

# Kentucky Chinese American Association

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Celebrates the Year of Dragon

Spring 2012



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## Message from the President

*As we enter the Year of Dragon, I wish everyone a prosperous Year of Dragon. Recently, the Kentucky Chinese American Association successfully organized this year's Chinese New Year celebration. The sold-out gala at UK Singletary Center has become the largest Chinese culture event in the Commonwealth of Kentucky.*



*By successfully organizing and hosting many large*

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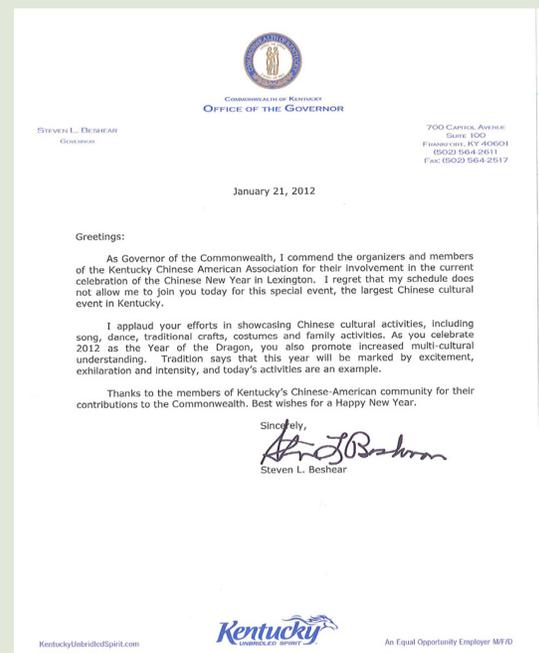
## The 2012 Chinese New Year Celebration

On January 21, 2012, KYCAA brought the community together to celebrate the Chinese New Year at the Singletary Center for the Arts located on the campus of University of Kentucky. This annual festival has been the largest Chinese cultural event in Kentucky. The celebration featured an evening gala of Chinese folk dance, songs, instruments, acrobat, and performance by groups from local schools and several international flavors, as well as a holiday market. Directed by Kentucky Dance Artist Cheryl Pan and organized by the Kentucky Chinese American Association, the gala was attended by more than 1,400 people from the community.

Dr. Wei Luo, the President of the KYCAA, delivered the opening speech. UK President Dr. Eli Capilouto gave a greeting speech, Ms. Lori Meadows, the Executive Director of the Kentucky Arts Council, spoke on behalf of Governor Steve Beshear. She commended the KYCAA for organizing the annual festival and wished the Chinese American community a



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# The 2012 Chinese New Year Celebration

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Happy New Year. Governor Beshear also sent a letter to acknowledge the effort of KYCAA in showcasing the



Chinese culture activities in the Commonwealth (see right). Although Lexington Mayor Mr. Jim Gray was unable to attend the celebration due to schedule conflict, he offered New Year's greetings to the Chinese-American community and applauded the effort of the KYCAA in promoting cultural diversity and understanding in the region. Mr. Feiya Pan, Vice



Consul from the Chinese Embassy in Washington, DC traveled to Lexington for the event. Assisted by the KYCAA, Mr. Pan also processed the applications for passport renewal while he's in town. Community lead-



ers including UK Vice President of Institutional Diversity Dr. Judy Jackson,, Fayette County Public School Superintendent Dr. Tom Shelton, and former Lexington Mayor Teresa Isaac also attended the celebration.

## The Show



The evening's entertainment brought the Spring Festival to the highest point. Hosted by Cheryl Pan and Mr. Neil Chethik, Executive Director of the Carnegie Center for Literacy and Learning in Lexington. More than one



hundred and eighty performers presented over twenty performances, organized into four segments with different themes.

The opening set was "Happy Chinese New Year". The performers at the Nine Dragons Kung-Fu brought a lively

and dramatic introduction to the night with a traditional dragon dance. Although dragon dance is often performed during celebrations of a Chinese New Year, it is particularly special this year

because Year 2012 is the Year of Dragon. Waist drum dancing and a festive folk song "beautiful spirit" sung by soloist Shanshan



Zeng were among the other performances. Children of the Chinese Choir at Veterans Park Elementary School, in vibrant tradi-

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## From the President

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scale cultural events including the annual Chinese New Year Celebration and Moon Festival Celebration since it was established in 2005, KYCAA has been recognized as a leading organization in promoting Chinese culture and cross-cultural understanding in Lexington and across Kentucky.

