Live Confucian

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Confucius Institute Pace University

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Peace & Harmony: NYC Chinese Reflect on 9/11

By Ansel Lurio, Dr. Yanyu Zhou, and Dr. Weihua Niu

In the years since September 11, 2001, the human tragedy of the attacks on the World Trade Center has had a profound effect on people’s mind set and life on a global level. This September, on the 10th anniversary of 9-11, as part of national wide commemorations of the tragedy, Pace University, which lost 47 staff, faculty, and students on that fateful, and lies just five blocks away from the World Trade Center, held “Pace Remembers 9/11,” a series of events that reflected on the impact of 9/11 on the Pace community, as well as on the great-
er society and the world. As part of “Pace Remembers 9/11,” On September 22, from 4-7:30 PM, at the Student Union at One Pace Plaza, The Confucius Institute at Pace University (Pace CI), along with the Asian American/ Asian Research Institute (AAARI) at the City University of New York (CUNY), co-hosted “Peace & Harmony: Reflections from Chinese New Yorkers on the 10th Anniversary of 9/11,” the only major event in Downtown New York that focused on Chinese New Yorkers’ reactions to the

2nd Annual NYCOS Awards Presented

On Friday December 2nd, from 7:30-8:30 PM, as part of the New York Chinese Opera Society’s (NYCOS) 5th Annual Winter Cultural Exchange Festival, held at the Schimmel Center at Pace University, the Confucius Institute and the Center for East Asian Studies at Pace University presented three awards to the winners of the 2nd Annual NYCOS Essay Competition. The competition began last year thanks to the generous support of NYCOS and essays can be on any topic related to Chinese art, history, or culture. Created to spurn more in-depth research in Chinese culture and increase the interest and participation of Pace students in Chinese cultural studies, the yearly competition is open to all Pace students, undergraduate and graduate. This year’s contest was highly competitive, with essays on topics including the economic and social development in China, America’s transcontinental railroad and Chinese workers. Claudia Chan, from the Lubin School of Business came in first place for her successfully

Following the award ceremony, NYCOS presented a number of Peking Operas that wowed the audience

(Continued on page 2)
attacks. This year, The Mid-Autumn or Moon Festival, an important Chinese traditional family reunion holiday similar to Thanksgiving Day in America, fell on September 12. From the perspective of New York’s Chinese community, Pace CI used the Mid-Autumn Festival in a special way to reflect on the 10th anniversary of 9/11. Through our memorial we tried to console the deceased and their families with the traditional Chinese sentiments expressed during the festival of cherishing peace, togetherness, and family harmony. We integrated Eastern and Western culture in a graceful way to memorialize the innocent people who perished on 9/11. We sincerely hope that there will never be another such tragedy and that the big family of all human beings will always live in happiness, harmony, and tranquility as symbolized by the large bright round moon seen at this time of year.

The memorial we held featured an art exhibition, musical performance, and a panel discussion. Mr. Chee Wang Ng, a renowned Malaysian born artist of Chinese descent gave a talk based on his artwork, “Moon and Rice: An Artistic Tribute to 9/11 with Chinese Cultural Symbolism.” From September 8-22 in the lobby of Pace’s Birnbaum Library, Ng exhibited his work “September 11th Memorial Installation – White.” Ng used the symbolism of a simple bowl of rice with chopsticks stuck in it vertically, a taboo in Chinese culture and which eerily resembles the Twin Towers, sitting on a table cloth surrounded by candles representing the US flag, to mourn the nation’s loss of life and innocence. In addition to Mr. Ng’s installation, works by two Chinese artists, Mr. Cheng Ju Li and Mr. Ying Wang, were displayed in the Student Union during the event, and Professor Bin Zhou from East Normal University did a live calligraphy demonstration. During the reception, Professor Kuang-Yu Fong and her colleagues played Chinese music traditionally performed during the Mid-Autumn Festival while our guests enjoyed moon cakes.

