Dear Members and Friends of the China Institute,

Happy New Year of the Snake and welcome to another issue of our newsletter! The Year of the Dragon witnessed a series of heartbreaking losses for the China Institute. Early in April, Dr. Mingfang Li passed away. He was a senior member of the China Institute Executive Committee, as well as an outstanding teacher, scholar, and colleague. Dr. Li coordinated numerous training programs for the Chinese scholars, having personally mentored them. He traveled extensively and frequently to China, organizing and attending international conferences, conducting and publishing collaborative research with leading scholars in his field, and lectured at prestigious universities all over China. His contributions have been recognized with countless awards, including China’s “One Thousand Talents” Award, the Fulbright Senior Scholar Award, and the China Institute’s Outstanding Contributions Award. He will be remembered dearly for his tremendous energy, his profound commitment to excellence in teaching and scholarship, and his tireless efforts to promote international collaboration. In June of last year, the China Institute suffered another major loss with the sudden collapse and subsequent passing of Dr. Mack Johnson, Associate Vice President of International Programs. His passing is a major loss not only to CSUN but also to CSUN’s collaborations with China. He contributed significantly to the development of our university’s relationships with more than 40 sister universities in China. Thanks to his leadership and efforts, CSUN has become a very well-known and popular American university in China. Dr. Johnson has been recognized as “the most beloved administrator” at CSUN and “the most friendly university administrator in the U.S.” by Chinese scholars and students.

Inspired by the spirit and memory of Dr. Johnson and Dr. Li, the China Institute continues to promote exchange and collaboration between CSUN and China. In the spring of 2012, the China Education Association for International Exchange and Hubei Provincial Bureau of Education collaborated with CSUN China Institute and the College of Education in training three large groups of Chinese educational administrators and teachers, who participated in educational workshops at CSUN and visited local schools to interact with American teachers and students. In return, during spring break, more than 120 American
teachers and administrators from Vaughn Next Century Learning Center in Pacoima visited schools in Beijing and Shanghai. Their visits were facilitated by the China Institute and hosted by former Chinese visiting scholars and school leaders. While in China, Vaughn’s educators also taught English in Chinese classrooms. This was the largest American teacher delegation from a single school that visited China in the history of U.S.-China educational exchange. Vaughn teachers also visited schools in Shanghai. This visit resulted in the invitation of Vaughn’s high school students to participate in the Shanghai International Youth Summer Science Camp. It was a dream come true: a truly life-changing experience for these students who originated from poor minority families.

At CSUN, we continue to host many Chinese visiting scholars, students, and delegations. The Chinese student population has remained the largest among international students at CSUN and in the U.S. Most notably, in the fall semester of 2012, we received 20 visiting scholars from Nanjing University of Science & Technology. This was the largest group of scholars from one Chinese university in the history of CSUN exchange with China and represents a major effort on the part of China to globalize higher education. The Nanjing scholars audited classes in their respective disciplines at CSUN, participated in varied workshops to improve their teaching skills, and visited many social, cultural, political, and educational institutions in the local area, including L.A. City Council, Huntington Botanical Library, Getty Center, Reagan Presidential Library, Hollywood Bowl, Vaughn Next Century Learning Center, Jet Propulsion Lab, and Moorpark Farm. They also went to the live showing of NBC Studio’s “Tonight Show” with Jay Leno, where the surprise guest of honor was President Obama just one week before the Presidential Election. The scholars also met with President Dianne Harrison and several other administrators and faculty on campus, participated in the STEM meeting, made presentations on Chinese education and culture during International Week, and offered motivational talks on the process of becoming a female engineer to local elementary school students. In addition to this large group of scholars, we have also hosted visiting scholars from Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing, Xi’an, Hubei, and Hunan. Dr. Wei Xu, Chair of the Dance Department from Nanjing University of the Arts, presented a most informative and exciting workshop on “Chinese Dance Culture” to CSUN faculty, students and local community members. We signed a new MOU with Central China Normal University when President Yang Zongkai led a delegation to visit CSUN in August. We also signed an innovative “3+1+1” collaboration program in music with Shanghai Normal University Music School, which will bring cohorts of quality music students to CSUN each year. Our collaborative graduate program in educational leadership with Shanghai Normal University began to enroll students in fall 2012. We are working on a China MBA program with Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, which aims at training large cohorts of Chinese business executives from Central China.

Meanwhile, CSUN faculty and administrators continue to visit China on exchange and collaborative programs. Dr. Katherine Baker of Music spent part of her sabbatical leave visiting and lecturing at several Chinese universities. Associate Dean Maureen Rubin, Dr. Meiqin Wang and Dr. Lynette Henderson from the College of Arts, Media and Communications also visited several sister universities in Shanghai and Wuhan to develop collaboration and to conduct a comparative study on art education in the U.S. and China. Dr. Dmitry Rachmanov, Chair of Keyboard Studies, went on another successful summer performance tour in China. Early this year, he returned to China again with Dr. Deanna Murray of Voice Studies to audition “3+1+1” program candidates at Shanghai Normal University, and to explore new collaboration in music with East China Normal University faculty. In September 2012, Dr. Justine Su made a highly spirited presentation on her comparative education studies at the UNESCO International Forum on Teacher Education in Shanghai, and was featured on the cover page of the Chinese National Journal of World Education. Then in November 2012, Vice President Hilary Baker delivered a keynote speech on IT leadership and collaboration at the China Forum on Internationalization and Informatization of Education in Shanghai, and her paper was also published by the Journal of World Education. She went on to visit two universities in Wuhan and further strengthened our relationship and collaboration with Central China Normal University and Zhongnan University of Economics and Law.
Also in November, Dr. Louis Rubino, Head of Health Administration Program at CSUN, visited Hubei University of Medicine to make presentations and develop collaboration programs. In December, Dr. Kathryn Sorrells of Communication Studies, who has mentored several Chinese visiting scholars at CSUN in recent years, delivered a keynote address at the International Conference of Intercultural Communication in Shanghai. She also developed contacts for her upcoming sabbatical work of teaching and research in China in the fall of 2013.

From our College of Business and Economics, several faculty visited China to attend conferences, offer workshops and develop collaboration. Dr. Daniel Degravel spent several weeks in China from Dec. 2012 to Jan. 2013, attending an international conference, conducting workshops in several major universities in Jilin, Shanghai, and Nanjing, and teaching two MBA courses at Hohai University. Dr. Jeff Zhang visited his alma mater, Nanjing University of Science and Technology (NUST), met faculty and administrators to develop collaborative projects, and has made plans to return to NUST to teach this year. Dr. Yanbo Jin visited the Business School in Central South University in Changsha to teach a course, make presentations, and collaborate with faculties and students on several research projects. Dr. Zhong-Guo Zhou from the Dept. of Finance also went to China to further develop collaboration projects with Chinese scholars.

One of our most frequent visitors to China last year was Dr. Yifei Sun from the Department of Geography. He attended several international conferences and also organized a workshop at CSUN for the Delegation from China’s Ministry of Housing and Construction. He was also invited to attend the panel discussion on innovation and U.S.-China relationships at Washington D.C., hosted by the New American Foundation. He is working with several other faculty members to develop collaborative projects on policy and business studies with Jilin University. Another diligent traveler to China at CSUN is Dr. Victor Shaw of sociology, who presented his research on crime, social control, organizational behavior, and public policy to faculty and students at the Chinese Academy of Governance.

This year, four more CSUN students have been awarded the prestigious China Council Scholarships to study in China – Danielle Cabello on her second CSC scholarship to conduct graduate studies in applied linguistics in Tsinghua University; Andrew Javidi studying political science at People’s University; Alexander Renner enjoying his life and study in Shanghai University of Finance and Economics; and Nina Rocklin studying Chinese language at Donghua University in Shanghai. For all of them, studying in China under the China Council full scholarships is the most unforgettable, life-changing experience. Many of our former award recipients are now developing successful careers in China and the U.S. Matthew Myers, after receiving his master’s degree from Tsinghua University last summer, is now representing the Crow Collection of Asian Art in Beijing and overseeing projects of world-renowned Chinese artists. Justin Shenkarow, after completing his study at Shanghai University, currently back in Los Angeles, has created his own a start-up company about education and business in China and is currently developing it from L.A. He plans to launch summer internships for U.S. college students in China. He is also working with a large real estate developer and seeking to raise Chinese capital for excellent real estate projects.

President Xi Jinping and President Obama have pledged to build deeper and broader cultural exchange and educational cooperation between the U.S. and China, especially amongst young people. This year marks the 4710th year in the Chinese lunar calendar and is the Year of the Golden Snake. The snake symbolizes smooth transition, hidden strength, renewed life, wealth and fortune, and most of all, beautiful dreams that can come true for the hard-working peoples in China and the U.S.

—Dr. Justine Su,
Professor & Director of China Institute
Arts, Music, and Cultural Activities

- Magical Musicians Piano Concert, by Ying Duan, Dmitry Rachmanov & Maria Shcherbakova, Jan., 2012
- Chinese New Year’s Banquet, Mar., 2012
- International Conference on “Planning and Urban Sustainable Development”, hosted by Dr. Yifei Sun and College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Jun., 2012
- “CSUN Voice” Singing Competition, Chinese Students and Scholars Association, Oct., 2012
- “New Faces of China’s Ancient Capital City: Nanjing in Transition” by Prof. Lai Jianzhong and other visiting scholars from Nanjing University of Science and Technology, at PBD International Education Week Forum, Nov., 2012
- “NUST - A Top Science and Engineering University in China and Scholarship Study Opportunities for CSUN Students,” by Prof. Zong Zhiyuan and other visiting scholars from Nanjing University of Science and Technology, at PBD International Education Week Forum, Nov., 2012
- “Chinese Dance Culture,” by Dr. Wei Xu, Chair of Dept. of Dance, Nanjing Univ. of the Arts, Little Theatre, Nov., 2012
- “Comparative Education Forum,” with presentations from Nanjing Univ. of Science & Technology and Nanjing Univ. of the Arts visiting scholars. Co-sponsored by Center for Teaching and Learning at CSUN. Dec., 2012.
CSUN Scholars and Students’ Visits to China

1. Patrick F Colabucci, Director of Global Studies and International Pathways, Tseng College, visited Beijing, Tianjing, Shanghai and Nanjing to attend education expositions and visit CSUN sister universities, March, 2012.

2. Dr. Justine Su facilitated school visits and comparative education forums in Beijing, Shanghai and Wuhan for 120 teachers from Vaughn Next Century Learning Center headed by Principal Yvonne Chan, April, 2012.

