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3. School Without Walls School Visit
4. Movie Nights in Chinatown Park: Kung Fu Panda 3
5. DC Beauty of Beijing Opera: Beijing Opera Performance
6. Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum’s Fall Festival

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1. GW International Student Association World Tour on Kogan Plaza
2. HSK & HSKK Testing
3. Chinese Conversation Corner
4. Confucius Institutes Culture & Art Performance by South-Central University for Nationalities
5. Chinese Language Teacher’s Association

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1. China Onscreen Biennial Multi-Day Event
2. Jiangsu Cup Chinese Speech Contest
3. Chinese Conversation Corner
4. HSK & HSKK Testing
5. Going Global: The China Factor

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1. Fifth Symposium on Teaching Chinese as a Second Language
2. Teacher In-Service Day
3. DC Public School World Language Festival Lead with Languages
4. Phelps High School International Culture Day - Chinese Calligraphy Demonstration
5. Carlos Rosario - Asian Spring Festival

Jan

1. GWU Lunar New Year Celebration

Feb

1. DC Public School Chinese New Year Celebration
2. Chinese Conversation Corner
3. School Without Walls Chinese New Year Lunch
4. Chinese New Year Family Day at the Kennedy Center
5. Hardy Middle School - School Outreach
6. Chinese Conversation Corner

Mar

1. Global China Connection Dumpling Night
2. Chinese Conversation Corner
3. Film Screening at the Freer | Sackler Galleries: Monster Hunt
4. Chung-Wen Shih Scholarship Research Presentation

Apr

1. Chinese Conversation Corner
2. Sligo Creek Elementary School World Culture Day School Visit
3. Freer | Sackler Galleries - Docent Led Empresses Tour
4. GWCI - Staff Retreat at The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden
Culture

Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration

On Thursday, September 20, 2018, the GW Confucius Institute held the 2018 Mid-Autumn Festival at the GW Confucius Institute townhouse. Guests got a chance to taste traditional holiday treats, mooncakes, and network with others interested in China and other Asian cultures. There were materials available about learning Chinese language and study abroad opportunities in Asia.
GW Confucius Institute
2018 - 2019 Impact Report

DC Beauty of Beijing Opera: Beijing Opera Performance

The GW Confucius Institute presented a Beijing Opera performance by DC Beauty of Beijing Opera (DCBBO) as part of the Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration. This was a unique opportunity to see performances by Master Chushan Zhu, and Master Xueling Qin, winner of the Plum Flower Award! Before performing six feature scenes from classic operas, DCBBO founder and president, Louisa Huang introduced the audience to Beijing Opera's history, and performance styles. The artists then showcased four major performance skills - which are singing, recitation, dance acting, and martial arts. Beijing Opera was a unique window for the audience to appreciate traditional Chinese culture and values. Due its cultural significance and long history, UNESCO recognized Beijing Opera as Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity in 2010.
GW International Student Association
World Tour on Kogan Plaza

The GW International Student Association and the GW International Services Office hosted a World Tour at Kogan Plaza, which featured the world’s continents with different cultural student organizations to represent them. During the 2-hour event, GW students grabbed a fake passport and enjoyed what each booth had to offer about their region. At the end of the tour, the students who had their passports fully stamped received a gift bag from the ISA table. This event invited our diverse student body to fully immerse themselves in the multicultural community that GW offers. The GW Confucius Institute hosted an informational table on China, featuring Chinese calligraphy demonstrations and a paper-cutting craft for students.

Confucius Institutes Culture & Art
Performance by South-Central University for Nationalities

Introducing American students to several famous Chinese art forms allowed them to appreciate the rich cultural connections across diverse ethnicities around the world. On October 19, 2018, the South-Central University for Nationalities’ Art Troupe put on a beautiful performance for around seven hundred students from McKinley Technology High School and DC International High School. The SCUN art troupe consists of teachers and students from the SCUN School of Music and Dance. Their troupe members are well recognized and have been highly awarded for their skills. There were twelve unique performances showcasing art forms from various minority ethnic groups in China. In a variety of colorful and dazzling costumes, the performers demonstrated a range of impressive dance forms. The audience was thrilled by the enthusiasm and skill of the instrumental soloists and martial arts performer. Finally, the Beijing Opera and face-changing performances introduced the students to completely new and exciting forms of Chinese artistic expression.

