Visitors enjoy Chinese Culture Street at this year’s WaterFire event in Downtown Providence. This year, Bryant University’s Confucius Institute took the lead, partnering with four other Confucius Institutes in the Northeast to celebrate the Confucius Institute’s 10th anniversary. Photos by John A. Simonetti

Bryant University’s Dragon Dance Team prepares to lead visitors to the Chinese Culture Street after the WaterFire lighting ceremony in Downtown Providence. This year was the third time that Bryant sponsored a WaterFire with each event building on the previous one’s success.
Dear readers,
Ni Hao!

Each fall, the U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute host a special event celebrating the Mid-Autumn Festival, a thematic Asian holiday equivalent to Thanksgiving. This year, we honored the early Chinese writings of the Qin and Han Dynasties and the Three Kingdom period by collaborating with the Hunan Institute of Archeology and Changsha Jiandu Museum to bring in 100 replicas of early bamboo scripts. An archeologist from the National Museum of China delivered the keynote lecture on the cultural and linguistic significance of these artifacts.

With the growth of Bryant’s China program, the university continues to attract more Chinese universities to partner with. This year, Bryant has had the honor of hosting several high-level delegations from China, including the director of the Shaanxi Bureau of Education, the chairman of the University Council of Northwest University in Xi’an, and the president of Guilin University of Technology.

We also engaged students throughout Southern New England in the Chinese culture and language. The U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute sponsored the Chinese Activity Mastery Program (CAMP), which brought 75 K-12 students to Bryant’s campus for a two-week intensive immersion language and culture training camp.

Our Confucius Institute continues to provide high quality academic services to Bryant faculty and staff as well as the community, offering culture and language programs, as well as internationally recognized standardized Chinese proficiency tests and the Youth Chinese Test.

Students in the Bryant-China University of Geosciences Summer Exchange Program enjoyed a once in a lifetime experience. Chinese students traveled with Bryant students across the country in recreational vehicles to explore Yellowstone National Park and Craters of the Moon National Monument among other attractions.

The Bryant community welcomed new staff members who work in the International Division. John Forrest is assistant director for business services, and Leslie Mortland is the new program assistant at the Confucius Institute. Tanekar Alexander serves in a joint position between International Affairs and the Center for Diversity and Inclusion to help international students adjust to living and studying in the United States. We also welcome Professor Li Chen from China as a new Chinese language and culture professor.

Finally, we celebrated the 10th anniversary of the Confucius Institute with a Providence WaterFire on September 27. We thank everyone who joined us as we continue to advocate cultural diversity in the region.

Hong Yang, Ph.D.
Vice President for International Affairs
Charles J. Smiley Chair Professor
Director of the U.S.-China Institute
and the Confucius Institute

Bryant Travels West with the China University of Geosciences

The U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute welcomed a group of students and faculty from the China University of Geosciences for a cross-country trip that fully immersed them in the American culture.

This two-week program started at Bryant with the CUG group of 14 students and professors Xing Wang and Qiang Wang. Five Bryant students also participated, interacting with the CUG group to build intercultural communication and learning. The program included not only extensive academic components such as lectures, readings, and discussions, but also cultural immersion including visits to the New England cities of Boston, Providence, and Newport.

New to this year’s program was an excursion in recreational vehicles through the Western states of Washington, Montana, Idaho, and Wyoming. The 28-person group explored beautiful national parks, spectacular biological and geological sites, and the historic landmarks of the Lewis and Clark Expedition of 1804-1806.
Bryant University welcomed two senior Chinese education delegations to campus this year, as the university seeks to further develop relationships and create new exchanges.

In May, Bryant received the Shaanxi Education Delegation, headed by Mr. Li Xingwan, director of the Shaanxi Bureau of Education, and Dr. Qiao Xueguang, Chairman of the University Council of Northwest University in Xi’an. Their visit enhanced Bryant’s collaboration with Shaanxi Province, which is the home of more than 60 higher learning institutions. Northwest University in Xi’an is one of the oldest universities in China with strength in the business and humanity disciplines.

