

CHINA INSIGHT

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

VOL.6 NO.7

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JUNE 2007

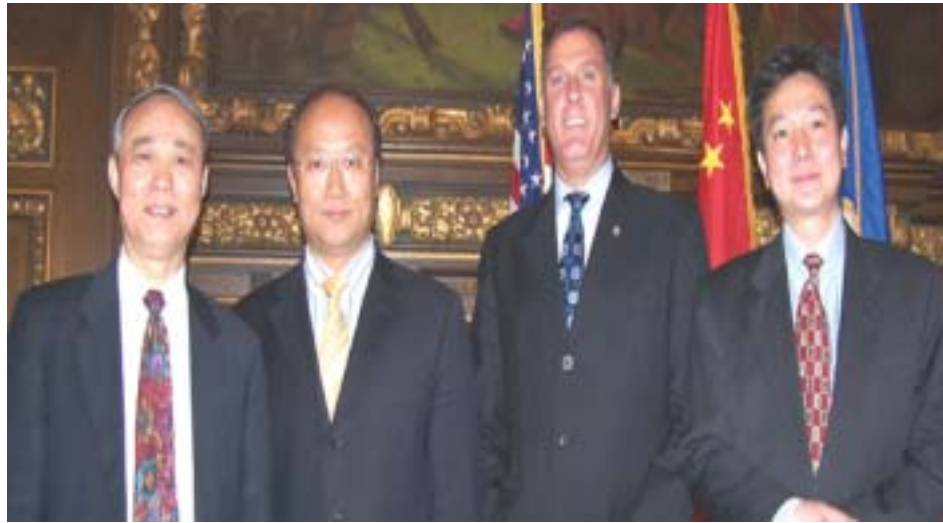
Investment agreement signed between Minnesota and China

By Greg Hugh, Staff Writer

State officials and representatives from the People's Republic of China formalized a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on May 16, 2007, to work together to stimulate two-way investments between Minnesota and China.

The signing ceremony was held in the Governor's Reception Room at the Minnesota State Capitol and was attended by invited guests that included representatives from local Chinese organizations and other groups that support expanded trade relations with each other.

Tony Lorusso, Executive Director of the Minnesota Trade Office (MTO), stated in his introductory remarks, "...today we will embark upon a new relationship between the State of Minnesota and the People's Republic of China. Today, the Minnesota Trade Office, representing the State of Minnesota and the Department of Employment and Economic Development will sign a Memorandum of Understanding with the China Investment Promotion Agency of the Ministry of Commerce of the People's Republic



Government officials (L to R) Consul General Xu Jinzhong, Director General Liu Yajun, CIPA, Tony Lorusso, Executive Director, MTO, and Yu Hua, Director General, CIPA

of China to jointly collaborate on two-way investment between Minnesota and China."

Lorusso also mentioned that earlier in the week, he and Lt. Governor Carol Molnau

had traveled to Chicago to meet with a delegation of Chinese government and business leaders in an effort to attract more Chinese business investment to Minnesota

Investment continues on Page 12



Twin Cities Chinese Dance Center and Minhua Chorus

Page 9



Sucheng Chan

Page 7

Learning about Traditional Medicine and the cultures that developed it

By Matthew Pike, DVM

Seeking to expand our knowledge of Traditional Chinese Veterinary Medicine (TCVM), Dr. Keum Hwa Choi led 13 veterinary students on a trip to China and Korea, where we participated in classes at China Agricultural University in Beijing, China, and Kyung Hee University in Seoul, Korea. Dr. Choi, originally from South Korea, is head of the Complementary and Alternative Medicine Service at the University of Minnesota Veterinary Medical Center.

For one month, we learned theories of medicine like the Ko Cycle, the Sheng Cycle, and techniques like acupuncture, cupping, and herbology. While traveling through China and South Korea, we visited sights like the Terra Cotta Warriors,

the White Goose Pagoda, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall of China, and the Daeheungsa Buddhist Temple.

We landed in China after 26-hours of flights and layovers. Immediately, I realized that we were in a much different place. Beijing is a city that is being built as you watch. It is difficult to look in any direction without seeing a crane, hoisting some I-beams to make the next large skyscraper. Some places of the city are brand new. The sidewalks don't have any cracks in them. The grass is green and watered daily.

Around most of the beautiful condos are walls at least 6 feet high. Some have barbed wire on the tops of the walls. Alleys separated the walled-communities. Local merchants stayed in the alleys most the days selling scrap metal, fixing bikes, cooking a variety of foods or squatting in the road. Other places in the city are old and seemingly built for function, rather than form. The buildings were drab and had exposed wires and broken windows. The most striking part of the cityscape was that two of these aforementioned buildings were literally built next to each other, separated by large brick walls and barbed wire. The whole country is preparing for the Olympics in Beijing in 2008,



Matthew Pike

and the buildings were most likely being built in time for the Games.

We spent the first week in classes, where the Dean of Veterinary Medicine at the China Agricultural University honored us with frequent visits. We were treated to dinner and karaoke by the chairs of the Veterinary Hospital. Whenever our plate was empty, we

Medicine continues on Page 6



Film producer visits

Page 11

ALSO IN THIS ISSUE

Announcements / 2

Events / 3-4

Recognition / 5-6

Education / 7, 10

Culture / 8-9

Film / 11

Business / 12-15

Community / 16

Pronouncements from the Publisher

Dear Readers:

As we all prepare to enjoy the great summer season that will eventually arrive in Minnesota, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all of those that took the time to provide us with updates on their Chinese language programs and look forward to your continued cooperation as we strive to provide more coverage of this popular topic in the future. Again, we will make every effort to mention as many programs as we possibly can. Obviously, it would be impossible to include every program, so we invite your assistance so that we can properly represent how the State of Minnesota continues to be the leader in the nation.

At this time I would also like to introduce the newest member of our staff, Will Ahern, Director of Marketing and Communications. Will comes to us with an extensive background in computer marketing and sales. He has been associated with the Great Wall Adoption Agency and he and his wife are the proud parents of a young girl adopted from China. He also serves on the Dragon

Festival board and is serving as their Outreach Director.

Join me in welcoming Will to our staff and please don't hesitate to contact him to discuss how China Insight might better serve the community. I'm sure he will be glad to hear from you. His primary responsibility right now will be to expand our presence on the internet which will incorporate new initiatives.

China Insight is pleased and proud to introduce a totally new look and functionality to its Web site, www.chinainsight.info. For six years China Insight has brought hundreds of articles from the cultural to business coverage to our readers. Now, more than ever our Web site extends the possibilities for insight into the complex and evolving relationship between China and the United States.

This spring, we have introduced the first phase of a multiple phase initiative. Our Web site is now searchable, contains links to follow and explore stories in depth and contains videos that complement our articles. Soon we will make all of our past

articles searchable so our library of hundreds of articles will also be available in an easy to explore format.

Over the coming months, our Web site will become more interactive, presenting blogs on relevant topics and experiences as well as the continued enrichment with more photos and videos. Interactivity also means listening to you as we shape our site. The experiences and inventiveness alive in this China/U.S. relationship is rich with ideas. Please let us know what you think.

As the Internet continues to expand and performance increases, we intend to bring more features and content to bear that works toward China Insight's objective of "fostering business and cultural harmony between China and the U.S."

Thank you for your continued support of China Insight. Please don't hesitate to contact us with any suggestions to make our paper one that continues to serve the greater Twin Cities community with content and resources that are relevant.

Sincerely,

Gregory J. Hugh

Gregory J. Hugh
Publisher

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Letters to the Editor

Kudos

Excellent piece on Mandarin education in Minnesota! I am really please[d] with how much space you gave it in your paper.

Congratulations on a great edition.

Joan A. Brzezinski

Interim Director, China Center
Associate Director, Mingda Institute for Leadership Training
University of Minnesota

What about Minneapolis?

I read with interest your article about Chinese programs in Minnesota and noted that at least one of our programs in Minneapolis Public Schools was not mentioned and another one was not noted as being in Minneapolis. I had sent updated information last year to Asia Society about our programs, so I am dismayed that this information was not on what you mention is the "most recent list" from them.

That said, I would like to inform you of the expanded Minneapolis Public Schools Chinese program. Minneapolis South High School has had a full Chinese program in existence for over 30 years. Mr. Dingman Yu has received grants from the U.S. Department of State for study abroad for his students and much recognition for his distinguished program where students can take four full years of Chinese as well as College in the Schools Chinese for university credits. Your list includes Elizabeth Hall International Elementary School, but it only says "MN" as the location so that one would not know it is in Minneapolis.

While it was not included on your list, we are proud to note that in 2006 Northeast 6-8. This gives students in Minneapolis Public Schools an opportunity to begin learning Chinese in Kindergarten and continue through 12th grade. Finally, Patrick

Henry High School in North Minneapolis will be adding Chinese as a language offering in addition to French, Japanese, and Spanish in fall 2007.

In addition, Minneapolis Public Schools hosted the first gathering of Chinese language teachers in Minnesota on Saturday, April 21st, 2007 with more than 50 people attending a breakfast meeting with presentations by Better Chinese Curriculum from California and presentations by the Minnesota Council of Teachers of Languages and Cultures.

We in Minneapolis Public Schools are proud of all of our language programs and I invite you to contact me whenever you would like information for your newspaper regarding our programs.

Thank you very much for your efforts to promote language learning in our state.

Gaelle Berg

World Languages Specialist
Minneapolis Public Schools

From the Editors

The coverage of Chinese language programs in the May 2007 issue is by no means a comprehensive overview. Rather, the intention was to give an idea of the wide range of Chinese language programs available. Thank you for the up to date information about the Chinese language offerings in the Minneapolis Public School system. We always welcome, and regularly request, updates and in depth information about all aspects of Chinese language learning from educators, administrators and students. We look forward to learning more about Minneapolis schools' Chinese language programs from you, as well as from teachers and students, and sharing it with readers in future issues of China Insight. Also, for the record, the list we published from the Asia Society is the current list published on their Web site <http://askasia.org/chinese/states/minnesota.htm#directory>. If your school is not listed we would recommend going to this site and submit it accordingly.

Sincerely,
The Editors

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About CHINA Insight

CHINA Insight is a monthly English-language newspaper fostering business and cultural harmony between China and the U.S.

CHINA Insight is a member of the Minnesota Chapter of the Asian American Journalists Association.

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CHINA Insight welcomes guest articles. Correspondence should be addressed to:

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NOTICE TO READERS: The views expressed in articles are the author's and not necessarily those of CHINA Insight. Authors may have a business relationship with the companies or businesses they discuss.



China AIDS Orphan Fund to host 3rd Annual Peony Festival

The China AIDS Orphan Fund will host the 3rd Annual Peony Festival on Saturday, June 23 at 2-5 p.m.

Peony Festival 2007 will feature an exciting market experience where families will be magically transported by the smells, sounds and tastes of China. It will feature Chinese cuisine, a silent auction, and provide an opportunity to participate in traditional Chinese cultural activities. The event will be educational and fun for people of all ages.

The name of Henan Province (which means "south of the river") comes from its geographic location on the Yellow River. It is considered the cradle of Chinese civilization and boasts a very rich heritage. The peony is the official flower of Henan Province, where it is considered "The greatest beauty under heaven." An annual peony festival is held in Henan's capital city and lasts for ten days in the spring.

Peony Festival 2007 will be held in The Great Hall, Coffman Union at the University of Minnesota on 300 Washington Avenue S.E. in Minneapolis. Tickets are US\$20 per person for adults and US\$5 per person for children.