The George Washington University
Lunar New Year Celebration 2019

Faculty, staff, students, and the wider community of the George Washington University gathered at the Colonial Club in the Charles E. Smith Center to celebrate the 2019 Lunar New Year: The Year of the Pig. The George Washington University has made it a university tradition to join with the rich East Asian history of Lunar New Year celebrations. This was a wonderful opportunity to network with students, faculty, and community members with an interest in East Asia. A large crowd of more than 200 people joined together for delicious Hors d’Oeuvres and networking opportunities.

Dr. Terry Murphy, The GW Deputy Provost for Academic Affairs greeted the lively crowd with a few encouraging remarks and then drew raffle prizes for the guests. Dr. Shoko Hamano, Chair of The GW East Asian Languages and Literature Department, and Professor of Japanese and International Affairs briefly addressed the audience as well. Richard Haddock, Program Coordinator for the Sigur Center for Asian Studies then warmly offered a few remarks. Concluding the lineup of distinguished guest speakers, Dr. Gregg Brazinsky, Professor of History and International Affairs, and the Deputy Director of the GW Institute for Korean Studies wrapped up by saying a few words and making a joke in Mandarin. The artistic highlight of the evening was a beautiful traditional Chinese dance performed by Shiqi Dong, a PhD Student in Statistics at the GW Columbian College of Arts and Sciences.
Global China Connection
Dumpling Night

On Friday, March 1, the George Washington Confucius Institute was proud to partner with Global China Connection once again for this fun-filled Dumpling Night event. The GW Confucius Institute was packed with students who came to celebrate the Lantern Festival with delicious food and fun activities. The focus of Dumpling Night and the mission of the Global China Connection is to share and promote Chinese culture amongst the George Washington University community. Although food is a major part of Chinese culture, especially during the Lunar New Year festivities, we also created a learning experience for those in attendance with traditional musical performances and calligraphy.

DC Public School
Chinese New Year Celebration

On February 1st, the Washington Public School Chinese Project Team held the third Spring Festival performance at Roosevelt Middle School to celebrate the upcoming Chinese traditional Spring festival. The Chinese project team consists of 13 local elementary and middle schools whom have held the Spring Festival performances for three consecutive years. The Spring Festival performances were attended by the Education Department of the Chinese Embassy in the United States, the Confucius Institute at George Washington University, and the Confucius Institute at the University of Maryland. The Confucius Institute at George Mason University and the DCSP International Office also contributed support and assistance.

Prior to the performance, Ms. Yang Xinyu, Minister Counselor of the Education Department of the Chinese Embassy in the United States, and the on-site students had an interactive Q&A about Spring Festival cultural traditions. Then, teachers and students from the Chinese project team presented 15 different song and dance performances for nearly 300 spectators. The live performances were wonderful and the audience happily applauded each one. Once the performances concluded, members of the audience excitedly commented to one another about wanting to come back next year.
Language

Chinese Conversation Corner

The GW Confucius Institute regularly hosts 1-hour Chinese conversation corners throughout the year. These corners are guided by our professional Mandarin instructors, who divide students into groups based on skill level and encourage conversation and discussion. No preparation is required - simply come ready to chat in Chinese and make friends!

HSK & HSKK Testing

The GW Confucius Institute offers paper & pencil HSK and HSKK testing during the fall and spring semesters. Students complete the registration process online with Confucius Institute Headquarters and payments are submitted directly to the GW Confucius Institute. Please note that registration and payment deadlines are one month prior to the test date.

Chinese Language Teacher’s Association

The Chinese Language Teachers Association of the National Capital Region (CLTA-NCR) aims to deepen the research and teaching of Chinese as a foreign language in the USA and abroad. They hope to promote the sharing of knowledge among language professionals. The Association has sponsored regional, national, and international workshops and symposia on Chinese language education, pedagogical research, teacher training, and assessment. It serves as the venue of academic communication among language teachers in the greater Washington D.C. metropolitan region.

