



Oriental Culture Educational Society

东方文化教育社团



2011/2012 Special Edition

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The year 2011 was one of exceptional growth and accomplishments for our society. A membership facility was created by Seb, and a number of much valued Chinese culture specialists joined us as advisers/officers (including Yumei [Yang], Sam [Price], Jade [Huang] amongst others), whilst other volunteer officers have taken on important public relations and administrative posts.

Early in 2011 the OCES took on definitive shape as a dynamic results achieving multicultural learning, Chinese culture promoting, and equality and diversity pro-active volunteer led community organisation: the important and increasingly influential and much respected OCES public services access and rights and responsibilities on-line information resource was launched -- the Worshipful the Mayor of Bournemouth providing a personal dedication -- high quality exhibition material concerning raising of awareness of globalised aspects of Chinese culture was created and began to be displayed in various public venues, and an OCES funded and research assisted Bournemouth University Events Management project took place and proved highly successful.

In the summer, at Bournemouth University, OCES representatives Alan and Wenxi at the kind invitation of Professor Chris Shiel (Head of the BU Centre for Global Perspectives) attended a prestigious private event at the university at which the Speaker of the House of Commons was a keynote speaker: as part of this event the OCES contributed exhibition display material. Earlier in the summer,

Alan contributed a lecture and talk about the OCES and its multicultural learning work, to the BU Centre for Global Perspectives facilitated Global Talks Seminars Programme.



OCES Vice Chair Andrew Yearp (one of the key co-founders of the OCES in conjunction with Alan Mercel-Sanca) received one of the highest level Bournemouth University Students Union 2011 Outstanding Achievement awards for his work on the creation and development of the OCES website; he also received a letter of commendation from the Mayor of Poole at the Poole CVS Annual Awards ceremony.

A special meeting was held at the end of the autumn term, initiated by discussions between OCES Chair Alan Mercel-Sanca and Lizzy Maries (SUBU Media Officer) to discuss the rolling out of a general free 121 language and culture exchange Student Union facilitated programme. This following the growth and development of the CSSA - OCES Chinese English and culture exchange programme during the previous 15 months. This is a major breakthrough led by the two organisations in helping Bournemouth University develop a stronger internationalised dimension at cultural, social and student driven learning levels.



On 15th December the OCES held a special general meeting at which important evolutionary changes were made to our society's structure and constitution. Changes included developing an OCES Co Chair office position (which will be filled from March by Gigi Lau) and the transfer from OCES Chief Marketing Officer to the role of OCES Secretary from March by Seb Matthews, whilst from February a new Treasurer will join the team, Tegan Champion and take over the baton from Brian [Dalton] who had been acting Treasurer for over 6 months and did great work in systemising the OCES accounts. OCES Chair Alan Mercel-Sanca will from March 2012 be largely concentrating upon OCES external partnering organisations related equality, diversity and anti-discrimination projects, and development of touring of OCES multicultural learning exhibitions material in the Bournemouth, Dorset and Poole areas.

The constitutional changes were important ones, for in addition to removing and updating elements of the OCES Memorandum of Association 'Objectives' wording was included that enabled a constitutional basis for the OCES to form cross-cultural educational and other forms of partnership with other world cultures and UK ethnic communities [no longer just East Asian], making the society genuinely multicultural; in the same 'Objective' reference was made to the OCES being able to form strategic partnerships with community, voluntary and advisory organisations in broader fields of equality, diversity and anti-discrimination work, in addition to race / ethnicity.

Welcome was also made at the meeting to Dr John Guan and Fan, and to Mr Kevin Hunt (of the MLS Language College) all of whom will be kindly advising the OCES in the various areas of experience and expertise.

2011 external partnerships projects:

OCES Chair Alan Mercel-Sanca at the request of senior officers (Mrs Liz Kite, Deputy Corporate Affairs Director, and Mr Ebi Sosseh, Equality and Human Rights lead) of the **Bournemouth & Poole NHS PCT**, and in conjunction with the **Dorset Race Equality Council**, **Dorset LINKs**, and with the support of **Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust** (DHUFT) Community Development Worker Mrs Denise Wootten, created a groundbreaking report designed to improve NHS frontline staff engagement with the Dorset Chinese community's medical needs and to support broader internal NHS cultural awareness activities and training. The report received strong support when reviewed by the London-based Race Equality Foundation, and from NHS South of England Equality and Human Rights department; it was also very positively reviewed by Mr David Corbin (Dorset NHS, and HUFT Human Rights and Equality Advisor) who also kindly provided valuable document formatting assistance.

