



LIVE CONFUCIAN

Newsletter of the Confucius Institute at Pace University



10th Year
Anniversary
Edition



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Director's Letter

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the founding of the Pace CI. What an exciting time this is for us! The Pace CI is a dynamic community, forging vibrant new approaches to Chinese-language education through seminars, lectures and community outreach.

In July and August, we successfully launched the “Summer Humanities for Young Leaders Program” for Chinese international students. Benefiting from this new integrative model of combining liberal arts education with professional training, the students learned that being actively involved on campus and visiting cultural institutions in NYC can enable them to acquire cross-cultural knowledge and skills in preparation for the globalized economy.

The new semester is full of opportunities for growth and reinvention. Please come to our events this Fall.

Dr. Joseph Lee
Executive Director
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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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Future is Asian

By Ruifen Guo

On February 13th, the Confucius Institute at Pace University and the Lubin School of Business jointly hosted a lecture “The Future is Asian: Commerce, Conflict, and Culture in the 21st



Parag Khanna explored how a new "Silk Road" has developed in Asia over the past 30 years.

Century,” by Indian-American global strategist, traveler and best-selling author Parag Khanna. On the occasion of the Lunar New Year, Khanna was invited to the Schimmel Center for Arts to share his insights on the rise of Asia with more than 300 teachers, students, and community members.

Khanna graduated from the Diplomatic Academy of Georgetown University and received

his Ph.D. in International Relations from the London School of Economics in 2010. He has served on the World Economic Forum, the Council on Foreign Relations, and the Brookings Institution, and served as a geopolitical consultant to the National Intelligence Council. Currently, Khanna is a senior research fellow at the Lee Kuan Yew School of Public Policy at the National University of Singapore.

In his speech, based on his book *The Future is Asian*, Khanna said that decades ago, people in Asia were isolated, but in the past 30 years, Asia has formed a system of integration. This system contains many different civilizations, from Saudi Arabia to Japan; from Russia to Australia; from Turkey to Indonesia; where 4.5 billion people live, creating 40% of the world's GDP. Asia is by no means a purely Chinese concept, but China has played a leading role in rebuilding a “Silk Road” across Asia. With the development of the economy, Asia is returning to the pre-colonial pattern of close business contacts, conflicts and cultural blends, and Asians will decide their own destiny.

Khanna believes that Asia is in the process of

vigorous development. From India to the Philippines, young people in these countries are leading a new wave of economic development. If calculated by purchasing power, China's economic aggregate has actually stabilized more than the United States.

Khanna pointed out that Asian countries are facing great demand for infrastructure and are putting great hope for a new "Silk Road." Many EU countries have joined the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank, and related trade

organizations, because they have seen the huge trade demand in Asia, and today's trade links have completely changed the existing world.

In addition, Khanna also mentioned cultural integration. Every young American should live overseas for a period. Otherwise, sitting in the office of a Washington think tank, it is impossible to understand the culture of different regions. The future world needs the United States, Europe, and Asia to establish a balanced global shared responsibility system. 🧡

Return to China

Text and Photos By
Neil Levenson 龙奇怪

It was an extremely cold and icy evening at JFK Airport on January 6, 2014. The unstable winter weather had changed from rain to snow to ice causing unsafe conditions. The monstrous Air China Boeing 747 was sitting on the icy runway waiting to take off. The flight, CA-982 bound for Beijing, was already more than an hour late. My plans were to fly to Beijing and then connect to another flight to the city of Harbin—the beautiful Chi-

nese city way up north, much colder than New York, famous for its ice sculptures. While I may have been dreaming of photographing in Harbin, the runway at JFK was still so icy that I do not understand how that enormous plane could have taken off in such conditions. When the signal was given, however, after two hours of sitting on the runway, the beautiful aerodynamic monster soared down the runway and in 35 seconds it was a magnificent, glorious bird flying to the heavens.

That was the ninth time I had taken the long flight to China, although it was the first time I had traveled there in the winter. The 13-hour

flight to Beijing was a routine flight, but the extensive delay in New York resulted in missing my connecting flight to Harbin. To my dismay, I was stuck at the Beijing airport, placed in an overnight hotel, and feared I would not get to Harbin at all. Luckily, however, I was able to manage an early morning flight, even though it meant just one day in Harbin. But I made it, and that one day and evening in the Siberian cold would not be forgotten. On the evening of January 8th, I spent two hours photographing the colorful and creative ice-crea-



The Harbin Ice Sculpture Fair attracts visitors from all over the world

tures at 哈尔滨冰灯艺术游园会 *Ha'erbín bīngdēng yìshù yóuyuánhui*, the Harbin Ice Sculpture Fair. I stayed in the cold as long as I could until the -22°C weather became intolerable. My feet were frozen, my nose and ears were on the verge of frostbite; in fact, I had to keep my body in motion for fear of becoming an icicle! I gladly (though reluctantly) got back to the warmth of the hotel and the following day returned to Beijing with a most memora-

ble collection of photos! I spent just one day in Harbin, but it was a glorious deep freeze adventure, dangerous and thrilling, worth every moment!

I had discovered China the same way I had discovered America, first a dream of travel and then year after year fulfilling the dream by progressing through the whole country

whenever I had the chance. Back home, I had driven by car through every state in the Continental United States. I even drove through many parts of Canada. In China,

however, it was by plane rather than car, I flew with every major Chinese airline (China Eastern, China Southern, Air China, etc.) from one city to another, first Beijing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou, then the next year to Hong Kong and Shenzhen. By the time I had arrived in Harbin in 2014, I had already spent eight summers in China, traveled to more than 25 cities, climbed the Great Wall five times, stud-

ied Mandarin Chinese for three summers, and taught English at a Beijing language school for another four summers. With every opportunity, I sought to explore this vast country: In Yunnan province, in the south-west, I flew from Kunming to the Burma Road at the western border, capturing tributes of events of World War II. I traveled to Chengdu in Sichuan province and watched children playfully trying to catch the colorful mist sprayed by the fountain in the center of the city. I took a ten-day class in Shenzhen just to experience being in the famous “Opening Up” city. In 2010 I flew to Taiwan to visit the elegant memorial to Taiwan’s splendid pop singer, Teresa Teng (邓丽君 *Dengli jun*), whose music I had fallen in love with and had been performed many times on KTV. As the familiar music filled the air at her monument, I left a wreath of flowers at the shrine. It was a somber and emotional moment, but it was a day I had dreamed about for months.

