

*Newsletter
of the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo*



March 28, 2007

Edited by Xiche Hu and Luanne Billstein

CAGT Webpage: <http://toledochinese.org/>

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CAGT's Outstanding Service Award

Xiche Hu (xhu@utoledo.edu)

As CAGT is growing, it is the common wish of many members to thank those who have made a difference in promoting CAGT's interest. Thus, the Annual Outstanding Service Award was born to recognize outstanding members who have made substantial contributions to the well-being of CAGT. A call for nomination of the award was issued in the December 2006 issue of the CAGT Newsletter. A committee headed by Yongqing Feng processed the votes, and the winners were determined by a majority vote of CAGT members. The winners of the 2006 Outstanding Service Award are Jiquan Chen (*for his leadership role in elevating CAGT's status in the greater Toledo community and in expanding CAGT activities*) and Yangkun Song (*for his tireless contribution of time and energy to conducting the Toledo International Youth Orchestra (TIYO) and to leading the adult Choir*), which was announced during the 2007 Spring Festival held at The University of Toledo on March 4th.



The 2007 Spring Festival (March 4, UT)

“庆祝 2007 年中国新年及元宵节晚会”

梅强 (qmei@utnet.utoledo.edu)

“庆祝 2007 年中国新年及元宵节晚会”于 2007 年 3 月 4 日----中国传统节日正月十五----下午 6 点半到 9 点半在 UT 的 Auditorium of Student Union 举行。本晚会是由 UT 中国学生会和多丽都中华协会共同主办。

此次晚会是近年来参加单位和人数最多的一次多丽都地区的华人盛会。到会 600 多人，包括学生、学者、本地区的华人、及家属、还有应邀的各国的朋友，其中有我们邀请的 Bowling Green State University (BGSU), Medical University of Ohio (MUO), Families with Children from China (FCC), Toledo Sister Cities International (TSCI) 和多丽都华人宣道会等 5 所大学及单位的嘉宾。每个主办和应邀单位都献上了他们的精彩节目。此次晚会还为大家准备了中国元宵节的传统食品----元宵，还有精致糕点，水果，及饮品等。大会在欢快、热闹、友好的气氛中落下帷幕。相信大家都渡过了一个美好而难忘的新春夜晚。



此次晚会的成功举办，离不开 UT 学生和中华协会的同胞的共同努力。也离不开几个应邀单位及广大学生、学者、同胞、家属及各国友人的大力支持。在一个多月的筹备及晚会会场布置、晚会运作和会场清理工作中，有许多的学生和同胞奉献了他们宝贵的时间和精力。在此，我们要对为此次晚会做出贡献的所有同学、同胞及友人表示衷心的感谢。

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Lucas County Delegation to Embark On Trade Mission to China - Group seeking Northwest Ohio Businesses to promote overseas

John Henry Fullen (John.Fullen@toledo.oh.gov)

(Toledo, OH) - In conjunction with Toledo Sister Cities International, the largest delegation to China ever from Lucas County will be traveling on April 5th in hopes of expanding economic, cultural and educational ties, while seeking new business and economic opportunities for Northwest Ohio.

A press conference discussing the 50-person mission and requesting local business participation was held on March 30th at 10:30 AM in the first floor of Government Center. Representatives from Toledo Sister Cities International, the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo, the Toledo International Youth Orchestra, St. John's Jesuit High School, the trade delegation, Toledo-Lucas County Trade and Economic Development Task Force, and elected officials were on hand to discuss the mission and request local business participation.

The delegation, which includes Lucas County Commissioner Ben Konop, includes two focus areas. One focus will be Trade and Educational Development, including meeting with the chamber of commerce, secondary school leaders, and elected officials in Qinhuangdao, Toledo's [Sister City in China](#) (population 2,600,000). The delegation will have the opportunity to market and promote investment opportunities in Lucas County at several trade workshops throughout their trip. The second focus is educational and cultural exchange. Yang Kun Song, Conductor of the Toledo International Youth Orchestra, who has worked tirelessly to prepare a youth orchestra of 23 musicians to represent Northwest Ohio for their first international performances, initiated the delegation.

"In the global economy in which we find ourselves competing in, it is more imperative than ever that we seek to promote our local business overseas and establish Lucas County as a player in the world market," stated Commissioner Konop.

"If there are local businesses that are looking to attract Chinese investment back to Lucas County, please let the delegation know now," added Hewen Slak, China Program Manager for Toledo Sister Cities International. "We have had Chinese investment nibble at Lucas County in the past, but we believe now is the time to strongly attract investment."

St. John's Jesuit High School's Director of Public Relations Gail Christie stated, "By adding Mandarin Chinese to our curriculum this year, and now planning to travel to China, we will open new doors for educational exchange for the St. John's community with our Sister City of Qinhuangdao."

For more information, contact John Henry Fullen, Executive Director, Toledo Sister Cities International, PH (419) 245-1779, M: (419) 320-0850.



CAGT Conducting Large-Scale Fund Raising (Jiquan Chen, Jiquan.Chen@utoledo.edu)

To support her increasing number of activities, CAGT and the Toledo Sister Cities International (TSCI) started broad-scale fund raising activities. These activities were kicked off during the Spring Festival on March 4, 2007. In addition to selling traditional Chinese artifacts, the Pamea K. Rose Auction Company volunteered to sell donated items including Chinese Painting, Chinese Teakettles, etc. Our thanks go out to many members and friends for their time and generous donations. Based on urgent needs for supporting the first visit of the Toledo International Youth Orchestra (TIYO) to Qinhuangdao and Beijing, the planning committee organized several presentations by the TIYO at the Jackson's Lounge and Grill, the Recital Hall of the University of Toledo, Epworth United Methodist Church, St. John's Jesuit School, and the Way Public

Library. Both the students and parents of the TIYO had reached out to their friends and families for financial support. Approximately \$7,000 was raised to support TIYO and CAGT's other activities.



CAGT in the Toledo Museum of Art Winter Legacy Program

Jing Meyer (jmeyer13@UTNet.UToledo.Edu)

On December 31st, 2006 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM, in the Toledo Museum of Art's Great Gallery, the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo (CAGT) presented a culturally rich music program as part of the Winter Legacies Program by the Toledo Museum of Art.

The CAGT music program consisted of a varied array of performances by children and adults which included choir, piano, dance, magic, Tai Chi, youth orchestra, the Ann Arbor Chinese Traditional Music Ensemble and much more. Though musical arts, the program told people stories about China and introduced Chinese culture to the community.

The program was very well attended. The museum's organizer of the Winter Legacies Program was very pleased to inform CAGT that our program drew most of the audience. The success of the program showed that by reaching out and working together we can make a difference.



News from the Chinese School

Lynn Liang (liangye_1999@yahoo.com)

为了和下一代共同欢庆我们华人的传统节日及共享华人的传统文化, 二月十七日, 中文学校组织了华人新年游戏活动. 有套圈, 钓鱼, 抢椅子, 扔球等, 还有做手工. 一些热心的妈妈们还做了过年吃的点心和甜品. 虽然当天的天气和交通状况不是很好, 但还是有很多爸爸妈妈们带孩子来参加了活动, 特别是一些领养了中国孩子的美国家庭也来参与. 我们在一起度过了一个愉快的下午. 在此, 特别感谢所有组织活动的志愿者, 和为活动提供点心, 甜品的妈妈们!



Investment advice: Staying the Course (With your Investment Portfolio)

John C. Campbell RPh CLU ChFC CFP (John.Campbell@savageandassociates.com)

Volatility in the stock market always makes investors nervous. Recent events are no different. Regardless of the fact that most investors claim to have long-term horizons for their portfolios, volatility always makes them ask, "What should I do now?"

It is helpful to take a historical perspective on the stock market and also look at individual investments to see how adverse historical events have affected their performance. There has always been a reason to "Get Out of the Market". Wars, Depressions, 9/11, Katrina, etc. are all events that have adversely affected the stock market. Although we cannot predict the future, and past performance is no guarantee of future results, history shows us that investors who have "Stayed the Course" have been rewarded.

History also shows us that missing even a few of the “Best Days” of the stock market would have greatly affected an investor’s total return. The stock market has been compared to someone climbing a stairs while using a YOYO. Even though the YOYO is going “Up & Down”, the stock market has always gradually moved higher.

