Message from OCCA

Dear Members and Friends,

Greetings during this colorful autumn season! If one has time to walk around our community during this time of the year, he/she could agree that Omaha is one of Top 10 Places to live in the United States (Business Facilities 2011).

Our 2011 greater Omaha mid-autumn festival gathering and the first youth talent contest was a big success, thanks to all the volunteers and our sponsors. You can find pictures and stories of the mid-autumn celebration and other community activities of last couple of months in this Newsletter.

In order to accommodate the surge in enrollment for the United Chinese School, OCCA worked with Millard Public Schools and the parents of United Chinese School recently and made Millard North Middle School its home. The facility not only enables OCCA United Chinese School to offer more classes in the future, but also is an excellent meeting place. This might be a start for OCCA to establish a permanent Omaha Chinese Culture Center. Please feel free to provide your feedback (through omahachinese@gmail.com or www.omahachinese.net) on how we could reach this goal.

Looking ahead, there are many exciting activities which you will also find in this newsletter. OCCA board and workgroup have also decided that 2012 Greater Omaha Chinese New Year Gala will be held on January 29, 2012 at Burke High School. It is hard to believe another year is passing by. It seems like that yesterday when the festivities of 2011 Gala took place.

Burke High School kindly offers to have more people to help this year and have enough tables/chairs ready for use so that our volunteers will be less stressful and more productive. In preparation for the up coming gala, OCCA is seeking suggestions on how we could further improve our programs and activities. As with all previous events, OCCA is relaying on all of you again. Your contributions and volunteering effort are the foundation for this organization's success and our community's prosperity!

Our next 2012 Chinese New Year Gala planning meeting will be held on 12/10/2011 at Millard North Middle School (2828 S 139th Street). Starting in January, 2012, we will meet every Saturday. Please join us to become a leader/volunteer. Again, feel free to contact any OCCA board members and officers if you have any questions.

Looking forward to hearing from you!

Team OCCA

November 2011
October 2, 2011, Chinese Folk Arts and Painting Show at UNO

Hu County, 22 kilometers (13.6 miles) from Xi’an, the capital of Shaanxi Province, is famous for its farmer paintings. As early as 1988, it was enlisted as one of the “Lands of Chinese Modern Folk Arts” by the Ministry of Culture in China. In 2008, it was enlisted again by the Ministry of Culture as “Land of Chinese Folk Arts.”

Farmer paintings in Hu County started in 1958. By drawing upon paper cuts, wall paintings, Spring Festival pictures and embroidery, it has gradually developed into one form of modern folk paintings in China. The themes of the paintings are mainly about the...
November 12, 2011, Omaha Asian Teen Summit

The second annual free day-long summit is to empower future Asian-American leaders and to help develop a plan after graduation. The conference included sessions on Learning about College, Networking Skills, Leadership and Team Development, Career Exploration, as well as a luncheon with cultural celebration.

Michelle Xiao has been invited to play for the U.S. Under-14 National Soccer Team. Michelle was the only U 14 player from Nebraska invited to qualify for the team and was awarded a spot on the U.S. roster. In addition, Michelle also won the 2011 Junior Olympic Track and Field 200 Meter Hurdles Nebraska State Championship and went on to win 200 Meter Hurdles Region 8 Championship. Michelle Xiao has won three Nebraska State Championships in last 4 years.

CONGRATULATIONS Michelle!! We are VERY proud of you and your accomplishments!

Upcoming OCCA and Community Events

December 2, 2011, Omaha Ethnic Holiday Festival
Http://www.whatsonwhen.com/sisp/index.htm?fx =event&event_id=108996

OCCA will showcase Chinese culture and hospitality at the festival. OCCA will have performances and food booths at the festival. Please contact Li Mei and Julie Jing Wang for more information or volunteering opportunities.

January 29, 2012, Greater Omaha Chinese New Year Gala

When: 3:30PM-7:30PM, Jan 29, 2012
Where: Burke High School, 12200 Burke Blvd, Omaha, NE

The largest and the most extravagant annual Chinese culture event in the region will be held again at Burke High School. The programs will start earlier in the day. Below is a tentative schedule:

3:30 PM: door opens to guests
3:30 PM-5:30 PM: Sponsors' and Chinese Crafts Display/raffle tickets and Kids Activities
4:30-5:30 PM Dinner at Cafeteria
5:00-6:00 PM Preshow at Auditorium
6:00-7:30PM Performance at Auditorium

Latest News

Michelle Xiao makes US National Team
Michelle Xiao has been invited to play for the U.S. Under-14 National Soccer Team. Michelle was the only U 14 player from Nebraska invited to qualify for the team and was awarded a spot on the U.S. roster. In
Notice

Notice on New Chinese Class Opening

由于我们搬进了新学校，教室有了增加，有家长询问是否可能增开一个中文初级班，从一年级第一册开始学习中文。因此，我们发送此邮件，想了解有多少孩子有兴趣加入。

入学条件：年龄在6岁以上（一年级在校）的学童
上课时间：每周1小时，星期六下午
学费：按一班10个学生计算 每人每小时 $4 左右，根据学生人数或略有变化。

计划从2012年1月开始，具体时间依照报名情况另行通知。
地点：Millard North Middle School (129th St. and Center St.)

如有兴趣，请发邮件给李俐 (ztcll10@yahoo.com)，并附带下面资料：
1. 学生姓名，年龄，年级及家长姓名和联系电话
2. 中文程度：
   - 会说中文吗？（不会，会说一些，可以正常交流）
   - 能听懂中文吗？（听不懂，懂一点，能听懂日常生活用语）
   - 以前上过中文课吗？（没有，上过，多久，大约认识多少字）

报名截止日期: 11/30/2011
如有任何问题，请发送邮件给李俐。
如有朋友有兴趣，请转发此邮件。

谢谢!

