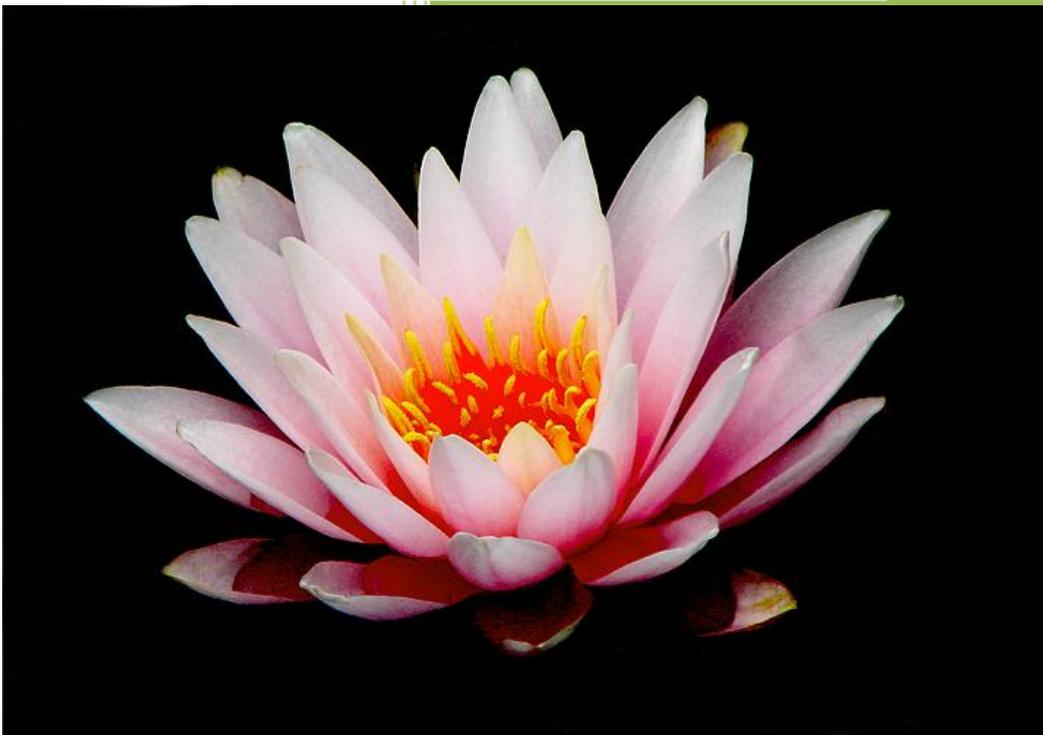




2012

# CAGT NEWSLETTER



Spring 2012 Volume 5 Issue 1

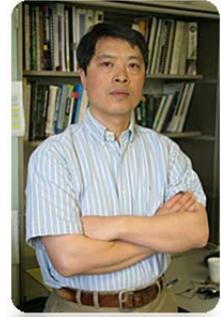
<http://www.toledochinese.org>

3/15/2012

## *A Message from the CAGT President*

Dear CAGT Members:

I am honored to be elected by the CAGT board to serve this wonderful organization as President for the great dragon year. Over the last three years, past presidents, Shanhe Jiang and Jing Meyer, along with many dedicated board members and event leaders, lead CAGT to a new level of influence in the Greater Toledo area. Today, one can find CAGT's presentations everywhere, all the time, such as small-scale events like the Taste of Diversity and the large-scale Dragon Boat Races and Festival. My impression is that CAGT is on the radar of many organizations and local leaders in the region. They think of us! This is the consequence of the tireless and united efforts of many members over the years.



Several changes will be made for the upcoming year. We will be bringing our traditional "Fall Music Festival" back to the community to provide an opportunity to showcase the talent of our members. Also, the Newsletters will have a new corner dedicated to our youth editors, a series of mini social events will be organized, more orchestrated events with our partners will be organized (e.g., the Chinese School, The Toledo Chinese Alliance Church, etc.), etc. Of course, other traditional programs (e.g., the International Dragon Boat Festival, Tai Chi Practice, Folk Dancing performances, picnics, etc.) will be continued. All of these activities cannot be successful without your volunteer service and involvement.

