



Los Angeles - Guangzhou Sister City Association

**LOS ANGELES GHANGZHOU SISTER CITY ASSOCIATION HONORED**



*LAGSCA President Katherine Whitman and Liu Baochun, Director General of Guangzhou Foreign Affairs office received the award in Washington DC*

Sister Cities International and the Chinese People’s Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries signed an agreement in 2012 to formalize a partnership to collaborate and create new opportunities for more sister city relationships between the United States and China. The US-China Sister Cities Conference held in Washington D.C March 26-18, 2014 was a direct result of this new collaboration. Preceding the conferences was a reception held at the Chinese Embassy where representative of the US



State Department and the Chinese government spoke to congratulate the participants and encourage further cooperation at the sub national level between cities, states and province in China and the United States.

The conference was designed to celebrate the 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the first US – China Sister City partnership, share best practices and honor 34 US-China city partnerships for their successful programs and unparalleled dedication.

The awards were in several categories including Best Overall, Longest Relationship, Community Involvement, Youth, Arts & Culture, and Economic Development & Trade. The Los Angeles Guangzhou Sister City Association received the award for Economic Development and Trade. Mr. Liu Boachun, Director General of the Guangzhou Foreign Affairs Office and Katherine Whitman, President of the Los Angeles Guangzhou Sister City Association accepted the award on behalf of all association members and sister city supporters. Ms. Wu Xiaoling, Deputy Director of the Guangzhou Foreign Affairs Office and Mr. Steve Temkin, board member of the LAGSCA participated in the conference and joined the award celebration.



## FIVE YEARS OF PARTNERSHIP BETWEEN LAGSCA AND MOUNT ST. MARY'S COLLEGE

By Peter H. Antoniou

The LAGSCA inaugurated the Lawrence Liu Scholarship in 1987 when the first scholar from the Foreign Affairs Office came to study in Los Angeles. The scholars from Guangzhou have studied at California State University Northridge, Mount St. Mary's College and California State University Los Angeles. When Mount St. Mary's began its MBA program it included a field study trip to China as part of the program. The Foreign Affairs Office has been instrumental in assisting the college in arranging visits and establishing partnerships in Guangzhou for the benefit of the students. In addition, our former president, Mr Fred Hong, frequently lectures to the students during their visit about the legal aspects of doing business in China. The LAGSCA decided to make the Mount St. Mary's College students



*Mount St. Mary's student delegation at Guangzhou Friendship Garden with Councilman Tom LaBonge in 2011*

China scholars and gives each student a letter designating them as such.

The MSMC program coordinated its trip to Guangzhou in fall 2011 to coincide with the visit of the delegation celebrating the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the establishment of LAGSCA and

the presentation of the Hollywood Star to the city. In May 2014 MSMC will graduate its 10<sup>th</sup> cohort and celebrate 5 years of cooperation with the sister city association.



## CELEBRATION OF THE YEAR OF THE SNAKE

By Jeffrey Cheung



*From left: Katherine Whitman, Tom LaBonge, Steve Temkin, Lynnette Amerian, Tom Gimore and Jeffrey Cheung*

The LAGSCA members and guests were in a celebratory mood as they gathered at the Ocean Seafood Restaurant in Chinatown on February 28, 2014 to celebrate the beginning of the Year of the Snake. Katherine Whitman, LAGSCA President and Vice Chairman Jeffrey Cheung welcomed all those attending and Councilman Tom LaBonge, on behalf of the LA City Council added his good wishes for the New Year.

Among the distinguished guests were Mr. Sun Weide, Deputy Council General of China, Lynnette Amerian, Chief of Protocol for Mayor Eric Garcetti, Tom Gilmore, President of Los Angeles International Sister Cities Committee, Norman Arikawa, Director of International Trade of the World Port of

Los Angeles, Noel Massie, President of UPS Southern California District and Dr. Ann McElaney Johnson, President of Mount St. Mary's College.

All the guests at the banquet had an opportunity to congratulate Steve Temkin on being elected as Member of 2013. Steve joined LAGSCA in 1987, and since then has been involved in the trade and economic exchange projects between the US and China. In 2000 he created a China Podcast introducing the history and culture of China. To date, the podcast has attracted hundreds of thousands people worldwide.

LAGSCA was honored to have Mr. Noel Massie, a 33 year UPS veteran who currently leads the firm's Southern California division as the keynote speaker at the banquet. In his enlightening speech, Mr. Massie shared with us his insight about the emerging trends in e-commerce and international trade, especially trade between the US and China, and how UPS has contributed to facilitate the trade and commerce between the two countries.

Louis Lu, General Manager of China Southern Airlines donated, on behalf of the airline, a round trip ticket to Guangzhou for auction which became the highlight of the event.

## LAGSCA RETURNS TO CHINATOWN

This summer LAGSCA will stay cool in our new office location right in the heart of Los Angeles Chinatown. Thanks to the generosity of Sister Cities of Los Angeles president Tom Gilmore, the offices of the Los Angeles Guangzhou Sister City Association are back to where they once belonged. The new office is located at 845-B North Broadway in Chinatown, just

south of College Avenue. After departing from Chinatown, the Association had been using a PO Box as the office address. The new office, with its convenient location just north of downtown LA will serve not only as the administrative headquarters of the LAGSCA but also a showcase for all the Association's past awards and events.



*New LAGSCA office in Chinatown*