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Reading through all the reflections in this special tenth anniversary issue of the WMCI Newsletter brings back very happy memories for me. WMCI has truly touched so many lives at William & Mary, in the Williamsburg community, and in China as well! One can’t help but feel that through all of the hard work that has gone into building our CI over the past ten years, we have, in a small but significant way, improved mutual understanding between the peoples of China and the United States.

What has made WMCI such a big success is the amazing dedication, hard work, creativity, and warmth of its people. I’ve been personally very lucky to have had such great colleagues. Helping to set up WMCI in the early 2010s along with Founding Director Yanfang Tang and Chinese Director Ma Lei was inspiring and exhilarating. Working with our current leadership team, Associate Director Ying Liu and our second Chinese Director Deliang Wang, has been an absolute pleasure, professionally and personally. Vice Provost Bob Colvin at Christopher Newport University and his CNU colleagues have been fantastic partners for many years. Our terrific WMCI interns from the U.S. and China, our top-notch Visiting Scholars, our wonderful community supporters, our dedicated WMCI Faculty Advisory Committee, Professor Michael Hill and all the members of W&M’s Chinese Studies Program, and so many W&M faculty, staff, and students from across our university have come together to make this a special kind of international partnership. I’m also very grateful to the W&M leadership, who, as you can see from the essays included in this newsletter by President Emeritus Taylor Reveley and Provost Emeritus Michael Halleran, have been steadfast supporters of our efforts. Finally, I want to thank everyone at Hanban for your help and support as well. I owe all of you a debt of gratitude!

Behind WMCI’s success is the deep, multifaceted, and trusting partnership we’ve built with our sister university, Beijing Normal University. W&M and BNU have established what experts in the field of international education call a “transformational partnership”—one in which every aspect of university life is affected in a positive way. At these difficult times in world history, such partnerships are very rare—and they matter more than ever. The members of the WMCI Board, including our remarkable BNU colleagues Vice President Zuoyu Zhou, Dean Xingwei Miao, and Director Kai Xiao, have worked together to overcome every obstacle to WMCI’s success. The bonds of friendship between our two institutions gives me great confidence that we will find new ways to promote academic cooperation and cultural understanding in the years and decades ahead, building on the strong foundation of our work together to support WMCI over these past ten years.
Reflection of My Time in the 2020 BNU Winter Program

By Carolyn Lemens

Carolyn Lemens is a sophomore at William and Mary, studying International Relations with a planned minor in Chinese. She is involved with various student organizations on campus including the Lambda Alliance and Phi Mu. She enjoys travelling, learning new languages, and drinking lots of coffee.

Before departure, we were warned about culture shock and how everything would feel different. However, upon arriving in China my first thought was how similar everything was to America. Despite the obvious language and cultural differences, day to day life looks relatively the same.

The things that were different however, were very impressive. For example, in the U.S. we do not have monuments as old as the Great Wall or the Forbidden City. There is also a certain grandeur and intricateness that I have only seen in Chinese architecture, art, and language. I was especially impressed with the individual carvings and details on the roofs of the buildings in the Forbidden City and the Summer Palace. The Great Wall acts as a sort of monolithic representative of China and it lives up to its reputation. Hiking about 8 kilometers of the wall showed me just how much work went into its construction and helped to show just how long the wall really is. Seeing the towers spread out into the distance, unable to see an end on either side, showcases just how massive the wall is.

In the classroom, I was initially overwhelmed by how complex the Chinese language looks. To a native English speaker, the concept of both tones and characters are extremely foreign and at times difficult to understand. I was both surprised and grateful that after the first few classes the format and rules of the language began to make sense. Having the characters, their origins...
and compositions explained was immensely helpful. In addition, the repetition of the tones and learning pinyin helped to simplify the process. While mastering pronunciation and continued tones will require much additional work, I feel that I am now prepared in a way I was not previously to continue learning to a higher level. The patience of the professors was also crucial because it allowed me to make mistakes while continuing to learn. I was not expecting to be able to learn as much vocabulary as we did, or to leave China being able to have basic conversations about school.

Culture classes, including calligraphy, traditional painting, paper cutting, and tea art, showed me so much more about the traditions of China. I have not studied art previously and it was incredibly interesting to see how the art fit into other aspects we were learning, specifically language. Calligraphy in the US is much different, in both its purpose and how it is viewed. Calligraphy in China is viewed as a practiced art form that is displayed the same way a painting would be, while in the US it is viewed simply as a nicer way to write letters or invitations. The tea art was my favorite to practice because it was so unique and used mediums that are not traditionally used in the US. I enjoy the tradition and ceremony that goes along with it because it makes an everyday item like tea feel special and important, similar to how calligraphy makes even writing an important art form.

While I enjoyed our classes, I think that my favorite part of visiting China was simply being immersed in a place so different from where I live. Every bite of food was an uncertainty as I usually had no idea what I was eating. This makes even the simple things in life an adventure. Foods that I would never try at home, like the scorpion I ate at the Summer Palace, are always just around the corner. Going to the store means interacting with people who probably don’t understand what I’m saying. I need to communicate with either the Chinese I have learned or in any other way I can think of. I find it very comical how much we have almost created a new language that consists entirely of pointing and nodding. I am very excited to continue discovering new food and places in Shanghai while continuing to work on my language skills. I am so thankful to all of the teachers and students who have helped me while I have been in China, and I hope I can come back soon!
I decided to come to Beijing to study on the language and culture class because I had no idea what to expect of living and studying in China. Despite the drudgery of the sixteen-hour plane ride, and one-hour metro into the City to make it to Beijing Normal University, the long days, and hard studying the experience has been fantastic. The hours practicing pinyin were challenging, trying to make a brush stroke both strong and smooth perplexing, and the bus rides long. However, learning about China and Chinese from local people has been immensely rewarding. The city of Beijing is not at all what I expected. The core of short buildings and narrow streets ringed by skyscrapers seems unique of any megacity in the world. While I was taken aback by the smog the first day of wandering around the Hutong I quickly learned the benefits of a good mask and was better able to appreciate the beauty of the down-town of small courtyards and maze-like streets and what they held. What seemed like a closed antique tower in fact held a new tea-house, and neighboring restaurants held delicious dumplings after an ordeal of embarrassing myself to the waiters. I wasn’t sure what to expect from Beijing, but the old city held within a nest of modern steel and strung together upon massive highways was not it. Learning Chinese – at least the superficial introduction that we’ve had has been fascinating. Struggling to work with the immensely different grammar and butchering tones was satisfyingly complex. The more that I learned about Chinese, the more the complementary difficulties stood stark against Latin-based languages. Where Latin based languages have complex conjugations and grammatical constructions, basic Chinese grammar seemed alien in its simplicity, the pictographic nature of the character were much less intimidating once they were patiently explained, and while I still can’t quite clearly pronounce the differences between all the tones, I can at least try when talked to like a small child.

The exposure to cultural differences and similarities has by far been the highlight. Riding the rickshaws through the hutong, visiting the Great Wall, and being exposed to the delicious food were all immensely enjoyable although eclipsed by interactions with students. The presentations by local students highlighting the apparent differences between us went far to show how similar we all are as people. This was summed up by a note from one of the local professors that we’re all people, and we have more in common than we first often imagine.
当地时间2020年1月24日晚，威廉玛丽大学孔子学院成功举办2020年鼠年春节联欢晚会。联欢会在威廉玛丽大学学生活动中心进行，受邀参加的有威廉副教务长、威廉孔院美方院长Stephen E. Hanson、威廉各院系领导及教职工代表、威廉斯堡当地社区中国文化爱好者、威廉孔院历届学生等。近200人欢聚一堂，共同迎接即将到来的中国鼠年。

致辞结束后，联欢会在歌声中拉开了序幕。第一个节目是由威廉大学高级中文班的全体学生带来的一首《朋友》。在温暖而有力的旋律中，学员们肩并肩地演绎着他们之间的友谊。而在歌声之外，是两种文化间的融汇和交流。

联欢会前，Stephen E. Hanson发表致辞，他在致辞中表示，2020年是中国农历中的鼠年，这种聪慧、敏捷的动物，具有美好的象征意义，并祝贺大家鼠年大吉。同时他还回顾了过去一年来孔院对威廉大学和当地社区所做出的贡献，对孔院全体员工的努力表示肯定和感谢。

