

CHINA INSIGHT

Fostering business and cultural harmony between China and the U.S.

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MAY 2007

The sounds of Mandarin Chinese now heard at many educational venues

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer

As reported throughout the paper this month, the teaching of Mandarin Chinese is now or soon to be taking place at many locations throughout the State of Minnesota. In an effort to provide our readers with information on as many of the different types of programs as possible, we invited all to submit their programs or plans to offer Mandarin Chinese language classes. A few of these are presented elsewhere in the paper and some are being included here along with many others that we learned of from other sources. This listing should in no way be construed as comprehensive and we welcome you, our readers to provide us with information on other programs that you may know of so that it can be shared with others as we plan to periodically update this material.

Yinghua Academy, St. Paul

Yinghua Academy, the first Chinese immersion elementary school in the Midwest, is doing very well in its first year of operation. It has expanded from 76 students to 88 students, and expects to grow to 150 students (Kindergarten through 4th grade) next year. The school has had more applications than can be accepted for Kindergarten next year, and will be required to have a lottery for enrollment purposes.

According to school officials, students are speaking, reading, and writing Chinese already, after only six months. Student performance in math has been outstanding. The curriculum continues to be developed by Dr. Lien through many visits to both New York and California to get the most up to date curriculum information at a national level and school officials feel that they are definitely off to a strong start.

The students are actively engaged in enrichment classes in Chinese as well. Currently the school offers art and drawing classes during their day program which is also immersion, and many after school immersion enrichment programs from theater to instrument lessons to dance and kung fu. Next year Yinghua is excited to include partnerships with many other artist-in-residence programs as well. Educators at Yinghua feel through Chinese immersion students are having a very rich learning experience, while they become literate in Mandarin Chinese.

Yinghua is offering a half-day Chinese science immersion camp this summer. The curriculum is based on the Jane Goodall Shanghai Institutes "Roots and Shoots" curriculum. Please call Yinghua at 651-379-4112 for more details. The Web site for Yinghua Academy is www.yinghaacademy.org.

Eden Prairie School District

At schools in Eden Prairie, a southwest

suburb of Minneapolis, a Mandarin Chinese class was started for all the 5th graders district wide this 2006-2007 school year. In addition, the school district has a partnership with a community in China called Loudi. That partnership was formed through the Superintendent's trip to China with Minnesota's Governor Pawlenty last year. Since then, they've also had a principal, Board member, teacher and others go to Loudi.

Eden Prairie plans to begin teacher and student exchanges as well as distance learning through this collaboration. Eden Prairie schools are also looking to begin teaching World Languages starting in first grade starting the fall of 2008. What languages will be included have not yet been determined. Learn more at www.edenpr.org.

The Blake School, Hopkins

The Blake School's Mandarin Chinese program began in the fall of this school year

(2006-07) and is available to both Blake middle and upper school students.

Blake's PK-12 chair of modern and classical languages department or its assistant head of school would be able to offer information of this new but growing program.

Blake's middle school program is led by teacher Shannon Young.

In spring 2008, Blake (in partnership with Alterra Global Education Initiatives) will offer a travel-education program to China, which will balance tourism with study and service. The trip is available to current Blake families, faculty and staff as well as school alumni and is an effort to deepen our school community's collective understanding of the Chinese culture. More information about this trip is available on the Blake School Web site at <http://www.blakeschool.org/news/08chinaTrip/index.html>.

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U of M students win 6 medals at regional Chinese language competition

Casey Thomas Kerian advances to final competition in Beijing



Front row, from left to right: Casey Thomas Kerian, Alaya Doreen Lee
Back row, from left to right: Andrew Curtis Kruse, Molly Christine Tolzmann, Ryan A. Loomis, Andrew Earl Ramdular

A team of students from the University of Minnesota Department of Asian languages and literatures won five gold and one silver medal at the College Student Chinese Speech Contest in the Midwest March 31 at Northwestern University. The event was sponsored by the China Consulate General's Education Section, and was co-sponsored by Northwestern University. There were 21

colleges and universities competing at the event, with 65 participants.

All graduate or undergraduate Chinese language students, studying in colleges or universities in the states of Minnesota, Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas, Missouri, and Colorado were eligible to participate. However, heritage native speakers of Chinese who came to the U.S. after she/he turned 13 years of age were not eligible. Each of the above states, including the Chicago area, can recommend 6 contestants.

Contestants were divided into 6 groups according to their year level of Chinese courses and their native languages. For example, for the non-heritage students (whose native tongue is not Chinese at home), she/he was placed into Group 1 if she/he is studying Elementary Chinese. For the heritage students (whose native tongue is either Mandarin Chinese or any other dialects of Chinese), first year elementary and second

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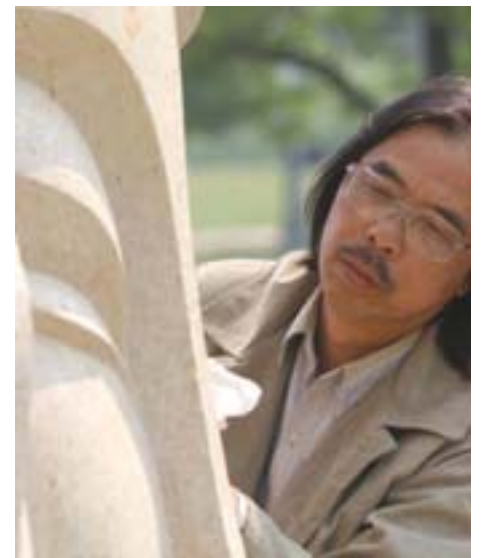
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Minnesota continues to provide more Chinese language programs

Dear Readers,

The study of Chinese is growing at an outstanding rate in the United States. The State of Minnesota, which already has a number of established Chinese language programs in place, continues to lead the nation in developing many excellent programs to meet this growing demand.

This surge in learning Chinese, in large part, can be attributed to China's rise as a global and economic power. According to the American Council for the Teaching of Foreign Languages, in 2000, there were about 5,000 students studying Mandarin Chinese in U.S. public schools. Now that number is between 30,000 and 50,000, leaving states and districts scrambling to find enough qualified teachers.

Also fueling the desire to learn Chinese is the decision by the College Board, which administers college-related exams, to add this subject as part of its Advanced Placement tests. College Board officials say the study of a world language, such as Chinese, is an important part of a student's high school education. Chinese is being added based on the results of a 2004 survey that found over 2,400 high schools wanted to add AP classes in Chinese.

Still, the demand for Chinese classes has far outpaced the supply of teachers. Shuhan Wang, the executive director of the Asia Society's Chinese language initiative, said the U.S. has only about 300 to 400 qualified Chinese teachers – not nearly enough to serve the 2,400 schools that want to offer the language.

The Chinese government has also stepped up to help fill the void. Hanban, a government agency working to spread Chinese around the world, has partnered with the College Board and several states to send volunteer teachers to the United States. The Chinese government pays part or all of the teacher's salary while the school district pays for the teacher to live with a host family and handles visa arrangements and teacher certification.

Another Hanban initiative is the establishment of Confucius Institutes in more than 100 countries. It is likely that the University of Minnesota will join the other 12 such institutes that have been established in the United States.

During the past year the study of Chinese has been supported at many levels of Minnesota state government and pursued by both public and private educational sectors with additional expansion within the Chinese ethnic community itself.

As reported in last month's issue, the Minnesota Department has released their report which can be found at www.education.state.mn.us. The report recommends expanding the availability of Mandarin Chinese language classes to more Minnesota schools and sets forth a number of recommendations to best implement such a program.

Last fall, the state's first Chinese immersion school, Yinghua Academy, was opened in St. Paul and now other school districts have announced similar programs. The Hopkins School District has announced their Chinese immersion program that will begin this fall. Minnetonka, which has one of the oldest Chinese language programs, has also announced similar plans.

Also joining private school Breck School in Golden Valley, which has been offering Chinese for more than 20 years, are other private schools throughout the state that have announced plans to add Chinese to their curriculum.

The University of Minnesota also plays a key role in implementing a statewide initiative to increase Chinese language course offerings in Minnesota schools.

In addition to its Department of Asian Languages and the China Center, the University's Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition offers assistance in curriculum development. It is also the only university in the state that is training teachers to handle Chinese language classes but St. Cloud State University could soon offer another alternative.

Currently, Minnesota has about 2,000 students studying Chinese, but the state's Commissioner of Education, Alice Seagren, thinks the state can eventually raise that number to 10,000.

Although it is impossible to report on all of the Chinese language programs that are now available or soon to be introduced in the state, this is such an important topic that we are making an effort to communicate on those that we are aware of and invite you to review these articles throughout the rest of the paper. We plan to continue additional articles on the teaching of Chinese language programs in the future and welcome your suggestions on programs to be featured. Your suggestions and comments should be sent directly to Greg Hugh, ghugh@chinainsight.info.

Sincerely,
Greg Hugh

Greg Hugh, Publisher

New legislation may advance Mandarin Chinese programs in Minnesota schools

By Erik Paulsen, Minnesota State Representative

There are new and exciting opportunities for Minnesota's K-12 students to learn Mandarin Chinese due to increased demand and some outstanding programs.

In the 2006 legislative session, I secured US\$250,000 in funding for the initial development of a Chinese Mandarin curriculum in Minnesota schools. To build on that success, I am authoring legislation this session

to create intensive Mandarin Chinese programs in Minnesota schools and provide grants from the Minnesota Department of Education to implement the programs. My bill also provides programming and funding to expedite the training and licensing of teachers of Mandarin.

In addition, it provides ten, US\$2,500 scholarships to Minnesota residents with

bachelor's degrees who are proficient in Chinese to enroll in intensive teacher licensure programs; five, US\$100,000 grants to select state universities to expand foreign language teacher preparation programs to include Mandarin Chinese; and US\$250,000 in grant money to extend study abroad opportunities for teachers.

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Minnesota scholarship for National Trust Conference now available

The National Trust for Historic Preservation and the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota invite you to attend the 2007 National Preservation Conference, "Preservation Matters," to be held in the Twin Cities, Minnesota, October 2-7, 2007.

The National Preservation Conference provides an opportunity to increase your historic preservation knowledge, and to learn from and network with experts and community leaders from across the state and nation. Educational sessions, field sessions, and tours of the Twin Cities and surrounding area will allow participants to learn the necessary tools to strengthen their commitment and involvement with preservation in their communities.

One hundred (100) scholarships are available for applicants whose attendance will benefit their community and whose commitment to historic preservation will be strengthened by their participation. Please take this opportunity to enhance your knowledge of historic preservation and use this knowledge to improve the economic and social well being of your Minnesota community.

Who should apply?

- People from rural areas, regional centers and small towns;
- People of diverse social, economic, racial, ethnic and cultural backgrounds;
- People interested in cultural memories, cultural heritage and oral traditions;

- Students interested in and/or studying architecture, history and preservation.

The Minnesota Scholarship covers the cost of registration for scholarship recipients, including all educational sessions and one (1) field session or one (1) other ticketed educational event. The scholarship DOES NOT cover transportation or lodging.

The scholarship is intended to increase conference attendance from Minnesotans of diverse cultural backgrounds and those from greater Minnesota. The Minnesota Local Scholarship Program is administered through a partnership between Minnesota Landmarks and the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota through the National Trust for Historic Preservation.

The scholarship application can be downloaded from the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota's Web site, at www.mnpreservation.org. For questions regarding the scholarship program and to request a hard copy of the application form, please contact Kelli Andre at the Preservation Alliance of Minnesota at 651-293-9047 or at kandre@mnpreservation.org.

Applications must be received in the Alliance office by June 1, 2007. ■

The Minnesota Scholarship is funded in part by:

Travelers Insurance and The Minneapolis Foundation

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Erik Paulsen

My legislation is based on recommendations developed by interested volunteers who possessed both skills and expertise related to Mandarin Chinese or other world languages including program administrators, retired educators, curriculum coordinators, school board members, and representatives from the Minnesota Board of Teaching and the Department of Education.

I am pleased to report that portions of my legislation are now included in the House K-12 Omnibus bill. Specifically, US\$250,000

for five world languages pilot program grants, such as Mandarin Chinese, are a part of this important legislation.

With foresight and the right effort, I believe that Minnesota is positioned to have the strongest and most active relationship with China of any state in the nation. But to get in that position we must aggressively enhance and expand Mandarin Chinese programs. My goal is to eventually make Mandarin Chinese language and culture available to all students throughout the state.