3. Dr. Katherine Baker spent part of her sabbatical leave lecturing, doing master classes, and auditioning students at Shanghai Normal University, Nanjing Univ. of the Arts, Nanjing Univ. of Science and Technology, and Wuhan Central China Normal University, May, 2012.

4. Dr. Norm Herr and Dr. Brian Foley of Dept. of Secondary Education presented “Computer Supported Collaborative Science” at the Hewlett Packard Catalyst Summit in Beijing, China, April, 2012.

5. Dr. Maureen Rubin, Associate Dean of Mike Curb College of Arts, Media and Communication visited Shanghai Normal University, Sanda University, and Central China Normal University to offer workshops, lectures, and discuss collaboration projects, May/June, 2012.

6. Dr. Meiqin Wang and Dr. Lynette Henderson visited Shanghai Normal University, Sanda University, and Central China Normal University to conduct comparative study of art education, offer workshops, lectures, and discuss collaboration projects, May/June, 2012.

7. Dr. Dmitry Rachmanov had another concert tour in China, also visited Shanghai Normal Univ. Music College to conduct audition for piano students in the newly established 3+1+1 program, summer, 2012

8. Dr. Justine Su visited Shanghai, Nanjing and Wuhan sister universities for collaboration programs, visiting scholar programs, and new partnerships with Central China Normal University and Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, summer, 2012.

9. Dr. Yifei Sun visited Shanghai, Zhejiang, Jilin, and Nanjing for collaborative projects and conferences, summer, 2012.

10. Dr. Wei Cao visited Beijing, & Xi’an to develop collaboration projects, June, 2012.
11. Dr. Justine Su presented “Chinese Education through Americans’ Eyes” at UNESCO 7th International Forum on Teacher Education, Shanghai, September, 2012.

12. Mr. Patrick Colabucci, Director of Global Studies from Tseng College, visited Beijing, Nanjing and other cities in China to attend education expo, and to explore collaboration with CSUN’s sister universities, October, 2012.

13. Dr. Yifei Sun visited Beijing, Shanghai, Nanjing and Zhejiang for international conferences and collaborative projects, Nov., 2012.


15. Dr. Victor Shaw visited Wuhan to lecture at several universities and meet with faculty to develop collaborative projects, November & December, 2012.


17. Dr. Kathryn Sorrells attended international cross-cultural conference in Shanghai, also visited Shanghai Normal University and East China Norma. Univ., Dec., 2012.

18. Dr. Daniel Degravel attended international conference in Guangzhou, offered workshops to business college faculty and students in Jilin Univ., Nanjing Univ. of Science and Technology, and Nanjing Hohai University, Dec., 2012-Jan. 2013.

19. Dr. Dmitry Rachmanov and Dr. Deanna Murray of Music visited Shanghai Normal University to audition students for joint degree program, also visited East China Normal University, Jan. 2013.

Chinese Education Delegations to CSUN

2. Central Conservatory of China student delegation, Jan., 2012
5. Hubei Teachers and Principals Delegation, Apr./May, 2012
6. Hubei Univ. of Medicine Delegation, Jun., 2012
7. Nanjing Univ. of Science and Technology English Faculty delegation, Jul., 2012
9. Guangzhou Medical University Vice President Dylan Wei, Aug., 2012
13. Shanghai University student delegation, Aug., 2012
14. Shanghai Normal University Vice President Delegation, Sept., 2012
15. Jilin University EMBA delegation, Sept., 2012
18. Kuming Medical University Health Administrator Delegation, Nov, 2012
19. Nanjing Univ. of Science and Technology President’s Delegation, Dec., 2012
20. Shanghai Normal University College of Education delegation, Dec., 2012
21. Shanghai Hongkou District Medical Bureau Delegation, Jan. 2013
22. Quzhou University Vice President’s Delegation, Jan., 2013
23. Jilin University Vice President’s Delegation, Jan., 2013
24. Dalian Foreign Language Univ. delegation, Feb., 2013
25. Dezhou University Vice President Delegation visit, Feb., 2013

President Yang with President Harrison at the MOU Signing Ceremony
President Harrison meets NUST President Wang
Chinese Scholars and Exchange Students Studying at CSUN (2011–2012)

1. Yao Lu
   (2+2, art),
   Shanghai Normal University
2. Yan Yan
   (2+2, art),
   Shanghai Normal University
3. Zuo Fangting
   (2+2, art),
   Shanghai Normal University
4. Zhu Kaiwei
   (2+2, art),
   Shanghai Normal University
5. Zheng Zhenling,
   Shanghai Normal University
6. Livia Li,
   Shanghai Normal University
7. Bi Xuanjin,
   Shanghai Normal University
8. Airong Lu,
   Shanghai Yew Wah Education Management Co., Ltd
9. Shan Yi
   (2+2, engineering),
   Shanghai Normal University
10. Jin Yan
    (2+2, engineering),
    Shanghai Normal University
11. Li Ya
    (2+2, engineering),
    Shanghai Normal University
12. Amy Siqin Cai
    (2+2, engineering),
    Shanghai Normal University
13. Sun Yun
    (2+2, engineering),
    Shanghai Normal University
14. Su Xing
    (2+2, engineering),
    Shanghai Normal University
15. Jiaying Li, Victoria
    (2+2, health science),
    Guangzhou Medical University
16. Jiayun Guo, Karen
    (2+2, health science),
    Guangzhou Medical University
17. Mengning Chen, Carrie
    (2+2, health science),
    Guangzhou Medical University
18. Siqi Wu
    (2+2, health science),
    Guangzhou Medical University
19. Yu Liu
    (2+2, health science),
    Guangzhou Medical University
20. Hejun Wu
    (2+2, finance),
    Shanghai Normal University
21. Suning Jiang
    (2+2, finance),
    Shanghai Normal University
22. Juexiao Guo
    (2+2, finance),
    Shanghai Normal University
23. Caoyuan Xie
    (2+2, finance),
    Shanghai Normal University
24. Xu Mengbo,
    Jilin University
25. Meng Xuanyu,
    Jilin University
26. Fei Yupeng,
    Jilin University
27. Meng Hongmei,
    Jilin University
28. Zhu Xiumei,
    Jilin University
29. Miao Qing,
    Jilin University
30. Kun Li,
    Jilin University
31. Guo Gensheng,
    Shandong Normal University
32. Gong Shoushu,
    Chinese Academy of Sciences
33. Tian Li,
    Shanghai Normal University
34. Ye Ying,
    Shanghai Normal University
35. Duan Ying,
    Shanghai Normal University
36. Shiyun Zheng
    (exchange student),
    Shanghai Normal University
37. Chijie Zhang
    (exchange student),
    Shanghai Normal University
38. Haoyang Chen
    (2+2, finance),
    Shanghai Normal University
39. Shang Jing
    (2+2, finance),
    Shanghai Normal University
40. Xiwen Yu
    (2+2, finance),
    Shanghai Normal University
41. Ren Jin
    (2+2, finance),
    Shanghai Normal University
42. You Geyang
    (2+2, finance),
    Shanghai Normal University
43. Jiefan Xia,
    Shanghai Normal University
44. Chai Yun,
    Hubei University of Medicine
45. Cheng Li,
    Hubei University of Medicine
46. Zhang Ying
    (2+2, finance),
    Xi’an Dianzhi University
47. Xu Lifan,
    Nanjing University of Science and Technology
48. Xin Cai,
    Jimei University, Xiamen
49. Lu Weizhong,
    (Vice Principal), High School Affiliated with USST, Shanghai
50. Ding Limin,
    (Principal), Primary of School Affiliated to USST, Shanghai
51. Zhang Chaohui,
    (Vice Principal), Kongjiang Senior High School, Shanghai
52. Zeng Guoquang,
    (Vice Principal), Kongjiang Senior High School
53. Li Dan,
    Shanghai Normal University
54. Lou Fang,
    English Language Press
55. Wang Xia,
    Shanghai Normal University
56. Li Dan,
    Senior High School (Vice Principal)
57. Zeng Guoguang,
    Senior High School, Shanghai
58. Zhang Tianhong,
    Shanghai Normal University
59. Zhang Yingjie,
    Shanghai Normal University
60. Zhu Congqing,
    Shanghai Normal University
61. Zhu Haofeng,
    Shanghai Normal University
62. Sun Weiqun,
    Shanghai Bangde Vocational and Technical College
63. Zhou Jing Ren
    (exchange student), Shanghai Normal University (ELPS)
64. Liu Jing,
    Xi’an Polytechnic University
65. Liang Feng,
    Wuhan University
66. Zhang Liyin,
    Wuhan University
67. Xie Juan,
    Hua Zhong University of Science and Technology
68. Huang Tierong,
    Xi’an Foreign Language University
69. Rongyi Li,
    Fudan University
70. Ge Baoshan,
    Jilin University
71. Yanfei Yin,
    Wuhan University
72. Su Xiaohua,
    Shanghai University of Finance and Technology
73. Xu Lifan,
    Xi’an Dianzhi University
74. Zhang Yingjie,
    Shanghai Normal University
75. Zhu Congqing,
    Shanghai Normal University
76. Zhu Haofeng,
    Shanghai Normal University
77. Sun Weiqun,
    Shanghai Bangde Vocational and Technical College
78. Zhou Jing Ren
    (exchange student), Shanghai Normal University (ELPS)
79. Zhu Huajing
    (exchange student), Nanjing University of Science and Technology
80. Wang Alice Zhaoqing
    (exchange student), Xi’an Polytechnic University
81. Ann Cui Hang, Xi’an
    Polytechnic University
82. Kary Shiyan Luo,
    Xi’an Polytechnic University
83. Guan Tian
    (2+2, health administration),
    Guangzhou Medical University
84. Chen Keshu
    (2+2, health administration),
    Guangzhou Medical University
85. Chen Huihui
   (2+2, health administration),
   Guangzhou Medical University
86. Pu Jinhao
   (2+2, health administration),
   Guangzhou Medical University
87. Wei Zhen,
   The People’s University, Beijing
88. Zuobin Zhang,
   The People’s University, Beijing
89. Zong Zhiyuan,
   Nanjing University of Science and Technology
90. Xiao Wei,
   Nanjing University of Science and Technology
91. Lu Xiaoyun,
   Nanjing University of Science and Technology
92. Zu Li,
   Nanjing University of Science and Technology
93. Wang Zhenhua,
   Nanjing University of Science and Technology
94. Wu Wei,
   Nanjing University of Science and Technology
95. Wang Chuanjin,
   Nanjing University of Science and Technology
96. Li Zhu,
   Nanjing University of Science and Technology
97. Wang Haiqing,
   Nanjing University of Science and Technology
98. Zhong Yi,
   Nanjing University of Science and Technology
99. Yu Ligong,
   Nanjing University of Science and Technology
100. Zhou Xiaohong,
    Nanjing University of Science and Technology
101. An Zhiyu,
    Nanjing University of Science and Technology
102. Li Sheng,
    Nanjing University of Science and Technology
103. Qian Yan,
    Nanjing University of Science and Technology
104. Yan Tao,
    Nanjing University of Science and Technology
105. Wu Guanghai,
    Nanjing University of Science and Technology
106. Lai Jianzhong,
    Nanjing University of Science and Technology
107. Zhang Shihua,
    Nanjing University of Science and Technology
108. Wang Jianhua,
    Nanjing University of Science and Technology
109. Fang Li,
    Shanghai University of Traditional Chinese Medicine
110. Qi Zhang,
    China Education Science Publishing House
111. Xiaoang Zhang,
    Beijing Institute of Technology
112. Yi Liu,
    Zhejiang International Studies University
113. Canling Liu,
    Hunan International Economics University
114. Haiyan Liu,
    Jinan University
115. Wang Chuxiong,
    Central China Normal University
116. Wang Ying,
    Jiangsu Institute of Economic & Trade Technology
117. Zhu Ying,
    Shanghai Jiaotong University
118. Helen Juye Lin,
    Quzhou University
119. Yan Wang,
    Quzhou University
120. Pan Yuchun,
    Quzhou University
121. Li Xiuqin,
    Quzhou University
122. Zhu Xiaofen,
    Quzhou University
123. Chen Jianhong,
    Quzhou University

