

# 80-20 NW Ohio: Asian American Voice

[http://www.80-20initiative.net/about/chapters\\_oh.asp](http://www.80-20initiative.net/about/chapters_oh.asp)

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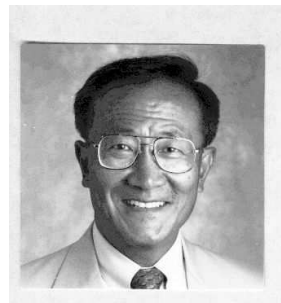
## 1. Are Asian Americans Street and/or Book Smart?

by Yueh-Ting Lee, Ph.D.

Our research showed a negative but accurate stereotype that Asian American students are nerds and Asian Americans tend to be book-smart rather than street smart (Lee, Jussim & McCauley, 1995; Lee, Vue, Seklecki & Ma, 2007). This was further confirmed by Dr. Susan Fiske and her students at Princeton University (Lin, Kwan, Cheung, & Fiske, 2005). Our recent study further showed that Non-Asian Americans (e.g., European Americans and African Americans) saw Asian Americans as more intelligent but lacking sociability (or social skills) and disinterested in public affairs (Lee, Lin, & Chan, 2010). The mentality of Asian Americans is that, if we work hard and do well in our profession, then it should be good in American society. According to the United States Congresswoman Judy Chu, it is good to work hard and do well in our profession or career, but it is not good enough because we have to get involved in public, political or social/ethnic affairs.

American policies and laws are largely made based on interest groups. It is more likely for Asian Americans to work as scientists, technicians, engineers, medical doctors or professors than to work as lawyers, politicians, or public administrators.

We are so fortunate and lucky to have Dr. SB Woo (see his picture below) who used to be a Professor of Physics (book smart) and a former Lt Governor and President of 80-20 Education Foundation (street smart) who started and maintains the 80-20 initiative ([www.80-20initiative.net](http://www.80-20initiative.net))



Dr. SB Woo is one of the very few Asian American heroes (at least role models) for us with regard to book and street smartness. We have to realize that Asian Americans should be both street smart and book smart in order to gain equal opportunities and rights. It is extremely necessary and important that Asian Americans should get involved in public and community affairs.

**Cited References**

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(Dr. Yueh-Ting Lee is an 80-20 national Board Director as well as President of 80-20 NW Ohio Chapter/Association of Asian Americans. He is a psychologist in Ohio)

**2. Toledo City Council’s Resolution for the APA Month in May**

On May 25, 2010, Toledo City Council passed a resolution for Asian American Heritage Month. We thank Councilman Steel, President Brown, Mayor Bell, Councilman Collins and other Council members for their support of this resolution. It was the first time that the City Council passed a resolution to support APA Heritage Month locally and regionally.



In the picture above are Larry Y. Chan, Joseph Chao, Yueh-Ting Lee, Guangzhong Chen, Canchu Lin (left to right on the front row) and Council President Wilma Brown, Councilman Steve Steel, Council D. Michael Collins, and Mayor Michael Bell (left to right on the rear row).

**3. United States Congresswoman Judy Chu in Toledo to address the local Asian American community**

To celebrate Asian American Heritage Month this past May and to promote the unification of area Asian American communities, the Honorable United States Congresswoman Judy Chu was invited to give us a splendid speech on empowering the Asian American community on the evening of May 28. *The Toledo Blade* covered the well-planned and well-received speech that Representative Chu gave (<http://www.toledo.com/news/2010/05/16/daily-dose/congresswoman-judy-chu-to-speak-at-tma/>) .



Representative Chu's excellent speech touched and inspired the interested crowd in attendance on this special evening. Part of her speech is available via Dr. Lin ([lincancho@yahoo.com](mailto:lincancho@yahoo.com)). One of the most impressive messages in her speech is that "working hard and doing a good job" for APA's is NOT enough. We must get involved as APAs, including various ethnic groups of APAs, Asian Indian Americans, Chinese Americans, Korean Americans, Japanese Americans, Filipino Americans, Southeast Asian Americans, Islamic and other APA Americans. Being involved and inclusive is extremely important.

We also had a very good group of panelists (**Fan Zhang, Bob Pongtana, Yongjing Kong, and Vibha Bhalla**)

chaired by **Larry Y Chan**. Approximately 150 participants attended, including Mayor Bell, city council members, and dignitaries. Most importantly, almost 35% of the participants were young Asian American people (children, teenagers and youngsters) who will be our future.



(Here is a picture of Rep. Chu with 80-20 NW Ohio Chapter Officers and Board Members).

## 4. 80-20 NW Ohio Chapter Leadership

### Chapter Officers

Dr. Yue-Ting Lee, *President*  
[Liyueting@yahoo.com](mailto:Liyueting@yahoo.com), 419-297-2255; Dr. Canchu Lin, *Vice President*  
[lincancho@yahoo.com](mailto:lincancho@yahoo.com), 419-494-1656  
*Ms. Hewen Slak*, Chair of Program and Membership Committee;  
[hslak@yahoo.com](mailto:hslak@yahoo.com), 419-516-0481  
*Mr. Wayne Zhang*, Secretary General  
[uczhang@yahoo.com](mailto:uczhang@yahoo.com), 419-409-0486  
*Mr. Robert Zhang*, Treasurer  
[rwzhang@hotmail.com](mailto:rwzhang@hotmail.com), 419-352- 0660

### Chapter Board of Directors

Dr. Kit Chan, Dr. Gene Chang, Dr. Joe Chao, Dr. Guang-zhong Chen, Dr. Yueh-Ting Lee, Ms. Litza Li and Dr. Sudi Pasupuleti.