Minnesota must be forward thinking in the area of global communication because a global economy requires global communication. We need to enhance foreign language instruction in its schools to meet the demand for proficiency in languages other than English and Mandarin is a key component of that equation. ■

Minnesota State Representative Erik Paulsen is chief author of the Mandarin Chinese language legislation. He represents Eden Prairie.

Editor's Note: *China Insight reported on Representative Paulsen's Chinese language legislation initiative and the Department of Education report on the need for Mandarin Chinese language education in the April 2007 issue.*

Asian journalists part of U.S. Department of State's Edward R. Murrow Program

CHINA *Insight* Special Report



Asian journalist group

On April 14 from 5:30-7 p.m., the Asian American Journalists Association (AAJA) Minnesota Chapter and University of Minnesota's School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC) held a reception for the 13 journalists in the Edward R. Murrow Journalist Program at Radisson Plaza Hotel in downtown Minneapolis. Representatives

and guests from local media CBS – WCCO, *CHINA Insight*, *Huaxia Times*, *Pioneer Press*, *Star Tribune*, the *World Journal*, and students from SJMC attended this function. AAJA Minnesota Chapter President Thomas Lee gave a short speech and welcomed the group, and the group presented gifts to AAJA and SJMC.

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Learn about feng shui at a free seminar

Event slated for May 8 at Northwestern Health Sciences University

Individuals can learn how to customize various feng shui principles and traditions to fit their individual needs during a free seminar titled "An Introduction to Feng Shui and Healing Space" at Northwestern Health Sciences University. The seminar will take place from 6 p.m. - 7:30 p.m. on May 8 at Northwestern Health Sciences University in Bloomington, Minnesota. The University is located on the corner of Penn Avenue and W. 84th Street.

The seminar is part of Northwestern's Wellness Wave Series, an extension of the University's annual community health fair, Catch the Wellness Wave: Natural Approaches to Health. Monthly seminars are offered throughout the year. The next health fair is slated for fall 2007.

"The Wellness Wave Series is intended to help community members make good choices about health and to provide them

with the information they need to pursue wellness naturally," says Nicky Simon, BA, Northwestern's community relations coordinator.

For more information about the Wellness Wave Series, contact Simon at 952-888-4777, ext. 169 or e-mail nsimon@nwhealth.edu. For more information about chiropractic, visit <http://www.nwhealth.edu/healthyu>, a health and wellness Web site hosted by Northwestern Health Sciences University.

Northwestern Health Sciences University offers a wide array of choices in natural health care education including chiropractic, Oriental medicine, acupuncture, massage therapy, human biology, and integrative health and wellness. The University has 900 students on a 25-acre campus in Bloomington, Minnesota. ■



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China moves to meet surging demand for Chinese language teachers

China is stepping up efforts to train more Chinese language teachers and plans to set up 60 more Confucius Institutes to meet the demand for Mandarin across the world, according to Chinese Language Council International.

"Each year, there are 10,000 positions of teaching Chinese as a foreign language in the world by conservative estimate, but only 2,000 teachers are available from China," said Xu Lin, director of the office. "The greatest challenge we are facing now is to meet the surging demand for Chinese teachers."

This year, a large number of college graduates, regardless of their major, will be recruited to attend a one-year training course to teach Chinese as a foreign language, according to Xu.

China currently has a pool of over 5,000 certified teachers of Chinese as a foreign language. Some of them will be selected to learn Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic for a year and then sent to teach in Latin American and Arab countries.

Last year, China sent 1,004 Chinese teachers to 80 countries and 1,050 volunteers to 34 countries.

In addition to recruiting more Chinese teachers, the office also plans to set up another 60 Confucius Institutes and launch Confucius Institute online and broadcast services.

In the Middle East and north Africa, the Chinese language has become increasingly popular as bilateral trade and cultural exchanges have expanded.

The first Confucius Institute in an Arab country was set up on February 27 in Saint Joseph's University of Lebanon.

Egypt will likely to have its first Confucius Institute soon, said Chinese ambassador Wu Sike to Egypt, who, on behalf

of Xu, has signed an agreement with the University of Cairo on setting up a Confucius Institute.

"Along with the University of Cairo, three universities have Chinese language and culture departments. The number of students majoring in Chinese language has been on a steady rise in recent years," said Wu.

"Almost every term of the Chinese language training course is fully booked," he added.

The latest Confucius Institute was established on Mar. 16 in the University of Zimbabwe, which enrolled over 50 students on the opening day, including scholars, government officials and entrepreneurs, said Yuan Nansheng, Chinese ambassador to Zimbabwe.

The Chinese government donated US\$100,000 to the institute and installed two well-trained volunteers as instructors.

"The teachers are expected to introduce China's cultural, economic and social development as well as giving students linguistic instruction, in the hope of cementing the two countries' friendship and promoting bilateral trades," said Yuan.

According to an agreement signed by China's Hunan Normal University and Russia's Kazanian State University, the third Confucius Institute in Russia will be set up to receive an ever-growing number of Russian students who want to learn Chinese.

A total of 10,000 people in Russia are attending Chinese-language training programs.

The Confucius Institute, headquartered in Beijing, is a non-profit organization aimed at promoting the Chinese language and cul-

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The International School of Minnesota selected to host guest teacher from China

The International School of Minnesota (ISM) was selected as one of the first to host a native Mandarin-speaking teacher as part of the Chinese Guest Teacher Program. This program is sponsored by Hanban, China's Office of Chinese Language Council International, in partnership with the College Board. Thirty six teachers have been placed across 20 states in both school and district assignments to teach at the high school, middle school, and elementary school levels. By 2009, the program will bring 250 qualified teachers from China to teach in American classrooms for up to three years. The Chinese Guest Teacher Program seeks to address the shortage of qualified Chinese teachers in the U.S. and meet the growing interest in the Chinese language among U.S. high school students.



Xueying Yu with Sue Berg, Director of ISM

ISM welcomed Xueying Yu, from Beijing, China, on Jan. 29, 2007. Ms. Yu spent the winter term working closely with ISM's World Language Department, which offers Spanish and French daily, beginning in Pre-school. She is currently teaching Chinese language and culture classes in the upper

school and lessons in the Chinese Club for the lower school. Ms. Yu has a Bachelor's degree in English, a Master's degree in Law, and a teaching license from the Chinese government. She has more than 8 years experience as an English teacher at Beijing Electronic Technology College. The College Board and Hanban provided Chinese teacher training before her arrival and they also offer ongoing teacher development workshops and opportunities for her to meet with the other guest teachers to share their experiences.

Ms. Yu said that she is excited to experience real life in the United States and for the chance to introduce Chinese culture and language, as well as give students a true sense of the lives of people in China today. The goal of her classroom is to immerse students in a Chinese speaking environment and introduce the cultural aspects of the language. Her focus is on listening and speaking skills, while introducing reading and writing, little by little. During the upcoming school year, she will continue to teach elective language classes in the upper school and work on expanding the program to all the grade levels. Ms. Yu will work at the school for 18 months, and then renew for an additional year if both she and the school are satisfied.

In addition, Sue Berg, the Director of ISM, will be joining a Chinese Bridge Delegation sponsored by Hanban for a one-week educational tour of China. The tour provides an opportunity for participants to deepen their understanding of China, to discover ways to bring Chinese into the classroom, and to make valuable contacts with educational leaders from China and the United States. ■

China's new tax law

The new tax law will take effect from the 1st of January 2008, changing China's existing rates for domestic firms (33 percent) and overseas invested companies (15 or 24 percent) to a unified rate of 25 percent. This will finally provide domestic and foreign enterprises with a level playing field for the first time since the economic reforms began in the 1980's. Preferential policies will still be provided to high technology, environment protection, energy saving and production safety firms. The law also clarifies tax deduction policies.

The following are the major changes to the tax law:

1. Foreign firms that are established before 1st January 2008 and that enjoy preferential tax rates now until 31st December 2007 will be given a five year grace period for the new rate to be phased in. With the tax rate being raised by two percentage points every year. A number of such businesses have already started internal adjustments to offset the impact of a unified tax rate.

2. High-technology firms, such as biotech and aerospace companies or companies that the State decides need major support will be allowed to pay a tax rate of 15 percent.

3. Venture capital enterprises and companies that invest in environment-protection, energy and water conservation and work safety will be eligible for a fuller range of preferential tax treatment. Details have not yet been specified, but will be stipulated in the implementation rules.

4. Eligible small low-profit-earning companies will be allowed to pay a tax rate of 20 percent.

5. Existing tax breaks for firms investing in infrastructure like ports, docks, airports, railways, highways, power and water conservancy that supported by the State will remain in force.

6. Tax breaks for firms in the agriculture, forestry, stock raising and fisheries sectors will continue.

Tax continues on Page 15

Chinese language programs offered at Concordia Language Villages



Concordia Language Villages is about learning a language. It's about going to camp. And it's for more than just 7- to 18-year-olds. The Concordia Language Villages experience now extends through a lifetime.

Toddlers and their care-givers can attend *Míng huì Yòu éryuán*, Chinese for bright children's garden, which opened its doors this March in Minneapolis.

This unique language program for 2½- to 5-year-olds immerses children in Chinese language, culture and traditions. Discovering Chinese is fun and happens naturally while the children are singing, dancing, making crafts or even eating snacks. *Míng huì Yòu éryuán* provides a wonderful introductory experience in the Chinese language. The program is a natural precursor to *Sen Lín Hú*, the Chinese Language Village, a Chinese language and cultural immersion summer camp for young people ages 7-18.

Sen Lín Hú sparks senses and widens horizons. *Ying you* go through customs with their Village-issued passports, draw money from the bank, buy items at the store, enjoy authentic meals family style, and swim in the lake - all using Chinese. Everyday activities are designed to easily guide villagers to a better fluency in Chinese and a more thorough understanding of Chinese culture.

Held at a site near Cass Lake, Minn., villagers might try the *dízi* (bamboo flute) or *èrhú* (Chinese violin) one day, and the next they may practice martial arts such as *gongfu* (Kung Fu) or *taijíquán* (Tai Chi). For high school students who attend our four-week programs, we also offer one year of high school credit. And, of course, the authentic Chinese cuisine, like dumplings or kongpao chicken, is eaten with chopsticks and served with an ethnic flair not easily found elsewhere.

Our Village Weekends during the academic year offer teachers and their students the opportunity to practice their Chinese and build on what they've learned about Chinese culture. Many teachers have found that their students' confidence in speaking and excitement for the language have increased dramatically after a Village Weekend program. The experience of living the language day-to-day has a profound effect on many of the students.

Homeschool Villages provide a relaxed environment for participants to explore a language in a non-traditional atmosphere. World language credits may be difficult to acquire in a homeschool setting, so we partner with families to enrich their homeschool efforts. Other subject matter can also be emphasized along with Chinese. Environmental science, geography, history, art and ethnic music may all be explored along with the language.

Once a level of proficiency has been

reached, high school students can travel with Concordia Language Villages on our high school Credit Abroad program. With a staff ratio of 1-to-6, participants visit Beijing, Kunming, Zhongdian, Lijiang and Shanghai. They earn the same number of "classroom" hours during their travels as they would with a year of high school language instruction in Chinese. In fact, our programs have been accredited by the Commission on International and Trans-Regional Accreditation and the National Commission on Accreditation and School Improvement, so participants may be awarded one year of language credit when they return.

Delectable morsels, home cooked and culturally authentic, are enjoyed by participants in all our programs, but they are especially enjoyed by our family program participants. They often find meal time at the Village is a great way to expand their children's sense of culinary adventure. A fun and affordable learning vacation for the whole family, summer family weeks and winter family weekends provide parents, children and grandparents with a language and cultural immersion experience together. Without stepping over an international border, the language and culture of a country thousands of miles away is brought to life. An ideal experience for families with children ages 4-10, all ages are welcome.

If you prefer, you can join in the fun of our adult programs, which are geared for ages 18 and older. Short getaways to learn Chinese with other adults, these sessions are language- and culture-intensive. Always a new experience, the program may feature calligraphy and cooking one year while exploring the evolution of Chinese music the next. As with all our programs, our talented and motivated staff of language experts and native speakers offers instruction in small and large group settings catered specifically to participants' language abilities at all levels, from beginning to advanced.

Adult weekends take place at our year-round Villages on Turtle River Lake near Bemidji, Minn. The facilities are comfortable, modern and spacious. Many adult participants return year after year.

If going to China is your ultimate goal, our Global Language Villages program offers adults the chance to do so. While being able to speak Chinese is optional, being able to speak English is crucial. Participants will work with Chinese children to teach them the language and cultures of English-speaking countries. A unique opportunity in which participants don't need to worry about itineraries or travel plans; this program includes a guided tour of some historic sites in China.