2018 Fall Tutor Training

On October 26, 2018, our GW CI Instructors offered a 3-hour instruction training for all our GW CI tutors. GW CI Instructor MAO Yue gave a presentation entitled “Teaching Concepts and Methodology for Chinese Second Language Instruction.” GW CI Instructor Zhang’s presentation was entitled “Basic Requirements and Principles of Teaching”. The presentation not only introduced some foundational teaching methodology, but also specific teaching points such as teaching phonetics, grammar and vocabulary. Afterwards, tutors and instructors chatted over lunch. This event was a great opportunity for tutors to learn a little teaching methodology from our experienced instructors, and for team building between our student employees and professional staff.

GW Colonials Weekend - Open House

The George Washington University Confucius Institute invited all new and current students, alumni, and their families to join us for an Open House. This was a great opportunity to meet the staff and learn about our programming. It was a chance to network with students and professionals interested in China.

2019 Teacher In-Service Day

On May 6, 2019, GW Confucius Institute instructors came together for an in-service day. Each instructor gave a presentation outlining their teaching methodology, followed by group brainstorming on potential course curriculum improvements.
The 2018 Jiangsu Cup Chinese Speech Contest

The 8th Annual Jiangsu Cup Chinese Speech Contest for the greater Washington Metropolitan area was held at the George Washington University on Sunday, November 4, 2018. Competitors are from colleges throughout Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia. Since the Jiangsu Cup’s inception in 2011, two hundred forty-three student participants have competed for the scholarships and exchange opportunities in China.

This year sixteen participants competed in the final round. They demonstrated advanced Chinese language proficiency by competing with prepared speeches, Q&A about Jiangsu Province & China, and an improvised speech on a randomly selected topic. After hours of intense competition, results were announced. Jiangsu Cup awards include full and partial scholarships to study the Chinese language at Nanjing University, and fully-funded tours of the beautiful Province of Jiangsu in 2019. Gold Awards were given to Liza Roberts of Georgetown University, and Andrew Allard of the George Washington University.

The Jiangsu Cup Chinese Speech Contest, organized by the George Washington University Columbian College of Arts & Sciences and GW Confucius Institute, in partnership with Nanjing University of China, is the premier speech competition for the Greater Washington D.C. higher education community. Professors, families, and many distinguished guests attend the Jiangsu Cup each year to observe and applaud the incredible accomplishments of the contestants. This year, the Minister Counselor of Education, Ms. YANG Xinyu attended the event and gave encouraging remarks to student finalists on behalf of the Chinese Embassy. The event accommodates a valuable collaboration and meaningful cross-cultural exchange for everyone.
Fifth Symposium on Teaching Chinese as a Second Language

The George Washington University Confucius Institute, in collaboration with the Nanjing University Institute for International Students, hosted our Fifth Annual Symposium on Teaching Chinese as a Second Language. Over the past years, the symposium has provided a platform for experts in the field and frontline teachers, from both China and abroad, to exchange ideas and inspire new knowledge. We continued to receive strong support and active participation from many experts and scholars. Experts and scholars in the field of TCSL were invited to submit proposals and participate in the conference.

The event was FREE and open to local Chinese language educators.

Movie Nights in Chinatown Park
Kung Fu Panda 3

The Washington D.C. Mayor’s Office on Asian and Pacific Islander Affairs and The GW Confucius Institute invited D.C. residents to join us outside in Chinatown Park for the summer’s Asian and Pacific Islander-themed movie line up. As part of the 2018 Chinatown Park Series, we screened Kung Fu Panda 3 to celebrate the Mid-Autumn Festival. We provided snacks, arts, crafts, and other family activities.

School Without Walls School Visit

On Monday, September 24 and Tuesday, September 25, 2018, GW CI Instructor XIE Qing visited the School Without Walls for a cultural activity in celebration of Mid-Autumn Festival. Chinese language learners got a chance to taste mooncakes, enjoy a traditional holiday activity, and answer riddles.