Individuals and corporations sponsor Peony Festival 2007 four levels.

Gold Sponsors (US\$500) receive the following recognition: name, address and phone number listed on the CAOF Web site; name on the signage inside the ballroom; name included in any advertisements in local Asian newspapers; placement of busi-

ness cards/ad/menu on table at Peony Festival; on-stage recognition; and placement of card near donated dishes.

Silver Sponsors

(US\$250) have their name on the signage inside the ballroom; placement of business cards/ad/menu on table at Peony Festival; on-stage recognition; and placement of card near donated dishes.

Bronze Sponsors (US\$100) have placement of business cards/ad/menu on table at Peony Festival and placement of card near donated dishes.

Tickets for 10: Those who purchase tickets for 10 adults (US\$200) are listed in the program book and the CAOF Web site as Table for Ten.

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Visa Service Center

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Fax: 651-644-4295

566 N. Snelling Ave.
St. Paul, MN 55104

For information, contact the China AIDS Orphan Fund at 612-203-4477 info@chinaaidsorphanfund.org.

All proceeds from Peony Festival 2007 will benefit the China AIDS Orphan Fund, a 501(c)(3) charity.

For more information about Peony Festival 2007 and the China AIDS Orphan Fund, visit www.chinaaidsorphanfund.org. ■

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Chinese language educators form new organization

At a recent gathering of the Minnesota Chinese Language Associates (MCLASS), about 30 Chinese language educators attended a meeting sponsored by Minnetonka Public Schools and China Books. The group used this opportunity to network, share ideas, examine and discuss curriculum for the fall and had tea and baozi, along with being able to participate in an excellent presentation by Chellis Ying of China Books.

The idea of forming an organization that resulted into MCLASS began back in March 2007 when representatives from over 10 different school districts gathered at Fridley High School and worked on what it would take to have a professional Chinese teachers association in MN. Adele Munsterman, past president of the Minnesota Council on



Jodi Yim James, Public Relations for MCLASS and Chellis Ying of China Books

especially that of MCTLC's founder, Margaret Wong. The organization looks forward to collaborating as Chinese language educators and to working together with the other language teachers in Minnesota on a professional level. Their mission will be to hold Chinese Language Education in Minnesota to a high professional standard, to enjoy working together and as they do so, celebrating Chinese Language and Culture, and fellowshiping with all of the teachers of second languages and cultures in

Minnesota and beyond.

The organization then elected officers as follows with their school affiliations noted: President, Margaret Wong, Breck School; Vice President in Charge of Finance, Shirley Johnson, Fridley and now Blake; Vice President in Charge of Membership, Kristine Wogastad, St. Paul; Secretary, Ian Burns, St. Paul; and Public Relations, Jodi Yim James, Fridley.

Also, earlier in May, at the MCTLC Workshop on Language Education Curriculum in Henderson, MN, there were three Chinese Language Educators that represented MCLASS: Shannon Cannella from St. Paul

the Teaching of Languages and Culture (MCTLC) and Jodi James, Secondary Chinese teacher for Fridley hosted this initial event that was sponsored by Fridley schools.

On April 21st, about 60 people attended the first organizational meeting, sponsored by Minneapolis Public Schools and Better Chinese Publishing. At this meeting the long history of Chinese Language Education in Minnesota, was recognized and



Attendees interacting, center, Xueying Yu from Beijing currently teaching at International School Minnesota

Academy, Jodi Yim James from Fridley Public Schools, and Donna Kelly from the U of MN Grad School, in training to teach.

MCLASS has been formed under the umbrella of MCLTC and board members Wong and Johnson represent Chinese language teachers at MCLTC. Even though MCLASS is just organized and new, it already has attracted a large following of over 60 people involved in Chinese education in Minnesota and expects to participate at the MCTLC Convention that will be held this fall where there will be a large presence of Chinese presentations and vendors. ■



Chellis Ying of China Books at right answering questions

Exquisite Chinese Porcelain from Jingdezhen City now on exhibit

The porcelain exhibit consisting of hundreds of pieces has been organized by Kaili International Trade Company direct from Jingdezhen City, Jiangxi Province, P.R. China. On display are newly developed fine porcelain and ceramic artwork including replicas of ancient masterworks, thin shell vases, ceramic sculptures, modern china house wares and many other items. According to Ms. Huang Yu, a representative of the organizer, many of these items have never been shown outside of China and all of them are available for purchase.

Jingdezhen, formerly known as the "Porcelain Capital" of China, is one of China's most famous cultural and historic cities. It is situated in the northeast part of Jiangxi Province of East China. Endowed by nature with a network of rivers and hills, Jingdezhen is a municipality directly under the provincial government with a total area of 5,200 square kilometers and a population of 1.4 million. Leping City, Fuliang County, Changjiang District and Zhushan District are under its jurisdiction, among which Changjiang and Zhushan districts make up the urban area with a land area of 124 square kilometers and a population of 380,000. "The best porcelain of the world is in China, and China's best is in Jingdezhen", stated the late Chi-

nese historian and scholar, Guo Moruo. The ceramic industry experienced a long-time development at Jingdezhen. During the Tang Dynasty (618-907), the technique started to mature. Jingdezhen became a major porcelain producer in the Song Dynasty (960-1279). The kiln in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368) boasted the highest porcelain-making techniques. Thereafter, the Liangfu porcelain office was set up. Since the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), it has been the center of the ceramic industry. In the Ming and Qing dynasties when skills became perfected and the general quality being more refined; governmental kilns were set up to cater exclusively to the need of the royal families. In the long-time development, the artists and craftsmen in Jingdezhen brought their full talent into play and created numerous masterpieces. Jingdezhen porcelain has formed four special features, which are "white like jade, bright as a mirror, thin as paper, sound like a chime."

The exhibit is now on display until June 12, 2007 at Shanghai Wholesale Company, 451 E. Industrial Blvd. NE, Minneapolis. For additional information see their ad on page 9 or see a video at www.chinainsight.info. ■

Starting a Chinese Language Program: A Seminar for K-12 Administrators June 4, 2007

University of Minnesota's China Center and Center for Advanced Research on Language Acquisition (CARLA), and the Minnesota Department of Education are cosponsors of the program Starting a Chinese Language Program: A Seminar for K-12 Administrators.

This program is designed for administrators who have an interest in offering Mandarin Chinese in their schools. Participants will have the opportunity to explore basic program design, including learning outcomes, evaluating teacher qualifications, and basic licensure issues.

The seminar will be held on Monday, June 4, 2007, 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the University of Minnesota in the Mississippi Room of Coffman Memorial Union.

The registration fee of US\$75.00 includes lunch, a copy of *Creating a Chinese Language Program in Your School* (Asia Society) and a copy of the *Chinese Language Program: Curriculum Development*

Project (Minnesota Department of Education). The registration deadline was May 21, 2007.

For more information about this seminar as well as other upcoming events, visit <http://www.chinacenter.umn.edu>. ■



Correction:

The correct caption for a photo which accompanied the article "International Business Conference: Business Opportunities in Malaysia" on page 12 in the May 2007 issue of *China Insight* is: Hon. Rafidah Aziz, Malaysia Minister of International Trade and Industry with Minnesota Lt. Gov. Carol Molnau.

Celebrations of APA Heritage Month

Here are just some of the events held in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month in May.

May 1 Noon-2 p.m.

2007 Asian Pacific American Heritage Month Celebration – Kick Off Event

A full and exciting program of cultural events, speakers, updates on important issues. Individuals were given the opportunity to sign letters and speak with legislators, and the opportunity to view Asian Art on display in Capitol Rotunda and North Corridor, etc. This event was held at the State Capitol Rotunda, St. Paul and was free and open to the public. Sponsored by the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans.

May 6 4 p.m.

The Minnesota Chinese Music Ensemble Spring Concert

75 minute-long concert (including intermission) sponsored by the MN Chinese Music Ensemble. Jannet Wallace Concert Hall, Macalester College, St. Paul. Information: www.minnesotachinesemusic.com. The concert was free and open to the public.

May 7 – May 23

Spice and Slice of Asian Culture Hennepin County Library Asian Heritage Month Events.

Monday, May 7, 7:00 pm

Ridgedale Library, 12601 Ridgedale Dr., Minnetonka, MN 55305, 952-847-8800.

Spice and Slice of Asian Culture: Chinese in America. Evelina Chao, author and St. Paul Chamber Orchestra violist, read from and spoke about how she came to write "Yeh Yeh's House," her experiences growing up Chinese in America, straddling cultures, generations, and becoming an artist. The reading was free and open to the public.

May 12 11-2 p.m.

Asian Media Access Tea Tasting Fundraiser

A fun, cross-cultural learning experience. Free form tea tasting and traditional tea ceremony demonstration. Midtown Global Market, Stall #107, 920 E. Lake St., Minneapolis, MN. This event was free and open to the public. www.amamedia.org/CapitalCampaign/event.html.

May 18 6:30-9 p.m.

Asian Pacific American Annual Dinner & Award Presentation

A community event celebrating the Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Dinner Highlights included a Keynote Performance by Tou Ger Xiong, Cultural Performances, 2007 Leadership Award Presentation, etc. Sponsored by the Council on Asian-Pacific Minnesotans and others. Golden Valley Golf and Country Club, 7001 Golden Valley Rd., Golden Valley, MN 55427. Cost was US\$45/person.

May 20 4 p.m.

Legends of the East

The performance was sponsored by the Twin Cities Chinese Dance Center and held at the Performing Art Center, Centennial Senior High School, 4707 North Road, Circle Pines, MN 55104. Tickets were Adult US\$16, Children US\$12, Family of 4 package US\$48. www.yangdance.org.

May 22 4-6:30 p.m.

Asian Pacific Cultural Center Community Forum.

Speakers included St. Paul Mayor Chris Coleman and Council President Kathy Lantry, Community Supporters and Artists (speaking and performing). Metropolitan State University, Great Hall, 700 E. Seventh St., St. Paul, MN 55106. This event was open to the public. ■

Tribal songs of China performed by tenor Li Lei

On May 6, 2007, the Coffman Union Theatre on the campus of the University of Minnesota was filled with a near-capacity audience to attend the first solo recital by the popular tenor, Li Lei. The all-Chinese program featured classic songs from several minority tribes in China. They included songs from the autonomous regions of Inner Mongolia and Xinjiang and provinces of Yunnan, Sichuan and Gansu.

These regions, lying in the western, northwestern and northern areas of China, share a common landscape – that of the central Asian steppes. The classic songs from this region naturally evoke the geography of wide-open spaces, bright sky, crisp air and rolling grasslands.

There were four separate sets of three

songs each that were introduced and narrated by Margaret Wong who provided translations and visuals of the various regions associated with each song.

Accompanying tenor Lei on the piano was Pearl Lam Bergad.

Immediately following the program, a reception was held in the lobby of the theatre so that the audience could greet the artists.

