GW Confucius Institute
2017-2018 Impact report
GW Confucius Institute Events
September 2017 - August 2018

- Welcome Week Open House
- Student & Alumni Networking Reception
- Lecture: Finding the World's Most Interesting Dinosaur
- Chinese Conversation Corner

- Going Global: The China Factor
- The Fund for Education Abroad Annual Gala
- Chinese Arena-Chinese Debate Competition
- Chinese Conversation Corner

- Advisory Council Meeting
- 2017 Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration
- The 10th Annual U.S.-China Economic Conference
- Papercutting Demonstrations at Seaton Elementary
- GW CI Open House
- 2017 Annual Chinese Language Speech Contest
- Honoring Donation by Dr. Lilian Willens
- GW President LeBlanc Meets with NJU & Ministry of Education Delegations
- Chinese Conversation Corner

- Weekly Chinese Conversation Corner

- Paper Cutting Class at School Without Walls
- Bea Roberts Discussion & Exhibition on Southwest Chinese Minority Costumes
- Family Lunar Year Festival at GW Textile Museum
- Paper Cutting Class at Hardy Middle School
- Chinese Conversation Corner

- 2018 Bilingual Education Fair of D.C.
- GW CI - Happy Hour at Tonic
- Chinese Conversation Corner

- 2018 Reading Gender in Chinese Religions
- Chinese Philosophy through Calligraphy
- DCPS Second Annual Chinese New Year Festival
- 2018 Smithsonian American Art Museum Chinese New Year Family Festival
- 2018 Chinese New Year Family Day at the Freer & Sackler Galleries
- Chinese Short Film Screenings
- “Ear” of Dog: An Interactive Chinese New Year Cultural Workshop
- The George Washington University Lunar New Year Celebration
- Chinese New Year Family Day at the Kennedy Center 2018
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- GCC Dumpling Night
- Speech and Hearing Research at Nanjing Normal University Focusing on Disordered Mandarin Speakers
- Second Language Learners: Acoustic Analysis of Prosodic Errors
- 2018 March HSK & HSKK Testing
- Chinese Conversation Corner

- Fourth Symposium on Teaching Chinese as a Second Language
- 2018 Teacher In-Service Day
- Phelps High School World Culture Day
- 2018 May HSK & HSKK Testing
- 2018 DCPS World Language Festival
- DCI Tour of the GW Museum & Textile Museum
- Seaton Elementary World Culture Celebration
- Chinese Calligraphy Demonstration
- Chinese Conversation Corner

- Chinese Paper-Cutting Workshops - CHEC
- Chinese Street Food: Small Bites, Classic Recipes, and Harrowing Tales Across the Middle Kingdom
- Chinese Conversation Corner

- World Cultural Day at Sligo Creek Elementary School
- Crouching Tigers & Hidden Dragons - Historical Image of Nanjing
- Three Waves of Jewish Migration to Shanghai: 1845-1941
- 2018 April HSK Testing
- Chinese Conversation Corner

- GW CI’s Summer Tour of China 2018
- Chinese Calligraphy Workshops - CHEC
- Chinese Conversation Corner

- Chinese Conversation Corner

- Chinese Conversation Corner
2017 Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration

On October 4, 2017, the GW Confucius Institute held the 2017 Mid-Autumn Festival in the GW Confucius Institute townhouse. Guests enjoyed the traditional holiday food, the famous mooncakes, and networked with colleagues who are interested in China and other Asian cultures. The Office of Study Abroad also participated in the event by having representatives introduce opportunities to study in Asia.

Smithsonian American Art Museum
Chinese New Year Family Festival 2018

On February 10, 2018, the Smithsonian American Art Museum celebrated the 2018 Chinese Lunar New Year. Folk artists and performers from Chengdu showcased a variety of activities and demonstrations, including traditional paper cutting, an art scavenger hunt, red paper lantern making and panda crafts. Performers “awakened the lion” and rung in the Year of the Dog with traditional performances including folk music, Sichuan Opera and acrobatics. Student volunteers performed Chinese calligraphy demonstrations—inscribing guests’ names and new year’s phrases on couplets and lantern. This program was part of the Chinese New Year DC celebration with the Freer|Sackler and the Kennedy Center.

