

Summer 2010 Newsletter

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A short message by Roy Chan:

Dear friends and family:

Welcome to my fourth newsletter! I hope you are all having a great summer holiday!

Earlier this summer, I had completed my year-long teaching abroad experience in mainland China.

This summer has been a exciting yet difficult experience for me when I had to say good-bye to thousands of wonderful students I had been teaching this past year. Leaving my school was hard at first yet I was excited to leave my city knowing that I have touched thousands of students lives as the only foreigner in my town.

I am finally back home with my family and friends in Long Beach, California.

These past couple weeks, I have been sharing to many friends and relatives about my exciting experience teaching English abroad. Quiet contrary, I am still adjusting to life eating American fast food and the "not so great" Chinese food here in Southern California. I really miss the tasty spicy food over in mainland China.

Throughout the month of July 2010, I have been enjoying my free time dancing these last couple weeks by participating in a Summer Dance Intensive program at Los Angeles, California with the "L.A. Contemporary Dance Center" in ballet, modern and jazz

Outside of dance, I have been busy getting ready for my postgraduate studies this September 2010 at

The University of Hong Kong. Prior to my graduate studies, I will be taking a summer school course at Peking University entitled "Chinese Foreign Policy" in Beijing, China during the month of August 2010.

But until then, I wish you all continued best with your summer vacation this year.



Stay cool,
Roy Chan, M.Ed.

Special points of interest:

- Student of the Year
- Photos never seen before
- Inspiration Quotes
- Graduate School
- Special THANKS/ CONGRATULATIONS



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Reflections of China, Accomplishments and Highlights

There are many words that I can use to describe my year teaching abroad, but one word that best summarizes my year abroad is: hope.

Many of my students whom I had taught remained "hopeful" that they would enter university after high school and perform well on the Gao Kao examination. I too remain hopeful that some of the students will see me as an example for them to pursue their calling in life.

One of my many accomplishments I had made during the year was teaching English to over 2,500+ Chinese stu-

dents per week. I had taught about 28 classes per week, with each class consisting of about 60-70 students. Teaching a large amount of classes was very challenging at first, but the ultimate reward to sacrifice and volunteer my time investing and impacting thousands of student lives was by far the most incredible experience ever during my year in mainland China.

"WorldTeach," a non-profit non-governmental organization based at the Center for International Development at Harvard University, had allowed me to discover what I

am truly passionate in life: education and international development. As a result of "WorldTeach," I am currently now pursuing a M.Ed. degree in Higher Education and Educational Policy studies at The University of Hong Kong beginning Fall 2010.

During my postgraduate studies, I hope to use my experience from "WorldTeach" as examples of how I can help improve education throughout East Asia. As I look back at my teaching experience abroad, one aspect that I will remember most are the relationships that I had build with each student.

2009-2010 Student of the Year, Hengyang No. 8 High School



Having over 2,500 students per week, to select one student as the 2009-2010 Student of the Year in my school at Hengyang, China was very difficult to decide during the early part of June 2010.

Student of the Year was selected by faculties and staff within my school to praise one student for their hard work both inside and outside the classroom.

After a careful review with the Headmaster and its Board of Directors, I would like to take the time to congratulate **Lei Shi Qing** as the 2009-2010 Student of the Year at Heng-

yang Number Eight High School.

She was very energetic, hard working, and talented individual who I felt distinguished herself from others by her unique and extrovert personality.



2009-2010 Student of the Year

* Lei Shi Qing

Honors

- * Duan Hanyu
- * Wang Xing Yun
- * Deng Jie Yi
- * Huang YuMin
- * Huang Qian Yao
- * Gao Yi Zhao
- * Xie Kang Di
- * Sun Zheng Yu
- * Qin Junning

"In order to be irreplaceable, one must always be different"

~Coco Chanel,
French fashion designer

China Photos, Spring Semester 2010



My short journey to Istanbul, Turkey

Stress had become a common theme during my year teaching English abroad in China. After completing my year long program in China, the one thing that was constantly in my mind was 'rest'.

Being a teacher abroad was a very stressful experience. The need to take a couple weeks off prior to heading back home in the United States was not only important but necessary.

When I look back at my traveling experience over the last three years, it is incredible feeling to recognize that I have been to over ten different independent countries around the world this last three years. The opportunity to travel all around the world has been such a blessing in my life.

During the early part of July 2010, I had decided to embark on a short vacation to the Middle East in Turkey.

Visiting the ancient city of Ephesus, the ruins of Troy, the Grand Bazaar, the Blue Mosque, and the Spice Market.

Overall, the food, the culture, and the music of the Turkish culture were simply amazing yet quite "delightful."

If I had to choose one highlight from this experience, I have to say experiencing the 'Turkish Bath' had been the highlight of the entire trip.



July–September 2010 Summer Schedule

July 2: Last day of Teaching at Hengyang, China

July 3-11: Leisure travel to Turkey

July 13: Flying home to USA

July 16: Presentation at UCI on my year teaching English in China

July 19-30: Dance practice

July 30: My dance performance with LACDC

August 1: Volunteer with SurfCity Foundation

August 2: Lunch with Mayor Allan Mansoor, City of Costa Mesa

August 3: TIP Reunion

August 7: Flying to Beijing, China

August 9-21: LSE-PKU Summer School at Beijing, China at Peking University

August 22: Coppelia by Hong Kong Ballet performance

August 23: Interview at HK Island School

August 24: HAPPY 24TH BIRTHDAY TO ME!!!!

August 27: HKU Welcome Non-Local Orientation

September 1: Move in day at HKU

September 6: First day of teaching at the University of Hong Kong

September 13: First day of dance class with "City Contemporary Dance Center" at Hong Kong



Summer Photos in USA



Special Summer 2010 THANKS/CONGRATULATIONS to:

Congratulations **Joseph H.** for winning the championship trophy and two gold medals during the 2010 World Choir Games at Shaoxing, China

Thanks **Halina T.** for an exciting year teaching English abroad at Hengyang, China

Congratulations **Walter C.** and **Lisa F.** on your recent engagement.

Thanks **Mabel K.** for cooking

dinner a few weeks back.

Congratulations **Emma N.** for fulfilling your fundraising requirements. Wishing you best in your new academic year as staff for The Navigators at UCI.

Thanks **Michael N.** for paying lunch/dinner and hosting a going away party.

Thanks **Emily E.** for coffee and driving to me to Pasadena last week.

Thanks **Chris Y.** for helping me acquire a TEFL certificate in China.

Thanks **Lesley C.** for inviting me to speak in your class this summer and the \$50 gift card to Target.

Thanks **Kate H.** for organizing an amazing dance intensive at LACDC this summer.

Congratulations **Julia L.** and **Wouter** on your recent wedding.

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This newsletter was compiled and organized
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*Me and Mayor Allan Mansoor, City
of Costa Mesa having lunch.*

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Be sure to check out my next
upcoming newsletter in the Fall
2010. Stay updated by subscribing
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**A farewell message from my students at Hengyang, Hunan Province,
China**

