



2012 Distinguished Alumnus Award (Junior Category)



Wesley Sun (孫睿恩), son of Zu-Wen Sun (孫如文) and Heidi Chen (陳秋蘭), was born in Shreveport, Louisiana. He is currently a sophomore at Vanderbilt University, majoring in neuroscience. He attended the Nashville Chinese School for 8 years and has actively participated in the lion dance performance with the Chinese Arts and Alliance of Nashville (CAAN) since high school. With encouragement from his teachers at NCS and his parents, young Wesley had submitted essays and stories to the World Journal (世界日報) newspaper (children's section) and received monetary rewards at various occasions. At his spare time in college, Wesley continued to be involved in activities that promote Chinese culture, notably the recent Cumberland River Dragon Boat Festival and the lion dance performance for the Celebrate Nashville Cultural Festivity. Because of his fluency in the Chinese language, Wesley was one of the few accepted to reside in the McTyeire International House (at Vanderbilt) where he was required to speak Chinese on a regular basis and to discuss international issues at specific events. Wesley's story exemplifies how learning the Chinese language and culture can enrich our students' lives as well as the kind of opportunities and experiences knowing Chinese can provide.