第二个节目由威廉孔院志愿者林宁英和她的中文社区课学生Joey合作完成。Joey热爱中文，在孔院半年来的学习进步巨大，这次春晚便为大家带来了一首经典诗歌朗诵--《春江花月夜》，意境空明，想象奇特，语言自然隽永，韵律宛转悠扬。而志愿者林宁英在现场进行了中国书法展示，挥毫写下了一副“春江花月夜”，演出结束，响起了热烈的掌声。
此次联欢会还设置了一个互动环节，威廉斯堡当地气功爱好者Stan Rockwell，武术爱好者Jim Goode以及孔院志愿者冯梦楠一同为大家带来了一场现场气功演练。包含了三组训练，旨在通过冥想及站桩的方式让大家体会气功文化的魅力。全场齐参与，闭目调息，感受与寻找自身的力与气。气功并不是什么高深莫测的玄学，而是一门实用且易行的身体训练。训练结束，每个人的脸上都增添了一些轻松祥和。

接下来是由参加过北师大孔院冬令营项目的威玛学生带来的歌曲表演，一首由中文填词的《See you again》让大家眼前一亮。之后是两位活泼可爱的表演者，来自威玛孔院的下设教学点克里斯多夫新港大学，他们为大家带来了一首趣味十足的《对不起，我的中文不太好》。诙谐有趣的歌词加上现场的吉他演奏，让大家忍不住跟着旋律动了起来。

接下来便是本场晚会年龄最小的演出者，7岁的徐海晴是一个小小的武术爱好者，为大家带来了一套利落飒爽的长拳表演。一招一式有模有样，博得了满堂彩。

晚会接近尾声，孔院为大家带来了传统乐器古筝演奏。威玛中国学生卢佳永为大家带来了两首筝曲，宛转悠扬，展示了中国传统音乐的魅力。

本次联欢会由志愿者冯梦楠和当地武术爱好者安琪共同带来的阴阳八卦双刀作为压轴节目。值得一提的是安琪正是长拳表演者小海晴的妈妈，这还真是个不折不扣的“习武之家”。双刀表演彪悍利落，配合默契，中华武术的英豪之气一览无余。演出结束响起了热烈的掌声，晚会也就此落下帷幕。
当地时间1月25日，Williamsburg Pottery 举办了盛大的“亚洲节”活动，威廉玛丽大学孔子学院应邀参与并为大家带去了精彩演出。孔院志愿者冯梦楠登台献艺，为大家带来了中华传统武术阴阳八卦拳及八卦单刀的演出，博得了观众热烈的掌声。

威玛学生卢佳永代表孔院为观众献上了古筝演奏，现场观众均被中国音乐深深吸引。此次“亚洲节”邀请了中国、韩国、泰国、柬埔寨等多个国家的人士参与，吸引了逾五千名观众到场。

当晚，在威玛孔院的资助下，中国学生学者联合会（CSSA）举办了春节联欢晚会，与本校师生共庆新春。春节是中国最重要的传统佳节，凝聚着中华传统文化精髓，也愈发受到世界各国民众的喜爱，成为沟通东西方文明的重要载体。此次春节活动不仅使得身在威廉斯堡的华人感受到家的温暖，更为国际友人直观地了解中国文化打开了一扇窗，亦为两国的交流架起了文化和友谊的桥梁。至此，威廉玛丽大学孔子学院新春系列活动圆满结束，在2020新年之际，威玛孔院也祝福全球华人新春安康，新年快乐。
Cinema is one of many fields in which China continues to get closer to the rest of the world. It is for this reason that the William & Mary Confucius Institute presented a screening of last year's Chinese blockbuster, Ne Zha, at this year's W&M Global Film Festival. Ne Zha broke several records at the Chinese box office and inspired fanfare for the film that was unprecedented in Chinese cinema. And yet, despite its massive domestic popularity, it was seldom talked about abroad, making it the perfect film to screen at the Global Film Festival.

The film itself tells the story of a young boy named Ne Zha, who is seemingly destined at birth to be evil after being afflicted with a curse. However, through the struggles he faces and the friends he makes, he learns that anyone can challenge their fate, and that it is possible to forge one’s own path. We can find meaning in this today; though China & America may be on opposite sides of the globe, we are not destined to be apart, and it is ultimately up to us to foster strong connections with one another.

Interested film aficionados and friends familiar with other projects done by WMCI attended the pre-screening reception, where participants were free to enjoy catered food and drinks. While attendees ate, they mingled amongst one another, excited to see what the movie would be like. As they were ushered into the theatre, WMCI Chinese Director Deliang Wang gave opening remarks, specifically regarding the film’s success, current events in China, and thanking the audience for coming to see the film. The movie itself was well-received, many members of the audience were pleasantly surprised by the film’s sense of humor. Another point of praise among audience members was the detailed animation.

With how well-received the film was at the showing, it makes a great case for bringing Chinese cinema onto the global stage. As much as cinema appears to be mostly entertainment, films have much more cultural influence than they did just twenty years ago. WMCI’s screening of Ne Zha is merely a small part of a larger effort to bring China’s blossoming film industry into the international limelight, and by extension, China closer to the rest of the world.

WMCI’s screening of Ne Zha at the Global Film Festival

By Barrett Ratzlaff

WMCI Screening of Ne Zha

Some members sample the food and drink while others chat at WMCI’s screening of Ne Zha.

WMCI Chinese Director Deliang Wang gives some opening remarks to the audience just before the show.
停课不停学，课程上云端
--美国威廉玛丽大学孔子学院在疫情期间积极开展网络教学

2020年3月以来，新冠肺炎在全球持续蔓延。受疫情影响，威廉玛丽大学全面停课，但是停课不停学，在孔子学院总部的号召下，不少孔子学院已经由线下教学转换为线上课程，教学直播、视频慕课、微课、在线练习等形式丰富，层出不穷，线上教学已经成为疫情笼罩下不可阻挡的新趋势。为了保证教学进度，保障学生权益，威廉孔院广泛调研，迅速行动，于3月17日正式运行网络课堂。

威廉玛丽孔院的5位老师积极应对、认真备课，制定了详细的教学计划，借助Zoom等线上教学平台，明确了以视音频图片为主的教学形式，增加互动讨论等多种尝试，目前已顺利开展了四周的线上教学活动。

自威廉玛丽大学孔子学院停止面对面授课后，志愿者教师林宁英所负责的社区课、一对一辅导课和小组辅导课均转为网络授课。教学对象有小学生、大学生及社区居民。这对于老师和学生来说，都是一种全新的尝试和挑战。

由于先前没有类似经验，突然变身“线上女主播”，志愿者教师们多少还是有些忐忑。如何进行小学生网络课程的课堂管理，如何协调知识点讲解和练习的比例，如何进行书面测试和作业的批改等等，这些都是亟需探讨的问题。

在摸索和尝试中，林宁英逐渐熟悉Zoom授课的模式。在开展网络课程前，及时联系小学生的家长，做好网课的预备及课堂纪律的配合管理，帮助年长的学生熟悉网课的操作。此外，林老师在课程的前一天都会给学生们发送上课材料，包括课堂测试、课文、练习及作业等。在提前的指导和预备下，网络课程顺利进展，反响甚好，消除了学生们对网课操作及教学效果的疑虑，也坚定了教师在这特殊时期进行网络授课的信心。

图为第一次用Zoom给威廉玛丽大学学生及教授上Chinese Level 1，学生们积极配合，教学效果及学生反馈都甚好

为小学生们讲授拼音
同为志愿者教师的冯梦楠也开展了线上一对一教学，Zoom平台丰富多样的功能使得教学更加高效顺畅。“随讲随记”的线上标注功能受到了学生的好评，笔记一目了然，随时都可以回顾温习。

冯老师网上授课截图

与此同时，负责威玛中文项目学分课程的李欣老师则在线上把中国书法课上得有声有色。学生们在家中拿起了毛笔，在纸上写下了一个个中国字。浓浓的中国“爱”在线上播撒开来。

李老师授课截图

申东月老师也线上开展了威玛中文系华裔班的教学，学生们表示在这个特殊的时期，能够足不出户在家里继续中文学习，大大充实了当下的生活。线上授课也取得
了事半功倍的效果，赢得了学生们的一致认可。

此外，在威玛孔院下设教学点克里斯托弗新港大学的马欣老师也积极响应号召，开展了线上教学。

通过师生的共同努力与合作，威玛孔院的线上教学都顺利按照计划进行。面对疫情，威玛孔院全体教师积极应对各种困难，尽最大努力为学生学习中文提供条件，赢得了学生和家长的一致认可。

在当前这一特殊时期，威玛孔院积极响应当地政策和总部号召，在保护好孔院师生安全的前提下，通过网络最大限度保障教学工作和其他工作的正常运行。网络教学激发了学生们对汉语学习的热情，线上的密切交流也拉近了师生之间的距离。

让我们共同期待在校园相聚的那一天早日到来！
As the year has progressed, technology has led the way in helping link communities together while we are temporarily apart from each other. One bright example of this took place on the evening of September 26th. Using Zoom, WMCI was fortunate enough to host DC Beauty of Beijing Opera (DCBBO), a group of dedicated and knowledgeable performers with the desire to make this art form known to new audiences.

