Dear Readers:

This newsletter is an introduction and overview of the University of Oregon Chinese Flagship program. As editors, we hope to capture the essence and heart of our beloved program. The newsletter has provided us with an opportunity to reflect on our journey during our last full year on campus. We are extremely thankful for all of the people who continue to encourage and support us, and are grateful for the lifelong lessons and friends that we have formed through the program.

We would like to specifically thank Jeremy Henninger-Chiang in assisting with Chinese translations and Monica McLellan for her incredible heart and dedication that is a source of our program’s success.

We hope you enjoy.

Sincerely,
Carol Kress and Samara Schuman

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UO CHINESE FLAGSHIP

The University of Oregon Chinese Flagship is an undergraduate program for helping students achieve a professional level of Mandarin proficiency while studying other disciplines. As graduates of the Language Flagship program, students take their place among the next generation of global professionals, commanding a superior level of proficiency in one of the world’s most critical languages.

A key aspect of the program involves studying abroad. Students are eligible for funding to attend Flagship–approved intensive summer language programs in the United States, China, and Taiwan. Moreover, Flagship students are required to attend a Capstone year at Nanjing University or National Taiwan University to complete the Flagship program. During the year abroad, students enroll in courses related to their field of study and participate in an internship related to their desired career path.

Flagship is sponsored by the Language Flagship and National Security Education Program (NSEP) of the Department of Defense and administered by the Institute of International Education (IIE).
Every year, Flagship students participate in summer Mandarin immersion programs. Flagship approved summer programs are offered domestically and internationally.

Each program is rigorous and immersive, allowing students to improve their Mandarin and deepen cultural understanding.

The following pages include introductions to summer programs and insight into the student experience described by Oregon students who have attended the programs.
The International Chinese Language Program (ICLP) is located in Taipei, Taiwan at the National Taiwan University (NTU). The ICLP Flagship Summer Program offers training in both traditional and simplified Mandarin. Students enjoy Taiwan’s diverse culture and NTU’s lively campus when attending ICLP. The 9-week program improves students’ language ability by providing an optimal study environment with an ideal living arrangement in Taipei Paradise.

ICLP
International Chinese Languages Program
Taipei, Taiwan

What classes did you attend?
Andy: Thoughts on Society, Newspaper II
Thomas: Talks on Contemporary China, Newspaper II

How did you feel about the curriculum?
Andy: The coursework is challenging, but small classes of four or five people force you to engage in the class and really help improve your Chinese. Learning Chinese for four hours a day, five days a week is a lot of exposure to the language and provides opportunities to grow. The language pledge is enforced, and it’s a good thing for the program to have.

Homework?
Thomas: It really helped me understand sentence structures and written language, and it exposed me to different materials like newspaper articles. It was a great way to lead discussions in class.

What was the living situation like?
Andy: We lived in Taipei Paradise which are apartments near NTU. There were 8 of us in our apartment. People at the program make the living experience really awesome.

Thomas: There were six students and one teacher in my co-ed apartment. The benefits of living with a teacher is you’ll always have someone willing to help you. I learned more about the culture by living with a teacher. It was off campus dining, and a lot of Uber eats.

How were the teachers?
Thomas: The teachers were really understanding. I felt like they knew what they were doing and generally had the best solutions to help students when they were struggling.

What opportunities were there to practice Chinese?
Andy: The reading class really helps. One on one tutoring sessions are available once a week in your living quarters, you can talk about whatever or ask for homework help. It’s a nice opportunity to work on social skills.

What opportunities were there to explore the city?
Thomas: During orientation week they take you around the city, and during the long weekend you get to sign up for an event and can travel around. The city is really cool, the general vibe of hints of globalization mixed with preserving its own culture is really cool.

Favorite memory or biggest takeaway?
Andy: The people I got to meet during the program is what made the trip for me. Because of them, everything was more exciting.

Thomas: The food and experiencing the culture that my parents had the chance of experiencing.
CET (China Educational Tours) Beijing operates out of Capital Normal University. The program offers language courses for students from beginning to advanced levels and enforces a language pledge. Students live on campus with a Chinese roommate and work with professors to drastically improve their Chinese.

