The Shanghai Jewish Refugee Exhibit at Bryant University

The Shanghai Jewish Refugee Exhibit attracted people from the local community to Bryant for an evening of discussion.

Ada Winsten posed with her sister and granddaughters at the Shanghai Jewish Refugee Exhibit hosted at Bryant last October.

Ada Winsten and her sister Suzanne Kuszner shared their experiences as children fleeing the Holocaust during World War II in a discussion led by Rabbi Stephen Jablow.

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A key oasis along the ancient Silk Road, Dunhuang is located in China’s northwestern Gansu Province, more than 1,400 miles from Beijing and almost 2,200 miles from Zhuhai. Strategically splitting the Silk Road into northern and southern routes, Dunhuang lays at the northern edge of the Tibetan Plateau in the Hexi Corridor, which controls all entry to and exit from China’s western border region. The Han Dynasty Great Wall reaches all the way to Dunhuang, more than 1,800 miles to the west of its most eastern point at Shanhaiguan, Hebei Province.

Dunhuang is home to one of the most amazing collections of Buddhist art. There Buddhism intertwined with other religions and cultures for more than 1,000 years from the 4th to 14th century. Twenty five kilometers southeast of Dunhuang are the Thousand Buddha Caves, or Mogao Grottoes. It is one of the world’s most extensive sites of Buddhist art, containing ancient Buddhist murals, statues, silk, manuscripts, and much more. Over the centuries, it became customary for travelers along the Silk Road in Dunhuang to dig caves into the sides of mountains and decorate them with art hoping for safety and success on their long and usually dangerous journeys. The caves are especially unique because Chinese, Buddhist, Islamic, and Greek cultures all met here and left an influential mark on the art and life that have been rediscovered over the past 125 years.

During the late 19th and early 20th centuries, when western intrigue with the lost cities of Central Asia was at a high, thousands of ancient manuscripts, now known as the Dunhuang Manuscripts were discovered. Sealed shut for more than 800 years, Cave 17, now known as the Library Cave, was found to contain over 1,000 bundles of scrolls, 15,000 books in Chinese, Turkic, Tibetan, and Hebrew as well as many other priceless treasures. Unfortunately, many priceless artifacts were taken out of China during the early 20th century, at a time when fiercely competitive explorers from a handful of countries were all rushing to uncover buried cities lost centuries ago to the moving sands of the desert. Nowadays, artifacts collected by those explorers can

The overland Silk Road connected China, Central Asia, and Europe often crossing through ferocious deserts and over treacherous mountain ranges. (Photo courtesy of Twitter)
be found all over the globe in London, Paris, St. Petersburg, Kyoto, Berlin, and even here in the United States. Ongoing work by the Dunhuang Academy continues to uncover new discoveries at the site and preservation work has been long underway.

Tourism is the greatest threat to this UNESCO World Heritage Site. The number of visitors to each cave is limited to preserve the integrity of the extraordinary art and history inside. In September 2016, Bryant President Ronald K. Machtley signed an agreement with the Dunhuang Academy to bring the art and culture of Dunhuang to Bryant campus in the fall of 2017. The U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute at Bryant University will work with colleagues at the Dunhuang Academy to share the irreplaceable cultural heritage and amazing history with the Bryant community and audiences in New England. The event will mark the beginning of the Dunhuang exhibition’s travel tour to American university campuses.

In October of 2017, staff from the U.S.-China Institute at Bryant University, working with local historians, archeologists, and cultural experts, will lead a travel group along parts of China’s ancient Silk Road. Visits to various historical cities such as Hangzhou, Xian, and Dunhuang feature many of China’s UNESCO World Heritage sites. Dunhuang’s Thousand Buddha Caves are among the many highlights. For more information about Dunhuang or the Silk Road, please email jforrest1@bryant.edu.

Dear readers, Ni Hao!

Happy New Year!

Bryant’s U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute continue to make efforts in bringing various high-quality international programs to campus. In October, the Confucius Institute brought a traveling exhibit on “Shanghai Jewish Refugees” to Bryant, and refugees shared their experiences with our faculty and students (cover).

