

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA

中國中心

CHINA
CENTER

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Building U.S.-China Bridges Since 1979





The China Center welcomed new Chinese students to campus in September 2022 with a pizza party. A panel of six current students from China shared their experiences at the University of Minnesota and offered advice to 125 incoming students.

Contents

From the Executive Director	1
China Bridge Challenge	2-3
Campus and Community Engagement	4-6
Scholarships and Exchanges	7
Considering China Webinars	8-9
China Office	10-11
Contributors	12
To Our Chinese Friends	13

Dear Friends,

As we look back on the last academic year, we are proud of the China Center's success in uplifting new voices and ideas to help build bridges between the U.S. and China.

We presented yet another strong slate of speakers in the third year of the Considering China webinar series, with presentations on wide-ranging topics such as the Chinese education system, women's rights in a changing society, global business strategies amid U.S.-China tensions, and the complexities of the game Go (see pages 8-9). We are thrilled that the webinars have received more than 19,000 views globally. If you missed a program, you can find a recording on our website.

Dr. Deborah Brautigam, director of the China Africa Research Initiative at Johns Hopkins University, presented the annual Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture. She offered an in-depth look at the serious challenges posed by developing country debt, and argued that a sustainable solution will require collaboration from both the U.S. and China (see page 4).

We were proud to join with many Chinese American associations across the country in promoting the "Survey on the State of Chinese Americans" from the Committee of 100 and Columbia University (see page 6). The results provide a deep look at the issues facing Chinese Americans in their daily lives, from health, community, and old age, to anti-Asian hate and discrimination.

The next generation of leaders impressed us with their creativity and problem-solving in the China Bridge Challenge case competition (see pages 2-3). Three teams presented in the final round offering their ideas on what concrete steps Chinese and



American people can take to forge a bridge of understanding and offer solutions to a specific problem. Thank you to our partners at the Carlson School of Management for their support of this year's competition, which was themed "Strategies for an Evolving U.S.-China Relationship: Business as a Force for Good."

Although there is much work to be done, the outlook for the U.S. and China to collaborate in higher education is encouraging. In-person exchanges have resumed, and the China Center is once again assisting student and faculty travel to China and receiving Chinese visitors here on campus. We look forward to working with our partners to expand our connections, create new opportunities, and share our interests in China.

Thank you for your continued support of the China Center. Your generosity drives our work, your partnership guides our mission, and your passion builds U.S.-China bridges for the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joan Brzezinski". The signature is fluid and cursive, written over a light-colored background.

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.

Case Competition Proposes Ways to Improve U.S.-China Relations

Tensions between the U.S. and China seem to make the news every week, with issues as diverse as TikTok and tariffs to spy balloons and academic espionage. Undergraduates proposed ideas for ways to improve the countries' relationship in the China Center's third annual China Bridge Challenge.

Three teams, each including at least one student from Greater China and one student from the U.S., presented in the final round of the case competition. Their ideas addressed the theme of "Strategies for an Evolving U.S.-China Relationship: Business as a Force for Good" and included a mentorship program for international students, a hub for black soil research, and an experiential learning program focused on healthcare in the U.S. and China.

Creating meaningful mentorships

The winning team proposed a bilateral mentorship program with area professionals. University of Minnesota students from China would be paired with mentors from local



companies, and UMN students spending a semester abroad in China would be paired with mentors from companies based in China.

Yanai Sun, a senior in the College of Science and Engineering, said many of her friends who are from other countries have had trouble finding a job in the U.S. Yanai has been able to connect with area professionals through her involvement in the Society of Women Engineers, but she said not many of her friends have had such opportunities.

“So while brainstorming, we thought maybe we’ll have a mentorship specifically helping international students find a job,” Sun said. “And mentorship is not just career finding. It could just be something that helps them connect with another person here.”

Yanai and her teammates, Alyssa Myers, Rawan Algahtani, and Junyan Tan, envision students meeting with their mentors at least four times per semester, whether just for casual conversation, job shadowing, or attending industry events.

“This program would have a positive impact on the China and U.S. relationship by fostering a mentorship and professional growth mindset on new generations,” Sun explained in the team’s presentation.

People-to-people connections

“The enormous tension between the U.S. and China right now prevents a lot of dialogue,” said China Center Director Joan Brzezinski. “There are many global issues at play, but the students have been able to find clear pathways to working together with China to solve a specific problem.”

“At the end of the day...we all believe in the same things. We want peace, we want prosperity, we want to help. These are things that matter to everyone.”

