# UHM CHINESE FLAGSHIP SNAPSHOT BULLETIN





### ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT



All conference volunteers and staff gather around for a group photo in the beautiful scenery of the Sakamaki Courtyard

### Flagship Students Participate in Organizing the International Conference on Han Character Education and Research

#### February 16-17, 2024

In mid-February, the University of Hawaii at Mānoa campus proudly hosted the 13th International Conference on Han-Characters Education and Research (IHER13), welcoming nearly a hundred international scholars.

Sponsored by the College of Arts, Languages & Letters (CALL), the Center for Chinese Studies (CCS), and the Center for Chinese Language Education (CCLE), this two-day conference brought together academics from around the world to explore diverse topics related to Han Characters. Scholars from Taiwan to Poland and beyond gathered for this esteemed event. Two keynote speakers, Dr. Baoya Chen and Dr. Fang



The Dean of CALL, Peter Arnade, delivers his welcoming remarks to the conference attendees

He from Peking University, as well as six plenary speakers, two of whom were Dr. Chul Heo from Pusan National University and Dr. Hongming Zhang from the Macau University of Science and Technology.

In addition to overseas scholars, UHM graduate students and Chinese Flagship student volunteers were also present at the two-day conference, supporting the proceedings from behind the scenes. As the Center for Chinese Language Education and the Chinese Language Flagship Center at UHM share the same office, Flagship students had the opportunity to be involved in the many developments of the IHER13 Conference, including assembling swag bags for attendees.

On the day of the conference, Flagship students could be seen carrying out various responsibilities. Molly Wolyn supervised coffee breaks, Kimberly Batson helped guests navigate the UHM campus, Kiana Kelsey assisted the registration area, Lillian Richter ensured venue cleanliness, Ripley Paulino distributed meal bentos, and Jeno Calara documented the event through photography. Everyone equally carried a professional and cheerful attitude from start to finish. Our ambitious Flagship students were given a valuable opportunity to observe and participate in the Conference on Han-Character Education and Research. The behind-the-scenes experience, paired with the once in a lifetime chance to hear such exemplary scholarly presentations up close and in-person, will without a doubt leave a lasting positive impression on their minds as they continue on their academic journeys.

Thank you again to Molly, Kimberly, Kiana, Lillian, Ripley, and Jeno for your dedication and support throughout the IHER13 Conference! (Angela)



Graduate Assistant Maxwell Koenen (left) and Flagship student Jeno Calara (right) take a double selfie during break time



#### Reflections from Molly Wolyn (Student Ambassador)

Participating in an internationally recognized academic conference was certainly exciting as it provided an avenue to put my professional and conversational Mandarin skills to the test. Throughout the 13th International Conference on Han Character Research and Education, I met many different scholars who enthusiastically shared their research with their peers. In between setting up coffee breaks, serving meals, and assisting the conference attendees, I also had the opportunity to listen to a few lectures. While I tried my best to understand the concepts, some of the language employed by the speakers proved to be above my level. However, I did glean some concepts from the speakers' presentations that deepened my understanding of both the Chinese language and the applicability of Han Characters.

Though exhausting, I found my participation in a conference whose field was similar to my own to be rewarding. The aspects of possible research in the field of Han Characters are limitless and I look forward to learning more about the topics that were introduced and discussed.



#### **Reflections from Kimberly Batson (Student Ambassador)**

Throughout the 13th International Conference on Han-Character Research and Education, which took place on February 16-17, I had the opportunity to lead a group of scholars from Korea University on a tour of the UH Mānoa campus. This interaction facilitated meaningful exchanges and connections between myself and professors and graduate students from various countries.

Also, while at the conference, I had the privilege of attending a few lectures, which, while dealing with rather esoteric subjects, nonetheless broadened my understanding of Han Characters and their applicability in multiple East Asian languages. In addition, I also made connections with the scholars present at the conference.

Overall, participating in this event and engaging with scholars from diverse backgrounds gave me a unique opportunity for both academic and personal development.



