2019 Newsletter

Directed by
Hanban
William & Mary
Beijing Normal University

Director
Stephen E. Hanson

Chinese Director
Deliang Wang

Associate Director
Ying Liu

Graphic Designer
Paul Humphreys, W&M Print Shop

Contact

Address
William & Mary Confucius Institute
Rowe House, 314 Jamestown Road
William & Mary
Williamsburg, Virginia 23187
United States of America

Phone
(757) 221-1286

Fax
(757) 221-1910

Email
wmci@wm.edu

Web
www.wm.edu/confuciusinstitute

Facebook
search “William & Mary Confucius Institute”

YouTube
search “Confucius WM”

Flickr
www.flickr.com/wmci

Instagram
search “wmconfuciusinstitute”

Twitter
@wmconfucius
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Reading this issue of the William & Mary Confucius Institute Newsletter is—even for me—a powerful reminder of the importance of international collaboration in higher education. Since its founding in 2012, WMCI has catalyzed truly life-changing experiences for hundreds of students, faculty, and members of the community. W&M students, both those studying Mandarin Chinese and those getting their first exposure to China, have been able to take courses at Beijing Normal University while immersing themselves in Chinese society and culture. Current W&M students as well as W&M alumni who have participated in WMCI programs have found them transformative. Almost 200 BNU students, in turn, have had the opportunity over the past five years to study here in Williamsburg, leaving with happy memories and new perspectives on life in the United States. One need only read the award-winning essays written by our students Michael Briggs and Carly O’Connell to get a sense of the educational and personal importance of these student exchanges between American and Chinese citizens.

Faculty on both sides, too, have benefited enormously from the opportunities afforded by WMCI. Our W&M faculty delegation to China in spring 2019 had unforgettable experiences and meaningful conversations with academic colleagues at BNU’s campuses in Beijing and Zhuhai. For most of those who participated, it was their first trip to China. Due to faculty exchanges like these, our sister university relationship with BNU has never been stronger, encompassing fields and disciplines as varied as dance, linguistics, biochemistry, and education as well as literature and culture.

For the Williamsburg community, WMCI has been a window into China’s ancient, diverse, and complex culture. Whether through exposure to Chinese traditional martial arts, medicine, and calligraphy or via attendance at the fascinating lectures on Chinese society offered by our distinguished speakers, community members who participate in WMCI’s activities come away challenged and enlightened.

At a time when the value of international academic partnerships is frequently underestimated, this issue of the WMCI Newsletter provides concrete evidence that no matter what difficulties may emerge in contemporary international relations, keeping doors open for students, faculty and students to experience global languages and cultures remains a vital necessity.
Acupuncture and Chinese Medicine: Traditions that Help us Today

by Colleen Mulrooney | November 7, 2018

The Reves Room was packed to its limits on Friday, November 6th, when Dr. Keith Bell, a doctor specializing in traditional Chinese medicine, came to give a lecture on the underlying theories behind Chinese medicine and acupuncture. Dr. Bell has spent over 20 years studying and practicing Chinese medicine, and even operates his own clinic specializing in Chinese medicine, Oriental Medicine Specialists in Richmond. Bell brought his full repertoire of knowledge before the fascinated crowd on Friday, giving everyone a better idea of Chinese medicine and how it works.

Dr. Bell took an interesting approach to this lecture by first discussing the specific treatment method of acupuncture, then expanding into other treatment methods, theories, and philosophies. This structure was to create a framework for the audience, as most of the Western world's main exposure to Chinese medicine is through acupuncture. This way, everyone could start from the same page before jumping into the more complex and nuanced theories behind Chinese medicine. This structure was incredibly effective, especially considering the fact that a sizable number of audience members had actually received treatment through acupuncture before! Dr. Bell went on to explain how acupuncture works, by putting pressure on specific acupoints as a means of affecting the flow of Qi—a person's fundamental life force—within the body.

Dr. Bell went on to discuss this concept of Qi in both a historical and scientific context. He stated that, during his time in South America, he learned that some indigenous medical practices involved putting pressure on the same acupoints as the ones in Chinese medicine. He also discussed how some beliefs and practices native to India, such as chakra meditation and yoga, are also aimed toward stimulating those points and working on the flow of Qi within the body. Seeing as these methods and philosophies developed independently throughout history across the world, it is clear that there must be some sort of biological basis for this. As it turns out, science may yet provide an explanation for Qi.

The recently-discovered organ known as the interstitium is a network of tissues that wraps around every organ system in the body. It was found, much to the excitement of specialists in Chinese medicine, that this organ experiences a flow of electrical impulses, which may yet be the biological explanation for Qi. Bell even stated that with acupuncture, the needles are oftentimes placed deep enough to touch the interstitium below the skin. Only time and research will tell for sure, but modern science may very well be on its way toward a deeper explanation behind Chinese medicine practices.

Finally, Dr. Bell discussed other treatment methods, and his general process with patients. He talked about herbal medications, and then went on to discuss how he assesses patients. His assessments follow the traditional Chinese method: Observing, Listening & Smelling, Asking, and Palpation. Each step gives the doctor a more holistic insight into the patient's life and how to help them.

Dr. Bell closed out the lecture by providing resources for finding good, licensed Traditional Chinese Medicine Practices, and taking several questions from the audience. Overall, the lecture was an astounding success, and Dr. Bell provided the audience with a deeper understanding of traditional Chinese medical practices.
The Twelfth Annual Global Film Festival began on Thursday, January 31, and WMCI had the honor of presenting the very first screening event of the festival! At 3:00 pm, guests came to Kimball Theatre and were greeted with a delicious array of Chinese food. Then, they were treated to some lovely performances from WMCI’s student interns. This included Taiji Fan and martial arts demos from our martial arts instructor Xiusen Pan, as well as performances of traditional Chinese music on the flute and the hulusi by Student Intern Jie Hou. Our very own Mian Cheng served as the emcee for the performances, providing helpful background information while also keeping audience spirits high. The performances were wonderfully executed, perfectly displaying the beauty and precision in these age-old Chinese arts.

