

Fall 9-2016

Live Confucian: The Newsletter of the Confucius Institute of Pace University September 2016

Confucius Institute
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Recommended Citation

Institute, Confucius, "Live Confucian: The Newsletter of the Confucius Institute of Pace University September 2016" (2016). *Live Confucian*. Book 11.
http://digitalcommons.pace.edu/confucius_institute_newsletter/11

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Live Confucian

The Newsletter of the Confucius Institute at Pace University



The Legacy of Kuo Ping Wen



Celebrating the publication of "Kuo Ping Wen" (left to right): Wen's great-grand niece Carolyn Hsu, book editors Ryan Allen and Ji Liu, and Pace CI Director Joseph Lee

To mark the publication of the biography "Kuo Ping Wen: Scholar, Reformer, Statesman," by Liu Ji and Ryan M. Allen, on April 29th the Confucius Institute held a panel discussion on Kuo's life and legacy. The event was designed to cherish the memory and career of the great educator. Chaired by CI Director Dr. Joseph Lee, in addition to the two authors of the book, the panel also featured Kuo's great-grandniece Carolyn Hsu. Hsu and the two authors also signed copies of the book, which were on sale at the event. The conference attracted more than 70 scholars, reporters, teachers and students. The panelists discussed Kuo's life, his social contributions, and his academic accomplishments.

Known by many as the father of modern Chinese higher education, Kuo was a great educator, diplomat, and innovator. Kuo's many accomplishments included being the first Chinese student to receive a PhD from Teachers College, Columbia University, transforming

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An Impression of Folk Arts

This past October, in celebration of the 11th anniversary of the founding of the 1st Confucius Institutes, the Pace CI, in conjunction with the Confucius Institute for Healthcare at SUNY College of Optometry once again had the pleasure of hosting Nanjing Normal University Music School's music troupe along with, in a first time appearance, a dance troupe as well. The music troupe has visited the Pace CI before, but this was the first time they came for a featured performance. The performance "Impressions," was a chance for American audiences to get their first impressions of Chinese folk music and dance forms and was also an opportunity for the visiting musicians to get an impression of New York City and the United States. In Ensembles and Solos, the musicians gave the audience a taste of instruments rarely seen on the American stage.

The performances began with "Beaming with Joy" played by an all female ensemble on instruments including the *Pipa*, a type of lute, the

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Beauty and precision were on display in the performances by the Dance Troupe of Nanjing Normal

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Letter from the Director

Dear Friends:

Welcome to the latest issue of the Confucius Institute's newsletter! I am excited to share with you all that we do.

Founded in May 2009, the Confucius Institute at Pace University (Pace CI) is unique for a number of reasons. Firstly, we are conveniently located at the financial, civic, and cultural center of Manhattan, steps away from New York's City Hall and around the corner from Chinatown and Wall Street. It is our privilege to bridge the worlds of culture, finance, and government.

Secondly, the Pace CI is the only Confucius Institute in North America to partner with a Chinese business enterprise, Phoenix Publishing and Media Group, in addition to an academic institution in China, Nanjing Normal University. Our partners continue to bring their educational, scholarly, and professional expertise to Pace.

Lastly, within Pace University, there is a group of dedicated faculty and staff members who share our vision of bringing Chinese language and culture to New York. Our programs are open to anyone, both inside and outside of Pace University, with a passion to learn more about Chinese language and culture.

Recently, Pace CI has launched several new initiatives including a Visiting Scholars Program, a Global Humanities Program for Young Scholars, and satellite Chinese Language Testing Centers in Long Island and New Jersey. These initiatives will help make Pace CI a major player in promoting cross-cultural understanding between East and West.

Please visit our website (www.pace.edu/confucius), subscribe to our email list, and come to our events.



Dr. Joseph Tse-Hei Lee
Executive Director
Confucius Institute at Pace University



Letter from the Acting Director



Dear Friends:

Welcome to a new school year here at the Confucius Institute! Dr. Lee has asked me to take over as Executive Director during his absence, and I am excited to work with the CI in this new capacity. Though my academic and professional background is primarily in Japanese Studies, my teaching and research responsibilities have more often than not had a distinct Confucian dimension. Having been involved with the inception of the CI here at Pace over 7 years ago I am very pleased to see how much it has grown since.

