

Newsletter

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<http://clta-texas.org>

Chinese Language Teachers Association of Texas

德州中文教師學會



Dear Members and Friends:



Approaching the end of the year, it is time to look back as we also look forward. This past year CLTA-TX had various milestones. First, we instituted the CLTA-TX Teacher Travel Grant, awarded to Dr. Sarah Tsai. Second, we hosted our fourth annual conference, signaling that though a new organization, CLTA-TX has the potential to shape Chinese teaching in Texas for years to come. Third, our summer election achieved the first major cycle of new board members. Fourth, CLTA-TX continued to work with Texas STARTALK to offer teachers and students summer workshop and learning opportunities.

The coming year presents members with several opportunities. First, members may apply for the Teacher Travel Grant. Second, in January there will be Startalk workshops (Dallas and Houston). Participants are eligible for a \$50 award upon completion of a reflective essay (心得), in addition to travel stipends. Finally, CLTA-TX will host our fifth annual meeting next August in conjunction with the Confucius Institute at Texas A&M University. Tentatively we will have two guest speakers of national renown. For details regarding activities, please refer to the newsletter or to our website. If you have suggestions regarding future activities, please email us at cltatx@gmail.com. In the meantime, I wish you all a restful end of the year.

Regards, Marshall McArthur -- CLTA-TX President

■ 歡迎新任理事2009-2011 New Board of Directors

Five new members have joined the CLTA-TX Board of directors, as the result of the 2009 election: Camilla Hsieh (University of Texas at Austin), Yirong Luo (Texas A&M University), Mily Meng (Hua Hsing Chinese School), Jiayao Pang (Awty International School), and Jie Zhang (Trinity University). Jiayao Pang was elected as the Secretary-Treasurer. Currently, the Board is composed of nine board members. Those who stepped down from the Board are Paul Bao (Huaxia Chinese School), Nine-min Cheng (Chinese Community Center), Stephen Field (Trinity University), Li Jia (University of Texas at San Antonio), Carl Robertson (Southwestern University), and Xiaohong Wen (University of Houston). Thanks to all of them for their contribution and service in the past two years.

News Updates

新聞短訊

■ 2009 德州教師學會年會于德州州大學聖安東尼分校盛大舉行 2009 CLTA-TX Annual Conference at University of Texas, San Antonio

The 2009 CLTA-TX Annual Conference was successfully held on August 28, 2009 at the University of Texas at San Antonio (UTSA). The Conference included six panels and sixteen presenters, and more than 100 participants. Three UTSA entities supported the Conference: the College of Education and Human Development, the Department of Bicultural-Bilingual Studies, and the East Asia Institute. CLTA-TX also received sponsorships from the Confucius Institute at Texas A&M University and the Education Office of the Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in Houston.

The conference theme was *Connecting Classroom Teaching to the Real World*. Dr. Claudia Ross -- professor of Chinese from the College of the Holy Cross and President the National CLTA -- delivered the keynote address titled *How Long Does it Take to Learn Chinese?* In addition to a lifetime of service to the language profession, Dr. Ross is author of *Modern Mandarin Chinese Grammar*, published by Routledge Press. The sixteen presenters included public school and university teachers, principals, high school language program coordinators, and teachers from Chinese heritage schools. Topics of the six panels included the establishment/development of Chinese programs, hidden resources of heritage Chinese schools, application of technology and movies, and effective classroom teaching methods applicable to various levels in K-16. The Conference Book Exhibit included five publishers displaying educational materials related to the Chinese language. For details and photos of the Conference, please see <http://www.clta-texas.org/events.asp>.