Princeton in Beijing (PIB) is a highly intensive summer program for intermediate and advanced Mandarin language study. The 8-week rigorous program focuses on testing and fluency through accuracy. PIB is ideal for those who thrive in high-pressure learning environments and desire to dramatically improve their language ability.
How were the teachers?
I had just completed 100-level Chinese at UO, so I did second year Chinese in Beijing. The curriculum was definitely very rigorous. We had about four hours each day in class with one main teacher and three good supporting teachers. For homework we would learn about 40 new words everyday. We studied social issues in China, like global warming, the trade war, gender equality, etc.

How was the curriculum structured?
Homework usually takes 3-4 hours a day, and every week on Friday we have a written and speaking test. And once the test was done you were free during weekends.

How was the living situation?
We lived in dorms that were like a hotel, I have no complaints about the living situation. We each lived with a Chinese roommate and some people had really great roommates. For food there was a cafeteria on campus with three levels of different foods from different Chinese regions, and lots of restaurants in the vicinity.

Weather in Beijing is definitely hot and humid, but the pollution wasn’t as bad as I expected. We would even have blue sky sometimes.

Were there opportunities to explore the city?
I would walk every night around the city for several hours. We also had group trips to 安阳, the Great Wall, and to the national museum. Some people even went to Shanghai every weekend on their own time.

Advice to someone who is applying?
Really try to reach out to more locals. As a foreigner, any Chinese you speak will be rewarded with “your Chinese is so good!” Get to know a waiter at a restaurant that you frequent - even if it’s a little step, take the opportunity. Also, open a bank account and utilize WeChat to rent bikes, order takeout, hail a cab, etc. Learn how to use it as quickly as possible, because it’ll be very useful.

Favorite memory or biggest takeaway?
I got to reconnect with friends from Beijing that I met at UO. When you go off by yourself or with other foreign students, you really don’t get the same exposure to the culture than if a local takes you around. That was definitely the best part.

How was the food dining situation?
We lived in the foreign exchange dormitory, it was almost like a hotel. There are two people per room. I’m still in contact with my roommate.

What was the campus and weather?
The campus was big, we had access to most places, except maybe one or two libraries we couldn’t go to. The weather was hot, then after it started to rain. There is smog too, I wore face masks.

Were there opportunities to explore?
Because it was the 20th anniversary we got to travel outside of Beijing to Chengde and Xian. There is also a term break where students have a long weekend to plan a trip, a lot of students went to Shanghai or Harbin.

How was the city?
Beijing is huge, and there is a lot of stuff to do. You can go to hutongs or historical sites or to 三里屯.

Favorite memory or biggest takeaway?
One night I toured around Beijing the entire night with my roommate. We ate random street food and visited lots of historical sites.

Do you have any advice to someone considering PIB?
Apply. It’s a once in a lifetime opportunity and it will improve your Chinese. It’s really worth it. Don’t stay in your room the entire time, make sure to go explore.
CIEE (Council for International Education Exchange) Shanghai Summer Accelerated Chinese Language is a two-month long program operating out of East China Normal University. The language program has classes for all levels of learners, from students who cannot say hello to those who have been studying Chinese for multiple years. Students get to choose to live on campus in dormitories with a Chinese roommate or live with a host family near campus.

How were classes and curriculum?
Felix: I liked how it was mostly in the mornings, so you could do stuff in the afternoon. An hour, and then a break, then something different, so you never were doing stuff for hours on end.
Vanessa: I thought it was interesting, a lot of our curriculum was modern (wechat, bike sharing) we went out and interviewed people which was good. The homework wasn’t that bad. You did your homework with your 辅导老师 which was nice.

How was the living situation?
Vanessa: We all lived in the same hall, you could open your doors and talk to each other, the roommates were nice!
Carol: I lived in a homestay really close to campus which was awesome- my host parents would make me meals and take me out to eat. They didn’t speak any English so my Chinese had to get good fast.

How was the food?
Felix: It was just a normal cafeteria, I liked the fruit stand- the bananas are so good.
Carol: There’s also a TON to eat near campus too so if you are tired of cafeteria food just go checkout all the food on 金沙江路 or the malls nearby.

How was the campus and weather?
Carol: Shanghai in summer is hot and humid with lots of rain and storms. Get a personal fan, drink lots of water.