– Sri Zaheer

Former dean of the Carlson School of Management, which partnered with the China Center on this year’s competition

Sri Zaheer, then dean of the Carlson School of Management, which partnered with the China Center on this year’s competition, highlighted the teams’ focus on connecting individuals from the two countries.

“It’s about learning from each other,” Zaheer said. “It’s really that at the end of the day, as people, we all believe in the same things. We want peace, we want prosperity, we want to help. These are things that matter to everyone.”

Learn more >> z.umn.edu/chinabridge-2023

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 Urges Cooperation on Global Debt

On October 27, 2022, the University of Minnesota China Center welcomed Dr. Deborah Brautigam, director of the China Africa Research Initiative and the Bernard L. Schwartz Professor of International Political Economy Emerita at Johns Hopkins University, to present the annual Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture on “China, the U.S., and Global Debt: Why Cooperate?”

Brautigam addressed some of the tumult that has affected the U.S.-China relationship in recent years.

“Relations between China and the United States have deteriorated sharply since the global financial crisis in 2008, and particularly during the last six years of the Trump and Biden administration,” Brautigam said. “The result is that the U.S. and China have stopped cooperating to address urgent global problems like climate change, interstate conflict, nuclear proliferation, global health, and poverty. And unfortunately, we can now add global debt to that list.”

Brautigam explained that multiple countries have declared bankruptcy since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic, and others are sure to follow.

“Solving the challenge of developing country debt is going to require China and the U.S., the two largest economies, to work together,” Brautigam said. “Ultimately, I believe it’s likely to require a new financial architecture.”



DEBORAH BRAUTIGAM CALLED FOR THE U.S. AND CHINA TO WORK TOGETHER TO SOLVE THE ISSUE OF DEVELOPING COUNTRY DEBT.



**JIAXIANG LI
PERFORMS ON THE
GUZHENG AT THE
CHINESE NEW YEAR
RECEPTION.**

Celebrating the Year of the Rabbit

The China Center celebrated the Year of the Rabbit with a Chinese New Year reception on January 26 at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs. Guests were treated to Tea House catering and a beautiful guzheng performance by Jiayang Li.

It was a joyous occasion as we gathered to mark the start of the new lunar year. We were thrilled to see so many of our friends and supporters in attendance.

CHINA Town Hall Addresses U.S.-China Relationship

The 2022 CHINA Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections, organized by the National Committee on United States-China Relations, took place on November 16. The University of Minnesota China Center served as a local host along with the Humphrey School of Public Affairs and Global Minnesota.

Ambassador Jon M. Huntsman, Jr. discussed the current landscape with National Committee on U.S.-China Relations President Stephen Orlins.

Mary Curtin, diplomat-in-residence at the Humphrey School of Public Affairs, highlighted the issue of rhetoric fueling anti-Asian hatred and expressed hope about President Biden's recent meeting with China's Xi Jinping. Curtin also answered audience questions about the prospects of bipartisan agreement on China-related issues, what the University of Minnesota can do to improve the relationship, and the impact of China's investment in Africa and Latin America.

China Center Supports “State of Chinese Americans” Research

The first and largest project of its kind, the “State of Chinese Americans” survey gathered information from nearly 6,500 participants from across the U.S., compiling data related to demographics, politics, cultural identity, health, economic security, and social engagement. The research effort was supported by more than 100 Chinese-American and allied organizations nationwide—including the UMN China Center—that shared the survey with community members in English, traditional Chinese, and simplified Chinese.

Key findings of the survey include:

- Racism against Chinese Americans continues. Almost 3 out of 4 Chinese Americans reported having experienced racial discrimination in the past 12 months.
- The overwhelming majority of Chinese American citizens vote. 83 percent are registered voters, and 91 percent of registered voters voted in the 2020 presidential election.
- Chinese Americans are not homogeneous. While often stereotyped as a “model minority,” many face disadvantages or hardships in health and economics and need better support from policies and services.

The year-long research project was organized by Columbia University’s School of Social Work and Committee of 100, a non-profit membership organization of prominent Chinese Americans. Read the report at z.umn.edu/state-of-chinese-americans.

Welcoming New Chinese Students

The China Center welcomed new Chinese students in September 2022 with a pizza party. A panel of six current students from China shared their experiences at the University of Minnesota and offered advice to 125 incoming students. The event also featured remarks from Joan Brezezinski, executive director of the China Center; Robert McMaster, vice provost and dean of undergraduate education; Meredith McQuaid, associate vice president and dean of international programs; and Barbara Kappler, assistant dean of International Student and Scholar Services.



