

孔子学院

UCA CI

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE FOR ARKANSAS



HIGHLIGHTS

JANUARY - MARCH 2011

► 2011 Chinese New Year Celebration

On Saturday, January 29th 2011 UCA Confucius Institute and UCA Chinese Students and Scholars Association held a celebration of the Chinese New Year, "the Year of the Rabbit." The celebration included a reception for UCA Chinese faculty and Confucius Institute guests, Chinese cultural performance in Ida Waldron Auditorium, and a dinner held in the Student Center Ballroom.

President Meadors offered his warm New Year wishes at the reception to Chinese faculty at UCA and praised their contribution to the UCA community. He talked about the importance of growing appreciation of other cultures. Other speakers from UCA included Dr. Alexander Chen, Associate VP of International Engagement, and Dr. Guo-ou Zhuang, the director of UCACI, who spoke about the work and future plan of UCA's Confucius Institute.

The art and cultural performance were attended by educators from across the state, a large group of high school students from Lincoln and Hot Springs, UCA Chinese faculty and students, international students, and Conway community members, totaling approximately 500 people.



► Chinese New Year Celebration in Conway High School

On February 3rd, 2011, the Chinese class from Conway High School had a big Spring Festival celebration at Mulan, a local Chinese restaurant. All students who were taking Chinese class and their parents were invited. Close to 70 students and parents participated in this event. Students used Chinese they learned in class to order drinks and taught their parents how to use chopsticks. Everybody dressed in red to celebrate this biggest festival in China. Students designed posters for the year of rabbit in the class and two posters won the best design awards.

▶ Winter Bridge Debriefing Meeting

In 2010, UCA Confucius Institute recruited 17 school administrators and educators from 6 Arkansas school districts to go to China as delegates to attend the Chinese Bridge program. The program was sponsored by Hanban, which introduced US teachers to the Chinese language and cultural resources that are available to them through Confucius Institute and the opportunities that they bring. The 6 districts represented by the delegation were: Batesville, Beebe, Hot Springs, Pulaski County Special School District, Lincoln, and Wynne.



▶ Chinese Teachers Recognized by Arkansas State Board of Education

Thirteen Chinese teachers were awarded "Arkansas Traveler" by Arkansas State Board of Education on Monday, February 14, 2011. Beverly Williams, assistant commissioner of Arkansas Department of Education introduced all of the teachers to Arkansas Board of Education. The teachers are from China and joined the "Teach Chinese in Arkansas Program" sponsored by UCA Confucius Institute and Arkansas Department of Education and Hanban. Eleven teachers were present accompanied by their school district leaders. Dr. Guo-ou Zhuang, director of UCA CI explained how UCA CI works and the coming event at UCA CI.

After the meeting, the teachers have a tour of the state capital and had lunch at ADE. School district leaders exchanged their thoughts during lunch. The teachers were introduced to the state senators and the house of representative while the legislatures were in session. The senators and representatives all stood up to applause the teachers for their contribution.

Teachers recognized were Yu Mao, Hot Springs School District; Tu Xu, Batesville School District; Xi Chen, Conway School District; Danmei Si, Cross Country School District; Liyun Zhang, Harrisburg School District; Jie Min, Hot Springs School District; Wen Huang, North Little Rock School District; Fang Xie, Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative; Yufei Li, Northwest Arkansas Education Service Cooperative; Qi Shao, Waldron School District; Lina Gan, Wynne School District; Jingjing Li, University of Central Arkansas; and Wenjun Zhao, University of Central Arkansas.

▶ Lantern Festival Celebration in Jacksonville

Confucius Institute at the University of Central Arkansas co-sponsored a celebration of the traditional Chinese Lantern Festival on Saturday, February 19th at Jacksonville's Unique Connection Center, with co-sponsor, Asian Association for Arkansas. The Festival, which marks the closing celebrations of the Chinese New Year, gives Arkansas an opportunity to appreciate Chinese culture. Over 300 people attended the event.

Gary Fletcher, mayor of Jacksonville, and UCA's VP of International Engagement, Dr. Alexander Chen, provided opening remarks. Mayor Fletcher said it was a good opportunity for the community to know more about China and Chinese culture. He awarded UCA's VP, Dr. Alexander Chen, CI director Dr. Guo-ou Zhuang, CI deputy director Jingjing Li, Dr. Huimin Qi, visiting professor from Qingdao Univ, Wenjun Zhao, Chinese teacher at UCA CI with honored citizenship of Jacksonville. KTHV Channel 11 news anchor Liz Massey served as master of ceremony to the event, which consisted of Guzheng, Hu-lu-si, Bawu, folk music and dance, modern musical performances, singing, martial arts displays, and an Asian fashion show.





▶ Beauty and the Brahmas

UCA Confucius Institute Celebrates Lantern Festival

On Saturday, February 19th, Conway Symphony Orchestra brought to UCA community a presentation of "Beauty and the Brahms" at UCA's Reynolds Performance Hall, and UCA Confucius Institute is one of the sponsors.

The concert featured soloist Cao Jin, an award-winning soprano opera singer and staff member of East China Normal University in Shanghai. She performed Mozart's "Queen of the Night" aria from The Magic Flute, Lehar's Vilja's Song from The Merry Widow, and finished with an emotion-provoking performance of "Wo Ai Ni, Zhong Guo" or "I Love You, China," in English. Conductor Israel Getzov noted seeing visibly moved audience members during Cao's performance, which he likened to a Chinese performance of "America the Beautiful."

