



OCCA NEWSLETTER May 31, 2019

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**A Hike to Remember:** OCCA visited Bear Mountain State Park for a day filled with hiking, feasting, and leisure on Saturday, May 18 (*cont. on page 2*).




## MEET & GREET

**with Jessica Wu**

Cornwall High School Valedictorian Class of '19  
Harvard College Class of '23  
Orange County Chinese School Alumna



**Happy Mother's Day to our wonderful, hardworking mothers!**  
We love you and appreciate all that you do for us and the community!



**Meet & Greet:** On Saturday, May 11, incoming Harvard student **Jessica Wu** visited OCCS and gave an inspiring seminar on her journey through high school, provided helpful tips on the college application process, and answered questions from the audience. Full article on page 3.

**UPCOMING  
EVENTS**

**JUNE 2019**

1. **PING-PONG TOURNAMENT: OCCA VS. ROCKLAND ON SATURDAY, JUNE 1 @ 9:30 – 12:30 PM**
2. **OCCA CHINESE SPELLING BEE ON SATURDAY, JUNE 8 @ 9:30 AM**
3. **PING-PONG TOURNAMENT: OCCA ZHIYU CUP TOURNAMENT ON SATURDAY, JUNE 15**
4. **OCCA PICNIC ON SATURDAY, JUNE 22**

## OCCA Bear Mountain Hiking Trip

by Kevin Huang



On Saturday, May 18, 2019, following dismissal of Chinese School classes, around 50 OCCA members and their families embarked on the biannual OCCA Bear Mountain hiking trip at Bear Mountain State Park. The tradition of hiking up Bear Mountain was established 10 years ago, with the first hike taking place in April 2009. Parents from Class 19 of Columbia University invited along 6 guests to the hike, which lasted around 2 hours. Those who chose not to hike up Bear Mountain took a stroll around the lake instead. The youngest participant was 5 years old.



Everyone had a great time at Bear Mountain as there was no shortage of delicious food or recreational activities. In addition to the homemade dishes, OCCA ordered pizza, catering from local Chinese restaurants, and sliced watermelon for everyone to enjoy. Both OCCS students and parents played basketball, frisbee, and tug-of-war together. It was a beautiful, sunny day outside and the weather was perfect. The hike was very enjoyable and the view of the entire Hudson Valley from the top of the mountain was spectacular. After the hike, the kids ate ice cream and went to play on the playground while everyone else relaxed. Overall, it was a great day that allowed many OCCA members to spend quality time with one another. If you were unable to attend this hiking trip, we hope to see you at Bear Mountain this fall or next spring!



[More photos can be found on the OCCA's Facebook page!](#)



## Meet & Greet with Jessica Wu

### Jessica's High School Journey

Going into high school, I didn't have any idea where I was going to end up at school. But my focus for freshman year for sure was **joining new clubs**, because going from middle school to high school, you have a lot more opportunities in high school and it's very important to explore. I joined a lot of different clubs my freshman year and even my sophomore year. It wasn't so much that I was positive I was going to stick with these clubs, but it was more to see what I was interested in and *would* stick with.

I was also **looking ahead** to see what classes I would take. My freshman year, I basically planned out the rest of my high school curriculum and decided which courses I wanted to take so that they would fit in my schedule, and I was able to fit all the AP science classes that I wanted to take. This isn't something I would necessarily recommend because I ended up not having study hall or lunch from my sophomore through my senior year. It can be intense. You really have to be able to step back and think about what you can handle. You don't want to put too much pressure on yourself because in the end, that's not good for you either. One of the big things I did my freshman year was I joined tennis and after I worked really hard throughout that year, I joined the varsity team my sophomore year.

The major thing I want to point out about my freshman year and going throughout high school is that **I didn't set rules for myself**. I know there are a lot of expectations, like *"Oh, you should join A, B, and C and this will get you into college"*, but it really wasn't like that. I simply aimed to try everything I was interested in and I stuck with the things I really enjoyed. When we go and talk about the college application, you'll see that it's very important that you have a strong sense of yourself and that your extracurriculars reflect who you are as a person.