NEW STUDENTS AT THE CHINA CENTER'S WELCOME EVENT.

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.

Study Abroad Scholarships

The China Center provides financial support to students as they study abroad or participate in educational experiences in Greater China.

Natalie Ku received a China Center Scholarship and a Hsiao Scholarship to support her study abroad program in Taiwan.

“Thank you so much for your generous donation that has allowed me to study at National Taiwan University. In addition to language and business related courses, I have been able to explore all around the island, experience Taiwanese culture, and eat delicious Taiwanese cuisine.”

Min (Amy) Xu and Michael Schumann Scholarship

The Min (Amy) Xu and Michael Schumann Scholarship supports University of Minnesota students interested in China or its culture by providing financial support to help with their academic progress and to help meet the costs of obtaining a college education.

Sophia Vedvik, a master’s student in aerospace engineering, used the scholarship to attend the China Leadership Summit.

“This Summit provided me with great workshop and networking opportunities and I was able to hear from current U.S.-China experts how the new generation can work towards bettering these relations. Thank you again for your support!”

Hsiao Shaw-Lundquist Fellowship

The Hsiao Shaw-Lundquist Fellowship was established to support full-time graduate students at the University of Minnesota who have a connection to China as they further their studies in civil engineering, hydromechanics, water resources, and architecture.

Zihang Wang is a second-year doctoral student in Environmental Engineering. This fellowship will provide him the opportunity to delve deeper into his research focus on enhancing water treatment. It will also provide the financial liberty he needs to acquire additional training in statistical tools to augment his research capabilities.

Te Xu is a third-year doctoral student specializing in Transportation Engineering. The fellowship will offer significant financial assistance, helping him navigate through challenging economic conditions. It will facilitate the successful continuation and completion of his doctoral studies at the University.

Considering China Webinars “思考中国”网络研讨会

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.



Who’s Afraid of the Big Bad Dragon?: Why China Has the Best (and Worst) Education System in the World

Yong Zhao • September 28, 2022

Yong Zhao explained how China turns out the world’s highest-achieving students in reading, math, and science—yet by all accounts Chinese educators, parents, and political leaders hate the system and long to send their kids to western schools.



A Global Business’ Growth Journey During China’s Rise: Strategic Considerations Amid U.S.-China Tensions

Sam Hsu • November 3, 2022

Sam Hsu discussed the strategic considerations for building a bright future amid the intensifying tension between the U.S. and China and outlined Ecolab China’s growth during China’s rise.



Growing Up With the Oldest and Most Complex Chinese Strategic Board Game

Stephanie Yin and Ryan Li • December 7, 2022

Two professional Go players introduced the game, touched on their own experiences growing up with Go in China and Canada, and discussed the role of Go both in the past and in modern society.



614 PEOPLE

attended the live webinars



19,000 VIEWS

of the recordings



Mao and Markets: The Communist Roots of Chinese Enterprise

Christopher Marquis • February 9, 2023

Christopher Marquis argued that China's economic success is based on—not in spite of—the continuing influence of Mao Zedong, and that Chinese companies see no contradictions between commercial drive and a dedication to Maoist ideology.



China's Gen-Z: A Force for Change in the Era of Decoupling?

Diana Fu • March 22, 2023

Drawing on over a decade of research on civil society and contentious politics, Diana Fu discussed the diverse ways that China's youth are politically engaged and offered thoughts about their role in thawing bilateral relations.



War or Collapse? Why Today's China Discussion Needs a Reboot

Duncan J. McCampbell • May 3, 2023

Duncan J. McCampbell suggested how the world, and especially the U.S., can protect its values and vital interests, avoid unnecessary conflict, and continue interacting with what is certain to be a changing, struggling, but ultimately modernizing China.



Population Decline and the Future of Women's Rights in China

Leta Hong Fincher • May 18, 2023

Leta Hong Fincher looked at what lies ahead for women's rights in China as the government carries out a pro-natalist, pro-marriage propaganda campaign and a harsh crackdown on feminist activism.

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.

Student Recruitment Support

The China Office team participated in the EducationUSA College Fairs held in Beijing, Shanghai, Chongqing, and Shenyang. China Center Director Fran Liu shared valuable information about U.S. higher education and the University of Minnesota's exceptional programs with prospective students and parents.

