

Chinese Students in America

Last Saturday evening Colorado School of Mines held its annual International Day. At 4 PM many groups of international students had tables set up offering typical foods of their countries and maybe some promotional information. Some of them were wearing special clothes of their country. In the evening there was a talent and fashion show. Students presented music, singing, dancing, and/or showed their special clothing. I photographed the Chinese presentations.



This is a view of the food table, with some cultural items at the left. Only a few of the many Chinese students were at this booth. Most were simply dinner guests enjoying the total program.

In the evening the first Chinese presentation was a traditional Chinese music piece done with traditional Chinese instruments, with a flute accompaniment.



The second offering was singing by four Chinese men, while the woman drew Chinese characters on a banner.



Today's Denver Post newspaper had a story about foreign students in America. Their numbers are increasing, especially in my state of Colorado. While Colorado ranks 26th in the total number of foreign students, there were 8,445 from all countries here in the 2011-12 school year. These are the numbers in the largest universities. Small university totals were not given.

University of Colorado at Boulder - 1681

University of Denver - 1430 (where I teach)

Colorado State University - 1352

University of Colorado Denver - 1116

Colorado School of Mines - 652 (near my home)

California and New York had the greatest numbers of international students. Across the nation, China had the most students, at 104,029, followed by India at 100,270. In Colorado 25 percent of the foreign students were from China, 13.7 from Saudi Arabia, and 8.9 from India. That means that there are more than 2000 Chinese students in Colorado.

This is the last week for my Fall Quarter classes. My next classes start in January. So I have time now to make minor improvements in my course materials.

Our weather has been variable. The warm days have had temperatures near 20 C. Cool days are near 10 C. Some mornings have been as cold as -10 C. We have had some minor snowfalls, such as last week, but that has all melted already.

The cooler weather has mostly stopped my volunteer maintenance in the future park near my home, though there are always some things I can do there. Winter birds have arrived in the area and are enjoying the free food at the bird feeders at my home. I expect to have some more time to study and practice Chinese Mandarin language. I am exploring various options for returning to east Asia next Summer. It will likely be in a different city.

During our Election Day I served as the leader of a team of four "election judges" at our local voting location. One of my tasks was to make sure that people were properly registered to vote and that they got the correct ballot for the people and issues that applied to where they lived. It was a long day for us. We had to be there from 6 AM to 7:30 PM. Then I had to deliver voting materials to an assigned collection location. I have been an election judge since 2006. I get paid some money but mostly see the job as a valuable community service. We were able to run our voting location efficiently in a local primary school. The initial line of voters was processed in the first 40 minutes, and thereafter people had no waiting period to vote.

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