



Dear Colleagues:

恭喜發財(發才)

It is my honor and privilege to serve as your new president. Thanks to attendees, members, officers, and donors for your support this past year. I especially congratulate past-President Meng Yeh for the energy she has contributed in pioneering CLTA-TX to date.

2008 has shown our potential to develop Chinese learning and teaching in Texas. The annual meeting in Dallas had approximately 130 attendees, with excellent presentations including our keynote speaker Lucy Lee. While most attendees were from Dallas-Fort Worth, we had participants from Houston, San Antonio, College Station, and El Paso. Go El Paso!

I would like to mention two developments. First is our new CLTA-TX Teacher Grant. This grant will defray expenses for member participations at professional conferences, and we encourage member applications. Second is that besides the annual meeting, we hosted a swapshop in Houston, and will have workshops in Austin and Dallas. Hopefully as we grow such workshops will be a regular feature of CLTA-TX, providing local members consistent opportunities for professional development.

Finally, I would like to remind all members that our potential rests at the grassroots level. Member participation is essential for the efficacy of CLTA-TX. If members have suggestions, please email me or communicate with any board member. We have an election early this summer; please think about nominating yourself or a colleague.

Best wishes for the New Year ahead.  
Marshall McArthur, President



### ■ 德州中文教師學會 2008 年會 推動德州大中小学中文教育 Promoting K-16 Chinese Language Education in Texas 2008 CLTA-Texas Annual Conference

### News Updates

### 新聞短訊

The CLTA-Texas 2008 Annual Conference was successfully held in Dallas on August 30<sup>th</sup>, 2008, with more than 130 teachers attending from Houston, San Antonio, College Station, Dallas, and even El Paso. Conference participants commented that it was a special occasion in that they were able to meet so many teachers from various levels and cities. Many of them enjoyed this unique opportunity to exchange ideas and discuss issues related to Chinese language teaching.

The Conference started with two keynote speakers: Shannon Baker, Managing Director of Curriculum Division, and Lucy Lee, founder and former President of the Chinese Language Association of Secondary-Elementary Schools (CLASS). Ms. Baker's speech, "West Meets East--Growth of Chinese Programs in Texas," focused on the development and expansion of Chinese programs in Texas. Her talk confirmed TEA's commitment to foreign language education in the Lone Star State. Ms. Lee presented the current status of Chinese language education in the U.S. She also gave an informative presentation on "Professional Visions of K-12 Chinese Teachers." Her presence and speech were inspiring and encouraging to our attendees. (continued on Page 2)

### CLTA-Texas 2008 Annual Conference, Dallas, 8/30/2008



(from Page 1) The Annual Conference included five panels that centered on issues related to all levels of Chinese language instruction. Four foreign language coordinators from school districts on the panel "Chinese Language Program in Dallas/Fort Worth" reported on the existing Chinese programs and their future plans. Four teachers from Chinese heritage schools presented "Communication-Interactive Classroom Activities." A panel of university instructors spoke on "Bringing Sight, Sound, and Sense of Chinese Language into the Classroom." Three energetic high school teachers presented innovative teaching approaches in the panel, "Motivating Our Students!" The Conference also included a panel on Texas Startalk student and teacher programs which were implemented by CLTA-Texas during the summer 2008.

Five publishers, including one computer company, supported the CLTA-Texas Conference by participating in the Book Exhibit or donating books/computer tools for door prizes. The Conference was generously sponsored by Chao Center of Asian Studies at Rice University, Confucius Institute of Texas A&M University, and Education Division of China Consulate in Houston. To view the Conference details and photos, visit the website <http://www.cltatexas.org/events.asp>.

### ■ 德州星談中文暑期班 Immersion Summer Programs 2008 Texas Startalk Programs

Ninety-eight middle and high school students learned and enjoyed Chinese language and culture during the three-week free Chinese Immersion Programs in Houston and Dallas in the summer of 2008. The goal of the Programs aims at raising the awareness of and stimulating the interest in learning Chinese language and culture among middle- and high-school students. The Programs are the collaboration among the school districts, the Chinese heritage schools and the Chinese Language Teachers Association of Texas (CLTA-Texas) with the sponsorship of a STARTALK grant. We implemented the Program at two sites: Pin Oak Middle School (Houston, 19 students) and Jasper High School (Dallas, 79 students).

