

# The Seven Sisters and Ginling College

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## Abstract

*The Seven Sisters colleges (“the Seven Sisters”) was a consortium of seven liberal arts colleges for women located in Northeastern United States, founded between 1837 and 1894: Mount Holyoke College, Vassar College, Wellesley College, Smith College, Bryn Mawr College, Barnard College, and Radcliffe College. (Radcliffe and Vassar are no longer part of the consortium.)*

*Ginling College (“Ginling”), located in Nanking (now Nanjing), China and founded in 1915 by Western missionaries, was the first institution of higher learning to grant bachelor’s degrees to women in China. It had already graduated 999 women when it merged with the University of Nanking in 1951 to become National Ginling University.*

*This paper sheds light on the connection between the Seven Sisters and Ginling by profiling some of the significant people and events that shaped this special relationship, with an emphasis on the connection between scholars from Smith and Ginling. Each chapter begins by introducing Seven Sisters graduates or faculty who went to China to teach at Ginling, especially two prominent ones: Mrs. Thurston from Mount Holyoke, the first president of Ginling; and Dr. Ruth M. Chester from Smith, who was the longest serving faculty member from the West at Ginling.*

*The paper also profiles thirty-one Ginling alumnae who studied at the Seven Sisters, including what became of them after returning to China, with a focus on three well-known Ginlingers: Dr. Hu Siu-ying, Ms. Yen Tsai-yun, and Ms. Hwang Li-ming.*

## Formation and Changing Structure of the Seven Sisters and Ginling

The Seven Sisters liberal arts colleges on the U.S. East Coast--Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Radcliffe, Smith, Vassar and Wellesley--formed the female equivalent of the once predominantly male Ivy League. Their association originated in 1915, when Mount Holyoke, Vassar, Smith, and Wellesley colleges held a conference to discuss fundraising strategies. The name “Seven Sisters” comes from the Greek myth of the Pleiades. [1]

**Table 1:** A Brief Summary of the Seven Sisters

Name	Location	Yeas of Founded
Mount Holyoke College	South Hadley, Massachusetts	1837
Vassar College	Poughkeepsie, New York	1861
Wellesley College	Wellesley, Massachusetts	1870
Smith College	Northampton, Massachusetts	1871
Bryn Mawr College	Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania	1885
Barnard College	New York, New York	1889
Radcliffe College	Cambridge, Massachusetts	1894

In the same period, on the other side of the Pacific Ocean in China, profound changes were occurring. The mid-nineteenth century marked a new stage for China: the First Opium War (1839-42) led to the Treaty of Nanking that opened China as a trading port. The Second Opium War (1856-60) further established freedom of religion; Christians were granted full civil rights, and thousands of them flocked to China. The era of foreign intervention, later referred to as "The Century of Humiliation," allowed advances in many areas, including educational opportunities brought by foreign missionaries.

Due to Western influence, there had already been some Christian schools for girls in China, but none provided education beyond the high school level. There were also some women who received bachelors, masters, and even doctorate degrees, though none of these were awarded by a Chinese women's college.

North China Union Women's College, for example, was founded in 1904, but it did not offer four-year undergraduate program. In 1919 it merged with Yenching University. Hwa Nan Women's College was founded in 1908, primarily as a college preparatory program: it was not until 1914 that it had even twenty undergraduate students, and they had to go to the U.S., Canada, and Shanghai to complete a four-year undergraduate program. Hwa Nan did not have a four-year undergraduate program of its own until 1917.

In the second decade of the twentieth century, a group of American religious women with experience in women's education began to form a plan to establish a union college for women in the Yangtze Valley. In 1911 and 1912, these eight American missionaries--representing Northern and Southern Baptists, Disciples, Episcopalians, Northern and Southern Methodists, and Northern and Southern Presbyterians--signed the "Appeal for a Union Women's College for Central China" at conferences held in Shanghai. These women came to be called the Eight Founders of Ginling College. In November of 1913, Ginling's Board of Control selected Mrs. Lawrence Thurston (Mount Holyoke, 1896) as the founding president. "Ginling" was chosen as the college's name because Ginling was the name of the city before it was renamed Nanking and designated as capital of the new Republic of China.

After two years of preparation, Ginling College opened in September 1915 with eleven students and six faculty members. In its first year, thirteen students officially matriculated, but only nine completed the year. The college's motto, "Abundant Life," was chosen by students and faculty from John 10:10 of the Bible: "I have come that they many have life, and have it to the fill." [2]

During the first two years, Ginling's faculty members were primarily passionate graduates from American church-affiliated universities, such as the Seven Sisters. In 1914, Ms. Frederica R. Mead from Smith became the first teacher from the Seven Sisters to be approved by Ginling's Board of Control. [3]

In 1919, five young women graduated from Ginling, becoming the first Chinese women to receive bachelor's degrees from a Chinese women's college. Those five women later became medical doctors, an ordained minister, a Dean of Women, and, in the case of Dr. Wu Yi-fang, Ginling's own President.

Ginling's peaceful era ended in 1937 when the Second Sino-Japanese War erupted. Ginling initially had to be divided into three campuses: Shanghai, Wuchang and Chengtu. Then it decided to combine the three sites into one at Chengtu, West China, because it was far away from the battlefield. Also, most other universities and colleges had also moved there. Ginling, the University of Nanking, Cheeloo University, Yenching University and West China Union University shared rooms and faculty on the West China Union University campus.

Soon after Japan's surrender in 1945, civil war broke out in China between the Nationalist Kuomintang (KMT) and the Communists. The war ended in 1949 when the

Communists took power. In the early 1950's, with Marxism and Communism as its central ideology, China restructured its universities to meet the CCP's goal of rapidly constructing a socialist country and supporting industrial development. By 1951, when Ginling merged with the University of Nanking to become National Ginling University, it had exactly 999 graduates, known as "The 999 Roses." Approximately sixty of them later earned doctorate degrees (M.D., Sc.D., Ph.D., etc.) in China, Europe, the United States, and Canada. By 1952, National Ginling University was closed and Nanjing Normal College (later Nanjing Normal University) was established on the former Ginling campus.

From 1914-1951, thirty-six (36) graduates and faculty members from Bryn Mawr, Barnard, Mount Holyoke, Smith, Vassar and Wellesley went to teach at Ginling. As a liberal arts college, Ginling only offered undergraduate programs. Ginling girls went to other institutions for graduate programs. Between 1918 and 1951, thirty-one (31) Ginlingers studied or worked at all of the Seven Sisters (Table 2).

Even after Ginling closed its doors in 1951, alumnae from around the world never forgot their alma mater. Once China reopened to outside world in 1979, a group of overseas Ginling alumnae returned to China every year seeking to revive Ginling. The Chinese government, however, has never allowed a missionary school to reopen. Never one to give up, Dr. Wu Yi-fang intervened with an ingenious proposal to the government: instead of being an independent college supported by foreign missionaries, the new Ginling College could be administered under Nanjing Normal University. The new Ginling College reopened in 1987 as part of Nanjing Normal University. Today Ginling has five departments with six undergraduate and five graduate programs. [2]

**Table 2** A Summary of the Seven Sisters Graduates or Faculty Teaching at Ginling and Ginlingers Studying at the Seven Sisters

<b>Seven Sisters</b>	<b>Number of Seven Sisters Graduates or Faculty Who Taught at Ginling</b>	<b>Number of Ginlingers Studying/Working at the Seven Sisters</b>
Smith	15	15
Wellesley	11	7
Mount Holyoke	4	3
Vassar	4	0
Barnard	1	1
Bryn Mawr	1	2
Radcliffe	0	3

## Smith and Ginling

Among the Seven Sisters, Smith was Ginling's most enthusiastic, loyal and generous supporter. Ms. **Frederica R. Mead** (1890-1977) was the first Seven Sisters faculty member to teach at Ginling. She graduated from Smith in 1911, then worked with the Presbyterian Women's Committee from 1912-13, and began working at Ginling in 1914.



