

I came to the United States for my graduate study in 1984. I received a teaching assistant scholarship from the Asian Studies Department at Seton Hall University in New Jersey. My first TA responsibility was the Chinese language drills in listening, speaking and reading. Besides working with the professors in the classroom, I also helped students in the language laboratory. I started to teach the evening classes by myself after my first year graduate study. The John DeFrancis' series we used at that time helped me to learn the Chinese grammar from American perspective. I benefited from his work a lot.

After I graduated from Seton Hall University with master degree from the department of Asian Studies, I taught Chinese/English Bilingual Social Studies at the High School of Arts and Design in New York City for three years and also served as the program coordinator for one year. This teaching and administration experience helped me to learn more about the public school system in the US. I taught Chinese at Lehigh University, Indiana University in Indianapolis, weekend Chinese schools and many other private settings. Currently, I am a full time Mandarin teacher at Verona High School in New Jersey. Throughout my career, I have taught Chinese to students from pre- school to adulthood.

Although teaching is my passion, it can get challenging sometimes. Peer support and professional training are very important to me. Learning never ends, I hope I can be a better teacher as the time goes by.

我是一九八四年到美國來念研究所。當時拿的是助教獎學金，我的工作就是教中文。擔任助教一年以後，開始負責晚上班級的教學工作。當時一班差不多是十個學生，年齡層很大，教學方式很傳統。當時用的課本是 John DeFrancis 寫的教科書，他的書幫助我從外國人的角度來了解中文文法，對我日後的教學極有幫助。現在應該是沒有人用這套書了。

從八四年來美，一直沒有離開教學的工廠。教學環境有私人的，公立學校的。教學對象有小小孩，也有成人。在教學過程當中，不時遇到瓶頸，需要被充電。同行之間的意見交換常常幫助我突破現狀，帶我和我的學生進入令一個階段。

我目前教學的高中很小，全校差不多五百八十個學生。目前有九十個學生在學中文。坦白說，越教中文，越覺得中文難教也難學。要讓學生聽，說，讀，寫都“清楚”，而且不失去興趣實在不是件容易的事。目前高中中文教學越來越注重 AP 課程，讓我更覺得需要“進補”（進步）。很高興能有機會再跟同行老師有切磋，研討的機會。