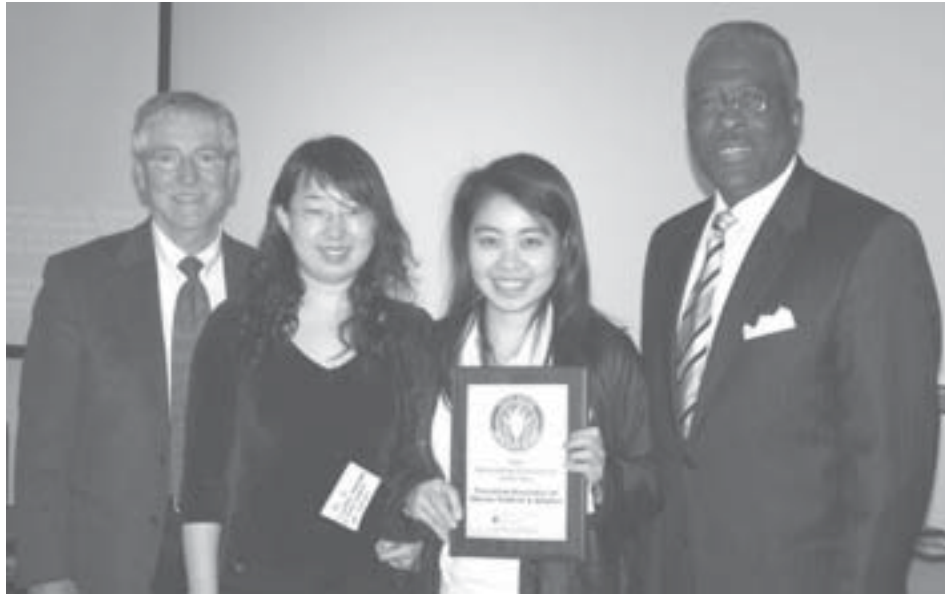
Based on the acknowledgements printed in the program, there was much support from the community for this recital and Mr. Lei's concert committee could rival that of any rock star.

For a more detailed article on Mr. Lei's background please see the April 2007 issue of *China Insight* at www.chinainsight.info. ■



Li Lei

U of M Asian American Student Groups receive Tony Diggs Excellence Awards



U of M Friendship Association of Chinese Students and Scholars board members Bo Li (second left) and Guihong Chen (second right) accept the Tony Diggs Award from U of M Senior Vice President for System Academic Administration Robert Jones (right) and Jerry Rinehart, Vice Provost for Student Affairs

The Friendship Association of Chinese Students and Scholars and the Asian-American Student Union are two University of Minnesota student groups that received the first annual Tony Diggs Excellence Awards.

The awards recognize the contributions made by outstanding student groups at the University. Diggs was the former Director of the Student Activities who passed away after a long battle with cancer in 2006. He began his career at the University of Minnesota more than 16 years ago. He was an advisor and director of the African American Learning Resource center for many years. Most recently he served as the Director of the Student Activities Office (SAO) from 2003-2006.

The Friendship Association of Chinese Students and Scholars and the Asian-American Student Union both received the Outstanding Organization of the Year honor.

During the 2006-07 academic year, the Friendship Association of Chinese Students and Scholars has recruited more members

than any previous year. FACSS keeps in constant contact with their members and works to make the University a welcoming place for international students. They also have arranged airport pick-ups for new students and temporary housing for those arriving to Minnesota during the summer months. They have collaborated with community organizations, churches, and other student groups to serve their membership.

The Asian-American Student Union was nominated multiple times by different individuals for their outstanding work in offering support for Asian American students and increase campus awareness of Asian American cultures and issues. ASU serves as a resource for many student organizations working to create cultural competence and understanding. It hosted numerous events during the school year including the winter gala, New Year celebrations and the annual spring conference. ■

Distinguished professor Lu Yongxiang receives honorary degree from U of M

Professor Lu Yongxiang, president of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and vice chairman of the standing committee of the National People's Congress in China, received the University's Honorary Doctor of Science degree in a ceremony on the Twin Cities campus on May 21. He was honored for his innovative scholarship and research in mechanical engineering, his leadership



Lu Yongxiang

in education, and his service as a national leader in advancing science policies.

Professor Lu was born in 1942 in Ningbo, Zhejiang Province. He graduated from the Machinery Department of Zhejiang University in 1964, becoming a lecturer in that department. After obtaining his doctorate in Engineering Science from Aachen Industrial University in West Germany in 1981, he resumed his teaching post at



Members of the University of Minnesota Asian American Student Union have received the Tony Diggs Award for their outstanding contribution to campus life.

Zhejiang University. He spent much of his career affiliated with Zhejiang University serving as deputy director of its Science and Technology Research Institute, director of its Laboratory of Fluid Transmission and Control and director of its Development Commission. He eventually became its vice president in 1987, and president in 1988, a post he retained until 1995.

In 1986 he became a member of the Academic Degrees Committee of the State Council (ADCSC), becoming vice-chairman in 1998. He has also been a member of National Natural Science Foundation of China (NSFC) and vice chairman of the China Association for Science and Technology (CAST).

In 1992, Professor Lu was made a member of the Department of Science and Technology of CAS, a leading academic institution and comprehensive research and development centre in natural science, technological science and high-tech innovation. In 1993 he became vice president of CAS, and by 1997 he had become the youngest president in CAS history, a post he holds today.

In 1994 he was elected an academican of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, the highest scientific status in China. The fol-

lowing year he was elected an honorary doctor of engineering of the Hong Kong University of Science and Technology. In 1998 Hong Kong invited him to serve on its Innovation and Technology Commission and in the same year he was elected vice president of the Third World Academy of Sciences.

Professor Lu is also Vice-Chairman of the National People's Congress (NPC), the highest organ of state power of the People's Republic of China. He has published more than 280 papers and six books. He holds 18 patents. He has received the National Innovation Prize of China (1988 and 1989), the National Engineering Higher Education Prize of China (1989), in 2000 the German award the Knight's Commander's Cross (Badge and Star) and many other awards and prizes.

In 2005, Lu Yongxiang was elected President of the Inter Academy Councils (IAC) in Amsterdam, an umbrella organization for international cooperation in science and technology whose members comprise scientific academies in over 80 countries.

In 2006, Lu Yongxiang has been honored with the Harnack medal, which is the highest distinction that the Max Planck Society can confer. ■

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Students win University of Minnesota scholarships

The following students have received scholarships at the University of Minnesota. In offering this highly competitive scholarship, the U of M honors incoming students who have demonstrated exceptional academic performance and leadership.

The scholarship recipients are:

Xiao Ying Lou, daughter of Wengi Lou and Pei Lei Jiang of Burnsville, has received a Minnesota Gold Scholarship, a Bentson Family Scholarship, a President Scholarship, a College of Biological Sciences Scholarship, a Study Abroad Scholarship and an Undergraduate Research Scholarship. Lou, who

will graduate from Apple Valley High School, will enroll in the College of Biological Sciences.

Kevin Kwong, son of Andrew and Selina Kwong of Fridley, has received a President's Distinguished Student Scholarship. He will graduate from Spring Lake Park High School in June, will enroll in the Institute of Technology.

Tianlin Shi of Suzhou, China, has received a Global Excellence Scholarship. She will graduate from Suzhou High School in June, will enroll in the Carlson School of Management. ■

Medicine from Page 1

were told to refill. Whenever our cups were empty, they were refilled. The residents working at the hospital were always at hand to make sure that we were comfortable and that we had everything we needed.

After a week of intensive study, we traveled China by air and bus. While on tour, it became apparent that we were being shuffled through beautiful and ancient monuments, with only minutes to spare to take pictures. We visited the Great Wall for 40 minutes, and the restaurant that had a huge gift shop for 2 hours. The contrast between the people of China that were helping us during our classes in the first week and these large tour groups gave a difference in impression of how some Chinese prepared for the Westerners.

When we were alone with the people

at the vet school, we compared notes on treatments of various common ailments. We discussed politics openly even though we knew that the people told us that they weren't allowed to talk too much about politics. We talked about our families and friends back home. When we were on tour, the same conversations became more superficial. The food was Americanized, fried and drowning in sugar-laden sauces. The tour guide was concerned that we weren't buying enough at the gift shops or we were going to be late for the next monument.

From an outsider's point of view, China is a country of opposites. The beautiful expensive condos separated from run down buildings by brick walls, barbed wires, and security guards. The wonderfully open and honest trying to teach you about the culture and the tour guides who prodded us through the gorgeous monu-

U of M Hubert H. Humphrey Institute honors community leaders

The Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs hosted the 2007 Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Awards on Wednesday, May 16, at the McNamara Alumni Center. This year's recipients were Senator John C. Danforth, former U.S. Senator from Missouri and Ambassador to the United Nations; Josie R. Johnson, civil rights leader and educator; Eugene C. Sit, founder and co-chair of the Minnesotans' Military Appreciation Fund; and Harlan Cleveland, former ambassador to NATO and founding dean of the Humphrey Institute.

The Hubert H. Humphrey Public Leadership Awards honor individuals, organizations, or projects that have made contributions to the common good through public leadership and service. The Public Leadership Awards were inaugurated in 2003 to mark the 25th anniversary of the Institute. Recipients are nominated by outside individuals and selected by a committee.

2007 Public Leadership Award Recipients

Eugene C. Sit founded Sit Investment Associates (SIA) in 1981 and remains chairman, CEO, and global chief investment officer for SIA and its various investment companies. Sit is very active in the investment industry and in community affairs. He is the founder and director of the Minnesotans' Military Appreciation Fund (MMAF), a non-partisan fundraising initiative that benefits soldiers who have served in combat since September 2001. Since its launch in 2005, nearly \$5.5 million has been raised and distributed to 3,148 soldiers and 26 families whose loved ones were killed in combat. His community involvement also reaches the arts and higher education. Among his obligations, he currently serves as a trustee of the University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management's international programs and the dean's Board of Visitors for the University of Minnesota Medical School.

John C. Danforth represented the State of Missouri in the U.S. Senate from 1976 to 1995. During his tenure he served on top committees including the Committee on Finance; Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation; and the Select Committee on Intelligence. In 2004, he was nominated to serve as President Bush's Representative to the United Nations. He held this post until he resigned in 2005 and rejoined the international law firm Bryan Cave

educational—both as a means to learning about the principles and methods of Traditional Chinese Medicine, and for gaining insight into a country where the current pressures of Western-influenced consumerism rests on the shoulders of a rich and still present cultural history.

The countryside leading into the major cities was very old and traditional. The vast fields of rice paddies were worked by hand by small village communities that can be easily seen from the road. Approaching a major city, the buildings on the outskirts are very traditional, with traditional shingles and built well before the current owners were living there. The city on the inside looks like any major city in the world. In all, our trip was



Eugene Sit

LLP as a partner in its St. Louis office. In addition to building a strong political and legal career, Danforth serves as an ordained minister in the Episcopal Church. His religious and political views come together in his most recent book *Faith and Politics: How the "Moral Values" Debate Divides America and How to Move Forward Together*.

Josie R. Johnson has been a civil rights advocate since she could walk around the neighborhood and knock on doors. In the early 1960s, Johnson lobbied professionally for fair housing and employment opportunities. Over the years, she has worked with elected officials, educators, and business leaders to build diverse relationships and increase opportunities for underprivileged, underserved populations. She has been active in numerous organizations working for social awareness and justice, such as the Urban League, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the Harriet Tubman Center. Johnson helped establish the Minnesota State Human Rights Department and served on the national board of directors of the League of Women Voters. She served as the first African-American on the University of Minnesota's Board of Regents from 1971 to 1973, and it was during her tenure that the Board created the Office of Equal Opportunity and Affirmative Action.

Harlan Cleveland has enjoyed a long career in public service, international affairs, global aid relief, and education. He began his career in the 1940s as an economic warfare specialist in Washington, D.C. He later served as assistant secretary of state for International Organization Affairs in the administration of President John F. Kennedy, and in 1965 he was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson as U.S. Ambassador to NATO, serving in that post until 1969. He brought his international experience to higher education and eventually served as the founding dean of the Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. ■

Matthew Pike, originally from Williamson, New York, is a 25 year old graduate of the University of Minnesota College of Veterinary Medicine. He has recently accepted a job as a veterinarian at a small animal hospital in Western, New York. ■

Eminent Asian American Studies scholar Suchen Chan donates collection to IHRC

By Albert Leung, Staff Writer

Finally, Asian American history will have a permanent place with other prestigious historical collections at the University of Minnesota. Among collections of scholarly



Sucheng Chan

history, Sucheng Chan, professor emerita of Asian American studies at UC Santa Barbara, will have her pioneering research and studies safely kept at the University of Minnesota's Immigration History Research Center (IHRC).

