

# **Ginling College, the University of Michigan and the Barbour Scholarship**

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## **Abstract**

*Ginling College (“Ginling”) was the first institution of higher learning in China to grant bachelor’s degrees to women. Located in Nanking (now Nanjing) and founded in 1915 by western missionaries, Ginling had already graduated nearly 1,000 women when it merged with the University of Nanking in 1951 to become National Ginling University.*

*The University of Michigan (“Michigan”) has had a long history of exchange with Ginling. During Ginling’s first 36 years of operation, Michigan graduates and faculty taught Chinese women at Ginling, and Ginlingers furthered their studies at Michigan through the Barbour Scholarship.*

*This paper highlights the connection between Ginling and Michigan by profiling some of the significant people and events that shaped this unique relationship. It begins by introducing six Michigan graduates and faculty who taught at Ginling. Next we look at the 21 Ginlingers who studied at Michigan through the Barbour Scholarship (including 8 Barbour Scholars from Ginling who were awarded doctorate degrees), and their status after returning to China. Finally, we consider the lives of prominent Chinese women scholars from Ginling who changed China, such as Dr. Wu Yi-fang, a member of Ginling’s first graduating class and, later, its second president; and Miss Wu Ching-yi, who witnessed the brutality of the Rape of Nanking and later worked with Miss Minnie Vautrin to help refugees in Ginling Refugee Camp.*

*Between 2015 and 2017, Ginling College celebrates the centennial anniversary of its founding; and the University of Michigan marks both its bicentennial and the hundredth anniversary of the Barbour Gift, the source of the Barbour Scholarship. The present discussion seeks to provide context for the anniversaries of these extraordinary institutions and the inspiring relationship between them that has endured for a century.*

## **Formation and Changing Structure of Ginling College**

The University of Michigan has had a long association with China, even before it established official ties. As early as 1847, Judson D. Collins, Class of 1845, travelled to China as a missionary. This was not unusual, however, as many graduates from prestigious universities in America traveled to China as missionaries at that time.

The University of Michigan’s official contact with China began in 1880, when its president, James B. Angell, was appointed by the U.S. government as Minister to China. One of his accomplishments was to negotiate the Angell Treaty, permitting the U.S. to restrict Chinese immigration, but not completely prohibit it, so laborers could still come to help build the railways of the western states. President Angell, along with other educators, also pushed the U.S. government to return the Boxer Indemnity to China in the form of a scholarship program allowing Chinese students to study in America.

The mid-nineteenth century marked a new stage for China: the First Opium War (1839-42) led to the Treaty of Nanking which 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 fueled by foreign missionaries.

In 1911, Tsinghua Xuetang, now Tsinghua University, was founded as the first college preparatory school. The University of Michigan was selected by the Chinese government - along with Ivy League schools Harvard, Yale, Columbia and Cornell, as one of the universities to which Chinese students would be sent. The first round of Chinese students matriculated at Michigan in 1911. [1]

During this same half-century, many graduates from Michigan followed Judson D. Collins’ footsteps to go to China as missionaries.

The year 1911 was also a time of dramatic change in Chinese history: China became a republic after the overthrow of the Qing Dynasty. The revolution also brought new ideas, including higher education for women.

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 in China, but not from a women’s college.

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. From 1911 to 1912, these eight American missionaries representing Northern and Southern Baptists, Disciples, Episcopalians, Northern and Southern Methodists, and Northern and Southern Presbyterians, signed an “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. “Ginling” was chosen as the college’s name because it was the original name of the city prior to it being renamed Nanking when it was designated as the capital of the new Republic of China.

After two years of preparation, Ginling College opened in September 1915 with eleven students and six faculty. In its first year, thirteen students officially matriculated, but only nine completed the year. During the first two years, Ginling’s faculty was primarily made up of passionate graduates from American church-affiliated universities, such as the Seven Sister Colleges. Some Michigan graduates and faculty also joined the faculty at Ginling during its operation.

In 1919, five young women graduated from Ginling College, becoming the first Chinese women to receive bachelor’s degrees from a Chinese women’s college. 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]

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 building a socialist country and to support industrial development. By 1951, when Ginling merged with the University of Nanking to become the National Ginling University, it had exactly 999 graduates,

known as “The 999 Roses.” About 60 of them later earned doctorate degrees (M.D., Sc.D., Ph.D., etc.) in China, Europe, the United States and Canada. By 1952, the National Ginling University was closed and Nanjing Normal College (later Nanjing Normal University) was established on the former Ginling campus.

