



CENTER FOR CHINESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION

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CENTER ACTIVITIES

Major Donation from Alice and JP Wang Foundation Announced

In October of this year, the Chinese Flagship program received a substantial donation from the Alice and JP Wang Foundation. The donation will be divided into three annual installments and will be used to provide scholarships for Chinese Flagship students entering their Capstone Year as well as for Chinese Flagship students wishing to enroll in the UHM in Taiwan summer program.

The California-based Alice and JP Wang foundation was established by JP Wang, founder of the influential information technology firm Golden Star Technology, Inc., and his wife. In addition to the generous donation granted to the Chinese Flagship program at UHM, the Alice and JP Wang Foundation has supported over 50 scholarships within the state of California.

The donation would likely not have been possible were it not for the efforts of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Honolulu, which sponsors the Center for Chinese Language Education (CCLLE) and which introduced the Chinese Flagship program to the Alice and JP Wang Foundation. For their efforts, the Flagship Program and CCLLE express their utmost gratitude. (Max)

Chinese Table Activities Held In October and December Mix Fun with Education

Chinese Table emerged as the final product of discussions between the Chinese Flagship Student Council, who drew upon experience from a similar activity that took place during the UHM in Taiwan intensive summer program. Through Chinese conversation between students and staff over a culturally immersive group meal, Chinese Table aims to exponentially benefit Chinese language students in their opportunities to connect with fellow peers and staff, as well as improve their Chinese-speaking ability through practical conversation. Prospective students were also invited to learn more about the Chinese Flagship program and to meet the directors and instructors in a relaxed, personable environment. (Molly, Max)

Potluck Gathering with the UHM Chinese Community

The success of the first Chinese Table further affirmed the benefits this sort of social event can provide the Chinese students on the UHM campus. Taking place in the courtyard of the Biomedical Building on September 22, 2023, the event saw over 30 people in attendance and featured a wide variety of both authentic and Americanized Chinese dishes from Mini Garden Restaurant. Dishes such as Peking roasted duck, broccoli beef, walnut shrimp, and char-siu fried rice were included in the spread. Attendees partook in friendly casual conversation with classmates, while also taking the opportunity to discuss their academic plans with their instructors. (Molly, Max)

Dumplings and Light Conversation for Lunch

The second Chinese Table, which was the Chinese Flagship Program's last community event of the Fall 2023 semester, was held on December 1, 2023. This Chinese Table emphasized on hands-on activities, and invited students to participate and learn how to make their own savory dumplings. Hosted in the offices of the Chinese Flagship, students immersed themselves in the practice of dumpling-making using their choice of fillings, style of wrapping, and cooking preference. Dumplings were being molded, filled, boiled, fried, and enjoyed left and right. Our hardworking students were invited to eat to their heart's content. By the end of the event, students were even able to take some of the leftover dumplings home. (Molly, Max)



Group photo of the attendees from the first Chinese Table



Chinese Table attendees indulging in the assorted selection of Chinese catering foods



Chinese Section teachers working hard wrapping and cooking dumplings for attendees



Participants making conversation as they wrap their own dumplings

CCLE and Chinese Flagship Celebrate the Moon Festival

The Moon Festival, also known as the Mid-Autumn Festival, is a traditional holiday celebrated in Chinese culture. This harvest festival is always celebrated on the 15th day of the 8th month of the Chinese lunar calendar. During the festival, lanterns symbolizing the light that will lead people to prosperity and good fortune are lit with anticipation. Mooncakes, a pastry traditionally filled with red bean, egg yolk, meat, or lotus seed, are eaten during this festival. Every year around the time of the Moon Festival, the Chinese Department at UHM hosts a celebration welcoming the campus community to join in.

This year's Mid-Autumn Festival celebration was hosted in the Biomedical Building courtyard on September 29, 2023. Around 30

students, faculty, and graduate students gathered to celebrate the holiday and eat mooncakes together. The Chinese Section brought a variety of different flavored mooncakes to share with the students and faculty. In addition to small traditional Chinese pastries and Chinese snacks, mooncakes filled with both traditional and unique fillings (red bean, lotus, black sesame, custard, coconut, mixed nuts, and more) were offered to participants.

A festival cannot be complete without a lively atmosphere, so craft projects were organized and prepared for participants to try. In theme with Moon Festival tradition, the featured craft was none other than a lantern-building activity. Participants also conversed in Chinese as they ate their mooncakes and built their Chinese-themed crafts. In the end, there were enough mooncakes

left over for people to take home.

