

2014 FCC-Austin Chinese Culture Camp Teachers



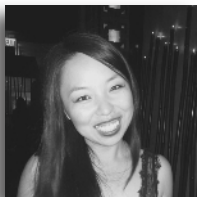
My name is **Linda Cao**, and I graduated from UT Austin with a Microbiology degree and work at the Texas Department of State Health Services. I have taught at FCC's culture camp since the beginning and it has been and will always be a wonderful experience for me; I look forward to it every year. I have been lion dancing for 14 years and just transitioned to teaching the last four years for the Summitt Lion Dance Team. I love being able to demonstrate and teach kids about lion and dragon dancing. I can be contacted at summittliondance@gmail.com.



Hi, I'm **Yang Cao**; I grew up in Chongqing, China, and moved to Austin in 1998. I started my own family, went to school, and found a career I really like right here in Austin as a freelance designer, so Austin is my second hometown. I've taught twice at the FCC camp. I love all the kids I taught, and the best memory for me was when my campers asked me, "Are you going to be here tomorrow?" Some of them recognized me the second time I taught them by saying "Hey, I remember you," with a big smile on their face. I like exercise—walking around Town Lake is one of my favorite activities. I also enjoy yoga, swimming, dance, cooking, and gardening. My email is: yangc74@gmail.com.



My name is **Devo Carpenter** and I come from a theatre arts background. I am a Youth Specialist for the Austin Public Library and a proud member of our performance team **Literature Live!** I was a professional clown for 25 years and have been a puppeteer for 17. My email is Devona.carpenter@austintexas.gov.



I am **Tiffany Chen**, and currently the operations manager at Target Distribution in Dallas, TX. This camp is a very rewarding experience and makes the relationship and bond of each and everyone of us stronger. Each year the camp makes a new and lasting experience that we can't forget and is something we always reflect and look back on. I love traveling, playing piano, violin, and harp. During my spare time, I do reformer pilates and chinese painting. I may be contacted at Tiffanycheno8@gmail.com.



My name is **Geneve Chin**, and I am currently a rising sophomore majoring in biochemistry at the University of Texas at Austin. I am also one of the playgroup directors for the UT China Care club, which hosts bi-weekly playgroups for adopted Chinese children here in the Austin area. If you would like to find out more about our playgroup events, please feel free to email me at pg.utchinacare@gmail.com. This will be my first year teaching as well as being a counselor at this camp, and I look forward to this experience!



Hi, I'm **Melanie Chung-Sherman**, LCSW-S, CTS, LCPAA, PLLC, and I've worked in the field of child welfare since 1999. My younger brother and I were adopted from South Korea in the 1970s. Last year was my first experience volunteering with FCC-Austin as a panelist speaking to other adoptees. It was a phenomenal experience. As a young girl, I would attend culture camps, but there were very few Asian adoptee mentors that could speak about my life story—let alone who looked like me. For the adoptee mentors who made a connection with me all those years ago, they helped inspire me to do what I do today—and pay it forward. It is a privilege and honor to be a small part of the journey with these young people. Thank you for the opportunity! My email address is: msherman@christian-worksg.org.



My name is **Lucie Cunningham**, and I am a French puppeteer and costume designer. I will be teaching puppetry at the camp this summer. I studied Budaixi for 6 years in Taiwan, with Master Chen XiHuang, the 1st son of Li TianLu. I am his official disciple. I also did a shadow puppetry internship with the great Master Wei in Huashan, Shaanxi province. I absolutely adore Chinese Art and puppetry, the culture, the food... I left a big piece of my heart in Taipei! My email address is lucie.cunningham@yahoo.com.



I am **Siugi Gi**, and I am a native of Guangdong province in southern China. I am fluent in Mandarin, Cantonese, and my hometown's local dialect. My last name is Shao; I was born in a village called Shao Village. In Shao village, everyone speaks Shao dialect. I moved to the US in 2010 and have been a Mandarin Chinese instructor since I arrived. I love working with children and I never stop being amazed by how quickly they pick up a new language. I started Cool Panda Chinese for Kids in January, 2014, and have been teaching children in homes and schools. I believe that learning Chinese should be a fun experience for children, not a task. So I've developed the curriculum for Cool Panda based on my experience of what I know works best for them. My website is cool-panda.com, and my email address is: Siugi@cool-panda.com.



Renowned Chinese cooking teacher and author **Dorothy Huang** of *Chinese Cuisine Made Simple*, has been teaching Chinese cooking all over Central Texas for over 30 years. Her books are available at www.amazon.com. She is a proud grandma of six beautiful grandchildren ranging from two to 12 years old. One of the reasons she'd love to teach our children is because they would remind her of her grandchildren.



My name is **Wendy Kuo**, and I am a piano teacher and director of Orpheus Academy of Music. I grew up in Taiwan until I was 15, when my family moved to Los Angeles. This is my third year volunteering at CCC and I have loved seeing the smiling faces and sharing the joys of Chinese food and music with the kids. A fun fact about me: I thought I was right handed until I was about 30, when someone noticed that I did many things with my left hand like doing the dishes and hitting a racquet ball. Now I don't know which handed I am! If you want to know more about music lessons you are welcome to contact me at admin@orpheusacademy.com or www.orpheusacademy.com.



Hi, I'm **Stephanie Lee McDonald**, and I am a public policy professional, having worked with both private and public sector clients. I believe in the power of place, and I champion our urban parks—most recently leading the Waller Creek Conservancy, a nonprofit partner to the City of Austin as it transforms Waller Creek into a chain of five parks that reimagines and restores 11% of central Austin. I'm also a freelance food writer, contributing regularly to *Texas Monthly*. I think Culture Camp is a wonderful time to connect with other families that are incredibly special, and I wish that I had an opportunity to attend! A fun fact is: I was adopted from South Korea along with my blood sister! My email is stephanieleemcdonald@gmail.com.



