

# CHINA INSIGHT

Fostering business and cultural harmony between China and the U.S.

VOL.6 NO.4

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APRIL 2007

## Chinese AIDS activist, Dr. Gao Yaojie, visits Minnesota

### Dr. Gao Yaojie known as "Grandmother Courage" visits the U.S. for the first time to receive humanitarian award

By Richard He and Jennifer Nordin, Staff Writers

Prominent Chinese AIDS Activist, Dr. Gao Yaojie, visited Minnesota Mar. 23-24 on her first trip to the United States. Dr. Gao came to the United States to receive the 2007 Vital Voices Global Women's Leadership Award for Human Rights in Washington, D.C., on Mar. 14. Vital Voices honors extraordinary women leaders who are at the forefront of political, social and economic progress in their societies. The honorary co-chairs of the Vital Voices Global Partnership include Senators Kay Bailey Hutchison and Hillary Rodham Clinton, Sally Field, Andrea Mitchell and Nobel Peace Prize Laureate Muhammad Yunus.

While in Minnesota, Dr. Gao gave a presentation, twice, describing her humanitarian work and reporting on the current status

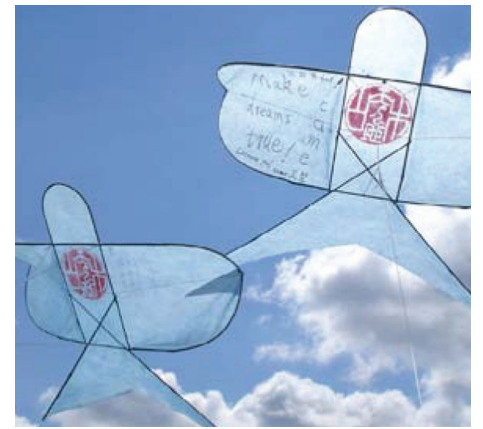


Dr. Gao Yaojie

of AIDS prevention and treatment in China. The first lecture was at the University of Minnesota on Mar. 23. She repeated the presentation on Mar. 24 for the public at the International Institute of Minnesota. These lectures were sponsored by China AIDS Orphan Fund (CAOF), Chinese American Student Association (CASA) and Program in Human Rights and Health, University of Minnesota – School of Public Health.

Dr. Gao was the first person to publicly expose the tainted blood selling programs that led to widespread HIV infection in rural Chinese villages. During the early and mid-1990s, village and provincial officials established programs to pay poor farmers for

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### Wishes for the Sky

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## Benefit concert to support impoverished students in China

By Albert Leung

Instead of church hymns and prayers, the St. Anthony Park Lutheran Church sanctuary echoed piano rhapsody at the first-ever benefits concert held by the non-profit groups China Service Ventures (CSV) and Hongzhi Donation Program.

A crowd of over 100 people gathered into the nave to listen to some of the most talented piano virtuoso in Minnesota. On their way in, audience members were greeted by persuasive young boys selling authentic Chinese goods including silk handbags, silk ties, piggy-banks, key chains and bracelets.

The event, which was planned by 15-year-olds Melody Hu and Nick Qiu, was to raise money for both charities which help impoverished students in China attend high school. Since high school is not free in China, many financially despaired families struggle to send their kids to school.

"We really don't have a goal amount," said Hu. "It's the first year so any amount of money we can raise would be great."

Hu and Qiu recruited friends who share the same piano instructor. The concert featured award-winning young pianists, including winners of prestigious young artist piano competitions such as Music Teacher's National Association Competition and Schubert Club Student Scholarship Competition, among others.



Young boys help sell goods outside the Concert Hall before the performance

"We know all the performers personally, said Qiu. "When they heard it was for charity they wanted to help."

The two event planners, having collected a few musical awards themselves, not only planned the event but also performed in it. All the teen performers, ages ranging from 13 to 18 years old, pulled double-duty that day after performing their respective musical pieces at a local piano competition earlier in the day.

The ten performers are: Melody (15, Wayzata HS), Nick (15, Woodbury HS), Josh Tan (16, Roseville Area HS), Brittany Polhemus (15, home schooled), Vivian Hou (16, Eastview HS), Sulamita Yang (16, St. Paul Central HS), Jimmy Broberg (18, St. Cecilia's

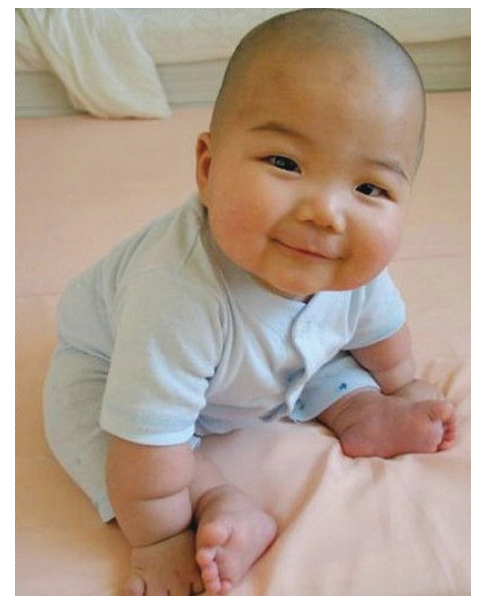
Home School), Ming Lin (15, Minnetonka HS), Kenny Broberg (8th Grade, Cecilia's Home School), Lillie Gardner (17, DelaSalle HS). All 10 performers showed their mastery of pieces composed by Franz Liszt, Frederic Chopin, Ludvig van Beethoven, Maurice Ravel, Mozart, Sergei Rachmanioff, Franz Joseph Haydn and Claude Debussy. Nick Qiu also prepared a special Chinese folk song to play especially at the charity concert. Nearly all the performers were trained by Dr. Joseph Zins, who has instructed young people in piano performance for over 30 years. Zins, who did not have a part in the event planning, looked on proudly as he bobbed his head with each strike of the piano. He said he was especially proud of how two of his students were able to review music on their own without his guidance.

"It's one of the most awesome events I've ever attended," said Zins. "I was very pleased that their instruction has grown them musically."

Hu and Qiu hope that this event is only the first of many to come. The same sentiments were shared by many who attended.

"To start a tradition, we need people to come and you have come. We feel [heartened] by that," Paul Ofstedal, CSV president, said.

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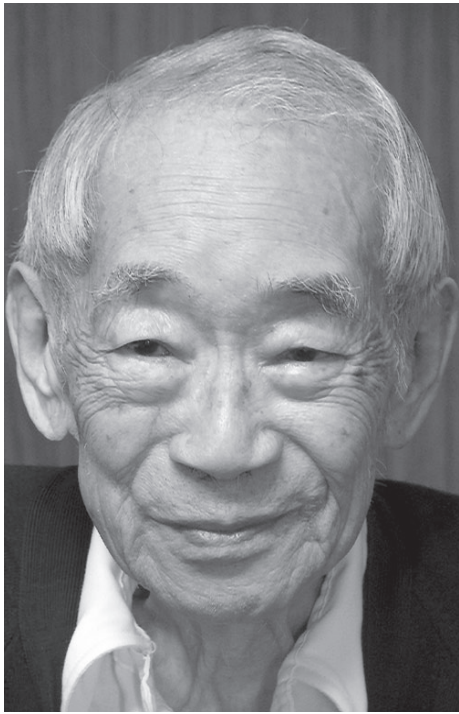
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# Stanley Chong, Chinese Minnesotan of Note

By the Advisory Committee of the Chinese Heritage Foundation



Stanley Chong

Stanley Chong was born in Yakima, Washington. He grew up on his father's hops farm, working every spring to build trellises for the hops vines, and later on in the season harvesting the flowers to be shipped to breweries in Chicago. The strong work ethic that he developed in those early

years remained with Chong throughout his life.

At the suggestion of relatives in Minneapolis, Chong moved here in 1934 to further his education. In search of work to support himself, he discovered, through his fluent Cantonese, that the local Chinese restaurants were having difficulties getting their grocery supplies from the west coast. Chong promptly set out to help them, and International House, a wholesale supplier to restaurants, was born. After World War II, during which Chong served in the U. S. Army, he expanded his services. By 1961 International House was the largest Chinese food mail-order operation in the nation.

Observing another need in the growing local Chinese community, Chong worked with his good friend, Walter James of Nankin Café, to organize a social and cultural association that eventually became the Chinese American Association of Minnesota (CAAM). One of the missions of CAAM was, and still is, to preserve the cultural heritage of Chinese Americans and promote its cross-cultural understanding with the greater Twin Cities community. Chong served as its first president in 1967.

During this period, Chong, together with Marvel, his wife, business partner and best friend, also ran the International House of

Foods on the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota. The only store on campus to carry Chinese food items, it was a haven for Chinese students. They went there whenever they felt homesick, knowing that the generous Chongs would envelop them and offer whatever assistance and encouragement they needed. During fishing seasons they also knew that on Monday mornings there would be free fresh fish for the taking in the display case, courtesy of the Chongs' legendary fishing prowess!

The Chongs were also innovators in the development of frozen foods. Another one of their business ventures, Marvel Foods, was the first in the country to offer frozen chow mein. The company also offered cooking classes and assisted in the development of a mechanical celery chopper.

Watching a new generation of Chinese children growing up, Chong sought to ensure their future by establishing a college scholarship fund at CAAM for them. He explained, 'Education is very important and I wish to help young people, who are willing to work hard, to become productive citizens. I am proud of our Minnesota Chinese community, and hope that our succeeding generations will continue to learn about our Chinese homeland and culture. My grand-

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# 2007 Dragon Festival: Celebrating the Asian Pacific American Communities in MN

July 14, & 15, 2007 at Lake Phalen and Phalen Park, Saint Paul, Minnesota

Dragon Festival is the premier Pan Asian festival in the State of Minnesota. Since its inception in 2003, the festival has grown in popularity and in size. In 2005, the Star Tribune named the festival as one of the five best summer events. Planning for the 2007 Dragon Festival, which will take place at Phalen Park, St. Paul, on July 14-15, is well underway.

This year, the planning committee has great plans to make this festival even more festive with more activities for all ages. The dragon boat races have always been a great attraction, but what makes the festival so great is the opportunity for Asian Pacific Islanders to share their rich and diverse culture with fellow Asian Pacific Islanders and also with the greater community.

Many have participated in Dragon Festival by sending dance groups, boat teams and martial art groups. The Dragon Festival planning committee hopes to have an Asian village at this year's Festival, a place for all API community organizations to get together, a place for API artists to exhibit and sell their work, a place for children of all ages to participate in Asian Pacific Islander games and a place to taste traditional cuisine. Any individuals with ideas for other traditional activities, questions, or interest in participating should contact Outreach Director Will Ahern at [willahern@dragonfestival.org](mailto:willahern@dragonfestival.org).

### Fun activities for the entire family

This annual two-day event generally draws a diverse crowd of 9,000 attendees from the Greater Twin Cities area. Past performers have included Taiko drummers, cultural dance groups, storytellers and musicians from the Philippines, Indonesia and India. Strolling musicians and magi-

cians also are welcome.

Asian cultural organizations, performers and artists interested in performing or showcasing their cultural heritage at this family-oriented event are invited to e-mail [evelynlee@dragonfestival.org](mailto:evelynlee@dragonfestival.org) or call Linda Hashimoto, 651-631-9157 or 651-631-9655. Performances are generally of 30-minute duration and take place on both Saturday and Sunday, between noon and 5:30 p.m.

Besides cultural performances, this year's festival will again feature martial arts demonstrations, arts and crafts, dragon boat races, a silent auction (those who have an item to donate, e-mail Judy Holm at [jwhohm@aol.com](mailto:jwhohm@aol.com)) and, of course, a wide variety of ethnic foods.

Participatory activities that appeal to "tweens" and teens will be added to this year's festival. In addition, the Asian art fair and craft bazaar will be expanded.

For details about the festival and to see photos from past festivals, please visit [www.dragonfestival.org](http://www.dragonfestival.org). ■

**CORRECTION:** Bob San wrote *Chinese volunteers visit Minnesota* not *MTO presents China Practicum* as indicated on Page 6 of the March 2007 issue.



Part of the opening ceremonies from 2006



Cultural performance from 2006 festival

# Department of Education releases Mandarin Chinese report

Governor Pawlenty has led state efforts to bring Mandarin Chinese language classes to Minnesota schools

The Minnesota Department of Education (MDE) has released a report to the legislature that recommends expanding the availability of Mandarin Chinese language classes to more Minnesota schools.

"If our students are going to succeed in a more globally competitive environment, it's essential that they learn a second language," Minnesota Education Commissioner Alice Seagren said. "The recommendations in this report provide the groundwork for preparing our students for the future by making Mandarin Chinese language classes more available for Minnesota students."

Last year, the legislature adopted Governor Tim Pawlenty's proposal to develop and provide school districts with a common curriculum, materials and classroom assessments to be used for a Mandarin Chinese program. MDE was directed to make recommendations on related issues including teacher preparation programs, the need for an adequate supply of Mandarin Chinese teachers, expedited licensure for Mandarin Chinese teachers and the development of an adequate number of high-quality programs.

Last year, MDE brought together a network of higher education representatives including educators, teachers of Chinese, business, members of the Board of Teaching, Department of Education staff and other interested partners to accomplish the goals set forth by the governor and legislature.

In the report, that group makes several recommendations to the legislature:

- Each Minnesota high school graduate should have foreign language instruction by 2013 and possess second language proficiency by 2021.