### Components of a College Application (in order of increasing importance)

1. SAT & SAT Subjects, or ACT
2. Letters of Recommendation
3. Extracurriculars
4. Essays
5. GPA, Course Load, Rank

The SAT score is something that you can train to become better at your junior and senior year. The summer before your junior year is a really good time to work on your SAT score. Other than that, it's not something that you should worry about throughout high school because it doesn't have as much of a swing on your college application as some people like to think it does.

In terms of your letters of recommendation, these are a lot more important than people think. It's crucial that you **build relationships with your teachers** during your sophomore and junior years because they are the ones who will be writing your letters of recommendation.

It's not just about how you get good grades in that class – it's about them seeing you work hard as a student and consequently, a good person. My letters of recommendation had a huge impact on my application because one of the teachers who wrote one for me was somebody I collaborated with for a project. This definitely propelled me towards a better application.

In terms of extracurriculars, they pretty much break down into sports, music, work (jobs count as extracurriculars and look good on your application). There are academic clubs, like Academic World Quest, Quiz Bowl, and Math Team. **Community service** is really important because it shows that you're able to look beyond yourself and that you care about things that are not within your own bubble. I did a lot of community service throughout high school and it wasn't because I wanted to reach this end goal of getting into college, but because I genuinely wanted to do it. That was reflected in my college application because it came from a genuine place. **Even helping out at OCCS is something that counts as community service**. There's also Key Club: some schools do 4-H, but it's basically a club that has different community events you can attend. National Honor Society is another place through which you do a lot of community service. Basically, your extracurriculars are meant to show you as a person beyond your grades.

College admissions officers look for people who are interesting and who are honestly good people. The key points are that you should **be yourself** and **do what you love** because in the end, that is what's going to matter. I can't tell you one specific path to success or getting into the top colleges because when I visited Harvard and Yale last month, I met so many different people and we each had our own kind of story. There is no one path to success, and it's really about who you decide to be, focusing on that, and really letting that shine through.

Essays were a huge factor in my application and it's another reason why you really want to do what you love and have a **sense of self** because when it comes time to write those essays, you're going to have something to write about. If there's anything that tipped me over the edge from being any other applicant in the pool vs. someone who got accepted, it's that my essays were very strong. I spent a lot of time working on them. In your junior year, you can look towards your English teacher for help. I know they're a great resource for this. You need to be a **strong writer** and you need to develop your writing skills throughout high school by taking difficult English classes because it really challenges you to be a better writer.

**Practice writing!** Something I've done throughout high school is journaling. First of all, it's therapeutic, which is good when you're in a stressful environment. Every night or once a week, take some time to write in a journal. That really helps you build a sense of self and helps you understand who you are as a person on paper.



Reading is another helpful component of being a good writer. **If you don't read, it's kind of difficult to write**. Reading puts stories in your mind and sentence flow in your mind. As for essays, there are a lot of workshops you could use. You can draft your essay, improve it, and then work with other people to continue improving it. Again, in the end it really has to come from you, and college admissions officers are going to see who you are. You can have a generic essay, but it needs to have a sense of personality that is truly yours.

The final component and still the biggest factor of the college application is your **GPA**, which is your transcripts, your course load, and your rank, though rank is not as important as you would think. What a lot of people underscore is the difficulty of the courses you are taking. College admissions officers want to see that you are **challenging yourself**. I started taking APs my sophomore year, but that is not necessarily something you have to do. They also want to see a **progression**. Say, perhaps, maybe in your freshman year, you only took regular classes. But that's okay! It doesn't bar you from getting into top colleges. They want to see that over the course of the years, you have challenged yourself. So, the next year, you have taken a few honors classes and done well in them. The number seems to matter a lot, but honestly, if a college is looking at someone who took a regular course vs. an AP course and maybe their number is slightly worse in the AP course, that's okay because they understand that you stepped up to the challenge and were willing to try that AP course.

While it's important to maintain a high GPA, it's also important to have a **challenging workload**. On the other hand, though, you don't want to put so much on your plate that you end up feeling stressed all the time because that is going to take away from your sense of self and your ability to be a whole person. Those are the 5 main things in the college application: your SAT/ACT scores, your letters of recommendation, your extracurriculars, your essays, and your GPA.

