

CLASS Activities at the 2011 ACTFL Convention

The 2011 ACTFL Convention was held from Nov. 18 to 21 at the Denver Convention Center, in Denver Colorado. On Wednesday evening, two days before the opening ceremonies, the ACTFL Board hosted a dinner to welcome its co-sponsoring organizations and present its annual report. CLASS' Executive Director Yu-Lan Lin highlighted some of the professional collaborative activities that had taken place during 2011, such as the Startalk Program with ACTFL, NCLC Conference with Asia Society, Summer Institute with Hanban, K-16 Curriculum project with members of CLTA, and material development with the NEAFLRC at OSU, as well as national activities for membership service. On Thursday, Nov. 17, CLASS provided a full-day, pre-conference workshop entitled, **Delivering Standards-based Instruction to Meet the Needs of All Students** (Yu-Lan Lin). This workshop was attended by approximately 70 teachers, most of whom were guest teachers recruited by the College Board and Hanban to teach Chinese in U.S. schools. The feedback from the attendees was very positive; many of them expressed appreciation for enhancing their understanding of using standards-based language instruction, and for practical information on curriculum development from writing a daily lesson plan to a more long-term thematic unit.

On the opening day, the ACTFL President introduced Michael Chen as the keynote speaker. Dr. Chen is a nationally renowned educator and innovator in the area of multi-media technology, as well as the author of the recently published book *Educational Nation: Six Leading Edges of Innovation in Our Schools*. His speech was informative and inspirational for the thousands of conference attendees.

After the opening ceremonies, CLASS presented a series of sessions: **Localization Adapting Chinese Teaching Materials at Local Schools** (Lucy Lee); **Results from the 2011 AP Chinese Language and Cultural Exam** (Henry Ruan); **Effective Plan and Instructions through Thematic Units and Cultural Studies** (Gin-Chi Wu); **Grammar, Proficiency and Learning –Explore Effective Chinese Learning in Classroom** (Haiyan Fu); **Instructional Designs and Approaches for Intermediate Chinese Language Learners** (Jianhong Wang). Friday evening was highlighted by the ever popular **CLASS SWAP Shop**, This year's session was attended by approximately 125 teachers, who each had five minutes to present a classroom tip or technique that worked for him/her. Within the two hour time span, teachers collected a number of fun and motivating activities that were proven to work and easy to implement or adapt.

On Saturday, CLASS sessions featured: **Bringing a Green Future and Integrating Arts through a Chinese Classroom** (Huey-Jen Pan); **Create a Standards-based Chinese Classroom** (Shaoyuan Carol Lin); **Language and Children Making the Match in Chinese** (Dali Tan); **CLASS Roundtable: CLASS Professional Development Showcase** (Carol Lin); **Connect to the Profession: Effective Digital Learning and Networking** (Henny Chen); **Empower 21ST Century Learning through Technology in Chinese Classroom** (Grace Heebner); **CLTA-CLASS Joint Forum.**

On Saturday, four annually scheduled events took place: the **CLASS General Membership Meeting**, where members received reports from various Committee Chairs, and had an opportunity to meet and bid farewell to new and departing members of the Board of directors; **CLASS annual luncheon**, a filled-to-capacity event where participants could network with fellow members, met professionals from other organizations and win numerous door prizes generously donated by exhibitors. The incoming President and immediate past President of ACTFL were among the distinguished guests; **a Roundtable Discussion** where members learned about various CLASS professional development activities; and finally, **the CLTA-CLASS Forum**, which has always been jointly planned and presented by CLTA and CLASS members. This year, the topic of discussion was performance-based assessments. This was the only session in which K-16 educators of Chinese could get all together and discuss a specific topic. Year after year, this forum proves to be an important bridge between K-12 and post-secondary educators.

On Sunday, the last day of the conference, CLASS sessions were held until noon. They were: **Creating Chinese Thematic Units to Improve Proficiency: Examples from Immersion** (Kathleen Wang); **The Mandarin Center, online Resource for Empowering Teachers** (Benson Zhao); **The Utah Chinese Immersion Literacy Project** (Myriam Met). This year's conference concluded with the new CLASS 2012 Board meeting, with incoming President Haiyan Fu presiding and sharing her new direction for the entire Board.