On April 26, 2007, the IHRC held a reception honoring the years Chan dedicated to Asian American studies and thanking her for her scholarly contribution to the center.

Dr. Chan was born in 1941 in Shanghai, China. When she was a child, she contracted polio and pneumonia and could not walk until she was four years old. Her family moved to Malaysia in 1950. Later, they moved south to settle in Singapore. In 1957, for her health and education purposes, the family immigrated to the United States.

In 1959 Chan enrolled to Swarthmore College in Pennsylvania and graduated in 1963 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. She earned her master's degree from the University of Hawaii in 1965, majoring in Asian Studies. From 1965 to 1966 she conducted anthropological research and investigation in the Philippines and Southeast Asia. She later switched to study political science. In 1973 she obtained a doctorate in political science at the University of California, Berkeley. Her thesis was entitled *The long march: its historiography and political context*. In the '60s and '70s, she actively participated in the civil rights movement and anti-Vietnam War campaign.

From 1971 to 1973, Dr. Chan was assistant professor of anthropology at the University of California at Sonoma. In 1974, she returned to the University of California, Berkeley as an associate professor of the Asian-American Research Center. She was the dean of Oakes College at the University of California, Dakershi, and the academic assistant for the Vice President in 1984. In 1988 in order to have more time to concentrate on research and writing, she was the History Professor and the Director for Asian American Research Program in 1988. After 1992 she was a professor of Asian American Studies and history.

Professor Chan is the author or editor of seventeen books, including *This Bittersweet Soil: The Chinese in California Agriculture, 1860-1910* (1986), *Asian Americans: An Interpretive History* (1991), *Entry Denied: Exclusion and the Chinese Community in America, 1882-1943* (1991), *Peoples of Color in the American West*

(1993), *Hmong Means Free: Life in Laos and America* (1994), *Not Just Victims: Conversations with Cambodian Community Leaders in the United States* (2003), *Survivors: Cambodian Refugees in the United States* (2004), *In Defense of Asian American Studies: The Politics of Teaching and Program Building* (2005), and *The Vietnamese American 1.5 Generation: Stories of War, Revolution, Flight, and New Beginnings* (2006). Many of these books have won national awards.

She has dedicated her career to preserving and writing Asian American history and to building Asian American Studies as a vibrant intellectual field. In doing so, she has left an indelible mark on the field and inspired generations of students and scholars.



Dr. Chan and Lisong Liu, Graduate Research Assistant of IHRC

Professor Chan was the recipient of the 1997 Lifetime Achievement Award from the Association of Asian American Studies.

The professor announced that she would be donating a portion of her Asian American scholarship amassed over more than 30 years. Chan will donate her print and published materials which include *This Bittersweet Soil: The Chinese in California Agriculture, 1860-1910*, *Quiet Odyssey: A Pioneer Korean Woman in America*, *Asian Americans: An Interpretive History*, and much more. Daniel Necas, Library Professional of IHRC, said that there were more than 15 boxes of books and materials donated by Professor Chan. Her contribution to the research center will be one of the largest collections by a woman.

Chan did not wish to have her materials just sit securely and untouched. After years of dedication to growing Asian American studies, she now is determined to spread the study across other academic fields.

"We have to allow scholars, non-specialists, to have access to our material," said Chan. "My desire is to have scholarship on Asian American studies funnel out to related disciplines."

She hopes to see Asian American topics be regularly included in mainstream studies, such as psychology and sociology. She said that she would like to see researchers in other fields to start including Asian American history in their work.

Chan's choice to donate her material to the University of Minnesota not by chance. The professor's connection to the university was important to her decision.

"Many collections like this usually come through personal connections," said Donna



Daniel Necas, Professor Erika Lee and Dr. Chan

Gabaccia, IHRC director and professor of history. "Sucheng Chan knew one of our professors, Erika Lee who received her Ph.D. at Berkeley as a former student of Sucheng."

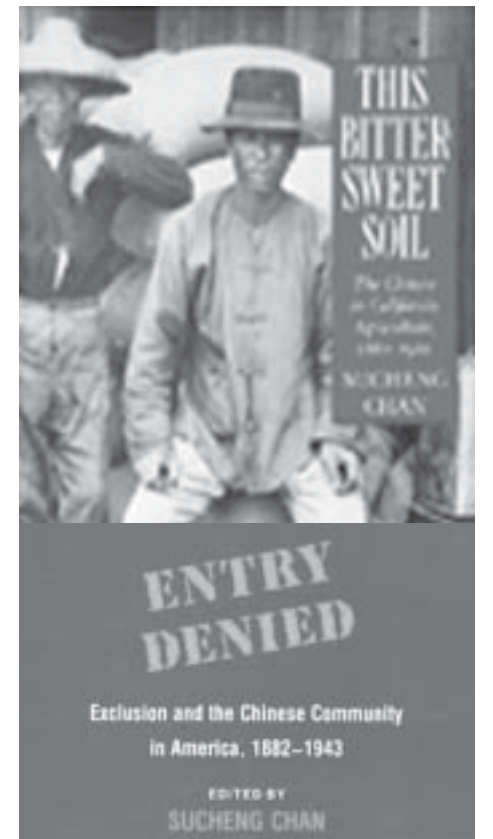
For more information on the Immigration History Research Center, visit www.ihrc.umn.edu. ■



Books written and edited by Sucheng Chan

The IHRC was founded in 1965 and dedicated to advancing research on global migration with a special emphasis on immigration to the U.S.

It sponsors seminars, lectures and workshops that bring specialized researchers from the academic world to expose their work to each other, college and high school students, teachers, immigrant communities, ethnic Americans and others. The center's archives and programs have been used by scholars at the University of Minnesota and from around the world.



Books and materials donated to the IHRC by Dr. Chan (about 15 boxes)

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Chou-Chin Folk Art Festival held in Shaanxi

Festival at An Shang Village, Shaanxi, April 10-17, 2007

By An-Wei, Sino-American Society, An Shang Village, China



The stage for the Opening Ceremony

The grand opening of the Chou-Chin Folk Art Festival was held at An Shang Village on April 10, 2007. Over 30,000 people attended the festival on the first day. Government leaders from the provincial, municipal and county levels delivered very encouraging speeches. Overseas visitors from 10 different countries were also present at the opening ceremony. This was the first folk art festival of its kind organized by local farmers in the long history of Northwest China.

A newly built Chou-Chin Folk Art Gallery in the village includes features of traditional Chinese architecture and courtyard.



Cheerful farmers at the Art Festival

A spirit screen just beyond the front gate is a reminder of times past. The screen entrance leads into the courtyard where three groups of life-size sculptures give a vivid description of the past village life and culture. A bilingual description engraved on the back of the screen tells about the gallery.

The gallery consists of 10 exhibit rooms. They house nearly all major categories of folk art and crafts in the western part of Shaanxi Province, including paper cutting, clay sculpture, woodblock printing, lacquer painting, shadow puppets, ladle masks, wheat straw pictures, cloth-work, embroidery, farmer paintings, replicas of 3000-year-old bronze ware, traditional Chinese ink-and-water painting, calligraphy, and more.

An Shang does not have any access to mountains and rivers, from which farmers could make a living. However they live in the middle of the well-known Land of Bronze Culture with a 3000 year history. The local



Three Honorary Villagers

people have a fine tradition of hand-made arts for home decoration and gifts for various occasions. By living and working together with Global Volunteers and hosting other American visitors during the past five years, the farmers have exposed themselves to western culture, and changed their traditional concepts a lot. They have accepted some new ideas, and have broken through their conventional concept of farming and weaving. As a result, they have decided to blaze a new trail to build a well-to-do village by carrying forward their ancient civilization by further developing their cultural products.

During the week-long art festival, they had 16 shows of local opera performance, plus 2 puppet performances and one shadow show which local people under 60 years of age have never seen before. The old performing art so important to past lives was



Sharon Crain interviewed

revived! For the first time in village history we had a large scale Buddhist scripture chanting performance during a festival. The festivities came to a very successful conclusion with a 30-minute fireworks party on

April 17. Beginning with the first stage performance on April 9, the festival lasted for 9 days.

Since this was the first folk art festival initiated and sponsored by the Chinese farmers themselves, 15 of the Chinese leading media came to An Shang village to cover this event, including CCTV whose crew of five stayed in the village for 8 days. Nearly all the newspapers in Shaanxi Province published articles, news items and photos about the festival. An internet search relating to the opening of the An Shang Folk Art Festival produced thousands of items.

The success of the festival was also due to the support and help from our friends overseas. Congratulatory messages came from political leaders and VIPs from the United States. They are-

- * Michael D. Brown, Principal, James K. Polk Elementary School,
- * Walter Mondale, former Vice President of the United States,
- * Mary Warpeha, President, USCPFA MN,
- * Bob Chien, President, The Society for Friendship with China, Inc.,
- * Sharon Crain, Trustee, China Institute in America,
- * Dong Li, President, Shaanxi Association of Minnesota,

* Sheril Foster Bischoff, Trustee, Helen Foster Snow Literary Trust,

* Anthony E. Lorusso, Executive Director, Minnesota Trade Office,

* Carol Molnau, Lt. Governor of Minnesota,

* James P. McGovern, Member of U.S. Congress,

* Joyce W. Cox, President, USCPFA Midwest Region and President, USCPFA Kansas City Chapter,

* Colin Powell, former Secretary of State,

* Janet Slaughter Eissenstat, Director, White House Fellows,

* Keith Hite, President, National Association of Towns & Townships,

* Bud Philbrook, President and CEO, Global Volunteers,

(The above are listed according to the receiving date) ■



Learning embroidery from farmers



Night at the Folk Art Gallery



Helping to light smoking pipes

Twin Cities Chinese Dance Center Performs with Minhua Chorus

By Will Ahern, Staff Writer

Legends of the East reflects a spirit that lies in the morality and character that Eastern people respect and pursue. Colorfully adorned and well prepared, the Twin Cities Chinese Dance Center presented "Legends of the East" on May 20th. The audience had the opportunity to experience the joy and drama of the long and rich history of the east. It featured a combination of ethnic and folk dances as well as songs by the MinHua Chorus. The performers some 90 strong, included the very young presenting a "Children's Dance" to the "Farewell My Concubine" portraying a hero's last moments on the battlefield and of legendary true love.

