

加州中文 教師協會

CHINESE LANGUAGE TEACHERS
ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA



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Fall 2013 Workshop Convenes at SFSU Speakers Explore Global Competency, Technological Integration and Teaching Methods

The Fall 2013 Workshop of the Chinese Language Teachers Association of California (CLTAC) was held in the Humanities Building of San Francisco State University on Saturday November 9, attended by over seventy language professionals and Chinese language enthusiasts from across Northern California. The workshop featured three plenary talks centered on issues pertaining to the teaching of Chinese language and culture followed by a roundtable forum devoted to the discussion of teaching methods.



Following an opening address by CLTAC Vice President Liwei Gao (Defense Language Institute), the morning session was kicked off with a plenary lecture by Christopher Livaccari of the International School of the Peninsula on “Early Language Learning as a Strategic Priority: Global Competency, Chinese Language Education, and the Future of U.S.-China Relations”. In the talk, the speaker strung together personal travels to China and Japan and experiences from the teaching and learning of Chinese, Japanese and English to present a vision for the future of Chinese language education and Sino-American relations, masterfully gleaned from recent advances in linguistics and cognitive science and lessons learned in the classrooms of other languages.



Also in the morning session was Su-Ling Hsueh’s (Defense Language Institute) plenary talk on “Effective Ways of Technology Integration in Chinese Language Education”. The speaker dazzled the audience with a panoply of web tools and mobile apps that can be adapted to the language classroom, including Facebook, Weebly, Glogster, Quizlet, StudyStack and others, and showed how tablets and mobile devices can be utilized to effectively deliver learning content. The talk generated much interest, especially among K-12 Chinese language teachers in the audience, who made full use of the Q&A session to ask questions about potential applications of the free software in a Chinese language setting.

Following an hour-long lunch break, the afternoon session began at 1 PM with a more theoretically-oriented presentation – that of CLTAC President Chengzhi Chu (University of California at Davis), who explored the issue of “Teaching Right with One Thousand Methods (繁花不迷眼, 濃淡求相宜: 中文教學中的教學法選擇問題)”. In his talk, Professor Chu asked how a language teacher is to choose and cope in a field with a proliferation of teaching methods: grammar-translation, the direct method, the audio-lingual method, the silent way, suggestopedia, total physical response,



the natural approach, content-based instruction, and task-based language learning, just to mention a few. He pointed out that not all teaching methods are comprehensive, and different methods address different weaknesses in the system – in other words, far from being incompatible with each other, different methods are often complementary. He then called on the audience to re-examine the role of the language teacher, and encouraged all to pick and choose teaching methods to best achieve the teacher’s overarching objective, namely, to allow the student to maximize practical learning in the shortest amount of time, and to take pleasure in doing so.

The final event of the day was a roundtable discussion of

the issues raised in Professor Chu’s plenary talk, namely coping strategies in the age of teaching method proliferation. Discussants included Xiaolin Chang (Lowell High School), Stella Kwoh (University of California at Berkeley), Chris Wen-Chao Li (San Francisco State University), and Peiyu Chen Roth (Defense Language Institute). Speaker, discussants and members of the audience shared their experiences with different language teaching methods and worked together in an effort to map out a path for language teachers in the post-method era.

Chris Wen-Chao Li, staff reporter

Wandering-Homecoming 我不是歸人 是個過客 Chinese Poet Zheng Chouyu (鄭愁予) Reads Own Works at SFSU

Renowned Chinese poet Zheng Chouyu (鄭愁予) lectured and recited his own creative works on the campus of San Francisco State University on November 9, scheduled to coincide with the Fall Workshop of the Chinese Language Teachers Association of California. The event drew a crowd of over two hundred attendees from across Northern California, and was featured on local television and in Chinese language newspapers.

Zheng’s poetry reading began at 2:30 PM in Knuth Hall in the university’s Creative Arts Building, immediately after the conclusion of the CLTAC Fall Workshop’s panel sessions. The lecture was hosted by Professor Frederick Green of San Francisco State University’s Chinese Program, and Professor Charles Egan, director of San Francisco State University’s Chinese Flagship Program, kicked off the event with an introduction to the life and achievements of the poet.

As the event progressed, Zheng read from his most renowned works, including such classics of modern Chinese verse as “Mistake” (錯誤), “The Little Island” (小小的島), and “Corridor” (甬廊). English versions of the recited works, many of which presented for the first time and translated specifically for the event by San Francisco State University faculty, were read by Chinese Program graduate students Rachel Chenette and Ken-win Jung as Zheng read the poems in the original.