The George Washington University
Lunar New Year Celebration 2018

On February 15, 2018, the George Washington University hosted its annual university-wide celebration, joined by the GW family and the surrounding community. Attendees rang in the Year of the Dog with a catered reception, welcoming remarks from GW leadership and entertaining student performances. This event was co-sponsored by the GW Confucius Institute, Sigur Center for Asian Studies, Department of East Asian Languages & Literatures, the Multicultural Student Services Center and the International Services Office.
Chinese Street Food: Small Bites, Classic Recipes, and Harrowing Tales Across the Middle Kingdom

Food author, photographer and media producer Howie Southworth participated in a Q&A moderated by the GW Confucius Institute Managing Director Frances Sun. The discussion was about his newest cookbook Chinese Street Food: Small Bites, Classic Recipes, and Harrowing Tales Across the Middle Kingdom, which has drawn a very large crowd. Co-author Greg Matza joined the discussion via Skype. Ms. Sun and Mr. Southworth discussed the author’s journeys across China and his favorite and least favorite food there, for example, stinky tofu. They also took a deep dive into the shift of dining culture towards fast and convenient food in China. Jianbing, one type of Chinese pancake from the Shandong or Tianjin region of China, became the focus of discussion due to its popularity around the world. Mr. Southworth is a frequent speaker on education, culture and cuisine for organizations across the globe.

GCC Dumpling Night

On March 2, 2018, the George Washington Confucius Institute was proud to partner with the Global China Connection (GCC) once again on a fun-filled event: Dumpling Night. The GW Confucius Institute celebrated Lantern Festival with delicious food and fun activities. The focus of Dumpling Night and the GCC mission is to share and promote Chinese culture among the GW community, while creating a learning experience for all in attendance. This year’s activities included a dumpling folding demonstration, a traditional Chinese outfit try-on station, a Chinese reality show screening and calligraphy lessons taught by Tianxin, a member of the GCC executive board.

GW Confucius Institute Summer Tour of China

The 2018 GW Confucius Institute’s annual summer tour group consisted of current and prospective GW CI students. This year, the group went to three major cities in China: Nanjing, Chengdu and Xi’an. The students practiced Chinese calligraphy and Tai chi in Nanjing; pet baby pandas and ate famous street food in Chengdu; and visited the Terracotta Army in Xi'an. It was a fantastic experience for these Chinese language learners. The tour gave students a better understanding of Chinese culture and language.
GW Confucius Institute Welcome Week Open House

On September 2, 2017, the George Washington Confucius Institute held an open house event as part of the university’s Welcome Week. Over 3,000 students visited our table at the District Hall and our building on F street. Many students got the chance to know the GW CI better and expressed great interest in Chinese language and culture.

Jiangsu Cup Annual Chinese Speech Contest

The 7th Annual Jiangsu Cup Chinese Speech Contest for the greater Washington Metropolitan area was held at George Washington University on October 29, 2017. The 15 participants who competed in the final round came from nine universities in D.C., Maryland and Virginia. All participants in the final round of competition earned a scholarship for study or traveling to Jiangsu Province, China. Gold Award winners received scholarships to study full time as a graduate student at Nanjing University. Silver Award winners received an all expenses-paid trip to Jiangsu Province. Bronze Award winners received a partial scholarship to study Chinese at Nanjing University. Until 2017, almost 200 students from the greater Washington area have participated in this annual contest. It has provided a great platform for them to learn, compete and then gain more motivation to continue their passion for Chinese language learning.

GW Confucius Institute Student & Alumni Networking Reception

On Wednesday, September 6, 2017, the George Washington Confucius Institute held a networking event for students and alumni. Students enjoyed the traditional Chinese food and shared their Chinese language learning experiences along with interesting stories from other GW CI events. The reception gave students the opportunity to make friends with other Chinese learners.
2018 Bilingual Education Fair of D.C.
The Bilingual Education Fair is the premier event in the D.C. region for parents, educators and community members to discover multi-lingual education options, personalized technologies, fun language resources and strategies for bringing bilingual education to your community. The 2018 fair featured 50 exhibitors, including dual language programs, language and culture organizations, bilingual publishers, app developers, after-school programs, daycare operators and tutors. The fair was aimed at families with young children, educators and administrators from across the D.C. region who wish to increase access to linguistic and cultural competence. The GW Confucius Institute proudly sponsored a table for our partners.

Fourth Symposium on Teaching Chinese as a Second Language
On May 6, 2018, the George Washington University in collaboration with the Nanjing University Institute for International Students hosted our Fourth Annual Symposium on Teaching Chinese Language. Guest speakers from around the world came to the symposium to speak about “Meeting the Diverse Demands of Research on Teaching Chinese as a Second Language in International Communities.” Over 50 participants from the educational sector attended the seven panels offered at this symposium, including “Teaching Chinese Language and Culture to Foreign Students in the Era of New Media” and “MOOC and Online Chinese Language and Culture Courses”.

