



Newsletter

Term 4 2013

President's Report

Term 4 and another year are almost over. Everyone is tired but, looking back it's been another great team effort. We have achieved a lot and there are a lot more wonderful things to come. On November 27th I attended CEASA's (Council of Educational Associations of South Australia) final council meeting. In his presentation, outgoing executive director Phil Callen discussed how in recent times, while more and more directives are coming from the top there is less and less actual hands on training and support being given to teachers. Associations are increasingly becoming the main source of training and support. Given that we are all working voluntarily for CLTASA and all have busy work schedules as well as other commitments, this is a big ask. It is only because so many teachers are willing to give their time and effort that we are able to work as an effective association.

President's Report

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The highlight this term was our Chinese Language Awards ceremony held at St Peters College. There were 16 primary school award winners, 21 secondary school award winners and 10 Youth Chinese Test High Achievement award winners and attendance levels were high. I thought it was a wonderful and inspiring evening and the feedback I have received has been very positive. I would like to thank Nhu Trinh, Stephanie Gao and Jie Zhu for working with their students to present such wonderful student cultural performances which were enjoyed by all. Thanks to Lin Fang from the Confucius Institute for her beautiful guzheng recital. I would also like to thank Maggie Gu for compiling the student work samples into a visually attractive presentation which was a time consuming job but I think was especially appreciated by the parents of the award winners. The speakers Aaron Duff and Michael Norris put a lot of thought into their talks which were well received by the audience. Joseph Sun and Shilin Zhang did a great job as MCs. The whole evening was made possible only because of the support and contributions of many people and organisations: the CLTASA committee members (who did so much behind the scenes work), the Chinese teachers, St Peters College and of course our sponsors, the Confucius Institute of Adelaide University, the Australian Chinese Medical Association (SA) and Multicultural SA. Events like these play a very important role in not only celebrating student achievement but also encouraging students to see what lies beyond Chinese in the classroom.



This term the revised Australian Curriculum for Chinese came out. It was not a formal consultation and there was less than two weeks between it coming out and when feedback was due. It was the busiest time of term and we were all very busy preparing for the awards night. Nonetheless the committee felt it was essential that we do our best to convey teachers' feedback to ACARA as effectively as possible under the circumstances. Thanks to all the committee members who found the time to write responses (Jingjing Pu, Magdalene Kho, Nhu Trinh, Kathy Purvis, Heng Wang, Jenny Jin, Shilin Zhang and myself) Maggie Gu for preparing and circulating the email and Kathy Purvis for collating the feedback and submitting it to ACARA.

Congratulations also to Kathy Purvis and Kath House for their awards at the CEASA World Teachers Day for 'Long Term Contributions and Supporting the Professional Development of Others'. (See inside for details and photos.) Have a relaxing summer break and I look forward to seeing you all in the Year of the Horse!

Belinda Dello-Iacovo President of CLTASA

2013 CLTASA Language Award

Chinese language awards presentation evening

A very successful Chinese awards evening was held at St. Peter's Memorial Hall on 29 November, attended by about 200 people, including families, award recipients, teachers and invited guests.

The hosts for the evening, Shilin Zhang and Joseph Sun opened the ceremony by welcoming the parents, students and sponsors in Chinese and English. The evening began with a recital of the guzheng by Lin Fang of the Confucius institute.

Mr David Hine, head of St Peter's Junior School, gave the first address and warmly supported the study of Chinese from a very early age, praising the work of Nhu Trinh and the early learning program at his school. After this address the student quiz began with Shilin and Joseph asking students about the hobbies of Sun Laoshi and Zhang Laoshi.

These quiz questions were followed by a lion dance performed by St. Peter's c boys. The audience enjoyed the antics of a beautiful blue and green lion accompanied by some dramatic drumming and cymbal playing.

The first keynote speaker was Aaron Duff, Executive Officer of the Confucius institute, promoting the value of studying Chinese and talking about his own pathway to studying Chinese. Next St George students performed a Chinese song Dui bu qi, wo de zhongwen bu hao, only to be reassured as they received their little gifts that indeed their Chinese was very good.

Michael Norris, State Manager of the Engaging China Project spoke next and congratulated the children who were receiving awards. He encouraged students to work out what works for them in language learning and stick with it. He recommended a program called 爸爸去哪儿 as a good show to practise listening skills.