I am looking forward to working with the dedicated staff of the Confucius Institute in implementing the exciting programs planned for this fall and winter.

Hope to see you all there!



Dr. Ronald K. Frank
Acting Executive Director
Confucius Institute at Pace University

New Staff

What does it feel like to be a New Yorker? From the moment I set foot in New York, more than five months ago, I began to immerse myself in its breathtaking beauty. This beauty is not just in the feeling you get when you stand at the top of Rockefeller Center, overlooking the city and being intoxicated with the indescribable night air, nor when you consider the rich history of New York or the amazing works of art in its museums. For me, the beauty of New York is in its inclusivity and activity, containing the dreams and passion of 8.6 million people, with multiple ethnicities, languages, and backgrounds. New York can give you a different surprise at every moment and there always are special things to explore. You can't imagine what will happen and all you can do is to feel and enjoy with your heart. My ideal summer day in New York will begin with a morning run in Central Park after getting up and buying a bagel for breakfast. I will spend most of the daytime museum hopping and ramble the streets of SoHo in the late afternoon. When night falls you may find me at a bar chatting with the locals and enjoying a drink or just quietly enjoying the evening.

Wei is a first year graduate student majoring in English interpretation at Nanjing Normal University.

Jinjin “Kim” Wei: Volunteer



Our New Staff (From Left to Right): Emma Peng, Bo Li, Jackson Morris, Jinjin Wei, and Qin Zhang

Qin Zhang: Chinese Teacher

Zhang, a Chinese Language Teacher from Nanjing Normal University, brings her expertise in linguistics and psychology to the Pace CI.

Bo Li: Chinese Teacher

Li is an English Teacher from Shenyang Ligong University. She holds degrees in both English and Business Management.

Emma Peng: Graduate Assistant

Emma Peng is a second year graduate student at the Lubin School of Business studying Financial Risk Management. She is also the president of Pace's Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA).

Jackson Morris: Student Assistant

An undergraduate in his senior year at Dyson, Jackson Morris is the first student to complete all four years of the Global Asia Studies Major.

Departing Staff

I first came to New York City in September 2013. New York City is full of multiple cultures and ethnicities, amazing buildings and so many museums...all of which inspired me to improve my teaching ability and expand my experiences. I'm so lucky that I came to a warm and united family, the CI at Pace University. During the past three years, I taught many types of Mandarin classes at many different levels including comprehensive Chinese, listening, speaking, reading, and HSK test preparation. The students, from Pace University and the surrounding community, were learning Chinese for different purposes: some wanted to enhance their speaking skills, some wanted to read more complex essays, and some wanted to know more about Chinese culture through language. To teach such a varied student body was both a challenge and a great opportunity. It was a challenge because I was required to expand the teaching range that I was familiar with, but it was also an opportunity because it offered me a chance to explore and try new teaching methods. I also was one of the editors of the Phoenix Chinese App, an interactive practical textbook for American Chinese learners for use on smartphones and tablets. It was a unique experience and I learned a lot from my students and co-workers in the

process. I now know more about how to meet the needs of learners, how to reflect my teaching ideas in new ways, and how to get students to practice more. There is too much that I want to say about the past three years. Right now, at the moment before I am leaving, I want to say thank you to New York City and the Confucius Institute at Pace University. I want to thank everyone I met here, only because of you my past three years here were so meaningful and memorable.

Juan Yang: Chinese Teacher



Kuo Ping Wen

(Continued from page 1)

Nanjing Higher Normal School into the modern National Southeast University, introducing an advanced educational philosophy to China, developing an “American Model” of education in Chinese universities, and co-founding the China Institute.