Keynote Speaker, Dr. Baoya Chen (left), and CCLE Director, Dr. Song Jiang (right) pose for a commemorative photo after Dr. Chen's presentation



Student Ambassador Kimberly Batson (left) and Flagship student Lillian Richter (right) pose for a nice photo behind the coffee and snacks table



Student Ambassador Molly Wolyn (center) directs the conference guests at the registration area

### UHM in Taiwan 2024: Applications Open

he Chinese Language Flagship Program at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa is entering its third year as the sponsor of the summer UHM in Taiwan Chinese language program. The program, which is run in partnership with National Tsinghua University (NTHU) in Hsinchu, Taiwan, is an intensive language program meant to give students an accelerated set of Chinese language courses as well as an introduction to life in Taiwan, thereby preparing them for their Capstone Year in Taiwan. Applications for this annual program are open to qualified students from all thirteen Chinese Language Flagship Programs throughout the United States.

The planning phase saw cooperation between UHM Chinese Language Flagship Director Dr. Song Jiang, Graduate Assistants Maxwell Koenen and Hsin-Tzu Jen, who worked in conjunction with Minqi Chen, a representative from our partner institution in Taiwan, NTHU.

After deliberation, it was decided that in order to maximize learning outcomes and reduce costs, that the time spent in Taipei would be reduced from three weeks to two weeks and the time spent at NTHU would increase from five weeks to six weeks.

In the run up to the application period, graduate assistants Max Koenen and Hsin-Tzu Jen and NTHU representative Minqi Chen held two information sessions on February 2 and 9. The sessions covered information

regarding activities, expenses, qualifications, and other matters. The sessions were joined by students and staff from various Flagship programs located throughout the United States. The results were fruitful as Hsin-Tzu, Max and Mingi managed to resolve any ambiguities.

While the first-priority applications are being evaluated, the second-priority applications have been opened, with the deadline being March 25. Please visit the application form for the 2024 UHM in Taiwan by scanning the QR code above. Announcements regarding the acceptance decisions for the summer program are to follow. (Max)





### Alice & JP Wang Donation Funds for Scholarship: University News Feature

In October of last year, the Chinese Language Flagship Program at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa 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 in Taiwan, as well as for Chinese Flagship students wishing to enroll in the UHM in Taiwan intensive summer program.

Both the UHM in Taiwan and Capstone Year programs are integral to the Chinese Language Flagship as they afford participating students the opportunity to experience life in a Chinese-speaking society while acquiring new skills.

Dr. Song Jiang, director of the Chinese Language Flagship Program at UHM, has stated that the funds from the Alice and JP Wang Foundation will go towards travel, tuition and living expenses. The Californiabased 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 introduced the Chinese Language Flagship Program to the Alice and JP Wang Foundation. For its efforts, the Flagship Program expresses its utmost gratitude. (Max)

## Featuring Our Chinese Flagship Tutors

At the Chinese Flagship, we offer tutoring for our Chinese Flagship students. The tutoring program at CLFC offers one-on-one teaching on reading, listening, speaking, and writing. Tutors use a variety of materials to help students reach a higher proficiency level including textbooks, authentic texts and audio clips, GLOSS, and self-compiled materials. All the recruited tutors are native speakers of Mandarin Chinese and have been trained in instructional techniques and L2 pedagogy by CLFC staff.

In essence, our tutors are invaluable members of the Chinese second language learner community at the university. Below we have some of our tutors share their thoughts and philosophies on Chinese teaching.



#### Yiwei Liu

Being a Chinese tutor within the Chinese Language Flagship program has been an incredibly fulfilling journey for me. Every tutoring session embodies a harmonious blend of earnest dedication and a relaxed ambiance, fostering an optimal environment for learning. Engaging with students from diverse backgrounds, all united by their fervent interest in Chinese, has proven to be profoundly gratifying. Through our interactions, I not only provide students with insights into the intricacies of daily life in China but also gain valuable perspectives on various cultural differences.

At the same time, my own comprehension of Chinese culture and linguistic norms has undergone significant enhancement. The program's guidance on customizing instruction to cater to individual student abilities has been instrumental in my pedagogical approach. Gradually, I have acclimated to utilizing materials spanning a range of difficulty levels, as advised by program instructors. Furthermore, I've tailored my teaching methods to incorporate a balanced blend of English explanations suitable for students across different proficiency tiers.

In my efforts to facilitate understanding, I have endeavored to explain vocabulary and complex terms using simple Chinese, complemented by pertinent examples and an explanation of relevant Chinese character radicals where appropriate.