All the performances are memorable. Here are just a few:

"Moonlit Night on Spring River" performed by Clara Wong and accompanied by Jiaxiang Li

"Rain of Bliss" performed by Krisitine Pan

"Golden Snake Dance" performed by Cindy Lu and Serena Lu

Mr. Qiang Yang, professionally trained at the Beijing Dance Academy is the Artistic Director of the Twin Cities Dance Center has brought to together a dynamic show with energetic performers. Please visit our Web site at www.chinainsight.info to see a video with highlights of the performance. ■



Traditional Dance - Moonlit Night



Duet - Golden Snake Dance



Dai Dance - Rain of Bliss



Folk Dance - Cherry Blossoms



Folk Dance - Herder's Melody



Traditional Dance - Farewell My Concubine



Kung Fu Dance - Battle of the Titans



Chorus - Shanxi Ethnic Song

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CHEMBA students visit Minneapolis

The University of Minnesota Carlson School of Management partners with Lingnan (University) College, Sun Yat-sen University to offer the EMBA degree since 2001. Mahmood Zaidi, Professor at the Carlson School of Management, is the CHEMBA academic director. Students take 16 courses over 16 months and participate in a two-week residency in Minneapolis, where they visit Fortune 500 companies. Classes are held over the weekend to accommodate working professionals. Students also have a chance to participate in a virtual team project with their peers at other Carlson School joint Global Executive MBA programs in Warsaw, Vienna, and Minneapolis. Graduates receive a degree from the Carlson School of Management at the University of Minnesota. For the second consecutive year, in 2006, the Carlson School of Management's China Executive MBA (CHEMBA) program was ranked first among joint executive MBA programs in China, according to a poll of 10 Chinese media organizations. The media recognized the Carlson School program because of its use of a global team of faculty, global management instruction, and strong alumni networking opportunities.

In May, the fifth class of China Executive MBA students (CHEMBA 2007) traveled to Minneapolis to participate in graduation with other Carlson School MBA students from around the globe. CAISS-MN (Chinese American Information Storage Society Minnesota Chapter) hosted a lunch reception on May 6 at Little Szechuan Res-

taurant in St. Paul to welcome the 33 students from this class during their busy 2-week schedule in Minneapolis. This is the third time CAISS-MN held this kind of activity jointly with the CHEMBA program.

The CHEMBA 2007 class is bigger than ever, the students are younger, and almost all of them hold top management positions from business, commercial and technological companies from Guangzhou, Shenzhen and other South China areas. Also guests from Seagate, Boston Scientific, Medtronic, Carlson School and the Tsinghua University Alumni Association – Minnesota participated in this lunch reception. Representatives from China Insight and Huaxia Times talked with the organizer and CHEMBA students. Lauren Liu, Executive Director for CHEMBA program, organized and led the trips for the past few years. She expressed interested in working with China Insight and Huaxia for possible business forums along with CAISS-MN and other Minnesota organizations and business community for future CHEMBA program students during their graduation visits. After the lunch, CHEMBA 2007 students visited the State Capitol and presented a gift to CAISS-MN president Jianxin Zhu.

For more information, visit <https://www.carlsonschool.umn.edu> and click on Executive MBA or visit <http://www.caiss-mn.org>. ■

Content and photos provided by CAISS-MN.

China Center Director finalists speak at public forums

The University of Minnesota is seeking a director for the China Center. The search is being led by Gene Allen, Distinguished Teaching Professor and former associate vice president for international programs.

The University of Minnesota China Center director search committee has named three finalists for the position of director of the center.

The finalists visited campus separately and each spoke at a public forum on the topic, “Bridges to China in the Next Decade: A Vision.” The public was invited to attend a presentation from each of the three finalists when they visited campus in May.

Candidate Dr. Xiaobo Hu is professor of political science and director of the China Program at Clemson University. He received his B.A. in international relations and English in 1984 from the Institute of International Relations (IIR) in China; an LL.M. degree in foreign constitutions and world

in Asia at Missouri State University (MSU). He is a tenured faculty member in the Department of Geography, Geology, and Planning. He is also chairman of the Joint Management Committee at the MSU-LNU College of International Business, MSU's branch campus built in cooperation with Liaoning Normal University in Dalian, China. He received his B.S. in 1982 and M.S. in 1984 in geography from Northeast Normal University in Changchun, China, and a Ph.D. in 1990 in geography with



Yong Wei Zhang

He received his B.S. in 1982 and M.S. in 1984 in geography from Northeast Normal University in Changchun, China, and a Ph.D. in 1990 in geography with



Former China Center Director, Hong Yang (left), with candidate Yong Wei Zhang

politics in 1986 from Peking University and IIR in China; and a Ph.D. in political science in 1994 from Duke University. Prior to his current faculty position, he was an instructor

a concentration in natural resources planning and management from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale. He was previously an assistant professor in the Department of Geography at Valparaiso University.

The third candidate, Dr. Xun (George) Wang, withdrew from the search process at the last minute. The candidates spoke at the public forum held Thursday, May 3 from 2:30-3:45 p.m. in the Carlson School of Management Building.

More information about each of the finalists is available at: http://www.chinacenter.umn.edu/director_search/ ■



Dr. Xiaobo Hu (left) with Fred and Jennie Hsiao

tor in the Department of Politics at Wake Forest University and assistant professor of government at Morehead State University.

Dr. Yongwei Zhang is director of international programs and affairs, assistant vice president of research and economic development, and director of university programs

Editor's Note: At press time, a new Director had not been named. Look to future issues of China Insight for more coverage on the new University of Minnesota China Center Director.

LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Have an observation or comment about something you read in *CHINA Insight*?
Write a Letter to the Editor

Chinese film producer visits and comments on award-winning film

By Bai Xue

Already awarded the Best Actress at the 13th Beijing Student Film Festival and the Best Artistic Contribution at the 18th Tokyo International Film Festival, the Chinese movie, *Loach Is Fish Too* directed by Yang Yazhou, was named one of the "Best of the Fest" at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival in April.



Nan Guangcheng

The story of *Loach is Fish Too* is a potent look at a struggling woman from the countryside named Loach. (A loach is a fish that lives in the mud and feeds whenever there is opportunity). Loach (Ni Qiu), a recently divorced woman is moving from the countryside to Beijing with her two twin daughters to earn money. On the train she meets an older man who has the same name as her, a contract laborer who tries to charm her with stories of the big house he'll get for her.

A headstrong woman with a strong sense of dignity, Ni Qiu rebuffs the man's sexual advances but realizes that having a

friend in the big city might be useful. They get to Beijing, suffer various misfortunes, but always manage to get back on their feet. They share some laughs and fall in love despite mutual misgivings and the baggage of past relationships. As part of the massive reconstruction crew rebuilding Tiananmen Square district, they are absorbed into thousands of fellow workers from the provinces clustered on dangerous job sites.

Guangcheng Nan, the producer of this movie, who has already accompanied this movie to four film festivals in Tokyo, Spain, Italy and Canada, took the print to Minneapolis on April 27. Since the copy of the film is still waiting for its visa, Nan arrived alone to attend a small-scale press conference ahead of time.

Either because the journalists attended had not seen the movie yet, or because Nan, as the producer, was not as able to answer art-related questions as the director would be, not many questions were asked about the movies itself. However, Nan was asked why he was interested in investing in such a film, which deals with the struggling life of migrant workers, a topic far from the popular ones like Gong Fu. With a shy grin, Nan told the media that he invested because he was moved; because he felt empathy. The once poor youth from a small town in Northern part of China, who first made money in the construction industry, and the now CEO who invested US\$700,000 in the production of a movie, Nan said he can see his past in the experience of the male Ni Qiu in the movie. As soon as he finished reading the original novel, he decided that the story should be his first foray in the movie industry.

Movie industry development in China and governmental regulation is still a topic of more interest than the movie itself or Nan's story. Questions were repeatedly asked about the process of production,

how the Chinese government plays a role in it, the process of distribution and how government censorship may get in the way. As Chinese, I understand that Nan wouldn't be good at making any comments about the government in public, just as he wouldn't be good at making any comments about the artistic aspects of the movie as a producer. But he did provide some basic information about how he managed to produce this particular movie, and thus opened the door of getting a glimpse of the movie industry in mainland China.

The US\$700,000 invested in this movie was all private money from Nan. Ever afraid of failure? We don't know. But at least, he said he will continue to invest in movies even if this little loach failed him. He told us that the only two ways of earning back the money is through box office and the prize money offered by film festivals, Chinese government doesn't have anything to do with the money part. However, when he continued to say that the government doesn't have anything to do when he tried to distribute

Producer continues on Page 12

Now available on CHINA Insight's Web site:
Exclusive interview
with producer of
Loach is fish too,
Nan Guangcheng



L to R: Richard He of China Insight, Bruce Jia, Publisher of Huaxia Times and Nan Guangcheng

On April 28, representatives from CHINA Insight and Huaxia Times had an exclusive interview with Nan Guangcheng, Chairman of Sihaitengfei Movie and Teleplay Cultural Medium Co., Ltd during his busy 4-day visit to the Twin Cities. As the producer of the movie *Loach Is Fish Too*, he was here to attend the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival. (See the article by Bai Xue about the movie and the press conference.)

Nan is a young energetic entrepreneur. He is also a board member of Chinese National Culture Promotion Committee and Vice-

Chairman of Daqing Beijing Enterprise Chamber of Commerce. He would like to produce more movies and wants to attend the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film Festival in future years. He would like to work with CHINA Insight and Huaxia Times to promote his movies and Chinese culture in the future.

View the interview at:
www.chinainsight.info or at
www.chinainsight.cn.

For more information about Nan and his company, visit: www.shtf22.com. ■

The Chinese Botanist's Daughters examines themes of abandonment, loneliness and love

By Loretta Minet, Asian Media Access

The Chinese Botanist's Daughters, directed by Dai Sijie, who also directed *Balzac and the Little Chinese Seamstress*, was shown April 24 and 26 at the Minneapolis/St. Paul International Film festival and was held over as part of "Best of the Fest".

The film takes place during 1980's China. It was filmed in the North Vietnamese Kanlin Gorges because a Chinese production company could not get authorization due to the content of the film. The story involves a young woman Win, an orphan, who is sent as a

trainee for a six week internship with a well known and respected botanist. The stern and unemotional botanist who is also a teacher, lives on a lush island with his daughter, An. The two girls quickly develop a friendship that grows into love. Both of the women feel abandoned, lonely and unloved. An's mother died when she was a child and she has spent her life on the island with her father and the few students that come and go. Win's parents died in an earthquake in 1976.

Win's stark beauty comes from her Russian mother and Chinese father who both taught at a university. An's brother, who is in the Army, arrives home from Tibet for a visit. He is encouraged by his father to court Win, because as an Army man he should be married. Spurned at first, Win changes her mind when An tells her if she marries her brother, who will return to Tibet, she and Win can be together forever. The loveless marriage takes place and there are disastrous consequences.