Ryan Allan focused on Kuo’s career as a diplomat. Kuo Ping Wen played a crucial role gaining support for the Chinese cause during the trying times of the Japanese invasion, as Vice-Minister of Finance under the Nationalist government. Representing China in the early years of the United Nations, he was instrumental in creating the Relief and Rehabilitation Administration to help war-torn Europe and Asia, and was at the Bretton Woods Conference which created the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and World Bank. Allan traced this extraordinary career as a diplomat to his time at Wooster College, where, despite being one of only a handful of Chinese scholars, he was deeply involved with student activities on campus including the college Peace Association and became renowned for his debating prowess across the Eastern United States. He refined his speaking skills orating to audiences across America during the 1920’s, teaching Americans about China at a time when stereotypes of China as the “sick man of Asia” were widespread. Appealing to American exceptionalism, he spoke about how the United States, unlike the European states, was not stained by



A dapper looking Kuo Ping Wen, in a photo taken in 1950.

Photo courtesy of Teachers College

imperialism, but rather grew out of a revolution, similar to the one then taking place in China.

Ji Liu, on the other hand, looked at Kuo’s life in the context of the Chinese diaspora, as he paved the way for future scholars studying in America. In addition to being involved with American student life on campus as a student he was also involved with Chinese student societies. Unlike many students today, Kuo had little monetary expectations, and instead of resting on his laurels and living a life of relative ease after receiving his PhD, he went back to China to improve education in his homeland, something he truly believed in.

Towards the end of his life Kuo turned his attention to the plight of Chinese-Americans. In 1961, in the forward to a book on Chinese American history, Kuo addressed the American immigration quota



In 1914, Wen became the first Chinese student to receive a PhD from Teachers College. Pictured (far front left) with fellow Chinese students in 1912/13

Photo courtesy of Teachers College

system still in effect, which severely limited immigration from China, pointing out the instrumental role that Chinese-Americans had played in the creation of the 50th state, Hawaii.

Dr. Lee stressed that in today’s social environment in China it is important to follow the example of Kuo, with a background both in Con-

fusionism and Western culture, combining heritage with the tradition of our times. The panelists encouraged New Yorkers to promote an understanding of Chinese education and cultural development and urged a new generation of young people to carry forward the fine Chinese tradition of hard work, becoming contemporary “Kuo Ping Wens.”

China
INSTITUTE



90
YEARS
1926-2016

Kuo Ping Wen was one of the founders, along with fellow distinguished educators John Dewey, Hu Shih, and Paul Monroe, of the China Institute, now in its 90th year.

Nanjing Normal Performance



Yanhui Zhao performing “Song of Good Fellows” on the *Suona*, a double-reeded woodwind instrument



The “Daughters of Water” Dance, featuring Heng Liao, Xiaoyan Lin, Yixue Guo, Yanni Yang, and Chenyu Zhang

(Continued from page 1)

Dizi, a horizontally played bamboo flute, the *Sheng*, a reeded pipe, the *Runa*, a banjo shaped lute, and the *Erhu*, a spiked two stringed fiddle. The first solo performance of the afternoon, the “Song of Good Fellows,” was a rousing crowd pleaser played by Yanhui Zhao, on the *Suona*, a double-reeded woodwind instrument.

Another treat for the audience was an *Erhu* Trio that musically interpreted horses racing and showed the true versatility of the instrument, as it was not just bowed but plucked as well. The *Erhu* was once again on display as Xiaoxiao Yang performed “USA Past Capriccio,” an ode to American musical theatre and popular music. Other instrumental highlights of the day included traditional folk song solos on the *Dizi*, *Sheng*, and *Pipa*.

In addition to hearing the versatility of the instruments and the virtuosity of the musicians, the audience

also had the chance to sample Chinese singing, in the person of Xian Zhang, proclaiming the beauty of the Jasmine and Luchai Flowers.

If the music performances weren’t enough, the audience was also entertained by the dancers. As mentioned before, this past October was the first appearance of the NNU dance troupe here at Pace. They began by performing “Daughters of Water,” which dramatized and interpreted the everyday chore of fetching water from a stream. They also performed a dance which brought to life the traditional craft of paper-cutting, with “paper dolls” doing acrobatics across the stage.

The troupe’s performance was a reminder of what the Confucius Institute’s truly can offer—a chance for foreigners to get a taste of the wonders of Chinese Culture and have them coming back asking for more.



Xian Zhang sang of the beauty of the Jasmine and Luchai flowers



Xiaoxiao Yang, soulfully performing “USA Past Capriccio” on the *Erhu*.

