

Piecing the Puzzle Together

Uncovering the Legacy of Early Chinese Students in the U.S. Through Collaboration

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Pei leoh Ming
贝聿铭 1917-2019



Wu Chien Shiung 吴
健雄 1912-1997



Soong May Ling
宋美龄 1897-2003



Tsien Hsue Shen
钱学森 1911-2009



Yen Fu-Chun
颜福庆 1883-1972



Hsu Chang-Hsu 徐章墉
(徐志摩)1898-1931



Helen CHAI
柴峯 1895-?



Tso-Lin CHANG
常作霖 1894-?



Pu Ching CHENG
郑步青 1896 -?



LEE Chun Wa
李珍华 1917-?



LEE Pao Wah
李宝华 1917-?



Yu Liang YEH 叶
玉良 1892-?



Mrs. Yu Liang YEH
叶张氏 1895-?



Kuang-Ching LIU
刘广庆 1876 -?



Kie Chung UONG



Hui Chi WONG
黄慧琦 1901-?



Helen Yuke Diep LOWE
1901-?



Ching SHIH
施青 1892-?



Shao Ping TENG
鄧少萍 1892-?



Shing Wu TSAI
蔡星五 1892-?



Hsi-Chang WANG
王锡昌 1893-?

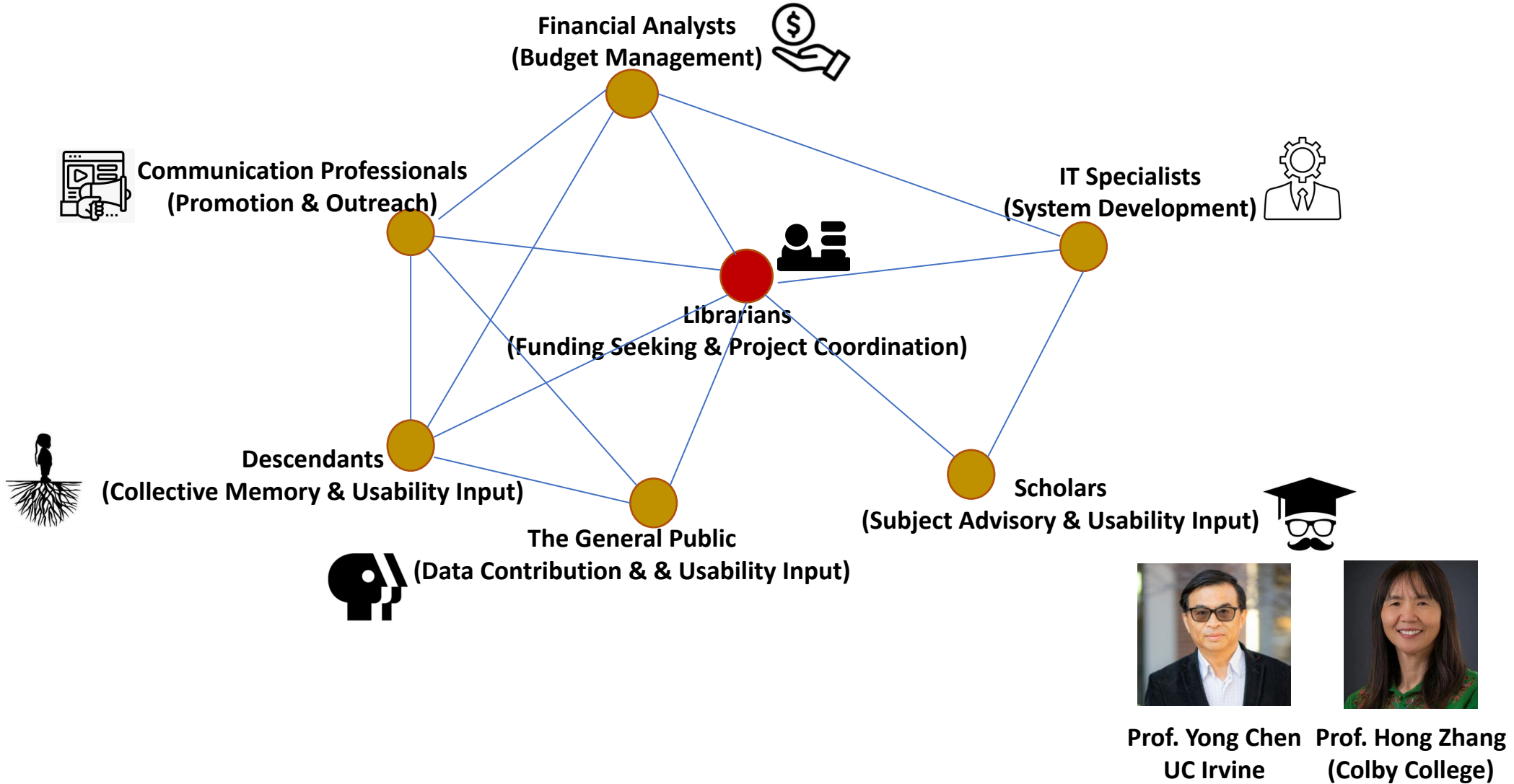


Shwei-Chin YOH
乐瑞清 1883-?