The highlight of the memorial was a panel discussion moderated by Dr. Weihua Niu, Director of the Pace CI. The panelists reflected on how Chinese-Americans were affected by the event and how they cope and rebuild after tragedies. The first speaker, Lt. David Lim, was a K-9 police officer who was on duty at the World Trade Center when the tragedy occurred, and was among the first responders, barely escaping with his life as he rushed to rescue others. Ms. Jiao Xian brought the audience to tears with the story of how her youngest son Zachary Zen (Zen Zhe) died a hero’s death as he left his job at the Bank of New York, just around the corner from where the attacks occurred, to volunteer to rescue those trapped in the burning towers. Mr. Paul Lee, owner of a family business in Chinatown that was established in 1891, told the audience of his painful decision to close his store in 2003 because of the great financial losses his business suffered post-9/11. Taking an academic perspective, Dr. Joyce Moy, Director of AAARI, gave a broad picture of the severe economic impacts of the attacks of 9/11 on Chinatown, the closest immigrant community to the World Trade Center. Dr. Jean Chin, a psychologist from Adelphi University, addressed how Chinese communities have had some special challenges dealing with the events of 9/11 - overcoming both cultural and language barriers. Dr. Joseph Lee, a history professor from Pace, looked to the future, proposing to work together with Chinatown and other communities to build a more harmonious society.
CI Scholarships for Two Talented Students

By Yan Zhang

On the morning of August 26, 2011, the Pace CI conference room was filled with journalists ready with cameras and notepads, as we announced the first two recipients of the Confucius Institute Scholarship from Pace University - Olivia Drouhaut and Christopher Huang. Originally from Paris, France, Olivia majored in Communication Studies at the Dyson School of Arts and Sciences and hopes to become a photojournalist traveling around the world. Christopher, on the other hand, is a second-generation Chinese-American, currently pursuing a degree in Accounting at the Lubin School of Business, and dreams of working in the field of Sino-US relations.

Both winners were excited by the amazing journey that they would soon be taking in China. Olivia, who won the four week scholarship, felt that even though her knowledge of China was limited, she was sure that she would gain a better understanding of the country once she traveled there. Christopher, who was awarded the one year scholarship, could hardly wait to begin his studies at Nanjing Normal University, the Chinese partner school of the Pace CI. He told reporters that he planned to taste all the delicious Chinese food and visit his relatives in Hunan province. In addition, winning the scholarship gave him the advantage he needed to get a well-paid internship at one of the major accounting firms, PricewaterhouseCoopers.

“It is an honor to receive the scholarship. The classes I have taken at the Confucius Institute have been truly informative, creative, diverse and simply so much fun. Learning about China and its culture and language is truly a privilege, but being invited directly to China is simply an amazing gift.”

-Olivia Drouhaut
Letter from Nanjing

It has been over two months since I arrived in China to study Mandarin at Nanjing Normal University (NNU) on a Confucius Institute Scholarship. I have learned a lot since I have been here and have visited many places. I have climbed the Purple Mountain, visited the Nanjing Massacre Memorial Hall, Presidential Palace, Xuanwuhu Park, and the Sun Yat-sen Mausoleum and explored much of Nanjing. Outside on the street, I am able to put what I learned in the classroom to good use. I can now read certain parts of street signs, names of stores, and some of the dishes on restaurant menus. I have “Aha!” moments where characters that were previously just scribbles to me have actually become words and I can understand them. Sometimes I get really excited when I can completely read and understand a group of Chinese characters and I get strange looks from other people.

I have also had the chance to do a little bit of traveling. There was a field trip to Yangzhou for the international students, where I visited Shou Xi Hu (Skinny River) and Ge Yuan (Ge Park). I decided to stay an extra night in Yangzhou and lodged at a very nice and pleasant hostel for only 30 rmb (about 5 US Dollars, yes it was that cheap!). The next day, I went exploring and kind of got lost, venturing in to an old part of town with old style gray brick buildings. I eventually found my way to the Yangzhou Museum, where there are national treasures on display. One entire room was devoted to a rare vase. Only 3 are in existence and the others are in Paris and Beijing, but this one is extra special in that is the biggest of the three. The rest of the museum was quite interesting, especially an exhibit devoted to the evolution of the printing press and with some really cool calligraphic works. My favorite part of Yangzhou was the food. At night they have street food markets, with all kinds of good stuff to eat including fried noodles, barbequed squid, tofu, and desserts. One vendor at the market was roasting a rack of lamb seasoned with cumin. He cut off a big chunk of lamb for me and cut it into little pieces and I ate it with a toothpick. It was delicious!

