

UHM CHINESE FLAGSHIP SNAPSHOT BULLETIN



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WORDS FROM THE TEAM

All 21 participants from the five Flagship institutions, Arizona State University (ASU), Indiana University (IU), San Francisco State University (SFSU), University of Oregon (UO), University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM), and a non-Flagship institution, DePaul University successfully checked-in over the weekend of June 10, 2023. A few adventurous students even flew in the morning of the first day of the program. Before beginning the course instructions on the first day of the "2023 National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) – the University of Hawaii at Manoa (UHM) Chinese Flagship Language Summer Intensive Immersion Program" (hereafter UHM-in-Taiwan), we began with an opening ceremony, where we introduced the team of supporting personnel, lecturers and teaching assistants to the students, so the students are aware whom they will be interacting with over the duration of the eight-weeks and can reach out to for assistance.

During the opening ceremony, students received an orientation packet and a few words from the team. Resident Director, Dr. Song Jiang, urged students to use this opportunity to study diligently, refine their learning strategies, achieve their individual and National Language Flagship Program language learning

goals, and lay the foundation to be successful during the Capstone Year as Flagship students. As participants of the National Chinese Language Flagship Program, recipients of funding from the National Security Education Program (NSEP), the Institute of International Education (IIE), the Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO), and learners of Chinese, students should seek to become global professionals and ambassadors with abilities to bridge between professional

fields and cultures, especially between the United States and Greater China. Last but not least, Dr. Song Jiang also used this chance to share with the students that this is also a good opportunity for personal growth, for they will most likely experience an array of emotions over the course of the program, which is a normal process of being in a new environment and when dealing with the different stages of culture shock. (Vivian)



Very first group photo of the 2023 UHM-in-Taiwan Summer Program



Opening Ceremony's orientation packets

Our program aims to provide students with diverse opportunities to explore Taiwan's vibrant culture and rich history, so to ensure a comprehensive experience, we selected two prominent cities as our main locations: Taipei and Hsinchu, which will offer students an insight into Taiwanese society, and the blending of traditional heritage with modern innovation.

As the Local Program Coordinator, I am delighted to share the highlights of the first three weeks, filled with immersive cultural experiences and memorable moments while students were also handling the immersive and intensive language curriculum. During

the first three weeks' stay in Taipei, accommodations were situated near the Jiantan MRT Station, offering students easy access to different parts of Taipei. Due to the proximity to the well-known Shilin Night Market, our students got the chance to explore the area, sample local foods, and experience the energetic and busy atmosphere of the neighborhood.

Additionally, we strongly believe that the immersive experience, especially engaging with the local lifestyles in the neighborhood, is crucial to learning Mandarin effectively. Therefore, we deliberately arranged a few cultural activities and excursions that involved taking public transportation with the accompaniment of the teachers. Traveling by the MRT and public buses

is a good way for students to traverse the bustling streets, interact with locals, and embrace the welcoming nature of the Taiwanese. To highlight a few, we arranged for students to visit the Beitou District, the National Palace Museum, the Lin Yutang House, Yangmingshan National Park, and the North Coast of Taiwan.

Aside from the regular curriculum and cultural excursions, we also hold a weekly Chinese Table, where students and teachers come together to enjoy 'Biandang (Taiwanese Lunch Box),' bubble/boba milk tea, or other Taiwanese desserts. As the Dragon Boat Festival approached, we ordered the traditional food of the festival, 'Zongzi' (glutinous rice wrapped in bamboo leaves), and took students to experience the

annual Taipei International Dragon Boat Championships, learning about some other traditions specific to this festival and watched some traditional performances like the Chinese yo-yo.

As we progress further into the program, we eagerly anticipate the wealth of exciting adventures and discoveries that lie ahead during the remaining six weeks in Taipei and Hsinchu. Students will continue to deepen their understanding of Taiwanese culture through the diverse range of activities planned, including but not limited to visits to historical landmarks, traditional temples, bustling markets, and picturesque natural wonders. The journey has just begun for the students, and a series of experiences await them. (Min-Qi Chen)



Students Alexandra (IU), Alisa (SFSU), Anne (UO), Asia (UHM), Cecelia (UHM), Charyse (ASU), DaNia (SFSU), Emily (UHM), Fiona (ASU), Iwalani (UHM), Jane (UHM), Kailey (ASU), Kaylee (DePaul), Kimberly (UHM), Madeleine (UHM), Marisa (UHM), Maysa (UHM), Nicole (UHM), Noelle (UHM), Ori (DePaul), and Precious (ASU) seated at the opening ceremony

TAIWAN - WEEK 1

Beitou District

Tuesday, June 13, 2023

Visiting Beitou was a meaningful opportunity for cultural enrichment. I discovered many new things about Taiwan. First, we went to the Beitou Library, a modern and beautiful building full of people of all ages.