Following the performances, WMCI Chinese Director Deliang Wang delivered an opening speech, in which he not only introduced WMCI, but also provided the audience with some special insight into the importance of Chinese representation at the film festival as a whole. Along with China’s incredible economic rise has come major growth in China’s film industry and box office consumption—in fact, many Hollywood films look to China now as a vital demographic for box office sales! The partnership between WMCI and the Global Film Festival in screening Chinese films is important because it shows the ever-increasing quality and importance of Chinese film making in the modern world of film.

Then, the main event was the screening of the film The Island. The film’s plot follows a man named Ma Jin, who goes on a team building trip with his co-workers, only to end up stranded on an island with them after a series of catastrophic events. To add insult to injury, Ma Jin discovers that he has a winning lottery ticket that he may never get to claim! Completely unsure of whether anyone who can help is even out there, the group tries to build their new “society” up from the ground. Through the group’s struggles and triumphs, the film explores the real meaning of money, social norms, and the intricacies of human relationships, and bounces rather satisfyingly between the highs, lows, and even some hilarious points of the group’s adventure.

Most importantly, the film explored what it means to have a new beginning, which is particularly pertinent with the Chinese New Year right around the corner. The film was a perfect fit, both for the beginning of the Global Film Festival, and for a great start to the Year of the Pig. Audience members applauded at the end of the film, and some even stuck around for a while afterward to discuss several of the thought-provoking points woven into its plot and characters with WMCI staff. WMCI was honored to partner with the Global Film Festival again, and we hope everyone enjoyed the film!
US - China Relations at a Strategic Crossroads: What Comes Next for the Most Consequential Relationship in the World?

by Colleen Mulrooney

On Thursday, February 21st, the William & Mary Confucius Institute welcomed Bonnie Glaser, Senior Adviser for Asia and Director of the China Power Project at the Center for Strategic & International Studies, to deliver this year’s Distinguished Scholar Lecture. Ms. Glaser is a renowned expert on US - China relations, and has even served as a consultant for various US Government offices, such as the Department of Defense and Department of State.
The lecture opened with a few welcoming words from WMCI Director Steve Hanson, who briefly introduced WMCI, the annual Distinguished scholar lecture, and Bonnie Glaser.

Following that, Ms. Glaser opened her speech by emphasizing its title—that US-China relations are indeed at a strategic crossroads. The relationship has been strained, to say the least, under the Trump Administration, with the trade war, increased tariffs, and growing tensions in the China-US relationship. Glaser went on to address a question that many news media have asked in these increasingly shaky times—are we heading into a second Cold War?

Glaser said that, despite the popularity of this question, the answer is probably no, but in order to understand why, we need to look at the history of US-China relations, and the various sources of tension arising from the nations’ intertwined histories in the modern age. First, she detailed the US perspective. Relations between China and the US were founded on the Sino-Soviet split in the 1950’s, after which China and the United States became allies, but following the fall of the Soviet Union, China and the US no longer had that commonality. Tensions rose in the 1990’s over various events, but during the 2000’s and early 2010’s, the US and China began to find common footing on issues like climate change and economic deals.

However, attitudes within the US became fractured as many jobs were outsourced to China. Some became wary of China, but others praised this shift for helping US consumers by lowering prices. Additionally, while the Trump administration seems to paint China in a slightly more negative light, research has found that the majority of Americans do not see China as an enemy, and that most young people in America actually see China in a positive light.

Then, on China’s end, Glaser described a pervasive concern that the United States would interfere and try to change China’s system of government, much like the US did via CIA intervention during much of the Cold War. As such, China does have reasonable grounds upon which to be concerned.

In today’s political climate, however, it seems that Xi Jinping—and, increasingly, President Trump—are finding it in their best interests to negotiate with one another and talk out their differences. In talking about the different routes that China and the US could take in the future, Glaser said that an ideal outcome would be China and the United States once again emphasizing their common footing on certain issues and working together on those fronts while resolving more tense points through dialogue.

As for the question of whether we are heading into another Cold War, Glaser said that a vital defining feature of the first Cold War was ideological competition between the United States and the Soviet Union, and that characteristic has not come into play between the US and China. Additionally, China does not seem to be seeking out a sphere of influence or a bloc of allies in the way that the USSR did. While there does seem to be a growing factor of competition between the two nations under the Trump administration, it would seem that it is in both nations’ best interests to negotiate with one another. With negotiations and an end to this competition, it is possible that US-China relations—the relationship that Glaser called “the most consequential relationship in the world”—will be able to stabilize.

Following Glaser’s talk, the audience was practically overflowing with questions, and there was engaging discussion on a variety of subjects, from recent developments with Huawei to the future of Hong Kong.

We are thrilled with both the turnout of this lecture, and Glaser’s incredible delivery on such a pertinent and complex issue that is so vital on the world stage.
Seeing the Great Wall of China in person was one of the highlights of my trip to China with the Confucius Institute delegation from W&M. Walking along the wall was something I am very happy to check off on my bucket list. On the bus ride, I was reflecting on the irony of a sight whose historical function was to prevent interactions between peoples was being used to bring together. This experience and others over the course of the two weeks we visited China helped to build a bridge, not a wall, between myself and Chinese colleagues, between W&M and BNU, and hopefully also between the U.S. and China. This document outlines some of my thoughts on the Summer 2019 W&M CI delegation trip to China. Overall, the trip was an immense success, and I would encourage any W&M faculty to attend this wonderful opportunity. The benefits of the trip extend into three areas: Cultural exchange, personal network development, and institutional developments.

Any trip abroad to visit another country involves some level of cultural exchange. Sometimes this occurs in unintended ways, like learning about the art of standing in line in a given context. For instance, the British are known for having strict norms on queuing, while the Chinese have a much different approach. One can learn about a culture through these interactions, as well as reflect on their own culture. In the Chinese case of queuing, the norm of personal space is not followed. This results in a bit of contact with others waiting in line. While sometimes inadvertent, often it is in an effort to take a gap in space further ahead in line. I would get offended if someone bumps you, purposely, in an effort to cut ahead. What I learned was that people did not think there was anything malicious about what they were doing or if you did the same thing to them. My ire subsided once I realized this was not someone pushing to get ahead of me, but that I was breaking the norm by allowing space in front of me. The Anglo-American queuing norm and the Chinese norm are both reasonable when you understand the different rules.

