2017
Calendar Year Report
for
Confucius Institute for China’s Culture and the Economy
University at Albany

Prepared by Youqin Huang

Nov. 11st, 2017
Overview

The year of 2017 is a productive year for UAlbany CI.

CI offered language instructions to more than 200 credit and non-credit students, and co-organized annual Chinese/Japanese/Korean Language Speaking Contest with EAS. CI organized 18 cultural events both on and off campus, with more than 2600 participants. With CI’s Speaker Series, CI organized 7 talks, bringing renowned China experts to UAlbany. More than 450 people participated in the Speaker Series. To further strengthen CI’s leadership role in China study, CI for the first time organized an international conference on Chinese cities. As part of CI’s Chinese Teacher Leadership School initiative, CI organized two one-day pedagogical training workshops for school teachers, faculty, and graduate students.

UAlbany CI has further deepened collaborations with the partner university in China SWUFE, with several ongoing collaborative projects. First, to promote research collaboration between UAlbany faculty and SWUFE faculty, CI has facilitated UA faculty’s visit and research presentations at SWUFE (e.g. Prof. Zai Liang in Sociology, Youqin Huang and Rui Li in Geography and Planning, Yu-hui Chen in University Library). A program is in place at SWUFE to facilitate UAlbany faculty’s visit and research collaboration with SWUFE faculty. Currently, Prof. Zai Liang and Prof. Youqin Huang have collaborative research projects with SWUFE colleagues. Second, CI is working with various UAlbany colleges/departments to develop joint-degree programs with SWUFE. Public Administration and International Business are two possible candidates.

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), YMCA, and General Electrics (GE). Language classes and cultural events have also reached other public schools in the capital district.

CI has experience personnel changes. The Assistant to the Director Xiaofang Cao was hired in Jan., 2017 and resigned in June, 2017 due to family reasons. A new Assistant to the Director Ling Li was hired in September, 2017.

Here is a list of events and activities CI has organized during the year 2017 (Unless noted, events are held at UAlbany uptown campus).
**Academic:**

- **Speaker Series**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Speaker</th>
<th>Affiliation</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Number of Participants</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Feb. 17</td>
<td>Linghui Tu</td>
<td>National Academy of Chinese Theater Art, and SUNY Binghamton</td>
<td>Chinese Opera and Costume</td>
<td>150</td>
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<tr>
<td>3-Mar</td>
<td>Ronald Knapp</td>
<td>SUNY New Paltz</td>
<td>Searching for China's 'Forgotten' Covered Bridges</td>
<td>70</td>
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<tr>
<td>10-May</td>
<td>Xuesong Feng</td>
<td>Senior CCTV editor and journalist</td>
<td>The 2nd International Symposium “Introducing China to the World”: Searching for WWII Journalist Fang Dazeng</td>
<td>15</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sept. 22</td>
<td>Jingle Wu</td>
<td>Arizona State University, School of Life Sciences and Sustainability</td>
<td>Linking Biodiversity, Ecosystem Services, and Human Wellbeing for Sustainability: Research Challenges and Opportunities in China</td>
<td>65</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oct. 13</td>
<td>Rowan Flad</td>
<td>Harvard University, Anthropology</td>
<td>Investigating Technological Changes Along the Proto Silk Road in Northwest China</td>
<td>70</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 3</td>
<td>Avery Goldstein</td>
<td>University of Pennsylvania, Political Science</td>
<td>China’s Grand Strategy under Xi Jinping: Origins, Content, and Implications</td>
<td>80</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nov. 17</td>
<td>Julie Klinger</td>
<td>Boston University, Global Studies</td>
<td>The Environment-Security Nexus in China’s One Belt, One Road Initiative</td>
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- **Conferences/workshops**

1. April 3 – 4, 2017: *International Conference on the Transformation and Impact of the Chinese Urban Economy*, with 17 invited speakers from Columbia University, MIT, Brown University, Cornell, UCLA, UCSD, University of Utah, University of Lethbridge, City University of Hong Kong, and Peking University. They come from different disciplines, including economics, sociology, anthropology, urban studies, geography, planning, and political sciences. Renowned economist Barry Naughton (UCSD) and sociologist Victor Nee (Cornell) served as keynote speakers. Faculty and graduate students from UAlbany, Union college, RPI and Siena College attended the conference.