The theme of the Programs is *Your Space My Space*. Guided by the carefully designed material and instruction, students use the Chinese language to explore their own space and compare it with the spaces of Chinese young people in the spheres of life style, personal preferences, family interaction, school activities, and holidays. Students learn, through exploration and comparison, that individual spaces of young people reflect their cultural and social uniqueness, as well as their similarity of exciting energy, free spirit, and creativity, whether they are in Beijing, Taipei or Dallas.

Each of the student Programs lasts three weeks, four hours per day, in June or July, 60 hours in total. Students receive three hours of language instruction and one hour of culture sessions every day. In the cultural session, provided by local teachers and masters from Taiwan, students engaged in hands-on activities, such as lion dance, Chinese yoyo paper cutting, playing Chinese chess, cooking, and writing calligraphy.

Teachers have developed units to connect language learning to cultural activities. Students commented that learning the Chinese language and culture in the immersion program is a fun and exciting experience. Over 90% of them stated that they would like to continue learning the language. See photos and programs, go to <http://www.cltatexas.org/events.asp>.

### ■ 德州中文教師獎金 CLTA-Texas Teacher Grant

CLTA-Texas has established Teacher Grants in November 2008. CLTA-Texas will award two Grants a year, each grant up to \$500. CLTA-Texas Teacher Grants support Texas K-16 and heritage school Chinese teachers to receive professional development by attending national/regional conferences, summer institutes, workshops or seminars. Grant funds may be used for fees, travel expenses, books, or other materials that enable applicants to learn subject matter, instructional approaches, and skills. Recipients are expected to share their new learning with their colleagues. Preference will be given to members of CLTA-Texas. The deadline is **March 1, 2009**. Please go to [www.cltatexas.org](http://www.cltatexas.org) for the application instructions and download the application form.

### Students Performed Lion Dance at Summer Startalk Program 6/2008



## Southwestern University's Growing Program

Carl Robertson, Director of the Chinese Program, Southwestern University

Southwestern University (SU) features an enthusiastic core of students and faculty devoted to Chinese language and culture. SU claims to be the oldest institution of higher education in Texas which also includes a long association with China. Chinese language has been taught for about 25 years. More recently, a significant faculty tour of China in the late '80s and twin grants from Luce and Freeman foundations (2002) paved the way for a vigorous climate of learning Chinese language and culture.

SU established commitment to Chinese studies by appointment of a tenured professor in 2002, Dr. Carl Robertson. Building from strength already on campus, the language program has grown from 13 students to about 60 students at 3 levels of

language acquisition. In a campus of 1250 students, that represents nearly 5% of all students. Part-time professor Dr. Patricia Schiaffini provides valuable expertise and dedication. Students participate in Study Abroad to China in high numbers. Students interested in Chinese for their careers are encouraged to major in SU's renowned International Studies major. Some have chosen an Independent Major in Chinese, much of the language component developed in overseas environments. China-related courses are well represented, with courses in History, Philosophy and Religion, Art History and Political Science.

In spite of a relative sparsity of Chinese heritage speakers among SU students, a student-led and – maintained Asia Club provides for active campus culture around Far

Eastern culture. Chinese Calligraphy is a persistent part of SU life, with an occasional course, guest lecturers and activities with high levels of participation. The program also benefitted by the 2007 visit of Amy Tan to campus (through the Smith Library). In Fall 2008 a prominent Tibetan poet and filmmaker Dorje Cailang (aka Jangbu) visited for several days.

The Chinese Program at SU is continuing to develop strategies to cope with growth and limited resources. Some hopeful avenues of development include participation with other campuses through consortia and organizations

## Houston's Hurst-Eules-Bedford ISD's Program with a Plan

### Hurst-Eules-Bedford School District International Business Initiative Bhavani Parpia, Coordinator

Hurst-Eules-Bedford Independent School District (HEBISD) demonstrates commitment to teaching excellence and a wise integration of language teaching with a definite purpose. Bhavani Parpia is the coordinator of an initiative launched in 2006 by the district administration and Board of Trustees. The International Business Initiative (IBI) is designed to support the integration of critical world languages with economic and political education and to develop community and international partnerships. As part of this Initiative, HEB offers Hindi and Mandarin beginning in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Bhavani Parpia writes that the language courses and IBI generally derive from HEBISD's "rich tradition of celebrating its diverse cultures," and developing opportunities for children to successfully compete in the global market. Ms. Parpia writes "To be truly successful we believe it is critical that [the children] know about the world to a greater degree than any previous

generation of Americans." HEBISD places its language programs in a curriculum of global education and high academic standards. "Our 7<sup>th</sup> grade IBI students are also part of our Pre-International Baccalaureate program. The courses they take in Junior High school will prepare them to participate in the International Baccalaureate program in high school, graduating not only with a state diploma but also with an IB Diploma," which is a significant achievement indeed.