Overall, my time as a Chinese tutor in this program has been profoundly enriching. It has not only refined my teaching prowess but also broadened my cultural horizons, instilling in me a deeper appreciation for the nuances of Chinese language and expression. Each session presents an opportunity for mutual growth and enlightenment, making the experience truly rewarding.

### Fall 2024 Capstone Selection Result

We are thrilled to announce that three of our exceptional students, Molly, Kiana, and Maysa, have successfully passed their pre-capstone tests, thereby securing their spots for the Fall 2024 Capstone Year in Taiwan!

Their outstanding performance and dedication have shone brightly, earning them this well-deserved opportunity. The prospect of advancing their Chinese proficiency in an immersive setting is an invaluable part of their academic journeys and brings with it a promise for growth.

Let's join hands in congratulating Molly, Kiana, and Maysa on this incredible achievement! We eagerly anticipate the positive impact they will make, both abroad and at home upon their return. (Hsin-Tzu)



Molly Wolyn



Kiana Kelsey



Maysa Segovia



#### Jiaqi Xu

I believe that students should develop the three language skills of listening, speaking and reading comprehensively in the process of learning Chinese. Therefore, my teaching goal is to help students make progress in all three areas, rather than focusing on only one of them. In terms of course content, I believe that it is necessary to use specific teaching materials aligning with the students' current levels, and to make constant adjustments during the course of tutoring by closely observing the extent to which students master the course content. In terms of teaching methodology, I have found that spending ten minutes before class to briefly review what they have learned will help them learn more efficiently.

Giving students sufficient positive feedback will also greatly increase their motivation to learn. In terms of teaching feedback, we need to regularly ask students for their feedback on their class ask them about their current and future learning plans, so that we can make timely adjustments to

experiences and ask them about their current and future learning plans, so that we can make timely adjustments to our teaching, thereby making it more effective. Language teaching is a dynamic process that requires teachers to tailor their teaching to the needs of their students rather than simply follow a script.

Through these teaching practices, I have not only helped students improve their Chinese listening, speaking and reading skills, but also cultivated their interest and self-confidence in learning. At the same time, I have been reflecting and learning from this teaching experience to continuously improve my teaching level and methods to better meet students' learning needs. So far, I have gained a wealth of teaching experience and a sense of accomplishment from this experience, and I have also deeply felt the meaning and value of being an educator.

#### COMMUNITY & PROMOTION

### Chinese Culture Day 2024 with the Chinese Flagship

#### Janurary 26, 2024

The Chinese Language Flagship Center and Center for Chinese Studies were delighted to welcome over 200 attendees to this year's annual Chinese Culture Day event at the UH Mānoa Campus Center Ballroom on January 26, 2024.

UH faculty and students from various majors were joined by students from the neighborhood preschool, all thoroughly enjoying the diverse array of Chinese cultural experiences offered. Attendees savored different varieties of tea at the tea sample table, crafted their own Chinese wishing lanterns at the paper cutting table, and even tried their hand playing the guqin at the instruments table.

Additionally, some of our Chinese Language Flagship staff and students hosted activities at this year's Culture Day event. Graduate Assistant (GA), Hsin-Tzu Jen, provided students with the opportunity to try brush calligraphy for themselves at his signature calligraphy writing table. Another GA, Maxwell Koenen, along with Academic Support, Angela Chen, engaged interested students in the fun of Chinese characters through a puzzle game. Meanwhile, visiting scholar from Taiwan, Yu-Sheng Chang Laoshi, expertly guided students on the intricate craft of Chinese rope knotting.

Director of the Chinese Language Flagship Program at UH Mānoa, Prof. Song Jiang, and Chinese Flagship students, Jeno Calara and Lillian Richter, showcased their artistry at the face



Chinese Flagship student and volunteer, Lillian Richter (right), paints a beautiful green dragon on a participant's arm at the face-painting table

painting table, creating festive designs that incorporated the seven colors of the rainbow. Paul Porter, another Flagship student who is now in Taiwan completing his Capstone Year, assisted at the crowdfavorite mahjong table, always boisterous in atmosphere. Kimberly Batson, a Student Ambassador, also lent a hand at both the mahjong and the Chinese measure words tables, while Molly Wolyn, also a Student Ambassador, was busy passing out samples of different Chinese foods to attendees.

