



EAST WEST CONNECTION

U.S.-CHINA INSTITUTE AT BRYANT UNIVERSITY

FEBRUARY 2011

Letter from the Director



Dear readers, Ni Hao!

The articles featured in this issue of *East-West Connection* highlight the kinds of programs developed by the

U.S.-China Institute and the Confucius Institute that continue to strengthen the connection between China and the United States.

In support of the University's mission to increase the global perspective of the Bryant community and its neighbors, the U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute at Bryant attract China-related academic, business, and cultural programs. At the same time, the institutes organize programs in China so that Bryant students, faculty, and staff can travel there to experience the culture, history, and dynamics of this rapidly growing country.

It is our belief that modern technologies are no substitute for handshakes, and the best relationships are cultivated through face-to-face meetings. This fall, several senior Bryant administrators traveled to China to personally engage in dialogue. President Ronald K. Machtley completed his sixth annual trip to China, while our new Vice President for Academic Affairs, Dr. José-Marie Griffiths, took her first.

Dr. David Lux, Dean of College of Arts and Sciences, attended a conference at the birthplace of Confucius and continued his research (Pg. 7).

For the fourth consecutive year, the U.S.-China Institute was selected by the U.S. government to conduct summer Chinese language and culture programs on campus. This three-week intensive immersion training camp attracted 65 students and 37 teachers from K-12 schools across Rhode Island and other New England states (Pg. 10).

The Confucius Institute welcomed Christina Ho '10 as its new Program Assistant (Pg. 9). Her first responsibility was to help with the grand opening of new affiliated Confucius Classrooms in the Lincoln, Rhode Island, School District (Pg. 5).

The Confucius Institute at Bryant University has been selected as the only authorized test administration center in New England for the Chinese proficiency test, known as HSK, by China's Ministry of Education (Pg. 9).

Each year the Moon Festival event is a major celebration on campus. In 2010, we hosted a cultural delegation from China's Inner Mongolia province, who shared traditional music, dance, and their history with a rapt audience (Pg. 8).

In conjunction with Bryant's Office of Alumni Relations, the U.S.-China Institute organized a guided tour of the Shanghai Expo for Bryant alumni, Board of Trustee members, and their guests over the summer (Pg. 7). The Confucius Institute also accompanied high school students and teachers, Bryant students, and faculty members to the Expo and a number of other historic sites in China (Pg. 11).

Read about "China Today," a Chinese and English bilingual radio show on the University's own student-run radio station WJMF 88.7 (Pg. 6).

The U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute continue to support student and faculty travel to China for research (Pg. 6).

A series of new programs has been planned for the spring. For updates, please refer to our institute's website at <http://china.bryant.edu>.

We wish you an enjoyable semester!

Hong Yang, Ph.D.
Charles J. Smiley Chair Professor
Director, U.S.-China Institute
and Confucius Institute
Bryant University

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U.S.-CHINA INSTITUTE
AT BRYANT UNIVERSITY

Leadership Trips Strengthen Ties with Chinese Partner Institutions



Ronald K. Machtley (left), President of Bryant University, and Zhang Jingao, President of China University of Geosciences at Wuhan, China, at the opening of the Sino-U.S. Joint Institute on Environmental Sciences.

This past fall, President Ronald K. Machtley and Dr. José-Marie Griffiths, Vice President for Academic Affairs, each traveled to China to strengthen Bryant's ties with Chinese institutions. At the invitation of Hanban's Director General Madam Xu Lin, President Machtley attended activities at the Shanghai World Expo. He visited the China University of Geosciences at Wuhan to open the "Sino-U.S. Joint Institute on Environmental Changes," where Bryant faculty members have been engaged in collaborative research, and signed an agreement with officials at the Palace Museum (the Forbidden City) in Beijing on a joint project to construct a replica of *Shu Fang Zhai* on Bryant's campus. He also met with several Chinese university presidents, state education leaders, and Bryant alumni in Shanghai.