Like many previous leaders, I commit my time and service to move CAGT forward. Meanwhile, CAGT cannot achieve our mission without your participation. I sincerely welcome any suggestions for promoting the growth of CAGT. Please feel free to call (419-530-2664), e-mail me ([jiquan.chen@utoledo.edu](mailto:jiquan.chen@utoledo.edu)) at any time, or contact the following events leaders:

- Tai Chi Training & Practice, Olivia Onest, [oliviaonest@gmail.com](mailto:oliviaonest@gmail.com)
- CAGT Picnics, Meng Zhang, [mengzhang18@yahoo.com](mailto:mengzhang18@yahoo.com)
- Mini-Events, Xiche Hu, [xiche.hu@utoledo.edu](mailto:xiche.hu@utoledo.edu)
- Dragon Boat Festival, Mingsheng Li, [mli@bgsu.edu](mailto:mli@bgsu.edu); and Luanne Billstein, [LuanneBillstein@sbcglobal.net](mailto:LuanneBillstein@sbcglobal.net)
- Fall Music Festival, Amy Chen, [minchen1111@hotmail.com](mailto:minchen1111@hotmail.com)
- Great Art Escape, Jing Meyer, [jing.meyer@utoledo.edu](mailto:jing.meyer@utoledo.edu)
- Chinese New Year Party, Ye Liang, [liangye\\_1999@yahoo.com](mailto:liangye_1999@yahoo.com)
- CAGT Awards, Shanhe Jiang, [Shanhe.Jiang@utoledo.edu](mailto:Shanhe.Jiang@utoledo.edu)

Thank you for your interest and support! Please visit the CAGT website for updates at: <http://www.toledochinese.org>

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jiquan Chen". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Jiquan Chen  
President, CAGT

*From the CAGT Newsletter Editors*

Peter You  
Luanne Billstein



A new column, Youth Corner, will be added to the CAGT Newsletters, starting with the next issue. We are glad to announce that two of our younger members have volunteered to assist CAGT in producing our quarterly newsletter. The Youth

Corner will include articles, journals, and art work from our youth community, showcasing a variety of their academic and professional achievements, community involvement, and hobbies and interests. Hopefully the younger generation will become more involved with CAGT.

The Youth Corner editors are:

- Catherine Dong
- Starr Jiang



*A Message from the Membership Committee*

CAGT Membership Committee

The CAGT Membership Committee would like to thank all those members who have renewed their CAGT membership during the first quarter of 2012, especially for those members who have upgraded to the level of lifetime membership. We also would like to welcome those who have become new members during the first quarter of 2012. Thanks for your support of CAGT.



New CAGT lifetime family members:

Yueting Lee, Guangzhong Chen and Fei Li, Kit Chan and Louisa Ha, Jeff and Lisa Wahl, Zhaohui Xu and Yelia Xue, Shichang Hu and Aige Guo, Songtao Liu and Mei Du

New CAGT family members:

Sam Yang and Vivian Li, Chengcheng Yang and Justen Flowers, and Ying Yao

New CAGT individual members:

Nana O'Desky, Annie Ning, and Caren Steinmiller

New Business Member:

Toledo Academy of Tai Chi and Martial Arts

中协欢迎您!

## *A Review with Special Thanks*

Jing Meyer (邓京华)

On Saturday, Feb. 11, 2012, CAGT had an annual member meeting and potluck meal at the University of Toledo. At the meeting, board members and committee chairs made their annual reports to the attendees.

Over the last year, CAGT has continued to promote and share Chinese culture, language, and tradition in the region; and to enrich life for CAGT members as well as others. Here are some of the highlights:



