2016
Annual Report
for
Confucius Institute for China’s Culture and the Economy
University at Albany
Overview

2016 is a productive year for UAlbany CI. CI offered language instructions to more than 140 credit and non-credit students, and sponsored EAS annual Language Speaking Contest. CI organized 9 major cultural events, and attended for the first time the “Festival of Nations”. With CI’s Speaker Series on the Chinese Culture and the Economy, CI organized 9 talks and a one-day workshop providing trainings to schoolteachers, faculty and graduate students.

UAlbany CI has further deepened collaborations with the partner university in China SWUFE, with 2 ongoing collaborative projects. During June-August, 2016, CI organized an Eight-week Intensive Language Class at SWUFE, with 8 students. Another 4 students attended the Summer Campy by SWUFE. Research collaboration between UAlbany faculty and SWUFE faculty have been developed with CI’s help.

CI has also significantly strengthened its services and engagement with the community. Strong partnerships have been developed with Albany Pine Hill Library, Guilderland Public Library, Chinese Community Center, Clarkson University (MA program in Teaching), and General Electrics (GE). Language classes and cultural events have also reached other public schools in the capital district.

The transition of the directorship from Tony DeBlasi to Youqin Huang has been smooth. Since Dr. Huang took the position of the Director of Confucius Institute in September, 2016, she has worked hard to provide academic and cultural activities and language services to both the university and non-university community. The Assistant to the Director Michelle Huang resigned in Nov. 2016 due to family move, and a new assistant Xiaofang Cao has been hired, who started in Jan., 2017. New language teacher Prof. Ying Kong arrived in October, and the new Chinese Director Prof. Jianlin Shuai arrived in December.

Programs in 2016

Here is a list of events and activities CI has organized in 2016 (Unless noted, events are held at UAlbany uptown campus).

**Academic:**

- **Speaker Series**
  2. March 20: “The 13th Five-year Plan of China”, by Prof. Dejun Cao, SWUFE
  4. April 15: “In Search of Urban Dream for Migrants in China”, by Prof. Juhua Yang, Renmin University, China
5. May 2: Go All the Way, All the Way to See”, by Prof. Sien He, Chengdu Normal University, China
6. Oct. 8: “Face to Face with Artists: Preservation and Redesign of Traditional Intangible Cultural Heritages in China” by Prof. Sien He, Chengdu Normal University, with professors from Anthropology, Sociology, Geography and Planning, and Art serving as discussants, at Guilderland Public Library.
7. Nov. 5: “Intangible Cultural Heritage and Wool Felt Fiber Art in China”, by Prof. Tingting Zhang, Beijing Polytechnic, at Chinese Community Center
8. Nov. 6: “Informal Economy in China” by Dr. Dejun Cao, SWUFE, at Guilderland Public Library
9. Nov. 11: “China as an Innovation Nation” by Dr. Yu Zhou, Vassar College

- Conferences/workshops

10. Oct. 8: One-day workshop on Learning China: Establishing a Global Context, with four professors from Berea College and New Mexico State University. This work provided pedagogical training to school teachers, graduate students, and faculty.

Cultural events:
1. Feb. 6: Spring Festival Celebration at the Egg
2. Feb. 22: 1st Lantern Festival Celebration at Ballroom
3. Sept. 17: Mid-autumn Festival celebration, with UAlbany CSSA
4. Sept. 18: Sponsored mid-autumn festival celebration by Chinese Community Center
5. Sept. 30: Chinese Film Festival
6. Oct. 23: Festival of Nations, Albany Convention Center
7. Oct. 23: Mongolian Music and Dance Performance, by Art College of Inner Mongolian University, China.
8. Nov. 21: Chinese New Year and papercut presentation, Albany School of Humanities
9. Nov. 21, A cultural presentation on Chinese New Year and papercut in the Asian Club at the Niskayuna High School.

Language Instruction:
1. Oct. 12: Leland and Gray Union Middle and High School, Vermont
2. Advanced Chinese (IV) in Tech Valley High School in Albany
3. Advanced Chinese (EAS 389) in East Asian Studies at UAlbany
Programs in 2017

In 2017, UAlbany CI aims to become a platform for academic research and scholarly exchange, and a center for pedagogical training to schoolteachers and faculty. CI also aims to strengthen its community engagement and facilitate UAlbany to recruit international students.

While events and activities for the second half of the year are still being planned, the year of 2017 has already started with an array of events. Here list a few events that are already conducted or upcoming.

**Academic:**

- **Speaker Series**
  1. Feb 17: Chinese Opera and Costume Presentation, by Prof. Linghui Tu, National Academy of Chinese Theater Art, and a visiting professor at SUNY Binghamton
  2. March 3: Searching for China's 'Forgotten' Covered Bridges, by Prof. Ronald Knapp, SUNY New Paltz
  3. Sept. 22: Jingle Wu, Texas A & M University, topic TBD
  4. Oct. 13: Rowan Flad, Harvard University, topic TBD

- **Conferences/workshops**
  5. April 3 - 4: International Conference on the Transformation and Impact of the Chinese Urban Economy, with 20+ invited speakers from Columbia University, MIT, Brown University, UCLA, UCSD, University of Utah, University of Lethbridge, University of Hong Kong, and Peking University.
  6. April 29: one-day workshop on Teaching Chinese in the West, by three professors from China

**Cultural:**

1. Feb. 3rd: Chinese Opera Performance in General Electric (GE)

*Chinese Culture Series in Albany Pine Library*

3. Jan. 16: Chinese intangible cultural heritage, and wool felt fiber art
4. Jan 30: Chinese New year
5. Feb. 18: Chinese Painting
6. March 11: Chinese Dance
7. April 15: Travel in China
9. June 10: Chinese Calligraphy

**Language Instruction:**
- Advanced Chinese (IV) in Tech Valley High School, Albany
- Chinese Language and Culture class in Albany Pine Hill Library
- Chinese Language and Culture class at UAlbany
- Advanced Chinese at UAlbany
- Business Chinese and Culture at UAlbany

**Infrastructure Building**
- Revamped the website for Confucius Institute
- Designed official UAlbany Confucius Institute logo
- Forged collaboration with the Department of Education at Clarkson University, Albany Pine Hill Library, Chinese Community Center, and General Electric.