Commerce in China in a Digital Age

E-commerce may have been pioneered in the United States, but China has recently surpassed America in how it has adapted and diversified the use of

started her own company, BanMi, a sharing economy website which lets individuals offer their travel tour services to Chinese travelers. Lau has found that e-commerce and the sharing

economy in China is customer centered, not product centered. BanMi, rather than selling merchandise she is selling a community that people can join. Little active marketing is needed, as people, through social media and other platforms, tell their friends and colleagues about the service.

Jerry Zhao, on the other hand, is a more traditional entrepreneur, having opened his first sock factory in Long Island City more than thirty years ago, and with hosiery factories today located

in Pennsylvania, China, and Ghana. He has recently, within the past few years, opened up his company, Top Circle Hosiery, to the world of e-commerce in China. Zhao initially tried to sell socks on Alibaba, the Chinese E-commerce giant, but had to sell his product at so low a price that quality suffered, and he never really made any money. Instead, he decided to get ahead with offering the best quality socks. However, the sharing economy he has entered allows him to cut costs anyway. Instead of hiring people and giving them salaries, he instead shares his company's profits with professionals who offer their expertise. E-commerce has also allowed him to sell on

-demand. Instead of having an inventory of many different sizes and types of socks, or having one-size-fits-all merchandise he instead waits for an on-line order and then has the socks manufactured. Lastly, Dr. P.V. Viswanath, is a professor of Finance at Pace's Lubin School of Business and a consultant to the financial industry. He has researched why on-line shopping in China has grown so exponentially in the past few years, as opposed to the growth of brick and mortar stores. He explained that unlike the United States, in China the traditional infrastructure is not set up to reach large numbers of people and it is hard to find investments that are not risky. Companies like Alibaba can reach people in all reaches of China, not only allowing retailers to expand who they can sell to, but offering a treasure trove of connections and data. Investing is then not so risky, as it is more transparent which businesses are least risky. Graduate Assistant Josh Qu also held a Chinese Corner where he helped Americans gain a deeper understanding of everyday Chinese currency and the associated economic and cultural history. He explained the different denominations of the Renminbi (RMB), its history and counterfeit identification method. In the question and answer session, following his presentation, there was discussion of the design and the faces that appear on the yuan, Chinese-American currency exchange rates, and the circulation of the RMB.



Jerry Zhao has expanded his sock company, Top Circle Hosiery, in China, through the use of e-commerce.

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E-commerce. With this phenomenon as a backdrop, on Thursday April 7th, the Pace CI, with Director Dr. Joseph Lee as moderator, held a panel on "E-Commerce in China." During the panel, E-commerce was looked at through the perspective of an Academic, a Computer Science expert, a Traditional Business owner, and an E-Commerce professional. All four panelists spoke of contemporary E-Commerce as either Internet 3.0 or Internet +, being based in the sharing economy, familiar to Americans through services such as Uber and AirBnB.

The panel began with Dr. Christelle Scharff, Associate Professor of Computer Science at the Seidenberg School of Computer Science and Information Systems, giving a brief overview of the technology that has been introduced that has made the whole world of e-commerce possible.

Isabel Lau was a Senior Executive at Tencent, one of the largest internet companies in the world, whose offerings include social networks, e-commerce sites, web portals, and on-line games, for about 10 years. She has now

ed in Pennsylvania, China, and Ghana. He has recently, within the past few years, opened up his company, Top Circle Hosiery, to the world of e-commerce in China. Zhao initially tried to sell socks on Alibaba, the Chinese E-commerce giant, but had to sell his product at so low a price that quality suffered, and he never really made any money. Instead, he decided to get ahead with offering the best quality socks. However, the sharing economy he has entered allows him to cut costs anyway. Instead of hiring people and giving them salaries, he instead shares his company's profits with professionals who offer their expertise. E-commerce has also allowed him to sell on



Renminbi banknotes from 2005 featuring the likeness of Mao Zedong

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The Evolving Nature of Chinese Culture

When many Westerners think of Chinese Culture they think of a static traditional culture that has been in place for a few thousand years. Chinese culture does in fact have its roots in an ancient past, but it has also been constantly changing and evolving. The lectures that were held by the Pace CI in Spring 2016 illustrate that whether from the past or in contemporary life, Chinese culture is alive and moving, not a dead artifact to be studied under glass.

