

UHM CHINESE FLAGSHIP SNAPSHOT BULLETIN



THE LANGUAGE FLAGSHIP
Creating Global Professionals



SPRING 2023 ISSUE 01 (07)
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COMMUNITY & PROMOTION



Megan and Orion at Night in Chinatown

Night in Chinatown

January 14, 2023

Flagship student Megan Ibara participated in the annual Night in Chinatown parade, taking part in a traditional lion dance performance. The Coordinator Orion Young, GA Hsin-Tzu Jen, and the Taiwan visiting instructor Meng-Ting Lin came and enjoyed the festivities. Hsin-Tzu and Meng-Ting were even able to try on the lion costumes! Chinese Flagship flyers were available for anyone interested in learning more about the program. The following Saturday, January 21, Megan's lion dance group performed at Ala Moana Shopping Center. This time, an even larger group of staff members and instructors came to see the show. (Orion)



Megan showing Hsin-Tzu Jen Laoshi how to maneuver the Lion Dance costume

Moanalua Culture Day

January 12, 2023

This year, the Chinese Flagship was invited to Moanalua High School's culture day. Two of our Taiwanese teachers did a presentation on Taiwan's culture and its significant landmarks to a beginner level Chinese class. Around 15 students were present during the presentation and the Chinese Flagship student ambassador attended to promote the program. (Molly)



Meng-Ting Lin Laoshi (up-right), Ying-Yu Chen Laoshi (up-left), and Student Ambassador Molly Wolyn (bottom-right) on Moanalua Culture Day



Meng-Ting Lin Laoshi (up-right) introducing Taipei 101 to students at Moanalua High School

UHM in Taiwan Info Session

January 23 and February 20, 2023

During the first half of the Spring 2023 Semester, 2 online info sessions on January 23rd and February 20th were held to open up a platform to share more details about the UHM-in-Taiwan Summer Intensive Immersion Program to interested students. The target audience included the Chinese Language Flagship students at UHM and those outside of the University of Hawaii System or, to be exact, students from the other 12 Chinese Language Flagship Programs across the U.S.

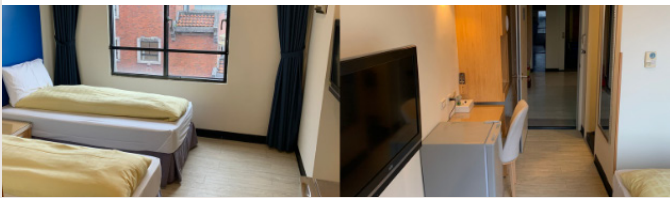
Given the summer program requirements for Chinese Flagship students, we reiterated that this is an eight-week summer program with the program dates set for June 12th through August 4th, 2023. In addition, a unique selling point of the program is that we will be based in two locations. To clarify, we will be in Taipei for the first three weeks to take advantage of the central historical and cultural resources and sites available. And for the remaining five weeks, we will be traveling south to our host institution, National Tsing Hua University in Hsinchu, to benefit from the unique positioning of the city as a tech hub.

Highlights

- Enhanced Local Experience: 3 weeks in Taipei & 5 weeks in Hsinchu
- Earn 8 UHM Credits
- Leading Instructors from Domestic Chinese Flagship Programs
- Experiential Learning through Project-Based Language Learning Project
- Diversified Course Formats
- Weekly Cultural Experiences and Explorations
- Overnight Trip

Taipei Accommodations & Facilities

Chientan Youth Activity Center 劍潭青年活動中心



Other program details shared also included information regarding the classroom component and cultural activities. On the instructional side, we will hold classes every weekday for about 5 hours, including regular classroom instruction, small group discussions, and one-on-one tutoring. Although this seems a lot, significant language exposure is extremely important for Flagship students. On the activities and exploration side, we will have weekly cultural activities such as the Chinese Table, which is an informal setting for students to interact with their teachers and peers at the dining table. Students will also be able to enjoy the different local cuisine and, last but not least, participate in weekly excursions and one overnight trip.

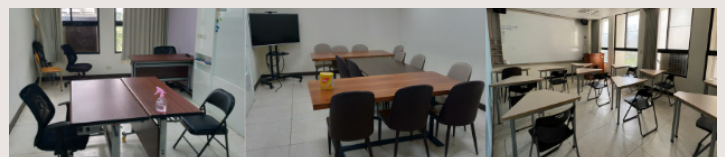


As a last clarification during the info sessions, we quickly broke down the application components to dispel any remaining concerns about the difficulty of completing our application. The benefit of holding this session was being able to address questions regarding the program or application process. This also served as an informal survey of concerns students may have, which allowed us to resolve them promptly and pass on the relevant information to the other Chinese Flagship Program's Directors and Coordinators.