Zheng also provided the background to his poems, many of which were explained to readers for the first time. When asked by host Frederick Green whether “The Little Island” referred to the island of Taiwan, Zheng replied that the allusion is actually to the prisons on Green Island (綠島), where a former colleague of his had been imprisoned for political activism and was cut off from the outside world, hence the disguise of the communication as a love poem. As he explained, his commentary was interpreted into English by the Chinese Program’s Professor Chris Wen-chao Li.



Zheng was also invited to present awards to the winners of the inaugural SFSU/SLI Chinese Literature Translation, in which contestants were invited to translate Zheng’s most renowned work “Mistake” (錯誤). First prize winner Hannah Baker read her English translation to the audience as the original was presented in the poet’s own voice.

The event concluded with a brief Q&A session, in which Zheng touched upon his childhood upbringing, his love of language, and his experience of poetry. He imparted a word of advice to the younger members of the audience, telling them that life is better experienced not by staring at a cellphone screen while commuting on a bus or train, but rather, by looking out the window at the beautiful scenery and by observing the people in one’s immediate environs.

Zheng, now an adjunct professor at Kinmen University in Taiwan, came to San Francisco at the invitation of the San Francisco State University Chinese Flagship Program. Prior to Saturday’s talk, he delivered a classroom lecture and met with undergraduate and graduate students from San Francisco State University’s Chinese Program.

By Chris Wen-chao Li, staff reporter

中文新詩及其前景

鄭愁予教授答加州中文教師協會問

CLTAC: 能不能請您簡單地評價一下中文新詩的現狀和它的前景?



鄭愁予：這是一個很大的問題，可是回答起來可能用很簡單的方式回答。新詩，這個新詩，我們談到這個字，談到詩的時候，要了解詩。詩能夠在中國兩千多年。在西方更久，從古希臘下來，比中國詩的歷史還要長。詩，能夠存在，就是能夠真正地把這個人類，他們的生活之中有許多，有一點神秘性，

有許多隱藏的美，有許多不能夠直接表達的感情，用詩把它表現出來。如果掌握這一點的話，詩是永遠會存在的。現在寫詩的人忽略了這些個，只想到自己，自己寫出來的東西可能有幾個人了解，也許不是了解，能夠說是模仿就是很不錯了。那麼過了一陣子可能自己也不知道為什麼寫這些個，當詩要到了這個程度的時候，那就是非常危險了。所以簡單的回答是，要了解詩的原旨，原來的本質。旨是聖旨的那個旨，它是表達人類的性靈，我又提這個字，性是天性，就是群居，人是群居的動物，你寫出來的作品，要使別人有感應，因為詩是從聲音開始，聲音發出去要有回聲。詩是從光照成立，光照了以後才有形象，有顏色。掌握了聲音和光照，在你的詩裏讓其他的人能夠

讀了你的詩，可以跟你的感情能夠共鳴，如果大家寫詩的時候能夠注意這一點的話，詩，它的前途還是有的。要不然，詩就會被取代了，被娛樂性的歌曲，娛樂性的舞蹈等等的取代了。最厲害的就是電腦，年輕人有了電腦，他好像掌握了整個的世界，電腦現在變成一個手機。臺灣現在有這個“低頭族”，他因為有手機，到哪兒去都低頭玩他的手機。你上了 subway (地鐵)，每個人都低著頭玩兒手機。在這個時候，我們小的時候，坐火車，坐公共汽車，總是看窗子外邊，一路是看人群，看街道，看風景，這個就會給你一個寫詩的材料，你假如總是低頭玩兒這個手機，你永遠不知道世界是美的。

【錄音，整理：吳向華】

2013 SFSU Strategic Language Initiative (SLI) Chinese Literature Translation Prize

錯誤 © 鄭愁予 (source text)

我打江南走過
那等在季節裡的容顏如蓮花的開落

東風不來，三月的柳絮不飛
你的心如小小的寂寞的城
恰若青石的街道向晚
跫音不響，三月的春帷不揭
你的心是小小的窗扉緊掩

我達達的馬蹄是美麗的錯誤
我不是歸人，是個過客……

MISTAKE (translation by Hannah Baker, 1st Prize winner)

I pass through the lands of Jiangnan
That face waiting through the seasons like the blooming
and fading of a lotus
The east wind doesn't come, the March willow catkins do
not fly
Your heart is like a tiny, lonesome town
Like a stone street at dusk
Footsteps do not sound, March's spring curtains remain
undrawn
Your heart is a tiny, tightly shut window

The clip-clop of my horse's hooves is a beautiful mistake
I am not a man returned, just a visitor passing through...