Janie McMahan is a therapist in private practice in northwest Austin. While this is her first year to be involved with the FCC Culture Camp, she is not new to the world of adoption. As the adoptive mom to two sons from the Russian Federation (adopted as pre-teens and now young adults), she has an intimate understanding of the unique concerns of adoptive parents and adopted children. She has specialized professional training in trauma, child and adult attachment, and adoption issues. Janie is a native central Texan and grew up in a small, rural community 80 miles from Austin. In her free time, you will most often find her with knitting needles and a ball of yarn in-hand creating handmade items from natural fibers. For more information about Janie, visit her website at www.janiemcmahan.com.



Hi, I'm **Pat Morgan**, and I work as a therapist in private practice specializing in issues related to adoption. I am also mom to my awesome daughter Rose Morgan, age 16, who was adopted from China when she was an infant. This will be my fifth year teaching the Adoption Journey Class. I always want to make it clear to the parents of newcomers that the Adoption Journey class is not a therapy group. This is camp and we keep things light! We focus on the exploration of what the kids have in common as adoptees through discussion, drama and art. I am easily reached at pat@bluestarcounseling.com.



Hello, I am **Ellen Scott**, and I come from a visual arts background. I discovered the fabulously versatile art of puppetry in 1977 and have been practicing it ever since. I love it because it embodies almost every art form there is! Students will learn tips about building/performing/choosing stories and writing for puppets. The presentation will be interactive and student driven; we will perform scenes from the show *Tiger Woman*, and demonstrate various kinds of puppetry used in the show. Discover **Literature LIVE!**—the Austin Public Library's Puppetry & Storytelling Troupe!



I am **Robyn Stringfellow**, a Chinese Teacher at Murchison Middle School. Teaching at the FCC summer camp is so much fun! This will be my fourth year doing the camp and I enjoy it each and every year. I love having the opportunity to share my love of Chinese language and culture with the students; they have a keen interest in China and always want to know more. These students really want to connect to the country they were born in and I try to make it fun and engaging for them to learn about their home country while at the same time appreciating aspects of their own American culture. I am also a yoga instructor, rock climber and practicing Buddhist. I love cooking vegetarian cuisine from all over the world but I love eating it even more! My email address is: robynstringfellow12@hotmail.com.



Hello, my name is **Thanh Tran**, and I hang out with my three kids... this will be my second year teaching at Culture Camp, and I like to help because everyone is enthusiastic and cares about being at this camp. I can be reached at duckytran@hotmail.com.



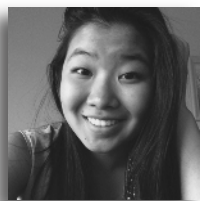
I'm **Abby Turner**, and I have three kids who are all adopted—two from here in TX and one from China. I'm currently serving as Co VP of Events for FCC-Austin and a librarian at Anderson Mill Elementary. I feel very strongly that kids need peers with similar concerns and I think CCC is a great place to find that. My daughter has been a counselor every year and it has been a wonderful growth experience for her. I think parents need the same thing and I organize a weekly lunch and book club. I can be reached at abbyo814@icloud.com.



Hi, I'm **Joy Williamson**, and I am a third degree black belt and head instructor at Sun Dragon Martial Arts and Self Defense. I've been studying violence prevention since 1994, and am a certified Self Defense Instructor through the National Women's Martial Arts Federation. When I'm not training or teaching, I'm in my garden surrounded by my dog, cat, and many chickens. I can be contacted at joy@sundragon.org, and you can learn about the full range of karate and self defense classes I teach at www.sundragon.org.



I'm **Angie Wong**, and I graduated from UT in 2012. I'm a first grade teacher at Oak Springs Elementary (AISD), and a CrossFit instructor at Gold's Gym. This is my 5th year with the camp; I love this camp so much! I've worked with both the younger campers and older campers. While the age groups were different, the bond and friendship throughout the week was felt in both groups. I love the journey we go through as an entire camp! My passion for teaching has carried through to my love of fitness and healthy eating. I want to educate and empower people, especially woman, to find their inner strength through fitness and healthy eating. My email address is angie.m.wong@gmail.com.



I am **Jessica Xiao**, and am currently a sophomore at the UT-Austin. This is my first year with the FCC Culture Camp, but I have worked with FCC before as a "big sister" to adopted Chinese-American girls through a Girl Scouts Gold project from 2011–2013. My family is from the Shandong and Anhui provinces of China, and though I was born and raised in the U.S., I maintain strong ties to my Chinese roots. My grandfather, an artist, taught me traditional Chinese brush painting before I could even speak English. I trained for 14 years in traditional Chinese folk dance with the local Love of China School of Dance, and I can write, read, and speak fluent Mandarin Chinese. I worked last summer in Beijing as an English teacher and translator at a children's summer camp, and I studied abroad for five weeks this summer in Hong Kong. I love indie music and Disney movies, the latter of which inspired my first dream job of being a princess. I couldn't live without my little sister, opportunities to travel, and lots and lots of bubble tea. I can be reached at jessica.xiao@utexas.edu.



Hello, I am **Shu Zhou**, a PhD student at the University of Houston, with a social work major in all degrees. I have a Masters from Colorado State University, and a Bachelor's from Central China, Normal University. I grew up in Wuhan, China, and am still a Chinese citizen. I went to the US in July, 2009, studied in Fort Collins, CO, and worked in Phoenix, AZ in the child protection field. The character of my name Shu means comfortable. This same pronunciation has other characters. One of them means to lose. When I was younger, I was the least favorite child among adults who were playing mahjong and wanted to win. I am an avid squash player. You may contact me at Zhoushuo630@gmail.com.