

LAGUARDIA

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College Launches Chinese Club

By Kenneth Yin, Lecturer, Academic ESL Program

On October 6, the newly formed Chinese Club held its first general meeting. The club aims to implement social, cultural, educational, and creative ventures outside the classroom for those students with a common interest in China and the Chinese.

The club members recently organized a trip to the Museum of Modern Art to see the landmark exhibition entitled China: Dawn of a Golden Age, 200-720 AD. One of the largest ever to have come out of mainland China, this exhibition focused special attention on East West cross-cultural interchange. Club members have also dined out at a Chinese restaurant in Manhattan featuring southern Chinese cuisine, viewed the popular Hong Kong film "Future Cops" (a combination of comedy, fantasy, and martial arts titled "Chaoji xuexiao bawang" in Chinese), played Chinese games such as mahjong and Chinese checkers, and even tried their skill at the ancient art of origami.

These activities have all been enthusiastically received. Tiffany Gibbons, the club's representative to the Student Advisory Council, said, "I joined the Chinese Club because I thought it would be an interesting experience to meet people from the other side of the world. I wanted to learn about the Chinese culture and language, and compare it to American culture." Diana Cubillos, a club member who is currently enrolled in the elementary Chinese-language course at the college, noted, "I joined because I want to learn about the Chinese culture. Once I started to learn Chinese, I knew I needed to practice and meet the people in order to really understand the culture."

And, You Wei Lin, another club member, said, "I joined the club because this is my first year of college and I want to make new friends. Before the school year started, I noticed there was no Chinese Club at LaGuardia. But then, when I saw the flyer for the Chinese Club in the school, I was very happy!" As the club's faculty mentor, I am extremely pleased by the comments I have received not only from students, but also from faculty and staff, with regards to the introduction of the Chinese Club. The presence of the Chinese Club at the college is particularly important at this juncture in time, as LaGuardia is enrolling growing numbers of students from Chinese-speaking countries as well as others of Chinese ethnicity. In addition, the Chinese Club serves to advance the college's general efforts to strengthen its relationship with China through collaborative educational ventures.

The club holds regular meetings during the college's designated club hour from 2:15 p.m. on Wednesdays in Room E- 340. Faculty and staff should encourage any interested students to attend one of these general meetings. For more information, you can call me at extension 6029, or stop by Room E-200M in the Academic ESL Program.



The club members, seated in the front row (from left to right) are: Ling Hei Li (Treasurer); Tiffany Gibbons (Student Advisory Council Representative); Yin Ching Tam (Secretary); Advisory Council Representative--Alternate). Standing in the second row (from left to right) are: You Wei Lin; Jeffrey Hom; Professor Kenneth Yin (Faculty Mentor); Yunlei Zhou; Hae Min Choi; and Diana Cubillos.