(Plus more than four hundred Chinese students in degree programs and IEP)
CSUN Mentors for Chinese Visiting Scholars & Students to CSUN (2011–2012)

1. Edward Alfano, Art
2. Katherine Baker, Music
4. Cao Wei, Family and Consumer Science
5. Rick Castallo, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
6. Somnath Chattopadhyay, Electrical and Computer Engineering
7. William De La Torre, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
8. Daniel Degravel, Management
9. Bonnie Ericson, Secondary Education
10. Mark Farquhar, Art
11. Xiaojun Geng, Electrical and Computer Engineering
12. Robert Gustafson, Film and TV Arts
13. Xiyi Hang, Electrical and Computer Engineering
14. Hattar, Marianne, Health Sciences
15. Lynette Henderson, Art
16. Taehyun Kim, Journalism
17. Judith Hennessey, Marketing
18. Norm Herr, Secondary Education
19. Steve Holle, Elementary Education
20. Yanbo Jin, Finance
21. Mack Johnson, Graduate Studies, Research, and International Programs
22. Diane Ketchie, Music
23. Nick Kioussis, Physics and Astronomy
24. Mingfang Li, Management
25. Richard Lorentz, Computer Sciences
26. Gang Lu, Physics and Astronomy
27. Deanna Murray, Music
28. Tae Oh, Chemistry
29. Mary Paquette, Nursing Program
30. Scott Plunkett, Psychology
31. Dmitry Rachmanov, Music
32. Deqing Ren, Physics
33. Bronte Reynolds, Educational Leadership
34. Kathleen Rowlands, Secondary Education
35. Louis Rubino, Health Sciences
36. Kurt Saunders, Business Law
37. Victor Shaw, Sociology
38. Donna Sheng, Physics
39. Enchao Shi, English
40. Carol Shubin, Math
41. Elizabeth Slator, Kinesiology
42. Kathryn Sorrells, Communication Studies
43. Justine Su, Educational Leadership and Policy Studies
44. Yifei Sun, Geography
45. Nayereh Tohidi, Gender & Women’s Studies
46. Meiqin Wang, Art
47. Richard Ye, Information System
48. George Hosni Youssef, Mechanical Engineering
49. Yue Zhang, Information System
50. Zhong Guo Zhou, Finance

Dr. Su with Shanghai principals

Prof. Tohidi hosts scholars at home

Rebecca Milewski - National Teacher of the Year with Chinese scholars

MUST scholars cook at Jan’s party

LH Wu hosts SHNU delegation

Scholars at Women’s Chorale reception

Director Zhong Xiang of Chinese National Ministry with Dr. Su in L.A.
Future Leaders Who Help Define the Relationship between China and the U.S.

by Matthew Myers, Three-Time CSC Award Recipient

So it’s been several years since we heard from you Matt, what do you have to say for yourself? Well, it’s safe to say I now have a PhD in China. Studying international development at Tsinghua was the best education I could get regarding China’s government policy and economy. After graduating last summer I started representing the Crow Collection of Asian Art, overseeing projects of world-renowned Chinese artists. Last November I was also fortunate enough to land an exciting job developing a loyalty program for a large Chinese bank from scratch. However, I must capitalize, italicize and underline that NOTHING HAS COME EASY. I’ve overcome just about every obstacle you can imagine, plus many more beyond your imagination. That being said, living in China the past four and a half years has been incredibly challenging, yet rewarding. Rewarding because I’ve seen what I can accomplish in a foreign country armed with only my wits. I’ve taken big chances with my life. Chances many of my peers shy from. But I’m here to say I don’t regret any of the risks I’ve taken, because I always bet on myself. Pass or fail, sink or swim, I own the outcome. I know those words may sound clichéd, but words become clichéd because they’re true.

My advice to those of you considering a move to China or another foreign country: pack your bags and don’t make the move half-hearted. Dive in the water. Leave yourself fully exposed and you never know what might happen. I can tell you this though. Keep your head on straight, be patient and persistent, work hard and you’ll be just fine. Last but not least, I’d like to give a special thanks to Zhixue Dong of the China Scholarship Council, and Dr. Justine Su and Dr. Yanbo Jin of the CSUN China Institute for believing in my dreams. I still firmly believe that the CSC scholarship is a great policy and will produce future leaders who help define the relationship between China and the U.S.

Spectacular Time in China

by Justin Shenkarow, CSC Award Recipient.

I had many incredible experiences while living and journeying throughout China. Based in Shanghai, I was immediately confronted with a different language, culture, environment and food experiences, and I relished in all of them. I made some wonderful Chinese friends and thoroughly enjoyed all of the fabulous and exciting opportunities that China showcases. The energy and excitement in Shanghai is quite palpable and it made me energized to start and grow a company. I launched a start-up while in Shanghai which I am currently growing. It is called China’s Pulse and we focus on giving internship opportunities to westerners that want to intern at a company in China. I’ve also launched a hedge fund which focuses on investments in the stock market which is growing quite rapidly. My time in China was life-changing and truly spectacular.

I met several Chinese friends who shared their upbringing with me. One such story struck a cord with me. My friend told me that he grew up in a small village, like millions of Chinese, and was crowded with over 10 people in a small shack without running water, bathroom, or any of the “normal” living situations that we are used to in the states. He and his family went to the bathroom outside and bathed in a local river. I was quite taken by his story because I realized how self-absorbed and selfish I had been to judge the Chinese people and the country. He worked extremely hard and at the age of 29 owns his own IT company, owns an apartment and a car. This is very powerful because the impact of someone to transform his life is not uncommon in China. There are millions of Chinese people who grew up in similar situations and have diligently worked to transform their lives into a life of success.
The Wonders of Wuhan

by Michelle Lao, CSC Award Recipient

My time in China has been the greatest experience in my life. I feel that this is the time that I grew most. Wuhan is a very multi-faceted city that is on the cusp of transformation. I never thought that I would ever see a city being built from scratch. It is almost unheard of in this time period that we live in, to see an entire city being built before our very eyes. I do feel that I’ve been part of Wuhan’s history. I can say that I was there before any of the metropolitan buildings being erected and the subway systems becoming main arteries for the city. I can still see the old village man pull his wooden cart full of cardboard boxes across the roads in front of the new Starbucks. This was life more me in Wuhan, a juxtaposition of old life versus modern life. There were times when I felt I was living in the future, sometimes in the 1970s, and other times during the Ming Dynasty. For me, this is once in a lifetime.

When I first arrived in Wuhan, it was an adventure from the moment my plane landed. The airlines lost my luggage and I wouldn’t receive them until three days later. In those three days, I felt an array of emotions. I felt really alone because I couldn’t contact my family and friend’s back home that I had arrived. I was in a foreign country and entirely new city that I did not know much of. I wasn’t fluent in Chinese and I had a difficult time deciphering the local dialect and customs. Within those three days, the focus wasn’t on my limitations as a newly arrived foreigner, but opening myself up to a new world and seeing what I can build out of it. I was incredibly blessed to have such a great community of people at Huashi. In those three days, I befriended students from all over the world who helped me jumpstart my life. I met a student from Azerbaijan, who helped me set up internet in my room, helped me activate a Chinese mobile number, and took me to the supermarkets to buy cleaning supplies and domestic goods for my dorm room. Shortly there after, I was able to contact Dale Chang who also introduced me to a wonderful group of global friends that I still keep in regular contact to this very day. We always ate dinners together, we were each other’s support systems, celebrated every holiday together, and took care of each other when ill. I have never met people like the ones at Huashi University who were so loving, empathetic, giving, cultured, and engaging. I quickly noticed that within my first week there that this community would be rare to find again in the world.

When school began, it was amazing seeing all my classmates and where they were from. I thought that California had diverse classrooms, but Chinese classes at Huashi definitely trump the ones back at home. My classmates were from all over the world. I had classmates from the Congo, Yemen, Saudi Arabia, Azerbaijan, Tunisia, England, Tanzania, Turkmenistan, Vietnam, Morocco, and USA. It was an intriguing mix of cultures in one room because I felt like I was gaining much more than Chinese but a true sample size of what a global education is like. As a student at Huashi, you end up becoming a polyglot. You learn bits of French, Russian, Arabic, Portuguese, Polynesian, Thai, Vietnamese, and so forth because of the heavy interactions that you have with other students. My classmates were always so warm and loving towards me. I would receive gifts from their home country and it’s something that I will always treasure. When I had received my care package in the mail, I always made sure to share with them and introduce them to different kinds of foods. We once had a Taco Tuesday night. We would share stories with each other about our lives at home and what our friends and family were like. All of us were very homesick, but we had each other to get through the tougher days. I was taken aback about how open-minded and thoughtful everyone was. We really encouraged each other to use Chinese as much as possible because the quality of our lives in Wuhan depended on how fluent you become in Chinese. The more Chinese you know the more doors it opens for you and you can reap the benefits. It is easier to communicate with the vendors, to obtain a job, and to travel around China. Your experience becomes more enriching and fulfilling, when you are able to use Chinese effectively.