Dr. Griffiths traveled to China in December to attend the Fifth Worldwide Confucius Institute Conference at the China National Convention Center in Beijing. The annual conference is organized by Hanban: the Confucius Institute Headquarters, a branch of the Chinese Ministry of Education. On behalf of Bryant, Dr. Griffiths served as a panelist for the session "How do Confucius Institutes Raise and Manage Funds?" with five other distinguished panelists. Dr. Griffiths discussed how Bryant University's Confucius Institute attracts supporters through its high-quality academic programs that are achieved through collaborations both on and off campus. The conference was attended by more than 1,500 people who included university presidents, Confucius Institute directors, and staff members of Confucius

Institutes worldwide, as well as those from their Chinese partner schools. Dr. Griffiths also met with Hanban leadership and the vice-president of the National Science Foundation of China.

Professor Hong Yang, Ph.D., Charles J. Smiley Chair Professor, and Director of the U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute at Bryant, took part in both trips. Dr. Yang was also an invited speaker at the Director's Forum at the Confucius Institute Conference in Beijing, and he presented "Innovation and sustainable development: Confucius Institute at Bryant University as an example." Christina Ho, Program Assistant at the Confucius Institute at Bryant, also attended the Beijing Conference.



Dr. José-Marie Griffiths at the Confucius Institute Conference in Beijing

First Conference Held at Bryant for Affiliated Confucius Classrooms

The Confucius Institute (CI) at Bryant University hosted its first conference for affiliated Confucius Classrooms on November 20 on the Bryant campus. Directors, program coordinators, and Chinese language and culture teachers from five affiliated Confucius Classrooms attended, joining principals and superintendents who are planning to develop China-related language and culture programs. This conference was the first of its kind held by the Confucius Institute, and its impact is far-reaching.

The Confucius Institute at Bryant was among the first to establish affiliated Confucius Classrooms. Since 2008, when Hanban approved Bryant's first Confucius Classroom in Smithfield, Rhode Island, the number of Confucius Classrooms has grown to six. The CI staff decided to use the conference as an information-sharing forum and networking opportunity for all.



Kevin McNamara, Lincoln High School Principal and Director of its Confucius Classroom



Attendees at the 1st Confucius Classroom Directors Conference at Bryant

The conference offered updates from Hanban and the Confucius Institute at Bryant about program offerings and collaborative programs in the Confucius Classroom network. Established and new Confucius Classroom Program Directors highlighted their programs and discussed ideas for creative and innovative curriculum. Budgeting and reimbursement methods for Confucius Classrooms, developed by the CI, were shared. Proper annual reporting procedures were reviewed, and attendees received a comprehensive information packet.

The conference was unique in that attendees included not only Confucius Classroom Program Directors but also Program Coordinators and Chinese language and culture teachers in an effort to provide a better understanding about overall goals and development of the Confucius Classroom programs. Administrators from schools that are planning to establish or expand their China programs were able to attend as observers and interact with staff from existing Confucius Classrooms.

The conference paved the way for improved communication with affiliated Confucius Classrooms and better coordination of major regional events. New initiatives and collaborations were formed among different classrooms, providing a unique opportunity for networking and the sharing of best practices.

The outcome of the conference is significant. Key players for each affiliated Confucius Classroom are now clear about their roles in reaching specific goals. As a liaison and central resource for affiliated Confucius Classrooms, as well as the host of the conference, the Confucius Institute at Bryant University collected useful feedback through surveys and direct communication at the conference.

"The information is critical to help us better serve affiliated Confucius Classrooms and continue to provide innovative global Chinese language and culture programs," says Kun Xie, Program Coordinator for the Confucius Institute at Bryant.

Confucius Classroom Teachers Journey to China Once Again

Traveling to China is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for most people. But for Smithfield High School teachers Andrea Pleau and Kristine Sarro, once was not enough. On their second trip, they were amazed by new sights and sounds, and learned as much as they could about the country's history, culture, and people. They shared their newfound knowledge with their Confucius Classroom students.

The Confucius Classroom at Smithfield High School, a collaboration between the Confucius Institute at Bryant University and the Smithfield School Department, opened in October 2009 – one of the first of its kind in the country. Pleau and Sarro had previously attended seminars and programs relating to East Asian and Chinese studies. When Smithfield School Superintendent Robert O'Brien and Smithfield High School Principal Dan Kelley asked them to teach in the Confucius Classroom after their first China trip, the two embraced the idea.

During the 2009-2010 academic year, the teachers taught a semester-long class on Chinese culture as part of the academic curriculum. Pleau, a U.S. history/social studies teacher, covered Chinese history, geography, religion, and philosophy. Sarro, an art teacher, focused on Asian art, including calligraphy, paper cutting, and puppets, as well as reading and writing relating to art history. The pair

"The Confucius Classrooms are opening doors to people, places, and things. I am privileged to be part of the whole endeavor."