KYCAA is also committed to serving local communities. It has organized educational seminars on the topics varying from Chinese dance to family financial management. It has also collaborated with the Chinese Embassy and hosted passport renewal, serving the people from several states.

This is a great success achieved by all KYCAA members. I would like to thank all our members, volunteers, performers, and sponsors who made those events successful. I also thank the KYCAA Board of Directors and the Executive Officers who made all those happen. In particular, I want to thank our Artistic Director Cheryl Pan for her leadership in producing and directing the show. Cheryl wholeheartedly contributed her talent and time to the planning, choreographing, stage-management, and performance of the celebrations. As the first Chinese Dance Artist on the Kentucky Arts Council's Performing Arts Directory and the Teaching Artist Directory, Cheryl has inspired many to get involved in community and culture activities.

More events are being planned. With your continued support and participation, I expect our further success in the future.

Dr. Wei Luo, President

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tional Chinese costumes, captured the audience with their beautiful voice and joyful performance of songs in Chinese, one of them being Jingle Bells.



The second collection was “Kaleidoscope of Chinese Dance and Music”. It featured a number of performances choreographed by Cheryl Pan and performed by children and adults from the local community.



Members from the UK Confucius Institute also showcased the Tai Chi, a form of Chinese Martial Arts, as well as calligraphy and Gu Zheng (a traditional Chinese musical instrument) performances.

The third part of the program, themed “World Comes Together”, infused international flavors into the gala.

Performances included acrobatics/hula hoops, Indian folk dance, Flamenco dance, Chinese comedy monologue, harp ensemble, as well as vocal performances by UK Chinese Student and Scholar Association and students from School for the Creative and Performing



Arts at Bluegrass. The Chinese Ensemble at UK presented Harvest Drum, which is a very popular piece in China.

The finale was “Looking into the Future”, in which all performers,

board members and officers of KYCAA brought a lively musical performance and pushed the show to the climax.

## Holiday Market

Prior to the gala, there was a holiday market between 4:30pm and 6:30pm. The market featured Chinese crafts, costumes, culture display, calligraphy and painting demonstration, as well as food and snack. With abundant family activities, the market created a festive atmosphere that many found exciting. Mr. Tong Xu, the owner of Panda Cuisine restaurant on Nicholasville Road, served authentic Sichuan style food, which brought the hometown taste to many Chinese.



## Feedback

The celebration has been critically acclaimed by many. People enjoyed the celebration a lot, and many have approached the KYCAA volunteers to express their appreciation to the opportunity of participating in such a culture event right here



at the heart of the Bluegrass. Some of the comments are:

*“It was very well organized celebration and performances were wonderful. My family enjoyed it very much.” - G. Bagdasaryan*

*“This year’s celebration was very good. I enjoyed the music most of all. It was especially good because there was a good mixture in the audience. I cannot wait to see next year’s show.” - Dr. Wachtel, Professor of Sociology and Director of China Partnerships at Bluegrass Community and Technical College*

## Media

This year’s celebration received media coverage from a number of outlets. WTVQ ABC36 covered the celebration and interviewed Dr. Wei Luo and Cheryl Pan on live TV. WLEX Channel 18 and WKYT Channel 27 also covered the celebration in their news segments. Radio station WUKY 93.1

ran a live interview of Cheryl Pan and some performers prior to the event. A video recording of the entire gala has been shown on Fayette County Public School’s Channel

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## **The 2012 Chinese New Year Celebration**

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13 in the weeks following the celebration. The video is also available online through the school district's web site. KYCAA has received a number of invitations to perform at events throughout the Commonwealth.

### **Acknowledgement**

This year's celebration was co-sponsored by the following organizations:

University of Kentucky

UK Confucius Institute

Horseshoe Southern Indiana

Lexmark International

UK Chinese Student and Scholar Association

Advanced Dynamics

Grigori Bagdasaryan of Mass Mutual

Temco Roofing

Joy Doyle of Keller Williams Realtor

Borun Process Industrial Technology

Guohua Technology Co.

Masterson Dentistry

Willie Morrison Shelter Insurance

KYZ Energy LLC

Enzymax LLC

Dr. Christopher Davis, DMD

Thurman White & Andersen

Integrity Real Estate Group

Sunlending USA

Yu Yu Asian Supermarket

Panda Cuisine

# The 2012 Chinese New Year Celebration

## Photos from the Celebration