And because so many of our program

Breck School has a long and proud commitment to its Chinese language program

The Breck School Chinese language program began with 24 Upper School students in 1979, initiated its Middle School program in 1989, and added Lower School (kindergarten - grade four) in 1990.

Today, Breck's 13-year integrated Chinese language and culture program allows its students to take advantage of the curriculum from kindergarten through twelfth grade. Almost half of Breck's students now study Chinese as their second language of choice.

The program was started and is still led by Margaret M. Wong, who teaches Upper



Margaret Wong

School students in grades 9-12. Other members of the faculty are De-cheng Yang, who has taught Middle School (grades 5-8) for 12 years, Xiao-Min Wang, who has taught grades 2-4 for 13 years, Yan Liu Lofquist, who has taught kindergarten and grades 1-2 for 7 years, Jin-Xiu Wang, who has taught grades 9-12 for four years (80% time) and Shannon Young, who is the a tutor and long-term substitute.

Wong is highly respected and well-known for her innovations. In addition to Breck's program, she has helped establish pre-collegiate Chinese programs for many schools in Minnesota as well as other parts of the country, including schools in Wisconsin, Louisiana, California and Michigan.

Classroom Time

The program works as follows. : Every other year, the entire Breck kindergarten class begins the study of Chinese (in alternate years, kindergartners study Spanish). Students who begin Chinese in kindergarten continue with Chinese through the fourth grade, at which point they have the choice of going on or choosing another language. Lower School Chinese classes are 30 minutes long, every other day.

In Middle School, Chinese classes meet every day for 50 minutes, and in Upper School, classes meet for 55 minutes 3 days each week and 70 minutes on the fourth day. Ninth grade is also an entry level for Chinese I for students who are new to Breck or wish to change the language they studied in Middle School.

Since the beginning of the integrated 13-year program, 60 percent of students who begin Chinese in kindergarten continue through the twelfth grade. These students are typically placed in the third or second year of college-level Chinese.

In 2007-08, Breck will begin offering the AP Chinese curriculum in Upper School.

Teaching Materials

In Lower School, students use teacher-created materials, Ni Hao, and Better Chinese books from the Beijing International School.

Middle School students use Hanyu, a Chinese textbook from Australia.

Upper School students use Zhongwen Rumen, a Chinese primer, textbooks from Princeton University, Chinese literature selections and proverb stories.

Cultural Activities

Cultural activities are an important part of the curriculum as well. Margaret M. Wong has led 24 annual trips to the People's Republic of China. Each itinerary of approximately 3 weeks covers 5 cities: Beijing, Xi'an, Shanghai, small city, small farm town. Trips have typically included 25-45 students and parents, but this year's group, the 25th, is 63 strong.

Has Breck a sister school and exchange program of teachers and students with Beida Fuzhong in Beijing, Xi'an Zhongxue in Xi'an, Bo'ai School in Xi'an, and Jincai Experimental School in Shanghai. Each year, Breck hosts two or three students on full scholarships from China.

For the last 28 years, Breck has held a school-wide Chinese New Year celebration each February, hosted numerous performing arts troupes from various parts of China. Typically, the performers have lived with Breck families while they are in Minnesota.

Honors and Awards

A number of Breck students have received honors and awards over the years. Examples include many who have won scholarships to study in China through the School Year Abroad and Rosemary-Choate Summer Programs. Five Breck students have won one or two annual national merit scholarships for study. And a current senior has just received a four-year scholarship to attend the University of Oregon Flagship Mandarin Project.

Margaret M. Wong's many honors and recognitions include awards from the Geraldine Dodge Foundation, an Excellence in Education award, an International Citizenship award, the Asian-Pacific Education award, a teaching award from Amherst College, the Ralph Burnet Faculty Chair and a technology grant from National Defense Education organization.

For more information about Breck, visit the school Web site at www.breckschool.org. ■

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Chinese immersion now offered at Minnetonka School District

By Paul Moore, freelance writer and parent in Minnetonka Schools

Next fall, when kindergartners get off the bus for their first day at Minnetonka Public Schools, many will head straight into a Chinese immersion classroom. Minnetonka Schools are introducing the immersion program at two schools for kindergarten and first grade, and it is already generating great interest in the community. Over 100 children (or eleven percent) of next year's kindergartner and first grade students have signed up for the program at Excelsior and Scenic Heights Elementary School.

The goal of the immersion program is to develop Mandarin Chinese language fluency by the end of middle school. The program will expand to higher grades as the first classes move through school, eventually serving students in grades K-8, with more advanced Chinese language courses developing at the high school in the future.

"Our District strives for world-class child-centered excellence, and this immersion program is another key part of that," said School Board Chair Judy Erdahl. "Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world, and China is a major trade partner for both Minnesota and the United States. We know Chinese Language proficiency will provide our children a competitive advantage in the future, and we are investing in their future now."

Minnetonka is already known for its highly regarded secondary Chinese program. Students may begin taking Chinese as early as 8th grade, allowing them five years of language study by the time they graduate high school. The District also has a close relationship with the Hangzhou Foreign Language School, which has been participating in a successful teacher exchange program with Minnetonka High School for nearly 20 years.

Chinese teacher Peiju Ruan has seen huge growth in the high school program since her first class of 15 students in the mid 1990s. Now she's thrilled that Minnetonka is giving its youngest students such a beneficial option.

"It's easier for children to become fluent in a language at an early age," she says. "I'm so excited about the new immersion program."

Minnetonka School District welcomes open enrollment and nonresident students. Families who are interested in the opportunity to learn Chinese as a second language are invited to enroll by calling 952-401-5000.

China takes the world stage for the 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing, meaning there will be plenty of teachable moments for

Immersion continues on Page 7

Competition from Page 1

year intermediate Chinese class students were placed into Group 5. Third year intermediate high and fourth year advanced class students were placed into Group 6.

Each contestant presented a 3-minute prepared speech (50 points) to the judges and audience. When all contestants completed their speech presentations, each contestant presented a Chinese cultural talent (10 points) such as a Chinese song, dance, painting, calligraphy, paper cut, puppet show, martial arts, or musical instrument. The Judge Committee was composed of Chinese language teachers and artists.

Casey Thomas Kerian (Gold) is a third-year student taking second-year Chinese. He is from Rochester, MN, and his major is Global Studies. The topic of his speech was "Discovering China." At the talent show, he sang a Chinese song "The Girl Looking at Me."

Andrew Curtis Kruse (Gold) is a fourth year student taking second-year Chinese. He is from Shoreview, MN, and majors in Biochemistry. He talked about his "predestined relationship with China," and he performed Juggling and Nursery Rhyme in the talent show.

Alaya Dorean Lee (Gold), a sophomore taking first-year Chinese, is from Minneapolis, MN. She told the audience how much she loves Chinese dance, and performed a beautiful "Peacock Dance" at the talent show.

Ryan A. Loomis (Gold) is still a high school student, but is taking first-year Chinese in the U's PSEO program. He is from Mahtomedi, MN. The topic of his speech is "Volunteering in China," and he played Tai Chi in the talent show.

Andrew Ramdular (Gold), a senior who majors in Asian Languages and Literatures, is taking both third and fourth-year Chinese. He is from Minneapolis, MN. The topic of his speech at the contest was "My previous and Present Life," and he sang a Chinese song "Two Butterflies" at the talent show.

Molly Christine Tolzmann (Silver), a third-year student taking first-year Chinese, is from Forest Lake, MN, majoring in Global Studies. She told the story of her "Bad Day" in the speech contest, and performed Trombone in the talent show.

"This testifies to the strength and efficiency of the Chinese program of the Department of Asian Languages and Literatures at the University of Minnesota," said department staff Elizabeth Yuanjing Xue.

Ling Wang, professor and lead teacher of the U of M Chinese program and an affiliate member of the graduate faculty, was also pleased with the achievements of her Chinese language students.

"Every one of our contestants won and



Teaching Team
Photos by Elizabeth Xue

Minnesota won," Wang said.

To emphasize the growing popularity of Chinese language at the University of Minnesota, Wang said that 262 students enrolled for fall semester 2006, compared to only 109 students in 2001.

"Promoting good teaching and good learning is our high priority," said Wang.

"We believe that the quality of teaching predicates the quality of learning just as the quality of learning greatly determines the credibility of the teaching group and the program."

The Midwest competition is a screening contest for the Chinese Bridge Speech Contest to be held this summer in Beijing. This year, two contestants will be selected from the winners for the big contest in Beijing around the time of the 2008 Beijing Olympics.

Alaya Lee (Li Ai Ya), a first-year student, states that "Out of all of the experiences that I had participated in, I have to say it that the "Chinese Speech Competition" was my best experiment ever. Before this, I have only participated in programs or competitions that were related to my own culture, the Hmong New Year dance competition for example. Although my past experiences were great too but, the Chinese Speech Competition is something that had changed me to think outside my own community, therefore, participating in foreign events is the beginning to diversifying my-self." She plans on majoring in Chinese.

Another first-year student, Ryan Loomis, stated "The Chinese speech competition was a breath of fresh air for me; being a high school athlete I am familiar with the competitive atmosphere. This contest however, had more of a shared camaraderie than the cut-throat attitudes often associated with other sporting events. Just being able to talk to the other contestants in mutual nervousness about our speeches made the experience more enjoyable. The relaxed but focused judges, competitors, teachers and friends all acted together to keep me and my fellow competitors from getting too anxious. Not to say I wasn't worried at all as I stepped up in front of the five judges and scores of other participants and teachers to perform my speech, but as any coach will tell you, "if you're not nervous, something is wrong with you!"

"Nothing can give you more insight into a culture than its language," said Casey Kerian, one of the participants. "I have found, by studying Chinese, one is not only learning a foreign language, but is also given a valuable perspective on its people and history."

Kerian, a second-year student, has always been fascinated with Chinese history and feels it is very important for China and the United States to establish good cultural and political understanding. He pursued language and culture study and would like to see more Americans learn and create a better east-west understanding.

"I am confident that anyone who learns Chinese will find worlds of opportunity and will be sure to have a rewarding future," he said. "To me, studying Chinese is not simply an academic measure; it's become a big part of my life now. The opportunities are endless and the intercultural exchange is tremendous. Chinese has impacted my life immensely and I know it will continue to do so."

Kerian will have an opportunity to expand his own east-west understanding when he travels to Beijing in August. The Chinese Consulate General in Chicago announced that Casey Thomas Kerian is one of the two college students selected in the Midwest area to participate in the Final of the "Chinese Bridge" contest to be held in Beijing, August 3-13, 2007. One hundred contestants from all over the world will compete in the Final. Overall, no more than 10 students from the United States have been selected to participate in the final contest in Beijing. ■

Chinese culture and language classes available through Minnesota Online

Two of Minnesota's two-year colleges have developed online courses that will enable students to study China and Chinese

Interest in China has grown dramatically as that country emerges as an economic powerhouse and Asia's cultural giant. Two of Minnesota's two-year colleges have developed online courses that will enable students to study China and Chinese from a variety of perspectives, beginning this fall semester. The courses are Chinese Civilization and Culture (HUM 2009), offered by Duluth's Lake Superior College (LSC) and Beginning Chinese (CHIN 1000), offered by Minneapolis Community and Technical College (MCTC).

Students may sign up for either or both classes through Minnesota Online (www.minnesotaonline.org), the Internet portal for all online classes offered by the Minnesota State Colleges and Universities system.

"This presents a new opportunity for students to combine two courses from two institutions to build a richer learning experience," said Jim Berg, Lake Superior College's dean of liberal arts and sciences.

"The opportunity for online students to take both a Chinese language course and a civilization and culture course should enhance learning in both courses," said Linnea Stetson, Minneapolis Community and Technical College's dean of academic affairs.

"This is the first of many global learning offerings we plan to make available through the Lake Superior College Virtual Campus and Minnesota Online," said Barry Dahl, vice president of technology and the Virtual Campus at Lake Superior College.

Dahl recently returned from China, where he toured with a group of Minnesota State Colleges and Universities educators. He hopes that the trip will identify additional educational partnerships and exchanges, including some that can be delivered via the Internet.

Lake Superior College has collaborated on several projects with Chinese artists and educators in recent years. The Lake Superior College Art Department has conducted several student tours of China to participate in art conferences and tours of the region's ceramics factories and studios. Teaching exchanges with Guangzhou University have

also occurred. A celebrated high-profile ceramics artist, Wenzhi Zhang, taught at Lake Superior College during the spring of 2005 and Lake Superior College instructor Dorian Beaulieu recently returned from China where

he demonstrated ceramics. Pieces by art faculty members Beaulieu and Bob Husby are in permanent collections in China.