In the past 10 years, the U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute at Bryant have brought a piece of unique Chinese culture to the Bryant campus each year. This fall, we will present a digital exhibit about the famous history and art of Dunhuang to the New England audience. In collaboration with the Dunhuang Academy, this will be the first time that the spectacular Dunhuang exhibit with its diverse culture and religions makes a stop on an American campus (Pg. 2).

As our Bryant Zhuhai campus entered its second year, not only have we enrolled the second group of freshman, we have also started to send Bryant Smithfield students there for semester long study abroad in the fall of 2016. On Pg. 4, you will read reflections by one of these students, Thomas Lee ’18, about his four month life in Zhuhai for his study, internship, travels, and friends in Zhuhai.

Two major cultural trips, one to Southwest United States during the spring break (Pg. 5) and one to travel along China’s ancient Silk Road in October (Pg. 2), will be organized for interested cultural explorers to experience different cultures both in the United States and in China.

The International Education Week continued to offer a platform for our international and multicultural students to showcase their culture and heritage while providing an opportunity for them to learn from each other, to discuss various international issues, and to explore employment opportunities in the U.S. (Pg. 6).

For the 10th consecutive year, the U.S.-China Institute at Bryant has been selected by the U.S. government to conduct the STARTALK summer Chinese language and culture program on Bryant campus. On Pg. 7, you will read a reflection from a high school student, Lily Gucfa, regarding her two week experience on Bryant campus as last year’s STARTALK participant. We expect another exciting STARTALK program this summer.

Jongsung Kim, Ph.D., Professor of Economics at Bryant University, reflected on his recent travel to China, in particular his conference participation in Shenzhen and his visit to the Zhuhai campus. Professor Kim spent his time with Bryant Zhuhai students both in and out of classrooms and held focused discussions with them (Pg. 11).

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
Nestled in between the mountains in Tangjiawan, Bryant Zhuhai is located in a bustling college neighborhood surrounded by its partner school, Beijing Institute of Technology, Zhuhai. Minutes away from several other universities, there are tens of thousands of college students in the area.

After four months living in Zhuhai, there are a lot of things that I would do differently, but I wouldn’t trade this experience for anything. There are so many people I have met and so many places I have gone that make this experience worthwhile.

Zhuhai, situated an hour away from Hong Kong and a short walk away from Macau, is perfectly located for easy travel. I traveled all across East Asia: from Thailand to Singapore, from Japan to Taiwan. There were so many incredible places I got to see in my four months in Asia.

Bryant brought us to Zhangjiajie, home of the world’s longest glass bridge and the majestic mountain pillars featured in Avatar. We climbed up and witnessed the grandeur of the Great Wall and saw the impressively lit Shanghai skyline contrasted against the dark sky.

Back at Zhuhai, I roomed with three Chinese students, each giving me a different and unique perspective on what it’s like to be Chinese while doing basic things typical Chinese students do such as playing League of Legends with roommates and building hanging racks to dry my clothes.

Although I was in China, I still felt like I was at Bryant. Bryant Zhuhai brings together the partnership of American teaching and China. The campus is aptly China; roads filled with bikes and trams with small family eateries lining the sides. The classes feel American because lessons are taught in English by the Bryant faculty brought in from around the world.

Bryant’s partnership with InternChina helped me secure an internship at Roclin Global Sourcing, a quality control firm. The internship didn’t just teach me about the business world, it also gave me insight into working abroad and allowed me to make friends I will have for a lifetime.

There are difficulties with every study abroad experience, and I can say that I have had my own. What I will remember most are the people, from the mother of two small kids and owner of a tiny restaurant who makes home cooked meals for me, to the taxi drivers who think I’m Chinese until I open my mouth. It’s the campus surrounded by both mountains and the sea. It’s the buildings and roads being built in a week. It’s the good times and the bad times. That’s what made this place home.

