

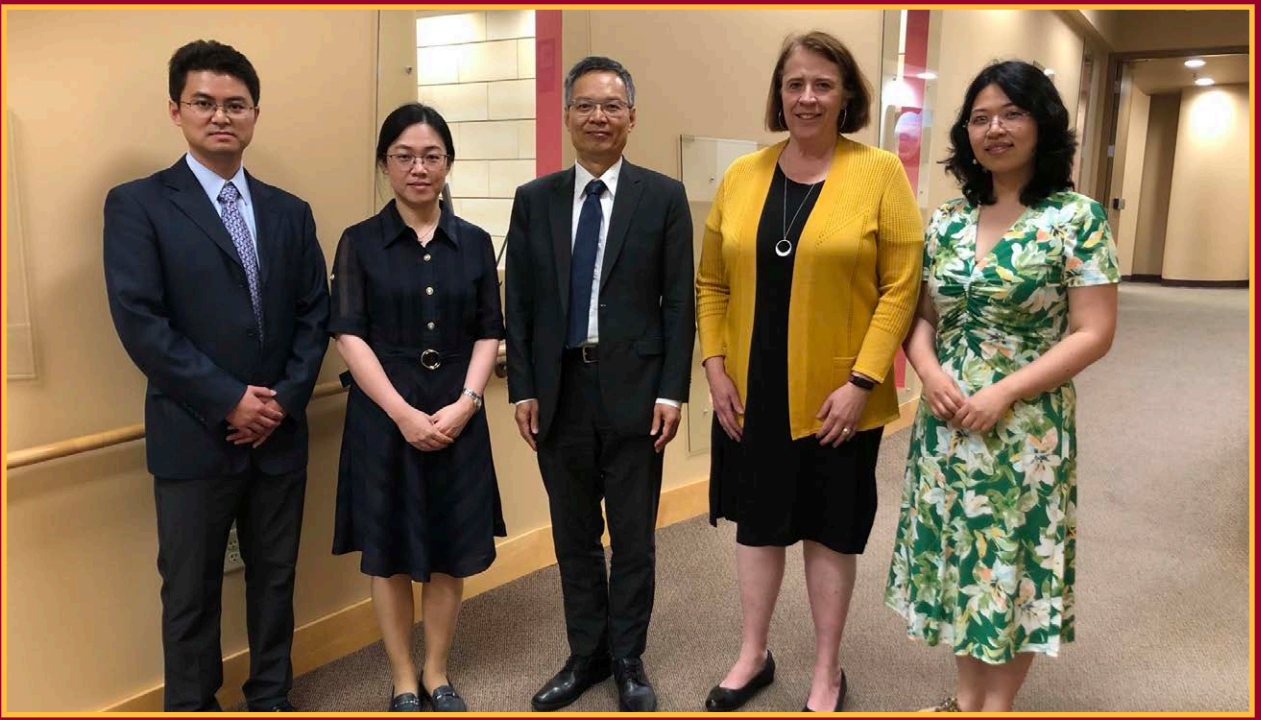
UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

中國中心

**CHINA
CENTER**

**ANNUAL REPORT
2021 / 2022**

Building U.S.-China Bridges Since 1979



The China Center welcomed Director Fang Qingchao and Consuls Hu Xiaofeng and Jiang Jianhua from the Consul for Education of the Chinese Consulate General in Chicago in June. Director Fang expressed gratitude to the University of Minnesota for supporting Chinese students during the pandemic and discussed opportunities to restart educational exchanges between the U.S. and China.

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Note about Chinese names: The China Center's policy is to list an individual's name according to the custom of the place where they live (for example, family name first for a person who lives in China).

From the Executive Director 主任致辞

Dear Friends,

Step by step over the last year, in the face of a continuing pandemic and increased tensions between the U.S. and China, the University of Minnesota's China Center has stepped forward by offering new programs, resuming key initiatives, and reconnecting with you – sometimes even in person!