### **University of Michigan Graduates Become Faculty at Ginling College**

The first Michigan graduate who took a job at Ginling as a faculty member was **Dr. Cora Daisy Reeves** (1873-1953), whose Chinese name was 黎富思. Dr. Reeves went to Ginling immediately after earning her Ph.D. at Michigan in 1917, and quickly started building up the biology department. She was described as “equipped with a brilliant mind and an understanding heart.” [3] With her leadership, the biology department “was the strongest and the most popular one in those years.” [3]

Dr. Reeves also assumed administrative duties. In 1927, in the wake of the nationalization of Chinese colleges and universities, Ginling considered having a Chinese as its new president. It was due to Dr. Reeves’ strong recommendation that Miss Wu Yi-fang, one of her favorite students, was selected to be Ginling’s first Chinese president, even as she was still studying at Michigan.[3]

Dr. Reeves retired in 1941 after twenty-four years of dedicated work at Ginling. She was awarded the First Prize of Achievement by the Chinese government in 1941. Ginling students and faculty created the Reeves Scholarship in 1944 to award one biology student annually. [4]

After returning to America and settling in Black Mountain, North Carolina, Dr. Reeves opened her home, Reeves Cottage, to Ginlingers in the U.S. After her death in 1953, a Reeves Fund was established based on her desire to help needy students attending Ginling College.

Dr. Reeves also brought more graduates from Michigan to teach at Ginling, including Miss **Harriet Mildred Whitmer** (1885-1976). Miss Whitmer, whose Chinese name was 惠迪曼, earned her M.A. at Michigan in 1917. She went to Ginling in 1924 with a plan to lead its biology department for just one year while Dr. Reeves was on furlough. Miss Whitmer ended up staying there for twenty-four years until 1948, and was awarded the Second Prize of Achievement by the Chinese government in 1941.

After Japan surrendered in August of 1945, Ginling students and faculty were eager to return to Nanking from Chengtu where they had their wartime campus since 1937. However, the Nanking campus was severely damaged by the Japanese occupation that began in June of 1942. Miss Whitmer joined the rehabilitation effort led by Dr. David S. Hsiung so the campus could re-open in September of 1946. She left China in 1948, followed by two years of missionary work in Malaya. After her retirement, she spent five years in Chicago with the Midwest Chinese Student and Alumni Service, which reunited her with thirteen fellow Ginlingers. [5]

**Llewella Maria Merrow** (1874-1951) earned her M.D. at Michigan in 1905. Inspired by Dr. Reeves, she went to Ginling in 1918 as Physical Director and College Physician. Physicians were hard to find in Nanking unless it was a serious emergency and her arrival helped the college a great deal.

There were three other Michigan graduates and faculty who went to work at Ginling. [2]

**Ella May Hanawalt** (1889-1995) earned her B.A. at Michigan in 1915 and joined the faculty of the Department of Education at Ginling in 1921.

**Norman Asa Wood** (1857-1943) was Museum Curator at Michigan since 1919, and went to Ginling in 1923. There he built a zoological museum and taught biology. His collection of more than 100 local birds for an exhibition attracted many bird-lovers.

**Mabel Ross Rhead** (1878-1966) was a professor in the Department of Music at Michigan from 1904 to 1948, taught music at Ginling during her leave of absence of 1936-1937, and performed memorable, enthusiastically received piano concerts.

Table 1 and Photos 1–5 below show Michigan’s graduates and faculty at Ginling from 1896 to 1948.

**Table 1**  
**A list of six Michigan graduates and faculty who worked at Ginling from 1917 to 1948.**

Name	Chinese Name	Studied/worked at Michigan	Worked at Ginling College	Field
Cora D. Reeves	黎富思	1906-1917	1917-1941	Biology
Llewella M. Merrow	N/A	1902-1903; 1904-1905; 1930-1931	1918-1924	Medicine
Ella M. Hanawalt	N/A	1911-1929	1921-1928	Education
Norman A. Wood	N/A	1896-1943	1923-1924	Museum Studies; Biology
Harriet M. Whitmer	惠迪曼	1916-1917	1924-1948	Biology
Mabel R. Rehead	N/A	1904-1948	1936-1937	Music



**\*Photo 1.** Dr. Cora D. Reeves (1<sup>st</sup> on the right in the front row), Dr. Llewella M. Merrow (2<sup>nd</sup> from left in back row) and other Western faculty at Ginling in early 1920s



**\*Photo 2.** Miss Ella M. Hanawalt (left) with her student Dju Ao (a Barbour Scholar of 1925-30) on Ginling campus in 1924



**\*Photo 3.** Dr. Norman A. Wood in his workshop at Ginling



**\*Photo 4.** Miss Harriet Whitmer with other Ginling faculty in December 1947



**\*Photo 5.** Professor Mabel R. Rhead in her studio at Ginling

### **The Barbour Scholarship and Ginling College**

The story of the Barbour Scholarship began when Mr. Levi Lewis Barbour (1840-1925), a Michigan graduate of 1863, travelled to Asia during a round-the-world trip. There he met two Chinese women, Mary Stone (石美玉), Ida Kahn (康爱德); and one Japanese woman, Tomo Inouyi. They had studied medicine at Michigan and returned to China and Japan, respectively. Inspired by their experience and excellent reputations, Mr. Barbour established a scholarship program specifically for Asian women to come to Michigan for higher education and return to their home countries. The scholarship was offered to women from Turkey in the West to Japan and the Philippines in the East; and in academic fields from the natural sciences, mathematics, and medicine to the social sciences and humanities.