Who's Who of American-Educated Chinese (Pre-1949)

- National/international scope & librarian-led
- Multi-institutional & inter-disciplinary
- Major deliverables
 - Open-access **bilingual** biographical directory & **crowd-sourcing** platform
 - Reusable metadata/ontology infrastructure
 - Replicable methodology framework

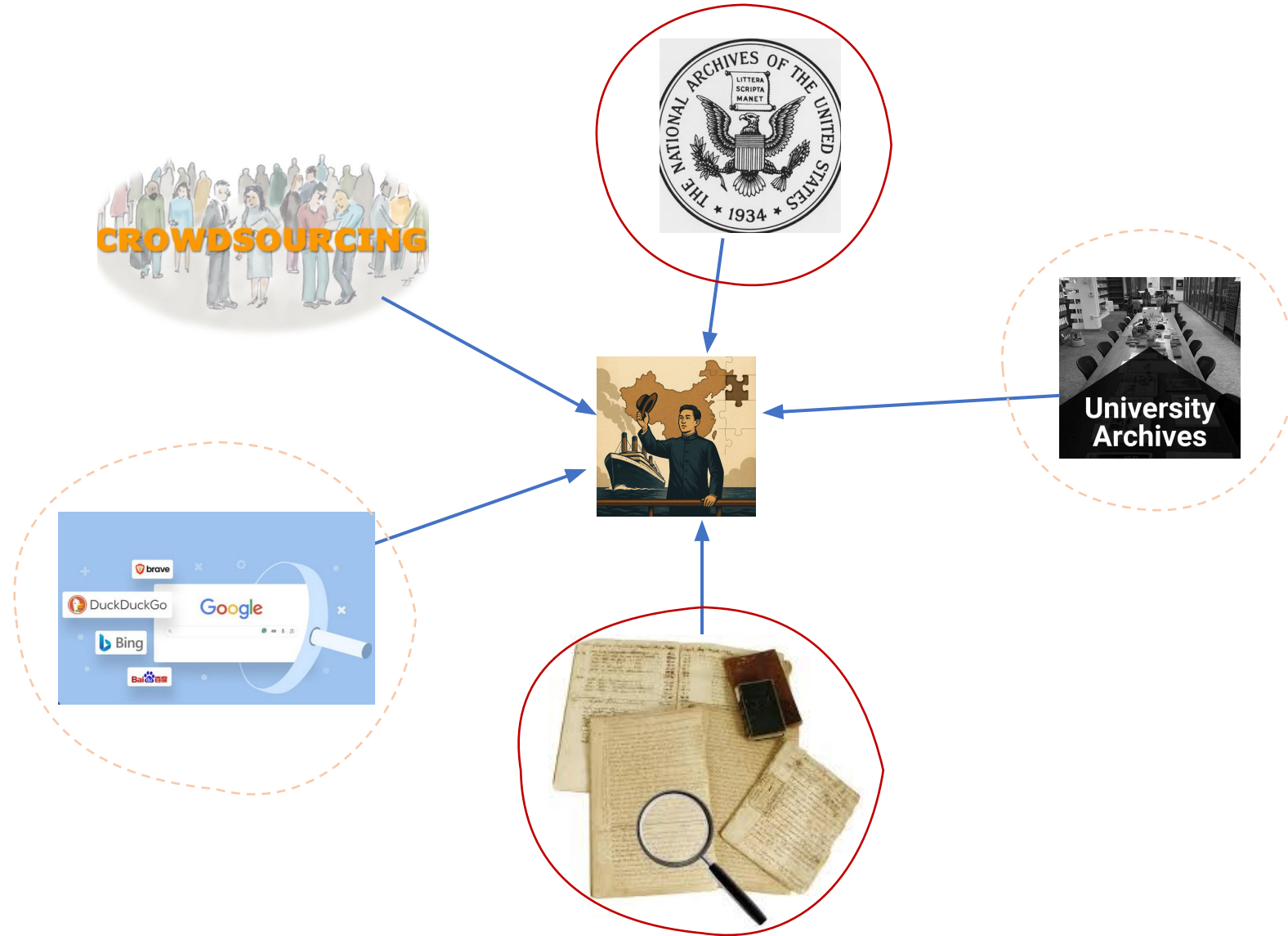
Interdisciplinary Collaboration



The Librarian Team

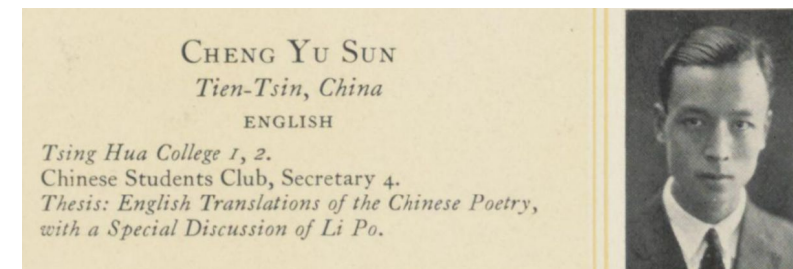
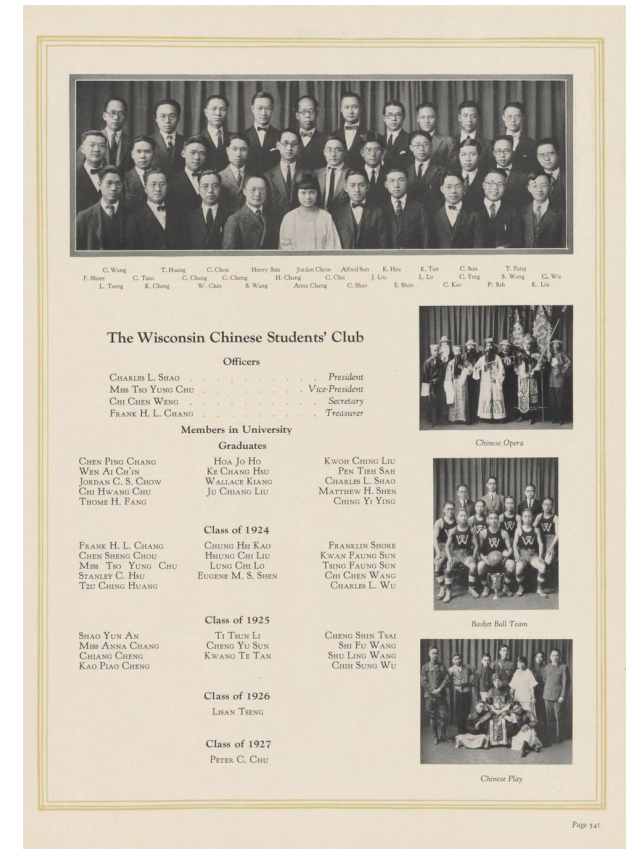
- Ying Zhang (UCI), project lead & coordinator of national archive sources
- Haiqing Lin (UCB), metadata and technical service manager
- Zhaohui Xue (Stanford), coordinator, Chinese/East Asian language content
- Liangyu Fu (Univ. of Michigan), coordinator, English/Western language content
- Yan He (Cambridge Univ.), coordinator, university archives and European content
- Wei Wang (Univ. of Virginia), coordinator, community outreach & project promotion
- Anna-Lexandra Fodde-Reguer (U. Penn.), coordinator, data protection and ethical review
- Angela Ko (retiree, Univ. of Hong Kong), proofreader, transliteration between Cantonese and English

Multipronged Data Collection



History of Early Chinese Students at UW-Madison

- The first Chinese students arrived in **1907** (3 from Shanghai).
- Actively engaged in campus life: clubs, athletics, and local publications.
- Transferred across U.S. institutions, forming broader academic networks.
- Many emerged as pioneers and influential figures across multiple fields, with major contributions in China.



History of Early Chinese Students at UW-Madison

- Public history initiative with Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) and Chinese history faculty & students
- Campus symposium with family of UW-Madison's first Chinese students (early 1900s)
- Archival donations from families to UW Archives
- Library exhibit and digital exhibit
- Prize-winning undergraduate senior thesis



Connecting UW–Madison Records to Broader Networks

- Collaboration with Who's Who project
- Case example: Chou, Ming-Heng (周明衡)
 - Arrival file from NARA
 - UW–Madison yearbook and local newspaper records
- Toward a more comprehensive biographical reconstruction

