

## Presenters and Guests

### Dr. Jean Lau Chin, "The Role of Women in the Chinese Family"

*Jean Lau Chin (EdD, Columbia University, Teachers College) is a psychologist and Professor at Adelphi University. Her career of more than 40 years of experience includes significant leadership roles within academia as dean at Adelphi University and Systemwide Dean at Alliant International University, and within health service delivery systems as Director of the Thom Clinic and Executive Director of the South Cove Community Health Center. Currently, she is Council Leadership Team Chair and on the Board of Directors of the American Psychological Association, President of the International Council of Psychologists. In addition to her clinical and consulting practice, she has published 18 books and numerous publications and professional talks on diversity, leadership, Asian American, and women's issues. She was editor of the Special Issue on Diversity and Leadership in the American Psychologist (April 2010), author of Women and Leadership (2007) and co-author of Diversity and Leadership (2015). She is a Fulbright Scholar as Distinguished Chair in Cultural Competence at the University of Sydney in Australia and has engaged in leadership development training for women and ethnic minorities.*

### Dr. John Thornell

*I came to Delta State in 1975 as a faculty member, having completed my doctorate from the University of Texas. After a few years I moved into administration and served in different positions, including dean, provost, and interim president. I loved history and completed a masters in history while at Delta State. I began to teach history part-time and moved my faculty appointment to that department in the 1990's. My interests extended to the history of the Delta and the challenges encountered by various ethnic groups. I began to study the Chinese and the Italians. I met with DSU professor, John Quon, and discussed doing an oral history of Delta Chinese families. He encouraged me to do so and offered his support. I received a grant from the Mississippi Humanities Council to do the project. I hired three students to help with interviews. I used the results to publish several articles and present papers at conferences, mainly the the Southern Asian Studies Conference. My work led me to develop great appreciation for the Delta Chinese. I concluded my role as provost at Delta State in 2007 and took a similar position in North Carolina. I moved to Alabama in 2009 to be provost of the University of North Alabama (UNA). I concluded that role in 2017 and am now a faculty member in the UNA history department. I teach US history and Civil War. I recently did an oral history of a Chinese faculty member at UNA and her experiences living through the cultural revolution.*

*Thanks to all for putting this conference together. I look forward to being a part of it.*

### Chinese American Citizens Alliance, National, Carolyn Chan



*The introduction of the bills into Congress to award the Congressional Gold Medal to our brave Chinese American World War II Veterans marks a significant milestone in our quest to recognize and honor the dedication to duty and privilege of service to this country for our sometimes forgotten Chinese Americans of this generation. Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.) vigorously applauds and heartily commends the sponsorships of Senator Tammy Duckworth, Senator Thad Cochran, Rep. Ed Royce and Rep. Ted Lieu for these bills. Many of those who served are or were members of our organization and continued service as patriots and citizens in their respective communities."*

### Chinese American Citizens Alliance, MS Lodge, Jing Rosella & Shirley Kwan

- *I am Jing X. Rosella and am honored to serve as the President of the MISSISSIPPI LODGE of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance (C.A.C.A.).*

*Eight years ago I arrived in the U.S.A. from Changsha, Hunan Province in China.*

*Previously I served my term as President of the Mandarin Group. During my term as president, we celebrated many Chinese Festivals and Holidays.*

*On August 8-9, 2014, I participated in the inaugural Mississippi Delta Dragon Boat Festival in Greenville, Mississippi. To highlight the Chinese Culture, I sang Beijing Opera at the Chinese Gala held at the Greenville Yacht Club on Friday night. On Saturday, I was a rower in the Dragon Boat Race., which took place on Lake Ferguson on the levee. I sang at 2015 Spring Festival in Jackson MS.*

*I am comptroller of a furniture business operated by my husband, J.D. Rosella, and me. We reside in Greenville, Mississippi. I like what I do in serving and interacting with people at the local Lodge, business community and Life in the Mississippi Delta.*

*Thank you for asking our lodge to be a part of this reunion.*

- *I, Shirley Hong Kwan, was born and raised in Greenville, Mississippi. My Dad's store was named Fok Chung Co., located on the corner of North Poplar and O'hea Streets.*