More broadly, as is the case with many exchanges, you realize that people are in fact people all over

Professor Dan Maliniak has a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego, and is currently teaching international relations courses regarding the political economy and the environment at William & Mary. Professor Maliniak was one of ten W&M faculty delegates that traveled to China with WMCI.

Building a Bridge

Professor Dan Maliniak poses atop the Great Wall during the William & Mary delegation to China
the world. While we might have different societal norms (as evidenced in queuing, toasting at meals, official meeting etiquette), seeing these different styles play out helps one to appreciate the variety, as well as the benefits of other systems and one’s own norms. There were some fun scenarios, like where my norm of finishing all of my meal was challenged by the Chinese norm to provide 150% of what is possible to eat in one sitting. These experiences are important and entertaining ways to cross cultural gaps.

The trip was filled with many more culture-focused activities, like visits to Buddhist temples, participating in a tea ceremony, playing Taiji, practicing calligraphy. It was a great opportunity to get some insights into Chinese culture. The trip did an excellent job of providing the ideal settings for this type of learning.

Foremost among these opportunities were the trips to the Chinese History Museum, the Forbidden Palace, and the Summer Palace. But these are just place and things, facts only came alive with excellent interpreters and guides. We were lucky to have Eric as our main guide in Beijing for many of the cultural/sight-seeing visits. But, efforts by Boya in Zhuhai and Kaiyan in Beijing were really what helped make the history and culture come alive. And, I cannot continue without singing the praises of Deliang Wang, who answered a constant stream of questions from the faculty delegation ranging from interesting and consequential to simple and inane, always with a serious and helpful tone. I won’t sing his praises, however, because after hearing him give a karaoke version of a song about friendship, I know my ballad would never do it justice in either lyrics or musicality. There is no way this trip could have worked without the tireless effort of these four, plus many others at BNU and Hanban.

The trip helped build and solidify my network in three ways. First, due to the many visits to BNU departments and meetings with BNU faculty, I now have an extensive network of contacts in both Beijing and Zhuhai. No doubt these will lead to some sort of information sharing and collaboration in the future over issues relating to teaching and exchanges for students. I learned a lot about how the Chinese academy works, and how higher education works at a top Chinese institution. I think that these meetings will hopefully lead to some future visits either by BNU faculty to Williamsburg, or for myself and others to Beijing and Zhuhai.

The second development was more research focused. I was able to meet a number of people in departments at BNU, but also at Peking University, who conduct similar research, and with whom I could collaborate academically in the future. I discussed some potential projects and will be exchanging thoughts via email about next steps. These are opportunities that really were only possible because the trip allowed us to meet face-to-face. These kind of research collaborations are good in and of themselves, but also for their consequences. The increased and continued collaboration will lead to travel, more conversations, and likely more opportunities to teach at each other's institutions or encourage students to study at the other location.

The third area was through the time I spent with my fellow W&M faculty, some who I knew before and most who I did not. Long bus rides and many meals meant great conversations about things related to W&M specifically, academia, life, politics, the trip, etc. I was really lucky to have a fantastic travel group, and the trip allowed me to really develop some (hopefully) lasting relationships with those folks.
讲座伊始，志愿者冯梦楠为大家系统地介绍了中国武术的基本概况，包括武术的起源、武艺的评判标准、武术的七大门派及十八种器械等。图文并茂，深入浅出，以直观生动的形式展现了中国武术文化的源远流长和博大精深。随后，志愿者冯梦楠介绍了中国武术的精神内核及其与中国文化的关系。她着重讲解了“阴阳”这个武术文化中的核心概念，并播放了两个短片——分别从中外两个视角解读阴阳之道。她认为中华武术不光是一种训练或技艺，还是一种寻找平衡点的艺术，平衡也正是传统阴阳观的本质体现。各门各派的套路各有千秋，不一而足，却有共同的标准——万般变化稳中求。世间万物瞬息万变，如何在万变中寻找不变、保持内心平和？心湖不起波澜——这便是对中庸之道的找寻。接着，志愿者冯梦楠亲身示范并带领大家进行站桩训练，旨在让练习者通过意念的力量寻找自身的“气”并且找到身体的最佳平衡点。站桩，作为一种武术的基本功训练，看似简单，但要掌握其中的精髓并非易事。当地的居民积极参与，对中庸之道的内涵有了更深入的理解。

而后，一组阴阳八卦拳和八卦单刀的展示，将现场的气氛引至高潮。阴阳八卦拳，又称“阴阳八卦捶”，主要器械有单刀、双刀、春秋大刀、枪、剑、棍、三节棍、双钩、牌等。多年来，阴阳八卦拳一直在武术界独树一帜，其借天地阴阳变化之理，又据中国传统文化的阴阳五行之道，并结合中医健身养生术为一体，广纳百家之长。其套路结构严谨、功架合理、动作舒展大方、步伐灵活、动静有致、刚柔兼备、发力刚劲、攻防意识鲜明。进退闪展、上下协调都讲求一气呵成，全套动作演练起来给人的感觉是：剽悍、利落，是一套既有理论
依据，又有丰富演练内容的具有较高推广价值的拳种。展示过程中，志愿者冯梦楠出拳利落，刚劲有力，单刀在手，式式分明。全套刀路一气混成，落刀收势，掌声雷动。最后的提问环节，志愿者冯梦楠与各位听众互动热烈，交流也由浅入深。大家各抒己见，一同讨论了单刀的设计理念及实用价值、太极的风格到底是阴柔还是刚强、中国武术与杂技间的相似和关联、如何寻找并使用“气”、何为武术中所强调的平衡的实质等话题，氛围热烈且自由。讲座结束后，最后一位离开的听众和志愿者进行了一场有趣的对话。这位听众是一位业余作家，他对中国杂技和武术都很感兴趣，并认为二者之间有相似相通之处。长久以来，一个问题一直困扰着他。无论中国武术抑或杂技，平衡都是训练的重中之重。技艺精湛的杂技演员能在高空走绳，双手转盘；功底深厚的习武之人能在搏斗中化力借力，以柔克刚，始终处于不败之地。他一直不明白如何找寻这种平衡。志愿者冯梦楠给出了自己的见解，她说道：武术和杂技，都是要求极高的身体训练，长时间的苦功夫是必不可少的。有了坚实的身体和柔韧基础，才能在刚劲和柔顺之间游刃有余，才能懂得如何收放。而平衡的诀窍也在于收放自如之间的“引敌发，不损已”。武术中的招式切忌用满力，一旦力满了，便没有了后撤和回转的余地。正如绷紧了的弦，不得不发。如何衡量和找寻空和满之间的黄金分割点，是一种艺术。而寻找平衡点的艺术不仅是武术中的命门，也是贯穿人生始终的终极命题，亦是一场持续终生的与内心欲望和波澜之间的博弈。
On September 27th, in commemoration of the 2019 Global Confucius Institute Day, the Confucius Institute hosted a Flute Solo Concert featuring our incredibly talented Student Intern Jie Hou. The concert was held in Ewell Hall, where audience members from the community and campus alike filled the seats to enjoy the sounds of traditional Chinese instruments.