Gigi provided invaluable input to sections of the report, as did CSSA and OCES colleagues Wenxi and Meili [Wang]. In conjunction with this work, **the OCES received funding from Bournemouth LINKs** to print a related pamphlet in Chinese and English to better assist the local Chinese community to access NHS services more effectively: the Simplified Chinese sections of the literature being kindly translated by Gigi. This project stemmed initially from work with Mrs Sarah Peters at Dorset LINKs in which the OCES played a key part in the creation and success of a Chinese community health access survey: translation and promotion to Mandarin speaking international students being provided by Wenxi and Meili, and the follow up liaison letter to thank and keep in touch with survey participants, being provided in a Simplified Chinese version by Gigi.

Alan, on request reviewed and made special contributions to sections of the 'Welcome Pack' for new ethnic communities residents of the **Bournemouth 2026** website, and also to **Bournemouth Council's Single Equality Scheme** draft paper (Mr Sam Johnson, Bournemouth Council Equality Officer kindly requesting Alan's input to the latter): as a result the value and breadth of both will be stronger in some of the fields of equality and diversity material.

Work with the Dorset Race Equality Council: As a result of NHS and LINKs projects and broader race relations and equality, diversity and anti-discrimination work, at the kind request of the Chief Officer of the Dorset Race Equality Council (DREC), Mr Adnan Chaudry, OCES Chair Alan Mercel-Sanca has been asked to undertake consultancy work for the DREC in 2012.



External partnerships: Other news:

In 2011, as a result of work with Mrs Denise Wootten, the **Dorset Healthcare University NHS Foundation Trust** (DHUFT) joined the OCES as a Corporate Affiliate Member. In addition, the OCES, through collaborative activities between Denise and Alan, plays a strong supporting part concerning the DHUFT funded African and Caribbean Lunch Club created by Denise.

Meetings & Events 2012

-- Yumei Yang (OCES Projects Manager) provides a Chinese culture club taster session to a group of Bournemouth & Poole College staff members: 16th January

-- AUCB Chinese New Year celebrations: Monday 23rd January (12:00 - 14:00 pm approx): supported by the OCES and CSSA. Delicious traditional Chinese dumplings cooked will be available at the AUCB as a feature of its Chinese cultural awareness programme.

-- On the afternoon / early evening, on the BU Talbot campus (location to be advised by SUBU) these will also be available as refreshments (at student / discount rates) being freshly cooked directly by specialist Chinese cuisine chef Mrs Xiaojing Barnes. These culinary delicacies are based on family recipes!

-- Evening of 23rd January: CSSA led and OCES supported Chinese New Year Party at Dylan's Bar (Poole House, Talbot campus) 7 - 9:30pm. A special display presentation of Chinese costumes will feature in the programme. The next day and throughout the week an exhibition of the costumes combined with some OCES exhibition material will take place at the AUCB – the week following the costumes are planned to return to Poole House for display.

-- OCES attendance at the Bournemouth 2026 Annual Conference at the BIC: the society will also provide exhibition panels.

-- Bournemouth & Poole College Chinese New Year cultural activities event: 1st February at Lansdowne campus -- further details to be covered nearer the time.

-- Bournemouth University: 2nd February, OCES facilitated cultural event at Poole House (Bournemouth University Talbot campus). This is planned to focus on a classical Chinese musical performance, Chinese costume presentation and exhibitions, and also delicious traditional Chinese dumplings cooked directly and available as refreshments (at student / discount rates) on the afternoon and early evening: these culinary delicacies, based on family recipes, by Mrs Xiaojing Barnes.

Other events: OCES exhibitions:

-- OCES exhibition at **Weymouth College** on 16th January in conjunction with the college's Beliefs Day

-- OCES exhibitions will also be held at the **Bournemouth and Poole College** during early to mid February, and a brief exhibition will be held during February at the **Flirt Cafe Bar** (next to Bournemouth Library)

Next Newsletter: This will be provided at the end of February due to Chinese New Year spanning late January and early February, and the OCES Annual General Meeting taking place towards the end of February.

Alan, Gigi, Seb and all of the OCES team