Even though “Stay the Course” seems to be the best advice, volatility in the stock market reminds us to make sure our portfolio is still “On Track” based on our personal time horizon and risk tolerance. Besides making Regular Contributions to your investment account and having a Balanced Portfolio, periodic Rebalancing of your portfolio is extremely important. The current Bull Market (Stocks going UP) of almost four years has lulled many investors into making the same mistake that many made in the late 1990’s; not Rebalancing their investment portfolio. Volatility often makes us “Wake Up” and Review our portfolios to make sure we are still “On Track”.

If you would like more information on this topic, I have some excellent brochures I would be happy to send to you.



Editors’ Call for Contribution to Future Newsletters

Xiche Hu (xiche.hu@utoledo.edu)

We plan to include in the next issue of the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo Newsletter a new section named Highly Recommended Corner.

Highly Recommended Corner:

- **Websites (in Chinese or English)**
- **Books (in Chinese or English)**
- **Movies**
- **Quotes**
- **Fun local activities**

We request your assistance in this endeavor. Please take a moment to write a brief description of your favorite website, books, movies, quotes and fun local activities, and send it to xiche.hu@utoledo.edu or Luanne@theBillsteins.com before May 15th.

As an example, Maumee River Walleye Run fits into the “fun local activities” category. Here is a brief description: As winter nears its end and the Great Lakes begin to thaw, warming waters send the signal to tens of thousands of walleyes to start their annual migration to The Maumee River. The Maumee River Walleye Run is the largest east of the Mississippi River. Anglers from all 50 states and most of Ohio’s 88 counties have fished the Maumee near the Side Cut Metropark every March through May.





Upcoming Events:

- 1) **CAGT Spring Picnic** at the Wildwood Park will be organized at 3:00 pm on May 5, 2007. The organization committee (Zeal Chen, Lynn Liang, Luanne Billstein, and Lin Pang) needs your suggestions and support for a enjoyable social gathering. Please contact Zeal (ycdaniels@gmail.com) if you have any good thoughts.
- 2) **TIYO of CAGT** is ready to depart for Beijing on April 6, 2007. The 23-member orchestra has been practicing very hard every week in the past month. The music recorded on behalf of TIYO is available for purchase at \$10 each. It is a quality product. Contact Amy Chen (minyang@dellmail.com) for more information.



- 3) **Chinese Culture and Art Exhibition** is up at the Multicultural Student Center of the University of Toledo. The exhibition is co-sponsored by the CAGT and UT. Stop by the Student Union room 2500 to view the 35 pieces of unique, beautiful artworks. A reception will be organized at 3:30 p.m. on April 22, 2007. Contact Jing Meyer (jmeyer13@UTNet.UToledo.Edu) for more information.



- 4) **The Great Maumee River Dragon Boat Festival** is the largest festival in Toledo area. CAGT is planning its participate in this year's races on July 28, [2007](#). Not only will we have a team to race in the event, CAGT's participation in "A Day in China" will help to spread our Chinese heritage within the community. Dr. Joe Chao, chair of last year's team, can tell you this is an event you will not want to miss. If you are interested in being a member of the paddling team or "A Day in China Team", please contact Jiquan Chen (jiquan.chen@utoledo.edu).

Business News and Information

(see following pages)

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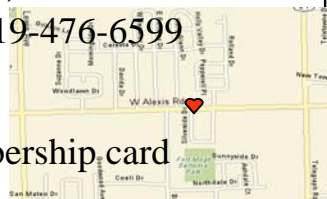
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Qinhuangdao delegation visited Toledo **Xiche Hu (xhu@utoledo.edu)**

A seven-person delegation from Chinese sister-city Qinhuangdao, led by Mayor Jian Ruiting, visited Toledo on June 15th, 2007. The Chinese delegation engaged in a meeting with the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, discussed economic opportunities with Lucas County Commissioner Ben Konop and other business and community leaders, and attended a lunch hosted by, among others, Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner. In addition to meetings with community leaders, the delegation visited the Libbey Glass and Jeep plants, toured Ottawa Hills and the University of Toledo. The delegation, was in the midst of a tour of several North American cities. While here, they were treated to a farewell dinner hosted by Owens Corning and a brief performance by the Toledo International Youth Orchestra. Toledo and Qinhuangdao have been sister cities since 1985.



TIYO China Tour **Xiche Hu (xhu@utoledo.edu)**

As part of a cultural exchange organized by the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo and Toledo Sister Cities International, the Toledo International Youth Orchestra toured Qinhuangdao, China in April, 2007. Twenty-three area student musicians participated in the eight day tour under the direction of the TIYO director and conductor Yang Kun Song. While in China, they also visited The Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square and The Forbidden City in the Chinese capital Beijing. By all measure, the tour is viewed as a great success. Not only does the tour establish bonds between youths of USA and China through the common language of music, but also it open eyes of the participating students to China. The latter is best illustrated by the written essays of several students (see below).



A Sight To Remember

by Elaine Clines

Every aspect of China was just as remarkable as I had imagined it would be. The sights were delectable to the eye, as was the food to the tongue. The music was intriguing, and the history was enchanting. From the bustling atmosphere of Beijing to the view atop the Great Wall, everything was exactly as I had envisioned. That is, except for one extraordinary surprise that made my journey to China more meaningful than I could have anticipated.

My arrival in Beijing brought a feeling of astonishment as the immensity of the city dwarfed anything I had ever seen before. The sound of the traffic, the smell of the outdoor market, the sight of the sun gleaming off the towering buildings overwhelmed my senses. Beijing is different from the large cities in America because, along with the all of the modernization, it boasts a rich ancient history. Not far from the skyscrapers are sights that transport visitors back to the time of emperors. The Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven hold Beijing's history within their walls; but from these sites are beautiful views of the modern city. The old blends with the new to create a vibrant metropolis. I felt carried along by the pulse of the magnificent flow of life that is Beijing.

The Great Wall was the sight that I was most eager to see. Looking up from the bottom, I was more than ready to begin my trek. I believed that I would get to the top rather quickly; but, when I was about an eighth of the way up, I realized the magnitude of the wall. Each step of the way, as I grew more exhausted, the view became more spectacular. Mountains rippled across the earth as far as I could see, and to my mid-western eyes, it looked like a different planet. As I stood atop the mountain in the crisp air, I felt as if I could have stayed there forever.

All of China was just as spectacular as I expected; but there was one experience that surpassed all the others because of its element of surprise and simplicity, and the impact it had on me. Looking forward to the trip to China, I anticipated seeing all of the sights and taking a lot of pictures; what I didn't expect was that I would make a friend. I was fully prepared to feel like an alien, disconnected from the tremendous country. Much to my surprise, I did not feel alienated at all when, at the New Century School in Qinhuaingdao, I met a little girl named Alice. As I was taking a tour of the school, she made a friendship ring for me. Before I knew it, she was holding my hand and walking with me just as if we had been friends forever. Alice did everything she could to show her affection, from sitting with me at lunch to carrying my violin on her little shoulders. Even though we couldn't speak a word to each other, we overcame the language barrier by acting out our thoughts. When we had to part, we hugged and used our fingers to draw tears down our cheeks to express the sadness of leaving each other. I realized, through Alice, that even though our countries may be very different, the people are not very different at all. I will never see Alice again; but I will never forget her because she showed me that China has much more than beautiful sights... it has beautiful people.

My experience in China was one of learning. I learned something about Chinese history and music ; but, more personally, I learned that I can form friendships with people on the other side of the world. Although the view from the Great Wall was magnificent, the kindness shining in Alice's eyes was the greatest sight to see.

China

By Tiffany Lui

I was never in touch with my culture because I am considered to be an “ABC” American Born Chinese. I always lived in a white dominated society. I never went to Chinese school to learn my language and my parents never had the time to teach me. I watched Chinese television dramas to learn most of my culture and language but when I stepped foot on China, everything was different. I was finally able to see China in my own eyes.

Walking through the emperor's summer palace and seeing the different temples reminded me of the Chinese television dramas that showed the ancient times in China. I never knew that sort of lifestyle existed, I always thought they were only in the movies. It made me realize that some of my ancestors before me lived that way. Every part of the palace was detailed; I could see every tile on the roofs. They were all craved individually and they had lovely paintings on the walls. The buildings were perfect.

As I was fighting for air while getting to the top of the Great Wall, I can see every step and every brick that was built by a man's two hands. It symbolizes that everyone got together as a team to help defend his own country. It is astonishing that everything still stands in perfect shape. One thing that makes China different is all the historical structures were built by man and they are all still standing today. It is like a history pop out text book. I always loved history but actually seeing the structures in real life made it worthwhile than reading it out of a book.