5 Christian Brothers students then performed a very energetic and colourful ribbon dance. Dr Lydia Huang President of the Australian Chinese Medical Association, and a major sponsor of the awards, introduced the members of her association.

The primary students were then presented with their awards. Prizes were presented by Dr Lydia Huang. In total 16 students received awards. 20 secondary students received their awards from Aaron Duff of the Confucius Institute. Finally the Youth Chinese Test high achievement awards were presented to 9 students by Aaron Duff. The hosts for the evening then revealed the answers to the student quiz.

The president of the CLTASA, Belinda Dello-Iocovo presented the Language Perfect cup to the students of Cornerstone College and then closed the ceremony by thanking teachers and parents for all their hard work and support. She thanked the sponsors ACMA, the Confucius Institute, MULTICULTURAL SA and St. Peter's college for providing the venue. By Kathy Purvis



St Peter's Lion Dance



Christian Brothers Ribbon Dance



St George College students sing Dui bu qi



YCT Award Winners





*Georgia McClements
Winner of scholarship to
study in China for 6
months*



*Rachel Ferguson Year 12
of 2013 Trinity College
Senior
Winner of Scholarship
to study in China in
2014*



Australian Principals in China

Georgia McClements Winner of a scholarship to study in China next year for 6 months and winner of the cultural performance section of the Hanyu Qiao.

I first chose to study Chinese back in 2009, or year 8. I remember thinking it would be the best language to study as this century is forecast to be the 'Asian Century', and learning it would provide me with countless opportunities. It has been a long and winding journey to where I am now, but all the hard work has paid off and I am already reaping the benefits. This year for the first time I decided to participate in the Hanyu Qiao competition. It is a Chinese proficiency competition for high school students who are non-background speakers. Around twenty students came from across Australia to compete at Bonython hall, Adelaide University.

The competition consisted of three stages: a written test, a speech and a cultural performance. Everyone who participated received an award and two winners from each category were announced as well as one overall winner and an overall runner up. It was my first year in the competition so I really had no idea what to expect. I found the written test quite difficult in comparison to a school written test and the speech exceedingly nerve-wracking. These two were performed on a Thursday, with the cultural performance to be conducted the next day in front of a crowd of around two hundred. For the cultural performance I gave a tutorial on Chinese ink painting and for my efforts I won in this category. The competition was exceptional and so it came as a surprise that I won in any of the categories at all, but I was extremely pleased and grateful for the recognition.

The Hanyu Qiao competition was a great experience and enabled me to meet and make new friends with similar interests to me. It also helped me receive a scholarship to study at Shandong University in China for six months next year (2014). For these reasons I believe anyone studying Chinese at high school should participate as it provides great opportunities and experience to each and every participant, as well as memories to last forever and a great sense of achievement and recognition. I am very grateful for the help and support I have had over my five years studying Chinese at Unley high school. I especially would like to thank Ms Kathy Purvis, my Chinese teacher for the latter years, who has been inspirational and dedicated to helping me achieve my best and encouraging me to participate in such a competition, as well as other extraordinary experiences such as the Shanghai and Beijing Chinese study tour she organised last year (November/December, 2012). Reflecting upon my experiences learning Chinese, I would urge other students to learn a language as it provides many opportunities other subjects just cannot, and will become a very desirable and valuable skill which will be in high demand in the foreseeable future, if not already.

2014 Confucius Institute China Tour for School Principals and Leaders

Since 2008 the Confucius Institute at the University of Adelaide has organised annual Study Tours to China for leaders in primary and high schools.

In 2014 the Confucius Institute's Study Tour for School Leaders will take place from 14-25 April, visiting Shanghai, Qufu, Rizhao, Jinan and Beijing. Activities like local school visit and culture experience workshops will be included, as well as travel to attractions. Sister school arrangement is potential. For more information, please go to Confucius Institute website:

http://www.confucius.adelaide.edu.au/teachers/school_leaders_study_tour/

Or contact Mr Aaron Duff on aaron.duff@adelaide.edu.au, or 8313 5819

World Teachers Day awards ceremony article

Every year CEASA hosts a cocktail party on World Teachers Day to honour the past, present and future work of the teaching profession across all sectors of schooling in South Australia. This year the World Teachers Day awards ceremony was held on Friday October 25 at the Education Development Centre. CLTASA nominated two teachers, Kathy Purvis and Kath House, to receive awards for 'Long Term Contributions and Supporting the Professional Development of Others'. The ceremony was also attended by Nhu Trinh, Mingxia Wei and myself. It was a very enjoyable evening and great to see both Kathy Purvis and Kath House recognised for their long term contributions to the teaching of Chinese in South Australia.