However, it is not all fun and games in China. Every week I have classes Monday to Friday from 8am-12pm. I am learning Chinese much faster than I ever had before. Learning a language and using it every day really forces you to pick it up quickly. Being in China has truly been a life-changing experience for me so far and I look forward to the adventures ahead of me.

With kind regards to everyone at the Pace CI,

Christopher Huang
Comprehensive Course System Created

By Dr. Min Zhu

One of the major goals of the Pace CI is to create Chinese language programming that both inspires and engages. Starting in the Fall of 2011, for the first time ever, the Pace CI offered a comprehensive course system based on these values.

Mandarin Chinese is the main course offered by CI, training beginners with no Chinese learning experience to those at the expert level. Since this September, tuition has been free to Pace faculty, staff, and students. The classes focus on listening and speaking and aim at students’ all around development.

We also tried to spread Chinese cultural knowledge and skills through our Chinese Culture classes. This fall, Pace CI launched two cultural courses: “Calligraphy” and “Taiji.” In these two classes, in addition to being exposed to authentic Chinese culture, students learned Chinese words related to the corresponding art. In the future, we hope to offer more cultural courses on topics such as Chinese cuisine and Chinese painting.

To supplement our course system the CI also offers programs to assist students studying Chinese language and culture in other departments throughout the university. In addition, in Spring 2012 we will be introducing our “no-credit, one credit hour” system, a chance for students to take a non-credit program as a supplement to a credit bearing course, and receive one university credit for attending the program.

We look forward to seeing our course system expand in the future and reaching out to new audiences of students in unique and innovative ways.

Teaching Paper-Folding to Children in Need

By Xiaojun Wang

This October, I was honored to conduct a meaningful Chinese cultural workshop at the Prospect Family Inn in the Bronx on behalf of the Pace CI. The Inn is one of the centers of Homes For The Homeless, an organization which provides transitional housing and comprehensive support services to homeless children and their families in New York City.

The center provides various activities and workshops for resident children. This year, every month there is an activity about a different country, such as creating Mexican Dia De Los Muertos masks, Pakistani textile making, and assembling Japanese sushi.

Given that the participants were aged from six to eight, I taught them Chinese paper-folding, a traditional art with a long history. Chinese children love the intricate craft of paper folding. This craft not only develops children’s fine motor skills but also cultivates their imagination and ingenuity.

I taught the children simple but fun paper folding of familiar animals with colorful pieces of paper. I did not tell them what animal they were folding, and so as they followed my steps they kept guessing what the paper would eventually turn into, and jubilantly exclaimed, “Wow, it’s amazing!” once they figured out the animal they were creating. All of them were fascinated that a piece of common paper could be simply folded to create a familiar animal. By taking part in the Chinese paper folding activity, the children were exposed to the Chinese culture, a culture they now think is “amazing” and “awesome.”
Our New Chinese Teacher: In Her Own Words

By Xiaojun Wang

September 14th, 2011 marked a turning point in my life and my teaching career. On that day I landed in America and began a new journey as a Chinese language teacher at the Pace CI. On my first day at CI, there was a grand reception prepared for me. The lovely cake, greeting cards, welcome flowers, smiling faces, comforting words, and hearty laughter, impressed and touched me. From that first day on I fell in love with the CI and I still feel honored to be a member of this harmonious family.

Before coming to Pace CI, I was a language teacher at Nanjing Normal University in China for more than twelve years. I love teaching and I’m happy to do what I love - this remains unchanged. What has changed is that I now have the chance to do even greater and more meaningful work: promoting the understanding of Chinese language and culture in America. I am now teaching students from various cultural backgrounds in a foreign country. I welcome the new challenge as I believe I will end up benefitting from it.