- Reconstructed CAGT's website and kept it updated, thanks to the CAGT Web Masters, Peter You, Weiwei Cai and Jianshi Liu, and proofreader Luanne Billstein
- Finalized two CAGT policies, (a) the CAGT Outstanding Service Award and (b) the CAGT Language/Culture Award
- Had a successful Dragon Boat fundraising campaign. Thanks went to the Fundraising Committee Chairs, Yueting Lee and Luanne Billstein and committee member Hewen Slak, as well as the people who donated money
- Completed CAGT's activities successfully, such as summer, fall and winter Tai Chi classes, spring picnic, fall cultural festival, and the Chinese New Year Celebration
- Actively involved in local community events, such as performing at Toledo International Festival; participating in All Things Asian Art Exhibition; attending World Tai Chi Day; participating in Dragon Boat races and organizing China Village, as well as cultural performances at the Dragon Boat Race and Festival; and performing at the Great Art Escape at the Toledo Museum of Art, thanks went to the Chairs and members of all event committees, especially:
  - Olivia O'nest, Treasurer of CAGT
  - Amy Chen, Chair of Cultural Exchange Committee
  - Howard Chen and Shao Lo, Co-Captains of the China Dragons Team racing team;
  - Luanne Billstein, Yueting Lee, Shanhe Jiang, Mingsheng Li, General Coordinators of CAGT's participation in the Dragon Boat Festival
  - Xiang Jiang and Meng Zhang, Co-Chairs of the Spring Picnic Committee;
  - Jiquan Chen, Co-Chair of the Tai Chi Group
  - Xiche Hu and Amy Chen, Co-Chairs of the Fall Cultural Festival Committee
  - Fan Dong and Shanhe Jiang, Co-Chairs of the Chinese New Year Celebration Committee
  - Hewen Slak, Chair of the Health Care Committee

- Supported the Chinese community: assisted Fang Wei and her family during Fang's battle with cancer, thanks went to the Sunshine Committee Chair, Chaoxin Hou and Board member Jiquan Chen for coordinating it; assisted with the Wei Wei Noodle's Immigration and Customs Enforcement case, special thanks went to Fan Zhang, CAGT's legal adviser, Shanhe Jiang, Jiquan Chen and Howard Chen
- Enhanced CAGT's community visibility and recognition: CAGT appeared on FOX News Toledo and WNWO Today Show; invited to various community events; CAGT's name even traveled to Holmes County, Northeastern Ohio, the world's largest Amish settlement; did a comprehensive Chinese culture presentation to more than 200 Amish students and their parents
- Published four professional level newsletters, thanks went to our newsletter editors Peter You and Luanne Billstein and all the people who submitted news items
- Increased membership, doubled lifetime memberships (from 12 to 24), thanks went to the Membership Committee Chair, Mingsheng Li, all board members, and others who have actively recruited and promoted CAGT

At the annual meeting, five new CAGT Board members were elected. They are Ning An, Luanne Billstein, Guangzhong Chen, Aige Guo, and Yu Yang. The outgoing board members are Linda Bode, Lingyu Chen, Tony Chen, Chaoxin Ho, and Yueting Lee. Their contributions to CAGT are greatly appreciated. The continuing board members from 2011 are Jiquan Chen, Fan Dong, Shanhe Jiang, Mingsheng Li, Jing Meyer, and Olivia O'nest.

The new CAGT Board elected Jiquan Chen as the 2012 CAGT President, Yu Yang as Vice President, Ning An as Secretary, and Olivia Onest continues to be the Treasurer. Congratulations and thank you for your willingness to serve!

It was a great honor to serve as the 2011 CAGT President. On behalf of the past CAGT Board, I would like to thank all CAGT members for your support and contribution to the Board and to CAGT's activities. "Coming together is a beginning. Keeping together is process. Working together is success" (Henry Ford). I believe you will continue to support CAGT and its new board to work together, building a strong Chinese community and enriching our lives.



# **Congratulations!**

**CAGT Outstanding Service Award  
Recipient 2011 is Ye Liang**

## *The Beginning of My Year of the Dragon*

Jing Meyer (邓京华)

Chinese people have a special zodiac system that is based on twelve animals: Rat(鼠)、Ox(牛)、Tiger(虎)、Rabbit(兔)、Dragon(龙)、Snake(蛇)、Horse(马)、Ram(羊)、Monkey(猴)、Rooster(鸡)、Dog(狗), and Pig(猪). According to this zodiac system, 2012 is the year of the Dragon.

In Chinese astrology, the dragon holds special significance. The Chinese dragon is not seen as a threatening evil being as it is often perceived by people in the west. In Chinese culture, the dragon is a symbol of power, superiority and rule. In China, there are many sculptures and carvings of dragons. Chinese call themselves the descendants of the Dragon. Many married couples would like to have baby in the Year of Dragon. This year, the Chinese New Year began on January 23, 2012. Chinese New Year, also called the Spring Festival, is the largest and most important holiday in China. It is celebrated for 15 days. Today, people in China enjoy a seven day holiday vacation for the Chinese New Year. I really miss that. Traditionally, a reunion dinner is held on New Year's Eve where members of the family from near and far, get together for celebration. The New Year's Eve dinner is a very large and multi-course banquet. After dinner, people will watch the National New Year Celebration Gala on TV, or play games and socialize. They stay late on New Year's Eve and get up late on New Year's Day.