\***Photo 1:** Ms. Frederica Mead (center) and Ginling Class of 1922

Ms. Delia Leavens (Smith, 1901), who went to China as a Smith College missionary from 1909-1916, was very interested in Ginling when the Smith College Association for Christian Work (SCACW) was considering a project abroad. Meanwhile, Ms. Frederica Mead returned to Smith after her first year at Ginling. Both had convinced SCACW to adopt Ginling as its overseas project. The first contribution from Smith was made in 1916, when \$1,000 was given to Ginling's English department (capitalize Department) where Miss Mead was teaching. In 1921 Smith accepted Ginling as its "Little Sister in China". [4]

Mrs. Elizabeth Morrow of Smith College Alumnae Association, who later became Smith's Acting President during 1939-1940, visited Ginling in April 1936. Speaking about financial support to Ginling, she made an appeal during her address at Smith's 1936 commencement: "We are helping our own when we help an institution like Ginling, because we are helping to build a fairer world." [5]

On May 20, 1943, Dr. Wu Yi-fang was invited to speak at Smith's commencement and also to receive an honorary LL.D. Smith President Herbert John Davis introduced Dr. Wu Yi-fang as "...a member of the first class at Ginling College, our sister college in China, who, after several years' teaching experience in Peking, came to this country and completed her graduate training in biology at the University of Michigan. Returning in 1928 to become President of Ginling College, she contributed to its brilliant development until the Japanese invasion of 1937, and since then has overcome the incredible difficulties of moving the college to Chengtu and reorganizing its work on the campus of the West China Union University." [6]



**\*Photo 2:** Mrs. Elizabeth Morrow (left) of Smith visited Ginling on June 14, 1936, with Mrs. Matilda C. Thurston (center) and Dr. Wu Yi-fang (right)



**Photo 3:** Dr. Wu Yi-fang (third from right on back row) and the other honorary degree recipients on May 20, 1943, with Smith President Herbert John Davis (second from right in front row) (*Courtesy Smith College Archives*)

From 1914-51, fifteen Smith alumni had taught at Ginling (Table 3).

**Table 3** List of Fifteen Smith Graduates or Faculty Who Worked at Ginling

Name	Chinese Name	Years at Smith	Years at Ginling	Department
Frederica R. Mead	N/A	1907-11	1914-23	English
Ruth Miriam Chester	蔡路德	1910-14	1917-51	Chemistry
Harris H. Wilder	N/A	1892-28	Spring 1920	Zoology
Inez W. Wilder	N/A	1902-29	Spring 1920	Zoology
Ellen P. Cook	N/A	1889-93	1923-24	Chemistry
Laura H. Wild	N/A	1888-92	1923-24	Religion
Mary V. Thayer	N/A	1886-90	1923-25	Biology
Irving F. Wood	N/A	1893-34	1924-25	Religion
Edna F. Wood	N/A	1914-18	1923-26	English
Mary M. Cook	N/A	1908-51	1925-26	English
Alice D. Rounds	N/A	1910-14	1925-26	Psychology
Martha S. Phelps	N/A	1914-18	1928-29	Secretary to Ginling President
Ettie Len-toy Chin	陈琏采	1932-36; 1944-53	1937-44	Physical Education
Margaret Cook Thomson	汤美森	1907-11	1936-40	English; Board of Directors
Esther Rhodes	N/A	1919-23	1940-41	Music

Among the entire Western faculty at Ginling, Dr. **Ruth Miriam Chester's** (Chinese name 蔡路德, 1894-1997) tenure at Ginling was the longest.

Dr. Chester was born on February 4, 1894 in Buffalo, New York. She received her bachelor's degree in 1914 and master's degree in 1916, both from Smith. In 1933 she received her Ph.D. from Columbia University. Dr. Chester worked at Ginling from 1917 until 1951, first as Chair of the Chemistry Department and then as Dean of Studies.

After Japan surrendered in August of 1945, Ginling students and faculty were eager to return to Nanking from the wartime campus in Chengtu. At that time, Dr. Wu was in the U.S. for the United Nations Conferences on International Organization, and Dr. Chester was charged with coordinating the move. She had to make decisions about how to transfer Ginling back to Nanking, and how to assess the post-war condition of Ginling's Nanking campus. In early December, Dr. Chester flew to Nanking and stayed for ten days. The Nanking campus was severely damaged from the Japanese occupation that had begun in June of 1942. Dr. Chester called Dr. David S. Hsiung back to Ginling, a former Ginling faculty member who was with Huachung University at that time, and he supervised the rehabilitation of the campus. She also arranged the return trip for Ginling's students, faculty and facilities in a manner that would maintain the continuity of academic work.

Ginling returned to normal after it reopened on the Nanking campus in September, 1946. However, peace did not last long, broken by the start of the Chinese civil war between the Nationalist Kuomintang (KMT) and the Communists (CCP). The three-year war resulted in the CCP's takeover. After Nanking fell under CCP control on April 23, 1949, Ginling tried to remain intact, even gradually replacing foreign department heads with Chinese nationals. In this context, Dr. Chester handed over her position of Dean of Studies to a Chinese national in September of 1949, a post she had held since 1939. The eruption of the Korean War in 1950 and the subsequent anti-American sentiment that arose in China made it difficult for Western faculty members to remain in China, and soon they were asked by the Chinese government to leave China.

Dr. Chester left China, where she had devoted thirty-four years of her life to Ginling's thirty-six years of history. The bamboo curtain dropped in 1951, isolating China from the West until China reopened to the outside of (delete of) world in 1979.

The overseas Ginlingers have held Ginling reunions every other year since 1953. The 1979 Ginling Biannual Reunion held in New York City welcomed Dr. Wu Yi-fang, who had just received the University of Michigan Alumnae Athena Award. This reunion, which recorded 160 participants, was the first time Dr. Chester had the opportunity to visit with Dr. Wu in three decades.

Dr. Chester received the Smith Medal on November 2, 1966. The citation recognized her contributions: "As head of the Chemistry Department at Smith's Sister College of Ginling, you helped prepare generations of chemistry teachers for schools in China; during the Japanese occupation you made the long trek inland from Nanking; and for two years after the war you loyally sought to carry on at the college under the new Communist Regime".

To express their appreciation for her tireless dedication and sacrifice to Ginling, at the 1969 Ginling Biannual Reunion Ginling alumnae recognized her with a special award and a standing ovation. Dr. Edith Hsiung (熊菊贞) (Ginling, 1942) read the text of the award: "To Dr. Chester: In war and in peace, through thick and thin, you devoted the best years of your life, over thirty years, to the service of Ginling College. From you, the science students received their best training in basic science, developing them into graduate scientists who made contributions of great distinction here in the United States and there in the Far East." [7]

Dr. Chester was able to witness the rebirth of Ginling, and her student and assistant in the chemistry department, Ms. Mei Roh-lan (梅若兰) (Ginling, 1948), who was part of a three-person reopening preparation team, became its Vice Dean in 1989.

After Dr. Chester passed away on March 26, 1997, her estate became part of the Abundant Life Fund for needy students at the new Ginling. Her students decided to establish a Chester Memorial Fund that was used to build the Chester Chemistry Laboratory on the fifth floor of the newly completed building for the new Ginling.





**\*Photo 4:** Dr. Ruth M. Chester (third from left in back row) with chemistry majors in November 1948. Her student Ms. Mei Roh-lan (first from right in front row) became Vice Dean of the new Ginling more than forty years later, in 1989.



**Photo 5:** Dr. Chester and Dr. Wu (on her left) along with other Ginlingers, at the 1979 Ginling Biannual Reunion (Courtesy Ginling College of Nanjing Normal University)

Another notable Smith graduate was Ms. **Ettie Chin Len-toy** (陈琏采 1913-2005). Ettie was born on May 6, 1913 in Worcester, Massachusetts. A Smith graduate of 1936, she went to Ginling in 1937 as Acting Chair of the Physical Education Department.

When she arrived at Ginling, her students were “stunned by her youth, beauty, and vivacity.” She wanted them to call her Ettie rather than Miss Chin. This made her students feel much closer to her, as traditionally students in China were not allowed to call their teachers by their first names. “She was full of life, vigor and FUN!” her student Miss Loretta Pan recalled more than sixty years later, in 1998. They thought of her as a big sister as well as a teacher. [8]

Ettie first taught physical education on Ginling’s Shanghai campus. After the Rape of Nanking, because of Nanking’s close proximity to Shanghai, Ginling decided to move its students in Shanghai to a campus in Chengtu. For these girls, the journey from Shanghai to Chengtu was filled with uncertainty of the future and fear of Japanese air bombings, but Ettie gave them comfort and courage by teaching them songs, a memorable experience for those Ginling students. [8]



**\*Photo 6:** Ettie Chin (front) leading a class on the athletic field of the wartime Ginling campus in Chengtu, 1940.

Ettie returned to Smith in 1944 as an assistant professor, but she continued to care about Ginling. She helped her student Lin Pei-fen (Peggy Lin) get a fellowship to Smith. When Dr. Wu Yi-fang went to San Francisco in May of 1945 to sign the United Nations Charter, Ettie traveled there from the east coast to serve as her social secretary.