*From 1943-1947, I attended elementary school at the Oriental School located on Nelson Street. I graduated from Greenville High School in 1955 and Delta State University in 1960. I am a retired educator who taught three years in the elementary schools out West, specifically in Nevada, New Mexico and Utah and 25 years in Mississippi. My husband, Richard, who is also retired, and I reside in Moorhead. On September 09, 2000, at the chartering of the Mississippi Lodge of the Chinese American Citizens Alliance, I was sworn in as the founding Vice President. Currently, I am the Mississippi Lodge's National Representative. In August, 2014, I was on the Dragon Boat Committee for the Inaugural Dragon Boat Festival in Greenville, Mississippi. I also support the Chinese Spring Festivals in Jackson, Mississippi. Thanks to the MDCHM for preserving the Mississippi Delta Chinese History. A person can move to: CA, TX, AR, AL, TN, CO, AZ, etc., but "ONCE A MISSISSIPPIAN, ALWAYS A MISSISSIPPIAN".*

*I am honored to have a booth at this reunion to showcase our local organization. Thank you for giving us this opportunity.*

#### Finding Cleveland, Baldwin Chiu & Larissa Lam

*Baldwin Chiu (aka Only Won) is the producer of the award-winning documentary short, Finding Cleveland. Born and raised in California, Baldwin is the grandson of KC Lou and great-grandson of Charley Lou, who owned Chas J. Lou Groceries in Pace, MS. In Sept 2014, the entire Chiu family came to Mississippi for the first time in search of their family roots. They were introduced to MDCHM and made miraculous discoveries about their family with help from Emily Jones and members of the community. This led Baldwin to make Finding Cleveland. The film continues to screen across the country so that audiences outside of Mississippi can learn about their family's amazing journey and the contributions of the Delta Chinese to this country. MDCHM continues to be a resource to Baldwin as he makes a new full-length documentary, which will include many more personal and historical discoveries. Learn more at [www.FindingCleveland.com](http://www.FindingCleveland.com).*

#### Film: Honor & Duty, E. Samantha Cheng

*The Mississippi Delta Chinese Heritage Museum (MDCHM) was instrumental during the research, development and production of the documentary series **Honor and Duty: The Mississippi Delta Chinese**. MDCHM provided a backdrop to many of the on-camera interviews with area residents adding authenticity and color to a very important part of Mississippi's common history. The archives and collections within MDCHM are unique and are available to researchers and filmmakers alike, providing a great benefit to all working to perpetuate Chinese American history, our presence and contributions to America. As an independent producer, I can say that if it were not for MDCHM, the documentary series **Honor and Duty: The Mississippi Delta Chinese** would not be as factual, rich and compelling as it is.*

#### "South of Gold Mountain," H.T. Chen & Dian Dong

*Choreographer **H.T. Chen** is distinguished for having created a body of works that address Chinese American immigration and labor. He is the recipient of numerous awards for choreography and has always believed that good art has social value. In addition to H.T. Chen & Dancers, H.T. and his wife Dian Dong founded a School serving over 400 children each week, and a black-box Theater in Chinatown, NY.*

*On this visit, they wish to reconnect with friends and families who contributed to the **South of Gold Mountain** project through oral histories, research information, and family photos. The project celebrated the lives and livelihoods of Chinese who settled in the American South and was presented to audiences nationwide. Excerpts of the work were also featured in educational performances by H.T. Chen & Dancers to over 20,000 young audiences so that they could learn this important chapter of Asian American history.*

**Dian Dong**, a professional dancer and teacher, is 4<sup>th</sup> generation American born Chinese on her father's side of the family and 5<sup>th</sup> generation on her mother's side. She is a graduate of The Juilliard School's Dance Division, and in 2005 attended the Stanford Graduate School of Business – EPNL ARTS Program. Ms. Dong organizes and designs the education programs for Chen Dance Center's homebased and residency programs. She and H.T. Chen are the recipients of a Bessie's Citation, the NYS Governor's Arts Award and the 2012 Mid-Career Martha Hill Dance Fund. They are also the proud parents of two dancing daughters.

