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Live Confucian: The Newsletter of the Confucius Institute of Pace University July 2010

Confucius Institute Pace University

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Live Confucian

The Newsletter of the Confucius Institute at Pace University

VOLUME 1, ISSUE 1

JULY 2010

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Chinese Cultural Festival Is Big Hit

How can a small non-profit reach out to a large part of its community and plant the seeds of cultural preservation and promotion? That's the question The Confucius Institute at Pace University (Pace CI) asked itself when it was faced with a growing population of first generation children of Chinese immigrants. The response: engage children and young adults in the downtown community in exciting and innovative programs that will preserve, promote, and instigate the flourishing of Chinese culture. The result: A Chinese Cultural Festival for middle school kids at the Chinatown YMCA at Middle School 131.

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Students gain an appreciation for the Chinese art of calligraphy from David Shen.

In Their Own Words: Dean Herrmann



Nǐ hǎo and welcome to the first issue of the newsletter for the Confucius Institute at

Pace University! Our goal is to bring East and West together and create a deeper understanding of both cultures. In this first year, we have laid the groundwork for new programs and new relationships with other groups that share our goals, both in the US and internationally.

We hope you will stop by and see the Chinese Cultural Experience Center at the Confucius Institute in Manhattan or at the Mortola

Library on the Pace Pleasantville campus. You will be able to interactively explore many aspects of Chinese culture using our state-of-the-art plasma touch screens.

The Confucius Institute at Pace is strongly linked to many of our academic programs. This distinctive feature provides for broad participation in the leadership and direction of our institute by Pace faculty. In the coming year, we intend to build on these synergies to reach out to the Pace and external communities in New York, Westchester and the region with credit and non-credit courses that fit the needs of

our key constituencies: Pace faculty, students and staff; business and educational communities in the region; and the K-12 teachers interested in improving their understanding of Chinese culture and language as well as their teaching in these areas.

We look forward to your participation and to responding to your suggestions about future events!

Sincerely,

Dean, Dyson College of Arts and Sciences
Pace University

多聞擇其善者而從之，多見而識之，知之次也。

“Hear much, pick the best and follow it; see much, and keep a record of it: this is still the best substitute for innate knowledge”
• Confucius, The Analects, 7.28

***All quotes taken from *The Analects* are from Simon Leys translation, published in 1997.**

Letter from the Director

Dear friends,

Welcome to the first issue of Live Confucian. Our title reflects our mission of not only bridging east and west but also of combining community involvement with academic excellence. We are excited to share with you what we do at the Confucius Institute (CI) at Pace University. We have always aimed to provide education and scholarship and generate interest about the Chinese language and culture for the benefit of the greater Pace University community.



Established in May 2009, the Confucius Institute at Pace University is a proud member of the greater Confucius Institute family. We like to view ourselves as unique for the following reasons. First, we are strategically located at the financial, civic, and cultural center of Manhattan, steps away from New York City Hall and around the corner from Chinatown and Wall Street. It is our obligation and privilege to bridge the worlds of culture, business, and government. Second, Pace CI is the only CI in the world to partner with a publishing enterprise, the Phoenix Publishing and Media Group, in addition to an academic partner in China, Nanjing Normal University. Both of these partners bring their strong educational, scholarly, and professional expertise to the Pace CI. Finally, within Pace University, we have a group of dedicated faculty and staff members who share a vision and passion to bring Chinese language, culture, philosophy, and educational aspiration to the heart of New York.

Confucius is one of the most influential philosophers in the world. Most importantly, he was a life-long educator. Taking from the model of the sage himself, we firmly believe that education is a life-long journey and people grow and benefit from continuous learning. All of our programs are open to people inside and outside of Pace University with a passion to learn Chinese language and culture. We offer tailor-made courses and programs on Chinese language, history, arts, education and culture to people of all ages and cultural backgrounds. The meaning of the Chinese character for learning (学 / 學) is the same as the one for “teaching” (教), implying that teaching and learning are one and the same activity, so it is equally important for both students and teachers to have a passion for learning. To live up to Confucius’s ideal of self-cultivation, we wish to integrate the study of Chinese language and culture into the existing academic curriculum through professional workshops and seminars and to provide cultural immersion opportunities for students.

We invite you to join the Pace CI community, visit our website at www.pace.edu/confucius, and subscribe to our email list to be notified of new programs and events.