End of Academic Year Teacher In-Service Day
On May 11, 2018, 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.
Lecture: Finding the World’s Most Interesting Dinosaur

The Gobi Desert of China has produced some of the most important dinosaur discoveries in recent years, and one of the most successful series of expeditions to this area was led by GW Ronald Weintraub Professor of Biology James M. Clark, along with his colleague Dr. Xu Xing of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. On September 13, the George Washington University Confucius Institute and the Department of Biology co-hosted a presentation by Dr. Clark titled “Finding the World’s Most Interesting Dinosaur.” Dr. Clark described how the expeditions unearthed fascinating new dinosaurs, including the bizarre Limusaurus inextricabilis that was trapped in a “death pit.” This was the GW Confucius Institute's first time partnering with the Department of Biology.

The 10th Annual Conference on U.S.-China Economic Relations And China’s Economic Development

The Institute for International Economic Policy (IIEP) hosted its 10th annual conference on China’s Economic Development and U.S.-China Economic & Political Relations. The US-China relationship is now second to none in importance for international economic relations and policy, and accordingly is a major focus of the IIEP. The centerpiece of this initiative is the IIEP annual conference, which has become one of the premier events of its type.

Going Global: The China Factor

U.S.-China commerce will be the most important business story of the next decade. On November 15, 2017, the Women’s Bar Association of the District of Columbia held a panel discussion with industry-leading Chinese and U.S. company executives, legal and business policy experts on how to build successful business relationships with Chinese companies both in China and in the U.S. The panel discussed strategies for providing services and products in the U.S. which appeal to Chinese companies seeking to establish businesses in the U.S.
Vanishing Traditions: Exhibition on Southwest Chinese Minority Costumes and Jewelry

For centuries, minority peoples in China’s Guizhou Province have donned elaborate textiles and jewelry for community festivals. The GW Textile Museum showcased stunning examples of those in a new exhibition opening to the public in late February. On February 22, 2018, collector Bea Roberts, together with curator Lee Talbot, who took a trip to Guizhou, China, on the GW Confucius Institute research grant, kicked-off the exhibition with a discussion of her journeys across southwest China in search of these rapidly vanishing traditions. The opening exhibition event was also co-sponsored by the GW Confucius Institute. The event was attended by VIP guests from the Chinese Embassy including Mr. LI Kexin, the minister, and Madam LI Hong, the minister counselor of culture.

Three Waves of Jewish Migration to Shanghai: 1845-1941

On April 12, 2018, the George Washington University Confucius Institute partnered with the Sigur Center for Asian Studies, the Judaic Studies Program and the Department of History to co-host the lecture “Three Waves of Jewish Migration to Shanghai: 1845-1941” by Dr. Liliane Willens, a former professor at Boston College and MIT. Dr. Willens was born of Russian Jewish parents in the former French Concession of Shanghai, China, where she attended a French lycée. Her life stories are featured in her book, Stateless in Shanghai. Her talk focused on the Jewish migration to China through the lens of her family. This unique subject drew a huge crowd from GW as well as the D.C. community. Former GW Columbian College of Arts & Sciences Dean Ben Vinson III, who is also a historian, delivered welcoming remarks to the audience.

Second Language Learners: Acoustic Analysis of Prosodic Errors

Dr. Wentao Gu from Nanjing Normal University was invited by the GW Speech & Hearing Department to visit GW to discuss on-going research collaboration between the two institutions. The research project has been supported by the GW Confucius Institute for the past three years. Dr. Gu discussed his research on “Second Language Learners: Acoustic Analysis of Prosodic Errors” and the role of linguistic research at Nanjing Normal University in Nanjing, Jiangsu province, China. Participants learned about how observed f0 error patterns can be attributed to L1 negative transfer, difficulty in prosodic planning and lack of adequate teaching. The pedagogical implications for L2 prosody training were discussed.
Nanjing, a historical city located to the south of Yangtze River, was the capital city for 10 dynasties in ancient China. It was reported that Zhuge Liang, the most famous strategist in the third century, had remarked, “the Bell Mountain in the east is like a coiling dragon, while the Stone City in the west is like a crouching tiger. Therefore the city is destined to be a capital city.” Since then, the dragon and tiger have remained the defining image of this city. Zhuge’s words were taken to be an omen as well as a spell, exerting influence on the rise and fall of the city for about 2,000 years. On April 11, 2018, Dr. Cheng Zhangetcan, professor of Chinese literature and dean of the historic Nanjing University Library, gave a talk at GW Gelman Library describing the construction of this image and analyzing its relationship with traditional Chinese thought. Assistant Professor of Chinese Language and Literature Liana Chen gave the welcome remarks on behalf of the GW academic community.

