

# Chinese Language Programme November Newsletter

You are on this mailing list because you are either currently, or were formerly a student in the Chinese Language Programme. By being on this list, you'll receive monthly updates on the United Nations Chinese Language Programme, community events and tips for Chinese language learning. If you'd like to be taken off this mailing list, please send an email to [ho@un.org](mailto:ho@un.org) with the subject line "Remove from CLP newsletter list". No message is necessary.

## Program News

### *Final Exams*

Final exams will be given on Monday, 1 December and Tuesday, 1 December. All the exams will be conducted in DC2 classrooms. Please check with your teacher for the exam schedule. Room assignments will be posted outside DC2-207 on the day of the exam.

### *Online Seminars*

There are two online seminars in December, which are as follows:

**Learn to Sing Chinese Songs** on Wednesday, 10 December, 9:00 pm to 9:40 pm. This fun-filled session will be conducted by Ms. Vera Hwang, who is an instructor with our programme.

**Resources for Learning Chinese Characters** on Wednesday, 17 December, 9:00 pm to 9:40 pm. This session will be conducted by Prof. Wayne He of the U.S. Military Academy at West Point. Prof. He previously served as the Coordinator of the Chinese Programme at New York University.

Please visit [http://unclp.org/online\\_reg/online\\_seminar.html](http://unclp.org/online_reg/online_seminar.html) for more details about our online seminar series, seminar descriptions and registration. If you have trouble registering online, please email Ms. Jiayin Long at [jl3249@columbia.edu](mailto:jl3249@columbia.edu) with your info.

### *Congratulations!*

Alice Harrison, one of our students, received an honourable mention for the 2008 St. Jerome Translation Contest. See details on ISeek: [http://iseek.un.org/webpgdept1561\\_53.asp](http://iseek.un.org/webpgdept1561_53.asp). Zhuhe ni, Alice!

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## Community Events

*Lecture (in English): China and the World Since 1368*

The year 1368 marks an important juncture in Chinese history. It was not only the year when the Ming Dynasty was founded; it was also the year that ushered in a period of economic reconstruction, the installation of new institutions and diplomatic and military expansion. The movement was paralleled in Mongolia, South-East Asia, the Indian Ocean and Central Asia. It was during the ensuing decades that China came into close contact with the outside world that resulted in the second Chinese “Renaissance”, which was marked by a whole series of economic, social and intellectual changes. Many a historian considers 1368 the year when China entered the modern era.

To help better understand China and its interaction with the rest of the world in the modern period beginning from the landmark year of 1368, the Renwen Society at China Institute is inviting the renowned Prof. Morris Rossabi to give a special lecture on China and the World since 1368.

Professor Rossabi is a historian of China and Central Asia who teaches courses in Inner Asian and East Asian history at Columbia. He is author of many books.

Date: Saturday, 6 December, 2008, 2-4 pm

Location: China Institute, 125 East 65<sup>th</sup> Street, New York, NY 10065

For details and registration, please visit <http://chineselectures.org/upcoming.html>.

### ***Yao Ming is Coming to Town***

Houston Rockets with Yao Ming as a major player is playing against New Jersey Nets on 22 December. There is a special price offer for this and other games. For details and ticket purchase, please visit <http://letsgonets.com/tickets/groupsales/Freid%2008-09.html> (Special Offer Code: nets).

### ***The Reel China Documentary Festival***

The Reel China Documentary Festival is an independent film festival that presents the most outstanding contemporary documentaries produced in China. Sponsored by REC Foundation, a leading media agency and multi-cultural non-profit organization with the primary goal to help launch the best Chinese documentaries into the world and enhance worldwide understanding, appreciation and research of these artworks and cultural products, the festival takes place every two years.

For more information about the 2008 festival, please click <http://reelchina.net/about2008.htm> and <http://reelchina.net/2008.htm>.