Before the presentation, Vice Provost for International Affairs and Director of WMCI Dr. Steve Hanson gave a few opening words and expressed gratitude to DCBBO along with thanking the audience for attending virtually. Louisa Huang of DCBBO then gave opening remarks introducing the viewers to her organization.

With the opening remarks complete, Louisa Huang then invited Yan Brendel to speak. Yan Brendel gave attendees a brief introduction to this art form and some of its unique characteristics, namely the combat performances, acrobatics, and striking makeup. She then shared with the audience a pair of videos that displayed these qualities, one being a scene from a classic of Beijing Opera, the second being an impressive display of talent from Beijing Opera performers.

Following this was Mei Wang, who gave viewers a presentation on Mei Lanfang, a man seen as the best performer of Beijing Opera, and *Heavenly Flowers*, a classic play performed by Mei Lanfang. The story of this play is adapted from Buddhist stories. Mei Wang then showed the audience a short clip of this play, in which Mei Wang herself beautifully sang one of the pieces in *Heavenly Flowers*.

After that, Sarah Xie began to give the audience a more in depth look on the technique of performers that wore water sleeves. She first shared a clip of her performing a classic of Beijing Opera with the long and flowing water sleeves, followed by her showing the audience a live demonstration of basic movements with these water sleeves.
Attendees take a group photo with DCBBO’s Zoom presentation of the Beijing Opera on September 26th.

Louisa Huang introduces her co-presenters as they begin DCBBO’s Zoom presentation of the Beijing Opera on September 26th.

Sarah Xie gives a brief demonstration of water sleeves.

From this point, the audience had a chance to interact with performers. Louisa Huang displayed a photo of her and her fellow presenters in the costumes and makeup of the Beijing Opera, and asked audience members a simple question: Which performer is which? Because of the intricate and detailed nature of the attire, it was difficult for some to say! Then Yan Brendel gave viewers a brief demonstration of some basic movements used in the Beijing Opera, encouraging them to follow along. To wrap the presentation up, a group screenshot was taken to commemorate the event.

WMCI feels incredibly grateful for the chance to hold events despite the circumstances. It is no small matter we have the ability to connect with each other online, and still are able to exchange pieces of culture. In any case, the Williamsburg community and beyond is sure to welcome such a talented group as DCBBO, be it online or otherwise.
One aspect of life that is markedly different between the East and the West is medicine. Chances are that most people in the West have only heard of some forms of traditional Chinese medicine and what they do. This is why the William & Mary Confucius Institute was excited to host Brigitte Fox as a guest speaker for a two-lecture series on this very subject, one on the benefits of acupuncture, and the other on the benefits of traditional herbal treatments of the East and West.

On Tuesday, October 8th, Brigitte Fox gave her talk on acupuncture. The attendance for the event was large, as Dr. Ying Liu began the event by welcoming about thirty attendees and giving them a brief introduction of Brigitte Fox. From there, Fox gave two explanations of how acupuncture works, one through a Western medicine perspective, and the other through a lens based on Traditional Chinese Medicine. During her explanation using the latter perspective, she explained concepts that might have been unfamiliar to the mostly American audience. After that, Fox displayed graphs that showed where certain peripheral points were, and what focusing on those points did for the body.

Brigitte Fox highlighted the great benefits acupuncture provides for treating the symptoms of viral illnesses as well as strengthening the immune system’s response towards such illnesses. After her lecture, attendees were eager to ask her questions, ranging from how rigorous becoming an acupuncturist is, to how acupuncture treats congestion or insomnia. Viewers were satisfied with her answers, as she dedicated time to give each question a substantial answer. Needless to say, this first lecture was a great way to begin this short series.

On Thursday, October 22nd, Brigitte Fox returned to give a second lecture, this time specifically on the herbal treatments found in Traditional Chinese medicine. Attendees were first given an explanation of how these herbal treatments differ from medical treatment is normally done in the West. After this comparison, Fox then gave descriptions of various herbs such as licorice and ginseng, and what health benefits they provide specifically. Brigitte Fox especially emphasized attendees ought to consult their doctor before trying herbal treatments. She said that because each person’s needs are different, each person may need a different treatment. For this reason, some herbs may not be appropriate for what it intended for depending on the patient. Fox also stressed that attendees should avoid dismissing herbal treatments completely, saying that there is merit to such an enduring practice of medicine. When the floor was open for questions, viewers were particularly interested about herbs
that they had heard about from friends, family, or media. Fox gave each person a structured answer. Participants appreciated this and expressed their gratitude to her as the meeting ended.

As the world comes closer together through innovations like the internet, we are certainly fortunate to have access to information about this ancient practice that lives today, and even more fortunate that a specialist like Brigitte Fox was willing to commit time to give us an in-depth explanation of the various aspects of Traditional Chinese Medicine.
November 6, 2019  Jie Hou’s Flute lecture in CNU

2019年11月6日，威玛孔院志愿者侯捷在克里斯托弗新港大学举办竹笛文化讲座，吸引了众多学生前来参与体验。

November 8, 2019  Book Talk by Carole Louie

2019年11月8日，威玛孔院邀请Carole Louie在Reves Center举办了一场新书座谈会，围绕作者新书The Story of Yangshi Lei: The Legacy of the Lei Family Architects Lives On展开。
November 22, 2019 Washington DC Beijing Day Event

2019年11月22日，威玛孔院参加为纪念北京—华盛顿缔结友好城市关系35周年举办的“北京日”活动。

December 2, 2019 Matoaka Elementary School Calligraphy Class

2019年12月2至6日，威玛孔院志愿者林宁英、冯梦楠受邀在当地小学Matoaka Elementary School的Social Studies课程中教授中国书法。

December 11, 2019 Lecture at Matthew Whaley Elementary School

2019年12月11日，威玛孔院受邀在当地小学Matthew Whaley Elementary School的Social Studies课上举办讲座，介绍了中国概况、中国文字及中华武术。课后志愿者冯梦楠带领学生进行武术训练。
December 16, 2019  Chinese Social Studies at Laurel Lane Elementary School

2019年12月16日，威玛孔院受邀在当地小学Laurel Lane Elementary School教授中国剪纸。

January 9, 2020  Martial Arts Demonstration at Walsingham Academy

2020年1月9日，威玛孔院志愿者冯梦楠在威廉斯堡私立学校Walsingham Academy进行中华武术展示及教学活动。

January 14, 2020  New Year Presentation at Walsingham Academy

2020年1月14日，威玛孔院志愿者林宁英在威廉斯堡私立学校Walsingham Academy进行中国春节主题文化讲座。
January 16, 2020  New Year Presentation at Dutrow Elementary School

2020年1月16日，威玛孔院受邀在威廉斯堡当地小学Dutrow Elementary School进行中国春节主题文化讲座。

January 24, 2020  New Year Presentation at Stonehouse Elementary School

2020年1月24日，威玛孔院受邀在威廉斯堡当地小学Stonehouse Elementary School进行中国文化主题讲座。
January 25, 2020  Asian Festival at Williamsburg Pottery