This trip has brought me closer to the other orchestra members. I knew who they were since I was in junior high school. Yet I never talked to them because I was afraid of them or I thought they were different than me. I was forced to be with these people for a week. I had to become more social and talk to them. I learned they are just the same as me. They want to have fun and play music. We all got along pretty nicely and we shared many laughs.

This entire trip gave me a new perceptive on life. I saw the hospitality the Chinese has given us. Every meal seemed like a feast. They treated us with great respect and hopefully I can bring that back to the United States to share with everyone else. This trip has opened my eyes to see new things and learn new customs. I learned more about my culture in one week than I could ever have just sitting in school. I created friendships that hopefully will last forever. The memories created in the China trip will never be forgotten.

My China Visit

by Lee Ann Song

Our bows lifted off simultaneously as the last note reverberated around the hall. I look into the eyes of my fellow orchestra members, once strangers or mere acquaintances but now people I claim as my friends. And I am proud. Proud of our music, proud of our friendships, proud of the people who really didn't care about music at first but made the commitment to it anyway, and proud of this life changing experience we shared. Though the Chinese and American people live on opposite sides of the world, share different view on government and economy, and speak different languages, we were able to touch their hearts, not with gifts and speeches, but with music. We touched the hearts of people we had no way of communicating with, people we had never known and will probably never see again. And yet, for those few precious days we were together, we felt like friends.

I know that the tour of New Century High School will always remain in my memory. I could just imagine the flowers blooming in the gardens and the kids sitting on benches, reading or talking. I have just received e-mail from my student guide there. She still remembers me! And as I read through her e-mail, I realized what a lasting impression we really did make. Remember, how, at the party, we all made a fool of ourselves playing childish games like musical chairs, hot potato and charades? Or how everyone got up to dance anyway they knew how? Remember the beautiful performances we watched? I can only imagine how each student must have practiced. The martial arts, the dancing, the music, the singing (☺) were all incredible. They're friendliness and generosity really touched me. When I think of us, mingling with all the Chinese students, acting like complete fools, I laugh because there really was a bond. It's magical almost, the way we can get along without having to worry about communication. We just play our music and be ourselves.

Though Adriane and I have read our speech to the Chinese people again and again, I never really, honestly felt what I was saying. All that stuff about they're generosity and how music being the international language, I didn't quite feel yet. Only now, do I truly realize how generous and beautiful that land was. Only now do I truly believe that music can connect the hearts of people anywhere.

And the glorious land upon which we walked, we stood, marveling at the grandness of the Great Wall and the beauty of temples. We felt closer, more connected. Shopping and bargaining was another new experience and we all got quite good at it. Though I have shopped in China many times alone, sharing the experience with twenty-two others was a lot of fun.

My favorite moments of “orchestra bonding” was definitely at the hotels. We did so much wacky stuff that I’m sure we’ll carry with us forever. We talked, we joked, and we shared secrets we would have never felt comfortable sharing at home. I feel like a sibling to every one of the orchestra members. We’ve taken care of each other. And that feeling, of being a part of something great with the people that I have come to love, sharing memories forever—it’s indescribable. I wished the trip would never end. But like all great things that happen, it did end. But not in my heart. In my heart, it didn’t technically end. We’re still as close as we were there.

I hope that no one will ever forget this trip. We left footprints on the land of China and it’s people. We were ambassadors between two countries. We were a group of kids that made a lasting contribution in our city’s musical history. And though it may not be that grand, it sure seems like it. We have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and friendships. I will never forget the precious moments we spent together, making beautiful music, eating, shopping, touring, and sharing laughs.

And as we lift our bows at our last performance, listening to the thunderous applause for the last time, I know that we will always remember....

The Trip of a Lifetime

By Andrew Darmahkasih

“Wow, seriously? China? That’s awesome!” was always the response I received from friends and teachers alike when I told them where I was going for spring break. Now, having survived two sixteen-hour plane rides, full daily schedules, disgusting plane food, jet lag, and post-travel illness, I will still always remember that trip as one filled with amusement, joy, and eye-opening experiences. Looking back on this trip, I can truly say that it was truly an “awesome” trip.

There are three important components of a trip of any scale: its purpose, its place, and its people. This trip surpassed my expectations in all three areas. The name “China” brings about thoughts of an exotic and culturally strange place. China is called *___ (zhong guo)* in Chinese, literally meaning “middle country” because ancient Chinese geographers believed it was located at the center of the earth. Today, the name has a new implication—it is the most populated country in the world, boasting over 1.3 billion people. Beijing alone, the capital city and the second largest city in China, is home to more people than Ohio. To be honest, none of the people in our group—except for those who had gone to China before—knew what to expect. We did not anticipate the heavy traffic that clogged many of China’s streets. We did not know what type of food awaited us once we were there. We did not—and could not—comprehend the richness of Chinese culture. Indeed, we were ill-prepared for the cultural shock we were about to experience. No one expected the Great Wall to be so massive, nor did any of us believed that we could possibly survive eating with chopsticks everyday. Looking through the eyes of a Westerner, everything in China seemed so different—its architecture, its people, its food, and even its language. Indeed, the recent trip to China helped to develop my appreciation for other cultures as well as providing us with a new view of this developing country.

Beyond the beauty of the China itself, our reason for being there made this trip even more memorable. Under the flagship of Toledo Sister Cities Organization, we were there, essentially, as exchange students. Even more unique was the opportunity to play our instruments for these Chinese students. We had certainly put a lot of work into this trip—we have had slightly over two months to rehearse everything. We also performed four concerts within the three weeks prior to the trip. However, seeing the faces of these Chinese students light up when they see us play made every minute of rehearsal worth it. The students were so proud to have us there with them, while the reciprocal feelings were tangibly felt by our orchestra. As exchange students, we were welcomed into their schools and received a glimpse of how their educational

system worked. Most importantly, unlike any other trips we could possibly have taken to China, this particular one allowed us to make personal connections with several Chinese people. Personally, I have made friends with some Chinese students from the schools and have kept in contact with them via email. Such personal connections are not usually included in a regular sightseeing tour of China, and the feeling of being socially connected to Chinese students made this trip all the more worthwhile.

Finally, this trip is uniquely unforgettable because of the people who had been involved in it. Although we had known most of the people on this trip from other occasions—from classmates to fellow youth orchestra members—we formed bonds with each other that would last for a lifetime. Indeed, many friendships were born and strengthened during the trip. Playing our instruments together is only one of the many opportunities present to better understand each other were present; we also had a chance to form deeper bonds of friendship while playing cards, making pranks, taking pictures, watching television, shopping, bargaining, and even conducting Bible studies. As one observer noted, “They just got really close during the China trip.”

More than just becoming friends with fellow orchestra members, we also made great bonds with the parents who came with us on this trip, as well as to better appreciate their efforts. Mr. Song had put in far too much work into this trip. He had not only been one of the first ones with this idea in mind, but he had also arranged much of the trip’s itinerary. Mrs. Villareal always looked out for our well-being and continually tried to assure that we had a phenomenal time while in China. From providing us with internet access so that we could email home to patiently waiting for people in the bathroom who were left behind, Mrs. Villareal is truly the epitome of a “TIYO mother goose.” Our Tylenol lady, Mrs. Angi Chang, is relentless in making sure that all medications are taken at the correct time, even finding us when we least expect it. Both Ms. Amy Chang and the mother of “Dr. Phil,” Mrs. Fitzpatrick, helped to keep our group together as we go to sightseeing spots where we could easily be lost. These parents and chaperones were not only great leaders, but they were also great friends whom we could easily relate to and approach if we needed anything. Truly, the people whom we have worked with on this trip have made this a memorable experience.

For everyone who had gone on this trip, the time we had spent together in China had truly left an indelible mark. As with any trip, there are elements that I would rather forget about, such as the long plane ride and the frustration caused by Chinese traffic jams. On the whole, however, the trip has become one of the most unforgettable and eye-opening experiences of my life.

The Price is Right

By John Shipko

Over 12,000 miles away from home, this trip wasn’t your everyday vacation. For the first fifteen hours of our trip all I really did was eat, sleep, read, and watch the seatbelt sign turn on and off. The first flight from Detroit to Tokyo wasn’t the best, not to mention that we were spending twelve hours in an 80X15 sq. ft. cabin. While we were in Beijing and Qinhuangdao, though, we were having the time of our lives! My two most memorable events in China were climbing the Great Wall and Bargaining.