On the same day of the Mid-Autumn Festival, the Chinese Flagship at UHM and CCLE jointly held an open house for new and prospective students. The student coordinator, ambassador, and graduate assistant of Chinese Flagship, along with a few students, all waited in the office to welcome the prospective students. When new students came in to inquire about the program, the members present gave a quick rundown of the programs and what it can offer to students who join. In addition to introducing the program, the Chinese Flagship and CCLE also provided snacks and crafts for students to try at their leisure, and of course, took the time to get to know their students through Chinese conversation. (Molly, Max)



Chinese Table guest tries their hand at making one of the Chinese Table crafts: the auspicious red lantern



Besides the traditional red bean flavor, there are a variety of other mooncake flavors you can taste and enjoy



A guest partakes in the many other Chinese snacks

EXTRACURRICULAR EVENTS

Chinese Corner

What is Chinese Corner?

Chinese Corner is a bi-weekly event hosted by the Chinese Language Flagship Center (CLFC) and the Center for Chinese Language Education (CCLE). It is a cultural event that invites Chinese Flagship students to come join and converse in Chinese while learning about an aspect of Chinese culture. Each semester, the Chinese Corner team hosts roughly six events, with each team member hosting their own event. (Molly)

Tea Culture

The first Chinese corner of the Fall 2023 semester saw a memorably large turnout of participants. The event was hosted by the Chinese Flagship graduate assistant, Hsin-Tzu Jen, who gave an enthralling presentation about Chinese tea culture. During his presentation, students were

invited to taste an assortment of various teas. After familiarizing themselves with the taste, participants were challenged to identify the teas by taste. The person who was able to correctly identify the most varieties of tea won a Starbucks gift card. (Molly, Max)



Chinese Corner hosts prepare various teas for participants to familiarize themselves with

Mahjong

The second Chinese Corner was hosted by one of the CLFC's tutors, Teresa Fu. The event saw many students participate and learn about the traditional Chinese game Mahjong. In the first part of the event, students were given a presentation on the

rules of Mahjong. During the second half, the students were split into four groups and played against each other in a real Mahjong game. Those who won their games were afforded the opportunity to choose a random prize from the CLFC gift bag. (Molly, Max)



Students engage in a spirited and intense game of mahjong under the guidance of one of a student helper

History of Chinatown

The third Chinese Corner brought a bit of Hawaii's own history to light. For this event, we invited our honored guest, Dr Cynthia Ning, who gave participants an insightful introduction of the history of Honolulu's Chinatown. (Molly, Max)

Charades

The fourth Chinese Corner was hosted by one of CLFC's pre-capstone students, Kimberly Baston. Students gathered at the Biomedical Sciences Building and played a version of charades aimed at testing the participants' Chinese abilities. Following a brief introduction, students were split into two groups; in each group, a guesser was chosen and assigned to stand in front, facing their group. The guesser then had to guess the word written on the card held above their head, according to their teammates' hints. Teammates could either act out the

word using their body, or alternatively, use Chinese to describe the word without giving the answer away.

The word sets included a variety to give the participants a good challenge, and used words such as Spongebob, Snow White, and giraffe. It was a fun activity that encouraged students to practice their Chinese by using descriptive vocabulary to achieve the goal of having another person understand what they are trying to convey. (Molly, Max)

Beijing Opera Masks

The fifth Chinese corner was hosted by CLFC's student ambassador, Molly Wolyn, who gave an introduction of the art of Chinese face painting (脸谱 lian pu) in the manner seen in classic Beijing Opera. After a brief historical introduction of the meanings of the characters and colors one could see in the face paints used in the Beijing Opera, students were encouraged to paint their own Beijing Opera inspired masks. Some students

recreated popular Beijing Opera designs, while others took the initiative to create their own unique takes.

At the end of the activity, a popularity poll rivaling everyone's masks to one another was held on the CLFC Instagram. The mask that won the poll was then selected to be the profile picture for the Instagram CLFC account for a week. (Molly, Max)



Honored guest, Dr Cynthia Ning gives a lecture on the fascinating history of Honolulu's Chinatown



The competition between teams rises as teammates rush to help their guesser figure out the secret word



A wide range of words, such as 划龙舟 (hua long zhou), were included for participants to act out and guess



Participants paint their masks in different styles, either mimicking the look of traditional opera masks or being inspired to opt for an original design



Participants pose with their masks for their "Mask Off" competition submission, the profile photo contest hosted by the Chinese Flagship Instagram account