Smithfield High School teachers Andrea Pleau and Kristine Sarro in China

collaborated to help students better understand Chinese culture, while Bryant's Confucius Institute sponsored after-school activities such as visits by

martial artists and guest speakers, as well as tastings of authentic Chinese food.

Classes at the Confucius Classroom at Smithfield High School help students and the local community to become more culturally aware of China and provide an in-depth view of the country. Senior Nick Luck took Pleau's Chinese culture course last year, and traveled to China over the summer with the STARTALK program, a K-12 China Study Trip sponsored by Bryant's Confucius Institute. "Because of the class, it was much less of a culture shock going to China – I knew most of what to expect," says Luck. "The class feels like you're in China because you experience the food and the culture as if you live there."

Adds Pleau, "The Confucius Classrooms are opening doors to people, places, and things. I am privileged to be part of the whole endeavor."



(L-R) Daniel Kelley, Smithfield High School Principal and Director of its Confucius Classroom; Kun Xie '05 MBA, Assistant Director of Bryant's Confucius Institute; and Robert O'Brien, Superintendent of Schools in Smithfield, in front of the dragon mural painted by Smithfield High School students

Additional Confucius Classrooms Dedicated in Rhode Island



Performers from the Folk Dance Institute of Inner Mongolia with students at Lincoln High School

The Lincoln, Rhode Island, Public School District recently celebrated the dedication of two Confucius Classrooms that are affiliated with the Confucius Institute at Bryant University. Local dignitaries were joined by Bryant University representatives including President Ronald K. Machtley and Professor of Science and Technology Hong Yang, the Dr. Charles J. Smiley Chair for the Confucius Institute at Bryant. President Machtley spoke about the start of the Confucius Institute at Bryant, and its growth and availability as an educational resource. Dr. Yang discussed the partnership between the Confucius Institute at Bryant and its growing number of affiliated Confucius Classrooms, and he committed to provide continued support.

At Northern Lincoln Elementary School, the wall outside of the new classroom features a colorful painted dragon and the Chinese characters for love, happiness, peace, and luck. The room is beautifully decorated with traditional Beijing paper

cuts, an antique black table with intricate Chinese designs, and two statues of Buddha. Physical education students disguised as a Chinese dragon danced around the room to signal the start of the dedication. Chorus students sang and said hello in different languages with a performance of "Round the World with Ways to Say Hello."

The Confucius Classroom at Lincoln High School is elaborately decorated. The door is painted red and gold to mimic the doors of the Forbidden City. A large, colorful painted dragon, designed by special education teacher Christopher Jones, covers the entire back wall of the room. Filling the space are round tables, painted red and decorated with Chinese characters for words such as education and their English translation. Following the unveiling of a Confucius Classroom plaque and a tour of the classroom, guests were treated to a lunch donated by the Asia Grille, a local restaurant.

A performance by the Folk Dance Institute of Inner Mongolia was a highlight of the event. Lincoln High School students enjoyed the presentation and eagerly asked questions of the troupe and posed for pictures.

The opening of these two classrooms was exciting for everyone involved. Lincoln School Superintendent Georgia Fortunato, and Confucius Classroom Directors Margaret Knowlton and Kevin McNamara spearheaded these events, which were open to members of the local community.

With partial financial support from Hanban, a branch of Chinese Ministry of Education in Beijing, the Confucius Institute at Bryant University pioneered the affiliated classroom model. The establishment of the two Confucius Classrooms in Lincoln increased the number of Bryant University-affiliated Confucius Classrooms to six. Similar Confucius Classrooms have been established in Smithfield, Rhode Island, and North Attleboro, Massachusetts.

Bryant Professors, Students Continue Research in China

In June, Judy Barrett Litoff, Professor of History, and Gaytha Langlois, Chair of Science and Technology, embarked on a two-week research trip to China with Bryant students Tom Pagliarini '11 (North Providence, Rhode Island) and Jason Fortin '12 (Pomfret, Connecticut).

The group of eager adventurers visited historical sites related to topics covered in Professor Litoff's course "U.S. and China: 1931-1950" that both students had taken. Professor Langlois collected sediment samples and other scientific data at various sites for her research in international environmental policy. The four also visited Beijing, Xi'an, Yan'an, Shanghai, Nanjing, and Hangzhou. To read more about their experiences, please visit the daily blog published on the U.S.-China Institute's webpage at <http://china.bryant.edu>.