Since coming to the United States, I have lost the privilege of having time off of work for Chinese New Year, unless the Chinese New Year happens to fall on the weekend. Therefore, I normally will take a day off on the Chinese New Year Day, if possible. This year I took Monday, Jan. 23 off. However, this year, I didn't get to stay up late on New Year's Eve or sleep late on New Year's Day. Instead I did the opposite: I went to bed early (9:00 pm) on New Year's Eve and got up early (4:00 am) on New Year's Day. A local TV station, WNWO, invited CAGT to perform a traditional Chinese dance on their Today show to celebrate the Chinese New Year. We were asked to be the TV station around 5:30 am!

I arrived at the TV studio with three other dancers, Ming Chen, Ying Li, and Yanfang Xue. Ying's husband, Jiakai Li went along as our photographer. Our group performed an umbrella folk dance to share our joy and the Chinese culture with the local community. We had a great time and enjoyed it very much.



Anyway, this year I had a very unusual, but meaningful and enjoyable beginning of the Chinese New Year.

### *CAGT Performs at the Cassandra Seminar and Showcase*

CAGT Cultural Exchange Committee

On February 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2012 in downtown Toledo, internationally acclaimed educator and performer, Cassandra, presented a Seminar and Showcase. This event was sponsored by Leyla Bellydance LLC, and was presented in association with ACGT (The Arts Commission of Greater Toledo), MECDA (Middle Eastern Culture and Dance Association) National Organization & Ohio Chapter, and Independent Advocates of Toledo, Ohio.

CAGT was invited to perform at the event. The CAGT dance group and the newly opened Toledo Academy of Tai Chi and Martial Arts presented a folk dance and a comprehensive Chinese martial arts performance at the event. Our performances were well received. The organizer, Leyla, said in her email:

“I just wanted to thank YOU and your entire group for such stunning performances; everyone had such wonderful things to say about your groups and I was honored to have you! ....I hope you will consider performing again, it was a joy to work with you all!” We also enjoyed the event, the high quality and diverse performances!



## **Congratulations to Dr. Jiquan Chen!**

Dr. Chen, CAGT president, was inducted as a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS), the world's largest general scientific society, February 18, 2012.

## *Toledo Families Adapt Children from China*

Luanne Billstein

In the past 15 years, American families have adopted almost seventy thousand children born in China, and there are more than 100 such families in the greater Toledo area. Seven years ago, a local chapter of an international support group called Families with Children from China (FCC) 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 family. In the past fifteen years, the international adoption of Chinese children has risen in number for two main reasons. First, due to government regulations in response to an ever-increasing population in China, nearly 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 that 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](mailto:Luanne@theBillsteins.com)

## *CAGT/FCC Friendship and Cultural Exchange*

Luanne Billstein

After reading the article about FCC-Toledo (Families with Children from China) you may ask yourself, "How can I help 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 will be introducing some new programs to assist in making rewarding connections between the FCC families and Chinese American families in Toledo. It is our goal to connect families 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 friendship programs. If you would like to

make new friends, make a difference in the life of a child, and help to further the appreciation of our rich cultural heritage in Toledo, stay tuned for details!

### *Family Spotlight*

As part of the "CAGT/FCC Friendship and Culture Exchange", we will be featuring one family from CAGT and one family from FCC in each newsletter. Please enjoy meeting our first two families in the spotlight.

### *FCC Family Spotlight*



#### **Who is in your immediate family?**

Allen Snyder, Danielle Fisher-Snyder, and 6 year old Madrin Monet Snyder

#### **Where do you work and what do you do there?**

Allen has worked 14 years for Hewlett Packard as a Consultant. He designs traditional and cloud based IT solutions for large enterprise customers. Danielle is a self-employed Artist/Designer, classically trained in ceramics and painting. For years she created work exhibited by galleries and museums at the national level. She taught pottery classes to adults and children at the Toledo Potters' Guild and was an Instructor at Maumee Valley Country Day School and Bowling Green State University. Currently, she is focusing on commissioned paintings and interior design projects.

