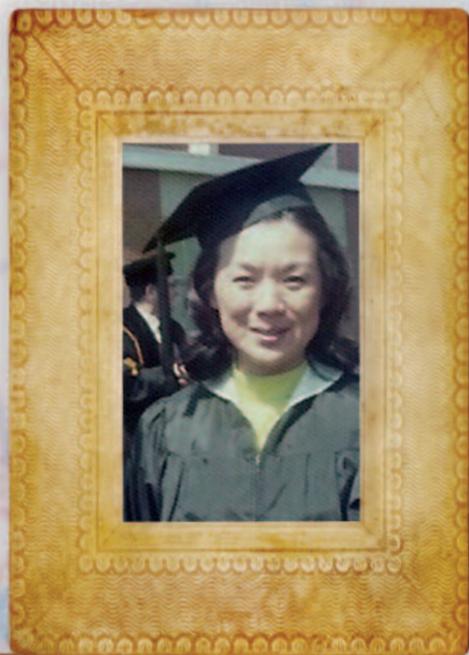


The Second Act

Having earned several Southern degrees later in life, Zing T. Jung, '72, M.L.S. '76, launched a rewarding career. A new scholarship established in her memory brings the life-changing gift of education to others.

By Natalie Missakian



It's been said that libraries can open doors to new worlds. This was certainly the case for Zing T. Jung, '72, M.L.S. '76, whose degree in library science marked the start of a new era in her life, although she didn't know it at graduation.

Jung, who enrolled in college later in life, was only 47 years old when her husband died unexpectedly of a heart attack. After spending the better part of three decades living all over the world and building an identity as a mother and doctor's wife, she suddenly found herself a single parent and widow.

Luckily for Jung (and almost as if fate had willed it), she returned to school for her bachelor's degree several years earlier and had finished her master's in library science at Southern shortly before her husband's death.

"That degree enabled my mother to have a really wonderful second act in her life after our father passed away," says her daughter, Candace Jung. "Had she not already started a career with that degree, what would have become of her?"

In memory of their mother, who died of pancreatic cancer in 1999, and as a tribute to the institution that helped launch her midlife career, Candace and her brother, Doug Jung, have established the Zing T. Jung Endowed Scholarship Fund at Southern.

The fund is earmarked to support students pursuing their Master of Library Science in the School of Education. To be eligible for the scholarship, students must have a grade point average of at least 3.0 and demonstrate leadership ability or community service in addition to financial need.

"She was so happy and proud of her pursuit of library science at Southern Connecticut. We wanted the scholarship to go in that direction — to assist future generations who have similar dreams and goals," Doug says.

The path to college was an indirect one for Jung. Born in Beijing, China, she came from a highly educated family. Her father, a Chinese National Treasury official, graduated from Yale University in 1917. Her mother attended Wesleyan College in Macon, Ga., and all of her siblings had gone to universities.

She put her own college aspirations on hold during World War II, however, when at age 19 she met and married Dr. Ross Jung, a physician and colonel in the U.S. Army who later became an officer in the Central Intelligence Agency.

Jung spent the following years living in Japan, the Philippines, Washington, D.C., and Woodbridge, Conn., where she made her home from 1964 through 1978. "She had a very exciting life," notes Doug.

But there was always something missing: a college education. So when she reached her late 30s (Doug was in college and Candace in elementary school), she decided to enroll part time at Southern to pursue degrees in art history and library science. After graduating cum laude in 1972, she went on to earn a Master of Library Science, graduating magna cum laude.

"She took to it so well and had such a love for learning that she immediately continued with her studies and completed her master's degree very quickly," recalls Candace. "I know our father was incredibly proud of her."

Jung started her career as a librarian at North Haven High School in Connecticut. When her husband died, she relocated to Washington, D.C., to be chief librarian for the American Psychological Association. She later became director of library and archives for the American Psychiatric Association, retiring in 1989.

She remained active after retirement, taking educational trips to far-flung destinations like South America, Russia, and China. She was co-chairperson of People-to-People International's Meeting the Americans program, which arranged at-home stays for foreign dignitaries visiting Washington, D.C. She also volunteered at local community colleges, teaching computer courses to senior citizens.

"I think Southern Connecticut gave her an appreciation for the smaller university," says Doug, a healthcare marketing consultant who lives in Bradley Beach, N.J. "When she went down to Washington, D.C., she sought out other small schools similar to Southern and tried to give back there."

Before she died, Jung set aside funds and asked her children to do something to recognize their father and his work in the medical field. But in recent years her children felt strongly that they needed to memorialize both of their parents and initiated discussions with Southern.

Candace, a marketing consultant in the luxury goods industry who lives in Scottsdale, Ariz., describes her mother as "an incredibly driven, sophisticated, elegant woman" who was an excellent role model.

"She really embraced every chapter of her life, and there were several chapters," says Candace. "She was never one to sit around and be idle. She always found something to sink her teeth into and was passionate about everything she did, whether it was her work, her family, her studies, or her volunteerism."

She says her mother was a woman of many accomplishments but also very modest. "I think she would be very humbled that we have created this endowment in her name, yet very proud as well."