In 1983, Ettie led a group of Ginling alumnae from the U.S. and Taiwan to visit Nanjing. It was the first time these Ginlingers had been to the former Ginling campus since Ginling was closed in 1951. They met with Ginlingers in China to discuss how to revive Ginling. From 1984-1987, Ettie went back every year, then served as Chair of the Dr. Yu Yi-fang Memorial Fund to push for the reopening of the new Ginling. [9]

Fifteen Ginlingers studied at Smith from 1918 to 1959. (Table 4)

**Table 4** List of the Fifteen Ginling Alumnae Who Studied at Smith [10]

Name	Chinese Name	Years at Ginling	Years at Smith	Worked after Smith
Tang Yu-shui (Dong, Nyok-Zoe)	唐玉瑞 (1895-1979)	1916-18	1918-20	PUMC; Columbia University
Yen Tsai-yun	严彩韵 (1902-1993)	B.A. 1921	1921-22	PUMC; Ming-Ming School; University of Alabama etc
Ni Feng-gih	梅倪逢吉	1920-21	1921-24	Ginling College; Yenching University; Iowa State University
Li Gwan-yuen	李冠媛	B.A. 1931	1937-39	Teaching in China and the U.S.
Hsu Ya-fen	许亚芬	1930-31	1937-39	N/A
Yeh Lucy Leng	叶冷竹琴	1937-45	1940-41	Ginling College; Hong Kong
Djeng Ying-hwan	郑英环	1935-36	1941-43	Vassar College; Harvard University; Hunter College; Brooklyn College and Dowling College
Huwan Ding-djung	黄定中	1945-47	1950-51	MIT; University of Chicago
Lo Ai-djen	罗爱真	B.A. 1932	1942-43	N/A
Tang Lu-djen	唐绿蓁	1922-25	1925-26	Ginling College; Bridgeman School; St. John's University; Bennett College; St. Catherine's School
Li Shui-mei	李瑞玫	1927-29	1946-47	University of Nanking
Tang Min-sin	汤铭新 (1907 - 2005)	B.A. 1928	1931-32	Huachung University; University of Nanking; Ginling College
Ling Pei-fen	凌佩芬 (1921 - 2013)	B.A. 1943	1947-48	Ginling College; New York State Hospital
Wang An-djen	王安珍 (1923 - 2016)	B.A. 1946	1947-49	Social Worker for many years in different locations
Yu Su-chin	于素琴	1942-44	1958-59	Marian Catholic High School; Buena Vista College; Bloomfield College

**Ms. Yen Tsai-yun** (严彩韵 1902-1993), also known as Daisy Yen or Mrs. Hsien Wu (吴宪), was born in Shanghai on June 2, 1902 to a wealthy family. The sixth of twelve siblings, she was very smart even at young age. She completed her high school courses in three years at Keen School and enrolled herself at Ginling in 1917, when she was only 15 years old. She graduated in 1921, then studied chemistry at Smith from 1921-22. In fall of 1922 she attended Columbia University under Dr. Henry C. Sherman and Dr. Mary Swartz Rose, both leading nutritionists. After receiving her master's degree in May, 1923, she returned to China to work at

Peking Union Medical College (PUMC), then the top medical school in Asia and supported by the Rockefeller Foundation.

The Biochemistry Department at PUMC had just been established by Dr. Hsien Wu, a leading protein scientist, and Daisy was its second member. She worked with Dr. Wu and published two papers about nutrition. She and Dr. Wu were married in December, 1924. As PUMC's policy stipulated that couples were not allowed to work in same department, she left PUMC and went to work at Columbia University, while Dr. Wu worked at the Rockefeller Institute.

When they returned to China in 1925, Daisy continued to help her husband and was a key supporter for his research until 1928, when her eldest son was born. She then focused on raising her six children. She opened a Ming-Ming School in Peking. In 1949, Daisy and her children left Peking for the U.S. to join her husband, who had gone there two years earlier. Both worked at the University of Alabama Medical School. After Dr. Hsien Wu died of hard attack in 1959, Daisy moved to New York in 1960 and worked at the Food Conservation Division of the United Nations Children's Fund until 1964. After that she worked for seven years at the Institute of Human Nutrition of the College of Physicians and Surgeons at Columbia University. In 1971 she served as an advisor in the Division of Nutrition and Metabolism at St. Luke's Hospital Center until 1987, when she turned 85 years old.

Her love for Ginling never wavered. One of her younger sisters, Ms. Yen Lien-yun (Lily Yen, 严莲韵), was a Ginling graduate of 1924, and in 1936 Daisy and her three sisters donated an infirmary to Ginling in memory of their father. In 1984, Daisy returned to China for Ginling's 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration. [9]



\*Photo 7: Yen Tsai-yun at Ginling

Ms. **Tang Min-sin** (汤铭新 1907-2005) was born on August 15, 1907 in Kiangsi, China. She enrolled at Ginling in 1924 and graduated in 1928. She received the Foreign Fellowship to study at Smith from 1931-1932, describing her time at Smith as “a very pleasant one-year study where I focused on language and studied social psychology, clinical social and family and population.” She then transferred to Vanderbilt University in 1932, and received her M.A. in 1933. From 1933 to 1935, Ms. Tang had two year’s professional training at the University of Chicago. After she returned to China in 1935, she worked at Hua Chung University until 1936; Anhwei University from 1936-38; the Ministry of Education during 1938-41; and the University of Nanking from 1941-43.

In 1943, invited by Dr. Wu Yi-fang, Ms. Tang returned to Ginling to organize the training program for child welfare presented at Ginling by the United China Relief, a voluntary agency from the United States. She was appointed Director of the Child Welfare Center, which included a nursery school, an informal educational program for under-privileged children of preschool age, and family and child welfare case-work and health services. Her hard work made her eligible for a United Nations Welfare Fellowship in 1948 to visit nine U.S. institutions of child welfare and behavior for six months. She was invited by her counterparts in the U.S. to stay longer, but Dr. Wu, who believed the CCP regime would bring a new democracy to China, asked her to go back to Ginling.

In early 1949, she returned. [11] However, no one expected that sociology would be accused of being “pseudoscience” by the CCP. By 1952, sociology departments had been eliminated and sociology-related curricula had been removed from all universities and colleges.



**\*Photo 8:** Tang Ming-sin (right), awarded a United Nations fellowship for six months in 1948, en route to Shanghai to fly to UN Headquarters in New York

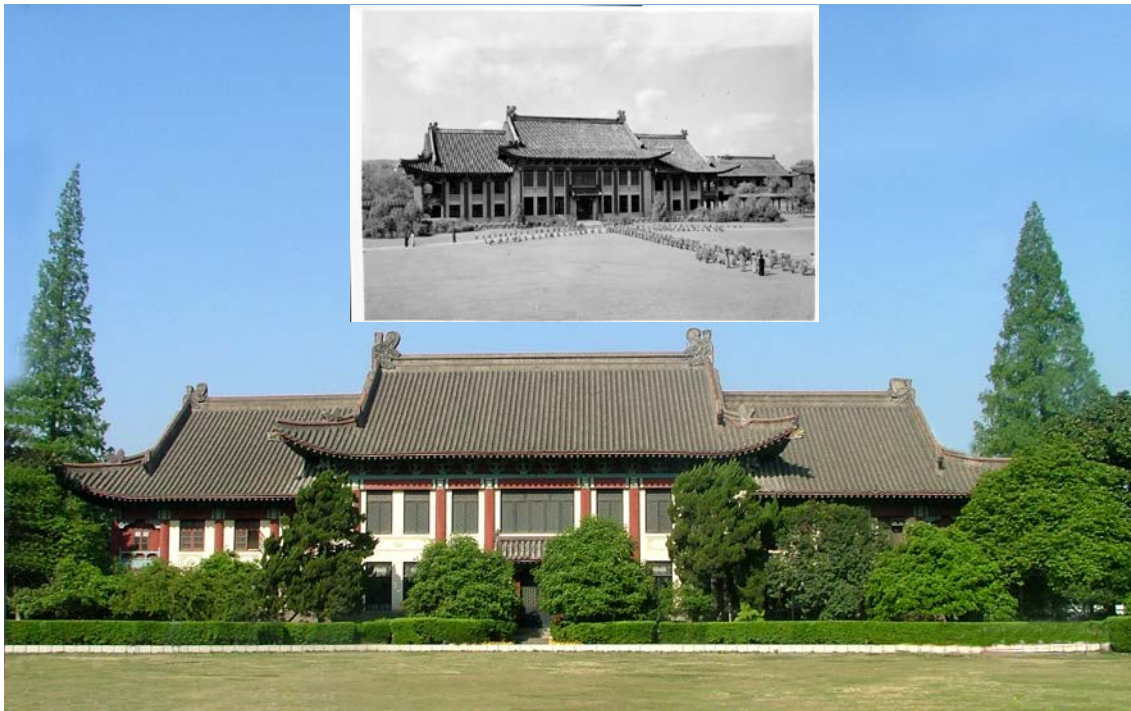
In addition to the above individuals, the sisterhood of women’s colleges in the U.S. supported Ginling financially in a very significant way. From 1916 to 1920, Smith gave Ginling \$1,000 annually. That amount was increased to \$2,500 annually from 1921 to 1926. From 1926 to 1950, it reached to \$4,000 yearly. [12] Table 5 details the contributions, reaching a total amount of over \$200,000.00 by 1950 (comparable to \$2 million today).

