

# Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney 2016 Annual Report

Bridging Australia and China



Confucius Institute  
at UNSW Sydney  
新南威尔士大学孔子学院

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# DIRECTOR'S FOREWORD

During my four years as Director of Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney, I have had the great privilege of being at the forefront of significant and wide-ranging impact in the Australia-China space. Arriving at our seventh year in operation, we have continued to strive towards our goal of bridging Australia and China through language, culture and corporate leadership in 2016.

The Confucius Institute has made significant achievements this past year both in developing new initiatives and programs, and building upon those that are already existing. We look forward to furthering our positive impact within the Sydney community in 2017.

Laurie Pearcey  
Director





# OUR FOCUS

Our principle focus at the Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney is to bridge Australia and China through language, culture and corporate leadership. We provide thought leadership to corporate Australia on the Chinese economy and actively engage in public dialogue regarding the Sino-Australian diplomatic and economic relationship. We are firmly grounded in our belief in China as a transformative power for Australia, and as such provide opportunities for young people and businesses to connect with and understand China. We have built strong foundations in both teaching Mandarin and promoting Chinese culture to students and members of the wider community. We also specialise in executive education, offering Chinese language and culture tutoring to senior managers from leading Australian and multinational corporations.

Our flagship programs and initiatives include:

- Chinese Corner
- Shanghai Study Tour
- Scholarship Program
- Chinese Language Courses
- Chinese for Business



# 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

## Our Flagship Confucius Classroom at Ravenswood Visits China's First Lady in Beijing

On 19 April, the First Lady of the People's Republic of China, Mrs Peng Liyuan, cordially met with teachers and students of the Confucius Classroom at Ravenswood School for Girls at the Diaoyutai State Guesthouse in Beijing.

At the reception, Madame Peng spoke fondly of her visit to Ravenswood's Confucius Classroom in 2014, the student numbers of which have increased from 50 to more than 200. The girls from Ravenswood spoke about their most recent experiences travelling in China, and gave a delightful performance of the Chinese song "You and Me".

Deputy Principal of Ravenswood, David Garner and Chinese Director of Confucius Institute at UNSW, Emma Xi, presented gifts to Madame Peng Liyuan, including embroidery made by the students during her 2014 visit, a signed photograph, and kangaroo and koala dolls. The First Lady then presented the students with two traditional Chinese zithers and study materials to aid them in their Chinese learning journeys.



# 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

## 2016 Sydney Chinese Language Spectacular

Returning for its third year, the 2016 Sydney Chinese Language Spectacular was held on 19 October at Sydney Town Hall. Jointly organised by the Confucius Institute at UNSW and the Chinese Language Teachers' Association of NSW, the event brought together more than 1000 Chinese language students from primary and secondary schools in NSW to showcase their musical and artistic talents.

The theme chosen for the 2016 Chinese Language Spectacular to celebrate Global Confucius Institute Day was "Harmony and Dreams", reflecting the hope to build bridges of friendship between China and Australia, and encourage the spirit of today's youth in pursuing their dreams.

The evening's program—coordinated by Abbotsleigh Chinese teacher, Mingyue Zhang—featured a diverse range of acts, including choral arrangements, traditional dance, martial arts, comedy, drama sketches, poetry recital and musical ensembles. In addition to popular and widely loved Chinese songs, combined school choirs sang familiar tunes such as "Phantom of the Opera", "Sound of Music" and "Ode to Joy" with Chinese lyrics.

The audience of nearly 2000 spectators was comprised of parents, teachers, family and friends of the performers, as well as representatives from the NSW Department of Education, officials from the Chinese Consulate, NSW school principals and distinguished members of industry.





# 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

## Top Folk Musicians from China's PLA Academy of Art Tour Australian Schools

On 11-20 October, a delegation of folk musicians from the PLA Academy of Art in Beijing visited the Confucius Institute at UNSW and toured our Confucius Classrooms and Affiliated Teaching Bases to perform for students and engage in musical exchanges.

Erhu player, Professor Qiu Jiang; Pipa player, Associate Professor Xu Xiaoyan; and Chinese Zither player, Wang Rong, visited 6 schools in their tour, including a special trip to one of the Confucius Institute at Newcastle University's teaching bases. Engaging in teaching activities with nearly 1000 students across a total of 42 classes, the delegation also presented textbooks and CDs of their traditional Chinese instruments to the Confucius Classrooms and Affiliated Teaching Bases.

The tour came to an end with their magnificent performance at the 2016 Chinese Language Spectacular, with the three musicians providing musical accompaniment for the poetry recital of "Prelude to Water Melody" performed by Ravenswood. They also gave a moving performance of the classic piece "Butterfly Lovers" with Kambala student Emily Su, which was easily one of the evening's highlights.

