

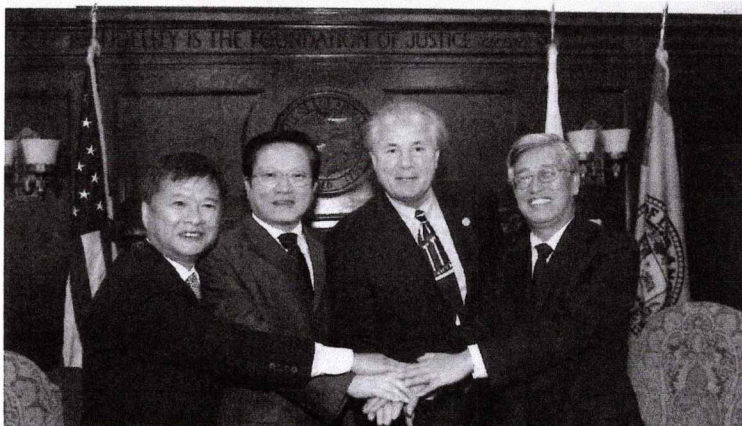


# LOS ANGELES-GUANGZHOU MONITOR

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## Mayor Zhang Guangning visited Los Angeles



(from left) Jeffrey Cheung, Mayor Zhang Guangning, Councilman Tom LaBonge and Chinese Consul General Zhang Yun

### By K. K. Kwong

In 2006 the Mayor of Los Angeles, Antonio Villaraigosa travel to China. Among his stops was Guangzhou, the sister city of Los Angeles where he met Mayor Zhang Guangning. At the welcome dinner hosted by Guangzhou Municipal government, Mayor Villaraigosa invited Mayor Zhang to make a return visit to LA.

In September 2009, Mayor Villaraigosa's visit was reciprocated. LAGSCA was honored to receive the delegation of Guangzhou Municipal Government led by Mayor Zhang Guangning. Accompanying Mayor Zhang were Ms. Yang Wu, Vice Director of Guangzhou Municipal People's Congress and many high level officials.

After a warm reunion with

Mayor Villaraigosa and a fruitful discussion about environmental challenges faced by both cities, Mayor Zhang visited a number of thoughtfully selected sites in Los Angeles. Among the highlights of the visit were a boat tour of the Port of Los Angeles and a visit at a newly completed United Oil

gas station. In both locations the Mayor and his delegations shared ideas about advances in environmental improvements and green technology.

The LAGSCA hosted a dinner for Mayor Zhang at which many old friends gathered to greet the Mayor. Councilman Tom LaBonge was among those who greeted the Mayor during the evening. Gary Toebben, President of Los Angeles Area Chamber of Commerce, who visited Guangzhou with Mayor Villaraigosa in 2006, extended a warm welcome to Mayor Zhang and his delegation on behalf of LA business community. At the conclusion of the event LAGSCA Chairman, Irving Karp presented Mayor Zhang with a special set of ping pong paddles. Mayor Zhang is an avid player and was thrilled to receive such a special personal gift.



(from right) Ms. Yang Wu, Mayor Zhang, Irving Karp and David Lee

Mayor of Los Angeles  
Honorable Antonio Villaraigosa

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# In memory of Irving J. Karp

## *Farewell Mr. Ping Pong*

By Jeffrey Cheung, President, LAGSCA



**Irving J. Karp**

Irving J. Karp, Chairman and one of the founders of the Los Angeles – Guangzhou Sister City Association, passed away on October 13, 2009 at the age of 92.

Known as “Mr. Ping Pong”, Irving started his almost four decade pursuit of fostering US-China friendship in 1970s when he supplied equipment for the “friendly games” between the national Ping Pong teams of the United States and China. In late 1970s, he joined Caroline Ahmanson and David Lee in establishing the sister city relationship between Los Angeles and Guangzhou. After two years of arduous effort, the two cities finally entered into the agreement in December 1981. Irving was elected Vice Chairman of the newly established Los Angeles – Guangzhou Sister City Association in 1982.

