Weather: MEST COVINA, CA | Now: N/AºF | High: 66ºF | Low: 46ºF | 5-Day Forecast

Live Traffic: 10W 210W 57S 605S 710N 110N 60W



Login | Newsletter | Alerts | III RSS

Autos

Home Delivery | E-Edition | Subscriber Services |

Recommend

Money

Opinions

Marketplace

Share

Jobs

Homes

Tweet 0

Place Ad

Obits **Directories** 

More News

Home

Local cities join fight against L.A. over Ontario airport

Sports

SGV board backs completion of Highway 39 to Wrightwood Native American monitors

on San Gabriel dig help ensure cultural preservation 🗀

La Verne hands out more than \$100,000 in development grant funds for 2012-2013

Gold Line bridge work on track, more 210 Freeway closures ahead First Rock 'n' Roll Half

Marathon held in Pasadena 🖃 Around the Valley:

February 20 Around the Region: February 20 Tragedy to triumph:

Covina teen center celebrates grand opening

Despite mixed-use development's mixed record, local cities express enthusiasm for such projects

## South Pasadena resident awarded Fulbright grant to China

Info

Advertisement

<u>Lauren Gold, Staff Writer</u> Posted: 02/17/2012 04:32:39 PM PST

South Pasadena resident Ping Yao was born in China the year of Mao Zedong's Great Leap Forward, the precursor to the Chinese Cultural Revolution. Her mother and grandmother were both uneducated, poor and worked as child laborers.

Be the first of your friends to recommend this.

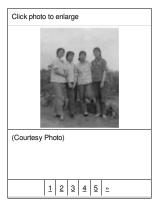
LA.COM Entertainment

🖸 BOOKMARK 🚜 😭 🧦 ... 🚨 Print 🖂 Email 🗚 🗚 🗛 Font Resize

Yao, 54, had no formal childhood schooling and even lived for a few years as a peasant on a commune in the countryside. Forty years, a bachelor and master's degree and a Ph.D later, she's returning to her birthplace on a Fulbright senior research grant to study Buddhist women from China's ancient Tang Dynasty.

Starting next month, Yao, a history professor at California State University, Los Angeles, will spend six months researching in Shanghai, China. Yao is one of 1,100 faculty and professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program this year.

Yao's research focuses on Chinese and Western perceptions of Chinese culture and her current project looks specifically at the role of Buddhist women in Chinese culture from 618-907.



Yao has gathered more than 6000 ancient epitaphs from the Tang era and said she has discovered that there were many women who influenced Buddhist culture during that era.

"People call the Tang Dynasty the golden age of Buddhism," she said, "but when we look at the history that talks about famous Buddhists it's all men. I wanted to see the female side of the story."

Separate from the Fulbright grant, she also plans to teach a seminar at her host

## Most Viewed Most Emailed

- 1. Local cities join fight against L.A. over Ontario airport
- 18-vear-old man stabbed at West Covina mall
- 3. SGV board backs completion of Highway 39 to Wrightwood
- 4. Database: Local city officials' salaries for 2012
- 5. Teen injured in Arcadia crosswalk sues driver,
- 6. Official: 44 dead in Mexico prison riot
- 7. Updated: Officials: man tried to rob parole officer before being shot in Duarte
- 8. Experts predict spiking gasoline prices this spring
- Around the Valley: February 20
- High court dilemma: Can lie about medal be crime?

university, East China Normal University, about western scholarship on Chinese history and culture.

Yao attended ECNU in 1977 as a member of the first class of students to attend college after the Cultural Revolution ended in 1976.

Yao has already written a number of academic papers on Buddhist women, but said traveling to China will allow her to expand her research and complete her book on the topic. While there, she will have access to source material and expert Buddhist scholars that aren't available in the U.S.

"I have 6000 epitaphs but I know there are at least 2000 more that are not published in collections I have access to," Yao said.

Yao said the Fulbright grant will help her build a bridge between Chinese and American students and cultural scholars.

"I really like the fact that the Fulbright advocates cultural exchange and I feel my won goal as a scholar is to tell my students here what Chinese culture is and also to tell my students in China what Western scholarship is like in the U.S.," Yao said.