The evening started with an introduction from Dr. Stephen Hanson, Director of the Confucius Institute and Vice Provost for International Affairs and Director of the Reves Center for International Studies. He acknowledged the positive 7-year relationship between William and Mary and WMCI, and introduced the featured artist, Jie Hou. Irene Williams, a communications intern at the Confucius Institute, served as emcee for the evening.

Jie Hou has won numerous awards in China for his musical talents. On the 27th, he demonstrated his acumen in playing two instruments: the dizi and the xiao. The dizi, or bamboo flute, dates back to the 5th century BC, and remains one of the most popular instruments in traditional Chinese music. Played horizontally, much like a western flute, it is commonly carved out of a single piece of bamboo with a cork-lined blow-hole. The dizi is famous for its ability to imitate sounds of nature.

Jie Hou demonstrated this masterfully with his first piece, “Spring of Xiangjiang.” As audience members listened, images of an ancient Chinese river landscape came to mind, portrayed by the flute’s sinuous melody and expressive range. His next piece was performed on the xiao, another ancient Chinese bamboo flute played vertically rather than transversely. The notes lingered in the air as he played the xiao in the famously slow and melodic Quanzhou nanyin style. He finished off with another classical melody, “Return of the Swallow”, based off of a Song dynasty poem.

While Jie took a break, Jiayong Lu, a freshman at the College of William & Mary, performed on the guzheng. The guzheng is an ancient Chinese instrument made of 18-21 strings and moving bridges fastened across a long wooden board. To play it, the musician typically wears false nails, and uses their right hand to pluck the strings of the guzheng and their left hand to press and release the strings.

Jiayong had been studying this instrument since she was 8 years old, and her years of practice were evident in the skillful performance she gave! She performed “Galaxy Blue Wave,” a Chinese folk song, which conjured in the imagination the beautiful landscapes of southeastern China. After this magnificent performance, the audience was treated to Jie Hou playing three more pieces. He played a delightful piece inspired by Tajik folk songs which lifted the audience’s hearts with its carefree melody. Rounding the performance were two slightly more modern pieces, exhibiting Jie’s advanced techniques and incredible range on the dizi.

After the performance, audience members left with a powerful impression of Chinese traditional music. The sounds of ancient China briefly came to our corner of Virginia, in a performance that nobody who watched will soon forget.
It’s not often that a city like Williamsburg gets such a vivid picture of the traditional cultures of a province on the other side of the globe. Perhaps this is why the Sadler Commonwealth Auditorium was packed on the evening of October 4th, full of people eager to see the Sichuan Folk Cultures Gala, whether they were familiar with the traditions of Sichuan Province, or were curious to get a glimpse of the vibrant culture there.

Dr. Stephen Hanson, WMCI Director and Vice Provost for International Affairs, began the event by introducing those who might not be familiar with Chengdu, Sichuan Province, and the parties performing. From there, the show began with a display of the traditional garb, modeling beautiful qipao, among other pieces.

Audience members were then treated to a sleeve dance performed by Wu Wenting. The long sleeves are usually made of white silk that is attached to the cuffs of the costume of the performer. The graceful sweeping motions of the sleeves are meant to convey the emotions of the actor or actress. Wu Wenting presented a variation with colorful sleeves. After her performance, she invited some children down from their seats to try out some of the motions involved in traditional Chinese dance. The children had great fun interacting with Wu Wenting and giving Chinese dancing a try.

The sleeve dance was then followed by a beautiful performance by Liu Yuying on the guzheng, a Chinese string instrument. The guzheng often captivates listeners, and for good reason: a good performance, like the one heard at the gala, sounds nothing short of ethereal. Liu Yuying performed a piece titled General’s Command.

After the guzheng performance, the audience got a chance to hear a polyphonic vocal performance. The performers can create two or more notes at the same time, a practice common in Tibet. The performers wore Tibetan garb and were well received by the audience, many of whom had not seen such a
vocal skill performed before.

Another vocal performance came after that, this time showcasing folk songs of the Yi People, an ethnic minority in China who predominantly live in Sichuan province, along with provinces and nations adjacent to Sichuan Province. Yi music is unique due to its use of a six tone scale, instead of a heptatonic or pentatonic scale.

The grand finale was the mask changing, performed by Wu Wenting. Mask changing is an art in which the performer changes masks seemingly in an instant, dazzling audience members with the detail on each mask and the speed by which they disappear. The performer was dressed in an intricate costume with large feathers and got up close with audience members, much to their surprise.

Afterward, the audience had the chance to talk with performers and even take photos. Audience members took the time to thank the performers and ask any questions they had. The performance was extremely well-received, and, certainly, the Student Art Troupe of Chengdu Textile College and the Sichuan Opera of China would be more than welcome if they ever decide to come back to Williamsburg.
WMI is proud to announce that two of our student affiliates, Michael Briggs & Carly O’Connell, have been recognized by the Confucius Institute U.S. Center as two of the ten winners in the 2019 “My Confucius Institute Story” Essay Contest. As winners of the contest, the two were invited to this year’s CIUS Center National Honors Gala to accept the CIUS Center People-to-People Award.

Carly O’Connell is a William & Mary alumna who double-majored in Chinese & Linguistics. She was affiliated with WMCI for nearly the full four years of her college career at William & Mary, first assisting in the opening ceremony in celebration of WMCI’s inception, later participating in events held at W&M’s Chinese House, and finally working with WMCI as an intern during her senior year. She has studied Chinese from an early age, and spent time in Changzhou teaching English.