"We are very proud of our Mandarin students and our rapidly growing classes. In our second year of the program, we currently have 50 students in our 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> grade classes. Our program's growth was sustained by the academy that our district was fortunate to offer last summer through the Startalk funding. Based on the success of our students, we are confident that our program will only strengthen and prosper. HEBISD was recently

recognized by *Texas School Business* magazine as one of 12 school districts in the state 'that have implemented programs that are bettering the lives of students, schools, and communities.' According to the magazine's editor, Mary Gordon Spence, 'We were impressed by Hurst-Eules-Bedford ISD's forward-thinking curriculum and its proactive approach to preparing students to live and work in a global economy.' As the Superintendent of our school district says, 'Learning a foreign language is no longer a luxury; it is necessary for success in an age of global connections.'"

HEBISD shows the wisdom of planning from a clear mission, with a wise choice of context, high standards, and utilization of resources.

### Bhavani Parpia, Coordinator of IBI





12 Texas K-16 Chinese teachers at Kansas City, 6/2008

■ 德州中文老師同聚 Kansas  
評定 AP 考試  
Texas Chinese Teachers as AP  
readers

Twelve K-16 Chinese teachers from various cities in Texas gathered in Kansas City, June 8-15, to grade the free-respond questions items in the 2008 AP Chinese Exam. More than 100 Chinese teachers were recruited to grade the exams from 4,311 students. It was a memorable experience for all of us. The teachers from Texas are (left to right, line two): Wen Xing, Jie Zhang (both at Trinity), Neal Liang (UT-Arlington), Zhaohong Li (Hockaday School), Jeanette Chen (UT-Austin), Meng Yeh (Rice), Crystal Chu (Clements HS), Yang Li (Jasper HS). Line one: Jing Zhang (UH), Sarah Ting (former teacher at Dulles HS), Wenqi Li (UT-Dallas), Tina Wu (Westside HS).

■ 休士頓中文教學交流研習會  
Chinese Teacher Swap Shop

CLTA-Texas organized a *Chinese Teacher Swap-Shop* on Friday, October 24, 2008 at Hua Xia Chinese School, Houston. The theme of the Swap Shop was Effective Classroom Activities: Connecting to Standards. Standards for foreign language teaching (Communication, Culture, Comparison, Connection and Community) have been followed by foreign language curriculums in Texas and USA since the turn of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. In the Swap Shop, four teachers shared their Standards-based classroom activities: Wang Yu (Tayler High School) *Fashion Design*; Sarah Tsai (Bellaire High School) *What is your nationality?*; Shui Wen (Pin Oak Middle School) *Application & Integration of TPR*. This event also provided the



Houston Chinese Teacher Swap Shop, 10/24/2008

■ 2008 年理事選舉  
CLTA-Texas 2008 Election

In July 2008 CLTA-TX election, Ardon Chang, Principal of Fort Worth Chinese School, was elected as President-Elect. Jia Li, Professor at University of San Antonio, was elected a Board of Director to replace Crystal Chu.

■ 奧斯丁座談會  
建立及持續發展中文項目  
Building and Sustaining a  
Chinese Program  
Austin, January 10, 2009

CLTA-TX will collaborate with St. Stephen's Episcopal School and American Councils for International Education to host a Professional Workshop on *Building and Sustain a Chinese Program*, January 10, 2008. The morning sessions focus on creating and building a Chinese program. In the afternoon, four high school teachers demonstrate their

engaging and effective teaching approaches which are the keys to sustain a program.

■ 達拉斯中文教師培訓  
中文習得與教學  
Professional Workshop: Teaching  
Chinese as a Second Language  
Dallas, February 14-15, 2009

CLTA-TX and Fort Worth/Dallas Chinese Schools have organized a one and half-day Teacher Professional Workshop focusing on *Teaching Chinese as Second Language*. We have invited

Upcoming Events

近期活動

Dr. Churanren Ke, Professor of Chinese and Second Language Acquisition at Iowa University. Professor Ke will offer sessions on teaching/learning reading and listening Chinese from the perspectives of empirical research and classroom application.