The winning mask, made and modeled by Noelani Ramon, selected to be the CLFC Instagram profile photo



Visiting scholar from Taiwan, Yu Sheng Chang leads the final Chinese Corner of the Fall 2023 semester

Chinese Name Stamps

The final Chinese Corner of the semester was hosted by visiting scholar from Taiwan, Yu Sheng Chang. The Chinese Corner she led focused on making Chinese name stamps (also known as “chops”) out of common everyday erasers. When students arrived at the activity, they were asked to give their Chinese names, which were then printed out on paper to be used as a template for their eventual name carving. After a great deal of patience, and perhaps a modicum of frustration due to some participants having complex Chinese characters in their

name, the names stamps were finally completed and ready for stamping. For the final touch, many colorful inks were prepared and offered to participants to try out and stamp to their liking.

The Chinese Corners this semester were a huge success, and saw numerous students joining in to learn more about Chinese culture. We hope to continue this trend and to expand our scope of activities in future semesters. (Max)



Student demonstrates the pencil-tracing step in creating your own name stamp



When it comes to the carving portion of the process, Chinese Corner participants gave it their all, carving away at their erasers with intense concentration and care

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Professional Development Workshop Held at CCLE

Workshop Introduction

The Center for Chinese Language Education hosted a professional development workshop on Friday, October 13, as a part of the Teacher’s Professional Development Series. The workshop saw two enlightening presentations, one given by graduate assistant Hsin-Tzu Jen and the other jointly given by Jia Lu and Jiaxin Tian. In attendance were graduate student instructors as well as Chinese Flagship Center Director, Professor Song Jiang, and Associate Director, Professor Julie Jiang. The presentations were open to questions by all in attendance, Professors Song Jiang, Haidan Wang, and Julie Jiang leading the discussion

Summary of Events

The first presentation, given by Hsin-Tzu Jen, explored the topic of how conversation analysis (CA) could be used to better understand the needs of students studying Chinese. To this end, Hsin-Tzu provided data in support of the idea that visual aspects and gesturing may help students learning Chinese by providing answers to the questions given to them. He also suggested the idea that certain linguistic elements vary in terms of grammaticalization between native and L2 speakers of Chinese. While his research is not yet complete, its preliminary findings could provide insight with respect to how to better assist learners of Chinese master the language.

Another noticeable facet of Hsin-Tzu’s presentation was his research into the manner in which students use gesturing during tutoring sessions. Gesturing was observed to often accompany speech in situations where speech cannot adequately convey the one’s intended meaning. It may be employed as a means of acknowledgement as well. Both circumstances were observed and documented, with its data allowing instructors to better understand the cues for understanding or the lack thereof for

students. Questions from Professor S Jiang, L Jiang, and Wang followed.

The second presentation was jointly given by Jia Lu and Jiaxin Tian, who explored the topic of the utilization of various methods aimed at correcting students’ improper tones in an online setting. As Chinese is a tonal language in which the tonality of a single syllable can drastically alter the meaning of a word, assisting students in their mastery of Chinese tonality is a must for instructors. To this end, Jia and Jiaxin provided a substantial amount of data in support of the idea that gesturing and the usage of artifacts (tools such as screen sharing or a chat box) is conducive to tone correction. While their research is not yet complete and requires further analysis, Jia and Jiaxin, as well as those in attendance, believe that if applied to online teaching of Mandarin Chinese, it could provide insight with respect to how educators can better assist learners of Chinese in their mastering of the language. Questions from Professors S Jiang, L Jiang, and Wang followed.

After an enlightening array of presentations and discussions, the participants enjoyed a light dinner. (Max)



Graduate assistant Hsin-Tzu presents his findings before his colleagues on visual aspects and gesturing and their potential to help students learn Chinese



Professors Haidan Wang, Song Jiang, and Jing Wu in attendance at the graduate assistant professional development workshop

13th International Conference on Han-Characters Education and Research at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

From February 15 to 18, 2024, the University of Hawaii at Mānoa will host the 13th International Conference on Han-Characters Education and Research, an event that will serve as a platform for innovative discussion regarding the manifold areas of Chinese character research in East Asia throughout millennia of history.

Han Characters, also referred to as Chinese Characters, represent a unique linguistic phenomenon in that variations of Han Characters have been used in multiple civilizations since ancient times. Today, they are taught as Hanja in Korea and Kanji in Japan, in addition to being used for communication throughout a number of East Asian civilizations in the past, such as Vietnam. Today, Chinese in Mainland China and Singapore learn simplified Han Characters while Chinese in Taiwan, Hong Kong, Macao and many overseas Chinese communities retain the use of Traditional Characters.

