

Community Archives Initiative
LaPortia Mosley, GHS Community Engagement Officer

Georgia Southern University
Dr. Alex Reyes, GS Associate Professor

Ming Fang He · Oral History Transcript · Fall 2026

Speaker 1 00:02

All righty. Well, this is an oral history interview being conducted by Zoe,

Speaker 2 00:10

Afia, and Nadia.

Speaker 1 00:13

We are interviewing Dr. Fang He on september 10, 2026. All right, let's begin. Okay. Hi. What is your full name?

Speaker 3 00:22

My full name is Ming Fang Ha. Last name H E Ha. That's my family name, and the first name is Ming Fang. M I N G F A N G. All

Speaker 1 00:36

right. Do I have permission to record this interview?

Speaker 3 00:40

Sure. Do

Speaker 1 00:41

I have permission to take photos or scan your primary source artifacts?

Speaker 3 00:46

Sure.

Speaker 1 00:46

All right. Who are you, and what do you do?

Speaker 3 00:51

Okay, I'm a faculty member at the Georgia Southern University. I'm a professor now, already tenured full professor for curriculum studies in the Department of Curriculum Foundation and Reading at the College of Education, Georgia State University. That's a question. Yes. All

Speaker 1 01:18

right. And where and when? Where and when were you born?

Speaker 3 01:23

I was born in China, in Jiangsu Province, Changzhou City, and in PR China, People's Republic of China. Yeah.

Speaker 1 01:38

All right. What was it like growing up there,

Speaker 3 01:41

I was born in a you know as you know, China has a lot of a historical political movement, like a lot of civil movement like here, and also a lot of political upheaval in China. So I was born in the time when there's a three movement going on in China. So at that time, I was born into a teacher's family. Both my parents were teachers. My mother was a teacher of Chinese language, and my father was also teacher of Chinese language and also English. Both my parents speak spoke English because they went to Christian high school in China when they did a high school, and then my father went to Christian high school university actually spoke English, so my father was both a teacher and also the principal of the school in China. As a principal, you supposed to teach one class each semester because they believe they firmly believe as principal, you have to be a good teacher in order to be a good principal. So they want you to ground your practice into classroom. That's why all the principal in China they have to teach class one semester, like one for each semester. And so I was born in the political moments, as I said, and and then after that, when I began to grow up, because I was born into a teacher's family, when I grown up, there was big political movement. It's called Cultural Revolution, and which is a lot of 1000s, 1000s of teachers, and particularly teachers and the intellectuals, university professors were put into prison because they were they were teaching the student some revolutionary ideas, try to reform China, and at that time because their intellectual thought and try to reform China to revolutionize China into a modern China. So they borrow a lot of Western ideas, like my father to that generation. So try to liberate the younger generation from teaching because that my father was put into prison during the Cultural Revolution, my mother was not, but my mother has to taking care of all my siblings. I have three brother and one sister, and basically during Cultural Revolution, my mother was taking care of us, and also my grandma. So my father was in prison for almost 10 years in the prison. Yeah, as a child, I remember I visit my father in the prison each week, almost each week. And I at that time we didn't have a bus yet, and so I have to walk. As a little child, I have to walk very long, like a 10 mile, 10 kilometers, no more than that. I think is um how many kilometers? Could be like 10 miles at least more than that, and to visit my father in prison. So when you go to prison to visit, a lot of my a lot of teachers and my father's colleagues, their teachers were imprisoned because they teach the students some so-called Western ideas, and try to liberate China. So when I visit to the prison, when I go through the prison door, I have to go through the magnetic system. They they try to search your body manually, like by hand, search your body and see whether you have any hiding anything because as a prisoner at that time, they are

not allowed to like my mother was not allowed to write a letter to my father, and they are not allowed any visitors bring any newspaper letters or food or candies, or cookies, to the prison. But as a child, I was very smart. So whenever they tried to search me, I was hiding a lot of letters from the prisoner's wife. That means those teacher's wife, a wife or husband, and families, those letters like my mother's letter to my father. I hang all those letters, hide all those letters inside my big bulky clothes. I hang, I will hide some candies, egg boiled egg. That's only thing you can have at that time, and go to prison. When I go through the magnetic, they have to try to check me, search my body. I said, "I'm a girl. I cannot be touched by men because most of the guards are men. So they say, "Oh, okay, let you go, go, go, go. So I was able to do that to carry.