Minneapolis Community and Technical College has been involved with universities in China for several years. For

the last two years, Minneapolis Community and Technical College faculty members have taught at a summer arts camp for youth at Ningbo University. Ten Minneapolis Community and Technical College faculty and administrators recently returned from a two-week trip to China for a cultural study tour that also included 17 colleagues from other Minnesota Colleges and Universities. Currently, ten Minneapolis Community and Technical College nursing students are at Hangzhou University studying nursing with their counterparts there. Planning is underway for continued educational exchange opportunities with three Chinese universities.

Robert Kosuth, a Lake Superior College instructor, will teach Chinese Literature and Culture. A Chicago native, Kosuth has master's degrees in East Asian Studies and Linguistics and a Ph.D. in Second Languages and Cultures. During the past 30 years, he has taught and traveled for extended periods in China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. His command of Chinese language and interactions with everyday Chinese citizens enable the course to connect the classic culture of the past with the actual culture that Chinese people live every day.

Beginning Chinese (CHIN 1000) will be taught by Faye Merritt, Minneapolis Community and Technical College instructor. Merritt was born in Ningbo, Zhejiang. She graduated from Zhejiang University in Hangzhou with a B.A. degree in English and literature. She went on to study second language teaching at Utah State University as a graduate student and taught Chinese language courses there. ■

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Immersion from Page 6

Minnetonka's first group of immersion students. Teachers will even incorporate the games' mascots, the Five Friendlies, to help kids connect with the games and Chinese culture.

With the new immersion program comes the need for highly qualified teachers. With the growth in Chinese language programs in recent years, Minnetonka recognizes the competitive environment for attracting highly qualified teachers. "We are confident, however, that the support we can provide for new teachers to our system offers a competitive advantage," shared Dr. Mike Lovett, Assistant Superintendent for Human Resources. "When the Department of Education began its Mandarin Project there were only 6.5 FTE licensed Chinese teachers in the state; two of whom were at Minnetonka. We will expand our teaching staff to eight next year. It will be a great opportunity to build collegial support among our Chinese Language faculty." ■

Minnetonka is also very pleased to announce that Paul DelMain, a former Minnetonka teacher and dean of Sen Lin Hu, the Chinese Language Village through Concordia Language Villages, will be returning to teach in Minnetonka. His experience in Chinese language and culture instruction, combined with his professional network will be vital to building a strong foundation for further growth of our Chinese program."

"Minnetonka has always pursued excellence in teaching, and we're up to the challenge of finding the best Chinese teachers," says Superintendent Dennis Peterson. Chinese language teachers or paraprofessionals who are interested in being part of the new Minnetonka program should call 952-401-5000 for more information or apply online at www.minnetonka.k12.mn.us click on Job Opportunities. It's a chance for educators to get in at the beginning of what promises to be an incredible opportunity for their careers and their students' futures. ■

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Minnesota Student Wins 2007 International Brain Bee

CHINA Insight Special Report



Melody Hu, Marty Saggese (the Executive Director of Society for Neuroscience) and Dr. Norbert R. Myslinski (the director of the International Brain Bee)

Melody Hu of Minneapolis won the 2007 International Brain Bee, hosted by the University of Maryland, Baltimore on Mar. 16 and 17.

According to an article "Minnesota Student Wins 2007 International Brain Bee" by Jeffrey Raymond about the Brain Bee posted on the University of Maryland, Baltimore Web site, "The Brain Bee, established in 1998, has become an established part of Brain Awareness Week, an advocacy program of the Society for Neuroscience. The Bee draws high-school contestants from across the United States and from other countries. This year's competition drew 32 contestants, including representatives from India, Australia and Canada. Two of the five finalists, in fact, were from outside the United States."

Hu, a 15-year-old junior at Wayzata High School in Plymouth, Minnesota, works in a lab at the University of Minnesota-Twin Cities where she is designing a neuronal cell culture procedure that optimizes neuronal reactivity. She is also an award-winning pianist, the top staff writer for her school newspaper, and a member of her school's varsity math team. Hu also directs a charity devoted to supporting impoverished but intellectually gifted students in rural China (see special reports on her Benefit Concert in the last March and April 2007 issues of China Insight).

After a two-hour practical exam Friday, Mar. 16 at the School of Medicine to kick off the 2007 Brain Bee, students traveled by bus to the National Institutes of Health outside of Washington, D.C., where they spent an afternoon mixing exams and briefings. After returning to Baltimore for dinner, they had

yet another set of Brain Bee exams.

The next morning the contestants were back at it. The morning and afternoon activities included exams in the campus's months-old, state-of-the-art Dental School, as well as campus tours and presentations. It wasn't until about 9 p.m. that the 2007 International Brain Bee was decided and Hu was declared the winner. Along with her US\$3,000 cash prize, Hu won a trip for two to the annual meeting of the Society for Neuroscience in Los Angeles, a trophy, and the chance to conduct summer research in the lab with a neuroscientist.

The other finalists were: Sanat Sethi of New Jersey, representing the North South



Sammita Satyanarayan, Melody Hu, Shivani Bhatt and Bhavana Nallamothe

Foundation of Illinois; Morgan Bell, from Thomas Jefferson High School in Northern Virginia; Carol Cui, from University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario; and Tim Mew, from St. Paul's School of Brisbane, Australia.

Minnesota State Champion

Melody Hu won the Minnesota state championship on Feb. 8 in the ninth annual Minnesota Brain Bee Competition at the University of Minnesota.

Hu, along with Wayzata High School juniors Sammita Satyanarayan and Bhavana Nallamothe and sophomore Shivani Bhatt, competed in the competition that fosters interest in neuroscience among teenagers and included more than 200 students from across the state of Minnesota in its preliminary round. All four WHS students made it to the top 30, and were invited to the semi-final round at the University of Minnesota on Feb. 8.

As the champion, Hu would travel to

Baltimore, Maryland in March to compete in the National Brain Bee competition. She received US\$175 cash, US\$30 in bookstore gift certificates, a US\$75 Neuro CD, "Brain Facts" book, a plaque and airfare/hotel costs for two to the national competition.

Satyanarayan finished in third place and won US\$100 cash, US\$30 in bookstore gift certificates and a plaque.

About the Brain Bee Championship

Jeffrey Raymond's article explains that "Norbert Myslinski, PhD, associate professor in the University of Maryland Dental School's Department of Biomedical Sciences, developed the Brain Bee program as part of his quest to boost interest among young people who might choose neuroscience as a career, as well as to advance an appreciation for the subject among the general public. Other brain-centric programs he oversees include a summer research program for high school students, brain art and brain literature projects, and a variety of school and community presentations dealing with neuroscience.

"The future needs more neuroscientists to help fight in this war that we have against neurological diseases. Things like Alzheimer's Disease and Parkinson's Disease, and the more than 1,000 kinds of neurological diseases that we have," says Myslinski. "This competition is mainly to motivate them to open up a book about the human brain and read it and to inspire them to consider a career in neuroscience."

The Society for Neuroscience Web site about Brain Awareness Week explains, "The International Brain Bee (IBB) is a live Q & A competition that tests the neuroscience knowledge of high school students. Young men and women from all over North America compete to determine who is the "best brain" on such topics as intelligence, memory, emotions, sensations, movement, stress, aging, sleep, addiction, Alzheimer's, and stroke. In a two-step process, local competitions are held throughout North America, with the winners invited to the championship at the University of Maryland during Brain Awareness Week in March." The site also states, "Local coordinators contact high schools for interested students and conduct their local brain bees during January, February,

and March. The winners are then invited to the championship in Baltimore, Maryland."

According to the Society for Neuroscience, "The International Brain Bee is held in conjunction with Brain Awareness Week, and many others organize brain bees in their locales with hopes of sending "one of their own" to the IBB championship. Most local coordinators are neuroscientists at universities who are interested in outreach to the community. Some are educators or administrators. Some are from museums or industry, such as pharmaceutical companies."

In Minnesota, students first participate in a computerized preliminary competition which occurs at an arranged time at their own school. The top 30 students from the Preliminary Competition then progress to the State Competition held the following week.

At both the Preliminary and State Competitions, the students are asked questions from the material in the book Brain Facts published by the Society for Neuroscience. Brain Facts is available online for downloading at <http://web.sfn.org/content/Publications/BrainFacts/index.html>.

The University of Minnesota Twin Cities and The University of Minnesota Duluth School of Medicine have been active partners in this effort since 1996 and have developed one of the most visible programs in the country. Neuroscience Faculty, Students from the Graduate Program in Neuroscience, University of Minnesota affiliated staff and faculty and staff from Macalester College in St. Paul volunteer their time to make this event happen. See the Web site <http://www.neuroscience.umn.edu/baw/brainbee.html> for more details.

Other Web sites:

Society of Neuroscience <http://www.sfn.org>

Society of Neuroscience—Brain Awareness Week <http://www.sfn.org/baw/bee.cfm>

University of Maryland, Baltimore <http://www.oea.umaryland.edu>

"Minnesota Student Wins 2007 International Brain Bee" by Jeffrey Raymond <http://www.oea.umaryland.edu/communications/news/?ViewStatus=FullArticle&articleDetail=1791>

Average urban marriage costs US\$72,522

By Kang Yi, China Daily

The average wedding cost in urban China hits a record of [US\$72,522], and young couples are heavily depending on parents' financial aids to pave the way for their marriages, reported the Jiefang Daily [Apr. 20].

The [US\$72,522] is based on some 60,000 valid questionnaires of a recent survey conducted by the Committee of China Wedding Expo.

According the survey, the wedding related expense, honeymoon, new house and car are prime contributors to the soaring marriage cost in the urban area.

The wedding related cost, including



Traditional Chinese wedding

wedding picture, dress, ceremony, feast, jewelry is [US\$18,073 on] average. The average costs of honeymoon and a new car

Marriage continues on Page 15



MLK committee decides Chinese master sculptor is the right artist for the job

By Mike Xiong, Staff Writer

It was a nerve wracking but exciting moment for Master Lei Yixin on Feb 15th at 10:30 a.m. in Washington, D.C. where the artist committee of Martin Luther King, Jr. Memorial Foundation was evaluating his replica and listen to his presentation on his artistic design.

Master Lei dressed in dark Asian styled suite, was well prepared but possessed a certain degree of uncertainty. He was unsure whether or not the hearing would pass smoothly. It was a very rigid art evaluation process. Members of the artistic evaluation committee are nationally prominent artists and analysts appointed by the U.S. President. They command the power to say yes or no to any artistic project brought to the evaluation hearings. Any tiny imperfection will not escape their scrutinizing eyes. For this project that concerns U.S. national dignity and world influence, the standard must be second to none in the world.

Master Lei's artistic skill is already second to none and he is considered one of the nine living treasures in China in his profession. He has successfully created many famous sculptures in China, some of which were collected by China's national art galleries. However, whether his style, artistic concept and design were all accepted by American evaluators still remained a mystery.

On the other hand, evaluators may raise questions about Lei's mother country China. People may question whether it is a good

our loyalties must become ecumenical rather than sectional. Our loyalties must transcend race, our tribe, our class, and our nation; and this means we must develop a world perspective."

By using the quotation, Dr. Jackson delivered a very clear message to the audience. Although the sculptor is neither black nor an American, as long as we are working for a project that will convey a common human concept that should transcend race and nation, the artist's race and nationality must not be a concern. On the contrary, commissioning this task to master Lei will exactly embody the aspiration of Martin Luther King, Jr.

Then Dr. Jackson reported the long and difficult experience of finding the right artist to do the central piece of the MLK memorial park. They first cast their sights on Italy which is original place of contemporary and modern art of sculpture. Although many artists can work well in limestone, few have experience in granite. Coincidentally, just before the committee led by Dr. Jackson would have to make a decision from less desirable options, the Minnesota Rocks! Symposium was held in June of 2006 and the information was put on internet. Dr. Jackson and other two members instantly traveled to Minnesota in such a rushed manner that they did not have time to verify the directions to the site in St. Paul. At the airport, they had to call the St. Public Art Institute to find their way to the site of the exhibition.



hugs and kisses overwhelmed him as his interpreter explained "everyone believes that your artistic work is impeccable and your presentation very convincing. It is really worth congratulations and celebration."

