

MAY 1, 2010

Newsletter: Vol. 3

Roy Chan

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Welcome Message

May 1, 2010



Dear friends, family, and people across the world:

Welcome to my THIRD newsletter! It has now been almost a year living here in mainland China. Today (May 1st) marks my second month, second semester teaching English abroad here in Hengyang, Hunan Province, China. It has been an incredible semester so far loaded with tons of excitement and challenges.

As you may have noticed, I've been super lagging behind on my Monthly Newsletter (only sent out two)because my laptop recently died out and had lost all my files/pictures, bleh! :/ But last weekend marked an exciting time living here in mainland China because the "WorldExpo 2010 Shanghai" had kicked off last Saturday, May 1, 2010 with millions of people (including myself) attending its opening ceremony.

I had the opportunity to meet, interact, and explore hundreds of different cultures, food, and languages during the largest expo fair ever to be hosted in mainland China. For those who don't know, the "WorldExpo 2010 Shanghai" gives locals and tourists an opportunity to experience, learn, and discover life living in another country. The "WorldExpo" is expected to bring 81 million visitors from across the world...it is surely something that you must visit this summer!

Aside from this event, many exciting events had occurred over the past two months including my recent trip to Vietnam last February and my new plans to attend grad school this fall 2010. I invite you to check out my 'highlights section' below for the latest updates.

With many of you making future plans for your summer gateway holidays while others preparing for your upcoming graduation ceremony this June 2010 (yay for Class of 2010), I wish you all continued joy this spring season back in your hometown. I will be making a short visit back to sunny California this summer from *July 13, 2010 to August 5, 2010*, and I hope that we can meet up over the summer holiday. Until then, I extend my warmest and most sincere wishes to your future plans this upcoming summer.

Respectfully,

Roy Chan
M.Ed. candidate
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The University of Hong Kong

Highlights

Here are some of my major highlights over the last two months:

- 1) **Vietnam** – Had an amazing experience traveling all over Vietnam discovering the true beauty and essence of the Vietnamese culture and language. Had visited Hanoi, Ha Long Bay, Ho Chi Minh City, Sapa, and



- 2) **I'm going to grad school!!!** I've officially decided to attend graduate school for a master degree program in 'Higher education, Leadership, and Policy Analysis' at "The University of Hong Kong" this Fall 2010, the #1 ranked university in Asia. For those who don't know, HKU is just as prestigious as going to Stanford University. I'm very excited to passionately explore and discover the hidden treasures of Hong Kong during my graduate studies at The University of Hong Kong.



- 3) **YES, I have finished UC Irvine.** But that doesn't mean I'm not taking classes. These past few months, I have been taking an online course over at the University of California, San Diego – Extension Center while I teach here in mainland China. I'm taking an online course in "Differentiated Instruction for Gifted Students" expecting to acquire a specialized certificate in "Gifted and Talented Education" by the end of the year. It's been a great class so far (minus all the readings we have to do...haha!).
- 4) **I'm officially going to Istanbul, Turkey this summer** after my teaching abroad experience in Hengyang, China. Will be traveling with a couple friends for about ten days waiting to discover why Turkey is a 'Turkish Delight' country.



- 5) I've booked my return plane ticket back home to America. I will be heading back Sunny Los Angeles California on **JULY 13, 2010**...yay, can't wait to eat an actual juicy hamburger, lol! ☺



Roy's Calendar

- 1) **May 1:** Shanghai 2010 WorldExpo
- 2) **May 15-16:** Short leisure travel to Wuhan, China
- 3) **May 22:** WorldTeach End of the Year Conference
- 4) **June 5:** Passion WorldTour Conference in Hong Kong with Chris Tomlin and David Crowder Band
- 5) **June 19:** The University of Hong Kong Registration/Orientation for new graduate students
- 6) **July 2:** Last day of teaching...yay! ☺
- 7) **July 3 – 10:** Meeting up with friends for traveling in Istanbul, Turkey!!!!
- 8) **July 13 – August 5:** Going back to America to visit friends and family for three weeks
- 9) **August 9 – 21:** Summer School at Peking University to take a class on 'Chinese foreign policy.' Class sponsored through the London School of Economics and Political Science(LSE-PKU)
- 10) **September 5:** First day of Graduate School at "The University of Hong Kong."