**Table 5** A Summary of Smith's Contributions to Ginling

Year	Amount	Note
1916-1920	\$ 5,000.00	Annual contribution of \$1,000 for 5 years
1921-1925	\$ 10,000.00	Annual contribution of \$2,500 for 5 years
1926~1950	\$ 96,000.00	Annual contribution of \$4,000 for 24 years
1923	\$ 50,000.00	Construction for Smith Building
1940	\$ 30,000.00	Ginling's 25th anniversary
1945	\$ 15,000.00	Ginling's 30th anniversary
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 206,000.00</b>	

This does not include Smith's commitment of \$10,000 annually for Ginling's capital budget and at least \$1,500 annually for expenses. Yearly collections from the Smith Club in America ranged from \$1,000 to \$5,000. [13]

In the center of the Ginling campus is what is now called the Central Building. It was a gift of \$50,000 from Smith alumnae in 1923, so it was called the Smith Building. The first floor of the Smith Building has a large board room, a reception room, and several offices. The second floor has an indoor gym and offices for the Physical Education Department. The Smith Building has been a symbol of the Smith-Ginling relationship for the last 90 years.



**Photo 9:** The current Central Building, also known as the Smith Building, was a gift from Smith College alumnae in 1923 (insert is a photo of the Smith Building in 1920's), a symbol of Ginling's heritage.

The Ginling faculty from Smith also brought their daughters to Ginling. Nancy Thomson was born in Nanking when her parents were worked as missionaries in China. When she was ready for college, her mother, Margaret Cook Thomson (Smith '11), who taught English and later became a member of Ginling's Board of Control, decided Ginling was the only place for Nancy to go, as Ginling was Smith's sister school. [14]

At the beginning of the Second Sino-Japanese War in 1937, when Ginling had to move to Chengtu, Smith alumnae gave not only monetary contributions and books, but also collected wool clothes for the Ginling girls who were unprepared for the freezing weather of Western China. To give their Ginling sisters moral support they started a letter-writing campaign, encouraging Smith alumnae to correspond with Ginling girls.

Smith alumnae and students from Ginling Centers in the U.S. actively supported their Ginling sisters during the Second Sino-Japanese War [15]

**Table 6** Ginling Centers in the U.S. Affiliated with Smith Alumnae and Students

<b>Alumna</b>	<b>Affiliation with Ginling</b>	<b>Class</b>
Frances Grace Smith	Smith-Ginling Committee	Smith, 1893
Florence H. Snow	Smith College Alumnae Association	Smith, 1904
Margaret Bodine	Smith College Undergraduates	Smith, 1941
Emily B. Clemons	Smith College Undergraduates	Smith, 1942
Susan Lobenstine	Smith College Undergraduates	Smith, 1942
Anna Mills	Smith College Undergraduates	Smith, 1943
Sydney E. Thomson	Smith College Undergraduates	Smith, 1943

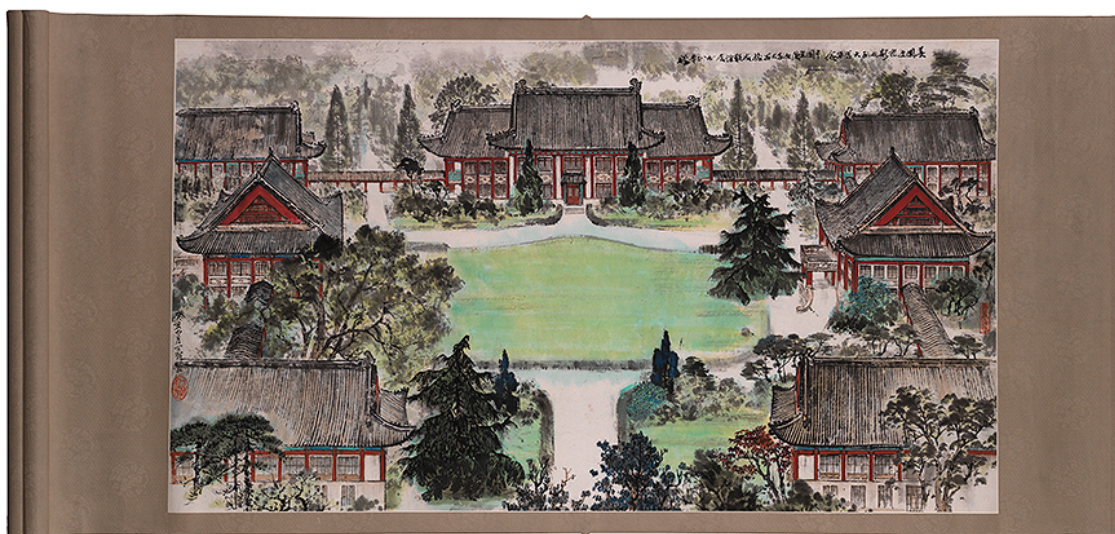
When China fell under Communist rule, Smith alumnae anxiously awaited to find out the fate of Ginling. On April 15, 1951, a letter from Mrs. Deborah D. Wheeler of Smith Alumnae Committee for Ginling hopelessly declared, "While we all will hope and pray that sometime in the unseeable future she can return to her wonderful work as a free Christian college, for the present and immediate future, we must at this time accept the fact that there is no longer an independent Ginling College for women." [16] By 1954, frustrated by the Anti-American sentiment sweeping through Ginling and China, Smith had to cut its ties with Ginling. [17]

In June of 1983, the Ginling Association in America Biannual Reunion took place at Smith. To show their appreciation for their formal sister school, they gave Smith a painting depicting Ginling's main campus that includes the Smith Building.



1983 Ginling Biennial Reunion at Smith College

**Photo 10:** The 1983 Ginling Biennial Reunion was held on June 17-19 at Smith (Courtesy GAA Website)



**Photo 11:** The Ginling alumnae gave Smith the painting depicting Ginling's main campus (Courtesy Smith College Archives)



## Wellesley and Ginling

Wellesley was the second largest contributor to Ginling. The eleven graduates from Wellesley who taught at Ginling account for one third of faculty from the Seven Sisters (Table 7).

The first engagement between Wellesley and Ginling took place in 1919, when Ms. **Rebecca Walton Griest** (1890-1978) arrived in Nanking. She was a Wellesley graduate of 1912 and taught history at Swarthmore College from 1913-14. At Ginling she taught English during 1919-1922 and history from 1924-1927. After returning to the U.S., she served as a member of Ginling's Board of Control.



**Photo 12:** Rebecca W. Griest (first from right) and then-Ginling president Mrs. Thurston (third from left) along with other faculty, at Ginling's 1922 Commencement. (Courtesy Lancaster History Archives)

The Physical Education Department was one of the strongest departments at Ginling. This was attributable to one of Wellesley's graduates: Ms. **Chen Ying-mei** (陈英梅, also known as Mrs. D.Y. Lin, 1890-1938). Chen Ying-mei was born in Hong Kong in 1890. After she graduated from Wellesley in 1913 and returned to China, she started promoting physical education for Chinese women while working at the YWCA in Shanghai. During her tenure at Ginling from 1919 to 1938, she built a solid foundation for the Physical Education Department, which eventually became the second largest department at Ginling. By 1951, it had 103 graduates. [18]

Over the years she encouraged many Chinese women to enter physical education. One of her students at Shanghai YWCA, Dr. Chang Hwei-lan (□□□), became the first Chinese woman to receive a doctorate degree in Physical Education. Dr. Chang later acted as Ginling's Chair of the Physical Education Department twice, and received an honorary award from the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). She was also Vice Chairwoman of the Chinese Olympic Committee in the 1980s.

**Table 7** List of Eleven Wellesley Graduates or Faculty Who Worked at Ginling [10]

Name	Chinese Name	Years at Wellesley	Years at Ginling	Department
Rebecca Walton Griest	N/A	1908 -12	1919-27	English and History
Ying-mei Chen	陈英梅	1909-13	1919-36	Physical Education
Helen McCoy	N/A	1911-15;1919-20	1920-25	Physics
Katharine Robb Rawles	N/A	1919-20	1921-23	Physical Education; Hygiene
Emily I. Case	N/A	1916-21	1923-27	Hygiene; Physical Education
Margaret Andrews	N/A	1906-10	1926-29	Physical Education
Mary Bosworth Treudley	涂德仪	1928-52	1923-28; 1946-47	Sociology; Economics
Evelyn M. Walmsley	N/A	1908-13	1828-1929;1945-48	English
Koh-sien Wang	王国秀	1921-25	1928-30	History
Edith C. Haight	海怡迪	1917-18	1933-37; 1947-48	Physical Education
Dorothy A. Whittington	N/A	1922-26	1942-45	Secretary to the Ginling President; General Science

After her sudden death on August 17, 1938, the student Ms. Hwang Li-ming (Wellesley, 1931) proposed a scholarship. In November 1939, the Department of Hygiene and Physical Education at Wellesley contributed \$150.00 to that scholarship fund. They were “proud to have known Mrs. Lin when she was a student at Wellesley College, and feel the Scholarship Fund for Ginling students a fitting memorial to her unique leadership in Chinese education.” [19]



**Photo 13:** Chen Yin-mei at Wellesley in 1913 (Courtesy Wellesley College Archives)

Dr. **Mary Bosworth Treudley** (Chinese name 涂德仪, 1885-1996) was a well-known faculty member from Wellesley. Born on December 7, 1885 in Union City, Indiana, she earned her B.A. degree from Ohio University in 1906, and her M.A. from the University of Chicago in 1910. After she received her Ph.D. from Clark University in 1916, she taught at Hiram College until 1922, then travelled to China to teach sociology, English and economics at Ginling from 1923 to 1928.