In July 2011, as the privilege of teaching the summer term in Beijing was coming to an end, the members of my middle school English

class gave me an unexpected going-away present. Using their classroom computer setup, they flashed on the large screen the recent finals of the women’s French Open tennis tournament, where Li Na (李娜), the Chinese champion, had just captured the title in Paris. The event was so momentous that it changed a whole nation! In China, badminton and ping pong players are expected winners, but not in tennis—it was not a sport people identified with. Li Na, this brilliant and spirited young athlete from Wuhan, China, had won the match in breath-taking and dramatic fashion. It was so thrilling and exciting for me I could hardly breathe! It was a clever and thoughtful way for my class to say good-bye. I was proud of them; they had responded quite well to me during the semester, and now they presented to me a small but emotional tribute. I thanked Harry, Zoey, Lucy and Jack and the rest of the class for their kind gift. But at the same time, how thrilled I was to have shared in China’s glory, as if it were a personal triumph! Li Na had become a national icon—the first Asian player to have won this very Western event, and I was lucky and proud to be in China to

see it!

Watching a sports champion is one thing, but being the center of attention is completely another. I am not accustomed to being the focal point of a group, but it has been at the weekly gatherings called “English Corners” where I have actually stood out. “English Corner” is an established event at institutions all across China, designed to give everyone a chance to practice their English. At the famous Renmin University in Beijing, every Friday evening, rain or shine, people from all over China show up in the university courtyard for the sole purpose of speaking English. Often the courtyard has been packed with hundreds of people from all walks of life in China: students and teachers, workers and professionals, young and old; even children from local elementary schools. When I’ve approached this event, walking from the subway to the university courtyard, I’ve found myself surrounded by ten or twenty people having a random discussion, conversing in a serious and friendly way, everyone speaking English much better than they realize. They are eagerly awaiting

what I have to say, as if it were so important!

I am a rarity—a native English speaker from New York, and this is their chance to chat with me on any subject. We talk about China and the U.S., debate the economic development in Shanghai, discuss Chinese history, education, language, the sun and the moon, transportation systems, IT, engineering and other courses of study, and of course, Chinese food. I feel like a rock star from all this attention, but for the Chinese, knowing how valuable English is to their careers and their futures, this is a great opportunity, as well as it is for me.

It was at one of these Friday evening gatherings about six years ago, that I heard some men arguing about which was the greatest mountain in eastern China, Mt. Tai (泰山 *Taishan*) in Shandong province or Yellow Mountain (黄山 *Huangshan*) in Anhui province. It was a humorous discussion, as the correct answer was dictated by the location of their original hometown in China, but to me it was quite important! I hadn’t climbed either, but, knowing myself, I would resolve that matter. Accordingly, in the summer of 2013,

I flew to southern Anhui and climbed two of the peaks of beautiful Yellow Mountain. The second peak was so high, and the air was so thin, that I had to continuously sit down to catch my breath. As I worked my way upward, I noticed a tiny antenna way up at the top of the mountain. I can still visualize that antenna, but how I ever arrived at the top in that thin air I don't know. When I finally reached the

antenna, I realized it was part of a nearby cable car system. What a great sight! The vision of a cable car is a joyful relief when your legs are so tired you can barely move!

The following year I returned to Beijing in the summer, took the high-speed train to Tai'an in Shandong province, and spent the day with my friend Lixia Tan (谭丽霞), climbing the enormous Mt. Tai using convenient climbing sticks. It was a long, enjoyable day's journey ascending this huge mountain, but long before

we approached the top, the rain, mist, and cold had slowed us down considerably. Mt. Tai is a famous mountain in China—its image is printed on the back of the 5 RMB currency bill. It is not as high as Yellow Mountain, but is a long gratifying climb over grand, difficult steps, similar to the uneven steps found at the Great Wall elevations. My conclusion, ultimately, was that the two great mountains were quite dif-

ferent from each other, but both were remarkable and unique, and I was very pleased that I had climbed them both.

Of greater personal significance to me was the



Pine trees on the top of the iconic Yellow Mountain

chance to climb Chang Bai Mountain (长白山 *Zhangbaishan*) in Jilin province in northeast China. A few years previously I had been urged not to leave China before I had hiked this mountain, but I didn't know why. So, a few years ago I flew to eastern Jilin in great curiosity, and was directed to the base of the mountain in the middle of a primitive, forested area.

The hike up the mountain was a challenging endeavor for me since it followed multiple spinal injections I had received earlier that year in New York. But my passion exceeded the pain, and I took it slowly and carefully, step by painful step, stopping frequently to catch my breath, and after a long courageous process, arrived at the very top. What a moment! It was a feeling of joy and serenity, worth every step just to have arrived, thrilled to be in the company of other climbers reaching the top of the world. Following the joyful moment, however, it was pointed out to me that on the other side of the mountain, in the not too distant haze, was the border of North Korea. North Korea! I had never expected to be anywhere near that country, but there I was! What a shock!

Besides climbing mountains, there is a special excitement for me to live in China. The Chinese language, the culture, the people—somehow I fit in! Studying a foreign language doesn't come easily to me, but I worked so hard at studying Chinese, to the point of suffering a breakdown, and then got up and continued, notwithstanding. To converse in

Chinese was my original mantra, my real objective, regardless of the work, and the friendships that have ensued have been inspiring. Being accepted as if I were a “local” has been quite an honor; something so unexpected and so out of the ordinary that I could never even have imagined it.

As a result of my daring and satisfying adventures, traveling to China each year for a few months has become a pivotal pastime in my life. I have reveled in the many opportunities this ancient country has had to offer: On my first full day in Beijing I climbed to the top of Mutianyu, perhaps the most beautiful of all the Great Wall sites, where I derived a joyful feeling of freedom. At about the same time I discovered the old Summer Palace (圆明园 *Yuanmingyuan*) in Beijing, now a public park, famous for its beauty and unfortunate history. I remember the moment I first saw the architectural wonder of the “Bird’s Nest” in 2007, a whole year before the 2008 Beijing Olympics charmed the world. In addition, I took a 6½ hour ferry-ride in the serene Bo Hai gulf from the LüShun Port in Dalian to Shandong prov-

ince, just to see the vast apple orchards of Yantai. In Chengdu, I was drawn to the two spiral snake figures in Tian Fu Plaza, then visited the famous giant panda reserves north of the city. More recently, I followed the long Yellow River from east to west, visiting cities along the “Mother River,” from Jinan in the east to the western provinces of Gansu and Qinghai and the beautiful city of Lanzhou. I was in absolute awe of the immense and spectacular site of the Terra Cotta Warriors (兵马俑 *Bingmayong*) in Xi’an, and paying my annual visits to Hong Kong, I have savored exceptionally delicious dim sum!