(cont. on page 5)

## 《纪念“五四運動”百年、哈佛大学燕京图书馆举办北美及臺灣文學演講會》-江岚



正值“五四運動”百年之際、哈佛燕京图书馆于5月5日举办“北美及台湾文学演讲会”。演讲会由哈佛中國文化工作坊張鳳女士主持、此次應邀參加活動的有來自國內、臺灣地區、美國、加拿大等地的八位學者和作家分两场、從多視角和不同方位、暢談了中華文化歷史與當代北美華文文學的現狀及創作感受。

我协会副会长江岚博士应邀出席活动、并做题为“《合欢牡丹》与北美新移民女性的生存状态”的演讲。江岚博士长期从事中國古典文學域外英譯與傳播教學與研究、并坚持业余创作、尤其擅长散文、曾先后多次斩获「漢新文學獎」、僑報五大道文學獎、“四海文馨”世界華文散文大賽、《人民文學》“观音山杯”游记散文大賽等两岸三地散文类重要奖项。《合歡牡丹》是她的第一部长篇小说、获2016年度“海外華文著述”创作类小说优秀奖。此次江岚博士从《合歡牡丹》的创作构思展开分析、圍繞著第一女主角和她身邊的新移民女性們的情感經歷展開、彼此相互關聯、相互鏡像。從故園到異鄉、從東方到西方、她們個體的情感追求、是她们努力適應異國生活、反抗固化階層、自我尋找、自我肯定以及自我

實現的過程。与前代移民不同之处在于、她們求生存、謀發展的奮鬥不是為了更好地“返回”、而是為了紮根與堅守。她们从故土在被連根拔起的傷痛、在新大陸重新植根的頑強、及站穩腳跟後、攜帶著母文化基因的盡情綻放、與原產於中國、被裸根移植的牡丹交相輝映印證。

当日应邀演讲的还有臺灣中正大學中文系前系主任毛文芳博士；加拿大的作家、編劇、IT公司总监曾曉文；從事城市交通自動化、和企業管理系統軟件研發的李安博士；湖南大學外國語學院教授李偉榮博士；主持新藥臨床研究的长岛医药公司高管蔡維忠博士；加拿大魁北克華人作家協會鄭南川會長；以及加州大學戴維斯分校數學系沈念祖博士。

參與大會的來自不同地區和高校的學者、作家文友、演講前後、還組織了哈佛書展、簽售新書和交流。波士頓僑界默默关注江岚博士多年的江氏宗親會、派出宗族長者由記者陪同、专程前往演講會與江岚博士相認、并贈與宗譜、對聯、演繹了一出客家人宗親觀念強韌、血脉千年傳承的生動實況、也為演講會現場增添了一段文學之外的佳話。

## 《驻纽约总领事馆举办“华文教育座谈会”》-江岚

5月11日下午、中华人民共和国驻纽约总领事馆举办“华文教育座谈会”。分布于领馆辖区内纽约、新泽西、宾夕法尼亚、康乃狄克、俄亥俄、马萨诸塞六州的中文学校选派38名代表与会。此次座谈会以“华文学校教学与管理的发展建议”为专题、总领事黄屏及主管相关事务的领事们耐心听取了大家的经验、意见和建议。

这是总领馆首次组织安排专门针对华文教育发展情况的研讨会。与会的代表们都有多年参与华文教育工作的教学和管理经验、大家发言踊跃。在目前面临的困难方面、各校普遍比较关注“教材和教辅材料”。其中教材订购流程困难、各种教辅材料短缺等技术层面上的问题、希望领馆能够通过国内出版社沟通、协调、在下学期开学之前帮助解决。另外、大家共同指出的当然还有现有教材“水土不服”的问题、表现在教学语料僵硬陈旧、教学目标不明确或不符合美国本土要求等等。



汉语作为世界上使用人口最多、承载文化历史最悠久的语言日益受到世人重视。愈来愈多的人渴望学习汉语、愈来愈多的教育机构开始教授汉语。这个发展态势是大家共同的认识、也由此清楚看到华文教育在这个态势中面临的机遇和挑战。华文教育必须逐步向主流教学体系靠拢、是决定中文学校是否能保证自身发展空间的客观要求。而通向这个目标最大的障碍、是中文学校教师的非专业化数量大、教学水平参差不齐、总体综合素质偏低、流动性大、由此造成教学目标难以统一、更无法实现、直接影响教学效果。

