



# Get connected with an old friend - Gloria Lee



YWGS Centenary Dinner (2000)



YWGS 105th Anniversary Dinner (2005)



Gloria (left) with Mr Y S Au and her younger sister (李鳳輝, Phoebe, '99) at YWGS 115th Anniversary Dinner



YWGS 115th Anniversary Dinner (2015)

I have known Gloria Lee (李鳳文) ('88) for more than 30 years. Thanks to the Internet, we get connected again even we are in the opposite side of the world. After completed F7 in YW, Gloria pursued undergraduate studies in Mathematics at the University of Cambridge in England on the Prince Philip Scholarship, then her PhD in Operations Research at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in Boston on the Sloan Fellowship, and eventually settled down in Silicon Valley.

## Fond memories

A few memories of her YW days are still vivid in her mind. One of them is the Senior Form assembly in the hall performed by each class in F4 to F7. It was a nice time for the whole class to work together. Another is the very unique desks, the top of which can be pulled up to reveal a storage space. Gloria said a few years ago when the miniature version was available, all her YW friends went crazy!

Another fond memory of Gloria is the teachers. She remembers chatting with 何慧姚老師 during lunch break in junior forms. It was years later that she realized Miss Ho could have used the time for grading homework, preparing for lessons, etc. instead of chatting with her. However, those chats helped Gloria a lot in developing her political views and sense of civic duties.

## Career in consulting and academics

And now, Gloria is running a data analytic consulting firm which she founded in 2009. One of her recent work includes consulting for the Clinton Campaign in the 2016 Presidential Election. She is also an Adjunct Professor at Stanford University, with joint appointment at the Business School and School of Medicine, to teach workshops on making better decisions through smart use of analytics. She is also an advisor to a venture capital firm.

## Hiking and leisure

In leisure time, Gloria goes hiking with her husband

and kids almost every weekend. California has many beautiful trails and her particular love is seeing waterfalls. They have been to 23 of the 59 national parks in the US, and her family vacation last year was spent hiking in Tasmania, Australia. Gloria also attends a 5:30 am yoga class every day to have a "me" time before the craziness of the day starts. This year, Gloria also started singing in the Stanford Chorus because it somewhat reminds her of her YW days.

## Looking ahead

Gloria said she was overjoyed to have a YW Alumnae group in the Bay Area when Mrs Ruth Lee ('72) visited them in October 2015. She helped with the initial setup of email list, Whatsapp group and Facebook page. Most of the alumnae in the area graduated in the 60s and 70s, and their YW stories were very interesting.

With the old campus gone, Gloria is sad that she won't be able to go back to YW and sit in the same seats in the same classroom ever again. There will be no 2018 photo of her class in the same seats as they were in 1988.....However, she believes the new campus brings so many new possibilities. Gloria hopes it will provide the space for many lifelong friendships to bloom and new facilities for future YW girls to explore as many things as their curiosities take them.

Gloria really loves her YW days but if she has any regrets, it is that she stayed too much in her comfort zone and didn't take full advantage of everything that was available. So, last but not the least, Gloria wants to encourage all YW girls now, "Be bold and take risk. May you all reach your full potential and make the world a bit better than you found it."

Anita Chui ('90)