In July, a senior leadership delegation from Guilin University of Technology (GUT) was led by the school’s President and Chairman of University Council, Dr. Zhang Xuehong. This was a reciprocal visit as Hong Yang, Ph.D., Vice President for International Affairs, and John Saddlemire, Ph.D., Vice President for Student Affairs, visited GUT in early January. The GUT delegation, including three academic deans and their director of foreign affairs, is interested in student transfer programs as well as programs for staff training and exchange. President Ronald K. Machtley met with both delegations and signed memorandums of understanding with both universities.

Bryant Hosts Summer CAMP

Seventy-five students in grades K-12 from Southern New England participated this summer in the Chinese Activity Mastery Program (CAMP) offered by The U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute. With seven years of STARTALK summer program experience, CAMP provided students with a glimpse of Chinese language and culture, making the program a tremendous success.

From July 14-25, students had daily language classes taught by STARTALK teacher trainees. Students participated in different cultural activities each day including Chinese calligraphy, a dumpling making contest, Kung Fu, a tea ceremony and more.

During a field trip to the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem, MA, students learned about Chinese culture and arts. That was followed by a visit to the Kam Man Market and China Pearl restaurant in Quincy, MA where students were exposed to Chinese products and cuisine.

On the last day of the program, parents and friends were invited to our closing ceremony where the students showcased their diverse and impressive accomplishments in the CAMP program. Performances included Kung Fu, singing, dancing and Chinese rhymes.
Bryant University’s partnership with the Sino-American Bridge for Education and Health (SABEH), a non-profit organization in New England that seeks to create a bridge between the unique cultures of the United States and China to achieve the common goals of mutual understanding, respect, and friendship continues to prosper.

With Bryant’s U.S.-Chinese Institute’s involvement, SABEH has been able to work with the institute and a sustainable cooperation has developed. The organization held interviews with teachers across the United States who are interested in taking a trip to China as part of SABEH. Interviews were either held on campus or remotely through the university’s new and innovative technology.

The university also held four workshops for teachers preparing to go to China last summer and arranged for a Bryant student to work with SABEH in an organizational role.

“Developing a cooperative relationship with Bryant has been a great boon,” said Susan Thanas, chairman of SABEH.

“Since we have a small group of volunteers, this relationship has assisted us in allowing these teachers to take advantage of this opportunity.”

The organization also reinforces the Chinese programs at Bryant by connecting teachers from Fuzhou, China to learn about the United States at Bryant. Five educators from China visited Bryant last spring and SABEH members offered them workshops about American education and culture.

“It was a great honor to collaborate with SABEH to build a dynamic and open gateway between American and Chinese teachers to achieve understanding, build respect, and establish friendship,” said Zhengxiang “Jason” Wang, academic coordinator at the U.S.-China Institute.

Chinese High School Teachers Trained at Bryant

The U.S.-China Institute hosted five teachers from Fujian Province, China for a two-month professional development and culture exchange experience earlier this year.

The teachers spent their first two weeks at Bryant, attending education workshops and visiting cultural and historic sites in New England, including Newport, Providence and Boston. They also visited Westerly High School, where they observed classes and stayed with host families for three weeks.

The U.S.-China Institute designed this professional development program to facilitate an exchange of ideas and best teaching practices. The Chinese teachers teach English at either the high school or college level. Their goal of visiting the United States was to learn more about student-centered instruction, teaching of literature, the college admission process, and the American education system.

The Chinese teachers also spent three weeks at Bryant attending teacher workshops facilitated by SABEH (Sino-American Bridge for Education and Health), a Massachusetts-based non-profit organization collaborating with the U.S.-China Institute to bring American teachers to teach and travel in China next summer.

