

WILLIAM & MARY
CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
孔子学院

2017 NEWSLETTER





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孔子学院

2017 Newsletter

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On the cover:

The 2017 William & Mary and CNU study abroad group poses for a picture at Tiananmen Square.

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From the Acting Director

October 26, 2017



Teresa Longo

As Acting Director of the William & Mary Confucius Institute (WMCI), it is a pleasure to move forward with the creativity, commitment, good will and hard work of the previous directors, staff members, professors and volunteer teachers from Beijing Normal University (BNU). William & Mary is a world-minded university: We take the study of language and culture seriously; we send our students abroad to study and to conduct research; we welcome students and scholars from China and across the globe to join us in our work here; and we share what we know with the community, both locally and globally. If these are some of the markers of a global university, then the WMCI is indeed key to William & Mary's efforts.

The purpose of the WMCI is to promote intercultural understanding between the United States and China. This newsletter brings to light the ways such understanding unfolds in our community, and it signals the role culture plays in forging deep, promising relationships that transcend national boundaries. In this edition, you will find a glimpse of culture's promise. The articles featured here recall: a Chinese tea ceremony hosted by WMCI at the Williamsburg Regional Library; Spring Festival celebrations; a visit from the China-based American comedian and cultural ambassador, Jesse Appel; thoughtful insights on China's approach to socialism; World Taiji and Qigong Day in Williamsburg; the ancient art of Scholar's Rocks, hosted by WMCI in collaboration with the Muscarelle Museum of Art; the Chinese culture summer camp; and an erhu solo concert that packed the Ewell Hall theater.

Each of these events was unique and impressive, a clear reflection of WMCI's many accomplishments. Our success is due in no small measure to the relationship of mutual respect William & Mary shares with our sister university, BNU. It is also due to the dedication and intelligence that Chinese Director, Dr. Deliang Wang and Associate Director, Dr. Ying Liu routinely bring to their work at 314 Jamestown Road. Their collaborations, including the launching of events for Global Confucius Day-- Xiaolu Ma's transcendent solo concert on the one hand, and on the other, a lecture by Professor Xinsong Wang (BNU) about civic engagement and the Chinese middle class-- are nothing short of extraordinary. Sometimes, internationalization is also marked by the way people work together, day-to-day.



Teresa Longo

WMCI Hosts Chinese Tea Ceremony

by Kate Hoving



Xu Han fields questions from the audience after the presentation.

It comes as little surprise that the residents of a country that launched a revolution by dumping tea into a harbor and can claim responsibility for the invention of the tea bag and instant tea, could stand to learn about the ancient history and rituals surrounding the venerable tea plant.

So it was appropriate and fortunate that thanks to the William & Mary Confucius Institute (WMCI), members of the Williamsburg community spent an afternoon learning that there's much more to the harvesting, preparation, serving and appreciation of tea than many Americans know.

The history of tea in the U.S. goes back only to the 1700s, when it is believed to have been brought to South Carolina by a French botanist. Iced tea is drunk more often than hot tea in the U.S.

In spite of its international nature,

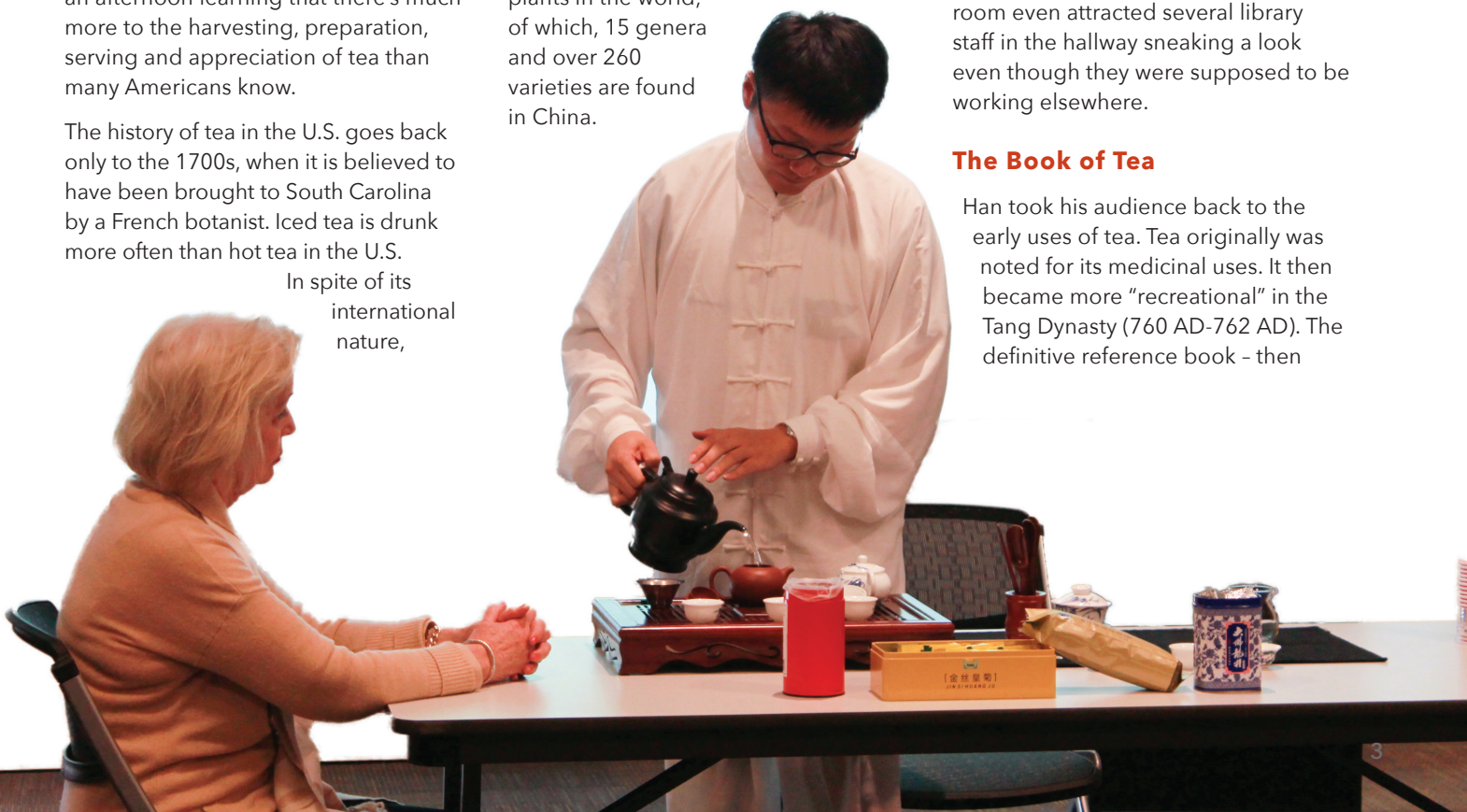
Williamsburg is still a southern town, and in the south, if you order iced tea in a restaurant, it's likely to be "sweet tea" - sweetened with large amounts of sugar.

By contrast, China is the number one producer of tea in the world, and the history of tea in China is rich and steeped (pardon the pun) in tradition. The tea plant evolved at least 60-70 million years ago and originated in southwest China. There are 23 genera and over 380 varieties of camellia plants in the world, of which, 15 genera and over 260 varieties are found in China.

More than two dozen residents came to learn about the Chinese Tea Ceremony as part of the Williamsburg Regional Library's Wellbeing Series. Their instructor and guide was Xu Han, a graduate student at Beijing Normal University, volunteer teacher at WMCI and tutor for the Chinese House. Although the talk was informative and scholarly, thanks to Han's skill and engaging personality, the information was interspersed with laughter, warmth and conviviality. The enthusiasm in the room even attracted several library staff in the hallway sneaking a look even though they were supposed to be working elsewhere.

The Book of Tea

Han took his audience back to the early uses of tea. Tea originally was noted for its medicinal uses. It then became more "recreational" in the Tang Dynasty (760 AD-762 AD). The definitive reference book - then



and now – is *The Book of Tea*, which was written in the Tang Dynasty by Lu Yu, an orphan brought up and educated in a monastery. In *The Book of Tea*, Lu Yu recorded a detailed account of ways to cultivate and prepare tea, tea drinking customs, the best water for tea brewing and different classifications of tea. The book was the turning point in the uses of tea, and tea spread throughout East Asia, to Japan, Vietnam and India.

Han explained the impact of Lu Yu's work and used it as an outline for his own presentation and demonstration of the tea ceremony today. Han began with the features of the tea ceremony that combine for the fullest effect: the tea, the water, utensils, movement, the environment and the person serving.

The Tea

"Tea tempers the spirit and harmonizes the mind, dispels lassitude and relieves fatigue, awakens thought and prevents drowsiness." - Lu Yu

Han explained there are four tea producing areas in China and six types of tea: Green, Black, Oolong, White, Dark and Yellow. The differences in color come from the differences in fermentation. Green tea is the lightest and Black tea the darkest. To appreciate the tea, one must consider its shape, color, smell and taste.

Tea can be medicine: protecting teeth, neutralizing bad breath, aiding digestion, slowing the aging process. Jasmine tea is for internal heat; rose tea aids blood circulation.

The utensils

For a proper tea ceremony as important as the tea itself are the instruments used to serve it: tea pot, tea cups (clay and porcelain), and the Six Gentlemen of the Tea Ceremony (Tea Spoon, Tea Clip, Tea Needle, Tea Screener, Tea Holder and Tea Caddy).