Being a kid in America is a lot different than in China. Being a kid in the United States, I have very limited freedoms, in certain areas. Every time I go to the convenience store I get a pack of gum. I have to give the cashier eighty-nine cents no longer how long I wrestle and fight. Eighty-nine cents has always been, and will always be eighty-nine cents for a pack of gum (At least at Speedway).

China on the other hand, is quite different. Take Evan for example. On the last day of shopping (Thursday) Evan, Mark (Villareal), and Nathan went to get a pair of shoes. The lady wanted 3,500 Yuan. 45 minutes later, Evan, Mark, and Nathan got a pair of shoes for 350 Yuan. I would have to say that everybody had a lot of fun bargaining. I myself took the liberty of this privilege. Here is a quote from a member of the group: Bargaining: Scream, yell, and argue, until the price fits your budget. Bargaining was definitely one of the most memorable experiences.

Next is the Great Wall of China. Even the history was pretty exciting for the 4,000 mile long wall. Although we visited the Great Wall numerous times, the time we actually climbed it, was my favorite. There were great views, good pictures, and after about 15 minutes of climbing, all I could hear was the sound of my thunderous panting. Evan said, "This climb is killing me! Imagine the Chinese, they had to climb this thing every day. Dang! They must have been ripped!" One thing very odd and mind tricking about the great wall is it has temples that cover up some of the steps. So right when you think you made it to the top, five seconds later you realize your not even close. I climbed to the top, by the way.

I don't know how long I'll remember the street I used to live on, or the elementary school I went to, but the TIYO China Tour was a cornerstone of my life and will always remain in my memory.



News from the Chinese School

Lynn Liang (liangye_1999@yahoo.com)

The Chinese Center of Toledo (aka Toledo Chinese School) is moving from Chinese Alliance Church to Maumee Valley Country Day School located at 1715 S. Reynolds Rd, Toledo, OH 43614, to provide a better and more stimulating educational environment for our students. The language classes will be held Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and 8:30-9:30 p.m. for culture classes. All nationalities, children and adults, are welcome.



Toledo Families Adopt Children from China

In the past decade, approximately fifty thousand children born in China have been adopted by American families and there are currently more than 50 such families in the greater Toledo area. Two years ago, a local chapter of an international support group called "Families with Children from China" was formed in Toledo. These families are bound together by a common desire to celebrate their children's Chinese heritage while exploring issues that might be present in a trans-cultural/racial family.

In the past ten years, the international adoption of Chinese children has drastically risen in number for two main reasons. First, due to government regulations in response to an ever-increasing population in China, upwards of one million children, most of them girls, are abandoned each year. Second, more and more American families are choosing to adopt from overseas in a desire to build their families.

Most of the meetings of Families with Children from China-Toledo Chapter (FCC-Toledo) are purely social. The group celebrates Chinese New Year and other popular holidays, and lets the children get together just to play and spend time with other families who share their background. The educational seminars the group attends focus on topics facing all adoptive families, as well as specialize in issues that the FCC children may encounter as Asian children growing up in Caucasian families. To learn more about FCC, you may visit <http://www.fwcc.org/> or contact Luanne Billstein: Luanne@theBillsteins.com



Family Match Needs You

After reading the article about FCC-Toledo (Families with Children from China) you may ask yourself, "How can I make a difference in the lives of these children? How can we help these families support a love of their children's heritage?"

In keeping with the mission statement of CAGT, we are introducing a new program to assist in making rewarding connections between the FCC families and Chinese American families in Toledo. This program is called Family Match. It is our goal to pair families together for friendship and cultural exchange. We have much to offer these American families who would love to know more about Chinese holidays, food, customs, history, etc. There will be a social event to "kick off" the Family Match program, but first, we would like to get an idea of how many families would be interested in participating.

If you would like to make a new friend, make a difference in the life of a child, and help to further the appreciation of our rich cultural heritage in Toledo, please join Family Match now. Contact Jiquan Chen at: jiquan.chen@utoledo.edu



Food Safety in Warmer Weather

By Autumn Richards

Spring and summer are a time for fun in the sun, fresh fruits and vegetables, and gathering with family and friends for a barbeque or picnic. It is also the opportune time to contract a foodborne illness, which is caused by bacteria, fungi, viruses, protozoa or chemicals transmitted via food. You can protect yourself and your picnic/barbeque guests by following simple food safety guidelines:

- Separate to prevent cross-contamination, which is the transfer of harmful pathogens from humans, food or objects to food.
 - When grocery shopping, prevent transfer of harmful bacteria from your raw meat to your fresh fruits and vegetables by placing raw meat in a plastic bag. Separate the raw meat from other groceries.
 - Store raw meats in a container to catch drippings on the bottom shelf of the refrigerator.
 - Do not use the same cutting board for raw meat and fresh fruits/vegetables.
 - Don't use the same platter and utensils for cooked and raw meats.
- Temperature Maintenance. The temperature danger zone is 40°-140° F. Bacteria grow rapidly at these temperatures. Bacteria in food, which may cause a foodborne illness, doubles every 20 minutes at room temperature.
 - When grocery shopping, refrigerate perishable items immediately. If it will take you more than 30 minutes to return home from the grocery store, put perishable items in a cooler with ice.
 - Completely thaw meat before grilling. Never thaw meat at room temperature. Thaw meat in the refrigerator. You may thaw meat in the microwave, if you cook it immediately.
 - If you marinate meat, do so in the refrigerator.
 - Store hot foods above 140° F and cold foods below 40° F.
 - Throw food out if it has been stored between 40°-140° F for 2 hours or more.

- Cook food to the proper temperature to destroy harmful pathogens, microorganisms which cause illness. Use a food thermometer to insure that food is cooked to the proper temperature:
 - Whole Poultry 180°F
 - Chicken Breasts 170°F
 - Reheated Foods 165°F
 - Hamburgers 160°F
 - Pork 160°F
 - Steaks 145°F

Upcoming Events:

1) The Great Maumee River Dragon Boat Races

CAGT (Chinese Association of Greater Toledo) will participate in the Dragon Boat Races and "A Day in China" on July 28th (8 AM - 4 PM) in the International Park.

<http://www.partnerstoledo.org/dragonboat.html>

Dragon Boat Races originated thousands of years ago in China. Here in Toledo, OH, the races and accompanying festival are the main fundraiser for Partners in Education.

<http://www.partnerstoledo.org/aboutus.html>

Teams of 22 paddlers race in Hong Kong style dragon boats against one another for fun, camaraderie, and friendly competition. This year, there will be approximately 45 teams racing 3 heats each. In addition to the fastest boat, teams will also win in other categories such as best costume, team spirit, etc..

Since the races will go on most of the morning and afternoon, there is a festival atmosphere at International Park. There will be entertainment, food, souvenirs, and children's activities. Since Dragon Boat Racing has its roots in China, a special section of the festival called "A Day in China" will be a bridge to Chinese culture for festival-goers.

Please contact Jiquan Chen at Jiquan.Chen@utoledo.edu for Dragon Boat Races or Luanne Billstein at Luanne@theBillsteins.com for "A Day in China".

2) Teens From Qinhuangdao will Visit Toledo

Nine high school students from Qinhuangdao, Toledo's sister city in China, will arrive in Toledo this summer as part of a 3 week program called International Youth Academy. This program, which has brought international students to Toledo for more than a dozen summers, is organized by Toledo Sister Cities International (<http://www.tsci.org/>)

The students, who will be in Toledo from July 21 to August 11, will be staying with American host families. In addition to taking academic and cultural classes at the University of Toledo, the group of students will get to experience true American culture by attending a Mud Hens game, taking a bus trip to Chicago, going to Cedar Point, having a group "sleep over" at other teens homes, going to a barbecue, visiting the Toledo Museum of Art, going to the mall, and so much more. At the same time, the host families will also experience a bit of the culture of their visiting child.