After this unique professional development experience at Bryant, Chinese teachers will apply what they learned here in their classrooms in Fujian and will encourage their students to come to experience a Bryant education as well.
Rapid Growth on Chinese Test at Confucius Institute at Bryant University

The HSK (Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi) and the YCT (Youth Chinese Test) are both internationally recognized standardized Chinese Proficiency Tests for non-native speakers. Students can take the HSK for self-evaluation, applying to Chinese colleges or for scholarships, or to apply for jobs in China.

Because of the implementation and promotion of the two tests by the Confucius Institute, these two exams are being taken more frequently at Bryant. The University has been an authorized Chinese test center since 2009. Most people who take the HSK are high school and college students studying Chinese, but adults who are learning Chinese or are interested in developing careers in Chinese-related fields also take the exam. The YCT test is primarily for middle school students.

Last year, Bryant started offering the tests electronically, allowing the university to offer the tests more frequently. Bryant has also implemented incentives to encourage students to take the tests at the University, including lending books from the vast collection at the Confucius Institute library.

Bryant University offers online HSK and YCT tests at the following dates.

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<tr>
<th>TEST DATE</th>
<th>REGISTRATION DEADLINE</th>
<th>DATE SCORE AVAILABLE</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HSK</td>
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<tr>
<td>March 16th (Sunday)</td>
<td>March 6th</td>
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<td>May 10th (Saturday)</td>
<td>April 30th</td>
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<td>October 11th (Saturday)</td>
<td>September 30th</td>
<td>November 11th</td>
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<td>December 6th (Saturday)</td>
<td>November 26th</td>
<td>January 6th</td>
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<th>TEST DATE</th>
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<tr>
<td>YCT</td>
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<tr>
<td>May 24th (Saturday)</td>
<td>May 14th</td>
<td>June 24th</td>
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A mock test will be held at Bryant campus prior each test date.

For more information about all of the Chinese tests offered at Bryant, please go to china.bryant.edu/confucius-institute/chinese-test-services.htm or contact Ms. Kun Xie, Assistant Director for the Confucius Institute, kxie@bryant.edu
Chinese Scholars Share Their Expertise with Bryant Community

Li Chen joins the U.S.-China Institute as a visiting exchange scholar from the China University of Geosciences Wuhan. She will be involved in academic activities including teaching Chinese language and culture classes, and assisting in organizing Chinese cultural programs and events.

Li enjoys Tai Chi and is looking forward to helping community members practice and learn Tai Chi as a way to relax their bodies. As she contributes to the cultural exchange with Bryant students, she will share her love of Chinese cuisine with the community. Li is also offering Tai Chi and Qigong classes on campus.

Li, along with her 14-year-old son Genglin Liu, has been impressed with Bryant’s beautiful campus and the warm welcome that they have received. She is looking forward to making lifelong connections this year.

Ying Chen came to Bryant in September as a visiting scholar from Harbin, the most northern provincial capital city of China. An associate professor at Harbin Normal University, she is conducting scientific research on protozoa Ciliates and environmental pollution. She is collaborating with Gaytha Langlois, Ph.D., Bryant professor of science and technology, on a project examining Rhode Island marine oil pollution.

Ying, along with her husband and son, are enjoying their time Bryant’s peaceful campus, friendly faculty and polite students this fall.

Bryant Professor Visits Partner School in Zhuhai

Robert Nigohosian, a lecturer of economics at Bryant visited the University’s partner school, Beijing Institute of Technology Zhuhai.

“I was very impressed with the campus,” he said. “It is located in a comfortable suburban setting and boasts a beautiful view of the mountains.” The area also features man-made lakes and leechee groves.

Beijing Institute of Technology Zhuhai is a campus of 25,000 students. Its learning disciplines include art, technology, and business. Last year, it was ranked as one of the “Top Independent Colleges over the Last Ten Years” by the Tencent Group.

