

Self-Introduction

I started teaching Chinese in 1992 in the United States as a weekend schoolteacher at the Roanoke Chinese Association's School. From 1998 to 2002 I also worked as the school coordinator, meaning that I not only taught classes but also took on administrative responsibilities. In 2010, I began teaching at Roanoke College, where I teach multi-level Chinese classes. For me, being able to teach Chinese in a college setting is a dream come true.

I am originally from China and have a passion for sharing Chinese language, literature, and culture. I have worked with a wide variety of people in this endeavor, from American parents adopting Chinese orphans to students of all ages with every level of proficiency in Chinese. In our local community, I have organized many cultural exchange programs, such as Chinese New Year's celebrations and Tastes of Culture featuring China. I love many aspects of Chinese culture, including Chinese dance, poetry, and both classical and contemporary literature. I am an active member in my community.

Since I grew up in China during the Great Cultural Revolution, I did not have the opportunity for as consistent a school experience as some others have enjoyed. From elementary to high school, my education consisted of working either in fields or factories. It was only after coming to America that I had the opportunity to pursue my education. I love learning, and I believe that everyone has the right to pursue an education. I also believe that, in order to be able to teach, one has to learn first, and that teaching and learning are really two parts of the same action. I choose to teach Chinese not only because I am passionate about the Chinese language, but also because I have an abiding interest in helping people understand each other through language education, thus opening the door to better communication and understanding. The goal of my teaching is to open this door for people who are interested in learning about China and the Chinese language.

I have had a wonderful learning experience in the StarTalk Chinese Teacher Academy at the University of Virginia this summer. The StarTalk program involves three weeks of professional training, which is the best I have ever had. The program emphasizes the method of employing communicative instructional strategies to teach Chinese and using 100% Chinese language in classroom instruction.

I have become a more knowledgeable and effective teacher by learning from Dr. Tseng and my wonderful classmates. My experience at UVa's StarTalk program will always have a special impact on my teaching practice, and a special place in my heart.