The water and movement

Water is also essential – both in its quality and purity and in the pouring. "Pouring water from a high position adds energy to the tea leaves," Han demonstrated. Apologizing that he was a bit nervous, as he was not used to conducting a tea ceremony for an audience, Han lightly scolded himself: "The ceremony requires 100% concentration... no shaking hands."

The environment and the person

Tea brings harmony, quiet, pleasure and authenticity, Han explained, "But it also brings friends and family together."

Han stressed the convivial nature of tea drinking. Part of the ritual is to talk and share. "Talk with friends! Tea is also for talk," he said. "But don't talk too much."

He stressed that friendship is an element that contributes to the complete experience. But to the delight of his audience, he explained with a laugh: "You can also think about other things besides tea! This is your time!"

Han quoted the Vietnamese monk Thich Nhat Hanh: "Drink your tea slowly and reverently, as if it is the axis on which the world revolves – slowly, evenly, without rushing toward the future. Live the actual moment. Only this moment is life."

To help the guests understand, Han also referred to the popular film *Kung Fu Panda*. "As the character Master Shifu said: 'Every master must find his path to inner peace.'"

Drinking the tea

Of course reason for the lecture was not just to talk about the tea ceremony but to participate in one. Han demonstrated how to prepare and serve tea and shared green tea with the participants, amid much happy conversation. One woman in the audience was originally from Russia and delighted in making comparisons with the tradition of making tea in a samovar.

And it was as the audience drank tea together and asked Han questions and compared their reactions to the different teas they sampled that one of the most memorable lessons from the afternoon became clear: the importance of the person who serves. The success of the day was determined by Han, the person who set the tone, created a welcoming environment, and prepared the tea with care, expertise, joy and – yes – inner peace.

威廉玛丽大学孔子学院成功举办2017春节庆祝系列活动

1月27日，威廉玛丽大学孔子学院与CSSA在Sadler Center联合举办了2017年威廉玛丽大学春节晚会，参与的中外嘉宾及师生多达四百余人。

威玛孔院的老师和志愿者们精心布置了整个晚会大厅，传统大气的中国红使整个会场洋溢着喜庆的气氛。汉办教师杨琼的女儿张雅涵小朋友表演了古筝独奏《东海渔歌》，志愿者马晓璐给大家带来了经典的二胡独奏《赛马》和《醉胡杨》，中文项目的陆璐老师为大家带来了中阮独奏《龙灯》和《火把节之夜》。孔子学院给大家展示了多元的中国民族音乐，我们以无国界的艺术为载体，让来宾们感受到了中国的传统节日—春节的喜庆。



1. 威玛孔院与CSSA联合举办春节晚会
2. 威玛春节晚会全体演职人员合影



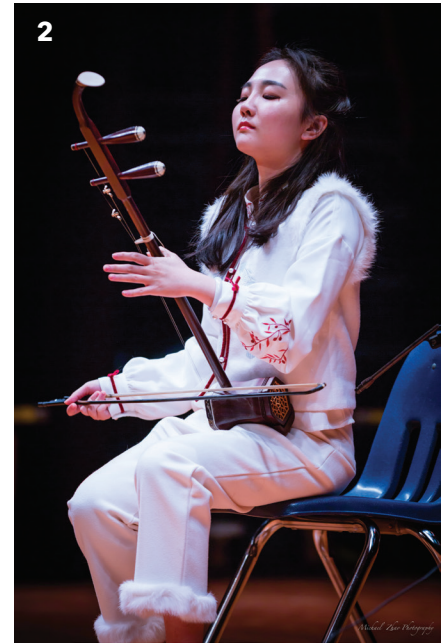
1月28日，威廉玛丽大学孔子学院参与了PCAA主办的维州半岛地区春节庆祝活动，这是当地华人自发组织的春节活动。威玛孔院贡献了不少节目，很好地宣传了中华文化，增添了节日的喜庆气氛。美国学生Kadin, Amanda和孔院志愿者杨璐、刘燕敏、韩煦一起表演了一段深受中国观众喜爱的《甄嬛传》；张雅涵为大家带来了好听的古筝独奏《雪山春晓》；马晓璐为大家献上精彩的二胡独奏《赛马》和《醉胡杨》；陆璐老师为大家带来了中阮独奏《龙灯》和《火把节之夜》。威玛孔院的节目深受台下观众喜爱，掌声连连。

3. 《甄嬛传》 Kadin, Amanda, 杨璐, 刘燕敏, 韩煦



2月4日，Williamsburg Pottery举办了盛大的亚洲节活动，邀请了来自中国、韩国、泰国、柬埔寨、菲律宾等国家的表演人员共襄盛典。威廉玛丽大学孔子学院的老师们和志愿者们受邀参加了此次活动，并为大家带来了精彩纷呈的节目。节目开始之前，中方院长王德亮和美方副院长刘颖致辞，并推介了威玛孔院的课程和文化活动。之后，马晓璐表演了二胡曲目《彩衣姑娘》、《蒙风》，并且用二胡演奏了四

首被大家熟知的美国民歌《孤独的牧羊人》、《雪绒花》、《奇异恩典》、《绿袖子》，深受当地观众喜爱。杨璐为大家带来了经典的葫芦丝曲目《月光下的凤尾竹》。张雅涵的古筝独奏，威廉玛丽大学生印锐的一曲笛子独奏和中文项目陆璐老师的中阮独奏获得了满堂喝彩。在场观众都被美妙的中国音乐深深吸引，亚洲节活动吸引了上万人参加。



1. 马晓璐在亚洲节上表演
2. 马晓璐在PCAA春节联欢会上表演
3. 张雅涵在PCAA春节联欢会上表演



Jesse Appell: Chinese Comedian, American Cultural Ambassador

by Honor Leahy

On Saturday, February 11, Beijing-based comedian Jesse Appell was invited by the William & Mary Confucius Institute to give a performance about his Fulbright experience and his life as an American comedian performing Chinese comedy. He also introduced the audience to much of his hilarious and original comedy. While pursuing his undergraduate degree from Brandeis University, he studied Chinese and was involved in an improv comedy group. After graduation, he was awarded a Fulbright grant to study classical Chinese comedy and the intersection of comedy between cultures. Following this project, he was granted a Blakemore Fellowship to continue his language studies in Beijing. Obviously, his intense language training had paid off, as his Chinese vocabulary and pronunciation are excellent.

Appell started by introducing himself and his Fulbright project. As a Fulbright Scholar, Appell apprenticed himself to a Chinese comedy master of the style known as xiangsheng. Xiangsheng is a form of 2-man comedy, in which one person acts as the joker or dougen, who stands on the left or the stage, and one acts as the straight man or penggen, who stands on the right. The two go through a loosely scripted back and forth, where they bounce off of each other. Today, this form of comedy is passed from master to student, and Jesse studied under a master of the 7th generation of xiangsheng, the only master in China who takes foreign disciples.

He told the audience that comedy between cultures has a lot more overlap than we may think. There are so many techniques, like puns, metaphors, and similes, to name a few, that are used in both Western and Chinese comedy. For example, the



tonal nature of spoken Chinese creates many opportunities for jokes with words that sound similar, but have completely different meanings.

Appell showed the audience some of his master language skills, demonstrating impressive tongue twisters that amazed both Americans and Chinese in the audience. He also offered ten hilarious but important tips to Americans living abroad in China. He emphasized that, in order to understand things in China that Westerners might find funny, it is important to understand the culture that created these things.

One of his tips was that in China "things mean different things and that's okay." He said this in reference to T-shirts that a Westerner may see on any normal day, such as a shirt that read "666" in large numbers.



1. Appell poses with WMC staff for a group photo after the show.
2. Appell introduces his most ambitious project, a comedy club in the heart of Beijing, at his lecture on February 11th.

Westerners may think that she is "opening a portal to hell," but in Chinese culture, 6 is a lucky number, so three 6's together means three times the luck!

Another tip was that "you represent your entire nation, for everything, no matter what." One time while he was abroad, a friendly Chinese woman offered him a banana again and again. He was not hungry and did not want to take it, so she assumed that all Americans just don't eat bananas! Appel jokingly said it was a special

moment to be present at “the birth of a stereotype.”

Jesse Appell played for the audience two of his self-made music videos, such as “Laowai style,” aka “Foreigner style,” his remake of “Gangnam Style,” which documented what it is like to be a foreigner in Beijing. Another music video he showed was one of his rap songs as the artist “Bling Dynasty.” He performed a live version of the song, “Mo’ money, Mo’ fazhan” (Fazhan means development, as in economic development) over a recording of the video.

He encouraged the audience to follow the China Magic Formula, which is to combine “what you like to do + how they do that in China = cutting edge exploration.” He said this can go for anything you like to do! He encouraged the audience to seek out interesting opportunities in the Chinese way, just as he did.

Appell’s visit taught the audience a lot about the intersections of Chinese and American cultures. In reality, these cultures are more similar than we might think—both find similar situations and jokes funny, both laugh the same way, and both find similar reasons to smile. The members of the audience definitely experienced the hilarious comic performance of Jesse Appel that they were expecting, but also ended up learning a whole lot more about intercultural communication than they could have expected.