On February 26th, the Pace CI delved into the history of one of the most classically esteemed of Chinese arts—garden landscaping, as Pace history professor Judith Whitbeck held a lecture entitled, "Chinese Gardens and Intellectual Pursuits." Professor Whitbeck believes that Chinese garden design is both an art form and an aesthetic pursuit. Chinese gardens, especially the classical private gardens of Suzhou, are a form of comprehensive art, demonstrating natural beauty and the aesthetics of the man-made landscape, all in the pursuit of "Heavenly" beauty. While Professor Whitbeck is mainly engaged in the intellectual history of the Ming and Qing Chinese dynasties but has a strong interest in classical Chinese gardens and in her in-depth research, including many trips to Suzhou and Ningbo and other places in China, she has amassed a large amount of visual materials. The pictures that Professor Whitbeck showed of the Tianyi Pavilion's Garden (the pavilion also holds the oldest private library in China), Humble Administrator's Garden and other classical gardens sparked great interest of the audience. Luckily, for us as New Yorkers there are examples of classical Chinese gardens in our backyard. The New York Chinese Scholar's Garden in Snug Harbor on Staten Island is a recreation of a compilation of Ming Dynasty gardens while at the Metropolitan Museum of Art, the Astor Court is based on the courtyard of the Garden of the Master of the Fishing Nets in Suzhou.



A view overlooking the koi pond within the New York Chinese Scholar's Garden in Staten Island.

Laura271 / [CC-BY-SA-4.0](#)

Since the Astor Court opened in 1980 many Americans have become aware of the beauty of Chinese classical arts. However, As Michelle Loh explained in her May lecture, "A Stroll in Contemporary Art, From Shanghai to New York," it has only been recently that Americans have been aware of the world of Contemporary Chinese Art. This awareness began in 1998, when a ground breaking exhibit was held at the Asia society, "Inside Out: New Chinese Art." The exhibit featured Chinese and Chinese-American artists who used classical Chinese art to inform the Contemporary art they were creating. It included artists such as CAI Gui-Qiang, famous now for his gunpowder paintings, ZHANG Huan, who explores the relationship of body and nature in his photos and performance art, and WANG Guangyi, known for his integration of Cultural Revolution propaganda and Western commercial iconography. Partially inspired by such exhibits, Loh was able to shape the spread of Chinese Contemporary Art as one of the editors of Art Asia Pacific, from 2002-2005. During her tenure at the magazine she featured politically charged

works by artists such as Gui Guangshu and Ai Weiwei, now a household name for both Chinese and Americans. With an increased awareness of Contemporary Chinese art today, there has also been a reappraisal of artists from the 70's and 80's who had flown under the radar. This includes the Chinese-American artist Martin Wong, who tragically died of AIDS in 1999—a retrospective of his work was recently staged at the Bronx Museum of the Arts.

On the other end of the contemporary cultural spectrum, Dr. Marcella Szablewicz explored the rise of "Chinese Digital Leisure Culture." Szablewicz used her own audience research data she compiled while in China along with examples from the media, to share her insights. She delved into how the Chinese education system, the rise of online games, and the PRC's soft power strategy have affected the rise of this Leisure Culture.

Whatever dimension Chinese culture takes, whether it be gardening, contemporary art, or internet games, it always is a form of self-expression. We can only guess what guise it will take in the next era of Chinese history.



Fashion Ensemble, an oil painting on canvas by Contemporary Chinese Artist Han Yajuan. 2010.

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The Past and Present of Christianity in China



A Catholic Church in Yunnan, originally built by French missionaries.

Jialiang Gao / [CC-BY-SA-3.0](#)

On March 4th, the Pace CI held a panel on "Christianity in China: Past and Present." The seminar aimed to strengthen cultural exchange and American understanding that the Chinese cultural tradi-

tion is not monolithic, but to see the pluralistic and tolerant side of Chinese culture, one that is open to foreign influences such as Christianity.

