



Dear Members:

Certainly we all view the summer as a time of relief; while at the same time as compulsive teachers we look to the coming year as a new opportunity to teach and learn. CLTA-TX is no different, since the last newsletter CLTA-TX has conducted professional workshops in Austin and Dallas, offered pedagogical support to Texas Startalk, and is looking ahead to our annual meeting to be held in San Antonio.

CLTA-TX is still a new organization, and cyclically we have reached some milestones. After August we will have held annual meetings in Houston, Dallas, and San Antonio. This modest geographical reach shows we are not an insular organization, and suggests we provide a base for common pedagogical improvement and career development across Texas.

In terms of milestones, the San Antonio meeting will mark the beginning of our third full year as an organization. Sadly this implies the departure of many original board members, yet optimistically implies a renewal of our board in terms of new voices and new energy. Before our San Antonio meeting, we will hold a general election to elect five new board members, and member participation in the election is crucial to maintaining the forward momentum of our organization.

Recently the general membership near unanimously approved the board's decision to extend the officer terms for a second year, and all officers appreciate this vote of confidence and continuity. At the same time, please recall that organizational potential rests at the grassroots level. If members have suggestions, please email me or communicate with any board member.

In the meantime, don't forget that all work and no play make us dull as teachers. Please be sure to enjoy your summer!

Marshall McArthur, President

■ 蔡菊昭老师荣获德州中文教师奖金 Sarah Tsai receives CLTA-TX Teacher Grant



CLTA-TX is pleased to announce that Dr. Sarah Tsai has been awarded the Teacher Grant for a total of \$500. Sarah will use the award to attend and present a paper at the 2009 AP Annual Conference held in San Antonio July 2009. Sarah is a CLTA-Texas member, and currently teaches Chinese at Bellaire High School and St. Thomas University.

After the conference, Sarah will use the information and new approaches that she has learned to assist AP coordinators from the World Languages Academy at Bellaire High School with various aspects of AP Exam administration. Sarah will also find the opportunity to provide feedback to CLTA-Texas. We invite all members to keep the Teacher Grant in mind and encourage you to submit proposals next year.

The CLTA-Texas Teacher Grant, established in 2008, supports K-16 and heritage school Chinese teachers in Texas to receive professional development by attending national/regional conferences, summer institutes, workshops or seminars. Grant funds may be used for fees, travel expenses, books, or other materials that enable applicants to learn subject matter, instructional approaches, and skills. Recipients are expected to share their new learning with their colleagues. Application for the Grant will be open March 1, 2010. For information please see www.cltatexas.org/grant.

News Updates

新闻短讯

- 德州再获星谈奖金
开设 2009 年教师培训及学生暑期
Texas awarded 2009 STARTALK Grant



Both the HEB Independent School District and the Consortium of Texas Chinese Language Institutes have been awarded STARTALK grants in 2009. HEB ISD will implement a student program 'Startalk Gateway to Asia.' The Consortium of Texas Chinese Language Institutes has planned both Teacher and Student Ice Breaking Programs. Please view the various programs in <http://www.startalk.umd.edu/>. For Texas Startalk Teacher and Student Program, please see <http://www.txstartalk.org>.

CLTA-TX has assisted the Texas Startalk Teacher Programs to develop and provide courses related to teaching Chinese language as a second language.

continued on Page 3

News from Campus

校园内外

休斯敦大学中国研究项目
Chinese Studies at University of Houston
 Marshall McArthur

Approved by the Texas Higher Education Coordinating Board in 2007, the University of Houston now offers Chinese Studies as an undergraduate major. Since inception, the program has graduated over a dozen students, and interest in the program grows each year. Lead by Director of Chinese Studies Dr. Xiaohong Sharon Wen, the program has three full-time faculty including Professor Jing Zhang and Dr. Marshall McArthur. As a Chinese Studies major, students take leveled Chinese language classes through the fourth year of Chinese -including Public Speaking, Business Chinese, and class offerings in English on Chinese history, literature, and film.