We are especially proud of the Considering China webinar series, which has engaged an audience of approximately 1,000 people from across the globe, including in countries such as China, Canada, France, Germany, Israel, and Australia. In February, we partnered with the College of Liberal Arts to host the second China Bridge Challenge, which brought together student teams to present their case for “Engagement Revisited: Strategies for a Changing U.S.-China Relationship.” **See page 2** to learn more about their presentations.

We were honored to feature Ambassador Craig Allen at the 20th anniversary of the Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture (**see page 4**). His view on the U.S.-China relationship through a scientific lens was

an intriguing perspective. We were also delighted to, at long last, gather with you in person to enjoy Chinese music and culture (**see pages 5-6**).

In June, we collaborated with Xi'an Jiaotong University and the UMN College of Science and Engineering to convene a virtual workshop acknowledging the many years of successful exchanges between our universities in honor of the 40th anniversary of the Shaanxi-Minnesota Sister State relationship. As we begin the fall semester, students are once again making plans to study abroad, and Chinese students and scholars are arriving on campus, building bridges of understanding and opening new avenues of cooperation. These exchanges will pave the way for a brighter future.

Thanks to you, we have delivered programs both virtually and in person, bringing internationally renowned experts to share their knowledge and perspectives, and, step by step, connecting the University, community, and Chinese partners and friends. Your generosity drives our work, your partnership guides our mission, and your passion builds U.S.-China bridges for the future. Thank you for your continued support of the China Center and its mission.



Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Brzezinski". The signature is fluid and cursive, written in a professional style.

Joan Brzezinski
Executive Director

The China Bridge Challenge invites student teams to explore the intricate complexities encountered by the U.S. and China through a myriad of challenges, misunderstandings, and a rapidly evolving relationship, and find a way out through innovative collaborations.

Student Teams Identify Solutions to U.S.-China Challenges

Students from the U.S. and China joined together to find solutions to challenges faced by the two countries in the China Center's China Bridge Challenge.

Five teams, each of which included at least one international student from the Greater China region, presented in the final round of the case competition. The proposals included a new social network to connect U.S. and Chinese students, a cultural workshop highlighting the similarities between America's Rust Belt and China's Dongbei region, and a student-driven social media campaign using food to explore the different cultures.

Addressing misconceptions

The winning team proposed creating a U.S.-China Media, Language, and Society program. In the first year of the two-year program, a group of Chinese students would study abroad at the University of Minnesota. These students would be paired with UMN



STUDENTS FROM THE TWO WINNING TEAMS (LEFT TO RIGHT): MACE BLANK, KATHARINE STRICKLAND, MARA WESTON, YANAI SUN, AND LILY QIAN.

students to practice English and learn more about American culture. The next year, the UMN students would go to the Chinese university. Each group of visiting students would take classes in the local language, focusing on critical media studies, Chinese or English literature, and contemporary society.

Including critical media studies is key, according to Katharine Strickland, a freshman in the Chinese Language Flagship program who participated in the winning team.

“A lot of the narratives and misconceptions we see today about each country come through media, so we really wanted to switch those ideas around, focusing on genuine connection and the common goals between the two countries,” Strickland said.

Fighting climate change

The second-place team focused on the ever-growing problem of landfills and waste in the U.S. and China. Landfills are a major source of climate-warming methane emissions.

“China and the United States are the biggest gas emitters,” said Yuge Wan, a recent psychology graduate from China. “Any attempt to address the climate crisis will need to involve emission cuts from these two powerhouse nations.”

“There’s a lot of negative connotations about each country, and there’s just not a lot of context given to why things are the way they are. It really leads to a limited understanding for most average everyday American and Chinese citizens.”

– Mara Weston,
member of the first-
place team

The team proposed a multifaceted approach to promote the idea of reduce, reuse, recycle. Their idea involves smart trash cans, which would recognize different types of waste and give people points for correctly disposing of waste. These points could be redeemed for coupons and discounts at local retailers.