Most important were my many visits to the beautiful city of Nanjing, lured originally by the need to understand why such atrocities had taken place earlier in the 20th Century by the Japanese. It started with an interview I had seen on American TV in New York in 1998; a conversation with a brilliant young Chinese-American author, Iris Chang (张纯如 *Zhang Chunru*). The discussion of her famous work, *The Rape of Nanking*, was so unbelievable and so horrible, that I couldn’t imagine

why I had never heard of it. How could such a massacre of citizens of a whole city be inflicted by Japanese soldiers, to their grotesque delight and amusement, and yet most of the world had not known about it? The author’s work had made the world, and especially me, aware of this cruel event. The vision of the Nanjing butchery, fixed in my mind, was one of the main reasons why I traveled to China in the first place. In 2007, on my first visit, the Nanjing Museum was under renovation, but I returned two years later to what is now a haunting memorial to those unfortunate victims. The anguished figures representing the “300,000” portray the painful, sickening, and shameful acts a city endured. The open-air museum seems to echo the saying “lest we forget,” to never again endure the pain and hardship that occurred in that city in 1937. Iris Chang, sadly, took her own life in 2004, perhaps unable to carry such an immense burden of the abuses against the Chinese on her shoulders. There is a lone statue of her in the courtyard, solemnly beckoning a nation, and holding her famous book in her left hand (in a manner not unlike that of the Statue of

Liberty), reminding the world of today that forgetting the past only allows the repetition of such horrors. I spent a whole afternoon at the museum, difficult to pull myself away—it had somehow communicated to me a special understanding as to why I was in China.

China is unique among countries I've visited. The great Chinese cities of Shanghai and Guangzhou are amazingly modern, even futuristic, but they live side by side with ancient China. The two aspects—old and new—coexist so well that they provide part of the real character of what is China. China's modernism seems to have advanced with lightning speed, partly from the "Opening Up" in 1978 and partly in preparation for the 2008 Olympic Games. When I first came to Beijing in 2005 there were only two subway lines in existence—line #1 was the east-west line and line #2 was a loop. But each year that I returned to Beijing there were one or two new subway routes, so that in twelve years the Beijing Metro had blossomed into a world class system, perhaps the busiest in the world. I wondered how such a huge population, almost three

times that of New York City, had ever dealt in past years with such a primitive transportation system. Over-crowdedness, I suppose, was just a way of life. China is extremely hot in summer, and the buses must have been so crowded and uncomfortable in those years that they may have been bursting at the seams! Now with modern subway systems under construction in all the big cities, in addition to the remarkable high-speed rail network throughout most of the country, China has bolted its infrastructure into the future. My friend Alex (王健 Wang Jian), a retired engineer from Beijing, encouraged me to stop flying from city to city and focus instead on taking the high-speed rail. Not only is it reasonably priced and very fast, but it also gives one the opportunity to see the countryside first hand. The HSR, as



A farmer in Shandong mugs for the camera

it is called, is a great way to travel in China. It affords people the opportunity to travel in reasonably short amounts of time where previously it may have taken families one or two days at the same distance.

About six years ago I was introduced to WeChat (微信 *Weixin*), China's most versatile App, opening up a whole new world of dialogue for me, adding to my desire to keep in touch in Chinese. Also, visiting tea houses, cafés, guest houses, and especially restaurants, all gave

me increased moments for conversation. But of all those, most important is ordering in Chinese. I relish Chinese food, spicy or not. My conversational Chinese improves considerably at places to eat! That includes the buffets in Xiamen, the vegetarian hotpots (麻辣香锅 *mala xiang guo*) in Beijing, the pancake houses in Xining, the soup dumpling (小笼包 *xiao long bao*) restaurants in Changsha, and

the tea houses in Hangzhou! The very first dish I ordered in Shanghai in 2005, fourteen years ago, was dry black-boned chicken (干锅乌骨鸡 *gan guo wu gu ji*)—spicy, savory, delicious and cheap! Whether I have asked for hot and sour soup (酸辣汤 *suan la tang*) in frigid Harbin, or the special noodle dish in Wuhan (热干面 *re gan mian*), it has been a pleasure to get



A myriad variety of delicious dishes ready for consumption in the city of Ningbo

around China when it comes to ordering food. I found that the nicest tip you can give a waiter in China is a smile and a thank you in Chinese—谢谢 *xiexie!*

Looking back, there are certain moments I'll never forget, such as when I reached the top of Chang Bai Mountain; or my students' giving me a special gift; or the delicious spicy dishes I shared with my friends. From Qingdao to Qinghai, from Hong Kong to Xi'an, it's all been quite a surprise and the time has sped by. I'm hoping to continue my travels to amazing places in China, both ancient and modern.💕

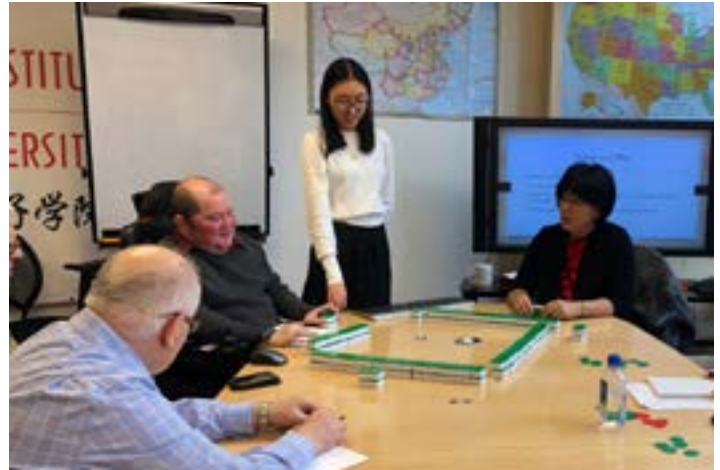
Exploration of Everyday Life

By Ruifen Guo

Much of the news that comes out of China these days focuses on big issues, such as international trade wars and pollution. However, what is often lost in what life is like for ordinary Chinese citizens. In “Chinese Corner” sessions this past Spring, our teachers explored the many aspects of daily life in China, from entertainment to getting around.