- Graduates should have the opportunity to continue their language learning in more commonly taught languages (such as French, German and Spanish) as well as several strategic languages, including Mandarin Chinese, at several Minnesota colleges and universities.

- The number of licensed foreign language teachers should increase by a factor of five over the next fifteen years.

- Priorities within school curricula should be altered to include language learning as well as broadened coverage of global history, culture and human geography.

- Schools, universities, communities and corporations should be encouraged to emphasize the importance of language and cultural knowledge and skills in the success of our society.

- School language learning should be supplemented by summer intensive learning experiences, travel experiences, community-based events and popular media learning opportunities.

The report also makes the following recommendations for the Minnesota K-12 education system:

- Provide ten (10) US\$50,000 pilot program grants in both fiscal year 2008 and 2009 to assist interested school districts or charter schools in initiating Mandarin Chinese programs or enhancing successful models in place. In order to receive the funding, schools should be required to evidence the ability to sustain each program. This funding would be used for such things as supplementary materials, professional development and summer camps for students.

- Develop and implement week-long, intensive training sessions for 25 public school district administrators who are interested in establishing high-quality, sustainable foreign language program models, similar to advanced placement training programs with an estimated cost of US\$25,000 in both fiscal year 2008 and 2009.

The complete report can be found at [www.education.state.mn.us](http://www.education.state.mn.us).

As part of his budget, Governor Tim Pawlenty has proposed US\$500,000 in funding for FY 08-09 to expand Mandarin Chinese language programs across the state. He has also proposed requiring every Minnesota student take four years of a second language. ■

**Editor's Note:** CHINAInsight is planning a comprehensive update on Minnesota's Chinese Mandarin language programs in the May issue of the paper and invites all school administrators to be sure to advise us of their plans so that they can be included. Items for consideration must be submitted by April 13 directly to [ghugh@chinainsight.info](mailto:ghugh@chinainsight.info).

# Paulsen authors legislation to implement Mandarin Chinese programs

Bill enhances pilot project passed during the 2006 legislative session

State Representative Erik Paulsen (R-Eden Prairie) in February introduced legislation, HF 1424, to create intensive Mandarin Chinese programs in Minnesota schools and provide grants from the Minnesota Department of Education to implement the programs.

"We live in a global economy," said Representative Paulsen. "We need to enhance foreign language instruction in Minnesota schools to meet the demand for proficiency in languages other than English."

Paulsen's legislation continues his efforts to implement a Mandarin Chinese curriculum in Minnesota schools. He secured US\$250,000 in funding for the initial development of the curriculum in 2006. This year's bill creates a pilot program to develop and implement model programs in Mandarin Chinese instruction. It also provides programing and funding to expedite the training and licensing of teachers of Chinese.

"We took the right steps in initiating curriculum development. We now need to expand upon the initial development of that curriculum to implement pilot programs in schools and provide an adequate number of Chinese language teachers for those programs," Paulsen said.

Paulsen said his legislation is based on recommendations from the Minnesota Department of Education and the Chinese Language Programs and Curriculum Development Project. The recommendations were developed by interested volunteers who possessed both skills and expertise related to Mandarin Chinese or other world

languages including program administrators, retired educators, curriculum coordinators, school board members, and representatives from the Minnesota Board of Teaching and the Department of Education.

Paulsen's legislation allows the commissioner from the Minnesota Department of Education to award up to 25, US\$10,000 pilot program grants in both 2008 and 2009 to assist interested school districts or charter schools in initiating or enhancing Mandarin Chinese programs. It provides 10, US\$2,500 scholarships to Minnesota residents with bachelor's degrees who are proficient in Chinese to enroll in intensive teacher licensure programs, and provides five, US\$100,000 grants to select state universities to expand foreign language teacher preparation programs to include Mandarin Chinese. In addition, it provides US\$250,000 in grant money to extend study abroad opportunities for teachers.

Paulsen said his legislation also calls for the commissioner to make recommendations to the Minnesota Legislature by 2010 on how to make Mandarin Chinese programs available to students in kindergarten through grade 12 throughout the state.

"We must be forward thinking in the area of global communication. This comprehensive proposal will ensure that we are not falling behind in an education area we should be enhancing," Paulsen said.

The legislation was referred to the K-12 Education Committee where Paulsen has submitted a hearing request. ■

# Minnesota college students gain new opportunity to study in China

Student exchanges between Minnesota and China will grow, with the signing of a new agreement between the Minnesota Private College Council and a unique Chinese liberal arts college. Starting this year, students and faculty from 17 private colleges will begin studying and working at United International College (UIC) in Zhuhai, China.

"Minnesota's unique and historic connections to China are further strengthened by this agreement, said Dan Miller, Ph.D., president and CEO, Excorp Medical Inc., and a board member of the Minnesota Private

College Council. "By enhancing our understanding of the 21st century's economic powerhouse, we greatly benefit both the academic and business communities in Minnesota."

The 17 institutions in the Minnesota Private College Council have longstanding ties with China, with some dating back to the 19th century. The colleges have 15 exchange programs in place that will be complemented by the new partnership with UIC. Minnesota students from all member institutions will have an opportunity to study side-by-

side with Chinese students in a Chinese institution where all courses are taught in English.

"This partnership is another sign of the private colleges' commitment to deepening students' understanding of the world we live in today," said James Peterson, Ph.D., president, Gustavus Adolphus College, St. Peter. "More than half of the Minnesota college students who study abroad come from the state's 17 private colleges."

There are many firsts associated with UIC and the partnership:

- o UIC is the product of the first partnership between a mainland educational institution, Beijing Normal University, and a Hong Kong counterpart, Hong Kong Baptist College.

- o When UIC opened earlier this year, it was the first fully sanctioned liberal arts college to be created in China in more than 50 years.

- o The agreement with the Minnesota Private College Council is the first UIC has reached with an American college or group

Students continues on Page 4

## Goodwill gone wild

### Chinese student joins U of M Pay it Forward Community Service Tour during spring break

Zhi Li, a student from Fuzhou, China, was among the 140 University of Minnesota students who participated in the Pay It Forward spring break tour Mar. 9 to Mar. 18.

Four buses departed from the University of Minnesota's Twin Cities campus on Friday, March 9, as part of the Pay it Forward spring break tour. The 140 U students loaded a suitcase, pillow and sleeping bag and boarded the buses to start on separate nine-day journeys.

Now in its fourth year, the Pay it Forward Tour is a spring break community service trip—planned and led by students—that has grown exponentially since it was conceived by four U freshmen during a late-night brainstorming session. This year, 15 buses with 600 student volunteers collectively served 77 communities. After traveling across the country, eight buses met in Washington, D.C. and seven buses met in San Antonio.



Zhi Li (right) and other U of M students doing community service work in Texas on the Pay it Forward Tour. Photo courtesy of Zhi Li

Li, a sophomore majoring in Management Information Systems, Supply Chain

Management, was one of the bus leaders on a bus that went to Silver Creek, Neb., Denver, Sante Fe, El Paso and ended up in San Antonio. He said he learned a lot on this trip.

"The trip was an enriching experience for me," said Li, who minors in global studies. "The trip wasn't without struggle. The intense emotion and human interaction helped me to grow tremendously in a short week. I learned everything from leadership, confidence, group dynamics and unity, trust, open communication, respect and support. The experiences we shared will be discussed in the future, and the intangibles of the tour will benefit me far into my life."

Li said all participants found the trip very fulfilling. In addition to the unforgettable service opportunities for students, the trip helped to break down stereotypes and participants often forge lifelong friendships.

"I believe our tour was a success story because every participant stepped up to be a leader at certain point of the tour," Li said. "One of our service projects was to lead workshops for kids age 11 to 14. Watching our volunteers discuss the activities and planning the events for the kids was the most fulfilling moment of my trip. We were all leaders of the tour."

The annual tour is the crowning accomplishment of Students Today Leaders Forever (STLF), a student organization that was founded in September 2003 by four University of Minnesota freshmen. In May 2005, STLF became an official non-profit organization, and it has since grown to 11 chapters in the Midwest. Members work on projects at their respective universities throughout the year.

For more information about the tour or the organization, visit the STLF Web site [www.stlf.net/](http://www.stlf.net/) ■

#### Students from Page 3

BEIJING NORMAL UNIVERSITY HONG KONG BAPTIST UNIVERSITY  
United International College

of colleges.

"Reaching this agreement with Minnesota's private colleges — our first such agreement with

American higher education — signals UIC's commitment to the liberal arts and our commitment to creating meaningful international partnerships," said Edmund Kwok, Ph.D., UIC vice president.

Located in the southeastern part of the country, near Macao and Hong Kong, UIC opened last spring and now has 1,200 students and 11 majors. Enrollment is expected to grow to 4,000 undergraduates and 500 graduate students. Along with Minnesota students studying at UIC, Chinese students are expected to come to Minnesota to study as well.

"We have a meaningful opportunity to contribute to China's reintroduction of the liberal arts into its higher education system," said David B. Laird, Jr., president, Minnesota Private College Council. "As we've seen here in Minnesota, a liberal arts education has so many benefits, including the intellectual skills that are critical in our world's rapidly changing knowledge-based economy."

Minnesota is a leading state for educa-

tional ties to China. Along with the private college's strong academic links, the University of Minnesota has been active for more than a century, including as an educator of large numbers of Chinese students.

About the Minnesota Private College Council

The Minnesota Private College Council represents 17 of the state's most respected four-year, liberal arts colleges and universities as well as more than 57,000 students. These institutions award 30 percent of the baccalaureate degrees in the state. They are: Augsburg College, Bethany Lutheran College, Bethel University, Carleton College, College of Saint Benedict, College of St. Catherine, College of St. Scholastica, Concordia College, Moorhead,

Concordia University, St. Paul, Gustavus Adolphus College, Hamline University, Macalester College, Minneapolis College of Art and Design, Saint John's University, Saint Mary's University of Minnesota, St. Olaf College, and University of St. Thomas

MPCC's mission is to preserve and enhance quality private higher education and to serve the education and economic needs of our region, while strengthening our cultural and economic fabric. For more information on the Council and its members, visit [www.mnprivatecolleges.org](http://www.mnprivatecolleges.org). ■

## Applicants wanted for Race, Gender, and Public Policy postdoctoral fellowship

The Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs is seeking postdoctoral fellows to be part of a new program that will explore the intersections of race, gender, and public policy. The postdoctoral fellows will support and develop new research in this policy area.

"Race, gender, and public policy offer a critical intersection for new scholars interested in moving our society forward through greater understanding of one another," said program co-director Dr. Samuel L. Myers, Jr., and director of the Humphrey Institute's Roy Wilkins Center for Human Relations and Social Justice.

In addition to developing new research, fellows will teach one graduate seminar within their area of specialty focusing on race, gender, and public policy and/or a masters-level course on social policy. Applicants should be broadly trained in the social or behavioral sciences and must have a demonstrated commitment to investigating the relationship between their disciplines and race, gender, and public policy.

"Public policy is constantly influenced by issues of race and gender, and this fel-

lowship will give interested scholars the opportunity to engage in interdisciplinary research with practical applications," said Dr. Sally Kenney, co-director with Myers and director of the Humphrey Institute's Center on Women and Public Policy.

The program will explore all areas of race and gender. There is added interest in applicants who focus on the peoples of the African Diaspora, indigenous women, such as American Indians or the Aborigines of Australia, and other populations in Latin America.

Applications will be reviewed by a selection committee comprised of nationally recognized race, gender, and public policy scholars. Applicants must submit a cover letter, resume, three letters of support from graduate advisers, a graduate school transcript, a one-page proposed course description, and a writing sample. All materials must be received by April 15, 2007. For more information and complete application instructions, visit [www.hhh.umn.edu/about/employment](http://www.hhh.umn.edu/about/employment). Additional questions may be forwarded to [Lawrencina Mason-Oramalu](mailto:Lawrencina.Mason-Oramalu@umn.edu) at [loramalu@umn.edu](mailto:loramalu@umn.edu) or 612-626-8734. ■

## China may allow more Hollywood films

According to U.S. Secretary of Commerce Carlos Gutierrez, China is showing some positive signs that it will increase the import quota for Hollywood-produced films. Currently, China only allows 20 foreign films to be imported and distributed each year in its theaters.

China's banking, retail and film indus-

tries are the most regulated markets for foreign business to enter. While China has recently opened up its banking and retail sectors in order to meet its WTO commitments, a mounting request to allow more Hollywood films into China's domestic market has become a major topic for the U.S. Department of Commerce's lobby in Beijing. ■

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## Chinese New Year celebration begins CHF initiative

# 傳龍基金

On Mar. 3 the Chinese Heritage Foundation (CHF) launched a new initiative to encourage philanthropy among young Chinese Americans by hosting a Chinese New Year celebration at Jun Bo Restaurant. Responding to a desire among young Chinese Americans to reconnect with their heritage, especially now that they are becoming parents, CHF plans to build informational events around significant holidays on the Chinese calendar. These events will be part networking, part culinary tour, part education, and part fundraising. At the same time these events will also serve as opportunities to promote cross-cultural understanding and will therefore be open to the greater Twin Cities community.

