

# Kentucky Chinese American Association

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www.kycaa.org

## KYCAA Award Banquet

March 24, 2012



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The Kentucky Chinese American Association (KYCAA) held its first award banquet at the Griffin Gate Marriott Resort located at 1800 Newtown Pike, Lexington, KY 40511, at 6:00 pm on Saturday, March 24, 2012. About 80 members and guests attended the banquet and enjoyed the cocktail social, dinner, the award presentations, and dance social.

President Wei Luo welcomed everyone to the banquet at the beginning. He emphasized the fact that KYCAA has experienced remarkably rapid growth since 2005 and become a leading organization in promoting Chinese culture and cross-cultural understanding in Kentucky. He also outlined the decision by the KYCAA board to have this award banquet to celebrate the achievements made by all our members and friends and honor special individuals who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and made exceptional contributions to advancing the causes of this organization. The awards will not only honor the honorees but also inspire and encourage others to follow the steps of these special individuals and make the organization even better in the future.



KYCAA president, **Dr. Wei Luo**, was the master of ceremony of this special event.

# KYCAA Award Banquet

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## The First Year of KYCAA

### KYCAA History



- May 14, 2005 KY
- Association of Chinese American Professional (KYACAP)
- Promoting the appreciation of Chinese culture and enhancing the cross-cultural understanding of diversity

First president [Dr. Youling Xiong](#)



KYCAA board secretary, **Dr. Chi Shen**, briefly reviewed the history of KYCAA from its establishment in 2005 to its current status of the leading organization in promoting Chinese cultural heritage and cross cultural understanding in Kentucky.

### Speakers and Special Guests

Secretary **Lori Flanery** (right) of the Kentucky Cabinet of Finance and Administration gave greetings on behalf of Governor Steve Beshear to Banquet guests.



**Dr. Judy Jackson** (left) , UK Vice President for Diversity also gave a speech before the dinner. They both praised the organization for its unique cultural programs.

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## Honorary KYCAA Membership

Dr. Wei Luo presented the Honorary KYCAA Membership to **Mayor Jim Gray** as the highest honor for a friend of the association, who has demonstrated outstanding support and made exceptional contributions to our organization and the promotion of Chinese culture and cross cultural understanding. Mr. Gray has been a friend to this community for over three years. He has shown outstanding support by attending our events and providing holiday greetings for the community on many occasions. He served as the co-host of Chinese New Year celebration several years in a row. As busy as his schedule can be, he served as the host for 4 hours for our 2011 Chinese New Year celebration.



**Mayor Jim Gray** gave a short speech after receiving the award from KYCAA president. Mr.



Mayor expressed his great thanks to KYCAA in promoting the community with enriched Chinese culture. He considered it “a great experience” when he reflected on co-hosting the 2011 Chinese New Year celebration for 4 hours. He said that the world is becoming smaller because of the global economy and Chinese Americans represent an enormous asset to Lexington. KYCAA is making valuable contributions and helping to move the city to a higher level.

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## Outstanding Leadership Award

KYCAA board set up the **Outstanding Leadership Award** to honor special members who have demonstrated outstanding leadership and exceptional contributions to our organization and the promotion of Chinese culture and cross cultural understanding in Lexington and Kentucky. This high honor was presented to **Ms. Cheryl Pan** and **Dr. Changzheng Wang** at the banquet.



Ever since the beginning of KYCAA, **Cheryl Pan** served the organization as the treasurer, the education coordinator, then, the artistic director. She choreographed, directed and hosted the Chinese New Year celebration for 6 years. She has dedicated many weekends and evenings to teach hundreds of community many cultural studio. She made hundreds of for the association's activities for the Chinese New Year and is not only necessary for the is getting better and better attract more people into the growth of the organization.



adults and children from the dances at her own studio. Her leadership in getting together year after year for Moon Festival celebration performance program that each year, but also serves to organization and fuel the Her talent and dedication

has been the most valuable asset of this organization. As the first Chinese dance artist recognized by the Kentucky Arts Council's performing art directory and art education directory, she has been invited to perform at events and festivals in Lexington, Georgetown, Louisville, Owensboro, Richmond, and around the state and she has been featured by radio and TV programs for her expertise. She was also invited to serve on a grant panel of the Kentucky Arts

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## Outstanding Leadership Award

Council. As an art educator, she contributed to the KET's arts education Toolkits, conducted artist-in-residence projects for numerous schools. She was honored as the Person of the Month by the Kentucky Monthly, and called the "Woman of 1000 dances by the Southsider magazine.

**Dr. Changzheng Wang** served KYCAA as the Coordinator for Activities, Chair of organization committees for Chinese New Year celebration and Moon Festival celebration, secretary, and then, the President. He has led the efforts to expand the financial and general support for this organization from individuals, organizations and government agencies.



Under Dr. Wang's leadership, the organization engaged government leaders at the state and the city, started hosting passport renewal service for members, organized fund raisers and support activities for families facing hardship, selected new site and format for Moon Festival celebration, initiated new cooperation with the YMCA, the public library, the Confucius Institute, the Filipino association and other groups, introduced Bluegrass music and other cultural performances into our performance program to promote cultural exchanges, recruited new businesses and individuals to support our events. His leadership has helped to not only significantly expand the membership and financial standing, but also the visibility and the impact of the organization.

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## Recognition of Individuals

President Luo recognized the former KYCAA presidents/vice presidents, current board directors/officers, and the members who made special contributions. He thanked individuals and businesses who have provided financial support to KYCAA during the past year and all the members of the organization committee to make the banquet possible. The banquet ended with dance social directed by dance teacher Ms. Rita Picklesimer.



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## **Special Thanks To KYCAA Supporters:**

**University of Kentucky**

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**Sunlending USA**

**Yu Yu Asian Supermarket**

**Panda Cuisine**

## **KYCAA Banquet Organization Committee**

**Wei Luo, Jie Chen, Chi Shen, Peter Sun, Tuoying Ao, Caoxun Zhao, Guiliang Tang,  
Cheryl Pan, Xiaoqi Zhou, Weizhong Jing, Guoqiang Yu, Zhi Chen, Wenping Ma,  
Yanhong Zheng, Chingwen Li**