2020年1月25日，威玛孔院受邀参加由Williamsburg Pottery主办的亚洲文化节，为观众带去了中华武术和古筝乐器演出。

January 25, 2020  CSSA New Year Gala

2020年1月25日，在威玛孔院的资助下，威玛中国学生学者联合会（CSSA）举办了春节联欢晚会，与本校师生共庆新春。

January 30, 2020  Global Film Festival

2020年1月30日，威玛孔院受邀参加第13届威玛国际电影节，展映中国电影《哪吒》。

January 24, 2020  WMCI Chinese New Year Gala

2020年1月24日，威玛孔院举办春节联欢晚会，孔院志愿者教师和学生们一同为大家带来了精彩纷呈的演出。
February 8, 2020 VMFA ChinaFest

2020年2月8日，威玛孔院受邀参加弗吉尼亚艺术博物馆（VMFA）举办的中国节，开展了中国书法工作坊。

February 27, 2020 Ladies’ Night of IFN—Chinese Painting

2020年2月27日，威玛孔院与国际家庭网络组织（IFN）合作举办“女士之夜”，志愿者教师林宁英教授大家中国画。
September 26, 2020 Online Lecture on Beijing Opera by DCBBO

2020年9月26日，威玛孔院邀请位于华盛顿特区的“京剧之花”做关于京剧的在线讲座。

June 26, 2020 Online Lecture by Manuel Parreno

2020年6月26日，威廉玛丽大学孔子学院特邀学者Manuel Parreno进行有关老子思想的中国哲学在线讲座，主题为“在老子思想中寻求新冠病毒的应对之道”。

March 8, 2020 Creators’ Fair at Williamsburg Regional Library

2020年3月8日，威玛孔院受邀参加威廉斯堡当地图书馆举办的“手工日”活动，设立了中国吹梅画作体验工作坊。

October 8, 2020 Online Lecture by Brigitte Fox on Acupuncture

2020年10月8日，威玛孔院邀请Brigitte Fox做关于针灸的在线讲座。
October 22, 2020  Online Lecture by Brigitte Fox on Traditional Herbal Treatment

2020年10月22日，威玛孔院邀请Brigitte Fox做了第二场在线中医讲座，这次她讲解了草药的运用。

October 29, 2020  Distinguished Scholar Lecture by Frank Samolis

2020年10月29日，威玛孔院与威玛法学院合作举办了关于中美贸易战的在线讲座。
Reflections on the Impact of WMCI

2011 to 2020
The Tribe Visits the Middle Kingdom

By Taylor Reveley


Think back to fall 2013. Many people from William & Mary had visited China by then, and even more had journeyed from China to our sacred precincts. Hundreds of students, but also professors and researchers, had come from the Middle Kingdom to learn and teach on our campus. Senior administrators from universities in China had also visited William & Mary to discuss potential collaboration and cooperation, and we had sent our administrators to talk with their peers in China. But W&M had not yet sent its leader, the President, despite repeated invitations from our Chinese counterparts that he visit. Good manners and protocol strongly suggested he show up for ceremony and substance, accompanied by a delegation.

As it happened, I was then W&M’s President, and I was a reluctant dragon, not eager to divert time and energy from pressing matters on campus. Good counsel from those wise in the ways of China, however, persuaded me the trip was important and overdue.

So it was, in October 2013, a delegation from William & Mary made a “state” visit to four of China’s leading universities and to the Hanban headquarters of the Confucius Institutes. When time permitted, we also pressed the flesh with Tribe alumni in Beijing and Shanghai.

Our delegation assembled at the airport in Richmond early one morning to begin the journey. In our number: the President, the Vice Provost for International Affairs, the Deans of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, School of Education and School of Marine Science, Associate Deans from the Mason School of Business and the Law School, and the Director of the W&M Confucius Institute, as well as two staff members bearing gifts for our Chinese interlocutors, along with keys to the logistics ahead. These stalwart staffers were the Assistant to the President & Provost and the Executive Director of Regional & International Advancement. It was an august delegation meant to convey the seriousness of our interest in ties with Hanban and Chinese universities.

Alas, the airplane that was to have flown the delegation to Chicago to catch a direct flight to Beijing proved feckless. Remedial flights were scarce. The next day only the President and Vice Provost could get tickets for the flight to Beijing via Chicago. The Deans of Education and Marine Science fell completely by the wayside, a significant loss since our Chinese hosts proved quite interested in the work of both schools. The rest of our party straggled into Beijing via Japan and South Korea.

Otherwise, the complex logistics for the trip unfolded flawlessly. After several days in Beijing, the delegation moved on to Chengdu and finally Shanghai, before returning home.

In addition to ceremonial rites and substantive discussions with the leaders of Hanban (including an extraordinary dinner for just the President and Vice Provost with formidable, but charming, Madame Xu Lin, Hanban’s Executive-Director), we spent time at Beijing Normal University (BNU) (where we were greeted by a giant banner welcoming William & Mary, along with pictures of our campus). Then came Tsinghua University (where discussions...
On April 16, 2012, President Reveley attends WMCI’s grand opening ceremony in front of Wren Building at W&M.

took place in the elegant confines of a former prince’s reception hall. Next we visited the University of Electronic Science & Technology of China (UESTC) (a brand-new campus of vast proportions), and finally Fudan University (one of China’s oldest institutions of higher education, though, like Tsinghua, not founded until the early 20th century).

Seizing a brief window in an otherwise rapacious schedule, we also visited the Chengdu Giant Panda Breeding Base, arriving in a light drizzle amid masses of Chinese tourists. There, before eyes accustomed to seeing at most one panda or two, we saw innumerable, from infants in a nursery to rollicking adolescents, and languid adults, lounging amid lush bamboo.

Unceasing banquets came our way, including a particularly multifaceted one, hosted by an UESTC alumnus of enormous wealth. Many formal remarks were made daily, many gifts exchanged, and much protocol observed. The latter required a lot of handling of the President to ensure he rode (alone in a Mercedes, preceded by a small bus holding the rest of the delegation), walked (always in front of any group), sat (in the middle of one side of each conference table), spoke (in the manner protocol dictated) and presented gifts (again, as protocol dictated).

In the President’s opening remarks at each stage of the delegation’s progress, I dealt with “College” in William & Mary’s official name. The Chinese do not traffic with colleges, lest they be secondary schools or undergraduate residence halls. They want to focus on universities, the more venerable the better. So I explained that W&M is one of the world’s oldest institutions of higher education, born internationally in February 1693, a creation of England’s King William and Queen Mary. I explained W&M has been a university since May 1779, when it established the first law school in the United States. And I noted William & Mary has been a fertile source of U.S. Presidents, Cabinet members, Supreme Court Justices, and other leaders, most recently Robert Gates, Secretary of Defense for Presidents Bush and Obama. This was a mouthful, oft repeated, and well received. But even before I began my recitative, our hosts seemed already to have an awareness and appreciation of William & Mary.

On two occasions, the President had to go beyond remarks and make speeches. After being created an honorary professor at BNU Law School, I was expected to opine in scholarly fashion. So the subject was my academic specialty, the “war powers” – how the United States, constitutionally, divides, or shares, authority between the President and Congress over American use of armed force abroad. At UESTC, my subject was “Our Shared Hope in the Power of Higher Education.” A Q&A session followed each presentation. The students at both BNU and UESTC were remarkably polite, most of them seemingly able to follow my English, delivered with a mild Southern accent.

Several of the questions asked me by Chinese students at UESTC were particularly compelling. They wanted to know if I thought their country and mine could live in peace. This was very much on their minds even in 2013, when Sino-American relations were far less frayed than now.

I said my birth occurred during World War II when the United States and China were close friends and allies. Then I pressed my view that peace and prosperity, not just for our two countries, but for the world, hinge on China and America learning how to get along, even as we compete economically, culturally and militarily. It is crucial the United States and China not fall into the sort of pointlessly destructive competition Great Britain and Germany experienced during the years leading to World War I, when Great Britain was resisting the loss of some of its international primacy while Germany was aggressively trying to increase its own. I suggested the more it is that people from China and America get to know and understand one another, the greater the likelihood we can build ties to nurture peace. Connections between people build friendships in good times, and help sustain them in bad times. Studying in one another’s universities is an effective means to this end, thus our shared hope in the power of higher education.

