

# UHM CHINESE FLAGSHIP SNAPSHOT BULLETIN



THE LANGUAGE FLAGSHIP  
Creating Global Professionals



SPRING 2023 ISSUE 02 (08)  
May 2023

## COMMUNITY & PROMOTION



Prof Jiang and Orion with Cecelia and her Marine Officer Instructor Captain Grace Jenkins as well as other Navy ROTC staff members



Prof Haidan Wang distributing flyers to prospective students



Student Ambassador Molly Wolyn teaching students the Chinese Yo-Yo

## Manoa Experience

April 1, 2023

On Saturday, UHM held a Manoa Experience Day for prospective University of Hawaii students, a campus-wide event targeting local high schoolers. In attendance were the Director, members and instructors of the Chinese Language Faculty, the Coordinator, along with Chinese Flagship students (including the Student Ambassador Molly Wolyn, and Student Council Members Ian Nostrand and Madeleine Lynch). Showcased at the event was the playing of traditional

Chinese games including the Chinese Yo-Yo and the Chinese shuttlecock. On top of the fun, we also handed out flyers, program swag, and treats.

Also at the table was Chinese Flagship's Navy ROTC student, Cecelia Unger, who, in turn, brought the Director and Coordinator to the Navy ROTC table to exchange pleasantries. The Director spoke at length with Cecelia and her Marine Officer Instructor, Captain Grace Jenkins, about Cecelia's Chinese Flagship study. The Navy ROTC Administrative and Fiscal Specialist, Catherine Taylan, thanked us for introducing them to Project GO and was

proud to share how one of their cadets was able to attend Project GO Arabic this past year.

Before the day ended, the Director and Coordinator also had the opportunity to visit the Air Force ROTC table. The Air Force ROTC commanding officer, Lt Col Michael Arguello, shared the great news with the Director that yet another cadet is interested in Chinese Flagship. After the Manoa Experience event, the Coordinator emailed around twenty electronic brochures to prospective students before inviting them to attend future Chinese Corners. (Orion)

## Roadmap Career Fair

March 22, 2023

On Wednesday, the Student Ambassador Molly Wolyn and Student Council member Ian Nostrand attended the Hawai'i Language Roadmap's 6th Annual Multilingual Career Fair at the UH-Manoa Campus Center Ballroom. The first hour of the Career Fair was attended by State Seal of Biliteracy candidates from across O'ahu and Neighbor Islands along with accompanying high school teachers, followed by UH-Manoa students in the second hour.

It was a great opportunity for our Chinese Flagship team to speak with potential incoming students and their teachers. The Roadmap organizer's vision was to allow students to explore meaningful ways to serve their language communities in their future career. (Roadmap Career Fair)



Molly Wolyn promoting Chinese Flagship at the Hawai'i Language Roadmap Multilingual Career Fair

## ACTIVITIES

### Chinese Corner

March 24, 2023: Mahjong

After the spring break, the Chinese Flagship at UHM held their fourth Chinese Corner of the Spring 2023 semester. Led by the student ambassador Molly Wolyn, the topic of this Chinese Corner was Mahjong. First, Molly gave a quick rundown of the game in Chinese.

After the introduction, the students were invited to try their hand at mahjong at their tables. Around 10 students attended and competed with each other in order to win Starbucks gift cards. We were happy to have both those who knew how to play the game and those who were willing to learn! (Molly)



Kimberly and Vesper laying out the mahjong tiles



Students split into small groups to play Mahjong amongst themselves

April 14, 2023: Abacus

Our second to last Chinese Corner of the Spring 2023 semester was hosted by Tian Jiaxin Laoshi. With great enthusiasm, her topic of presentation was the abacus! Since not many in attendance knew how to use an abacus, Tian Laoshi provided a quick introduction on how to use one and which beads represented which numbers.