Dr. Treudley was the founding chair of the Sociology Department, which became the largest department at Ginling: by 1951 it had graduated 203 students, accounting for 23% of the total 999 graduates.

During the Nanking Incident in spring of 1927, which was a conflict between the Chinese nationalist government against American and British forces, Western faculty members at Ginling were forced to evacuate. Even though the situation had improved, the U.S. State Department and the U.S. Consulate General opposed Americans returning to Nanking. Dr. Treudley, along with other seven Western faculty members decided on their own to return to Ginling. When Ginling reopened in the fall of 1927, those eight Western faculty were present, and the college was under a special administrative committee until November of 1928, when Dr. Wu Yi-fang took over.

After leaving Ginling in 1928, Dr. Treudley joined the Wellesley faculty in 1929 and worked there until her retirement in 1952. During her sabbatical year of 1946-47, she returned to Ginling to lead the Sociology Department once again.

World War II had just ended and Ginling was ready to return from the wartime campus in Chengtu. In the spring of 1947, she started to write a book "based on the field study of a market area" [20] in Chung Ho Ch'ang (中和场). Chung Ho Ch'ang was a place in Szechuan of Western China where Ms. Tsu Yu-chi (徐幼芝, Ginling, 1934) was in charge of rural service station established by Ginling since 1942. Based on the recollections of Tsu and others demonstrate how the rural services trained Chinese women to practice democracy, Dr. Treudley finished her book ***The Men and Women of Chung Ho Ch'ang***, which was published in 1974.

In 1972 Dr. Treudley published another book, ***This Stinging Exultation***, a biography of Miss **Minnie Vautrin**. Miss Vautrin (Chinese name 华群, 1886-1941), also known as "The Living Goodness" by many Chinese, was a member of the Ginling faculty from 1919-1941. Minnie Vautrin led the Ginling Refugee Camp Committee to protect thousands of Chinese women and children during the Rape of Nanking. Dr. Treudley interviewed Vautrin's father, brother and niece, in addition to a number of missionaries, and her book paints a detailed picture of Minnie Vautrin's early life, her career at Ginling, and her activities during the Rape of Nanking. This book was particularly valuable at that time because Minnie Vautrin's wartime diary had not yet been made available to the public.

Dr. Treudley left China in 1947. Her successor at Ginling, Dr. Helen Ferris (Chinese name 费睿思, 1895-1970), had an experience that changed the course of Ginling history. In November of 1950, when Dr. Ferris changed a line in a student's homework from "the United States sent an army to Korea" to "the United Nations sent an army to Korea," she was accused of "reactionary behavior." Very soon the "Anti-insult and Anti-defamation" movement swept through colleges and universities in Nanking. Dr. Ferris was deported and all other foreign faculty members were told to leave China.



**Photo 14:** Dr. Mary B. Treudley (seven from left in mid row) was given a warm send-off by Sociology Department faculty, staff and students on June 13, 1947. The photo was taken in front of the Smith Building.

Seven Ginlingers studied at Wellesley (Table 8). Inspired by Ms. **Chen Ying-mei**, six of them studied physical education. They were among 21 Chinese women who studied physical education in the U.S. from 1900-1949. Over time, four of those six Ginlingers even became chairs of physical education departments: Sie Wen-tsiu (谢文秋), Tsui Ya-lan (崔亚兰), Hwang Li-ming (黄丽明), and Swen Shuh-tsuen (孙淑铨).

Ms. **Loh Zung-nyi** (陆慎仪, 1900 -1981) was the only one from Ginling who did not study physical education at Wellesley. Born on March 10, 1900 in Kiangsu, China, she studied at Ginling during 1920-21, then went to Wellesley in 1921 and graduated in 1924. After she received her master's degree in Mathematics from Cornell University in 1925, she returned to teach at Ginling from 1925 -1931 and from 1946-1948. She also acted as Acting Dean of Studies during 1946-47. As a well-known mathematician, she was a founding member of the Chinese Mathematical Society.

She returned to teach at Wellesley during 1948-49. She also taught at Smith College, Wilson College, Western College and Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Dayton, Ohio. After her passing on April 25, 1981, a Louise Zung-nyi Loh Memorial Scholarship Fund was set up as part of her will to provide scholarships to students who demonstrate an interest in East Asia Studies at Ohio State University. [21]

**Table 8** List of Seven Ginling Alumnae Who Studied at Wellesley [10]

Name	Chinese Name	Year at Ginling	Year at Wellesley	Worked after Wellesley
Loh Zung-nyi	陆慎仪(1900 - 1981)	1920-21	1921-24	Ginling College; Hunan Univeristy; Smith College, Wilson College and Western College
Sie Wen-tsiu	谢文秋(1899 - 1999)	1920-21	1921-25	Ginling College; Good Cooking School
Hwang Li-ming	黄丽明(1907 - 2009)	B.A. 1927	1929-31	Ginling College; Ming Deh Girls School and No.4th High School
Che Yueh-mei	陈越梅(1910 - 1991)	B.A. 1930	1931-33	Yenching University; Ginling College; principals for two elementary schools
Tsui Ya-lan	崔亚兰(1907 - 1997)	B.A. 1929	1936-38	Ginling College; Hong Kong YWCA; Chung Chi College; True Light High School in Hong Kong
Djou Gi-hsing	周纪馨	B.A. 1939	1946-47	North Park College
Swen Shuh-tsuen	孙淑铨(1914 - 2011)	B.A. 1937	1947-49	Ginling College



**\*Photo 15:** Ms. Loh Zung-nyi with other faculty at Ginling in 1947

Ms. **Hwang Li-ming** (黄丽明 1907-2009), also known as Mrs. Chen Hwang Li-ming, was born on January 6, 1907 in Nanking, China. She enrolled at Ginling 1923. When she received her bachelor's degree in 1927, she became one of the first three Chinese women to graduate in physical education at a Chinese university. Because of her excellent performance, she was allowed to join the Ginling faculty in 1927 until 1946. In 1929, under a full scholarship, she returned to Wellesley for graduate study, receiving her master's degree in 1931. When she returned to Ginling in 1931, she was appointed Chair of the Physical Education Department.

The 1936 Olympic Games were held in Berlin, Germany, and it was the first time China sent an official team. Team China had a group of 30 physical education directors who went to observe the games and to study physical education in various countries. Among the nine women in the group, six were from Ginling and three had education at Wellesley: Sie Wen-tsiu, Hwang Li-ming and Tsui Ya-lan. Ms. Hwang Li-ming was even one of the flag bearers in the opening ceremony.



**\*Photo 16:** From left in front row: Hwang Li-ming (first), Dr. Wu (second), Tsui Ya-lan (fourth) and other Ginlingers at the 1936 Olympic Games in Berlin

When the Second Sino-Japanese War broke out in 1937, her pregnant did not allow her to move with Ginling to West China. Instead she relocated to Shanghai so about fifty Ginling students in Shanghai could join St. John's University, Hangchow University, the University of Shanghai and Soochow University to form the Associated Christian Universities in the Shanghai International Settlement (上海公共租界). In March of 1938, Ginling decided to keep only physical education in Shanghai. Mr. Chen was in charge of physical education of women for all five universities until 1942, when the Japanese army closed those American missionary-affiliated universities after the Pearl Harbor attack. She brought two of her Ginling students back to her home in Nanking, and they graduated there in 1943.

After Japanese's surrender, Mrs. Chen returned to Ginling and stayed until 1947, when she resigned to focus on the reopening of the Ming Deh Girls School, which was established by the American Presbyterian Church in 1884. She was appointed as its principal and served in that

position until 1952. She was then assigned by the CCP to Nanjing No. 4 High School and worked as a PE teacher she retired in 1972. [9]

Ms. Hwang survived the Cultural Revolution of 1966-76, though she was attacked by the Red Guard. Her properties were confiscated, and she was kicked out of her own house. After the Cultural Revolution ended in 1976, she went to the U.S. in 1979 and served as a volunteer in her church until she passed away on October 22, 2009 in Boston.

The most prominent Wellesley alumna in China was former first lady Madame Chiang Kai-Shek (**Soong May-ling** 宋美齡, 1898-2003). As a Wellesley graduate of 1917, Madame Chiang had a special feeling for Ginling, the first women's college in China, and its president Dr. Wu Yi-fang.

Madame Chiang's niece and later most reliable companion Rosamond Ling-i Kung (孔令仪) studied at Ginling during 1934-35.