Were there opportunities to explore?
Carol: Weekends gave opportunities to explore the city and you could even take the train to Suzhou or Nanjing or Hangzhou, also (depending on homework) you could go to nearby places like 南京路 or the bund on weekdays after class.

How was the city?
Carol: Shanghai is huge, with lots of people. It was awesome, there were tons of malls and shopping centers and the subway was really easy to figure, out no matter what level your Chinese is.

Favorite memory or biggest takeaway?
Felix: Being able to travel to nearby cities was also awesome. It was insanely convenient to go anywhere from Shanghai, and the school was not so intense that that wasn’t an option.

Do you have any advice to someone considering CIEE?
Vanessa: Get the scholarship and application process done and once you’re done with that it’s easy sailing from there.
The Chinese Flagship Banzhang Student Leadership Board promotes Flagship within campus and to outside organizations. The board plans term events and provides opportunities for students to enhance leadership skills. Banzhang has grown significantly within the past two years, with milestones that include meeting with University of Oregon President Michael Schill, establishing official board positions, and becoming ASUO student government recognized. Currently, Banzhang includes 15 board members and continually recruits and encourage leadership development.
Project Pengyou (meaning “friend” in Mandarin) is a national nonprofit dedicated to empowering the next generation of U.S-China bridge-builders. This academic year marks the establishment of the University of Oregon’s Project Pengyou Chapter. Founded by University of Oregon Chinese Flagship students, the chapter works to bridge the social gap between domestic and international students within the campus. Highlights of Project Pengyou include Pengyou Talks, Slang Exchange, and Speed Pengyou events.
Annual Retreat
During the fall term Flagship students attend a bonding retreat. This year we went to Belknap Hot Springs and students learned about the Capstone year and summer program experience. There was also hot pot, games, and relaxing hot springs.

Colloquium
The Colloquium event is an annual year-end celebration to honor the work of Flagship students and faculty. This year Colloquium was held at the Global Scholars Hall Great Room and had over 100 people come eat Peking Duck, receive awards, watch performances and participate in a raffle with travel-related prizes.

Portland Students take a day trip to Portland to enjoy DimSum at HK cafe and enjoy the beautiful aesthetics of Chinese culture at Lansu Gardens.

Flagship students cooked hotpot in the Global Scholars Hall kitchen and enjoyed playing games and relaxing together.

你想吃什么？
□火锅
□点心
□北京烤鸭
什么都想吃...

每天都要吃火锅
The Global Engagement Academic Residential Community offers language-based communities within the Global Scholars Hall, including the Chinese Living the Language floor. Living in the international community allows students to connect with like-minded people interested in Chinese culture. Approximately half of the residents are a part of the Chinese Living the Language Program. Flagship students are highly encouraged to live on the floor and are offered scholarships, such as the Global Scholars Award.

全球参与学术民居社团在全球学者大厅有设立语言交流社区，包括专门让在学中文的学生和来自中国的留学生住在同一楼。住在国际的社区中学生能跟同样对中国文化感兴趣的人交流。大约一半住在GSH的住户都住在这样的语言社区。领航强烈鼓励学生住在这里这些语言社区，并为这些住户提供奖学金，像是“全球学者奖“

**Facts With the R.A: Feiran Chen 陈斐然**

There are about 40 residents, half of them are a part of the Chinese ARC (academic residential community). We have community social events where we get food and hang out in the lounge. People often use the lounge area to hang out and practice writing Chinese to get ready for tests. People make lifelong friendships in the dorm, especially the Chinese international students. I always see people hang out together.
The American English Institute (AEI) serves as an English language instruction institution for international students. AEI provides student jobs as conversation partners and tutors to assist international students improve their English.

Flagship students Ziru Bolen and Ellie Yeo explain their involvement in AEI as conversation partners:

How did you find out about AEI?
Ziru: I found out through another roommate and Ellie who found out from a previous Flagship student, Natasha Willow. It's been the best job of my whole life.

What does a conversation partner do?
Ziru: We talk to students in English and help them adapt to American academic environments and social life. We help them with anything they need help with, like learning about cultural differences.
Ellie: I get paid to make friends with people. We work one on one and in classes. We do whatever we want when we meet one on one, play games, go out to eat, drink bubble tea, go visit the museum, etc. I’ve become good friends with some conversation partners and have even met their families in China.

