The Confucius Institute at the University of Michigan (CI-UM) has been established for more than a year now, and I am heartened that it has been embraced with joy and pride around the campus and beyond. An integral component of President Mary Sue Coleman's China Initiatives, CI-UM is unique among all the Confucius Institutes in the world: Its central mission is the promotion of understanding of Chinese arts. In less than 16 months, we have created many exciting and diverse activities for students, faculty, staff, and other community members to experience China’s finest artistic expressions – from calligraphy to hip-hop, from kunqu to comics. With your support, we hope to continue to create these opportunities for many years to come.

I invite you to check out our inaugural newsletter and browse the CI-UM Web site at http://confucius.umich.edu. Please note that many of the programs we presented in the past year can be watched online at the Web site. And as always, your ideas and inquiries are welcome at confucius@umich.edu. Thank you!
The CI-UM was proud to present Professor He Bingwu (何炳武) and Suiwah Chan in a lecture and exhibit on Chinese writing and the art of calligraphy. Professor He Bingwu showed examples of his own calligraphic art and works, and captivated the large audience live brush work demonstrating the various styles of calligraphy. Dr. Chan used images and more to lead the audience through an understanding of Chinese writing. He touched first on its vibrant ancient roots to its continued and ever-adaptive form used today, 3,500 years later.

An experimental arts pioneer and one of the most influential artists in Hong Kong and the neighboring regions, Danny Yung (荣念曾) is deeply involved in all aspects of the arts – including comics, theatre, film, conceptual and installation art, and arts policy. CI-UM featured the works of Danny Yung in an exhibition of hilarious and sometimes politically provocative comics. Mr. Yung also met with U-M students as part of his and CI-UM shared mission to inspire a new generation of artistic-minded innovators.

Danny Yung: TTNS-Soliloquies and Dialogues

September 24-27, 2010
Exhibition – Atrium Four, Palmer Commons
Prominent Scholars of Chinese Art Traditions Lead Discussions
杰出美术学者亲临密大讲座

Chinese Calligraphy and Modern Art: A Roundtable Discussion with H. Christopher Luce

Thursday, April 1, 2010

Prize-winning photojournalist, H. Christopher Luce has been a long-time collector of Chinese and Japanese painting and calligraphy. His stimulating roundtable discussion with distinguished University of Michigan faculty focused on the intersections of Chinese calligraphy and modern art.

Featured University of Michigan faculty discussants:

Matt Biro
Professor and Associate Chair
Department of History of Art, LS&A

Alex Potts
Max Loehr Collegiate Professor
Department of History of Art, LS&A

Martin Powers
Sally Michelson Davidson Professor of Chinese Arts and Cultures
Department of History of Art, LS&A

On the Borders of Art: A CI-UM Distinguished Lecture

Tuesday, March 8, 2011

CI-UM was honored to have the rare opportunity to host renowned Chinese artist and scholar Pan Gongkai (潘公凯), who presented his ideas on the borders constructed for art by nations, critics, and individuals. Rather than reify those borders, Professor Pan, who also serves as the president of China Central Academy of Fine Arts, reflected upon their shifting shapes through the prism of “misstructure,” a critical concept he developed in numerous publications over the past decade. Members in the large audience had the exceptional treat to be the first to hear Professor Pan discuss his theories in North America and to have an in-depth introduction of Professor Pan’s artistic enterprise.
October 9, 2010
Stamps Auditorium
Walgreen Drama Center

CI-UM was thrilled to sponsor and co-produce a riveting comedy-drama written, directed, and performed by a group of U-M Chinese students passionate about theatrical arts. Originally conceived as a series of skits, “Living Dreams: Memories of the 1980s Generation” tells a complex story about longing, memory, and identity, with captivating music and imagery.

The performance was attended by a large, enthusiastic crowd consist of U-M faculty, staff and students as well as fans from other universities and communities.