德州大學奧斯丁中文項目 **The Chinese Language Program at the University of Texas at Austin**

Camilla Hsieh

In the late 1960's, Chinese at UT was an area studies in the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures (OALL), offering both undergraduate and graduate programs. In 1994, China Studies became part of a newly established Department of Asian Studies. Two majors are currently available to undergraduates, an Asian Studies (ANS) major that specializes in East Asia or South Asia, and an Asian Cultures and Languages (ACL) major that specializes in Chinese, Japanese, or one of four South Asian languages. The graduate programs include an M.A. in ANS or ACL and a Ph.D. in ACL. There are three tenured or tenure-track China faculty members in the department, teaching language, Taiwanese and Chinese literature, and other culture courses. The Chinese program currently has six full-time lecturers teaching first- to fourth-year language courses. Classical Chinese, conversation, business Chinese, advanced reading, and readings in literature are regularly offered. Every year, China Studies and the Center for East Asian Studies sponsor several seminars by eminent China scholars from the U.S., Taiwan, and China. The annual Paul and Mary Ho Distinguished Lecture in China Studies is given under the auspices of the Humanities Institute. Many UT students study abroad in China or Taiwan for various lengths of time every year. A few outstanding students receive competitive scholarships to study abroad, such as the Huayu Enrichment Scholarship (9-12 months) from Taiwan's Ministry of Education, or the Ambassador Summer Scholarship Program from the Taiwan-United States Sister Relations Alliance, or recently, a year-long full scholarship from the Chinese government. To find out more about the China Studies at UT, please visit

<http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/asianstudies/>.

News from Campus

校園內外



Yang Li (left) with her DISD team

聖安東尼東北區中文課程的發展

The Chinese Programs at North East ISD

Debbie Callihan, Ed.D, LOTE Corrdinator, North East ISD

In the 2007-2008 school year, North East ISD in San Antonio added Mandarin Chinese. What began with forty-nine students at four campuses grew to eighty-six students in 2008-2009 and is now a 135 student program found at eight high school campuses. Xueling Xu has been with the program from its inception and an additional teacher was added during the second year of the program. Last year, Xiaoping Cheng Linzer became the district's second Mandarin Chinese teacher. When she moved to Washington D.C., James Ku joined the team for 2009-2010.



Xueling Xu with her students

Both Ms. Xu and Mr. Ku work diligently to provide quality lessons to their students and to create cultural experiences that allow them to sample the Chinese culture in the middle of Texas. Students have had the opportunity to celebrate the Moon Festival through projects and the sharing of moon cakes. In addition, last year for the Chinese New Year, Ms. Xu organized a month-long celebration her school's campus. During the first week, students celebrated by participating in a Mandarin fashion show, a tea ceremony demonstrated, performing folk songs and dances, and watching a Martial Arts demonstration. The second week included a discussion about the "Do's and Don'ts of the Chinese New Year." The following week offered a Martial Arts workshop. The final week focused on making Chinese New Year cards after a brief instruction in paper folding. All of these cultural activities outside of the classroom have helped to develop the program and to forge ties with the school community. The Mandarin Chinese program has added a new and different dimension to the foreign language courses offered in the district. Xueling Xu and James Ku have demonstrated time and time again their passion for and their dedication to the Chinese language and culture.

達拉斯學區中文錄影教學榮獲艾美獎

Dallas ISD Chinese Language Instructional Video Program

Awarded Lone Star Emmy Yang Li

Funded by a US Department of Education Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grant, and produced by Dallas Schools Television, Dallas ISD, the Chinese language instructional video program, *A Journey to China, Lesson 1*, won the *Seventh Annual Lone Star EMMY Award*. Li Yang, Instructor of Richland College and CLTA-TX Board of Director, is the curriculum writer for the program. The Emmy Award, presented by The National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences (NATAS), recognizes best programming nationally. The Lone Star EMMY is one of the biggest chapters of NATAS. 7th Annual Lone Star EMMY Awards was held on October 17, 2009, in Dallas. This is the first Chinese instructional program awarded by the Lone Star EMMY. The award not signals program excellence, but is also an indicator that Chinese language instruction has been receiving broad attention in the US. The Dallas DISD team of *Journal to China* includes Deirdre de Coverley, Yang Li, Marcus Lopez, Vicky Probeck, Hua Yang and Brenda Yu. (photo credit: Randal Bookout, Advan-Tex Photographic)

■ 大學理事會中文AP大會

2009 Advanced Placement Conference Reflection

Sarah Tsai, Bellaire High School

Sarah Tsai received the 2009 CLTA-TX Teacher Grant, which sponsored her to participate in the 2009 College Board AP (Advanced Placement) Chinese Conference, held in August, San Antonio, TX.