Nigohosian made a presentation to the Director of International Exchanges, Ms. He Xiaoyang, and Dr. Fu Wei, Deputy Chair of the Department of Accounting and Finance. His talk touched on partnerships and joint ventures in the business and academic world, and how that can help students in a fast-changing, global economy.

As Bryant University and Beijing Institute of Technology Zhuhai have applied to the Chinese government for official partnership status, representatives from each university have traveled back and forth several times to build and cultivate programs and relationships that will further establish a joint venture promoting academic cooperation through teaching, research and study.
New Faces at the U.S.-China Institute

John Forrest joined the U.S.-China Institute as assistant director for business services in 2014. He has experience working in China, including spending five years working at the Agricultural University of Hebei in Baoding. At the university, he taught English to undergraduate students, helping many to prepare for study abroad experiences. While in China, he immersed himself in the community, familiarizing himself with Chinese culture. He is conversational in Mandarin and has passed the official Chinese proficiency test.

Forrest graduated from the Massachusetts College of Liberal Arts with a bachelor’s degree in sociology. He has also worked in an English as a Second Language classroom in Pittsfield, MA. He has traveled extensively to the Asian countries of Cambodia, Japan, Thailand and Vietnam.

Leslie Mortland joined the Confucius Institute as program assistant in August of 2014. She has her bachelor’s degree in Chinese studies from the University at Albany. Ms. Mortland comes to Bryant from Panera Bread, where she was a catering coordinator and an ambassador for the Panera Bread Foundation. She has also worked for the New York State Assembly and was the Gender and sexuality concerns director for the University at Albany Student Association.

New Interim Assistant Director of International Student Integration

Tanekar Alexander joined Bryant in August 2014 as the interim assistant director of international student integration. Alexander will advise international student organizations, and assist with key campus-wide programming initiatives. She will also provide counseling services to students and teach them coping skills for lifelong success.

Alexander, a native of Trinidad and Tobago, has earned her Bachelor’s and Master’s degrees in Criminal Justice from the University of Massachusetts-Lowell.
Upcoming U.S.-China Institute Events

February 14, 2015
Chinese New Year Celebration
Join us in celebration with this 4,000 year-old Chinese tradition and welcome the Year of the Sheep at Bryant University! The event is free and open to the public! Location: Elizabeth and Malcolm Chace Wellness and Athletic Center in the Main Gym, Bryant University

March 16, 2015, May 10, 2015, October 11, 2015, December 6, 2015
Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK)
A 6-level, international standardized Chinese proficiency test designed to examine students’ ability in the application of the Chinese language in their studies, personal lives, and work. For more information about the test and how to register, visit china.bryant.edu and follow the same instructions as the YCT test above. Registration deadline – 10 days prior to the exam date

May 24, 2015
The Youth Chinese Test (YCT)
This is a 4-level, international standardized test of Chinese language proficiency directed to young foreign students to evaluate their Chinese language skills. For more information about the test and how to sign up, visit china.bryant.edu and click on “Test Services” through the Confucius Institute tab. Registration deadline – November 5th

October 17, 2015
Hanyu Shuiping Kouyu Kaoshi (HSKK)
This is the oral portion of the Chinese Proficiency Test designed to assess students’ listening comprehension and speaking skills of the Chinese Language.

Monthly China Seminar Series
Each month here at Bryant, we feature a different guest speaker, each an expert in their respective field, to talk about different issues related to China. The seminar is free and open to the public and Chinese food is served. For more information, visit our website at china.bryant.edu or find us on Instagram or Facebook.

Ancient Chinese Bamboo Scripts
Come see records of early Chinese history on display at the Douglas and Judith Krupp Library.

Taiji Classes
Every Wednesday 12pm-1pm, October 15th to December 17th
Every Thursday 4:30pm-5:30pm, October 16th to December 18th
West Room of Machtley Interfaith Center

Qigong Classes
Every Thursday 12pm-1pm, October 16th to December 18th
Music Conference Room in the Fisher Student Center

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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