Due to the collective efforts of the Chinese Flagship team at UHM and the Chinese faculty and instructors in the Chinese Section, we received quite an ample amount of applications from students at UHM and other Chinese Language Flagship Programs, which is near twice the number of applicants we received in 2022. (Vivian)

Hsinchu Accommodations & Facilities

NTHU 國立清華大學 and NTHU Guest House 清華會館



ACTIVITIES



Prof Song Jiang announcing the student starting their Capstone Year this semester

CLFC Beginning of Semester Orientation

January 13, 2023

The Director, Coordinator, Academic Support, and GA led a Welcome Back event for the Flagship students. Congratulations were extended to the two recent Capstone graduates from the Spring 2022-Fall 2022 cohort – Stella Jones and Lauren O'Connell. We also mentioned we currently have two Capstone students in the Fall 2022-Spring 2023 cohort – Man Ian Woo and Jinny Wang – currently in Taiwan on their second semester. Our outgoing Capstone student in the Spring 2023-Fall 2023 cohort – Sydney Hirayama – was at the event.

The current students in attendance were briefed on activities and deadlines for Spring 2023, including the Capstone Year application, Flagship Tutoring Program overview, scholarships, extracurricular activities, and how to get involved. Exciting developments include an upcoming Chinese Flagship Student Council retreat as well as the 2023 Summer Study Abroad 2nd UHM-in-Taiwan Summer Program (NTHU) occurring from June 12-August 4, 2023 in Taipei and Hsinchu, Taiwan. The Director laid out the new semester expectations and encouraged students to connect with others, accept new challenges, and get involved. Those who were not able to attend received the slides. (Orion)



Program Coordinator Orion Young giving an opening speech to the participants



Hsin-Tzu Jen Laoshi calling for participants for the CLFC Student Council



CLFC students paying attention to the upcoming events in Spring 23

Chinese Corner

January 27, 2023: Chinese Paper Cutting

For our first Chinese Corner of the 2023 Spring semester, we taught all those who attended about Chinese paper cutting. In celebration of the Chinese Lunar New Year, Year of the Rabbit, the approximate 15 attendees made paper designs with rabbits. The activity was led by visiting Taiwanese instructor Meng-Ting Lin, who gave a wonderful presentation about the history and culture behind Chinese paper cutting. After the presentation, there was a competition to see who made the prettiest paper cutting. (Molly)



Meng-Ting Lin Laoshi introducing an advanced paper cutting pattern



Group photo of the Jan. 27 Chinese Corner with all the participants showing their paper cuttings



The participants discussing their designs for the paper cutting

February 10, 2023: Lantern Festival

The topic of our second Chinese Corner of the Spring 23 Semester was lantern making. With ink brushes in one hand and a paper lantern in the other, the students were able to make their lanterns come to life with their own designs. Around 13 students attended and got to learn about the Chinese Lantern Festival as well. Many designs were drawn including bamboo, flowers, trees, and even rabbits! (Molly)



Hsin-Tzu Jen Laoshi introducing the background and traditions of Lantern Festival



Participants showing their final products from lantern drawing



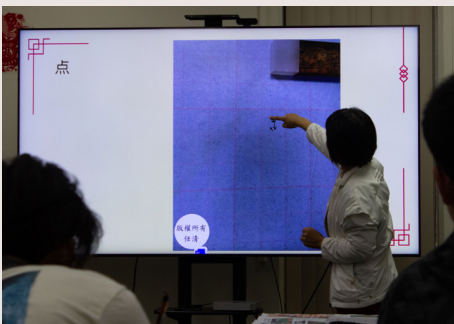
Group photo of the Feb. 10 Chinese Corner with all the participants showing the lanterns they created

February 24, 2023: Chinese Calligraphy

The third Chinese Corner in Spring 2023 was held at CLFC. The event is organized by Teresa Fu Laoshi, one of the CLFC tutors and current MA student in the Chinese Program. During the event, the participants learned the basic strokes as well as the traditional tools for doing Chinese calligraphy. After Teresa Fu Laoshi first introduced the basics, the participants practiced on the reusable paper with water before using ink on the Xuan Paper. At the end of the event, each participant was able to finish their own work. (Jen)



Teresa Fu Laoshi giving instructions to participants



Teresa Fu Laoshi introducing basic strokes in doing Chinese calligraphy



Participants practicing on reusable paper



A participant concentrating on finishing his work on Xuan Paper

Chinese Culture Day

March 3, 2023

Chinese Culture Day is an annual event that brings together the UHM community from different backgrounds to celebrate the rich history and traditions of China. This year's event was organized by the UHM EALL Chinese Section faculty, the Chinese Language Flagship Center staff and students, and the Center for Chinese Studies. The event hosted more than 300 people and saw attendance from Chinese major students, CLFC students, students from local K-12 institutions like Le Jardin Academy, Maryknoll School, and other members of the UHM community.