The Panel began with CI Director Dr. Joseph Lee outlining the development of Christianity in China, followed by an illustration of the missionary situation in China, presented by Friar Robert E. Carbonneau, President of the American Catholic Historical Association, through the use of archives and photographs. On a more local and personal level Dr. Cuishan Zhou, of the Princeton Theological seminary, discussed the localization process of Christianity in Eastern China, while former "Philadelphia Inquirer" reporter, Jennifer Lin, from the perspective of her own family history, sketched out the mutual adaptation between Christianity and Chinese society.

The Pace CI also addressed the concerns of



The panel speakers gave a nuanced view of Christianity in China: (left to right) Dr. Robert Carbonneau, Dr. Christie Chow, Jennifer Lin, and Dr. Joseph Lee

the Chinese-American Christian Community when Reverend Dr. Grace May, one of only a handful of female leaders in the Chinese church, spoke on June 10th. In the lecture, "A Chinese-American Odyssey: Navigating Gender and Leadership," May spoke about her life long journey of growing up in a patriarchal Chinese church with few female role models to eventually preaching in both Chinese and non-Chinese churches.

School of Education Acting Dean Visits NNU

With the support of the Confucius Institute, Professor Xiao-lei Wang, Acting Dean of the School of Education at Pace University, visited Nanjing Normal University (NNU) on July 27th. Along with Brian Evans, Assistant Provost, and Qiqi Wang, Program Manager of the CI, she held talks with representatives of NNU about co-hosting Master's programs and international conferences. This fruitful visit further enhanced the ongoing collaboration between Pace and NNU. The Pace delegation was warmly greeted by Dr. MIAO Jiangdong, Vice President of NNU, who was pleased to see that the Confucius Institute provides a wonderful platform for both universities to launch faculty and student exchange programs. Professor Wang also visited NNU's School of Foreign Languages and Cultures, where she got her B.A., the School

of Education, where she worked before coming to the U.S., and Jinling College.

The School of Foreign languages and Cultures and Jinling College run two successful English language programs, with a total enrollment of 200 students annually. The students usually become English school teachers across China, and a large number of them plan to pursue their M.A. in Teaching English as a Foreign or Second Language (TESOL). At the talks Pace and NNU agreed to develop a 4+2



Acting Dean Xiao-lei Wang spoke with her NNU counterparts about possible collaborations

TESOL program together, working in tandem to meet the growing needs of Chinese students.

Expressions with “More Than Words”

For many children with Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD), especially those who are non-verbal, it is often hard to express themselves using language. The Center for All Abilities, a Christian organization which seeks to serve individuals with special needs and their families through creative, educational, and spiritual enrichment, is looking to give a voice to those with ASD in the Chinese-American community through the universal language of visual art. On November 14th of 2015 the Confucius Institute supported the



Creating and talking about their works of art let the children express themselves in new ways.

Photo courtesy of Center for All Abilities



Some of the many works on display by the young but talented artists

Photo courtesy of Center for All Abilities

Center for All Abilities' art exhibit “More Than Words: Paintings by Individuals with Autism.” In addition to displaying the paintings, the artists, parents and teachers had the chance to speak about their paintings. The paintings were created in a Wednesday Art Class that the organization holds for children with ASD. All the paintings were sold in a silent auction with the money being used to support the Center for All Abilities arts, autism intervention, and parent education programs. Also for sale were coasters, pins, mugs and other merchandise featuring the artwork.

Upcoming Events and Important Dates

- **October 16th, December 4th - HSK Tests Held**
- **October 8th, December 10th - Chinese Opera Lectures**
- **Lecture Series**
 - ◇ **October 7th - Chinese Cultural Resources in NYC Museums**
 - ◇ **October 14th – Special Economic Zones in China**
 - ◇ **November 4th - China and the Rise of International Large-Scale Student Assessments**
- **October 21st - Submissions Due for NYCOS Essay Competition**
- **January 28th, 2016 - Year of the Rooster Lunar New Year Celebration**



Celebrating the Year of the Golden Monkey

On February 20th, the Pace Chinese Scholars and Students Association (CSSA), along with the Pace CI, presented the 2016 Chinese New Year Celebration in New York's Schimmel Center for the Arts for a crowd of more than 500 people. This annual event, covered by the major Chinese-American news outlets, not only celebrates the most important Chinese festival but is also a chance to promote cultural exchange between East and West and for everyone to extend their best wishes. It is a way for New Yorkers to look past their cultural prejudices and participate in a multi-ethnic revel, experiencing the richness and diversity of Chinese culture in an open and friendly way.