What’s your favorite part about working in AEI?
Ziru: Making friends with people from different cultures.
Ellie: Making so many connections with different students from different countries. AEI celebrates all different holidays and cultures and ethnicities. Our previous conversation partners even keep in contact with us when they go back to their home countries.

Any advice?
Ziru: Apply to work there. You make your own hours and are getting paid to make friends.
Ellie: Definitely apply, the goodbyes are too much, but making connections is amazing.
Ben Song attended Capstone in 2017 as a Biology and Chinese double major. He found his internship through a professor while attending classes at Nanjing University. Ben interned as a lab assistant at the university and worked at the Nanjing Drum Tower Hospital. Ben ran experiments related to liver disease to help find a drug that will inhibit fatty acids in livers. But that was just one part of Ben’s job. “I did lots of translations, editing, and communicating with other Western research labs.” In finding an internship, Ben gave tips for science majors. “Take the classes you want to take and talk to your roommate or classmates to help you make connections. It’s all about guanxi (relationships).” When asked if his internship related to his future career goals, Ben replied “Definitely. I want to invent a drug that can fight cancer and prolong our lives.” In the fall of 2019, Ben will attend pharmacy school at Oregon State University and continue at Oregon Health and Science University in pursuing a doctorate in pharmacy.

**CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE: Ben Song**

张翰李鹏与2019年冬季毕业于俄勒冈大学并获得了音乐和中文的双学士学位。在为期一年的领航项目中，李鹏在南京大学交响乐团实习，担任主力音乐指挥和总监。李鹏是通过跟他音乐课指挥的“关系”才得到这份实习。他在管弦乐队中主持排练，音乐家和教铜管乐器演奏。李鹏说：“大体上来说整个实习的过程进行得相当顺利，毕业后他们就想立刻雇佣我”。李鹏现在已经回到南京担任南京大学交响团的警察学院音乐总监和助理导演。李鹏说：“我实习中最喜欢的部分是教铜管乐器；我从来没想过自己会当老师”。

**CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE: 张翰李鹏**

**Penn Armstrong**
王露在2017年夏季完成了Capstone的项目，并顺利从俄勒冈大学获得了商业和中文的双学士学位。在Capstone项目进行期间，王露非常喜欢和中国同学在南京大学一起上课，同时他在实习中受益匪浅。王露说：“我对用中文进行面试非常有信心；Capstone项目给了我很多机会，尤其是在求职这一方面”。王露在项目过程中在上海ASAP+中国数字营销公司的管理部门进行实习，他的工作职能包括翻译、分析报告，和创建中文网站。王露说：“我对中文进行面试非常有信心；Capstone项目给了我很多机会，尤其是在求职这一方面”。王露现在住在华盛顿特区，并在国际贸易管理局担任项目和管理分析师。“我觉得参加Capstone非常有利于自我发现，并且我的中文进步了很多，与以前相比，现在用中文自在多了”。

**CAPSTONE经验：王露**

**Ava Jamerson**

Luoyi Farestrand interned at ADIA, a gaming company located in Nanjing. ADIA designs graphics and game characters for other companies including Nintendo and FIFA. Luoyi worked in the international business development department. “I focused on international clients,” Luoyi explained. “I researched in Chinese and translated kinds of character designs. I'm not really a gaming person, but I learned a lot about international business and how to communicate with clients.” Luoyi also worked as a legal representative and helped the company get money back from a European company. “That was one achievement I felt pretty proud of,” Luoyi said.

Luoyi explained the application process for finding an internship. “The HR department came to Nanjing about finding interns,” where students were then interviewed. “We were basically hired on the spot.” He also shared advice to students looking for an internship. “Don’t be stressed out; you don’t have to be overwhelmed. In Chinese culture they want to hire people within a week; the program advisor will help you.” Luoyi will be graduating spring of 2019 and is on the search for a job in international trade.