Even though the Barbour Scholarship was not officially available until 1918, Asian women began attending Michigan in 1914, personally sponsored by Mr. Barbour. [6]

From 1914 to 1949, 263 Asian women became Barbour Scholars: 125, or 48%, were from China. Table 2 shows the distribution of the Barbour Scholars from China; these numbers include two American-born Chinese. [7]

Among the 125 Barbour Scholars from China, 21 were from Ginling College, and eight of those received doctorate degrees. Liu Gien-tsin (刘剑秋), Ren Cho (任倬) and Wu Yi-fang (吴贻芳), three students from Ginling's first Class of 1919, were among them. (Table 3 and Table 4.). [8]

Most of those 21 Ginling Barbour Scholars returned to China, teaching at middle schools and colleges. These women were ahead of their time, and broke through the male-dominated fields of biology, zoology, psychology, physics, medicine and even administration of higher education.

**Table 2**  
**Distribution of the Barbour Scholars from China, 1917-1942**

Year	Number of Barbour Scholars from China
1917	1
1918	3
1919	3
1921	4
1922	5
1923	7
1924	4
1925	5
1926	3
1927	3
1928	7
1929	5
1930	12
1931	5
1932	5
1933	4
1935	3
1936	9
1938	7
1939	1
1940	4
1941	5
1942	2
1943	2
1944	2
1945	2
1946	3
1947	3
1948	4
1949	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>125</b>



**Table 3**  
**List of Barbour Scholars from Ginling College during from 1919-1942**

<b>Name</b>	<b>Chinese Name</b>	<b>Studied at Ginling College</b>	<b>Barbour Fellow Yrs. at Michigan</b>	<b>Worked after Michigan</b>
<b>Bao, Dji-lih</b>	包志立 (1902-1978)	B.A. 1924	1928-1932	Soochow University; Peking University Women's College; Northwestern Union University; Northwest University; University of Nanking and Ginling College
<b>Bei, Fuh-ru</b>	贝馥如 (1894-1984)	B.A. 1922	1926-1928	Yenching University; Chiao Tung University at Tangshang
<b>Chen, Pin-dji</b>	陈品芝 (1904-1944)	B.A. 1928	1931-1935	Ginling College
<b>Chen, Toh</b>	陈铎 (?-1994)	B.A. 1929	1936-1938	Chiao Tung University at Chong Qing and Peking Foreign Language Academy
<b>Chang, Tuh-wei</b>	章德卫	B.A. 1934	1938-1939	Ginling College
<b>Djang, Shao-sung</b>	张肖松 (1901-2008)	B.A. 1926	1930-1934	Ginling College; Fudan University; National Taiwan University
<b>Dju, Ao</b>	朱激	B.A. 1925	1925-1930	Ginling College and Fudan University
<b>Ho, I-djen</b>	何怡贞 (1910-2007)	B.A. 1930	1933-1937	Yenching University; Cambridge College; University of Chicago; Institute of Metal Research at Chinese Academy of Sciences
<b>Hsu, Ya-fen</b>	许亚芬	1930-1931	1938-1939	
<b>Kwo, Maida</b>	郭美德 (1907-2007)	1925-1927	1929-1931	Fudan University; Shanghai YWCA; North Point Methodist Primary School
<b>Liu, Gien-tsin</b>	刘剑秋 (1897-1977)	B.A. 1919	1919-1924	Practiced medicine in different hospitals, including her own.
<b>Mao, Yen-wen</b>	毛彦文 (1898-1999)	B.A. 1925	1930-1931	Jinan University; Fudan University. Participated in numerous charitable causes.
<b>Nyi, Vong-kyi</b>	倪逢吉	1920-1921	1925-1926	Ginling College; Yenching University and Iowa State College
<b>Ren, Cho</b>	任倬	B.A. 1919	1923-1928	Practiced medicine
<b>Tao, Shan-ming</b>	陶善敏	B.A. 1921	1921-1924	Perking University Medical School
<b>Wang, Ming-djen</b>	王明贞 (1906-2010)	1926-1928	1938-1942	MIT; Yunan University; University of Notre Dame and Tsinghua University
<b>Wu, Blanche</b>	邬静怡 (1899-1985)	B.A. 1923	1932-1934	Ginling College; Organ State College; University of Kentucky; Hartford Seminary; Virginia Polytechnic Institute
<b>Wu, Yi-fang</b>	吴贻芳 (1893-1985)	B.A. 1919	1922-1928	Ginling College and Nanjing Normal University
<b>Yang, Ai-mei</b>	杨爱梅	B.A. 1931	1938-1939	N/A
<b>Yang, Alice Tsing-sin</b>	杨清心	B.A. 1928	1938-1939	N/A
<b>Yeh, Sylvia L.F.</b>	叶莲芳	1930-1931	1933-1935	The Mary Farnham Girls' School in Shanghai

