

CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE



Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth, PhD *Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, China*
Director

September 2014 saw the resumption of activities at the Confucius Institute. As of this date the members of staff were:

Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth, Jamaican Director

Professor Lu Shaogang, Chinese Director

Ms. Keneisha Sappleton, Senior Secretary

Mr. Dong Xiaomin, Mandarin teacher

Ms. Li Mengfei, Chinese Volunteer

Mr. Liu Jiacheng, Chinese Volunteer

Ms. Clair Dunn, Office Attendant

Regular Confucius Institute classes resumed in Chinese (Mandarin) and Tai Chi, along with teaching in the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures.

On September 4, 2014 Prof. Lu Shaogang and Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth met with Dr. Luz Longsworth at the Western Jamaica Campus to continue discussions about introducing Mandarin. Most plans were already in place, while we waited on the teacher to arrive from China.

Other institutions of learning where Mandarin was offered during this academic year were:

Shortwood Teacher's College

Hampton High School

St. Hilda's High School

A delegation came from the Taiyuan University of Technology for the annual board meeting of the Confucius Institute. This was the first official meeting we were having in three years, and the first with Professor Archibald McDonald as Principal of the Mona Campus.

The annual Mid-Autumn Festival was celebrated at the Confucius Institute.

The inaugural Confucius Institute Day (international) was held on the Mona Campus on September 27.

Jamaican Director, Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth presented a paper titled "Time, Thought and Visual Expression – A Case for the Visual Arts in Higher Education" at the Cornaro Institute, Cyprus College of Art, Larnaca, on September 13, 2014, in the European Art Education Conference.

On September 30, 2014, Dr. Hogarth made a presentation, on China, to the students of the St. Andrew High School for girls.

In September the planning committee for the Confucius Institute conference met and decided that an inaugural conference would be held some time in 2015. This initial committee comprised:

Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth (Chair)

Dr. Paulette A. Ramsay (Co-Chair)

Professor Lu Shaogang

Professor Anthony Chen

Dr. Julian Cresser

Dr. Norval Edwards

Ms. Keneisha Sappleton

The month of October saw the regular functioning of the Confucius Institute.

On October 11, 2014 at 6:00 p.m. the Confucius Institute launched its Mandarin Programme at the Western Jamaica Campus. This was supported by the Chinese Ambassador who attended and brought greetings, the Department of Modern Languages & Literatures, whose HOD, Dr. Paulette A. Ramsay, also attended with greetings. The launch was also supported by the local Montego Bay business and civic communities. The teacher for this programme was Mr. Liu Jiacheng.

October saw the arrival of Chinese Volunteer, Ms. Liu Qing, who went directly to the Hampton School.

The month of November saw the regular functioning of the Confucius Institute.

From December 6–9, Dr. Paulette A. Ramsay, Prof. Lu Shaogang and Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth were in Xiamen, China, for the Annual Hanban Conference. They were later joined by Deputy-Principal, Professor Ishenkumba Kahwah. This was the first annual meeting to be held outside of Beijing. It was hosted, in part, by Xiamen University.

Professor Kahwah later travelled to the Taiyuan University of Technology in Taiyuan, accompanied in part, by Prof. Lu Shaogang.

Mr. Liu Jiacheng, Chinese Volunteer stationed at the Western Jamaica Campus was replaced by in-coming Chinese teacher, Ms. Li Yun, who will be in the island for a total of three years.

Late January saw the beginning of the second semester of the academic year 2014–2015. Students registered for our courses were as follows:

- Mandarin
- Tai Chi

The Confucius Institute celebrated the coming of Spring, Year of the Sheep, with a Lantern Festival at the Confucius Institute. This was supported by the Chinese Embassy in Jamaica and saw students and teachers from the Mona Campus, Western Jamaica Campus and Shortwood Teacher's College. The Hampton School was also in attendance.

On March 18, 2015, the Jamaican Director, Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth made a presentation to participants in a one-day seminar at the Mona School of Business & Management. The seminar was titled 'Engaging the Chinese Community: Onboarding for Solutions'.

The month of April saw the regular functioning of the Confucius Institute.

The month of May saw the regular functioning of the Confucius Institute.

The Confucius Institute annual Taiji Retreat was hosted at the University House, Cardiff Hall, from June 12–14, 2015.

June 18–20 saw the inaugural Confucius Institute Conference – “Dragons in the Archipelago – The Chinese-Caribbean Experience” being staged at the UWI, Mona Campus. The opening ceremony was held at the Regional Headquarters and attended by Professor Archibald McDonald, Principal, the Chinese Ambassador to Jamaica, H.E. Dong Xiaojun, members of the Diplomatic Corps, international scholars drawn from across the Americas, faculty members of the UWI, students and members of the public. The featured artist was Mr. Steven Woodham, Violinist, who presented a suite of melodies both Chinese and Jamaican.

Over the course of two days there were several panels with a total presentation of fifteen (15) papers.

The Conference Committee comprised the following individuals:

- Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth – Conference Chair
- Dr. Paulette A. Ramsay – Co-Chair
- Professor Lu Shaogang
- Professor Anthony Chen
- Dr. Julian Cresser
- Ms. Keneisha Sappleton
- Mr. Clifton McCook
- Dr. Nina Bruni
- Ms. Jennifer Mason

The conference was deemed a resounding success, from which a publication is expected.

The Confucius Institute held its second Summer School for members of the community. There were ten students in attendance.

As of July, 2015 staff members of the Confucius Institute are as follows:

- Professor Lu Shaogang, Chinese Director
- Dr. Courtney A. Hogarth, Jamaican Director
- Mr. Dong Xiaomin
- Li Yun
- Li Jiaqi
- Ms. Keneisha Sappleton, Senior Secretary
- Ms. Clair Dunn, Office Attendant