After practicing and playing around, the students then had a competition to see who could solve equations the fastest with the help of the abacus. The winners who mastered the traditional apparatus with great speed were given a Starbucks gift card! (Molly)



Tian Laoshi explaining to Brandon how to use an abacus

**April 29, 2023: Lion Dance**

For the last Chinese Corner of the Spring 2023 semester, the group took an excursion to the practice gym of the Hawaii Lion Dance Association. One of our CLFC students, Megan Ibara, is a member of a Lion Dance group! For the first half of the excursion, the members of the association gave a brief introduction on how to perform lion and dragon dancing, as well as a brief history.

Afterwards, the group was able to try holding both the lion head and the dragon dance practice sticks. A big thanks to the Hawaii Lion Dance Association for hosting us! (Molly)



Hsin-Tzu Jen Laoshi practicing Lion Dance under the instruction of Huang Qiang Lion Dance Group



Chinese Corner attendants taking a group photo with Instructor Ricky (left 1), and Lion Dance Group Member/CLFC student, Megan Ibara (right 1), after the Lion Dance Workshop

**End of Semester Celebration**

**May 3, 2023**

CLFC held an end-of-semester celebration that was attended by the CLFC coordinator, CLFC GA, Chinese GAs, and CLFC students. The event was a great success, and everyone was in high spirits throughout the celebration. Beverages and snacks were provided, and the attendees enjoyed themselves thoroughly. The atmosphere was lively and friendly, with all the attendees chatting and mingling with each other.

As the semester came to a close, there was a sense of achievement and excitement for the upcoming summer program in Taiwan. The celebration provided a great opportunity for everyone to reflect on the past semester and all that had been accomplished. It was also a chance to relax and enjoy the company of fellow CLFC members before the summer break. Everyone left feeling energized and excited for what was to come. (Jen)



Group photo of Chinese GAs, CLFC staff, and CLFC students celebrating the end of Spring 23 semester



Hsin-Tzu Jen Laoshi, Meng-Ying Zhai Laoshi, and Nan Wang Laoshi (from right to left) at the End of Semester celebration

**ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT**

**Summer Safety & Security/Teambuilding Orientation**

**May 3, 2023**

On Wednesday, May 3, the Coordinator and the GA led a Summer Safety & Security/Teambuilding Orientation for all the UHM CLFC students enrolled in the UHM in Taiwan Summer 2023 Study Abroad Program. Topics covered included speed-self intros, where students shared ways to exercise situational awareness while abroad, and current methods that can be used to maintain health & wellness while abroad. The Coordinator shared safety and security pro-tips from his experience leading study abroad programs. The students also went over the crisis emergency plans and US State Department resources for staying safe while in Taiwan.



CLFC Coordinator Orion Young leading a discussion on how to raise situational awareness while abroad



CLFC students introducing themselves and lining up based on their birthdays

The Teambuilding Workshop involved an icebreaker game where participants competed to see who could connect all of their classmates' English and Chinese names to their profile photos. A discussion about "how to be a good study abroad teammate" followed, and the session ended with role plays on how to use teamwork to overcome possible cross-cultural scenarios. (Orion)