Amidst the jovial atmosphere, a crack of the drum and the thundering of cymbals announced the long-awaited lion dance



GA Maxwell Koenen (left) regales Flagship student, Ripley Paulino (right), on the intricacies of Chinese characters at the character puzzle table

performance, courtesy of the Gee Yung Sports Association. As the two playful lions weaved through the smiling crowd, sniffing pockets for red packets and paper snacks, it was evident that their presence had bestowed attendees and staff alike with smiles, good luck, and joy.

At last, when the lions made their way onto the Campus Ballroom stage, the Dean of the College of Arts, Languages, and Letters (CALL), Peter Arnade, was also invited onstage for an encore with the two lions. The trio was given scrolls, which when finally unrolled, wished everyone auspicious luck and great fortune.

All in all, thanks to the efforts of the Chinese section teachers, Flagship staff, and our student volunteers, Chinese Culture Day was met with a resounding success. (Angela)

#### Reflections from Jeno Calara (Chinese Flagship Student)



The Chinese Culture Day event was a fun and interactive experience for students, professors, and everyone else who was able to attend. As a photographer, I had the opportunity to both view the activities and try each of them out myself. Though each activity had its appeal, my favorite activities were the Chinese tea booth and the guzheng performance, run by PhD students Nini Li and Jacob Algrim, respectively. Other activities that stood out to me were the opportunity to learn about Chinese history at Dr. Yun Peng's "Are You Smarter Than a Chinese 5 th Grader" activity, and the amazing artwork done by Dr. Song Jiang and Lilian Richter, for the traditional Chinese face painting

amazing artwork done by Dr. Song Jiang and Lilian Richter, for the traditional Chinese face painting activity. Though not an activity per se, perhaps the most notable feature was the lion dance performance, during which attendees halted their activities and were greeted with the clanging sounds and festive sights that are a hallmark of that Chinese tradition.



#### Reflections from Lillian Richter (Chinese Flagship Student)

This past Chinese Culture Day, I worked at the face painting booth with the Chinese Flagship Director, Dr. Jiang. Dr. Jiang is an experienced face painter and picked the designs we would be doing. I enjoyed my time at the face painting booth, as I could feel the fun and liveliness of the Culture Day atmosphere around me. Many kids came to our face painting booth, and I managed to paint a (pretty decent) cartoon drawing of Mulan for a little girl. Her excitement made me so proud of myself, making me wish that I had a picture! My coworkers came to help me on-and-off at the booth, and speaking with them and painting together made it a lovely day. My highlight was sitting

back and watching people light up at the exciting lion dance performance.



A calm soothes over the room as attendees practice taichi with Professor David McCraw (rightmost)



Attendees at the paper-cutting table and Jing Wu Laoshi (rightmost) pose with their paper creations for a group photo



Nan Wang Laoshi (right) demonstrates the paper plate craft the students can try at the blue and white porcelain table



Jacob Algrim/Yueshi Ouyang Laoshi (right) and an attendee play a duet on the guqin



The game gets heated at the mahjong table as Student Ambassador, Kimberly Batson (right), ponders her next move



Students at the tea sample table listen to Nini Li Laoshi (middle) as she enthuses how to distinguish different kinds of tea



Peter Arnade, Dean of CALL, and two playful lions wish everyone at Chinese Culture Day a fortuitous new year with scrolls that say "good business," "the blesing of the stars," and "bright futures ahead"



The lion dance performance, courtesy of the Gee Yung Sports Association, grants everyone with their own a fun, lasting memory of their time at Chinese Culture Day 2024

ACTIVITIES

### Chinese Corner

#### Janurary 22, 2024: Red Evelope Making

For our first Chinese Corner of the Spring 2024, the Chinese Language Flagship's Graduate Assistant (GA) Hsin-Tzu Jen Laoshi hosted an activity where students could learn about the traditional Chinese Lunar Calendar ( 干支) and design their own red envelope (紅包) with their own handwritten traditional Chinese calligraphy. After a brief introduction of the traditional Lunar New Year calendar, the students were able to identify which category within the sexagenary cycle went with the 2024 Lunar New Year.

