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MIT Hosts BITSA Conference



New York City Councilman John Liu, the first Asian-American elected to the New York City Council, delivers the keynote speech at the BITSA Conference in the Wong Auditorium on November 16th.

By Tim Suen and Vincent Chen
BITSA Conference Co-chairs

After half a year of planning and two final weeks of frenzied activity by the dedicated members of the BITSA planning committee, the Fifth Annual Boston Intercollegiate Taiwanese Students Association Conference came into being a month ago on the cold and rainy morning of November 16, 2002.

Conference attendees filled the Wong Auditorium for a keynote by NYC Councilman John Liu. Mr. Liu, a mathematical physicist by training, talked about his challenges fighting stereotypes while trying to garner support. Although he represents northeast Queens, which includes Flushing, he couldn't rely on Asian votes in the Democratic primaries (which pretty much

determined the election) because of the low percentage that had actually registered with a party. He also found many at City Hall unreasonably prejudiced. Some pointed to the small size of the English words on the signs in Chinatown as an insult to America. "It's because Chinese words are square and English words are long and skinny," Councilman Liu said.

Afternoon highlights included "From Taiwan with Love", a workshop on interracial dating and relationships. At first people were reluctant to discuss stereotypes, but Lilian Chau's "Hot or Not" sheets of Asian celebrities got people talking. Those there decided that the top three most attractive Asian females were Zhang Ziyi, Gong Li, and Kelly

Hu, while Jackie Chan, Jet Li, and Jay Chow were the heartthrobs of choice. Peculiarly enough, most people included the "obedient" among the words used to describe Asian males.

"Taiwanese Trivia Jeopardy" was another popular event, with contestants literally diving to "buzz in" (pick up the Trebek bottle) and answer the question. Since the two teams were close toward the end, some objected when the correct question for "This is the ultimate place to go eat in Taiwan" was "Your grandma's house". It was a tie when final Jeopardy came up, and both teams decided to wager it all. It was a wise decision, since the answer was "This is the capital of Taiwan".

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Contact the Board at mitats-request@mit.edu

ATS Recaps The Fall Semester

What better on a hot day than a cold bowl of shaved ice? From the first General Meeting with our speedy new ice shaving machine through the tough MIT fall term, ATS has been a combination of fun and bonding experiences, both cultural and the not-so-cultural.

For Mid-Autumn Festival, Cultural Chairs Jen and Catherine brought us a delicious cooking spree at Next Country Kitchen, complete with our very own homemade mooncakes. And who could forget Social Chair Vincent in the green dress for our moon festival skit?

We returned to Next for a cooking seminar: 19.230 Intro to Taiwanese Cuisine: led by our excellent chef Victor Sai. Yum!

Look for another seminar coming this IAP...

Not enough food yet? Hope you stopped by the two pastry sales, ably run by Treasurer Hogan and sold out by early afternoon. And who could forget about the Dim Sum Runs, where old and new faces appeared at China Pearl? Pictures snapped by Historian Sonya show us eating and chatting and, occasionally, teasing each other.

More fun was had by all at the mini-Mahjong Tournament, suggested by member Dalton Cheng. Was that gambling going on over there?! The trophy was one of the new ATS t-shirts, beautifully designed by the graphic artist Brian Chan. Didn't get to play enough? Don't miss

out on the annual ATS Mahjong Tournament at the end of IAP!

Beginners and experts alike, we went out with JSU for bowling at Alewife, and then headed over to Chinatown for dinner afterwards. Most impressive was Publicity Chair Kenneth, scoring a strike while chatting on his cell phone!

Still want to get out of MIT? We went out in October to see the Boston TECO celebration of Taiwan's National Day, complete with speeches, flag-raising ceremony, and performances. Remember the kids playing Chinese yo-yo, the traditional Taiwanese folk dances, and the many, many lion dances? *(continued on page 3)*

BITSA Brings a Fun Filled Day

Workshops, Panels, Discussions, and Closing *Heart of the Dragon* Banquet Brings Fun and Education for Conference Attendees

(continued from page 1)

Both teams gave correct responses and the tie remained unbroken.

Conference attendees wrapped up the day's events at the "Heart of the Dragon" banquet, featuring delicious Taiwanese fare courtesy of everyone's favorite Taiwan Café, and presenting the talents of various student groups. Much like a brick and mortar Cinderella, Walker Memorial had been transformed into an elegant, well-decorated banquet hall, complete with abacuses at each table.

Soon after dinner was served, MIT's very own Lion Dance Troupe opened up the evening with a lively lion dance. The crowd went wild when one of the lions knocked over a *Tech*



Chia Hui Gao (left), Alvin Lu (center), and Sara Chin (right) discuss Asian American film and literature at the BITSA panel Tales from Chinatown

photographer. Lion Dance followed by Harvard's Asian American Dance Troupe, which presented their rendition of the modern ribbon dance and a

modern martial arts dance; the American Chinese Art Society's Traditional Chinese Dance Troupe whose repertoire included the traditional Taiwanese folk song "Loving the Year

Round"; Harvard TCS' Chinese Yo-yo with their stunning display of artistic skill and dexterity; and MIT's hip Dance Troupe. The highlight of the evening was a performance by New York City stand-up comedienne Tina Kim, who joked about the problems with being Asian American.

To wrap up the night, the conference ended with an evening dance featuring the talents of DJs Gtheft and Syclick. Afterparty Vertigo was fun for conference participants, and a welcome opportunity for the staff to unwind after a busy day.