Prof. Barry Naughton Weighs in on China’s Approach to Socialism

by Zach Rubin

On Thursday, March 30, the William & Mary Confucius Institute invited Professor Barry Naughton, the Sokwanlok Chair of Chinese International Affairs at the University of California San Diego, to give a lecture on the relationship between the Chinese government and the economy. Professor Naughton is recognized as a worldwide authority on the Chinese economy, with an emphasis on China’s transition to a market economy. At his well-attended lecture, he posed and sought to answer a simple question: Is China socialist?

Professor Naughton began by discussing what socialism was in pre-economic reform China. While socialism under Mao Zedong was in many ways focused on the redistribution of wealth, it was also a vehicle to create a better society. For example, Chinese socialism stresses twelve characteristics that all people should possess: prosperity, democracy, civilization, harmony, independence, equality, fairness, law and order, patriotism, dedication, honesty, and friendliness.

However, Deng Xiaoping, the Chinese leader widely credited with China beginning to transition to a market economy, disagreed with this strict definition. He believed that, if something improved people’s quality of life, it could be considered socialist. Therefore, allowing private enterprises to exist in China, rather than relying on foreign companies, would result in better lives for the common man. China’s economic growth since this decision is literally unprecedented, with the country sustaining more than 10% annual GDP growth for years at a

time. Thus, the quality of life for tens of millions of people has improved in metrics as varied as literacy rates, income, and happiness.

Returning to the original question: did these changes move China far enough away from socialism that it is no longer socialist? Professor Naughton presented four criteria to consider if a government is socialist: capacity to shape economic outcomes, intention to reach outcomes that are different than a noninterventionist approach, redistribution of wealth as an outcome, and responsiveness to the changing preferences of the population.

Capacity, the first criteria, is a measure of if the government is a large enough share of the GDP to exert force on the economy. Aside from legislation, government industries can also act in such a way as to affect market forces, such as promoting certain industries. To do this, the government must be a significant player in the free market economy; otherwise, their input can be ignored. For example, in 1996, the government reached a low of only 11% of the GDP, resulting in an inability to shape China’s economic policy. Because of this lack of control, the government enacted policies designed to increase their economic power, which have been successful and resulted in a 23% share of GDP in 2015.

The second measure is intention: the government uses its economic power to create a society based on its goals. If the government is doing something that would have happened regardless, does it show any proof of power? Therefore, the Chinese government must work towards objectives which could not be achieved naturally, in



A student asks Professor Naughton a question after the lecture.

this case the areas of healthcare, education, and industrial restructuring. While capitalism is good for social development, it can lag in the implementation of social programs, which has been the focus of the Chinese government in recent years.

One of the primary outcomes that the government is focused on is redistribution of wealth. Since income tax is low in China and therefore an ineffective method of redistribution, China has needed to employ other methods to reach this goal, such as large-scale changes to the economy and the basics of a social safety net. These actions will, over time, serve to create a more economically equal China, at the very least in that all citizens will have access to a minimum wage, healthcare, and education.

Finally, a socialist government must be responsive to the desires of its people. Although socialism is different from a democracy, the government is still accountable to the people.

Two recent examples come to mind: market-oriented reforms and air quality improvement. The government has been successful in the first measure, but not so much with the second one, and the people have voiced their displeasure and discontent. In order to remain in power, the government must remain benevolent and productive in the eyes of its citizens.

Professor Naughton ended his lecture by commenting on how this situation has changed over the last 40 years: 40 years ago, everyone knew China was socialist, while 20 years ago, everyone was sure it was not. Now, people are uncertain; what China becomes will be determined by what it does now. Professor Naughton believes that it would be impossible to predict China's future, but it is still important to pay attention, so that we may understand China's place in this new world order.

Professor Naughton's lecture was very well received, with over 150 people in attendance. In the Q&A session

afterwards, members of the audience asked thought-provoking and insightful questions. Participants are all very grateful for the opportunity to benefit from Professor Naughton's knowledge and experience, especially given the importance that China will occupy in the global economy.

World Taiji and Qigong Day 2017

by Abe Kruger



Taiji master Sitan Chen performs Taiji Sword.

On Saturday, April 15, 2017 William & Mary Confucius Institute held the 2017 Williamsburg World Taiji and Qigong Day at the Williamsburg Public Library on Scotland Street. The event, which focuses on two ancient Chinese forms of meditation, Taiji and Qigong, has been held for the Williamsburg community since 1999. Taiji and Qigong have their roots in Chinese traditional medicine and have been practiced in China for thousands of years. In China today, even in big cities, it is common to see people practicing Taiji and Qigong on the streets or in parks. These styles of meditation have maintained their popularity through millennia due to their numerous health benefits and connection to traditional Chinese medicine. Though they both originate from Chinese philosophy and medicine, Taiji and Qigong are very distinct.

Taiji, which translates as the "Supreme Ultimate," is the infinite force from which the familiar duality of Yin and Yang originate. Taijiquan is the martial art that is based on this philosophy. It is comprised of a series of continuously circulating, slow, relaxed, and flowing movements. These movements are thought to create and distribute "qi" throughout the body. Qi is an energy that flows through all living things and is essential to health and well-being.

Qigong, which translates as "life energy cultivation," centers around the cultivation of qi within the body through moving meditation, rhythmic breathing, and relaxation. Qigong is often practiced as a form of self-

healing and self-cultivation. It is said that practicing Qigong can help one develop their full potential. Both Qigong and Taiji rely on understanding the importance of the flow of qi within the body. Qi flows into areas within the body called "dantian." Dantian are centers of qi and are focal points for Taiji and Qigong exercises.

This year we were fortunate that Grand Master Sitan Chen was able to come and give a demonstration. Grand Master Sitan Chen is the President of the American Taiji and Health Qigong Center and the Deputy Director of the Technical Commission of the International Health Qigong Federation (IHQF). As founder of the New York Taiji Championship, Master Chen is also the first world champion for men (in the Second World Wushu Tournament in 1993) and the first Taiji champion for men in the Asian Games (1990). As two-time Taiji Champion in the World Wushu Tournaments of 1993 and 1997, he has altogether won 32 Taiji gold medals in major Chinese and international competitions.

World Taiji and Qigong day began with demonstrations by Master Sitan Chen and others, while Stan Rockwell, a long-time practitioner of Taiji, emceed. After the demonstrations several classes were held by local masters and instructors. Grand Master Sitan Chen, alongside Ji Su and Jingzhu Wang, gave an introduction of Taiji philosophy and physical movements including basic postures, hand forms, foot work, and hand-foot coordinative movements. Attendees then practiced these forms with the masters.

Meanwhile, Brigitte Fox, a local acupuncturist and expert in Chinese herbology, gave a lecture about how consciousness and thought patterns affect one's state of health and well-being.

In the next session, Terry Price gave a demonstration and lecture on the Eight Mother Palms, a series of hand positions and movements derived from Daoist theory. These movements, with whole body integration, are practiced for internal energy cultivation. They can be used as an excellent form of standing or walking meditation, while also containing various martial arts and self-defense applications.

The other class during this session was taught by Braxton Gutierrez about the five Element Flow, which is a series of movements that balance the body's five major energy systems. These systems are related to the organs - lungs, kidneys, liver, heart and spleen. The moves were relatively simple, yet powerful. The class began with focused breathing, followed by warm ups and stretches, then moved into flows and standing postures. A brief period of meditation was used to conclude the session.

The many participants present left the demonstrations, classes, and workshops with a far greater knowledge of traditional Chinese culture. The well-rounded classes and exciting demonstrations made the 2017 World Taiji and Qigong Day a success!



1. Associate Director Ying Liu, Chinese Director Deliang Wang, and volunteer teachers Lu Yang and Xiaolu Ma pose for a picture at the check-in desk.
2. Stan Rockwell and a member of the Laughing Dragon Academy of Internal Martial Arts demonstrate taiji basics to workshop participants.
3. Taiji master Sitan Chen discusses the role of yin and yang in taiji.
4. The Laughing Dragon Academy of Internal Martial Arts performs Bagua Zhang at the 2017 World Taiji and Qigong Day.



The Ancient Art of Scholars' Rocks

by Colleen Mulrooney



Scholars' Rocks Expert Kemin Hu delivered her lecture with confidence and charisma.

The Sheridan Gallery at the Muscarelle Museum of Art was filled to its capacity on Thursday, July 13th, 2017, when Expert Kemin Hu came to deliver a lecture on her specific area of expertise: Scholars' Rocks. Her lecture, titled *The Ancient Art of Scholars' Rocks*, was co-sponsored by the Muscarelle Museum of Art and the William & Mary Confucius Institute. It was held in conjunction with the Muscarelle's current exhibit *The Bones of the Earth: Scholars' Rocks and the Natural World in Chinese Culture*, from the Robert Turvine Collection, which will be on display until August 13th, 2017. The lecture's primary focal points were the history, culture, connoisseurship, and philosophy surrounding scholars' rocks, which all together revealed a fascinating, age-old exchange between man and nature.

Scholars' Rocks have a history that dates all the way back to the Song Dynasty, which lasted from the year 960 - 1279. They were often placed

decoratively in Chinese households and gardens, but they were also a key point of contemplation for philosophers. In this lecture, Hu pointed out that, between images of rolling clouds to majestic mountain ranges, nature has always been presented as a powerful force in Chinese artwork. Scholars' rocks are simply an extension of that. She personified nature as the "sculptor" of these stones. In contemplating nature's own works of art, ancient philosophers were essentially communicating with a powerful, divine force on a close, personal level.

