

HOW DOES BEING A CHINESE AMERICAN SET ME APART FROM MY PEERS

by Jason Shaw

Jason is a Junior at Carmel High School, he is the recipient of 2016 Indiana Association of Chinese Americans (IACA) Telamon Scholarship first place winner in the high school category. The criteria of winning the scholarship is based on community involvements, leadership and a titled essay by IACA. Congratulations to Jason Shaw and best wishes to his future endeavors.



Throughout my life, my Asian heritage has helped me develop my character. Attributes such as love for science, work ethic, and desire to benefit my community were shaped by my culture.

My Asian American heritage has played an essential role in shaping my work ethic and my habits. Growing up, I was taught by my parents as first-generation immigrants to America the principles of working hard and having high standards. Since I was very young, my parents have placed me in a rigorous Asian training regimen that consisted of endless study during weekdays as well as six-hours-worth of extracurricular math and English classes during weekends. Under this productive learning environment, I successfully developed a strong work ethic. Later in life, my sense of hard work proved useful. When I applied for my first job during high school, I was selected to work at Coldstone. I was one of the few sophomores in my high school who held a job. My hard work and diligence certainly helped in landing this part-time job.

My distaste for imperfection as well as my strong desire for self-improvement have also stemmed from my development as an Asian. The Asian American educational community can be best described as a competitive environment. In my middle school, I participated in Mathcounts and became assimilated into an academic community that was mainly composed of Asian Americans. Initially, I felt diffident due to my inferiority in mathematics. I was also considered the laughingstock of the Asian Mathcounts community in Carmel Middle School. My father suggested that I turn such peer pressure into my drive to improve my skills. In order to claim my honor, I took it upon myself to adopt a perfectionist mentality. As a result, I rigorously studied for an upcoming school-wide Mathcounts competition in order to prove my competence to my peers. After approximately a month of studying, I

placed second place. Because of the intense learning environment pressed by the Asian American math counts community, I was able to find strength and respect from my peers amidst my weakness by adopting a perfectionist mentality.

As an Asian American, science has had a strong influence over my lifestyle. As both of my parents are scientists, I have been mesmerized by the alluring complexity of science. During my summer as a sophomore, I was blessed by the opportunity to meet Dr. Chao-Hung Lee, one of the very first researchers in the field of molecular biology who attended the field's birth at Colorado Springs. Under his tutelage, I developed a strong love for molecular biology and gained decent laboratory skills. Most importantly, I learned the significance of science to Asian Americans. After a lecture one day, Dr. Lee explained to me that numerous recently immigrated Chinese Americans, like his teaching assistant, Bob, felt lost due to the novelty and complexity of the American society; usually, it was science that enabled Asian Americans to distinguish themselves. "We aren't good at politics, nor can we break the glass ceiling in Hollywood," says Dr. Lee, "but science will always be the key to our success in this new world." One reason why a majority of Asians pursued science as a career path was because the principles of science were harmonious with the Asian principles of hard work, perseverance, and eventual payoff. Lee also explained that his success was due to his limitless hours devoted to science. Dr. Lee himself was an immigrant and had spent countless hours in the laboratory until he established himself as one of the leading researchers in molecular biology. Hearing Dr. Lee's story had strengthened my cultural connections to science. After I left Dr. Lee's workshop, my newfound connection to science through my Asian heritage greatly amplified my desire to pursue a scientific career.

Through my Asian American Heritage, I was also able to adopt a sense of duty to my community. I used to view volunteering as insignificant since current large-scale non-profit organizations such as the Salvation Army—although noble—do very little to enact any real change. However, I witnessed history this year when I campaigned for an Asian Candidate, Lin Zheng, for a position in the School Board. It was a cold and rainy day when my mother and I began to pass flyers to individuals in line for voting at a nearby booth. I experienced a sense of apathy since I was only able to distribute a small number of flyers to voters during my two-hour shift. However, on the day election results were announced, I was surprised to hear that Zheng had won a seat on the school board—the first Asian American in Indiana to do so. At that moment, I realized that my previous conviction about volunteering was wrong. Consequently, I developed a sense of duty to my community as I gradually increased my social activities volunteering at local charity events such as Trick or treat for Riley. Because I witnessed Lin Zheng become the first Asian American school board member in Indiana, I became inspired, due to my cultural ties, to benefit my community.

My Asian American heritage has played a major role in the development of my character. Without my tradition upbringing, my embrace of the sciences, or my decision to support Lin Zheng for School Board, I would not have been able to develop the traits that make me proud to be an Asian American.

BAO GONG - 包公

"To be wealthy and honored in an unjust society is a disgrace." ~ Confucius



Dr. Patrick Lau was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to the U.S. after high school. He retired from the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System where he served as Chief Radiologist and moved to Florida with his wife in 2011. He was an active member & contributor of IACA and ICMA while in Indiana. Dr. Lau is also a scholar of art and literature and a prolific writer, he has been a dedicated columnist for Indy Asian American Times since 2010.

Bao Zheng 包拯 (999-1062), a historic figure and an exceptional governmental official in the Northern Song Dynasty (960-1127), was born in now Hefei in Anhui Province. He grew up in a low working class neighborhood. He understood the hardships and burden of poverty; this made him hate corrupted officials, and he resolved to uphold justice and honesty. He passed the highest-level imperial examinations and bestowed the title of Jinshi 進士; and he was appointed as Magistrate of Jianchang County. However, he forfeited the opportunity to serve, returning home to render care for his aging parents for 10 years until they passed away.

Bao was then appointed a magistrate of justice. His unsurpassed wisdom, aptitude, righteousness, integrity, inexorability and courage impressed Emperor Renzong, who assigned him to important offices. Bao was famous for his robust sense of fairness, and his proficiency to differentiate truth from falsehood. And he was most known for his incorruptibility.