One of our most popular sessions was one that Ansel Lurio, Program Coordinator at the Pace CI, gave on Mahjong. He began his lecture by talking about the origin of Mahjong as a card game and its popularity first in China, and then in a modified form, in the United States. Before playing a game, Ansel went through the types of tiles in a standard Mahjong set including the simple suits of bamboo, dots, and characters, honors suits of the four winds and three dragons, and the bonus tiles of the flowers and seasons. Looking at the Chinese characters on

these tiles, players can even learn some Chinese while ensconced in a game. Like in the Western games of rummy and poker, players must create a winning hand by collecting



Creating a wall as part of a game of Mahjong

and discarding. A winning hand in Mahjong usually must contain four melds of three or four tiles in the form of three or four of a kind (Pongs and Kongs) or a straight (Chow) and one meld of two of a kind. With this rudimentary knowledge Ansel helped set up a demonstration game. Participants first shuffled the tiles and built a four-sided wall out of the tiles. Only then did play begin. Mahjong, despite being fairly easy to play is complex to learn, and everyone was in a hurry to learn, but Ansel patiently answered the questions encountered, with help from the Confucius Institute

teachers. After playing a game, the participants still wanted to learn more. And not only did they exercise their brain power, but they also learned a lot of Chinese characters.

Jiayi Wang's lecture covered "Retirement in China." She reviewed the legal retirement age of the Chinese and the latest retirement reform plan. According to regulations, China's retirement age is 60 for men and 55 for women.

Since 2018, the female retirement age has been delayed by 1 year every 3 years, and the male retirement age has been delayed by 1 year every 6 years until the age of 65 in 2045. Participants discussed

the latest retirement reforms in China and analyzed the reasons for the retirement age. Subsequently, she focused on characteristics of retirement in China: a modest lifestyle, time with friends and family, and development of personal interests. Lastly, participants had a chance to share their own plans for retirement.



High speed rail is the transport of the future in China

Photo by Neil Levenson

Ruifen Guo's talk on "Transport in China" began with a song to help students remember the different types of transport available in China today. Everyone tried to identify the means of transport mentioned in the lyrics and reviewed the Chinese word. Then, Ruifen introduced the history of Chinese transportation over the past 40 years, an evolution from bicycles, motorcycles, rudimentary buses

and Santana cars to subways, high-speed rail, airplanes, and an increase in car ownership. Everyone discussed the differences between Chinese and U.S. transport and their views on modern

Chinese transit.

Other topics covered in the lectures included "Marriage in China," "Shopping in China" and "Going to the Doctor in China." We hope that our students got a more rounded view of contemporary China and that it helps them think more carefully about their own daily lives. 🧡

Young Leaders Groomed

By Ansel Lurio

One of the major goals of the Confucius Institute is for cultural exchange, and this summer was no exception, as our sister institute, the Center for East Asian Studies, along with Pace's English Language Institute, welcomed two different groups of students, from New Channel and Zhongbei College of Nanjing Normal University, visiting

from China for the Global Humanities Young Leaders program. The students, who lived at Pace dorms during their stay, took classes to polish their English and were given lectures by experts in the fields of public safety, business, history, technology and popular culture. In addition, they took walking tours of New York,

visited museums, enjoyed music, and even had time for some shopping! Lastly, participants had to give group presentations on topics covered during their studies here. Before leaving for China the groups took tours of the eastern seaboard of the U.S., from Boston to Washington, D.C.

A third group, from Shantou University were here mostly to do research for their senior theses on the history of Chaozhou-Chinese

migrations to the U.S. These students spent much of their time in the Birnbaum Library, helped by Pace's refer-



ence librarians. Before coming to the United States many Chaozhou dialect speakers settled in many countries in Southeast Asia. One of the highlights of the trip for these students was attending a Chazhou language Sunday service at the Chour-Thai Reformed Church in Yonkers, NY. 🇺🇸

Female Artists

By Ruifen Guo

Building upon Michelle Vosper's lecture on Chinese women artists last year, this spring we held a couple of events highlighting the artwork of female artists from Jiangsu province.

On April 12th, a delegation of female artists from Jiangsu shared the art of Chinese painting and calligraphy. The artists included Sun Xiaoyun, president of the Jiangsu Calligraphy Association. Ms. Sun introduced the history of Chinese calligraphy, followed by the artists painting the Chinese names of the audience.

In May, the Confucius Institute held a demonstration of the meticulous school of traditional Chinese painting by Fan Lei, executive director of the Chinese Painting Society of Jiangsu Province. Lei had first visited our Institute in February, when she, along with two other Chinese artists, Zhang Gufangcai and Yan You, showed how to write the character for fortune in Chinese (福 *fu*) in several different scripts.

At her visit this past May, Lei vividly explained

that these paintings are not just depictions of flowers and birds, but also transmit the feelings and emotions of the artist. She demonstrated the creative process she uses to paint



Learning how to paint the traditional way using two brushes at once.

a peony flower. She first outlines the flower shape and then uses layers of ink to “sculpt” the color, using two brushes in her hand at the same time, one for ink and the other for water. After demonstrating how she paints, she helped guide audience members in painting the peony. On display at the event were reproductions of Fan Lei's works. Lei's works not only contain the classic beauty of oriental culture, representing the Taoist harmony between man and nature, but are also full of the consciousness of the times and the influence of modernism. 🧑🎨

Guardian Lions of Myth

By Jackson Morris

On the 26th of October 2018 folklorist Dr. Fumihiko Kobayashi, gave a lecture, “Untold Amazing Stories of Lion Dances in East Asian Folk Traditions” revealing the interesting history of the Shishi, or Guardian Lion legend. These mythical Chinese lions were adopted by Japan and took on a new life as Komainu, protectors and healers. The lecture concerned itself with two main issues: how the Shishi came to Japan and what it means to the Japanese. How it came to Japan is a contentious problem because the lion is not native to Japan, nor are lions part of their mythology. The widely accepted story is that a Korean named Mimashi brought the Shishi to Japan. Another, more mythical, explanation, is that a fox spirit lured it over to Japan and since then, the Shishi have gone on a mission to eradicate Japan of evil spirits. Kobayashi also explained Japan’s adoption of the Shishi as a savior from evil forces causing

disease, such as a smallpox epidemic that ravaged Japan in the 17th and 18th centuries.

The story of the Shishi’s adoption raises a lot of interesting questions about Japan’s perceptions of its religion and problems. The story of the spread of the Shishi’s influence is particularly curious. It was lured to Japan by spirits and, upon arriving, dedicated itself to the eradication of all of Japan’s evil spirits. In this framing, the Shishi take on almost a missionary role, turning the benevolent tale into a kind of conversion myth. Kobayashi mentioned two points that circumstantially corroborate this. First, the origin myth of the Shishi in Japan has their arrival in 720 CE, the same time as a large uptick in the proportion of Japanese Buddhists. It would not be an odd occurrence for the Shishi to arrive in this particular period to act as a savior to the Japanese. This is supported by one of the sources the Japanese would have known lions from, according to Kobayashi; Buddhist paintings wherein the lion is depicted as containing the roar of the Buddha. Shishi dances can be found in sources a century earlier, but that just means the narrative did not assert itself immediately.