An interesting example of this communication was brought up with a poem by renowned Tang Dynasty Poet Bai Juyi:

I turn to Twin Peak Stones asking

If they would accompany me,

An old man.

The stones, though unable to speak,

Promised to remain my faithful friends.



This poem presents the stones not only as unique works of nature to contemplate, but also as “friends.” This further emphasizes the power of Scholars’ Rocks; they were so captivating that they could even be thought of as companions. Between nature’s artistic touch and the stones’ unique shapes, Scholars’ Rocks were able to take on a life of their own.

Another interesting feature of Scholars’ Rocks is that stones which contained a lot of holes and negative space were often used with incense. With incense burners placed beneath the stone, smoke could rise through the its holes and crevices, creating a fragrant and picturesque scene.

Hu also presented Scholars’ Rocks as fuel for creative thought. Because no two rocks are the same, observers can look at the stones and see virtually any shape. After all, there is no way to directly ask nature its intentions behind a piece! As such, when people say that a stone looks like a beautiful woman or a majestic lion, they are engaging in an age-old discussion with nature about its artwork. The speaker went on to compare the stones to the distinctive architecture at the Massachusetts

Institute of Technology (MIT), in that both are meant to stimulate thought in the viewer.

At the end of the lecture, Hu not only delved into the locations worldwide where Scholars’ Rocks have been prominently displayed in art exhibitions, but also discussed her own personal connection with the stones. Her career as a connoisseur of Scholars’ Rocks actually follows in the footsteps of her father, who worked to collect them even in some of the more turbulent periods in Twentieth-Century China. She stated that she was driven to write her first book on Scholars’ Rocks after growing up with them, and became even more invested and fascinated with them after writing the book.

Kemin Hu’s lecture was very well-received. She delivered her lecture with both poise and charisma, captivating the audience. Additionally, the lecture attracted enough people to not only fill every seat in the Sheridan Gallery, but also received nearly 300 views when it was broadcast on Facebook Live. The lecture was an amazing success, allowing hundreds to gain an appreciation for Scholars Rocks and their role in Chinese culture.



1. Professors from Beijing Normal University attended the lecture on Thursday, July 13, 2017.
2. Muscarelle Museum Director Aaron De Graft delivered opening remarks at the lecture on Scholars’ Rocks.
3. The lecture was attended by over 100 community members, filling every available seat.
4. Students from BNU attended the lecture.



Gaining a deeper feeling for Chinese culture

by Jim Ducibella

Exhaling so gently that it might not cause the flame of a candle to flicker, Xiaolu Ma sent a drop of black ink on a brief journey to the edge of a white sheet of paper.

As the ink moved down the page, settling into the shape of a tree, the eyes of a group of children attending the Chinese Culture Summer Camp at the William & Mary Confucius Institute last week brightened and widened.

Ma, a graduate student at Beijing Normal University who is serving an internship at the Confucius Institute, was teaching the art of creating a plum tree, or Mei Hua in Chinese.

The Confucius Institute began offering

camp in Chinese culture during the spring and summer in 2013, said Ying Liu, the institute's associate director.

"It's very popular with children, and we limit the number to eight," she said. "We don't have a large space, and we want to try and make it fun and interactive. We think that's a good way to get them interested in our culture."

Over the course of five two-hour days, the students were exposed to Chinese brush painting, Chinese games, Chinese martial arts, Chinese musical instruments, Chinese paper cutting and Chinese calligraphy.

After Ma's demonstration with the ink and paper, she went around the

conference room at Rowe House and pumped a drop of ink on the paper in front of her students.

Phew ... phew ... phew ...

The children blew on their pages, spreading the ink in similar fashion to Ma.

Ma then pulled out what looked like a ceramic candy dish with a lid. Inside was red ink. She gave the children a piece of shaped plastic that fit over their index finger, then showed them that the ink was intended to draw blossoms on the tree. Then she brought out crayons to fill in grass, sky and any other elements the children desired.

For the next 45 minutes, the children and three tutors enjoyed themselves.

Sitting off to the side, taking it all in, was Isabelle Szczerbinski, a 12-year-old homeschooler from Richmond. Having attended the camp previously, Szczerbinski was

...serving as an assistant counselor, a helping hand when needed.

She has been passionate about Chinese culture since the time as a child she attempted to speak with a Chinese chef at a Dallas restaurant, but couldn't because he didn't speak English.

"She came back to the table," said her father, Eric Szczerbinski, "and said she would have liked to talk to the man, and would it be possible for her to learn Chinese.

"We think it's very important for kids to learn multiple languages. In most other parts of the world, it's just standard. In Europe, about 80 percent of kids have exposure, not just to two but three languages in grade school. In America, it's about 18 percent. So there's a huge difference."

His daughter is now fluent in a conversational dialect of Chinese.

"Most of the world speaks a different language, and you can't communicate with the rest of the world to get your ideas across if you just speak English," she said. "You'd need a translator or someone who actually speaks the other languages. I feel like everyone needs to be their own translator so that they can understand the nuances of the language."

Isabelle Szczerbinski said what stands out for her about Chinese culture is its extraordinary longevity.

"I like how it's still the same, or very similar, after 5,000 years," she said. "We still have stories about people who lived more than 5,000 years ago through folk stories, and I find that very cool."

Szczerbinski watched earlier in the day when Lianghao Liu, another intern and graduate student from Beijing Normal, guided the class to Barksdale Field. On the agenda was an introduction to Chinese martial arts, which Liu has been studying since high school.

Liu painstakingly reviewed the basics of warming up and the most elementary aspects of the discipline.

That was one of the highlights of



1. Aliyah Battle of Richmond starts the process of creating a Mei Hua.
2. The children used red ink to draw blossoms on a tree.
3. Lianghao Liu, a Confucius Institute volunteer teacher and graduate student from Beijing Normal University, works with children attending the Institute's Chinese Culture Summer Camp.

Photos by Stephen Salpukas

the day for Aliyah Battle, 13, of Richmond, who said she wanted to attend the Chinese Culture Summer Camp "because you should always try something different."

Battle did exactly that a couple of years ago, downloading a Chinese

language app onto her cellphone "just to see if I could learn the language."

"But it didn't help," she admitted good-naturedly. "It was very difficult. Still, it's good to try a different language."

WMCI Celebrates Global Confucius Institute Day



In the fall of 2017, WMCI celebrated the annual Global Confucius Institute Day with two unique events: the Erhu Solo Concert on Friday, September 22nd, and the lecture Civic Engagement of the Middle Class in China: Survey Findings and Implications by Beijing Normal University's Professor Xinsong Wang on Monday, September 25th, at the Reves Center for International Studies. Both events were highly successful, and proved to be perfect examples of the mission of our Confucius Institute: educating people and spreading awareness about Chinese culture to the communities around us.

Erhu Solo Concert

There was an exhilarating energy in the air as people came in hordes to watch WMCI's volunteer teacher and award-winning musician Xiaolu Ma, accompanied on the piano by William & Mary Sophomore Patti O'Meara, perform in Ewell Recital Hall on Friday. The Recital Hall was filled beyond capacity, with people standing in the aisles and even in the doorways to listen to Ms. Ma's graceful performance.

The erhu is a traditional Chinese instrument with a history that can be traced back thousands of years. It has lasted through countless generations of Chinese history. Ms. Ma was somehow able to convey the beauty of all these years of Chinese culture in her performance. The concert opened with the piece "The Fire Fairy in the Colorful Dress." This piece brought

the audience to a fantasy world far beyond the walls of the Recital Hall. The following piece,

Moonlight, was a lovely, contemplative piece. The sounds of Ms. Ma's erhu filled the room with sweet melodies that drew the audience in like butterflies to a flourishing garden.

One piece that was particularly captivating was the third piece, "The Brave Spirits of the Snowy Mountain," which was written in commemoration of those who died on the 6,000 mile Long March from Jiangxi to Gansu in 1934. The mood of the piece varied from a rising tempo reflecting the mission and hopes of those who set out on this trek across China, to drawn out, somber notes reflecting the massive losses which were experienced along the way. It was a deeply emotional reflection on this important piece of modern Chinese history.

Following the first three erhu songs, renowned Chinese Folk Singer Yali Guo was welcomed to the stage. She performed two songs, both of which were able to showcase not only the ageless charm of Chinese folk music, but also the incredible range of Ms. Guo's voice. It is honestly no wonder that Ms. Guo has received such widespread recognition for her talent, including the title of "Favorite Singer" in the 2003 National Audience Choice Awards, as well as the gold medal for group folk music in the 2012 National Folk Vocal Competition, among numerous other awards.

Our Erhuist Xiaolu Ma is also no stranger to such recognition. Her skill with the erhu has merited numerous awards, including the 2014 Gold

Award for the National Musical Instruments Ensemble in the Fifth Session of the National Youth Chinese Musical Instruments Competition, the Silver Award for the Chinese National Music Alliance's (CNMA's) International Chinese Music Chamber Orchestra Competition in 2013 and the 2012 Wen Hua Prize in the "Traditional Musical Instrument Ensemble Competition."

Ms. Ma closed the concert with three very diverse pieces. "Heartstrings," which is the score from a film of the same name; "Shadows of Candles Flickering Red," which combines the triple meter of waltz with traditional Chinese melodies; and finally, "New Year's Eve," which reflects the nostalgic feelings of a Chinese composer on the night of the Chinese New Year after having moved abroad. The latter half of the concert showcased the striking versatility of the erhu as an instrument in the modern age.