Business News and Information

[\(see following pages\)](#)

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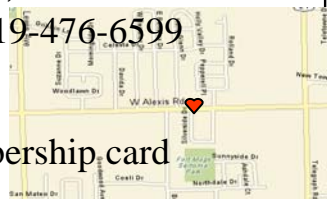
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*Newsletter
of the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo*



June 28, 2007

Edited by Xiche Hu and Luanne Billstein

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Qinhuangdao delegation visited Toledo **Xiche Hu (xhu@utoledo.edu)**

A seven-person delegation from Chinese sister-city Qinhuangdao, led by Mayor Jian Ruiting, visited Toledo on June 15th, 2007. The Chinese delegation engaged in a meeting with the Toledo Regional Chamber of Commerce, discussed economic opportunities with Lucas County Commissioner Ben Konop and other business and community leaders, and attended a lunch hosted by, among others, Toledo Mayor Carty Finkbeiner. In addition to meetings with community leaders, the delegation visited the Libbey Glass and Jeep plants, toured Ottawa Hills and the University of Toledo. The delegation, was in the midst of a tour of several North American cities. While here, they were treated to a farewell dinner hosted by Owens Corning and a brief performance by the Toledo International Youth Orchestra. Toledo and Qinhuangdao have been sister cities since 1985.



TIYO China Tour **Xiche Hu (xhu@utoledo.edu)**

As part of a cultural exchange organized by the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo and Toledo Sister Cities International, the Toledo International Youth Orchestra toured Qinhuangdao, China in April, 2007. Twenty-three area student musicians participated in the eight day tour under the direction of the TIYO director and conductor Yang Kun Song. While in China, they also visited The Great Wall of China, Tiananmen Square and The Forbidden City in the Chinese capital Beijing. By all measure, the tour is viewed as a great success. Not only does the tour establish bonds between youths of USA and China through the common language of music, but also it open eyes of the participating students to China. The latter is best illustrated by the written essays of several students (see below).



A Sight To Remember

by Elaine Clines

Every aspect of China was just as remarkable as I had imagined it would be. The sights were delectable to the eye, as was the food to the tongue. The music was intriguing, and the history was enchanting. From the bustling atmosphere of Beijing to the view atop the Great Wall, everything was exactly as I had envisioned. That is, except for one extraordinary surprise that made my journey to China more meaningful than I could have anticipated.

My arrival in Beijing brought a feeling of astonishment as the immensity of the city dwarfed anything I had ever seen before. The sound of the traffic, the smell of the outdoor market, the sight of the sun gleaming off the towering buildings overwhelmed my senses. Beijing is different from the large cities in America because, along with the all of the modernization, it boasts a rich ancient history. Not far from the skyscrapers are sights that transport visitors back to the time of emperors. The Forbidden City and Temple of Heaven hold Beijing's history within their walls; but from these sites are beautiful views of the modern city. The old blends with the new to create a vibrant metropolis. I felt carried along by the pulse of the magnificent flow of life that is Beijing.

The Great Wall was the sight that I was most eager to see. Looking up from the bottom, I was more than ready to begin my trek. I believed that I would get to the top rather quickly; but, when I was about an eighth of the way up, I realized the magnitude of the wall. Each step of the way, as I grew more exhausted, the view became more spectacular. Mountains rippled across the earth as far as I could see, and to my mid-western eyes, it looked like a different planet. As I stood atop the mountain in the crisp air, I felt as if I could have stayed there forever.

All of China was just as spectacular as I expected; but there was one experience that surpassed all the others because of its element of surprise and simplicity, and the impact it had on me. Looking forward to the trip to China, I anticipated seeing all of the sights and taking a lot of pictures; what I didn't expect was that I would make a friend. I was fully prepared to feel like an alien, disconnected from the tremendous country. Much to my surprise, I did not feel alienated at all when, at the New Century School in Qinhuaingdao, I met a little girl named Alice. As I was taking a tour of the school, she made a friendship ring for me. Before I knew it, she was holding my hand and walking with me just as if we had been friends forever. Alice did everything she could to show her affection, from sitting with me at lunch to carrying my violin on her little shoulders. Even though we couldn't speak a word to each other, we overcame the language barrier by acting out our thoughts. When we had to part, we hugged and used our fingers to draw tears down our cheeks to express the sadness of leaving each other. I realized, through Alice, that even though our countries may be very different, the people are not very different at all. I will never see Alice again; but I will never forget her because she showed me that China has much more than beautiful sights... it has beautiful people.

My experience in China was one of learning. I learned something about Chinese history and music ; but, more personally, I learned that I can form friendships with people on the other side of the world. Although the view from the Great Wall was magnificent, the kindness shining in Alice's eyes was the greatest sight to see.

China

By Tiffany Lui

I was never in touch with my culture because I am considered to be an “ABC” American Born Chinese. I always lived in a white dominated society. I never went to Chinese school to learn my language and my parents never had the time to teach me. I watched Chinese television dramas to learn most of my culture and language but when I stepped foot on China, everything was different. I was finally able to see China in my own eyes.

Walking through the emperor's summer palace and seeing the different temples reminded me of the Chinese television dramas that showed the ancient times in China. I never knew that sort of lifestyle existed, I always thought they were only in the movies. It made me realize that some of my ancestors before me lived that way. Every part of the palace was detailed; I could see every tile on the roofs. They were all craved individually and they had lovely paintings on the walls. The buildings were perfect.

As I was fighting for air while getting to the top of the Great Wall, I can see every step and every brick that was built by a man's two hands. It symbolizes that everyone got together as a team to help defend his own country. It is astonishing that everything still stands in perfect shape. One thing that makes China different is all the historical structures were built by man and they are all still standing today. It is like a history pop out text book. I always loved history but actually seeing the structures in real life made it worthwhile than reading it out of a book.

This trip has brought me closer to the other orchestra members. I knew who they were since I was in junior high school. Yet I never talked to them because I was afraid of them or I thought they were different than me. I was forced to be with these people for a week. I had to become more social and talk to them. I learned they are just the same as me. They want to have fun and play music. We all got along pretty nicely and we shared many laughs.

This entire trip gave me a new perceptive on life. I saw the hospitality the Chinese has given us. Every meal seemed like a feast. They treated us with great respect and hopefully I can bring that back to the United States to share with everyone else. This trip has opened my eyes to see new things and learn new customs. I learned more about my culture in one week than I could ever have just sitting in school. I created friendships that hopefully will last forever. The memories created in the China trip will never be forgotten.

My China Visit

by Lee Ann Song

Our bows lifted off simultaneously as the last note reverberated around the hall. I look into the eyes of my fellow orchestra members, once strangers or mere acquaintances but now people I claim as my friends. And I am proud. Proud of our music, proud of our friendships, proud of the people who really didn't care about music at first but made the commitment to it anyway, and proud of this life changing experience we shared. Though the Chinese and American people live on opposite sides of the world, share different view on government and economy, and speak different languages, we were able to touch their hearts, not with gifts and speeches, but with music. We touched the hearts of people we had no way of communicating with, people we had never known and will probably never see again. And yet, for those few precious days we were together, we felt like friends.

I know that the tour of New Century High School will always remain in my memory. I could just imagine the flowers blooming in the gardens and the kids sitting on benches, reading or talking. I have just received e-mail from my student guide there. She still remembers me! And as I read through her e-mail, I realized what a lasting impression we really did make. Remember, how, at the party, we all made a fool of ourselves playing childish games like musical chairs, hot potato and charades? Or how everyone got up to dance anyway they knew how? Remember the beautiful performances we watched? I can only imagine how each student must have practiced. The martial arts, the dancing, the music, the singing (☺) were all incredible. They're friendliness and generosity really touched me. When I think of us, mingling with all the Chinese students, acting like complete fools, I laugh because there really was a bond. It's magical almost, the way we can get along without having to worry about communication. We just play our music and be ourselves.

Though Adriane and I have read our speech to the Chinese people again and again, I never really, honestly felt what I was saying. All that stuff about they're generosity and how music being the international language, I didn't quite feel yet. Only now, do I truly realize how generous and beautiful that land was. Only now do I truly believe that music can connect the hearts of people anywhere.

And the glorious land upon which we walked, we stood, marveling at the grandness of the Great Wall and the beauty of temples. We felt closer, more connected. Shopping and bargaining was another new experience and we all got quite good at it. Though I have shopped in China many times alone, sharing the experience with twenty-two others was a lot of fun.

My favorite moments of “orchestra bonding” was definitely at the hotels. We did so much wacky stuff that I’m sure we’ll carry with us forever. We talked, we joked, and we shared secrets we would have never felt comfortable sharing at home. I feel like a sibling to every one of the orchestra members. We’ve taken care of each other. And that feeling, of being a part of something great with the people that I have come to love, sharing memories forever—it’s indescribable. I wished the trip would never end. But like all great things that happen, it did end. But not in my heart. In my heart, it didn’t technically end. We’re still as close as we were there.