Since this year is the year of the Dragon (龍年), students decorated their red envelopes with dragons and other designs! Before creating their final designs on red envelopes, the students practiced on white paper. References were provided by our very own calligrapher, Jen Laoshi! After students finished their personal red envelopes, they were able to take them home and give them to their families, or keep them for themselves to savor all the fun memories. (Kimberly, Molly)

#### Feburary 05, 2024: Who is the Spy?

n the second Chinese Corner of the Spring 2024 semester, upper-level students shared their Mandarin language learning experiences and put everyone's Mandarin skills to the test. This time, everyone got to play a game called 'Who is the Spy?' (誰是臥底). Before the game, our Capstone student, Paul Porter, shared his personal language learning experience, what he did to pass the Flagship Capstone test this semester, and how it helped him get to his current point of studying abroad in Taiwan. We also had a few students share how learning Mandarin could be utilized in their future careers.



Visiting scholar from Taiwan, Yu-Sheng Chang Laoshi (middle), helps students on what to draw



Students playfully share their red envelope designs with one another



A student practices their design before finalizing it for their red envelope



Graduate Assistant (GA) Maxwell Koenen (right) discusses secret intel with Student Ambassador and Chinese Corner leader Molly Wolyn (left)

to describe the word on their card by using only one word or sentence in Chinese. However, the gameplay is similar to Mafia, so one student among the group actually had a completely Led by Student Ambassador Molly different card! Using their Mandarin Wolyn, 'Who is the Spy' requires players and detective skills, the students had



A student begins to catch onto GA Hsin-Tzu Jen Laoshi's (right) bluffs

to vote on who they thought had the different card. After a couple of rounds, the students eventually became fully fledged detectives who easily caught the spy of the group. (Molly)the spy of the group. (Molly)

#### February 26, 2024: Chinese Lantern Festival



Chinese Corner leader, Kimberly Batson, introduces the Lantern Festival to Chinese Corner attendees

n celebration of the end of Lunar New Year Season, the theme of third Chinese Corner the Lantern Festival. The Chinese Flagship's Pre- Capstone student and Student Ambassador, Kimberly Batson, gave a presentation on the history and activities celebrated during the festival. Some of those fun activities include: stilt dancing (踩高蹺), eating tang yuan ( 湯圓), performing dragon dances (舞 龍燈), setting off fireworks (放烟花), and putting up lanterns!

Another popular activity during the Lantern Festival is guessing lantern riddles. We had our students try their hands at a few riddles. Try and see if

you can solve this lantern riddle: 他有你 沒有, 地有天沒有. (猜一個字).

After the brief introduction, students got to paint their own paper lanterns. By using paints of all different colors, students made their own personal designs that featured sunsets, fish, panda bears, flowers, and more. Each lantern was beautiful and unique in its own way. We hope everyone enjoyed the activity and wish everybody a Happy Lunar New Year! (Molly)



Everyone's uniquely designed lanterns on display in the Chinese Flagship office

### Chinese Table: Lunar New Year

February 08, 2024



Chinese Table attendees gather around the Chinese Flagship GA, Hsin-Tzu Jen (second left), as he performs an inspiring display of calligraphy expertise

Happy Year of the Dragon! This Lunar New Year, the Chinese Flagship office opened its doors to students to a celebration ringing in the Lunar New Year with traditional food, lively music, and several fun New Year-themed activities.

Upon entering, attendees were captivated by the new look of the Chinese Flagship office, now elegantly adorned in festive red paper garlands, red lanterns, and wall decorations that evoke the beauty of China's many



Flagship Student, Jeno Calara, carefully cuts out the character symbolizing "spring" from the decorative red paper

famous landmarks. Paper strips that greet the incoming lunar new year dress the walls from head to toe, and every doorway of the office has its own hanging red lantern, welcoming luck inside. This newly refurbished Chinese Flagship office served as the venue for this semester's first Chinese Table event. During the event, attendees were greeted with numerous dining options from a delectable menu, graciously catered by Bo's Kitchen. Such foods included wontons, fried breads, jian dui (sesame balls), and the signature Lunar New Year foods of tang yuan (glutinous sweet rice balls) and sticky nian gao (rice cakes). Attendees were also delighted to receive lovely, homemade nian gao from Flagship student, Allison Zenoble.