在中文学校完成9年学习、而无法独立完成300-500汉字短文的学生比比皆是、是与会代表们都能看到、也都深为忧虑的现实瓶颈。而突破这个瓶颈的关键节点、大家一致认为在于加强教师队伍的专业素质训练、包括在职教师培训和教师后备队伍培养。

江岚教务长代表橙郡中文学校参加座谈会。提出三条建议：

1. 国际汉语教育作为一个独立的学科领域、相关研究主要着眼于对外汉语和汉语作为第二外语的层面、对学生人数最大、参与人数最多、延续历史最长的汉语作为承继语教学缺乏关注、导致十几年来相关研究成果寥寥无几、教材建设和师资培养严重滞后。建议相关部门在机构调整之后、加大对华文教育的研究立项支持力度；
2. 在国际汉语教育领域之内、现有的为海外优秀汉语教师设置的认证和奖励制度、为汉语学生提供的种种奖学金制度、在资格审核的过程中有意将华人华侨及其子弟排除在外、不仅不合理、也极大地伤害海外侨心侨情、亟待匡正；
3. 持续若干年来的“寻根之旅”、“名师巡讲”等旨在推动海外华文教育发展的项目、在运作过程中不够透明、大量中文学校无法获益、而中介机构从中渔利、其运作机制亟待完善。

座谈会由王雷副总领事主持。会后、与会代表们和黄屏总领事、王雷副总领事及侨务组领事们继续交流、大家特别提到了整合资源、扩大彼此之间互动交流和回馈本地学校等项目的具体策划、为推动领区内华文教育向实用性、普及性和大众化发展共同努力。



(cont. from page 3 – “Meet & Greet”)

## Where Jessica Got Accepted

I applied to Harvard in the Early Action round, so I found out in mid-December that I was accepted. At that point, I had already applied to UC Berkeley, Fordham University, and the University of Maryland. After I got into Harvard at the end of the month, I decided I wanted to apply to Yale University as well. Then in March, I found out I got into all of these schools. I was mostly pulled between Harvard and Yale. I think it would be interesting to talk about why I chose Harvard over Yale.

In mid-April, I first visited Yale during its “Bulldog Days”, which is where you stay a couple of nights to explore the campus and see what their student organizations are about. It was an amazing place, as you can probably imagine. The end reason I did not pick Yale was not because Yale was not as good as Harvard. It wasn’t the type of community that fitted with me personally. **Yale is very artsy and is in New Haven, which has a small-town feel.** If that’s something that is more right for you, then that’s absolutely fine. I just personally am not like that.

That’s another thing you should really be looking at when you’re looking at which colleges you want to apply to – understanding that **there is no “right” college.** Do you want a rural setting? Do you want to be in a city setting? Do you want to be at a big school or a small private school? Do you want to be at a liberal arts college or a research university? These are things that, in the long run, are very important and you shouldn’t underscore their importance. A lot of people are focused on the brand name of the college, but in the end, you should **do what’s right for you.**

At the end of the month, I visited Harvard. The name aside, obviously, it was really just amazing! I loved the political community there, they have unparalleled economics advising and government department advising. I felt that **I connected with the people there,** more so than I had at Yale. They were definitely more along my line of people, which is why I chose Harvard over Yale.

Another big question: did I think I was going to get accepted into any of these schools? The answer is no, I did not. Pretty much everyone I’ve talked to unanimously agreed that no one ever thinks that they’re going to be accepted. You just have to put your best foot forward and trust in yourself that you are going to go to a school that’s right for you.



Jessica Wu poses with OCCA President Kangjian Wu.

Next question: why do I think I got accepted in the end? Because I cared about what I did in high school in a very genuine way. My main projects I did were “Student Voices Week” at CCHS, which was a result of the 2018 Parkland Shooting. We really wanted to engage students in our school and talk about social issues, so we put together and implemented this project on our own. To admissions officers, this shows **initiative** and that **you care about things beyond yourself.** That’s really, truly important. The clubs that I did, including acapella and Key Club, were things I wanted to do and were important to me.