A public news conference was held after the evaluation to announce the formal approval of master Lei's art design and commission him to complete the project by 2008. Master Lei was then interviewed by many news media such as Washington Post, Reuters, CBS, NBC and VOA. Those media published the news that the MLK Foundation had formally appointed Chinese sculptor Lei Yixin as the artist for the center pieces of MLK Memorial Park, that this park will be established in D.C.'s national mall between Lincoln Memorial Hall and Thomas Jefferson Memorial Hall.

Although published articles from worldwide major news media all briefly mentioned the project and master Lei, not one give a description about master Lei's artistic design.

What did master Lei say about his artistic design that convinced every member of the evaluation committee?

With no Chinese script about Master Lei's presentation at hand, the only thing to do was call Master Lei and conduct a phone interview about his presentation.

Mike Xiong: What did you tell the evaluation committee about your design? Could you talk about the center piece of this three pieces sculpture, the Stone of Hope?

Master Lei Yixin: I really spent quite a lot of time to read and study Martin Luther King, Jr.'s material the MLK Foundation sent to me. First of all, I believe that King is a person who had strong determination to change the society and gain equal rights for black Americans. So his figure must be strong, firm and has some inspiration to viewer. On his face, I put frown on to express his discontent with the reality but at the same time I made his eyes bright and forward looking to deliver the hope and confidence.

Xiong: What kind of artistic method have you adopted?

Lei: I used the realistic approach to the head and upper part of King's figure. Very detailed expression is used to his face, arms, hands and jacket. The degree of detail starts to decrease below his jacket with his pants gradually merging into the stone.

This design creates a feeling as if Martin Luther King, Jr. is emerging out of a piece of stone. This stone is the hope for equal rights. In order to protrude the central figure of Martin Luther King, Jr., I purposely make a rough background with traces of chopping and chiseling.

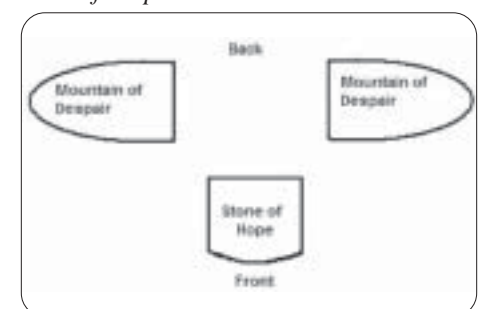
Xiong: Looking at the photos from your sample, I do feel that it is what you want to convey to viewers. How about the Mountains of Despair?

Lei: I have studied many different mountains in Europe, China and America. The shapes of cracking in the mountain are a combination of many mountains from different continents. I made the surface of the mountain very rough with sharp edges and spikes to give people a feeling as if it will hurt you when you touch it. Because this is a mountain of despair, I would like to express a feeling of hardship and hopelessness. This will also help to support the theme for the stone of hope represented by Martin Luther King, Jr.

On the other hand, since the mountains of despair are doomed to collapse, I have created some deep fissures and cracks. They look like natural erosion and imply the desperate situation of discriminated people will eventually replaced by confidence and hope.

Xiong: Could you talk a little about the deployment of the three pieces of sculpture?

Lei: The three pieces of rocks are in an inverse triangle with the stone of hope displayed at the center top and the mountains of despair at each side. There will be three flat sides on the stone of hope: two side panels and one back panel. A total 16 selected quotations and public speeches such as "I have a dream" will be engraved on them and other two panels on the mountains of despair.



Visitors will be channeled to the center hall formed by the three pieces of sculpture.



Master Lei (center), Dr. Jackson and interpreter at the evaluation hearing (Photo provided by Lei Yixin)

idea to let an artist from China, whose human rights record often invites criticism from Americans, to carve out an image of Martin Luther King, Jr., the assassinated American civil rights icon. As a matter of fact, this political uncertainty weighs equally heavy, if not more, than artistic consideration.

Dr. Ed. Jackson, the executive architect at the MLK Foundation, understood those concerns and strategically arranged the sequence of the hearing so that it would be a smooth run.

Dr. Jackson gave an introduction speech by first reciting a phrase from Martin Luther King, Jr. "If we are to have peace on Earth,

They gazed at master Lei's nearly complete sculpture "Contemplation" and thought with excitement that they had found their artist. Dr. Jackson remembered that the appearance of master Lei (Chinese last name meaning "thunder") was like a "thunder rod" for him to find the artist he had long been looking for.

Following by Dr. Jackson's introduction, was master Lei's presentation on his artistic design for "the mountain of despair" and "the stone of hope" through an interpreter. When it came to the final vote, every one of the evaluation members voted to accept master Lei's art design. Congratulations,

Day care provides early child development with an emphasis on Chinese culture and language

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer

What started out over eight years ago as a simple home-based child day care facility by Larry Yan and Junxia, his wife, has now matured into a much sought after pre-school program by many parents and has now expanded to two locations. The first center is located in Roseville and a new location was just recently opened in St. Paul. Minnesota Chinese Day Care & Learning Center (MCDCLC) was started by Larry and Junxia because they were both experienced teachers who love children and wanted to share all the history and culture of China with children in Minnesota. With a rapidly growing Chinese population, many parents wanted to ensure that their children would be able to learn everything about their Chinese heritage.

MCDCLC began quite modestly with a few children and within a year it was caring for 10 children and by the second year, including children on a waiting list, had grown to 20 children. Since a home care facility can only have 14 children, the decision during the next several years was to become a professional kindergarten which meant finding a suitable location. A parent recommended a church location but due to a bad experience with another kindergarten, the church was reluctant to permit another. Fortunately the parent did a tremendous job of convincing the church and it has been a mutually satisfying arrangement ever since.

In response to why it took so long to start a second school, Yan explained that it is not easy to find the right location and teachers. It is extremely difficult to find teachers that are caring, responsible and have experience teaching children and he is fortunate to have a great team of teachers.

As a matter of fact, some of the parents comment that the teachers may be "over-qualified. An award winning choreographer, Lili Teng, is the dancing teacher. Another teacher that was mentioned is Kelly Johnson who studied the Montessori Method and now teaches the Chinese children English.

Since the curriculum covers Mandarin Chinese, English, Math and Science it is not hard to understand why it is critical to have the right teachers to be able to provide such a variety of classes to keep the children interested. Extracurricular classes in music, dance and arts are also available and taught by professionals as part of the program.

According to Yan, there are over 1,000 children in Minnesota that have been adopted from China and about half of the children that attend MCDCLC are from families such as these. He also stated that he has been inspired by the devotion of these parents. Although some already have children of their own, they decide to adopt a less fortunate child from China and are fully committed to providing this child with everything any parent would. An adopted child may need to work a little harder to make sure they learn something about their heritage and many parents can accomplish this through a day care facility such as MCDCLC.

If you want to learn more about Minnesota Chinese Day Care & Learning Center, call Larry Yan at 651-983-9559 or go to www.mcdclc.com ■

Editor's Note: This article was prepared from material submitted by Chen Zhou.

Minnesota world trade week 2007 Governor's global trade conference May 24-25, 2007

Minnesota World Trade Week is an annual event organized by the Minnesota Trade Office to acknowledge and celebrate the importance of international trade to the state's economy. This year, the Minnesota Trade Office will present the Governor's Global Trade Conference as the signature event of Minnesota World Trade Week. The conference will attract hundreds of international trade professionals for a two-day program of presentations and workshops by renowned leaders in international trade, networking receptions and luncheons, and a service providers' exhibition. The conference will culminate with the annual World Trade Week

Luncheon honoring recipients of the Governor's International Trade Award.

The conference will allow attendees to:

- * Acquire valuable information and skills to enhance their global competitiveness.
- * Gain perspective on the state of global trade in Minnesota.
- * Interact with other trade professionals, government leaders, and distinguished international guests.
- * Connect with organizations and service providers committed to helping them suc-

Chinese Senior Citizens Society recognized by USA Weekend

Last summer the Chinese Senior Citizens Society (CSCS) joined the Save the Children Fund's *Caps to the Capital* campaign to help prevent deaths of newborns in developing countries in Africa by doing two things: knitting or crocheting baby caps and writing to President George W. Bush.

According to Save the Children Fund, four million newborns worldwide die each year within the first month of life – half within the first 24 hours after being born. But a package of simple health measures provided to mothers and babies (such as immunizations) and education on basic care such as drying a newborn baby and keeping it warm (with a baby cap) can prevent 70 percent of these deaths. Save the Children Fund provided instructions to knit or crochet baby caps and suggested that knitters also write to President Bush urging him to increase funding for critical health measures for mothers and children in developing countries.

Members of the Chinese Senior Citizens Society were deeply touched by this call and promptly began knitting and crocheting baby caps. Non-knitters donated yarn for this purpose. By last October they had knitted over 100. For a last push, they got together on Oct. 28, the *Make A Difference Day* promoted by *USA Weekend Magazine*, a Sunday supplement in the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*, to highlight community service and spent the day together knitting away.

Many of these members are grandmothers or great grandmothers, three of them over 90 years old, who had immigrated to the U.S. decades ago and felt fortunate that they had been able to keep their families warm through hard work. Now that their families were grown and independent, they wished to give back to the community for the opportunities that they were given. *Caps to the Capital* program tugged at their heartstrings and

they felt that knitting baby caps would be a very meaningful way to help each other worldwide. Helping to build the next generation in developing countries is to foster hope of the future.

The members most active in this project were Cynthia Wong (who knitted over 100 caps), Moon Fong, York Ying Yee, Agnes Lau, Theresa Lau, Sut Young Lam Yue, and Ming Tchou. Together they made 175 caps, which were sent to Save the Children. In addition they wrote a letter to President Bush urging him to increase funding to save these newborns. They also submitted an entry to *USA Weekend's Make A Difference Day Award Program*. On April 15, *USA Weekend* announced the top 10 national honorees and additional local honorees. CSCS was the local honoree selected by the *Minneapolis Star Tribune*. CSCS was thrilled to be selected and plans to work on meaningful projects in the future in their continuing commitment to give back to the community.

Although CSCS is set up to provide social services to the Chinese community, its main activities are a lunch meeting on the second Saturday of every month at the Richfield Community Center, 7000 Nicollet Ave. S. Richfield MN 55423. They also do two annual dinners and some field trips. A newsletter is published every three months, and in between times it stays in contact with its active members through a phone tree. The organization does not maintain a Web site but for more information, they can be contacted at CSCS, P.O. Box 17326, Minneapolis MN 55417.

The one thing that distinguishes CSCS from most Chinese organizations is that they are not exclusively allied with anyone. They are neither mainland, nor Taiwan, nor Hong Kong; and have members from all three regions. ■

ceed internationally.

- * Participate in celebrating Minnesota's global successes.

Those who should attend include:

- * Business executives and managers presently involved in developing and managing corporate growth in global markets;
- * Business leaders considering entering the global market;
- * Government officials interested in acquiring information on the current and future economic impact of international trade;
- * Service providers, such as freight forwarders, bankers, attorneys, consultants, and others, offering services for Minnesota companies; and
- * Students and academic professionals interested in international business.

The first day of the conference will begin with the Governor's Welcome Breakfast in which Gov. Tim Pawlenty will highlight Minnesota's international trade activities. Next will be a Global Leaders Panel moderated by George Martin, Partner, Faegre & Benson LLP. A panel of senior executives from several Minnesota corporations will

provide an overview of their international operations and highlight their impact on Minnesota's global economy. This panel will include a Q&A session.

After the International Trade Luncheon on the first day, there will be concurrent international trade seminars in the afternoon. The programs will be:

- * Trade Developments and Opportunities in Russia
- * Trade Developments and Opportunities in Brazil
- * Trade Developments and Opportunities in India
- * Trade Developments and Opportunities in Taiwan

The day will conclude with an international business networking reception in the evening.

On the second day of the conference, concurrent international trade seminars will occur in the morning.

The day-two seminar topics will be:

- * Agriculture Exporting Made Easier: Inter-

Trade continues on Page 15

XinXing Academy opens fall of 2007

Questions and answers about the new Chinese Immersion magnet program opening at Eisenhower Elementary in Hopkins

XinXing Academy, Hopkins Public Schools' Chinese Immersion magnet program, will open at Eisenhower Elementary School in the fall of 2007 with two sections of kindergarten. XinXing means New Star in Mandarin Chinese.



Why immersion?

* Immersion is the fastest-growing and most effective type of academic foreign language program available.

* Because students are immersed in the language all day every day, they acquire the language faster and better than students in traditional foreign language classes.

* Not only do students develop proficiency in the immersion language, they also develop increased cultural awareness.

* The ability to interpret cross-cultural interactions is crucial in today's world.

* Foreign language immersion develops more flexible thinking and has a positive effect on students' cognitive development.