**Table 4**  
**List of Barbour Scholars from Ginling College during 1919-1924 who were awarded doctorate degrees**

Name	Chinese Name	Studied at Ginling College	Year awarded doctorate degree at Michigan	Type of Doctorate Degree
Liu, Gien-tsin	刘剑秋	B.A. 1919	1924	M.D.
Ren, Cho	任倬	B.A. 1919	1927	M.D.
Wu, Yi-fang	吴贻芳	B.A. 1919	1928	Ph.D. in Zoology
Bao, Dji-lih	包志立	B.A. 1921	1933	Ph.D. in Psychology
Djang, Shao-sung	张肖松	B.A. 1926	1935	Ph.D. in Psychology
Chen, Pin-dji	陈品芝	B.A. 1928	1935	Ph.D. in Biology
Ho, I-djen	何怡贞	B.A. 1930	1937	Ph.D. in Physics
Wang, Ming-djen	王明贞	1926-1928	1942	Ph.D. in Physics

It is unfortunate that no more Ginlingers in China could go to Michigan after 1942 due to the Sino-Japanese War, the Chinese Civil War, and especially communist rule. In 1979, when China opened itself to the outside world, the University of Michigan resumed its association with China. Since then, there have been 74 Barbour Scholars from China, but none was from Nanjing Normal University or the new Ginling College. [9]

### Stories of Four Prominent Barbour Scholars from Ginling College

#### **Wu Yi-fang (吴贻芳, 1893-1985) : Advocate for Higher Education for Women**

“University Educator and Rights Activist” was the headline of the *New York Times* obituaries after Dr. Wu Yi-fang passed away on November 11, 1985. She devoted her life to gaining equal opportunities for Chinese women, including the right to higher education.

Dr. Wu Yi-fang was born on January 26, 1893 in Hupei, China. When she was only 16 years old, when her father committed suicide, as so did her older brother later on. Within a couple of years, her mother and an elder sister also killed themselves within a month, leaving behind just Miss Wu and a younger sister as the only survivors. Such a tragic family background did not defeat her. Encouraged by her uncle, she vowed to become an independent woman.

In 1915, her former teacher Miss Mary A. Norse, one of eight Ginling Founders and faculty members, invited Wu to attend the newly established women’s college, the first of its kind. She transferred into Ginling in 1916, becoming one of nine students in the college’s first graduating class. In 1919, Miss Wu graduated with a bachelor’s degree.

In 1922, Dr. Wu enrolled into Michigan as a Barbour Scholar, and received her M.A. in 1924 and Ph.D. in 1928. At Michigan, she was very active in Chinese student organizations, serving as the chair of the Chinese student Christian Association from 1924-1925, and as Vice Chair of the Chinese Student Alliance of North America from 1925-1926. She was even called up on behalf of the Barbour Scholars to speak at the memorial service for Mr. Levi Barbour when he died in 1925. In November of 1928, Dr. Wu Yi-fang returned to China to become Ginling's second president, serving until 1951.

In her life, there were several firsts: she was among the first five women to receive a bachelor's degree in China; the first woman college president in China; and the only woman in the Chinese delegation to sign the United Nations Charter in San Francisco on June 26, 1945.



**Photo 6.** Dr. Wu Yi-fang signs the United Nations Charter on June 26, 1945 in San Francisco (Courtesy of the United Nations Photo Library)

During her twenty-three year presidency, Dr. Wu led the college in peacetime as well as through the chaos of the Sino-Japanese and Chinese Civil Wars.

In early 1949, when the nationalist Kuomintang (KMT) government was about to collapse due to widespread corruption, Dr. Wu, like many Chinese, believed the communists would bring democracy and usher in a new era in China. She turned down the offer to become the Education Minister early. Then she declined to accept a ticket to Taiwan. Instead, she decided to stay with Ginling in Nanking. After the KMT government left, but before the communists took over, in the wake of the political vacuum, she served as the deputy of the Nanking Temporary Protection Committee to maintain order during the transition.