Most interesting about the Shishi legend, is that people do not yet know whether or not the Shishi have completed killing all the evil spirits. This raises a question of value and quantitative religious analysis: How would one ever know if all the evil spirits in a nation have been eradicated? Did a sect of Shishi break off to come to Japan or had they already won their war on evil spirits in other nations? Kobayashi mentioned that the Shishi became benev-

olent healers after arriving in Japan but had been less altruistic in China. This could mean that the Shishi that came to Japan were a particularly mindful and heroic group, leading all of Japan to associate the Shishi with heroism. Amer-

icans do the same thing with the comic book universe, asserting that the Kryptonian deity Kal El (Superman) and family are representative of Kryptonian heroism when in reality many Kryptonians are malevolent and dangerous. A final interesting point is the use

of the Shishi during the smallpox epidemic. This represents an interesting point of conversion for Japan and the Shishi, a last great battle for the national health, which would eventually fade along with the ancient conceptions of Japan itself. The toxins of the pre-modern era were finally defeated and now the Shishi had no more spirits to hunt. Perhaps the Shishi coalition retired and allowed the enlightenment of the Meiji Restoration to end the

threat of the disease from



The Song dynasty (960-1279 A.C.E.) painting "One Hundred Children Playing in the Spring" (百子嬉春圖) by Su Hanchen (蘇漢臣) shows a performance of the lion dance

there on out. That

might be the nicest

end for them, being allowed

to retire in luxury and leave the technologically empowered Japanese to operate on their own, without evil spirits to hold them back. I think it is best for to them continue on in solitude for a job well done.🧡

New Staff



Chinese Director Dr. Shan Shao, as associate professor, has taught American literature and culture at NNU for over

25 years. She earned her MA from Nanjing University, and PhD from Nanjing Normal University. She has published on literary criticism and public intellectuals in 20th century America. Her most recent work is *New York Intellectuals: Edmund Wilson* (Nanjing, 2013).



Chinese Teacher Fei Li, is associate professor at Hankou University, in Hubei, China, where she is director of the Foreign Language School. She

holds an MA in Higher Education Research from Wuhan University of Technology and has expertise in English language learning for the tourism industry.

Shanghai Faithful

By Jackson Morris

In November the Pace CI hosted a lecture where journalist turned author Jennifer Lin, went into detail about her new book, *Shanghai Faithful*, which covers the lineage of her family history; the story of a Chinese-American family unit forming. In her talk, Lin focused on the system that she used to accurately research her narrative non-fiction work.

When tackling a new book, Lin argues that a writer needs to focus on the “Five C’s” to properly source and convey research, the first “C” on the list being Conversations. The easiest way to learn about the past is to ask someone who was there. The important thing is to ask for their story, which will give you a more localized but honest perspective of their experience. Not only is this important for any part of history with surviving actors, but for some historical eras, it is all researchers have. For those cultures with only an oral tradition, researchers only option is often referring back

to the conversations of those involved.

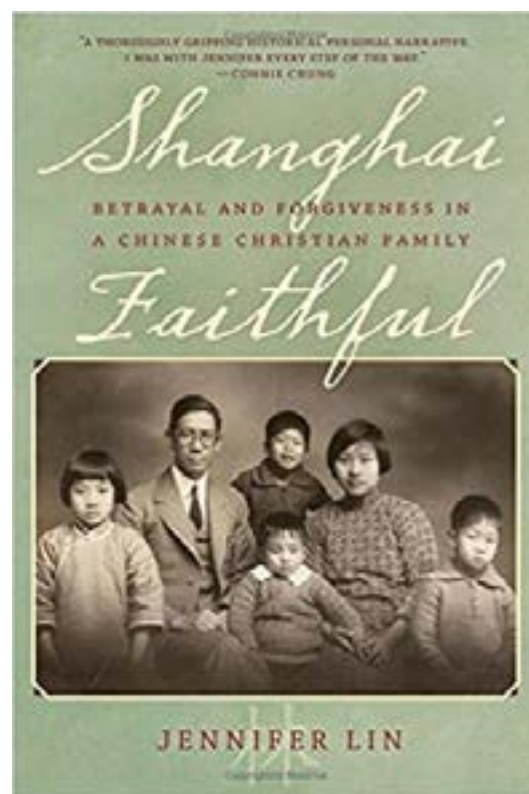
The second “C” is correspondence. Going back at least half a millennium, there is usually some kind of written or printed media that can represent the era (at least with Eurocentric or Asiatic history). Diaries and letters can act much like conversations for those who have already passed. Newspapers and books can inform modern researchers on what mattered to the people of the past and let us know what was on their minds and memoirs can act as more polished versions of both diary and printed writing.

Third are Collections. These take the forms of every kind of archive available to the researcher. Some archives such as those at municipalities or local libraries may allow visits at any time, others such as university or newspaper archives will need planning ahead and permission. All archives, however, hold key information to past events and eras. When it comes to movies or visual art, private collections are becoming greater in value, as works once thought lost are still turning up in the collections of private individuals or their families.

Fourth is Color. This is all the sensory information that goes into creating a visual picture of a place or time in the minds of readers.

We know the sight, sounds and smells of our respective hometowns and cities, but a researcher needs to know how to portray these elements from a bygone time. The best way to achieve this is in learning to “read a photograph,” gaining a conveyable feeling for a whole place just by looking at a photo.

Lastly is Context. People from the past did not exist in a vacuum, and every action and migration coincided with the bustling world around it. In order to understand and write about the life of a significant individual, knowing the world around them is key. What were people interested in?; What movies were people watching?; What



events were in the news?; Everything can be put towards context about the narrative being written.

In the second part of the lecture, Jennifer Lin went into how she turned only a handful of facts into five thousand words of solid material. As a journalist, being able to write full articles on little information is a regular part of the job. As a nonfiction writer, especially on a less-discussed topic, journalistic tools can be used in every section of the work. Here Lin gives her main resources for expanding the ideas behind only three facts into 5,000 words.

Some websites now hold a lot of information with easy access, one of the most obvious being ancestry.com. Ancestry.com is a family lineage resource to track the genealogy and history of any given family, as well as provide some contextual documents. In the case of Lin's book, it allowed her to get an idea of where in the family her father was and who may have been around him. eBay, has some interesting and relevant items available to researchers. For instance, Jennifer Lin knew her father came on a particular boat to the United States from

China and Lin found a program from that very same boat on eBay, expanding her knowledge of this seemingly small event.

There are more formal means of divining information from small clues as well. As mentioned above, this will generally take the form of collections and archives. Knowing that an individual attended a university and going through their archives will bring up a lot of surprising information about any individual from the meaningful to the colorful. In addition to the personal side of university archives, the contextual side of newspaper archives go a lot to expanding the world around a story. For instance, Lin's father arrived in Philadelphia on the same day as the Spanish Flu outbreak.

