

Computing Educators Oral History Project

Joy Teague video snippet transcript

Recorded January 2006

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We recommend that this video transcript be cited as follows:

Joy Teague, "A People-to-People visit to China ultimately results in a Ph.D.," a video interview from 2006, Computing Educators Oral History Project. Online: ceohp.org.

A People-to-People visit to China ultimately results in a PhD

I started in teaching in 1973 in an institution that was mainly a teaching institution. Towards the end of the 1970s, I moved to a university the equivalent of your four-year universities, but didn't do any research for several years. I was a member of several professional organizations, including the ACM and the Special Interest Group, SIGCSE. In 1987, I was invited to China with a People-to-People group, which was looking at computers in education. The group was led by Bob Aiken and the group got to be very friendly in the two years that we were — sorry, two weeks we were together. At the end of that year, they organized a reunion in New York and put in the form of a symposium, although it was a fairly lightweight symposium so people could say that they were going to something professional. I saw my head of department, who happened to have some money left over and it was the end of their financial year, and I did tell him the sort of thing I was going to. He gave me the money and funded my trip to that. As a result of that, I realized that if I started publishing I would be able to get back to those reunions each year. So I started to prepare for the following year and got my first paper published. And from there on, I published at least one or two papers for conferences each year so I could visit the United States, even if the conferences were elsewhere, and catch up with friends. And did that until I left the university in 1995. Along the way, the work that I had done got me started on a Ph.D. which I actually finished in the three years following my retirement in 1995.