

Pictures to share with CLS family:

<http://www.billhowe.org/photogallery/April2009CIRCAwards/index.htm>

The following news appeared on the APAC Newsletter published on April 19, 2009.

Dr Shyling Lee Receives CIRC Award 12th Annual Connecticut Immigrant Day 2009



Dr Shyling Lee with CT Attorney General Richard Blumenthal

Immigrant Day is an annual event sponsored by the Connecticut Immigrant and Refugee Coalition honouring local and state-wide immigrants who have contributed to their community and/or profession. Selected nominees were honored at a ceremony held at the State Capitol in Hartford, Connecticut on April 14, 2009.

Shyling Lee is affectionately known by many in the Chinese Community in Connecticut. From her modest beginnings as a foreign student arriving in 1968 from China, she stayed on to become a US Citizen. Along the way, she studied, sacrificed and worked to get an education and then a good job. She never forgot her humble start in this strange new country and she learned quickly, that with citizenship came the responsibility to give back to the community. She was a natural born community organizer. Shyling brought people into her home and into community venues from all walks of life and cultural backgrounds. She wanted to bring the various Asian American communities together to learn to work cooperatively, setting aside political and regional differences. Inspired by the work of CT Asian Activist Paul Bock, she was instrumental in helping bring the communities together to fight the blatant racism in our universities and in our communities. Moved by the racially motivated attacks against 8 Asian American students travelling to a UCONN football game she joined in and lead community

efforts to galvanize a public outcry. The event triggered a series of discussions, debates and protests that culminated in the creation of several entities on campus that focus on Asian American issues. In the years since the incident, the University has established the Asian American Studies Institute, Asian American Cultural Center, Asian American Students Association

Shyling Lee remains active today bringing the community together in civic action. Perhaps her greatest accomplishment was creating a Chinese Language School in 1983.

A note from Shyling (May 05, 2009) – Some members of the CLS community asked me to share this news with you. I thought you would be happy to hear about it too. I feel greatly honored and grateful to have received this award. This honor should be shared by all those who have worked with me on so many community projects in the past 20 some years; and I am grateful to all these friends who have helped to define who I am today. Particularly in recent years, many of the officers, staff members, and teachers of our school have worked very hard in building up CLS. With so much work going on behind the scenes, so I received the recognition. Thank you.

Because of my active roles in the community, I have often been introduced as the founder of the Chinese Culture Center or the Chinese Language School. Thanks for the credit that should really be due to Dr. Frederic Hsing (邢福鉅) and Ms. Nancy Cheng (吳筱筱) respectively who started organizing the Chinese Community in Hartford back in 1980. I had always been very much involved in the affairs of CCC till two years ago; In 1983. I had an opportunity to ask the then-Dean of Faculty Dr. Andrew DeRecco for the privilege of conducting our Chinese language classes at Trinity College. With the support of Professor Michael Lestz, the Dean kindly and generously approved my request. The Chinese Language School then moved to Trinity College that summer from Elmwood Community Center in West Hartford. I am happy to have witnessed the growth of our school. Working with many of you, I know some of you will emerge to be excellent leaders, if not already, of our school and our community.