## Delta Wok, Easton Selby & Gabriella Sang

*The Mississippi Chinese have played a key role in the social and economic growth of the delta culture. It was agriculture that brought the families to the region, but it was a socio-economic bond through race that brought them into the groceries. Since the late 1800's Chinese groceries fed the families of the delta. The groceries were not just a place to purchase goods, but they were the homes and havens for Chinese families. It was in those stores that family meals were created, food was eaten, stories were told, and traditions were maintained; much like the traditional southern table. A traditional Chinese meal is how families were able to stay connected to their roots.*

*A Delta Wok is a collaborative project conceived by Emily Jones (Mississippi Delta Chinese Heritage Museum, **Easton Selby** (2003 Delta State University Alumnus, 2008 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters award recipient for photography, and chair of Visual Arts at Coastal Carolina University,)), and **Tim Hodge** (former student of Easton Selby and current M.F.A. candidate in photography, video and related media at the School for Visual Arts in Manhattan, NY). The idea developed through a previous collaboration by Jones and Selby. From 2009-2012 Selby worked on a collaborative photographic project about the geography of the Mississippi Delta blues. This work was exhibited at the Archives. While visiting family, and working on the blues project, Jones introduced Selby to Hoover Lee's "Hoover Sauce" and the history behind its production.*

*Exploring titles for this project, Jones and Selby took to heart the alluvial, bowl shape of the Delta and found that shape mirrored in the primary piece of all Chinese kitchens, the wok. Therefore, "The Delta Wok" seemed a perfect working title for this project. The Delta Wok was born out of a mutual love for foodways, such as the Hoover Lee story, the desire to promote the cultural history of the delta, and is most importantly an effort to preserve the legacy of the shrinking population of the Mississippi Delta Chinese.*

*The Delta Wok project aims to preserve this rich cultural tradition while educating the community through foodways—the intersectional explorations of culture, tradition, and history as told through the stories of cuisine. A short series of documentaries and ultimately a cookbook will explore the culinary trends and traditions of the Mississippi Delta Chinese. Our goal will be achieved through collected and archived stories of personal journeys, photographs of cooking traditions (past and present) and family recipes, while simultaneously perpetuating the education of an underserved culture that has historically woven race relations together in the Mississippi Delta.*

## Grocery Stor[i]es, Randy Kwan

*Grocery stores have played an integral role in the establishment and development of the Chinese presence in the Mississippi Delta. While issues of segregation and equality swirled in the communities right outside grocery store doors, the Chinese families were blending their heritage with their new environment. Building from the photographs and oral histories collected within the Delta State University Archives' Chinese holdings, this project proposes to develop a traveling exhibit focusing on the lives lived within grocery stores, primarily focusing on the subjects of foodways and education. While the majority of our areas grocery stores no longer stand, this resource will demonstrate how the Delta's Chinese influenced change all from behind the doors and counters of their grocery stores.*

*This project will use images of interior and exterior grocery stores from the past with current images taken by Randy Kwan. Layering on top of the physical demonstration of the evolution of time, we will incorporate images of the lives lived within these spaces. Combined with the impact of the images, oral histories held in the University Archives as well as those collected specifically for this project, will provide the text and context for the images. In their own words and with their own images, the MS Delta Chinese will tell their stories.*

## Mississippi Digital Library

*Mississippi's rich abundance of cultural and historical resources is held by institutions and repositories all across the state. Our mission at the Mississippi Digital Library (MDL) is to provide an online space to search and explore the wealth of materials available in Mississippi.*

*The MDL provides an online portal for discovery and access of digital collections throughout the state. In addition to access to materials we provide:*

- *Training- Digitization training at all stages of the digitization process from selecting equipment and handling materials to creating metadata.*
- *Hosting- A digital collections platform for institutions that cannot host collections themselves.*
- *Assistance- Limited digitization assistance through usage of specialized equipment and programs such as the Cultural Heritage Digitization Award*