UH faculty, Marshall McArthur, Xiaohong Wen, Xiaoping Cong (History), Jing Zhang

An important aspect of the program is the UH Summer Study Abroad program in Beijing. Now in the seventh year, the program offers an intensive five week program of intensive Chinese language and culture classes. Students also take a short tour of Shanghai, and have weekly field trips to many of Beijing's cultural sites. The program is not restricted to UH students or Chinese Studies Majors, and each summer approximately 30 students from UH and other universities participate.

Each academic year the program hosts cultural celebrations commemorating the Moon Festival and Chinese New Year, and cultural activities such as calligraphy exhibitions. The program also hosts an annual university speech contest. This past spring the contest included participants from seven Texas universities and junior colleges. In past years, two speech contest winners from UH were selected to participate in the prestigious Chinese Bridge speech contest.

To date the program has been fortunate to present year-long scholarships provided by the Chinese government. This year and last, two UH students each year have been awarded full-time scholarships. To find out more about the Chinese Studies at UH, please visit <http://www.class.uh.edu/mcl/chns/default.asp>.

奥斯丁学区初高中中文项目的发展

The Chinese Programs at Murchinson MS and Anderson HS, Austin ISD

Kelly Long, Chinese Instructor at Murchinson and Anderson



Kelly long (right)with students at AndersonHigh School, Austin ISD

Murchison Middle school and Anderson High school in Austin ISD started offering the Chinese language in 2008. Both schools are renowned International Baccalaureate schools where foreign language education is an important part of the IB program. Currently, there is one class of Chinese I at Murchison and two classes of Chinese I at Anderson.

With 92% of the Chinese language students as non-heritage students, teaching Chinese culture has been challenging. Besides conventional instruction, the Chinese language instructor has taken students outside the schools to authentically experience Chinese culture. Students from both campuses made field trips to conduct a scavenger hunt in an Asian supermarket, enjoy a hot-pot meal

in a Sichuan restaurant, and sample tea in a Kung Fu tea ceremony. Murchison Middle School students even went to a local restaurant to learn making Chinese dumplings from scratch. Promoting Chinese language and culture awareness at the campus level is also one of the goals of the Chinese program. Students from World Geography classes at Anderson were invited to a lecture on the history of China's Rock and Roll by a former member of a well-known Chinese rock band. Murchison students organized a Chinese lantern parade with riddle-solving contest during the Chinese Lantern Festival. The Chinese Culture Club sponsored a club T-shirt design contest at Anderson and conducted a fundraiser through selling club T-shirts.

Chinese language students are also encouraged to study abroad by applying for the available scholarships. As one of the only two recipients in US, a Chinese language student at Anderson has just received a full scholarship from the James Bradley Peace Foundation to study a year in Beijing. The Chinese program at Murchison and Anderson is continuing to grow with tremendous support from campus administrations and the community. There will be 3 more Chinese I classes for the next school year. And a 10-day tour to mainland China is scheduled next year for Chinese language students and faculty as well to increase the interest in learning Chinese and culture.

■ 执行理事任期改为两年 • 理事人数缩减为九位
CLTA-TX Officers Tenure Extended to Two Years • Board of Directors Adjusted to Nine Members

Two changes of the CLTA-TX Board structure will be implemented starting August 29th, 2009. The first change is the tenure of three elected officers. Terms for President, President-Elect, and Immediate Past President will be extended from one year to two years. The second change is to reduce the number of Board Members from eleven to nine. After consultation among board members, and after the experience of the first two years, consensus was reached that nine members are sufficient to handle the events and tasks of the organization. The smaller number of Board Members also facilitates communication and enhances efficiency while planning and implementing events. This decision was reached in accordance with CLTA-TX Bylaws Section 4.01, which may be seen at the CLTA-TX website.

