

Farewell, Xiaojie (Emily)! In Chinese, we say that all good friends must part as all good things come to an end. However, the farewell is filled with joy and celebration.

We celebrate that Emily completed her PhD. Degree in Biosystems Engineering from the University of Manitoba. We celebrate that she will continue her academic journey back home, in China. We also celebrate the years Emily's contribution to MWAF and the time we spent together.

As the Director for Networking (Local), Emily coordinated the events that helped MWAF network with our membership and within the board. Below are the words from our board members who worked side-by-side with Emily.

Laura Lazo

Emily was a valuable team and Board member. Perhaps one of the qualities that stand out in my mind is that she is someone you can rely on. If she said she'd do something, she would. Her role was coordinating local networking initiatives. The role requires more than what is apparent at first. It involves understanding the "why", alignment with mission, vision and goals, participating in discussions, exploring ideas, and teamwork ability. One of her responsibilities was to schedule activities which required fleshing out ideas, problem-solving ability and quick to learn new digital platforms. Another valuable contribution was to MWAF's by-laws. Again, she was consistent and participated in the many discussions that were necessary and showed to be thoughtful. She always demonstrated good judgement. I know that wherever she goes, she'll do well. I wish her the very best and that she remembers us with fondness.

Linda Zhou

Like Laura said, Emily is someone to rely on. In addition to her busy academic life, Emily successfully delivered several events. I will forever cherish the days when we had potluck-style board meetings, chatted over food and tasted all your good cooking!

Marijo Patino

I really enjoyed working with Emily. I valued her insights and common sense regarding all the decisions we had to make towards improving our organization. She is smart and a friendly person to work with. Perhaps the Chinese idiom is too pessimistic. I do believe that our connection continues despite the physical distance. May our paths cross again!