“The show did a really nice job showing our culture to the western world. I love it! Thank you all for the great job!” – F.H., happy audience member
Exciting Weekend of Chinese Music and Drama
中国传统音乐戏曲惊艳密大

Saturday, December 4, 2010
Chinese Instrumental Music Concert

Sunday, December 5, 2010
Kunqu Drama Performance of a Lifetime:
“Seduction with Zither-playing (琴挑),” from The Jade Hairpin (玉簪记)
“Taken Alive (活捉),” from All Men are Brothers (水浒传)

Another CI-UM exclusive!
World-class actors and musicians wowed audiences with exhilarating performances from select scenes of highly provocative and influential dramas. The festivities began with an evening of Chinese instrumental music and demonstrations. Performed in front of a packed house, all instruments were showcased individually and played in ensemble pieces to demonstrate the range and unique sound qualities that each instrument brings to every song.

Completing the weekend were the masterful performances of Mr. CAI Qinglin, Mr. CHENG Min, and Ms. SHI Jiehua. Through song, dance, music, and graceful body movements, cast and musicians of the Kunqu performance enchanted the large crowd with a truly stunning performance.
Chinese Hip-Hop

From head-spinning Haitians to free-styling Francophones, hip-hop has spanned the globe all the way to the Middle Kingdom. Hip-hop is a recent development in China but is a wildly growing trend with new artists popping up every day.

**Young Kin** from Yin Ts’ang (隐藏), mainland China’s first rap group ever to get signed to a record label, traveled to U-M to talk about his experiences with his own record label YinEnt (瘾乐), the current state of hip hop in China, and some challenges Chinese hip-hop artists face, such as censorship, financial backing, and an overall politically and creatively oppressive climate.

The talk concluded with a rapping showcase by Young Kin, as well as a break-dancing demonstration by world-renowned Bboy Fishball from Hong Kong’s Rhythm Attack and RockLee from Macau. All three performers interacted with the audience in a fun Q&A session.

Chinese Hip-Hop was hosted by Element-1 in tandem with Master the Art 8, a huge breakdancing and popping competition held annually at the University of Michigan.

This year, CI-UM and the U-M Center for Chinese Studies were pleased to be principal sponsors of Chinese Hip-Hop and Master the Art 8.
Chinese Songs: A Lecture-Recital

China’s Ethnic Groups and Their Songs
March 25, 2011

Ms. Hong Zhang, a mezzo-soprano and a Senior Lecturer of Chinese at Binghamton University, State University of New York, delighted the audience with a recital of famous folk and art songs from different ethnic groups. Ms. Zhang gave a beautiful rendition of some of the most beloved songs in Chinese cultures, including “The Love Song of Kangding,” “Beautiful Grassland, My Hometown,” and “Flying Songs over the Earth.”

The concert was further enhanced by an informative and interesting lecture prepared and presented by Ms. Zhang. The talk and performance perfectly complimented each other by reaching the audience on intellectual and emotional levels.

Ms. Zhang was expertly accompanied on the piano by Pej Reitz, who is on the faculty at Binghamton University and Ithaca College.
Major Programming Achievements
Since Founding of CI-UM
November 2009-April 2011
密大孔院重要公开活动一览

**November 5, 2009** - Grand opening of the Confucius Institute at the University of Michigan, featuring: Inaugural lecture entitled “De-familiarizing the Exotic: Appreciating the Arts of China in the 21st Century” by **Martin Powers**, Sally Michelson Davidson Professor of Chinese Arts and Cultures • and an evening of musical performance by the pipa virtuoso **Yang Wei** and members of the **Chinese Ensemble of Renmin University of China**

**March 22, 2010** – CI-UM Open House: Mini concerts, art demonstrations, tasty refreshments, and fabulous prizes

**April 1, 2010** – Chinese Calligraphy and Modern Art: A Roundtable Discussion with **H. Christopher Luce** (in conjunction with “Chinese Calligraphy: Seeing an Ancient Art through Modern Eyes,” the Inaugural Charles Lang Freer Lecture in the Visual Arts, March 31, 2010)

