

WELCOMING PRINCETON

Recognizing the contributions made by newcomers and immigrants

TIGER NOODLES



You can't miss the blue awning over the door of Tiger Noodles on Nassau Street. We enjoyed a conversation with restaurant owner Hui Yang on a recent morning in the outdoor dining area. He was born in Taiwan and came to the US when he was 28 years old for graduate school. Mr. Yang has an undergraduate degree in chemistry from Chung-Yuan University in Taiwan, a PhD from The University of Texas at Austin and a Post Doctorate from Texas A&M University. On a trip to the Northeast with his wife in 1996, his wife fell in love with the Palmer Square area and the small town feel of Princeton. Mr. Yang had grown tired of research lab work. He had no business background but thought he could translate his skills

successfully and chart a new course for himself. The couple, along with their children decided to move here after she found a job in nearby Dayton and Mr. Yang began the hunt for a restaurant opportunity. YY Noodles was up for sale and a new course was set. Mr. Yang told us that Tiger Noodles was named by a frequent customer who is a Professor of Philosophy at Princeton University as they sat together discussing ideas. Princeton is Tiger town and they serve lots of noodles! The restaurant logo is that of a Tiger eating noodles. Mr. Yang said that their signature dish is Braised Beef Soup. It has a traditional Asian flavor and takes a full day to braise the beef. There is something for everyone at Tiger Noodles! When asked about his biggest challenges he said most of his employees are Chinese from different regions in China with different languages and customs. He is proud of being able to create a team environment (a skill he learned in the research lab) where everyone is respected despite their differences. We asked Mr. Yang about his advice to other immigrants trying to find the path to their American dream. His response was "Opportunity is everywhere. It's important to understand the language and culture of your new environment." We ended our conversation by asking how we as members of the Princeton community could help others who wish to make their home amongst us. Mr. Yang told us that Princetonians already do a good job. He said Princeton is a good place for people who are ready to commit to hard work and do the right thing. We think Mr. Yang certainly sets a fine example at Tiger Noodles.

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