When Professors Litoff and Langlois first traveled to China in the summer of 2000



(L-R) Professor Judy Barrett Litoff, Jason Fortin '12, Tom Pagliarini '11, and Professor Gaytha Langlois in China

with Professor of Science and Technology Hong Yang, the Dr. Charles J. Smiley Chair for the Confucius Institute at Bryant, they had no idea that this would be the beginning of a new direction in their careers. At the time, they recall, they were simply caught up in the magic of being in China, with all its cultural and historical richness. Having completed three additional research trips to Inner Mongolia, Tibet, Yunnan, Shaanxi, Szechuan, and Guizhou Provinces, they remain intrigued by the mystique of China.

The expedition was co-sponsored by the U.S.-China Institute, Confucius Institute, Department of History and Social Sciences, and Department of Science and Technology in a joint effort to support Bryant faculty, student research, and international exchanges.

"We would be remiss were we not to comment on the joy of traveling with two young and talented Bryant University students who never ceased to surprise us with their initiative and enthusiasm for this research trip," add Professors Langlois and Litoff.

"China Today" Radio Show Takes to the Airwaves



Chiyun (Jane) Li '12 in Bryant's radio station

This past fall, students began hosting the first Chinese and English bilingual radio show on Bryant's own student-run radio

station WJMF 88.7. Titled "China Today," the program, which airs every Thursday from 4 to 6 p.m., presents global issues affecting both the United States and China. Listeners on campus and in neighboring communities can hear DJs who are native Chinese, Chinese Americans, and learners of Chinese language and culture.

Guests include professors, business professionals, and scholars who discuss a wide range of topics related to Chinese culture, society, and business. Subjects have included traditional festivals, the Shanghai World Expo, popular culture,

and education in China. Bryant alumni conducting business in China and Bryant students who have recently traveled there through study abroad programs or Bryant's Sophomore International Experience are interviewed regularly. "China Today" is one more example of how Bryant students demonstrate their interest in world issues.

The program is supported by Bryant's U.S.-China Institute, Confucius Institute, and Department of Modern Languages.

No matter where you are in the world, you can listen to "China Today" live on your computer at www.wjmf887.com.

Dean Lux Attends World Confucian Conference

David Lux, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences at Bryant University, traveled to China in September to continue his research and study of Chinese culture. He also participated in the Third Session of the



David Lux, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences

World Confucian Conference in Qufu, Shandong Province, where he represented both the University and Bryant's Confucius Institute, and visited a number of Bryant's study-abroad partner sites in Shanghai, Xi'an, and Beijing.

This was Dean Lux's fourth trip to China. As he traveled, he focused on learning what the Chinese people have to tell us about themselves and searched for relevant material to build on his earlier observations about the multidimensional aspects of travel in China. "The most striking thing for me on this trip was the warmth behind Chinese hospitality," he says. "There is not just the willingness to share, but there

is a genuine pleasure the Chinese take in 'greeting friends from afar.'"

"The celebration of the Confucian Conference was moving and certainly underlined the significance of ceremony in Confucian thought and practice," Dean Lux says. "Moreover, the feeling of celebration and the openness to everyone's participation in the procession and offerings made us all – the entire crowd – feel we were a part of something meaningful."

Dean Lux posted daily blog entries during the trip. View them on the U.S.-China Institute webpage at <http://china.bryant.edu>.

Alumni Trip to China Teaches Important Business Lessons

While the June 2010 alumni trip to China was an opportunity for Bryant alumni to explore a different part of the world, Rita Williams-Bogar '76 viewed it as a unique learning experience. As President and CEO of Personal Solutions LLC in Montclair, New Jersey, Williams-Bogar offers consulting services to business professionals and organizations, with a focus on leadership development, cultural competency, diversity, and communications. Traveling to China provided her with a new perspective to bring to her company, reaffirming her belief that cultural awareness and an open mind are key to success in the business world.

Before embarking on her journey, Williams-Bogar, who is also a Bryant

trustee, learned everything she could about China's history, culture, and people. Aside from an appreciation for the country's impressive historical sites, she returned home with a number of skills that she has incorporated in the classroom as a global business teacher and in her business.