The kick off event was the Mar. 3 celebration of Chinese New Year. Co-chaired by Ida Lano and Norton Lam, the event drew a nice crowd that was approximately 50 percent Chinese and 50 percent Caucasian. The evening began with a sumptuous banquet featuring a menu carefully selected by CHF president Ming Tchou. It was followed by an interactive program led by Margaret Wong on the customs and practices during Chinese New Year. Anyone who correctly answered a question posed by Wong, or

who voluntarily cited a prevailing custom, won an opportunity to select a door prize from among dozens of Chinese gifts contributed by members. Along the way everyone learned the importance of homonyms in the Chinese language: lotus seeds thus become a fertility symbol, tangerines become a symbol for wealth and good fortune, and a whole fish becomes a symbol of plenty. The oft-heard exclamation during the evening was, 'I didn't know that!'

Another consensus from the evening was an appreciation of the art of menu planning. Food is deeply intertwined in many aspects of Chinese culture; and the elevation of the mundane to the sublime is an experience to remember. With an expert resident guide in Ming Tchou, how to eat well (and staying within a reasonable budget) definitely will be a focus in future events.

One more surprise from the evening was the realization that while the World Wide Web can provide practically all information on all subjects, having pertinent information available in a concise format about common Chinese customs and festivals cannot yet be found. CHF will look into providing this information on its Web site in the future. ■

## Local tenor to perform first solo recital to feature an all-Chinese program

Chinese tenor Li Lei will present his first public recital in the Twin Cities on May 6, at 3 p.m., at the Coffman Union Theatre on the Minneapolis campus of the University of Minnesota. The recital evolved as a result of Mr. Li's commitment to promoting cross-cultural understanding through music and his desire to share some of the culture and tradition of his native country.

Li is originally from Shenyang, China.



Chinese tenor Li Lei  
(Photo Credit:  
Cindy Bai)

He holds a B.F.A. from Shenyang Conservatory and two M.F.A.s, one in voice and one in piano, from Nara Educational University, in Nara, Japan.

During his seven-year sojourn in Nara he concertized widely throughout the western region of Japan. His repertoire included Chinese and Japanese art songs, and Italian bel canto songs and opera arias. As a scholarship recipient of the International Silk Road Foundation he was active in promoting cross-cultural understanding through music.

Li came to the Twin Cities in 1996 and rapidly became known for his interpretation of both Chinese art songs and Italian songs. He has sung with many Twin Cities organizations, including the Minnesota Opera and the Minnesota Chorale, and has been the featured soloist in numerous Chinese cultural performances. During his ten-year tenure as artistic director of the Minhua Chorus, the group won several grant awards from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council and in 2005 traveled to Chicago to perform with the Chicago Yellow River Performing Arts in

Xian Xing-hai's Yellow River Cantata. The Chorus subsequently repeated the performance in the Twin Cities to great acclaim.

Li has continued his activities in promoting cross-cultural understanding in the Twin Cities and performs frequently outside the Chinese community. As tenor soloist at Grace Trinity Community Church he has participated in many collaborative recitals, singing songs from different regions of China. For his first solo recital on May 6 he has chosen an all-Chinese program, featuring tribal songs from different regions in China. These regions include Inner Mongolia, Tibet, and the provinces of Yunnan, Szechuan and Xinjiang. Li said, "During my recent trips back to China I was thrilled to come across these tribal songs again. I realized that many of them, such as The River Is Swollen with Carp, The Sun is Rising over the Prairie, The Song of the Shepherd, and Evening in the Meadow, have never been performed in the Twin Cities before. These wonderful songs invoke the big blue sky and wide-open prairies of western China; and celebrate the harmony between man and nature. Horses and camels occupy a special place in everyday life, and in one song, you can hear the bells on the camels' harnesses. And of course when the day's work is done, there is love! These songs are so evocative that I am really looking forward to introducing them to my audience."

The recital will also feature select slides of tribal costumes and sceneries from these regions. Margaret Wong will be the narrator. Pearl Lam Bergad will accompany Li Lei on the piano. Tickets are US\$12 each and may be reserved by contacting Hong Lin (763-478-3117) at hong-lin@comcast.net, or Yanan Guo (651-278-3498) at thunderconcert@yahoo.com. Coffman Union Theatre is located on 300 Washington Ave. SE, Minneapolis. ■

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## Sucheng Chan donates to the Immigration History Research Center

Sucheng Chan, one of the founding scholars of Asian American Studies, is donating her formidable collection of Asian American Studies-related books and materials to the Immigration History Research Center.

There will be two upcoming events with Professor Chan at the end of April:

**Thursday, April 26, 5-7p.m.**

*Why Asian American Studies Matters*  
Sucheng Chan, Professor Emerita of Asian American Studies, UC Santa Barbara University and community reception and book signing  
120 Andersen Library

University of Minnesota

**Friday, April 27, from 11 a.m.-12:30 p.m.**

Graduate student lunch and seminar with Prof. Chan

308 Andersen Library

University of Minnesota

RSVP to Erika Lee at erikalee@umn.edu ■

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#### Orphan Fund from Page 1

blood, which was often collected with unsanitary practices. Estimates vary as to the extent of the resulting AIDS epidemic, but in some villages much of the adult population has died or is infected. In the province of Henan, AIDS orphans number in the tens of thousands.

Thomas Ting, President of the China



Dr. Gao at the lecture

AIDS Orphan Fund, commented on the significance of Dr. Gao's visit: "We have been aware of Dr. Gao's courageous leadership in drawing attention to the AIDS orphan crisis in central China, and we are honored to host her visit. We hope that her trip to America will draw even greater attention to the needs of children and families affected by AIDS in China and throughout the world."

#### About Dr. Gao Yaojie\*

Dr. Gao Yaojie graduated from Medical College, Henan University in 1954, and became a popular obstetrician, delivering as many as twelve babies a day until the 1960s, when she was classified as a "black element" during the Cultural Revolution. As an educated person and the daughter of a

landlord, Dr. Gao was forced into hiding. From 1966 until 1974 she was not allowed to practice medicine, but as the Cultural Revolution receded, she returned to her practice, focusing on Gynecology. In the 1980s she became a lecturer and teacher, and served as Director, Department of Gynecology and Obstetrics, No. 1 Hospital, Henan College of Chinese Traditional Medicine. She formally retired in 1990.

In April, 1996, Dr. Gao was invited to consult on a case of infection at the Henan Armed Police Hospital. Within days the patient was confirmed to be HIV positive. Dr. Gao immediately began doing public education on AIDS. As she traveled through the rural villages of Henan she discovered that an epidemic of HIV infection was emerging due to the collection and sale of tainted blood in the early and mid-1990s—a program encouraged by local officials as a way for poor farmers to supplement their meager income.

Dr. Gao ministered to the victims and



Dr. Gao dinner speech (Photo Ping Yeh)

helped support the children who were becoming orphans in large numbers as a whole generation of adults in some villages began to die. Local and provincial officials attempted to minimize or conceal the situation until 2000, when Dr. Gao met with a New York Times reporter and alerted the outside world to the AIDS crisis in Henan. In 2001 and



Dr. Gao and Crystal with CAOF Board (Photo credit: Ping Yeh)

2002, as news of the epidemic spread, Dr. Gao became a prominent and courageous spokesperson for its victims.

Dr. Gao was born in 1927, in rural Shandong Province. She and her husband, also a doctor, have three children, in addition to three from his previous marriage.

#### Dr. Gao's presentation on AIDS in China

On Friday, Mar. 23, a press conference, lecture and an exclusive interview with China Insight afterwards was scheduled. Unfortunately, Dr. Gao's flight into Minneapolis was delayed and there was only time for the lecture. Before her arrival to the Auditorium at Moos Tower on the University of Minnesota campus, the audience got a chance to view the DVD and part of her power-point presentation about the field trips and reality of the AIDS situation in Henan province.

When Dr. Gao arrived and began her lecture, it was hard to believe that she is 80 years old from the way she moved and spoke. She spoke very clearly (with a Henan accent), responded to questions promptly and precisely, and she displayed a sense of humor too—a very valuable trait after having worked in a very difficult environment and pressured circumstance for so many years.

After her presentation, she answered a few questions. She mentioned she was invited to visit the United States by the honorary co-chair of the Vital Voices Global Partnership, U.S. Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, and that she received the approval of Chinese President Hu Jintao, so she could make her first trip outside China.

Dr. Gao explained that blood-selling is a nation-wide issue in China, not just limited to Henan Province which was in the spotlight right now. The AIDS issue in China is different from the cases in the other parts of the world. In China, the majority cases of AIDS are caused by blood-selling, not sex or drug related. She encouraged everyone to put a greater emphasis on helping to pressure the Chinese government to improve or stop this practice to resolve the AIDS issue from the root, not just donating the money to cure AIDS patients and help the families. Resolving the blood-selling issue will be a more efficient way to stop AIDS infection. Otherwise, it has been and will continue to be a Chinese tragedy.

Dr. Gao has a blog at <http://blog.sina.com.cn/u/1260580754>. From there, viewers can see over 100 real AIDS cases recorded by her and much more information. She mentioned that people should not send her e-mail as her e-mail was blocked and she would not be able to receive messages.

Dr. Gao is very conscious of her cause. She insists on three "NOs"; meaning, three things she will not do:

1. She will NOT join or establish any foundation or organization. This will prevent any accusation that she would use those organizations against the government;

2. She will NOT receive any donation to her directly. It is not that she does not need money for her cause, she needs it dearly. She has spent every penny from her cash awards for food, medicines and AIDS education materials for all AIDS patients and their families. She wants to avoid any accusation from anybody (including government) on how much money she will get and how she will use the money thus impacting her ability to help the patients directly;

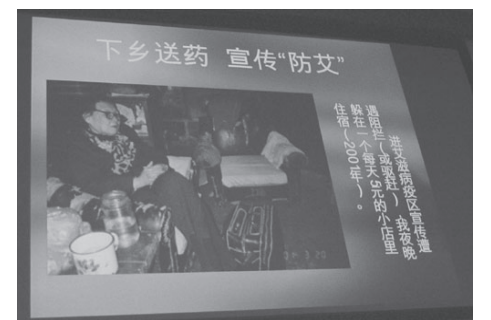
3. She will NOT work for the government or speak for the government. She will work independently. In this way, she will keep her neutral position and speak out the truth (not lying to outside world) to help cure the AIDS epidemic in China.

A banquet for Dr. Gao was held at Peking Garden on Mar. 23. Dr. Gao returned to Chicago after the second lecture on Sunday.

#### About China AIDS Orphan Fund

The mission of the China AIDS Orphan Fund is to improve the lives of children orphaned by HIV/AIDS in central China, especially Henan Province. It was founded in 2003 by Dr. Steven Wang to raise awareness and support for AIDS orphans and their families in Central China. The Fund was established under the auspices of The Minneapolis Foundation. CAOF has since become an independent charitable organization. In four years it has made grants of more than US\$150,000 to NGOs addressing these needs in China. For additional information, visit [www.chinaaidsorphanfund.org](http://www.chinaaidsorphanfund.org).

\* Information about Dr. Gao Yaojie was provided by the China AIDS Orphan Fund



#### LET US HEAR FROM YOU

Have an observation or comment about something you read in **CHINA Insight?**  
Write a Letter to the Editor

# Update on Chinese Adoption

By Will Ahern, Minnesota Regional Director Great Wall China Adoption

Over the past several years, China has become the leading choice of families in the United States for foreign adoption. It is no wonder with China's reputation for healthy children and a corruption free process that this has happened. I want to preface some the wording regarding supply and demand as seemingly indifferent to the fact that these are children in need of homes: My wife and I adopted our daughter from China 8 years ago, so we know these are children and not just numbers.

The demand for Chinese children appears to continue to grow while the supply of children available for foreign adoption may be slowing down. Growing to a peak of 7,906 children receiving adoption visas to the United States in 2005, 2006 saw an 18 percent decline in children being adopted by U.S. parents to 6,493. Starting in mid 2005 and all through 2006, U.S. families in the process of adopting found the wait time for referral grow from 7 or 8 months to 15 or more months. By the end of 2006, it was clear that demand was up and supply was down.



One factor possibly impacting this is the increased activity in domestic Chinese adoption. According to

Wang Xi Ming, orphanage director in Shaoguan, China, more than half of the children finding homes from the orphanage he is responsible for find homes within China.

Late last year, the China Center for Adoption Affairs, the central administering authority in China, announced changes to the guidelines for foreigners to qualify for a child. These officially take effect in May, 2007. Realistically these are already in place as you would have to have your dossier ready to go to China by May which is usually a 4 month process itself. Here are a few of the broad strokes of the changes.

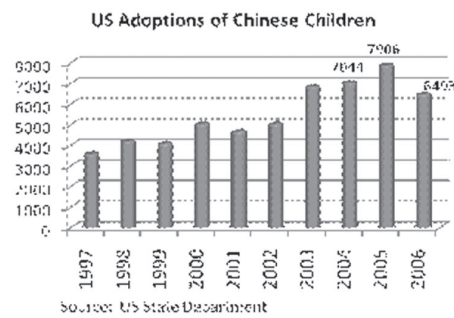
\* Parents now must both be under 50 years old, previously they could have been 109 years old combined

\* A net worth of US\$80,000, previously this just needed to be positive.

\* At this time, no single parents are accepted. Previously approximately 8% of the children were allocated to single moms.

\* Health of the parents is more closely scrutinized.

China remains possibly the best option for foreign adoption. While the lead time from decision to begin until you are home with your new family member may be well over a year and a half, the lifetime of joy and wonder in store exceeds by far the minor delay.



## Requirements for Chinese adoption by foreigners

### Age Requirements for Parents

\* Married couples 30 to 49.5 years old or less (at application to Great Wall) are eligible to adopt from China. This age eligibility requirement is assessed by dossier registration in China. Both adoptive parents must be less than 50 years old when their dossier is registered at the CCAA.