Belinda Dello-Iacovo

*2014 CLTASA Language Award Primary School
Winners*



Photo with the president of CLTASA Mrs Belinda Dello-Iacovo



Award Winners Kathy Purvis and Kathryn House with Nhu Trinh and Belinda Dello-Iacovo



Kathy Purvis and her partner



Certificate Presentation

Teaching Resources

Towards more authentic listening

The Chinese Language Teachers' Association Prize Ceremony took place on Friday 29 November 2013. In addition to recognising the fantastic achievements of nominated primary and high school students, we also had the privilege to watch cultural performances and listen to esteemed guest speakers. It was undoubtedly an incredibly successful event. Michael Norris (SA State Manager of the Engaging China Project) while presenting Chinese learning tips derived from his own experience, suggested CSL learners should dedicate more time listening to Chinese. He also advocated that, wherever possible, CSL learners should avoid employing 'scripted' listening materials for listening practice outside the classroom. Being quite familiar with Michael and his learning philosophy, I would like to reflect on this point of view.

Firstly, let's unpack our guest speaker's definition of 'scripted' listening materials, which contains two elements: * 'Scripted' listening materials include CSL listening materials which come with textbooks, such as recorded dialogues. * 'Scripted' listening materials also include TV or radio programs where presenters or hosts primarily read or recite from teleprompters or scripts. It was contended that the first type of scripted materials are often inauthentic, in the sense they: -Lack realistic intonation, which tends to be less exaggerated; -Feature a steady rate of speech, rather than a varied rate of speech heard in real life; -Feature relatively artificial syntax, which does not reflect the fact native speakers sometimes use incomplete or ungrammatical sentences; - Feature clear alternation between speakers, whereas native speakers may interrupt or speak over each other; and -Lack background noise, which often is present when speaking and listening in real world contexts. It was proposed the second type of 'scripted' materials is not necessarily inauthentic, but nonetheless had the potential to dishearten CSL learners, because: -CSL learners may believe that all native Chinese speakers will speak rapidly; - Rapid speaking speeds may lead to overreliance on subtitles for basic comprehension; and -Frequent pausing and rewinding of videos or recordings may lead to dissatisfaction and a sense of inadequacy.

Michael's suggestion, therefore, was to recommend or assign 'unscripted' listening materials for listening practice. Accordingly, the thrust of his position was reality TV shows, talkback radio, interviews and some variety shows should be preferred to recordings of dialogues, contrived TV dramas and news bulletins. 'Unscripted' listening materials, it was argued, allows the best possible avenue for exposing CSL students to authentic Chinese, while maintaining self-confidence. There is some merit to this. While CSL has come a long way in identifying and acting on authenticity in reading materials, there has been considerably less progress in targeting how we can do the same for listening. There has been even less progress in calibrating difficulty and utility of listening materials beyond a simple 'Beginner, Intermediate, Upper Intermediate, Advanced' dichotomy. However, progress is being made. Some CSL services, such as ChinesePod and PopUp Chinese, retain trained voice actors, and add background noise to their CSL listening materials to create a more authentic experience. Others, like FluentU, find and collect authentic listening materials from the internet. Nevertheless, I believe the profession needs to become more discerning when it comes to augmenting CSL students' listening skills. Some questions to reflect over this holiday break may include: - How and where should CSL listening materials be used? -Does listening receive sufficient attention in classrooms? - Should a list of 'unscripted' language resources be established, or should we leverage off existing providers, like FluentU? What is the best way to measure listening comprehension? Does passive listening to Chinese voices have any utility? Wishing you a merry Christmas and a Happy New Year, Jingjing Pu. 蒲敬婧



Primary school award winner 2013 CLTASA language award



Dr. Huang of ACMA (Australian Chinese Medical Association) Sponsor Giving her Address at the 2013 CLTASA Language Award Ceremony



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