## Heritage Corner, Raymond Seid

*Upon graduation from Mississippi State in 1972 with degrees in Engineering and Business, I left Mississippi for a 30-year career in the US Public Health Service, 23 years of which were an assignment in San Francisco. I am now retired and living in Hawaii for the past 15 years. My time away from Mississippi has given me a new perspective on my Mississippi Delta Chinese roots. I'm a native son of Greenville, Mississippi. My exposure to Chinese people outside of Mississippi, particularly in San Francisco, Hawaii as well as in my ancestral village in China, has awakened my interest in Chinese culture and heritage, and specifically on the genealogy of my family clan, and others, to the point of becoming passionate about the subject. I am a current member of the Board of Directors for the Mississippi Delta Chinese Heritage Museum, and preserving our unique Mississippi Delta Chinese heritage is of utmost importance at this critical juncture as the Delta Chinese transcends from the grocery store era to becoming the educated professionals and business people in America. To be a part of the agenda for the 2017 Reunion, I am honored to offer encouragement and whatever helping hand to my fellow Delta Chinese in finding their family's journey from China to the Mississippi Delta, with hope of giving true meaning to our roots and existence in the Mississippi Delta.*

## Dr. John Jung

*John Jung reinvented himself as a public historian after retiring from 40 years as a professor of psychology. In the past decade, he published 5 books, blogged, and spoke on over 100 occasions about important aspects of the Chinese American experience to community groups, professional societies, universities, and historical museums across the country. Born in Macon, Georgia, he is especially interested in Chinese in the Deep South and as evidenced by two of his books, *Southern Fried Rice and Chopsticks in the Land of Cotton*, his web page: <http://www.mississippideltachinese.webs.com/> and his Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/msdeltachinese/> for Mississippi Delta Chinese. His primary focus is researching personal aspects of the experiences of Chinese immigrants in family-run businesses such as laundries, restaurants, and grocery stores because they served as the foundation for survival for early Chinese immigrants. He believes it is important for present and future generations, Chinese as well as non-Chinese, to learn about their struggles, achievements, and contributions to society.*

## Augusta Scattergood

*Augusta (Gusty) Russel Scattergood grew up in Cleveland, MS, where the seeds of two of her three novels grew. Published by Scholastic Press, her books have been on over a dozen state recommended reading lists for middle-grade students. Her new book, *MAKING FRIENDS WITH BILLY WONG*, was recently named a best book of the year by Bank Street. It is set during the Civil Rights era in a small southern town and is based both on research done at the Mississippi Delta Chinese Heritage Museum and on interviews with her southern Chinese American friends. Augusta now lives with her husband Jay in St. Petersburg, Florida.*

## Steve Yee Prints

World famous artist **Steve Yee** will be attending our Reunion where he will indulge in the planned festivities and visit with friends and relatives in the environment of his youth. All print sizes sell for \$45.00



Greenville Cemetery Association, Cathy Wong

Since 2001, Greenville Chinese Cemetery Association has been providing Cemetery Subdividers And

Developers from Greenville. Greenville Chinese Cemetery Association is incorporated in Mississippi.

### The Chinese Historical Society of Memphis & The Mid-South (Jinliang Cai)

*The Chinese Historical Society of Memphis and the Mid-South began in 2016 with a group of Chinese who felt the need to preserve the heritage of the Chinese in Memphis and the Mid-South. Our Mission is to collect, preserve and share the local Chinese American experience, history, and culture with our diverse community. One of our goals is to collect oral histories from residents of Tennessee, Mississippi and Arkansas and archive any donated documents and/or photos. In July 2017 we organized a Cemetery Preservation Project to clean and maintain the Chinese section at Elmwood. Our website is [chinesehistoricalsocietyinthemidsouth.wordpress.org](http://chinesehistoricalsocietyinthemidsouth.wordpress.org). Donations can be made through AmazonSmile or Kroger Community Awards. Membership is open to anyone and is valid for five years for \$50.00. For more information, contact Jin Cai at 901-468-8834, email [jlcai@yahoo.com](mailto:jlcai@yahoo.com) or CHS2016@yahoo.com.*

Photo Booth! Snap a Selfie or check out the schedule posted in front of the backdrop to know when our guest photographers will be available to take photographs of you and your group!

### Authors' Table

Be sure to stop by the Authors' Table during the open times to catch up with some of our favorite authors attending the reunion. Many of their books are available for purchase from the University Bookstore on the first floor of the Union. Instead of following them around the reunion, make sure you stop by the table to catch them!

Dr. Jean Lau Chin

Dr. John Jung

Mrs. Libby Jeu

Mrs. Augusta Scattergood