\* Adoptive parents must be at least 30 years old when the dossier is registered in China.

\* Adoptive parents must be less than 50 years old when the dossier is registered in China.

\* Married couples 30 up to 55 years old are eligible to adopt a Waiting Child from China. Both parents must be less than 55 years old when the dossier is registered in China.

### Age Guidelines for Adoptive Families

\* Couples 30 to 44 may apply to adopt a child 3 to 12 months old.

\* Couples 45 to 50 may apply adopt a child 13 months to 3 years old. Dossiers must be registered before both parents are 50 years old.

\* Couples 51 to 55 may apply adopt a child 4 and older through the Waiting Child Program.

\* China bases eligibility on each person's age. If one spouse is under 30 or one spouse is over 55, the couple is not eligible to adopt.

### Education Requirements

\* Each potential adoptive parent must have a high school education. A diploma or GED is acceptable.

### Financial Requirements

\* The family must show a positive net worth (assets vs. liabilities) of at least US\$80,000.

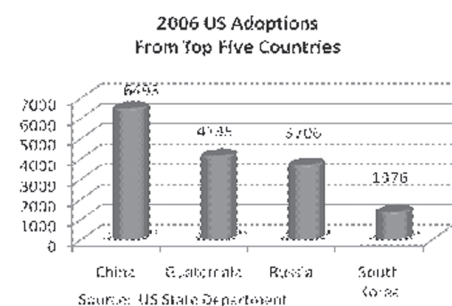
\* There must also be an income earning of at least US\$10,000 per person in the household, including the adopted child.

\* Adoptive parents must demonstrate an annual minimum combined income of US\$30,000. This represents US\$10,000 per adult + US\$10,000 for the adopted child. An additional US\$10,000 income is required for each additional person in the household. For example, a married couple with two children living in the home must earn at least US\$50,000

### Parental History

\* Prospective adoptive parents who have terminated parental rights after the age of 18 are not eligible to adopt.

\* If you have been investigated by Child Welfare Services please contact Great Wall for a personal consultation.



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### Health History

Families are not eligible to adopt if any of the following apply:

\* Diagnosed with major depression or any other severe mental health concern;

\* Current diagnosis of depression or anxiety or currently on medication for depression or anxiety

\* Diagnosed with alcoholism within the last 10 years;

\* Any surgery within the last year;

\* One or both parents use a wheelchair or mobility aid;

\* Any diagnosis of cancer within the last three years;

\* Active Hepatitis A, B, or C; or

\* One or both parents have a seizure disorder.

\* BMI over 40.

All health issues will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis.

### Criminal History

Families are not eligible to adopt if any of the following apply:

\* Current warrants or currently on probation

\* ANY use of or arrests for illegal drugs

\* Any arrest for a violent crime (examples: assault, domestic violence, child abuse/neglect)

\* Any felony arrests

Any other criminal charges are reviewed on case-by-case basis.

### Marriage Requirements

\* If the first marriage, couples who are married over 2 years.

\* If either spouse is in a second marriage due to the death of a spouse, the current marriage needs to be a minimum of 5 years.

\* If either spouse has 1-2 divorces, the current marriage needs to be a minimum of 5 years.

\* Couples where one or both spouses

have 3 or more divorces are not eligible.

### Maximum Number of Children

Every child deserves the undivided care and attention of a loving parent, especially children who have been orphaned at a young age. For this reason, the CCAA limits the number of children in the household to a maximum of five.

\* Couples with less than 5 children under 18 years old living in the household may adopt from China.

\* Couples with adult children (not living in the home) may adopt from China.

\* Couples with more than 4 children in the family; but not all live at home, may adopt from China.

\* If there are more than 4 children living in the household; please contact us to discuss your specific situation.

### Household Requirements

Adoptive children entering a family require time to adjust to their new environment and bond with their adoptive family.

\* If you have recently given birth to a child, or adopted domestically or from another country, you must wait until the child is 12 months old to submit your dossier to China.

\* If you have recently adopted a child from China, you must wait until after you have submitted the 12 month post-placement report to submit your dossier to complete another adoption from China.

### Religious Requirements

\* CCAA requires a statement in the Home Study regarding spiritual beliefs.

\* Families with religious beliefs that prohibit any kind of medical treatment, including blood transfusions, for the child, will not

Requirements continues on Page 8

# Safeguard the bike

By Lu Rucai, *China Today*

Known to many as the "Bicycle Kingdom," China is rapidly losing that status as its roads are increasingly clogged up by automobiles. But regardless of the congestion in large cities, or the government's calls for two-wheeled transportation, the country's fondness for the four-wheeled kind shows no sign of slowing down.

## Boom Time for Autos

"When I drive to work, I have to leave my home at 7 a.m. It takes at least an hour to get there," complains Zhang Hui, an employee with Bull, a French technology company. But it was not the frustration of sitting in grid locked streets that finally persuaded Zhang to get on his bike. Last November, during the Forum of China-Africa Cooperation (FOCAC), the government requested citizens to cycle so that traffic would flow more freely. Zhang was astonished to find that he could "leave a half hour later, and arrive earlier than before."



Automobiles on China's roads increase by millions each year as the number of bicycles declines.

Millions of Beijing citizens like Zhang Hui opted to pedal -- or use public transport -- during FOCAC. The result was a congestion-free Beijing. But as soon as the event drew to a close, chaos came back to the streets. Even Zhang returned to his old ways. He says, "Although I did save a lot of time while cycling, there are disadvantages to cycling. There is nowhere to park near my company, and I had to take a cab when meeting clients. What would they think of me if I cycled up to them?" Zhang believes his car lends him the esteem necessary for success.

Judging a person by what car they drive is nothing new. Another Beijing resident named Cheng considered investing in a car so she could drive to work instead of sitting in a cramped bus for two hours. She says, "I was looking at a compact car for about 60,000 yuan, but my family said I might as well by no car as [buy] a compact." In the end, she splashed out twice the money for a more imposing vehicle.

According to a survey carried out by ACNielsen, a market research company, 30 percent of the 1,500 respondents in Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou said they planned to purchase a car within a year. Car fever had, it seemed, reached an unprecedented high, compared with similar surveys in 2005 and 2004. Says the 28-year-old Liu Yong, "Society continues to develop, and our lives continue to improve. Why should we cycle when we can afford to drive?" Like Chen's

family, Liu also believed that a car was a vital status symbol in today's China. "It is



On October 29, 2006 many Beijing residents responded to the call to "March toward the Olympics in a green way-leave your car at home for a day."

true that cycling is better for the environment than driving is," he says, "but what difference will it make if I give up my car?" His opinion prevails among many. And

though local governments are concerned about the environment, they still encourage residents to buy cars, because the auto industry is a pillar of the economy.

## Times Change

Ms. Li, in her fifties, is a native of Beijing. She cycles to her office every day. But recently, she has done so in fear. "There used to be railings separating the cycle lane from the car lanes, but they are gone." As the number of auto lanes was expanded from two to three, the roads became deathtraps for the city's population of cyclists. On one expedition, Ms. Li was knocked down by a car that suddenly shot into the cycle lane. Though she was not seriously injured, her dread of fuel-powered machines continues to this day. "I am now very cautious while cycling."

Fondly recalling the days of old, Ms Li says, "Back then, you could ride wherever you wanted." But times have changed dramatically. In 1949, there were only 2,300 automobiles on the boulevards of Beijing. In February 1997, that number had increased to a million. And just six years later, there were two million. These days, there are 1,000 new cars added to Beijing's streets every single day.

Meanwhile, the number of bicycles has declined gradually, and they are used less frequently. At one stage there were more than 10 million bicycles in Beijing; now there are



Utility workers paint bicycle lane signs on a road in Chaohu City, Anhui Province.

four million, about half of which are used every day. China produces some 70 million bikes a year, but 50 million of these are sold abroad.

Recalls Ms. Liu, "Once, every one of my five-member family owned a bike. But now we just have one between the lot of us." Ms. Liu and her family have moved from their old house in a hutong to a suburban flat. The compound she lives in has plenty of room for cars, but none for bikes. Ms. Liu bought a car two years ago, and solved the whole family's transport problems. These days, the bike is used only for getting to the nearby market. Ms. Liu says, "Times change, and trends change too. When I got married 20 years ago, a bike was considered an extravagant dowry. But who wants one today? No one."

Urban sprawl is another reason to eschew the bike. Liu Jianshuang comes from a small town in Hebei Province. In her hometown, most residents cycle, as their companies are relatively close to their homes. But residents of big cities like Beijing and Shanghai are not so lucky. As more houses are built in the suburbs, many people have to change bus several times as they commute to their downtown companies. Liu, who now works in the capital, complains of the difference. "Now my company is almost 40 kilometers away from my home. I cannot cycle, so I must take the subway and then two buses." She and her husband plan to buy a car once they have saved up the money. "It will reduce my daily struggle on the crowded buses."

## Boiling Tempers

Though Zhang Hui's cycling habit was short-lived, it brought about longer-lasting changes to his mentality. In the past, he would cruise down the cycle lane to avoid a traffic jam, if there were no police around to spot him. But when the shoe was on the other foot, Zhang had numerous quarrels with law-breaking motorists like himself. When he got back into his car, he decided not to invade the cycle lane any more.

Traffic warden Zhang daily sees squabbles and screaming matches taking place between motorists and cyclists. And his sympathies lie with the latter. "Cyclists are much more vulnerable, so motorists should give way to them," he says. "But the fact is that cars are more powerful, and they can easily take over cycle lanes."

That means more road rage on the streets of Beijing. Roadside arguments often draw large crowds, and many passing cyclists will jump to their peers' defense. Sometimes the debate spills over into cyberspace. Blogging cyclists rebuke ill-mannered drivers that thoughtlessly drive or park on their turf, while the other side lambastes the cyclists' indifference to traffic lights.

## Improving the Cyclists' Lot

To tackle pollution and seemingly permanent gridlock, the Chinese government has been encouraging residents to leave the car at home. Vice Minister of Construction Qiu Baoxing says that China should maintain its number of cyclists, and make biking more convenient. In the 1980s, there were 500 million bikes in China, and more cities had special cycle tracks. They disappeared with the expansion of the roadways, but now they will be brought back. For example, Shanghai plans to construct more than 100 kilometers of cycle track within the next five years.

Liang Congjie, president of an environmentalist association called Friends of Nature, proosed that railings be reinstalled between the cycling and auto lanes, and that parking in bicycle lanes be strictly forbidden. His suggestion was echoed in the Beijing Traffic Administration Bureau (BTAB) and the Beijing Municipal Commission of Urban Planning. The BTAB says it has installed about 110,000 meters of railings on roads and crossroads and painted out some parking areas in the bicycle lanes. They are also rebuilding some large bus stops to limit the effect that buses have on cyclists when they pull into the stops.

Yet an expert with the BTAB says that there is no permanent solution. The best approach, he reckons, is to urge both cyclists and drivers to obey the traffic law. On China's Bicycle Day, members of environmentalist organizations like Friends of Nature cycle around cities to promote the environmental - and mental - benefits of that mode of transport. But the situation is likely to continue to drive people mad for quite some time. ■

Reprinted with permission from *China Today*

## Requirements from Page 7



be eligible to adopt. According to the CCAA this includes religions that use alternatives to blood transfusions, as this is not available in every country.

\* CCAA and *Great Wall* do not require families to be associated with any religion.

Subsequent Adoptions from China

\* Adoptive parents may submit their

dossier to China after they submit the 12 month Post Placement Report for the previous adoption.

## itizenship Requirements

\* One adoptive parent must be a U.S. citizen

\* If one parent is not a U.S. citizen; the other parent (who is a U.S. citizen) must travel to China to complete the adoption.

\* If you are a U.S. citizen living abroad, we can help you to adopt from China; *Great Wall* has placed children with Americans living in Africa, Asia, Europe and the Middle East.

This information is also available on the *Great Wall China Adoption Web site* at

[http://www.gwca.org/why\\_china/requirements/married](http://www.gwca.org/why_china/requirements/married) ■



Benefit Concert from Page 1

# Benefit concert to support impoverished students in China

Ofstedal said that he is hoping to make this event a tradition because its cause is helps so many in need that it would be unfortunate to only have once.

The event was originally proposed by Nick Qiu's mother. But it was Melody Hu and Nick Qiu that brought the concept into fruition, with little help from their parents.

"We met several times planning out the event and spend hours working on the programs and fliers," said Hu.

Beijing University Alumni Association, Tsinghua University Alumni Association and Chinese American Association of Minnesota.

CSV, a non-profit group, sponsors a program to help provide tuition, room and board to impoverished students in the Henan Province in China.

Hongzhi Donation Program raises money to financially aid talented but impoverished students from rural Beijing complete their high school education. The donation program directly funds Hongzhi classes that admit students whose families make less than US\$36 per capita per month and achieve higher entrance exam scores.

This concert collected over US\$2,000 from ticket sales, goods sales and donations. To support China Service Ventures or Hongzhi Donation Program, visit [www.csventures.org](http://www.csventures.org) or <http://hongzhidonation.googlepages.com> for opportunities to get involved or donate. ■



Melody, Nick and the organizing committee: Jennifer Larson (China Service Venture, communication director), Joy Guo (Melody's Mom), Lin Qiu and Dongmei Zhang (Nick's Parents)

The two said that their parents were integral in promotions, working their relationships through the local community to gain support from organizations including China Insight, Huaxia Times, Woodbury Bulletin,

Editor's Note: During preparation and organization for this benefit concert, Melody won the 9th annual Minnesota Brain Bee, a neuroscience competition hosted by the University of Minnesota. As the champion, Melody traveled to Balti-



Group Performers (Front row from left: Vivian Hou, Sulamita Yang, Josh Tan, Nick Qiu, Kenny Broberg Back Row from Left: Brittany Polhemus, Melody Hu, Lillie Gardner, Jimmy Broberg, Ming Lin)

more, Maryland in March to compete in the International competition. She went on to win the 2007 International Brain Bee on March 17. More details will follow in the coming issues.

