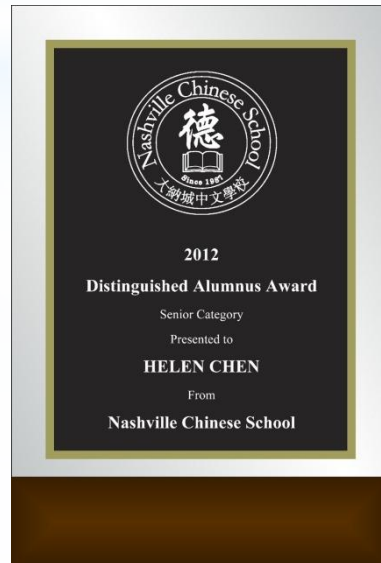




2012 Distinguished Alumnus Award (Senior Category)



Helen Chen (陳紹惠), daughter of T.T. Chen (陳澤禎) and Sue Tang (鄧肅媛), was born in Japan. She began attending the Nashville Chinese School when she was in elementary school. She attended Georgia Institute of Technology (Georgia Tech) where she received her Bachelor's degree in Architecture. Afterwards, Helen went to Beijing, China, to pursue her graduate studies at the prestigious Tsing-Hua University (清華大學) where she received her Master's degree in Architecture. All the years of attending Chinese School gave Helen the strong background and command of the Chinese language to take on the incredible challenge of studying in one of the best universities in China. Besides all the lectures, textbooks, and assignments being in Chinese, she also had to navigate daily life all in Chinese. Helen has displayed courage, persistence and hard work to overcome cultural and linguistic obstacles and earn her Master's degree from a world renowned academic institute. Helen's story exemplifies how studying Chinese can enrich our students' lives as well as the kind of opportunities and experiences knowing Chinese can provide.