Michael Briggs is beginning his senior year at William & Mary. He is studying Mathematics and Data Science. He has been affiliated with WMCI for about two years, volunteering and assisting with general events, as well as helping coordinate Chinese House plans. He was also successful at the Chinese Bridge Speech Competition, and was subsequently given a scholarship to study at Renmin University.

The William & Mary Confucius Institute is proud of the two student affiliates who have been selected as winners of this essay contest, and are confident that their work in the future will be influential in bringing the U.S. and China closer together.
金秋畅聊访孔院，熊猫巨龙迎校友

美国东部时间2019年10月18日下午，正值美国威廉玛丽大学一年一度的“Homecoming”（欢迎历届校友返校）庆祝活动期间，美国威廉玛丽大学孔子学院为宣传中国优秀传统文化，提高孔院影响力与知名度，举办了“Open House”开放日活动。与此同时，孔院积极响应学校号召，参与“Homecoming”欢迎返校校友的游行比赛活动，最终取得了社区组第二名的佳绩。

孔院积极筹备本次开放日活动，分别准备了民乐、国画、书法、剪纸、茶艺等展示模块，并提供了许多中国传统美食小吃。为当地居民和学校师生提供了更加近距离体验中国文化的机会，促进了文化交流。

此次前来参加开放日活动的不仅有威廉斯堡本市的居民和学生，还有许多外地慕名而来的中国文化爱好者。大家通过聆听民乐讲演，观看国画书法演示，学习茶艺等活动，对中国文化有了更加深刻全面的了解。
下午三时，参加“Homecoming”游行比赛的队伍展开了紧锣密鼓的排练，十多个人手持十几米长的中国龙辗转腾挪，气势磅礴。两只国宝熊猫人偶热情活泼，配上笛子、腰鼓、武术与中国结等中国文化元素的展示，使得孔院的游行队伍充满了浓浓的中国气息。

本次游行活动中孔院的舞龙队无疑是所有队伍中最出彩的一支，两只活泼的大熊猫在游行过程中积极和观众互动。道路两旁的观众时不时会有孩子大喊“Panda!”,此时两只憨态可掬的大熊猫便会转向孩子们热情地招手，途中还有很多观众前来合影。这两只熊猫无疑是孔院游行队中的“明星人物”。在游行终点进行的中国传统八卦单刀武术表演和竹笛演奏获得了观众的喝彩，为本次游行锦上添花。最终孔院在所有队伍中脱颖而出，获得了第二名的佳绩，为本次活动画上了圆满的句号。
Colleen Mulrooney recently graduated with a major in Chinese Language and Culture. She will be working as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in Yunlin, Taiwan during the 2019-2020 academic year. Colleen has been learning Chinese for nine years, and won the Jiangsu Cup Chinese Speech contest in 2015. Through that award, she participated in a summer program at Nanjing University. She was also awarded a Critical Language Scholarship to study Chinese at Cheng Kung University in Tainan, Taiwan, during the summer of 2018. Colleen served as an intern at WMCI for two years.

Looking back at my time with WMCI, I feel like there’s so much to say that I don’t know where to begin, really. It’s hard to even think about how my time here is ending. To be honest, sometimes it still feels like I just got here. I am going to miss working here a lot, from the amazing people who work here, to the pretty view out my office window. The Confucius Institute is really special to me, and has been an important part of not just my time at William & Mary, but also my time learning Chinese. Before ever even setting foot at William & Mary, my Chinese learning experience was supported greatly by Confucius Institutes, from easy access to HSK Chinese Proficiency Exams, to my first—practically free—trip to China. Honestly, when I was applying to college, it was hard to find many schools with a lot of resources for students majoring in Chinese. As much as people talk about the importance of learning Mandarin in this day and age, a shocking number of universities only had Chinese levels 1-3, and a concentration in East Asian Studies. But then, seeing William & Mary’s rich Chinese program, paired with the fact that this school has a Confucius Institute, I knew I had to come here. Then, just a couple months into my freshman year, the Confucius Institute helped me to achieve something amazing. At my Chinese professor’s recommendation, I had applied—and been accepted—to participate in the Jiangsu Cup Chinese Speech Contest, and WMCI was kind enough to arrange all travel to DC and everything to give me the smoothest possible experience. Now, the Jiangsu Cup is a competition where people with all kinds of amazing credentials go to compete. The competition included grad students, as well as other undergraduate students.
from other great schools who had already spent a few years learning college-level Chinese. As a freshman who only had the benefit of a couple months at William & Mary and 5 years of middle and high school Chinese classes, I was intimidated and nervous, to say the least. I did my best delivering the speech and figured that I would at least walk out of there with that experience.

As it turns out, rather than just walking out with an experience, I actually walked out with the first place prize, which included participation in another practically free program in China, this time at Nanjing University. So now, if we are keeping count, that’s two times the Confucius Institute helped me toward an opportunity to study abroad.

The next year, I was fortunate enough to receive an offer to work here. I accepted without hesitation and started work in summer 2017. I was really nervous my first day. I felt like I owed a lot to the Confucius Institute, and really wanted to do well. Not to mention, this was actually my first real job. So of course, as it goes with important days like this—and Williamsburg summers—it started to rain as I got on the bus. On the 5 minute ride over to Rowe House that rain turned into a deluge, and having not brought an umbrella I showed up to my first day of work absolutely soaking wet.

To be honest though, that was probably the biggest major road block I experienced at WMCI: that little bit of rain. It took me a little while to really learn my role here, and the staff was always supportive. I do various jobs around the office, from keeping our social media up to date, to fixing broken links on the website, to editing materials like posters and PowerPoints. A week or two in, I realized that the one-sentence summary of my role would be to make everyone else’s life here easier—to smooth out and finalize the things that everyone here works so diligently on.

Because of that, my time at WMCI has taught me to do my best even on little tasks like editing. The people at WMCI were always so kind and supportive to me, so any time someone came to me asking that I publish something for them on Facebook, or edit a syllabus or presentation they planned to use in class, I wanted to be sure I gave them the best final product I could. It was probably even a little tedious for my coworkers at times, having me erase and rewrite things several times to make sure the wording was just right.