# Capstone Reflections

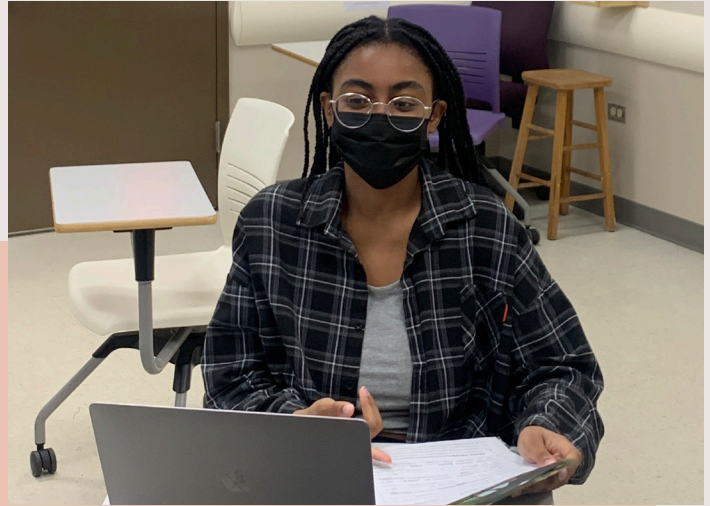
Leila Worman

*Leila is a rising Senior at UHM double majoring in Political Science and Chinese Flagship who has been accepted to attend the Taiwan Capstone this Fall 2023-Spring 2024. Leila began studying Chinese as an absolute beginner in the Summer of her Freshman Year less than two years ago.*

Admittedly, my decision to start studying Chinese was a little impulsive. I knew that I needed to fulfill a language requirement, but felt it would be nice to be close to fluency by the time I graduated. I stumbled across the website for Chinese Flagship, inquired about the program, and joined shortly thereafter. Before joining, I was already pursuing another major and felt that the program would complement that major and increase the number of future job prospects.

I differ from a few of my classmates in that I did not start studying Chinese until I joined Flagship. Before studying CHN 101 and 102 over the summer, I could not read, speak, or write Mandarin. I had watched a few period dramas but did not retain anything while watching them. This made starting very intimidating. I remember being incredibly nervous at the start of the semester but was surprised at how manageable the coursework was and how accommodating my teachers were. This trend continued from my beginner-level Chinese courses to CHN486. I am incredibly fortunate to have been taught by several incredibly patient and understanding teachers. Without them, I certainly would not be anywhere near where I am today.

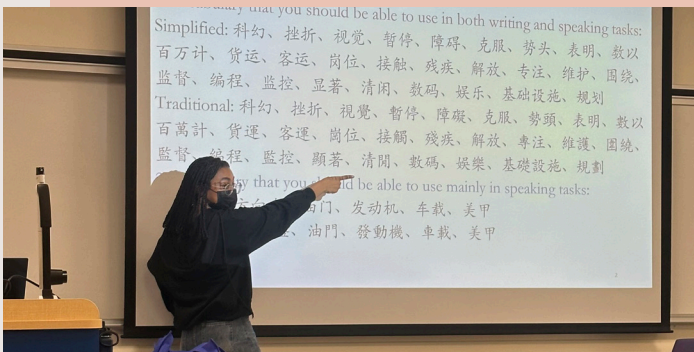
At this point, I have only studied Chinese for a year and a half, so I don't feel as though I'm qualified to give advice. What I can say to students starting with no prior experience is that repetition and patience are crucial. Without these things, you'll be unable to retain anything. This is especially true



when it comes to handwriting characters. It may be troublesome at first, but with practice, you will see results. I frequently use Quizlet in combination with handwriting characters whenever I receive a new set of vocabulary words. This practice became especially important when I took CHN 301 and 302 over the summer in Taiwan. Our teacher had daily vocab quizzes during which we had to handwrite characters after our teacher randomly read a few from our vocab list.

Study methods aside, I firmly believe that a little persistence will go a long way. When encountering difficult or unfamiliar material, don't stress and slowly work your way through it. This goes not only for your Chinese classes but for your eventual Capstone Application. Preparing my application materials while simultaneously taking seven classes and studying for my capstone exams was tough at times, but a solid work ethic and persistence proved incredibly helpful.

I hope that while I am abroad, I'll see a significant increase in my Mandarin proficiency. While my post-graduation plans are not set in stone, I do know that I would like to work somewhere where Chinese is widely spoken. To function in that sort of environment, however, I need to put effort into becoming fluent. I hope that this upcoming year provides me with the opportunity to do just that. Aside from the educational reasons behind my applying for Capstone, I am also looking forward to reuniting with old friends and having the opportunity to travel to some of my favorite places in Taiwan.



Leila presenting in Chinese during her Spring 2023 CHN 402 class at UHM