In addition, the Beitou Hot Spring Museum was super relaxing. I would like to return to the Beitou District sometime and take a dip in the hot springs. I bought a postcard that I plan to send to my grandparents in Oklahoma. Beitou is a must-see destination for anyone visiting Taipei! (Anne Koontz, UO)



Students walking towards the Beitou Library



Students and teachers trying out the temperature of the water at the Beitou Thermal Valley's Hand-Soaking Pool



Anne looking at the lotus flowers near the Beitou Library (Photo Credit: Anne)



Anne relaxing inside the Beitou Hot Spring Museum (Photo Credit: Anne)



Group photo in the Beitou Hot Spring Museum



Precious, Alexandra, Cecelia, Kailey, Fiona, Charyse, DaNia, and Anna laughing after the CHN 204 lecturer, Yu-An Lee said something funny

National Palace Museum

Friday, June 16, 2023

During the first week, one excursion was visiting the National Palace Museum, which housed different historical artifacts, such as the famous Jade Cabbage, Meat-Shaped Stone, and Along the River During the Qingming Festival. They also had a special exhibit based on ancient Biblical Scriptures. My favorite exhibition was the Jade Cabbage; however, when we went, unfortunately, the Jade Cabbage was not on display.

Throughout this trip, I learned about the importance of artifacts and their cultural meaning, especially through the different educational programs, exhibitions, and interactive experiences, fostering cultural exchange and dialogue and promoting mutual respect and appreciation for other traditions and cultures.

The National Palace Museum is a cultural gem and an emblem of Taiwan's rich heritage. It plays a crucial role in preserving the Chinese historical legacy and fostering cross-cultural understanding.

Next time I get the chance to come to Taiwan. I will definitely go back to the National Palace Museum because there is still so much that I would like to explore. (Iwalani Campbell, UHM)



The National Palace Museum



Group photo at the National Palace Museum

On Friday, we took a bus to the Taipei National Palace Museum. The Taipei National Palace Museum, formerly the Sun Yat-sen Museum, houses over 100,000 artifacts and rare treasures. Inside the museum, a statue of the Father of the Nation, Sun Yat-Sen, sits peacefully in the center of the exhibition hall, gazing into the distance like a giant, guarding this precious island. The museum is divided into three levels of exhibits: the first level is a guided tour hall, books and documents, and treasures. On the second floor, paintings and ceramics are displayed. Jade and bronze are displayed on the third floor, and each floor has its special exhibition area.

When we entered the exhibition hall, the lights were immediately dimmed. The guide led us to the artifacts and introduced us to the names of the various artifacts



Alisa, Charyse, Anna, Cecelia, Alexandra, and Fiona on the bus to the National Palace Museum



Madeleine listening to the guide talk about the exhibit in the National Palace Museum

and what dynasties they are from. Whenever she asked us a question, the group was silent, and there was a strange and awkward atmosphere in the air. In fact, the questions she asked were worth thinking about and forced us to look at each artifact carefully. If there were enough time, I would have loved to ask her questions about the exhibits that I like or am interested in. I had a small suggestion: if the guide could lead us to each exhibit, the students should be given some time to look around and find out what they want to know, and then if that generated any questions, they could then ask the guide to answer them.

I forget which floor I saw this exquisite exhibit on. It was a bamboo and silk floral box was a toy of the Qing Dynasty -

the Qianlong Emperor. The box was made up of four sides that are assembled into a cylindrical box, which when unfolded can be viewed individually or rotated 360° to form a single piece. Each small object was carved with the finest detail in mind, and the bamboo tube was surrounded by different patterns on the outside. I was amazed at the ingenuity and creativity of the ancient craftsmen. I have made similar handicrafts in the past, but the final product was so uneven and disastrous that I had to throw it away. (Kimberly Batson, UHM)



Round Bamboo-Veneered Curio Box with Lotus Blossom Decor (Photo Credit: National Palace Museum)

TAIWAN - WEEK 2

The Lin Yutang House

Sunday, June 18, 2023

On Tuesday afternoon, we visited the former residence of Lin Yutang. Lin Yutang spent his later years in Taipei because it was similar to his hometown of Fujian; specifically the people speaking the Minnan dialect, which gave him a sense of home.

The building of Lin Yutang's residence is very distinctive and was designed by Mr. Lin himself. The residence blends Eastern and Western elements, such

as the Chinese three-sided courtyard and the Spanish white walls with blue eaves. The courtyard has Western-style arches, Spanish rotating columns, a small fishpond, and many trees and plants. As the saying goes, "There is a garden in the house, a house in the garden, a courtyard in the house, a tree in the courtyard, a sky in the tree, and a moon in the sky." It is an exquisite and elegant residence.