I have now been teaching at the CI for more than a month. I owe much thanks for my transition to Dr. Min Zhu, a linguistics expert and an experienced Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (TCFL) teacher. She has offered me constructive professional advice and help in every step of teaching, from the formulation of course syllabi to daily teaching plans to courseware design to real time teaching performance. My thanks also go to all my other colleagues at the CI. In October, I taught a demonstration Mandarin class for the staff of the CI. My colleagues, with their collective wisdom, offered me valuable suggestions and brilliant ideas to effectively improve my teaching.

I’m fully aware that there’s still a long way to go: to adjust, to innovate, and to change for the better. Fortunately, I am already confidently on my way, knowing that my CI family is firmly behind me. Looking forward, I am full of hope and expectation, believing that all my teaching and living experiences in this great land will be a most cherished memory and invaluable treasure in the future!

Students Comments:

“This class is truly outstanding and the teacher is amazing. She has a good spirit and is always in a good mood and smiling. It makes me and the other students comfortable and more open to learn. Looking forward to more!”

-Anonymous

“Ms. Wang works diligently with each student, providing material that makes it easier for nonnative speakers to better navigate the language. She is also eager to hold conversation sessions for those who want to practice speaking Mandarin outside of class with. As the environment is quite welcoming, for those of you who have been shying away from learning Mandarin, I would highly recommend this class.”

- Na’Vonna Turner
Faculty Seminar Members Create New Courses

By Dr. Weihua Niu

As we come to the end of 2011, our year-long faculty seminar is also nearing its completion. This innovative program was designed to promote the Chinese language and culture from a top-down approach. After a highly selective procedure, eight full-time faculty members from five different departments were chosen to participate in this program, learning the Chinese language and different aspects of Chinese culture related to various academic fields, including art, literature, history, education, economics, finance, and law.

During the summer, the faculty took an exciting trip to China, spending two weeks meeting with scholars, continuing to learn about Chinese language at three different universities in Beijing, Nanjing, and Shanghai, and visiting various sites of cultural importance.

Coming back to Pace this fall, the faculty met again for cultural and language learning, and worked on refining their curriculum and course syllabi. A major outcome of this program will be the creation of eight to ten credit-bearing courses offered at the university, starting in fall 2011. The hope is that these courses will attract many Pace students and increase interest within the Pace Community to learn about Chinese language and culture. These new courses include: Political Economy of Developing Nations, China and US Economic and Political Relations, Travel Course-From Wall Street to the Great Wall, Rising Powers: China’s Economic Growth and Development, China’s Financial System, Raise the Red Lantern – Chinese Contemporary Literature and Films, and China in the 21st Century: Contemporary Chinese Art.

“I feel very fortunate to have been a participant in the Confucius Institute’s inaugural Faculty Seminar. The speakers all did very well at crystallizing vast tracts of Chinese history, theory, and information into hour-long presentations. The Chinese lessons by Yanyu Zhou were also very helpful. Yanyu is a wonderfully warm and enthusiastic teacher, and her work with us prepared us for meeting our Chinese peers.”

-Professor Linda Herritt
Art Department, Dyson

“One of the best things about the seminar was how we all learned from each other. We are sure that each of us will bring the knowledge we have gained from our experiences in the seminar to many of our colleagues, which will have an enduring impact on the university in its attempt to globalize its curricular offerings.”

- Professor Anya Shostya and Dr. Joseph Morreale

First HSK Tests are Held

By Dr. Min Zhu

In the past year, the CI has made great progress in holding HSK tests. On May 21st, for the first time, Pace CI held a HSK test particularly set up for students applying for Confucius Institute Scholarships. Three candidates took the HSK Level 1 and one took the Level 2 test. All of the students passed the test and obtained certificates. Since then, the CI has been making full preparations to be officially open to hold HSK tests and an online system has been created to register applicants for the test. The Pace CI will officially hold its first HSK tests in May, 2012.
Chinese Corner in Full Force