My extracurricular activities in China were unconventional compared to US norms. I felt really honored that the school would choose me as a USA representative for sporting events, dance performances, modeling and a book series. I did televised dance performances in front of a stadium. --President Dianne Harrison

"What a beautiful and poignant message and endorsement not only of the incredible value of international education but of the significant impact it makes on the lives of students who have such opportunities. Please let Michelle know that her words and perspective really touched me and I am very grateful for the inspiration. Her experience is exactly why I wish all of our students could have these experiences. Thank you for sharing."

—President Dianne Harrison

Michelle with friends at CCNU
of 20,000 people. I modeled with a two other students in a botanical garden fashion show and Dale and I have our own English learning book series out in China. I was chosen to represent the USA in an opening bike ceremony for a fashion cup marathon in another city in the Hubei province. I was the first American that most people haven’t seen in that city and only one out of six foreigners in the entire city. I competed in basketball, track & field, and rugby for the school. I felt very connected to the student life at Huashi. Through these experiences, I made a lifetime of memories and friendships. I was playing rugby with people from Sweden, Samoa, Papua New Guinea, Micronesia, South Africa, Tonga, New Zealand, Cuba, and Zimbabwe. I was the first female they ever invited to play on their team. I was constantly learning something new about a culture whether it was their traditional dance, sport, or language. This is the kind of interaction that I could never get anywhere else in the world, but here in China. Throughout the whole year, I’ve been in constant awe of the community of people and how they have taken the time to teach me about their lives and cultures.

When there were holidays, I used that time to travel the world. I traveled to 7 different countries on my own. I was able to see much more of the world because of China. During winter break, I went back to the Yunnan province with my Chinese roommate. I went back to her hometown and was treated with the utmost kindness and warmth. I was part of a real Chinese family. Before my roommate moved, she told me that she wanted me to see what China was like, how a Chinese family is, and to see her province. Her grandma invited me into her home. I was the first foreigner she’s ever met. Her grandma and mom taught me how to make jiaozi, which they only make for special occasions. Her aunts and uncles taught me how to play mahjong. Her mom gave me the most beautiful handmade traditional Bai clothing and her aunt gave me traditional Dali jewelry. They taught me a lot about Bai culture, which is one of the ethnic minorities in the Yunnan province. I got to expand my Chinese and my world more. Since my roommate’s mom was a high-ranking political officer, I was given personal tours of Dali. Her family gave me great insight to the work and projects that they do to preserve the natural beauty of the province. As we were on a boat in Erhai Lake (often seen in National Geographic and Discovery Channel) they told me how they were able to clean up this lake within ten years because of the heavy pollution from neighboring factories. They made a law to ban factories in their city in order to save the ecosystems. I was truly impressed by the work that they had done because the waters were so clear and teeming with life. The lake is known for the Black Condors trained by Bai Fisherman to hunt for fishes in the lake. The laws to preserve the ecosystems are really unheard of in present day China. Everything is modernizing and growing rapidly in China and it is becoming more rare to see what China was like before it was untouched. I’m so blessed to be able to have an experience such as this. It will forever always be with me. Having a Chinese roommate was wonderful. She instantly became a little sister to me. We learned from each other, supported one another, and gave each other insight to our world. My roommate would be studying abroad in England. I was able to teach her about life, what to expect, and help her refine her English. She did the same for me when I was living in Wuhan. I will never forget what she and her family has done for me.

China has made my life come full circle during China and afterwards. Before I left for China, I was training USA Olympic Athletes in boxing. They had their last Olympic qualifier in Qinhuangdao, China. I was able to come and support them and watch my athletes qualify for the Olympics. I never thought that I would have the opportunity to see my work and athlete’s dreams come true. We all worked really hard for this moment. It was such a successful trip all the way around because I was able to get around in an unknown city, on my own using Chinese. Traveling in China allows you to learn even more outside the textbooks and classroom. I truly felt that I learned a great deal and it was paying off. I was no longer in the comfort of my adopted hometown or with other foreign students; I had to rely on my own knowledge. When I came back from China, I was able to get all the classes I needed in the 2nd week despite the late registration. I needed to take these classes for my graduate school prerequisites. My fourth week back home, I was able to find a job as Physical Therapy Aide and a renowned Physical Therapy clinic. Before China even was a prospect, it is typically hard to acquire a position as a Physical Therapy Aide. I’ve been trying for a year to do so. To know by the 4th week I was able to land the job I wanted, was such a gift. By the sixth week, I was able to find an apartment and move back out to L.A. I can say that I was able to do all those things in that acute amount of time because of China. China granted me time to think about what I needed to do with my life once I came back home. It also gave me more life experiences that helped me build strengths for the next chapters in my life. China also fulfilled so many dreams for me. I got to experience the world as a scholar. I had such an authentic experience living in China. I know I had heavily requested Beijing and Shanghai, but I’m grateful that I ended up in Wuhan. Wuhan gave me the most

Michelle prepares for a fashion show
authentic Chinese experience. My life was incredibly different in China than it is here now. I’m thankful that I got to experience both worlds. Most people I talk to that said they studied or lived in Beijing or Shanghai, only talk about the experiences of living in a modern city which I can have back at home anytime. They don’t know too much about Chinese culture or what the rest of China is really like. I’m glad that I was able to have such an authentic experience in China in various fashions. Not only has China helped me with my career and schooling, but also through my personal relationships. My mom came to visit me in Wuhan and she was once a scholarship student in Japan. We had even more to relate to each other. She went to my Chinese classes, spent time with all my friends, lived in the dorms with us, and was really Wuhanren. Everyone on campus including my laoshi, tongxuemen, and the ayi all asked how she was and called her "Mom" as well. She’s the only person that really understands how great the community at Huashi is. When I came back home, she understood how much I missed everyone in China, and it brought us even closer together and we still speak Chinese to each other to practice. Recently, one of the faculty members at Huashi, who worked at the foreign student department, received a scholarship to study for 3 months at UCSD. I was able to see my laoshi again, but this time in San Diego. It was wonderful seeing her and seeing how the roles became reversed. This time she was foreign student and I made sure to show around San Diego and catch up with her. I enjoyed listening to her perspective as a foreign student and it was such a pleasure being able to have this opportunity. We were so incredibly happy to see each other. I do not know if I’ll ever get the chance to see her again. Recently, I was also afforded another opportunity. My friends from China came to New York and we had reunion. It was wonderful being able to see the people I loved in China out here in my own country. We ate a Chinese dinner together, very fitting after seven months of not seeing each other. I realized at that dinner table, how fortunate I am to have this again. I looked across the dinner table after we ordered our food in Chinese, and saw faces of home. For a year this was my family, my Wuhanren, and my countrymates. We sat there joking in Chinese and talked about our futures and what China has done for us. You can take the girl out of Wuhan, but you can never take the Wuhan out of the girl.

I don’t know if I can ever fully convey what China and this opportunity has done for me. It has improved all aspects of my life. I came back sharper, more worldly, more grown, and I feel more enriched and fulfilled than I ever have been before. China gave me opportunities that no other place could have done. It was an incredibly hard experience, but also the greatest one. Dr. Su, I am forever thankful that you and the China Scholarship Council really supported me in this entire process. I hope to one day be able to do the same for others. I would love to give back to this program in any way that I can.

Thank You For Believing In Me.

A World of Opportunities in China

by Renner Alexander, CSC Award Recipient

I currently am attending Shanghai University of Finance and Economics. School exists of a focused curriculum including reading, writing, speaking classes. While there is very little interaction with Chinese students we are constantly in the company of incredibly intelligent international students. Chinese is incredibly difficult to learn and even harder to master. However, once you have started to say your first Chinese phrases you realize the importance of what you have learned. A skill, a weapon that gives you an advantage over your peers; this is what you will gain by studying and speaking daily in Chinese.

China has opened up a world of opportunities you never knew existed. I have managed to join the Shanghai Softball League, which competes in tournaments in the Philippines, Thailand, Indonesia as well as other countries. I have made friends who will keep me returning to China year in and year out. China has also forced me to challenge myself. I have been forced to stop and realize that this is not my country and you are merely a guest. You have to allow yourself to see points of views you have never considered. But in the end you realize you will never regret the year you spent here. China is a journey everyone should take. You cannot learn about the world in a classroom.
Still Enjoying the Ride
■ by Dale Chang, Two Time CSC Award Recipient

After spending two years studying in Wuhan, I decided to stay in China another year as a Teacher. My new job and life in China lead me to the city of Xuzhou in Jiangsu province. Moving to a smaller and lesser known city has had its ups and downs. But after some time, I have adapted and settled into the city and the university. I’m beginning to discover the culture and history of Xuzhou. As I’ve learned from all my students, Xuzhou has played a major role in China’s history. I hope to learn and see as much of Xuzhou’s history while I am here. Teaching in China has been a great experience. I’m finally able to use the methods and materials I learned while in the teaching program at CSUN. My classes consist of mostly Business English majors. And this semester I taught classes in writing, speaking and phonology. As ESL students, I try to create fun and interactive lessons with games to help them practice listening and speaking. Most of the students are eager to learn, and some are so eager to learn more, they want to meet after class to talk about everything from food to the NBA. This year has been different from the last two years in China, but I can honestly say I’m still enjoying the ride.