Special thanks to Cindy Jao, David Wang, and Jennifer Fang for making it all possible.

Semester Summary (continued)

(continued from page 2)

Some of those performers reappeared at the BITSA “Heart of the Dragon” banquet.

Secretary Tim and Social Chair Vincent outdid themselves as co-directors of this year’s BITSA Conference. Together with their dedicated staff, they put on the best conference BITSA has ever seen! For more on BITSA, see page 1.

After the excitement of the conference, BITSA rep Dennis brought us a movie showing of the comedy Shaolin Soccer, accompanied by snacks of tasty cheesecake. And this week, it was time for another delicious dinner and socializing that



Treasurer Hogan Chen, ATS member Mickey Chiang and former ATS President Nini Duh (G) enjoy the delights of dimsum at China Pearl in Chinatown.

turned into a trip to the ice rink for skating. Despite some wobbly starts, everyone managed to stay on their feet!

So what’s next? It’s about time for you to decide... it’s almost elections time! Join us on Thursday, Dec. 12 for a luncheon from Taiwan Cafe at the ATS Officer Elections, led by President Annie. Nominate your friends, nominate yourself! Or just come to vote and hang out together. ^_^

Hope you have enjoyed the semester and see you next year!



ATS and Harvard TCS members unite as they celebrate National Day at Government Center and proceed to Taiwan Cafe afterwards.



New and old members alike beat the heat with shaved ice at the first ATS General Meeting at the McCormick Penthouse

Want to Know More about ATS?

Get updates about upcoming events and recaps of past events at

<http://web.mit.edu/mitats/www>

Become an ATS Officer

Do you have something uniquely your own to contribute to the MIT Taiwanese American community? Do you feel that something is missing - something you would like to see? Times are changing at MITATS, and here's your opportunity to be a part of it: run for the MITATS board.

****What does the MITATS board do?** The board is the core of ATS - always present at each event, the board shapes where ATS is going and what it is. Responsibilities? Choosing which IM sports you want to play and making other people play them with you. Going out to restaurants for dinner and dim sum runs, and bringing the rest of the club along with you. Plan study breaks featuring pearl milk tea, games, shaved ice, movies - pretty much whatever you can

come up with. Occasional shopping trips where we pick up all sorts of yummy goodies (and ATS picks up the tab). Meeting Taiwanese students from all over Boston and beyond, coordinating intercollegiate events, and then leading ATS on these expeditions. Sounds fun? Run for the MITATS board! We all do a little bit of everything, but each officer has their own specific area of expertise...

Check your email for further information about the different positions or email ATS president Annie Wang, aiwang@mit.edu. There is also information about the elections on our webpage,

<http://web.mit.edu/mitats/www>.

Join us at the election luncheon at the Student Center at 12:30 PM for lunch from Taiwan Cafe!

Join ATS this IAP

Going to be around this IAP?

Then join ATS for an extensive schedule of events during the month of January. ATS will offer a Cultural Series during IAP, Taiwanese classes, and its annual Mahjong tournament.

For three Tuesdays (Jan 14th, 21st, and 28th) in January from 7 PM to 9 PM, ATS will offer a variety of events as part of its annual IAP cultural series. In previous years, ATS has offered workshops in lantern making, calligraphy, cooking, and origami. Keep your eyes open for further information about the series as IAP approaches near or email mitats-request@mit.edu!

In addition to the cultural series, Professor Chin-An Li from Harvard University has

generously agreed to teach four Taiwanese classes over IAP from 3 PM to 4 PM on January 13th, 15th, 20th, and 22nd (Room TBA). He will go over basic Taiwanese conversations and progress to idioms, pop songs, and other interesting topics.

And for those of you who have been waiting a full year...to become the ATS IAP Mahjong Champion. Join us at Lobdell on Friday, January 31st at 7 PM for our IAP Mahjong Tournament to show your mahjong skills or learn the game. Win prizes as we crown our new champion.

ATS wishes everyone a great winter vacation and looks forward to seeing you at our IAP events!

ATS Quotes of the Semester

So you couldn't make it to our officer meetings this semester? Well we have picked out the best quotes from our minutes this semester (taken out of context of course) and present them here. Members are always welcome at officer meetings and can find out more info about meetings by emailing the officers.

"Well, that's because most guys don't find other guys attractive."

—Vincent, in response to Sonya's comment about the Freshmen Picture Book drinking game.

We need some vegetarian options.
There are six pounds of ground pork left.
- Regarding excess food after Mid-Autumn Festival

"Why would you want to be like me?" —Sonya

Government Center is very close to Fanueil Hall. That way everyone can just buy their own lunch.
- ATS Board about National Day event

Next House. Call F-IXIT and lie.

Alewife is real bowling.
Candlepin near Fenway is not.

Use a catchphrase: "Do you miss home-cooked Taiwanese food?"

ATS has over 1000 forks.

Want flat soda? Take it. Visit the ATS office in Walker Memorial.

"Linus Pauling is dead."

Remove Victor.

Dim sum run? "I can't take it anymore." —Dennis

Get the NEW ATS T-Shirts

If you haven't gotten one yet, get the new MITATS t-shirts designed by Brian Chan. They are only \$7 for members and \$10 for non-members. The t-shirts are crimson colored and are great to show ATS pride.

Get your membership. Only \$8 for the academic year and gets you discounts to ATS events such as dim sum runs and the upcoming New Year's Banquet in February.