

From the President of CLTA-TX

Dear Colleagues:

I hope you all have enjoyed a wonderful and productive semester!

CLTA-Texas has an exciting year in 2008. The Startalk grant we received will benefit more than 90 students and 33 teachers in Texas. The Student Programs aim at promoting the interest of middle and high school students in the Chinese language and culture. The Teacher Programs provide vigorous professional development for the K-12 Chinese educators. We plan to apply for the Startalk Grant for 2009 to expand the student and teacher programs to Austin, College Station and San Antonio.

From January to April 2008, CLTA-Texas has organized one teacher workshop in Dallas and two seminars on Chinese language teaching in Austin and Texas A&M. We are thrilled to know the strong interest in the Chinese language education among students, teachers, school principals, administrators and community supporters. We have been informed that more schools offer and plan to offer Chinese in Dallas, Austin, San Antonio, Houston and College Station.

CLTA-Texas will hold the Annual Conference in Dallas on August 30, 2008. Marshall McArthur at University of Houston will succeed to the position of CLTA-Texas President at the adjournment of the Conference. I will assume the officer position of Immediate Past President. I believe that Marshall will lead us to further our effort in advancing the K-16 Chinese language education in Texas.

Thank you for your continuing support.

Meng Yeh, President of CLTA-TX



会长寄语

News Updates

新闻短讯

■ 德州中文教师学会荣获星谈奖金 CLTA-TX Awarded STARTALK Grant

CLTA-TX and the Dallas-Fort Worth Chinese Schools have been awarded a Startalk Grant to provide Teacher and Student Programs in 2008. A program of the National Security Language Initiative, the grant will sponsor Ice Breaking Programs for middle and high school students, consisting of free three-week courses in Chinese language and culture in June, to enable students acquire proficiency in language and culture. The Grant will also sponsor two 90-hour Professional Workshops to improve pedagogical skills of K-12 teachers. The courses offered in the workshop are free for the participants and can be recognized as subject credits for entering teacher certification programs. For more information, please email tx-startalk@hotmail.com and see the website <http://dfwstartalk.org/>.

■ 星谈中文教师培训课程 星谈暑期初高中学生中文课程 STARTALK Teacher Professional Workshop and Student Summer Programs in Dallas and Houston

Texas Startalk sponsors Dallas and Houston Teacher Professional Programs. Teacher Programs started in March and ended in May 2008. Four instructors have been invited: Dr. Weiling Wu (West Windsor-Plainsboro High School in New Jersey), Dr. Martha Wang (U.S. Military Academy, West Point), Dr. Xiaohong Wen (University of Houston) and Dr. Meng Yeh (Rice University). Each Workshop offered 90-hour instruction centering on topics of *national standards, performance-based approaches and assessment, Chinese syntax and phonetics, curriculum development and daily lesson plan design*. The program also provides teaching practicum during the summer and technology training in the use of Moodle. At the end of the Program, the trainees will demonstrate their ability to implement their knowledge in the Startalk student summer classes.

Texas Startalk grant also sponsor student summer programs in Houston (6/9-6/27) and Dallas (6/16-7/3). The 3-week



Dr. Xiaohong Wen in Houston workshop



Dr. Weiling Wu in Dallas Workshop



Dr. Martha Wang with Dallas Trainees

Summer Programs, 8:30-12:30 M-F, provide 60 hours of fun and exciting language and cultural activities.

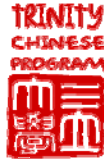
Nationally Recognized Chinese Program at Trinity University

三立大学中文项蓬勃发展

Stephen Field

The Chinese program at Trinity University was founded in 1990. Since 1995, when the Chinese language and literature major was created, the program has graduated 75 majors. Beginning in the next academic year, program faculty will include three tenured or tenure-track professors and one adjunct instructor teaching over twenty courses. The Chinese curriculum includes the standard four-year language sequence advanced conversation and composition, modern Chinese literature, and classical Chinese. In addition we offer in English such courses as Chinese art history, business culture, calligraphy, cinema, civilization, and literature in translation.

The program offers numerous extracurricular activities to students including daily language tables and tutorial hours which utilize exchange students from China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. We have a Chinese language floor in one of the dorms. And one of the most popular student organizations on campus is the



Stephen Field, JK and Ingrid Lee Professor in Chinese Language and Literature, Board Member of CLTA-TX

Chinese Culture Club. We offer two all-expense paid business internships every summer at a trading company in Hong Kong for double majors in Chinese and business. We also offer two all-expense paid summer service-learning internships in Hong Kong to sophomore Chinese majors planning to go into the teaching profession.

Trinity University has exchange programs with Lingnan University in Hong Kong and Cheng Kung University in Taiwan, and we are pursuing a formal relationship with Shanghai Jiao Tong University. For the past nine years our students have received scholarships from the Taiwanese government for post-graduate study in Taiwan.

News from Campus

校园内外

■ 德州大学圣安东尼分校举办教师座谈会 UT San Antonio Sponsors Conference

The UTSA Department of Bicultural Bilingual Studies hosted the inaugural San Antonio Chinese Teachers Language Conference Saturday, May 24, 2008, organized by Dr. Jia Li. The event brought together public, private school and higher education Chinese language teachers from across the city. Lan Graff, CLTA-TX Broad of Director, was invited to give a presentation. The event was a celebration of the UNESCO International Year of Languages.

Evolution of Chinese Language Program in Fort Bend ISD

福遍学区开设华裔中文课程

Sandy Harvey

Foreign Language Coordinator of Fort Bend ISD

Chinese language instruction is coming of age in the U.S. and Texas. Fort Bend I.S.D. began its Chinese language odyssey with a small group of students who committed to after-school classes in 1995 through a grant received by the district. In 1997, Chinese classes were initiated during the regular school day at Clements High School. Today Chinese I-V is taught by 3 teachers on two campuses.