The Body in Chinese Religions

The CCK Foundation Inter-University Center for Sinology and the George Washington University Confucius Institute co-sponsored a two-day workshop titled “The Body in Chinese Religions.” The workshop was held on February 3 and 4, 2018, and brought together 12 U.S. scholars and advanced graduate students who are currently working on body, medicine, gender and Chinese religions. Building on last year’s workshop, this year’s event aimed to advance the newly established sub-field of gender and religion in the China field by focusing on how to read primary texts on the “body” in Chinese religion with gender perspectives. The conference participants discussed a great variety of key primary texts, ranging from Buddhist and Daoist scriptures and steles, Confucian texts, medical texts, ritual manuals and Communist anti-shaman propaganda literature. The participants concluded that the workshop was tremendously constructive. It provided a rare yet much needed opportunity for scholars of diverse backgrounds to discuss each other’s primary sources in greater depth, helped them solve difficult textual issues, see the sources in different lights and reshape their individual research/book projects in new ways. It also allowed the participants to address some key concepts and conceptual issues in various Chinese religious traditions over time and across disciplinary boundaries.
The Fund for Education Abroad Annual Gala

Each year, the Fund for Education Abroad (FEA) invites scholars from across the country to come to Washington, D.C., for the FEA Gala. There, scholars connect with a community of donors, thought leaders and partners, and share their life-changing study abroad experiences. The gala highlights the importance of diversity and access to international education. Each year, the funds raised go towards expanding access to study abroad; just last year, FEA raised over $80,000 towards scholarships for underrepresented students. The GW Confucius Institute was happy to contribute a donation for the gala's silent auction and support their work.

Chinese Arena–Chinese Debate Competition

The Chinese Arena–Chinese Debate Competition was presented by the GW Students and Scholars Association and the GW Confucius Institute. This competition was open to all non-native Chinese speakers who are interested in Chinese culture. There were a total of five teams competed in the event. Each team consisted of two contestants and one Chinese mentor. The competition provided a forum not only for students to show their talents, but also for two cultures to interact.

New Year at School Without Walls

On February 22, 2018, one of the GW Confucius Institute’s Mandarin instructors, Liu Zhi, visited a Confucius Classroom of GW CI at the School Without Walls High School Middle in Foggy Bottom, Washington, D.C. Zhi gave a presentation to several classes on the art of paper cutting. She also introduced the Chinese Zodiac, in the spirit of the recent holiday, Chinese New Year. She brought plenty of animal cut-outs and “春” stencils for students to take home to their families.
DC International School Tour of the GW Museum & Textile Museum

Students from the District of Columbia International School, a GW Confucius Institute Confucius Classroom, studied Miao embroidery in a recent art class. As a fun way to enrich the curriculum, the GW Confucius Institute helped coordinate a guided tour of the GW Museum & Textile Museum’s exhibition “Vanishing Traditions: Textiles and Treasures from Southwest China.” The classes enjoyed a private tour of the “Vanishing Traditions” exhibit and the Textile 101 space. Students also had a chance to view the exhibition “Binding the Clouds: The Art of Central Asian Ikat.”

Dr. Willens’ Antique Furniture Donation

The GW Confucius Institute received a generous donation of antique furniture dating back to early-to-mid 20th century China from Dr. Liliane Willens. Dr. Willens was born of Russian-Jewish parents in the former French Concession of Shanghai, China. Her donated furniture came from her family residence in Shanghai, which had great sentimental value to her. Dr. Willens was pleased that her furniture will be displayed and cared for by the GW Confucius Institute, where the public will be able to view the pieces and appreciate that unique period of history.

DC Public School Teaching Appreciation Week

During the Teacher Appreciation Week, Dr. Amanda Alexander, the interim chancellor from the District of Columbia Public Schools (DCPS), sent out a thank-you email to all the DCPS teachers in Washington, D.C. Chancellor Alexander expressed her appreciation for the tremendous work that teachers do on a daily basis, which is critical to the future of the young generation. Instructor Liu Liyan from the GW Confucius Institute was featured in a photo that the chancellor included in her message. The photo was taken during her visit to the Hardy Middle School for the Chinese New Year celebration.
GW Confucius Institute Students Come From Over 200 Institutions and Organizations in the Government, Business, and Non-Profit Sectors.