The quest for friendship and understanding led William & Mary to bring a Confucius Institute to our campus in 2012. Having the WMCI in our midst added significantly to W&M’s capacity to provide excellent instruction in Mandarin to our students, and it brought greater awareness of Chinese culture to the campus and community. The WMCI had no say on curriculum, no involvement in politics, and no impact on academic freedom or university policy. Indicatively, shortly after the Institute came to us, we welcomed the Dalai Lama to campus to speak, even though he was anathema to the Chinese government. Now the time for Confucius Institutes on American campuses seems to be drawing to a close, as tension and suspicion grow between our two countries. This is sad.

In 2013, however, times were more promising, and having a Confucius Institute newly arrived on campus was a strong impetus for dispatching our delegation to China. The reluctant dragon was glad he went and pleased with what we accomplished.

Upon opening my suitcase back home, I discovered the pants to one suit worn on the trip had been left hanging in a Shanghai hotel room. I bayed at the moon. The suit was new. Not long thereafter, the pants, freshly pressed, showed up in a Federal Express box, repatriated by a caring hotel staff. The Tribe’s visit to the Middle Kingdom had truly ended well.
Almost exactly ten years ago, I travelled to Beijing to explore starting a Confucius Institute at my home institution, William & Mary. Our delegation was comprised of Carl Strikwerda, then Dean of the Faculty of Arts & Sciences, Professors Yanfang Tang and T. J. Cheng, and me, as Provost. I had known about Confucius Institutes for some time and was eager to see if it made sense to have one on our campus.

The trip itself was delightful. Our hosts were administrators and faculty at Beijing Normal University, our partner school, with which we already had a long-standing relationship. They were gracious and helpful, welcoming us with a warm, celebratory dinner, introducing us to other colleagues and program leaders, and helping us to explore some of the main cultural sights (it was the first trip to China for two of us), including the Great Wall. We also met with members of Hanban to discuss the details of the proposed partnership in a Confucius Institute at William & Mary. By good fortune, the annual meeting of Confucius Institutes across the world started shortly before our departure and we were able to attend the opening session and get a sense of the global reach of this program. Upon returning to the States, we met with members of the Chinese delegation at the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C., eventually signed the formal agreement and established our CI in one of the Jamestown Road houses that border the campus.

My hopes in establishing a Confucius Institute at William & Mary were to expand our offerings in Chinese language and culture—both for our students and faculty and for the larger Williamsburg community—and to strengthen our connections with BNU. These hopes have been fulfilled. We have had wonderful partners in our BNU colleagues and beyond the CI programming itself, we have increased our activities with their university. We were also fortunate in having as our inaugural director Professor Tang, whose energy, knowledge, and enthusiasm were critical to our early success. And we were equally fortunate in having the leadership of Steve Hanson both as our Vice Provost for International Affairs and, at times, director of the CI.
Teresa Longo
Dean for Interdisciplinary Studies
Director of the Charles Center
Professor of Hispanic Studies, William & Mary

When faculty and staff at William & Mary set out to establish the WMCI, our idea was to enhance our longstanding collaboration with Beijing Normal University and to foster our scholarship and teaching about China. Drafting the proposal, we understood that many of the building blocks for a successful program were in place already: The Chinese Studies Program served nearly 250 students each semester in the language courses, and students across campus were knowledgeable about literature, film, economics and history in China and throughout the region. Once the institute was launched, our opportunities in these areas grew deeper. The WMCI made it possible for our scholars and students to visit China, especially BNU; and it made it possible for Chinese artists, filmmakers, economists, political scientists, dancers and musicians to cross paths with their counterparts on our campus. The many contributions the WMCI made to our community included the screening of films for the Global Film Festival, productions we wouldn’t have known about otherwise: films like Cook up a Storm introduced us to the language, politics, and poetics of family owned restaurants; and the panel discussion that followed helped us see Chinese cinema as part of world cinema. In some ways, this was the point of the entire initiative, from film and art to economics and history: that we being to see ourselves as connected, as scholars and artists making contributions across nations and throughout the world.

Bob Colvin
Vice Provost, Christopher Newport University

Christopher Newport University (CNU) is in its seventh year participating as a Confucius Institute teaching site, an extension of the Confucius Institute housed at the College of William and Mary (WMCI). During these seven years, the WMCI has provided Christopher Newport with one full-time Chinese language professor each year. These professors taught our students spoken and written Chinese language and helped facilitate events such as celebrating the Mid-Autumn (Moon) Festival and Lantern Festival, where both W&M and CNU students learned about food, song, art, and other cultural traditions of China. We have enjoyed formal events such as the Beijing Normal University Performance Troupe delighting our campus community with a variety of Chinese dances and beautiful costumes. Another memorable event was the Chinese Martial Arts: Shaolin Kung Fu performance. Some of our students took a twelve-session course on several ethnic dances of China. In an era of increasing globalization, this WMCI partnership has helped our undergraduate students, particularly in our Asian Studies program, gain important knowledge of China’s culture and language. The CNU Department Chair of Modern and Classical Languages and Literatures, Dr. Laura Deiulio, serves as the CNU liaison with the WMCI. In addition to the three on-site professors, Gao Lu, Yang Xuemei, and Ma Xin, she and I have enjoyed working with W&M Vice Provost Steve Hanson, Chinese Director Wang Deliang, and Associate Director Liu Ying. We appreciate the learning opportunity that has been provided to our students.
It’s worth reminding ourselves that just over a decade ago, there was no WMCI. But there was a vision—a vision for expanding educational opportunities for students through new courses, programs, and study abroad; a vision for pursuing interdisciplinary research and scholarly exploration with new colleagues on the other side of the world; a vision for bringing entertaining and enlightening cultural events to our university and the greater Williamsburg community. During the past 10 years, the faculty, staff, students, and community members—both here at William & Mary and at Beijing Normal University—have realized this vision with aplomb. All of this has been in pursuit of a broader aim reflected in our university’s mission: “[W]e inspire lifelong learning, generate new knowledge, and expand understanding. We cultivate creative thinkers, principled leaders, and compassionate global citizens equipped for lives of meaning and distinction. William & Mary convenes great minds and hearts to meet the most pressing needs of our time.” The WMCI has served as a unique and substantive means to that profoundly important aim.

The W&M Confucius Institute served students, faculty, and members of our community by enriching their understanding of Chinese language, writing, culture, and policies. They did this through an extensive offering of classes, performances, academic lectures, and outreach programs. This type of programming is essential if American business people, politicians, and citizens are to develop more positive and fruitful forms of engagement with China, now the world’s largest and fastest growing economy.
Michael Gibbs Hill
Associate Chair for Faculty Affairs, Modern Languages & Literatures
Associate Professor & Director of Chinese Studies
Member of the WMCI Faculty Advisory Committee

Since arriving at William & Mary in 2017, I have been consistently impressed by the depth of collaboration made possible by WMCI. First and foremost, our WMCI colleagues have opened many doors for our students to study the Chinese language and to study in China, especially at our partner institution, Beijing Normal University. Now that we have re-established our summer Chinese studies program at BNU, I know that this connection will continue for our students long into the future. Beyond the support for our Chinese studies program, I also have to note the variety of colleagues—including from the School of Education, the Business School, and the Law School—who have participated in and actively supported WMCI programs that strengthened exchanges in research and teaching across all of these subject areas. I am grateful to everyone involved in those efforts and look forward to what lies ahead for our partnership with Beijing Normal University.
I cannot believe it has been almost four years since I left WMCI in January 2017. When Dr. Deliang Wang, the current Chinese director of Confucius Institute at the College of William and Mary, asked me to write a reflection for the 10th anniversary of the WMCI, it conjures up all the fond memories of my five years of work between 2012 - 2016. I hold the strong belief that WMCI has served as a cultural messenger from its inception at the College and in the neighboring community.