Bao was officially granted three large knives 劍 by the emperor to execute specific individuals according to status committing capital crimes. The first knife was decorated with a dog's head 犬頭劍 to execute commoners, the second one with a tiger's head 虎頭劍 for corrupt officials, and the third one with a dragon's head 龍頭劍 for royal personages and aristocracies. He was authorized to punish any person without obtaining approval first from the emperor. Bao was bestowed the title of Bao Gong (Lord Bao).

Bao's well-known cases were: The Case of Chen Shimei (銜美案): Chen Shimei, a poor scholar, married Qin Xianglian, and they had two children. Chen travelled to the capital to take the Imperial examination. After winning the first place, he lied about his marriage and married the emperor's daughter. A famine compelled Qin to go to the capital with her children to look for her husband. But Chen did not acknowledge them and refused to help them. He ordered his servant Han Qi to murder his family to cover up the secret. Sympathetic to Qin's plight, Han helped them to escape and killed himself. Eventually, Qin brought her case to Bao who impartially tried Chen and convicted him. Bao executed him albeit

immense pressure, interference and threat from the imperial family.

The case of Wild Cat Switched for Crown Prince (狸貓換太子): There are different versions. When Li, one of Emperor Zhenzong's concubines gave birth to a baby boy, another wicked concubine, Liu, conspired with eunuch Guo Huai, and secretly swapped the newborn with a dead wild cat. The emperor banished Li. Concubine Liu acted as the baby's mother and became the empress. The boy eventually was enthroned as Emperor Renzong. Li filed a complaint to Bao of the conspiracy. Bao extracted a confession from Guo Huai by disguising as Yan Luo, god of the underworld to try him. Bao executed him. Later on, Emperor Renzong recognized Li as his biological mother.

The Case of Two Nails (雙釘記): Bao was investigating the suspicious death of a man. The coroner could not find any evidence of bodily injury and he ruled the cause of death as natural. Discussing the case with his wife, the coroner was told that he should have examined the cadaver's skull; a person could be murdered by forcefully hammering a long nail into his brain while asleep, and the wound would be concealed by his hair. The next morning, the coroner discovered a long nail, the murder weapon. Bao arrested the widow who, upon interrogating, confessed to adultery and homicide. She was executed. Bao then questioned the coroner's wife and learned that her previous husband suffered a sudden death. After unearthing her first husband's body, a nail was found in his skull.

In Chinese opera, Bao is always theatrically portrayed having a stern black face. The black face is a symbol of impartiality, uprightness, justice, selflessness and integrity of a bold official in ancient China.

古今該曉黑顏臉，明察秋毫把案裁。
治腐懲貪民喜愛，包公青史載芳來。

Indiana Association of Chinese Americans Year of the Rooster 2017 IACA Chinese New Year Banquet Celebration



DATE: Saturday, January 28th, 2017

TIME: 6:00PM Registration, 6:30PM Dinner, Chinese Banquet Style

LOCATION: Sichuan Cuisine within Formosa Seafood Buffet
6304 East 82nd Street, Indianapolis, IN 46250

PRICE: \$28 per person (inclusive non-alcoholic beverage), \$15 children under 10

RSVP: by January 21st and mail check to
IACA, P.O. Box 3888, Carmel, IN 46082 - 0018

ENJOY: Lion Dance, Chinese & Joy Orchestra Performances, Hung Bao for children and raffle prizes

QUESTIONS? Contact Marilyn Jacobs (jakesjag@aol.com)

Year of the Rooster 2017 Banquet Menu

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| 蟹肉魚肚羹 | Seafood Soup |
| 錦繡大拼盤 | Combination Appetizer Platter |
| 蒙古牛肉 | Mongolian Beef |
| 椒鹽大蝦 | Salt and Pepper Prawns |
| 薑葱龍蝦 | Lobster with Ginger and Scallion |
| 發財絲瓜 | Chinese Okra Squash with Chinese Angel Hair |
| 雙味松鼠魚 | Fried Whole Fish Dressed with Dual Sauces |
| 四川回鍋肉 | Sichuan Double Cooked Pork |
| 揚州炒飯 | Yang Chou Fried Rice |
| 星洲炒米粉 | Vermicelli Singapore Style |
| 甜蜜湯丸 | New Year Sweet Rice Dumplings |

Please return this portion with your RSVP along with your check:
Name of your party _____ Total number of people in your party _____

Thank you and look forward to a joyful and successful 2017 with you!



Six IACA Telamon Scholarship winners in Middle School and High School categories
From left to right, IACA President Marilyn Jacobs, Larry Chen, Grace Xu, Sam Wong, Melissa Su, Kevin Chen, Jason Shaw, and Paula Chou of Telamon

INDIANAPOLIS CHINESE ORCHESTRA CELEBRATES

To celebrate the close of another successful year of performances, the Indianapolis Chinese Orchestra, led by Teacher Ka Leung Ching (賈良清老師) completed its 6th year of performing for clubs, organizations, festivals and select private events. Consisting of roughly 20 volunteer amateur musicians dedicated learning and playing traditional Chinese instruments, each member performs simply for the joy of music!

Below are images of the members, spouses, family and friends of the Orchestra celebrating with a little

holiday cheer at the home of Stan and Marilyn Jacobs; Stan is one of the orchestra founding members. With over 25 in attendance, a select number of orchestra members performed holiday classics for the other guests, while everyone else sang along, laughed and cheered. A gourmet Chinese dinner from Lucky Lou Restaurant was another great enjoyment of the party.

Photos courtesy of Kwan Hui



2016 Holiday performance at the Indianapolis Children's Museum



Holiday party at the Jacobs' home with food and cheers