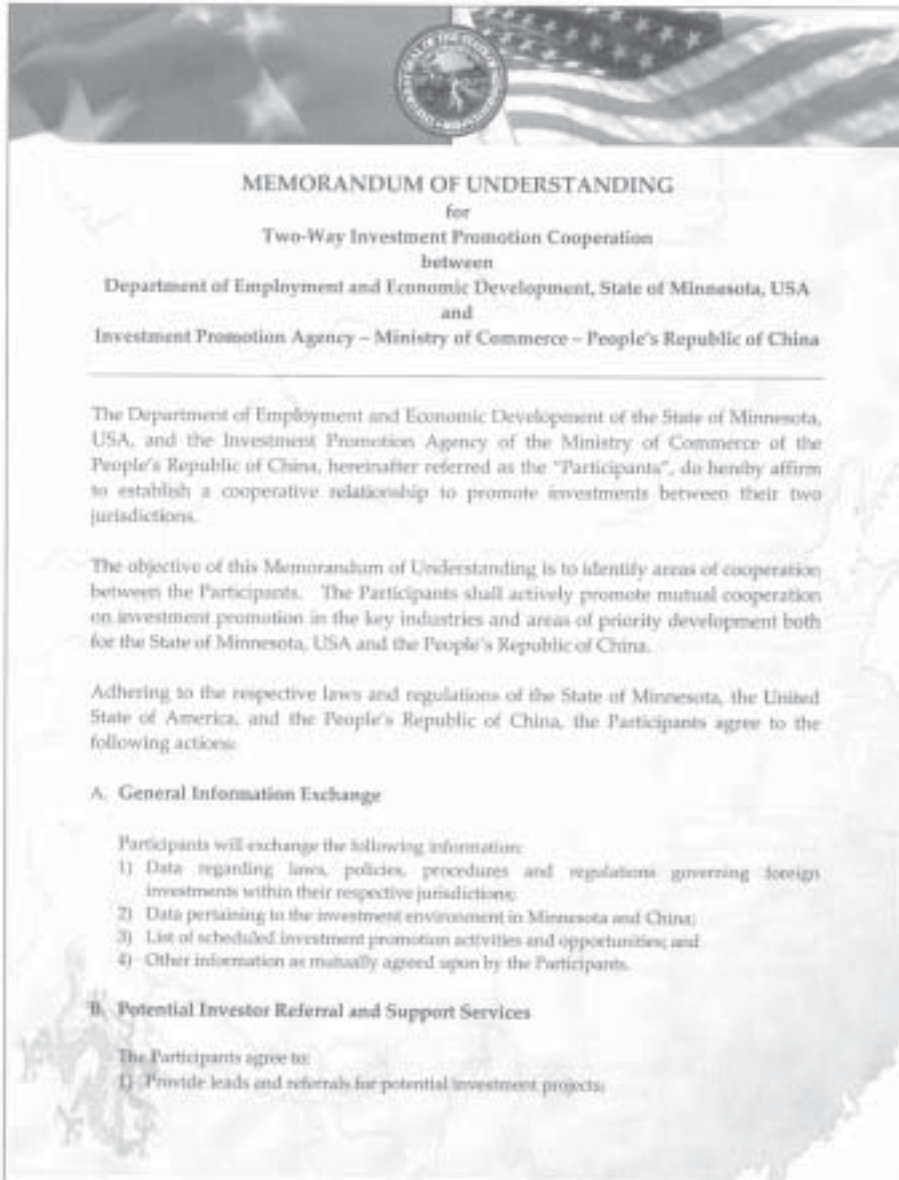
Although this film has a sad ending and deals with sensitive issues, they are almost forgotten in the beauty of the filming. The director and cinematographer use the lush surroundings, lagoons, silhouettes and filtered low light to capture the erotic, forbidden relationship between the two women. Sijie manages to take a sensitive subject and make a beautiful film about abandonment, loss and love. ■

Investment from Page 1

During this forum held by the Council of Great Lakes Governors, Lorusso and Lt. Governor Molnau gave a presentation on investment opportunities in Minnesota to a delegation that included Madame Ma Xiuhong, Vice Minister of the Ministry of

Commerce, People's Republic of China and more than 200 Chinese investors.

Commenting on current Chinese investments in Minnesota, Lorusso noted that there are only two known businesses. One is a joint venture agreement between Laiwu

Memorandum of Understanding

Steel and Cleveland Cliffs who are joint owners of the United Taconite mine in Eveleth. The second is Bright East Water Arts, a Chinese manufacturer of large water fountain displays, who has a sales office in the Twin Cities. "We truly appreciate their investment in Minnesota and we hope they will pave the way for additional Chinese investment in Minnesota in the years ahead" stated Lorusso, "And we hope that our new relationship with the China Investment Promotion Agency will prove to be another valuable avenue of opportunity in Minnesota."

Concluding his remarks, Lorusso then introduced his boss and the state's lead economic development official, Dan McElroy, Commissioner of the Department of Employment and Economic Development.

The MOU is an important next step in a trade relationship with China that has grown greatly in size and scope since the state launched the Minnesota-China Partnership initiative two years ago, said Commissioner McElroy. "While we have accomplished much in the past two years, I know we can do even more, especially in the area of investments," he stated. "That's why today's commitment to promote investment is an important milestone in our relationship. It's a clear signal that we both are committed to a future of mutual prosperity."

The next speaker to be introduced by Lorusso was Consul General Xu Jinzhong, Consulate General of the People's Republic

were presented in Chinese, his interpreter made sure his message was properly translated and clearly stated and that he was looking forward to this occasion as the beginning of a new economic relationship between Minnesota and China. He also made it a point to encourage the organizing of another trade mission that would even exceed the 218 member state organized trade mission that was led by Governor Tim Pawlenty in 2005 which is still the largest such delegation to visit China by any other state.

The actual signing ceremony then was conducted with Tony Lorusso, Executive Director of MTO representing Minnesota and Yu Hua, Deputy Director General, CIPA, representing China, executing the appropriate documents for their respective governments. The memorandum calls for the participants to agree to exchange general information about laws, policies, procedures and regulations governing foreign investment; provide leads and referrals for potential investment projects and assist potential investment partners and, in general, to cooperate on a wide variety of investment promotional activities.

Following this signing ceremony Lorusso then invited the assembled group to ask questions of any of the participants. One of the questions asked was whether or not there was any kind of action plan that has been developed to which the response was that this was just the beginning of a cooperative arrangement and now both parties would develop plans to comply with this MOU. As part of the response, Lorusso quoted, in Chinese, a famous Chinese saying, that states "A journey of a thousand miles starts with a single step." The MOU is the first step.

Other questions from the group involved working relationships with established organizations and China's efforts to learn and cooperate more with the United States to which the Chinese representatives responded that China will do its part to continue to collaborate and congratulated the overseas Chinese now residing in Minnesota for establishing a good network of organizations that can facilitate creating more investments and business opportunities.

It should also be noted, according to Lorusso, Minnesota is in select company. Chinese officials have entered into similar agreements with only four other states: Ohio, Virginia, South Carolina and New Mexico.

To view a video of the signing ceremony, visit the China Insight Web site at www.chinainsight.info. ■



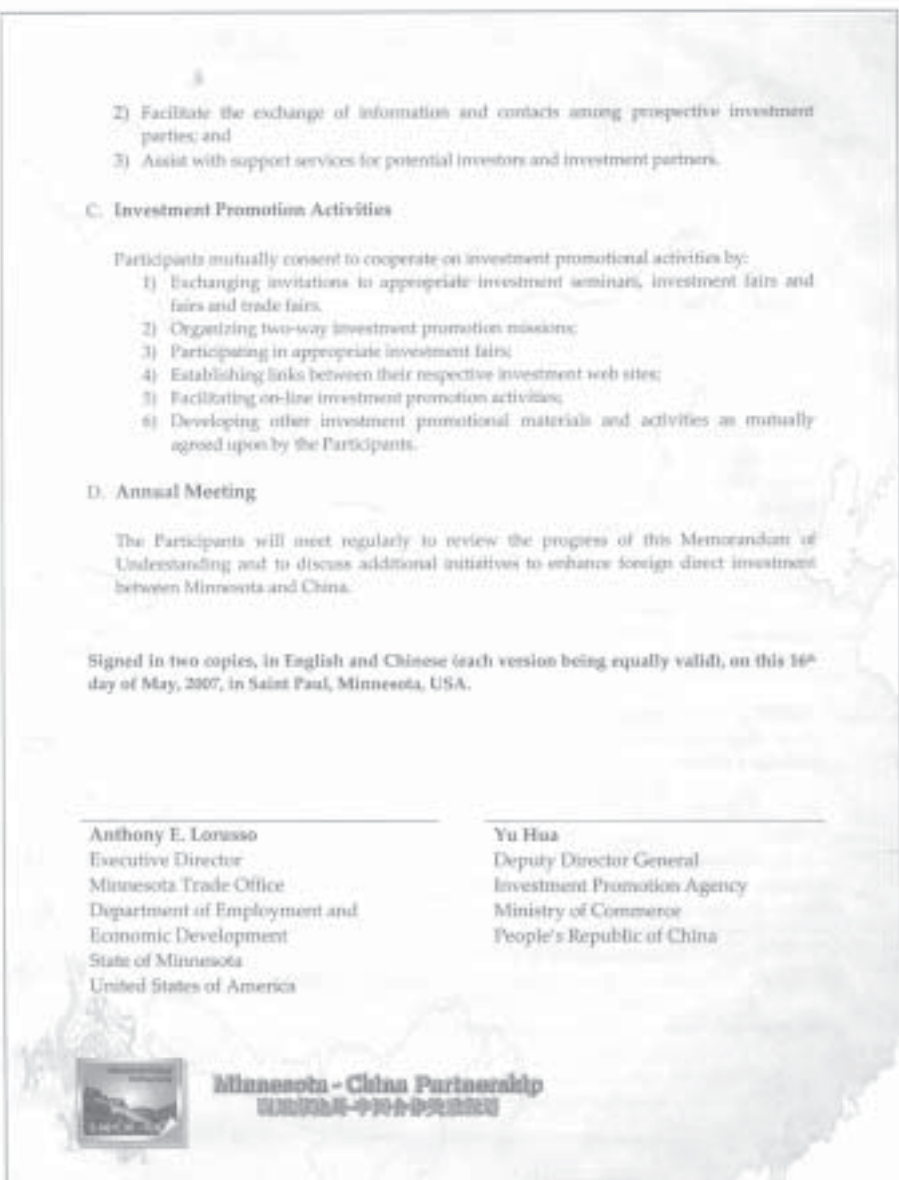
Consul General Xu Jinzhong (L) and Greg Hugh, Publisher of China Insight

of China in Chicago. This would be Consul General Xu's last visit to Minnesota since he was concluding his 4 year assignment and was returning to Beijing the following Tuesday. Delivering his remarks in English, Consul General Xu, expressed his support of Minnesota and China continuing to develop trade relations and build upon the relationship that has been developed over the years.

Representing the China Investment Promotion Agency (CIPA), Ministry of Commerce, People's Republic of China, was Director Liu Yajun. Although his remarks



The official signing of the MOU, Tony Lorusso, Executive Director, MTO (L) with Yu Hua, Deputy Director General, CIPA



Recent events held by US-China Business Connections

April Networking Event

Exporting to China

On Apr. 24, 2007 5-7 p.m., US-China Business Connections (UCBC) held a special networking event at the Minneapolis Community & Technical College.

Jorge A. Fernandez, Interim President of UCBC, presided over the meeting. The event included special talks by Jim Jochum and Connie Wang from the law firm of Mayer, Brown, Row & Maw, LLP in Washington D.C. It also included an introduction to the China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park (SIP), one of the world's top ranking industrial parks, by their representatives: Collin Sun and Yi Yinn Lee.

Jim Jochum is a partner at Mayer, Brown, Row & Maw, LLP and served as Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Export and Import Administrations during the Bush Ad-



Jim Jochum

ministration (2001-2005), co-chairing two important working groups focused on facilitating trade between China and the United States. He led the agency responsible for implementing U.S. dual-use export controls and authorizing the export of U.S. technology to China. In this capacity, Jochum was heavily involved in negotiating a new End Use Visit Arrangement with the Chinese government that facilitated increased U.S. exports to Chinese high-tech firms. He talked about the latest and hottest developments on Capitol Hill and in the Trade Bar in Washington D.C.; analyzed the possibilities of those proposals; and advised the attendees to prepare for possible trade policy changes.

Wenzhao (Connie) Wang served as the Press Officer for the Chinese President Jiang Zemin during his visit to Africa and as a diplomat at the Chinese Mission to the United Nations in New York. As an attorney at Mayer, Brown, Row & Maw, LLP, she provides strategic counseling and practical advice to companies conducting business with China in the areas of government relations, regulatory solutions, selection of manufacturing and sourcing partners and market entry in China. Since 2004, Wang has served as Legal Counsel for China Marketing Association, a nation-wide association in China. She was one of the recipients of the "Women to Watch Award" -- Women in Business 2006 by the Minneapolis-St. Paul Business Journal. She was the former President of UCBC and instrumental in the development of the UCBC organization before she moved to Wash-



Connie Wang

ington, D.C. She highlighted China's import regulatory issues, and answered questions from audience members.

