

Computer science professor creates American dream for himself

By Chris Campbell
Staff reporter

The highly-renowned Chinese philosopher Confucius once said, "Choose a job you love, and you will never have to work a day in your life." Huabo Lu, assistant professor of computer science, is living by those words vicariously.

As a newly hired professor, Lu has been handed the challenging but fulfilling task of increasing the overall knowledge and awareness of all information technology-based courses offered on campus.

"I believe teaching is the best way to learn," said Lu. "My job involves teaching a wide range of CS classes, which reinforces my understanding on this discipline."

Lu's journey to the United States began roughly 32 years ago as a child. He was born in central China in 1985 in the midst of a cultural and political revolution that eventually developed his home nation into an economic superpower.

"A good portion of my childhood was spent on studying, reading pop books, playing computer games and soccer," said Lu.

It was the quintessential childhood that only served to provoke Lu's curiosity of the Western world as time went on. As Lu reached high school, he became a disciplined student, regularly excelling in the majority of his studies, albeit at a price.

"The study load for my high school was too high," said Lu. "There were no official achievements, but personally I recog-

nize two – collaboratively and defensively bullying a bully and setting up my future direction in computer science."

No journey is ever complete without moments of adversity, but Lu remained optimistic with his personal nature. Computer science provided a positive outlet for Lu to escape the pressure of Chinese education and the variety of rigors it places on all of its 200 million middle and high school students.

"I started to briefly learn programming when I was in middle school, using a programming language called Quick Basic. I forgot my feelings about it though, either thinking it was cool or it was dull," said Lu.

By the time Lu turned 18, college was quickly approaching, and so was the thought of a promising future.

His marks weren't impressive enough to intrigue the administration at his preferred university, but perhaps it was for a better reason altogether.

"I attended Beijing Forestry University for college. The reason I attended that one was because it served as a backup university for whom weakly rejected me in Tsinghua University, a world-wide top

one," said Lu. "College was full of fun and challenges. I wish to have studied more subjects outside CS and know more students outside my major."

By 2008, Lu earned a bachelor's degree in engineering in computer science and technology in China's capital city.

He planned to ultimately pursue a career in America that made living and learning more feasible.

"I received my master of science in computer networks from Wichita State University in 2011," said Lu. "Living here feels mature and balanced for

my sake."

One of Lu's more obvious perks of living in the United States was the opportunity to practice his English speaking skills. "In my middle school and high school, I studied English for test, rather than any practical purpose. My English level got boosted after landing in the U.S. in 2008," said Lu.

That has served to improve his skills in all computer science-based platforms to an even further extent.



"CS education brings problem solving and problem analysis skills, which I deem as one of the most useful skills for any successful career. Besides, computer science is pushily preparing us to embrace the changing world," said Lu. "In my humble opinion, coding should be ranked as the second most important skill. The first one is natural languages, for communication."

Lu's presence is appreciated among other Southwestern faculty members. "Huabo is a great colleague of mine," said Jason Knowles, visiting instructor of communication, digital arts, and new media. "His insight into improving these programs is very valuable."

Lu is now living the life he has always pursued, one of great meaning and purpose. He married directly after earning his master's at WSU.

Huabo and his wife, Rong Li, have two daughters, Liv and Emma, and they reside in Wichita. "I love the communication within a family. To me, communication is as important as light and oxygen," said Lu.

There also appears to be determination to make a difference as a newly established member of the Moundbuilder family. "I consider myself a guy who is serious about learning and applying," said Lu. "It is inspiring to see students working hard and gain a lot from their efforts in the classroom."

Chris Campbell is a junior majoring in communication. You may email him at christopher.campbell@sckans.edu.

Jean finishes first season as womens assistant soccer coach

Emily Berry
Staff reporter

Maria Rios Jean is the new women's soccer assistant coach. Originally from Puebla, Mexico, she played soccer in high school and was captain for her team.

She played in college at Butler Community College, then played at and graduated from University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff. She came to Southwestern to begin her coaching career and to be close to her family in Kansas.

The positions she played was holding middle, attacking middle and forward. Jean heard of Southwestern from one of her teammates from Butler.

Jean's experience at Southwestern has been enjoyable. Jean said, "I really enjoy it. I think we are a good community and all the staff and all the students are actu-

ally really nice. So I'm really enjoying it here."

She said she loves El Maguey and usually listens to music and tries to relax in her free time.

Jean does have some pre-game rituals – she puts her left cleat on first, tapes her wrist and writes a Bible verse on it.

She said she thinks she would do something with engineering if she didn't coach soccer, but she does not see herself not doing soccer.

One of the women's soccer players, Emily Sutton, freshman goalkeeper said, "Coach Jean brings a new perspective on strategy and brings a lot of technicality that our team can really use."

Joe Wood, women's head soccer coach, said, "She brings a good perspective. She's a very relatable coach for the student athletes on our team. She does a really good

job relating with them, listening to them.

"She brings a good balance between being just done playing her college career, not being much older than the girls that are on the team, but still maintaining a



really good coach-player relationship. She brings a more diverse skill set, which is good. It is really nice to be able to make sure that we are doing things the best that we can within our soccer program."

Wood said, "She's a very hard worker, passionate about soccer and passionate about the team. She's awesome, has a big heart and is caring. She puts the team and the players before herself. I couldn't ask for a better personality to have in an assistant coach."

Emily Berry is a freshman majoring in communication. You may email her at emily.berry@sckans.edu.

Throughout the 2017 semester, the Collegian staff will be publishing stories featuring new faculty and staff that have been hired for this academic year.