

The Chengdu American Center for Study Abroad Newsletter



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Nearing the End

Fall is a season full of both American and Chinese holidays. In September, the U.S. honors Labor Day, while China celebrates Moon Festival. In October, China observes their National Festival, while the U.S. celebrates Halloween. November is especially important to American culture because of Thanksgiving, while December brings various religious holidays including Hannukah, Kwanzaa, and Christmas.

This semester, we hoped to share some of the U.S. holidays with the local community. One of the events we held was Halloween Night. We introduced the background and history of the holiday, played a game to learn some new vocabulary, and then finished the evening with a screening of Tim Burton's *A Corpse Bride*. For Thanksgiving, Dr. Zoe Spencer will be hosting a dinner for the students which will include a turkey and home-cooked side dishes. We hope these events help our Center students better cope with any homesickness they might be experiencing. As we near the end of the semester, students are anxious to return home to celebrate the December holidays with their family and friends.

We hope you enjoyed reading about the activities and endeavors of the Chengdu American Center this fall. We also hope you have been able to and will be celebrating these holidays with joy and good fortune.

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Fall 2013 Internship Updates

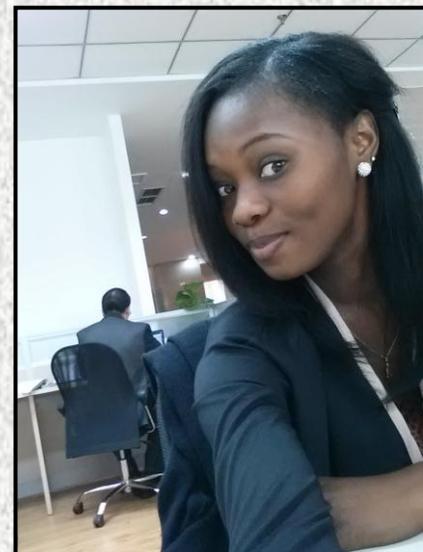
This semester, we have six students who have been participating in an internship. Yosra Abdalla (NJCU) has been helping the Center with various marketing and internal projects. Maman Cisse (NJCU) continued Stephanie Brown's (FDU) internship at Deheng Law Offices-Chengdu, where she helps with legal documents and other office-related tasks. Finally, Grayson Webster (FDU), Chanel Wright (NJCU), Shari Piontkowskie (NJCU), and Fiorella Sanchez (FDU) have all been teaching English at local primary, elementary, and middle schools. These experiences have helped the students develop their understanding of the local life in Chengdu, as well as prepared them for their future endeavors.



Shari Piontkowskie (NJCU) teaches 5th graders about weather and the seasons.



Fiorella Sanchez (FDU) asks students about their favorite sports and hobbies.



Maman Cisse (NJCU) sits at her desk at Deheng Law Offices-Chengdu.

Faculty Lectures

Hannah Morris: *American Business Etiquette*

With a Master's degree in International Business and her experience teaching Professional and International Communication courses, Hannah Morris knows a thing or two about American business etiquette. In this lecture, she introduced various common practices of the American business environment including how to address others, the business dining experience, expressing thank you's, and growing one's network. Students will be able to use these tips as they start pursuing internships and their real-world endeavors. In a couple of weeks, the Center will host Part II of this series which will cover Chinese etiquette.



Students practice how to properly shake hands.

Dr. Alec Gordon: *The "Secret" of English – With the Help of Shakespeare!*

Can you see with your ears? Can you hear with your eyes? Is there a time signature in the English language? These are a few of the questions Dr. Alec Gordon posed to the lecture participants. As a researcher of linguistics, comparative literature, and literary translation, coupled with his general interest in music, Dr. Gordon offered a thought-provoking interpretation for how to relate music and the works of Shakespeare to how both native and non-native English speakers formulate the rhythm and stress of the language's spoken form.



Dr. Gordon and participants post-lecture.

Recent Cultural Activities at the Center

Halloween Event

Did you know that the U.S. holiday, Halloween, originated from a Christian traditional holiday called *All Saints' Day*? In fact, many people around the world will commemorate deceased family members by cleaning and repairing their gravestones on November 1st.

The Center's event was put together to introduce to Chinese students and teachers of the Sichuan Academy of Social Sciences the background of Halloween and the modern-day symbols that are associated with the holiday. The presentation was followed by the screening of Tim Burton's movie *Corpse Bride*. Needless to say, we followed the tradition of trick-or-treating by offering candy and snacks to the participants!

Making Dumplings

One of the activities we hold every term is taking the students to a local restaurant to teach them how to make dumplings. This semester's event was just as fun and enjoyable as the last. Not only did the students make the traditional-styled dumplings, but some of them showed their creativity by making dumplings into shapes including a purse, a star, a cat, and even a swan! Afterwards, we enjoyed a nice meal provided by the restaurant, containing the very same dumplings we created!



The Center and SASS students and faculty posing for a group picture.



Some locals offered their tips for making dumplings.