She also uses examples from the trip in discussions about cultural competency, awareness, and diversity, and teaches her clients about the importance of establishing relationships when doing business with Chinese business partners. The concept of *guanxi* can be difficult for Westerners to grasp, says Williams-Bogar, but it is something that must be mastered. She hopes to help by expanding her services to present seminars, webinars, and executive development workshops with Chinese business professionals.



Rita Williams-Bogar '76

For Williams-Bogar, the alumni trip to China shed light on the differences between the cultures of the United States and China, but, at the same time, showed her that that people are more alike than different. "The more I travel around the world, the more similarities I find in the core values that people have," she says. "Everyone cares about his or her family and just wants to have a good life."

Mid-Autumn Festival (中秋节) and Chinese National Day Celebration (国庆节) 2010

In celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival* and Chinese National Day,** the U.S.-China Institute and the Confucius Institute at Bryant University sponsored a presentation by the Director of the Inner Mongolia Museum and a performance by the *Folk Dance Institute of Inner Mongolia*. The events were held on September 28 in the Stepan Grand Hall of the George E. Bello Center for Information and Technology on the Bryant campus.

Professor Ta La, Director of the Inner Mongolia Museum, spoke about the “Major Archaeological Discoveries in Inner Mongolia.” Bryant students wearing Mongolian costumes then presented Hadas (哈达), traditional Mongolian silk scarves that symbolize respect, honor, and good wishes, as well as wine in a traditional fashion to distinguished guests, including Bryant President Ronald K. Machtley and Kati Machtley, superintendents and principals of the Confucius Classrooms at various K-12 schools, and others.

Following the presentation, there were performances by Hasiqimuge, Chaolumeng, and Erdemutegusi

from the *Folk Dance Institute of Inner Mongolia*. These included:

Khoomei 呼麦

The Mongolian art of singing, Khoomei, or Hooliin Chor (‘throat harmony’), is a style of singing in which a single performer produces a diverse harmony of the voice, including a continued bass element emanating from the throat.

Horse-head Violin 马头琴

The horse-head fiddle, or morin khuur, is a distinctive Mongolian two-stringed instrument. The body and the neck are carved from wood. The top of the neck is made in the form of a horse’s head. The sound it produces is similar to that of a violin or cello. The strings are made of dried sinews of deer or mountain sheep. The fiddle is played with a bow made of willow, strunged with horsetail hair coated with larch or cedar wood resin.

Long Song 长调

The Urtiin duu or “long song” is one of two forms of Mongolian folk music songs. It is a lyrical chant that is characterized by an abundance of ornamentation, falsetto, an extremely wide vocal range, and a free compositional form.

Guests enjoyed American and Chinese refreshments including moon cakes, Chinese tea, and sandwiches.



Bryant students in traditional Mongolian costumes

***Mid-Autumn Festival**

One of the most important holidays in China and in many other Asian countries is the Mid-Autumn Festival, also known as the Moon Festival. This holiday takes place on the fifteenth day of the eighth month in the Chinese lunar calendar, and usually occurs late September or early October in the Western calendar. It marks the end of the summer harvest season. The date also runs parallel to the autumnal equinox, which is when the moon is at its fullest. During this festival, it is a tradition for families to gather outside and enjoy the view of the full moon while eating moon cakes.

****Chinese National Day**

On the first of October, people gather and celebrate Chinese National Day, followed by a vacation that lasts for five days. Chinese National Day is celebrated to commemorate October 1, 1949, when the People’s Republic of China was founded. The Chinese celebrate this event much like Americans observe Independence Day – with a holiday and fireworks.



Performers from the Folk Dance Institute of Inner Mongolia with Bryant University students and staff

Chinese Proficiency Test Offered at Bryant

The Confucius Institute at Bryant University is now an authorized test administration center – the only one in New England – for the Chinese proficiency test by China’s Ministry of Education. Known as Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi, the HSK is an internationally recognized standardized test assessing Chinese proficiency levels for non-native speakers. It can be used by Chinese language learners for self-evaluation, career advancement, and language placement for study abroad. For some universities in China, the HSK score is required as part of the application for admission or for scholarships. Bryant hosts the HSK test twice a year – in May and November.