In the following twenty eight years, Irving wholeheartedly dedicated himself to the development of the Sister City Association. He was in charge of the association’s finance committee and oversaw the operations of the Laurence Liu Scholarship. He visited China many times, hosted numerous delegations from China, and was actively involved in numerous sister city exchange events. In 2005, Irving succeeded Caroline Ahmanson as the Chairman of LAGSCA and continued to exercise his outstanding leadership.

Irving received many awards and honors for his contribution to the Los Angeles community and LAGSCA. Among them the most distinguished ones he has received was presented in Guangzhou in 2002. The Guangzhou Municipal People’s Congress elected him Honorary Citizen of Guangzhou.

In addition to his involvement in LAGSCA, Irving has served as a director of the Jewish Vocational Services in Los Angeles, and was a long time member of the National Committee of US-China Relations.

On September 11, 2009, four weeks before Irving passed away, he made his last appearance as LAGSCA Chairman at the welcome dinner for Mayor Zhang Guangning of Guangzhou. He surprised Mayor Zhang by presenting him a profoundly meaningful gift – a pair of Ping Pong paddles which were ordered from a Swedish company specialized in manufacturing high quality ping pong paddles. Irving had learned that Mayor Zhang enjoys playing ping pong and that he serves as the president of Guangzhou Ping Pong Association.

The Karp family has received many condolence letters from China, the most touching letter is from former Laurence Liu Scholars. In the letter they recalled how each of them was hosted by Irving during their study in Los Angeles and the invaluable assistance he generously rendered to them.

“I have started playing Ping Pong with the paddles I received from Mr. Karp as a gift in Los Angeles, and I will always cherish them.” Mayor Zhang told me when we met in Guangzhou in November 2009. “Holding this paddle in my hand invokes the fond reminiscences of my visit to Los Angeles, the friendship of the association and Mr. Irving Karp, your outstanding Chairman.”

The Los Angeles – Guangzhou Sister City Association is indebted to Irving for his remarkable leadership and outstanding contributions. He will be remembered as a dedicated leader of our association, a great friend of China, and last but not the least “Mr. Ping Pong”.



**Irving presented a pair of ping pong paddles to Mayor Zhang Guanning as a special gift .**



**Irving and Ruth with Ambassador Chai Zemin in 1980s.**



**Mayor Lin Shusen of Guangzhou presented a gift to Irving Karp in Los Angeles in 1999.**

## Honorary Citizen of Guangzhou

By Jeffrey Cheung

On November 24, 2009, the citizenry of Guangzhou added twenty nine. I was humbled to be one of the twenty nine people who were granted the title of Honorary Citizen of Guangzhou by Guangzhou Municipal People's Government.

At the Honorary Citizen award ceremony, CCP Secretary Zhu Xiaodan and Mayor Zhang Guangning presented the award to each of the honorary citizens. The recipients of this honor were renowned entrepreneurs, educators, community leaders and representatives of sister cities associations from Japan, Italy, Sweden, the United States, Hong Kong, Macao and Tai-

wan. They were made Honorary Citizens of Guangzhou as a recognition of their distinguished contribution to the development of Guangzhou.

At the gala banquet hosted by the Guangzhou Municipal Government, Mayor Zhang Guangning congratulated the newly elected Honorary Citizens and encouraged them to continue their contribution to the enhancement of the development of the city and its friendship with sister cities worldwide.

Since the founding of the organization seven members of LAGSCA have been made Honorary Citizen of Guangzhou.



Jeffrey Cheung received the Honorary Citizen award from CCP Secretary Zhu Xiaodan (right) and Mayor Zhang Guangning (left).

## Cooperation on Environmental Improvement Projects

By K. K. Kwong

One of the highlights of the visit of Mayor Zhang Guangning to Los Angeles in September 2009 was a tour of a gasoline station owned by United Oil. The visit was arranged by HD Construction, a Southern California based engineering firm specializing in gas station design and improvements. Hal Mauldin, President of HD Construction greeted Mayor Zhang at the gas station and demonstrated to the Mayor the state-of-the-art technology used to control vapor pollution. Impressed by the demonstration, Mayor Zhang expressed his interest in learning more about the technologies that might help Guangzhou improve its gas stations.