The opening performance was by Wang Yuan, who played "Guzheng Fantasy" on the traditional Chinese string instrument, the Guzheng. Wang, an exchange student from Qingdao University, is currently working on an advanced degree in music at UCA. Most of the audience had never seen a Guzheng or heard one played, and they were all struck by the beauty of this Chinese instrument. This sold-out concert was made possible by the cooperation of UCA and East China Normal University, who have a long history of working together.



▶ UCA CI Participates in Conway High's Multicultural Festival

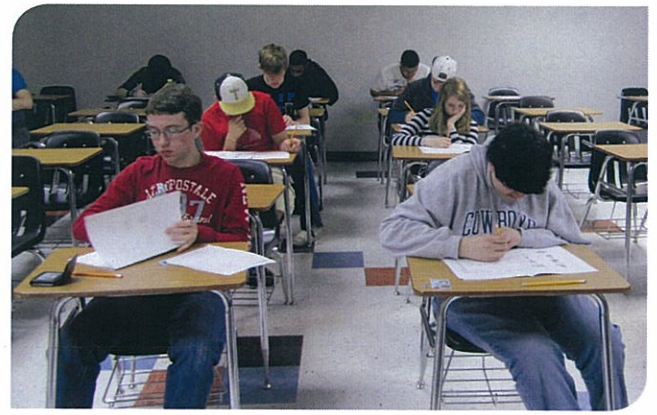
On March 1, 2011, the 3rd annual Conway High Multi-cultural Festival was held at the Conway High School East Campus. UCA's Confucius Institute worked with Conway High School West Campus by being in attendance and setting up an information booth to provide information regarding China. The theme for this year is "Discovering Unity: Honoring Heritage". Students shared their culture through an array of creative and performing arts, and an exhibit hall was set too with crafts, food, displays, and activities from around the world.

The Chinese class from Conway High School performed an umbrella dance. Four girls dressed in white dress, with a green umbrella in their hands dancing with the music "Jasmine Flower"; their beautiful dance amazed all the students, teachers and parents. An exchange student from UCA also performed the traditional Chinese musical instrument Hulusi.

▶ Behind the Painted Faces: Peking Opera

On Tuesday, March 8, 2011, Dr. Huimin Qi presented a lecture entitled, "Behind the Painted Faces: Peking Opera" as part of UCA's International Week events. Dr. Qi is a visiting professor of music from Qingdao University with a PhD in Ethnomusicology from the Chinese National Academy of Arts.

Peking Opera is a form of traditional Chinese theater utilizing song, dance, music, speech and choreographed fight scenes. In her lecture, Dr. Qi explained the long history and evolution of opera in China, from the early days when every locality had its own divergent style, to the standardization of music, characterization and language using a common northern dialect, to the gradual development of the modern style of Peking Opera.

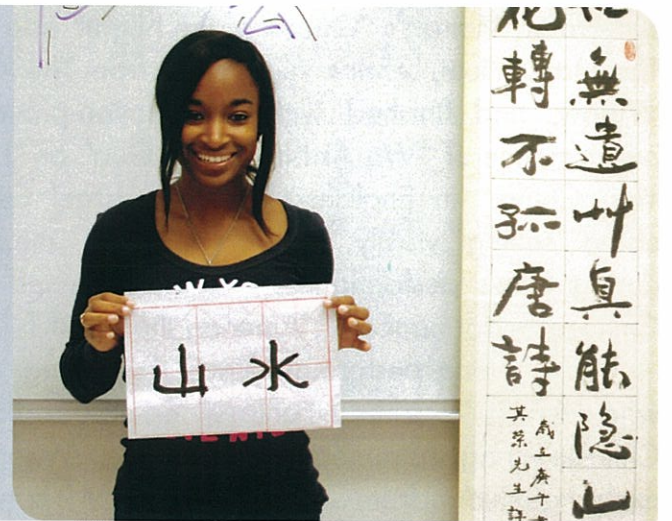


▶ Chinese Proficiency Test Youth Chinese Test (YCT) / Hanyu Shuiping Kaoshi (HSK)

On March 12-13, UCA CI for the first time held the YCT and HSK proficiency exams. There are six levels for each. The exams measure the takers' abilities in Chinese. The YCT or "Youth Chinese Test," is geared more toward those under 15, while the HSK is commonly taken to help non-native Chinese speakers prove levels of proficiency for entering colleges in China and getting job assignments. High enough scores on the HSK can lead to scholarships. 20 high school and 5 UCA students took the test this year.

▶ Chinese Calligraphy and Cucurbit Instruction

March 31, 2011 marked the first in a series of X-Period lessons to help interested UCA students develop skills in Chinese calligraphy and in playing the traditional Chinese flute, the cucurbit. The lessons are free to all UCA student and faculty, but most of those in attendance at these first meetings were students already taking courses in Chinese. The cucurbit lessons will continue to be a weekly occurrence in Torreyson West 312. Those involved were very excited to have the opportunity to learn skills that they would otherwise never have the opportunity to develop.



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