Any writer, whether it be academic, biographical, editorial, or even fictional should know how to use the tools and methods above. The story of Lin's father becoming a doctor and meeting her mother was as powerful as it was informational, but it is not just because of the power of his story. Many people have lived fascinating lives, but it's up to modern interpreters to tell their stories. 🧡

Stories of Learning Chinese

By Ruifen Guo

For much of the time we have held Chinese Corner over the years we have mostly relied on a top-down approach, where our teachers and guest lecturers present to our students different topics related to learning Chinese. However, our students have much to teach us as well. It also creates more opportunities for Chinese learners to use Chinese to help them apply what they have learned. Recently, the Confucius Institute has begun to hold Chinese Corners where our students relate their own stories, both about traveling in China and learning a new language, in a series of talks we call, “Stories of Learning Chinese.”

The first “Story of Learning Chinese” this past school year was held on September 28th and featured Predrag-Peter Ilich (Lu Jun), a chemistry professor at Baruch College here in Manhattan. He began studying Chinese at the Confucius Institute at Pace University in

March 2018. During his decades of teaching, there were many students from China whom he wanted to communicate better with. In the summer of 2017, he went to Suzhou, China to attend an academic conference. After learning Chinese for 3 months, he once again traveled to China. He spent 55 days there this summer, an immersive experience that gave him a richer understanding of China.

At the lecture, Lu Jun first made a simple self-introduction in Chinese, and then vividly introduced the audience to the experiences of his two trips to China, including China’s transportation and tourist attractions, through a large number of pictures and videos. During the trip to China, he visited Beijing, Nanjing, Suzhou, Shanghai, Hong Kong, Taiwan and other places. During this time, he traveled through China’s backstreets to learn about local culture, tasted local delicacies, and tried to ask for directions in Chinese. Every little experience deepened his love for China. He concluded with a statement that: “China’s modernization is really amazing. China’s high-speed rail, subway and other public transpor-

tation are convenient, fast and clean; Chinese young people are friendly, kind, helpful, energetic and vital; China's skyscrapers are a dream and very beautiful. Overall, I like China."

At the beginning of 2017, Brian Wiles began taking tutoring lessons at the Confucius Institute. He is now quite fluent, despite taking Mandarin for only one and a half years. On November 30th, In fluent Mandarin, Wiles told about his travels to and feelings about Beijing, Shanghai, and Xi'an when he visited China in September of last year. During his trip he visited the Great Wall and the Summer Palace in Beijing, learned about the history and civilization of Xi'an, experienced the modern Shanghai Expressway, and tasted roast duck and mutton.

He detailed the experience of eating

bubble steamed mutton in Xi'an. He had never seen the dish before, didn't know how to eat it, and was confused. The dish is composed of

steamed mutton, soup, condiments, and bread. The two young people at the neighboring table took the initiative to teach him. He learned to tear the bread into small pieces and put it in the soup, and to use chopsticks to eat the mutton. He said: "This was a very interesting experience, and the mutton was so delicious." This experience was an example of the friendliness and enthusiasm he received while in China.

Wiles was asked why he has been so successful learning Chinese. He responded by explaining that he communicates with Chinese people as much as possible in Chinese. Wiles is an aspir-

ing actor and hopes to have the opportunity to act in Chinese movies and TV series in the future.

Tian Xian, a newly minted graduate of

Brooklyn College,

shared his experience

in learning Chinese and his academic research this past June. Tian Xian said that when he went to China as an exchange student, he saw



A View of the Summer Palace in Beijing

By Peter K Burian - Own work, CC BY 4.0, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=74635082>

a China completely different than what he expected. Cities such as Beijing, Shanghai and Nanjing were so developed, people were very friendly, and there was a high level of tolerance. Therefore, he had a strong interest in continuing to learn Chinese.

In studying Chinese, Tian Xian was struck by the different pronunciations in China. In his talk he quizzed the audience on a series of videos of the same sentence read by Chinese speakers in different parts of the country. Tian also studies in a unique way. Instead of learning through pinyin, he prefers to look at characters and memorize their pronunciations. That way, he feels that he can think in Chinese, without roman characters getting in the way.

When it comes to plans after graduation, Tian Xian wants to go to China to continue to study Chinese and pursue a master's degree. He thanked the Confucius Institute at Pace University for helping to apply for the Confucius Institute Scholarship and for providing such an opportunity. The audience appreciated Tian Xian's spirit of actively studying hard.

Two of our most stellar students who came to

share with us their journey in learning Chinese are just entering high school. Twins Yu Xing and Yu Qing from Long Beach, Long Island have been taking classes over Skype with CI Teacher Jiayi Wang for the past two years. The twins, who go to the Buckley Country Day School, in Roslyn, New York, detailed how they are able to balance going to school, extra-curriculars, include lacrosse, dance, and martial arts, and learning Chinese. It is a challenge sometimes, as often the girls are very tired after they come home from school, but they appreciate the importance of learning Chinese. One way in which they have made learning Chinese fun is by singing songs in Chinese and at the end of their lecture the girls sang the song *tianchangjiu*.

These lectures have not only created opportunities for our Chinese learners to use Chinese to help them apply what they have learned, but we hope, heighten their interest in Chinese language and culture. 🧡

Treaty Port Architecture

By Ansel Lurio

For many Chinese people the 19th century is seen as one of humiliation, when European powers defeated the imperial armies again and again, got millions of Chinese addicted to

opium, and forced China to open up its ports and give extraterritorial rights to Europeans.

Into the 20th century, these treaty ports were a

reminder of a shame-

ful past and so when

the PRC was founded

in 1949, foreign nationals fled and many Chinese tried to erase the memories. The treaty ports may be no more, and many Chinese people may not want to talk about it, but physical evidence still remains. A major part of this is the colonial architecture that survives.