2U
A.C. Moore
AARP
AECOM
AEGIS LLC
Agency for International Development
Alexandria Neighborhood Health Services Inc
Alliance Bernstein
American University
American Chemical Society
American Councils for International Education
American Enterprise Institute
American National Standards Institute
American Psychological Association
American Society for Microbiology
American University
Americans for the Arts
Ameson Education & Cultural Exchange Foundation
APCO Worldwide
Applied Predictive Technologies
Aristotle Inc
Arlington Public Schools
Armstrong, Fleming, & Moore
ARNG
Asia Bureau, USAID
Asia Society Policy Institute
Ayers Saint Gross
BAI
Baker & Hostetler
Bank Fund Staff Federal Credit Union
Bell Architects
Benjamin Banneker HS
BFSFCU
Blairwaves, LLC
Booz Allen Hamilton
Brazen Careerist
Brown Rudnick LLP
BSI Group America
Bureau of Labor Statistics
C2 Education
C4ADS
CACI
Capital One
Carleton College
Carlos Rosario International Charter School
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace
CCTV
Center for American Progress
Center for Strategic & International Studies
Center for the National Interest
Centers for Disease Prevention and control
Child Trends
Chronicle of Higher Education
Cleary Gottlieb
CMS
Compass
CompassRock
Cook Ross Inc
Council of Economic Advisers
CRDF Global
CSR, Inc.
DC Energy
DCPS
Dean & DeLuca
Dechert LLP
Deloitte
Department of Agriculture
Department of Commerce
Department of Homeland Security
Department of Justice
Department of State
Department of Treasury
Department of Defense
Department of Veterans Affairs
Dexis Consulting Group
Dumbarton Oaks
EarthRights International
East West Center
Economic Consulting Services
EIRNS
Ekpac China Inc.
Embassy of Germany
Embassy of Greece
Embassy of the Republic of Korea
Embassy of Uruguay
EMPEA
Engility Corporation
EPA
FAA
Fannie Mae
FDM Group
Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Federal Reserve Board of Governors
FEMA
FHI 360
Fia-Tech
Fidelity Investments
First Data Subsidiary
Fonteva
Fort Myer MWR
We Are the Chinese Language Learning Hub for Washington, D.C.
I’ve been studying Chinese for a very long time since the 1980s. I was one of the GW Confucius Institute’s first students starting in the Fall of 2014. Since then I’ve been a student almost every semester, taking a variety of advanced level courses. I found it to be very effective for me and my pursuit of Chinese language literacy and competency in speaking and listening. I chose the GW Confucius Institute in part because of affiliation with the George Washington University where I’m an alumni and that gave me confidence that it would be a good place to pursue my Chinese studies. Also because they were one of the very few places to study advanced Chinese here in the Washington, D.C. area.

Mark J.- 301, 401, 402, 403, 502, business 101 speech & debate and one-on-one class

I’ve been studying Chinese for about 7 years. I started learning Chinese because my mom is from China and I wanted to be able to communicate with my family over there. So Chinese has been a really important part of being able to communicate with my family and finding out about my heritage. I chose to study at GW Confucius Institute because I didn't have room in my schedule to take Chinese at GW and I wanted a very low stress way to just keep up with my Chinese and get better. So far, It’s been an amazing experience. It’s always been fun and I’ve learned a lot of Chinese.

Cailin B.- 401, 402 and advanced class
I’ve really been very happy to spend the past couple of years working on Chinese at the GW Confucius Institute. The class sizes are small, which I appreciate—you’re not lost in a crowd of students. But it is so much better, I think, than one-on-one tutoring, because you get that camaraderie and experience of learning with other learners as well. My greatest experience through the GW Confucius Institute was the summer tour we took to China, which was a phenomenal experience!

Jason R. - 101, 201, 202, 301, 302, 401 and one-on-one class

I lived in China for about 2 years and came back to D.C. for college. I really wanted to find a program that worked for my need to continue my language studies. I was looking around and found GW Confucius Institute. And 3 things really stood out to me. First, the teachers are from China, all certified and years of teaching experience; second, the location is incredible; lastly, I think what really got me was the schedule and the flexibility. Night classes are available for groups as well as one-on-one instructing classes with the professional tutors and instructors that were really able to accommodate my schedule to find time that works for me.

Eric B. - 402 and one-on-one class

I’m from France and I started learning Chinese in middle school and I started to do it in the GW Confucius Institute in order to keep up with my Chinese. I did group classes as well as a one-on-one session and both have been extremely helpful. Especially for the one-on-one class, it helped me improve my conversational skills which will be really helpful when I go to China next semester. The GW Confucius is definitely a great way to respond to the exact need you have.

Elsa K. - 301 and one-on-one class