By Yan Zhang

Since its inauguration in Spring, 2011, Chinese Corner (CC) has been a fun and exciting experience for myself and all the participants. This Fall, CC has become bigger and stronger. We have reinforced the “partnering system” between native Mandarin speakers and non-native ones, where each pair of participants is encouraged to practice Mandarin both during and outside of CC. We’ve also developed a group of devoted fans who frequently join our gathering. They include Pace faculty, Pace students learning Mandarin, Chinese born students at Pace, and even students from other schools such as NYU and other colleges who have been searching for opportunities to practice the language. We attracted them thanks to our promotions via Twitter, Facebook, and fliers, and kept them coming back thanks to our highly interactive programs. This semester, we discussed everything from numbers to hobbies, from bargaining to moon cakes. At one CC we went for a tour of 1 Pace Plaza, describing what we saw in Mandarin while at another one we sang karaoke together. CC participants enjoyed learning Mandarin through songs such as “Beijing Welcomes You” and “Zhong Guo Hua.” After watching one music video in Mandarin, one Pace student who had no prior knowledge of the language, commented that even though he did not know the meaning of the words, he could pronounce them correctly by singing along to the melody.

Looking forward to the New Year, we would like to welcome anyone who wants to experience Mandarin and Chinese culture to join us for Chinese Corner. We meet Thursdays from 12:20-1:20 PM in the CI Conference Room on the 4th floor of 41 Park Row. Until next time, “Zai Jian!”

Please join us for Chinese Corner in the upcoming semester!

Learning the Ancient Art of Calligraphy

By Xiaojun Wang

Today, anyone who knows a little bit about Chinese culture is familiar with Chinese calligraphy, the unique art of writing. This October the CI offered a Chinese calligraphy course for the Pace community, taught by Professor Bin Zhou, a renowned calligrapher from East China Normal University.

Students learned and practiced Yan-style calligraphy in class, starting with basic strokes and moving on to single and compound characters. Professor Zhou guided students to appreciate Chinese calligraphic masterpieces, with their vigorous rhythmical lines and internal vital energy, rich in meaning and powerful in style.

He pointed out the proven positive effects of Chinese calligraphy on cultivating one’s creativity as well as on maintaining one’s psychological health. He also incorporated many intriguing Chinese cultural elements into his inspired teaching, such as Chinese expressions, the spirit of calligraphy, the origins of pictographs, folk stories, and legends of ancient calligraphers.

After 5 weeks’ of study, each student had finished a fine piece of artwork made with brush pen and Chinese ink. By taking the course, our students had become deeply enchanted by the genuine beauty of Chinese calligraphy and highly inspired by its inner spirit and wisdom.

Students posing with their finished works
Taiji Quan at the Confucius Institute

By Lin Ai Wei, Shifu

In the West, it is hard to find the deep and inner meanings of Chinese culture in our every day lives. Luckily, one of the jewels of Chinese culture can be found right at our door step at the Confucius Institute. This jewel is none other than Taiji Quan. What is Taiji Quan you may ask? It is akin to the feeling you have when your day is done and you have accomplished something important.

The profundity of Taiji Quan is that it brings you to a state of mind where there is no day dreaming, no wondering, no happiness, no sadness; basically, a state of non-discriminating thought. We achieve this state of being rarely in our daily lives: our minds are always moving, and our emotions are like waves crashing on the shore. Yet, there are times when we achieve inner peace, a stillness that manifests in our mind. This is the core manifestation of Taiji Quan. Those who embark on the cultivation of Taiji Quan eventually enter a realm of observation and change.

At the Confucius Institute, Taiji Quan is taught with the ideals of promoting health and wellness, education and culture. My students learn about personal health and prevention of sicknesses, how to assist the Qi (breath and energy) in the body to move freely, and most importantly, to empower their mind and control their emotions. These teachings of Taiji Quan present to our students an opportunity to make their lives better. Taiji Quan reflects the core of Chinese cultural education: to be humane. This state of being is the most natural and important state to attain. And not just for our own personal growth, but for the growth of a global community.