Fort Bend's Chinese program has always been a predominantly heritage program, but President Bush's recent National Security Language Initiative (January 2006) has been a catalyst for the development of a truly second language approach to the Chinese language. In response to the unique instructional needs of both heritage and non-heritage Chinese language learners, a Chinese for Chinese Speakers (CCS) course was approved in

the Fort Bend District in the Fall of 2006. Following the lead of many university-level Chinese language programs, true heritage Chinese speakers who are bilingual are not allowed to begin in Chinese I. Students in CCS receive two years of High School credit during this one year compacted course.



Crystal Chu with her students at Clements High

This allows for a true beginner's class at Level I. Students with more extensive formal education in a Chinese-speaking country are allowed to sit for Credit by Exam to begin at Level 3 or 4. Teachers carefully assess the appropriate level of placement, based on the student's prior knowledge of Mandarin Chinese.

Our curriculum is being revised each year to grow with the program. The textbook resource for Chinese I and II is a series called *Communicating in Chinese* (Yale University Press). Students in the CCS class, use an additional text titled *Integrated Chinese Level 1, Part I & Part II* (Cheng & Tsui, 1997).

In Fort Bend I.S.D., we are proud to be part of all the exciting evolution of Chinese language instruction and look forward to a further expansion of our programs to more non-heritage students. We know that we have much yet to accomplish yet we know that "a journey of a thousand miles begins with a single step." (Lao-Tzu)

CLTA-TX 2008, Jan-May



Dallas-Ft. Worth Chinese Teacher Workshop

■ 达拉斯教师培训

Dallas Teacher Workshop

CLTA-Texas and Dallas-Fort Worth Chinese Schools offered a two-day Chinese Teacher Workshop in Dallas on Jan. 18-19. The presenters included Dr. Jyun-gwang Chan (Graduate Institute of Teaching Chinese as a Second Language), Dr. Meng Yeh (Rice University) and Dr. Yang Li (Jasper High School). The Workshop offered courses of *Performance-based Teaching and Assessment* and *Chinese Morphology*. More than 100 participants attended the Workshop.

■ 德州中文教师学会 2008 年会
CLTA-Texas Annual Conference
August 30, 2008

The 2008 Annual Conference will be held in Dallas. Dr. Sharon Jackson, Associate Commissioner of Texas Education Agency, has accepted our invitation to deliver an opening speech. We are also honored to have Lucy Lee as the keynote speaker. Lucy is the Founder and former President of Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary School (CLASS). The Annual Conference will present six panels discussing issues related to all levels of Chinese language education. For one of the panels, we have invited four foreign language coordinators from the school districts in the Dallas-Fort Worth areas. They will discuss the current Chinese programs and their future plans. For Conference details, please check clta-tx website.

■ 理事黄雅梅将执教于广州美国学校
CLTA-TX Board Director Crystal Chu
Departs for Guangzhou

Crystal Chu, has announced acceptance of a position teaching Chinese at The American International School of Guangzhou. Crystal has been serving as a Director since 2006. She has taught in Texas for 22 years, 11 as a teacher of Chinese at Clements High School. She was recently appointed as a member of the College Board AP Chinese Language and Culture Development Committee for 2008-2009. CLTA-TX looks forward to her continued contributions.



Chinese Language Teaching and Learning at Texas A&M

Upcoming Events

近期活动

■ 德州外语学会十月会议
TFLA Fall Conference

Texas Foreign Language Association will hold the Fall Conference in Houston on October 16-19. TFLA provides an excellent opportunity to get to know teachers of other languages. CLTA-TX plans to present Startalk programs in the Conferences. To submit proposal, please see <http://www.tfla.info/>.

■ 2008 年 理事选举
CLTA-TX 2008 Election

CLTA-TX 2008 July Election will elect a President-Elect and Board Member to replace Crystal Chu. Meng Yeh will step down from the position of President and assume the position of Immediate Past President on August 30. Marshall McArthur, University of Houston, will succeed to the position of President on September 1, 2008.



Greater Austin Language Teachers

■ 奥斯丁中文教学座谈会
Chinese Language Teaching in Austin

CLTA-Texas held a half-day seminar on *Chinese Language Teaching in Greater Austin* on March 29, organized by Lan Graff and Carl Robertson. We invited Theresa McCorquodale, Director of Global Studies at Austin ISD, to present their Chinese program plan. Hai Zheng Olefsky (St. Stephen High School) suggested strategies in sustaining a program. Wuping Wu (Great Wall Chinese School) and Jo-chun Chiu (Austin Chinese School) focused on the rich resource that heritage Chinese schools can provide for K-12 schools. Carl Robertson (Southwestern University) and Raquelle Chiu (UT-Austin) discussed the connection between secondary schools and universities. More than 40 participants attended the Seminar.

■ Texas A&M 中文教育发展研讨会
CLTA-Texas at Texas A&M

CLTA-Texas and the Confucius Institute at Texas A&M University collaborated to organize a half-day Seminar on *Chinese Language Teaching and Learning* at College Station on April 28th. The Seminar focused on establishing and sustaining a K-12 Chinese program. Maria Trevino, Director of Languages Other Than English at Texas Education Agency, presented the implementation of the Chinese teacher certification. Jim Kracht, Associate Dean for Academic Affairs at TAMU, reported the online certification program for prospective Chinese teachers. Michael Hydak from Austin ISD and Sandy Harvey from Fort Bend ISD shared with us the success and challenges of their Chinese programs. Randy Kluver, Director of the Confucius Institute at TAMU, will continue to collaborate with CLTA-Texas to promote and assist the K-16 Chinese language education in Texas.