Two young Canadians are off to China

Two intelligent and articulate young Canadians have won the Harry Elton Memorial Bursary which enables them to attend the ten-day 2006 Chinese International Youth Interactive Friendship Camp in Shanghai and Hangzhou, August 7-16, 2006. The Camp is organized by the Shanghai People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries and includes tours of major sites in Shanghai and Hangzhou, instruction in the Chinese language, learning Chinese songs and making dim sum, lessons in kung fu and Chinese folk arts, time spent with a Chinese family and with Chinese students, and plenty of fun with their international counterparts.

Selected from a group of 37 candidates from schools across Ottawa and Gatineau, the two winners of the award are Miss Neuczki Mathurin, a Grade 10 student at Elmwood School, and Mr. Nicholas Zhen Wang, a Grade 11 student at Lisgar Collegiate. Neuczki is described as a remarkable leader in her school community who, among many other activities, has been studying Mandarin on her own time working with a language tutor and enrolling in the Saturday program of OCDSB. She is an active member of her school’s athletic teams, tutors other students in French, participated in a debating tournament at McGill University, and holds an Overall Academic Excellence Award for academic distinction.

Nicholas, who is also known as Nick, is an accomplished musician, described as fluent in French and Mandarin, and winner of the Pewter Award with an average of more than 90% in his academic program over the past two years. He won the Gladys Barnes Memorial Scholarship for Piano and is currently pursuing A.R.C.T. certification from the Royal Conservatory of Music in Toronto, while playing violin in the school orchestra and jazz ensemble. He participates in a number of the school’s athletic teams and activities. A notable event was his organization of a concert at the National Library together with his musical friends in aid of the Tsunami victims in January of last year.
The Harry Elton Memorial Fund and family of Harry Elton asked the Canada-China Friendship Society of Ottawa to conduct the competition and enrol the winners in the Shanghai Youxie program. A selection committee was formed consisting of John Hilliker, Gilliane Lapointe, Marguerite McDonald, Lolan Merklinger, and James Steele. There were many excellent candidates and we wish we could send more of them to China. CCFS has already scheduled an evening on Thursday, September 21 at the Richelieu-Vanier Centre, 300 Av. des Peres-Blancs, where we will hear from these two outstanding Canadians on their experience in China. We hope to see you there.

Viewing of precious Chinese Paintings at the National Gallery

On May 15, the National Gallery of Canada opened its archives to reveal five exceptional Chinese paintings from the Qing and Ming periods for a viewing by about 50 CCFS-Ottawa members and friends. Dr. Ming Tiampo, Professor of Art History at Carleton University, provided an engaging commentary. Included in the presentation was a late Ming scroll, c. 1540, about 3 metres in height, of the Han Emperor Guang Wu fording a river on horseback with a small entourage. The brilliant colours and level of technique achieved are magnificent. It is the National Gallery’s most valuable Chinese painting. Other works included a landscape of the four seasons by Lan Ying, 18th cent. Ming, ink and full colours on silk handscroll, more than 4 metres in length and the longest of the Gallery’s paintings. A surprisingly modern Quince and poem, ink on paper by Zhu Da, described as the most original of the 18th century painters, evoked interesting comments. Mrs. Jean Palmer of the Gallery staff worked with the CCFS President over several weeks to make this event possible.

Sunday Afternoon Tea with CCFS members and friends

Evelyn Wu Amberg, long-time member of CCFS-Ottawa, invited members and friends to the party room of her condominium on April 23 for tea and refreshments and some good old-fashioned conversation. Twenty-five responded to her invitation and had a most enjoyable time. Afterwards Evelyn wrote this item for the Newsletter:

I have been a member of the Canada-China Friendship Society since 1989, and served as treasurer until 1992. There were many activities which I appreciated very much and met many friends that have the same interests and enthusiasm about the Society. However, there was a time when I found it not so intriguing any more and I became inactive; only when Lolan and her crew came on board did I participate again.

On April 23 I had the pleasure to host a tea party for some former board members; Alice West, Annette Moison, Liz Styffe and some of my personal friends were there to meet Lolan and listen to her talk about many successful events in the past and exciting programs for the future. Also there were some members in good standing who cannot make it to our monthly meetings in the evening. They so enjoyed the afternoon gathering to renew old times with lively conversation, accompanied by tea and sweets. Thank you all for your contributions. It was kind of Mrs. Major, Mr. Menzies and Betty and Tsin Van to come a long way and meet us on that cold rainy day.