2018 China Onscreen Biennial Multi-Day Event

The Freer|Sackler presented the China Onscreen Biennial for its fourth year in 2018. This year’s selection, curated by a team of film scholars and curators from the presenting organizations, showcased a China in continued flux. All films were shown free of charge in the three hundred-seat Meyer Auditorium at the Freer | Sackler Galleries.
Smithsonian Anacostia Community Museum’s Fall Festival

The Anacostia Community Museum celebrated its annual block-party event on Saturday, August 29. With a true community vibe based on the exhibition, A Right to the City, participants enjoyed live performances on an outdoor stage and covered tent with dancefloor. There were food trucks, art activities for the kids, costumed interpreters, a vendor’s marketplace and more. All-day activities representing the neighborhoods of Anacostia, Adams Morgan, Brookland, Southwest, Shaw, and Chinatown took place inside and outside of the museum. The GW Confucius Institute demonstrated traditional Chinese calligraphy and led a Chinese paper-cutting activity.

School Without Walls Chinese New Year Lunch

The GW Confucius Institute sponsored a Lunar New Year lunch for the School Without Walls, in celebration of the Year of the Pig. GW CI Instructor XIE Qing gave opening remarks. GW CI Student Ambassador Natalia Simmons-Thomas introduced programming opportunities at the GW Confucius Institute and the George Washington University. After remarks, the students enjoyed a catered meal with Chinese menu.

Chinese New Year Family Day at the Kennedy Center 2019

On Saturday, February 9, 2019, the Kennedy Center hosted a number of free activities highlighting Chinese culture for kids of all ages. Everyone was welcomed to this fun-filled day of activities and entertainment! Family Day is part of the Kennedy Center’s annual Lunar New Year festivities. This year celebrated the Year of the Pig with special events showcasing the arts and culture of China’s Guangdong Province.

Guests enjoyed a variety of activities and demonstrations throughout the day. Folk artists and performers from Chengdu provided a variety of activities and demonstrations including face painting, traditional costume photo booths, marionette lion puppets, and lantern making. Guest performers also gave Cantonese music demonstrations, introduced audiences to Lingnan puppets, and performed contortionist shows. There were also Cantonese traditional lion dances throughout the event.

GW volunteers provided beautiful calligraphy demonstrations for the guests. Young children eagerly observed as the calligraphers painted their names and new year’s greetings on small red lanterns. The volunteers worked hard at multiple stations to keep up with the large number of guests excited to participate. Some guests even tried their own hand at writing Chinese characters under the instruction of the calligraphers.
Hardy Middle School - School Outreach

The George Washington University Confucius Institute was pleased to be invited to Hardy Middle School in celebration of the Chinese Lunar New Year. Students from various grades-levels warmly welcomed staff and enjoyed a fun cultural activity.

This year’s cultural activity was a lantern-making event, which attracted many students. Everyone learned about Chinese lanterns and the Chinese zodiac signs. Students could paste their own zodiac at the corners of the lanterns. In a particularly joyful group, seventh-grade class sang along to popular songs, such as "新年好" and "小苹果" while making their lanterns.

Fifth grader Xavier wrote "新年好" on his lantern and said that he hoped to go to China to experience Spring Festival.

Hardy Middle School’s Confucius Classroom was established in 2016. It hopes to increase opportunities for local school children to learn about Chinese language and Chinese culture. The George Washington University Confucius Institute has endeavored to provide fun cultural experiences introducing Chinese art - such as Chinese calligraphy, paper-cutting or lantern-making. This event was thoroughly enjoyed by the Hardy Middle School students, and we look forward to joining them next year for the year of the Rat.

Sligo Creek Elementary School
World Culture Day - School Visit

On Friday, April 5th the Sligo Creek Elementary School welcomed the GW Confucius Institute to participate in their World Culture Day. GW CI Instructor LIU Zhi and Instructor XIE Qing gave a brief introduction to the Chinese art of paper-cutting. Students then got a chance to practice making their own animal paper-cut. Roughly 150 elementary school students participated in the activity. This was the second time that the GW Confucius Institute was invited to participate.

Film Screening at
the Freer | Sackler Galleries:
Monster Hunt

On March 14 and March 15, the GW Confucius sponsored local DMV area students from DC’s Chinese language immersion schools to watch the 3-D adventure Monster Hunt at the Meyer auditorium in the Freer | Sackler Galleries. Students got a chance to practice their Mandarin and enjoy the box office hit about a time when humans battled monsters.