In 1928, Madame Chiang attended Dr. Wu Yi-fang's inauguration as Ginling's president. Along with her husband Generalissimo Chiang, she also attended Ginling's commencement ceremony in 1934.

In 1933, Madame Chiang and her two well-known Soong sisters, Madame H.H. Kung (宋蕩齡) and Madame Sun Yat-sen (宋庆齡), donated a dormitory to Ginling's practice school, which was the largest gift by Chinese donors in Ginling's history.

In 1934 Dr. Wu Yi-fang became a member of the Women's Advisory Committee of the *New Life Movement* (新生活运动), a citizen education movement created by Generalissimo and Madame Chiang to promote traditional Chinese values, as "a representative of China on many occasions, both in the country, in Canada, in India, and in England." [22] She also participated in the *National Association of Chinese Women to Cheer and Comfort Officers and Men of the War of Self-Defense and Resistance* that was chaired by Madame Chiang for war relief. From 1938 to 1945, Dr. Wu was also one of the five presidents of the People's Political Council, a coalition of the Nationalists, the Communists, and those not affiliated with any party, led by Generalissimo and Madame Chiang to fight against the Japanese invasion.

In October of 1939, Madame Chiang visited Ginling's wartime campus in Chengtu, where she made a very famous comment about Ginling's accomplishments, "***I find only one fault with Ginling. Instead of 150 students you should have 1,500.***" \*

In August of 1945, the Kappa Phi Club of the Methodist Church in Ann Arbor of Michigan sent Madame Chiang a check for \$200 to be used for work in one of the thirteen Christian colleges that existed in China at that time. Madame Chiang decided to transfer the entire check to Ginling. [23]



\*Photo 17: Madame Chiang (second from right) and her husband Generalissimo Chiang (first from right) with Dr. Wu (second from left) at Ginling 1934 commencement ceremony.





**\*Photo 18:** The dormitory given to Ginling by Madame Chiang Kai-shek and her two Soong sisters.



**\*Photo 19:** Madame Chiang Kai-shek (fifth from right in the front row) visited the wartime Ginling campus in Chengtu with Dr. Wu Yi-fang (on her left) in October of 1939

Wellesley began to resume ties with new Ginling in 1993 by sending a fellow to its English department for a two-year term. In 1999, when Wellesley received a generous grant from the Henry Luce Foundation to honor Elisabeth Luce Moore ('24), the Luce Moore Wellesley-Yenching Program was established. The Wellesley-Yenching Graduate Fellowship at Ginling College sponsors two English teaching fellowships at the new Ginling, and also offers Wellesley graduates the opportunity to study the Chinese language and culture there. [24]

In October 2015, Ms. Ellie Perkins, Director of Fellowship and Pre-professional Programs and the representative of Wellesley's president Dr. H. Kim Bottomly, went to Nanjing to attend Ginling's 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration held on the former Ginling campus.

## Mount Holyoke and Ginling

Among the Seven Sisters, Mount Holyoke was the first one to be incorporated in 1837. Four of Mount Holyoke's graduates taught at Ginling (Table 9).

Ginling's ties with Mount Holyoke also helped attract teachers from elsewhere. Miss Eva Dykes Spicer (师以法, 1898–1974) had taught English at Geneva College in Switzerland, which was also affiliated with Mount Holyoke. [14] That connection led her to teach at Ginling in 1923, where she worked for twenty-eight years, until 1951.

**Table 9** List of Four Mount Holyoke Graduates who worked at Ginling [10]

Name	Chinese Name	Year at Mount Holyoke	Year at Ginling	Department
Matilda S. Calder Thurston (Mrs. Laurence Thurston)	德本康	1892-96	1913-43	President; Advisor
Laura H. Wild	N/A	1888-90	1923-24	Religion
Wen-yu Hwang	黄文玉	1925-26	1924-25;1928-29	Religion
Harriet M. Cogswell	N/A	1918-22	1926-32	English

The most famous Mount Holyoke graduate at Ginling was **Mrs. Matilda Calder Thurston** (1875-1958). Her Chinese name was 德本康, and Ginlingers always called her by her Chinese name 德师母 (Mrs. Deh), which means virtue.

Also known as Mrs. Lawrence Thurston, she was born on May 16, 1875 in Hartford, Connecticut. In 1896 she graduated from Mount Holyoke. Following Mount Holyoke tradition, she went to China in 1902 to work for the Yale-in-China Mission with her husband, Rev. John Lawrence Thurston.

When a group of American religious women began to discuss building a union college for women in the Yangtze Valley, their eyes were on Mrs. Thurston, who had experience and an excellent educational background. She went to Nanking in September of 1913 for the preparations, and in November she was appointed to be Ginling's first president.

If those eight who signed the charter to establish Ginling are Eight Founders, then Mrs. Thurston should be the Ninth Founder because of her great contributions to Ginling.

From 1913 to 1928, Mrs. Thurston devoted her life to Ginling, not only as an administrator but also as an instructor in a variety of subjects. She even conducted the glee club and the Ginling choir. She was often referred to as a "Jack of all trades." [18]

Walking the grounds of the Ginling campus, one is amazed by the beautiful big-roofed buildings. Mrs. Thurston played a very important role in the development of the new Ginling campus. As early as 1916 she started purchasing land, and selected Mr. Henry K. Murphy as the architect. She spent a great deal of time working with Murphy to adapt the traditional Chinese style of architecture. She wanted the buildings to be "Chinese below the roof as well". [25] She also had to work with local government to remove thousands of graves. After Murphy finished the blueprints in 1919, Mrs. Thurston travelled to the U.S. to launch a fundraising campaign that eventually raised \$600,000 for campus development, including \$50,000 from Smith College.

The building complex, completed in 1923, is an architectural landmark, the centerpiece of one of the most beautiful university campuses in China.

In the wake of the nationalization of Chinese colleges and universities, Ginling decided to have a Chinese national as its new president. Mrs. Thurston resigned in November 1928 and transferred the presidency to Dr. Wu Yi-fang, a member of Ginling's first graduating Class of 1919. However, Ms. Thurston remained as President Emeritus and an advisor to Dr. Wu.

After Mrs. Thurston handed over the presidency of the college to Dr. Wu, she predicted that the "tree of knowledge which has been planted will root itself more firmly in the life of China will put forth flowers of new beauty, and bring forth fruit which shall nourish the life of the spirit in the women of China." [26] Ginling's long and productive life has fulfilled her vision.



**\*Photo 20:** Mrs. Matilda C. Thurston (fifth from right in front row) and Dr. Wu (on her left) with the graduating Class of 1933. My great grandmother Tsai Deh-sui (circled) stands directly behind them.

In 1925, Mrs. Thurston received an honorary Doctorate of Literature degree from Mount Holyoke, her Alma Mater. In 1941, she was among eleven faculty members awarded the First Prize of Achievement by the Chinese government for their service at Ginling of more than twenty years.

After returning to the U.S., she co-authored the book *Ginling College* in 1955 with Dr. Ruth M. Chester, leaving a historical record of Ginling.



\*Photo 21: Mrs. Thurston played a crucial role in the development of the beautiful Ginling campus.

Three Ginlingers studied at Mount Holyoke (Table 10).

**Table 10** List of Three Ginling Alumnae Who Studied at Mount Holyoke [10]

Name	Chinese Name	Graduated from Ginling	Years at Mount Holyoke	Worked after Mount Holyoke
Lu Shuh-yin	鲁淑音 (1907 -1993)	B.A. 1928	1930-32	Ginling College; University of Maryland
Ho I-djen	何怡贞 (1910 - 2007)	B.A. 1930	1931-33	Yenching University; Amherst College Cambridge College; University of Chicago; Institute of Metal Research at Chinese Academy of Sciences, etc
Pan Ren-tsiu	潘纫秋 (1917 - 2015)	B.A. 1940	1949-52	Columbia University

Ms. **Lu Shuh-yin** (鲁淑音, 1907-1993) was born on August 7, 1907 in Nanking. She graduated from Ginling in 1928, then went to study at Mount Holyoke in 1930. When she received her M.A. in 1932, she had already been awarded a two-year scholarship from Bryn Mawr to complete her a doctorate degree. However, Ginling was lacking faculty in the physics department, so she decided to return to Ginling, working there from 1932-1938. When the Nobel Laureate Niels Bohr visited Ginling on May 27, 1937, Lu, as the chair of the Physics and Math Department, welcomed him: “After a Chinese dinner we were shown around the library and the laboratory,” recalled Niels’ son Hans, who accompanied his father. [27] A Nobel Laureate’s visit to Ginling was an enormous inspiration for Ginling’s students. Ms. Lu later worked at the University of Maryland from 1956-1970.



**\*\*Photo 22:** Lu Shuh-yin (second from right) with fellow Ginlingers in the U.S.

Dr. Ho I-djen (何怡贞, 1910-2008) was born on November 14, 1910 in Peking. She studied in the Physics & Mathematics Departments at Ginling from 1926-1930. After graduating in 1930, she worked in a missionary school in Chingkiang teaching physics. Starting in 1931, she studied in the Chemistry Department at Mount Holyoke and received her master's degree there in 1933.