Speaker 3 07:18

I was almost like a messenger to the prisoner, which are teachers, and I remember I went to prison visit my father each time. All the teachers, prisoners, they were loving different the saddle. You know, they can only look at me from little window. So I began to entertain them, but I was not allowed to sing any other songs except the revolutionary songs. So I can recite all the revolutionary songs in Chinese from different countries, and I was singing and dancing as a lark in the prison. So that's my childhood, And of course, other experience too during Cultural Revolution. Okay, maybe I stop here. Let you ask me. No, I'm losing.

Speaker 1 08:12

Not to disrupt you, but can you spell out the name of the revolution? The

Speaker 3 08:17

cultural cultural Cultural Revolution, the capitalized Cultural Revolution. It's a it's from 1966 to 1976. That's 10 years Cultural Revolution, and also later on when I grow up a little bit, become teenager, when I graduate from, I think is from high school, and and then instead of I can go to university, I'm not allowed to because I belong to the generation of so-called bourgeois family, but bourgeois means not include your from rich family. It's like teachers' family belong to bourgeois. It's like the teachers teach the students some revolution ideas, so they they are criteriad into a kind of blacklist in some in some way, and their generation, their kids cannot go to university, so they don't have standard testing to go to entrance exam to go to university. They only choose certain people to go to university. So a lot of students who are excellent in study were not able to go to university. Only the people have a revolutionary power in their family, like their their leaders, political leaders. Their children can go to university during Cultural Revolution. So what happened is, I was sent to the. Reforming farm, they called. Reforming farm is that place. It's not like a farm here, you know. They were to ask you, force you to heavy labor. So, and then you you are live in a dormitory, which a lot of people up and down with bungalows, and very crowded. And then we have to do heavy labor during the day. So I did that almost almost 10 years in on the reforming farm, and then also during Cultural Revolution, when I was even before I went to reforming farm, we didn't have school to go. Like whenever we go to school every day, we read the revolutionary slogan

from the Communist Party, and we forced to learn all those things, but without learning anything about the subject matter. So I basically lost 10 years schooling because I couldn't go to even I go to school I won't learn anything about subject matter only about revolutionary ideas something like that so I lost 10 years of a curriculum like content study during Cultural Revolution and then I was sent to the reforming farm. I was very young, and do heavy labor. But I, I came from very. How can I say, lot of my family member were famous doctors in China. So from childhood on, at the dinner table, all my aunts and uncles and everybody talk about medical science, and they don't care. Like they can talk about blood and anything. And as a child, I will go to visit all the clinic of my uncles and aunts, like a herbal medicine clinic or woman clinic, different kind of a clinic, and I will go there as a child. It's very strange. You were allowed to at that time, not now anymore, but before you were allowed to visit, and I will watch my aunt and uncles to treat their patients, and then when I went back home as a little kid. I began to read a medical book, which is very in-depth reading. But I-that's only book I can read because at that time a lot of books are banned in China. We're not allowed to have any access to any children's book, any other books. The only book I can read is medical books, so I read medical books, and then I'll go back to ask my aunts and uncle a lot of questions. So I begin to develop my interest in medical science. That's why I want to become doctor. When I was sent to the reforming farm at that time in China, China is a highly populated country. We have so many population, so we don't have enough doctors. So the chairman at that time took call the young people like me. I'm very young to become a barefoot doctor. Barefoot doctor means you have to go to a field to do heavy labor during daytime. That's your job. That's you, you know. We all have to do, you know. And then during night, I will begin to treat patient because I have a background.

Speaker 3 13:35

So I passed the interview about becoming a doctor, barefoot doctor on the reforming farm, so the reforming farm send me to the hospital where my uncle was a chief exact, like a chief doctor or something, in the hospital, and I learn like I only have half year residence in the in the hospital, and I be I deliver six babies with the assistance of a doctor, and I went back to my reforming farm. I have a clinic during the night, during evening. I'll treat the patients on the farm, only like family practices, you know. But I do intravenous and those things, acupuncture, and treat them with a herbal medicine and also some other other regular family doctor kind of medicine you can do. If I have any patients who are become serious, I'll send them to the hospital because that's a barefoot doctor do, and I do a lot of work. I learn how to pick up a herbal medicine, like a herbal plants from the wide field, from mountain, and then come back and dry them, and then scratch them into powder, and then make mix them up. It's very effective, you know. I still have quite a bit. Knowledge about her medicine, so and every weekend as a child I visited my father. That's my happy time at that time. Become a lark in the prison to entertain all the prisoner.