The most recent HSK test was held on November 14. Bryant senior Christopher Beels, who is double majoring in International Business and Chinese, has studied Chinese for four years at Bryant as well as one semester at Fudan University in Shanghai. He says,

“My parents are convinced the root of my attraction to Chinese culture is because they played Chinese music to me before I was born. When I decided to study International Business in college, I knew China, with its booming economy and emerging entrepreneurial spirit, would be in my future. I recognized that the opportunity to pair my business degree with Chinese would enable me to be an active participant in shaping trade relations between the United States and China. As a graduating senior who plans to utilize Chinese language throughout my career, I have realized the importance of taking the next step in my education. After researching different standardized tests that measure Chinese proficiency, I came across the HSK test. My approach consists of a strategy focused on becoming comfortable with the exam and its components by gradually increasing the level of difficulty.”



Christopher Beels '11 at the STARTALK Conference Exhibition in Atlanta, Georgia

HSK scores remain in effect for life, but to apply for scholarships to Chinese universities, the score is only valid for two years.

In addition to the HSK test, Bryant University’s Confucius Institute also offers the Youth for Chinese Test (YCT), designed for non-native student speakers in secondary schools. Mock tests and preparation classes are also provided.

For more information, please visit [http://china.bryant.edu/Confucius Institute/Chinese Test Services](http://china.bryant.edu/ConfuciusInstitute/ChineseTestServices).

New Employee Spotlight: Christina Ho '10

The U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute welcome recent Bryant graduate Christina Ho '10 as Program Assistant. Ho began working in the Confucius Institute in September 2010, working directly with Assistant Director for the Confucius Institute Kun Xie on activities that promote Chinese language and culture within the local community.

Ho participated in the 2007 Bryant-Lingnan Exchange Program, and studied abroad at Fudan University in Shanghai, China, in 2008. The International Business major enjoyed working with the U.S.-China Institute

as part of her senior capstone project. Now, as a full-time employee, Ho has set a number of goals for herself.

“I hope to assist in the expansion of Confucius Classrooms in K-12 schools throughout Rhode Island, develop a standard system and management style for all current and future satellite Confucius Classrooms that are affiliated with the Confucius Institute at Bryant University, and build a sustainable statewide program,” she says. American-born Ho brings a new perspective to the Institute.

From April to August 2010, Ho was a Student Ambassador for the United States



Christina Ho '10 in Shanghai

Pavilion at the Shanghai World Expo 2010, an experience she speaks glowingly about.

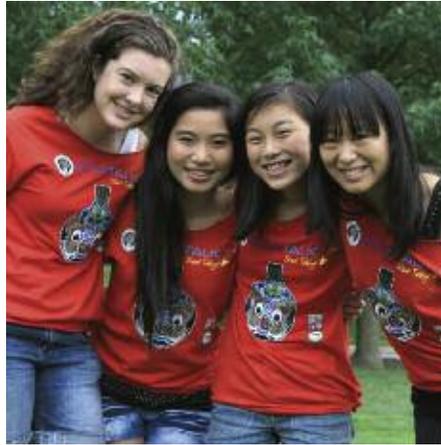
“I’m thrilled to be back at Bryant,” she says, “and ready to make a difference in Rhode Island.”

STARTALK 2010: Start Talking Chinese!

Since 2007, the U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute at Bryant University have hosted the STARTALK Chinese Language and Culture summer program. STARTALK, a project of the National Security Language Initiative, is “a multi-agency effort to expand foreign language education in under-taught critical languages by funding new and existing programs throughout students’ learning careers, kindergarten through university, and to provide incentives and rewards for foreign language learning and use in the work force.” (www.nflc.org)

Over the summer, 65 students learned about Chinese birthday celebrations, calligraphy, how to build paper lanterns, and the basics of Tai Ji and martial arts.

STARTALK at Bryant offers K-12 teachers, as well as middle and high school students, the opportunity to study Mandarin Chinese and attend cultural workshops. Over the summer, 65 students learned about Chinese birthday celebrations, calligraphy, how to build paper lanterns, and the basics of Tai Ji and martial arts. Thirty-seven K-12 teachers discovered how to integrate Chinese language and culture into their current curriculum. Students and teachers also had the opportunity to go on field trips to Boston’s Chinatown, the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, Massachusetts, and an Asian market in Quincy, Massachusetts. Over a two-week period (three weeks for teachers), participants experienced tremendous growth in their knowledge about Chinese language and culture.