The Erhu Solo Concert was nothing short of magnificent. Utterly captivating and brimming with talent, it was the perfect way to celebrate Chinese culture and Global Confucius Institute Day.



Civic Engagement of the Middle Class in China

It is the goal of Confucius Institutes around the world to facilitate better understandings of China, which of course, is an incredibly large and complex nation. As such, an important part of Global Confucius Institute Day is presenting China from numerous perspectives. The Erhu Solo Concert presented China through the lens of thousands of years of history and culture. This lecture, on the other hand, brought forth the booming, contemporary China which has emerged in recent years, through the lens of fascinating socio-economic trends.

On September 25, 2017, Xinsong Wang, an Associate Professor at Beijing Normal University's School of Social Development and Public Policy, spoke at William & Mary about Chinese civic engagement: in what numbers do Chinese people volunteer, what causes are behind it, and what groups specifically are the ones who are volunteering?

Professor Wang defined civic engagement as "individual and collective action that contributes to the common good." A growing trend in China is that people are increasingly drawn to social participation. The idea of volunteering in China is relatively new since it is only recently that a middle class has been created-- Professor Wang believes that 20-30% of Chinese people are in this middle class--and people can concern themselves with things other than their daily bread. Increased socioeconomic conditions have led to individual motivations to be active.

Thus, we arrive at Professor Wang's own research: he predicted the middle class will be more active in civic engagement than the lower class, the upper middle class will be even more active than the middle class as a whole, and those member of the middle class who are employed by the state will be the most active. In order to test this, he and his colleagues surveyed more than 5,000 households across China for not only information about their volunteering habits but also their income, education,



and occupation. The 2011 study found that increasing education and wealth led to an increasing volunteering participation rate.

Professor Wang then focused on the Tizhinei, or those who are employed by the state. Using statistical analysis, he proved that this was the most civically active group of all, which he believed was due to better cognition of social issues and more access to voluntary activities.

Professor Wang closed with two questions. Could the Chinese government actually create State-led citizenship, just as they had created the economic growth? Also, would this social participation be a prelude to political participation? WMCI was honored to have Professor Wang give this engaging perspective on the ever-changing face of modern China.

A Window into China

It is our sincere hope here at WMCI that everyone who partook in these events not only had a great time, but also learned more about China. From the traditional culture reflected in the Erhu Solo Concert to the trends in civic engagement discussed in Professor Wang's lecture, China is an intricately woven tapestry of ancient customs and lively modernity. We would like to thank everyone who has supported WMCI throughout the years, and hope to see everyone again for Global Confucius Institute Day 2018!

You can also see some clips from our coverage of the Erhu Solo Concert on our Twitter (@wmconfucius) under the tag #ErhuSoloConcert if you like!



1. Professor Wang takes a group photo with the WMCI staff.
2. Professor Xinsong Wang delivers his lecture on the Civic Engagement of China's Middle Class.
3. WMCI volunteer teacher Xiaolu Ma plays the erhu, accompanied by pianist Patti O'Meara, at the Erhu Solo Concert.
4. Chinese folk singer Yali Guo.

From Noodle House to the US Capitol – My Journey as A Student of Chinese Language and Culture

by Isabelle Jean Szczerbinski

Twelve year old homeschooler Isabelle (宝玲) Szczerbinski has been keenly interested in Chinese language and culture since the age of 6. She has had numerous enrichment opportunities through the William & Mary Confucius Institute, including culture classes and volunteer opportunities. Her achievements include winning first place in an online Chinese language competition sponsored by the Kids World Foundation and she is one of the ten winners of the Confucius Institute U.S. Center 2017 CI Story Telling essay contest.

My journey began six long years ago, at age five. I visited a new Chinese restaurant with my parents and was mesmerized by the chef who was tossing fresh noodle strands all around the open kitchen. He smiled at me, and I started to speak with him. I tried to ask him questions about how he was able to take a large ball of dough and turn it into fine noodles by pulling and stretching and throwing. He answered, but I could not understand him. The owner explained that he'd just arrived from China and didn't yet understand English.

On the ride home, I asked my parents if I could learn to speak Chinese. I loved the food, the décor, and I felt sorry for the chef that couldn't communicate with his neighbors. My parents agreed to find me a Chinese teacher, and this was the beginning of my wonderful journey of discovery and learning.

Soon after this event, our family moved to Richmond, Virginia, and I started taking lessons in Mandarin for 4 hours each week, plus homework. I was able to start watching cartoons and movies that were entirely in Mandarin. "Pleasant Goat and Big Big Wolf" was an early favorite of mine, as was "Big Head Son and Little Head Dad". These lovable, silly cartoons were very different from anything I had seen before, and I was happy that I could understand the dialogue. I am now

able to understand and enjoy Chinese books and movies and recently saw "The Mermaid", "Monster Hunt," and many others.

At the Confucius Institute of William & Mary (WMCI), I was able to take my learning to the next level. They had cooking classes with famous chef Peter Chang, and I was able to learn so much from him. I prepared dishes with him and even got to translate some of his comments to the class, as Chef Chang spoke only in Mandarin. I became friends with Chef Chang and his wife, Lisa, and they delivered a wonderful class in making dumplings for me and my friends. I have learned so much from Chef Chang, from things about life in Hubei, Szechwan cuisine and its 'ma-la' (spicy and numbing) seasoning to how to prepare several of his recipes.

Each year, The Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) puts on an annual China Fest in Richmond. I was able to volunteer to help at the calligraphy station with the Confucius Institute. Learning calligraphy was great fun. It's such a beautiful art and I fell in love



Isabelle with chef Peter Chang.

with it. It was also a great experience sharing it with all of the visitors who stopped by the WMCI booth and had their names written in traditional Chinese characters.

At the VMFA, some people from Chinese Central Television, a well-known Chinese TV station, overheard me speaking Mandarin. They excitedly asked me if I would do an interview with them, and I agreed. The interviewer told me that she couldn't believe how good my Chinese pronunciation was, which I took as a great compliment.

Through the Confucius Institute, I have attended several Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations, traditional music concerts,

Kung Fu and Tai Chi exhibitions, and have taken five of the YCT Exams. I plan to take the final YCT this year and then begin to work towards mastering the higher-level Chinese proficiency exams.

One of the WMCI teachers, Qiong Yang, and I have become great friends. She has taught me calligraphy and even got me a personalized signature stamp from China! Her daughter, Yangyang, is my closest friend, and we speak both Mandarin and English to each other. Both Yangyang and her mom have taught me so much about China, and I am grateful to have them as friends and teachers.

I have tried my best to share the love I have for the Chinese language with others. Recently, I was invited by a group called the JNCL-NCLIS to help lobby Congress for more funds for language education in public schools. (JNCL-NCLIS stands for Joint National Committee for Languages - National Council for Languages and International Studies, and yes, I had to look that up!) I got to meet with the staff of Senator Tim Kaine, Senator Mark Warner and my own Congressman, Dave Brat. They were all really open to the idea of increasing spending on language learning, especially after I presented them with many facts about the benefits of speaking a foreign language!

After returning from Washington, DC, I started working as a volunteer Camp Counselor at the W&M Confucius Institute's Spring Break Camp! It was really fun to learn from the other counselors and help teach the kids.

Learning the Chinese language and studying Chinese culture has opened so many doors for me! I've made wonderful friends, prepared and tasted delicious food, appeared on several television shows, learned about Chinese history, practiced Chinese calligraphy and other art forms, met public officials, and am now preparing for a 3-week tour of China! There, I am hoping to make many new friends, learn even more about China, and see all of the unique sights.

It's funny to think that this journey all began with noodles!



1. Isabelle at the Virginia Museum of Fine Arts (VMFA) China Fest.
2. With Maria Pulcinia from JNCL-NCLIS - Lobbying for Languages!

BNU Summer Program Reflections



Araglin McBreen

Traveling to China has been on my bucket-list since my exchange-student brother, Leo Chang, came to live with my family in 2012. Leo taught my family a lot about Chinese culture and food, but I knew that there was so much that I could never understand without actually visiting the country. Leo is adamant about staying in America and rarely visits China, so I knew that a trip with Leo was unlikely. When I received the email about the BNU summer program, I immediately knew that I wanted to attend, even though I had not started Chinese classes yet. Upon the completion of the program I am convinced that it was one of the best decisions of my life. I hope that soon I will be able to return to China to see the friends I met and explore more of the beautiful country.

My experiences this summer at BNU will definitely impact my motivation in my Chinese classes throughout the school year. Although the four-hour language classes at BNU were long and tiring, it was such a fantastic way to quickly learn a lot of basic vocab, and of course being in China made practicing extremely easy. Also, the level one instructor was so funny and made class really fun by implementing activities, games, and the Pingguo song. Each day I tried to remember one or two sentences to practice with my language partners in the afternoons. Although my tones require a lot of practice, I am hopeful that over the next few semesters my Chinese will greatly improve and that I will return to China and actually be able to communicate with

everyone. I wish that I had taken language classes prior to going to China, but I am so glad I was able to attend despite my lack of language skills. I cannot wait to start classes in the fall and I hope that I am able to continue learning and practicing even after graduating to eventually become competent in the language.