Strangers and Friends in Beijing
■ by Andrew Javidi, CSC Scholarship recipient

When coming to China to study at Renmin University in Beijing, I knew I should expect drastic differences between the country and the U.S. But it was still a shock to enter a place completely different from my home, let alone to live in it. While some of the adjustments have been difficult, the experience has been one of the most rewarding and fulfilling of my life. China is more in the news than ever before, and to be behind the curtain in these dynamic times is an exciting privilege. The country is developing faster than any nation since Germany at the turn of the 20th Century. Witnessing the contrast while traveling the country is fascinating and glorious – in Shanghai, across the river from the tallest scalable skyscraper on the planet, a woman sells live ducks for slaughter in a bustling market in the alley outside my hotel room. Construction is ever-present. The entire society is booming and fast-paced, the people moving hurriedly forward. Yet they have not lost their charm, and I could not be more grateful to the strangers and friends who have helped me immensely in my move here. The old Beijing couple who dedicatedly helped me find the visa office, the taxi drivers who patiently schooled me in the Beijing accent (as well as delivering me safely through Beijing’s traffic, no easy feat) – I’m indebted to their kindness and generosity towards me and many other foreigners. They well uphold Beijing’s reputation for openness and tolerance. Indeed, the best part of studying in Beijing is the many people I’ve met and friends I’ve made. Not only have I made lianxi with Chinese students, but students from around the world, all of us living the experience of being foreigners in a new place, willing to explore. I now have friends from Portugal, Equatorial Guinea, Malaysia, and countless other countries, and along our Chinese friends, we’ve formed a veritable United Nations of relationships and shared experiences. If I take one thing away from my time here in China, it will be my friendships with them. In a world full of differences, we’re all in this together.
My time in China has been nothing short of amazing. I lived for three years in the city of Changchun in China’s Jilin Province. As I prepared to move to Beijing, I realized how much Changchun had become my home. I packed my things and took note of all the souvenirs I’d accumulated and made hard decisions as to which would come with me and which would stay behind. It was hard letting go, but ultimately, I was excited for things to come. I couldn’t wait to set foot in Beijing as a resident instead of as a tourist. Now my life as a Beijinger is in full-swing. I am attending Tsinghua University to study for my master’s degree in linguistics. Campus life is incredible.

The first thing that struck me about Tsinghua was the size of the campus. It was so huge that I learned the first day why bicycles are such a distinctive part of Beijing’s image. In fact, my very first purchase in Beijing was a bicycle that came with the moniker “The Flying Pigeon”.

The Pigeon and I took every opportunity to explore Tsinghua’s vast campus and, of course, she carried me to class everyday through sun, rain, and even snow.

When I return to Beijing in a few days, it will be as both a teacher and a student. I have been asked to teach a creative writing course for undergraduate English majors. I can’t express how honored I am to have such an opportunity. I look forward to contributing to Tsinghua and giving a little back to a place that has given me so much.

In the four months I’ve been in Beijing, I find that every day is a learning experience. Although I am still adjusting to Beijing, I have to say that it helps to be a part of such an amazing institution. I cannot adequately express how grateful I am to have such a fantastic opportunity.

I first came to China almost 4 years ago. I was one of four fortunate recipients of the China Council Scholarship Award and was sent to a city called Changchun to study Mandarin Chinese for one year. That first year was filled with new experiences of all sizes and significance.

Everything was an adventure, from going to the grocery store to camping out on the Great Wall. By the end of my first semester I realized that one year in China was simply not enough. After speaking to some of my Chinese teachers I found a teaching job at my university. I spent two more years teaching English classes in writing, speaking, and video to sophomore English majors. It was those two years that laid the path for my future years in China.

My two years of teaching imbued me with a love of the profession and a drive to become a better teacher. I was lucky enough to attend a lecture at Tsinghua that addressed many of the issues of language acquisition that I faced daily in the classroom. I realized that applied linguistics was the perfect major for me and immediately submitted an application to Tsinghua. Thanks to the support, guidance, and encouragement of many people, including Dr. Justine Su, I am happy to say that I am now a graduate student of Tsinghua University. After a rocky start I have to say that now my life at Tsinghua is amazing! I can’t believe how much this university has to offer both academically and in student life. I joined the school’s girls’ soccer team and will be playing in some matches soon against the likes of Beida! I’ve gotten to know some of my classmates and am thoroughly impressed with them. The teachers are truly phenomenal. My mentor’s name is Zhang Wenxia and she is an absolute wealth of knowledge in all things regarding language testing. My semantics teacher is Li Xiaolu and I can’t tell how much I love her class. She’s a fantastic lecturer and her class is truly thought-provoking for me, especially as an English teacher. Speaking of, Zhang Wenxia asked me to teach a creative writing course next semester. I’m honored, excited, and nervous, but more excited and honored than anything. (:
I see the world differently from most other people. My camera is my third eye; its lens provides a spectrum of windows to the world. Photographs are my personal method of capturing the present and preserving the past. Through my camera’s eye, I discovered a different side of China: the rural countryside of En Shi in Hubei. No skyscrapers or blaring city lights can be found here. Only a gentle quietness, like soft fog, pervades the rice paddies, dirt paths, and the industrious people inhabiting this mountainous region known as Tian Shang Ping. Colors take on different shades. Time passes to its own singular rhythm. The children walk through fields of green to attend school every day, and on the morning of Monday, June 29th at 8:00 a.m., our team of four teachers drove up a winding and perilous mountain road and arrived at a small, antiquated schoolhouse to teach these children.

I vividly remember the first day. Most notable was the classroom itself. Its walls were bare and the school desks were dilapidated and heavily scratched. Save for some floral decorations and a lone chalkboard, the small, suffocating, and prison-like classroom stood in stark contrast to the clean, expansive classrooms of urban city schools that many privileged children take for granted. One by one, the children filtered into the classroom with wide-eyed expressions. They numbered 15 in total. The youngest was barely 4 years old; the oldest, 8 years old. The children eyed our red jackets, new-fangled technological devices, and supply boxes with bright-eyed curiosity and guarded apprehension. I knew what they were wondering. I knew what they were feeling. I knew they were thinking, ‘Who were these people?’ because I had already gotten into position and was there in every corner, capturing their every movement. My lens disclosed their ponderous expressions, wide open eyes and revealing body language, and translated their behavior into multifaceted, intricate emotions, similar to how a musician interprets music or a deaf person reads lips. Some were openly curious, while others had lowered their eyes and were shyly observing us from beneath their lashes. Still others were already fidgeting out of their seats, barely able to contain their excitement. These multifarious personalities were already revealing themselves through my camera’s eye. I smiled.

We were scheduled to start class at 8:30 a.m. sharp. Taking a cursory look at the small, dust-covered wall clock, I perceived the time to be 9:00 a.m. already. It was still quite some time before we were ready to start the first lesson. Mrs. Xiong started off the day teaching grammar by reading a story to the children. Next was math with Ms. Li (or Sunny). Afterwards were art, origami, and paper cutting with Mr. Wan. While the other teachers slowly and patiently shared their knowledge with the children, I quickly found my little niche by quietly snapping pictures, catching the best and sweetest moments when the children were in their most natural state. The best pictures were those that capture the least expected moments at the least expected times. Posed pictures were mediocre at best, and trying to coerce the children to look into my lens somehow lessened the honesty and genuine emotion of the moment. At times when my camera was not ready or fast enough, I could whip my phone out and snap wide-angle shots.

As the days progressed, we became gradually familiar with the children. We learned their names, became acquainted with their various and colorful
personalities, and before we knew what had happened, a family was born. Step by step, photograph after photograph, I witnessed and recorded the hesitant first strides and the resulting maturation of the relationship between teachers and children. Like watching a field of flowers blooming to full glory and potential, I saw faces crack open in laughter. Genuine happiness pervaded the classroom and overflowed from open windows. Something good was happening every day and smiles gradually became a common sight. To see the children’s faces light up at the sight of our approaching car was a joy in itself. Upon entering the classroom, I would almost always find myself covered head to toe in giggling children. When a child became injured, Ms. Li or Mrs. Xiong would apply healing medicine to their wounds. When a child cried, I would sling my camera back on my shoulder and kneel down with open arms to offer comfort. When a child had dirty face and hands, we washed both using a washcloth and soap water. What a child was lacking, we strove to provide. Many of these children’s parents lived and worked in faraway cities, regularly sending money home to support their families. Grandparents took care of their grandchildren. Though they provided food, love, and shelter, they could not provide what a mother and father could. As a result, a void existed in the family unit; we filled this void with as much warmth, food, and love as we could manage in five days.

We had only five days, but it was miraculous what we accomplished. In five days, we set up a functioning kitchen and dining room, and connected electricity to the first floor. The single light bulb illuminated this one-room school house and allowed the children to feel welcome during dark, overcast days. Every day, teachers and children ate good food, thanks to the fine culinary prowess of Mr. Wan. Every day, we piled back into our pickup truck and headed back down the mountain, sometimes feeling tired, sometimes feeling like we were barely able to take another step forward, but also feeling proud of what we accomplished each day. The promise of what we could accomplish was what motivated us to keep moving forward, to keep the fire of hope burning for these children whom we now called our own.

When the last day happened upon us, we left quietly, not wanting to make a big scene. It all felt too soon. With heavy hearts, we traveled down the same worn and beaten path, down the mountain for the last time. For all the joy and love we brought, even if we felt that not enough was done to help and change the lives of the children on the mountain, we would leave our hearts and handprints forever with those of the children. Some cried, but I smiled. People might think my reaction strange, but I can tell them for a fact that we were not leaving the children behind, but walking ever more forward with these children, hand in hand. Little by little, like drops of water, the small things that we have done and others will do for those children will eventually accumulate and become a roaring ocean. There will be more teachers who will visit En Shi’s Tian Shang Ping. There will be more and different kinds of love coming the way of the children of Tian Shang Ping. It will never end. It will not stop at Tian Shang Ping.

I am honored to have been chosen for this trip as a foreign guest. Some of my best photographic works and most treasured memories were produced during this one week at Tian Shang Ping. I will take away not only the physical photographs, but also the spirit and emotions of the children on the mountain. I can still remember each and every name, I can still see each and every face, and I can still hear each and every voice. They will stay with me forever.

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**Presenting Research in China**

**by Dr. Victor Shaw, Sociology**

Dr. Victor Shaw, a professor of sociology, presented his research on crime, social control, organizational behavior, and public policy to faculty and students at the Chinese Academy of Governance, Central China Normal University, Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, and Wuhan University.
Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication Delegation of Three Visits China

by Dr. Maureen Rubin, Dr. Lynette Henderson and Dr. Meiqin Wang, September 2012

This past summer, Dr. Maureen Rubin, the associate dean of the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication (MCCAMC), led Dr. Lynette Henderson and Dr. Meiqin Wang, two Art Department faculty, on a delegation visit to China designed to develop collaboration between CSUN and universities in Shanghai and Wuhan. Wang and Henderson were also on a separate mission to research art education in China, partially supported by a faculty development grant from the China Institute.

The three were in China from June 8th to June 22nd 2012 and visited Shanghai Normal University (SHNU), Shanghai Sanda University (SSU), Wuhan University (WU), and Central China Normal University (CCNU). They met with officers from International Offices, vice presidents, deans, chairs, and faculty members from relevant departments from these universities. At each university, Dr. Rubin introduced academic programs of MCCAMC and participated in discussions about the possibility of future collaborative educational programs.