After Nanking fell under communist control on April 23, 1949, Ginling tried to remain intact, even gradually replacing foreign department heads with Chinese nationals. However, their efforts came to an end when the political changes in China brought about by the eruption of the Korean War in 1950.

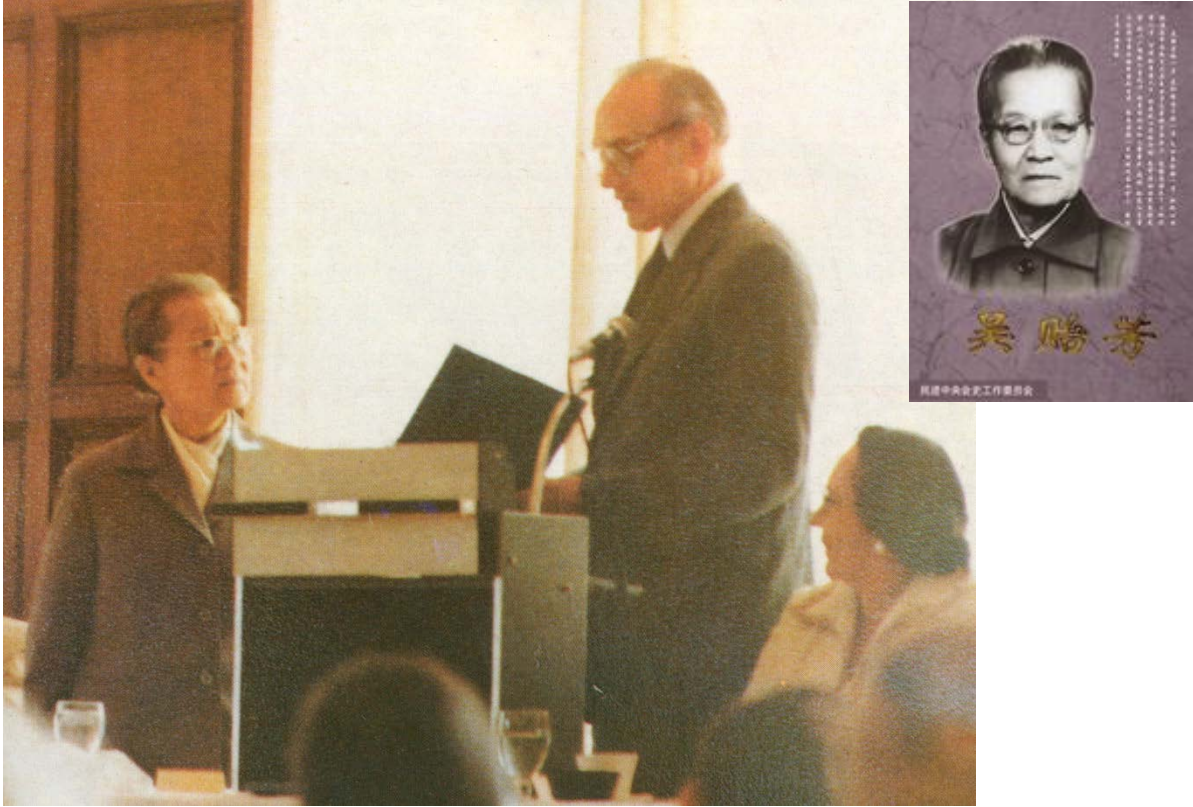
In November of 1950, when Dr. Helen Ferris (also known as 费睿思, 1895-1970), Professor of Sociology and English at Ginling, changed a line in a student's homework, from "the United States sent an army to Korea" to "the United Nations sent an army to Korea", she was accused of "reactionary behavior." Very soon the "Anti-insult and Anti-defamation" movement swept through colleges and universities in Nanking. Dr. Ferris was deported and other foreign faculty members were advised to leave China.

As the president of a Christian college supported by American religious groups, Dr. Wu found herself in a difficult position. By December 1950, the American government had frozen Chinese assets in the U.S. and cut channels of sending funds to China. The United Board for Christian Colleges in China (UBCCC) invited the presidents of thirteen Chinese Christian universities and colleges to Hong Kong to discuss how to deal with the financial crisis. However, the Chinese communist government did not allow them to attend the meetings. Instead, the government offered two options: either these universities and colleges could be self-supporting, or they could become public schools. Those presidents met at the Ministry of Education and chose to become public schools.

In May 1951, Ginling College was forced to merge with the University of Nanking, another Christian university in Nanking, to become the National Ginling University, with Dr. Wu as its Vice President. In June, 1951 after graduating its final class, Ginling College closed its doors as an independent college, just as China closed its doors to the outside world.