Speaker 1 15:20

What year did you immigrate to the United States, and where did you live when you first moved to the U.S.

Speaker 3 15:27

Okay, first of all, I live in Canada, and I did my graduate school. I did my like a primary school to high school and a university in China, you know, because after Cultural Revolution, after that 10 years revolution, we have a different leader, political leader, and that leader was very paying a lot of attention to academics and to the working class, to the teachers, everything, and that's a great leader, Deng Xiaoping, and during that gym, I passed the national standard test. I got a very high test, so I was able to go to university. And since I lost my job, like 10 years education, remember. So when I went to university, I don't have enough content knowledge about my high school at all, and because we went to revolutionary meeting every day, you know, so we didn't learn anything. So when I went to university during the night, I remember every day only sleep two or three hours, and I would do my study about my high school curriculum during the night try to make up of what I left, what I missed for my high school curriculum, and then I still catch up with the university curriculum. So I study so hard, and I value the time in study in university so, so much because I realize it's not easy for me to get into university. I study so hard. I still exile in my study in university. That's the way I did. Like I really, literally, I sleep only two or three hours every day. I study, study, study, and then when you ask me when I immigrate to United States, that's connected because since I finish my university study in China, and then after I finish graduate from university in China, I become a university lecturer. Okay, in China, if in university start a very low rank. It's lower than assistant professor, the lecturer, and I since I study so well, so I was chosen to stay in the university. I did my study because usually the excellent student will consider to have a job in your the own university educate you, so I stay in the same university after I graduation. But I educate a lot of students undergraduate. I teach them English. My job is teacher of English, English as a foreign language, and I teach them. I teach in the graduate school later on because I teach so well. They choose me to teach the graduate school English. So I've noticed a lot of my graduate student went abroad to study at that time because China has open door policy then because after Cultural Revolution, the Chinese leader, new leader, realize we need to learn from the West. So-called West is United States, Canada, England, Australia. All those belong to the West in China. So I saw a lot of my students pass the TOEFL test. Are you familiar with test of English foreign language called the TOEFL, and they test. They finish the TOEFL test, and they also finish the GIE, which is graduate kind of English test. You know, you here as a foreign student, you have to have that score in order to enter the university in United States, so I saw a lot of my students. I teach a lot of my students pass the TOEFL test very well, and they also come abroad to study. And finally, eventually, I realize how come about me? All my students are going abroad to study. I want to study too. I want to go to United to to study too, so I passed the TOEFL test very well. Not so well like my students actually. My student did even higher mark than I did. I did very high mark, but they did even higher. And then I have opportunity. To study either in Canada or in United States, but in in in China at that time, a lot of people have a

saying: "Don't go to United States because the United States is full of violence; it's dangerous. So I listen to them. It's a stereotype, you know. Every country has stereotype. That's a stereotype about United States in China. So I was scared. So I said, "Okay, I'll choose a safer place to go. I choose Canada.

Speaker 3 20:29

So I went to Canada to study my master degree, first master degree in one of the Canadian university for Master of English, and the the second master I did in Canada is Master of Education, M A T or whatever you call M Ed M Ed, and after that, and then I become doctors. I want to do doctor study. I did a PhD in University Toronto. I graduated from University Toronto in 1998. After that, I came to United States. The reason I came here is I looking for job. At that time, there was no job for me in Canada, so I came to United States. I was immigrant to Canada. I'm still Canadian, so during the movement time there in 1980s, there was a student movement in China because that political movement, the Canadian government decided to accept any like immigrant, almost like refugee from China, so I was admitted into their country as an immigrant to their country legally as a permanent resident. Later on, become citizen, and then so I came to United States. I'm still Canadian. I'm holding permanent residence here. So with green card, with U.S. green card, so I came to United States 1998. I came to Georgia Southern first. Yeah, I got other jobs in other places. Maybe you will ask me about why I choose Georgia Southern to come. Is because when I came to Georgia Southern for interview, I love the place, and a lot of other place, a lot of other colleagues in United States. They always say, "I where are you going to Georgia? As if I'm going to hell. I said, "I love Georgia because I love the plants here. I love people here. I didn't see any other things before when I came here, I love the azalea. I remember dark wood. I never see dark wood in my life, and azalea I saw in my hometown, but not darkwood, and a lot of other plants. I love it. I just feel because Georgia is in same location on the globe. If you look at the globe, is opposite location across from China. So right now we are like four 430 probably in the afternoon here in China is 430 in the morning. We are night and day kind of differences. Okay, that's a long answer, but I have to tell you, you basically answered a lot of questions that I was going to ask you.