My favorite experiences at BNU were the Tai Chi classes and hiking the Great Wall. At first I had no idea what to expect for the Tai Chi class but it was so fun combining meditation-like movements with elements of self-defense and martial arts. I would definitely be interested in attending more classes if I can find a Tai Chi studio in Newport News! As for the Great Wall, I had seen so many pictures and learned about the history in high school, but nothing compared to actually standing on the wall and seeing it stretch on for as far as I could see. It is one of the most impressive structures in the world and contains so much history; I was honored and humbled to experience it.

Visiting ZhuHai was very interesting because the city was so different to Beijing. When we visited the Hengqin development exhibition, I was so impressed by the environmentally friendly city planning and at how modern everything is in southern China. The flights to and from the south were quite a hassle, but experiencing the two different environments was extremely cool. I especially enjoyed comparing the northern and southern style of cooking. Personally I loved each style for different reasons; the northern cuisine has more spice which I loved, but the variety of vegetables and the seafood in the south was exquisite. I do not know which I would chose if I had to pick one over the other, although I had more memorable meals in Beijing, probably because we were in the area for longer than we were in ZhuHai.

China was very much the same as I imagined it would be. Having heard about Beijing from Leo I knew what to expect as far as the traffic, crowds, and air quality went, and I was overly impressed by the friendliness I found throughout the entire city. Everyone was so nice to tourists, even those who could not speak the language. Almost everyone I met was extremely patient and tried to understand what I was saying even if we had to use google translate. Even random people in the dining halls or in stores went out of their way to help the group of American tourists who were struggling to order food.

On the topic of being able to communicate, having the language partners was an awesome addition to our experience at BNU. They were so helpful showing us the transportation systems, taking us off campus for Peking Duck, Szechuan style food, and many other authentic Chinese destinations. They helped us experience China in a non-touristy way because they know Beijing well. I think the other groups of students would have benefitted from having language partners. Everyone I talked to about the program thought it was so cool that the William & Mary/CNU group had language partners. They were definitely one of the best parts of the trip and I fully intend on staying in touch with them through WeChat and writing letters! Summer, Aislinn, Michael, and Monica were all so generous with their time and patient with our dismal Chinese. Although many of the other groups at BNU had more advanced Chinese students, they still would have benefitted from the experiences provided by the language partners.

This program definitely made me more interested in Chinese language and culture. I was excited to start taking language classes in the fall, but having spent time in the country I am now much more motivated and dedicated to going above and beyond the class expectations in order to learn as much as possible. I fully intend on returning to China in the near future and staying in contact with the students I met while at BNU. I think the program was incredible and showed off many great aspects of Chinese culture to the American students. I sincerely hope that this program continues because it provides a fantastic opportunity for students interested in Chinese to experience two weeks fully immersed in order to form a deeper level of appreciation for the language and culture of China.

Araglin McBreen is a junior at Christopher Newport University studying biology and hopes to work in environmental science focusing on sustainability and marine restoration in the future. She is taking Chinese at CNU and hopes to eventually return to China.



Sophia Wischnewski

I started packing around five in the evening the night before my trip to China. At first, I thought I knew what I needed to pack. However, I did not actually finish until six hours before I needed to leave to drive to the airport. Six, being the lucky number of completion in Chinese culture, meant I would hopefully have everything I needed to pack and replace the bad luck of packing everything at the last minute. It seemed that repeatedly getting lost was my fate on this trip to China. I booked the wrong flight twice; the first time was booked for the wrong day, and the second time I booked a plane from a different airport in Beijing.

From the time I was enrolled in a Chinese immersion program at 10 years old, I could only dream of visiting one of the world's most powerful nations. Nine years later, my dream became reality. William & Mary's brief immersion program gave me the opportunity to see China outside of my previous Chinese language and culture courses. However, I've come to find that reading about China and briefly living in China are completely different.

My first day in Beijing was riddled with culture shock. In addition, my stress lingered due to my phone's inability to receive calls or texts. I was isolated. I was obligated to become independent, and that alone truly helped by forcing me to use my language skills. Without the comforts of Google Translate, I had to figure out the meaning of words on my own. I will always remember the word 厕所 (restroom) because of this experience.

I visited four cities in China: Yanjiao, Baotou, Beijing, and Zhuhai. All were completely different. They all had different dialects and words. I thought it was a challenge to understand people in the southern and northern states in the U.S., but now I feel that China, as a nation, is not only a master in the art of Kung Fu, but also a master of languages for being able to understand so many dialects. I had the opportunity

to stay with my friend and her family for a week and a half before returning to Beijing. Since my friend Sally was the only one who spoke any English, I had to speak in Chinese with her family. Sally was strict with me in that she not only refused to give me a fork and learn to eat with chopsticks, but also encouraged me to use my language skills outside of her home as well. I felt that living with her and meeting other people were the greatest experiences I have had in my time learning Chinese.

I not only experienced the language, but the culture as well. My friend told me that many Chinese children are very shy due to a common trend of being an only child, yet I noticed her relationships with her parents and friends were all extremely close. I thought it was interesting to note the differences in Chinese and American culture. Based on my experience, American families tend to have more children. This trend could potentially result in divided attention to children in American families. The lack of attention therefore could also affect the child's ability to form other relationships due to the lack of emotional support they have growing up. I had another interesting experience during my stay when I developed a cold and was brought to the doctor. Traditional Chinese medicine is still a common practice among modern medical solutions. Instead of prescribing me pills or syrup for my symptoms, the doctor looked directly into my eyes and advised me to drink a hot cup of water before going to bed and getting up in the morning. He said I needed more rest and time to get accustomed to the environment. All he gave me was root juice as a vitamin. I was told later by my friend's mother that Chinese people believe that harmony between one's diet and life style habits is the essence of good health. Sure enough, after a delicious home-cooked dinner, hot water, and rest, I was in even better health than I was in the U.S.

Aside from learning about Chinese culture, I thought a lot about modern American culture in the process of learning Chinese. I reflected on how much I, just one person, was representing my own country while being a part of China's society. I learned China believes in symbolism, so everything created acquires a unique purpose. I also noted that the U.S. also associates itself as a symbol of freedom. I found this ideal American concept to be quite fascinating during the program. Not only did the American college and high school students extensively pursue their desires during the time in Beijing, but they also expressed the same American mentality of freedom in their accomplishments.

When I arrived in Beijing and went to class with the group of American students, I could see how much irony played in a part of American culture. The classrooms consisted of rowdy high school

students that interrupted the teacher and teacher's assistant during the lessons. It was interesting to see how the younger generation was expressing their American class etiquette in a Chinese setting. I was so interested that after class I asked the assistant teacher about teacher-student relationships in classrooms.

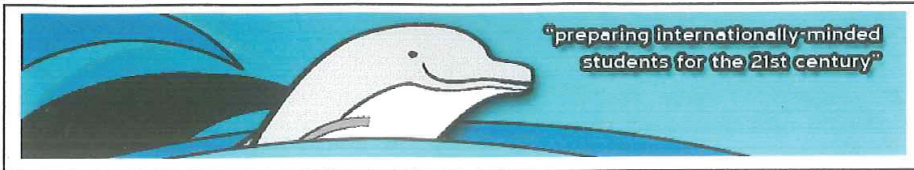
As I continued to be around Americans again, I noticed differences between Chinese and American college students as well. A sense of destructiveness and a wild spirit was the impression given off by Americans, especially for the younger generation. We college students were described as energetic, and after the group repeatedly asked Chinese students where bars and clubs were located, I believe that first impression matched their behavior. During student events, such as the talent show, both American and Chinese students were encouraged to share a talent which embraced a bit of their cultural background. The two groups did very different performances. The acts performed by American students generally included songs about partying, individuality, and carefree actions. American pop, being the most popular genre in America, is also ranked most popular globally. The context of this music seemed to revolve around common themes such as drugs, sex, partying, love, relationships, and rebellion. This music alone could potentially create misunderstandings of Americans, but it also helps spread American culture and American representation on a global scale. The Chinese music performed was a mixture of Chinese folk and modern day songs. The beats were slow, and the notes were long and drawn out. It created a tranquil ambience along with a happy atmosphere from common themes of love, inspiration, fortune, and tranquility in the lyrics.

I think potential problematic differences continue to reside in American culture due to the assertiveness of embracing individual freedom. Today, America faces numerous problems due to the undefined line between freedom and disrespect. It's a problem that not only separates the United States from other countries such as China, but also affects the nation's unity.

I learned so much in so little time. I feel like I cannot fully express my feelings about my experience in China. The food, the places, and the friendships I've made are too valuable to be measured and conveyed into a single paper, and yet, that alone reveals how much this trip has impacted my thoughts and my future.

Sophia Wischnewski is a junior at William & Mary pursuing a double major in Chinese and Spanish. She is excited to continue actively promoting and encouraging cultural diversity in W&M's community.

Community Accolades



Ying Liu, Ph.D.
Associate Director, Confucius Institute

College of William and Mary
Rowe House, 314 Jamestown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23187

Dear Ying Liu,

January 3, 2017

We would like to personally thank you and the William and Mary Confucius Institute for your continued support of the PTA-Sponsored After-School Clubs Program at James River Elementary School. In our involvement with this clubs program over the past three years, the Confucius Institute has been a consistent, reliable, and valuable partner in our program. Each semester, you have sent us talented Volunteer Teachers to lead a Chinese Club after school for our 3rd, 4th, and 5th grade students.