On the last day of the visit to CCNU, Dr. Rubin drafted and presented a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) to a working meeting scheduled by the International Office of CCNU and participated in by four deans or representatives from CCNU and Wuhan University and all three CSUN delegation members. The MOU aimed to enhance mutual understanding and promote collaboration between CSUN and Chinese faculty and students. It was verbally approved and later developed as the formal agreement, signed on August 15, by CSUN President Dianne F. Harrison and Central China Normal University President Zongkai Yang, who led his delegation’s visit to CSUN. In Spring 2013, both SSU in Shanghai and CCNU in Wuhan plan to send visiting scholars to CSUN’s Art Department to study and hold further conversations about student and faculty exchange programs and collaborative research possibilities between universities.

While visiting these universities in Shanghai and Wuhan, the three CSUN members gave lectures to faculty and students regarding art education and journalism in the United States, focusing on CSUN’s distinctive programs. They also met and enjoyed intellectual exchanges with faculty who are researching journalism and art education. The three also visited three elementary schools in Shanghai where they met with art teachers observed art classes. The CSUN visitors were extremely impressed by these schools’ investments in art education.

The visit was a successful, productive, and memorable one and by all accounts, it should lead to many mutually beneficial programs and projects in the near future.
CSUN and China: Internationalization and Informatization in Action!

by Hilary Baker, Vice President for Information Technology

In 2011 a delegation from the division of Information Technology at CSUN was hosted by Shanghai Normal University, establishing the first Information Technology international exchange for both universities. The visit culminated in the signing of a formal agreement to continue collaboration between our IT divisions over the next six years. This information technology collaboration, encouraged by Justine Su, Director for CSUN’s China Institute, led to an invitation for Vice President Hilary J. Baker to speak at the 2nd China Forum on Education Internationalization and Informatization at the East China Normal University in Shanghai in November 2012. The conference was co-organized by the Education Management Information Center, Ministry of Education of People’s Republic of China, Chinese National Commission for UNESCO and East China Normal University. The Internationalization aspect of the conference emphasized means to enable students from China to study in the US and other foreign institutions, and encouraging foreign students to study for a semester or more at a university in China.

Speakers included the Presidents from Central China Normal University, Shanghai Normal University, and Wuhan University, and Professor Sang Xinmin, the founding Director for the Institute of e-Learning and Management at Nanjing University. The inaugural Vice Chancellor of New York University (NYU) Shanghai talked about the new university partnership model with multinational students studying in Shanghai as well as NYU campuses in New York and Abu Dhabi. The Informationization aspect of the conference focused on Information Technology and the need to speed up the introduction of teaching and learning technologies in China, and to share international exchange experiences and innovative practices in the informationization and internationalization of education.

Vice President Baker’s presentation “Information Technology Leadership, Planning, and Collaboration” described CSUN’s technology infrastructure and highlighted teaching and learning technologies, including eTexts, Lecture Capture, MOOCs, and online learning. She submitted a paper to accompany the presentation, which was published (in Chinese) for the conference proceedings and was subsequently published in the Journal of World Education.

While in Shanghai, Vice President Baker reacquainted with Dr. Gao Jianhua, Vice President of Shanghai Normal University (SHNU) and Mr. Gao Weixun, Director of IT at SHNU, and some of the staff from SHNU’s IT department. She met with SHNU IT Vice Director Jiming Gu who will visit CSUN IT from April – June 2013 as part of the exchange program. While at CSUN, Vice Director Gu will learn about the leadership and management of the IT team and the infrastructure team. He will also participate in the planning and testing of several infrastructure initiatives during his stay, including the soft phone testing and analysis, wireless metric analysis, virtualization endpoint testing and testing of our email transition to the cloud. During her China visit, Vice President Baker also visited the city of Wuhan, approximately 400 miles west of Shanghai, which boasts eight national colleges and universities among its 36 colleges and universities. Baker visited Central China Normal University (CCNU) and Zhongnan University of Economics and Law. The CCNU visit was a return visit following the CSUN campus visit headed by CCNU President YANG Zongkai in August 2012 to continue cooperation and explore further collaborate and exchange in the field of IT service for education. Vice President Baker met with Vice President Professor Wang Enke who shared a copy of China’s new “Education Information Technology 10-year Development Plan 2011-2020”, translated into English. Vice President Baker visited the National Engineering Research Center for E-Learning (NERCEL) and the Information Technology Center in CCNU, discussing technologies used in person and online education at both universities, and exploring possible collaborating areas. Vice President Baker also gave a lecture to the NERCEL students.

In Wuhan, Vice President Baker was joined by CSUN Sociology Professor Victor Shaw, from CSUN’s College of Social and Behavioral Science, who is originally from Wuhan and currently lecturing at several Chinese universities, and Mr. Zhang Qi, a visiting scholar at CSUN from China Education Science Publishing House. Mr. Zhang has served as a program coordinator for several large education training delegations to CSUN from Beijing and Wuhan, and has proven instrumental in connecting CSUN with CCNU. Their visit to the Zhongnan University of Economics and Law, a major national university, was very valuable because CSUN is developing plans for a China MBA program with Zhongnan University of Economics and Law. The CCNU visit was a return visit following the CSUN campus visit headed by CCNU President YANG Zongkai in August 2012 to continue cooperation and explore further collaborate and exchange in the field of IT service for education. Vice President Baker met with Vice President Professor Liu Kefeng and Vice Dean Dr. Nie of the MBA School, and toured their eLearning and IT facilities.
CSUN’s Health Administration Program Outreach to China
by Louis Rubino, Health Administration

The Health Administration program at CSUN continues to partner with several universities in China. The most established relationship is with Guangzhou Medical University (GMU). For the last decade, the two universities have had a very productive exchange program that includes visiting professor exchanges, student short term travel programs, medical management training for hospital affiliates and faculty collaborative research projects. A 2+2 undergraduate program is in place and has already graduated five Chinese students. Two more are graduating this year and four more scheduled for graduation in 2014. All students have been able to graduate within the two years after transferring even with the strict enrollment limits in place. The main colleague overseeing this very successful exchange program is Dr. Donghai Wei, Vice President of GMU, who was a past visiting scholar at CSUN in 2000 and is currently an adjunct faculty member in the CSUN Health Sciences Department.

Another scholar who was at CSUN a few years ago and then went back to further develop an exchange program is Vice Chair, Qiongying (Susan) Yang from Kunming Medical University (KMU) in Yunnan Province. Ms. Yang arranged a delegation from her affiliated hospitals in November/December 2012 to visit CSUN. It was led by Dr. Juan Liu, Associate Professor, School of Stomatology at Kunming Medical University. A total of twelve physicians who serve on the faculty at three of the University’s teaching hospitals completed a three weeks training program which included faculty presentations, site visits of local hospitals and a honoring reception. The delegation received a better understanding of the United States healthcare system. Special emphasis was placed on Obamacare and how it will affect the delivery system.

As China is also going through healthcare system reform, many comparative discussions took place within the training.

Finally, a new relationship has been established with Hubei Medical University in Shiyan. Two visiting scholars were at CSUN in 2011-2012. Chai Yun, Professor and Director of the Center of Health Administration and Development Studies and Li Cheng, Professor from the School of Nursing, returned to their university and helped developed an exchange program. Dr. Louis Rubino visited HMU in October 2012 and was appointed a Visiting Professor. He delivered two presentations to over 400 students. CSUN’s Dean of Health and Human Development, Dr. Sylvia Alva, and the Chair of CSUN Nursing Department, Dr. Marianne Hattar, will be visiting HUM this Spring. Dr. Hanjun Tu, President of Hubei University of Medicine hopes to visit CSUN later this year. A 2+2 program for the health administration program modeled after the one with GMU is being developed.

Visiting My Alma Mater in China
by Jeff Zhang, Information Systems

Yue “Jeff” Zhang, Professor of Information Systems, visited his alma mater Nanjing University of Science and Technology (NUST) in May 2012, during which he had a visit with the Dean of the School of Economic Management (SEM), and department chairs of Accounting and Information Management in the SEM. The Dean and the chairs at SEM of NUST showed strong interests in establishing cooperation and exchange with CSUN. Cooperation in such fields as student exchange, faculty exchange, MBA group visits were discussed. The Department of Information Management invited Dr. Zhang to give a workshop on “Information technology Auditing with the COBIT Framework” in May 2013. In December 2012, the SEM at NUST proposed an EMBA group visit to CSUN. Professors Justine Su and Yue Zhang have been talking with CSUN’s College of Business and Economics to plan for the visit of the NUST EMBA group.

Dr. Zhang is the Western Decision Sciences Institute 2012 and 2013 country coordinator for the Greater China region (Chinese Mainland, Taiwan, Hong Kong). For WDSI 2012, with the coordination of Dr. Zhang, there were four papers submitted from Mainland China and three were admitted to be presented on the WDSI 2012 conference (April 3-7, 2012 in Big Island, Hawaii) and published on the WDSI 2012 Proceedings. For WDSI 2013, Dr. Zhang solicited six paper submissions from China, all were accepted for presentation on the conference (March 25-29, 2013 in Long Beach) and to be published on the WDSI 2013 Proceedings.
My China Tours of 2012 & 2013

by Dmitry Rachmanov

During the month of June, 2012, I embarked on my third concert/educational exchange tour of China, visiting three cities in the course of seven days: Nanning, Chengdu and Shanghai. As it was last year, my concerts were underwritten by the Juoo Artist Management Corporation, based in Shenzhen. That year’s tour program consisted of works by Beethoven, Liszt, Schubert-Liszt and Schumann. Every stop also included master classes at local music schools. My first stop was Nanning, the capital of a southern province of Guangxi. An old city, it is undergoing a rapid development, typical of large cities in China, but remains green with a variety of vegetation. I was housed in an old grand hotel with a beautiful interior courtyard-like dining room. My master class took place at a local piano shop and involved mostly young pre-college students with their parents and teachers sitting by very attentively, while the recital took place in an old theater, acoustically ill-equipped for classical music performances. Not to worry, the piano was amplified and the sound was spread through the speakers! Despite this unconventional circumstance, the recital was quite a success with several encores added to the program and a long line of people asking for autographs.

My tour continued with a recital in Chengdu, the capital of Sichuan province, well known for its spicy cuisine and also as a natural habitat of pandas. Chengdu houses the largest conservatory of China, the Sichuan conservatory. My recital at one of the city’s major concert halls coincided with the Sichaun Conservatory’s first Sichuan International Piano Festival, with visiting pianists and teachers from New England Conservatory, Yale University and the like. So I was able to attend concerts and classes by the pianists and pedagogues Boris Berman, Alexander Korsantia and others, in between my rehearsals, classes and performances. The last stop of the tour was at the Shanghai Normal University, our new partner in the 3+1+1 educational exchange program, where the first official audition for this brand new program took place during my visit. I was glad to serve on the panel at the auditions, which elicited a true interest on the part of professors and students alike. This program will attract top-level students to our department at CSUN very soon.