Dr. Weihua Niu

Director, Confucius Institute at Pace University
 ci@pace.edu

Institute Opens with Much Fanfare

On Tuesday, May 5, 2009, more than 200 Pace students, faculty and staff as well as guests from China and local communities attended the inaugural ceremonies of the Pace CI, the first university-based center of its kind in New York City.

The day began with a ceremony unveiling a plaque to mark the occasion, followed by a day-long public symposium on contemporary Confucianism and global education. Dr. William Theodore deBary, Columbia University's John Mitchell Mason Professor, a former provost and renowned Confucian specialist, gave a keynote address titled "Why a Confucius Institute?" Dr. Deborah Sommer, a specialist in Chinese religions and intellectual history and chair of the religion department at Gettysburg College, gave another keynote speech on "Images of Confucius, Past and Present." She shared with the audience some unique stories about Confucius, supplemented by images of Confucius from across the world and from many different time periods.

After Drs. Sommer and deBary spoke, the participants attended a couple of panel discussions on global education

and the experience of Chinese students in America. The panels were composed of world-renowned scholars in the fields of history, education, and psychology.

The day concluded with a cross-cultural exploration of Chinese and American music. The Chinese Theater Works performed a traditional Chinese opera while Pace students from the growing Musical Theater department sang a number of selections from American musicals. A grand Chinese banquet was also served to the participants.



Unveiling the plaque at the momentous opening ceremonies of the Confucius Institute at Pace University

Bridging the Language Gap

April 17, 2010 - This spring, Pace CI hosted the finals of the "Chinese Bridge" Greater New York Chinese Proficiency Competition for Foreign College Students in the Schimmel Center. The event was organized by the Office of Chinese Language Council

International (known as Hanban), the nonprofit created by the Chinese government to promote knowledge of Chinese language and culture around the world, and the New York Service Center for Chinese Study Fellows, Inc.

This year's 8th annual "Chinese Bridge" competition was different than those in years past in that the finals took place in the United States. In previous years, top contestants were selected from around the world and competed in a final round in Beijing, and the competition was broadcast live nationwide during the summer, typically in July or August. In format and popularity it is like a cross between America's Got Talent and The Putnam County



The proud participants of the 8th annual "Chinese Bridge" competition

Spelling Bee. This year's finals were recorded by a local Chinese TV station, Sino Television, and put on DVD. A total of 23 top contestants representing Princeton, Columbia, Ohio State, The United States Military Academy at West Point, as well as 10 other Northeastern American universities, participated in the final competition. The contestants gave speeches in Chinese

performed Chinese songs or dances, demonstrated traditional Chinese arts such as brush painting, calligraphy and martial arts, and answered questions about past and present-day China. The competition got heated in the afternoon at the senior group level, where almost all the contestants spoke near-perfect Chinese, and each demonstrated their unique and amazing talents. The participants at this year's competition truly represent the new face of American college students: talented, energetic, and with a better understanding of China and the world.

“Extend your learning and hold fast to your purpose; question closely and meditate on things at hand: there you will find the fullness of your humanity”
- Bu Shang (Zixia), *The Analects*, 19.6

Teacher Conference Huge Success



On May 15, 2010 the Pace University Confucius Institute had the honor of hosting the Chinese Language Teachers Association of Greater New York Annual Conference and the 8th New York

International Conference on the Teaching of Chinese. Over 250 educators from high schools, colleges, and universities from across the country attended the conference. More than 50 panelists and presenters

spoke on such varied topics as digital storytelling, integrating modern fiction into the Chinese language curriculum, using the teaching strategy of backward design, and approaches to teaching Chinese tones and characters. A total of eleven educational software distributors and publishers who specialize in teaching the Chinese language also attended the conference.

Chinese Opera Performances Wow

In the last year, the Pace CI has developed a strong and lasting relationship with organizations in the New York City area that promote and preserve Chinese aesthetics and art forms.



The opera performers dazzled the audience with their striking costumes

On September 18 and 19 of 2009, Chinese Theatre Works performed “Chinese Traditional Operas – the 6th Century Kun Opera” at Pace University. The performance was open to Pace students and the general public, both of whom were astonished by the combination of traditional Chinese opera and the art of

English translation and interpretation. (Chinese Theatre Works also performed at Pace CI’s one year anniversary celebration and the Chinese Cultural Festival on June 11 at the YMCA at Middle School 131).

