

I earned my Bachelor's Degree in English as a Second Language intending to become an English teacher just like some of my favorite teachers, dedicated and caring. Life brought me to the U.S. upon college graduation. Fifteen years later, after three kids and a family-run business, I started formally teaching Chinese and ESL classes at Blacksburg Chinese School and became president of the organization. I also started to pursue my Master's degree in counseling.

I had the opportunity to attend the Virginia Foreign Language Association conference in Richmond in the fall of 2009. The theories of best practices in foreign language instruction confirmed many of my intuitions, and I was intrigued and encouraged to learn more. I switched my major to Second Language Education. I decided to pursue a career in Mandarin instruction and do my small part in promoting cultural understanding in our increasingly diverse world.