

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE



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Director

HIGHLIGHT OF ACTIVITIES FOR 2013–2014

The Confucius Institute is a unit within the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures whose primary objective is to promote the learning of Chinese language (Mandarin) and culture among Jamaicans.

There were 27 students registered for Mandarin classes in the Institutes Mandarin community classes. Mandarin classes, administered through the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures were taught by Mrs. Liang Yingping and Mrs. Shen Xiaoyan. The total number of registered, credit students, for both teachers totalled 62 (53 in CHIN1001 and 9 in CHIN2001).

On September 6, 2013, Jamaican Director, Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth, at the invitation of Los Andes University, departed Jamaica for Bogota, Colombia, where he delivered a lecture on Classical Chinese Painting and Traditional Western Painting in Comparison, titled ‘Dialogue –

East and West in Images'. He also hosted an exhibition of paintings titled 'Dewdrop', as well as led a workshop on methods and processes in traditional Chinese Calligraphy.

September 19th saw the celebration of our Mid-Autumn Festival. At this celebration we welcomed Professor Archibald McDonald, newly appointed Principal of the Mona Campus.

On September 27, 2013, Professor Lu Shaogang, Chinese Director, and Mrs. Liang Yingping made a presentation at the Caenwood Educational Centre on the Confucius Institute at the University of the West Indies, Mona.

The Confucius Institute Affiliated Classrooms at Ardenne High school and Campion College have been disrupted by the lack of our Chinese Volunteers.

Ms. Giselle Jones, a local teacher trained by Hanban in Beijing, assumed duties at the American International School of Kingston as their Mandarin teacher. (AISK).

Students from Mona Primary came to the CI to be taught a Chinese song for Heritage Week. Professor Lu and Mrs. Liang Yingping also attended the heritage week celebrations in this school on the 17th where they made presentations on Chinese language and culture.

On October 27, the Chinese Director made a presentation to the Chinese Club on "Tea" at the CI classroom.

NOVEMBER 2013

In November Professor Lu, Ms. Liang and a Chinese exchange student, Mr. Meng Yanyan went to the University of Technology International Language Day where they mounted display, demonstrated Chinese calligraphy and spoke on the Confucius Institute.

Professor Lu and Dr. Hogarth travelled to Hampton High School on 6th November to speak with the students about the Confucius Institute and learning Chinese during their Annual Career's Day. We addressed

the issue of Confucius Institute scholarships to China. Though unplanned, we also paid a visit to Monroe College.

On November 14th, Chinese Ambassador, H.E. Dong Xiaomin, along with Ms. Liu Lei, Director of the economic section of the Chinese Embassy in Kingston visited the Mona Campus of the UWI, where they met with Professor Archibald McDonald, Principal. This meeting was mainly to look at the promised Confucius Institute Building to be built through joint agreement between both governments.

Mrs. Shen Xiaoyan's tenure at the Mona CI came to an end in December 2103 and she returned to Taiyuan.

Professor Lu and Drs. Ramsay & Hogarth attended the Annual General Meeting of the Confucius Institute International in Beijing. During this meeting they met with officials of the Taiyuan University of Technology. It was stressed that there was the need to continue with the annual meeting of the CI Board.

A Chinese teacher, Ms. Lu Xi, was identified for the Affiliated Confucius Classroom at Shortwood Teacher's College in January 2014.

Ms. Liang Yingping, Mandarin teacher at the Confucius Institute returns to Taiyuan in January and Mandarin community classes resumed in the last week of January

February 2014

February marked the official milestone of five years for the UWI Confucius Institute. However, there were no celebrations during this time as the UWI timetable was full.

On February 14–16, Chinese Director, Professor Lu Shaogang, Head of Department, Modern Languages and Literatures, Dr. Paulette Ramsay, and Jamaican Director of the Confucius Institute, Dr. Courtney Hogarth travelled to Miami Dade College to participate in a conference on "Chinese Migration to the Caribbean and Panama". They also participated in celebrations to welcome the new Chinese Year of the Horse.

On February 18, the Institute hosted a delegation from China who came

on a fact-finding mission to the UWI, Mona, regarding the construction of a Confucius Institute building. We had about three days of meetings to discuss the design, location and function of the proposed building.

MARCH 2014

Official celebration of our fifth anniversary with a Chinese Culture Week celebration took place in March 2014. This included:

- a) Publication of a Fifth Anniversary Supplement with the Gleaner.
- b) Official launch of the 'Chinese Culture Week' (March 3–7, 2014) with UWI officials, members of the diplomatic corps, members of staff, students and visiting guests.
- c) Participation of special guest, Mr. Zhang Miaoyan, film maker. He screened two films during the week, '*Black Blood*' and '*Xiaolin Xiaoli*'.
- d) Unveiling of the statue of Confucius, followed by reception at the Confucius Institute. The statue was unveiled by Principal, Professor Archibald McDonald and Chinese Ambassador, H.E. Dong Xiaojun.
- e) Temple Fair/Lantern Festival staged during the week and attended by the public.

The Confucius Institute participated in Modern Languages Day, as usual, with its own booth, Chinese cuisine, dance, art and craft.

Jamaican Director, Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth mounted a solo exhibition of paintings and drawings titled 'Dewdrop II' at the Olympia Gallery in Kingston. Guest speaker for the event was Prof. Carolyn Cooper. This was well attended and reviewed in the mass media.

In April 2014, the unit started shooting a documentary on the Confucius Institute, commissioned by Hanban, in celebration of the 10th anniversary of the Institute's founding. The Creative Production and Training Centre was contracted to undertake this.

On May 8–10, both directors travelled to Los Angeles to participate in the All-American Chinese Language Conference. Neither director presented at this conference.

Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth submitted proposal for a new Chinese Culture Course to the department. It was edited during a meeting of the department.

On May 16–17, both directors travelled to the Western Jamaica Campus, Montego Bay, to meet with Dr. Lue Arietta Longsworth regarding the setting up of a Mandarin classroom at that location. The meeting proved quite fruitful. Mr. Liu Jiacheng, a recently arrived Chinese Volunteer was identified to undertake teaching, starting September 2014.

On May 20, Professor Lu Shaogang, Chinese Director, took a team of nine (9) high school principals to China. They travelled to Beijing and Taiyuan City where they engaged in discussions with Chinese educators, visited important cultural sites and got a general impression of China.

Jamaican Director, Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth travelled to Fujian Province, Xiamen, China in July 2014, for a training of foreign directors organized by Hanban. In attendance were directors primarily from North America. We were hosted in Xiamen by Xiamen University who were the main organizers of this event.