■ 休斯敦、达拉斯两城开设星谈教师培训及学生暑期中文班
Houston and Dallas Provide Teacher Workshops and Student Summer Classes

From Page 1

The goal of the Texas Startalk Chinese Teacher Program *Word to World* is to lead the trainees to move beyond word/grammar teaching to focus on real-world communication in a language classroom.

Texas Startalk provided 42 teachers in Dallas and Houston 90-hours of training focusing on seven topics, such as *Teaching Chinese as a Second Language* by Dr. Xiaohong Wen at University of Houston, *Second Language Acquisition* by Dr. Li Jia at the University of Texas at San Antonio, *Curriculum Design and Assessment* by Dr. Meng Yeh at Rice University, *Classroom Management* by Dr. Haiyan Fu at Chicago Northside College Preparatory High School, *Technology for Language Teaching* by Mr. Hajime Kumahata, and *Task-based Activity* by Ms. Joyce Huang at New Jersey Millburn High School. Half



Second Language Acquisition
Dr. Li Jia, University of San Antonio
Dallas Startalk Teacher Program
4/11/2009

of the teachers will be selected to teach the student summer classes. summer classes will be offered in eleven school districts, with 20-25 classes, totaling 350-400 students. The theme of the 2009 Texas Startalk Chinese Student Summer Programs, in Dallas and Houston, will start June 8th. The Programs aim at raising the awareness of and stimulating the interest in learning Chinese language and culture among middle- and high-school students. The theme of the student program is *Your Space My Space*. Students use the Chinese language to explore their own space and compare with the spaces of Chinese young people in the spheres of life style, personal preferences, family structure, and school activities.

The student programs last three to four weeks, as enrichment programs for the summer schools, four hours per day. The programs also include daily one-hour cultural sessions. Students will have hands-on cultural experience, make arts and crafts, do the lion dance, play Chinese yoyo, cook, and write calligraphy with local teachers.

■ 休斯敦社区大学纷纷展开中文课程
Chinese at Lone Star College

As interest in Chinese spreads, Lone Star College (LSC) is also offering Chinese at several Houston campuses, and has also initiated a unique Study Abroad program. This past Spring,



Dr. Li Wei with his students at Tomball College

Chinese I was offered at Tomball College under the direction of Dr. Li Wei, a full-time faculty for Developmental English at the North Harris Branch. Students were introduced to many useful online Chinese resources which enlivened the classroom and provided students with the tools to practice Chinese after the class ends.

Another opportunity for students to study Chinese is the LSC-CyFair Study Abroad Program in China. In its first year, the China program is for students to study first semester Chinese and World History in a short-term program. Under the direction of Professors Carolyn Ho (Chair ESL) and Robert O'Brien (Professor History), students will have a one week session at CyFair before departing to China where they will study at Zhejiang University in Hangzhou for two weeks.



Professor O'Brien (left) and Professor Ho (in yellow suit) with their students at Cyfair.

This is followed by a short tour of China, and concluded with a two week session at CyFair upon their return. An important part of the class will be for students to make daily excursions around Hangzhou to get hands-on experience with Chinese that they can report in class. Another attraction of the program is that students can get credit for a World History class taught by Professor O'Brien, which normally would have to be taken in Houston. We look forward to hearing more from Professors Ho and O'Brien and their students upon their return.

■ 达拉斯中文教师研习会 Dallas Chinese Teacher Professional Workshop

CLTA-TX organized a one and half-day Teacher Professional Workshop from 2/14-15 2009, focused on *Teaching Chinese as Second Language*. The workshop was sponsored by the Overseas Chinese Affairs Office and the Confucius Institute at University of Texas at Dallas. Dr. Churanren Ke, Professor of Chinese and Second Language Acquisition at Iowa University, was invited as the keynote speaker. He offered sessions on the teaching and learning of reading and listening Chinese from the perspectives of empirical research and classroom application.