Albert Leung is an avid writer in journalism and fiction. A University of Minnesota graduate, he freelances on the side. Besides writing, he is a devout movie viewer and an emotionally charged Vikings and Timberwolves supporter. Albert currently resides in Minneapolis.

All photos are provided by the Concert.



Melody with her Piano Teacher Dr. Joseph Zins and his wife Dr. Jo Anne Link

## Wishes for the Sky Promises to the Earth Earth Day 2007

Be a part of *Wishes for the Sky*, an Earth Day arts experience on Harriet Island. A nature-inspired day of wishing and promising, *Wishes for the Sky* is a contemporary art event that invites everyone to participate in a work of public art.

Inspired by ancient Asian traditions of flying wishes on kites, the event will use music, visual arts, poetry and 1000 blue kites to create an expression of community hope.

We invite you and your family to:

- Play the wind chime sculpture
- Create wishes in the wish-making pavilion
- Make "Promises to the Earth" to adopt sustainable practices
- And fly a kite to carry your wish to the sky.

Everyone is welcome to attend this free, zero-waste Earth Day event any time from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Come rain or shine.

For information contact: Kathleen Maloney 651-336-4202 or [wishesforthesky@earthlink.net](mailto:wishesforthesky@earthlink.net)

Website: [www.wishesforthesky.org](http://www.wishesforthesky.org)

*Wishes for the Sky* creative team: St. Paul Artist-in-Residence Marcus Young, choreographer and calligrapher Shen Pei, composer Mary Ellen Childs, sound designer Cody Anderson, architect Peter Kramer.

This project is made possible by funds from Public Art Saint Paul through a grant from the City of Saint Paul Cultural STAR Program, Jerome Foundation, Travelers Arts & Diversity Fund, St. Paul Foundation's Asian Pacific Endowment, Puffin Foundation, FORECAST Public Artworks, COMPAS Community Art Program through a grant from the McKnight Foundation, the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature, and the Minnesota State Arts Board through an appropriation by the Minnesota State Legislature and a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts.

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# Breaking down the great wall to franchising in China

A change to a new law may help lower barriers for American operators with big plans of opening units in the country's lucrative dining market

By Milford Prewitt

Two little words—"in China"—deleted from a franchising law could make a big difference between profits or perils for American restaurant chains that have yet to open in the world's fastest-growing economy.

The recent sigh of relief heard in the international franchise offices of restaurant brands eager to tap the Chinese market was in reaction to the elimination of a costly stipulation that threatened to stymie the timing and strategy of such brands as Church's Chicken, Applebee's, Ruby Tuesday, Dunkin' Donuts and others.

But while operators are optimistic that the revised rule lifts a major impediment, they remain cautious about franchising in China. Moreover, many still cannot set a time when they plan to make their debuts there despite years of talking about it.

Chain operators are reacting to a revision to China's "two-plus-one" rule, which had required franchisors to own and operate their brands' first two outlets in the nation for one year, profitably, before franchising to local entrepreneurs. Part of a package of laws called the 2005 Franchise Administration Measures enforced by the Chinese government's Ministry of Commerce, the rule was set to take effect in January.

With the law looming, the International Franchise Association, federal trade officials and other American interests last year mounted intense negotiations with communist Chinese business regulators to remove the provision, arguing that owning company stores, even through subsidiaries as the law allowed, would have been a prohibitively costly investment.

Presumably, that argument made an exception of the fact that China's largest and fastest-growing restaurant company, Shanghai-based Yum! Restaurants China, a wholly owned arm of Yum! Brands Inc. of Louisville, Ky., had directly opened hundreds of KFC and Pizza Hut outposts in China before it began franchising—just as McDonald's still is doing there.

Ultimately, the American franchising advocates got what they wanted. Philip Zeidman, an international franchise attorney at DLA Piper in Washington, D.C., who is the IFA's chief negotiator in China, says the revised franchisors-first rule does not include the phrase "in China," though it still requires that franchisors own and operate at least two restaurants somewhere for a year before franchising in the nation.

"Assuming there is no change in the law by the Chinese agencies that will be implementing it, there appears to be no effort to restore the reference to 'in China,' which appeared in the previous draft," he says. "So it seems very clear that you do not need to have [franchisor-owned stores in China] in order to franchise.

"This is a tremendous change in terms of liberalization and is the culmination of months and months of discussion with the Chinese government about the difficulties and impediments many franchisors face trying to go to China."

What also remains from the previous law

is the requirement that a franchisor administer a "well-functioning chain" and continuously provide guidance, technical support, business training, marketing assistance and all other needed services to franchisees.

Rick Johnson, an attorney in DLA Piper's Atlanta office who represented Hooters of America—perhaps the first American restaurant franchisor to come up against the law with the opening of its third unit in China, says the elimination of the franchisor-first provision would substantially reduce costs that brand owners might have faced.

"That was a fairly Draconian law for any company that just wanted to sell franchises," Johnson says. "Instead of racing to expand the brand through franchising, a franchisor would have had to have boots on the ground.

"It would have been burdensome because of the inherent time delay. You lose a year running a restaurant when it could take that much time just to find a franchisee."

## New franchising frontier

Although political and cultural theories have been suggested, it's not clear exactly what prompted the Chinese government to draft the franchisors-first rule in 2005, though one might presume that business woes besetting some inexperienced local franchisees could have prompted the enactment of a law requiring brand owners to demonstrate the viability of their concepts before they could be licensed to others.

In an interview with Nation's Restaurant News in June 2005, Sam Su, president of Yum Restaurants China, discussed the country's relative lack of familiarity with franchising.

For business people in the world's most populous nation, "franchising is a vague concept today; it's really just a contract," Su said, noting that Yum China then had only 21 franchisees operating a total of 50 restaurants, even though its Chinese system was nearing the 2,000-unit mark. Of those pioneering owner-operators, several were single-unit franchisees, "some of them overseas Chinese who may have worked in Australia or the U.S." and therefore were "easier to work with," Su said, adding that the company had only recently begun "doing deals with small, local entrepreneurs."

Despite the lack of a clear record of success among Chinese franchisees of American brands, a U.S. franchisor's buyback of a local franchisee's assets is not necessarily a sign of problems. The recent sale to Louisville, Ky.-based Papa John's Pizza of a Beijing franchisee's five outlets, quality control center and initial development rights was unrelated to the two-plus-one rule or stress factors that may have prompted it, says Robb Chase, president of Papa John's international division.

The law "was not a driving factor," he says. "We didn't have to purchase them."

Instead, Papa John's, which now has five company-owned outposts and 45 fran-

chised branches in China, made the buyback because "we believe the growth potential is enormous and a good investment," Chase says. "We think operating our own [outlets] will make us a better franchisor for the rest of the country."

With most forecasts predicting that China's economy may surpass the U.S. economy to become the world's dominant engine of economic growth within the next 30 years, most internationally driven restaurant chains and emerging brands admit that they cannot afford a lengthy delay in their brands' inevitable penetration of the Chinese market, even if the two-plus-one rule had remained intact.

China already boasts a middle-class consumer base of 330 million people, larger than the total U.S. population of 300 million. Many international restaurant developers and real estate experts are fond of quipping that "every location is an A location in China."

According to the World Bank, China's real rate of economic growth in 2005 was 9.9 percent, compared with a 3.2-percent growth rate in the United States. Seen another way, according to the International Monetary Fund, the whole world's economy grew 4.3 percent in 2005, and China alone accounted for one-third of that.

Such powerful economic trends account for the reasons that veteran players in China like KFC—the first American brand to tap the market 20 years ago—and McDonald's, T.G.I. Friday's, Starbucks Coffee and even Hooters have made ambitious growth projections.

In the case of KFC—which purportedly opens a store in China every 24 hours—Yum's predominant ownership position in the market meant that in 2004 the brand owner's Chinese operations began yielding more operating profit than did the chain's entire, mostly franchised U.S. system of restaurants.

Other chain operators, such as Cold Stone Creamery and Papa John's, have shown a determination to develop in China through company stores.

## For some, easy does it

But even as the easing of that rule excites franchisors, and the boundless economic prospects of China titillate them as they anticipate mining the market, many restaurant companies that had expressed intentions to expand to China remain cautious.

Like many of his peers who haven't set a date by which their brands would make Chinese debuts, Zack Kollias, Church's Chicken's senior vice president of international operations, says that even before the law had changed, the chain was determined to enter the country only through franchising.

But Kollias, who has overseen site selection and has tailored building designs to fit various international locales, says China remains an imposing market that requires careful thought about partners, the culture and the costs.

He notes that unlike in Europe, where he could pick from among Church's building format inventory of stand-alones, drive-thrus and kiosks to enter targeted markets, China's cultural sensitivities would require more careful analyses of facility footprints.

"We're pleased the law has changed and that there appears to be no restrictions on franchising at the moment, but China is a challenge," Kollias says. "We're very optimistic that we will be there because it is such a great opportunity. I guess you could say we are still in our exploratory phase. They still have legal challenges that you don't see in other parts of the world."

Ricky Johnson, a spokesman for Ruby Tuesday, which has franchised units around the globe, including Hong Kong but not in mainland China, says his chain has never opened a company-owned branch abroad and depends on the resources of local operators who know foreign markets. The company therefore welcomes China's rule change.

However, Ruby Tuesday still has no specific timeline for debuting on the Chinese mainland and continues to study the opportunities there, Johnson says.

He says that given the popularity of American food concepts in China and the potential of that market, even if Ruby Tuesday were required to open company stores to get a foothold, that would be worth the investment.

A spokesperson for Applebee's International, which has yet to open a restaurant in China despite repeated statements of intent by its executives over the past few years, declined to discuss the status of its China expansion strategy.

Applebee's, the industry's largest casual-dining brand by unit count with nearly 1,950 restaurants worldwide, has traditionally expanded domestically by selling huge, territorial agreements to well-capitalized master franchisees with heavy industry experience.

Executives of the wholly franchised Dunkin' Donuts chain, which terminated a four-unit foray to China years ago, are reconsidering a new drive there. A Sarasota, Fla.-based Dunkin' Donuts franchisee told local media that he was making plans to open a unit in China to coincide with the Summer Olympics in Beijing in 2008.

Canton, Mass.-based franchisor Dunkin' Brands Inc. says the Jan. 17 debut of a Dunkin' Donuts outlet in Taipei City, Taiwan, marked an initial step in the chain's plan to expand into mainland China. Following the Taiwan opening by Mercuries & Associates, which agreed to develop 100 Dunkin' outlets in Taiwan over the next decade, Dunkin' Brands says it is talking with potential Asian partners and expects to sign agreements this year to open units in China.

In addition to Dunkin' Donuts' usual fare, the initial Taipei outlet offers sweet potato, green apple and pineapple doughnuts and a doughnut with a sweet rice paste called a mochi ring.

Franchising continues on Page 11

**Franchising from Page 10**

A Dunkin' Brands spokesman would only say that the Florida franchisee's plans were under review.

Years ago, various news outlets reported that Dunkin' pulled the plug on an earlier foray into China after suffering weak customer traffic, blamed on Chinese consumers' lack of appetite for pastry sweets.

**A nation of evolving laws**

Observers speculate that Chinese officials may have devised the two-plus-one provision because a communist nation that is wholeheartedly embracing capitalism could find itself torn between old-guard, secretive traditions of central control and the temptations of Western-style wealth and systems for generating it.

Zeidman, the International Franchise Association negotiator, said Vietnam is perhaps the only other nation in the world with a rule similar to China's now-modified two-plus-one provision.

But while many economic pundits compare the state of maturity of China's commercial and business laws to those of the 19th century American frontier—largely unregulated and rife with bribery and scandal—Zeidman insists that corruption has little to do with the country's franchising regulations.

Even though the communists have been cracking down on scores of bribe-soliciting government officials, and although a former McDonald's executive was one of 22 people in China charged in a kick-back scheme involving exclusivity in the awarding of computer contracts, Zeidman says the country's corruption problems are tangential to the two-plus-one franchising issue. Locally based franchisors that feared competition from slick, Western franchised brands might have had more to do with that legal evolution. And perhaps the government's aversion to large public gatherings—in the form of franchisee conventions—was another factor, he theorizes.

But Zeidman urges franchisors not to ignore China.

"There are lots and lots of difficulties opening in China, and it is not just legal challenges and issues," he says. "It takes a lot of thought and a considerable amount of capital."

However, he says, no company that intends to be a global player can afford to ignore "what is shaping up to be the biggest marketplace in the world."

Still, cultural and ethnic differences in China can be thorny factors. For those reasons, some brands may just be ill-suited for parts of the Chinese market, says Paul Fetscher, an international restaurant real estate broker who travels to China with some regularity as president of the Long Island, N.Y.-based Great American Brokerage. He notes, for example, that among the Cantonese, a dominant population group, it is considered "barbaric" to lift more than one bite of food to one's face.