Two huge albums were on display for viewing that belonged to Annette. What a colourful photo-record of numerous CCFS activities dating back to 1982-1996. As a result of this happy occasion, two new members were welcomed into our Society.

- Evelyn Wu Amberg
Coming Events

- **June 28.** Illustrated talk by Dr. Xiao-chun Wu, Research Scientist, Museum of Nature, on collaboration between Canada and China in dinosaur studies. Library and Archives Canada, Rm 156 at 7:30 p.m. Dr. Wu has done extensive field work in China and in North America.

- **September 21.** First CCFS meeting of the fall season with presentations from the winners of the Harry Elton Memorial Awards and the representatives of our Chapter who will attend the Chinese Friendship Forum in Wuhan and anniversary celebrations in Shanghai in September.

- **October 19.** Illustrated talk by Ms. Ann Chudleigh, CCFS member on her long-time fascination with Chinese gardens – she visited twenty-three of them in China in April. Details TBA.

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**Dashan Performance a Great Success**

On March 23, Mark Rowswell (a.k.a. Dashan) visited Ottawa to receive the Key to the City from Mayor Bob Chiarelli and give a special performance to benefit the Chinese seniors home located at the Glebe Centre. Dashan treated all present to a spectacular show together with high calibre talent from Toronto. The performance was seen by a full house and raised $12,000 for the Glebe Centre plus $4,000 designated by Dashan for the United Way.

*From left to right, Tsin Van, Lolan Merklinger, Dashan, Ambassador Lu, Jeffrey de Fourestier*

*Continued on next page*
Vice-president Jeffrey de Fourestier represented CCFS on the organizing committee, which was made up of various leaders from the Chinese community including another CCFS member Winnie Wang. Our VP was responsible for fund-raising, marketing, promotion and media and oversaw all ticket sales. CCFS therefore had a key role in ensuring the success of the event and CCFS members were well represented in the audience. As well, our VP personally managed to find the most corporate sponsors for the event.

Among the first sponsors recruited was Mrs. Joan Sun McGarry. She was subsequently asked by Mayor Chiarelli to be the MC for a special reception given by the Mayor and the Chinese Ambassador just prior to the show. Tsin Van made a presentation of some photographs to Dashan, while a letter of thanks to the organizing committee from the Treasury Board Minister, John Baird, was delivered by Jeffrey de Fourestier.

To honour Dashan and to thank those involved from the community, the Chinese Ambassador gave a buffet reception at the Embassy the following evening, an event attended by our President Lolan Merklinger, Ambassador Arthur Menzies, James Steele, Jeffrey and others.

Dashan – biographical note

Mark Rowswell was born in Ottawa, graduated from Nepean Collegiate, studied Chinese at the University of Toronto and went to Beijing in the early 1980s to continue studying Chinese. He acquired such a remarkable command of the four-tone Mandarin Chinese that he was invited to take part in Chinese TV shows. He was nicknamed Dashan, or Big Mountain, because of his unusual height.

Dashan gained his reputation in Xiangsheng, a form of cross-talk in which two people will exchange sentences in which they deliberately misinterpret the tone and therefore the meaning of the interlocutor’s question or assertion. Starting out as the dumb foreigner, Dashan ends up by tripping up his Chinese opponent.

Having established his TV personality, with an audience of several hundred million on CCTV, the main Chinese national TV channel, Dashan has been featured in a 24-part TV series about a 17th century European Jesuit missionary who served as the official painter for three Manchu emperors.

Along with Dashan in Ottawa were a small company of accomplished female dancers from Toronto in costume performing minority-style dances, a fine male baritone singing popular Chinese songs, and two Chinese graduate students attending Carleton University who also presented a skit of Xiangsheng cross-talk. Finally, Dashan performed a traditional rhythmic storytelling called Kuaiban, with bamboo clappers held in one hand (like a pair of castanets) to mark the rhythm—a seemingly impossible task to keep all this going with precision timing to the great delight of his audience. He added an explanation in English and a note about the charity projects to which he has contributed in China.