Collin Sun and Yi Yinn Lee -- are representatives of one of the world's premier business parks (China-Singapore Suzhou Industrial Park--SIP), The SIP is home to many of the world's largest corporations including several Minnesota companies. It is prominently mentioned in many articles and books written about China including "The World is Flat". SIP is the largest cooperative project between the Chinese and Singapore governments. On Feb. 26, 1994, an agreement to jointly develop SIP was signed between ex-Vice Premier Li Lanqing and ex-Senior Minister Lee Kwan Yew, representing the Chinese and Singapore governments respectively. Its commencement took place on May 12, 1994. After more than a decade of development, SIP has become one of the fastest-growing and most competitive industrial development zones in the world. This short introduction to SIP was extremely valuable to the audience, espe-



Audience at UCBC event in April

cially those who are currently or considering manufacturing in China.

Approximately 40 people from different companies such as Wells Fargo, US Bank, 3M, Medtronic, Seagate attended this event.



Jorge A. Fernandez, Interim President of UCBC and Yi Yinn Lee of SIP

May Networking Event

Importing & Exporting to China

On May 2, 2007, US-China Business Connections (UCBC) held its monthly breakfast networking meeting at the Minneapolis Community & Technical College.

Jim Smith, Director of UCBC, presided over this meeting. The topic of this meeting is "Importing & exporting to China-- Best practices for best results" by Bonnie Anderson, Partner at Dakos Services, LLC, specializing in Consulting and Training for Import/Export Compliance and International Trade. This presentation highlighted the best practices for successful import/export operations and transactions. The do's and don'ts of trade transactions with China that can benefit an operation whether it's an exporter or an importer of goods, raw materials

or equipment.

About 30 people from different companies such as US Bank and Wells Fargo attended this meeting.

About UCBC

UCBC hosts monthly breakfast networking meetings with presentations on issues relating to doing business between the U.S. and China. The monthly meetings are scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month at 7:30 am. Check the calendar for details.

UCBC consists of individual entrepreneurs, small and mid-sized businesses as well as fortune 500 companies, who are currently doing business or seeking business opportunities in China.

For more details, visit the Web site: <http://www.ucbcgroup.org>.

June Meeting

The China Medical Device Industry - An outline Brief introduction to Synaptic Medical Sophia Wang MD, MS, MBA

Founder, President and CEO of Synaptic Medical, Sophia Wang has spent last 15 years in cardiovascular field as a physician, scientist, marketer, investor and most recently an entrepreneur. Before starting Synaptic, Wang consulted with both Fortune 500 companies and start-ups on investment, marketing, sales and fund-raising issues in cardiovascular device field. Prior to that, she held marketing and business development positions with Guidant (now Boston Scientific) and spear-headed a new device development program in neuro-stimulation area for cardiac application for the company. Wang earned her degrees in clinical medicine, neural pharmacology and business administration in China and in the United States.

This event will be held Jun. 6, 2007 at 7:30-9 a.m. at Minneapolis Community & Technical College. To make a reservation to attend, e-mail ucbcevent@gmail.com or call Jim Smith at 612-865-6543 The cost is US\$20 per person (college students free). ■

FACSS elects new Executive Committee for 2007-2008

The Friendship Association of Chinese Students and Scholars elected a new executive committee from 2007-2008 on April 20, 2007. Bo Li, Lingtian Kong, and Shu Hong have been elected by a majority vote as the new executive committee members. Bo Li has been elected as the new President of FACSS from 2007-2008. Lingtian Kong is the new vice President of FACSS from 2007-2008. Shu Hong is the new Director of Entertainment of FACSS from 2007-2008.

China signs Memorandum of Understanding with IDB

China signed a memorandum of understanding with the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), marking a substantial step forward in its entry talks with the organization. By signing the document, inked by Zhou Xiaochuan, governor of the People's Bank of China, and IDB President Luis Alberto Moreno in Guatemala City on Mar. 18, a formal framework is established for China's accession negotiations with the organization. China first submitted its entry application to the group in 1993 and renewed

it in 2004.

According to an IDB statement, both sides agree to speed up the negotiating process. If the negotiations proceed smoothly, China will become the organization's 48th member, the statement added. The IDB, terming itself as the world's oldest and largest regional development bank, was founded in 1959 to promote economic and social development.

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

China moves to speed up yuan revaluation

China moved [May 18] to speed up the appreciation of the yuan on currency markets, widening the daily trading ban against the U.S. dollar in a development following key U.S.-Chinese talks on [May 15].

The People's Bank of China announced it would allow the yuan to trade by as much as 0.5 percent on either side of the daily fixing rate against the dollar, widening the range from the previous 0.3 percent trade span, the official Xinhua agency reported.

The report said the move would 'permit faster gains in the currency.'

The move comes amid tensions between China and the United States and Europe over the huge Chinese surplus in trade. Beijing's critics charge that the low value of the yuan is a major contributing factor to the imbalance in trade by making Chinese exports cheaper and imports of foreign goods in China more expensive.

China last year chalked up a huge 177 billion dollar trade surplus, a whopping 74 percent above the 2005 figure.

On [May 15], U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson and Chinese Deputy Premier Wu Yi held strategic talks in Washington

amid demands from the U.S. side for tangible progress on the currency rate issue.

The yuan has appreciated by some 7 percent since July 2005, but China's critics say that the currency continues to be well undervalued.

Meanwhile the central bank also took a further step to try to cool down China's booming economy with its fourth rate hike since April 2006 and the eighth reserve requirement hike since June 2006.

The bank decided to raise the one-year deposit rate by 0.27 percentage point to 3.06 percent and the lending interest rate by 0.18 points to 6.57 percent starting May 19, Xinhua reported.

It also raised banks' reserve requirement ratio by 0.5 percentage points to 11.5 percent as of June 5.

Despite previous rate increases, the Chinese economy has continued to surge ahead, with an 11.1 percent growth recorded in the first quarter this year. ■

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http://news.monstersandcritics.com/business/news/article_1306167.php

China seeks advice on health overhauls

The Wall Street Journal writes that "China's government can't agree on how to fix its ailing health-care system - through private competition or more state services - and has turned to the World Health Organization, the World Bank, McKinsey & Co. and others for advice.

Chinese planners face two main problems: Health care is unaffordable for most Chinese, and the care people do get often is inadequate. Many people must pay for health care themselves, and if they can't come up with the money, they are turned away at the hospital door. There is little oversight of medical services, and hospitals thrive on prescription-drug sales, often doling out unnecessary drugs to turn a profit.

The nation's Communist government once tended to the health of almost everyone. Now it spends relatively little, after a privatization program in the early 1980s shifted the burden of paying for doctor vis-

its and drugs onto individuals. In 2004, private spending accounted for 64 percent of health-care expenditures in China. For several years, the government has said it is committed to increasing state spending to make sure everyone has access to good care. The question is where to direct that money, as government agencies vie for more funding and control.

"China's top economic-planning agency, the National Development and Reform Commission, invited seven groups to weigh in and help break the deadlock. On health-care overhauls, the NDRC solicited input from Peking University, Fudan University, Beijing Normal University and the Chinese cabinet's development-research center, in addition to WHO, World Bank and McKinsey, according to the person familiar with the matter." [The Wall Street Journal/Factiva] ■

Source: World Bank

China's software industry posts 28 percent growth

China's software industry continued to expand during the first four months of this year, with business income up 28 percent on the previous year, the Ministry of Information Industry said on [May 25].

The sources said the sector garnered US\$18.6 billion in revenue between January and April.

Of the total, software products accounted for US\$6.6 billion, up 27.9 percent, and system integration, covering IC design and solution design, US\$4.5 billion, up 27.7

Producer from Page 13
"censorship?"

Yes, where is the censorship? Nan didn't give an answer, but the only explanation I can think of is that the movie

percent.

In recent years China has tried to boost the development of its software services but the share of this sector in the total income of the software industry was down 6.6 percent compared with the 2006 level.

The first four months witnessed a continued imbalance between software products, system integration and software services, industry sources said. ■

Source: Xinhua

China pledges US\$20 billion for Africa

"China intends to provide about US\$20 billion in infrastructure and trade financing to Africa during the next three years, eclipsing many of the continent's traditional big donors by a single pledge.

The scale of China's accelerating financial flows were revealed to the Financial Times on [May 17] by Donald Kaberuka, president of the African Development Bank (AfDB). The sums involved are beginning to outstrip individual contributions from traditional donors, including multilateral development agencies. Their combined pledges - towards a special fund intended to assist sub-Saharan Africa to tackle shortfalls in electricity supply, roads and other infrastructure - are about US\$7 billion, Kaberuka said in an interview with the [Financial Times].

The US\$20 billion would go partly towards projects already announced, including the rehabilitation of railway networks in Angola and Nigeria, and the building of a hydroelectric dam in Ethiopia. Kaberuka, a former Rwandan finance minister, said Chinese premier Wen Jiabao had assured him

China was alert to the dangers of a new debt pile-up. But the Chinese took a longer-term approach to debt sustainability, he said. "The chairman of the Exim bank used a word which is very interesting. He said: 'Yes, debt sustainability is important but development sustainability is what we are after.'" [The Financial Times (UK)]

AFP adds that ". AfDB spokesman Eric Chinje said the figures were an estimation. 'It is rough estimate of what Exim bank officials told president Kaberuka they wanted to invest over the next three to five years, including concessionary loans,' Chinje told AFP when asked to comment on the report.

The lending by Exim Bank, one of China's policy banks that channels funds earmarked to support state development, comes on top of China's previously announced US\$5 billion development fund for Africa, Chinje said. The report came after the end [May 17] of the annual AfDB meeting, which was held in Shanghai this year and in Asia for the first time." [Agence France Presse/Factiva] ■

Source: World Bank

China to become third biggest travel destination

China is likely to replace the United States as the world's third most popular tourism destination next year, a United Nations World Tourism Organization (UNWTO) official said.

At present, China ranks fourth, after France, Spain and the United States.

Last year, China accounted for 5.8 percent of the global tourism market, a growth of 0.3 percent compared with two years ago.

Twenty-nine percent of tourists who traveled to Asia and the Pacific last year also visited China.

Xu Jing, regional representative for Asia and the Pacific of UNWTO, said the market share percentages of China and the United States last year were very close.

"I am confident China will overtake the U.S. next year," he said at the 2007 China

(Qingdao) International Olympics & Tourism Forum, which concluded on May 18.

UNWTO forecast last year that China would become the most popular destination by the year 2020. At the beginning of this year, it revised its forecast to 2015. Xu said the forecast was revised because of the rapid development of the country's tourism industry.

The number of overseas travelers to China has increased from 10.5 million in 1996 to 49 million in 2006. The 2008 Summer Olympics in Beijing and the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai will further boost China's tourism market.

The Pacific and Asia Travel Association said inbound tourism to China will increase by 5 percent year-on-year between 2007 and 2009. ■

is not so controversial as to encounter censorship. In China, people are free to produce whatever movies as long as they have the money to do so. The scrutiny from the government comes when attempts are made to distribute the films to major theaters. However, officials in China's State Administration of Radio, Film and Television won't bother with, or ban everything.