I hope that no one will ever forget this trip. We left footprints on the land of China and it’s people. We were ambassadors between two countries. We were a group of kids that made a lasting contribution in our city’s musical history. And though it may not be that grand, it sure seems like it. We have gained a tremendous amount of knowledge and friendships. I will never forget the precious moments we spent together, making beautiful music, eating, shopping, touring, and sharing laughs.

And as we lift our bows at our last performance, listening to the thunderous applause for the last time, I know that we will always remember....

The Trip of a Lifetime

By Andrew Darmahkasih

“Wow, seriously? China? That’s awesome!” was always the response I received from friends and teachers alike when I told them where I was going for spring break. Now, having survived two sixteen-hour plane rides, full daily schedules, disgusting plane food, jet lag, and post-travel illness, I will still always remember that trip as one filled with amusement, joy, and eye-opening experiences. Looking back on this trip, I can truly say that it was truly an “awesome” trip.

There are three important components of a trip of any scale: its purpose, its place, and its people. This trip surpassed my expectations in all three areas. The name “China” brings about thoughts of an exotic and culturally strange place. China is called *___ (zhong guo)* in Chinese, literally meaning “middle country” because ancient Chinese geographers believed it was located at the center of the earth. Today, the name has a new implication—it is the most populated country in the world, boasting over 1.3 billion people. Beijing alone, the capital city and the second largest city in China, is home to more people than Ohio. To be honest, none of the people in our group—except for those who had gone to China before—knew what to expect. We did not anticipate the heavy traffic that clogged many of China’s streets. We did not know what type of food awaited us once we were there. We did not—and could not—comprehend the richness of Chinese culture. Indeed, we were ill-prepared for the cultural shock we were about to experience. No one expected the Great Wall to be so massive, nor did any of us believed that we could possibly survive eating with chopsticks everyday. Looking through the eyes of a Westerner, everything in China seemed so different—its architecture, its people, its food, and even its language. Indeed, the recent trip to China helped to develop my appreciation for other cultures as well as providing us with a new view of this developing country.

Beyond the beauty of the China itself, our reason for being there made this trip even more memorable. Under the flagship of Toledo Sister Cities Organization, we were there, essentially, as exchange students. Even more unique was the opportunity to play our instruments for these Chinese students. We had certainly put a lot of work into this trip—we have had slightly over two months to rehearse everything. We also performed four concerts within the three weeks prior to the trip. However, seeing the faces of these Chinese students light up when they see us play made every minute of rehearsal worth it. The students were so proud to have us there with them, while the reciprocal feelings were tangibly felt by our orchestra. As exchange students, we were welcomed into their schools and received a glimpse of how their educational

system worked. Most importantly, unlike any other trips we could possibly have taken to China, this particular one allowed us to make personal connections with several Chinese people. Personally, I have made friends with some Chinese students from the schools and have kept in contact with them via email. Such personal connections are not usually included in a regular sightseeing tour of China, and the feeling of being socially connected to Chinese students made this trip all the more worthwhile.

Finally, this trip is uniquely unforgettable because of the people who had been involved in it. Although we had known most of the people on this trip from other occasions—from classmates to fellow youth orchestra members—we formed bonds with each other that would last for a lifetime. Indeed, many friendships were born and strengthened during the trip. Playing our instruments together is only one of the many opportunities present to better understand each other were present; we also had a chance to form deeper bonds of friendship while playing cards, making pranks, taking pictures, watching television, shopping, bargaining, and even conducting Bible studies. As one observer noted, “They just got really close during the China trip.”

More than just becoming friends with fellow orchestra members, we also made great bonds with the parents who came with us on this trip, as well as to better appreciate their efforts. Mr. Song had put in far too much work into this trip. He had not only been one of the first ones with this idea in mind, but he had also arranged much of the trip’s itinerary. Mrs. Villareal always looked out for our well-being and continually tried to assure that we had a phenomenal time while in China. From providing us with internet access so that we could email home to patiently waiting for people in the bathroom who were left behind, Mrs. Villareal is truly the epitome of a “TIYO mother goose.” Our Tylenol lady, Mrs. Angi Chang, is relentless in making sure that all medications are taken at the correct time, even finding us when we least expect it. Both Ms. Amy Chang and the mother of “Dr. Phil,” Mrs. Fitzpatrick, helped to keep our group together as we go to sightseeing spots where we could easily be lost. These parents and chaperones were not only great leaders, but they were also great friends whom we could easily relate to and approach if we needed anything. Truly, the people whom we have worked with on this trip have made this a memorable experience.

For everyone who had gone on this trip, the time we had spent together in China had truly left an indelible mark. As with any trip, there are elements that I would rather forget about, such as the long plane ride and the frustration caused by Chinese traffic jams. On the whole, however, the trip has become one of the most unforgettable and eye-opening experiences of my life.

The Price is Right

By John Shipko

Over 12,000 miles away from home, this trip wasn’t your everyday vacation. For the first fifteen hours of our trip all I really did was eat, sleep, read, and watch the seatbelt sign turn on and off. The first flight from Detroit to Tokyo wasn’t the best, not to mention that we were spending twelve hours in an 80X15 sq. ft. cabin. While we were in Beijing and Qinhuangdao, though, we were having the time of our lives! My two most memorable events in China were climbing the Great Wall and Bargaining.

Being a kid in America is a lot different than in China. Being a kid in the United States, I have very limited freedoms, in certain areas. Every time I go to the convenience store I get a pack of gum. I have to give the cashier eighty-nine cents no longer how long I wrestle and fight. Eighty-nine cents has always been, and will always be eighty-nine cents for a pack of gum (At least at Speedway).

China on the other hand, is quite different. Take Evan for example. On the last day of shopping (Thursday) Evan, Mark (Villareal), and Nathan went to get a pair of shoes. The lady wanted 3,500 Yuan. 45 minutes later, Evan, Mark, and Nathan got a pair of shoes for 350 Yuan. I would have to say that everybody had a lot of fun bargaining. I myself took the liberty of this privilege. Here is a quote from a member of the group: Bargaining: Scream, yell, and argue, until the price fits your budget. Bargaining was definitely one of the most memorable experiences.

Next is the Great Wall of China. Even the history was pretty exciting for the 4,000 mile long wall. Although we visited the Great Wall numerous times, the time we actually climbed it, was my favorite. There were great views, good pictures, and after about 15 minutes of climbing, all I could hear was the sound of my thunderous panting. Evan said, "This climb is killing me! Imagine the Chinese, they had to climb this thing every day. Dang! They must have been ripped!" One thing very odd and mind tricking about the great wall is it has temples that cover up some of the steps. So right when you think you made it to the top, five seconds later you realize your not even close. I climbed to the top, by the way.

I don't know how long I'll remember the street I used to live on, or the elementary school I went to, but the TIYO China Tour was a cornerstone of my life and will always remain in my memory.



News from the Chinese School

Lynn Liang (liangye_1999@yahoo.com)

The Chinese Center of Toledo (aka Toledo Chinese School) is moving from Chinese Alliance Church to Maumee Valley Country Day School located at 1715 S. Reynolds Rd, Toledo, OH 43614, to provide a better and more stimulating educational environment for our students. The language classes will be held Fridays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. and 8:30-9:30 p.m. for culture classes. All nationalities, children and adults, are welcome.



Toledo Families Adopt Children from China

In the past decade, approximately fifty thousand children born in China have been adopted by American families and there are currently more than 50 such families in the greater Toledo area. Two years ago, a local chapter of an international support group called "Families with Children from China" was formed in Toledo. These families are bound together by a common desire to celebrate their children's Chinese heritage while exploring issues that might be present in a trans-cultural/racial family.

In the past ten years, the international adoption of Chinese children has drastically risen in number for two main reasons. First, due to government regulations in response to an ever-increasing population in China, upwards of one million children, most of them girls, are abandoned each year. Second, more and more American families are choosing to adopt from overseas in a desire to build their families.

Most of the meetings of Families with Children from China-Toledo Chapter (FCC-Toledo) are purely social. The group celebrates Chinese New Year and other popular holidays, and lets the children get together just to play and spend time with other families who share their background. The educational seminars the group attends focus on topics facing all adoptive families, as well as specialize in issues that the FCC children may encounter as Asian children growing up in Caucasian families. To learn more about FCC, you may visit <http://www.fwcc.org/> or contact Luanne Billstein: Luanne@theBillsteins.com



Family Match Needs You

After reading the article about FCC-Toledo (Families with Children from China) you may ask yourself, "How can I make a difference in the lives of these children? How can we help these families support a love of their children's heritage?"

