

Welcome to ***Leaper***, the official newsletter of LEAP Career Development Forum
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LEAP Success Story Series -

Be Bold to Change and Find Passion in Success



After 5-year study in biology in UCLA, a Ph.D. started her new career and life in a VC fund in Silicon Valley.

"80% of my life in the research laboratory was static, while now 80% of my life is full of excitement and delight," said Jun Deng, a business associate at TEEC Angel Fund (TAF).



About the Author:

Jun started her career at TAF in April 2015, after being a

research scholar at UCLA for 5 years, where she was researching about prevention of retinal light damage. Leaving biology for business has been life-changing six months.

TAF (2010) is one of the oldest angel funds founded by Chinese Americans in Silicon Valley. In the past 5 years, it has invested over 120 startups, among which six have been successfully acquired by companies such as Facebook and Google and seven with valuation over \$100 million. Countless people - including life-long entrepreneurs, talented college students with award-winning ideas and professors - come to TAF with original and mind-boggling ideas all the time.

As for Jun, being leader of TAF's marketing team, working in such a fast-paced environment, meeting top notch investors and entrepreneurs shut the doors to academia, but opened up the window to a brand-new world that was more thrilling.

"It's a steep learning curve for me to understand and get the hang of something that I have never done before. I'm learning every single day of my life."

said Jun, who was given the opportunity to independently lead the Public Relation Department after being in the company for only three months.

Making the transition to TAF took a lot of courage on Jun's part, she "...used all the advice [I] was given throughout my life's experiences, and these helped form my decision."

In 2012, she co-founded LEAP Career Development Forum (Leadership, Excellence, Aspiration, Platform organization) with Dr. Yutao He and a few others. They organized its first career forum that allowed Jun to meet professionals in various disciplines with revolutionary ideas.

Talking to those people opened her mind. Jun saw that she shouldn't stay in research labs forever and then thought of making changes to her career. And Dr. He, among all her mentors, was the one who gave her the courage and finally helped her make up her mind.

Xinyi Huang

Xinyi Huang. LEAP Director of Communication. University of Southern California graduate with a Master of Arts degree in Specialized Journalism (Science). She loves documentary filmmaking and science writing.



Jun Deng just graduated from University of California, Los Angeles with a Ph.D. in Biomedical Science in 2014.



Jun Deng and other co-founders and supporters at the first LEAP Career Development Forum in 2013.



Jun Deng and other co-founders and supporters at the first LEAP Career Development Forum in 2013.

Tips of the Day

- Be open-minded*
- Always connect with great people*

After Jun's brief internship with TAF, she was offered a full-time job at the fund. However, back at UCLA, Jun's professor tried to convince her to stay in the academic world because of her excellent performance and potentials. She then started to question whether or not she was making the right decision in leaving her past endeavor behind, and if she would fit into the new work environment.

Jun received a phone call from Dr. He that put everything into perspective. He reminded her that this was a rare opportunity and told her to be bold.

"He said 'your professor might not think about your future from your perspective and for your happiness. His research will move on without you, but you might just end up stuck forever in something you don't enjoy, if you don't take this chance'."

Jun took the chance and is now leading a new life with her husband in Silicon Valley. She has never regretted taking this step, even when there are challenges in the new workplace. For people who want to make changes to their career like Jun, no matter how long you have studied, the thing that sparks the passion inside your heart is most probably what you should go after. And it is never too late.

· Find yourself mentors; seek regular advice

· Never too late to make a career transition

· Follow your heart and passion

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If you have any questions or feedback, please email to ask.leap@leapcareer.org. We will publish the answers in the next issue.

We are Recruiting!

As one of the most dependable and promising career development organizations in SoCal for young students and professionals of Asian descent, LEAP is expanding its volunteer teams of Marketing, Business Development, Event Management, and IT for the upcoming LEAP 4.0 Annual Conference.

If you are a dynamic, creative, self-driven hard worker in SoCal who strives to make lasting impacts and trailblaze a path of opportunity as you hone your leadership skills and build your professional experience, please send your latest resume to careers@leapcareer.org. We look forward to working together with you to leap forward on a fun journey!

About LEAP Career Development Forum

LEAP (Leadership, Excellence, Aspiration, Platform) Career Development Forum is a Los Angeles-based 501 (c)(3) nonprofit organization committed to building a trustworthy and sustained platform for professional growth and career advancement of young Asian Americans and those from Asian countries currently studying or working in America in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) and related fields. Launched in February 2013 as an educational program under CESASC (Chinese-American Engineers and Scientists Association of Southern California), LEAP was incorporated in June 2015 to become an independent organization with exclusive focus on establishing a resourceful and open platform to advocate outstanding leadership, encourage professional excellence, cultivate great aspiration, and provide job opportunities.

Upcoming Next



LEAP's Exclusive Interview with **Dr. Yinuo Li**

Director of China Program,

Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation

Former Partner at McKinsey & Co.

奴隶社会群主 that boasts over 230k followers

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