Participants in the STARTALK student and teacher programs at Bryant



Read what some have to say about their experiences:

STARTALK Students:

“STARTALK was a great experience! I made many new friends and had a lot of fun learning about Chinese culture, including music and food.”

– Monica Prudencio

“My experience at STARTALK was absolutely amazing. I had the opportunity to learn more about my cultural heritage and language.”

– Gabby Garofalo

“The Chinese people were very open and friendly... they encouraged us to dance with them on the street. I also learned the art of haggling for souvenirs in the markets, which was a bit strange – but fun!”

– Nicholas Luck (on his trip to China)

“I learned so much about Chinese language and culture – I want more!”

– Julie Fougere

“I am taking away lifelong friends, wonderful experiences, a plethora of knowledge of Chinese culture and history, and a thirst for more knowledge of China and its language.”

– Sarah Baker

STARTALK Teachers:

“I have learned the importance of cultivating the student’s interest in the vastness and richness of Chinese culture and history to strengthen his/her motivation in learning the language.”

– Lili Yang

“I miss my colleagues, with whom I shared interesting ideas and from whom I learned a great deal. Their shining spirits in teaching the Chinese language and culture are greatly admired.”

– Jing Xu

“The exposure I received during the STARTALK 2010 program was such that I became better equipped to teach a course on Chinese culture.”

– Andrea Pleau

Over a two-week period (three weeks for teachers), participants experienced tremendous growth in their knowledge about Chinese language and culture.

Ancient and Modern, Same but Different

Following a two-week STARTALK Program on the Bryant campus over the summer, 20 K-12 teachers and high school students journeyed to China to gain firsthand knowledge of the country's rich history and diverse culture, as well as its rapid and dynamic economic development.

The group traveled to the World Expo Shanghai 2010 and Shanghai World Financial Center, the third-tallest building in the world. They visited Suzhou and Hangzhou, often referred to "Paradise on Earth," and saw for themselves the beauty and grace of the South. In Beijing, they visited historical landmarks such as the Great Wall and Forbidden City.

The students interacted with Chinese peers at a local high school, and got a glimpse into the lives of ordinary Chinese people as they toured a traditional residential courtyard. Wrote travelers Shannon, Olivia, and Liz: "Even though our two countries are very different, they also have a lot of similarities. China has a lot of differences in various parts. No place is the same; each contains completely different aspects of Chinese culture."



Luke Thompson, a student from La Salle Academy



K-12 teachers and high school students in front of the Forbidden City

Luke Thompson, a junior high school student at La Salle Academy in Providence, Rhode Island, reflected:

"When I left on the trip to China, I did not know what to expect. I had never experienced a 14-hour plane ride. I had my first exposure to real Chinese culture. At the Shanghai airport I could only ask myself one question: "Why is everything written in Chinese?"

For the first few days, I gazed out the window of the bus and tried to capture all that I saw. From what I had heard about China, I expected it to be very industrial and technologically advanced. For the most part, I was right – but there's so much more to China. It has an amazing feel that no picture or book can describe. To walk through an open-air market or gaze up at a shimmering skyscraper is something that cannot be described – it must be felt.

On this trip, I saw China from every aspect. The modern skyscrapers, the alleys of Beijing, the ancient village at Hemudu, and the rolling mountains

around the Great Wall are all China. Like the United States, China cannot be described in a few words. One must see all the aspects of any country to understand it, and China is no exception.

There are small differences that stand out. My reflections: Why are there so many Volkswagens? Why do the men have their shirts rolled up? Most importantly, why do cars speed up when you are crossing the road? In China, this is the way things are."

"When I returned home, China was not just another place to cross off of my mental list of places to visit – I brought back the spirit of China and use it to better my life."

To learn more, please read the trip blog at <http://china.bryant.edu>.



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Upcoming U.S.-China Institute Events

Sunday, February 6, 2011

Rhode Island Chinese
New Year Celebration
*Chace Wellness and
Athletic Center*

Every Month in Spring 2011

China Seminar Series

Every Month in Spring 2011

Chinese Film Festival

Fall 2011

Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration,
featuring a Chinese Jade Exhibition
and presentation on Chinese jade
culture by experts from the China
University of Geosciences at Wuhan



The U.S.-China Institute at Bryant University forges academic, business, and cultural partnerships between Bryant University and higher learning institutions, business enterprises, and governmental offices in China.

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