Since Mr. Lin Yutang lived overseas during his lifetime, he was proficient in English. Lin Yutang was the first to translate the English word humor into humor, and has since become known as a master of humor. Mr. Lin Yutang was a man of many identities, such as a man of letters, a politician, a gourmet, an inventor, and a diplomat. In his later years, he invented the Ming-Fu typewriter. He almost bankrupted himself trying to make an excellent



Group photo in front of the Lin Yutang House



Students taking pictures of the beautiful scenery in front of Lin Yutang's tomb

Chinese typewriter. The typewriter featured a printer that made up a character by breaking down the radicals of different fonts.

This was the first time I learned about Mr. Lin Yutang and visited his home. I think Mr. Lin Yutang spent his whole life exploring new things in different fields, like a curious child exploring the world and finally making achievements in the

field he was interested in. Mr. Lin Yutang and his wife were so in love that they tore up their marriage certificate on their wedding day. He said to his wife, "The marriage certificate will only be used in a divorce, we must not use it." Lin Yutang took one of his wife's names, Feng, as a family crest and even had her name engraved on the furniture in his home. Their love story is very romantic. (Kimberly Batson, UHM)



Students watching the documentary on Lin Yutang



Lin Yutang's reading room



Kaylee, Nicole, Emily, Noelle, Iwalani, and Jane taking pictures in front of the animal cut-outs at the Yangmingshan National Park Visitor Center



Kaylee, Emily, Noelle, and Iwalani posing next to the stone statue of a person pounding at the Yangmingshan rocks at the Yangmingshan National Park Visitor Center

Yangmingshan National Park

Tuesday, June 20, 2023

On June 20th, our cultural excursion was visiting Lin Yutang's home and visiting Yangmingshan. We arrived by bus and spent 1 hour at each place. I especially enjoyed going to Yangmingshan! Yangmingshan is a national park with a volcano that composites sulfur into the water, making the hot springs in Beitou always hot and bubbling all year. Usually, Taiwan's weather is very humid in the summertime,

but since Yangmingshan is above sea level, the air is refreshing, and the breeze is cool instead of humid. I saw so much scenery, such as the lush green mountains that reminded me of Hawaii, fumaroles, and the volcano itself! I was able to take lots of pictures, and it was a beautiful and fun experience! (Noelle Fong, UHM)



Kailey and Maysa getting a feel of the strong wind at the Yangmingshan National Park



Group picture of the CHN 404 students with their lecturer, Hsin-Chen Cheng

The North Shore & Yehliu Geopark

Wednesday, June 21, 2023

We traveled to the North Coast and saw amazing, natural rocks that resembled human profiles. Being able to see the ocean was a very welcome and refreshing sight as well. It was really cool to see the different geological formations; there were even mushroom-shaped rocks. At the coast, there was also a statue of a teacher who tried to save a drowning student, but both passed away in the incident.

After this, we ate lunch at a sizzling plate restaurant. Each of us picked our favorite type of meat, which was brought out on a hot plate. It was fun to chat with our teachers and fellow students while eating a delicious meal.

Lastly, we went to a Buddhist temple. It was tucked away in the mountains and had a gorgeous view. I loved seeing the architecture of the building and the beautiful statues. (Asia Nunez, UHM)

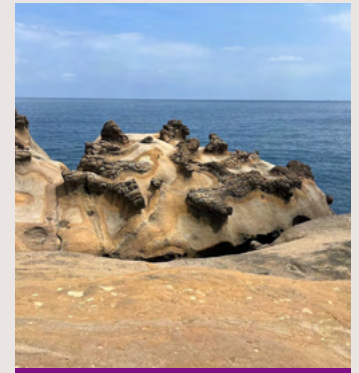
I had a lot of fun on the trip to Yehliu Geopark. There were so many amazing things to see. Yehliu Geopark is located next to the beach, so the view was stunning. My class and I first went to see the honeycomb and mushroom rocks. I have never seen rocks that looked like those; they were fascinating to look at. Next, we walked down a pathway that brought us to a statue of Mr. Lin Tien-Chen, acknowledging his bravery because he tried to save a child from drowning. Unfortunately, the boy and Mr. Lin both drowned. After, we decided to walk over to the most famous attraction there, the Queen's Head. The Queen's Head is very popular because the rock is believed to look like the Queen. I wanted to take a picture of the famous landscape, but the line was extremely long due to its popularity. Luckily, I could still take a picture, but the quality was not very good. Besides the fact that it was scorching, I had an enjoyable experience at Yehliu Geopark. (Kailey Moreno, ASU)



Group photo at the North Shore and Yehliu Geopark



Picture of the Queen's Head (Photo Credit: Kailey)



Picture of the mushroom-like rocks (Photo Credit: Kailey)

TAIWAN - WEEK 3

Kuo Yuan Ye Museum of Cake and Pastry

Sunday, June 25, 2023

Today we visited the Kuo Yuan Ye Museum of Cake and Pastry, a famous Taiwanese bakery known for its traditional sweets. When we arrived at the MRT station, my student card denied me access, so I missed the train that everyone

else was getting on. I was a little stressed, but two teachers accompanied me to fix the issue and took me to the Kuo Yuan Ye Museum.