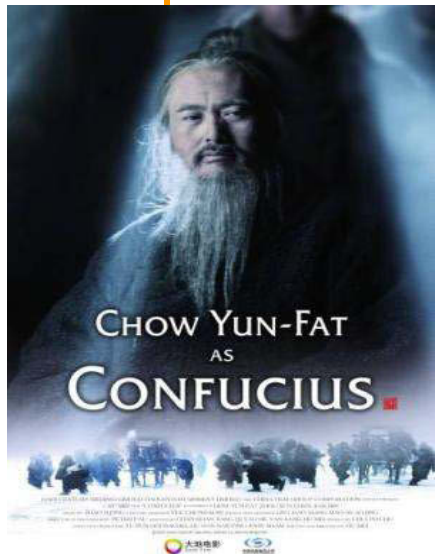
From December 4-6 of 2009,

the New York Chinese Opera Society (NYCOS) performed a new adaptation of “The Story of Ruth” at the Michael Schimmel Center for the Arts at Pace University.

The performers included world-renowned artists, such as Mr. Jiang Zhu, Xiaoqiu Zhi, and Shouping Yan. NYCOS

and Pace CI have also teamed up to create an essay contest scholarship which provides three cash prizes annually. The NYCOS provided an initial \$25,000 endowment fund for the award.

Confucius: Philosopher, Educator, Movie Star



May 19, 2010, – The Pace CI kicked off its second year of programming with a screening of the 2009 movie, *Confucius*, followed by a panel discussion on the movie and its meaning for present day Chinese society. The panel was led by Dr. Weihua Niu and included Renqui Yu, Director of the Asian Studies Program at Purchase College SUNY, Ronald K. Frank and Joseph Lee, Co-Directors of the East

Asian Studies Program at Pace University, and Bing Xu, Associate Professor at the Institute of Sociology of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing and a visiting scholar at Yale University.

Since the death of Mao Zedong and the end of the Cultural Revolution, Confucianism has grown in stature and importance as a major

philosophy in China. *Confucius*, directed by Hu Mei, was a major blockbuster movie in China and starred the popular action movie actor, Chow Yun-Fat, as the eponymous philosopher and scholar. The movie fleshes out the little we know about Confucius as a person, and shows him as a great philosopher and political strategist, who is exiled from his home and surrounded by his loyal disciples.

The panelists discussed such topics as the role of Confucianism in the age of globalization, Confucius' life as popular entertainment, and the dangers of interpreting the life of such an icon. Professor Yu discussed how the movie took a positive look at Confucius in the era of globalization. He stressed that cultural nationalists in China today wanted the benefits of globalization such as technological and scientific innovations but they also sought to keep the centrality of core Chinese values such as Confucianism. Professors Xu and Frank addressed the humanistic portrayal of Confucius in the film and felt, in Professor Frank's words that, "picking and choosing from a multitude of conflicting sources and interpretations of Confucius' life, the director manages to presents a plausible story about a cultural icon." Professor Lee, however, was concerned about the liberties that the director had taken in reinventing the history of Confucius's life, and that the movie could be used by the Chinese government as a tool of propaganda to maintain the status quo.

Whatever the views the panelists had, the event was a catalyst for the greater Pace University community to have a cross-cultural dialogue about the role of Confucianism and its philosophical insights for the early 21st century.



Ronald Frank explores the portrayal of Confucius in the film during the panel discussion.

學而時習之，不亦說乎。

“To learn something and then to put it into practice at the right time: is this not a joy?”
- Confucius, *The Analects*,

Chinese Cultural Festival Is Big Hit

(Continued from page 1)

On June 11, 2010, in celebration of the Chinese holiday Duanwu, also known as the Dragon Boat Festival, Pace CI co-hosted a Chinese Cultural Festival for middle-school aged students at the Chinatown YMCA. Pace CI hosted the program in conjunction with The Pace University Community and Volunteer Mobilization AmeriCorps program and The YMCA 21st Century Community Learning Center. It was a fun and exciting afternoon of demonstrations, lessons, and activities in which the students learned about the rich and dynamic history, culture, and customs of China. The students participated in a number of activities which explored different facets of Chinese culture and



Students explore the magical natural riches of China, painting a mural of a panda.

aesthetics.

David Shen, an expert in Chinese art forms, gave a demonstration on the techniques of calligraphy, and talked about the origin of Chinese characters. With Mr. Shen's support, the students painted their own calligraphy characters, bringing home with them the work that they had created.

