

four prizes in the New York competition. Donald Newman took first prize and best talent performance, Chris Stellato took second prize, and Lucas Geller captured third prize. All are students in OSU's Chinese Flagship Program.



Christopher Stellato performing "茶馆儿" 中的数来宝 in New York

Four days later, Hunan Satellite TV ("HSTV"), China's highest-ranked regional television outlet, made a very special visit to The Ohio State University campus. HSTV's visit was prompted by their recognition that students from The Ohio State University's Chinese Flagship Program have compiled an unprecedented record of repeated wins in the worldwide annual Chinese Bridge Competition. HSTV is slated to televise the worldwide finals of the Competition which will be held in Hunan Province in 2008.

Hunan Satellite TV was very interested in showing their Chinese audiences the teachers and teaching methods which have made OSU's Chinese language and cultural instruction programs so effective and competitive. To develop the story of OSU's unique performance-based Chinese language pedagogy developed by Professor Galal Walker, HSTV visited Chinese classes at different levels, conducted on-campus interviews at OSU with Professor Walker, Director of National East Asian Languages Resource Center and the Chinese Flagship Program, Mr. Patrick McAloon, OSU's first winner of the international Chinese Bridge first prize in 2004, Ms. Huanzhen Zhao, coach of all of the OSU Chinese Bridge contestants since 2004, and other OSU Chinese instructors and students.

HSTV interviewed OSU President, E. Gordon Gee and University Provost, Joseph Alutto and filmed Dr. Gee's presentation of awards to the OSU Chinese Bridge team and their coach. HSTV interviewed OSU College of Humanities Dean John Roberts about the OSU Chinese language and culture program, and Ohio Lieutenant Governor Lee Fisher congratulated the OSU team and coach on their successes in the New York competition.

OSU has fielded strong competitors for the Chinese Bridge competition with encouragement and support from OSU's Department of East Asian Languages and Literature, OSU's Chinese Flagship Program and many individual supporters such as Minru Li, Eric Shepherd and Yu Xiao. HSTV's visit to the OSU campus was capably facilitated and supported by OSU's Office of International Affairs. The images and sounds captured by Hunan Satellite TV on their visit to OSU will be broadcasted nationwide to a Chinese audience numbering in the hundreds of million viewers.

The Ohio State University has entered the International Chinese Bridge finals competitions for five years, and has compiled an unprecedented record of three first-place wins, one second-place win and one "best talent performance" win. In addition to McAloon, Abigail Southerland and Joshua Lotz took first prizes in 2006 and 2007, respectively. No other college or university worldwide has a record to match OSU's.

The annual finals of the Chinese Bridge Competition are the ultimate, worldwide test for student performances of highly-advanced Chinese language proficiency and cultural skills. The Chinese Bridge Competition is sponsored by the Chinese Ministry of Education to give students incentives to study Chinese language and culture and is open to non-native Chinese speakers worldwide. More than 100 competitors from 52 countries participated in last year's Competition.

The annual final Competition is broadcast to tens of million viewers across China where it attracts the attention of both academic and non-academic audiences. *(by Robert Maynard)*