Over the course of their visit, the delegation from the PLA Academy of Art brought countless students and teachers closer to China's rich musical traditions. The tour was a success in providing valuable cultural exchange to help deepen the friendship between Australia and China.





# 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

## The Production of “Let’s Go Nihao”—an Educational Music Video for Children

In an effort to explore new ways of teaching Chinese to children and to encourage greater interest in Chinese learning, the Confucius Institute at UNSW collaborated with director Xu Jing’s production team to produce an original script, song and dance.

The Confucius Institute auditioned and selected ten students from local primary and secondary schools for “Let’s Go Nihao”—an educational music video for children. After just a month of rehearsals, the music video was shot in October at various locations, including Bondi Beach and one of Confucius Institute’s affiliated schools in Sydney.

On 19 October, the final product was screened at the 2016 Chinese Language Spectacular in accompaniment with the young actors of “Let’s Go Nihao” performing on stage. Representing the Confucius Institute at UNSW, this innovative song and dance act inspired by the Chinese legend Journey to the West was warmly received by the audience. The music video served as a preview for the forthcoming production of an educational program aimed at encouraging children in Chinese learning.





# 2016 HIGHLIGHTS

## Chinese Director Junfang Xi Receives 2016 Confucius Institute Individual Performance Excellence Award

On 10 December, Chinese Director of the Confucius Institute at UNSW Australia, Associate Professor Junfang Xi, was honoured with the 2016 Confucius Institute Individual Performance Excellence Award at the 11th Confucius Institute Conference in Kunming. In recognition of her outstanding talents and leadership in managing the Confucius Institute at UNSW, Junfang Xi was presented this esteemed award by Vice Premier of the State Council, Liu Yandong.

Junfang Xi has been instrumental in the development of the Confucius Institute at UNSW. Under her leadership, the number of Confucius Classrooms has increased from zero to eight at present, the team of volunteers and Chinese teachers to 11, and the first non-public Confucius Classroom in New South Wales was established. The number of registered students taught by the Confucius Institute at UNSW, its Confucius Classrooms and Affiliated Teaching Bases has grown from 500 to over 3600, and non-registered students from 0 to over 900.

Among her many achievements in promoting Chinese education, Junfang Xi most notably established the popular Chinese Language Spectacular. She has also actively initiated and participated in high-level visits and receptions, including Chinese First Lady, Madame Peng Liyuan's visit to the Confucius Classroom at Ravenswood School for Girls, as well as the return visit by the students in Beijing.



# SIGNATURE EVENTS

## Cultural Events



### Chinese Corner

This popular event aims to give UNSW students a deeper understanding of Chinese culture by focusing each week on a particular topic, such as music, calligraphy or festivals. Under the guidance of a project manager in the office, our team of talented Confucius Institute Student Ambassadors delivers a fun-filled semester of cultural lessons, games and activities.

The Student Ambassadors, made up of Chinese international students, plan and run each session, attracting approximately 20 to 30 students eager to learn more about China outside of the classroom. We have received very positive feedback from local students who particularly appreciated the opportunity to interact with native Chinese speakers their own age and to practise their Mandarin in a friendly and relaxed setting.



### Kingsford Lunar New Year Celebrations

For the second year running, the Confucius Institute at UNSW and the office of Federal Member for Kingsford-Smith, Matt Thistlethwaite MP, came together to host Chinese New Year celebrations on 13 February in Eastern Sydney's Dacey Gardens Park.

There was a plethora of stalls, activities and performances at this vibrant community event which celebrated different aspects of Chinese culture, including traditional folk dancing and music, traditional clothing, lion dances and traditional foods. On the day, teachers and ambassadors from the Confucius Institute handed out red envelopes with chocolate coins to the public and ran a host of interactive activities, such as Chinese knotting, paper cutting, calligraphy and diabolo juggling.



# SIGNATURE EVENTS

## Cultural Events



### Film Seminar on China's Socialist Satires

On 9 June, Associate Professor Wang Yiman from the University of California, Santa Cruz delivered an engaging and insightful seminar entitled "The Animal and the Animalistic in China's Late 1950s Socialist Cinematic Satires". Jointly hosted by the Confucius Institute at UNSW and the Chinese Studies Program at the UNSW School of Humanities and Languages, the seminar attracted an attentive audience of students, professors and interested locals.

Associate Professor Wang analysed the satires *A Nightmare in the Zoo* (1956) and *An Unfinished Comedy* (1957) through a theoretical lens, highlighting in particular the complex relationship between the human and animal characters in both films. The seminar prompted stimulating and high level debate in the follow-up Q&A, with audience members thoughtfully engaging with the ideas presented.