Student Ambassadors Molly Wolyn and Kimberly Batson also provided entertainment with New Year's music and a lighthearted film. Attendees, including Chinese Flagship's own Graduate Assistant (GA), Hsin-Tzu Jen, and Flagship student, Jeno Calara, also poured their efforts into the different celebratory activities laid out for everyone to enjoy. These hands-on activities included the ability to scribe one's own festive paper wall decoration using the available calligraphy ink, or one could engage in



Chinese Table attendees received lucky New Year's red envelopes filled with goodies and sweets

paper cutting using beautiful designs made from characters that signify "spring," "luck," and "blessings."

The atmosphere of the event was conducive to ensuring that everyone enjoyed a relaxed atmosphere in which they could chat amongst each other, and sample all the different New Year's foods and activities. An event such as this goes to show the value of having a space for Chinese learners to be involved in cultural community activities as part of a holistic experience for the budding language learner. (Angela)



This Chinese Table, everyone gets a taste of Lunar New Year's food, catering courtesy of Bo's Kitchen

### STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

### Chinese Flagship Student Council: Our Vision and Purpose

The Chinese Flagship Student Council is an organization of students enrolled in the Chinese Language Flagship Program (CLFP) and serves as a resource for students interested in joining the program by providing them with information, guidance, and advice. Members of council have extensive experience with CLFP and are able to share their experience extensively. The Student Council's outreach activities include: events, workshops, and information sessions to help students learn more and prepare before making that important decision in their academic and professional paths.

### Kimberly Batson (Student Ambassador)

As one of the Student Ambassadors, my experience from being a part of the student council has equipped me with a range of valuable skills and insights.

Firstly, by coordinating with the Chinese Flagship Team and planning engaging learning topics for our events, I've honed my organizational and coordination abilities. This role has required meticulous attention to detail and effective communication to ensure the smooth running of our activities. Furthermore, the student council's involvement in the organization of Chinese Corner, Chinese Culture Day, and the Chinese New Year celebrations has deepened my understanding of traditional Chinese culture, broadened my cultural awareness, and shown me the interconnectedness of the community on the UH Manoa campus.

Participating in these activities has also enhanced my leadership abilities. Whether leading activities, discussions, or coordinating with other students and faculty members, I've gained experience in guiding and motivating. The opportunity to learn from upper-level students who shared their experiences with Mandarin learning and study skills during one of our Chinese Corner events has been invaluable. It has provided me with strategies for language acquisition and academic success, which I can apply not only in my studies, but in various other aspects of my life too.

Lastly, the planning of the student council's visit to the TECO Office in Honolulu presents a unique opportunity for me to network and make connections. I look forward to gathering valuable information for students interested in studying in Taiwan, and to encourage them to become more involved in our future activities with my enhanced effective communication skills. After all, such skills are essential in both academic and professional settings.

Overall, my experience as a Student Ambassador has been incredibly enriching, providing me with a diverse set of skills, cultural insights, and personal growth opportunities that will undoubtedly benefit me in my future.

### **New Chinese Flagship Recruits**



#### Malia Morales Goodwin

My name is Malia Morales Goodwin (高孟梁). I'm a sophomore dual enrolled at UHM, majoring in Chinese Flagship, and attending flight school at Pacific Flight Academy. I joined the Chinese Language Flagship Program (CLFP) in the pursuit of knowledge, language acquisition, and cultural understanding to fuel cross-cultural collaboration in our ever-growing interconnected society. CLFP provides the opportunity to enhance my professional excellence in mastering Chinese and achieve my academic goals. Through immersive experiences, including study abroad, rigorous curriculum, and community engagement, I expect the program to enhance my language proficiency and cultural competency, while imparting on me a deeper understanding of Chinese society.



#### Allison Zenoble

My name is Allison Zenoble (路晶露). I am from Dallas, Texas, and my primary major is Biology (BS). I was born in Hunan, China, and came to the United States at a young age. I joined the Chinese Language Flagship Program (CLFP) because I enjoyed taking Mandarin in high school and would often volunteer at my high school's Chinese Club events. Another reason I joined is because I love learning new things and want to improve my Mandarin. I hope CLFP will open more opportunities for me, allow me to connect with more people, and help me improve my Mandarin.





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