My spring 2013 semester started with a style when, as part of the CSUN Music Department faculty delegation, I was sent to Shanghai to participate in the next round of auditions for the 3+1+1 program with the Music College at the Shanghai Normal University. My colleague on this Educational Exchange visit was the head of the CSUN voice area, Dr. Deanna Murray. The trip turned out to be productive as it was pleasant. We heard a good number of students in several disciplines, instrumental as well as vocal, of the freshmen years of 2010, 2011 & 2012 (the accelerated 5-year program starts them off at SNU for the first three undergraduate years, transferring them to CSUN at their fourth year, serving as their senior year as well as their preparatory/initial year of the graduate studies, allowing the students to receive their joint BM & MM degrees from both institutions in just five years). We heard some promising talent among freshmen, sophomore and junior students. As always the case in such circumstances, the degree of talent, potential and preparation varied widely. We made our recommendations and gave our grades to each auditioning student and sent our written reports to the faculty and administration at both CSUN and SNU. We expect to follow up with the students’ progress at our next round of auditions next semester.

Additionally, I and Dr. Murray had a chance to pay a visit to the East China Normal University, a school of international stature and a well-developed music program, particularly in its opera and vocal area, which is about to sign MOU agreement with CSUN. We had an informal exchange of ideas with one of the voice professors and with two representatives of the ECNU administration. We hope to develop another educational exchange program between our music department and that of ECNU. Apart from tending to our chores, we had a wonderful time, thanks to our hosts’ great hospitality! They took us on a beautiful boat trip down the Huangpu River with some spectacular views of the downtown Pudong district! We also took long walks around the Shanghai Conservatory area, having a chance to stop by their music store, where we found some fine new urtext editions of music by various composers. Our daily meals typically were as varied as they were delectable, convivial in ambience and generously served! In the end, our short four-day trip proved very exciting and enjoyable. We are glad that our joint 3+1+1 program with the Shanghai Normal University is developing and we look forward to continuing working on it and to developing similar programs with other institutions in China.
Feeling at Home in Shanghai

by Deanna Murray, Music

Professor Rachmanov and I had a wonderful trip to Shanghai! We were met at the airport by one of my students Wang Qian, who came to welcome me to China. My former student Yunhi Ji came in and joined us for most of the trip as well. We had a meal of delicious Chinese food with professor Feng and enjoyed getting to know him and working out our schedule for the next three days. Our accommodations on campus were quite comfortable and close to the music department. On Monday, we heard third year students at the Shanghai downtown campus. The auditions went well and we were very happy with the work of the students and faculty over the scope of the year. On Tuesday we went by car out to the other campus for Shanghai Normal that is out in the country. We heard first year students at this beautiful, spacious campus. The third day was spent at the main campus of Shanghai Normal with second year students. These students had all improved greatly over the year which we were happy to see. The juries kept us pretty busy, but Professor Feng had arranged for us to take a ride on a “Dragon Boat” on our first evening in Shanghai. We enjoyed a buffet dinner and did a short cruise on the boat that allowed us to see the beautiful skyline of Shanghai. We saw many of the new high-rise buildings on one side of the river and some historic buildings on the other side of the river.

On our final day in Shanghai we went to East China Normal University to begin a dialogue about a possible collaboration with them. We had a productive meeting where we discovered that the soprano representing the music department had studied in Germany as had I, and we had several experiences in common. We were all quite amused to break into German when Chinese and English failed us! We agreed that we must explore the possibility of a collaboration between our departments. It was a real pleasure to visit Shanghai and perform this service for CSUN. We felt quite comfortable and very much at home. Professor Rachmanov had colleagues to visit from around China and I had two very special students to catch up with. Thank you for the opportunity to help in this way.

A “Waaaooh” Experience in China

by Daniel Degravel, Management

What a trip…. And a “Waaaooh” experience….! For my first time in China, I travelled across the country during five weeks, from early December 2012 to January 2013, and taught four strategy workshops in various universities (Shanghai Normal University, Guangzhou Medical University, Jilin University, and Nanjing University of Science & Technology), and two MBA classes (one in strategy, and one in international business) for Nanjing Hohai University (Jiangsu province). I also presented a paper at the Strategic Management Society special conference in Guangzhou on mid-December 2012.

From the East to the South, from South to North, from North to East, many cities and cultures, but always a strong hospitality and a very friendly welcome from our colleagues in these different universities. I was able to reinforce the ties CSUN already had with Shanghai Normal University, Jilin University, Nanjing Hohai University, and with Nanjing University of Science & Technology. The College of Business and the College of Behavioral Sciences are currently developing a Center with Jilin University in Changchun (Jilin province) to increase the research and training cooperation between our two universities.

What a large country! I was stunned by the size of the country and the cities, and by the contrast between modernity, technology, and the remnants of the “old days”. There is a formidable business potential there because of the size of the market but also because of the culture and the people… We can feel that the country is changing at a fast pace, and that this move is shaking the values and culture, and the business needs of the markets. I really appreciated the time I spent there, and am looking forward pursuing our cooperation with our Chinese colleagues and with Chinese students. We can do great things to reinforce our links with them and to develop CSUN’s own activities, visibility, and reputation. Our international commitment can constitute a component of our competitive advantage in the international educational competitive market.
Collaborating with Faculty and Students at CSU in China

by Yanbo Jin, Finance

Dr. Yanbo Jin from the Department of Finance, Real Estate and Insurance visited the Business School in Central South University (CSU) in Changsha, China in June 2012. During her stay, she taught a 24-hour course on Financial Risk Management to graduate students in the Business School, and made a research presentation on the topic of corporate hedging. She is also collaborating with faculties and students in CSU on several research projects related to financial risk management and bank risk disclosure. Their recent paper on the operational risk of Chinese commercial banks was published in Economic Modelling in 2012.

Intercultural Communication in China

by Kathryn Sorrells, communication studies

I was honored and pleased to be invited to present a keynote at the International Conference of Intercultural Communication sponsored by Shanghai Normal University December 15-17, 2012. The theme of the conference was “Intercultural Competence and Interaction,” drawing participants from fifteen countries around the world. I joined a distinguished set of scholars delivering keynotes including Michael Byram, University of Durham, UK, JIA Yuxin, Harbin Institute of Technology, China, Colleen Ward, Victoria University of Wellington, New Zealand, Guo-Ming Chen, University of Rhode Island, USA, Jürgen Deller, Leuphana Universität Lüneburg, Germany, Gao Yihong, Peking University, China, Patrice M. Buzzanell, Purdue University, USA and Steve Kulich, Shanghai International Studies University, China. My paper and presentation entitled, “Intercultural Praxis: Transforming IC Competence for the 21st Century,” highlighted four key areas to re-theorize intercultural communication to address the challenges and opportunities of globalization. First, I proposed re-conceptualizing and expanding the way we define “culture.” Second, I argued for emphasizing the continuities between historical and contemporary patterns of interaction, institutional control and representational power. Third, I recommended underscoring the linkages between the local and the global. Finally, I made a call to ground the study and practice of intercultural communication in critical engagement and social justice. To transform intercultural competence for the 21st century, I explicated intercultural praxis—a process of critical, reflective thinking and acting that enables us to navigate the complex, contradictory, and challenging intercultural spaces we inhabit as individuals, community members and global citizen.

The conference provided an excellent opportunity to learn from scholars in China and around the world, to better understand how the field of intercultural communication is developing in China and to make valuable contacts for my sabbatical leave in fall 2013 when I will spend two months researching and teaching in China. I also had the opportunity to visit colleagues at East China Normal University who I met at CSUN during their visit to campus in the fall. In addition to scholarly activities, I very much enjoyed the night tour of Shanghai and our cultural tour of Wuzheng, a beautiful, historic river town near Shanghai.
Innovation in U.S.-China Relations

by Yifei Sun, Professor of Geography

I travelled to China in summer, 2012 and visited many places including Shanghai, Beijing, Changchun, Nanjing, and Shenzhen. I was invited to chair the session on Urban and Regional Innovation for the 2012 Pujiang Innovation Forum, hosted by the Chinese Ministry of Science and Technology and Shanghai Municipal Government in early Nov. I was also invited to attend the panel discussion on innovation and US-China relationships at Washington D.C., hosted by New American Foundation/Future tense in Mid. October at Washington D.C. The whole discussion can viewed through the recorded video on Youtube: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=IEneFOfj4Y8. Then in December, I was invited to participate in the Conference on "Finance, Business Models, and Sustainable Prosperity" in Early December and the event was hosted by Ford Foundation and organized by Dr. William Lazonick. At CSUN, I’ve been working with several other faculty to develop collaborative projects on policy and business studies with Jilin University.

A Great Trip to China

by Patrick F Colabucci, Tseng College of extended Learning

I had the pleasure of spending two weeks in China in March. This trip was an opportunity to touch base with old friends and partners in Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai and Nanjing. While Beijing was very cold, it was great to visit schools, like Beijing City University, and learn about their goals for international collaboration. CSUN is uniquely placed to serve many students and help them achieve their educational goals, including a rich, productive experience in the US. Visits to Sanda University and Shanghai Normal University were warm and productive. It was like visiting old friends. CSUN is working on developing agreements to provide educational opportunities to students from these universities. And officials from Beijing City University and Sanda University will visit the CSUN campus in April. Other highlights of this trip include, as to be expected, great food, and just seeing the incredible speed of growth and progress being made in China. The bullet train (gao tie) from Beijing to Tianjin takes on 35 minutes! And from Shanghai to Nanjing is only 79 minutes. This is about half the time it took just a few years ago. All in all, a great trip. Tseng College hosted several delegations from China in 2012, including an English faculty group from Nanjing Univ. of Science & Technology for workshops in the summer of 2012 and a group of English faculty from Quzhou University as visiting scholars in spring 2013.
Dr. Paul Chow delivered a keynote speech at the “Conference on the Studies of the Chinese Junk Free China” on Navigation Day in Keelung, Taiwan. His topic was “Discoveries of America by Chinese Junks”. He traced recorded history as far back as 412AD where three Chinese junks sailed to today’s Acapulco from Sri Lanka in 105 days and returned to Qingdao in a 112-day voyage. He pointed out the special sea-going features in Chinese shipbuilding and sail-making with the natural environment such as the Japan Current and the Prevailing Westerly Wind that were generated by the Coriolis acceleration due to the rotation of the Earth to back up his thesis. To support his claim, he used his 1955 54-day Pacific-Crossing on a Chinese sailing junk without any mechanical propelling or modern navigation devices as one of the evidences. After being abandoned in San Francisco Bay for 57 years, the over-100-year-old junk, the Free China, was shipped back to her homeport on a modern container ship last May. President Ma Ying-Jiu received the three remaining original crewmembers of the junk and their families. Having learned that the Free China had anchored at Diaoyu Islands to ride out a typhoon during their voyage, Ma asked for the reason of Chow’s selection of that particular anchorage. Chow, a fisherman at the time, told Ma that Diaoyu Islands had been favorable havens for fishermen from Keelung and Suao for as long as the Taiwanese had taken to sea to make their living. Ma affirmed to him that they had indeed anchored on China’s territory. He further qualified himself in having studied Diayu Islands as part of his PhD thesis on international laws of the high sea. The 1955 Free China voyage was published in a book The Junk that Challenged the Yachts by Paul Chow, available at Amazon.com and Kindle Books.

