

蕭園

C.C. and Joyce Hsiao

*Karen Hsiao Ashe
Jim Ashe*

*Caroline Hsiao Van
Douglas Van*

*Nina Hsiao
Bob Drach*

Albert Hsiao

Philip, William, Sorchia-Rae

*Alexandra, Gregory,
Geoffrey, Jeremy*

Zachary, Maximilian

C.C. (Chih Chun) Hsiao died peacefully at home on August 7th, 2009. C.C. was born in Beijing, China, in 1919 and immigrated to the United States in 1943. He received degrees in Engineering and Physics from Tsinghua University, M.I.T. and the University of Colorado. His first teaching position was at Penn State University where he met and married his wife Joyce C.Y. Yuan shortly after she received her PhD. The couple moved to the Twin Cities in 1955 when C.C. joined the faculty at the University of Minnesota in the Department of Aerospace Engineering and Mechanics where he taught until his retirement as Professor Emeritus in 1990. His academic interest was in the behavior of polymers (plastics) and how they disintegrate under stress. He lectured widely in the United States, Asia and Europe, including many Eastern European countries and the former U.S.S.R.. In 1973, he had the singular distinction of being one of the first U.S.-based China-born scientists invited by the Chinese government to lecture in China, as sponsored by the Academy of Sciences and National Science Foundation. During his career he published more than 100 academic papers. C.C. had a passion for teaching and was a mentor to a large number of students who went on to become leaders in academia and in industry.

C.C. was proud of his Chinese heritage. During the long period when China was relatively closed to the outside world, C.C. and Joyce acted as surrogate parents to Chinese students in the Twin Cities. On more than one occasion, C.C. substituted for absent parents and gave the student bride away on her wedding day. C.C. was deeply engaged in establishing scientific interactions and academic exchange between the U.S. and China and in 1979 was part of the first University of Minnesota delegation to China to promote this effort. As a director of the U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association Minnesota Chapter, C.C. became the founder of the Minnesota China Friendship Garden Society, which hopes to build a Chinese garden for the people of the Twin Cities that would serve as a lasting monument to the connection between China and Minnesota.

To his family, C.C. has been a model of confidence, love, poise and good humor.

He is survived by Joyce, his beloved wife of 56 years, four children, three sons-in-law, and nine grandchildren. In many respects, C.C. was not entirely of this world, which was a refreshing tonic for anyone who spoke to him for more than a few minutes. He will be deeply missed.