2. April 29, 2017: One-day workshop on *Teaching Chinese in the United States*. This is our second pedagogical training workshop, and CI collaborates with the MAT program at Clarkson University. Four well-known Chinese linguistic professors from Columbia
University, University of Massachusetts Boston, and Beijing Normal University/Dartmouth College provided pedagogical training to about 50 Chinese language teachers from the area. The training was extremely well received.

3. Dec. 2, 2017: one day workshop titled “The Qingming Scroll Revealed: A Primary Source for Teaching About China”, with Dr. Valerie Hansen of Department of History at Yale University. This is the third pedagogical training to school teachers, in collaboration with Clarkson University, and the Capital District National consortium for Teaching about Asia.

Cultural events:

1. Feb. 3rd, 2017: Chinese Opera Performance in General Electric (GE). CI brought Chinese Opera for the first time into GE, with professional performers from Beijing Institute of Theater Arts


3. Chinese Culture Series in Albany Pine Hill Public Library
   o Jan. 16, 2017: Chinese intangible cultural heritage, and wool felt fiber art
   o Jan 30, 2017: Chinese New year
   o Feb. 18, 2017: Chinese Painting
   o March 11, 2017: Chinese Dance
   o April 15, 2017: Travel in China
   o May 13, 2017: Chinese Music
   o June 10, 2017: Chinese Calligraphy

4. Chinese Culture Series in Schenectady County Public Library
   o Sept. 30: Exploring language
   o Oct. 7th: Celebrate Holidays
   o November 18th: Chinese Paper Cutting
   o Dec. 9th: Exploring Food

5. Oct. 3: Mid-autumn Festival and Confucius Day Celebration in Performing Arts Center, with about 500 people attended the event. President Rodriguez, VP Bill Hedberg, Associated Vice Provost Mark Rentz, and Vice Provost for Public Engagement Darrell P Wheeler attended the event. President Rodriguez and Associate Vice Provost Rentz gave remarks. Faculty, students, and community members enjoyed the performance.

**Teaching:**

1. Advanced Chinese (IV) in Tech Valley High School in Albany
2. Advanced Chinese (EAS 389) in East Asian Studies at UAlbany
3. Chinese Language and Culture class at UAlbany (Non-credit)
4. Chinese Language and Culture class in Albany Pine Hill Library
6. Oct. 23, 2017: Students from Leland and Gray Union Middle and High School (Vermont) visited CI and experienced Chinese and Chinese culture
7. Tai-chi class at UAlbany (non-credit)

**Other Major Events**

1. March 28th, 2017: Youqin Huang was invited to talk about Confucius Institution on the Schenectady Today Show.

2. April 4, 2017: held the meeting for UAlbany members of the Board, with the Chinese Director of the CI. Director Youqin Huang reported what CI has done since 2016. Board members discussed the challenges CI faces and the plans for the future.

3. April 10th, 2017: hosted the visit of a Hanban delegation, with JING Wei, Deputy Chief Executive of Confucius Institute Headquarters (or Hanban), REN Shifang, Deputy Director of Division of American and Oceanian Confucius Institute, and SHANG Ruofan, Program Officer of Division of American and Oceanian Confucius Institute. CI organized a meeting with UAlbany President and other leaders, a tour of the library, a visit to Tech Valley High School, and meetings with Congressman Paul Tonko and Assembly member John McDonald. CI Directors and staff also had a meeting with the delegation to discuss the operations of CI.

4. April 14th, 2017: Executive Director and Chinese Director of CI met with the interim Provost Darrell Wheeler to discuss the mission and vision of CI.

5. The CI website has been completely redesigned.