But really, it was all because I care about this place, and I care about the people I have worked with. Every little detail of my work would become part of a greater whole. Learning Chinese and studying Chinese culture has been an important part of my life. My goal here was to help the William & Mary Confucius Institute provide other people with opportunities like I had.

I actually got accepted into the Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship (ETA) Program in Taiwan for the coming academic year. I feel like a lot of what I learned here is going to help me moving forward. As it turns out, my job there looks like it will be very similar to that of our BNU Student Interns, so I already have an idea of what a successful execution of that job looks like. Not to mention, teaching English abroad has been a dream of mine since I was 13. Honestly, it still does not feel real that this is all happening.

It’s always hard for good things to end. That is something I have actually always liked about Chinese, is that the phrases for “Goodbye,” “再见” and “后会有期” actually translate more closely to “We will meet again.” So with that, nothing truly feels like the end. I will always have the time I spent and friends I made during my time at WMCI.
Michael Briggs is a rising senior at the College of William and Mary, where he studies Mathematics and Data Science. In 2019, Michael has been recognized as one of the ten winners of the Confucius Institute U.S. Center’s annual “My Confucius Institute Story” Essay Contest and received the People-to-People Award for his dedication to mutual understanding between the U.S. and China. He has been studying Chinese for two years and plans to study business in China after graduation.

I grew up in Northern Virginia with 3 brothers and 5 sisters. I was number 6 in my family. Life was crazy in our small house. I had to share a room with my two older brothers and my younger brother. We just had enough room for two bunk beds, two dressers, and a small pathway between them.

Dinner was an interesting time for our family. There was the paradox of the limited and overflowing food. You had to come to the table early and grab the food fast or you wouldn’t get anything. But at the same time, you always seemed to take a little too much food and not be able to finish it all. In an attempt to get us to eat our food, my mother would often tell us “There are starving kids in China!” I never understood how gloating myself could possibly help any kid in China, but I did feel sorry for them, so I stuffed my face anyway.

My second youngest sister, Beth, has Downs Syndrome. Downs Syndrome is a genetic disorder that causes developmental and intellectual delays. Beth would always keep us busy and on our toes. One time she wandered through our neighborhood alone and even walked into a neighbor’s house. While we were freaking out, wondering where Beth had gone, she was calmly eating cookies with Miss Dumphy. Though all my siblings have unique personalities and are a little strange, Beth was by far the most interesting. That is until Noah came...

My parents decided to adopt Noah from China, which brought our family size to 12. Noah also had Downs Syndrome and was full of energy and loved playing with guns and swords, but most importantly, animals. He had this amazing gift where he could change into any animal at will. We would be sitting at the dinner table and one moment Noah would be in human form and the next he would be a T-Rex trying to nibble my arm off. When Noah first came, he didn’t know any English and we didn’t know any Chinese, but we both learned the most important words fast. For us it was ‘bu yao’ and ‘guo lai’, for him it was ‘Brachiosaurus’ and ‘Siphonophora’.

Whenever my family went out to a restaurant together, we were quite a sight. Everyone seemed to be staring at us, especially Noah and Beth. I could tell that they pitied them. They simultaneously felt sorry and superior to them. I never understood why people thought this way. Yes, they had a disability. Yes, their intellectual and physical development was stunted, but most “normal” people are stressed all the time. Most normal people spend half their free time gossiping about people and the other half worrying what people are saying about them. Noah doesn’t have these problems. He does not hold grudges and he has pure joy over the simple things in life. Regardless, people kept their distance, perhaps if they had actually talked with Noah and Beth their misconceptions would not live for very long.
I was very close to Noah. When he first came, he could not pronounce my name well, so he called me “Mother”. This name stuck until this day. He will often be found yelling “Mother!” whenever I come back from school.

I was determined to master the Chinese language and one day bring Noah back to his home town to see his roots. I decided to study Chinese in College and enrolled in my first Chinese course as a freshman. I distinctly remember one of our first classes, the teacher was teaching us about tones and how one sound could have multiple meanings, depending on the tone used. We were given 5 ‘mas’ in 5 different tones. Our teacher asked us to read it and assured us that it made a sentence. What followed was a cacophony of young Americans yelling “ma!” at different times and in creative ways. Between tones and characters, I thought I would never be able to learn this language.

Despite my struggles, I pressed on. One day Confucius Institute asked me to volunteer in the dragon dance for our school’s homecoming. I was stuck with the butt of the dragon and was tired from the running when it was all over, but during this time I was given the opportunity to meet many Chinese students as well as the volunteer teachers from the Confucius Institute. I became friends with the volunteers and was able to have conversation partners to improve my Chinese. This was the first step in overcoming the challenges of the Chinese language.

After increasing my connection with Confucius institute by talking with the volunteer teachers and attending events, I learned about the Chinese Bridge Speech Competition. I decided to apply and was accepted to give a speech and a cultural performance in Boston. The Confucius Institute paid for the trip and my hotel. This was my first time in Boston. After giving my speech and performing the song “Beijing huanying ni” I was offered: a scholarship to study in Renmin University, a flight to China to attend a Social Work Conference at Beijing Normal University, and the opportunity to continue with the speech competition in China. Unfortunately, I could not do all three, so I decided to attend the conference and study for two months.

As I sat in the airplane waiting to take off and start my trip to China, I felt jittery. Whenever I fly, I am always amazed by the fact that a metal machine can float in the air and travel at such high speeds, but this time I had the added excitement of finally going to China. I wasn’t sure what to expect. I knew there were lots of starving kids who needed me to eat for them, and that Chinese people made very good General Tso's Chicken. I also knew that many older Chinese people were very traditional and not very accepting of foreigners, besides this, I didn’t know much else. When I arrived in China, I soon realized that what I “knew” about China was wrong.

I was met at the airport by a very bright graduate student from Beijing Normal University. She took me in a taxi to my dorm. On the way I saw the huge sky scrapers and shopping malls. After arriving at the dorm I was able to go shopping with some Chinese students. I saw tons of Chinese people not starving, in fact, they were buying designer clothing and famous brands, many of the same brands that I use. During lunch I was amazed at what I could buy for just a few American dollars. I saw all of the diversity in Chinese cuisine, none of which was what we typically see Chinese food as in America. I found out that most Chinese people don’t even know what General Tso’s Chicken is!