It is doubtless that the initial purpose of the WMCI was to help college students better learn Chinese language with the supervision of Professor Yanfang Tang, the former director of the Chinese Studies Program in the Department of Modern Languages and Literature, who was also the former director of the WMCI. However, WMCI goes further than that to help different offices on campus to better understand Chinese language and culture, especially when there is a gradual increase of international students from mainland China. To name a few, we offered pinyin workshops to staff at the Reves Center for International Studies so that they can pronounce Chinese names correctly, helped Undergraduate Admission Office screening Chinese high school graduates, and explained the features of Chinese students to the Counseling Center. This was all thanks to the administration of the College, which made the WMCI an integral part of the campus. The current director, Steve Hanson, the vice provost, improved the visibility of WMCI with the Academic Advisory Committee and led the W&M educational delegation to Beijing Normal University, the partner school in China several times.

Apart from that, senior people in the community showed sustainable interests in the Chinese language and culture. Take Art for example; he was the very first gentleman who came to me in the first week of my arrival and asked me to record a Chinese novel for him. That restarted his Chinese learning to present day. Dr. Wang confirms that he is still learning Chinese novels with him. Roy is another earnest learner about Chinese culture and attends almost all the WMCI cultural events whenever he is available. We keep in touch with each other by email even after my return to the home university in China.

The unique characteristic of WMCI is that it prompts interests of the local people and encourages them to share their understanding of Chinese culture. World Taiji Day is a good case in point. Stan has long been a Taiji instructor and introduced Taiji regularly on and off campus. Each year in April, the local Taiji event attracts hundreds of people from near and far. Chinese Cooking class has been offered by Ed McMahon, who is local as well. The recent cultural lectures on Chinese medicine are mostly delivered by local people who are non-Chinese. PCAA, a local Chinese-American association helps with the promotion of Chinese culture on many occasions.
Cultural exchange has never been one-way, but two-way or multi-ways. While introducing Chinese language and culture, WMCI staff also learn about American culture. During my first time working administratively and academically in an American higher institution, Al, the finance manager, showed me how to keep a book and drove me to the Surplus in Richmond to get all the necessary furniture for Rowe House. Steve Hanson, the former CI director at University of Washington Seattle, proposed Plan A & B for the opening ceremony of WMCI just in case. My first syllabus “Business Chinese” was revised for four times to meet the standards of MLL with the help of Prof. Tang and other faculty. I remembered clearly how professional American people can be when I traveled back to China with the head of Career Center to look for internship and job opportunities for the college students in the summer of 2013. Joe, who voluntarily offered free English teaching to us, and invited us to have dinner at his home on major holidays, passed away recently and was loved by all WMCI staff. He polished our English language and gave us hands-on experience about American culture. What’s more, I keep the picture that Roy took when we went fishing in the serene lake.

To sum up, the WMCI is a win-win collaborative program. Both Americans and Chinese benefit from it. BNU undergraduates attend the summer course annually, while W&M sends theirs to the winter camps at BNU. It serves as a bridge between the universities. Upon my return to BNU in 2017, I continued helping with the first-year experience program of the College in Beijing, Nanjing and Jinan. What President Reveley said still rings a bell to me, “Once William and Mary, always William and Mary.”
How WMCI Changed My Life

By Deliang Wang

Deliang Wang is a professor at School of Foreign Languages and Literature, Beijing Normal University. He worked as the Chinese Director for Confucius Institute at College of William & Mary from 2017 to 2020.

My name is Deliang Wang. In January of 2017, I took the position as the Chinese Director of William and Mary Confucius Institute (WMCI). Before I came here, I had some doubts about whether this would be a wise decision, because I should have been working as an English teacher and doing linguistic research as my colleagues do in my own school—Beijing Normal University (BNU). At that time, I didn’t know much about Confucius Institute and there were many uncertainties in this position. I would have to separate from my family who lives in Beijing, which was another challenge. However, after almost four years of working here, when I reflect and compare what I lost and what I gained, I want to say I have no regrets and I feel lucky that I have made this choice because WMCI has influenced my life in a dramatically positive way!

I went to college in 1996 and my major was English language and literature. That means I have been learning English and teaching English as a profession for almost 20 years. However, I had never been to an English-speaking country before. When I first came here, I realized my English was a little bit different from the English used in Williamsburg. Not only my pronunciation, but also the diction sometimes differs a lot, which troubled me, so I tried to speculate what had gone wrong. By and by, I found out the reason. My English was learnt only in China, a non-English country, and only from textbooks and recordings. We seldom had the opportunity to use it in real-life situations. Because of this, our understanding of certain words and uses are actually different from how they are authentically used by American people in their daily life. This gave me the lesson that when you decide to learn a foreign language, either learn from a real native speaker or learn in the real context of situation. Thanks to this opportunity of working in WMCI, I got to use English every day. I need to write English emails to colleagues and work associates. There are also many occasions that I need to speak English in the meetings and discuss problems with various partners. Learning by doing is the best way of learning. Now my English ability has been improved significantly and I have a deeper understanding of English language and American culture. This will be a great fortune I can share with my students when I return to China. And I will be able to teach English language and culture with more confidence which will definitely be a great help to my career when I go back to BNU.
The work experience at WMCI greatly improved my interpersonal communicative ability. To tell you a secret, I am very shy and introverted by nature. I am reluctant to talk to strangers and don’t know where to put my hands and feet when I speak in public. But working as the Chinese Director, I have to meet different people and take the initiative to talk to strangers. I need to introduce myself and what we are doing in WMCI to whoever I meet. I am confident that our projects are awesome and will bring benefits to everyone. I feel I have the obligation to share them with all the potential customers. In order to achieve this goal, I even forced myself to attend all the events available to me, whether it was a lecture, seminar, party, celebration, or festival on campus or in the city of Williamsburg. At first, the awkward feeling pushed me to leave right away, but I resisted it and overcame my reluctance. After many times of struggle, I finally changed myself. Now I enjoy meeting strangers and talking to different people. Every person is so friendly and happy to meet you if you take a step forward first. I also find that all the people I met have something that I can learn from them. So now I am eager to search for event information and get ready to take part in it whenever possible.

Another aspect of interpersonal communication is how to exchange ideas effectively, make yourself understood and let others accept your ideas pleasantly. I have made great progress in talking with others and especially discussing about disputes. People have different views and perspectives. Do not attempt to assume everyone thinks in the same way. It is very natural that people have different ideas. The key is how to understand each other and how to communicate so that a common ground is found.

Through my work in WMCI, my administrative ability is greatly improved too. I feel very lucky to be able to work in the excellent administration team: Vice Provost Steve Hanson as our director and Dr. Ying Liu as the associate director. We three can always understand each other and discuss all kinds of disputes, challenges and emergencies openly, and we are always able to find a good solution. From them, I learned what good leadership is. Steve is always supportive and makes one feel they are always cared for and respected. Ying has a very strong professionalism. She is possessed with a sharp mind, attending to every detail and always making the perfect plans. Working with them, I feel very comfortable. They help me grow and achieve my goals. We share all kinds of burden and pressure together. I am very grateful to what they have done for me and for WMCI. Without their help, I couldn’t imagine what it would be like.

Being at the post, one will worry about any matter concerned therewith. As the Chinese Director, I have the duty of inspiring our team. Before I came here, I only worked as a teacher. What I needed to do is only to prepare the lessons and teach the classes. But now it is totally different. I have learned to think like a leader. How should I raise the morale of the teachers and staff in WMCI? How can I maximize the contributions of each member? How can I make good use of the talents of every unique member? How do I avoid all possible troubles and problems occurring in daily operations? Under careful administration, our team works happily and efficiently. No accidents or big mistakes happened during my term. We have not only achieved our goals, but also made many creative achievements. During my work here, WMCI has developed more collaborative partners and expanded its influence both in the college and in the community. What I am most proud of is that we made many “FIRSTs”. To mention just a few, in July 2017, WMCI organized the FIRST college student delegation to attend the summer camp in China hosted by BNU. After that we send around 20 students to BNU every year to participate this program. They have never been to China and some of them even have never been abroad. They spend 14 days in the language environment they are learning. Some claimed that this experience really changed their lives. In January 2019, WMCI organized the FIRST winter camp in BNU after many rounds of talks and negotiations, and we also made it a credit program. W&M students can earn one credit by attending this program. In May 2019, we successfully organized the FIRST W&M Faculty Delegation to China. Ten professors participated in this event and had the opportunity to visit China and attend academic exchanges.
with BNU. They were all very grateful for what we have done. In October 2019, WMCI held the Sichuan Opera gala and became the FIRST to bring mask changing performance to greater Williamsburg region in its history. The local audience said they would not have been able to see such a marvelous performance in their life if WMCI hadn’t done such a job!

