



NCSSM students performing *Hairspray* on the weekend of Feb. 10

Courtesy of Phoebe Castelblanco

Chinese teacher visits NCSSM

BY: JAY BUCHANAN

Zhang Lei, an English instructor from Hangzhou Province, China, visited NCSSM on Jan. 29, 2012. Zhang, as a representative of Hangzhou Foreign Language School, spent the majority of her day on campus interacting with students, visiting classes, and celebrating the Chinese New Year with students in the Mandarin program.

The school where Zhang Lei teaches is very similar to NCSSM in that it is a government-funded secondary school which students are accepted to after a competitive admissions process.

Zhang, who is bilingual, is an English teacher in China. Her curricula focus is on the basic grammar and syntax of the English language.

"Hong Li (who teaches Intermediate) made the original contact with Zhang laoshi," says Caryn Louie, NCSSM Introductory Chinese instructor. "The connection was made with the intention of exploring the potential of establishing an educational exchange program between NCSSM and Zhang laoshi's school."

Zhang spent E-block and lunch celebrating the Chinese New Year with NCSSM students, several humanities faculty members, and various other guests. Led by Louie and Li, the students performed an array of poems and songs, finishing by enjoying a meal with Zhang.

"The students in all three classes did a great job preparing for the celebration," Louie says. "They helped by decorating, setting up the food (Natalie Ung's mother made 100 eggrolls), memorizing a poem and three songs and performing them, offering to demonstrate the yo-yo and, of course, offering to take our guest on a campus tour."

Zhang also spent a significant portion of her time at NCSSM exploring the Distance Education and Extended Programs facility, as the virtual exchange program would likely be dependent upon NCSSM's technological resources in these departments.

Zhang also spoke at length with Elizabeth Moose, Dean of the Humanities Department, Steve Warshaw, Vice Chancellor of Academic Programs and Tom Clayton, Director of

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Political protests met with violence in Egypt

BY: CAROLINE DESAUSURE

The transition from military to civilian rule in Egypt was marked by protests that were intended to speed up the timetable for the Egyptian presidential election.

The protests achieved their goal of establishing an earlier nomination date in March rather than June.

Mohammed Hussein Tantawi, head of the ruling military council, called for a quick completion of election procedures in order to minimize violence throughout Egypt's capital city of Cairo.

However, protesters have faced hostility from police forces, resulting in several casualties. Police stationed outside of the Interior Ministry had been engaged in armed combat against protesters hurling stones.

They also released tear gas into the crowds. Although the police brutality has resulted in conflict, it has also achieved its goal; protesters are straying from conflicts.

Some civilians continue with protests because they want to bring the current militant government regime to an end. Other civilians are threatening



Protestor waves Egyptian flag near Interior Ministry

Courtesy of Reuters

to bring the country to its knees. Regardless, journalist Haytham Ismail said, "What's happening isn't bringing down the regime but bringing down the state."

The death count as a result of anti-government riots has risen to 13 in lieu of the most recent cases of violence.

The government has also attempted to limit protest and

punish those who broke laws by putting on trial several Egyptian and American protesters.

These civilians were from pro-democracy non-licensed organizations. The Americans under investigation have been barred from leaving Egypt.

These developments in Egypt may restrict future American interaction with the

country.

The American financial assistance programs with Egypt, which lends about \$1.3 million annually, may be in jeopardy.

Communication with Egypt continues as America tries to understand the work that non-governmental organization are doing to maintain the stability of civilian life.