Thomas Lee ’18 is an International Business major with concentrations in Finance, Applied Analytics, and Chinese. He studied abroad in Zhuhai during the fall 2016 semester.
3rd Annual Spring Break Cultural Exchange Trip in March

For the third consecutive year, the Division of International Affairs at Bryant will sponsor a spring break road trip focusing on cross-cultural communication and cultural exchange. Small groups of Bryant international, domestic, and multicultural students, staff, and visiting scholars will go on a five-day exploration of the southwestern United States. This year’s program will feature activities in Arizona including the Grand Canyon, camping in Flagstaff, and the Red Rocks State Park in Sedona.

Last year’s Spring Break trip stopped in Southern California’s Joshua Tree National Park.

This annual program creates an opportunity outside of the classroom for Bryant students, faculty, and staff to know each other, learn from one another, and gain exposure to new cultures, while exploring some of the most beautiful landscapes this country has to offer.

For more information about this year’s program or any future programs, please contact Leslie Mortland at (401) 232-6887 or at lmortland@bryant.edu.

Tea is Served at Global Foundations of Business Event

Every first-year student at Bryant is required to take a Global Foundations of Business (GFOB) class that helps lay the groundwork for a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of business education. Students learn the different factors and forces, political, social, and cultural among others, that shape the competitive global landscape.

To help demonstrate diversity and build cultural awareness, one session is dedicated to a traditional Chinese tea ceremony, and provides an introduction to the significant role tea has played throughout history, both culturally and economically. Students learn about the elements that comprise a tea ceremony and sample a variety of different Chinese teas. The ceremony is just one way that the class opens new horizons and helps these future leaders develop cultural awareness.

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International Education Week (IEW) is a joint initiative of the U.S. Departments of State and Education to promote programs that prepare Americans for a global environment and attract future leaders from abroad to study, learn, and exchange experiences. Last year, the week was filled with opportunities for the Bryant community to engage in cross-cultural experiences, and gain awareness of opportunities abroad as well as global issues.

International Education Week kicked off on Nov. 14 with a career day for international students who are interested in pursuing internships in the United States. Students also heard from a panel of their peers who have completed internships abroad or worked with international organizations. Panel members reflected on their experiences and offered advice about searching for internships and visa requirements, as well as other recommendations.

More than 40 students and staff attended Celebrate China, a collaboration of Bryant’s PwC Center for Diversity and Inclusion, International Student Organization, and U.S.-China Institute. Celebrate China explored Chinese history, minority groups, culture, and cuisine.

Teresa Jenkins, from the local faith-based organization Project Shatter, presented information about human and sex trafficking as well as bystander intervention, and community values related to this issue. Jenkins spoke about how human trafficking involves both U.S. citizens and those from other countries, has no demographic restrictions, and occurs even in Rhode Island.

International Education Week culminated with i2i, an exciting cultural dance show hosted each year by the International Student Organization. The show brings the Bryant community together as students display their creativity and talent. More than 400 people attended last year’s show celebrating the tourist hotspots and cultural beauty of a variety of countries.
Having been born in Guilin, China during the implementation of the One Child Policy, I was given up for adoption. Fortunately, a family from Massachusetts adopted me when I was 19 months-old. Because of the shaky beginnings of my childhood, I was born into the Mandarin speaking world, but raised only learning and speaking English. Whatever vocabulary I was developing at the age of two was quickly replaced by a new language and vocabulary. As the years went by, learning Mandarin took a back seat to my hectic daily life, especially when none of my friends spoke Mandarin. Attempting to fit into the majority, I used to reject all offers to learn Chinese or participate in the culture. I wasn’t truly recognizing my full identity in fear of being alone if I were to do so.

It was only during my freshman year at my school that I finally realized how important it was to reconnect with my heritage. There were people I wanted to meet and communicate with, and places that I want to study and travel. I felt motivated and ready to embrace something that I had avoided most of my childhood.