In keeping with the mission statement of CAGT, we are introducing a new program to assist in making rewarding connections between the FCC families and Chinese American families in Toledo. This program is called Family Match. It is our goal to pair families together for friendship and cultural exchange. We have much to offer these American families who would love to know more about Chinese holidays, food, customs, history, etc. There will be a social event to "kick off" the Family Match program, but first, we would like to get an idea of how many families would be interested in participating.

If you would like to make a new friend, make a difference in the life of a child, and help to further the appreciation of our rich cultural heritage in Toledo, please join Family Match now. Contact Jiquan Chen at: jiquan.chen@utoledo.edu



Food Safety in Warmer Weather

By Autumn Richards

Spring and summer are a time for fun in the sun, fresh fruits and vegetables, and gathering with family and friends for a barbeque or picnic. It is also the opportune time to contract a foodborne illness, which is caused by bacteria, fungi, viruses, protozoa or chemicals transmitted via food. You can protect yourself and your picnic/barbeque guests by following simple food safety guidelines:

- Separate to prevent cross-contamination, which is the transfer of harmful pathogens from humans, food or objects to food.
 - When grocery shopping, prevent transfer of harmful bacteria from your raw meat to your fresh fruits and vegetables by placing raw meat in a plastic bag. Separate the raw meat from other groceries.
 - Store raw meats in a container to catch drippings on the bottom shelf of the refrigerator.
 - Do not use the same cutting board for raw meat and fresh fruits/vegetables.
 - Don't use the same platter and utensils for cooked and raw meats.
- Temperature Maintenance. The temperature danger zone is 40°-140° F. Bacteria grow rapidly at these temperatures. Bacteria in food, which may cause a foodborne illness, doubles every 20 minutes at room temperature.
 - When grocery shopping, refrigerate perishable items immediately. If it will take you more than 30 minutes to return home from the grocery store, put perishable items in a cooler with ice.
 - Completely thaw meat before grilling. Never thaw meat at room temperature. Thaw meat in the refrigerator. You may thaw meat in the microwave, if you cook it immediately.
 - If you marinate meat, do so in the refrigerator.
 - Store hot foods above 140° F and cold foods below 40° F.
 - Throw food out if it has been stored between 40°-140° F for 2 hours or more.

- Cook food to the proper temperature to destroy harmful pathogens, microorganisms which cause illness. Use a food thermometer to insure that food is cooked to the proper temperature:
 - Whole Poultry 180°F
 - Chicken Breasts 170°F
 - Reheated Foods 165°F
 - Hamburgers 160°F
 - Pork 160°F
 - Steaks 145°F

Upcoming Events:

1) The Great Maumee River Dragon Boat Races

CAGT (Chinese Association of Greater Toledo) will participate in the Dragon Boat Races and "A Day in China" on July 28th (8 AM - 4 PM) in the International Park.

<http://www.partnerstoledo.org/dragonboat.html>

Dragon Boat Races originated thousands of years ago in China. Here in Toledo, OH, the races and accompanying festival are the main fundraiser for Partners in Education.

<http://www.partnerstoledo.org/aboutus.html>

Teams of 22 paddlers race in Hong Kong style dragon boats against one another for fun, camaraderie, and friendly competition. This year, there will be approximately 45 teams racing 3 heats each. In addition to the fastest boat, teams will also win in other categories such as best costume, team spirit, etc..

Since the races will go on most of the morning and afternoon, there is a festival atmosphere at International Park. There will be entertainment, food, souvenirs, and children's activities. Since Dragon Boat Racing has its roots in China, a special section of the festival called "A Day in China" will be a bridge to Chinese culture for festival-goers.

Please contact Jiquan Chen at Jiquan.Chen@utoledo.edu for Dragon Boat Races or Luanne Billstein at Luanne@theBillsteins.com for "A Day in China".

2) Teens From Qinhuangdao will Visit Toledo

Nine high school students from Qinhuangdao, Toledo's sister city in China, will arrive in Toledo this summer as part of a 3 week program called International Youth Academy. This program, which has brought international students to Toledo for more than a dozen summers, is organized by Toledo Sister Cities International (<http://www.tsci.org/>)

The students, who will be in Toledo from July 21 to August 11, will be staying with American host families. In addition to taking academic and cultural classes at the University of Toledo, the group of students will get to experience true American culture by attending a Mud Hens game, taking a bus trip to Chicago, going to Cedar Point, having a group "sleep over" at other teens homes, going to a barbecue, visiting the Toledo Museum of Art, going to the mall, and so much more. At the same time, the host families will also experience a bit of the culture of their visiting child.

Business News and Information

[\(see following pages\)](#)

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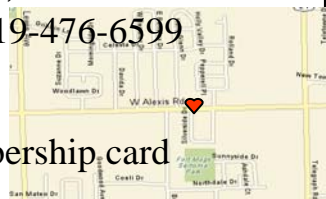
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*Newsletter
of the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo*



March 28, 2007

Edited by Xiche Hu and Luanne Billstein

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CAGT's Outstanding Service Award

Xiche Hu (xhu@utoledo.edu)

As CAGT is growing, it is the common wish of many members to thank those who have made a difference in promoting CAGT's interest. Thus, the Annual Outstanding Service Award was born to recognize outstanding members who have made substantial contributions to the well-being of CAGT. A call for nomination of the award was issued in the December 2006 issue of the CAGT Newsletter. A committee headed by Yongqing Feng processed the votes, and the winners were determined by a majority vote of CAGT members. The winners of the 2006 Outstanding Service Award are Jiquan Chen (*for his leadership role in elevating CAGT's status in the greater Toledo community and in expanding CAGT activities*) and Yangkun Song (*for his tireless contribution of time and energy to conducting the Toledo International Youth Orchestra (TIYO) and to leading the adult Choir*), which was announced during the 2007 Spring Festival held at The University of Toledo on March 4th.



The 2007 Spring Festival (March 4, UT)

“庆祝 2007 年中国新年及元宵节晚会”

梅强 (qmei@utnet.utoledo.edu)

“庆祝 2007 年中国新年及元宵节晚会”于 2007 年 3 月 4 日----中国传统节日正月十五----下午 6 点半到 9 点半在 UT 的 Auditorium of Student Union 举行。本晚会是由 UT 中国学生会和多丽都中华协会共同主办。

此次晚会是近年来参加单位和人数最多的一次多丽都地区的华人盛会。到会 600 多人，包括学生、学者、本地区的华人、及家属、还有应邀的各国的朋友，其中有我们邀请的 Bowling Green State University (BGSU), Medical University of Ohio (MUO), Families with Children from China (FCC), Toledo Sister Cities International (TSCI) 和多丽都华人宣道会等 5 所大学及单位的嘉宾。每个主办和应邀单位都献上了他们的精彩节目。此次晚会还为大家准备了中国元宵节的传统食品----元宵，还有精致糕点，水果，及饮品等。大会在欢快、热闹、友好的气氛中落下帷幕。相信大家都渡过了一个美好而难忘的新春夜晚。



此次晚会的成功举办，离不开 UT 学生和中华协会的同胞的共同努力。也离不开几个应邀单位及广大学生、学者、同胞、家属及各国友人的大力支持。在一个多月的筹备及晚会会场布置、晚会运作和会场清理工作中，有许多的学生和同胞奉献了他们宝贵的时间和精力。在此，我们要对为此次晚会做出贡献的所有同学、同胞及友人表示衷心的感谢。

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Lucas County Delegation to Embark On Trade Mission to China - Group seeking Northwest Ohio Businesses to promote overseas

John Henry Fullen (John.Fullen@toledo.oh.gov)

(Toledo, OH) - In conjunction with Toledo Sister Cities International, the largest delegation to China ever from Lucas County will be traveling on April 5th in hopes of expanding economic, cultural and educational ties, while seeking new business and economic opportunities for Northwest Ohio.

A press conference discussing the 50-person mission and requesting local business participation was held on March 30th at 10:30 AM in the first floor of Government Center. Representatives from Toledo Sister Cities International, the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo, the Toledo International Youth Orchestra, St. John's Jesuit High School, the trade delegation, Toledo-Lucas County Trade and Economic Development Task Force, and elected officials were on hand to discuss the mission and request local business participation.