At the College Fair in Beijing, dedicated alumni volunteers provided on-site support, making the University of Minnesota's booth a popular and informative destination at the fairs.



The China Office also engages with potential students by hosting in-person events and visiting high schools. One of their signature events, "Get to Know U of M," invites prospective students, parents, and high school counselors to the China Office space to interact with passionate Gopher parents and alumni and learn more about University of Minnesota programs.

Check Out Our WeChat Account!

The China Office team has successfully managed the University's social media presence in China. Engagement has been growing steadily, with an impressive 18% growth rate in 2023. The creative and inspiring content has received praise from counselors, students, parents, and other universities.



Alumni Engagement

The China Office and University of Minnesota Alumni Association - Beijing Chapter organized a joint Alumni Reunion Party in May. This was the first large alumni gathering in China since the beginning of the pandemic, with over 100 alumni registered. The event featured some “special guests,” including Gopher babies from alumni families and newly enrolled students who will be attending UMN in the fall.

The China Office also organized events for expert alumni from various industries to share their research achievements and expertise with the alumni community in China. Carlson School of Management alum Allen Lueth, CEO of Great Leap Brewing in Beijing, shared his personal journey with UMN, Minnesota, China, and his beloved brewing brand. Law School alum Ian (Yinan) Wang, partner at Deheng Law Offices and president of the Beijing alumni chapter, provided expert guidance to alumni companies on complying with China's Personal Information Protection Law.

Educational Collaboration

China Office Director Fran Liu visited Dr. Zhirong “Jerry” Zhao, dean of the School of Public Affairs at Zhejiang University, who was previously the Gross Family Professor in Public and Nonprofit Management at the University of Minnesota Humphrey School of Public Affairs. The visit established a foundation for potential educational collaborations in the future.



THE CHINA OFFICE HOSTED AN ALUMNI REUNION PARTY IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA ALUMNI ASSOCIATION - BEIJING CHAPTER.

Contributors 贊助捐贈

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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2022-23 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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GUESTS AT THE CHINESE NEW YEAR RECEPTION.

To Our Chinese Friends 年度回顾

亲爱的朋友们，

回顾过去的一学年，中国中心积极致力于提升新声音和新理念、努力搭建中美友谊的桥梁。我们为过去一年所取得的成就深感自豪。

在“考虑中国”系列网络研讨会的第三年，我们再次邀请到一批杰出的演讲者。他们的演讲涵盖了广泛的主题，包括中国的教育体系、变革社会中的妇女权利、中美紧张局势下的全球商业战略以及围棋的复杂性（见第8-9页）。我们欣喜地看到，这些网络研讨会在全球范围内获得了超过 19,000 人次的浏览量。如果您错过了我们的直播，可以在我们的网站上观看回放视频。

今年的格里芬“架设美中桥梁”讲座由约翰斯-霍普金斯大学中国非洲研究计划的主任博黛蓉（Deborah Brautigam）博士为我们主讲。她深入探讨了发展中国家债务带来的严峻挑战，并强调了解决这一问题需要中美双方的合作（见第 4 页）。

我们也很荣幸能与全美各地华裔社团一起推广由“百人会”和哥伦比亚大学联合发起的“美国华人状况调查”（见第 6 页）。该调查结果深入探讨了美国华人在日常生活中所面临的诸多问题，涵盖了健康、社区、老龄化、反亚裔仇恨和歧视等方方面面。

在本年度的“中国桥挑战”案例竞赛中，我们深受下一代领导人的创造力和解决问题能力所感动（见第 2-3 页）。在决赛中，三支学生队伍生动地展示了中美两国的年轻人如何可以采取具体措施来建立相互理解的桥梁，并就特定问题提出了详细可行的解决方案。本年度中国桥挑战赛的主题是“中美关系发展战略：商业作为一种善的力量”。我们要感谢本年度的合作伙伴——卡尔森管理学院——为本次竞赛提供了鼎力支持。

尽管面临着诸多挑战，但中美高等教育合作的前景令人鼓舞。面对面的学术交流已经恢复，中国中心再次积极支持明大师生前往中国，同时也在校园内热烈接待中国访客。我们期待与合作伙伴们通力合作，拓展我们的联系网络，创造崭新的合作机遇，分享我们对中国的浓厚兴趣。

由衷感谢您一直以来对中国中心的不懈支持。您的慷慨捐助推动着我们的工作，您的合作引领着我们的使命，您的热情搭建着美中未来的桥梁。

琼·布热津斯基



中國中心

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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 (eot.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.