My opportunity appeared at the end of my freshman year. The Confucius Institute at Bryant University opened a Confucius Classroom in my middle school. At the opening, I was informed about a summer program called STARTALK, held annually at Bryant. It was a two-week session of intense Chinese culture and language immersion. After that night, my heart was set on getting in and learning whatever I could in two weeks. Going into STARTALK, I expected that classes were going to be challenging, yet necessary, and that I would be studying Chinese while burning the midnight oil every night. Nevertheless, I was ready to make friends and I was ready for whatever the program had to throw at me.

Writing now, four days into my cultural journey, my views have changed. Although my spirits are still high, I had no idea how hard it was to learn a whole new concept with the foundation of only pure willpower and determination keeping me upright. I’ve begun to gain an incredible respect for anyone who has attempted to learn a foreign language, especially one that doesn’t use a familiar alphabet. Also, even though we have three solid hours of class every day, they fill the other three hours of the day with fun activities. On top of the activities and ice cream (I mean the amazing cafeteria food), I have gained new friendships. I’ve met people I can relate to, laugh with, and lean on while learning a new language and reconnecting with my roots. Wrapping things up, I have no doubt that I will make more memories at STARTALK. I am only beginning to discover a new me.

EPILOGUE

Continuing my journal from week one of STARTALK, I want to elaborate on my experience at camp. First, I want to address classroom life. To begin, I need to explain that on the first day, I was accidentally placed in a class above my skill level. If you thought learning a new language was hard, try learning a new language with a group of people who already knew what they were doing. Thankfully, everything got sorted and I was relocated to the appropriate room with a curriculum I could get the hang of. Essentially my class was now going at a speed that I was prepared to go, and offered the support I needed to start my new language skills.

As I suspected, the teachers spoke entirely in Mandarin during our lessons and used helpful hand gestures that have repeatedly saved my life. If you thought learning a new language was hard, try learning a new language with a group of people who already knew what they were doing. Thankfully, everything got sorted and I was relocated to the appropriate room with a curriculum I could get the hang of. Essentially my class was now going at a speed that I was prepared to go, and offered the support I needed to start my new language skills.

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Last Semester’s Major Events in Pictures

Students and teachers from China University of Geosciences (CUG) performed Chinese Kung Fu and Taiji at local schools during their recent visit to Bryant’s Smithfield, RI campus.

Students performed a song in Chinese for their peers during last semester’s Chinese Singing Competition.

President and Mrs. Machtley with Hong Yang, Ph.D. view some of the porcelain brought to Bryant by the Jingdezhen Royal Porcelain Company.

Representatives from Jingdezhen gave hands-on demonstrations during last year’s Mid-Autumn Festival celebration.

Porcelain from Jingdezhen is considered to be among the highest quality in the world.

The crowd of students watched as their peers sing in Chinese during last semester’s Chinese Singing competition, co-sponsored by the Modern Languages Department and the U.S.-China Institute.
President and Mrs. Machtley posed with Vice President of the International Affairs Division, Hong Yang, Ph.D. and students and leadership from the China University of Geosciences who were here to take part in the Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration.

The dancers in the Jamaican group entertained the crowd at i2i.

South Korea was well represented with a performance at last semester’s i2i.

The student narrators of i2i created a script that kept the crowd entertained and informed about all of the nights’ destinations.

The performance by the Dominican Republic group brought some vibrant costumes to the stage during i2i.

The dancers in the Jamaican group entertained the crowd at i2i.

Dancers from India wowed the i2i crowd with their performance.
September 2016: China Night at WaterFire

Mr. Bin Huang of Jingdezhen Royal China Company was a guest lighter during our WaterFire celebration.

Bryant’s Dragon Dance Team showed off its skills and entertained the crowd during China Night at WaterFire.

Bryant students hosted the crowd during September’s WaterFire event in downtown Providence, RI.

Young children and their families received an introduction to Chinese architecture at China Night in downtown Providence.

A mom looked on as her children practiced their calligraphy at China Night at WaterFire.

The paper cutting table was popular among children during China Night at WaterFire.