For example, take another Chinese movie in the Minneapolis film festival—Summer Palace for instance, Constant showing of nudity and sex? Check. Politically incorrect even of Tian'an Men square? Check. So banned! That is not to say that the decision was right, or wrong, but at least it shows that there are rules to follow.

However, not being banned does not mean life will be easier for independent movies like *Loach Is Fish Too*. Major theaters in China are basically occupied by three kinds of movies. First, domestic movies like *Hero* or *Curse of the Golden Flower*, the directors of which have many connections with governmental officials, and are more favored by them. Secondly, Hong Kong movies which are forever popular among young people. And finally, Hollywood blockbusters which are forever popular among almost all audiences. To earning money back through box office is like a dream. So what is left to do to earn money off the film? Attend film festivals! ■

China to ride economic wave

Information and communication technologies (ICT) are vital to managing China's unprecedented growth challenges, according to a new World Bank study titled "China's Information Revolution: Managing the Economic and Social Transformation." This report, the first to comprehensively map out China's current ICT landscape, provides a forward-looking assessment of the state of the country's ICT preparedness.

China has the world's largest telecommunications market and its IT industry has been an engine of the country's economic growth—growing two to three times faster than GDP over the past 10 years. However, as China's development has entered a new stage, it requires an updated "informatization" strategy to reflect the current economic and social challenges as well as opportunities. If China is to reap the full benefits of ICT, the report says, it needs to deal decisively with several key issues.

"China is serious about putting in place a good foundation for equitable and sustainable economic growth" said Jim Adams, World Bank Vice President for the East Asia and Pacific region. "This report reinforces how important to that effort is a well thought-out ICT strategy that brings the benefits of the online world closer to everyone's daily lives."

The report says that legal and regulatory reforms are urgently needed in areas such as telecommunications, open access to government information, data protection and privacy. A stark urban-rural divide in access to telecommunications infrastructure puts internet penetration 40 times higher in urban areas compared to rural. The report also says the domestic ICT industry needs more innovation so that it moves up the value chain and beyond production of low-end products and applications. Currently, software exports account for just 1-2 percent of China's total IT industry exports –

reflecting China's comparative strength in IT manufacturing and weakness in software development. Furthermore, only 16 percent of teachers in China have ICT training, resulting in a major shortage of skilled ICT workers. 'Brain drain' further exacerbates this situation.

According to the report, China also stands to benefit from expanding into e-government as online applications could make government functions more service-oriented, efficient and transparent. Rural areas in particular can benefit from online information services. Fostering e-business can boost productivity, increase technological innovation and enhance international competitiveness of Chinese enterprises. A 2004 Ministry of Commerce survey of 838 firms found that 58 percent of those that had participated in e-commerce increased their number of supplier contacts, while 70 percent increased their number of client contacts.

"Given the cross-cutting nature of ICT, government decisions about ICT can also be seen as decisions on the course of the economy as a whole" said Mohsen Khalil, Director of the World Bank Group's Global ICT Department. "The issues affecting China's ICT policies and strategies are similar to those faced in other sectors. The rapid pace of technology development just means that ICT issues are being addressed before other problems, and that the effects of ICT development will be felt throughout the entire economy."

For more information on the report, visit www.worldbank.org/chinaict

To learn more about the World Bank in China, visit www.worldbank.org/china

For more information on the World Bank's Global ICT Department, visit www.worldbank.org/ict

Permanent URL for this page: <http://go.worldbank.org/OO6P85TNU0>

China making a greater efforts to protect Intellectual Property Rights

Stephen Roach, the chief international economist for U.S. investment bank Morgan Stanley, delivered a speech to the U.S. Congress. He emphasizes that the key to improving the U.S. trade imbalance with China should not simply be criticism of China. The focus should be on China making a greater effort to protect intellectual property rights and push forward financial reform while the United States should encourage people to put more in their savings accounts, invest more in human resources,

and reform the education system. Roach criticizes statements by Ben Bernanke, chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve, that China's current exchange rate policy actually subsidizes its export companies. Bernanke's view has been widely accepted in the political and business community in the United States.

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

Summary provided by Sinofile <http://www.sinofile.net/com/amc/sfContact.html>

U.S. companies welcome China's new law on corporate income tax

Harley Seyedin, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in South China, Mar. 15 said U.S. companies investing in South China welcome China's new law on corporate income tax, which unifies the dual-track tax rates for Chinese and foreign enterprises. Seyedin says the new tax law will not affect the investment of U.S. companies in the southern part of China. Seyedin hopes the Chinese government will provide a transition period for U.S. investors in China for

the new policy. Zou Chunyi, government affairs director of P&G China, says the company is satisfied with the investment environment in South China and will keep Guangzhou as the headquarters for its Greater China operations.

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

Summary provided by Sinofile: <http://www.sinofile.net/com/amc/sfContact.html>



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Fred Shaw receives 2007 International Immigrant Achievement Award

The Twin Cities International Citizen Awards Host and Steering Committee awarded Fred Shaw the 2007 International Immigrant Achievement Award. The Annual Gala Awards event was held Wednesday, April 25, 2007 at the Minneapolis Club where Mr. Shaw was honored alongside Walter and Joan Mondale (International Citizens Award) and Marilyn Carlson of the Carlson Companies (International Corporate Award).

Founded in 1992, the Twin Cities International Citizen Awards recognize individuals and corporations in our community who have made inspiring contributions to international understanding, cooperation and mutual respect. It is given to those that have



Fred Shaw (Hsiao) and his son Howell Shaw

made clear and exemplary contributions to local and global communities; demonstrate a strong commitment to international understanding and cooperation; and live out mutuality and respect in relation with other countries and peoples.

In his acceptance speech, Mr. Shaw thanked his Father, the People of

Minnesota, Orville E. Madsen, Lyle Lundquist, Tom Meyers and John Sjoberg, Hoyt Hsiao, and his wife Jennie Hsiao for all the support and loyalty they have shown him. Without them, he would not be where he is today.

About the Twin Cities International Citizen Awards

The Awards were first given in 1992, hosted by the Mayor of Minneapolis. In 1996, the Mayor of St. Paul joined and in 1997 the Commissioners of Hennepin and Ramsey Counties also became hosts. Today, the International Leadership Institute oversees this annual international recognition event. Visit www.internationalleadership.org/news.html for more information on past events.

About the International Leadership Institute

Founded in 1994, the International Leadership Institute is a fully qualified non profit organization committed to providing resources to communities of color in transition - locally and globally. Located at 403 Oak Grove in Minneapolis. Web site is www.internationalleadership.org.

About Shaw-Lundquist Associates, Inc.

Shaw-Lundquist is a Leading General Contractor in the Metro Area. They are also the largest Minority-owned Contractor in the Midwest and are the largest Asian-owned Contractor in the Nation. They provide General Construction, Construction Management at Risk, Agency Construction Management and Design-Build construction services, and are proven performers on large and complex projects. Started in 1974 by Fred Shaw, the company has grown to over US\$80 million in revenues in fiscal 2005. For more information, visit www.shawlundquist.com. ■



ILI 2007 Award Recipients: Walter and Joan Mondale, Marilyn Carlson and Fred Shaw and



Fred Shaw (Hsiao) and his wife Jennie Hsiao surrounded by sons and their significant others (L to R: Yu Wen Mui, Holden Hsiao, Fred Hsiao, Jennie Hsiao, Howell Shaw, Nina Yang Shaw, Hoyt Hsiao, Zhen Zhen Lou)

Local artist to unveil artwork at Dragon Festival 2007

July 14-15, Phalen Park, St. Paul

Local emerging Hmong artist Seexeng Lee will be unveiling a painting titled "Unity in Diversity" to the accompaniment of an original composition by the same name by local Asian Pacific musicians under the direction of Rick Shiomi, artistic director of Mu Performing Arts, at this year's Dragon Festival on Sunday, July 15 at Phalen Park, St. Paul.

Dragon Festival, the all-volunteer run nonprofit organization that puts on the annual two-day Pan-Asian celebration, largest in the Greater Twin Cities area, was awarded a US\$14,000 Cultural STAR (Sales Tax Revitalization Program) Grant from the City of St. Paul for Seexeng Lee's art project.

"Unity in Diversity" is a large-scale (5' x 8') relief painting showing five hands in different colors putting pieces of the State together. One of the pieces represents the City of St. Paul, where the Dragon Festival takes place. A 24K gold leaf ribbon with the words "We Are One" in different Asian languages is woven in and out to depict and reflect the unique characteristics of the different ethnicities. According to Lee, this painting, commissioned by the Dragon Festival, is the embodiment of the spirit of the Festival that aims to unite the various Asian Pacific communities within the Twin Cities.

Lee plans to have Festival participants put their own mark on and help complete the piece by painting a small piece of the painting.

The use of gold leaf is a signature of Lee's works. In Hmong culture, gold, silver and currency show value. "I choose important symbols and subjects that best represent Hmong culture and combine them with the best visual art style in hopes of enlightening my viewers. The technique I chose to use was gold leafing," he says.

Lee's first "canvas" was a dirt floor in Laos and his "brushes" were wooden sticks. When his family immigrated to the United States in the 1984, he realized the best way to communicate was through art. However, his parents wanted "bigger and better" things for him and art did not fit that category in the Hmong culture. Lee's solution to satisfy his own interest and his parents' wishes was to teach art! Armed with degrees in Studio Art and Secondary Education, Lee has been teach-

ing since 1997.

The Cultural STAR Grant, funded with 10 percent of a half-cent citywide sales tax created by the Minnesota State Legislature in 1993 to support economic development in the City of Saint Paul, promotes "growth in Saint Paul by strengthening the arts and cultural sector..."

"Awarding the Dragon Festival the Cultural STAR Grant is truly an affirmation of the City's commitment to the arts and to diversity. We applaud the City," said Evelyn Lee (no relation to artist Seexeng Lee), chair of the Dragon Festival.

The musical composition, also titled "Unity in Diversity" is funded by a grant from the Minnesota State Arts Board. A select group of local Asian musicians under the direction of Rick Shiomi, artistic director of Mu Performing Arts, with Mr. Zhang Ying as lead composer, are working on a piece using various Asian instruments. It will be approximately 20 minutes long.



Seexeng Lee

Other highlights of this year's two-day Festival include:

- * Opening ceremony at noon, Saturday, July 14 which includes a dragon dance, blessing the boats and teams by Thai monks, story of the dragon boat races and "awakening" the dragon; immediately followed by
- * A reenactment of a traditional Indonesian Minangkabau wedding where the bride is decked out in highly ornate headdress and clothes trimmed in gold. Minangkabau, "victorious buffalo," is a Muslim tribe in West Sumatra, the largest island in Indonesia. The Minangkabau tribe is one of a handful of tribes in the world that is truly matriarchal.
- * Dragon boat races
- * Free canoe rides, courtesy of Wilderness Inquiry
- * A Community Village where visitors can view cultural displays, chat with representatives from different cultural organizations to learn about the different cultures, and watch craft demonstrations.
- * Cultural performances ranging from Mongolian acrobats to Chinese guzheng players to Japanese dancers
- * Wide variety of martial arts demonstrations including Thai, Chinese
- * Authentic ethnic foods and merchandise for sale
- * Supervised children craft activities

Festival organizers are arranging free off-site parking with shuttle service to the park. The two-day event is free to the public, thanks to the generosity of our sponsors: Allianz, Ameriprise Financial, Clearway, HRK, Qwest, State Farm, Target, and Wells Fargo.

For details about the festival and to see photos from past festivals, please visit www.dragonfestival.org. ■