But Fetscher also is bullish in urging franchisors to spare no expense in getting to China, and he is forgiving about its government's evolving effort to gain a regulatory grip on the emerging franchising industry.

"It makes sense that the Chinese, given all the scam artists and snake oil salesmen that have been going through there in recent years, would want to weed out weak companies or shysters," he says. "It is the new frontier. But look at what is at stake. You know how many cities there are in America with more than 1 million people? Nine. Know how many cities there are in

China with over a million people? Thirty-five. Know how many KFCs you can put in a city with a million people?" ■

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**Color-coded warning system in Beijing signals food safety risk ratings**

Legal uncertainties that are keeping some U.S. brands from diving into the lucrative Chinese market may not be the only deterrents to confidence about franchising restaurants in China.

Indeed, consumers and restaurant operators there have been alarmed in recent years by increasing signs that the Chinese government's food safety systems are antiquated and insufficient to stop recurring instances of contamination, such as a carcinogenic-ingredient scandal that suppressed KFC's sales throughout China for several months a few years ago.

In a first-ever nationwide survey by the nation's Ministry of Health, 82 percent of the 4,482 people polled said they worry about food safety and 40 percent had gotten ill eating food away from home.

Food safety and consumer confidence have become such big issues in China's capital city that the government there recently deployed a public-warning system that is reminiscent of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security's color-coded terrorism alert system.

The Beijing Municipal Health Bureau established the system to warn the public when restaurants and other food places are linked to outbreaks of foodborne illnesses.

Health authorities in Beijing this year began publicizing the graduated, four-color code, which reflects the severity of an outbreak. The system is designed to stem a rash of serious foodborne illness outbreaks that have exploded throughout the Beijing metropolitan area in recent months. Among the hundreds of outbreaks was an incident last summer in which 87 diners fell ill after eating raw or half-cooked snails contaminated with a parasite.

Under the new warning system, after such a foodborne illness is confirmed a placard is placed outside of establishments to indicate their risk ranking. Blue is a low-level danger. Yellow is elevated. Orange is high. Red denotes the most severe outbreaks, generally in which more than 100 people have gotten ill or more than 10 people have died.

At each level of the outbreak, the color codes also give the public an idea of the corresponding corrective action the government is taking in concert with medical, health and sanitation authorities.

Meanwhile, private enterprise has taken separate precautions, such as Yum! Restaurants China's establishment of its own food safety labs and crackdowns on suspicious suppliers.—Milford Prewitt ■

# China's professional skin care market will soon surpass the U.S.

Fueled by a still-booming economy and an accompanying wave of consumerism, the Chinese market for professional skin care products posted a robust 15 percent gain in 2006. This rate outpaced the United States and European markets and is expected to continue to do so over the next five years, according to a recently published study by Kline & Company. These prospects have skin care marketers around the globe taking notice.

"The sheer size of this market alone makes it attractive," says Carrie Mellage, industry manager for the Consumer Products practice of Kline's research division. "Factor in the growth potential and it's easy to see why China is becoming such a critical element in sales and marketing strategies for the global consumer products industry, especially for high-margin sectors like professional skin care."



According to the National Statistics Bureau of the People's Republic of China, disposable per capita income has surged by an average of 11.3 percent over the last five years. This has helped to drive personal care expenditures up by 13.4 percent each year, Kline estimates. This trend is a major force in the market for professional skin care products—sold primarily through beauty institutes, spas, and salons or dermatologist and plastic surgery clinics—with Chinese consumers focusing more of their attention—and their income—on enhancing their appearance.

Kline's study, **PROFESSIONAL SKIN CARE 2006, Volume III: China**, pegs the overall market at US\$720 million at the manufacturer level and rising, quickly gaining ground on the US\$870 million U.S. market. In fact, the facial treatments sector in China is currently the third-largest in the world, larger than any single country in Europe, according to preliminary data from Kline's **GLOBAL COSMETICS & TOILETRIES 2006** service.

While it is already a highly fragmented market space, with more than a thousand local brands competing with approximately 100 imports, the promise of a steadily expanding growth market is alluring. Kline's study forecasts annual growth of nearly 15 percent in China through 2011, compared to just over 9 percent for the U.S. market. This will push sales in the Chinese market past the US\$1.4 billion mark -- and the U.S. market -- within this timeframe.

However, with this promise come significant hurdles. The competition between foreign imports and local Chinese brands has created a polarized pricing structure that challenges marketers to find their niche for both pricing and distribution.

"There are essentially two brand tiers: the foreign brands and the local brands," Mellage says. "Imports are higher-end and tend to be more expensive, appealing to upscale spas and beauty institutes. The local brands, which account for a large majority of products on the market, are low- to mid-priced and are generally positioned for beauty institutes where there is less emphasis on luxury and pampering."

The lion's share of skin care product sales through professional channels in China belongs to the beauty institutes, with about a 70 percent share. However, Kline's study suggests that the spa market is poised for a surge, which would give the foreign brands a chance at raising their market share.

"We're expecting sales through spas in China to grow by more than 17 percent a year over the next five years," says Mellage. "The emerging middle class is beginning to discover the day spa, which offers some of the same amenities of the full spa experience but at a much more affordable price."

While the Chinese professional skin care market is younger than those of the United States and Europe, some of the same trends are present.

"Even more so than in the Western markets, Chinese consumers want the efficacy of a powerful clinical-type product combined with the perceived benefits of natural ingredients based in traditional Chinese medicines," says Susan Babinsky, senior vice president and head of Kline's Consumer Products consulting practice. "This is a very viable value proposition in China, and in fact may yield some novel new products and ingredient platforms that could offer potential in Western markets."

**PROFESSIONAL SKIN CARE 2006** is the fourth edition of Kline's comprehensive series on professional brands sold through spas, salons, beauty institutes, physicians, and retail stores. The 2006 edition comprises separate volumes on the U.S., European, and Chinese markets, as well as an executive overview of all three markets. Each volume examines sales volume by product category and distribution channel, market share by leading brands, regional trends, and growth forecasts based on Kline's exclusive FutureView Scenario Forecasting Model.

Established in 1959, Kline & Company ([www.klinegroup.com](http://www.klinegroup.com)) is an international management consulting and market research firm serving the consumer products, life sciences, specialty chemicals, and energy industries. ■

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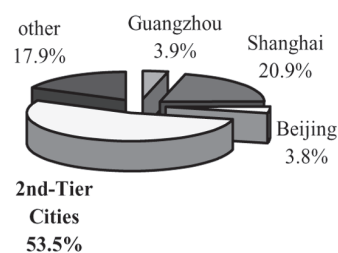
# China's Second-Tier Cities: A frontier of opportunities for U.S. exporters

Thirteen of China's second-tier cities account for 8 percent of China's population but 53 percent of its total imports – which is why the untapped markets of China's second-tier cities provide some of the most exciting and lucrative opportunities for U.S. exporters.

## China's Real Economic Miracle...

China's growth crusade and the opportunities it presents are no longer a secret to anyone in the business world. While megacities such as Beijing and Shanghai have long captured much of the spotlight, it is behind the scenes in second-tier cities where one can witness China's real economic miracle. Take a group of 13 of China's main second-tier cities outside of Shanghai, Beijing, and Guangzhou, for example. (The second-tier cities are: Harbin, Dalian, Qingdao, Tianjin, Xian, Wuhan, Hangzhou, Ningbo, Nanjing, Chongqing, Kunming, Zhuhai, Shenzhen, and Xiamen) While this group of cities comprises only 8 percent of China's total population, it accounts for over 19 percent of China's total GDP according to China's National Bureau of Statistics, 2004 statistics. On average, they are growing at a rate two percent faster than that of the already impressive national economy. (Real GDPs calculated using data from National Bureau of Statistics and The People's Bank of China

Destination of Global Exports into China



countryside. Recent economic reforms have allowed the growth from China's megacities such as Shanghai and Beijing to spill over to second-tier cities, transforming the Chinese marketplace into a vast and layered network of regional hubs and industry clusters that make up even larger, more integrated, and robust economic markets.

Second-tier cities are the backbone of this new economic landscape, and understanding them will help U.S. exporters capitalize on over half of China's import demand. Nanjing, formerly a middle-market city, has grown to become the United States' second-biggest trading partner in China. Together with Hangzhou and Ningbo, these three cities comprise the Yangtze River Delta hub, which imports high volumes of electrical machinery from the United States Tianjin and

are buying more as well. Soaring investment in infrastructure and public projects has increased demand for various B-2-B goods from the United States, such as heavy machinery, construction equipment, and medical devices.

The emergence of a vibrant business community in second-tier cities has also pushed the expansion of a resilient and growing middle class with a rising disposable income. China's National Bureau of Statistics estimates China's middle class will expand from 5 percent of the population to 45 percent by 2020, and Merrill Lynch predicts their total number will reach 350 million within ten years (more than the entire U.S. population) as reported by China Daily, a large percentage of which will reside in second-tier cities.

## Less-saturated markets.

In 2005, U.S. exports to China via Shanghai and Beijing grew by a steady 8 percent, and U.S. exports bound for Guangzhou declined by 11 percent. Many industries in these cities have become saturated, already furnished with most of the products they need. New buyers of foreign products emerge every single day in second-tier cities, however, as incomes of both individuals and companies in these hyper-growth markets rise. Last year, Xiamen, Chengdu, and Chongqing's imports from the U.S. spurted by 28%, 30%, and 70% respectively according to World Trade Atlas 2006.

cities there is a lot of competition already. But in second-tier cities, we have an edge because fewer of our international rivals are there."

## Policy momentum

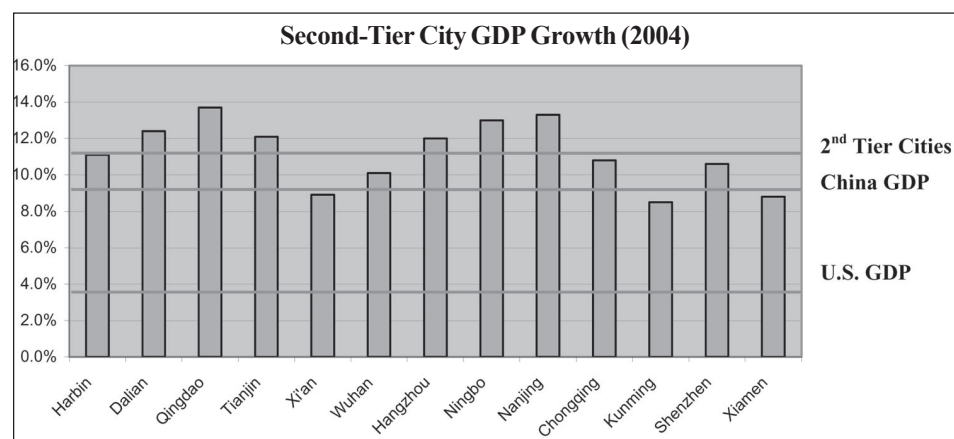
Realizing the increasingly important role and potential of second-tier cities, the Chinese government is actively promoting their development. Over the last five years, the government has invested US\$123 billion in China's national expressway system, and has also implemented a modern tracking system for shipments as reported in "Intermodal Revolution", China Business Review. This trend presents sales opportunities for U.S. exporters in a wide range of industries from machinery to construction equipment to electronics, as well as smoothes the logistics process for those exporting to China.

## Best Prospects

Almost half (47 percent) of U.S. exports this past year (Oct '05-Sept '06) have gone to second-tier cities. Here is a look at the fastest-growing U.S. export industries to these markets:

## For further information:

To make the dynamic, untapped markets of China's second-tier cities more accessible to U.S. exporters, U.S. Commercial Service experts work in partnership with China's na-



## ...Brings Opportunities for U.S. Exporters

Local entrepreneurs in these second-tier cities are not the only ones reaping the benefits. These cities have become importing havens and present lucrative opportunities, especially for American companies. In 2005, U.S. exports to China totaled US\$41.8 billion, a 20 percent increase from the year before, and as of July 2006 were up an even higher 35 percent, year on year. Unlike what one might expect, the majority of China's imports are not ending up in Shanghai, Beijing, or Guangzhou. The aforementioned group of 13 second-tier cities account for an astonishing 53 percent of China's total imports, almost double the amount of the three megacities combined.

## Understanding the "New" Chinese Marketplace

The rapid growth and emergence of second-tier cities has radically altered the way global exporters should think about China: it is no longer characterized by a few coastal megacities surrounded by an impoverished

Qingdao have risen to become the United States' fifth and sixth-largest trading partners, surpassing the traditionally recognized port of Guangzhou. Along with Beijing they have evolved into a northern megalopolis importing products such as medical instruments and grains from the United States Wuhan, Xian, Kunming, and Chongqing have also followed suit as the hub of central China, all with heavy machinery as their top import from the United States.