### ***China on Broadway: Soul of Shaolin***

Nederlander Worldwide Productions and The Eastern Shanghai Cultural Film and Television Group are partnering to present this production, under the producing brand *China on Broadway*. Opening is Jan. 15. Performances, featuring 33 Chinese artists,

continue to Jan. 31. The production is in celebration of the Lunar New Year — the year of the Ox — which will be celebrated Jan. 26, 2009.

The show will feature 33 Chinese nationals who are highly skilled in Shaolin Kung Fu, the breathtaking martial art that has been featured in such films as "Fearless" (starring international superstar Jet Li) and "Shaolin Soccer." Shaolin Kung Fu is described as the collection of martial arts that is associated with the monks of the Shaolin temple in China's Henan province.

Tickets go on sale Oct. 29 at Ticketmaster.com and at all Ticketmaster outlets. The Marquis Theatre box office (1535 Broadway) will open Dec. 22. Tickets will be \$95, \$75 and \$50. Student rush tickets will be available for \$30 day of the show at the Marquis, with a valid ID, two tickets per student pending availability.

Performances Jan. 13-25, 2009, will be Tuesday at 7 PM, Wednesday at 2 & 8 PM, Thursday and Friday at 8 PM, Saturday 2 & 8 PM and Sunday at 3 PM. Performances Jan. 26-31, 2009 (The Week of Lunar New Year) will be: Monday at 8 PM (Day of the Lunar New Year), Tuesday at 7 PM, Wednesday at 2 & 8 PM, Thursday and Friday at 8 PM and Saturday at 2 & 8 PM. There is no performance on Sunday.

From <http://www.playbill.com/news/article/122807.html>, where you can also purchase tickets.

### ***CITY CINEMATHEQUE***

The Crime of History: Films from Hong Kong and China  
Oct. 2008 - Nov. 2008

The best in world cinema is showcased in City Cinematheque. Hosted by Professor Jerry Carlson and co-produced with the Department of Media and communication Arts of The City College, CUNY, each film is followed by lively discussion with scholars, film professionals and critics.

This series includes three early films directed by Hong Kong auteur Wong Kar-Wai, best known in the west for such films as Chungking Express, In the Mood for Love, and 2046. Another Hong Kong director represented in the series, Yim Ho, is known for Kitchen and Red Dust.

See details at <http://www.cuny.tv/series/citycine/index.lasso>.

### ***See Chinatown: Shop, Eat and Explore***

Affordable shopping, delicious Asian cuisine, marvellous arts and culture and scores of historical sites.

1 December, 2008 to 8 February, 2009

See details at <http://explorechinatown.com/>

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## **Study Tips**

### ***NYC Mandarin Chinese Language Meetup***

NYC Mandarin Chinese Language Meetup Group is a networking and study support group with the goal of connecting people with diverse interests and skills in Mandarin Chinese and educating the public about the most widely spoken language in the world.

Mandarin Mondays is this group's featured WEEKLY event. The organizer calls it the world's first and largest WEEKLY after-work buffet, happy hour and karaoke "open private event" celebrating Mandarin Chinese Language and culture connecting native speakers, American-born Chinese looking to get back to their roots and anybody interested in Mandarin Chinese language and culture.

Time: 6-10PM EVERY MONDAY

Please RSVP and see more details at <http://chinese.meetup.com/254/about/>

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## **Resources**

### ***READ CHINESE!***

READ CHINESE! is a project of the National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland, developed with support from a Department of Education, International Research and Studies.

There are more than 70 Reading Lessons designed for Beginning and Intermediate Readers. Each lesson includes all of the following:

- \* Reading passage in both Traditional and Simplified Characters with pinyin transcription
- \* Audio recording and English translation of the passage
- \* Glossary with English translations
- \* Cultural and Linguistic Explanatory Notes
- \* Three or more innovative exercises and comprehension activities with feedback on each activity

No Cost. No registration. No sign-in. Just go to the website and START!