* Immersion students achieve as well as or better than their non-immersion peers on standardized tests that measure verbal and mathematical skills.

with sufficient contact with the language to form the necessary base for success in 1st grade and beyond. The full-day kindergarten program will be fee-based, with some scholarships available.

What is the enrollment process?

Slots will be available to students from each of Hopkins Public Schools' six elementary schools, and there will be openings for parents who wish to open enroll their children into the school district. The initial registration is open until Friday, Feb. 23. Registration will remain open until the program is at capacity. Class sizes will range from 21 to 28 students, with the average per class to be about 23 students. A lottery system will be used if there is more demand for slots than allotted.

A grade level will be added each year through 6th grade. There will be no fees for 1st through 6th grades.

What is the tuition?

The tuition is US\$3,402 a year, or US\$378 per month. There also will be a one-time US\$25 registration processing fee. Some partial or full scholarships will be available to students who qualify for free or reduced-priced lunch.

Will information meetings be conducted?

Information meetings are planned for 6:30 p.m. Monday, May 21 and Tuesday, June 12, at the Eisenhower Community Center, 1001 Highway 7, Hopkins. In these meetings, a sample Chinese immersion lesson will be provided. Call 952-988-4300 for detailed information.

Transportation

Transportation to XinXing Academy will be provided at no cost to Hopkins Public Schools' students.

Will before- and after-school child care be available?

Before- and after-school child care is available through Kids & Company. For information, please contact Kids & Company at 952-988-4083.

What role will parents play in XinXing Academy?

Families are asked to make a long-term commitment to the immersion program. Par-

Why offer Chinese?

* Offering Chinese is cutting-edge (there are only about 12 Chinese immersion schools in the country; one in St. Paul).

* Chinese is widely viewed now as a critical language to learn.

* There are Foreign Language Assistance Program (FLAP) grants available through the federal government for critical languages like Chinese.

How will Hopkins' immersion program work?

Because Hopkins is offering an immersion program, all subject matter will be taught in Mandarin Chinese for the full day. In most language immersion programs, English language arts is introduced beginning in 2nd or 3rd grade, and there is an even distribution of English and the immersion language by 5th and 6th grade. In most immersion programs, art, music, and physical education are typically delivered in English. Nurses, counselors, media specialists, English as a Second Language, special education, principals, and office staff services are also in English so they can be shared with the rest of the school.

Why locate XinXing Academy at Eisenhower?

Eisenhower is Hopkins Public Schools' largest school and therefore has the most space to offer. The school is also centrally located, which will facilitate transportation.

How many sections will be available in the fall of 2007-08?

XinXing Academy will start with two sections of full-day kindergarten. Having full-day kindergarten will provide students

NEW!
XinXing
Academy



Hopkins Public Schools'
Chinese Immersion Program

Innovative, Cutting-edge,
Educational Experience
Open to kindergartners, fall 2007-08

Information meetings:
6:30 p.m. Monday, May 21
6:30 p.m. Tuesday, June 12
(Come and see a Chinese immersion lesson)

Eisenhower Elementary School
1001 Highway 7, Hopkins
Information/Registration: **952-988-4300**

ents will be asked to support the program by maintaining an active role in their children's education. Parents need to provide their children with experiences that will help develop their English language skills and enhance their cognitive and affective development. Parents will be asked to read to their children daily in English, and to engage their children in activities where they need to apply what they are learning in class.

Are resources available?

A couple of great resources for parents include:

- * Center for Applied Linguistics at www.cal.org
- * Center for Advance Research on Language Acquisition at www.carla.umn.edu

For additional information, please contact

Eisenhower Elementary School at 952-988-4300, or visit Hopkins Public School Web site at www.Hopkins.k12.mn.us, or Eisenhower Elementary school Web site: <http://www.hopkins.k12.mn.us/pages/eisenhower/eisenhower.lasso> ■

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China's banks head to U.S.

China Merchants Bank, the Shenzhen-based sixth largest lender, has applied to U.S. banking authorities to open a New York branch. Although it wouldn't be the first bank to make loans and take deposits in the United States, if approved by the Federal Reserve, it would mark a turning point for Chinese banks and their business in the United States, the world's largest financial market. Currently, banks from China are looking to open branches in the United States where they would be allowed to make loans and take commercial deposits.

Last year, China Merchants Bank was one of several banks that made a successful Hong Kong stock market debut. The bank now controls one-third of China's credit card market and has stocked its domestic branches with deposits from affluent Chinese consumers.

There are now new regulations, due to the 1991 Foreign Bank Supervision Enhancement Act that must be strictly followed. But observers say that foreign banks usually do not submit applications to the Federal Reserve officials until they have thoroughly discussed the plan with them and have reasonable assurances it will succeed.

In order to approve China Merchants' application, the Federal Reserve has to determine that the bank follows its' home country regulators, the China Banking Regulatory Commission. If the Federal Reserve finds that China Merchant is able to be regulated, it would clear this requirement for all Chinese banks who want to enter into the United States. ■

International Business Conference: Business Opportunities in Malaysia

On April 12, 2007, as part of the Malaysia Trade and Investment Mission to USA (Miami, Minneapolis and San Jose), the Malaysian business opportunity seminar was held at Hilton Minneapolis. The seminar was organized by MIDA (Malaysia Industrial Development Authority, Chicago) and MATRADE (Malaysian External Trade Development Corporation), in partnership with MN government (MEED, MTO), US Commercial Service, local Chamber of Commerce, MIC, LifeScience Alley, MHTA, Agri-Growth Council, UM, etc. It was well received by the local business world; over 200 people attended this one-day seminar, including representatives from 3M, Entegris, Valspar, Ecolab, Donaldson, Cargill, General Mills, Polaris, Trane and VCI Technology. The keynote address was given by Hon. Rafidah Aziz, Minister of International Trade and Industry, Malaysia. Also accompanying her and the strong delegation is the only Chi-

nese Governor in Malaysia, Mr. Koh Tsu Koon.



Malaysia Minister of International Trade and Industry

Malaysia has a Multi-ethnic population of 26.7 million, consisting 58.0% Malays, 31.5% Chinese, 7.5% Indians and 3.0% other ethnic groups. It has very supportive government policies: pro-growth, pro-business

and liberal policies; an educated workforce: skilled, highly productive and cost effective; developed infrastructure; vibrant business environment; and quality of life.



Malaysia seminar audience

2007 is also the 50th anniversary of Malaysian Independence. The Malaysian government anticipates a big expansion and increase on the business and economic exchange between Malaysia and United States. The economic model is changing from the

raw material export model to service and manufacturing industries. Malaysia is ranked in the top five countries for energy, finance and logistics in global shared services and outsourcing (SSO Hub Potential Analysis 2005 by Frost & Sullivan). More than 5000 foreign companies from more than 40 countries have set up operations in Malaysia. About 130 US Fortune 500 companies have their business presence in Malaysia. It is the 19th largest trading nation in the world. In the year 2005, Malaysia was USA's 10th largest trading partner. Two-way trade between the United States and Malaysia amounted to US\$42.36 billion.

Language continues on Page 15

"Ability will never catch up with the demand for it." ...Confucius

Selecting Staff in China: common mistakes

Common Mistakes When Using Chinese Staff To Set Up Or Run Your Company

Putting them in control of everything

Yes, it may be very useful to have that ever-so-nice-and-efficient local Chinese person help you with all aspects of setting up your China operations, including all business licenses, offices, bank accounts, handling all documentation and so on. The language and bureaucracy are almost unintelligible and you're a busy corporate executive. But wait: Is it normal business practice – anywhere – to have one person in control of all aspects of your country operations?

No, it isn't. And with very good reason:

Their abilities may not stretch as far as international competencies

Although they may in fact be honest and helpful, the way in which foreign companies have to be administered in China, and the reporting structures they have to go through, are very different from those that Chinese companies have to adhere to. In reality, foreign businesses in China face far more scrutiny than Chinese companies do. If your employee, good as they are, is not familiar with the regulatory aspects concerning operating and maintaining an international office or business in China, chances are there will be issues your company will immediately be out of compliance with. That can and does get expensive. Additionally, there are circumstances where the employee may deliberately keep the company out of compliance – to obtain benefits or other leeway later if any argument arises against his or her favor later on.

Having one person in control of all your corporate documents and/or banking

Very common. The risks are obvious. You can lose all your abilities to operate the company overnight if he/she decides to walk

out of the door. Plus all your money.

Insertion of family and friends into your supply chain

This is very common. You need to audit your purchasing and sales departments regularly to ensure employees are not placing orders with companies owned by friends or relatives that are then charging your business at rates well over the market odds.

Setting up of parallel business

In one particularly nasty case we were called in to investigate, two Canadian-Chinese were hired, having worked for the parent company overseas for several years, to establish a China manufacturing entity. This they did, however the China business never was able to attain anywhere like the projected sales, and had to be continuously funded from the parent to tide it over. A variety of 'market conditions', "competitor pricing" and so on were given as excuses. When, just before a new USD1 million investment was to be injected into the China entity, the parent decided just have a quick 'look-see' internal audit – things started to become clear. The two trusted employees had established a mirror company, with similar sounding Chinese name to the international brand, and had been diverting all orders to that business instead. "Local competitive pricing" indeed. From a business the staff themselves had established to compete with their employers.

Common Mistakes When Hiring Expatriate Employees to Set Up And Run Your China Entity

There are problems with expatriate staff as well. Especially, (and unfortunately) often with personnel in professional services:

Hiring lawyers with no China experience

Expensive, and not really much point, especially if their Chinese language capa-

bilities are minimal. However, many look good, and although their firms may have a China presence, what about their individual presence in China? International lawyers are great at international work – cross border structuring and so on – but far too many of them profess expertise in areas of China practice they are neither qualified or experienced to be dealing with. Are you looking for a salesman selling his firm, or proper advice? Really, if you need to hire a lawyer with China experience – go to a firm that has the real thing. That's what they are there for, and China has had private lawyers now for 15 years – Google their names to see how well known they are.

Hiring personnel on their language skills alone

Well, everyone has to start somewhere. But a new kid just out of language school is still a new kid out of language school, and will have no experience of the "China" issues. Don't expect miracles. And two years in China does not an expert make. Young graduates do have skills of course, but don't weigh them down too much with managerial responsibilities before they have had time to adjust them to a commercial business environment and have found their feet around your business. A management development program designed to maximize on their language skills yet introduce them to your business will reap greater rewards both for you and for them if you treat them with continuing educational attention.

The China Guys

Expats of note are those who really know their way around, and can steer you away from all the problems we have identified in this issue. They will have a good grasp of the language, and may well have settled down with family here. You cannot survive in China without knowing how to get on, and this is a matter of experience as well as possessing inherent patience, tenacity and people and

communications skills. They are available – interestingly at this time, many of the established multinationals are localizing and expatriate engineering and other talent is perhaps more available in China than ever before.

Good Recruitment Practice When Hiring Staff in China

This applies to all staff, irrespective of nationality. Just because "this is China" there is no reason not to incorporate the normal checks and balances that you would back home.

Check language skills both orally and written

A simple test. Some Chinese staff have their friends write their English CVs for them, while many expats overstate the fluency of their Chinese. Note also there is no such thing as "fluent Mandarin" and that regional dialects can enhance or limit the ability of your staff to cut it locally.

Check all backgrounds and references

Often neglected. Often regretted later. Follow up those qualifications and references. You're paying for them so make sure they are really part of the package.

Pay staff properly

If you want to retain them, pay them properly. Not just their welfare payments that you should be making in any event, but enough to keep them motivated and keen on continuing to work for you. China may be the current center of cheap manufacturing – but there is no reason for you to be cheap when it comes to your staff. Or you'll end up spending more time on recruitment operations than on your actual moneymaking operations. ■

Source: U.S. Commercial Service China; <http://www.buyusa.gov/china/en>

Article provided by Dezan Shira & Associates; <http://www.dezshira.com>

Beijing 2008 Tickets go on sale

More than seven million very affordable tickets are now on sale for the 2008 Olympic Games in Beijing, the Beijing Organizing Committee for the Games of the XXIX Olympiad (BOCOG) announced Apr. 15. About 75 percent of the tickets will be sold domestically and the rest will be available to the overseas public.

Late last year, BOCOG announced that ticket prices for the Games would be in keeping with its efforts to host Games accessible to the broadest spectrum of people.

Anticipating a high level of demand, BOCOG Executive Vice President and Secretary General Wang Wei reiterated that the ticketing process will be conducted in the most efficient, fair and open manner possible and will follow internationally accepted practices.