Last but not the least, I made many good friends during my work here. They tend to love me either because of WMCI, or through becoming acquainted with each other during social events. Joseph Anselmo, a retired lawyer, offers to help WMCI visiting professors and volunteer teachers to improve their English and adapt quickly to the local life. Our staff come from China and work here for one or several years. Their English is not very good and they have difficulties when they first arrive. Joe’s work helped them a lot. I became Joe’s student the moment I came here, and he tutors me one hour each week. This has continued for almost four years. Through this tutoring, not only has my English and my understanding of American culture been greatly improved, but we also became very good friends. We chat about all kinds of topics. He explains everything I don’t understand. He gave me consolation when I encountered difficulties in my work. But unfortunately, Joe passed away in August 2020. I lost a good friend, but his friendship and contribution to WMCI will be cherished and remembered forever.

Leroy Snyder is another very good friend. He is also retired and has been living in Williamsburg for many years. Roy attends every event and activity organized by WMCI ever since its founding. He has a strong passion for Chinese people and Chinese culture. When I first arrived here in January 2017, we became good friends immediately. He also tries to take care of our staff. He asks our young volunteer teachers to call him “Grandpa Roy”. In my eyes, he is really acting like their grandpa. He cares about their daily life, offers to provide help when they have difficulties. He always says, "you are in a foreign country, far from your home. Now I am your grandpa. Come to me if you need any help!" He visited my office every now and then. When he reads news reports about China, he loves to discuss with me, and we can share our thoughts and comments. He also cares about my leisure time. He taught me how to fish and we sometimes go fishing together in Waller Mill Park. Roy really made my life fun and interesting here.

There are many other good friends too. I cannot mention them all here, but one friend I cannot skip is George Matthew. We met each other at a concert in the Amphitheatre at William & Mary and became good friends afterwards. Through our chat, he learned that I was working in WMCI. He was curious and I introduced what we were doing to him and he began to participate our events. We sometimes spend spare time together. He loves playing tennis and offered to teach me. I had actually never played tennis when I was in China. Now I have learned how to play and my tennis skill improved day by day because of his help. He also took me out to local restaurants to savor the delicious food which is quite a memory. I invited him to visit me when I return to Beijing. I think our friendship will last.

What surprises me is that America is a really inclusive country. People have their own judgments and opinions, which may be different from the government. As you may know, Confucius Institute is only a language and culture institution aiming at promoting Chinese language learning and Chinese culture understanding. In WMCI, we do everything openly and frankly, without any hidden agenda. Even so, we are still under attack either because of ideological stereotypes or political standing. What I was moved by is that my local friends still choose to stand by me, support me and comfort me during this difficult time. Our friendship is not affected by the worsening Sino-US relationship. I think the work WMCI is doing is especially significant in this special time because people-to-people communication is the base that we should all protect. It will bring benefits to our future generation if we can solve the disputes in our time.

Because of this work opportunity in WMCI, my life has changed a lot. I have grown from a naive, immature, inexperienced person to a competent, professional and respectable leader. I know I still have a long way to go in the future, but what I have gained from WMCI is a great treasure which has provided great benefits to me. The visiting professors, volunteer teachers and I all feel that although our task is to teach Chinese language and culture to local people, we ourselves are also learners of local language and culture. When they returned to China, they often talked about how much they miss the time they spent here. Because of the work opportunity in WMCI, they improved their work skills, broadened their world views, enriched their life experiences. So, we have to admit that communication is bi-directional. We should open our heart and embrace the diversities so that we can grow to be a better self.

I am not sure how much contribution I have done to WMCI and the local people around me, but they have changed me for sure. I would like to put an end to my reflection by quoting Rabindranath Tagore, "I leave no trace of wings in the air, but I am glad I have had my flight."

Deliang Wang takes a group photo with President Rowe and BNU visiting students, July 2019.
Steven A. Kuehl, Professor of Marine Science, has been a member of WMCI Faculty Advisory Committee since 2017. A leading marine geologist, Professor Kuehl’s work in sediment dynamics has taken him from Chesapeake Bay to the waters of New Zealand and Papua New Guinea.

It all starts with a simple “Ni Hao”, then we go down the rabbit hole. My first trip to China in 2014 was at the invitation of Xiamen University, which at that time was beginning to develop a new Department of Geological Oceanography (DGO). I was part of an international advisory committee, whose role was to design a model department based on international standards. It was quite an introduction to Chinese culture and customs, and as a first-time visitor I was, frankly, a bit overwhelmed. From learning how to use chopsticks, knowing where to sit at the banquet table, and adjusting to the absence of a personal bubble (“people mountain, people sea”), it was a thrilling and exhausting first trip. Over time there were more trips, ultimately culminating in my appointment as Interim Chair of the new DGO from 2016-2019. The appointment was quite unique; as the only western department head at the University, it was an honor to occupy this position and help guide the development of the DGO, if only on a part-time basis.

During my short stays in Xiamen, I became more familiar with Chinese life and more comfortable navigating public transportation and traveling alone to explore distant cities such as Xishuangbanna, Lijiang, Chongqing, and Lhasa. From the river rapids at “Tiger Leaping Gorge”, to the night market in Xishuangbanna, base camp at Zhumulangma Feng (Mt. Everest), and the bustling streets of Shanghai, I came to appreciate the scale, beauty and complexity of this vast country. This confidence allowed me to guide a small group of William & Mary undergraduate students on a summer abroad experience, exploring the intersection of humans and nature along the Yangtze, one of the World’s great river systems. Seeing the “China experience” through the eyes of our students was truly remarkable, and perhaps one of my most rewarding teaching moments.

From these collective experiences, I began to more fully appreciate Chinese people and culture, and the striking differences from my own life in the US. As one of many possible examples, there is an extraordinary level of support within the family unit, especially when it comes to child rearing and extended family living arrangements. Often, I would see elderly men and woman on the Xiamen campus, taking infants in strollers or walks through the local parks. At first, I thought, wow, these parents are very old! Then I came to realize that its quite normal for grandparents to move in with their children to take on a major role in childrearing. Of course, there are many more subtle differences, from the explicit respect of elders, to the distinction of older and younger siblings that is integral to the Chinese language, family is everything!

Eventually, I was able to pick up a few more words and phrases in Mandarin and could begin to catch snippets of conversation in public settings. I was also befriended by colleagues in the DGO, who afforded me a glimpse into family and home life. These experiences have encouraged me to improve my understanding of Mandarin, with classes taught through the W&M Confucius Institute. Although taking on a complex language as an “adult learner” is not without some challenges, I have thoroughly enjoyed the journey. We all have these “ah ha!” moments in the learning process. For example, the Chinese characters in “Hao” (translated as “Good”) are derived from the symbols for “daughter and son” – it is clear that the Chinese love and commitment for family is built into the very core of the language. It’s my firm belief that cross-cultural exchanges between far-flung nations is one of the few antidotes to stark nationalism. Only with mutual appreciation of cultural values, and with respect and understanding, can we move forward together to tackle some of the most vexing global challenges we face today.
Art Huptich  
Community Member
One might correctly assume that the Confucius Institute uses both language instruction and a wide variety of Chinese arts and crafts in an effort to introduce Chinese culture to foreigners. Similarly, one might assume that such efforts are directed at the younger generation of grade school and college students; however, there are exceptions to this, of which I am one. My particular interest is with the Confucius Institute’s language program.

What makes me somewhat different is the fact that I am a man in his 70’s who has no interest in earning college (William and Mary) credits or qualifying for any study abroad program. The fact of the matter is that I studied Chinese many years ago, but never got to the level of fluency I would have liked. Many know that Confucius purportedly advised his charges that one should be able to stand on his own two feet when he reached age 30. What most people are not immediately aware of is that he also said that a man should feel free to follow the dictates of his own heart once he reached his 70’s. So, now in my old age, my objective is to be able to read Chinese books that I was never able to attempt years ago.