Speaker 1 23:30

What places stand out most in your mind, and why? Like, what were your neighbors like? What kind of local gatherings and events are there, and what stories and memories come to mind?

Speaker 3 23:43

Okay, I basically the reason I choose to come to Georgia Southern is I know Georgia Southern is a college town surrounding the area, and we have a lot of Black people, and I think most black people they are very friendly to me, and they they always very friendly talk with me. And even the working class of white they are very friendly. Maybe a few of them might be look at me very strange. You don't know what they think. You know, I can even feel like when I walk in the elevator, some people just don't like me. Maybe because my color of my skin. You know, I look so different.

I was almost feel like when I first time when and I came to Georgia, Statesboro. I remember when I ask if I lost my way, people always tell me, "Oh, you know what? That we sugar. They call me sugar. Some of them, I was not used to, and some people will call you honey. And I, Chinese culture, you never call people easily about honey or something like that until." You really know somebody, but here people easily call you sugar or honey. They will say there used to be a courthouse, you know that road. I was thinking, how can I know? Because I was not here when you talk about you used to be. That's the way people tell your way here. They will tell you used to be corner store, used to be or something, the place I like most-that's hard to tell. Like when you move from your own country, and you would imagine the place you like most probably your hometown. But I since I went to different countries, a lot of countries, I began to like the place I feel like more at home in some way, you know. And at Georgia Southern, the reason I choose here, I like here, is Georgia Southern used to be so friendly towards international faculty. They will even help us to get our immigration paper or something, like me, I'm come from Canada. Much easier for me, cause I can legally live here without even other paper as a Canadian, you know, for a short time. But the place I like, that's very hard to tell. I'm like a bookworm. When I go to conference, I instead of visit different places, I always concentrate on the conference because my experience learning is very valuable time, and it's a it's like a it's like when I go to conference, I value every minute I learn from others. So whenever I go, I like Georgia because it's like my hometown. You know the physical environment. I mean, of course I don't like something here too, and I did experience some kind of racism, you know, around, particularly around to my black students, and which is all my black faculty, all my Latino faculty. If I experienced something like that, even as assistant professor here, I remember I would stand out for them. I always stand out for anybody feel suppressed for certain situation. I always try to fight for the fair, for the justice, and because I believe, how can I say? If you ask me what place I like most, I still hard a question for me to answer. I don't know why, because I like so many places. It all depends on people I

Speaker 1 27:52

interact with. Do you have one in your hometown instead of like? Did you have a favorite place in your hometown?

Speaker 3 28:00

My hometown have so many beautiful places. Hopefully, someday you'll have opportunity to go to China. It's so many beautiful places. Of course, if you talk about my home country, I like my hometown best because I've grown up there. You know, I used to during Cultural Revolution. Besides working on the reforming farm later on, but early years I spent a lot of time in my grandma's hometown, which is very Lula area. The reason we stay in the Lula area that time is because we were born in the city, and then live with my my father and mother in a in a city because my father was principal, my mother was school teacher. It makes sense, but during Cultural Revolution, the city become more political in some way because we are belong to certain class was very suppressed during Cultural Revolution, people were spit on us and were swearing, and talk bad things around us. They treat us like bad people, you

know. Growing up in a family which is my grand great grandparents were like capitalists and the landlords, like has a lot of wealth, but my parents are intellectual, you know, teachers. So I like my hometown, particularly like like like the place my grandmother took us during Cultural Revolution, and those people are so poor. Actually, they're they're really lower even working lower working class, but they treat us so well. I used to eat meal in every family because they treat us like they're part of their family. Whatever they have, they always treat us. They never have any prejudice about. My father is a principal, or was imprisoned, or something. Yeah, if you ask me.

