



Purdue CLAISC Spring Newsletter

Dear readers,

Happy spring! As life blossoms all around us in the arms of April, the College of Liberal Arts International Students Council (CLAISC) would like to take a moment to reflect upon its growth. We have come a long way from where we started at the beginning of this new year. This newsletter is an ode to the council's continuing effort to make the international student community at Purdue feel at home. From raising funds to organizing events, the council does it all in order to support international students by creating opportunities for them to connect with other international students as well as build a supportive and communicative environment where students are encouraged to bring their unique identities and abilities to the table.

Interdog Sale



Members of CLAISC help prepare hotdogs for customers with an international twist

The council kicked off the spring semester with a hotdog fundraiser that we called 'interdog' as we combined the authentic American hotdog with international flavors from all over the globe. This event was a huge hit. The customers loved the unconventional pairing. This could be seen by how within the span of only a few hours, the council members at the table had exhausted all of the food items they were using to put together their unique hotdog combinations. The fusion of cuisines was a risk that paid off. It allowed us to witness that the liberal arts community is never afraid of welcoming an amalgamation of cultures even if it is through food. They did not hesitate to try a variety of options from the menu we had created. They also created a few unique 'interdog' combinations of their own. By organizing a fundraiser so early-on in the semester, we were gifting ourselves financial freedom to not compromise on our vision in terms of the types of activities and events we wanted to organize as to serve as an inclusive space for students from all over the globe.

International Student & Domestic Student Pair-Up

This international student & domestic student pair-up was so popular last semester the organizer, MaKenna Doherty, couldn't help but bring back the event during the spring semester. This time she decided to host it at the bowling alley located the Purdue Memorial Union. While the event welcomed a lot of new faces, it also saw a lot of its past participants return. This says a lot about how successful, creative, and loved this event is. Bowling served as a great opportunity for people to bond not only with their respective partners, but also with their overall team. It gave participants a chance to work on their interpersonal as well as intercultural communication skills in an informal setting which was designed to be supportive and encouraging in nature. The event is a perfect blend of fun and development, introducing participants to people from various walks of life that they might not have met otherwise. It functions as a wonderful platform to both understand different cultures and broaden horizons.



Members of CLAISC with a few of the students who participated in this pair-up

Guqin Performance



Ruohan played the Guqin for all of us as part of a musical performance. She then proceeded to educate us about the rich history of the instrument.

Ruohan's Got Talent: An Interview Conversation

1. How many years have you been playing the instrument for?

I've been playing the guzheng for about 7 years and the guqin (the one I brought with me to Purdue) for 4 years.

2. What did you do to prepare for your performance?

First, I spent some time choosing the music pieces I wanted to perform. Then I started to think about how I could talk about the guqin in the best way possible. I wanted the information to be simple yet effective. After I had finalized those details, I also decided to utilize a few books about Chinese culture to better explain the history of the instrument.

3. Can you tell me a bit about the instrument?

Guqin is one of the oldest instruments in China. It has a history of about 5000 years. It was first mentioned in Chinese writings nearly 3000 years ago. It is a type of zither instrument (instrument with strings).

4. What pieces did you play during your performance?

I played two music pieces. The first one was "Yangguan Sandie". It was inspired by a famous Chinese poem "送元二使安西 (Seeing Yuan'er off on a Mission to Anxi)", and this music has a history of about 1200 years. The second one was called "Jiu Kuang". This music was composed by Ruan Ji (210-263), one of the most famous poets and musicians in Chinese history.

5. How often do you practice?

It depends on my schedule. I try my best to practice multiple times every week. Usually, I practice three times a week, each practice session lasting for 1-2 hours each.

6. What is your favourite part of playing the guqin? How does it make you feel?

Playing the guqin allows me to have a better understanding of Chinese culture as well as ancient Chinese literature. This is important to me since I don't live in China anymore. The instrument allows me to feel closer to home. Being able to closely interact with a musical piece helps me better understand the meaning behind it. For my performance I learned the music for the piece "Yangguan Sandie". While doing so, I got to take a closer look at the poet's emotions that played a pivotal role in the creation of the poem. There is an intricate story behind every guqin piece which deeply moves me. Every time that I play the instrument, the story plays in my mind like a movie and I feel like I become one of the characters in the story.