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
IMMIGRATION SERVICE

APPLICATION AND RECEIPT FOR CERTIFICATE OF IDENTITY

Application taken by Wing Date Sept. 30, 1916

San Francisco, Cal., NOV 29 1916, 191

RECEIVED FROM COMMISSIONER OF IMMIGRATION, Port of San Francisco—

Certificate of Identity No. 24403, issued in the

Name Chou Ming Heng Age 19

Height: 5 feet, 4 3/4 inches. Occupation Student

Place Madison Wis Admitted as Student

No. 15597 China Date Sept. 30, 1916

CHINESE STUDENTS BECOMING FEWER

M. H. Chou Believes Tuition Fees Keep Orientals from Attending Here

Wisconsin could have more Chinese students than any other American university if the tuition fees here were lower, in the opinion of Ming-Heng Chou, Chinese post-graduate student in chemistry.

"According to the statistics given in the 'Who is Who of American Returned Students', published by the Tsing Hua College in 1917, Wisconsin

has turned out the second largest number of Chinese students," Chou said. "Cermell is credited with the largest number. From 1909 to 1915 we had as many as 50 and 60 in this university."

The Wisconsin Chinese Students' club showed a drop in membership to 23 in 1916 and a further drop to 9 in 1917, Chou pointed out. In 1918 there were 15 members at Wisconsin, and there are 23 this year.

"But on the other hand, we must note the tremendous increase of Chinese students in other institutions," said Chou. "Ohio State university, which had not seen a Chinese student until four years ago has more than 40 students. Illinois and Michigan have each more than 35

students from China. Even Iowa has as many Chinese students as Wisconsin.

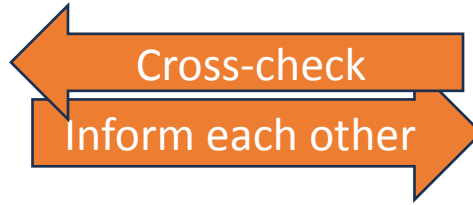
RESUME WIRE SERVICE.

PARIS—Telegraphic service between France and Germany will be resumed today, according to official announcements.

DANCING AT
BOYD'S STUDIO
TONIGHT

Who's Who & UW-M Collaboration

The Who's Who Project



U. of Wisconsin-Madison

Portrait

Name, Chinese

Name, Romanized

Degree earned

Date of arrival/departure

Place of birth

Name variances

Graduation year

Port of arrival/departure

Date of birth

Major

Vessel name/flight number

Hometown

Scholarship received

Height

Prep-education

Funding source

Gender

Extracurricular activities

Special training & internship

Parents

Family background

Spouse

Children

My Drive > Who's Who of Chinese ... > U of Wisconsin

Type	People	Modified	Source
Name	Owner	Date modified	
Hwang Miao 黃崑 4.JPG	me	Jun 23, 2025 me	
Hwang Miao 黃崑 3.JPG	me	Jun 23, 2025 me	
Hwang Miao 黃崑 2.JPG	me	Jun 23, 2025 me	
Hwang Miao 黃崑 1.JPG	me	Jun 23, 2025 me	
Wang Wei Hsin 王維新 4.JPG	me	Jun 23, 2025 me	
Wang Wei Hsin 王維新 3.JPG	me	Jun 23, 2025 me	
Wang Wei Hsin 王維新 2.JPG	me	Jun 23, 2025 me	
Wang Wei Hsin 王維新 1.JPG	me	Jun 23, 2025 me	

WISCONSIN UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON OneDrive

+ New Upload Share Copy link Download

Anlin Yang > Chinese Badger Project > 周明衡 Ming Heng Chou > From Local Newspaper

Name	Modified	Modified By	File size
Jun-25-1919-Madison-Wisconsin-State-Jo...	May 12, 2025	Anlin Yang	17.4 MB
Mar-06-1918-Madison-Wisconsin-State-J...	May 12, 2025	Anlin Yang	17.7 MB
Wisconsin_State_Journal_1919_05_08_6.pdf	May 12, 2025	Anlin Yang	754 KB
The_Capital_Times_1919_12_16_2.pdf	May 12, 2025	Anlin Yang	854 KB

UIUC

Columbia

Harvard

U. of Michigan

Cornell

U. of Chicago

U. of Wisconsin

MIT

U. of Minnesota

UC Berkeley

Ohio State U.

U. Penn.

NYU

Yale

State U. of Iowa

Stanford

John Hopkins U.

Invitation to Collaborate

- Spread the word
- Connect with descendants and communities
- Share local student records & related information

Benefits of the Collaboration

- Richer, more accurate data
- Stronger discovery, access, & research support
- Reduced duplication of labor
- Enhanced librarian impact
- Meaningful community engagement
- Becoming part of the history

THANK YOU!

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