## Four Reasons To Target Second-Tier Cities

Several forces are currently working to the advantage of U.S. exporters in second-tier city markets:

### Surging demand.

Many manufacturers in China are shifting operations to second-tier cities to cut costs on land, labor, and energy: for example, the cost of top-grade office space in Wuhan is one-third of its cost in Beijing according to The Standard. Featuring an average growth rate of roughly 11 percent, second-tier cities are not only producing more – they

Product Description	City	% increase	Volume (mUSD)
Cotton, yarn, & fabric	Qingdao	196%	852
Vehicles	Chongqing	178%	70
Machinery	Nanjing	143%	1,012
Electrical machinery	Dalian	120%	50
Machinery	Xi'an	114%	85
Vehicles	Tianjin	92%	260
Electrical machinery	Qingdao	78%	318
Cotton, yarn, & fabric	Tianjin	74%	287
Medical Instruments	Nanjing	70%	318
Fish and seafood	Dalian	56%	154
Hides and skins	Hangzhou	55%	104
Hides and Skins	Xiamen	47%	54
Organic chemicals	Dalian	47%	56

## Less competition

A less-saturated market also means one with fewer competitors, presenting a crucial opportunity for U.S. companies to be among the first to touch a market. This advantage also gives U.S. exporters the chance to win over a Chinese customer base, known for its strong brand-loyalty behavior and tendency to associate U.S. brand names with high quality. One exporter recently explained, "In big

tional trade association, CCPIT, to help provide U.S. exporters with customized products and services including developing partners and distribution, key contacts, and in-depth market research. The Commercial Service has expanded its service network to 20 major cities across China. For more information on how the U.S. Commercial Service in China can help your business, contact 1-800-USA-TRADE or go to [www.buyusa.gov/china](http://www.buyusa.gov/china). ■

## Chong from Page 2

mother taught me that it is very important to know our heritage and to form strong relationships within and outside of our community. Everyone has something to contribute. We can learn so much from and help each other.'

Relationships were very important to Chong. He was deeply devoted to his family, especially to Marvel, and their many close friends, among them Howard and Lolita Wu, and Howard and Margaret Chin. Chong's daughter, Siu Linn and her children have

wonderful memories of frequent big gatherings at their lake cabin, events that were open to friends and friends of friends.

The Chinese Heritage Foundation honors Stanley Chong posthumously for his generous spirit, civic mindedness, strong work ethic, abiding devotion to family and friends, abundant joy in life, pioneering role in the building of our community and ready responses to its needs, and exemplary promotion of cross-cultural understanding in the greater Minnesota community. ■

# 2007, a year of change for China's internet market

## CCID Consulting reviews China's internet

CCID Consulting, through their flagship branch, Internet Industry Research Center, reviews the internet era in China in 2006, as well as what people can expect in 2007.

In 2006, China's Internet market continued to see strong growth momentum, as witnessed in 2005, however, compared to the "collective listing fever" in 2004 and the "big storms" of 2005, the year saw neither the entry of international giants nor hotspots in enterprise listing. Even Web2.0 was only a continuation of the high tide of 2005. In reality, the situation was far from impressive.

Although, behind the tranquility, CCID is happy to see that all kinds of businesses have shown steady growth. Enterprises have also become more rational and mature through competition: Market segments such as search engines, online games, IM and e-business are more mature and the market pattern has gradually become clearer and more stable; after the over play-ups in 2005, Web2.0 has made a breakthrough from conceptual innovations to business model innovations; and online marketing and network media are also gradually warming up through stable development.

Despite a relatively quiet Internet market in China in 2006, it can be found that capital and innovation were the two main themes of the market:

Web2.0 saw a tide of innovations. In 2006, Web2.0 profoundly affected the thinking model of the whole Internet market. Large numbers of new Web2.0 enterprises and traditional Web1.0 enterprises collectively explored the development possibilities of Web2.0. In the exploration process, business models were the key problem baffling all enterprises. Web2.0 enterprises faced the pressure to innovate and turn concepts into profit. Traditional enterprises also explored ways to use the Web2.0 concept to innovate their services models. Traditional portal websites introduced blogs, RSS and other Web2.0 services to improve user experiences. Web2.0 was also used to improve such traditional Internet services as an online community, online advertising, search engines and e-business.

Capital played a leading role. In 2006 when the Web2.0 was at a peak, capital became a major support column for enterprises to grow. From venture capital cravings for investment in Web2.0, capital came onto the stage in a high-profile. New generation enterprises conceived various ways to attract attention from investors. The involvement of venture investment also provided a growth space for these enterprises. Meanwhile, mature enterprises used capital as a means to improve and expand themselves. Enterprises sought cooperation, while leading enterprises unleashed large-scale M&As. All these painted "a crimson capital color" for China's Internet market.

Through these two key ingredients of capital and innovation, we see that changes in China's Internet market are now afoot. Enterprise giants are stepping up their efforts for search engines in secret, the free service model is bringing fundamental changes to the online games market and e-business is about to pop out after many years

of accumulation; the integration of enterprises in different industries and the cooperation between enterprises in the same industry forebode the arrival of new business models; frequent changes at the top executive levels remind us that changes are approaching. This series of undercurrents under a quiet surface is expected to create surging waves in 2007.

### 2007: Forces will Push Forward Market Development

The continuous efforts of large multinationals will certainly change the market pattern in 2007. Frequent changes at top executive levels at the end of 2006 reminded us that multinationals are now changing their development strategies in the Chinese market. CCID also believes that there are sufficient reasons to believe that such a change will produce a positive role in the development of the market and may even change its pattern:

Mutual integration of diversified technologies and applications. The year 2007 will be a year in which Internet technologies and applications will be improved. The advent of the 3G era will speed up the integration of wireless and cable network and become the main driving force for the development of the Internet market. The in-depth integration between Web1.0 applications and Web2.0 ideas and technology will also bring new business models to the market. On the other hand, the penetration of the Internet into traditional industries and the deepening application of e-business in traditional industries will fully improve the values of internet services.

Mature applications drive up rational and healthy market development. In the Internet market, which has long been beset with various problems, enterprises and users have become more rational as the segments of search, e-business and online games gradually mature. This is bound to bring the market into a mature and healthy development course.

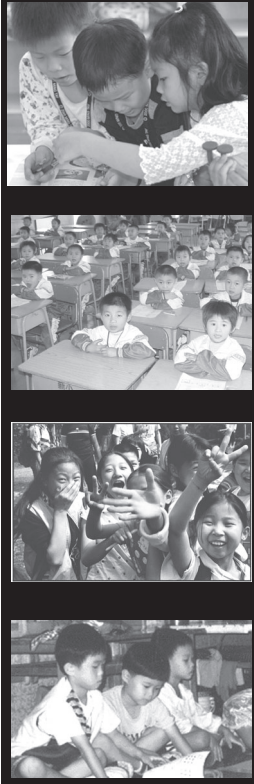
Industry development will bring new market opportunities. Continuing their innovations in 2006, Internet enterprises have started to explore deeper into more detailed Internet application segments. Vertical search has become the most typical example. Meanwhile, along the track of integrating, Internet enterprises will cooperate more with enterprises in traditional industries. e-business will become the most important link in the process. It will deepen the Internet industry. ■

Source: CCID Consulting Co., Ltd.

## U.S. trade: imbalance with China soars

The U.S. trade deficit sets a record and the imbalance with China has soared to an all-time high. The gap between what the United States sells abroad and what it imports rose to a record US\$763.6 billion in 2006, according to the U.S. Commerce De-

### INVEST IN CHINA



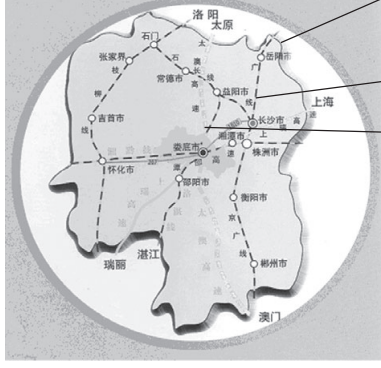
According to recent figures, China has about 265 million children between the ages of 0 to 14 years old – 20 percent of its total population. To fulfill the desire of parents to obtain the best education possible for their children, quality English kindergarten schools are much sought after.

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# Chinese carmaker "Brilliance Auto" to enter U.S. market



China's Brilliance Auto hopes to establish a marketing network in the United States in order to export its Zhonghua cars to the country. According to Qi Yumin, company chairman, the Shenyang-based auto company is currently choosing distributors in the United States.

Alongside Detroit, Frankfurt, Tokyo, and Paris, Brilliance Auto has become China's first carmaker to hold an exhibition at the Geneva motor show, one of the most important events in the global automotive industry. ■

The company showcased three fuel-efficient models: the Zunchi (BS 6) and Junjie (BS 4) sedans, and the M3 (BS 3) sports car. At the end of last year, Brilliance clinched an export deal with the Bremen-based HSO Auto Trading Co. to sell 158,000 Zunchi and Junjie cars in Europe over the next five years. Entering the market was a breakthrough for the Chinese car making industry in the developed countries. ■

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 (April 1, 2007; May 1, 2007)  
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partment. U.S. Treasury Secretary Henry Paulson urges China to accelerate the appreciation of the Renminbi. ■

.....

*"People with virtue must speak out; People who speak are not all virtuous."*  
 ...Confucius

# Statistical data on Shaanxi Province

**Editor's Preface:** As part of our continuing series to provide additional information on Shaanxi Province, Minnesota's Sister City, following is recent data directly from the Shaanxi Statistical Yearbook 2005.

## Major Economic Indicators

Economic Indicators	2004		Jan - Nov 2005	
	Value	Growth (% y-o-y)	Value	Growth (% y-o-y)
Gross Domestic Product (RMB billion)	288.4	12.9*	225.3 <sup>a</sup>	12.5*
Per Capita GDP	7,757	12.4*	N.A	N.A
Added Value Output				
- primary industry (RMB bn)	39.5	9.8*	21.7 <sup>a</sup>	7.6*
- secondary industry (RMB bn)	141.7	16.8*	120.6 <sup>a</sup>	15.3*
- tertiary industry (RMB bn)	107.2	9.5*	83.0 <sup>a</sup>	10.2*
Value-added Industrial Output (RMB billion)	87.1	22.9	100.7	18.6
Fixed-assets Investment (RMB billion)	154.4	20.8	161.3	32.9
Retail Sales (RMB billion)	96.6	13.3	99.1	13.6
Inflation (Consumer Price Index, %)		3.1		1.1
Exports (US\$ billion)	2.40	38.2	2.83	35.1
- by FIEs (US\$ billion)	0.23	46.0	0.28	38.4
Imports (US\$ billion)	1.25	18.8	1.40	23.1
- by FIEs (US\$ billion)	0.43	15.0	0.46	16.8
Foreign Direct Investment				
- number of projects	271	0.4	N.A	N.A
- contractual amount (US\$ million)	1,048.8	25.7	N.A	N.A
- utilized amount (US\$ million)	526.6	13.0	511	5.1

\* Real growth ^ Jan-Sep 2005

Sources: Statistical Yearbook of Shaanxi 2005; official announcements

## General Background

Shaanxi has a total area of 205,800 sq.km. Total population stood at 36.59 million in the 2000 population census. Located in central China and landlocked, Shaanxi is adjacent to 8 other provinces.

A relatively underdeveloped province, Shaanxi has abundant reserves of coal, natural gas, petroleum, salt and other non-metal minerals. Shenmu and Fugu are major production bases of fine quality coal in China with a total deposit of more than 160 billion tons and natural gas reserves proven in Shaanxi reach 200 billion cubic meters. Together with its rich metallic and non-metallic mineral reserves, Shaanxi's estimated reserves of mineral resources ranked first in the nation. Among the 92 kinds of minerals found in Shaanxi, 27 have reserves that are ranked among the top three in China.

Shaanxi ranks third in terms of overall R&D strength after Beijing and Shanghai. It has more than 2,000 science and technology research institutes, of which 50 are recognized as reaching the advanced level in the country. The largest number of R&D institutes and personnel are concentrated in Xi'an.

Shaanxi's capital city, Xi'an, is a historic city with abundant cultural and historical assets that can be developed for tourism. While the terra-cotta army is highly praised as the 8th world wonder, other popular sites include Lantian Ape Man, Xi'an Forest of Steles, Wild Goose Pagoda and Huaqing Pool.

	1980	2003	2004
Primary	30.0	13.3	13.7
Secondary	50.3	47.3	49.1
Industry	44.5	34.8	36.9
Tertiary	19.7	39.4	37.2

Source: Shaanxi Statistical Yearbook 2005

## Industries

In 2003, Shaanxi's industrial value added output increased 26.9 percent to RMB67.4 billion. In the 11th Five-Year Plan period (2006-2010), Shaanxi's development targets will focus on 4 sectors: hi-tech, fruit production and processing, energy and petrochemicals and pharmaceuticals.

Thanks to its abundant reserves of coal, natural gas and oil, Shaanxi has developed into an important energy production base of China. Output of its coal, petroleum, natural gas and chemical industry accounted for 24 percent of the province's total industrial output in 2003. Thanks to its cheap and

abundant supply of electricity and energy, Shaanxi has a strong heavy industry sector, which include transport equipment and machinery, ordinary and special equipment and machinery, metal smelting and pressing, etc. While heavy industries account for over 69 percent of Shaanxi's industrial output, light industries, mainly textiles, food and beverages, electronics and telecommunications equipment, pharmaceuticals have gained in importance in recent years.

Shaanxi's output of its development zones for hi-tech industries amounted to RMB 73.5 billion in 2003. Xi'an has become an IT powerhouse since the implementation of the opening and reform policy; it now has the majority of the province's software enterprises. Having plentiful supply of expertise, Shaanxi is also a national center for research in aviation, aerospace, equipment manufacturing, electronics and agriculture.

Pharmaceutical industry is emerging in Shaanxi. Xi'an has been designated as one of the 15 state-level export bases of pharmaceutical products. Famous brand products developed include the medicines of Xian-Janssen Pharmaceutical Ltd., the erythromycin ethylsuccinate tablets and granules of Xian Pharmaceutical Factory, the gynostemma pentaphylla medicines of 505 Group and Sanbao Shuangxi Group etc.