A couple of weeks later, at the invitation of Guangzhou Petroleum Industry Association, Hal visited Guangzhou and conducted a seminar on gas station renovation and improvements. Over eighty gas station owners, engineers, government officials and business people participated in the seminar. At end of his visit, Hal received a



message from Guangzhou Petroleum Industry Association that the Association is interested in signing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with HD Construction on the exchange of technologies and know-how for gas station improvements and renovation.

The MOU was signed on November 13, 2009. CCP Secretary Zhu Xiaodan, Mayor Zhang Guangning, American Consul General Brian Goldbeck, LAGSCA President

Jeffrey Cheung and Norman Arikawa who represented Mayor Villaraigosa witnessed the signing. HD Construction is currently working with its counterparts in Guangzhou on the renovation of a gas station located in downtown Guangzhou. The station will be the first in Guangzhou renovated completely with American designs and standards.

## MBA China Program

By Katherine Whitman

LAGSCA and Mt. St. Mary's College have joined together to enhance the international field study portion of the College's MBA program. All the MBA students spend 9 days in China near the completion of their program.

Prior to going to China, Jeffrey Cheung, gives the students a briefing on the current situation of the Chinese economy and the

challenges of doing business in China. At the end of the briefing there is a banquet in Chinatown to acquaint the students with the protocol of "meeting, greeting and eating" in China. At the end of the evening all the students are designated LAGSCA China scholars.

During their October trip to China one of the highlights was a visit to China Southern Power Grid's corporate offices in Guang-

zhou for a seminar. The SCPG is number 185 on the Fortune Global 500 and starting to expand out of China into South East Asia. Also in Guangzhou the group visited the Guangdong Academy of Social Science and Bella Crafts. The students have embarked on a project to bring English books to China for a university library and in the first two trips have contributed over 200 volumes.



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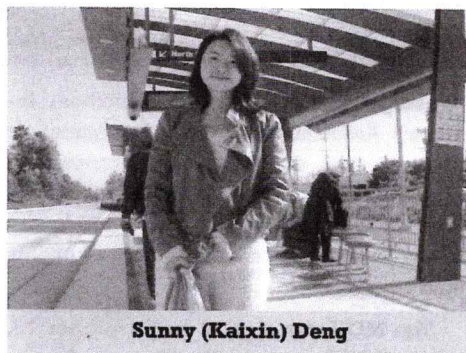
### A Note From Our Laurence Liu Scholars

#### By Ben Wang & Sunny Deng

Thank you for giving us this opportunity to come to Los Angeles as Laurence Liu Scholars. We have been here since the middle of January and have settled down both in our study and personal life.

Our studies are designed for us to gain a better understanding of the United States from the historical and practical perspectives. We also aim to enhance our professional knowledge and skills in both public management and education. Moreover, under the guidance of Dr. Paul Chow and Dr. Justine Su, former and present Directors of China Institute of CSUN, we have selected courses that we are interested in to audit. We do cherish this learning opportunity by keeping a tight learning schedule, hoping to read more, participate more and learn more. Through our studies we hope to overcome existing language barriers as soon as possible.

In our personal lives, thanks to the help



**Sunny (Kaixin) Deng**

of the LAGSCA and the China Institute of CSUN, we have settled down in our accommodations and are beginning to find our way around the public transportation system.

We would like to thank you again for giving us this precious opportunity and helping us so generously with your support and confidence. We look forward to meeting you all so as to have an opportunity to thank you in person.



**Ben (Xingye) Wang**

We wish you a happy Chinese New Year with all the best in life and work.

*(Ben and Sunny look forward to meeting LAGSCA members and friends as well as the opportunities to participate in social or community events/activities during their stay in Los Angeles. Any assistance that can be provided to them will be deeply appreciated. Sunny can be reached at 818-207-1211, and Ben at 818-442-5481.)*