Freer | Sackler Galleries
Docent Led Empresses Tour

On Friday, April 26, 2019, GW CI students and staff members attended a Tour of the Empresses exhibit at the Freer & Sackler Galleries that was led by docent, Betsy Vourlekis. The exhibition showcased the lives of Qing Dynasty Empresses. Their vital presence over the 260-year course of the Qing was brought to light through an unprecedented assembly of spectacular objects. Royal portraits, paintings depicting court life, seals and symbols of imperial power, Buddhist sutras and other objects of religious devotion, along with costumes, jewelry, tableware, and furniture that were used by the empresses in the Forbidden City were all featured.

Additionally, students and staff were able to see how the empresses exerted influence in the arts, religion, politics, and diplomacy. Most of these artworks are from the Palace Museum, and many have never been exhibited outside of China until now. The reaction to the exhibition was overwhelmingly positive. Both students and staff were impressed by the quality of the artifacts as well as moved by the message that the women were not passive figures, further breaking the stereotype of the empresses as being merely glamorous or subservient wives. We look forward to partnering with Free & Sackler Galleries in the future to provide more opportunities to view equally as inspiring exhibitions.
Carlos Rosario - Asian Spring Festival

On Thursday, May 23, Mr. LIU Gang and GW CI Instructor LIU Zhi visited the Carlos Rosario International Public Charter School to demonstrate the art of Chinese Calligraphy during their annual Asian Spring Festival, in celebration of Asian Pacific American Heritage Month. Guests enjoyed a 5 minute introduction to the art of calligraphy by Mr. LIU Gang. Afterwards, Instructor LIU Zhi provided students with samples of Chinese Calligraphy. Each student could receive their name or special phrase written in Chinese characters. It has been our great pleasure to participate in this annual celebration with the students of Carlos Rosario.

Phelps High School International Culture Day Chinese Calligraphy Demonstration

This event was devised to celebrate different cultures. It was also an opportunity to promote cultural pride, awareness, and tolerance within our school community. Community partners helped to make this event a success by setting up cultural displays that demonstrated various aspects of specific cultures. For example, some cultural displays had historical items, informational literature, posters, pictures, clothing, writing, folktales, stickers, figurines, candy, food, games and other distinctive things from the culture.

GW Confucius Institute Instructors LIU Zhi and GAO Xiaoli demonstrated the art of Chinese Calligraphy for students, and also encouraged students to attempt Chinese Calligraphy for themselves. Students asked to receive their name or special phrases written in Chinese characters, and many attempted to write Chinese Calligraphy with the Instructors’ guidance.

DC Public School World Language Festival - “Lead with Languages”

The GW Confucius Institute participated in the annual DCPS World Language Festival, an all-day event which promotes language education and cultural exploration for DC students. Local families enjoyed educational activities, information sessions, cultural performances, and an exhibition hall with representatives from community partners. The GW Confucius Institute provided an introduction to the diverse ethnic groups which makeup China. Guests had the opportunity to try on some traditional ethnic dress, while students had a chance to practice the art of Chinese paper-cutting. The DCPS World Language Festival estimated over 150 families in attendance. The GW Confucius Institute was proud to participate for the third year as part of our community outreach.
Research

Going Global: The China Factor

US-China commerce will be the most important business story of the next decade. On Tuesday, November 13, 2018, the Women’s Bar Association of the District of Columbia held a panel discussion with industry-leading Chinese and US company executives, legal, and business policy experts. This year’s program focused on how to build successful business relationships with Chinese companies both in China and the U.S., and to provide services and products in the U.S. which appeal to Chinese companies seeking U.S. market access. It explored the ways businesses were adapting to the current China-U.S. trade climate as relations have entered a critical phase, with broad ramifications for manufacturing, service, agriculture, aerospace and defense industries in both countries.