With contributions from Jeffrey de Fourestier and Arthur Menzies
Twinning Proposal from a City in Northern Jiangsu Province

The city of Xinyi (population 970,000), situated on the Grand Canal and border with Shandong province in northern Jiangsu, wrote to CCFS-Ottawa in early spring asking us to find a partner or “twin” preferably in Ontario, the Canadian province which has been twinned very successfully with Jiangsu province for more than 20 years. A candidate has been identified in the region of Bruce and Grey counties, which include several small cities, the scenic Bruce Peninsula, and a futures development organization based in Kincardine, Ontario. In an energetic response to our proposal, Bruce area leaders will host a delegation of eight from the Xinyi area in early July, including as leader the Deputy Mayor of Xinyi City, the Director of the Foreign Affairs Office in Xinyi, the mayors of two satellite communities and representatives of the chemical and wine industries in the Xinyi district.

Their program will include a tour of the Bruce Nuclear facility and the surrounding tourist areas, a reflection of a similar lake district in northern Jiangsu, and discussion of possible areas of cooperation, including agri-business (pork processing being a growing industry in Bruce), energy and technology (including water treatment, i.e. Walkerton). A dinner cruise is tentatively on the program from Tobermory! After leaving Bruce County, the delegation will visit Niagara Falls before returning to Toronto for onward travel. Lolan and Ken Merklinger will accompany the visiting delegation together with Ron Drews, CCFS member and communications consultant who has acted as liaison with the Bruce communities.

FCCFA Delegation to attend CPAFFC Forum in Wuhan and 50th Anniversary Celebrations in Shanghai, September 5 - 15

In response to an invitation from Mme. Li Xiaolin, Vice President of the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries, Lolan Merklinger will lead a 10-member delegation from Ottawa, Toronto, Winnipeg, Calgary and Victoria to China in September for meetings in Beijing, Wuhan and Shanghai. A Friendship Forum will be held in Wuhan, attended by delegates from the U.S., Canada, Australia, New Zealand and some other English-speaking countries to discuss future programs and activities under the friendship banner. The delegation will also participate in celebrations marking the 50th anniversary of the Shanghai People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (SPAFFC).

Only chapters which maintain active membership in the Federation of Canada-China Friendship Associations have been invited to the Forum. In addition to the Federation President, the Ottawa representatives will be Tsin Van and our Vice-President, Jeffrey de Fourestier, with Georges Samné as an alternate.

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New Members – A warm welcome to the following new members: Steve Hagopian and Chris Harding, Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Kelly, Stefan Moldovan, Edgar Sarton, Li Wei, Irene Zhou. Membership forms may be obtained from Meibing Fu, Membership Secretary (613) 590-1558 or the website www.theottawamusician.com/CCFS.

Membership fees: individual $20, family $25; full-time student $12, student family $17.
Note on ADS for Chinese Visitors to Canada

An informative talk on this topic was sponsored by the Hong Kong Canada Business Association and held at the Commercial Section of the Chinese Embassy on June 1. Ms. Margot Booth, Director, Communications and Public Relations for the Tourism Industry Association of Canada, described the current status of discussions between the Canadian and Chinese authorities on a proposal to grant Approved Destination Status for Chinese visitors to Canada. Following is an excerpt from her remarks:

“My presentation is about a subject that is very exciting for the tourism industry and for the wider business community in Ottawa and across Canada, and that is the granting to Canada of China Approved Destination Status, or ADS. It is a bilateral tourism agreement that could dramatically increase the number of Chinese visitors to Canada. With 100 million Chinese citizens a year expected to travel abroad as tourists by 2020 according to the UN World Tourism Organization, China represents a huge potential market for Canada.

“At present, mainland Chinese can generally obtain an exit visa to come to Canada for only business or study purposes, or to visit friends or family. Pleasure travelers have represented only 16% of the total. Last year, over 120,000 Chinese citizens visited Canada, an increase of almost 15% over 2004. Plus, there was a 19.5% increase in visa issuance for Chinese to visit Canada for the first quarter of 2006. With China ADS, we expect to double or triple the number of Chinese visitors, and the figure could grow as high as 1.4 million by 2020.

“Close to 70 other countries around the world have already been granted ADS since China officially opened its borders in 1990, allowing its people to gradually begin visiting the rest of the world. The outbound market, originally developed for Hong Kong and Macao, has been growing rapidly ever since.

“In January 2005, China officially agreed to grant Canada ADS. But even though we’ve finally been granted the green light, there are still many steps and negotiations to complete in order for the agreement to be finalized. The Canadian Embassy in China continues to make requests to the Chinese National Tourism Authority for the resumption of negotiation meetings, but so far it’s not clear when this might happen...

