

孔子学院



HIGHLIGHTS

APRIL - JUNE 2011

► Chinese Bridge — Chinese Language Competition at UCA

Friday, April 8, 2011, UCA's Confucius Institute welcomed participants to its first Chinese Bridge Language Competition for high school and college students. Fourteen students from 5 different high schools participated in the first Chinese Bridge Language Competition. The three areas of competition included Mandarin Chinese proficiency, general knowledge about China, and a cultural performance. members, totaling approximately 500 people. Paige Morphew from Hot Springs School District won the first place for her Chinese puppet show. Two second place prizes were awarded to Kara Caines of Conway, who did an umbrella dance, and Denisha Scott of Hot Springs, who displayed her skills at playing Chinese chess.



Katelyn Sheets of Beebe, who sang a song, Christy Reed of Cross County, who also sang a song, and Garry Webb of Conway, who read a poem, all won third place positions. Honorable mentions include: Alexis Benson, Brooke Bond, and Isabel Sanchez of Harrisburg, who all did a song and dance routine; Sarah Vitagliano of Hot Springs, who played an instrument and sang a song; and Brittany Bracket of Beebe and Madalyn Smith of Wynne, who both read poems.

All participants were very excited for the opportunity to showcase their Chinese language skills and what they have learned about Chinese culture. First place winner Paige Morphew and UCA student David Teaster will travel to Houston to compete in the Regional Bridge Competition. From there, they will have the chance to go to the next level of competition in China.



▶ New Wulin Hanyun & Wushu and Folk Music Performance

On April 15th, UCA Confucius Institute organized two performances for Arkansans to view the New Wulin Hanyun & Wushu and Folk Music Performance. The group is renowned for its fusion of Shaolin style martial arts and Chinese folk music, and travels through Hanban\ Confucius Institute Headquarters sponsorship.

The first performance took place at Beebe School District where Assistant Superintendent Scott Embrey made opening remarks. Over 1200 students were in attendance. The students were encouraged to learn a few Chinese words at intervals during the performance, and a handful of volunteers were invited to come on stage to participate after the demonstration on animal fighting forms. The students were very excited, and eager to participate.



The second performance occurred the same evening at UCA's Ida Waldron Auditorium. It was free to all students and community members, and was attended by 200-300 people, including ADE Assistant Commissioner Beverly Williams and Pulaski County Special School District Superintendent, Dr. Charles Hopson.

The 21 member troupe of performers consists of 3 music professors from Henan University, 2 from Zhengzhou University, and 17 martial artists from the Songshan Shaolin Wushu Vocational Institute. The martial artists used a variety of weapons and various animal-style fighting techniques to demonstrate the way Shaolin martial arts "learns from nature." These displays of physical prowess were, during some sections of the show, accompanied by musical performances on traditional Chinese instruments, such as the guzheng, pipa, flute and erhu.





► Language Immersion Program at East China Normal University in Shanghai

UCA Confucius Institute worked with UCA Study Abroad office to send 3 students to Shanghai to study Chinese language and culture at East China Normal University (ECNU) from May 9th to June 10th. It is an annual program between the two great universities. UCA has sent 26 students to ECNU since 2008. The students not only studied Chinese language but also studied Chinese culture, such as Taichi and Calligraphy. CI offered scholarship to outstanding students to support their study in China.

► Chinese Summer Bridge for American Schools

Five delegates from three Arkansas school districts attended the Chinese Bridge for American Schools organized by Confucius Institute at the University of Central Arkansas from June 19th to 26th, 2011. The trip, funded by Confucius Institute Headquarters, the Office of Chinese Language Council International, is one of two annual trips for US school administrators and educators to visit China in a meeting known as the "Bridge to China," which introduces US educators to the Chinese language and cultural resources that are available through the Confucius Institute. The three districts represented by the delegation were: Batesville, Beebe and Cabot.



► Pre-departure orientation for Chinese Bridge Summer Camp for US High School Students

UCA CI had a pre-departure orientation to the 10 Arkansas high school students who will go to China for Chinese Bridge Summer Camp for American High School Students, from July 15 to August 1. The 10 students are from Conway, Hot Springs, Gravette, Lincoln and North Little Rock. They were chaperoned by Christine Seefeld, a teacher at Conway High School.

They were here at UCA accompanied by their parents. The students all have learned Chinese in their high schools. And all were very excited to go and see the real China. The parents asked lots of questions regarding the students' staying in China.



▶ Arkansas Student Won Chinese Competition in Houston

On April 24, 2011, Confucius Institute at the University of Central Arkansas sent two students to Houston to participate in the Chinese Bridge—Chinese Language Competition. David Teaster is a student of Chinese at UCA and Paige Morpew is a sophomore at Hot Springs High School. The contest was held at the Consulate General of China in Houston. Chinese Consulate at Houston has jurisdiction over 8 southern states from US and Porto Rico. The Chinese Bridge Contest is a worldwide Chinese language proficiency contest. It requires a good understanding of Chinese culture and language skills. There were 7 high school student contestants and 8 college student contestants.

Paige Morpew won the second prize and David won honorable mention. Paige will have the opportunity to go to China to watch the worldwide competition which will held in China, in October. Paige's Chinese teacher, Jie Min who had taught Chinese in Hot Springs high school for 3 years, helped Paige prepare for the competition. "Paige Morpew's Chinese pronunciation is very good, she can always get the tones right. Tone is the biggest difficulty for foreigners who are learning Chinese. Paige is talented. But our biggest problem was that she was a shy girl, who was not used to speak in front of people. I took her to Hot Springs High School's parking lot after school, I stood far away from her and asked her to yell at me, and if she made a mistake or I couldn't hear her, I would step one step back. That worked. I am very proud of her. I taught her Chinese, I gave her a key, she learned how to use it open the door to the other side of the world. I know she is ready to make her first step."



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