College acceptances do not define you, and you should not let them define you. You really have to pick your own path. If you’re a current high school student, understand that it’s up to you to be **proactive** and **independent.** Many parents here really want to tell their kids they should be doing X, Y, and Z in order to get into college. When you begin attending high school, you see college as this end goal and once you get into this college, that’s the end goal. But really, there’s so much more after that. Once you do get into college, you have to have a sense of what you want to do because you will be an independent person. In the end, **your happiness is going to matter,** not what your parents think. That’s why it’s so important to have that sense of self. It all culminates because having that sense of self will not only enable you to thrive in college, but in high school it will reflect in your applications. It’s really a win on all ends. No one has to follow exactly what I did because again, there are multiple paths to success.

Stay tuned for Jessica’s Q&A Session in the June 2019 issue!

## A Typical Day at OCCS



Community News



On Sunday, May 12, 2019, nearly 60 OCCCC members attended the baptism of **Elizabeth Lu (卢锦敏)**, **Ping Bao (鲍萍)**, and **Vivi Liu (刘诗玮)**, pictured left, at Bergen Christian Testimony Church in Wyckoff, NJ. The baptism ceremony was followed by a dinner at the International Buffet. Welcome to the family!

**Richard Deng, Speller No. 250**  
Monroe, New York



Sponsor:  
*Times-Herald Record*

School:  
Monroe-Woodbury Middle School

Age:  
13

Grade:  
7th

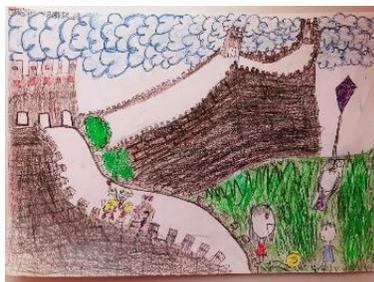
Richard makes YouTube videos about many topics, including his predictions for presidential and midterm elections, the longest possible driving directions on Google Maps and roadtrip vlogs.

**Richard Deng** participated in the 92<sup>nd</sup> Scripps National Spelling Bee in Washington, D.C. from May 26-31, 2019 as Speller No. 250 out of 567. In Rounds 2 and 3, he correctly spelled “killarney” and “probioty”, respectively, but did not advance to the Finals. Good luck next year!

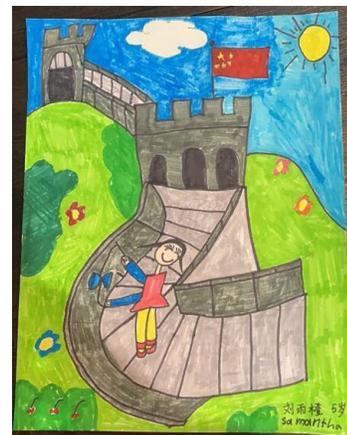


Congratulations to **Jolina Dong**, whose team participated in the Odyssey of the Mind World Finals at Michigan State University from May 22-25, 2019! The C. J. Hooker Middle School team advanced to the World Finals after placing second in Division II for Problem #3: “Classics...Leonardo’s Workshop,” during the New York State competition in March.

热烈祝贺中文学校五位小朋友！



高郡聪 (Jessie Gao)



刘雨橙 (Samantha Liu)



张艾暄 (Angela Zhang)