Chinese Language Teachers Association of California (CLTAC) 2014 Spring Conference

CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The CLTAC 2014 Spring Conference Organizing Committee invites submission of proposals for 20-minute presentations. As in previous years, abstract proposals in all areas of Chinese teaching and learning are welcome, such as theories, methodologies and strategies, curricula, teaching materials, technology, acquisition, Chinese linguistics, culture factors, AP Chinese, and teaching credentials.

IMPORTANT DATES

- Proposal submission deadline:
-- Sunday, January 12, 2014
- Notification of proposal status:
-- Monday, February 10, 2014
- Early registration deadline (postmarked):
-- Monday, February 24, 2014
- Conference date: Saturday,
-- March 8, 2014 (Tentative)

VENUE

Stanford University

PROPOSAL SUBMISSION

- 1) Send a one-page proposal (250-350 words in English or 400-500 characters in Chinese) as an email attachment in MS-Word format to CLTAC Conferences at cltac.conferences@gmail.com.
- 2) In the subject line of the email, type "CLTAC 2014 Spring Conference Proposal". In the body of the email, provide the following information:
 - Paper Title
 - Name of the Presenter
 - School/Organization
 - Instructor or Graduate Student
 - Detailed Contact Info (email address, regular mail address, and cell phone number)
- 3) Do NOT include your name or institutional affiliation in the proposal since all proposals will be anonymously

reviewed.

- 4) Only one abstract from each person will be considered. Multiple submissions are not allowed.
- 5) Presenters must have valid CLTAC member status. Visit the website <http://www.cltac.org/membership.html> for membership application information.

CLTAC BEST PRESENTATION AWARD

This year, the conference will give five (5) CLTAC Best Presentation Awards, with two (2) for K-12 Chinese language instructors and three (3) for graduate students. All presentations by K-12 instructors and graduate students will be considered automatically. The selection is based on both content and style of presentation. Each CLTAC Best Presentation Award carries a certificate and \$100.

REGISTRATION

The conference is open to both members and non-members of CLTAC. Registration is required. To register for the conference, send a completed Registration Form (downloadable from www.cltac.org) together with your registration fee (\$20 for members and \$30 for non-members), by check payable to CLTAC, postmarked no later than Monday, February 24, 2014, to

CLTAC treasurer, P.O. Box 5661, Monterey, CA 93944

Late or on-site registration fee is \$30 for members and \$40 for non-members. **The registration fee is waived for presenters, although they must register.** A convenient lunch (included in the registration fee) will be provided to registered participants. On-site registration for membership will also be available at the conference.

QUESTIONS

Email Professor Liwei Gao, Chair of the CLTAC 2014 Spring Conference, at cltac.conferences@gmail.com.

Livaccari to Head International School of the Peninsula Newcomer Brings Foreign Service & Chinese/Japanese Teaching Experience

Chris Livaccari (李克立) is Upper Elementary Principal and Chinese Program Director at the International School of the Peninsula (ISTP) in Palo Alto. He is a Chinese and Japanese language educator, Senior Advisor for Chinese Language Initiatives at Asia Society, and a former U.S. Foreign Service officer who held postings in Tokyo and Shanghai. This summer, Livaccari moved to the Bay Area to join ISTP from New York, where he was Director of Education and Chinese Language Initiatives at Asia Society.



ISTP is one of the earliest Mandarin immersion programs in the United States, and has offered Chinese immersion to students from a variety of linguistic and cultural backgrounds for more than fifteen years. In one of his recent publications, Livaccari noted that “language immersion programs present a range of opportunities and challenges

for practitioners. Many language teachers welcome the opportunity to create an immersive language environment in which their students are able to achieve high levels of proficiency and fluency in the target language, and to learn

academic as well as everyday language.” He also suggested that “because immersion teachers are not just teaching language but also teaching other academic subjects, their practices exemplify good teaching. In any immersion program, language and its partner subjects are equally important, and the most successful approaches balance them evenly.”

As a passionate advocate of the study of Chinese language and culture, Livaccari led a successful initiative through Asia Society to establish 101 Confucius Classrooms at major American schools and school districts in 28 states over the past five years, and to partner them with 101 schools in 23 provinces in China. He was also actively involved in preparations for the widely influential National Chinese Language Conference and convened a number of national conferences on Chinese language education, and edited or authored a number of reports on the state of the field. He has co-authored *Structures of Mandarin Chinese for Speakers of English* 中文语法快易通 (Peking University Press) and the *Chinese for Tomorrow* 走向未来 series (Cheng & Tsui).

Livaccari was one of the plenary speakers at the Fall 2013 Workshop of CLTAC held on November 9 at the San Francisco State University. His speech was entitled “Early Language Learning as a Strategic Priority: Global Competency, Chinese Language Education, and the Future of U.S.-China Relations.”