Speaker 1 30:09

All right. Well, speaking of family, we're gonna ask some questions. All right. So, what? Well, not what. Where did your ancestors come from, and what stories have been passed down about your family.

Speaker 3 30:22

Yeah, my answer, as I told you, is from China. So that's basically yes, and it's a complicated ideas because I told you my paternal grandfather grandparents were capitalists. You know, capitalist means they have they are very rich in Shanghai. They have a lot of wealth, and and my maternal grandparents are landlords, which is they own a lot of lands, but not even bigger than farmers here. Farmer, you're not landlords. Landlords means you own a lot of lands and you hire a lot of people, almost hire a lot of people like Tina, they call. But it's actually my grandfather treat them well, but you never know because I didn't grow up with them, you know. So they almost have a lot of farmers like slave, almost like working for them. But during Cultural Revolution, because the the Chinese government they took over all the wealth of my heritage. That means all the bank was frozen. So we cannot have any money from our heritage at all, and we were driven out from our beautiful house to a hut. Hut means that you have don't have a floor; you have mother floor, and the fleas. And I remember I was biting by the fleas when I was small, because during Cultural Revolution we lost everything, and I have no no feeling against divide the wealth to the poor family because my parents are so different than other people. My father used to pay the tuition of all poor family, and he will carry me on his back every day after school, and visit different family. Those are very poor family, and make he will do some house show with the parents while he's talking with the parents to convince them they have to watch out their childrens have enough time do homework and come to school, and some of the family member will say they don't have enough money to buy textbook. My father say, "Don't worry, I will cover it, but just make sure you send your kids to my class. You know, because of that, in Cultural Revolution, he was anti-revolutionary because he's teaching working class, like liberating ideas, teach them reading, writing, and the mathematics, everything, and they think is you pollute working class children's mind with like bourgeois ideas, which is not true. You know, this is what the Cultural Revolution. So you you when you talk about ancestry, that's my complicated ancestry because my grandparents belong to bourgeois family, you know because they are landlords, they are capitalists, they have lot of wealth, but my parents, teachers' family become very

poor because all our heritage was take away, and that China, I'm like they take away all the wealth of the wealth family. They try to divide up, you know, between classes, which I have no objection, because if I really grown up in my family heritage, like very rich background, I could really become brat. I want to be become who I am actually, because all that happened. I went to reforming farm. I have to learn heavy labor, so I appreciate everything I got. I was very close with working family, working class family, with the people was like suppressed during any places, even in United States. I'm always supporting any student from any other background, they might be marginalized or insubordinated, whether they are white or black, Latino. If they from very subordinated class, subordinate background, I always advocate for them. I pay special attention to those students. I don't. How can I say? I don't have prejudice. I try to overcome the prejudice, different the students. I try to teach the student with what they got. Try to bring the best potential out of the student, rather than look at their background, what family they come from, you know. You have prejudice against them. I'm very anti for that.

Speaker 2 35:27

Sounds like you're following your dad's footsteps. Yeah, yeah, yeah.

Speaker 3 35:35

Sorry, it's always come up with a long answer because it's so complicated when you ask me heritage. So which heritage I'm talking about? My grandparents' heritage?

Speaker 1 35:44

Oh no! I swear, I am enjoying my time here. Do you have any traditions or customs from your family that you have worked to preserve?

Speaker 3 35:59

Yeah, a lot, and basically, I remember my mother always tell me several things from my mother. Actually, I didn't appreciate when I was teenager because I always anti my mother and listened to everything my father say. But when I grown up, I realized that my mother is very strong woman. She first of all she teach me. She has a very famous saying. I also teach my students about it. Is you never you never quit when the time you fell. Like you need to stand up briefly when you stand up and doing well. You say I quit because for my mother, you never be suppressed by anybody else. You needed to thrive in spite of what happened to you. So my mother is very strong woman. Another thing my parents always tell me is that if you have only one bowl of rice, who you should give to eat first? Always your teacher first. Your teacher is somebody very precious in your life. So in China, we are educated. You have to, as a person you grown up, you always love your peer, respect the seniors, respect teachers, and also respect your peer, love your peers, respect your seniors. You know, so that's what I want to. And also, my father teach me is before you become a good scholar, very good scholar, like famous scholar. I'm sort of a good scholar now because in education I have my position because a lot of people outside of George Southern could know me in my field. But my father said, become become before you become a very good scholar, you have to become a good teacher. Before you become

good teacher, you have to be very good person. So this is something I want to keep: the goodness, the kindness, the human humanity about equity kind of thing, and justice and the beauty about a human being. I want to keep, you know.