The delegation, which includes Lucas County Commissioner Ben Konop, includes two focus areas. One focus will be Trade and Educational Development, including meeting with the chamber of commerce, secondary school leaders, and elected officials in Qinhuangdao, Toledo's [Sister City in China](#) (population 2,600,000). The delegation will have the opportunity to market and promote investment opportunities in Lucas County at several trade workshops throughout their trip. The second focus is educational and cultural exchange. Yang Kun Song, Conductor of the Toledo International Youth Orchestra, who has worked tirelessly to prepare a youth orchestra of 23 musicians to represent Northwest Ohio for their first international performances, initiated the delegation.

"In the global economy in which we find ourselves competing in, it is more imperative than ever that we seek to promote our local business overseas and establish Lucas County as a player in the world market," stated Commissioner Konop.

"If there are local businesses that are looking to attract Chinese investment back to Lucas County, please let the delegation know now," added Hewen Slak, China Program Manager for Toledo Sister Cities International. "We have had Chinese investment nibble at Lucas County in the past, but we believe now is the time to strongly attract investment."

St. John's Jesuit High School's Director of Public Relations Gail Christie stated, "By adding Mandarin Chinese to our curriculum this year, and now planning to travel to China, we will open new doors for educational exchange for the St. John's community with our Sister City of Qinhuangdao."

For more information, contact John Henry Fullen, Executive Director, Toledo Sister Cities International, PH (419) 245-1779, M: (419) 320-0850.



CAGT Conducting Large-Scale Fund Raising (Jiquan Chen, Jiquan.Chen@utoledo.edu)

To support her increasing number of activities, CAGT and the Toledo Sister Cities International (TSCI) started broad-scale fund raising activities. These activities were kicked off during the Spring Festival on March 4, 2007. In addition to selling traditional Chinese artifacts, the Pamea K. Rose Auction Company volunteered to sell donated items including Chinese Painting, Chinese Teakettles, etc. Our thanks go out to many members and friends for their time and generous donations. Based on urgent needs for supporting the first visit of the Toledo International Youth Orchestra (TIYO) to Qinhuangdao and Beijing, the planning committee organized several presentations by the TIYO at the Jackson's Lounge and Grill, the Recital Hall of the University of Toledo, Epworth United Methodist Church, St. John's Jesuit School, and the Way Public

Library. Both the students and parents of the TIYO had reached out to their friends and families for financial support. Approximately \$7,000 was raised to support TIYO and CAGT's other activities.



CAGT in the Toledo Museum of Art Winter Legacy Program

Jing Meyer (jmeyer13@UTNet.UToledo.Edu)

On December 31st, 2006 from 2:00 to 3:30 PM, in the Toledo Museum of Art's Great Gallery, the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo (CAGT) presented a culturally rich music program as part of the Winter Legacies Program by the Toledo Museum of Art.

The CAGT music program consisted of a varied array of performances by children and adults which included choir, piano, dance, magic, Tai Chi, youth orchestra, the Ann Arbor Chinese Traditional Music Ensemble and much more. Though musical arts, the program told people stories about China and introduced Chinese culture to the community.

The program was very well attended. The museum's organizer of the Winter Legacies Program was very pleased to inform CAGT that our program drew most of the audience. The success of the program showed that by reaching out and working together we can make a difference.



News from the Chinese School

Lynn Liang (liangye_1999@yahoo.com)

为了和下一代共同欢庆我们华人的传统节日及共享华人的传统文化, 二月十七日, 中文学校组织了华人新年游戏活动. 有套圈, 钓鱼, 抢椅子, 扔球等, 还有做手工. 一些热心的妈妈们还做了过年吃的点心和甜品. 虽然当天的天气和交通状况不是很好, 但还是有很多爸爸妈妈们带孩子来参加了活动, 特别是一些领养了中国孩子的美国家庭也来参与. 我们在一起度过了一个愉快的下午.

在此, 特别感谢所有组织活动的志愿者, 和为活动提供点心, 甜品的妈妈们!



Investment advice: Staying the Course (With your Investment Portfolio)

John C. Campbell RPh CLU ChFC CFP (John.Campbell@savageandassociates.com)

Volatility in the stock market always makes investors nervous. Recent events are no different. Regardless of the fact that most investors claim to have long-term horizons for their portfolios, volatility always makes them ask, "What should I do now?"

It is helpful to take a historical perspective on the stock market and also look at individual investments to see how adverse historical events have affected their performance. There has always been a reason to "Get Out of the Market". Wars, Depressions, 9/11, Katrina, etc. are all events that have adversely affected the stock market. Although we cannot predict the future, and past performance is no guarantee of future results, history shows us that investors who have "Stayed the Course" have been rewarded.

History also shows us that missing even a few of the “Best Days” of the stock market would have greatly affected an investor’s total return. The stock market has been compared to someone climbing a stairs while using a YOYO. Even though the YOYO is going “Up & Down”, the stock market has always gradually moved higher.

Even though “Stay the Course” seems to be the best advice, volatility in the stock market reminds us to make sure our portfolio is still “On Track” based on our personal time horizon and risk tolerance. Besides making Regular Contributions to your investment account and having a Balanced Portfolio, periodic Rebalancing of your portfolio is extremely important. The current Bull Market (Stocks going UP) of almost four years has lulled many investors into making the same mistake that many made in the late 1990’s; not Rebalancing their investment portfolio. Volatility often makes us “Wake Up” and Review our portfolios to make sure we are still “On Track”.

If you would like more information on this topic, I have some excellent brochures I would be happy to send to you.



Editors’ Call for Contribution to Future Newsletters

Xiche Hu (xiche.hu@utoledo.edu)

We plan to include in the next issue of the Chinese Association of Greater Toledo Newsletter a new section named Highly Recommended Corner.

Highly Recommended Corner:

- **Websites (in Chinese or English)**
- **Books (in Chinese or English)**
- **Movies**
- **Quotes**
- **Fun local activities**

We request your assistance in this endeavor. Please take a moment to write a brief description of your favorite website, books, movies, quotes and fun local activities, and send it to xiche.hu@utoledo.edu or Luanne@theBillsteins.com before May 15th.

As an example, Maumee River Walleye Run fits into the “fun local activities” category. Here is a brief description: As winter nears its end and the Great Lakes begin to thaw, warming waters send the signal to tens of thousands of walleyes to start their annual migration to The Maumee River. The Maumee River Walleye Run is the largest east of the Mississippi River. Anglers from all 50 states and most of Ohio’s 88 counties have fished the Maumee near the Side Cut Metropark every March through May.





Upcoming Events:

- 1) **CAGT Spring Picnic** at the Wildwood Park will be organized at 3:00 pm on May 5, 2007. The organization committee (Zeal Chen, Lynn Liang, Luanne Billstein, and Lin Pang) needs your suggestions and support for a enjoyable social gathering. Please contact Zeal (ycdaniels@gmail.com) if you have any good thoughts.
- 2) **TIYO of CAGT** is ready to depart for Beijing on April 6, 2007. The 23-member orchestra has been practicing very hard every week in the past month. The music recorded on behalf of TIYO is available for purchase at \$10 each. It is a quality product. Contact Amy Chen (minyang@dellmail.com) for more information.



- 3) **Chinese Culture and Art Exhibition** is up at the Multicultural Student Center of the University of Toledo. The exhibition is co-sponsored by the CAGT and UT. Stop by the Student Union room 2500 to view the 35 pieces of unique, beautiful artworks. A reception will be organized at 3:30 p.m. on April 22, 2007. Contact Jing Meyer (jmeyer13@UTNet.UToledo.Edu) for more information.



- 4) **The Great Maumee River Dragon Boat Festival** is the largest festival in Toledo area. CAGT is planning its participate in this year's races on July 28, [2007](#). Not only will we have a team to race in the event, CAGT's participation in "A Day in China" will help to spread our Chinese heritage within the community. Dr. Joe Chao, chair of last year's team, can tell you this is an event you will not want to miss. If you are interested in being a member of the paddling team or "A Day in China Team", please contact Jiquan Chen (jiquan.chen@utoledo.edu).

Business News and Information

(see following pages)

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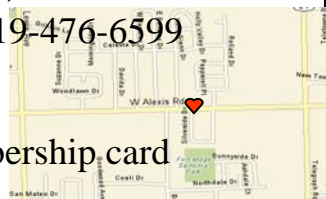
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