By Xianghua Wu, Chief Editor

39TH MANDARIN SPEECH CONTEST TO BE HELD AT LOWELL HIGH ON APRIL 26, 2014 第三十九屆中文演講比賽日期敲定

The 39th Speech Contest will be held at Lowell High School on April 26, 2014. Being one of the most important events organized by CLTAC, the annual Mandarin Speech Contest aims to demonstrate the achievements made by students of all educational levels when learning Chinese language and culture. Last year, 672 contestants convened at Lowell High School’s Lakeshore campus together with their friends, family and

supporters.

Preparatory work of the 39th Speech Contest will be discussed at the CLTAC board and working committee meeting, to be held on January 11, 2014. And the registration instructions will be announced on the CLTAC website and also via the association’s mailing list after the meeting.

CAVO in Building & Assessing Vocabulary Knowledge

CAVO stands for Computer Adaptive Vocabulary test. It is an online intelligent Chinese vocabulary testing tool designed to assist learners in building and assessing vocabulary knowledge. It can adaptively refine the vocabulary items level of difficulty based on test takers' performances. It is a ubiquitous, transparent and low-stakes assessment instrument. The vocabulary analyzer and Chinese Dictionary are useful tools for learners that include its vocabulary multiple choice tests of *hanzi* to Pinyin, *hanzi* to English, or *hanzi* to Chinese definitions and its customized tests designed by instructors, and assessments of learners' knowledge of Chinese vocabulary. These readily accessible instruments give learners continual experience in learning Chinese vocabulary by checking their command of vocabulary.

CAVO is designed for ease of use. Comprehensive reporting systems are provided for both individual users and program administrators. CAVO monitors test taker's performance in real-time. It automatically selects the test topics from the most appropriate difficulty levels from the CAVO database. Vocabulary in a custom test can be easily defined to fit the instructor's class needs.

In registration, if you can't find your institution's name in the drop-down list, please click "Other" and input your institution's name in the registration form. Then you can start using CAVO

immediately to design your custom tests and guide your students to take the tests.

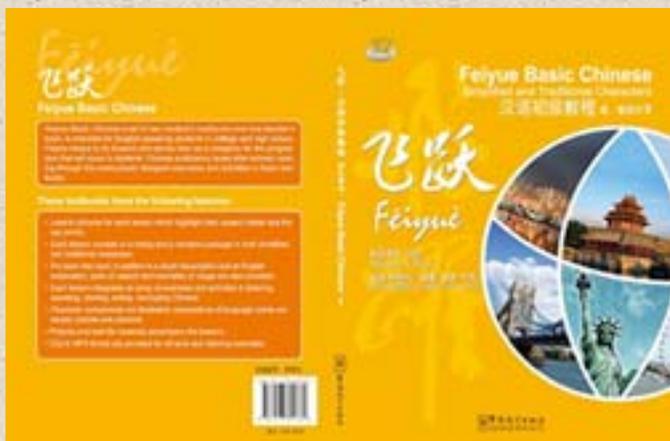
CAVO is developed by NEALRC at OSU and funded by the Title VI Language Resource Center grant. It is free of charge to all the users (<http://cavo.nealrc.org>).



By Minru Li, National East Asian Languages Resource Center (NEALRC) at the Ohio State University

CLTAC MEMBER NEWS

Professor Chengzhi Chu (UC Davis) was elected as the vice president of National Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA) for 2014, and incoming president for 2015 at the 2013 CLTA Annual Meeting held November 22-24 in Orlando, Florida. Congratulations!



Dr. Xianghua Wu (UC Berkeley) has been appointed as the new chief editor of CLTAC newsletter. A short profile of Xianghua is linked to <http://ealc.berkeley.edu/people/lecturerprofiles.htm>. Welcome!

Professor Patrick Lin (Defense Language Institute) recently published *Feiyue Basic Chinese* (《飞跃汉语初级教程》, ISBN 978-7-5138-0560-5, by Sinolingua, Beijing, 2013). It is a set of basic level Chinese textbooks intended for English-speaking undergraduate students, high school students and adults to learn Chinese. *Feiyue Basic Chinese* and *Feiyue Intermediate Chinese*, which has already been published, will form a two-year textbook series that meets the basic needs of teaching and learning Chinese as a foreign language outside China. Congratulations!

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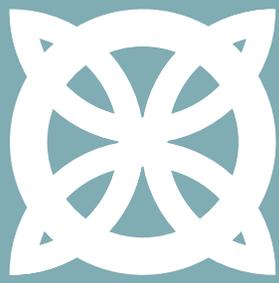
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