**April 5, 2010** – Investigating the Condition of Music in the Zhuangzi, a CI-UM Roundtable Discussion with **Shuen-fu Lin**, **Bill Baxter**, and **Scott Cook**

**April 9, 2010** – Appropriating the Sage: Pictorial Biographies of Confucius from 1444 to the Present, a lecture by **Julia K. Murray**

**May 7-9, 2010** – The Genesis of Chinese Writing and the Art of Calligraphy: exhibit and live calligraphy by **He Bingwu**; exhibit and lecture by **Suiwah Chan**

**September 25-27, 2010** – **Danny Yung**: TTXS – Soliloquies and Dialogues

**September 27, 2010** – Beijing Olympic Games and China’s National Image and Cultural Identity: A Roundtable Discussion by **Ren Hai**

**October 9, 2010** – “Living Dreams: Memories of the 1980s Generation,” a new comedy-drama

**November 22, 2010** – Mao Xiang and the Theatre in Late Ming, Early Qing, a Roundtable Discussion by **Oki Yasushi**

**November 23, 2010** – The Acoustic Aesthetics of the Marketplace: Time, Space, and Place in the Vendor Calls of Late Imperial Beijing, a Roundtable Discussion by **Paize Keulemans**

**December 4, 2010** – Chinese Instrumental Music Concert
Major Programming Achievements Since Founding of CI-UM
November 2009-April 2011

December 5, 2010 – Kunqu Drama Performance of a Lifetime

January 20, 2011 – Kunqu Opera: Proto Environment and Cultural Characteristics, a lecture by Zhou Qin

January 24, 2011 – Kunqu roundtable discussion and demonstration by Zhou Qin

February 7, 2011 – The Turkic Yugurs* in Chinese Gansu: An Introduction to their language, society and culture, a Roundtable Discussion by Du Yaxiong (*not to be confused with Uygurs)

February 22, 2011 – Digitizing Dunhuang: Applying Digitization and Virtual Space Technology to Exhibition Design, a Roundtable Presentation by faculty from Zhejiang University Center for Art and Archaeology

March 8, 2011 – On the Borders of Art: A CI-UM Distinguished Lecture by Pan Gongkai

March 16, 2011 – Use of Chinese Musical Elements in Theatrical Presentations, a lecture by Zhao Fang

March 17, 2011 – Deciphering Traditional Chinese Architectural Space, a lecture by Wang Yingjian

March 19, 2011 – Zither Lecture-Recital by Yang Fan

March 25, 2011 – China’s Ethnic Groups and Their Songs, a lecture-recital by Hong Zhang

April 8, 2011 – American and Chinese Journalistic Practice: A Contrast in Purposes, a Roundtable Discussion by George McCloud

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Photo Captions 图片说明

a. A scene from “Seduction with Zither-playing”;
b. Panelists and performers at Chinese Hip-Hop;
c. Professor He Bingwu’s work on display at UMMA;
d. Professor He Bingwu demonstrates brush technique;
e. Danny Yung greets U-M students in front of his comics;
f. H. Christopher Luce (back) shares a contemplative moment with U-M faculty Martin Powers, Joseph Lam, Celeste Brusati, Matt Biro, and Alex Potts;
g. Professor Pan Gongkai presents his work (translator Nan Zhang is on the left);
h. A scene from “Living Dreams”;
i. CI-UM director Joseph Lam celebrates the performance of “Living Dreams” with cast members;
j. A scene from “Taken Alive”;
k. A scene from “Seduction with Zither-playing”;
l. Young Kin shares hip-hop stories;
m. Bboy Fishball shows off his mad skills;
n. Hong Zhang performs during her lecture-recital;
o. CI-UM staff and supporters participate in Detroit Tigers’ Chinese New Year Opening Day festivities;
p. Professor Paize Keulemans leads a CI-UM roundtable discussion;
q. Residential College students play Chinese instruments at end-of-semester recital;
r. Madame Xu Lin meets with Lester Monts, U-M Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs;
s. Members of the U-M Symphony Band;
t. Li Liqun, master performer of the yangqin;
u. Another packed house for CI-UM event;
Elegant Musical Gatherings for U-M Undergrads