**CAPSTONE EXPERIENCE:**

**Luoyi Farestrand 李落义**
LIFE AFTER FLAGSHIP

Erik Thorbeck 艾瑞华
艾瑞华在2016年毕业，专业为城市规划，他曾经获得过Boren奖学金。

你现在在做什么工作？
我现在是M Moser Associates建筑公司的工作场所策略师。M Moser是一家国际型公司，其总公司位于香港，并且在世界各地都有相应的办事处。策略团队的主要职能包括让客户更好地了解他们员工的工作习惯，并提供一些设计建议帮助他们提高工作效率。

参加领航项目有没有对你得到这份工作或在工作上有所帮助？
参加领航项目对我来说是非常有帮助的，如果没有专业的中文水平，我可能就不会得到这份工作。

你在工作时会使用中文吗？
没错，我在工作时经常会用到中文，我在上海工作的大多数同事都是中国人，所以跟他们交流时全用中文进行交流。

参加领航项目是否对你个人或职业的目标有长久且深刻的影响？
参加领航项目让我更愿意去冒险和主动地去学习新的知识。如果没有在南京大学进行为期半年的学习，并在成都的某家公司进行实习，可能我就不能很好地适应今后的工作环境。我觉得领航项目使我更渴望去旅游并寻找一些有趣的体验。

你对刚毕业的领航学生有什么好的建议？
如果你对你现在的工作不满意，先想好你的工作目标是什么，然后了解做这份工作需要什么样的技能，寻找在这方面可以提供指导的人，多去建立关系。你会发现自己有很多愿意帮助刚毕业的学生，因为以前他们也是这样。机会一定会出现，只是需要自己去寻找。

在你去参加Capstone项目之前有什么事是希望被告知的？
虽然在参加Capstone时我的实习岗位早已经安排好了，但是如果能重来，我希望我能将所有的选项列出来，然后做出最明智的选择。幸好我最后的选择还不错，但回首看去，只有一个选项风险比较大。我建议同学们利用自己的关系，并且尽量与领航项目的同学或跟你目标有任何关系的人保持联系。

Jin-Li Lao 劳锦丽
Jin-Li graduated in 2010 as a student in the first undergraduate cohort of the University of Oregon Flagship program. She doubled majored in international studies and Asian studies, and double minored in business management and Chinese. Jin-Li has now opened Zero Degrees, a popular boba and snack shop in Eugene.

What are you doing now?
I own an import-export company. I import a lot from China and Taiwan and places surrounding. I travel to places like Hong Kong and China for trade shows and to meet with the manufacturers. That is one of my businesses, my second is Zero Degrees. It is a franchise based out of California, we specialize in Spanish-Asian fusion snacks. I wanted to do something more local.

Did the Flagship Program help you get or succeed in your job?
Yes. Capstone was more about my experience. My capstone year in Nanjing was great, it was more about personal growth rather than being educational. It pushed me to immerse into the culture, language and lifestyle.

Do you use Chinese in your job?
I go to China every year, and I use Chinese with the manufacturers even though they provide translators. It is easier and that is what Flagship prepared me for.

Did Flagship have a lasting impact on your personal or career goals?
I am still in close contact with most of my cohort. We are from Portland so most of us gather around during the holidays. I am still best friends with Sandy who also went to UO.

What advice would you give recent Flagship graduates?
Job hunting is stressful enough. Just take it easy, and use interviews as practice. Do not overthink each one. It might take you a few years to discover what you want to do, so do not get stressed about trying to find the “perfect” job right out of school.

What is something you wish you had known before doing Capstone?
You can not prepare for a place you have never been, and especially as the guinea pigs we could not prepare for everything. We just enjoyed the ride and took it one day at a time. The biggest challenge was in registering for classes and transferring credit, but hopefully that is better now.
THANK YOU

We as editors want to take a moment to thank every single person who has contributed, encouraged, helped, or been a part of this project.

We especially want to thank Monica, our advisor, mentor, and hero. We couldn’t do any of this without you.

We also want to thank Jeremy for helping with translations, it has significantly improved the quality of the newsletter.

Finally we want to thank everyone who was interviewed, photographed, sent in photos and filled out forms for us. We couldn’t have done this without you, and you are what makes our time at UO and in the Flagship program worth it.

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你在中国要什么呢？

俄勒冈大学中文领航项目2019年通讯