The Confucius Institute has been a big help to me. The teachers there have been willing to tailor my classes to my particular ability in a one-on-one setting. While I have appreciated the Confucius Institute from day one, it has become even more important to me in this pandemic era when old men need to use their memory to avoid becoming a lao hutu (old fool).

Roy Snyder  
Community Member
My memories of the William and Mary Confucius Institute (CI) cover nine of the ten years that it has been on campus.

As a community member, I have attended many sponsored events provided by CI. The world scholars who have lectured have stimulated my elderly brain, the concerts by skilled instrumentalists have moved my soul, the demonstrations of Chinese martial art forms have motivated me to exercise, and the Chinese Cooking Classes have added weight to my body. By far, the most exciting CI events have been the arrival of troupes from various Chinese Universities to put on shows. Seeing the Martial Arts troupe from the Tianjin University of Technology and the Sichuan Folk Cultures Gala performances have been spectacular!

I have also had the good fortune to get to know most of the people who have staffed the CI over the years. Although they may have had official titles in CI, I was pleased to know the humans who have been here. I learned quickly that the Chinese culture holds deep respect for its elderly. This was reflected in the courteousness shown to me by adults and young people. The young staff got to know me as “Grandfather” and would share their hopes, dreams and frustrations as they would with family back home. These young people, my “kids”, became close to me as “family” members. I have followed many on to their later lives.

The Confucius Institute has had a significant impact on the campus and the Williamsburg Community.
Ed McMahon, Ph. D.

Community Member

I appreciate the opportunity the William & Mary Confucius Institute has afforded me to indulge my passion for teaching Chinese cooking. I learned Chinese cooking from Joan Shih in Bethesda many years ago, and love to pass on her knowledge about this unique and wonderful cuisine, and I have continued to develop my skills over the years. Demonstrating the techniques where Chinese cooking differs from western cuisines makes such a difference in creating a successful dish. I have taught about 25 different dishes over 8 semesters now and hope I can continue through the auspices of the Confucius Institute.

Alison Norfolk

Adult Services Librarian II, Williamsburg Regional Library

The Confucius Institute has partnered with the Williamsburg Regional Library on many occasions to bring a better understanding of Chinese culture to the local community. They have taught classes and given public demonstrations of art and ceremonies that our patrons would otherwise not be able to experience. Fostering continued learning and greater understanding of the world is one of the chief goals of any public library. We are proud that the Confucius Institute shares this mission with us and that they have willingly given of their time and talents over the years to the wider Williamsburg community that we serve.

Robert L. “Bobby” Oliver

University Supervisor and Instructor for ESL and World Language Education, William & Mary School of Education

Since 2014, I have had the opportunity to collaborate with 25 of the Chinese interns from Beijing Normal University who have been assigned to the W&M Confucius Institute. This has been a rewarding linguistic, educational, and cultural experience not only for the interns but also for me as an instructor during our weekly seminar meetings at the W&M Confucius House. We discovered, identified, and discussed the many interesting—sometimes humorous—similarities and differences between our two cultures, our languages, our school systems, our students, and our second language teaching pedagogies. These are talented and enthused graduate students from BNU who bring the Chinese language and culture to our campus, to members of our community, and to our local public and private schools. Over the years and across the miles, many of the WMCI interns and I have stayed in touch, electronically.

In 2016, at the invitation of the Office of Chinese Language Council International (Hanban), I joined a visiting delegation of college and public-school educators from Virginia and the District of Columbia. In Beijing and Shanghai, we represented our educational connections with the Confucius Institutes of George Mason University and the College of William & Mary. While in Beijing, several of “my” interns living in the area took me out as their guest for an authentic Chinese dinner at a local restaurant. It was great to see them again. Such programs and initiatives between our colleges and universities help to construct a friendly and harmonious platform for international dialogues, and for exchanges in a mutually beneficial, global, and multi-cultural context.
Interns

Yi Hao

W&M ’19, Ph. D. in Higher Education
Assistant Director of Graduate Professional Development, University of Virginia
WMCI Volunteer Teacher (Sept. 2013 - July 2014)

It was an honor to be part of WMCI. My teaching internship there was transformational. As a volunteer Chinese teacher, WMCI was my first professional appointment in the United States. My engagement with the W&M community, the elementary schools, and the local community connected me to so many kind individuals who were curious and eager to learn about China. I hope the students I taught gained new perspectives about the Chinese language and culture.

During my time at W&M, I learned a tremendous amount from Dr. Ying Liu and her leadership, who encouraged me to pursue a Ph.D. degree in Higher Education; I had many great students who were so patient with me back then as I just started teaching. Those precious moments I shared with colleagues and students will be forever cherished and instrumental to my personal and professional growth. Thank you, WMCI, for all you’ve done as a bridge for two institutions, two languages, and two cultures. I wish the Institute a successful transition on its 10th anniversary!

Xu Han

Beijing Normal University ’17, Masters in Teaching Chinese to Speakers of Other Language

During my first year with WMCI, I was not familiar with my new environment. Fortunately, Professor Ma and Dr. Liu helped me out of this transition period by introducing me to native friends and involving me in local activities on weekends. Professor Ma and Dr. Liu also demanded my very best. Their high standards help me grow as a professional. As time passed, Professor Wang and Dr. Liu gave me more opportunities to hold cultural activities, such as events related to Chinese tea. Professor Wang and Doctor Liu would arrange everything half a year in advance, from scheduling a place to helping me practice my English. The biggest tea ceremony was in the local library with an attendance of almost 40 local people, and I gave a speech in English about Chinese tea. This is a memory I will not soon forget, and it is thanks to WMCI.

Confucius Institute is not just an educational institute, or a place to teach Chinese. The great essence of WMCI is the group of people in it. Professor Wang, Professor Ma, and Dr. Liu are the best symbols of Chinese culture and spirit. Through their own daily actions, they show what love, kindness, and selflessness is. The Confucius Institute staff really care. They care about us and other teachers in the Institute and the Chinese program, and anyone who is willing to learn with us. Best wishes to my beloved Confucius Institute!
William & Mary student Colleen Mulrooney competes at the 2017 China Bridge Language Competition.

Colleen Mulrooney

W&M ’19, Chinese
Fulbright Scholar 2019
WMCI Intern (2016 - 2018)

I could not have asked for a better internship experience than working at the William & Mary Confucius Institute. WMCI was just such a great organization to be a part of, because everyone there was determined to make the WMCI classes and events the best they could possibly be. Nothing was more rewarding than having a great turnout at a lecture, or seeing students leave class proud of what they learned. Learning about Chinese culture is something that opened a lot of doors for me, and it was amazing to be a part of an organization so dedicated to opening those same doors for our community in Williamsburg.

Zach Rubin

W&M ’18, Chinese & Finance
Carnegie Mellon University ’19, Master of Information Systems Management
WMCI Intern (2016 - 2018)

I joined WMCI because it aligned with my major and career interests, but I stayed involved throughout my four years at William & Mary and after graduation because of the people. I met coworkers, housemates, companions, and close friends through WMCI who I wouldn’t have met otherwise. While the overarching goal is to promote Chinese language and culture, the day to day is about building these connections, and the success of WMCI is the result of the passion of the staff, volunteer teachers, and community members.
子曰：「众恶之，必察焉；众好之，必察焉。」
The Master said, "When the multitude hates a man, it is necessary to examine them and judge for yourself. When the multitude loves a man, it is necessary to examine them and judge for yourself.”

子曰：「见贤思齐焉，见不贤而内自省也。」
The Master said, "When we see men of worth, we should think of equaling them; when we see unworthy men, we should use this as an opportunity to turn inwards and examine ourselves.”

子曰：「学而不思则罔，思而不学则殆。」
The Master said, "Learning without thought is labor lost; thought without learning is perilous.”

子曰：「知者不惑，仁者不忧，勇者不惧。」
The Master said, "The wise are free from confusion; the virtuous from anxiety; and the bold from fear.”

子曰：「君子耻其言而过其行。」
The Master said, "The superior man is modest in his speech, but exceeds in his actions.”

子曰：「过而不改，是谓过矣。」
The Master said, “To make a mistake and yet to not change your ways – this is what is called truly making a mistake.”

子曰：「辞达而已矣。」
The Master said, “Words should convey their point, and leave it at that.”