Board of Directors Meet in Nanjing

By Dr. Weihua Niu

As a part of the celebration of the 2nd anniversary of the Pace CI, the entire board of directors of Pace CI, with four members from Pace, two members from Nanjing Normal University, and one member from Phoenix Publishing and Media Group (PPMG), gathered together at the headquarters of PPMG in Nanjing, on June 7th, 2011, to hold the 2nd board of directors meeting. Besides the four board members, there were six professors from Pace University who visited Nanjing at the same time, spending a week at Nanjing Normal University for academic exchange, and learning about Chinese culture and language.

Prior to arriving in Nanjing, the Pace delegation visited Beijing, Xi’an, Suzhong, and Shanghai, to sight see and to meet with scholars at three other universities. In Beijing, they met with a group of senior citizens, brought together by a former China Central Television (CCTV) editor, in a traditional Beijing Style Housing Complex, to discuss cultural differences in people’s attitude towards aging and life styles of senior citizens in the U.S. and China. The delegates also met with modern followers of Confucius, to discuss the role of Confucian doctrines in future systems of justice.

In Nanjing, the board reviewed the last year’s activities of the Pace CI and discussed its future development in the next three to five years. Drawing from the expertise of all three parties, the board came to the conclusion that the future goals of the Pace CI are three-fold: to build a unique model of Chinese language learning and teaching that fits the life styles of New Yorkers, to continue to organize high quality cultural events and academic programs to promote Chinese culture and cultural exchange between U.S. and China, and to develop a series of Chinese multimedia language learning materials. After the board meeting, representatives from PPMG, Nanjing Normal and Pace spent a day further discussing various projects for developing Chinese language teaching and learning materials. We thank our host, PPMG for their hospitality and for making the board meeting a great success.
“East Meets West”
By Anthony Son, Dr. Weihua Niu, and Dr. Min Zhu

From the very beginning of our existence, Nanjing Normal University (NNU), our partner school in China, has been a great supporter of our mission and programming. This November, we were honored when a delegation of professors from NNU came to visit to give lectures on various aspects of Chinese culture. From November 21 -22 we hosted a two day Chinese Cultural Seminar featuring the six visiting professors, at both the Pleasantville and New York Downtown campuses of Pace University. The NNU delegation included: Yannian Ni, Vice President of NNU, Keqian Xu from the School of Chinese Language and Literature, Yipeng Lin from the School of Fine Arts, Huisheng Tang, and Li Bai from the School of Social Development, and Yidong Wu, Vice Director for International Affairs.

The seminars were full of English speakers curious to learn about Chinese culture. The professors gave engaging talks on topics such as journalism in the Ming Dynasty, the Confucian philosophy of “Zhong” and its relevance today, the characteristics of paintings of Chinese beauties, the Yin and Yang of Taoism, and the cultural diversity of contemporary Chinese Muslims. The lectures not only covered historical and contemporary developments but also focused on the academic value of different disciplines. The audience responded well to the simple language the professors used. The Cultural seminar in Pleasantville was an extra special event because the Confucius Institute also held a Chinese Culture Day for a group of high school and middle school students from the Brewster, New York school district, who are currently studying Mandarin. The students were given a tour of the Pleasantville campus and attended a workshop on our interactive touch screen computer learning software at the Mortola Library. Afterwards, the group had a chance to practice Chinese painting, paper-cutting, and martial arts, which they greatly enjoyed.

During their stay in the US, the NNU delegation had a comprehensive discussion with representative from Pace on future collaborations. An agreement of intent from both parties was achieved, fulfilling the exchange on a more profound level. Both seminars were great opportunities for Pace Professors to meet their counterparts from Nanjing, discuss future opportunities, and share knowledge.