China Night at WaterFire continues to attract large crowds each year.

Performers from the China University of Geosciences entertained the crowd with a lion dance performance at WaterFire in Providence.

Bryant’s Dragon was prominently displayed during China Night at WaterFire.
Last summer, I was proud to visit Shenzhen, a coastal city in southern China, for the first time to attend the 2016 Chinese Economist Society (CES) conference held at the Peking University HSBC Business School. At the conference, I presented a paper about income inequality and household debt in Korea and their implications for China.

The theme of the conference was “Sustainable Development in China and the World.” Reflecting from my academic interests, I am curious as to China’s ability to create a sufficient number of employments when its economy already shows a slower growth pattern, which should continue in the years to follow. I am also interested in knowing how the Chinese government and policy makers would address the widening income inequality problem.

After the conference, I took a one-hour ferry ride from Shenzhen to Zhuhai to visit Bryant Zhuhai. During my stay in Zhuhai, my most memorable experience was the time I spent with students and colleagues in and outside of the classroom. At Bryant Zhuhai, approximately 160 Accounting students were admitted last year, all minoring in Economics. All students were taking Macroeconomic Principles in the spring semester. I visited one class discussing the trade-off between inflation and unemployment and found that students were both very receptive and engaged in the topics introduced.

In retrospect, I learned much during this one-week trip to Hong Kong, Shenzhen, and Zhuhai. I am grateful to Xiang Li ’13 and Nicole Krupski ’15, who are both recent Bryant graduates working at Bryant Zhuhai, for arranging my schedule in Zhuhai.
Upcoming U.S.-China Institute Events

**March 11 – 15, 2017**

**International Affairs Spring Break Trip**
The third annual Spring Break Cultural Exchange trip to the western United States, sponsored by the Division of International Affairs, will take place from March 11 to 15. The program takes students to some of America’s most beautiful states and national parks including the Grand Canyon and Red Rocks State Park.

**Every Monday and Thursday**

**Chinese Tea Table**
The Chinese Tea Table provides an excellent opportunity for students who are interested in Chinese to practice the language and obtain tutoring assistance from native speakers. Open to everyone, the Chinese Tea Table is held in the Confucius Institute Library, located on the bottom level of the Chafee Center, every Monday and Thursday from 2 to 4 p.m., throughout the semester.

**Global Community Hour**
One of Bryant’s signature international educational activities to help build cultural competency will take you to new countries around the globe this semester. Hosted by international students and scholars, the Global Community Hour includes a presentation about the focus country’s culture and is followed by a small sampling of local cuisine. Seats are limited. For more information, contact the Office of International Students and Scholars at oiss@bryant.edu.

**Zhuhai SIE USA**
For two weeks in August, Bryant Zhuhai students will come to the United States as part of their Sophomore International Experience. The Bryant Zhuhai students attend seminars, make company visits, and explore culturally significant locations throughout the northeast. If you are interested in applying to be a student counselor during the program, please contact Kongli Liu at kliu1@bryant.edu.

**STARTALK Chinese Language and Culture Teacher Program**
This program features a Language Track for Chinese language teachers. Lectures and seminars on Chinese language and culture by renowned scholars are included.
For more information, please contact Kongli Liu at kliu1@bryant.edu.

**STARTALK Chinese Language and Culture Student Program**
This program includes Chinese language classes for various proficiency levels as well as cultural workshops in a small classroom environment. Visit china.bryant.edu for updated information.
For the Student Program, please contact Ms. Kun Xie at kxie@bryant.edu.

**HSK Test**
This is a six-level, international standardized Chinese proficiency test designed to examine students’ ability in the application of the Chinese language in their studies and personal lives.

**YCT Test**
This is a four-level, international standardized test of Chinese language proficiency, designed to help young students evaluate their Chinese language skills.

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE**
10 days prior to the exam date
For more information, please contact Li Chen at lchen4@bryant.edu or visit china.bryant.edu and click on “Test Services” through the Confucius Institute tab.

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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