The event started at 9:00 am and continued until 1:30 pm, providing attendees with a variety of hands-on cultural activities and performances. One of the highlights of the day was the Lion Dance performance, which captivated the audience with its high-energy drumming and acrobatic movements. Throughout the performance, the crowd also followed the tradition of feeding the lions red envelopes, which is believed to bring good luck and fortune.



Hsin-Tzu Jen Laoshi teaching calligraphy and looking over an attendee's work



Jiaxin Tian Laoshi and Ying-Yu Chen Laoshi showing attendees how to tie a proper Chinese knot



Meng-Ting Lin Laoshi and Prof Gaye Chan from the Department of Art and Art History doing paper cutting



Jinhui Chen Laoshi introducing the Chinese Zodiac to an attendee



Prof Haidan Wang taking over the flag that means good luck and fortune from the lion



Nini Li Laoshi making tea for attendees and teaching them how to differentiate various kinds of Chinese tea



Jacob Algrim/Yueshi Ouyang Laoshi demonstrating Guqin skills and inviting attendees to give it a try

In addition to the Lion Dance performance, there were also a variety of cultural exhibits and workshops for attendees to explore. One booth featured Chinese calligraphy, allowing visitors to try their hand at this ancient art form. Another booth offered Chinese paper cutting, where attendees could create intricate designs using just a pair of scissors and a sheet of red paper. Meanwhile, the Taichi booth provided a calming and meditative experience for those looking to practice this popular Chinese martial art.

For those looking to relax and enjoy a cup of tea, there was also a Chinese Tea booth, where visitors could sample a range of different teas and learn about the history and traditions of tea in Chinese culture. The Face Painting booth allowed attendees to transform themselves into colorful characters and animals, adding a playful touch to the day's festivities.



Prof Yun Peng testing an attendee's knowledge on Chinese culture



Prof David McCraw teaching attendees different Taichi poses



Prof Song Jiang doing face painting with attendees



Group photo of the Chinese faculty and activity hosts



The Lion Dance band performing traditional music with drums, cymbals, and gongs to accompany the performance



An elementary school student looking at the lion curiously



An attendee feeding a red envelope into the lion's mouth

For those looking to deepen their understanding of Chinese language and culture, there were also workshops on measure words and the Chinese zodiac. These sessions provided attendees with a chance to learn about the nuances of the Chinese language and gain a deeper appreciation for the underlying cultures.

Overall, the Chinese Culture Day event was a wonderful celebration of Chinese culture and a great opportunity for attendees to learn and engage with different aspects of Chinese traditions. The Lion Dance and other cultural performances were mesmerizing, while the cultural exhibits and workshops offered a chance to learn and participate in various aspects of Chinese culture. It was a day filled with laughter, learning, and cross-cultural exchange, bringing together people from different backgrounds to celebrate the rich history and traditions of China. (Jen)

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT

Student Council Meeting

January 26, 2023

The first Chinese Language Flagship Center Student Council meeting of Spring 2023 was held on January 26, 2023. The meeting was attended in-person by GA Hsin-Tzu Jen, Molly Wolyn, Madeleine Lynch, Kiana Kelsey, Marisa Van Duyne, and Ian Nostrand. During the meeting, the CLFC staff and council members went through several organizational and developmental issues at hand. Specifically, the attendees brainstormed promotional strategies and proposed arrangements. (Jen)



CLFC students Marisa and Kiana at the CLFC Student Council meeting



Hsin-Tzu Jen Laoshi briefing the semester plan for CLFC Student Council

SCHOLARSHIP WORKSHOP

Eleven CLFC Students Applying for Federal Study Abroad Scholarships this Upcoming Summer and Academic Year

The Coordinator and the GA led a Scholarship Workshop for Summer 2023 and Capstone students. Five students attended. Sydney Hirayama – a University of Hawaii at Manoa Chinese Flagship student who was accepted to Capstone for the Spring 2023-Fall 2023 cohort – came and shared her valuable insight and tips for applying to federal scholarships. For her Capstone Year, Sydney was awarded both the Gilman Scholarship and the FLAS Scholarship, in addition to the Chinese Flagship Student Support Scholarship. Combined, she received a full-ride for her entire year abroad.