BOCOG will initiate a three-phased ticketing process for domestic sales. In each phase, residents on the Chinese mainland will be able to order tickets through the official ticketing Web site (<http://tickets.beijing2008.com/>), calling the BOCOG ticketing call center (+86-10-952008), or through designated Bank of China branches.

For overseas sales, the process will be determined in each country and territory by its National Olympic Committee and its ticketing agent.

Domestic Ticketing Phases

On the Chinese mainland, Phase One of the ticketing process will run from now through the end of September 2007. During this first phase, 50 percent of the total 2.2 million domestic tickets for competition sessions and the estimated 26,000 tickets available for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies, respectively, will be open to the domestic public.

Orders will be fulfilled through a process of ordering and confirmation by random selection. The first half of the period will be dedicated to collecting orders in which prospective ticket buyers indicate for which events they want tickets, and the second-half will be spent trying to determine whether the supply equals the demand for certain events. This approach provides everyone an equal chance of purchasing tickets that are in high demand.

From April 15 to June 30, individuals can place orders through the official BOCOG ticketing Web site, by submitting completed order forms to designated Bank of China outlets or by mailing a form to Beijing Gehua Ticketmaster Ticketing Co, Ltd. Forms will be available at all Bank of China branches, in newspapers and on the official Web site.

From July to August 2007, tickets will be assigned to completed orders. For oversubscribed events, tickets will be allocated using a random computerized selection process.

A similar ordering process will be conducted in Phase Two, which will take place from October to December 2007. Remaining available tickets from Phase One and the other 50 percent of the competition tickets for sale domestically will be open to the public during this period. Tickets can be ordered through the official Web site, at designated

Bank of China outlets or the ticketing call center, but in this phase tickets will be allocated on a "first-come, first-serve" basis.

A real-time sales process will be conducted in Phase Three from April 2008 until the end of the Olympic Games where tickets will be issued directly upon payment.

Form of Ticket and Payment

Souvenir tickets will be used for ticket orders fulfilled in Phases One and Two. Individuals will be prompted to collect their souvenir tickets at designated Bank of China outlets. Individuals who purchase tickets during Phase Three will receive thermal-printed tickets.

Payment will be required once the order is confirmed in Phase One. In Phase Two, payment is required together with the ticket order. Individuals may pay for tickets by using cash, a VISA card or by deducting the required amount from a current Bank of China account.

Overseas Sales

The overseas public, including overseas Chinese, will be able to order tickets from their respective National Olympic Committees and their designated agents. Residents of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region should purchase tickets through the designated agent of the Sports Federation and Olympic Committee of Hong Kong China. Residents in Macau Special Administrative Region should purchase tickets through the Macau Sport Development Board. Residents in Taiwan should purchase tickets from the designated agent of the Chinese Taipei Olympic Committee.

Ticket Availability

During the press conference, BOCOG officials underscored their commitment to providing a wide cross-section of society the chance to enjoy the Games and gave their assurances that they will maintain a fair and transparent sales program.

In all Olympic Games, the number of Opening and Closing Ceremonies tickets on-sale to the general public is restricted by the seats needed to be provided to a number of constituent

groups involved in organizing the Olympic Games, including the media and official delegations, and by those seats taken up by equipment to produce the ceremonies. For Beijing 2008, 40 percent of the estimated 60,000 Opening Ceremony tickets on sale to the general public, or about 26,000 tickets, will be available to residents of Chinese mainland. This represents a seven percent increase over the 33 percent of Opening Ceremony tickets available to European Union residents during the Athens 2004 Olympic Games.

To offer the largest number of people the opportunity to watch the Olympic Games, BOCOG will limit the number of tickets each individual may purchase. Each person may only purchase one ticket for the Opening and Closing Ceremonies. Individuals are limited to two tickets for high

Li Lei, tenor
in solo recital

李雷獨唱音乐会
Tribal Songs of China
民族情

Pearl Lam Bergad, piano

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Minneapolis, MN 55455

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Hong Lin 763-478-3117
Yanan Guo 651-276-3498
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Chinese American Association and International Association
of American Universities, Chinese Cultural Service Center,
and ISAC, etc.

Financed in part by a grant from the
Minnesota Association of Theatrical Artists
Foundation



Officials seek "open skies" for U.S.-China air travel

The number of airline flights between China and the United States is sharply limited by international agreement. With China being the United States' second largest trading partner, the demand for seats far exceeds supply. There is still only an average of 11 daily nonstop passenger flights between the two countries compared to 55 daily flights between the United States and Germany,

with which there exists an "open skies" deal. U.S. carriers lobbied aggressively for the one new route that was awarded this year. It went to United Airlines, which started the first direct service between Beijing and Washington, D.C. last month. Under a treaty agreement, only one daily flight is available to add each in 2008, 2009, and 2010.

The United States is discussing a deal with China to liberalize air travel and hopes for a framework "open skies" agreement by May, the U.S. Transportation Secretary,

Air travel continues on Page 14

demand competition sessions. Individuals will be limited to three-to-five tickets for other competition sessions according to demand for those sessions.

Tickets for Opening and Closing Ceremonies are not transferable indiscriminately. Those who wish to transfer tickets for Opening and Closing Ceremonies will need to follow BOCOG's ticket transfer policy, which is currently under development. Green Olympics, High-tech Olympics, People's Olympics

In developing the program, BOCOG took into account the spirit and values of the Olympic Games, and its three concepts --

"Green Olympics, High-tech Olympics, and People's Olympics."

The ticketing program also fully reflects its theme-slogan, "One World One Dream."

Tickets were made affordable to ensure the greatest number of people would enjoy the Olympic Games. In line with its Olympic Education Program, a number of tickets will be reserved for primary and middle school

Olympics continues on Page 14

CERTIFICATE OF ASSUMED NAME STATE OF MINNESOTA

Minnesota Statutes Chapter 333:

1. The assumed name under which the business is or will be conducted is
WAREHOUSE 100, LLC
2. The street address of the principal place of business is or will be:
4009 W 31st St., Suite 7, St. Louis Park, MN 55416.
3. The name and street address of all persons conducting business under the above Assumed Name.

Name	Street Address
SUIRU SHI SEBERSON	4009 W 31st St., Suite 7, St. Louis Park, MN 55416.

4. I certify that I am authorized to sign this certificate and I further certify that I understand that by signing this certificate, I am subject to the penalties of perjury as set forth in section 609.48 as if I had signed this certificate under oath.

DATED: March 19, 2007
(Signed) SUIRU SHI SEBERSON, Owner
(April 1, 2007; May 1, 2007)
00000703

Mandarin from Page 1**Mounds Park Academy**

At Mounds Park Academy, every student gets at least a sampling of Chinese. Elementary-level classes have one 20-minute session of instruction in language and culture each week. Middle School students have the class on alternating days while high school students can sign up for Chinese language as an elective.

This curriculum was made possible this year because MPA was able to acquire a teacher from China through its participation in the China Connection program, a unique partnership between the National Association of Independent Schools and Hanban, a non-governmental organization funded by the Chinese government. Information about the school can be found at www.moundsparkacademy.org.

Westonka School District

The Westonka School District may be among the smallest public school districts in Minnesota to establish a Chinese language and exchange program, starting in 2007-2008.

Chinese language will be offered at Mound Westonka High School for the first time during the 2007-2008 school year. In addition, the district is launching an exchange program between Mound Westonka and a counterpart secondary school in Beijing, starting summer 2008. Through a credit-bearing course, Mound Westonka High School students will learn about Chinese history, government, and culture through a series of classes taken prior to leaving for a two-week exchange in Beijing. Tentative plans call for the U.S. students to visit major historical and cultural sites, get a taste of dormitory life at a Beijing high school campus, and have a short home stay experience with local families. A final written paper and program evaluation will round out the course requirements.

The U.S. students will also be expected to serve as educational resources throughout the next school year, and to play a leadership role the following summer when Chinese students visit the Westonka School District as part of the reciprocal exchange. For more information about the Westonka-China Educational Exchange Program, contact Superintendent Kevin Borg, 952-491-8001, or borgk@westonka.k12.mn.us

St. Cloud State University

With the growing interest in teaching Chinese within the K-12 programs at both a state and national level, the demand for licensed teachers to teach Chinese has risen drastically. St. Cloud State University, in partnership with Beijing Normal University in Beijing, China, is working on developing a MA Dual Degree in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language. The first pilot group of students will be arriving and beginning courses this fall, with anticipated completion in the fall of 2008. Future cohorts of students from BNU will complete a portion of their degree in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language in China, followed by the second portion of their degree at SCSU. Students will be granted a degree from each institution and be eligible for licensure in the state of Minnesota or on a national level.

The benefit of this program is maximizing the capabilities of the two institutions. Beijing Normal University is meeting the need of content instruction on the Chinese language and SCSU is meeting the need for curriculum and pedagogy for teaching in the United States. SCSU is also developing av-

enues for students who demonstrate competencies in Chinese content instruction to also apply and complete their degree in this high need area. Interested students are encouraged to seek further information. Contact Ming Chi Own at meown@stcloudstate.edu or Kathy Johnson at kejohnson@stcloudstate.edu for more information. SCSU anticipates opening the program to students in the United States and elsewhere in China in the spring/fall of 2008.

Following is the most recent list prepared by the Asia Society that lists schools in Minnesota that offer Chinese language classes.

Breck School

(private; grades K-8 9-12)
Minneapolis, MN
contact: Margaret Wong
notes: Dodge Foundation

Cooper High School

(public; grades 9-12)
New Hope, MN
contact: Heather Skogerboe
notes: 3 levels of Mandarin

Edina High School

(public; grades 10-12)
Edina, MN
contact: Alice Chang
notes: 3 levels of Mandarin

Elizabeth Hall International Elementary School

(public; grades PK, K-5)
MN
contact: Feng-Yi Wang

Fridley Middle School

(public; grades 6-8)
MN
contact: School

Highland Park High School

(public; grades 9-12)
St. Paul, MN
contact: Kristine Wogstad

Highland Park Junior High School

(public; grades 7-8)
St. Paul, MN
contact: n/a

Minneapolis South High School

(public; grades 9-12)
Minneapolis, MN
contact: Dingman Yu
notes: Dodge Foundation

Minnetonka High School

(public; grades 9-12)
Minnetonka, MN
contact: Peiju Ruan

Minnetonka Middle School East

(public; grades 6-8)
Minnetonka, MN
contact: Isaac Hou

South High School

(public; grades 9-12)
Minneapolis, MN
contact: Dingman Yu

St. Croix Preparatory Academy

(charter; grades 9-12)
Stillwater, MN
contact: Xiaoqing Du

St. John's Preparatory School

(private; grades 9-12)
Collegeville, MN
contact: Carolyn Ford
notes: 4 levels of Mandarin

St. Joseph 's School of Music

(private; all grades)
MN
contact: Sister Rose Brennan

St. Paul Academy and Summit School

(private; grades 6-8 and 9-12)
St. Paul, MN
contact: n/a
notes: started Mandarin program in grades 6 and 9 in 2004-2005

St. Paul Central High School

(public; grades 9-12)
St. Paul, MN
contact: Jen Syan Hwang

Yinghua Academy

(public charter; grades K-3, but will expand a grade each year)
St. Paul, MN
contact: Kristina Schatz
Betsy Lueth (pronounced "Leet"), Yinghua Academy Director

As noted in the preface, if you know of other schools that are offering Chinese language programs, please submit this information to us and we will share it with our readers. Also, please feel free to let us know if you would like us to cover other aspects of learning Chinese. Comments should be sent directly to Greg Hugh, ghugh@chinainsight.info. ■

Olympics from Page 13

students and young athletes. The tickets will use environmentally-friendly materials and modern anti-counterfeiting technologies will be adopted. To provide better services to the general public, BOCOG will authorize multiple sales points for tickets.

Oversight

To ensure fairness and transparency in the sales process, the Supervision Commission of the Games of the XXIX Olympiad and BOCOG's Audit and Supervision Department will oversee the ticketing program. It will especially monitor methods to pre-

vent fraud, ensure allotments are maintained and prevent abuse of the random-selection process.

Organizers also welcome cooperation from the general public. Reports of violations can be addressed to the Supervision Commission at +86-10-6669-8127 or jiandu2008@beijing2008.cn.