OCCA 联合 中文学校
OCCA Advisory Leadership Committee (listed by the order of the last name)

Chen, Bing            Department Chair - Computer and Electronics Engineering, UNL
Quan, Lingdong        President, CSSA, UNMC
Li, Angelina          President, AHL Consulting, Inc
Liu, Brain            President, Liu and Enterprise
Mu, Keli              Department Chair - Occupational Therapy, Creighton University
Reinhardt, Jue Yezi   President, Lincoln Chinese Culture Association
Wang, Carol           News Anchor, Channel 3 Action TV Station
Wang, Kevin           President, ConAgra Asian Network
Ye, Ping              Former Board Chair and President, OCCA
Zeng, Rachel          Associate Director  UNL Confucius Institute
Zhao, Jing            President, CSSA, UNO
Zheng, Jialin         Associate Dean and Director - Asia Pacific Program, UNMC
Zhou Yu               President, CSSA, Creighton University
Zhu, Qiuming          Department Chair - Computer Science, UNO

OCCA Board Members and Officers (listed by the order of the last name)

An, Jun                      Program Director
Cao, Fang                    Accounting Director
Chu, Jeff                     Sponsorship Director
Huang, Polly                  Program/Accounting Director
Huang, Xiaona                 Program Director
Keith, Mei                    Board Member, President
Kephart, Liqin                Board Member, VP Membership
Li, Li                        Program Director
Lin, Paulina                  Board Member, Treasurer
Liu, Brian                    Program Director
Mu, Keli                      VP - Youth Program
Song, Lingling                Program Director
Steele, Linda                 Board Member, VP - Operations
Verebely, Julie               Board Member, VP- Cultural Programs
White, Jun                    Board Member, Secretary
Yan, Nian                     VP - Communications
Yao, Kathy                    Program Director
Zeng, Weidong                 Program Director
Zhang, John                   Chairman of the Board
Zhang, Ben                    Program Director
Zheng, Hong                   Board Member
Zhou, Zhi                     Board Member, VP Public Relations
Two OCCA Advisory Leadership Committee Members

Keli Mu
PhD, OTR/L, serves as Chair of Occupational Therapy Department, School of Pharmacy and Health Professions at Creighton University. Dr. Mu received his degrees from Creighton University, University of Nebraska at Omaha and University of Nebraska_Lincoln. Dr. Mu joined the faculty at Creighton University in 1998 and has been teaching in the both entry level and post professional occupational therapy doctoral programs since then. Dr. Mu’s research interests include occupational therapy practice with children, evidenced based practice, practice errors and client safety, program assessment and evaluation as well as issues related to occupational therapy professional education.

During his tenure at Creighton University, Dr. Mu also started international collaborative relationships with counterparts in China and Japan. He currently serves as Director of China Honors Interprofessional Program, a program that intends to promote cultural understanding and exchange, cultivate students’ cultural sensitivity and competency, and increase international collaborations in professional education and research.

Dr. Mu has been actively participating in grant projects and research activities. He has directed or co-directed several funded grants, authored and co-authored more than forty research articles and scholarly papers. He currently serves on editorial boards of three professional journals. Dr. Mu is a frequent presenter at national and international conferences.

Chunhua Liu (AKA Brian Liu)
grew up in Rongcheng, Jieyang, China. He majored in English at Chaozhou Normal University in 1984 and joined Foreign Language Department at South China Normal University in 1986. He graduated with academic honors and stayed as a teacher from 88 to 93. In 1993, He was enrolled in University of Nebraska in Omaha(UNO), obtained a scholarship while working as a Research Assistant and earned his Master of Public Administration degree in 95.

He was International Sales Coordinator in charge of Asia markets while working at MEMCON Corp in 95-97 and was Import & Export Manager for Sampson Corp from 1997 to 2003. He started his own business LIU & DB ENTERPRISES, INC. with his wife Belinda Liu. He steers his company in a good path of growth as president in sales & marketing. CD/DVD packaging and electronics testing/measurements and beading products are all popular with many customers in the US and overseas. In 2007, he invested and purchased a 32,000 sq ft corporate building in Lavista to accommodate his business growth. Brian was invited to the Omaha Tennis Association (OTA) board in 2007 and became Vice President of OTA in 2008-2009 and Chair of Junior Committee from 2007 to 2010. He is also Advisory Board member of Omaha Chinese Culture Association (OCCA) and Co-Chair of Sponsor Committee in 2010-11. He was Entrepreneurship Award recipient of World Chinese Venture Model Association in 2011. He continues to be involved in his communities and plays an active role while managing his business.
To enroll, go online to confuciusinstitute.unl.edu and select “Classes”.

NOTE: All classes are subject to be cancelled if the enrollment is limited.
Bellevue University, in association with the University of Nebraska-Lincoln’s Confucius Institute, is offering two non-credit Chinese language courses during the Winter session 2011/2012. Each course offers an interactive classroom environment designed for individuals who wish to do business with, travel to, or simply learn more about China.

Session: 12 weeks  Cost: $140
  (incl. Book & CD, and Online Access)
  Time: 6:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.

CICL 101  Beginning Chinese
  Wednesday evenings
  (Starting November 30, 2011)

CICL 201  Intermediate Chinese
  Thursday evenings
  (Starting December 1, 2011)

Register today by calling
402-557-7458
or email
julie.verebely@bellevue.edu

Bellevue University
Real Learning for Real Life
bellevue.edu/confucius