The performances opened in a creative way, with a short film chronicling a Chinese student living in New York, who is pulled by the "Golden Monkey" into the "live" performance at the Schimmel Theatre, segueing into the opening "Ode to Spring," a traditional fan dance complete with festive red costumes. After the opening dance, students from Pace University and partner institutions, and a number of independent artists, performed a variety of arts including dance, music, martial arts, and acrobatics, garnering cheers and applause from



The Buddhist Inspired Dunhuang Dance, "Flying," was a colorful way to welcome in the New Year.

"Flying" and the United Nations Choir's interpretation of folk songs from around the world including the Chinese folk song *Mo Li Hua*, making the festival truly international. The UN singers are a returning fan favorite of the New Year's celebration but this year they extended their welcome with a short video they produced of their members wishing everyone a happy new year in their best Chinese.

The audience was also treated to the haunting melodies and insightful lyrics of the singer-songwriter Mary Lorson, who played a number of her composi-

tions such as "Ender," "Ding," and "King of Tricks" on piano. In addition, students from the Pace CI's satellite campus in Syosset, Long Island performed the "Soul of Chinese Kong Fu" a Tai Chi showcase that reflects the Pace CI's efforts to expand its influence beyond the five boroughs. The celebration ended with the singing of loving "Each Other" an encore with both American and Chinese students.



The celebration concluded with a rousing performance of "Loving Each Other"

the audience.

Some of the highlights of the afternoon including a rousing "Face Shifting" performance, the Buddhist inspired Dunhuang dance



The acrobatics and elaborate costumes of "Face Shifting" were guaranteed to make it an automatic show stopper!

Following the performances the celebrants gathered in the lobby to take photos and socialize among the displays of paintings, lacquer ware, Chinese knots, paper cuts, and lanterns. There was also a cultural corner, hosted by A Place for Kids, where children could make their own paper cutting, calligraphy, and other art, sparking Chinese cultural interest and enthusiasm.

Rejoicing in our Past and Future

On May 7th, the Pace CI marked its 7th year anniversary with great fanfare and gratitude. From 1-2 PM, as an interlude in the annual Pace University Psychology Conference audience members were treated to refreshments, birthday cake, and kung fu and acknowledged the accomplishments of our students and partners.

Representing the CI's contributions to Pace's academic program, receiving certificates and a gift of books from our library, were Global Asia Majors and graduating seniors Deina Rustic and Rebecca Smith. Also receiving certificates and books, representing two of our most esteemed partners, were Xu Lin, Principal of the Sitan Tai Chi Martial



Adrian and Sebastian Frank wowed the crowd with the dexterity and mastery they displayed in their Kung Fu performance.

Arts School of Long Island, and Henan Cheng, Principal of the South Connecticut Chinese School.

In the finale, following the cutting of the cake, an honor that was given to CI Director Dr. Joseph Lee, CI Chinese Director Dr. Wenqin Wang and Dyson Dean Dr. Nira Herrmann, the audience was

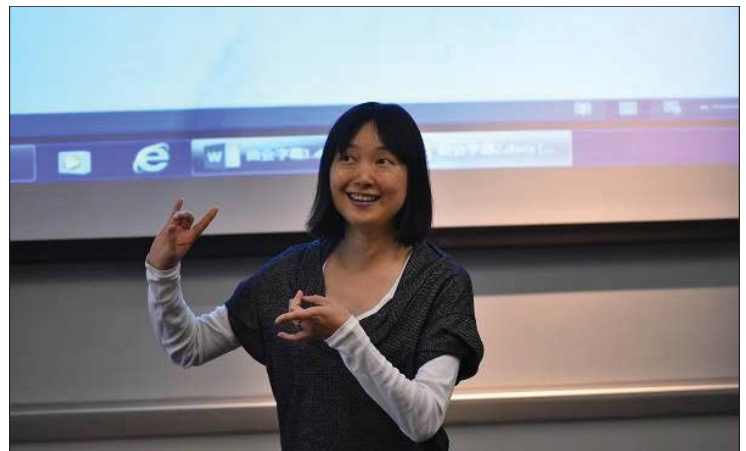
treated to a first rate kung fu performance. Dr. Ronald Frank, the CI's acting director this Fall, introduced his sons, Adrian and Sebastian, nationally recognized martial arts champions, who displayed their mastery of marital arts, representing the future of Chinese cultural education in the U.S.

