



Memorial Resolution Honoring Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee

Whereas the American Library Association (ALA) and the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA) lost a valued member and a colleague on December 17, 2023, with the death of Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee;

Whereas Lee graduated from National Taiwan Normal University; received a master's degree in education at the University of Pittsburgh, a master's in library science from Carnegie Mellon University, and a Ph.D. in education from the University of Pittsburgh;

Whereas Lee worked as a librarian at the University of Pittsburgh and Duquesne University; Lee worked as the library director at Edinboro University and served as founding library director of Asian Institute of Technology in Bangkok, Thailand; Lee was also the associate director of libraries and professor of library administrator at Colorado State University; Lee was dean of libraries at Ohio University; Lee also served as chief of the Asian Division at the Library of Congress and helped build the Asian American Pacific Islander collection;

Whereas Hwa-Wei Lee, while at Ohio University, demonstrated his generous spirit by mentoring international students; created the International Librarians Internship Program, an exchange program for more than 175 librarians from the Asian and Pacific Region who would train at Ohio University Libraries; developed significant international collections including the creation of an Overseas Chinese library, one of several significant resources within the Hwa-Wei Lee Center for International Collections; cultivated meaningful donor relationships that would have a huge impact on the Ohio University Libraries; and shepherded Ohio University Libraries into the Association of Research Libraries in 1996;

Whereas at the Chinese American Librarians Association (CALA), Lee served as President from 1978-1979; Lee was an active member and was instrumental in creating CALA; Lee made a tremendous difference and impact supporting and mentoring countless librarians and library school students through his leadership;

Whereas Lee was very active in the profession globally; Lee served as a distinguished visiting scholar for OCLC, a Fulbright Senior Specialist at Chiang Mai University in Thailand; Lee was very active and co-founded China-US library conferences; and served as founding director of OhioLINK, a statewide academic library consortium;



Whereas Lee published and presented extensively including authoring seven books and hundreds of published academic articles; Lee was a recipient of numerous professional honors such as the American Library Association's John Ames Humphrey Award in 1991; the Melvil Dewey Medal in 2015 (now ALA Medal of Excellence); CALA's Outstanding Leadership Award in Memory of Dr. Margaret Chang Fung in 2016, and the Medal of Appreciation from Her Royal Highness Princess Maha Chakri Sirindhorn of Thailand in 2018; Lee also received APALA's Distinguished Services Award in 1991, the Ohio Hall of Fame Librarian in 1999, and an honorary doctor of letters degree from Ohio University;

Whereas Hwa-Wei Lee was a devoted and proud husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather;

Whereas Hwa-Wei Lee was a warm, generous, humble, and kind person who believed that libraries enrich lives;

Whereas his legacy is the great influence he has had on the lives of individuals, by building cooperative ties for a common good that resulted in a profound impact on international librarianship relations worldwide;

Resolved, that the American Library Association (ALA) and the Chinese American Librarians Association, on behalf of its members;

1. recognizes the significant contributions and accomplishments of Dr. Hwa-Wei Lee over the course of his career and mourns his death; and
2. extends its sincerest condolences to his friends and family.

Adopted by the Council of the American Library Association
Sunday, January 21, 2024, ALA LLX, Baltimore, MD

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Leslie Burger". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Leslie Burger, Interim ALA Executive
Director, and Secretary of the ALA
Council