The Organizing Committee has received over 120 abstracts for what will no doubt prove to be an enlightening conference. Topics will range from methods of Han Character phoneticization in different languages to the



variations of Han Characters that have been used throughout history, such as the Chŭ Nôm writing system formerly prevalent in Vietnam.

University of Hawaii at Mānoa is excited to hold the conference and will do its utmost to play its role as a facilitator in the exchange of ideas and will use its facilities to that end. (Max)

CENTER FEATURE

Staff Introductions



Song Jiang

Dr Song Jiang is the Director of the Chinese Language Flagship Center at UHM and an Associate Professor of Chinese in EALL, specializing in Chinese linguistics — with an emphasis on cognitive linguistics, contrastive analysis, historical linguistics, sociolinguistics, and Chinese language pedagogy. Dr Jiang has extensive expertise in teaching Advanced/Superior level language skills to DOD employees and is a certified ILR Oral Proficiency Tester. He periodically teaches undergraduate-level survey courses on the Chinese language, lexicon, and studies of Chinese character, in addition to graduate-level courses on contemporary Chinese linguistics, second language acquisition, teaching methods, as well as research seminars on special Chinese linguistic topics. Dr Jiang frequently offers workshops on Chinese pedagogy, teaching material development, and is actively involved in collaborative projects on developing performance-based, content-based, and project-based language teaching pedagogies and curricular materials.



Maxwell Koenan

Maxwell Koenan is a graduate assistant (GA) serving as an administrator at the Center for Chinese Language Education (CCLE) and a graduate student in the language and linguistics track of the Chinese Section of the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. He holds a master's degree in Translation and Interpretation from National Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, Taiwan. His research interests include comparative linguistics and law. He is planning to teach a Chinese-English translation course in the Fall 2024 Semester. In addition to his administrative tasks, Max is often seen tutoring students in Chinese.



Yu Sheng Chang (Visiting Scholar from Taiwan)

Yu Sheng Chang is a visiting scholar from Taiwan and a tutor at the Chinese Language Flagship Center. She holds a Master's degree in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language from National Chengchi University in Taiwan, with a specialization in researching Mandarin picture books, teaching aids, and game-based instruction as part of the TOCFL test preparation. She has experience in being a lecturer at several language centers and universities in Taiwan, Thailand, Mongolia, and Poland. From her travels, she has taught diverse students ranging from elementary school to university levels, as well as adult learners. Her journey encompasses over seven years of expertise in instructing Mandarin Chinese to international learners.



Angela Chen

Angela Chen is an undergraduate student at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. Her majors consist of Creative Media, Japanese, and Asian Studies. At the Center for Chinese Language Education, she is one of the Student Helpers specializing in the Center's newsletter, promotional materials, and website design. Outside of life's usual hustle and bustle, she likes listening to music and reading books. In the future, she looks forward to being able to visit Guangzhou once more and perhaps working abroad in Japan someday too.



Jeno Calara

Jeno Calara is an incoming Flagship student as well as one of the Student Helpers of the Center for Chinese Language Education. He is currently majoring in Accounting and minoring in Japanese. His responsibilities as a Student Helper at CCLE primarily involves photography work of the Center's events and gatherings. His enrollment in the Flagship Program stems from his interest in learning foreign languages, particularly Chinese. Chinese is the civilizational basis for all the major cultures in the region, for instance, nations from Vietnam to Korea had all used Chinese in the past. His fascination of the language's long cultural history inspired him to learn Chinese. By learning Chinese, he hopes to delve deeper into the antecedents of those civilizations while expanding his knowledge about the Sinophone world.



Maya Chang

Maya Chang is an undergraduate student at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa. Currently, she is working towards a Bachelor's of Science Degree in Computer Science. As a Student Helper, she lends her expertise in website building to assist the growth and continuance of the Center for Chinese Language Education. She also enjoys traveling and has had the privilege of visiting several different countries. In her free time, Maya enjoys learning new languages and watching YouTube videos.



Mele Kalikimaka!

FROM THE CENTER FOR
CHINESE LANGUAGE EDUCATION STAFF



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Join us bi-weekly on Mondays at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Biomedical Sciences Building (Room T111) for a taste of Chinese culture at our staff-led Chinese Corner events!

This edition of the UHM CCLE Snapshot Bulletin newsletter was edited by Angela Chen with the assistance of Darwin Do