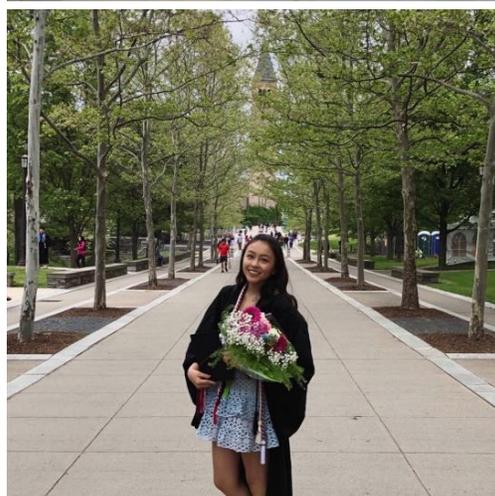
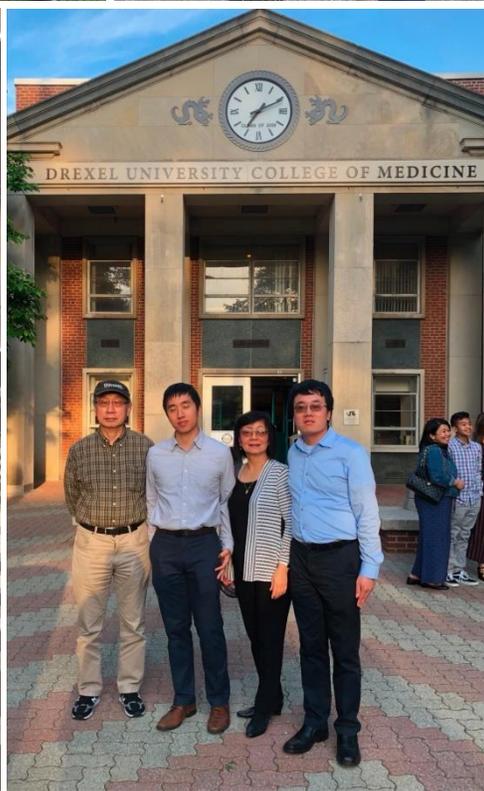
Claire Zhang



宋汉娜 (Hannah Song)

五位小朋友入围首届非物质文化遗产传承国际儿童公益画展  
(First International Painting Exhibition of “Non-Legacy Children’s League”)

## OCCA 2019 College Graduates



**Congratulations to our 2019 college graduates!** Names are listed starting from top row, left to right.

1. **Amy Wu** graduated from **Columbia University** with a BS in Biomedical Engineering.
2. **Dr. Chris Lu, MD** (pictured with his mother and long-term OCCA sponsor, Dr. Jenny Lu, MD) graduated from **Hofstra Northwell School of Medicine**. He will complete the Diagnostic Radiology Residency Program at **Georgetown University Hospital**.
3. **Cristy Cheng** graduated from **Syracuse University** with 3 BS degrees in Information Management and Technology, Supply Chain Management, and Marketing Management.
4. **Vicky Chen** graduated from **University at Buffalo** with a BS in Biological Sciences.
5. **Katie Luo** graduated from **Johns Hopkins University** with 2 BA degrees in Writing Seminars and Film & Media Studies (Production).
6. **Claire Liu** graduated from **New York University** with a BS in Biomolecular Science.
7. **Dr. Ian Yu, MD** graduated from **Drexel University College of Medicine**. He is currently enrolled in the Internal Medicine Residency Program and may study infectious disease or oncology later.
8. **Nina Zhu** graduated from **Cornell University** with a BS in Human Biology, Health and Society with minors in Health Policy and Business. This fall, she will attend **Albert Einstein College of Medicine** to pursue an MD.

**Not pictured:** **Jocelyn Ao** graduated from **Binghamton University** with a BS in Computer Science.

## Advertisements 广而告之 (2019)



**CRYSTAL RUN**  
your partner in health.

Crystal Run Healthcare is proud to support the Orange County Chinese Association. As you celebrate a New Year, Crystal Run Healthcare's family of providers and staff wish you and your family the best of health!

As the regional leader in healthcare, we are committed to support the health of our community and are proud to be leading health transformation in the Hudson Valley.

CrystalRunHealthcare.com  
#askforCrystalRun

Same-Day Primary Care | 5th+ Specialties | Urgent Care Open 3765

Jenny Q. Lu, MD, PLLC  
**Jenny Lu, MD, Family Medicine**



75 Crystal Run Rd Ste 105, Middletown, NY 10941  
(845) 692-3542

**Dr. Lu is a family physician with over 20 years of experiences. Her services include: 1) Acute and Chronic disease management; 2) Preventive medicine; 3) Acupuncture; 4) Weight management; and 5) Dermal fillers and Botox injections**

ORANGE COUNTY CHINESE CHRISTIAN CHURCH  
紐約橙郡華人基督教會

**To Know God & To Make Him Known**  
认识上帝并传扬他的作为

**Service Schedule**  
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Sun. 主日 2:30 PM - Worship Service 主日崇拜  
Sun. 主日 4:30 PM - Sunday School 主日學  
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Fri. 周五 8:00 PM - Bible Study 查經班

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