#### **How long have you lived in Toledo?**

Allen and Danielle were born and raised in the Toledo area. Madrin came to Toledo at 11 months of age.



**What does your family enjoy doing together?**

We enjoy traveling to Chicago and spending time at the Shedd Aquarium and can often be found at our amazing Toledo Zoo.

**What would your friends be surprised to learn about you?**

Allen served 10 years active duty in the Army. Danielle can read lips. Madrin loves coffee.

**Name 2 things that you are very good at.**

Allen is good at his job and is an excellent father. Danielle is good at cooking and baking and creating. Madrin is an outstanding reader and has an immense knowledge of the animal kingdom.

**What are your hobbies or interests?**

As a family, we are restoring, with patience and love, our 1938 Art Deco house. Allen and Madrin both enjoy skateboarding. Madrin is most interested in anything animal. She has declared that she desires to be a "Paleontologist Veterinarian" when she is a grown-up.

**What is on the menu for your family's favorite evening meal?**

A good movie and popcorn, apples, and cheese.

**Do you have any pets?**

Not at this moment.

*CAGT Family Spotlight*

**Who is in your immediate family?**

Alan Onest, Olivia Onest), Lindsay 11, Sydney 8

**Where do you work and what do you do there?**

Alan is an Electrical Engineer currently working at an Aluminum Company in MO. Olivia works at HCR Manorcare at downtown Toledo in the operations area.

**How long have you lived in Toledo?**

We have lived in the Perrysburg area for almost 20 years.

**What does your family enjoy doing together?**

We like watching movies, playing Wii, playing soccer, and riding bikes. The TV show the girls are watching the most now is The Three Stooges.

**What would your friends be surprised to learn about you?**

Alan: Dad can be surprisingly helpful sometimes (answered by Lindsay & Sydney)



Olivia: I was from a family with 5 children, very unusual for a Chinese family.

Lindsay: I was in the musical “Annie” produced by Perrysburg Musical Theatre.

Sydney: I want to be a magician someday.

**Name 2 things that you are very good at.**

Alan: Breaking things around the house and fixing them.

Olivia: Keeping the family straight as Mom, and as a CPA, I think I am good with numbers.

Lindsay: Singing and dancing

Sydney: Running and tennis



**What are your hobbies or interests?**

Alan: Hunting, fishing, and watching movies

Olivia: Doing Taichi

Lindsay: Playing piano, and singing

Sydney: Collecting and trading Pokémon cards, fishing and doing magic tricks.

**What is on the menu for your family's favorite evening meal?**

Noodles and Chinese-style slow cooked beef.

**Do you have any pets?**

Not yet, but the girls keep begging for a dog.

# Congratulations!

**2011 CAGT Language/Culture Award Recipients:**

- ❖ The Chinese Language Education Award Recipients – Ning An and Yue Gu
- ❖ The Best overall Grades in Chinese Language Study Award Recipients – David Heuring and Tony Liu
- ❖ The Excellence In Chinese Language Study and Community Service Award Recipients – Lindsay O’nest and Evan Yang
- ❖ The Most Improved Grades in Chinese Language Study Award Recipients – Cherice Chan and Eric Cheng
- ❖ The Most Effort Contributed to Chinese Language Study Award Recipients – Jonny Liu and Gary Sung





This beautiful work of art was created by 7 year old Jasmyn Horak, daughter of Dan and Jenny.

Cover photo of this issue of the CAGT Newsletter by Xiangui Yang.

# 欢迎投稿

CAGT Newsletter Editors would like to thank you for  
your contributions to the newsletter.

Peter You

Luanne Billstein

Please send your newsletter items to:

Luanne Billstein [luannebillstein@sbcglobal.net](mailto:luannebillstein@sbcglobal.net)

Peter You [peteryouUT@yahoo.com](mailto:peteryouUT@yahoo.com)

&

Send youth corner items to our Youth Corner Editors:

Catherine Dong [catherine.dong14@gmail.com](mailto:catherine.dong14@gmail.com)

Starr Jiang [camarokid17@gmail.com](mailto:camarokid17@gmail.com)