The relationship between China and the U.S. did not improve until 1972 when President Nixon visited China. On January 1, 1979, the two countries established formal diplomatic relations and China started to open up to the world again.

In April 1979, Dr. Wu returned to her alma mater to receive the University of Michigan Alumnae Athena Award, "In recognition of her professional distinction and dedication to the cause of education and the rights of women during turbulent times for her country." [10] Dr. Wu accepted this honor "not just to me personally, but to my motherland, especially Chinese women." [11]



**Photo 7.** Dr Wu Yi-fang receives the University of Michigan Alumnae Athena Award on April 27, 1979 (Courtesy of Ginling College, Nanjing Normal University)

The overseas Ginling alumni never forgot their alma mater. They have held a Ginling reunion every other year since 1953. The 1979 Ginling Biannual Meeting held in New York welcomed a record 160 participants. It was also the first time Ginlingers saw Dr. Wu in three decades. During the three-day meeting and her subsequent trip to Florida, North Carolina, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and San Francisco, Dr. Wu urged her students to go back to China and make their contributions.

Since 1983, invited by Dr. Wu, a group of Ginling overseas alumni have returned to China annually. At one time they sought to revive Ginling College, but the Chinese government has never allowed a missionary school to reopen. Never 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 under Nanjing Normal University. Most important, she insisted that the college maintain both its name and its unique identity and mission. Even when Dr. Wu became ill and had to be hospitalized, she continued to advocate for this proposal from her sick bed.

Unfortunately, she did not have the opportunity to see her wish fulfilled. Two years after she passed away in 1985, the new Ginling College reopened in 1987 as a part of Nanjing Normal University. Inspired by Dr. Wu, Ginling alumni have donated more than \$300,000 to Ginling. Today, the new Ginling College has five departments with six undergraduate and five graduate programs. [12], [4]

### **Wu Ching-yi (邬静怡, 1899-1985): Witness to the Nanking Massacre**

One of the reasons why Ginling was granted this unusual privilege is that most Chinese know Ginling as the place where Miss Wu Ching-yi, along with others, protected thousands of women and children during the Nanking massacre.

Miss Wu Ching-yi, also known as Blanche Wu, was born on March 9, 1899 in Ningpo, China. She graduated from Ginling College with a B.A. in 1923, and in 1926 joined Ginling's faculty as a professor of biology. In 1932, she was granted a two-year Barbour Scholarship to Michigan, obtaining her master's degree in botany in 1934.

In addition to teaching, Blanche continued her poultry project for disease resistance and egg production which she had initiated at Michigan. However, with the Japanese attack on China in the summer of 1937, many colleges and universities moved to west China where it was safer. While Ginling teachers and students migrated west, she decided to remain on the Ginling campus in Nanking with Miss Minnie Vautrin (华群) and Mrs. Tsen Shui-fang (程瑞芳).

The Imperial Japanese Army's takeover of Nanking on December 13, 1937 was followed by six weeks of Japanese soldiers looting, burning, killing, and, most infamously, the raping of women and girls. Approximately 300,000 Chinese civilians and unarmed combatants were killed in less than two months. During these atrocities, Blanche and her colleagues turned the Ginling campus into a refugee camp for more than 10,000 desperate women and children. Miss Vautrin patrolled the campus to chase Japanese soldiers away who tried to sneak in, while Blanche distributed supplies to the refugees that were provided by the Nanking International Relief Committee. Miss Blanche Wu's name was mentioned quite often in the wartime diaries of both Miss Vautrin and Mrs. Tsen.

In March of 1938, Ginling was still hiding 3,300 refugees who were afraid for their safety. Miss Vautrin initiated vocational classes for women and young girls in the refugee camp so they could learn skills. Blanche was actively involved as a biology teacher.

When the Ginling campus was closed in June 1942 after the Pearl Harbor Attack, Blanche had to move to the University of Nanking campus. With the surrender of Japan in August of 1945, she was the first person to exercise Ginling College's right to reclaim its property from the Japanese, such as books, furniture, and art. To preserve the school and prepare for the return of the refugees from the western region, she and other Ginlingers decided to open Ginling Middle School in the fall of 1945, and she was elected Principal.