Reaching Out & Welcoming In at Orientations

By Yan Zhang

Fall 2011 was the “Pace semester” for the Confucius Institute, where we focused on promoting our programs, services, and opportunities to the Pace community. We attended more than half a dozen orientations for freshmen, international freshmen, and transfer students at the two main campuses of Pace University. Thanks to our hard work at the orientations, staff, students, and faculty at Pace got to know about the CI and many have become our students, volunteers, and supporters.
CI Participates in Chinatown Fair

On Saturday September 10, 2011, we attended the Chinatown C.A.R.E.S. (Community Action Resource Education Services) fair, hosted by our long supporting partner, the Community Volunteer Mobilization AmeriCorps at Pace University, in Sara Roosevelt Park in Chinatown. The event focused on social service and education needs of Chinatown, which has never completely recovered from the impact that the 9/11 attacks had on the neighborhood. At the fair the Confucius Institute promoted Chinese language and cultural events and classes. Marlenne Rojas, AmeriCorps Member expressed her hope that, “…community residents can attend the fair to learn about local agencies and their services as well as volunteer their time and give back to the community.”

By Anthony Son

A Week of Music, Culture, and Food

By Anthony Son

On November 14, 2011 the Confucius Institute co-sponsored the International Food, Music, and Culture Festival with the Office of International Programs and Services at Pace as part of International Education Week. The highlight of the day was when Lin Aiwei, Shifu, a Taiji Quan Instructor with many years of experience teaching in the US and China, led the audience in a Taiji workout.

Following the success of the event, on November 17, 2011, “Voices of the World” was held, also co-hosted by the Confucius Institute and the Office of International Programs. At the event, Pace students, faculty, and staff were given a chance to make speeches, sing songs, and recite original poems reflecting their native culture. One CI staff member, Yan Zhang, sang the song, “Spring Breeze,” by famed Chinese-American singer Tao Zhe, which the audience enjoyed very much; As one audience member said, “he is a star!”

By Anthony Son

Keeping Our Culture Alive

By Yan Zhang

On August 20, 2011, we attended the Chinatown Family Health Day at Confucius Plaza, along with other organizations that work in Chinatown, to raise awareness of our services regarding health, education, and life style. The attendees, many of whom were senior citizens who came to the US from different parts of China, were eager to know more about our programs for their children and grandchildren. Lin Ai Wei, Shifu, and myself, were the emcees for the event and I noticed that the audience got a kick out of the jokes I made about the variations of Cantonese, Mandarin, and English languages and the misunderstandings that the speakers of these languages have with each other. The Pae CI looks forward to events like Family Health Day where we can promote Chinese language and culture to communities near and far.

By Yan Zhang

The fair was a great way for us to expand the reach of our programming
The Confucius Institute at Pace University is dedicated to providing Chinese language and cultural education, resources, and services to meet the needs of people from all backgrounds.

Contributing Writers:
Ansel Lurio, Editor
Olivia Drouhaut
Dr. Weihua Niu
Lin Ai Wei
Dr. Min Zhu
Dr. Yanyu Zhou
Xiaojun Wang
Anthony Son
Yan Zhang

Joy at Year-End Party
By Yan Zhang

The Pace CI celebrated a fruitful and eventful year on Friday, December 2 at our 2011 year-end party. A group of both old and new friends attended including Drs. Ronald K. Frank and Joseph Lee, Co-directors of the Center for East Asian Studies, Chris Hoffman from the Office of Study Abroad, AmeriCorps members, Chinese Student Association representatives, famed artist Chee Wang Ng, and Taiji Shifu Lin Aiwei. The highlight of the party was when the CI directors presented three staff members with plaques honoring their contributions. They are: Ansel Lurio for Employee of the Year, Anthony Son for Community Outreach, and Yan Zhang for Creative Achievement. Yichuan Ji, the first Program Coordinator for the Institute, was also formally honored as Employee of the Year for 2010.

A happy holidays from everyone at the Pace CI

Upcoming Events
February 5, 2012
Chinese New Year Celebration

April 7, 2012
Chinese Bridge Competition

May 2012
Open House

Summer 2012
Summer Camp

The Confucius Institute at Pace University has received an education grant from New York City Council Member Margaret Chin’s office for fiscal year 2012. This grant will help support the Confucius Institute’s first summer camp, to be held this summer, where children will learn about Chinese language and culture in a fun learning environment. We hope that your students and children can participate in our inaugural camp.