Random Happenings/Weird Facts

- I find it funny how all my students like to write random/stupid things about me on their Facebook status....Facebook (for example, "ROY has left Hengyang this weekend!") YES, Facebook is still banned here, but I actually told them how they can hack into Facebook in China....i'm soo bad, lol!
- I found 800 HKD sitting at a China Construction Bank ATM machine
- Over the last two months in China, I had missed two trains and two airplanes. Last semester, I missed none...haha, I'm so bad...lol!
- In China, we have something called the Fast Train. China recently opened up the fastest train in the world that travels from Wuhan, China to Guangzhou, China in less than 2 hours. Typically, a regular train will take 10 hours....crazzyy!
- All my students really can't believe that I don't have a girlfriend....they still think that I have a girlfriend, but in reality, I don't.
- I saw a riot broke here in Hengyang, China where this one guy decided to steal a water bottle from a poor guy. The guy became very furious where the two began to fight, and then other Chinese people decide to join in the fight. I was caught right in the middle of it before I snuck out and ran away from the crisis. Many Hengyang people are very poor hence, this often happens on a regular basis.
- I was involved in a taxi motor bicycle accident during my trip to Guilin, China. Had a few bumps and bruises here and there, but the saddest part is that my laptop cracked in half and is now broken. Had to buy a new one down in Hong Kong.
- By the end of my WorldTeach experience, I will be officially TEFL certified...yay! ☺
- I spent one night in China acting as if I am homeless by sleeping overnight at the Guangzhou airport because of a long flight delay (16 hours delay!).....I wanted to stay in a hotel/hostel, but the closest one from the airport was like 30 minutes away....haha!
- Attended an awesome Christian conference called "Worship Central" in Hong Kong during the month of March 2010. It was amazing to see God's presence here in Asia.
- God has been showing me these past two months why Jesus is #1 and I am #2. Even though I have been preoccupied with many things here in China, I truly believe that it is only Jesus who gives me the power, strength, and courage to do His amazing work here in mainland China. He has been blessing me with new Christian friends here in Hengyang, China (yay, finally found a group of foreign missionaries in my city), and now am involved in their weekly bible study every week sponsored through English language Institute China(ELIC) .



Tim Hughes leading worship during "Worship Central" conference in Hong Kong

March 2010 & April 2010

Shout Outs/Special Thanks TO:

Thanks **Halina T.** for teaching some of my Senior I classes this semester.

Thanks **Elise H.** for taking the time and showing me around your school in Changsha, China.

Thanks **Jen S.** for dinner in Shanghai the other day and for inviting me to watch an Italian opera with your uncle during the WorldExpo ceremony.

Congratulations **Emily S.** for your recent acceptance to Vanderbilt Law School.

Thanks **Teresa L.** and **Christopher Y.** for adjusting my class schedules this new semester.

Thanks **Gloria** for completing my weekly surveys for TEFL certification.

Congratulations **Michael N.** for doing an excellent job running for ASUCI President this year.

Thanks **Dave M.** for showing me around Ho Chi Minh City and Hanoi, Vietnam early February.

Thanks **Tim H.** for an amazing job leading Worship Central conference in Hong Kong this year.

Thanks **Sean F.** for designing the WorldTeach TEFL certificate.

Congratulations to all graduating this June 2010 at UCI.

Thanks **Henry E.** for writing me a recommendation letter to ELIC.

Thanks **Portia** for inviting me to your small group this semester.

Thanks **Carmen W.** for helping pay for my HKU graduate school tuition.

Congratulations **Natalie C.** and **Michael S.** on your recent marriage/wedding.

Thanks **Emma P.** and **Billy P.** for inviting me to your Life Group this year.

Thanks **Iris** for teaching me Chinese.

Congratulations **Michael M.** for opening up the first authentic Italian pizza in Hengyang, China

Thanks **Ylianna R.** for giving me an "A+" on my first ever online class at UC San Diego.

Thanks **Kimberly A.** for your recent reference letter to LSE-PKU.

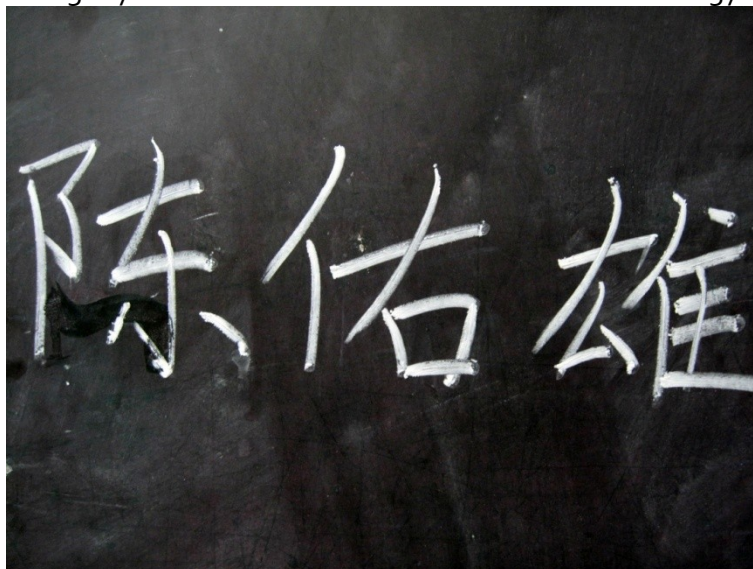
Thanks **Nancy C.** for paying off my Hong Kong Polytechnic University application fee.

YaY, GO **LAKERS!!!** Jazz will be silenced by the Lakers.

Wishing **Julia L.** the very best as you begin to transition out of China this upcoming summer.

Thanks **mom** and **dad** for being so supportive during my experience in China these last ten months.

AND thanks **God** for providing my needs over the last two months here in Hengyang, China.



Yup, this is my Chinese name – Chen You Xiong

Other Photos



My first American food lunch in Hengyang, China



My high school students performing during a singing competition



Friends praying after Sunday underground church service in Hengyang, China



Famous fish and tofu dish in Hengyang, China



Chinese kiddos singing and dancing in Hengyang, China...soo cute!!