After the workshop, slides were emailed to all other Flagship students, including those interested in attending summer programs but were unable to attend. This Summer 2023, ten students are planning to study abroad, while this Fall 2023-Spring 2024 Academic Year, one student is planning to join Capstone. The majority of these students have already applied to at least one federal scholarship, and all of them applied to the Chinese Flagship Student Support Scholarship. (Orion)



Hsin-Tzu Jen Laoshi briefing students on the collaborating institutes that offer summer study abroad programs

STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

Finding My Cultural Identity Through Lion Dance

Megan Ibara

I first started lion dancing when I was around five years old. My mother loved taking photos of me and my brother during special occasions and she wanted a nice photo of us for the New Year. Upon trying to get a nice photo of us, my parents decided that the best way to get a nice photo is to just join a lion dance group. Coincidentally, a family friend who had come from lion dance practice suggested we join his group. And surprisingly, the members of that group also happened to be my father's relatives. My parents decided that this was the group that we would join, and I have been a part of the Hawaii Lion Dance Association since then.

The training for lion dancing can be difficult, but the teachers at my club are nice and make the activities fun. We have to do a lot of cardio, weightlifting, and learn kung fu. Kung fu is the basis of lion dancing and it can be hard (and painful) to learn. The muscles you use for kung fu are different from the normal weightlifting ones, so when first starting out it can be painful. However, I enjoy doing all of this and it helps me physically and mentally keep in shape.

Lion dancing happens all year round and not just during the Lunar New Year. My group performs at birthday parties, retirement parties, weddings, graduations, business blessings, and more. We also perform a few times for the New Year celebrations before, during, and some weeks after the New Year. I enjoy performing during the New Year because I am able to share



my love of lion dancing and Chinese culture with others. Lion dancing during this time of year means a lot to me because we are invited to places like my school and where I volunteer, and get to perform and teach them about lion dancing. Seeing other people happy with our performances and showing interest when we teach them about lion dancing makes all the hard work worth it.

Chinese lion dancing has taught me about my culture and has furthered my interest in the Chinese language and culture. Upon meeting my relatives in this group, I learned about my heritage and the impact that my ancestors have had on the Chinese community here in Hawaii. My father's great-granduncle was the unofficial mayor of Chinatown and he did a lot for the Chinese community. When finding out about my heritage, I thought it would be appropriate for me to continue this legacy and help perpetuate Chinese culture. This has also led me to join the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Chinese Language Flagship Program because I wanted to improve my Chinese language skills and learn more about my culture. Lastly, I hope to continue spreading Chinese culture to others in the future.



Capstone Reflections



Sydney Hirayama

Sydney Hirayama joined Chinese Flagship in Spring 2021. Sydney was drawn to the Flagship Program because of the opportunities to delve into the Chinese language and embrace her culture. Growing up as a Taiwanese American, she was surrounded by both English and Chinese. As a pre-med student, Sydney has been looking forward to Capstone especially since a medically-related internship would be invaluable to her professional development.

While preparing for Capstone, I was very nervous and overwhelmed. I did not know what to pack and just stuffed everything into my one suitcase. I said my goodbyes to my family and friends and boarded the plane. Before arriving in Taiwan, I had to stop by in San Francisco, so I could meet the rest of my seven capstone classmates. Being a small group, we got along really well. When we all arrived at the quarantine hotel, we were all tired after flying 14 hours in the air. The hotel that we stayed in was very fancy and a great way to ease into adjusting time zones and living in a whole new

country. The hotel was located right next to the Shilin Night Market, so I was able to eat 包子 (steamed buns), 臭豆腐 (stinky tofu), and 蚵仔麵線 (oyster vermicelli). After a week, we moved into the dorms and started class the next day. The move was a bit stressful because we did not know our roommates prior to moving in.

Regarding classes, I only had two so far. As of now, I think the workload is manageable, but I'm still not really used to it yet. But, I do find the class topics to be very interesting. In our cultural class, we learned about Beitou's history, tourist attractions and landmarks. Overall, I am really excited to be in Taiwan and I can't wait to explore the city. I also hope to improve my Chinese within a year!