“Based on the experience of Australia and Japan, which have been granted ADS status, this process was expected to take upwards of a year. It’s taken longer than we thought, and we can’t say yet when the agreement will be operational. Meanwhile, the travel industry in Canada is getting ready to properly welcome Chinese visitors by educating themselves about the needs and expectations of visitors from China...”

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A Reminder of our Founding Principles drafted December 4, 1975

Our purpose:

“To encourage the development of friendship between the peoples of Canada and China by promoting an understanding of the history and of all aspects of economic, political and cultural life today in the People’s Republic of China. The Society is open to any person who would like to develop a friendship with China, irrespective of his/her philosophical, political or religious beliefs...It is not a group of experts on China!”
City of Ottawa recognizes CCFS member Dominic D’Arcy

Mayor Bob Chiarelli threw a very special dinner in honour of the “Singing Policeman” Dominic D’Arcy on May 16 at which he was presented with the “Key to the City”, performed with his customary energy and spirit, and presented two of his brilliant, young discoveries, Alyssa Radelusku aged 8, and Alex Lacasse 13. The sit-down dinner was held “bistro style” in City Hall, emceed by Max Keeping, and attended by 140 civic leaders, politicians, members of the Police Services Board and the family of Dominic D’Arcy.

A biographical note prepared for the occasion states: “Dominic D’Arcy is a true minstrel. The songs he writes are about people, communities, dreams and hopes. The songs he sings whether folk, Irish, pop, country or international are celebrations. His audience – children, adults, young and old – know immediately why he has found such a measure of national and international success. …in 1997 he performed live in China for a TV audience of 350 million people. In 1999 he returned to China to perform at the ‘Great Wall’ festival with an estimated audience of 450 million people.

“Dominic has always encouraged young people to share his stage in order to gain experience and use it as a springboard to the next level. Several of those young performers have gone to the big stage including: Alanis Morisette, Polly Shannon…… Dominic grew up in the tiny Irish community of Sheenboro, in Western Quebec, in a musical family of six boys and six girls. He and his wife Noellie have two sons Darren and Anthony.”

Julia Bentley on Chinese Civil Society

On April 5 Ms. Julia Bentley addressed a meeting of CCFS-Ottawa at Library and Archives on the topic of “Chinese Civil Society: How are Chinese NGOs contributing to society, and what role can international support play?” Although Ms. Bentley is currently Senior Policy Advisor for Asia Pacific with the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, she spoke in an unofficial capacity about her experience in the private sector directing an NGO capacity building program and working exclusively with civil society organizations in China.

Ms. Bentley noted that “civil society” has been defined by the United Nations as the space between the family, the market, and the state, which is occupied by voluntary associations of all kinds. Such associations are independent of government and serve to promote a wide variety of causes and interests. They are often considered “an important part of modernization,” “possibly a pre-requisite for democracy,” and an “expression of grass-roots pluralism.”

She described her work for Winrock International to help NGOs with strategic planning, governance and leadership, human-resource management, and financial management. The program had helped strengthen the management capacity of some 18 Chinese NGOs and made a genuine difference to the organizational development of a majority of the participating NGOs. However Ms Bentley said that more work needed to be done on governance and accountability and a permanent management advisory clinic would be useful. She discussed the pros and cons of international assistance from both the Chinese and foreign donor points of view.

The talk was attended by returned members Suzanne Taschereau and husband Paul Brennan - the first Vice-President of FCCFA in 1980, Ms. LI Caiyun from the Chinese Embassy, professors and students, and individuals from the government and business sectors. - James Steele
A Poem of Appreciation for my Canadian supervisor, Professor James Steele

Landed
at Ottawa Airport,
everything is new, and I feel
uneasy.
Standing there,
a luggage cart is by your side.
Your smile
narrow the distance
between Canada and China,
between you and me.
A warm dinner is waiting for me -
a Chinese scholar,
the same warmth as you had
on your academic visit to China several years ago.

You drive me around
to a concert, the library,
and your cottage,
discussing Canadian Poetry by the Ottawa River
crystal-clear.
You — a light — guide me to find my way
through Canadian literature;
You — a valiant one — impress me by your strong will
to struggle against cancer cells,
just like your national spirit
struggled for Canadian universities in the 1960s.

I appreciate you.
But —
How can I express this feeling?
When I came near you,
I wished to gain a gentle breeze,
but —
you grant me a splendid spring.

