Chinese exchange students seek American college degrees
by Livia Lund, Staff Writer, excerpts from November 2015 Southerner

In the early hour before school if you walk up to room 321 on the third floor and peek inside you will likely see seven Chinese exchange students speaking in a mingling of Chinese and English. These are the new students who can now call South High their home. Coming mostly from the Sichuan province except for one from Shanghai, they are a variety of ages and English skills. However, they all come with one goal in mind: to get a good education and to go to college in the United States.

Families from China choosing to send their children to study in the U.S. have become increasingly common in recent years. According to Dingman Yu, the Chinese teacher here at South, “In the past twelve, fourteen years the number of Chinese students in our public schools has gone up more than 100 times.” Often times the difference in teaching styles is what draws students here. “[The parents] are sick and tired of the way children are taught in China,” Yu explained, “The stress is on memorization rather than tapping a student’s creativity and imagination.”

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Annual Singer Showcase turns to Swing

SOUTH HIGH SWING NIGHT
Thursday, January 14, 7 p.m.

with special guest artist
AJA D. PARHAM

South High alumni and friends are invited to the many concerts performed by the South High music department throughout the year. January’s performances include two big nights: South Swing Night on January 14 and the Pops Concert on January 28.

Swing Night at South will be held in the commons. Along with a swing dance, the South High Dance Ensemble, directed by Erin Brown, will perform. Pop Singers will sing accompanied by the Jazz Ensemble I and guest artist, Aja D. Parham will also sing.

Parham is a music instructor, teaching voice, at the Walker West Musical Academy in St. Paul. She has performed at the National Building Museum in Washington, D.C. for former First Lady Barbara Bush and with Jennifer Holiday.

South students will benefit from her experiences as she will spend many hours coaching them for the big Swing Night on January 14. Her advice to young musicians, “Always learn from the past and the present. Take that and do something musically relevant for the future.”

The annual Pops Concert includes the Chamber Orchestra, Varsity Choir and Wind Ensemble on January 28. Everyone is welcome to attend. Please check our calendar or go to the South High website for more concert dates and ticket information: www.south.mpls.k12.mn.us.

Is it your year to plan a reunion?

Whether you are ready with your reunion plans or just getting the ball rolling, contact the Foundation with information by mid-February when we compile material for the Spring newsletter. Please include the date, time, venue and name of organizers with phone numbers or email addresses. If you are still in the planning stages, alert your classmates and give the name and phone number of a class organizer.

The policy of sharing or printing reunion lists has transformed over the years according to data privacy laws. At this time the Foundation is capable of sending your class list to a bonded mailing company to address and mail, however, personal addresses and printed labels can no longer be given directly to reunion groups. For more information go to our website: www.southhighfoundation.org under Programs >Alumni.

Complete this form (please print) an mail with your check to: South High Foundation, 3131 19th Ave. S., Mpls. MN 55407

Name__________________________________________________________
Maiden Name__________________________________________________
Class yr._____________________________________________________
Spouse/Partner Name____________________________________________
Maiden Name__________________________________________________
Class yr._____________________________________________________
Address_______________________________________________________
City_________________________State_____Zip_________
Email______________________________Phone number (_______)_____________

I am/we are ☐Alumni ☐Parent ☐Student ☐Staff ☐Friend

Annual Giving Levels:
☐ $5,000 Legacy ☐ $1,000 Platinum Tiger
☐ $1,000 Gold Tiger ☐ $250 Silver Tiger
☐ $100 Centurion ☐ $50 Champion
☐ $25 Medallion ☐ $ ______ Other

Thank you for your gift!

Matching gift form enclosed
☐ I would like to volunteer Best way to contact me: ☐email ☐phone ☐mail
☐ Please send me information about wills and bequests
☐ Please send me a copy of the annual report

Optional: Designated for (program/activity)
In Memory of __________ Class year
In Honor of __________ Class year

Foundation office: 612-668-4344
Website: southhighfoundation.org

Dear South High Foundation President and Members,

Thank you so much for the generous Faith Finnberg Scholarship. I am so excited and grateful for this support. This scholarship will help me earn the degree in education and teaching certification that will allow me to pursue my passion for bringing care and dedication into classrooms. Because of the Foundation’s generous award I am able to attend the University of Minnesota where I am majoring in elementary education. After this, I plan to pursue teaching opportunities in China as well as help expand Chinese immersion programs in the United States. Again, thank you so much for granting me this scholarship and all of your work at the Foundation!

In gratitude, Lillie Quellette-Howitz

Editor’s note: Ouellette-Howitz was featured in a previous holiday letter as the National Debate Champion of the national economic debate competition in Dallas, Texas.

Dear Friends of the Foundation,

My time here at South High has been remarkable. I am into my second year, you might call it my sophomore year, and I know now I’ve arrived, truly, at the best high school there is, public or otherwise. Yes, I have. Our students and families are engaged. Our staff is top-notch. And you, our community of stakeholders and alums, are embracing us in both word and deed.

When we’ve made requests of the Foundation, you come through for us, every time. Most recently our life skills class made a request for their button-making endeavor. These students are thriving here at South and they are boosting both their own self-esteem and spirits all around with a business that has blossomed. The buttons are art, they’re heart, they are a study in commerce engagement. This is an enterprise from which our entire school community, the MPS community and beyond will benefit. Thank you for recognizing this. The return on this investment will likely be exponential.

The job of educating and supporting our young people through these transformative years is a vocation that requires the support of both the greater community and the greatness in the community — that is you. Thank you.

Principal Reinaldo Aponte
South High School