Students before they get hands-on with the pineapple cake ingredients



Students wrapping the pineapple cake filling in the pastry dough before putting it in the mold and drawing personal designs to bake

When we arrived, we met other American students who were also studying abroad. They were really nice, and it was fun talking to them. Then we all went into groups to make Taiwanese pineapple cakes. It was really fun to get hands-on, and we even got to make our own little designs on the cakes. I tried to draw flowers on mine.

Then we went downstairs to learn about Taiwanese traditions, there were all kinds of different traditions, we learned about ones for children and marriage. The tradition for children involves different items. You lay out different items, and each item represents a career, and whichever items the child picks is what they're going to be when they grow up. They had an example game at the Museum,

except whichever item you got was randomized. I went up and said I wanted to be rich, and surprisingly the game said I was going to be rich! After we wrapped up the games and learned about the different traditions, we got to try on traditional Taiwanese clothing. I put on a red qipao, and it was so pretty that I wanted to go buy one myself. The game said I was going to be rich, so why not?

Afterward, we finished packing our handmade pineapple cakes and went downstairs to buy additional sweets. I bought three boxes of sweets because my mom loves sweets and told me I had to get her some special food from Taiwan. Overall it was a very fun trip! (Marisa Van Duyne, UHM)



Group picture on and in front of the set-up of the Zhuang ethnic group tradition of throwing the xiuqiu as a form of courtship



DaNia, Fiona, Alexandra, Charyse (standing, left to right), Jane, Marisa, Alisa, and Anne (kneeling, left to right) wearing the traditional clothing of different periods of ancient China

Academia Sinica – Exhibition Historical Display

Wednesday, June 28, 2023

Today we visited (1) the Institute of History and Language of Academia Sinica, where I had the opportunity to see many historical and archaeological artifacts, and (2) the Hu Shih Memorial Hall, where I had the opportunity to learn about the life of a man who was an internationally famous philosopher, diplomat, and author.

When I first stepped into the Institute of History and Language of Academia Sinica, there was a calm and inviting atmosphere. Not only does this museum have a very beautiful interior design, but I also had the opportunity to see many ancient artifacts with intricate and unique designs. My favorite exhibit in this museum was the “wartime helmets” exhibit because it reminded me of Japanese author Yosano Akiko and her poem, “Thou Shalt Not Die”, about the critique of sending young men to war.



Picture of Hu Shih (Photo Credit: DaNia)



Wartime Helmet Exhibit in the Institute of History and Language of Academia Sinica (Photo Credit: DaNia)

In the Hu Shih Memorial Hall, I found that the most interesting thing about him was that he participated in the May Fourth Movement and the New Cultural Movement because these are 2 movements that promoted the rebuilding of Chinese society and the questioning of traditional Chinese values. Although the memorial hall was smaller than the first museum we visited that day, I felt that the environment was very cozy. In addition to the museum section of the memorial hall, I also had the chance to see the home of Hu Shih and his wife.

Overall, I am glad that we have the opportunity to visit places with so much cultural significance. I look forward to the many other trips we will go on before I go back to America! (DaNia Stevenson, SFSU)

Da Dao Cheng

Friday, June 30, 2023

This excursion was definitely an amazing way to see and participate in Taiwanese culture. This specific day, we were supposed to visit multiple places such as a tea house and a place that makes cultural qipao dresses. Our first stop was to see how Taiwanese tea was made at Wang Tea and getting to taste some flavors. While we were in this small shop, rain started pouring down out of nowhere. The rain ultimately put a dent in our excursion, and caused us to cancel the rest of our plans for the day.

Everyone dispersed into small groups, which mine decided to look around the city, Da Dao Cheng. We walked through the main street and shopped, but we were surprised to find ourselves exactly where a parade for the city god's birthday was happening. This experience was absolutely amazing. We got to hear music played on traditional instruments, people dressed in costumes of the city god, and got to interact with a lot of Taiwan natives. The people participating in the parade were so happy to show us their culture. It was truly amazing to not only be able to have this cultural experience, but to also be welcomed with open arms. (Charyse Padgett, ASU)



Alexandra taking a picture with the White Guard deity, commonly known as the Seventh Master here in Taiwan (Photo Credit: Charyse)



Charyse taking a picture with the Black Guard deity also known as Eighth Master, the other deity of Black and White Impenance (Photo Credit: Charyse)