In April, we welcomed Tess Johnston, who lived in China for many years to give a lecture

on treaty port architecture in China entitled, “Old China Hands Cities.” A noted author and expert on western-influenced architecture in China, Tess Johnston conducted tours as part of the World Congress held in Shanghai and gave a lecture to a sellout crowd of the New York Art Deco Society. With the aid of numerous photos she has taken Johnston explored the architecture of well-known Treaty Ports



Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank and Customs House on the Shanghai Bund

Self-published work by Miguel A. Monjas, CC BY-SA 3.0,
<https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=292485>

such as Shanghai and Tsingtao and other lesser known ones such as Shantou and Yingkou. Much of the architecture was not just European but also reflected the architectural styles of the

colonialists. Johnston lived in China very soon after the country was reopened to the West in the 1970s and many of the photos were of buildings that have now been restored. Sadly, in the name of development many buildings have also been torn down or are now overshadowed by immense skyscrapers. 🏢

Essays on China

By Ruifen Guo

On November 12th, the Pace CI held a press conference to launch the 12th Annual Winter Cultur-

al Exchange Festival, co-hosted by the New York Chinese Opera Society (NYCOS). The

winners of the 8th Annual NYCOS Essay Contest and

outstanding visiting opera artists were

presented awards during the press

conference. Gary Laermer, Vice-Presi-

dent for Alumni and

Public Relations at Pace remarked

that the contest has enhanced

the interest of Pace students in understanding modern and contemporary China. He said

that the CI has become an important Chinese language and cultural center in NYC, provid-

ing a window for people of different ages and

backgrounds to understand China. He specifi-

(Clockwise From Top Left: I Not Stupid, The Grandmaster, and Kung Fu Hustle.) All are films mentioned in Christina Lorenzo and Amberlynn Foote's award winning essays that challenge gender and educational norms in Chinese society.



cally mentioned that two years ago, along with Pace University President Marvin Krislov, he went to China to meet with Chen Guoqiang, president of Nanjing Normal University, which further deepened the partnership and deep friendship between the two universities.

The theme of the contest was "Chinese Society, History and Culture" and was open to all Pace

students. Galdino Arias

Falcao, for "China

Leads the Global Ener-

gy Revolution;" Chris-

tina Lorenzo, for "Asian

Women in Hong Kong

and Bollywood Mov-

ies;" and Amberlynn

Foote, for "An Analysis

of the Hegemonic Edu-

cational Systems and the Culture of

Parenting in Asian Societies;" won

1st, 2nd and 3rd prizes, respectively. Awards

were also given out to Chinese opera artists

Ma Shaoliang, Liu Yonggui, Zhang Jingtao,

Zhang Ke, and Gao Mingbo, for contributing

to promotion of Chinese culture in the U.S. 🇺🇸

A Banquet Celebration

By Ruifen Guo

As part of its annual board of directors meeting on June 26th the Pace CI held a special banquet on the occasion of its 10 year anniversary. Those in attendance included Pace President Marvin Krislov, Pace Provost Vanya Quiñones Dyson



Leadership from Nanjing Normal University, Pace University and Phoenix Publishing Cutting our 10th Anniversary Cake.

Dean Nira Herrmann, Phoenix Publishing Media Group Chairman Liang Yong, and Nanjing Normal University Vice President Zhang Xuyu. In addition, Phoenix Media Publishing Group leveraged its strengths to collaborate with the CI to publish a 10-year Anniversary

Commemorative Book.

In his opening remarks at the banquet, President Krislov said that in October 2018 and February 2019, he had had the chance to visit China and hoped that in the future, he could further strengthen the cultural and academic exchanges between American and Chinese companies and universities. Dean Herrmann fully affirmed the achievements of the Confucius Institute over the past ten years, and praised the Confucius Institute for its outstanding contributions in promoting Chinese language teaching and enriching the multiculturalism of Pace University and its surrounding communities.

Board members include delegations from Nanjing Normal University, Phoenix Media Publishing Group, as well as from Pace University. At the meeting Qiqi Wang, CI Program Manager, and Wenqin Wang, Chinese Director of the CI, reported on the development of the Confucius Institute over the past decade and the fruitful achievements of the tripartite partnership. 🧧🧨

My Hometown

By Ruifen Guo

At the CI we like to pride ourselves on our expertise in Chinese culture and language. And of course,

our teachers are experts on their own hometowns. This past Fall, we held a series of Chinese Corners focused on the hometowns of our teachers back in China. As the diversity of our teachers' hometowns show, China is not one place, but many, each with their own history and culture.

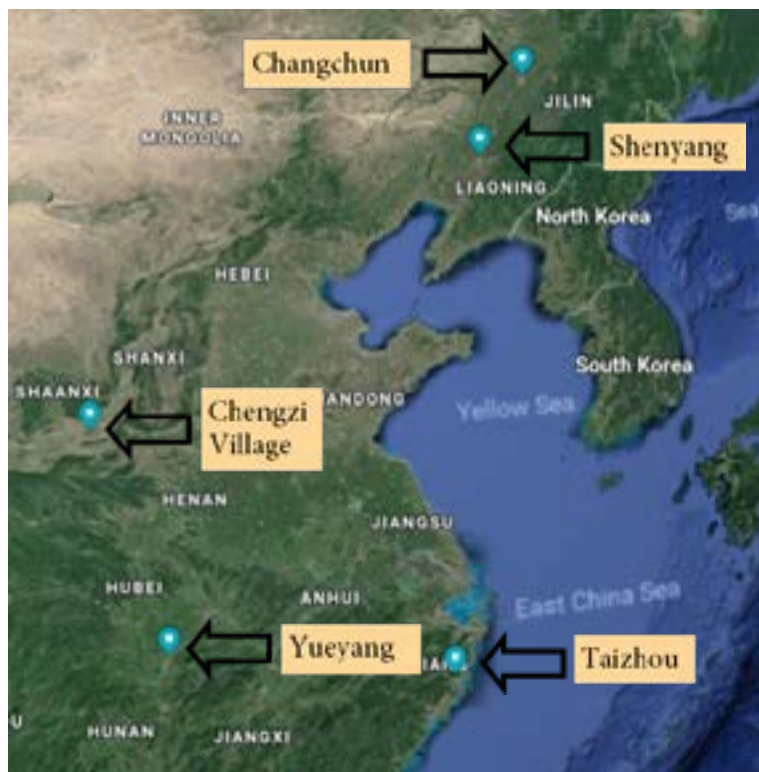
Jiayi Wang is from Taizhou, a city bordering the East China Sea. Taizhou has many monikers, including "Mountain Sea City," "Manufacturing Capital," and "Civilized City." Zhao Shenyu is from Shenyang, in the north of

China and is famous for its noodles and chicken backs. It is incredible how many different cooking methods can be used for an ordinary chicken back. Volunteer teacher Ruifen Guo is from rural Chengzi and in her presentation gave a comprehensive understanding of the

modernization of China's rural areas. Wang Yang's hometown is Yueyang, home to the tourist attractions of Yueyang Tower and Dongting Lake and the origin of Junshan Yinzhen Tea.

