

Eye on Campus

Chinese Language Course Now Offered

By Martina Delgado - Lion's Eye Staff Writer - mdd5136@psu.edu

On Saturdays from twelve to three-thirty in the afternoon Penn State Brandywine offers a Chinese language course. The course is CHNS 001 (Elementary Chinese) and is taught by Professor Meilin Shief. China is known for having numerous languages spoken throughout the country. Imagine if speaking to someone in New York was like speaking to someone in Italy. That is how easy it is to come across another dialect in China. However, CHNS 001 is only teaching the Mandarin dialect. China, being such a large and populous country, has many languages and dialects. Therefore, an official language had to be decided in order for the government to work efficiently.

Mandarin, meaning "common language," was selected as a standard. It is taught in many schools in China as well for communication purposes. According to

About.com, Chinese languages are tonal, which means it is not so much what you say, but the way you say it that determines its meaning. This can sometimes be hard for people of the Western culture, but can be interesting seeing the vast differences in languages and meaning.

When asking senior Teron Meyers (Corporate Communications Major) about his experience in CHNS 001, he confirmed that he enjoyed the class despite the rumors that Chinese is a difficult language to learn. When asked if he learned any other dialects in the class, Teron answered "no" but added "we are learning how to write Chinese. We are learning both traditional and simplified styles." Teron took this class not because it was a requirement for his degree, but because he is fascinated with Asian cultures, and felt it would be a challenge. "I like to challenge myself, especially with language"

he noted. "I have many Mandarin Chinese-speaking friends. I practice with one of my close friends when I get the chance," he added. Even though this did fulfill a degree requirement, Teron feels taking this class will benefit him in the future. "Because communications is my major, it will probably aid me in some shape or form. Specifically I am interested in marketing. Perhaps I could one day work for a company overseas. There are endless possibilities with using the language for a career."

Learning different languages and mastering them has proven successful in acquiring a job and maintaining a career after college. Penn State Brandywine plans in the future to bring more languages to the campus for students who are interested in expanding their knowledge on languages and cultures.

From The Desk of...

--The Student Government Association --

Hello Everyone! Brittney Walker, your Student Government President here, giving you a brief update on what SGA's been doing. As many of you know SGA and SOCA (Society of Caribbean Americans) are collecting donated items as well as accepting monetary donations for the victims of the Haiti Quake. We will be accepting donations from now until April 30, 2010 (the last day of classes). ALL donations will be sent to Haiti via UNICEF! We're asking that the campus community help us with our efforts. Though Haiti isn't getting much attention from the press, they still need our help! If you have any questions, feel free to email me at bw5024@psu.edu. I want to personally thank all students, faculty, and staff who have already donated to this cause. We appreciate you very much!

We are also in the works of planning a Spring Week! We're looking for student input. What fun events would you like to see happen? A Field Day? Powderpuff Football? Karaoke? Video Game Competition? Let us know!

Please remember to visit our Learning, Math and Writing Centers if you need help with assignments. We have amazing tutors! Also, we have a Career Fair coming up soon in March. This is a great opportunity for every student, especially if you are looking for an internship/job! Please keep your eyes open for flyers with information regarding this event.

Lastly, congratulations to our 2 THON Dancers Martina Gill and Sean O'Connor!! We're so proud of you for dancing for 46 hours straight FTK!



Buffet big hit with students and staff at Soul Food Fest. Photo by Evan Kroboth.



Cheyney University Choir performing in the Tomezsko Lounge. Photo by Evan Kroboth.