For more information, contact: Beijing 2008 Olympic Games Official Ticketing Web site: <http://tickets.beijing2008.com/> BOCOG Ticketing Call Center: Tel: +86-10-952008 ■

Source: Xinhua-PRNewswire

The Murrow program, an innovative public-private partnership between the State Department and 12 leading U.S. schools of journalism began in April 2006. The program will bring nearly 200 journalists from independent media outlets around the world to the United States to examine the rights and responsibilities of a free press in a democracy, observe operational practices, standards and institutions of the U.S. media, gain insight into the social, economic and

political structure of the United States and interact with professional journalists and experts in the field. This is the second year for this program. The program dates for this year are: April 7 – April 28, 2007. Up to 200 journalists participated in 12 projects of approximately 15-20 participants each. The projects are organized by region and language. The cost for this program is US\$22,000 per visitor. Costs for the academic component are borne by the partner universities.



Left, Asian Journalist Group presents gifts



Right, Marta Pereyema, Program Officer, U.S. Department of State



Asian journalist group have dinner at the Teahouse restaurant

Master Lei from Page 9

tures after viewing the outside works. They will be able to access the center hall to read those quotations through one back and two side channels created by this inverse triangle design.

That is the synopsis of master Lei's presentation. The artistic design that has been fully materialized with his sample created with unmatched sculpture skills completely convinced the committee members. They rarely approve any artistic project without raising some questions. Facing with master Lei's impeccable model sculpture, they are more than happy to approve it.

Before the evaluation hearing, Dr. Jackson and another officer traveled to Changsha in early February. Accompanied by Master Lei, they visited the site where granite stone will be produced. Then they accompanied Master Lei and his wife back to the United States. Dr. Jackson knows that to get a deeper understanding of Martin Luther King, Jr and his course is not an easy task for a person from totally different culture. So he arranged a sequence of site tours for Master Lei to Memphis and Atlanta where Martin Luther King, Jr. worked, studied, made speeches and was assassinated and buried. The visits to all those locations such as motel, school, research center, museum and cemetery, gave Master Lei a direct impression on how the civil rights leader used to work and live. The visits also enriched Master Lei's understanding and admiration to this American civil rights icon that he will carve. This pre-evaluation warm up tour nevertheless helped Master Lei's successful presentation. Master Lei told journalists that he first learned about Martin Luther King Jr. when he was only ten years old. He never imagined that he would have the opportunity and honor to create his sculpture. As he knows more about

Martin Luther King, Jr. he felt a greater honor and heavier responsibilities.

The physical side of this project is large too. The three pieces of this project will use more than 1,000 tons of granite. In order to transport the stone from China to America, Master Lei decided to take a divide-and-conquer strategy. Teamed with the third party who will take care of the shipping part of this project, Master Lei will divide the stone into 100 pieces, 10 tons each for standard container to pack. Once the separated pieces of stone arrive in America, the team led by Master Lei will assemble them and seal them as three whole pieces of rock.

The center piece of the project is the Stone of Hope. It is 33 feet tall, 26.4 feet wide at base and 9.9 feet wide at the top. Three sides of this sculpture (two sides and a back) will be engraved with selected speeches.

Master Lei's general project schedule:

April 2007 – April 2008 - Work on real stone based on the approved sample.

May 2008 - Final touch and completion of the project in China

June 2008 - Ship the completed pieces to the United States

August-September 2008 - Finish assembly and prepare for opening ceremony

It will be the decision of the Martin Luther King Memorial Foundation to decide which day to formally open to public. The whole sculpture project is funded solely by the Martin Luther King Memorial Foundation. The foundation has set up an object to raise US\$100 million to fund its operation. As of the end of March, about US\$80 million has been raised. As it is such as a highly publicized project, large American corporations are main donors. The US\$20 million gap will be filled in short time. ■

Teachers from Page 4

ture. By 2010, 500 Confucius Institutes and classrooms are expected to be set up around the world.

Some Confucius Institutes, however, have encountered difficulties.

The first Confucius Institute in south-eastern Asia has struggled since it was launched on Feb.14, 2006 in Bengal. Now only 10 students remain and teachers have nothing but a desk in the office.

"The teaching method is mainly to blame because most of the teachers are linguistics major graduates and not knowledgeable enough in other spheres. As a result, the institute has little influence on the upper class," said an insider.

"A way out may be to follow a successful model, like the 'Japan Exchange and Teaching Program.' At the same time, we can

train some local Chinese teachers in the hope of influencing more people of higher education or from a higher class," said Xu Guangyuan, headmaster of the Confucius Institute of Bengal.

Confucius, born in 551 B.C., was a great Chinese thinker, philosopher, statesman and educator. He was also the founder of Confucianism. Advocating the building of a harmonious society through individuals' self-refinement in manners and taste, Confucianism dominated the Chinese society for centuries and was spread to Europe in the late 16th century.

In an effort to promote the Chinese language and Chinese culture abroad, the Chinese government has set up 140 Confucius Institutes, schools or classrooms in 52 countries and regions worldwide. ■

Source: *Xinhua*

Air travel from Page 13

Mary Peters, said Apr. 13. A framework "open skies" agreement would be discussed at meeting in Washington, D.C. during a high-level discussion on trade relations between the United States and China. The Strategic Economic Dialogue is a twice-annual high-level meeting. The next round of talks between U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Chinese Vice Premier Wu Yi is scheduled in Washington, D.C. in May. ■

Concordia from Page 5

participants are motivated to pass on what they've learned, many of them come back as staff. The circle of learning and the journey of language and culture exploration never stop. If you've been a past program participant, or if you are a fluent Chinese speaker, we invite you to apply.

Are you interested in life-long language journey? Call 1-800-222-4750 for a free program guide or visit our Web site at www.ConcordiaLanguageVillages.org. ■

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Ph. D. in Economics

Partnered with Eleanor F. Anderson, CPA
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"By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest."
...Confucius

Trade from Page 10

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* Global Sourcing: A Path to Sustainable Competitiveness

* Trade Finance, Development, and Advocacy Programs

In the afternoon the World Trade Week Luncheon and presentation of the Governor's International Trade Awards will be held as the conclusion of the two-day event.

The Global Trade Conference will be held at the St. Paul River Centre. To learn more about Minnesota World Trade Week, the Governor's Global Trade Conference, and to obtain a registration form to attend the conference visit the Minnesota Trade

Office Web site, www.exportminnesota.com. Registration must be received by the

Minnesota Trade Office no later than Thursday, May 17, 2007. ■

Marriage from Page 8

are [US\$1,195] and [US\$12,277] respectively. Housing expense fuels the marriage cost by adding [US\$39,965 on] average.

According to the survey, 81.6 percent of young couples' marriages are funded by their parents. No matter parents finance some of it, half of it or all of it.

"Parents are the young couple's first-choice sponsor of their luxurious wedding," said Liao Junguo, the director of the data center of China Wedding Expo.

"I am willing to give my boy a hand as it is a tradition of Chinese parents to take care of their children's wedding," a senior surnamed Zhang said.

The skyrocketing marriage cost in urban area put many engaged couples in an awkward position when it comes to the question of getting married.

Love and marriage go together like a horse and carriage, but the carriage nowadays is loaded with money. ■

Source: *China Today* (chinatoday.com/)/
China Daily (chinadaily.com.cn)

Tax from Page 4

7. The existing 50 percent tax break for export-oriented foreign companies and the preferential tax treatment for manufacturing-oriented foreign firms will be discontinued.

8. Firms that make efficient use of resources and raw materials and enterprises that provide public service will no longer be given direct tax breaks for exemptions, but will benefit from new preferential tax rates.

9. New high-tech firms that need priority support from the State and are located in a special economic zone like Shenzhen or in a State Council-appointed special area like Shanghai's Pudong New Area will receive a "transitional" tax preferential treatment.

10. Existing preferential income tax policies aimed at encouraging enterprises to invest in economically underdeveloped western regions will continue. ■

Source: *NAROS/Klako Group*

Hundreds make their "Wishes for the Sky" on Earth Day

By Albert Leung, Staff Writer

Hundreds gathered at Harriet Island in St. Paul, Minn., on April 22 to fly kites, make wishes and make amends to the Earth in commemoration of Earth Day. Children and adults together indulged at this year's "Wishes for the Sky" event. Many ran with smiles etched on their faces, launching their bird-shaped kites into the sky. There were countless kites swooping together in the air in front of the light blue, cloudless backdrop.

The event was an artistic experience created by a team of local artists including Marcus Young, Shen Pei, Kathleen Maloney, Mary Ellen Childs, Cody Anderson and Peter Kramer.

"Wishes for the Sky" was the brainchild of Young and is only in its second consecutive year. When creating this event, Young's wish was simple; he wanted to make it possible for others to express their wishes.

"There was a moment that I said that I wanted to people to be able to make wishes," Young said. "We thought, 'Why don't we put them in the sky?'"

Many seemed to share the same sentiment for throngs of people and families lined up to pick up their pre-made kites at "The Wish Making Pavilion." Local senior citizens sat in antique Chinese chairs, distributing green, purple and blue kites. Also bestowing some wish-making wisdom and

advice to all recipients. Everyone was encouraged to write at least one wish on the kite before they sent it sailing.

Also in the Pavilion were scrolls of poetry on display. Each word was fashioned in a way that resembled Chinese characters.

Beside the Mississippi River, kite fliers could take a break and record an eco-friendly promise at the "Promise to the Earth" tent. There, people could write down their environmental promises such as promising to install water saving showerheads. After writing their promise, promisers were brought into a small sound booth where they recited and recorded their promise. The recording was then weaved into a sampling of other recorded promises and broadcasted throughout the park from speakers set up around the area.

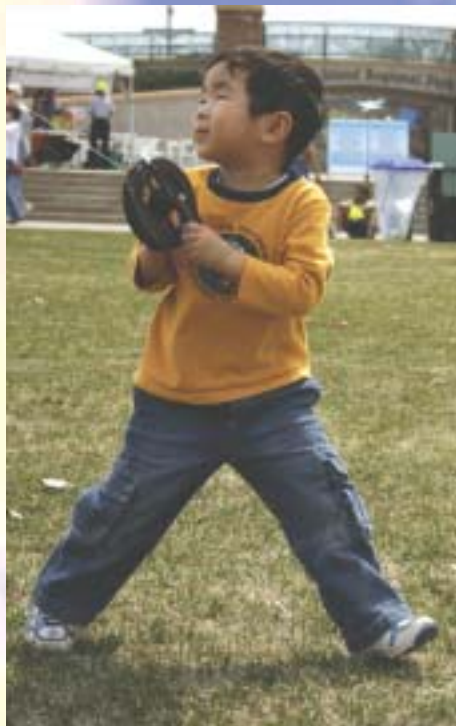
Also broadcasted to the fields were the sounds of 200 live wind chimes. A simple house frame was constructed out of fresh bamboo, around an old cotton wood tree. On the bamboo frame hung a variety of wind chimes, each seemingly having its own unique resonance. The structure, named "House to Touch Wind," exposed people to an artistically audible, alternative way to experience the wind. The bamboo used was brought up from Savannah, Georgia.

To help with the kite making, members from the Minnesota Kite Association were at hand to help at the event. The organization's president, Craig Christensen from Webster, Minnesota, not only helped with coordinating, but also took advantage of the ideal kite flying weather.

Christensen, dressed in his tux and top hat which he called his kite flying attire, designed a kite similar to the one used at the event, but instead he made it about 6 feet long. Christensen said that the kite design being used at the event is called "the swallow" because of the resemblance to a bird. The kites that were made for the event were only a measly 2 to 3 feet long compared to Christensen's version. ■

For more information on the event, visit www.wishesforthesky.org.

Kit flying and making wishes at Wishes for the Sky



Little girl playing with wind chimes



Securing the Blessings of Liberty For our Children, our Future

Annual Kick-Off event celebrating May as Asian Pacific American Heritage Month

The annual kick-off event celebrating May as Asian Pacific American month will be held Tuesday, May 1

Noon to 2 p.m. at the State Capitol Rotunda.

A full and exciting program of cultural events, speakers and updates on important issues such as childcare, school readiness,

education, employment, higher education, college, health, mental health, addiction, elder care.

This is also a time for legislative advocacy with an opportunity to sign letters, and speak with legislators

There will also be cultural events and surprises

Art by various up and coming Asian artists (Seexeng Lee, Quang Lu, Ngu Q. Duong and students) will be on display. The exhibit will be in display from Apr. 30 to May 11.

This event is free and open to the public. Event sponsored by the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, a state agency.

Its mission is to be an advisor to policymakers, an advocate for the community, and a builder of bridges for and between the Asian Pacific and non-Asian Pacific communities. Contact the council at: Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans, 658 Cedar St, Ste 160, St. Paul, MN 55155; 651.296.0538, 651.297.8735 [fax]; www.capm.state.mn.us ■