Blanche took a sabbatical leave to study in U.S. in 1948. With the communist taking over China in 1949, she had to stay in the U.S. She studied and worked at Oregon State College, University of Kentucky, Hartford Seminary, and finally Virginia Polytechnic Institute, until she retired in 1969. Her will provided funds for the establishment of the Blanche Wu Memorial Graduate Scholarship to support Chinese graduate scholars at Virginia Tech and dedicated more than \$14,000 for the Ginling Girl's High School in Taiwan. [3] [12]



**\*Photo 8.** Miss Blanche Wu (4<sup>th</sup> from left in mid row) was with Miss Minne Vautrin (6<sup>th</sup> from left in mid row), Mrs. Tsen Shui-fang (7<sup>th</sup> from left in mid row) and other staff of the Nanking Refugee Camp Committee after it completed duties in 1938

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

### ***Djang Shao-sung* (张肖松, 1901-2008) : Lifetime Educator**

We know much about the history of Ginling because of Dr. Djang Shao-sung, who hand-wrote her 515-page autobiography while she was in her 80's and 90's. Her memoir covers her life in China from the Qing Dynasty to the fall of the Nationalist Chinese government on the mainland, and her years abroad from her settlement in Taiwan to her retirement in the U.S.

Dr. Djang was born on July 14, 1901 in Hangchow, China. After graduating from Ginling College in 1926, she taught there beginning in 1927. Encouraged by Dr. Wu Yi-fang, she applied for, and was eventually awarded, the Barbour Scholarship to Michigan in 1930. She received her M.A. in psychology in 1931 and her Ph.D. in 1935, before returning to teach at Ginling.

Before Nanking fell under Japanese control in 1937, Dr. Wu Yi-fang and Miss Minnie Vautrin formed a temporary Ginling committee that included Dr. Djang and two other Ginlingers as members, with Dr. David Hsiung, a former Ginling faculty member who was teaching at Huachung University in Wuchang, as an advisor. Their goal was to transfer Ginling girls from Nanking to Wuchang as quickly as possible. Ultimately, thirty-five Ginling students were admitted to Huachung University before the Nanking massacre.

Dr. Djang moved to Taiwan in 1949 and became the founding professor in the psychology department at National Taiwan University in 1950s, making her the only faculty member there with a doctorate degree.

After Ginling College merged with the University of Nanking in 1951, overseas Ginling alumnae attempted to re-establish Ginling in Taiwan. Finding it too difficult to build a new college, they decided in 1954 to build a high school for girls instead. Two years later, Ginling Girl's High School was opened in November of 1956. It also uses "Abundant Life" as the school motto and purple as the school color.

Dr. Djang served on the Ginling Girl's High School Board of Directors for fourteen years, leading the school as Chairwoman of the Board for six years. With over 22,000 graduates, today Ginling Girl's High School in Taiwan has more than 2,300 attending students.

Dr. Djang was a lifetime educator, teaching not only at Ginling College and Taiwan University, but also in Boston where she lived following her retirement. After Dr. Djang's death in 2008 at the age of 107, Ginlingers in the U.S. and Taiwan established the Dr. Djang Shao-sung Memorial Scholarship to help needy students at Ginling Girl's High School. [13]





**Photo 9.** Dr. Djang Shao-sung was with Ginling Girl's High School Board of Directors in 1969 (Courtesy of Ginling Girl's High School)

***Wang Ming-djen*** (王明贞, 1906-2010): **The Chinese Madame Marie Curie**

Dr. Wang Ming-djen, also known as Wang Ming-chen, has been called by many in China "The Chinese Madame Curie" due to her extraordinary contributions to modern physics.

Dr. Wang was born on October 3, 1906 to a well-known family in Soochow, China. She had eleven brothers and sisters, five of whom died young and six who went on to become respected experts in medical, physics and engineering. Three of her siblings were admitted into the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

She went to Ginling in 1926, and transferred to Yenching University in 1928. After earning her bachelor's degree at Yenching, she received a four-year Barbour Scholarship from Michigan. Unable to afford the traveling expenses, she had to turn the scholarship down and continue her graduate studies at Yenching, where later she obtained her master's degree. After graduation, she returned to Ginling at Dr. Wu Yi-fang's invitation and taught there from 1932 until 1938.

During that period, Wang earned the highest score in the qualifying exam for the Boxer Indemnity Scholarship Program to the U.K. Nevertheless, she was rejected by the person in charge of the scholarship program in China, thinking that it would be a waste of money to send a female student to study physics abroad. Instead, he convinced the

committee to award the scholarship to a male student, who earned the second highest score. Undaunted by such blatant discrimination and with the strong support of Dr. Wu Yi-fang, Miss Wang was awarded the Barbour scholarship in 1937 from the University of Michigan.

With one exception, Wang earned A's and A+'s in all her required courses in her first two years at Michigan, for which she was honored three times with the Golden Key Award including from Phi Beta Kappa. In the fall of 1940, she began preparing her Ph.D. dissertation, with Dr. G.E. Uhlenbeck, a pioneer in theoretical physics, as her advisor. They worked together at Michigan until 1942, when she earned her Ph.D. in physics.