Students also had the opportunity to

talk about their own hometowns. Using mind mapping our teachers guided them to use the pattern "My hometown is...the place/city. My hometown has..., such as..." In this interactive scenario, the participants became part of the learning activities. 🧡



As can be seen from this map, our teachers' hometowns are spread far and wide across China

Manchu Perspectives

By Ansel Lurio

In the late 20th century, as China was still recovering from the upheavals of the 50s and 60s, many historians felt that the late modern period in Chinese history showed how backward China had become, and were not sure how China would eventually once again become a world power. However, over the last 30 years, as China has become an economic powerhouse on the cutting edge of new technologies, the historiography has changed. Instead of looking at the mid-1800s as the start of modernity, when the Qing empire was already crumbling, historians are now looking to the 17th and 18th centuries, a golden age known as the “High Qing,” as the source of modernity in China.

On March 14, 2019 the Confucius Institute at Pace University held two lectures on the new historiography that has emerged. In the first lecture, Professor Lars Peter Laamann, of the

University of London, summarized the latest research now being done on the Manchu roots of the last dynasty. Laamann began his talk by exploring how the Manchu's themselves created their own identity. The Manchus were made up of a number of tribes from outside the Great Wall, that had to ally together first,



An Imperial Portrait of Nurgaci.

By Anonymous Qing Dynasty Court Painter - Palace Museum, Beijing (故宫博物院), Public Domain, <https://commons.wikimedia.org/w/index.php?curid=15178218>

before they could conquer the Ming dynasty. This was primarily a military alliance at first, that grew into the Eight Banners, the basic military divisions of the Qing dynasty, under a chieftain named Nurhaci, who laid the groundwork for the dynasty.

Even when the Qing empire stabilized, and the Manchus embraced a Chinese identity, there were still ways in which the rulers separated themselves from the governed. When the rulers wanted to communicate with each other in a semi-classified way, they would write in Manchu script instead of Chinese characters. As non-Han Chinese rulers the Manchus also attempted to adapt their persona for the audience they were appealing to. To the Han, they presented themselves as Chinese emperors, with the Mandate of Heaven and Confucian values. To Tibetans, they showed themselves as Buddhist lamas. For the sake of their Muslim constituents they abstained from eating pork. And they portrayed themselves in Western dress for Europeans.

Klaus Mühlhahn of the Free University of Berlin, expanded the view of modern China

to the present day. His book *Making China Modern: From the Great Qing to Xi Jinping*, gives a new perspective on China's rise and resilience in the modern era. A hefty tome, that took 10 years to write, it may soon take its place among the textbooks used in college classrooms. Mühlhahn realizes that he cannot cover everything in his book, but by taking a macro view of Chinese history he hopes to truly shape the contemporary discourse on China. It is the first major work on Modern Chinese history since the early 90s.

Making China Modern looks at history through the lens of political, economic and social institutions. Mühlhahn argues that it was not the lack of ideas and desire to modernize that held China back, but that the institutions themselves failed. Mühlhahn also puts more emphasis on environmental and other internal factors and less on European imperialism and external factors than previous authors have.

Lively discussions followed both lectures, with comments comparing other nations reaction to modernity and what future research will bring to the field of Chinese history. 🍷

Gallery Concert Dazzles

By Ansel Lurio

Over the past couple of years, the downtown New York Pace University campus has gone through extensive renovations. In the main building, at



Joanne Lin plays "Flowers in the Night," a folk song made famous by Teresa Teng.

Photo by Rob Klein

1 Pace Plaza, new student spaces and a welcome center have been created and the bookstore has been moved from 41 Park Row. In place of the bookstore, at 41 Park Row, there is a new art gallery, which replaces the one located in the B-Level of 1 Pace Plaza. This gallery is more than twice the size of the old one, with large plate glass windows and a view of the

street.

On April 25th, to mark ten years of successful programming at the Confucius Institute we presented a chamber music concert of the New York Concerti Sinfonietta, the Inaugural Eastern and Western Music Festival, in the art gallery. The concert featured the 2018 International Shining Stars, young string soloists of the Sinfonietta, in a small group setting playing both Chinese and Western pieces of classical and folk music. The Sinfonietta is the brainchild of Julie Jordan, a highly respected pianist and music teacher. Jordan studied with the eminent Polish-Austrian pianist Adolph Baller, Yehudi Menuhin's accompanist, and holds degrees from Juilliard and the Manhattan School of Music. Jordan was on the faculty of Juilliard from 1985–2015 and can take pride in having guided and nurtured innumerable students during her years of teaching at Juilliard. She has afforded them invaluable performing opportunities through her continuing series of "Julie Jordan Presents" concerts with the New York Concerti Sinfonietta, as well as her piano competitions.

The concert began with a sextet of David Marks, Joanne Lin, and Julianne Forrest on violins; Li-Jung Chien and Hsuan Chen on viola; and Thomas Chartr  on cello playing “Dance of the Yao People,” a folk-inspired piece written by Liu Tieshan (刘铁山) and Mao Yuan (茅沅). The group also played an original piece composed by Lin, “Invisible Wings.” Lin also gave solos of Bach’s Violin Sonata BWV 1001 “Siciliano,” Paganini’s Caprice No. 13 “Devil’s Laughter,” and “Flowers in the Night,” (雨夜花 *Yuye hua*) a folk song made famous by Taiwanese pop star Teresa Teng. Following Lin’s solos, Chartr  played a solo piece, “Omaramor,” by the contemporary Argentine composer Osvaldo Goligov.

The highlight of the concert was Marks’ performance of excerpts from the *Butterfly Lovers’ Concerto*, written by He Zhanhao (何占豪) and Chen Gang (陈钢), and one of the most beloved works of Western classical music in China today. Marks, who is also concertmaster of the Sinfonietta, was afraid that he could not play it well enough for the audience who were Chinese. However, he played it with great

emotion and technical expertise, bringing accolades from both the Chinese and American audience.

The concert ended with Giorgio Poma on solo cello, playing Bach’s Cello Suite in D Minor BWV 1012, and Forrest on solo violin playing Gershwin’s “It Ain’t Necessarily So.”

The CI also sponsored a show of the full Sinfonietta at Carnegie Hall on April 29th, again featuring the Shining Stars. Some highlights included a full orchestral treatment of the *Butterfly Lovers’ Concerto*, Irish dancing, and a medley of Duke Ellington’s music by the Peter and Will Anderson Trio on the occasion of his 120th birthday. As it was Jordan’s birthday as well, a vocalist sang “You’re a Queer One, Julie Jordan” from Rodgers and Hammerstein’s *Carousel*, with a few lyrics changed.

Both concerts were sold out and the crowd was often on its feet. It was a wonderful way to publicize the gallery and to celebrate the achievements of the CI and the Sinfonietta.

We hope that this is the beginning of a fruitful relationship and of many concerts to come. 🎻🎻