<http://readchinese.nflc.org/?page=home>

***Free Book: A Glimpse of the Chinese Language-Peking's Language Reforms and the Teaching of Chinese in the United States By Francis Shih-hao Shieh***

A discussion of the Chinese language including: (1) a brief history of its development, (2) a comparison of three major systems of romanization for written Chinese, and (3) the teaching of Chinese in the United States. Appendixes include a comparative key to systems for romanization of Chinese, a table of simplified Chinese characters, an index to Chinese phonetics, a list of Chinese radicals, and a list of the Old National Phonetic Symbols.

You can download the pdf file of the book at  
<http://www.rand.org/pubs/papers/2007/P3078.pdf>.

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**Article of Interest**

***Study Abroad Flourishes, With China a Hot Spot***  
***New York Times, November 17, 2008***  
***By TAMAR LEWIN***

Record numbers of American students are studying abroad, with especially strong growth in educational exchanges with [China](#), the annual report by the Institute on International Education found.

The number of Americans studying in China increased by 25 percent, and the number of Chinese students studying at American universities increased by 20 percent last year, according to the report, "Open Doors 2008."

"Interest in China is growing dramatically, and I think we'll see even sharper increases in next year's report," said Allan E. Goodman, president of the institute. "People used to go to China to study the history and language, and many still do, but with China looming so large in all our futures, there's been a real shift, and more students go for an understanding of what's happening economically and politically."

While the traditional study-abroad sites for Americans — Britain, Italy, Spain and France — still attract more students from the United States, the report found that China is now the fifth-most-popular destination.

In the 2006-7 academic year, the latest for which figures are available, 11,064 Americans studied in China, a large jump from 1995-96, when only 1,396 Americans studied there.

After the summer Olympics, interest in China is still growing rapidly. This year, 218 students applied for money to study in China from Gilman International Scholarships offered by the State Department, compared with 114 applications for the 2006-7 academic year.

And applications to programs like the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies, a consortium of 13 American universities, have skyrocketed.

“When I took over as executive director in 2000, we accepted about 97 percent of the students who applied, but now we can only take about one in three,” said Tom Gold, a professor at the University of California, Berkeley, who runs the program.

Many universities are hard-pressed to keep up with the interest in China. Syracuse, for example, usually has a limit of 60 students a semester in its Hong Kong program, but because of strong demand expanded to 65 for the spring semester.

At Syracuse, one China program was not enough: in 2006 it started a Beijing program, taught in English, in collaboration with Tsinghua University, which will have about 15 students this spring. SUNY Oswego, meanwhile, has gone from one small exchange program in Beijing to seven partner destinations throughout China, including Hangzhou and Shanghai — and two faculty-led short-term programs in China, one on business and the other on Chinese culture.

“These days, nobody questions why you take Chinese and go to China,” said Vanessa Folkerts, a junior at Princeton who began studying Chinese as a freshman, and has spent two summers in intensive language study in Beijing. “It has its obvious uses. I know a lot of people get interested because China’s a rising economic power, but for me, it was mainly a linguistic interest.”

There are now hundreds of study-abroad programs in China. While most include some language study, some focus on martial arts, herbal medicine, culture, history or business.

Over all, 241,791 Americans studied abroad in 2006-7, the report said, with sharp increases in the numbers going to Argentina, South Africa, Ecuador and India, and declining numbers going to Australia and Costa Rica.

Last year, the report said, 623,805 students from around the world studied in the United States, 61 percent of them from Asia. Business and management and engineering remain the most popular fields of study.

As in previous years, the University of Southern California had the most international students, 7,189, followed by New York University and Columbia.

In a separate report on graduate school enrollment, released last week, the Council of Graduate Schools found that total international graduate enrollment increased 3 percent this fall, after rising 7 percent last year. The number of new international graduate students rose 3 percent as well, less than the 4 percent growth last year, or the 12 percent in 2006.

The number of new graduate students from India declined this year, after an 8 percent increase last year, the report found, but Chinese enrollment stayed strong, with first-year enrollments up 14 percent.