The 11th Annual Conference on China's Economic Development and U.S.-China Economic Relations

The U.S.-China relationship is now second to none in importance for international economic relations and policy and accordingly, is a major focus of IIEP. The centerpiece of this initiative is our annual Conference on China’s Economic Development and U.S.-China Economic and Political Relations, which has become one of the premier events of its type. Understanding China’s economic development has only become more important over the last decade. Understanding the structural building blocks of domestic Chinese economic activity is as necessary as understanding China’s foreign economic activity, whether regionally across the globe or in its interactions with the United States. Amidst talk of a “trade war” between the U.S. and China, it is vital that we have a shared understanding of what is taking place within the Chinese economy, how that affects relations with the U.S., and what it means for China’s global ambitions.

Chung-Wen Shih Scholarship Research Presentation

On March 21st, the GW Confucius Institute hosted research presentations by distinguished scholars whose work was funded by the Chung-Wen Shih Scholarship. Weisheng Mao, a Ph.D. student at the GW School of Medicine, and Shelly Mishra, a senior in biology at GW, both shared the results of their research and discussed their experiences. The event was a great opportunity for faculty and students interested in the integration of traditional Chinese medical practices with Western Medicine and the Chung-Wen Shih Scholarship.

During the final year of her doctoral degree, Dr. Weisheng Mao applied for the Chung-Wen Shih Scholarship to go to China and continue studying traditional Chinese medicine. Dr. Mao’s presentation was about her experience researching and working with Traditional Chinese Medicine in a clinical setting. Ms. Shelly Mishra spent two summers doing research at the Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston. In 2018, the Chung-Wen Shih Scholarship enabled her to go to Singapore to study traditional Chinese acupuncture. The report she presented was titled, “Perception, Education, and Practice of Acupuncture in Singapore”.

Confucius Institute staff also explained to the audience how to apply for the Chung-Wen Shih Scholarship.

In 2014 Professor Chung-wen Shih established an endowed scholarship under the GW Confucius Institute. The scholarship is intended for GW students to reflect Dr. Shih’s interest in promoting cultural exchange between the East and the West. The recipient(s) of the scholarship are to be current or future George Washington University School of Medicine and Health Sciences medical students who have demonstrated an interest in integrating traditional Chinese medical practices (such as acupuncture) with Western Medicine.

Light refreshments were served. This event was FREE and open to the public.
Team Highlight

GWCI - Staff Retreat At The National Gallery of Art Sculpture Garden

GW Confucius Institute held a Spring Staff retreat at The National Gallery of Art’s Sculpture Garden. New, current, and former staff members shared a delicious lunch, played games, and enjoyed the fountains and garden scenery. It was a great way for the various branches of GWCI staff to engage, socialize, and build an even stronger team.

Shout out to Molly

Molly Mroch joined the GW Confucius Institute team in the summer of 2013, shortly after the program was launched. Since then, she has devoted herself to making countless contributions in starting project initiatives, promoting community outreach, and providing excellent support for our instructors and students. She has become such an integral part of our team, and we are so thankful for all her dedication and commitment over the years. Although we are sad to see her leave, we wish her all the best in her future endeavors!
We Are the Chinese Language Learning Hub for Washington, D.C.
(Map of Downtown D.C. Area)

Instruction Hours (2015 - 2018)

- Beginner: 26.21%
- Intermediate: 35.34%
- Advanced: 38.45%

Hours of Instruction (2015-2018)

- Group Instruction
- Private Instruction
Zhang Laoshi was great! She was energetic and fun to listen to and talk to. She really pushed us to use collect tones that helps me a lot.

-- Student from Intermediate 201

Our instructor was responsive to our questions and tried to use examples that could be engaging. She also tried to accommodate students’ schedules and ability to commit to the material.

-- Student from Intermediate 301

I loved it! This teaching methodology, in-class lectures, and homework format definitely helps us to learn.

-- Student from Beginner 101

The class size was perfect! I think the instructor’s knowledge, enthusiasm and affection to our strengths and weaknesses was very helpful. I truly enjoyed the class and would take it again!

-- Student from Chinese Watercolor

I liked Hong Laoshi, and I enjoyed the text she chose for us. We also used many interesting supplemental materials, such as videos and short stories which I think added to the overall discussion.

-- Student from Advanced 501