

ASIAN CULTURE AND COMMUNITY

Chinese institute marks anniversary

The Confucius Institute at the University of Texas at Dallas will celebrate its one-year anniversary Saturday. Created from a partnership between China Three Gorges University and UTD, the institute promotes the teaching of Chinese language and culture and aims to spread an understanding of China to the wider community. Initial funding and guidance came from the Confucius Institute headquarters in Beijing.

"Having a Confucius Institute has expanded Chinese courses at UTD," said Dr. Ming Dong Gu, institute director, who works closely with Xuanchuan Liu from Three Gorges. Since the institute began last fall, the Chinese studies program has doubled in class size.

Anniversary activities will start with a Chinese film festival, subtitled in English, at 3 p.m. in the Conference Center. At 7:30 p.m., there will be folk dancing by the Jiaping Shi Dancing School, calligraphy demonstrations, a fashion show, poetry recitation by UTD students and a musical performance by Joanne Chen and Jeffrey Weng of the Dallas Chinese Music Society.

Admission is free. Call 972-883-4860 or visit ah.utdallas.edu/confucius.

Sun Ray school hosts youth spelling bee

First through eighth graders displayed their spelling skills Sunday at the 2008 North Texas Youth Spelling Bee. More than 60 high school students from Sun Ray Youth Organization and the North Texas Youth Honor Society organized the competition, which took place at the Sun Ray Chinese School in Carrollton. They received help from Roger Hung and Alicia Young, event co-chairs.

Mr. Hung, founder of My CollegeTRAK, presented a college seminar for parents. Dr. Kuang Wu hosted a word puzzle game called "Wriggle Words" for students.

But the highlight was the spellers who aced tough words in a challenging bee. First-place winners were Vincent Chen (first grade), Sean-Matthew Aujong (second grade), Lokesh Nagineni (third grade), Jesse Tan and Manasa Muppirala (fourth grade), Pooja Marella (fifth grade), Sean Kothapally (sixth



Traditional Chinese folk dancers will be among the performers at the first anniversary celebration for the Confucius Institute at the University of Texas at Dallas.

grade) and Kaushik Basavaraju (seventh/eighth grades). The student volunteers had to attend two training sessions and one rehearsal, Mr. Hung noted. He also recognized Zin

Fan, principal of the Sun Ray Chinese School since 1988, "for her guidance and support."

Sponsors included the Dallas-Fort Worth area chapter of the Chinese Institute of Engineers/USA, Garland Venture,

Medsphere Inc., Southwestern National Bank, Sun Green International and Mr. Hung's company.

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Upcoming events

Today through Sunday

The Bubble Gallery at 413 S. Bishop St. presents an exhibit by photographer Jon Cottam of London from 6 to 10 p.m. tonight and Friday and from 2 to

on the impact of the South Asian market in Irving and North Texas from 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Wednesday in Williams Square East Tower, lower level conference center; 5221 N. O'Connor Blvd. in Irving, R.S.V.P. by Monday to Nancy Brown at