The 2009 College Board AP Chinese Conference focused mainly on teaching strategies and introduced six thematic topics: 1) Families and Communities; 2) Contemporary life; 3) Personal and Public Identities; 4) Volunteerism and Global Challenges; 5) Science and Technology; 6) Beauty and Aesthetics. The thematic approach provides a broad spectrum of materials to be included in a foreign language program. This allows the learning to be more interesting and continuous. The Conference also stressed the importance of the collaboration between Pre-AP and AP teachers. The College Board plans to offer vertical team workshops for both AP and Pre-AP teachers.



■ 2010一月教師培訓著重互動合作性的課堂活動
Cooperative Learning Workshops in January 2010

CLTA-TX will help organize two workshops in January 2010 with the STARTALK Teacher Workshop Grant from the National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland. Meng Yeh, Immediate Past President of CLTA-TX, is the Principal Investigator of the Teacher Workshop Project. The focus of the workshops is on Cooperative Learning and the grant will be also used to produce an online version. The Workshop in Dallas will be held on January 16, 2010 and the one in Houston on January 23, 2010. Elsie Chang (Cinco Ranch High School), Fang Ji (Johnston Middle School) and Jiayao Pang (Awty International) will present in Houston. Hui Ju Lin (Boyd High School), Kelly Long, Murchison Middle School, and Yimiao He, Shepton High School will present in Dallas. The six teachers will present cooperative learning activities that they have designed and implemented in their classrooms. All of the participants in workshops will be offered a small stipend. The Workshops will also provide one-night lodging for those who have to travel to Dallas or Houston. Detailed information and Registration form are posted on www.clta-texas.org. For any questions about the workshops, please contact Ardon Chang in Dallas at andress6628@yahoo.com and Françoise Shih in Houston at fshih@mdanderson.org.

■ 2009星談教師培訓及學生暑期中文班

2009 Texas STARTALK Student and Teacher Program



Many CLTA-TX members contributed to the success of 2009 Texas STARTALK Student and Teacher Program. Jia Li at UTSA, Xiaohong Wen at University of Houston, and Meng Yeh at Rice offered courses at the Teacher Program, such as *Teaching Chinese as a Second Language*, *Second Language Acquisition*, *Curriculum Design*, and *Standards-based Instruction*. The 2009 Teacher Program trained 42 teachers and 23 of them taught the student summer program. The Student Programs were offered to 420 middle and high school students in ten school districts in Dallas and Houston: Birdville, Carroll, and Coppell (in the Dallas area); Katy, Lamar C, Sheldon, Spring, Spring Branch, Houston (in the Houston area).



Above: Cynthia Chen and Jijun Liu with students at Sheldon ISD
Left: students at HISD were learning the fan dance.

Upcoming Events

近期活動

■ 德州教師學會教師獎金
2010 CLTA-TX Teacher Grant Application

The 2010 CLTA-TX Teacher Grant Application is open for application and the deadline is March 1. The grantee will receive up to \$500 stipend for attending workshops and national/regional conferences. CLTA-TX members who teach in heritage Chinese schools and K-16 institutes are welcomed to apply. The Grant Committee, including Zhang Jie (Trinity University) and Jiayao Pang (Awty International School), will announce the grantees in April 1. For application requirements, please see <http://www.clta-texas.org>.

■ 2010 德州教師年會訂於德州A&M大學
2010 Annual Conference to meets at Texas A&M

The 2010 Annual Conference will be held at Texas A&M University, with the sponsorship of the Confucius Institute at Texas A&M. Conference details will be announced in the Spring.