### Community Advisors/Liaisons:

Fan Zhang, Esq. (Legal Advisor) Dr. Subra Rao (Asian Indian Liaison) , Dr. Paul Hong (Korean American Liaison) , Larry Y. Chan, Esq. (Public Communication Advisor).

## 5. Annual Picnic and Social among Family Members and Friends in 2010

We had a very relaxing and pleasant picnic with a diverse group of attendees (old and young) on August 7, 2010 at the Toledo Wildwood park (see the pictures below). Most attendees were our chapter members who attended along with their family members and chapter friends.



Thanks are extended to our event planning committee, Wayne Zhang, Guangzhong Chen, Joe Chao and several board members and officers for their great efforts and good work. We also thank our member Dr. Shanhe Jiang and the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo for loaning their tents and tables to us. Finally, and most importantly, we thank our national headquarters office for their financial support for this picnic.



## 6. New Chapters in Ohio and Engaging with Gubernatorial Candidates

Three new chapters have been established in Ohio. Led by Dr. Munsup Seoh, the 80-20 SW Ohio Chapter of Asian Americans in Dayton and Cincinnati was established. So far this chapter has 35 members. Dr. Seoh is the Chapter President.



Above is a picture of Dr. Seoh who is a mathematics professor at Wright State University in Dayton.

In the meanwhile, the 80-20 NE Ohio Chapter of Asian Americans in the Cleveland/Akron area is in good shape. Mr. Anthony Yen, a business and community leader, has been Chapter President Elect. Also, Dr. Jung Jing, a publisher and owner of a Chinese American newspaper is working with us to start the 80-20 Central Ohio Chapter. Our goal is to have our Ohio chapters work together and engage with the two candidates for governor, Ted Strickland and John Kasich via meetings and via a questionnaire which is available upon request.

## 7. Mayor Bell and Asian American Community

Last year Toledo Mayor Bell signed a questionnaire with us before his election. ([http://www.80-20initiative.net/about/chapters\\_oh\\_bell\\_repy.pdf](http://www.80-20initiative.net/about/chapters_oh_bell_repy.pdf)). As a mayor, he has fulfilled most of his promises (i.e., Questions 1, 2, and 5) and has been supportive of Asian American communities, including an 80-20 board member appointed on his strategic planning committee.



Above is a picture of Mayor Bell (left) and Councilman Steel (right) who promoted our Asian American Heritage Month in May, 2010.

## 8. Other News and Reports

### Membership, New Members, and Budget Report

By the end of August 2010, we have grown to approximately 60 paid members plus 10 friends who may consider becoming

members. Please help to recruit more members and friends to our chapter. All of our membership fees are sent to our chapter.

Let us welcome our most recent and newest members (e.g., Drs. Yong Wah Kim, Subra Rao, Paul Hong, and Rick Gao) in Toledo who just joined 80-20. Welcome!

Our chapter budget in 2010 was approved by the board of directors. It is open to all members for review and comments if you are interested.

### **Civil Rights, Justice, and Partnership**

Several of our chapter members experienced direct or indirect discrimination or social injustice in the past years. We formed Case Investigation Committee chaired by Dr. Gene Chang. Our Chapter took actions and wrote letters to various offices and organizations in support of our members' cases.

Our 80-20 NW Ohio Chapter has established a partnership agreement with the

Law Firm of Wagoner & Steinberg, Ltd. We recommend our members to see this law firm. The members of our Chapter get the first 45-minute-free consultation and receive a 10% discount for attorney's costs.

### **Election Committee, and APA Cultural and Heritage Committee**

According to our by-laws, we will elect a new President, Vice President and other officers in November. We have an election committee chaired by Dr. Guangzhong Chen. We may also have vacancies for board directors. If you plan to run for office or board positions, please send your name and a brief statement to us by 10/15/10 ([liyueting@yahoo.com](mailto:liyueting@yahoo.com) or 419-297-2255).

To celebrate Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May, we will have Asian Cultural and Heritage Committee chaired by Dr. Sudi Pasupuleti. You are also welcome to serve on this committee if you are interested.

Thank you.

### ***For More Information***

Please visit our websites: <http://www.80-20initiative.net/> and [http://www.80-20initiative.net/about/chapters\\_oh.asp](http://www.80-20initiative.net/about/chapters_oh.asp)

## **Quotes for this Issue**

**“The true meaning of life is to plant trees, under whose shade you do not expect to sit.”** Nelson Henderson, Scottish Writer and Philosopher (1865 – 1943)

**“Earlier generations plant trees, while later generations enjoy the shade! 前人栽树，后人乘凉！”** A Chinese Proverb

### **Acknowledgement:**

Thanks are extended to Larry Yee Chan, Canchu Lin, Joe Chao, Wayne Zhang, Kit Chan, Marissa Appel, and Valerie Capucini for their professional help in this newsletter. Dr. Lee takes full responsibility for any errors or inaccuracies. Please feel free to email your good news and/or suggestions to us (Dr. Lee: [Liueting@yahoo.com](mailto:Liueting@yahoo.com)). Thank you!