They would also create a bilingual website called WeCycle, where users could play games, share recipe ideas to avoid food waste, and offer tips about how to reuse items.

“Our goal is to reduce toxins in our shared environment and make a positive environmental impact, while engaging citizens from both China and the U.S.,” said Lily Qian, a senior majoring in human physiology.

Learn more >> z.umn.edu/chinabridge-2022

The China Center fosters an understanding of Chinese culture, both on campus and among the wider community, by bringing leading experts to campus for discussions on pressing U.S.-China issues and by co-sponsoring community events.

Griffin Lecture Examines Policy Implications of China's Science and Technology Sectors

On October 27, 2021, the University of Minnesota China Center welcomed Ambassador Craig Allen – president of the U.S.-China Business Council – as the keynote speaker at the annual Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture, marking the 20th anniversary of this signature event. Ambassador Allen presented on the topic, “Science in China: Implications for U.S. Public Policy.”



Joan Brzezinski, executive director of the China Center, welcomed Ambassador Allen and more than 150 guests in attendance. Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean of international programs, delivered welcoming remarks and introduced Regent Kendall Powell, who made a formal introduction of the speaker for the evening.

In this insightful and informative lecture, Ambassador Allen examined the uncertainty and volatility of the bilateral relationship between the U.S. and China through the lens of science and technology development and competition. Ambassador Allen first reviewed the rapid development of science as

a key public policy priority of successive Chinese governments since the May Fourth Movement in 1919. Every Chinese Communist Party (CCP) leader after Mao Zedong has re-emphasized the central role of science in all aspects of Chinese society. Recently, a CCP leader even claimed that the “CCP is the party of science.”

As Ambassador Allen observed, four decades of investment in science and technology has led to the creation of a vast science and technology establishment that continues to grow and will increasingly play a leading role globally. Yet the motivations, values, and institutions that underlie the Chinese science and technology enterprise are different from Western European or North American counterparts. As Chinese capacity has grown, there is increasing tension between two very different sets of world views. Both the Chinese and the American governments accuse each other of “techno-nationalism.” However, Ambassador Allen said U.S.-China cooperation in science and technology has been beneficial for both sides.



Celebrating the Year of the Tiger

The China Center joined with the FRIENDS of the Minnesota Orchestra for a sold-out Chinese New Year Celebration this year. Rui Du, assistant concertmaster of the Minnesota Orchestra, and Hanna Kim, pianist, performed an interpretation of a beautiful classic, *The Butterfly Lovers Violin Concerto*. Gao Hong, pipa, surprised with a composition of her own, and jing hu master Zhengang Xie and yue qin master Mei Hu – with preliminary commentary by their son, Fei Xie, Minnesota Orchestra principal bassoon – delivered an astounding performance to complete the concert.

Minnesota and Shaanxi Celebrate 40th Anniversary as Sister States

In recognition of the 40th anniversary of the sister state relationship between Shaanxi province and Minnesota, the University of Minnesota and Xi'an Jiaotong University met to discuss the success of student and faculty exchanges and look at future collaborations. Joan Brzezinski, executive director of the China Center, participated in the event, along with exchange program staff and faculty from the College of Science and Engineering. Xi'an Jiaotong University and the Department of Mechanical Engineering expressed hope that summer exchange programs would resume post-pandemic. Attendees also suggested creating faculty-led programs for University of Minnesota students to visit Xi'an Jiaotong University. Faculty will continue to exchange ideas at a research conference.



Showcasing the Music of Gao Hong

The China Center co-sponsored “The Music of Gao Hong, A Celebration of 50 Years of Making Music With Friends” on April 3 at the Ordway Center for the Performing Arts.