- by Ms. Li Wei, Chinese Visiting Scholar at Carleton University, Dec. 2005. Li is a member of our Society and a Professor of Comparative Literature in Hohhot, Inner Mongolia.

魏莉（中国内蒙古大学英语系；加拿大渥太华卡尔顿大学英语系访问学者）
John Small 1919–2006

A former Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China and an esteemed member of our Friendship Society for many years, John Small died peacefully on May 24, 2006. At a Memorial Service on May 31, CCFS member Arthur Menzies gave the eulogy about his career. He said in part:

“John Small was a China Mishkid like me. He was born December 19, 1919 in Chengdu, the capital of the big highly populated province of Sichuan. Before World War II the only access to Sichuan was by boat up the great Yangzi River. Smaller boats pulled by gangs of trackers moved passengers up through the churning waters of the Yangzi Gorges, where a giant dam is just now being completed. Canadian United Church missionaries stationed in North Henan, where I was born, only met their Sichuan colleagues at Shanghai at the mouth of the Yangzi River or back on leave in Canada. John attended the Canadian mission school in Chengdu and returned to Canada for university training...

“John studied at the Ontario Agricultural College in Guelph. On graduation in 1941 John enlisted as Sub Lieutenant in the Royal Canadian Naval Reserve and put in four arduous and risky years in naval convoy work in the North Atlantic, in the Mediterranean, in the Normandy landing and later in Australian waters. He returned to university studies in Toronto, earning a BA degree in 1949.

“John joined the Department of Trade and Commerce as an Agricultural Trade Commissioner and was posted to the Hague from 1950 to 55. (Somewhat later) I talked to John about transferring to External Affairs as we needed officers with some background in China and the Chinese language. We sent him to the University of Toronto to brush up on his Chinese language. I don’t think this was a great success because his teacher wanted him to read Tang poetry instead of drilling him on reading current newspapers. John was posted to Hong Kong in 1958 when Canada began selling large shipments of wheat to the People’s Republic of China where mismanagement during the Great Leap Forward campaign had resulted in starvation for many peasants. John made a number of trips into the PRC as a Trade Commissioner. He wrote some very informative reports on what he saw and heard on these trips, at a time when we had no diplomatic relations with the PRC...

“John was cross-posted in 1972 as Ambassador to the People’s Republic of China because our first Ambassador to the PRC, Ralph Collins, developed a blood circulation problem. This was a challenging time to serve in China because we had just established diplomatic relations in 1970 after a 20-year estrangement. The tumultuous Cultural Revolution was still in full force. Yet Canada was trying to build its relations with Communist China through the 1973 visit of Prime Minister Trudeau and other Ministerial visits. John managed this complex situation with panache and still found time to play tennis with the American diplomatic representative, George Bush senior, later President of the United States and father of the current President George W. Bush...

“In retirement John and Jean enjoyed their cottage in the Rideau Lakes. John continued to play vigorous tennis with a group of old friends. And they were active members of the Canada-China Friendship Society, the Royal Commonwealth Society, the Canadian Institute of International Affairs and the Retired Heads of Mission Association.

Continued on next page
“Today we look back on the varied career of an officer who served Canada in the navy during World War II and maintained the highest standards of public service at home and abroad, with ability, steadiness and unfailing good humour! What a career! What pioneering work he did! What attention to duty! He was also a devoted husband to Jean and father of their four daughters. Let us give thanks for the full and productive life John shared with us, his friends and admirers. And to Jean and family our thanks for sharing John with us.”

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Changes at the Chinese Embassy

At the beginning of July, the Head of the Cultural Section at the Chinese Embassy, Counsellor Yang Xuelun will be succeeded by Counsellor Zhao Haishen. We very much appreciated the friendship of Counsellor and Madame Yang who are returning to Beijing, and wish to extend a warm welcome to Counsellor Zhao who is arriving from the Chinese Consulate General in Houston, Texas.

An award of appreciation - Principal Anna Bowles took time recently to reflect on the success of the OCDSB programs in Continuing Education and to use the occasion to present Awards of Appreciation to certain employees for their many years of dedicated service. Two such deserving recipients are CCFS members Mary Lee, Banquet Co-ordinator, and Constantine Ioannou. Congratulations Mary and Constantine!

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The Society’s website is maintained by Stephen Hagopian. Previous issues of the Newsletter can be found on this website: [www.theottawamusician.com/CCFS](http://www.theottawamusician.com/CCFS). The Newsletter is edited by Kenneth Merklinger.