



Stanford Alumni Work to Rescue Jude Shao from a Chinese Prison

By Daniel Zhou, Staff Reporter

STANFORD – May 3 was reunion day for Stanford Business School’s Class of ‘93. But for these graduates, there was a more significant issue at a gathering of the Free Jude Shao Campaign, which was working on ways to rescue their classmate Jude Shao who is jailed in China.

Shanghai-born Jude Shao came to the States to study in 1984, graduated from Stanford Business School in 1993, and was naturalized as a US citizen in 1997. He registered a wholly-owned foreign business subsidiary in Pudong, Shanghai. Later, he was sentenced for 16 years for “forging value-added tax invoices and tax evasion”. He has already served 10 years and is still incarcerated now in Shanghai’s Qingpu Prison.

Jude’s former Stanford roommate, Chuck Hoover, said that efforts from Stanford classmates and others attracted a wide range of attention to Jude’s case. Six legal scholars from Beijing University independently reviewed Jude’s case and concluded that there was enough evidence that Jude did not commit tax fraud and that the case should be retried.

Hoover also said Jude’s health condition is not optimistic, and over 30 US Members of Congress sent letters to the Chinese Government regarding this. President Bush and Secretary Condoleezza Rice have also expressed their concerns to Chinese leaders many times during different circumstances.

Hoover emphasized that Jude qualified for parole two years ago, but the Chinese government rejected the request because Jude is a foreigner. Hoover thought this violated Chinese law and also rules of the World Trade Organization and United Nations (UN) rules about Arbitrary Detention.

During the alumni reunion, all kind of suggestions and proposals were made, including writing letters to Senators to put Jude’s case as top priority during upcoming Sino-American human rights talks; contacting the UN and international legal experts; maintaining the www.freejudeshao.com website; and fundraising.

During the reunion, Jude’s letter was also read. In his letter, he said that help from his classmates helped him to face his challenges with a positive attitude. He also mentioned that he wants to study for a law degree in the future and hopes to see them again at the 20th reunion.