For the second day, five teachers were invited to present interactive classroom activities to engage students and enhance language learning. Xianyan Liu at Vines HS focused on teaching Chinese idioms through understanding the historical and cultural background. Anna Hsu from Sacred Heart Chinese School guided students to comprehend and design store sale posters as well as experience the culture of negotiating prices. Min-Ning Wu at Highland Park HS extended the unit of weather to compare the climate in various cities in China and in the world. She also connected the weather unit with outdoor activities. Yumi Wen designed a unit in conjunction with Thanksgiving. Students learned to describe the origin and celebration of Thanksgiving and compare it with the Chinese Moon Festival. Jenny Li at Hockaday School led her students to use

2009 Professional Workshops 教师培训



Dr. Churanren Ke
Dallas Chinese
Teacher
Workshop
2/14-15, 2009.

the language outside the classroom by assigning them to conduct and film interviews with the Chinese customers and store owners in the Dallas Chinatown during the Chinese New Year. The variety of classroom activities and projects proved a big inspiration to workshop attendees.



**Hai ZhengOlefsky, Chair of the Chinese
Studies at SSES, 1/10/2009**

■ 奥斯丁座谈会 建立及持续發展中文項目 Building and Sustaining a Chinese Program

On January 19th, 2009 a one day workshop titled 'Building and Sustaining a Chinese program' was successfully organized through a collaborative effort among CLTA-TX, St. Stephen's Episcopal School (SSES) and American Councils for International Education. More than 40 people participated in the Workshop. SSES provided a spacious conference room and delicious lunch.

Dr. Robert Kirkpatrick, Principal of SSES, delivered an opening speech stating the effort of establishing the 6th-12th Chinese Program at SSES. Dr. Michael Hydak, Instructional Coordinator of Foreign Language and Journalism at Austin ISD, discussed the current state and future development of the Chinese language education in Austin. Sarah Todd, Director of the International Program at SSES stressed the firm connection between international education and language learning. Ben Dunbar, Program Manager of Teacher Programs at the American Councils for International Education, explained the project of training and providing experienced guest teachers from China to the schools in USA. Hai ZhengOlefsky, Chair of the Chinese Studies at SSES, introduced their Chinese Program. Lastly, Dr. Meng Yeh reported on the 2008 Texas Startalk Project which provided free professional training programs to 32 teachers and student summer programs for 98 middle and high students.

The afternoon sessions included presentations of four high school teachers, demonstrating standards-based thematic units. Li Ang of Austin HS demonstrated student performance in video clips as teaching materials. Esther Bao at Westwood HS selected a well-known Chinese folk song to introduce the geographic and cultural uniqueness of western China. Lichy Chang at Westlake HS used self-designed paper dolls to conduct a role-play situation in a clothing store as an assessment task. Su Li at SSES described the project of *Going to Colleges* in which students discussed their choices of colleges and in comparison with college applications in China.

Upcoming Events

近期活动

■ 2009 理事选举七月举行 CLTA-TX 2009 Election in July

CLTA-TX will elect five new Board Members in July. Sincere gratitude to the Board Members who will leave office on August 29, 2009. They are: Xiaohong Wen, Paul Bao, Nine-min Cheng, Li Jia, Lan Graff, Stephen Field, and Carl Robertson. Because of their dedication and enthusiasm, CLTA-TX has achieved steady growth. The election ballot will go out to the members July 1st, 2009.

■ 2009 年德州中文教师学年会 于德州大学圣城分校举行 2009 Annual Conference at San Antonio

CLTA-TX Third Annual Conference, *Connecting Classroom Teaching to the Real World*, will be held at University of Texas, San Antonio, on August 29, 2009. Thanks to the sponsorship of the University of Texas at San Antonio, the Conference will present six panels. The presenters are experienced K-16 teachers from various cities in Texas, including the keynote speaker Dr. Claudia Ross, the Vice President of the National CLTA. For the panel sessions and registration form, please check <http://www.clta-texas.org>.