Lin Ai Wei, founder of Jing Xin Yuan, a Buddhist and Taoist school in Bensonhurst, Brooklyn, taught

the students about martial arts. He focused on the amount of discipline martial arts requires, as well as meditation and non-violence. Lin was met with great enthusiasm when he let the students participate in a martial arts demonstration.



Lin Ai Wei imparts his encyclopedic knowledge of martial arts to the students

Derek Rury and Sally Long of AmeriCorps, along with Cody Campbell of Pace CI led an activity called “Magical China.” Using video clips, students were given a brief account of Chinese culture and customs. Inspired by the videos, they painted large murals of pandas, the Great Wall of China, and the sage himself, Confucius. Surrounding the images, the students painted pictures or wrote in calligraphy the lessons that they had learned throughout the day.

Following these activities, the world-renowned Chinese Theatre Works

performed *Tiger Tales*, a Chinese shadow puppet show. Chinese Theatre Works is a non-profit organization in New York City, whose mission is to “preserve and promote the traditional Chinese performing arts; to create new works that bridge Eastern and Western aesthetics and forms; and to foster understanding and appreciation of Chinese culture in audiences, students, artists, and educators around the globe.”

After participating in these programs, the students were treated to a variety of Chinese dishes, including dumplings and zongzi, banana leaves stuffed with a rice filling, traditionally served during the Duanwu Festival.

The festival was a success for Pace CI. Chinese language, history, and culture were provided a fresh platform for cultivation among the youth of the YMCA, many of whom are children of Chinese immigrants. Pace CI was able to further establish meaningful relationships with local organizations, such as AmeriCorps, the YMCA, Chinese Theatre Works, and community members like David Shen and Lin Ai Wei. In addition, because of the size and diversity of the Chinatown YMCA, the Chinese Cultural Festival exposed the greater downtown region to the rich and vibrant customs of China in a new and exciting way, providing an innovative way to break down cultural and racial barriers.



The great sage Confucius, outfitted in regal multi-colored robes by the children of the Chinatown YMCA.



Students eagerly await their turn in line to enjoy mouthwatering dumplings and zongzi.



The puppeteers of the Chinese Theatre works dazzle the students with their storytelling and visual effects.

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Editorial Board

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Future Events and Classes

Meeting with Delegates from Nanjing Normal University
July 6, 2010
11:00 AM—1:00 PM

2010 Chinese Language Summer Institute
Co-sponsored with the NYC Department of Education
"Teaching Language, Literacy, and Making
the Content Connection in Chinese"
August 25-27, 2010
9:00 AM—1:00 PM

Classes in *Chinese for Professionals* and *Conversational Chinese*
Fall 2010
Time and Place to be announced
Check out website in the coming months for further details



China in the Future and Mutual Responsibility

What will China become in the early 21st century? On December 9, 2009, Dr. Michael Santoro of Rutgers Business School, and the author of *China 2020: How Western Business Can and Should Influence Social and Political Change in the Coming Decade*, participated in a panel discussion on "Human Rights and Corporate Responsibility in China," co-sponsored by the Pace CI and the Center for Global Business Programs at Lubin School of Business at Pace University.



Panel members discuss China's economic and political future.

Dr. Santoro explored how the contributions of international business enterprises has helped lead to the rise of human rights and corporate responsibility in China. According to Dr. Santoro, whether China should progress towards greater prosperity and democracy depends on the pressures of international business corporations and the activism of Chinese citizens. Another panelist, Prof. Joseph Lee of the History Department at Dyson College of Arts and Sciences at Pace University, spoke about the rise

of labor disputes in China over the last decade. He believes that although the Chinese government has implemented new regulations to protect migrant workers' benefits in major cities, these measures are defensive responses to the problem of inequality and injustice. Unless China restructures its export-driven industry and channels resources into rural areas, the migrant workers will have to mobilize themselves to fight for their rights. Dr.

Weihua Niu, Director of the Confucius Institute and associate professor of psychology at Dyson College, talked about China's social and cultural diversity

and the impact this has on human rights. Finally, Dr. Lei Li, an associate professor of management at Lubin, spoke about the long-term strategic goals the Chinese government needs to pursue strong economic growth and to develop an advanced civilization.

The panel was chaired by Dr. Larry Bridwell of Lubin School of Business. The event attracted over a hundred Pace students and executives from Wall Street.