I like talking to people. I target the people that seem to have more time and aren’t running from one place to the next. I saw some older ladies playing cards in front of the apartment I was staying at. While I was nervous about joining a group of older women who were most likely more traditional, I decided to approach them and ask them how to play. Immediately, they asked me to sit down and attempted, as best they could, to explain the game to me. When they found out I was American, they mentioned Trump, and everyone laughed. Even though we came from very different backgrounds and had a language barrier between us, we were able to connect. Being able to connect and be accepted by these traditional old grandmas made me change my views on traditional Chinese people. I saw them as loving and caring as opposed to hard and unaccepting of others.

While I was at Renmin University, I met an old grandpa who swept the streets of the University. It was hard for us to communicate because he spoke a dialect and was missing a few teeth. I felt sorry for him and would try to talk to him whenever I could. One day I was heading out of my dorm to grab lunch and he asked if I had eaten yet. I said no. He then, without hesitation, proceeded to take out all the money he had and extended it to me. This old man was watching out for me. He did not want a young student to go hungry in a far away foreign land. I was touched by his gesture and instantly realized my fault. I was just like those people who stared at my family at the restaurants. I pitied him, I simultaneously felt sorry and superior to him. Sure, I had more teeth than him, sure, I had more money than him, but did I have more love than him? Was I willing to offer all my money to make sure someone I barely knew would not go hungry?

I learned a lot while I was in China. I learned about the wide array of dishes, the diversity of people. I learned not to judge people groups by stereotypes, and to experience cultures first hand before making conclusions about them. I learned to not judge people by their outer condition but by their inner character. I brought many misconceptions to China but I did not bring them back.

Near the end of my trip, I stood on the Great Wall. I looked across the mountains over China. My heart was filled with love for this country and its people. Just as when I came, I felt jittery with excitement about my future with China. I was not the same man as when I came to China. While most people treasure the Great Wall as one of the seven wonders of the ancient world, I treasure the Great Wall as the place where my misconceptions are buried.
August 30, 2019

Deliang Wang, Ph. D.and Ying Liu, Ph. D
Confucius Institute
Rowe House
314 Jamestown Road
Williamsburg, VA 23185

Dear Deliang Wang and Ying Liu,

On behalf of the City of Williamsburg’s Summer Youth Achievement Program, we wanted to extend our thanks to you and the Confucius Institute interns and volunteers! Each of the three workshops provided a powerful addition to our experiential program. It was wonderful for the youth to have exposure to the art of calligraphy, martial arts, and Chinese musical instruments! You were accommodating and flexible with setting up the activities. Each member of your team was patient with the youth in learning to engage and experience ideas and concepts from a different culture. It was the perfect opportunity for the youth to build upon aspects of their character. Several of the youth were excited to present some of their final calligraphy work that said, “Be perfect in all aspects” at our 25th SYAP anniversary graduation.

We hope to and look forward to having your team join us again next summer, summers to come and possibly throughout the year to work with the youth within the city. Our community has so many great agencies, organizations, opportunities, and experiences. We appreciate your involvement with the community and its goal of promoting international education and cultural understanding.

Sincerely,

Atira C. Hepworth
Summer Youth Achievement Program Counselor
City of Williamsburg
November 9, 2018
Chinese Culture Day at CNU
2018年11月9日，威玛孔院在克里斯托弗新港大学举办文化展示活动，吸引了众多学生前来参与体验。

November 15, 2018
Music Demo at Waller Mill Elementary School
2018年11月15日，威玛孔院志愿者梅婷婷在Waller Mill 小学介绍并演示中国传统乐器。
November 30, 2018
Lecture on Taiji and Calligraphy

2018年11月30日，威玛孔院中方院长王德亮在威玛健康中心的太极课上讲解书法与太极的关系。

January 3-14, 2019
W&M-BNU Winter Program in Beijing

2019年1月3日至14日，威廉玛丽大学首期访华冬令营顺利进行，学生们游览了北京和上海，参观了故宫、长城等名胜古迹。

January 23, 2019
Taiji Fan Workshop at Williamsburg Regional Library

2019年1月23日，威玛孔院志愿者潘修森在威廉斯堡市图书馆开展太极扇工作坊，带领当地居民一起体验太极扇的魅力。

January 24, 2019
Lecture in Matthew Whaley Elementary School

2019年1月24日，威玛孔院受邀在Matthew Whaley小学的Social Studies课上举办讲座，主要内容包括中国概况、汉语入门和武术体验三部分，学生们被中国文化深深吸引。
February 5, 2019
Chinese New Year Gala

2019年2月5日，威玛孔院举办新年晚会，孔院志愿者和学生一同为大家带来了精彩纷呈的表演。

February 9, 2019
PCAA Chinese New Year Celebration

2019年2月9日，威玛孔院参加维州半岛地区春节联欢晚会，志愿者潘修森的武术表演和侯捷的竹笛独奏大放异彩。

January 31, 2019
Movie Screening: The Island

2019年1月31日，威玛孔院受邀参加威玛国际电影节，为观众呈现中国电影《一出好戏》，并在影片放映前为大家带来了中国传统民族乐器演奏和武术表演。
February 9, 2019 CSSA Chinese New Year Celebration

2019年2月9日，威玛孔院与中国学生学者联合会（CSSA）300多名师生共庆新春。志愿者侯捷为大家带来了竹笛表演。

February 17, 2019 Williamsburg Chinese School New Year Celebration

2019年2月17日，威玛孔院中方院长王德亮带领孔院志愿者一同参加了威廉斯堡中文学校的新年晚会。志愿者潘修森为大家带来了中华武术表演。
February 21, 2019
WMCI Distinguished Scholar Lecture

2019年2月21日，威玛孔院邀请美国国际政策研究中心高级顾问Bonnie Glaser 前来讲座，为大家解读中美关系，听众反响热烈。

February, 2019
Chinese Social Studies at Laurel Lane School

2019年2月，威玛孔院受Laurel Lane学校的邀请在其Social Studies课上教授中国文化主题课程，内容包含国画、剪纸等中华传统文化艺术。

February 22, 2019
Martial Arts Demonstration at Walsingham Academy

2019年2月22日，威玛孔院志愿者潘修森在威廉斯堡市著名私立学校Walsingham Academy进行中华武术和太极扇的展示及教学活动。
February 28, 2019
Business School Chinese New Year Celebration