As an International Baccalaureate Primary Years Program School, the Chinese Club offered by Confucius Institute Volunteer Teachers contributes to our school's vision of creating world citizens who are knowledgeable and appreciative of world cultures. Through the Chinese Club, our students have been introduced to the Chinese language, culture, literature, arts, and music. Our students have thoroughly enjoyed their experience in this club each and every semester it has been offered.

In addition to our Chinese Club offering, the Confucius Institute provided us with a volunteer teach this year to offer a Taekwondo Club. This club was incredibly popular among our students this past Fall. We look forward to offering this club again this Spring and appreciate the experience you are providing our students.

We cannot thank you enough for your continued support of our program. The beauty of our After-School Clubs Program is the experience it provides to students who would otherwise never have the opportunity to experience such diverse activities. Without volunteers like the teachers from the Confucius Institute, we would not be able to provide our students with such enriching activities. We at James River Elementary School appreciate your continued involvement and look forward to working with you and your Volunteer Teachers again this Spring in both our Chinese Club and our Taekwondo Club. We hope to continue this partnership with you for years to come.

With Sincere Appreciation,

Catherine B Weddington
Clubs Chairperson,
James River Elementary PTA

Michael Stutt
Principal,
James River Elementary School



Williamsburg Pottery Factory, Inc.

www.williamsburgpottery.com

Dear Ying Liu:

We would just like to say thank you for a job well done! We were so pleased to have your performance during our 3rd Annual Asian festival at the Williamsburg Pottery.

We are proud that with your generous support, over 10 thousand customers came to the store and enjoyed the wonderful performance and food. Over the past weekdays we received many compliments on the show you have provided.

Again, thank you for being part of our 3rd Annual Asian Festival and we hope to see you in the future.

PS: Feel free to follow us on Facebook @ Williamsburg Pottery Factory.

I wish you the best.
Happy Year of Rooster.

Sincerely,
James Meloney Foundation

From Student to Teacher

by David Koenig

David Koenig was attracted to Chinese culture at an early age due to his father's frequent business visits to Hong Kong and a choir director in high school who taught him Buddhist meditation. After getting his master's degree, he attended the first session of Chinese language classes at the William & Mary Confucius Institute (WMCI). He was recommended by WMCI to teach English at Beijing Normal University (BNU) in the fall of 2013 to fulfill his longstanding dream of promoting friendship, exchange, and understanding between China and the U.S. He met and got married to a lovely Chinese woman there, and is now teaching at BNU's Zhuhai Campus.

I was excited when I heard that a Confucius Institute (CI) was opening in my area at William & Mary. I had become increasingly fascinated by China in the few preceding years mainly due to its amazing record of modern development. I also knew that the country was facing major challenges to develop sustainably and smartly, and I wanted to be a part of assisting China in finding constructive solutions, ideally by working there. To better position myself for that role, I had already started to study Chinese on my own when I heard about the local CI opening. I happily signed up for a beginning Mandarin course.

I found the Confucius Institute staff to be warm, welcoming, and gracious from the start. The language course consisted of about ten students. It was a fairly diverse group, but we all shared open minds and a great interest in China.

It was fun to learn with other adults. Our teacher cultivated a productive, safe, and convivial atmosphere. We not only learned the language, but also the Chinese culture, including a lesson on Chinese food and drink where our teacher served us traditional Chinese tea and snacks. The students wanted to present the best impression of the U.S., and we had many enjoyable conversations about the cross-cultural



issues with the Chinese teachers. The Institute's camaraderie made it much more enjoyable to learn Chinese than learn it online as I had been doing.

I also very much enjoyed using the Institute's library, for both books and DVDs. It has more extensive and updated China-related resources than the local library. I borrowed and devoured materials on Chinese etiquette, travel, work, and society, among other topics. I also frequently checked the CI's website for updates, and was pleasantly surprised when I

saw an actual job posting for teaching positions at Beijing Normal University (BNU). I applied and was thrilled to be accepted. I am now entering my fourth year of what has been a very pleasurable and meaningful time teaching at BNU. I feel like what I learned about China through William & Mary's CI better prepared me for life in China. The American CIs and CIs around the world have a noble mission: to nurture and cultivate cross-cultural understanding and dialogue. I feel privileged that I have been given the opportunity to advance that mission - even if only in a very small way - through my work in China. It has been my good fortune to maintain and deepen my friendships with William & Mary's CI staff since coming to China, seeing them when they come to Beijing, and visiting them on my returns home.

As many have said, there is no more important international relationship than the one between the U.S. and China, and CIs can only promote a win-win destiny between not only those countries, but the rest of the world. Confucius Institutes are doing good work; they should be hailed, and encouraged to keep up what they do, and to expand it.

The Year in Review

November 2016 - October 2017

FALL 2016

November 1 • Music Performance at New Zion Baptist Church

2016年11月1日，孔院志愿者张萌夏在New Zion Baptist church为老人们展示中国传统乐器琵琶，图为其在演奏传统琵琶曲目。



November 2 • Crash Course Chinese

2016年11月2日，孔院志愿者刘燕敏和杨璐在Reves Center 为威玛教职工介绍初级入门汉语及中国文化常识，受到了广泛的好评。





November 2 • Music performance at Our Savior's Lutheran Church

2016年11月2日，孔院志愿者张萌夏和威玛本科生林正源在Our Savior's Lutheran Church为老人们展示中国传统乐器二胡和琵琶，图为他们在演奏中国传统经典曲目。

November 3 • Lecture on Journey to the West

2016年11月3日，华盛顿大学教授 Robert E. Hegel 在Sadler Center做中国四大名著之一《西游记》的专题讲座。



November 19 • Chinese Culture Day at Christopher Newport University

2016年11月19日，威廉玛丽孔院在Christopher Newport University进行了中国文化日的活动展示，包括中国书法、剪纸、折纸、青花瓷盘制作、民族乐器展示和表演。

December 19 • Global CI Conference at Yunnan University

2016年12月19日，威廉玛丽大学孔子学院中方院长马磊在云南参加全球孔院大会，会上马磊院长被评为全球孔院先进个人，刘延东副总理亲自为其颁奖。



January 11 • Farewell Party for Chinese Director Lei Ma

2017年1月11日，威廉玛丽孔院中方院长马磊结束了在孔院5年的任期，威玛为其组织告别晚会，高度赞扬马老师为孔院作出的贡献。



January 12 • Traditional Chinese Tea Ceremony at the Williamsburg Public Library

2017年1月12日，孔院志愿者教师韩煦在威廉斯堡公共图书馆进行茶文化讲座，并现场展示茶艺。



January 26 • Chinese New Year Celebration

2017年1月26日，威玛孔院联合中国学生学者联合会一起举办新年庆祝活动，志愿者韩煦担任晚会主持人，志愿者马晓璐和张雅涵分别演奏了二胡经典曲目《赛马》和古筝名曲《雪山春晓》。

January 28 • Chinese New Year Celebration at the Peninsula Chinese American Association

2017年1月28日，威玛孔院参与维州半岛地区春节联欢晚会，演出了多个中国元素节目。



February 1 • Tea Ceremony for Homeschooled Children

2017年2月1日，威玛孔院志愿者韩煦为威廉斯堡家庭教育协会的学生做中国茶文化讲座。



February 4 • Asian Festival at Williamsburg Pottery

2017年2月4日，威玛孔院参与在Williamsburg Pottery举办的亚洲文化节，孔院在文化节上积极展示中国元素，志愿者们向观众演奏二胡、古筝、笛子、葫芦丝等中国传统乐器，图为志愿者马晓璐在演奏二胡曲目。



February 5 • Chinese New Year Celebration at Williamsburg Chinese School

2017年2月5日，威玛孔院中方院长王德亮带领志愿者教师马晓璐、刘燕敏、韩煦参与威廉斯堡中文学校的新年庆祝晚会，图为马晓璐在指导学生演唱歌曲《春晓》。



February 11 • Jesse Appell Comedy Performance

2017年2月11日，威玛孔院从北京请来著名相声大师丁广泉的弟子Jesse Appell为美国民众介绍中国的相声艺术，并做了现场表演，深受大家喜爱。

February 11 • ChinaFest at Virginia Museum of Fine Arts

2017年2月11日，威玛孔院参与在弗吉尼亚艺术博物馆举办的中国文化节，展示中国书法，并与民众进行了关于中国常识的问答互动活动。



February 24 • Crash Course Chinese at Virginia Institute of Marine Science

2017年2月24日，威玛孔院中方院长带领志愿者刘燕敏、杨璐到威廉玛丽大学海洋学院做初级入门汉语和中国文化的讲座。

February 25 • Calligraphy Presentation and Demonstration for Project Phoenix

2017年2月25日，志愿者韩煦给Project Phoenix的中学生做书法讲座，并让学生们学习书法的基本笔画及书写自己的作品。



February 28 • Traditional Chinese Music Demonstration at Virginia Commonwealth University

2017年2月28日，志愿者马晓璐到弗吉尼亚联邦大学做中国传统乐器的讲座，并演奏了几首二胡经典曲目，对东西方的音乐及乐器做对比分析。



March 16 - April 6 • Chinese Cooking Class

2017年3月16日至4月6日，威玛孔院聘请Edward McMahon博士教授中国烹饪课。



March - April • Art Class at Matoaka Elementary School

2017年3月3日和4月10日至14日，威玛孔院志愿者马晓璐、刘燕敏到Matoaka小学给二年级和三年级学生上艺术课，马晓璐向学生们介绍中国的传统乐器二胡，刘燕敏教学生们剪“春”字。