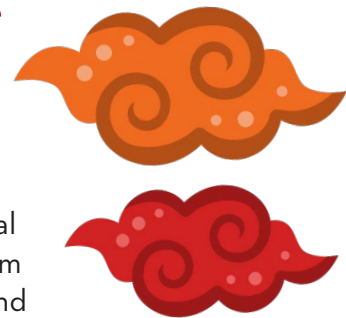
The celebration showcased Gao Hong’s deep connections and collaborations with an array of diverse cultures and her own compositions. Special guests included rapper/singer Dessa, Minnesota Orchestra members Gabriel Campos Zamora (principal clarinet), Erik Wheeler (cello), and Nikki Melville (piano), along with Hong’s multicultural group Speaking in Tongues (Gao Hong with master drummer Sowah Mensah from Ghana, bassist Enrique Toussaint from Mexico, and local percussionist Marc Anderson). Hong’s student, Gus Holley, also performed, as well as the Kenwood Symphony Orchestra and the Carleton College Chinese Music Ensemble.

Teaching UMN Faculty and Staff About Chinese Culture

Faculty and staff from across campus learned more about Chinese culture in a March 16 workshop, “Culture in Depth: Chinese Students at

the UMN.” The event was

part of the intercultural workshop series from International Student and Scholar Services. Through interactive discussions and a cultural presentation by Haiyan Wang, assistant director of the China Center, participants learned about unique aspects of Chinese culture and how cultural differences impact students’ experience at the University. This knowledge will help staff and faculty better connect with Chinese students.



Scholarships and Exchanges 奖学金和交流

Through the generous support of donors, the China Center provides financial support to University of Minnesota students interested in China and its culture.

Hsiao Shaw-Lundquist Fellowship

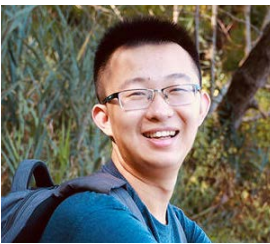
The Hsiao Shaw-Lundquist Fellowship was established to support full-time graduate students at the University of Minnesota with a strong connection to China to further studies in civil engineering, hydromechanics, water resources, and architecture. This year, three graduate students from the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Geo-Engineering were awarded fellowships.



Mingfeng Shi is a third-year doctoral student studying and modeling the driving behavior of human-driven vehicles and commercially available adaptive cruise-control vehicles. The Hsiao Shaw-Lundquist Fellowship allows Mingfeng to take extra courses, attend academic conferences, and access online resources necessary to conduct his research.



Shi'An Wang is a third-year doctoral student whose research explores transportation science, systems and control theory, and operations research. Specifically, Shi'an analyzes and develops formal methods for mathematical modeling, control, and optimization of next-generation intelligent transportation systems.

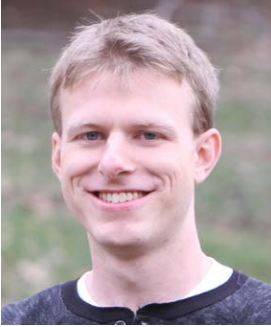


Hu Chen is a third-year doctoral student whose research involves the reliability analysis of structures, where he performs both experimental and simulation work. The Hsiao Shaw-Lundquist Fellowship allows Hu to continue his research.

China Center Scholarship

The China Center awarded the China Center Scholarship to four students who plan to study in Taiwan in the 2022-23 school year: Augusta Brossart, Caecie Deblaere, Thomas Otto, and Flora Pollack. We are pleased that students are once again looking forward to studying abroad and experiencing Greater China.

The “Considering China” webinar series explores important topics related to China and encourages meaningful conversation and reflection. The series attracts audiences from the University of Minnesota, greater Minnesota, across the nation, and around the world.



Caught in a Crossfire: 150 Years of Chinese Students at the Nexus of Sino-U.S. Relations

Eric Fish • September 15, 2021

Journalist Eric Fish discussed how ever since the first “wave” of Chinese students began arriving in the United States in 1872, this group has found itself on the front lines of the U.S.-China relationship.



What You Don't Know About Chinese Social Media

Fran Liu • October 13, 2021

Fran Liu, director of the University of Minnesota China Office, provided insight into the Chinese social media landscape, highlighted major trends, and exemplified how these trends would affect U.S. higher education operations in China.