2/20/2012 9:42 AM 1 of 4



Yao has been a professor at CSULA since 1997 and was a 2010 recipient of the school's Outstanding Professor Award. She was also a visiting professor at Harvard University in 2008-2009

She has a Ph.D. in history from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and has published and edited many scholarly articles and volumes in English and Chinese.

Yao has received a number of awards and recognition for her work. She was on the board of directors of Chinese Historians in the U.S. and served as the organization's first female president.

Former CSULA history chairman Stanley Burstein, who hired Yao, said he and his colleagues are proud of Yao's many accomplishments.

"When you look back at (her life experience) it's simply quite remarkable," he said. "She made the jump from one culture to another very successfully, without losing her ability to function in the original one. She's quite an amazing person and we're amazed at how much she can accomplish."

Yao said many of her students, like her, are first generation college students and some are also immigrants. She said she hopes to inspire them with her journey from an uneducated laborer in the Chinese countryside to a respected scholar and author.

"I always felt like my story might inspire my students to dream big," she said. "I always show them a picture of me in the countryside holding a rifle."

lauren.gold@sgvn.com, twitter.com/laurenkgold, 626-578-6300, ext. 4586

Return to Top



Chevy Runs Deep 🚐

## **RECOMMENDED FOR YOU**

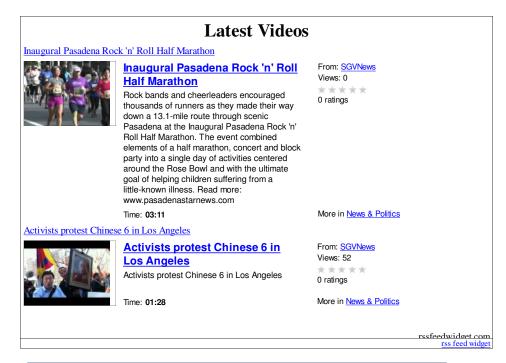
- Bicycle thieves are on a roll
- Naked 12-year-old girl found eating from trash...
- ▶ South Bay schools on an iPad mission
- Defense job loss looms in state
- ▶ 18-year-old man stabbed at West Covina mall
- ▶ 9th Circuit Court rules visitors to national...

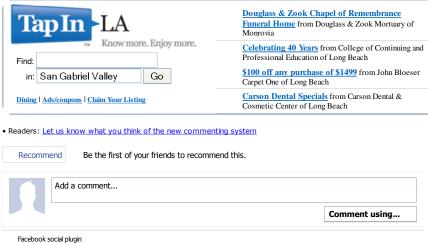
-- SPONSORED LINK --

As huge protest breaks out in Syria's capital, China surprises with...
(From DailyMe.com)



2 of 4 2/20/2012 9:42 AM





Related Results

1 SneakyGolf Trick

4 Bad Golfers Wanted To Test Trick To Add 30+ Yards To Drives!

Ping? Try This 3 Min. Fix For Ping. Download Now

Ping Apparel Great Prices Ping Golf Apparel at Great Prices. Also Cutter & Buck and Nike.

www.corporatecustomappare

www.corporatecustomappare

LVN Schools Near You Vocational nursing training at our beautiful LA, OC or Ontario campus! AmericanCareerCollege.edu/
Oak Creek Ranch School 40yrs Success with ADD/ADHD and Under Motivated Teens. OCRS.com/CollegePrepBoardingSchool
Free Network Event Online The Latest Innovations, Strategies, and Solutions in Campus LANs. www.On24.com/Brocade

Connered Link

Ads by Yahoo GolfFuel.com

FastPCFixes.com

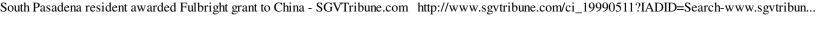
For more local Southern California News: Select a newspaper...

Copyright © 2012 Los Angeles Newspaper group

Select Language

Powered by Google™ Translate

3 of 4 2/20/2012 9:42 AM



4 of 4 2/20/2012 9:42 AM