Dr. Wang then conducted radar research with Dr. Uhlenbeck in the Radiation Lab at Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) for three years. In 1945, she published a paper with Uhlenbeck (based on her Ph.D. dissertation) in the *Review of Modern Physics*: "On the Theory of the Brownian Motion II." This paper, as Dr. G.W. Ford, Professor Emeritus of Physics at Michigan indicated in the National Academy of Sciences memoir of George Uhlenbeck, "is still regarded as the standard reference for physicists." Another Professor Emeritus of Physics at Michigan, Dr. Jens Zorn has written that "Dr. Ming-Chen Wang's contribution to statistical mechanics is widely recognized," and that "her contributions to physics have a permanent place in the history of the field." Indeed, her paper from the *Review of Modern Physics* has been cited more than 1,500 times. [14], [15], [16]



**Photo 10.** Dr. Wang Ming-djen (4<sup>th</sup> from left in mid row) was with Dr. G.E. Uhlenbeck (5<sup>th</sup> from left in front row) and other physicists at MIT in 1945 (Courtesy of the MIT Technology Licensing Office)

Dr. Wang's extraordinary achievements has proved it was not a waste of money to send women to study physics abroad, and that women could make contributions in physics equal to men.

Dr. Wang had lived during a remarkable era in the 1930s and 1940s when Chinese women were actively involved in physics. For example, the Physics Department at Michigan alone included five women with Ph.D.s:

- Ku Zing-whai (顾静微), Ph.D. in 1931; a Barbour Scholar from 1928-1931, Ku was also the first woman in China to obtain a Ph.D. in physics
- Fung Lai-wing (冯丽容), Ph.D. in 1932; Barbour Scholar 1928-32
- Ho I-djen (何怡贞), Ph.D. in 1937; a cousin of Dr. Wang; Barbour Scholar from Ginling, 1933-1937
- Wu Violet Lang (吴芝芝), Ph.D. in 1939; Barbour Scholar 1936-1939
- Sheng Hsi-yin (盛希音), Ph.D. in 1939; Barbour Scholar 1936-1939

Outside Michigan, Dr. Wu Chien-shiung (吴健雄), who initially was accepted by Michigan but decided to go the University of California at Berkeley, earned her Ph.D. in 1940. In 1975 she became the first female president of the American Physical Society.

After Dr. Wang Ming-djen left Michigan, two more Chinese women obtained a Ph.D. in physics there:

- Kao Chao-lan (高兆兰), Ph.D. in 1944; Barbour Scholar 1940-1941
- Wang Cheng-shu (王承书), Ph.D. in 1944; Barbour Scholar 1941-1944; also worked with Dr. Unlenbeck; changed her research direction after returning to China and made significant contributions to the development of China's first atomic bomb.

Two years after going back to China in 1946, Dr. Wang returned to the U.S. in 1948 to work at the College of Notre Dame as a researcher for the U.S. Navy. With Communist Chinese forces involved in the Korean War and the rise of McCarthyism in the U.S. in 1950s, she quit her job at the end of 1952 and was about to return to China. Since she had worked on radar research at MIT and for the U.S. Navy at Notre Dame, the immigration authorities banned her from leaving the U.S. It was not until May of 1955 when she and her husband were allowed to leave and return to China. She worked at Tsinghua University until her retirement in 1976.

Dr. Wang's marriage to Yu Qizhong (俞启忠) brought her prison time during the Cultural Revolution. Yu's brother Yu Qiwei (俞启威) was a lover of Jiang Qing (江青) before she married the Chinese communist leader Mao Tse-tung (毛泽东). Since Jiang did not want anyone to know about her past, she put Dr. Wang and her husband into prison in 1968 for more than six years. After her release from prison, she maintained a low key profile for the rest of her life. [17]

## **Summary**

The University of Michigan and the Barbour Scholarship played a significant role in the 36-year history of Ginling College, from 1915-1951, by sending their graduates and faculty to teach at Ginling and also by enrolling and training Ginlingers.

However, that role has been largely untold, ignored or downplayed, as it has been a sensitive topic in China to acknowledge the importance of western institutions in China's modern development. In fact, before China opened to the outside world in 1979, many Barbour scholars suffered persecution because of anti-American sentiment, especially during the Cultural Revolution.

This paper reveals a hidden chapter in Ginling's history by exploring how the University of Michigan graduates and faculty members went to help Ginling, and how Ginling students benefited from studying at Michigan on the Barbour Scholarship.

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Rosalinda Xiong is a high school junior at 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, but also as a tribute to her great grandfather, a Michigan alumnus of 1922, and the other seven members of her family (her father's paternal grandfather, his paternal and maternal grandmothers, three aunts and his mother) affiliated with Ginling College as students and faculty.