2019年2月28日，威玛孔院与商学院共同举办新年晚会，志愿者潘修森与商学院学生一同为大家带来了太极扇表演。

March 26, 2019
International Night at Matthew Whaley Elementary School

2019年3月26日，威玛孔院参加Matthew Whaley小学的国际之夜活动，并向师生及家长介绍和展示了中国武术、竹笛、剪纸等传统文化。

March 26, 2019
Music and Papercutting Demos at Walsingham Academy

2019年3月26日，威玛孔院志愿者程冕和侯捷在威廉斯堡著名私立学校Walsingham Academy分别开展了中国剪纸和竹笛的文化主题讲座。
May 12, 2019
Chinese Character Competition
2019年5月12日，威玛孔院在威廉斯堡市中文学校组织了汉字比赛，不仅检验了学生的学习成果，也在活动中提高了他们学习中文的兴趣。

May 15 - 28, 2019
W&M Faculty China Delegation
2019年5月15日至28日，威廉玛丽大学孔子学院成功组织威玛教育工作者访华活动。在为期14天的活动里，访华团共参加了8场学术会谈，开展了6场学术讲座，参与了18场文化体验活动。
May 22, 2019
Chinese Painting Workshop at Williamsburg Regional Library
2019年5月22日，威玛孔院志愿者程冕在威廉斯堡市图书馆开展中国画工作坊，当地居民参与积极。

July 2, 2019
Calligraphy Workshop at Wesley Foundation
2019年7月2日，威玛孔院志愿者代迪欧在Wesley Foundation开展中国书法展示活动。

July 16, 2019
Chinese Flute Workshop at Wesley Foundation
2019年7月16日，威玛孔院志愿者侯捷在Wesley Foundation进行中国竹笛展示活动。

July 17, 2019
Chinese Flute Workshop at Williamsburg Regional Library
2019年7月17日，威玛孔院志愿者侯捷在威廉斯堡市图书馆开展中国竹笛文化工作坊。
August 5-9, 2019  
Summer Break Camp

2019年8月5日至9日，威玛孔院举办了中国文化夏令营，教授了中国泥塑、剪纸、书法、国画、竹笛、葫芦丝、武术、民间传统游戏等课程，大受好评。

August, 24 2019  
Jie Hou at the World Arts Celebration

2019年8月24日，孔院志愿者侯捷参加了在Newport News举办的世界艺术庆典活动，为观众们带来了精彩的竹笛演奏。

July 23, 2019  
Chinese Martial Arts Workshop at Wesley Foundation

2019年7月23日，威玛孔院志愿者冯梦楠在Wesley Foundation展示中国武术。

July 30, 2019  
BNU-W&M Summer Exchange Program

2019年7月30日，威廉玛丽大学校长Katherine A. Rowe接见了参加威玛暑期课程的北师大学生。

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September 3, 2019
Chinese Martial Arts Workshop at Williamsburg Regional Library
2019年9月3日，威玛孔院志愿者冯梦楠在威廉斯堡市图书馆举办了中国武术主题讲座。

September 14, 2019
2019 Confucius Institute U.S. Center National Honors Gala
2019年9月14日，威玛孔院学生Michael Briggs和Carly O’Connell获得2019中美人文交流大奖，与美方院长Stephen Hanson和中方院长王德亮一同出席了在华盛顿国家新闻中心举行的颁奖典礼。

September 14, 2019
CSSA Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration
2019年9月14日，威玛孔院和中国学生学者联合会 (CAAS) 在Sadler Center活动中心共同举办中秋晚会。

September 21, 2019
The Year of Making Fair
2019年9月21日，威玛孔院参加了在威廉斯堡市图书馆举办的手工日活动，介绍并展示了中国书法艺术，吸引众多民众前来体验。
October 4, 2019
Sichuan Folk Cultures Gala
2019年10月4日晚，成都纺织高等专科学校赴美文化交流团在威玛学生活动中心举办了四川民间文化展演活动，其中变脸节目和水袖舞演出大放异彩。

September 29, 2019
Adventure Race
2019年9月29日，威玛孔院参加了Adventure Race活动并设置了踢毽子的挑战环节。威玛校长Katherine A. Rowe也参与到挑战之中。

September 27, 2019
Flute Concert
2019年9月27日，威玛孔院成功举办侯捷笛子独奏音乐会，美方院长Stephen Hanson出席活动并发表讲话，演出现场座无虚席，大获成功。
October 18, 2019
Homecoming Parade and Open House

2019年10月18日，为庆祝威玛校友返校日，威玛孔院举行了开放日活动，邀请学校师生和社区居民体验中国文化。与此同时，威玛孔院组织志愿者及威玛学生进行了游行活动，孔院舞龙队取得社区组第二名的佳绩。

October 30, 2019
Crash Course Chinese

2019年10月30日，威玛孔院志愿者冯梦楠和林宁英在威玛学生健康中心为其员工举办了一场“汉语速成”文化讲座。
1. 子曰： “巧言令色，鲜矣仁。”
Confucius remarked, “With plausible speech and fine manners will seldom be found moral character.”

2. 子曰： “君子不器。”
Confucius remarked, “A wise man will not make himself into a mere machine fit only to do one kind of work.”

3. 子曰： “朝闻道，夕可死矣。”
Confucius remarked, “In the morning, hear the Way; in the evening, die content!”

4. 子曰： “文质彬彬，然后君子。”
Confucius remarked, “It is only when the natural qualities and the results of education are properly blended, that we have the truly wise and good man.”

5. 子曰： “德不孤，必有邻。”
Confucius remarked, “Moral worth is never left alone; society is sure to grow round him.”

6. 子曰： “岁寒，然后知松柏之后凋也。”
Confucius remarked, “When the cold of winter comes, it is then you know that the pine tree and the cypress are the last to lose their green.”

7. 子贡问曰： “有一言而可以终身行之者乎？” 子曰： “其恕乎！己所不欲，勿施于人。”
A disciple of Confucius enquired: “Is there one word which may guide one in practice throughout the whole life?” Confucius answered, “The word ‘charity’ is perhaps the word. What you do not wish others to do unto you, do not do unto them.”