Shaanxi's climate is favorable for growing fruits. It is the nation's largest processing center for fruits and has 17 large companies producing apple juice concentrates, accounting for over 9 percent of the

world's production. Other important fruits include peach, grape and pear. Famous enterprises include Hasheng, Rongshi beverages and Sun foodstuffs.

Under the "Military-to-Civilian" initiative, a number of military enterprises in Xi'an have converted their technologies and production capacities to develop and produce products for commercial purposes. Marked examples include the Xian Aircraft Co., Xian-Volvo Automobiles and Shaanxi Changling Refrigeration.

## Output Share of Leading Industry Groups 2004

	% share of total industrial output
Petroleum and natural gas extraction	18.0
Transport equipment and machinery	10.9
Petroleum processing	7.7
Electronics and telecommunications and computer manufacture	5.9
Production and supply of electricity and heat	5.9
Pharmaceuticals	4.6
Chemical raw materials and chemical products	4.4
Electric machinery and equipment manufacturing	4.2

Source: Shaanxi Statistical Yearbook 2005

## Foreign Trade

The importance of foreign trade is relatively low and accounted for around 10 percent of the province's GDP. A major reason is poor transport linkages. Nevertheless, the government introduced measures to encourage international trade, incl. provision of export subsidies to specified products, setting up export processing zones, setting up trade promotion associations etc.

Foreign trade amounted to US\$3.64 billion in 2004, of which exports amounted to US\$2.40 billion. Ordinary trade (contrary to export processing) is the main form of trade, accounting for 80 percent of the province's total trade. Hong Kong is Shaanxi's 4th largest trading partner, with total trade volume of US\$167 million in 2004, up 25.7 percent.

Major exports included electrical and processed agricultural products, minerals, textiles and garments, metals and metal products, electrical / mechanical and AV equipment and transport equipment etc. Major export markets included the EU, the United States, Japan and Hong Kong etc.

Major import items included electrical and optical / health equipment, electrical / mechanical and AV equipment and metal and metal products etc. Major import sources included the EU, Japan and the United States etc.

## Foreign Investment

The government positions itself as a hot destination of foreign investment in Western China and takes a proactive role in attracting FDI. It holds conferences and organizes business trips to Hong Kong and other parts of the country. To attract foreign investment, the government emphasizes on creating an investor-friendly environment. Initiatives include simplifying government administrative procedures, raising transparency on government regulations and fees and charges, providing one-stop service for investors and establishing a complaint agency etc.

## FDI in Shaanxi

	1979-2004	2003	2004
Number of projects	4,122	229	271
Contracted amount (US\$ billion)	9.46	0.83	1.05
Utilised amount (US\$ billion)	4.85	0.47	0.53

Source: Shaanxi Statistical Yearbook, 1997, 2005

## Composition of Per Capita Consumption Expenditure of Urban Household (%)

	1996	2004
Food	45.5	35.9
Clothing	13.3	9.8
Household Articles	N.A	6.6
Medicine & medical services	4.5	8.2
Transportation & communications	5.2	9.4
Education, cultural and recreation	N.A	16.5
Housing & utilities	8.2	10.4

Source: Shaanxi Statistical Yearbook, 1997, 2005

In 2004, Shaanxi recorded contracted FDI amounted to US\$ 1.05 billion, and utilized FDI was US\$0.53 billion. In 2004, 46 percent of the actual FDI in Shaanxi were engaged in manufacturing. E.g. Cummins has a JV producing dynamos, and Mag Lite has a JV producing chips. Other areas that attracted investment inflows were social services etc. In particular, investment in the tertiary sector grew very fast generally. As at end 2004, 29 out of the world's top 500 enterprises have invested in Shaanxi. They include Nissan, Toshiba, Metro, Pepsi, McDonald's and Nestle etc.

Hong Kong is the largest source of foreign investment in Shaanxi. Up to end 2003, Hong Kong has a stock of 1,834 projects with a contracted and utilized investment of US\$4.58 billion and US\$2.13 billion. In 2004, Hong Kong signed 91 projects, with contractual and utilized capital US\$358 million and US\$110 million respectively. Other major investors were BVI, Japan, the United States and the UK etc.

## Consumer Market

Retail sales of consumer goods rose by 13.3 percent to RMB 96.6 billion in 2004. The largest consumer center of Shaanxi is Xi'an whose retail sales accounted for 52 percent of the province's total in 2004.

Xi'an retail distribution developed rapidly in recent years. Apart from new shopping malls being developed, foreign-invested retail enterprises --- B&Q from the UK, Metro from Germany, Carrefour from France have also set up their presence in Xi'an.

Patterns of consumer expenditure in Shaanxi have also undergone structural changes. While the share of expenditure on food has declined, expenditure on services, in particular transport and communications, medicine & medical services and housing have gained in relative share.

**See FDI in Shaanxi and Composition of Per Capita Consumption Expenditure of Urban Household (%), below and and Economic Indicators of Major Cities (2004) on Page 15.**

Data from Page 14

## Economic Indicators of Major Cities (2004)

Cities	GDP (RMB billion)	GDP growth (%)	Industrial Output (RMB billion)	Retail Sales (RMB billion)
Xi'an	109.6	13.5	73.6	50.3
Xi'an yang	33.9	13.1	29.1	9.03
Baoji	32.0	14.5	30.2	9.3
Weinan	24.8	11.2	22.7	6.6
Hanzhong	19.3	10.9	13.3	5.5
Yan'an	19.2	16.8	34.7	3.3
Tongchan	5.9	12.4	5.4	2.0

Source: Shaanxi Statistical Yearbook, 1997, 2005 ■

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## Export roundtable - selling to China is now easier

### March 7th UCBC Breakfast Meeting Recap

On Mar. 7, 2007, US-China Business Connections (UCBC) held its monthly breakfast networking meeting at the Minneapolis Community & Technical College. Jim Smith, Director of UCBC, presided over this meeting.

The topic of this meeting was "Export Roundtable - Selling to China is Now Easier". The guest speakers are Paul Kullman, from US Dept. of Commerce; and Nancy Libersky from Small Business Administration.



Guest speaker Paul Kullman.

Paul Kullman is the Commercial Officer from the Minneapolis Office, U.S. Department of Commerce. He introduced his local Minneapolis Office and the U.S. Commercial Service, plus their services, especially in China-related business.

The U.S. Commercial Service ([www.export.gov/china](http://www.export.gov/china)) under the Department of Commerce is the federal government's worldwide network dedicated to promoting international business. In China, they have five offices located at Beijing, Chengdu, Guangzhou, Shanghai and Shenyang. The Commercial Service has an expanded service reach in China. It can give export assistance in 14 additional major busi-



Guest speaker Nancy Libersky

ness centers across China: Dalian, Chongqing, Hangzhou, Harbin, Kunming, Nanjing/Jiangsu Province, Ningbo, Qingdao, Shenzhen, Tianjin, Wuhan, Xiamen, Xi'an/Shaanxi Province and Zhuhai. (China Insight has agreement with the U.S. Commercial Service in China to share business news and reports from China.)

The Minneapolis office is located at Butler Square, 100 North 6th Street, Suite 210-C,



Paul talks with audience

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Minneapolis, MN 55403. Web site: [www.exportassistance.com](http://www.exportassistance.com). The staff of the Minneapolis office include Director Ryan Kanne, three Trade Specialists, plus Mr. Kullman. This office provides products and services that help small and medium-sized companies enter and grow international markets by: providing consulting and advisory; finding international partners; performing market research; and organizing trade events. ■



Audience

## Recent changes in China's tax laws

US-China Business Connections will hold its April meeting on Apr. 4, 2007 from 7:30 a.m. - 9:00 a.m. W. Anne Jie, Manager-International Tax Deloitte Tax LLP, will be the featured speaker at the meeting. She will present *Recent changes on China's Tax Laws and Their impact on American businesses there*

At the Minneapolis office of Deloitte Tax LLP, Jie consults with multinational corporations in tax-aligned supply chain strategies, international restructuring, cross-border transactions, financial products, and tax compliance. Her main areas of focus are consumer businesses and financial services. Anne started her public accounting career with the New York office of a Big-6 accounting firm, where she specialized in financial services and international banking. She also clerked for the Honorable Justice Alan C. Page of the Minnesota Supreme Court.

Jie is a member of the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants, the American Bar Association, and the Minnesota

State Bar Association. She speaks and writes in Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese) and holds a Juris Doctor, William Mitchell College of Law, magna cum laude, a Masters of Science in Accounting and Taxation, State University of New York at Albany and a Bachelor in Economics, University of Sydney, Australia

Along with the presentation, will be a Q & A session and networking opportunities.

The UCBC breakfast meeting will be held at Minneapolis Community & Technical College ([www.minneapolis.edu](http://www.minneapolis.edu)) 1501 Hennepin Avenue, Wheelock Whitney Hall Rm L3000 (3rd Floor). The price for attendance is US\$20. College students may attend for free. To reserve a place at the meeting e-mail: [ucbcevent@gmail.com](mailto:ucbcevent@gmail.com) or call Jim Smith at 612-865-6543.

"UCBC is a non-profit organization providing an educational and networking forum for entrepreneurs and companies interested in developing business relationships with China." ■

For more information visit the UCBC Web site: <http://www.ucbcgroup.org>.

# Shangri-La Chinese Acrobats perform at Ordway Center

## Twin Cities Chinese Dance Center performed at pre-show World Party

By Albert Leung

A dazzling coordination of grace, strength and balance was showcased by the Shangri-La Chinese Acrobats in front of about 1,700 people at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts on Mar. 18, 2007.



Ordway Center  
(photo credit: Ordway Theater)

The acrobats, consisting of 11 performers from China, bated the audience's breath with their fearless performances with accompanying rhythmic music fitting to the ferocity of each performance. Audience members were deeply engrossed by the showmanship and skill each performer exhibited throughout the night.



Audiences  
(photo credit: Ordway Theater)

The night was a beautiful exhibition of graceful precision through performances that involved unnatural contortion, controlled balance and almost bewildering physical strength.

One performance involved five males, one red small hoop on the ground with a slightly larger red hoop attached to the top. The acrobats, like nimble nymphs, flipped forwards and backwards, tumbled, and dove through the hoops. As the act went on the hoop stack grew until it topped off at four small hoops and one large hoop. The body tricks became more intricate as the men started to use each other as obstacles to soar over, safeguards to land on and ob-



Performance  
(photo credit: Ordway Theater)

jects to help springboard themselves through rings no larger than 4 feet in diameter, whereas the smaller hoops were around 3 feet.



Chinese Kung Fu by TCCDC  
(photo credit by Richard He)

Other performances included balanced chair stacking nearly up to stage height, an agility-driven lion dance, contorting female performers who spun at least three plates that moved like fluttering butterflies in each hand with a flimsy stick, and many more.

Prior to the main event, the Ordway Center hosted its World Party in the main lobby that featured Chinese cultural dances, crafts and food. The performances were presented by the Twin Cities Chinese Dance Center (TCCDC), a non-profit art organization that started in July 2005 to promote traditional Chinese performing arts while nurturing the integration of ethnic dances into American's modern art stream.

"Our goal in this organization is to modernize traditional Chinese dances to promote our culture and diversify the Minnesota Community," Qiang Yang, Artistic Director of TCCDC, said.

For the World Party, TCCDC organized a 40 minute performance that included kung fu inspired choreography, rhythmic gymnastics and solo dances. The rhythmic gymnastics was performed by the famous and National Champion Lu sisters: Cindy and Serena (see China Insight July/August of

2005 issue). Craft stations were also set up that let children make buttons, ribbon sticks and paper lanterns.

Food was also served by Bamboo Garden Restaurant. The menu consisted of cheese puffs, fried egg rolls, skewered chicken dumplings, pork fried rice, vegetable lo mein and stir-fried vegetable with chicken. Complimentary beverages were provided courtesy of Midwest Coca-Cola.

TCCDC consists of male and female performers from ages 4 to 60 years old. The organization was started by Qiang Yang, an award-winning choreographer and dance instructor who received his professional degree from Beijing Dance Academy; the most prestigious dance institutions in China. TCCDC has performed at Chinese Culture Service Center, Friendship Association of Chinese Students and Scholars, Chinese New Year Celebration, 3M and other events organized by different organizations and corporations. TCCDC will have a production show this coming May. For more details, visit the Web site: www.yangdance.org.

The World Party is a pre-event gathering coordinated by the Ordway Center and its cultural advisory council. It is held prior to every culturally specific music and dance show scheduled for its Planet Ordway season.

"These pre-show parties are meant to enhance the cultural experience for audience members," Eric Olmscheid, community engagement coordinator, said.

This season, Planet Ordway has about seven cultural shows scheduled to perform. **Editor's Note:** Thanks to Weiwen Xie, TCCDC board member, Connie Cher, Cultural Advisory Council Member for Ordway and TCCDC Board Member, Eric Olmscheid, Community Engagement Coordinator for Ordway.

Albert Leung is an avid writer in journalism and fiction. A University of Minne-

sota graduate, he freelances on the side. Besides writing, he is a devout movie viewer and an emotionally charged Vikings and Timberwolves supporter. Albert currently resides in Minneapolis. ■



Performance  
(photo credit: Ordway Theater)



Dance by TCCDC  
(photo credit: Richard He)



Rhythmic Gymnastics by TCCDC  
(photo credit: Richard He)



TCCDC (photo credit: Richard He)



Foods served by Bamboo Garden Restaurant (photo credit: Richard He)