After Mount Holyoke, she went to study at the University of Michigan under the Barbour Scholarship, earning her Ph.D. in physics in 1937. She returned to China and worked at Yenching University (燕京大学) in 1938, and at Soochow University (东吴大学) in 1941. One month after getting married, she returned to the U.S. to teach in the Chemistry Department at Amherst College from 1941-1942, and from 1942-1950 at Cambridge College and the University of Chicago. Dr. Ho, along with her husband and two children, returned to China in 1950, and she resumed her teaching at Yenching University.

Dr. Ho had a family of physicists: her husband Dr. Ke Ting-Sui (葛庭燧, 1913-2004), her sister Dr. Ho Zah-wei (何泽慧, 1914-2011), and her cousin Dr. Wang Min-djen (王明贞, 1906-2010) were well-known physicists.

Dr. Ho's specialties were spectroscopy, material construction, solid defects and amorphous solids. She was one of the founders of the Institute of Metal Research and the Institute of Solid State Physics, both under the Chinese Academy of Sciences. Dr. Ho passed away on July 31, 2008. [28]



**Photo 23:** Dr. Ho I-djen (second from left) with her classmates at Mount Holyoke (*Courtesy Dr. Ho's daughter Ge Yuanpei*)

## Vassar and Ginling

From 1916 to 1949, four Vassar graduates taught at Ginling (Table 11).

**Table 11** List of Four Vassar Graduates Who Worked at Ginling [10]

Name	Chinese Name	Years at Vassar	Years at Ginling	Department
Narola E. Rivenburg	芮伯格	1909-13	1916-21	Religion
Florence E. Sprague	N/A	1895-99	1926-27	History
Edith W. Fosdick	N/A	1902-06	1928-29	History & Sociology
Louise Feng-meï Chang	张凤美	1936-38	1948-49	English



**Photo 24:** From left: Narola Rivenburg, Florence Sprague, Edith Fosdick, and Louise Chang at Vassar  
(Courtesy Vassar College Archives)

**Dr. Narola Elizabeth Rivenburg** (Chinese name 芮伯格, 1887-1942) was born on November 17, 1887 in Kohima, IN. A 1913 graduate of Vassar, she worked at Hartford Theological Seminary from 1913-1916, and taught religion at Ginling from 1916-1921. After returning to the U.S. she studied at Union Theological Seminary in New York City from 1921-1923, and worked at the YWCA in Troy, New York from 1923-25. She studied at Columbia University from 1925-1926 and received her Ph.D. in 1932. She worked with the Baptist Institute for Christian Workers in Philadelphia from 1927 until her passing in October, 1942.

**Ms. Florence Emily Sprague** graduated from Vassar in 1899. She was an English teacher in Toledo, Ohio from 1900-1919, and a secretary at the YWCA in New York City from 1919-1920. She taught history at Ginling from 1926-1927. In July 1944, she wrote to Dr. Wu to offer an annuity investment for Ginling's endowment fund. On January 1, 1945, she signed an agreement with Ginling that allowed \$1,500 she had invested to be turned over to Ginling following her death. [29]

**Ms. Edith Wellington Fosdick** graduated from Vassar in 1906. She was a social worker from 1906-1925 and a teacher from 1926-39. She taught history and sociology at Ginling during 1928-29, and studied at Columbia University from 1929-30.

**Ms. Louise Feng-meï Chang** (张凤美, 1916-2012) was born on June 23, 1916 in Kuiling, China. She studied at Yenching University before studying euthenics at Vassar. She received her bachelor's degree from Vassar in 1938, and her M.A. in sociology from the University of Michigan in 1940. She later earned an M.S. in Library Science from the University of Kentucky in 1959. She taught English as an assistant professor at Ginling during 1948-1949. After she escaped from China in 1949, she worked as a research assistant at Yale University from 1951-1952. During



1978-1981, she worked at Berea College in Kentucky as professor of library science. She passed away on May 28, 2012.

There was one Ginlinger who worked at Vassar. Dr. **Djeng Ying-hwan** (郑英环, 1915-2011), also known as Cheng Ying-wan, was born on August 25, 1915 in London. She graduated from Ginling Practice High School in 1935 and studied history at Ginling College from 1935-1936. She went to Smith College in 1941 and received her B.A. in 1943.

Dr. Djeng went to study at Radcliffe and received her M.A. there in 1945. She worked at Vassar from 1954-1955 as an intern, funded by the Ford Foundation for the Advancement of Education's College Teacher Internship Program. Speaking of the intern program in an interview for the June 1955 issue of *Vassar Alumnae Magazine*, she said of her teaching experience: "I work with Professor Ross, my sponsor, very closely... I could never be grateful enough for having a sponsor from whom I could seek help or guidance... This year has been a most valuable part of my apprenticeship. At some future date I hope to add a landmark in my career."

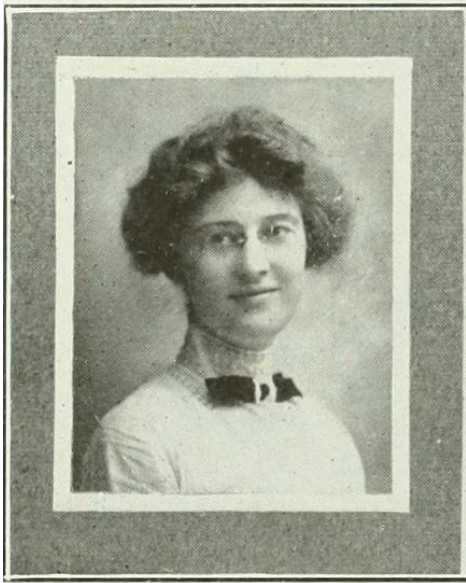
And she did. After receiving her Ph.D. in history from Radcliffe in 1960, she worked at Dowling College as Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor until her retirement. She passed away on May 29, 2011.



**Photo 25:** Dr. Djeng (first from right in the front row) with other interns and coordinators in 1955. (Courtesy Vassar College Archives)

## Barnard and Ginling

**Dr. Helen R. Downes (1893-1992)** was considered an important figure in the Chemistry Department at Barnard. She graduated there in 1914 and then taught at Vassar during 1914-1916. While studying at Columbia from 1916-1918, she also worked at Barnard. She received her M.A. at Columbia in 1918. From 1918-1920, she worked at Cornell University Medical College as a research assistant. From 1920-1925 she taught at Peking Union Medical College in China, also teaching chemistry at Ginling in 1924. In 1927 she received her Ph.D. from Cambridge University in England. She joined the Barnard faculty in 1932 until her retirement in 1960.



**Photo 26:** Dr. Helen R. Downes at Barnard in 1914 (*Courtesy Barnard Archives*)

Ms. **Nyi Han-fang** (倪翰芬), also known as Mrs. Rosie Nyi Chou, studied at Ginling from 1923-1924. She studied at Barnard during 1925-1927. After she returned to China, she taught psychology at Ginling from 1932-1934. Later she worked at Kwangsi University.



**Photo 27:** Ms. Nyi Han-fang at Barnard (*Courtesy Barnard College Archives*)

## Bryn Mawr and Ginling

Ms. **Mary Body Shipley** (Chinese name 薛浦来, 1888-1952) graduated from Bryn Mawr in 1910. In 1917 she was sent by the Presbyterian Church in the U.S. to teach English and history at Ginling. After she left Ginling in 1919, she taught at Ming Deh Girls School, Presbyterian Girls School, and Nanking American School, all in Nanking, until 1933. From 1934-1938, she taught Latin at the Shipley School in Bryn Mawr.



**\*Photo 28:** Mary B. Shipley (left) teaching a history class at Ginling.

Two Ginlingers studied at Bryn Mawr (Table 12).

**Table 12** List of Two Ginling Alumnae Who Studied at Bryn Mawr [10]

Name	Chinese Name	Years at Ginling	Years at Bryn Mawr	Worked after Bryn Mawr
Dju Luh	朱驕 (1896 -1966)	B.A. 1922	1925 -26	Ginling College; Wuhan University
Tang Yu-shui (Dong, Nyok-Zoe)	唐玉瑞 (1895-1979)	1916-18	1920-22	PUMC; Columbia University

Ms. **Dju Luh** (朱驕, 1896 -1966), also known as Mrs. Dju-Luh Hsiung (朱君允), was one of the Ginlingers who studied at Bryn Mawr. She was born in Hunan, China and graduated from Ginling in 1922. She went to study history at Bryn Mawr in 1925 and received her master's degree in 1926. In the same year, after she married Hsiung Fo-hsi (熊佛西 1900-1965), a well-known Chinese playwright who had just received his master's degree from Columbia University, they returned to China and taught in Peking. After the Second Sino-Japanese War broke out, they moved to Western China. She worked at Ginling College's wartime campus in Chengtu from 1940-1941, and then at Wuhan University as Professor of English.

