. Youmei Liu, Vice President and the Conference Chair (yliu5@uh.edu). We look forward to seeing you at the Conference in Denver.

Membership Renewal

If you have not renewed your membership for 2010, please do it now! If you renew today, your membership will cover the whole year of 2010 and you will be eligible for the discount member registration fee for the 2010 Conference in Denver. That is, you do not need to pay membership fee when you register for the 2010 Conference again.

Here is what to do: Download the membership application/renewal form from our membership website: <http://www.caerda.org/sitedev/member/index.html>. Fill it out and send the completed form along with a check of \$30 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 Dr. Chuang Wang, cwang15@uncc.edu. 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.



Thank
You!