### Literary Seminar on Li Yu's Poetry

On 23 August, Professor Jihai Gao from Henan University was invited by Confucius Institute at UNSW and the Chinese Studies Program at the UNSW School of Humanities and Languages to deliver a seminar entitled "Walking into the World of Li Yu".

Professor Gao gave an intriguing overview of Li Yu's unexpected ascension to the throne and examined a selection of his Ci-poems which described his luxurious life in the palace, passionate love for his two wives, and lament over the eventual loss of his position. The students and professors who attended the seminar delighted in gaining such scholarly insight into one of China's most fascinating and greatest poets.



# SIGNATURE EVENTS

## Cultural Events



### Panel on Cultural Exchange along the Silk Road

On 23 November, the Confucius Institute at UNSW held the forum “East Meets West on the Silk Road: Tracing the path of cultural exchange from antiquity to the digital future”. Our panellists included Professor Sun Zengtian, award-winning documentary director; Sarah Kenderdine, Professor at UNSW Art & Design and Director of Visualisation for UNSW’s EPICentre; and Yin Cao, Curator of Chinese Art at the Art Gallery of NSW; with panel moderator Dr Nicholas Morris, Adjunct Professor at UNSW Law.

The four experts shared their insights into the Silk Road’s history of cultural exchange and discussed their views on the innovative technologies shaping its future. In cooperation with Professor Kenderdine, three screenings of *Pure Land: Inside the Mogao Grottoes* at Dunhuang were held at iCinema in a rare opening to the public. Visitors marvelled at the 3D technology which transported them inside the ancient cave.

# SIGNATURE EVENTS

## Educational Projects

### Scholarship Program

We encourage our students to apply for the Confucius Institute Scholarships to study in China that are offered by Hanban Headquarters. Since our inception in 2009, we have had a total of 15 students study in China through our scholarships. Those awarded scholarships are exempt from tuition and accommodation fees, while also being provided with a monthly allowance of CNY2500 per month and comprehensive medical insurance.

### Free Chinese Language Help

Every semester we offer students studying Chinese at UNSW Sydney the opportunity to attend our Free Chinese Language Help. This one-on-one tutoring service gives students the chance to work through any problems they might be having with Chinese and work with a native speaker to advance their language aptitude. We have found that the students who are tutored by us are often the top students in their classes.

### Chinese for Business

The Chinese for Business initiative is our industry outreach program, designed to encourage businesspeople to learn more about Chinese language and culture. During our cooperation with the Australia China Business Council, we discovered there were many business people interested in dealing with China, but perhaps lacked solid understanding of Chinese. Hence, our experienced Chinese language teacher, A/Prof Peijun Chen, opened the Chinese for Business course which has been welcomed by the Sydney business community.



### 2016 Chinese Bridge Competition

The Confucius Institute at UNSW has a tradition of producing top Chinese language talent, evidenced by our strong presence in the Chinese Bridge Competition in previous years. After thorough screening and more than a month of intense training, we selected four contestants in May 2016 to participate in the 2016 Chinese Bridge Competition, one of whom won third place in the Sydney Division. The Confucius Institute also successfully recommended two former contestants who are now studying at Shanghai Jiao Tong University.



# SIGNATURE EVENTS

## Educational Projects



### School Excursions to the Tang Exhibition

On 20-21 June, a total of 120 students from our Confucius Classrooms and Affiliated Teaching Bases visited "Tang: treasures from the Silk Road capital" at the Art Gallery of NSW on a school excursion sponsored by the Confucius Institute. The exhibition featured a wondrous array of precious artefacts, ceramics, sculptures, and mural paintings from the Tang Empire. Furthermore, a creative contest for students was organised in conjunction with the exhibit, with prizes presented to the most outstanding works.



### Shanghai Study Tour

On June 28, an excited group of 22 students from UNSW embarked on a two-week business study tour at Shanghai Jiao Tong University (SJTU). A total of 52 students applied for a spot, with only 22 outstanding students securing their place after interviews. On the study tour, the students took language classes at SJTU, conducted site visits to SAIC Volkswagen and Union Pay, learnt Tai Chi and Chinese calligraphy, and visited Suzhou's famous canals. The 2016 Shanghai Study Tour was a great success, with students both furthering their Mandarin skills and gaining an enriched understanding of China.

# SIGNATURE EVENTS

## Educational Projects



### Chinese Lessons for UNSW Staff

On 18 August, the Confucius Institute at UNSW launched its new program “Beginners Chinese for Business and Travel”, offering free weekly Chinese lessons to UNSW Staff. In response to the growing demand for Chinese lessons among staff, the Confucius Institute tailored this new curriculum to develop basic language proficiency and help facilitate business exchanges for better cross-cultural communication. From the preparation of teaching materials to the recording of supporting audio, the lessons received positive feedback from the staff members who attended.