March - June • Chinese Language and Culture Class at Matthew Whaley Elementary School

2017年3月至6月，志愿者刘燕敏在Matthew Whaley小学为五年级的学生开设中国语言文化课。



March • Taekwondo Club at James River Elementary School

2017年3月，志愿者刘燕敏在James River小学课后俱乐部中教授学生们跆拳道。



March • Chinese Club at James River Elementary School

2017年3月，志愿者马晓璐在James River小学开设中国文化俱乐部，图为她向学生介绍中国传统乐器二胡。

March 17 • China Night: Experiences as a Chinese-American

2017年3月17日，威玛本科华裔学生Sara Wang在“中国之夜”上通过自己有趣的亲身经历向大家讲述中美在生活方式、饮食文化、思维方式等方面的差异。





January - May • Chinese Language and Culture Class at Norge Elementary School

2017年1月至5月，志愿者刘燕敏在Norge小学教授五年级学生中国语言和文化课。



March 28 • International Night at Matthew Whaley Elementary School

2017年3月28日，志愿者刘燕敏、杨璐在Matthew Whaley小学的“国际之夜”上负责中国展区的介绍，教学生们剪纸和折纸。中国常识小竞赛更是受到学生们的喜爱。



March 30 • Distinguished Scholar Lecture by Professor Barry Naughton

2017年3月30日，威玛孔院举办一年一度的“知名学者中国研究系列讲座”，本期主讲人是加州大学圣地亚哥分校国际关系与战略研究处的Barry Naughton教授，讲座主题为 Is China Socialist?

April 3 - April 6 • Chinese Culture Spring Break Camp

2017年4月3-6日，威玛孔院为当地小学生组织中国文化春令营，为学生们提供太极拳、书法、吹墨画、剪纸、折纸、中国音乐和中国游戏等丰富多彩的课程，受到了家长和学生们的一致喜爱。





April 15 • World Taiji and Qigong Day

2017年4月15日，威玛孔院邀请世界著名太极大师陈思坦和孔院一起做“世界太极与气功日”系列活动，图为陈老师现场带领大家练习太极拳。



April 22 • 16th Chinese Bridge in DC

2017年4月22日，威玛孔院中方院长王德亮带领威玛中文项目的三个学生参加由马里兰大学孔子学院举办的第16届世界汉语桥大赛华盛顿赛区预选赛，此次比赛中文廷熙和孟小兰获得三等奖。

May 7 • Chinese Characters Competition at Williamsburg Chinese School

2017年5月7日，威玛孔院为威廉斯堡中文学校举办“汉字大赛”。



May 17 • Chinese Cultural Demonstration at Walsingham Academy

2017年5月17日，威玛孔院志愿者刘燕敏和马晓璐到Walsingham天主教学校为六年级学生做剪纸和二胡的文化展示活动。

May 19 - 26 • Chinese Modern Oil Painting Exhibition

2017年5月19日至26日，威廉玛丽孔子学院参与主办题为《无界》中国当代油画展。





June 11 • Erhu concert at the First Baptist Church in Richmond

2017年6月11日，威玛孔院志愿者马晓璐到里士满的First Baptist Church演奏二胡。

June 13 • Music Demonstration at the Williamsburg Regional Library

2017年6月13日威廉玛丽孔子学院在威廉斯堡图书馆展示民族乐器二胡、古筝及葫芦丝。



July 5 • Sichuan Dept. of Education Delegation at Confucius Institute

2017年7月5日，中方院长王德亮、美方副院长刘颖在威廉玛丽孔子学院接待四川省教育厅代表团，与教育厅厅长共同探讨孔院在美国传播中国文化的作用以及未来的合作。

July 13 • Scholars' Rocks Lecture at the Muscarelle Museum of Art

2017年7月13日，威玛孔院与威廉玛丽大学Muscarelle艺术博物馆共同举办“中国雅石艺术”讲座，著名雅石收藏专家胡可敏老师的精彩讲座吸引了100多位学生、老师和社区成员参加，反响热烈。





July 5 - August 3 • BNU-W&M Summer Program

2017年7月5日至8月3日，威玛孔院协助安排北师大46名本科生参加威玛暑期课程学习，学生们受到Reveley校长的接见。



July 8 - 21 • BNU Summer Camp

2017年7月8日至21日，17名威廉玛丽大学和CNU大学的学生赴中国北京师范大学参加孔子学院夏令营，图为在北京师范大学集体合影。

July 31 - August 4 • Chinese Culture Summer Camp

2017年7月31日至8月4日，威廉玛丽孔院举办为期五天的夏令营，此活动也被威廉玛丽官网报道。



August 17 • Chinese calligraphy demonstration at Williamsburg United Methodist Church

2017年8月17日，威玛孔院在威廉斯堡卫理公会教堂进行书法展示和体验活动，图为高凯燕、刘梁好两位志愿者正在教书法的基本笔画。



September 4 • Chinese Water and Ink Painting Exhibition

2017年9月4日，由威玛孔院主办的“熊海泉个人水墨写意书法作品展”在美国威廉玛丽大学Sadler Center 拉开帷幕。图为学生们在参观作品展。



September 12 • Music demonstration at the Williamsburg United Methodist Church

2017年9月12日，继书法展示活动后，威玛孔院再次受到威廉斯堡卫理公会教堂的邀请，进行“中国传统民族乐器”展示，当地报纸The Virginia Gazette予以报道。在10月18日还在教堂进行了国画展示活动。



September 17 • Williamsburg Adventure Race

2017年9月17日，威玛孔院协助威廉斯堡商会举办一年一度的Adventure Race活动，设置了“用筷子夹花生”以及“用毛笔写中国”两个关卡。图为参赛者正用筷子夹花生。



September 22 • Erhu Solo Concert

2017年9月22日，孔院志愿者教师马晓璐在威廉玛丽大学音乐学院举办的“二胡独奏音乐会”，整场音乐会座无虚席，取得圆满成功。

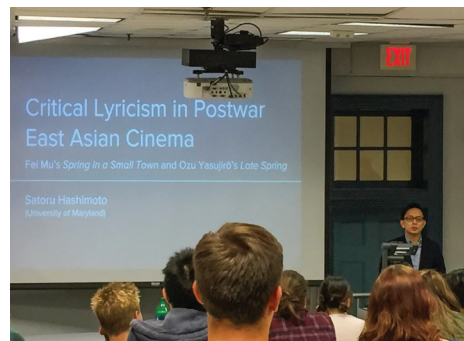
September 25 • Lecture on Civic Engagement of the Middle Class in China

2017年9月25日，威玛孔院邀请北京师范大学王新松教授在威廉玛丽大学举办“中国中产阶级的公民参与——基于城市社区调查的实证研究”讲座。



October 3 • Lecture on Critical Lyricism in Postwar East Asian Cinema

2017年10月3日，威玛孔院资助中文项目邀请马里兰大学教授Satoru Hashimoto举办有关东亚电影的讲座。



October 6 • Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration

2017年10月6日，威玛孔院协助中国学生学者联合会在Sadler Center共同举办中秋佳节庆祝活动。图为活动后威玛孔院全体成员的合影。

October 13 • Art Class at Matoaka Elementary School

2017年10月13日，威玛孔院志愿者高凯燕、马晓璐前往Matoaka小学上中国艺术课，图为高凯燕在教小朋友们用毛笔和墨汁画熊猫。



October 19 • Haiquan Xiong's Calligraphy Lecture & Demonstration

2017年10月19日，威玛孔院邀请知名书画家熊海泉举办“线条——书法之魂”的讲座，图为熊老师现场书写书法作品。



October 20 • Homecoming Parade at W&M

2017年10月20日，威玛孔院组织志愿者、威玛爱好中国文化的大学生参与为校友返校日举行的游行活动。

October 20 • WMCI Open House

2017年10月20日，为了配合威玛返校日，威玛孔院举行开放日，让学校师生和社区居民来体验中国文化，如剪纸、书法、国画、茶艺和中国传统乐器等。



October - December • Chinese Calligraphy & Painting Exhibition in Swem Library

2017年10-12月，中国书法课和国画课学生作品在学校Swem图书馆展出，图为“情趣与精神”展区的学生作品。



《论语》

The Analects of Confucius

子曰：“君子坦荡荡，小人长戚戚。”

The Master said, "The superior man is satisfied and composed; the mean man is always full of distress."



子曰：“君子和而不同，小人同而不和。”

The Master said, "The superior man is affable, but not adulatory; the mean man is adulatory, but not affable."



子曰：“人无远虑，必有近忧。”

The Master said, "If a man takes no thought about what is distant, he will find sorrow near at hand."



子曰：“躬自厚而薄责于人，则远怨矣。”

The Master said, "He who requires much from himself and little from others, will keep himself from being the object of resentment."



子曰：“予欲无言。”子贡曰：“子如不言，则小子何述焉？”子曰：“天何言哉？四时行焉，百物生焉，天何言哉？”

The Master said, "I would prefer not speaking." Zi Gong said, "If you, Master, do not speak, what shall we, your disciples, have to record?" The Master said, "Does Heaven speak? The four seasons pursue their courses, and all things are continually being produced, but does Heaven say anything?"



子贡曰：“君子之过也，如日月之食焉：过也，人皆见之；更也，人皆仰之。”

Zi Gong said, "The faults of the superior man are like the eclipses of the sun and moon. He has his faults, and all men see them; he changes again, and all men look up to him."