7. What did you think of the performance? Did you have a good time?

I had a really good time during the performance, and I was glad to know that the audience enjoyed themselves at this event. I was very nervous but everyone was very warm and welcoming. They helped boost my confidence, allowing me to perform to the best of my abilities while not being afraid of making mistakes. I am immensely happy that I got the chance to not only perform my favourite instrument, but also to talk about it with regards to Chinese culture.

Internship Workshop



My name is Barбора, and I am a freshman majoring in Film, video and Theatre production. I am from Martin, Slovakia. In March, I attended an Internship Workshop event initiated by CLAISC. One of the main reasons I was excited to attend this workshop was because getting an internship in the US can be pretty challenging, especially for international students. In the workshop, we discussed the different aspects of getting internships. We were also introduced to the various resources available on campus to help students look for internships. We learned about the Purdue CCO office as well as their website. We also went over the steps that a student needs to follow when they receive an offer letter for an internship. The workshop also included a general

overview about CPT authorization. Dr. Morgan went over the process of how to look for internships with a great amount of extensive research and care. Two students also spoke about their own experiences with regards to finding an internship and what it was like. I found these student testimonies to be of utmost help to me. I was able to hear from students who are in the same boat as me and learn how to navigate the world of internships which can seem overwhelming at first. I was able to further learn about what I should be doing and what I should not be doing in order to successfully find an internship that fits my needs. Above all, it was incredibly encouraging for me to hear success stories. It gave me the motivation I needed!

Cooking Demonstration

The cooking demonstration was a great opportunity for the members of CLAISC to not only spend time with one another outside the realm of official meetings, but also bond while doing something fun together. The CLAISC team went to a cooking demonstration that revolved around mediterranean food. Two chefs showed the members how to cook a variety of mediterranean dishes in an effective manner in the comfort of our own homes. The chefs demonstrated the step-by-step process required to make each of the individual dishes. They also taught us some everyday neat tricks to apply in the kitchen. In the end, we were all able to sit together and enjoy our meal. We learned something new while at the same time enjoying the company of our peers. This served as a good, relaxing activity amidst all the stress that accompanies the final few weeks of a semester. It worked as a constructive break for all our members in between all of our hectic schedules and commitments. It also gave us the idea to maybe rent a kitchen and cook for ourselves next time. We look forward to carrying this tradition forward.



CLAISC members taking part in the Mediterranean style cooking demonstration

Natalie's Second Chance Fundraiser



CLAISC members visiting Natalie's Second Chance and at the fundraiser booth

Natalie's Second Chance is a non-profit, no-kill dog shelter located in the heart of Lafayette, Indiana. Our council partnered with this shelter in order to raise funds that would go towards the medical care of two dogs, Lovey and Tucker. Both of these dogs required immediate surgical attention. To effectively raise these funds, we partnered with the bubble tea company, *LaTea*. The company was generous in its contribution of bubble tea we could sell at the fundraiser. All the proceeds from the bubble tea sale went to *Natalie's Second Chance*. After the fundraiser, we all went to the shelter to spend quality time with the dogs as well as talk to the managers about how we can further contribute towards their cause. We are committed to helping *Natalie's Second Chance* and look forward to organising more events in the future that would benefit the shelter in multiple ways, big and small.

Alumni Training Workshop



Alumni Liaison Chair, Micaela Bonifaz, attended the alumni training workshop

Overall, the experience was nice because I had the opportunity to interact with people from other on-campus organizations who had similar goals. It helped me foster connections with many people I would not have met otherwise. It also gave me a clear idea about the kind of alumni-related work other organizations were doing. Hearing about their respective experiences was a good learning opportunity as it taught me about the things I should be doing as well as the things I should avoid doing. The workshop I attended covered a multitude of themes including Purdue day of giving and crowdfunding. The workshop also informed us about the best practices with regards to development that we could utilize. The topic that was most interesting to me was crowdfunding which is an opportunity for organizations to grow by submitting a campaign. The application allows organization to generate funding if the campaign is successful, and in turn, use donations for alumni search purposes.