The Confucius Institute is administering a course every Fall and Winter term on Chinese instrumental music performance through the Residential College at the University of Michigan. Students are given individual lessons on Chinese musical instruments, which include but are not limited to the *erhu* (fiddle), *dizi* (flute), *pipa* (lute), and percussion. Students learn not only basic techniques in playing the instruments which are provided, but also standard compositions of the repertory. Having mastered the basic techniques, students in the Winter 2011 course presented their talent and skills in an end-of-semester recital that was warmly received by faculty, friends, and family. Some of the classic Chinese songs performed at the recital were “Jasmine Flower,” “Horse Racing,” and “Feng Yang Flower Drum.” Residential College students interested in this class are welcome to consult the LS&A Course Guide for more information on RCHUMS 252.

Taking Chinese Cultures on the Road

Since a mobile China Culture Learning Center was established in Fall 2010, CI-UM has been able to promote its resources for Chinese culture and language learning donated by Chinese Language Council International (Hanban) among communities in Southeast Michigan area. During the past eight months, CI-UM staff has taken the mobile China Culture Learning Center along with selected Chinese textbooks and cultural reference books to several local Chinese Schools in Ann Arbor, Canton, Novi, and Troy as well as in the State Chinese Competition among Michigan Chinese Schools. Over 3,000 community members, including K-12 students, parents, and Chinese teachers have come through the exhibitions and/or had a hands-on experience at the China Culture Learning Center. Some have even started to make direct contact with Hanban for book donations and other supporting resources for learning Chinese language and cultures.

CI-UM has also donated textbooks from Hanban to the Oakland Intermediate School Districts—which was the first county in the U.S. to teach Chinese in all of its 28 school districts. To help U-M Symphony Band members to learn Chinese and about China in preparation for their May trip to China, CI-UM is providing cultural reference books to the U-M School of Music, Theater & Dance and setting up a China Culture Learning Center at the School’s library. Through these activities, CI-UM maintains its focus on promoting the understanding of Chinese arts and cultures and helps to advance Hanban’s objectives of enhancing Chinese language learning opportunities worldwide.
Strong Relationship with Hanban

密大与汉办进一步加深合作

Lester Monts, University of Michigan Senior Vice Provost for Academic Affairs, Senior Counselor to the President for the Arts, Diversity and Undergraduate Affairs, and Arthur F. Thurnau Professor of Music, has worked tirelessly with Madame Xu Lin, Director-General of Hanban, to advocate CI-UM’s missions as well as to support special initiatives like the U-M Symphony Band’s China tour. In the past few years, Dr. Monts has been invited to speak on many important occasions such as the Global Confucius Institute Meeting and the National Chinese Language Conference.

Dr. Monts’ efforts reflect his grand vision about artistic and interdisciplinary education and cultural exchange between the U.S. and China. That exchange will be more effective if it involves artistic and creative exchange, not just teaching of Chinese language.

Symphony Band’s China Tour

The University of Michigan Symphony Band, led by Michael Haithcock, Director of University Bands, will tour China beginning May 7, 2011 with violin soloist Xiang Gao.

The Symphony Band, comprised of woodwind, brass and percussion instruments and considered one of the leaders of the modern wind band movement in America, will bring its artistry to Hangzhou, Shanghai, Xi’an, Shenyang, Beijing and Tianjin. Thanks to generous sponsors like the U-M Provost’s Office, Office of the President, CI-UM and Hanban, U-M School of Music, Theatre & Dance student musicians will have the opportunity to perform in China’s great cities and concert venues, while learning about Chinese cultures firsthand.
Regents of the University of Michigan
Julia Donovan Darlow
Ann Arbor

Joseph S. C. Lam, Director
QI Baiping, Visiting Associate Director
Karen Szemak, Administrative Manager
Rachel Yang, Administrative Coordinator
Louis Yen, Special Counsel to the Director
Jen Zhu, Assistant Director for Communications and Programming

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