Considering Criminal Law's Role in Research Security

Maggie Lewis • November 10, 2021

Professor Maggie Lewis explored the motivations behind the Department of Justice's China Initiative, and the concerns about the bias in its framing and operation. She addressed why the initiative threatens to undermine the economic competitiveness that it seeks to protect.



Revolutionary Bodies: Chinese Dance and the Socialist Legacy

Emily Wilcox • December 14, 2021

Professor Emily Wilcox discussed her book *Revolutionary Bodies: Chinese Dance and the Socialist Legacy*, the first English-language history of dance in the People's Republic of China.



Cultural Kaleidoscopes: Martial Arts in Chinese Literature and Films

Ning Ma • February 17, 2022

Professor Ning Ma presented an overview of the Chinese martial arts tradition across history. An overarching theme is that the tradition persists as an “unofficial” cultural domain which tells stories about the outcast or the “underdog.”



The Unbearable Weight of Being Chinese

Yangyang Cheng • March 24, 2022

Through personal stories of individuals whose lives straddled a divided world and were squeezed by geopolitics, Yangyang Cheng explored the porous and shifting bounds of Chinese-ness, the human cost of a hardened border, and the power and limitations of individual agency against the forces of the state.



Chinese Film History: Realism and Convention

Jason McGrath • April 26, 2022

Various claims to realism were made throughout subsequent Chinese film history, but in every case, realism only took on meaning by reference to conventions of various sorts. Through this dialectic of realism and convention, Jason McGrath traced a history of Chinese film from the silent era to the digital age.



From Nixon to Biden: What Has Gone Wrong with the Sino-American Relationship?

Yawei Liu • May 12, 2022

What has happened to the U.S. and China relationship since President Nixon first visited China 50 years ago? Yawei Liu provided ideas for how to stabilize the bilateral relation and prevent it from veering into conflict.

Did you miss a webinar? Want to re-watch one of this year's discussions? Learn more about the China Center's annual Considering China webinar series at chinacenter.umn.edu/events/considering-china.

The University of Minnesota's China Office was established in Beijing in 2009 as the institution's first office abroad. The China Office is a critical resource to further develop educational, cultural, and social collaborations among China, the University of Minnesota, and the State of Minnesota. The China Office had another successful year supporting educational exchange between China and the University of Minnesota.



Recruitment Support

Despite challenges posed by the ongoing pandemic, the China Office has continued doing their best work in supporting student recruitment in China. The China Office team attended the “EducationUSA College Fair 2021” in September in Beijing. Six hundred prospective students and parents attended the event in person, and five UMN alumni shared stories of their successful study experience in Minnesota.



百科 | 22名明大运动健儿出战2022北京冬奥会!

冰雪盛会，整装待发！Go Gophers!

分享嘉宾介绍



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University of
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英国圣安德鲁斯大学
国际交流主任



Fran Liu
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Sophia Hua
北京十一学校

北京十一学校
升学指导教师



1 friend(s) read

明尼苏达，好久不见，你还好吗？

封面餐厅记得要去打卡哦

Social Media

The China Office team continues to enhance its social media presence by publishing UMN campus news, college introductions, and alumni activities. The articles “UMN athletes attend Beijing Winter Olympics 2022” and “Long time no see, Minnesota” achieved viral marketing effect and reached the highest pageview record in history.

Check Out Our WeChat Account!

The China Office has created a new video channel on WeChat. Short videos, as a trendy form of content on social media, gained significant traction and likes from the alumni community in China.

Please check out the China Office on WeChat!



Industry Influence

The China Office has continued to engage high school counselors in China as an important group of stakeholders. In May 2022, Fran Liu was selected as a committee member of the China Institute of College Admission Counseling (China ICAC). China ICAC is an organization of professionals from all over the world dedicated to serving Chinese students as they make choices about pursuing postsecondary education overseas. Fran's official service term runs from July 2022 to July 2024.