Opera Troupe Presents an Elegant Gathering

This past March, the Pace CI joined the Youth Troupe of the New York Chinese Opera Society in presenting a "Rong Rong" Elegant Gathering, a laid-back performance of Kunqu Opera arias. Kun Opera is one of the oldest forms of Chinese opera, first practiced during the Ming dynasty. According to Qian Yi, a modern pioneer of Kunqu in the US, who has performed at Lincoln Center and other renowned stages, when you listen to music with your ears, you are listening to the world with your ears. "Rong Rong" means 'listen closely to the world', the performers capturing the audience's senses with their unique voices. The gathering attracted both Chinese and American opera lovers—ranging from students from Riverdale Country Day School, to members of New York's and Yale's Kunqu Societies, to a number of opera fans from Philadelphia.

Under the tutelage of Qian Yi, the singers, both professional and amateur, performed more than ten classic arias, mostly from the "Palace of Eternal Youth," "The Peony Pavilion" and "Slaughter of the Loyal Thousands" and other traditional opera masterpieces. The singers were accompanied by classic Kunqu instruments such as banjo, flute, and drum.

The performers hail from all different regions in China and all different professional backgrounds, from economics to pharmaceutical science, but all have a passion for Chinese opera. Ma Bin, the president of the Youth Troupe, emphasized that the performers uphold a pious attitude to the past, learning from the opera masterpieces of their ancestors. The event was just the first of a monthly series of "Rong Rong Gatherings" that the Youth Troupe will be holding at Pace University throughout the year. The hope is that these gatherings will help to bring Kunqu Opera into mainstream culture, attracting young Americans to this ancient art, appreciate Kunqu Opera, so that the general public can share in traditional Chinese culture.



One of NYCOS's Youth Troupe members performing a classic Chinese Opera aria.



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The Pace CI is dedicated to providing Chinese language and cultural education, resources, and services to meet the needs of people from all backgrounds.

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Our Partners:



News Briefs

◆ Congratulations to Scholarship Winners!

On November 3, 2015 the Pace CI held a press conference to announce the winners of the Fifth Annual New York Chinese Opera Society (NYCOS) Essay Competition. Sharing the first place prize were Annamaria Watson and Tadhg Looram for "The Balance of Free Market and Centralized Decision-Making in China's Special Economic Zones," 2nd place went to Ingrid Soto-Tornero for "Rising Wages in China: A Blessing or a Curse?", and 3rd Place went to Iлона Kereki: "The Model Minority Myth: a Destructive Illusion." The purpose of this yearly competition, open to all Pace University students, and co-sponsored, along with



The proud scholarship winners with their mentors, NYCOS representatives and Confucius Institute Staff

NYCOS, by the Confucius Institute and the East Asian Studies Program at Pace University, is to spur more in-depth research in Chinese culture and increase the interest and participation of Pace students in Chinese cultural studies.

◆ Trying Not to Try

On April 13th the Pace CI co-hosted a lecture with the Confucius Institute for Healthcare at SUNY College of Optometry with Edward Slingerland III, based on his book, "Trying Not to Try: Early China, Modern Science and the Power of Spontaneity in Healthcare."

◆ New Website Unveiled

As part of Pace University's revamping of its website, our webpages now have a new look! Our new web address is:

<http://www.pace.edu/dyson/centers/confucius-institute>

You will be redirected to this new address if you visit our old webpage. We are looking forward to working with this new format and any feedback would be useful.