

Write Up of 2007 CAC Reception Dinner at the SOA Annual Meeting in Washington D.C.

By Nian-Chih Yang

On 10/16, at the Chinese Garden Restaurant on the Connecticut Avenue, we had our annual reception dinner. Gene Wang was the organizer with help from Ching-Meei Chang and Lisa Cheng, a MBA with KPMG. She came to help at her sister's (Chen-Te Cheng) urging. Chen-Te was the "local" actuary who started the preparation work for the dinner but could not attend herself. She would have to fight the rush hour traffic to drive in from Baltimore.

There were 40 people at the reception. One group of people came directly after the International Section's reception at the World Bank Headquarter.

We took turn to introduce the person sitting to our left. The introductions were full of good-humored laughers. We were all good sport. Wai Keung "Wilber" Lo did not mind being introduced as "a microwave oven". One Shanghai lady (Julie Zhu) introduced her self as "Ms. Zhu (Zhu In Tai)", a female main character from the legendary Chinese love story--Butterfly Lover. She was quite capable of making everybody laugh. Wen Mei Chu referred herself as the best pricing actuary of her company behind one former colleague who was also at the dinner. Lih-Bien Shen came for the meeting from Korea. He started his new job there only a month ago. Lih-Bin and Wilbert got into a discussion of the toasting rituals in Korea. A young couple at one table talked about their busy life (the wife just finished all the exams) and their dog.

There were also many interesting exchanges around the tables. Ching-Meei's husband, Zhang-Yi, an economist, had come to our dinner many times before. He sat next to June Li, herself another PhD. in economy, and had some conversation about the details of economical models. The same subject was discussed in one of the sessions during the day.

We made new friends. Cathy Lyn invited her new friend to visit her in Jamaica. But she warned her future guest that they normally do not have hot shower in the house. Her new friend reciprocated her hospitality by inviting her to join him on his small plane tour over the city. I assumed this would not include flight over the White House.

The reception was another good opportunity of networking and reconnecting with old friends. After the dinner, many took the casual walk back to the hotel. We enjoyed the pleasant night and needed to work off the full stomachs.

See you in Orlando.

Nian-Chih Yang