

## Association of Chinese Americans Successfully Held 2017 Chinese Culture Camp in Canton

On August 4th, the Association of Chinese Americans' (ACA) Canton Chinese Culture Camp successfully held a closing ceremony to celebrate the campers completing a three-week program. For eighteen years, numerous campers have explored, experienced, and learned about Chinese culture. This year, attendance of the summer camp youths and counselors totaled more than one hundred people. In addition, ACA invited a number of senior instructors who are deep in culture, calligraphy, dancing, cooking, and other aspects, to make this year's ACA summer camp particularly enriching and lively. ACA Board Vice President Shenlin Chen, Treasurer Qing Zhao, and Director Charles Liu attended the closing ceremony and presented prizes.

ACA has maintained a summer camp focused on Chinese culture, from simple beginning of small camps of only twenty people to larger camps that have affected thousands of Chinese young adults between the ages of four and fifteen over the past eighteen years. One of our goals is to provide an opportunity for young people to interact with those from different ethnic groups and cultural backgrounds to deepen their understanding of Chinese culture. Through a variety of learning activities to deepen our understanding of Chinese culture, we can also increase the appreciation of Chinese culture. Our diligent work has been rewarded with fruitful results. Many of past years' campers have now returned into counselors and teachers, with their own abilities and experiences to add to the summer camp, while also learning and from the new campers as they grow together.

Food is one way to learn about a culture. This year, we were honored to have instructor Heping Du in our summer camp to guide campers on how to make authentic Kaifeng Soup Dumplings, Screw Rolls, and other traditional Chinese foods. As soon as the pictures of dumplings made by the campers were sent to the WeChat group, it evoked a wide response. Many housewives and house husbands were amazed by the campers' cooking skills and some people called ACA to order dumplings. The cooking section undoubtedly received favorable comments.

At the closing ceremony, the campers demonstrated what they learned during the three-week program. In addition to the food mentioned before, there were a dozen of exciting performances, including dancing, diabolo (Chinese yo-yo), music, calligraphy, handcrafting, and play acting. All courses and programs received unanimous praise from the campers and their parents.

Executive Director Yihong Li gave special thanks to the summer camp leader Chris Quiambao and the more than forty counselors and instructors, including dancing instructors Lily Nguyen and Howard Zhang, Calligraphy instructors Xiangbo Meng and Lei Wang, painting and handcrafting instructors Annie Ning and Jessa Fu, film production instructor Jason Wu, cooking instructors Heping Du and Shenlin Chen. She also expressed her sincere gratitude to the volunteers for their hard work, especially to the lion dance team for their amazing performance and to all the ACA staff. It was their coordination and assistance that made this year's program a success. Among over 40 counselors, Howard Zhang was voted "The Most Popular Camp Counselor" by the campers.