In October 2021, the Deputy Chief of Mission of the United States of America, David S. Meale, invited Fran Liu and other U.S. university representatives (representing Yale, Michigan State, Ohio State, and more) to discuss the educational challenges and opportunities between the U.S. and China.

In December 2021, Fran Liu was nominated for the 2022 American Chamber of Commerce in China (AmCham China) Board of Governors. That same month, Fran was appointed as co-chair of the AmCham China Education Committee.



CHINA OFFICE DIRECTOR FRAN LIU JOINED OTHER U.S. UNIVERSITY REPRESENTATIVES TO DISCUSS THE CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES FACING THE U.S. AND CHINA.

The University of Minnesota's China Center would not be able to offer its robust programming, support, and education without the support of generous donors and the hard work of our China Center Advisory Council. To learn more about supporting the China Center, visit chinacenter.umn.edu/give.

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This list includes gifts made between 7/1/21 and 6/30/22.

2021-22 China Center Advisory Council

The China Center Advisory Council (CCAC) advises the executive director of the China Center, builds bridges between the China Center and faculty and academic units within the University, and strengthens connections between the University and the community.

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ALUMNI VOLUNTEERS AT
EDUCATIONUSA'S COLLEGE FAIR

To Our Chinese Friends 年度回顾

亲爱的朋友们:

一步一步地……面对持续的疫情以及日渐紧张的中美关系，明大中国中心仍在砥砺前行。在过去的一年里，我们开创和重启了各种新老项目和动议，重建与您的联系——包括线下联系！

我们对“思考中国”系列网络研讨会深感自豪。过去一年里，我们的研讨会吸引了来自全球各地，包括中国、加拿大、法国、德国、以色列和澳大利亚等国家的大约1000名听众。今年2月，我们与文学院合作举办了第二届“中国桥”挑战赛，学生团队齐聚一堂，重新审视变化中的中美关系及应对策略。我们也很荣幸在格里芬讲座建立20周年之际，邀请到克雷格-艾伦大使作为演讲嘉宾。他从科学发展的角度来剖析中美关系，为我们带来耐人寻味的视角。同时，我们也特别高兴在经历了长达两年的疫情后，终于能在新年音乐会时与新朋旧友齐聚一堂，尽情感受中国的音乐和文化。

今年6月，我们与西安交通大学及明大工程学院合作，召开了一次线上研讨会。会议肯定了两所大学多年以来的交流合作，同时也庆祝陕西省与明尼苏达州结为姐妹州四十周年。当我们展望今秋，我们欣喜地看到学生们又开始制定出国留学计划。而中国学生和学者也将很快来到双城、筑起理解和沟通的桥梁、开辟新的合作途径。这些交流的重启将为我们带来一个更光明的未来。

在您的支持和帮助下，中国中心得以持续举办线上线下的活动，吸引海内外知名的专家和学者分享专业视角，并一步一步地将我们的大学、社区和中国合作伙伴及朋友们联系在一起。您的慷慨支持推动了我们的工作、您的合作陪伴指引着我们的使命，您的热情建立了美中之间的桥梁。感谢您一直以来的支持，我们必将勤耕不辍！

琼·布热津斯基



中國中心
CHINA CENTER

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

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As required by Title IX, the University does not discriminate on the basis of sex in any of its education programs or activities, including in admissions and employment. Inquiries about the application of Title IX can be directed to the University's Title IX Coordinators or to the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Civil Rights. Please see the University of Minnesota's Title IX Statement (eoaa.umn.edu/resources) and the University's policy (policy.umn.edu/hr/sexharassassault) for information about: (1) how to contact the Title IX Coordinators on the University's campuses; (2) how to report or file a formal complaint of sexual harassment, gender-based harassment, sexual assault, stalking or relationship violence; and (3) the University's procedures for responding to reports and formal complaints.

This publication is available in alternative formats by contacting 612-624-1002 or chinactr@umn.edu.