Speaker 1 38:22

I love that. Thank you. What holidays did you and your family celebrate, and what traditions were associated with them? But mainly focusing on holidays.

Speaker 3 38:37

Oh, okay. For example, we don't have Christmas. Of course, Christmas is a kind of Western kind of holiday, but nowadays China also celebrates Christmas because they they know all the kids learn about foreign culture. They want the kids to respect other people have their holiday too, and but in China, we have big holiday called the Spring Festival. Spring Festival usually happen during late of January, early February. That's like your Christmas. That's all the family gathering together, lot of beautiful food, and you can eat well every day. Chinese food is amazing, you know. So I hopefully someday you will go to China, or even I'm a very good cook too myself. So the best like one holiday I can share with you is a spring festival because it's like your Christmas. Another festival you don't have here. It's coming up. It's called the moon cake, moon festival. Yeah, everybody eat the moon cake. Moon cake is very delicious. They made of they almost like dessert, almost like brownie, but it's much better than brownie. Believe. They have you. If you like nuts, you can have a nut. You can have mixed nuts with hams, or if you don't want the meat, you can have eggs or something. It's delicious. Those moon cake. When you have your events, by the way,

Speaker 1 40:17

the cultural.

Speaker 3 40:19

Uh huh.

Speaker 1 40:20

It's september 29.

Speaker 3 40:22

Oh, that's wrong. That time too. Okay. All

Speaker 1 40:28

right. Do you have any family heirlooms, photographs, or keepsakes that are especially meaningful to you, and what is their history?

Speaker 3 40:42

Okay, I do have a lot of pictures. I didn't bring it, but I only brought my book, and this book has a lot of my story in it. I collect the story from myself, and from two of my other Chinese women study in Canada, and talk about our cultureation

inculturation processes. Talk about our experience of language, cultural identity as we coming from United States or Canada, and like me, I work in United States. What kind of cultural difference you you coming through? You know, so it's it's all the stories. But the family photos I didn't bring it today. If you want to, I can send you some. You know, you can see. You can like from my family pictures, my whole family. I can send you one. The big family picture as everybody in it.

Speaker 2 41:45

All right, appreciate that. Yeah,

Speaker 3 41:47

I can send you one. That'll be great. Yeah, trying to figure out what

Speaker 1 41:52

question to ask next because I feel like you answered a lot of my questions.

Speaker 2 41:58

I guess like going back to the immigration when you came, well, I know you went to Canada first, so you went by yourself. I'm assuming, and then you came to the U.S. by yourself. Like, what was that like? Like, just adjusting to a new place, or was it like easier because of what you had already been through in your life? That it was just like one education. It's

Speaker 3 42:22

always different. I think, particularly when I immigrated to Canada first, and I can tell you some experience in graduate school. Is I remember at that time the way I learned English, and by the way, how I learned English before, like in China, very stupid way. I recite the dictionary, English Chinese dictionary from number A to number Z. Yeah, I can almost like spell B. If you ask me anything, that's where I learn. And later on, during Cultural Revolution, China, the Voice of America. Do you are you familiar with that station? Now it's cancer. It's a pity. It's cancer. It's a beautiful program with a with a perfect American accent, American English. It's not British accent. If you listen to British accent, you listen to BBC. If you listen to American accent, which is I like, is the Voice America. In China, during Cultural Revolution, it was banned. We are not allowed to listen to even now. Sometimes, but they cannot stop stop us to listen. I used to listen to Voice America, like our listen to it, use tape recorder. We have tapes of Voice America, so you stop one, and then you do dictate what the Voice American was saying. I can dictate each word, each sentence, and then I'll read the whole script again. That's where I learn English, but I think. when I the most very different experience is first of all also from China as a good student you're quiet you always quiet in class and then when I immigrate to Canada become to study in graduate school in Canada is I notice a lot of people the first degree remember I did a study for master of English, and in that class like I have to translate in my mind from Chinese to English what I want to say, when I finish my translation, the topic in the classroom is gone. They move to different classroom. I was so frustrated. I was always quiet because I cannot jump into the