### Chinese Teacher Workshop

On 19 November, the Confucius Institute at UNSW held a Chinese language teaching training workshop with more than 30 participating teachers. This acted as a platform to deepen the relationship amongst Chinese teachers affiliated with the Institute and increase levels of cooperation between the Institute and various levels of education institutions throughout Sydney. The topics discussed during the workshop included “Discussing the Improvement of Chinese Community Schools”, “The UNSW Chinese Syllabus”, “Music and Body Learning” and “Classroom Management”, etc.



# SIGNATURE EVENTS

## Collaboration and Engagement



### O-Week at UNSW

On 22-24 February, the Confucius Institute at UNSW participated in the university's start-of-semester orientation event, O-Week. Over the 3 days, our staff, ambassadors and volunteers enthusiastically promoted the language and cultural activities offered by the Confucius Institute for new and returning students. Our stall featured a variety of Chinese cultural activities and crafts to engage students, and we were successful in recruiting more than 300 new students while also increasing our profile on campus.



### Hubei Minister Visits the Confucius Institute

On 25 May, Publicity Minister of Hubei Provincial Committee, Liang Weinian, made an official visit to the Confucius Institute at UNSW. Minister Liang and his delegation were warmly welcomed by Confucius Institute Director, Laurie Pearcey, and Chinese Director, Associate Professor Emma Xi. Associate Professor Xi gave an overview of the Institute's history and its many initiatives which have helped promote Chinese language and culture in Sydney. Minister Liang spoke about the growth of Australia and China's special relationship, and talked of future collaboration between the Jingxin Academy in Hubei and UNSW.

# SIGNATURE EVENTS

Collaboration and Engagement



## Conference on the China Australia Free Trade Agreement

On 17-18 June, the “Chinese-Australian Economic Law Relations in the post-ChAFTA World” conference was hosted by UNSW Law with support from the Confucius Institute. Featuring scholarly review, analysis and projections of the China Australia Free Trade Agreement (ChAFTA), the two-day conference attracted approximately 70 leading scholars and experts in the field from both Australia and overseas. Over 30 scholars presented at the conference across eight key themes, with lively discussion following each panel during the audience question time.



## China-Australia Business Forum

On 21 October, the Confucius Institute at UNSW and Business School at UNSW jointly held the Business Forum “Australian Company Human Resources Strategy Solutions in China” which attracted more than 50 experts and scholars in the field. Chris Styles, Dean of the Business School, gave the opening speech, and Frank Kennedy, Executive Director of Education at the Institute of Australia Management, hosted a case study. The audience was then divided into groups to discuss the case and share their experience in China’s commercial field. Participants agreed that such forums help companies develop more intuitive understanding of the Chinese market for future trade.



# SIGNATURE EVENTS

Collaboration and Engagement



## Project Hope Charity Dinner

On 18 August, the Confucius Institute at UNSW and Project Hope Society held a 10th Anniversary Charity Dinner for Project Hope. The event aimed to help underprivileged children in rural China by raising funds to set up scholarships and provide uniforms, desks, chairs and teaching resources to local communities. The charity dinner attracted more than 80 young Chinese and foreign students from the University of New South Wales, and also constitutes one of the many activities in the Confucius Institute's "Engaging China" program.



## Chinese Cultural Night with UNSW Dorms

On 17 September, the Confucius Institute at UNSW and the Student Dormitory Management Committee jointly held a "Cultural Night in China" at Colombo House, the university's largest student dormitory. It is home to international students from more than 30 countries and is very multicultural. Incorporating Mid-Autumn Festival celebrations into the evening's activities, the event attracted more than 50 students and helped them to better understand China's rich heritage and culture.

# SIGNATURE EVENTS

Collaboration and Engagement



## Panda Snaps Promotion

On 4 October, the Confucius Institute at UNSW organised a "Panda Snaps" promotional event. Students on campus had the opportunity to meet the Confucius Institute mascot "Pan Pan the Panda", and answer questions about Chinese culture to win prizes. This event saw the participation of more than 200 students, utilising social networking platforms with a live broadcast on Facebook to reach out to an additional 2115 people. By building publicity and driving online traffic through Facebook, the Confucius Institute at UNSW now has 570 followers, with its latest event catching the attention of 21,000 people.



# OUR TEAM

Laurie Pearcey

Executive Director, International and Director, Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney

Associate Professor Dr Emma Junfang Xi

Chinese Director, Confucius Institute at UNSW Sydney

Dr Sun Yingli

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