Like many Chinese, she was disappointed in the widespread corruption of the Nationalist Kuomintang (KMT) government. Because of her active involvement in student anti-government protests, she was arrested along with six other professors in June 1947. When she was released four days later, she was considered an ally by the CCP. After the CCP took power in 1949, she was appointed Deputy to the National People's Congress and Vice Chair of the University Union.



**Photo 29:** Dju Luh (朱君允) in her early years

However, an about-face occurred in 1958 during the Anti-Rightist Movement. She was accused of being a rightist because she was critical of the CCP official at the university. An ally of the CCP ten years ago was now an enemy. As a result, she was stripped of all official titles and demoted from her rank of professor. She was then forced to retire and relocate, living with her son in Tientsin.

Eight years later, during the Cultural Revolution, Ms. Dju was harassed by the Red Guards. On December 6, 1966, during a physical attack by the Red Guards, she had a stroke and died at the scene. She was only 72 years old. [30] Her story epitomizes the ways in which Chinese with a foreign education suffered during the Cultural Revolution.

## Radcliffe and Ginling

Even though no Radcliffe graduates or faculty members taught at Ginling, all three Ginlingers who studied at Radcliffe received their doctorate degrees (Table 13).

**Table 13** List of the Three Ginling Alumnae Who Studied at Radcliffe [10]

Name	Chinese Name	Years at Ginling	Years at Radcliffe	Doctorate Degree	Worked after Radcliffe
Wu Mou-i	吴懋仪	B.A. 1928	1939- 44	Ph.D. in Chemistry	Harvard University; Ginling College, Nanjing Normal College
Djeng Ying-hwan	郑英环	1935-36	1945-60	Ph.D. in History	Vassar College; Harvard University; Vassar College, Hunter College; Brooklyn College and Dowling College
Hu Siu-ying	胡秀英	B.A. 1933	1946-49	Ph.D. in Botany	Harvard University, Chinese University of Hong Kong

**Dr. Wu Mou-i** (吴懋仪, 1905-1973) was born in Kianghsi, China in May of 1905. She studied at Ginling beginning in 1924. After she graduated in 1928, she worked in the Chemistry Department as assistant under Dr. Ruth Chester until 1937, when she studied at Yenching University, receiving her master's degree in 1932. In 1937 she worked at Kweiyang University. In 1939 she received a fellowship from Radcliffe and studied under Dr. Louis Frederick Fieser, a well-known American organic chemist who was believed to be the top contender for the Nobel Prize in physiology or medicine in 1941 and 1942. After she was awarded a Ph.D. in Chemistry, she stayed at Harvard and performed research for eight months. She returned to Ginling in September 1945 and was appointed Chair of the Chemistry Department to replace Dr. Chester, who could then focus on teaching and administrative duties as Dean of Studies.

In the early 1950's, with Marxism and Communism as its central ideologies, China restructured its universities to meet the CCP's goal of developing socialism and boosting industrial development. By 1951, Ginling had merged with the University of Nanking to become National Ginling University. By 1952, National Ginling University had closed and Nanjing Normal College was established on the former Ginling campus. Dr. Wu Mou-i became the founding Chair of the re-organized Chemistry Department, which has grown from six faculty and staff into the School of Chemistry and Material Science with more than 100 faculty and staff. More than half of the faculty in the Chemistry Department were her students. [31]



**\*Photo 30:** Dr. Wu Mou-i in the U.S.

*\*From Archives of the United Board for Christian Higher Education in Asia, Record Group No. 11, Special Collections, Yale Divinity School Library*

**Dr. Hu Siu-ying (胡秀英 1910 - 2012)** was born on February 22, 1910 in Hsuehchow, China. She lost her father when she was only four years old. With help from the local missionaries, she was able to complete middle school, the first female student in that village to do so. She entered Ginling in 1926 to study physics and chemistry, then changed to biology. In 1928, she returned to her hometown to teach physical education and returned to Ginling in 1930. She graduated from Ginling in 1933 with a major in biology and a minor in sociology. Later she became a research fellow at Lingnan University, and received her M.S. degree there in 1937.

From 1938-1946, she worked at West China Union University in Chengtu. At that time she was elected President of the Chengtu International Women's Club. The vice president of the club was a Radcliffe graduate who applied for a fellowship to study at her alma mater on Hu's behalf. In 1946, Hu was offered a graduate fellowship for a doctorate program at Radcliffe.

At Radcliffe, she encountered the most difficult time in her life. She was very close to her mother, and her mother's death felt like the end of the world to her. She did not have the courage to live. In her deep grief, her numbed soul was awakened by Dr. Lily Perry of the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard, who told her: "The people of Radcliffe are trying to help you while you are

in trouble. You should take it in the same spirit as it is given. No matter whether you know it or not, you belong to Radcliffe and you are a part of Radcliffe.” [32]

She did not let them down. In 1949 she received her Ph.D. in Botany, the first Chinese woman to obtain a doctorate degree in botany at Harvard. Then she worked in the Arnold Arboretum until 1968, when she went to work as a Senior Lecturer at Chung Chi College at the Chinese University of Hong Kong (CHHK), while still working in the Arnold Arboretum. In 1999, she was appointed Honorary Professor of the CHHK. Two years later, in 2001, she was awarded a Bronze Bauhinia Star by the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region (HKSAR) Government.

As early 1938, while at the West China Union University, she began collecting and identifying plant specimens. Over her entire career, she collected and identified as many as 185,000 plant specimens and published more than 200 papers. In 1992, the Holly Society of America established the Shiu-ying Hu Award to honor one or more individuals who have made outstanding contributions to the knowledge of the genus *Ilex*. The first recipient of the award was actually Dr. Hu herself, because she “has contributed a great deal to the advancement of knowledge of *Ilex* and other Chinese plants over a period of years.” [33]

Dr. Hu never forgot Ginling. She named her first new species of Holly *Ilex Reeves* in honor of Dr. Cora D. Reeves, the founder and first Chair of the Biology Department at Ginling. She once said that whatever success she may have achieved she owes to Ginling, and especially to her professor, advisor, and friend Dr. Reeves. In 1960, she bought a house in Boston to host Ginlingers from around the world. After the new Ginling was established in 1987, she visited the campus a couple of times. In 2001, she established Hu Quan’s Scholarship and Stipend for needy students, in honor of her mother.



**Photo 31:** Dr. Hu (left) and Dr. Theodore Dudley at the US National Arboretum at the Holly Banquet  
(Courtesy the Holly Society of America)



**Photo 32:** Dr. Hu taking students and staff on field studies on the CUHK campus in 2000 (*Courtesy Lau Tai Wai of the Chinese University of Hong Kong*)



## Summary

During Ginling's history from 1915-1951, graduates and faculty from the Seven Sisters colleges played a very important role: thirty-six instructors from the Seven Sisters taught at Ginling (28% of the entire Western faculty). Among them were Ginling's founding president, Mrs. Matilda Thurston from Mount Holyoke, and the longest-serving faculty member at Ginling, Dr. Ruth Chester from Smith. They increased awareness of women's right to higher education, enriched Ginling's curriculum, raised Ginling's academic standing, and, most importantly, contributed to the lives of 999 women graduates. In addition, Smith, as Ginling's sister school, has provided substantial financial support to Ginling. The Smith Building donated by Smith alumnae in 1923 is still a symbol of Ginling's heritage. Meanwhile, thirty-one Ginling girls had the opportunity to study or work at the Seven Sisters, improving their opportunities when they returned to China.

However, that role has been largely untold, ignored or downplayed, as China is reluctant to acknowledge the importance of Western faculty in China's modern development. In fact, for a long time, their presence was seen as Western cultural imperialism. Subsequently, almost all Ginlingers who studied at the Seven Sisters and returned to China suffered one way or another after the CCP took over power. Some even lost their lives.

This is the first paper to reveal this hidden chapter in Ginling's history, exploring how the Seven Sisters' graduates and faculty helped Ginling, and how Ginling girls benefited from their graduate studies at the Seven Sisters.

Over the past sixty-five years since Ginling was closed in 1951, there have been many changes at the Seven Sisters. After Vassar became a co-ed college in 1969 and Radcliffe merged with Harvard College in 1977, the Seven Sisters are now only five women's colleges. After the new Ginling College reopened in 1987 under Nanjing Normal University, high level visits between Smith, Wellesley and the new Ginling continue. Furthermore, Barnard, Bryn Mawr, Mount Holyoke, Smith and Wellesley, and the new Ginling are all members of a group of women's colleges, Women's Education Worldwide. [34]

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### **About the Author**



Rosalinda Xiong is a Grade 12 student at the United World College of Southeast Asia in Singapore.

She writes this paper not only in celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the founding of Ginling College and in honor of the tremendous support from the Seven Sisters Colleges, but also as a tribute to the seven members of her family (her father's paternal grandfather, his paternal and maternal grandmothers, his three aunts and his mother) who were affiliated with Ginling College as faculty and students.