conversation because I have to do translation in my mind. Okay, but later on, so. So that's why so quiet, and and later on there was one professor who teach American literature, American poetry, and he's very good. He noticed I was so quiet. I always have a good question. I will grab the professor, ask a good question during the break. Why are they really dying to go to washroom, I was asking them lot of good questions. They say, "Ming Fang Ha, why don't you ask me that question during the class? I said, "I was translating. When I finish translating, you move to different topic. I never able to capture in the conversation. And then he said, "You know what? I'll do something for you, he said. "This might help you a little bit, and he when he has an open university lecture, university open lecture, he write three key question, write down each word, each question about his lecture. He's going to give a lecture to a lot of people, and then he asked me to sit in front of the the lecture hall, and then he wrote the three questions in advance to me. He said after my talk, I want you to raise your hand, ask me those questions. He did. I was so nervous. I remember the first time I was asking my professor a question in front of a lot of people, hundreds of people there. But I read it. I was like my face was red to the neck. I was so nervous, but he answered my question. Since then, I become so talkative in all the like like master degree class. I was talk all the time. I become the talker talker in the class. And then one day, one professor asked me, "Sir Ming Fang, could you come to my office after class? I said, "Did I do anything wrong? I walk into her class. She said, "I'm so glad you know you are international student. You speak English so well, and you are so talkative in the class. You always respond. You you always have some such good ideas, but you also need to consider if you talk all the time, other students have no time to talk, and I, I have from that time on have to become very good listener.

Speaker 3 47:29

It's very hard on me, like from very quiet to very talkative, and then I have to become a listener. I can share that experience for you. So you will probably have a student like that. If you have a student from immigrant family, they have different aspect, different manner. Kind of be a good student. You supposed not. You supposed to be quiet. You know, some students like my culture. I never stare at the people. I still feel shy to stare at the people. And my professor always said, "Ming Fang, look at me when you talk with me. Look at me. I was thinking that's very impolite in my culture. You know, so the kids have different culture from their family, especially even the people who born here, they have different customer, you know, different way to speak. A lot of black kids, for example, they always sitting in the front row because the parents tell them they need to pay attention. Sitting in the front, pay attention to your teacher, you know.

Speaker 2 48:37

Okay, I guess we just have like two more. Okay. We've heard so much about your story, and it's been great. What has been your greatest source of joy or accomplishment since immigrating, whether to Canada or to the U.S.

Speaker 3 48:55

I think the great joy is what I talk about. I was able to spoke. I was able to speak for my other colleague. If something unfair happened to them, I was able to fight for them. I was not afraid, because I remember one of my professor said, "As a good person, you need to stand up when other people feel suppressed, and if you're not able to speak that moment, you won't be able to speak forever, a lot of time. So you need to learn, build up your courage to always do the something fair for your colleagues, your friends, and anybody. If something unfair, I always spoke out. Even now, I didn't get into trouble. Maybe a couple of times, but most of the time I was able to get away from it. That was

Speaker 1 49:52

amazing. The last question: What do you wish more people understood about immigrants and people who are? To a community,

Speaker 3 50:03

I won't. Right now, I won't even talk too much about the people here. I think the government needed to have a better policy towards immigrant, and not talk about immigrant. They are rapers and they are crime like a prisoner. They always make a crime or something, you know. So they don't realize immigrant did so much contribution to this country. You know, I want people to recognize the value of the contribution immigrant make in this country. I want to complain about regular people because some people you can never change them. Another thing I learn nowadays is we always talk about belonging as the immigrant. You you have to develop your sense of belonging to a new place, but sometimes I feel like for the past a few years, particularly past 10 years, particularly past five or six years, I feel like you don't have to feel bad. Sometimes you feel you don't belong, because for example, I don't want to belong to certain group in United States now, they are talk nonsense. They are really anti-immigrant. They are really anti everything I can say. They're so ignorant. I don't want to belong to that group. So what's wrong if I don't feel belong? You should belong where you feel you belong, not to the place you want to conform yourself, lose your identity, you know. So,

Speaker 1 51:46

all right. Well, I believe that concludes our interview. I appreciate you coming to meet us today. Thank you. It was a very great interview overall. Thank you.

Speaker 3 51:59

Thank you. I appreciate it, and I'm so happy to see three women here.