A Good Time at CSUN

I have been a visiting scholar at CSUN for about a year and have had a good time here. Jenny Li Cheng and I came here from Hubei Univ. of Medicine, a new sister university to CSUN, to develop collaborative “2+2” programs in our disciplines: health administration and nursing. A “2+2” undergraduate program means first 2 years of study in our university, and the last 2 years of study at CSUN. Our faculty mentors are Dr. Louis Rubino, Head of CSUN’s Health Administration Program, and Dr. Marianne Hattar, Head of CSUN’s nursing program. We have worked together to compare and match the curricula between our two universities, and to determine which classes should be taken in China, and which classes should be taken at CSUN. We will arrange for Dean Alva, Dr. Rubino and Dr. Hattar to visit our university in the near future to consolidate our collaboration. Overall, I have enjoyed my study and life at CSUN. I appreciate Dr. Justine Su’s considerate care for us visiting scholars. She made me feel like home so that I am not homesick too much. She has organized all kinds of activities for scholars, and often invited us to her house, tasting cookies made by her daughter and playing with their two cute cats. We love her daughter Jeannie, who is just as warm and enthusiastic as her mother. She is also very kind and sensitive to our needs, and often helps driving us to sightseeing places to experience American culture, because most of us do not have cars. I am very grateful to her as she made us fall in love with CSUN and Northridge!
The exhibition “Liu Bolin: the Sociology of the Invisible Body” opened as scheduled on August 27th, 2012 with the beginning of fall semester at CSUN Art Galleries and was on view until September 15th with a public reception on Saturday, September 8th. It features the work of Liu Bolin, a contemporary Chinese artist who has exhibited worldwide and includes ten of his performance photography and sculptural work. The exhibition explores the interaction of art and society in contemporary China and the complex relationship between individuals and the living environment that they at once rely upon and are confined within. Works included in this exhibition focus on Liu’s observation and comment of the political, economic and social environment that has shaped the way Chinese people perceive themselves in a rapidly changing contemporary society. His work also reveals the tension between individuals and society as a whole, a topic that shares a worldwide relevance.

The exhibition was well received among CSUN students and faculty, and also attracted visitors from high schools and surrounding communities. The curator Dr. Meiqin Wang gave three gallery talks to different student bodies when the exhibition was on display. On the day of public reception, CSUN President Dr. Harrison, a lot of International Education Council members and visiting scholars, among many others, came to enjoy the exhibit. Beijing-based Xinhua News Agency’s Los Angeles Branch sent a reporter to the reception who interviewed Dr. Wang, CSUN Art Galleries Director Jim Sweeters, and a couple of visitors and reported the exhibition on CNC World, a 24-hour TV news channel.

The exhibition is the series 2 of a student-learning program that Dr. Wang initiated in 2010 when she taught two Exhibition Design classes in that spring semester. She created the program with the name “Understanding Contemporary China through Art,” viewing art as a very important domain and perspective though which people here can look at major social dynamisms, changes, and problems as happening in contemporary China while appreciating the creative energy of contemporary Chinese artists and various art making processes employed by them. The program has been generously supported by CSUN Instructionally Related Activities and the CSUN Art Galleries. The format of exhibition was chosen to implement this program because exhibition allows Dr. Wang to work with her students closely in every possible way, ranging from initial research on Chinese artists and the socioeconomic context of art production in China, to selecting specific art pieces to be included, to designing exhibition invitation and catalogue, to the actual installation such as which piece goes to which wall and be next to which piece. In the process students develop a greater understanding of contemporary China and its art while learning the whole process of curating an exhibition. The series 1 of the program, titled “Tales of Our Time: Two Contemporary Artists from China,” was exhibited in the same gallery last year, also opened with the beginning of the fall semester.
Presenting Chinese Dance Culture at CSUN

by Wei Xu, Nanjing Univ. of the Arts

On Nov. 16, 2012, Dr. Wei Xu from the School of Dance in Nanjing University of the Arts (NUA), a sister university of CSUN, was invited to give a presentation entitled Chinese Dance Culture in the Little Theater at CSUN. NUA is a comprehensive higher educational institution of arts whose great influence can be found both in China and around the world. NUA is the only comprehensive arts institute in Jiangsu Province. It is an important partner of our international cooperation. Dr. Xu is an associate professor, assistant to the Dean and the chair of department of dance studies in the school of dance at NUA. She is also a member of Dancers Association of China and an executive member of the council of Chinese Arts-Medicine Association. She received her bachelor and master’s degree specializing in aesthetics of dance at Beijing Dance Academy and a Ph. D. in research of choreography theory at the Chinese National Academy of Arts.

Dr. Xu’s presentation at CSUN was co-hosted by the China Institute, College of Arts, Media and Communication, and the Department of Kinesiology. It was highly publicized by the university. Several hundred faculty/staff, students at CSUN, Chinese visiting scholars and students, as well as guests from the local community attended the presentation, which consisted of two parts, Chinese classical dance culture and Chinese folk dance culture. Dr. Xu elaborated on two major kinds of Chinese traditional dance to the audience while demonstrating the relevant movements. She also invited a group of dance major students to come onto the stage to learn some movements of Chinese dance with her. This part was a great success and everyone got involved in the animated and lively atmosphere. The presentation ended with a solo Chinese classical dance by Dr. Xu, which received standing ovation from the audience. After the presentation, Dr. Maureen Rubin, Dr. Justine Su and Dr. Paula Thomson expressed their heartfelt congratulation and sincere gratitude by presenting CSUN gifts to Dr. Xu.

The presentation on Chinese dance was the first of its kind at CSUN, and represented a good beginning for exchange and collaboration in this area between CSUN and Chinese scholars and artists. In December, Dr. Xu repeated this presentation at Vaughn Next Century Learning Center in Pacoima, a training site for China Institute’s many visitors from Chinese schools. Dr. Xu also taught high school students there Chinese dance and her elegant dance and beautiful presentations left a deep impression on faculty and students at Vaughn Center. We look forward to Dr. Xu’s return to Northridge as an ambassador of friendship and art in the near future!
CSUN Chinese Scholars Visit The Tonight Show and See President Obama in Person

by Robert Gustafson, Cinema and TV Studies

On Wednesday, October 24, 2012 at NBC Studios in Burbank, CA, twenty-three visiting scholars from Nanjing University of Science and Technology and Shanghai Normal University attended The Tonight Show starring Jay Leno and saw in person President Obama who was Leno’s extra special guest. Until one day before the show, there was no official mention of the extra special guest on the show for that day. Dr. Robert Gustafson, Professor, Dept. of Cinema & Television Arts and Director of the Entertainment Industry Institute had selected the date and made arrangements months in advance. Due to high-level security concerns, President Obama’s appearance on the show was announced only 24 hours before the show date. Once the President’s attendance was confirmed, Gustafson notified Dr. Justine Su, Director of the CSUN China Institute, who immediately announced the news to the visiting scholars.

When the visiting scholars, Dr. Su, Professor Jon Stahl, Chair of the Department of Cinema & Television Arts and Dr. Gustafson arrived at NBC, they were met by a significant security process set up by the U.S. Secret Service. During the lengthy wait before seating, Professor Stahl took the opportunity to discuss a number of topics with the Chinese scholars, from the structure of the U.S. broadcasting industry to the American Electoral College system. Once inside, Professor Stahl pointed out the various pieces of equipment in the studio and explained their usage. When the audience was instructed to clap and shout on cue, the Chinese scholars responded with exuberance. Upon Jay’s arrival, the visitors cheered effusively and laughed heartily. The show was taped in the late afternoon for broadcast that evening.

President Obama’s interview comprised the bulk of the show. Although there were several moments of levity, the interview was surprisingly substantive. Jay asked many thoughtful questions, and several serious policy issues were discussed. The informality of the President’s comments and demeanor were especially remarkable to the visiting scholars. After the President departed, the studio audience was treated to a new song by the rock band “No Doubt.” This afforded the delegation of scholars a final opportunity to engage in the televised party atmosphere before returning to the CSUN campus. This was a truly once-in-a-lifetime experience for all. That evening when The Tonight Show was broadcast, Dr. Su recorded the program for the visiting scholars and presented each scholar a DVD copy as a special gift. The President’s interview on The Tonight Show can be seen on youtube in its entirety: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=T31BtAH-uU.

A Wonderful Night with China National Orchestra

by Dr. Tungpo Lin, Math

On February 3, the China National Orchestra 中央民族乐团 held a performance at the Pasadena Civic Auditorium, Pasadena, CA. China Institute organized a group of 90 faculty members and their relatives to attend this event. It was a superb performance. The audience were deeply entrenched and moved by wonderful music. At the conclusion of the event, the enthusiastic audience in that huge auditorium gave standing ovation again and again and cried “Encore, Encore!” All the 14 pieces (including the encore piece) were composed by contemporary Chinese composers using a mixture of classical Chinese instruments and western ones. The melodies are also artistic blending of both Chinese elements and western ones. Such unique cross-cultural and cross-continental mixing appeared as a big shock and opened an entirely new dimension to the audience. Indeed they threw a shock wave throughout the listeners. The conductors also did a magnificent job and aroused high praises.
Incredible! We Saw President Obama!

**by Xiaoyun Lu, Nanjing Univ. of Science & Technology**

October 24, 2102 is a memorable day for us visiting scholars from China, when we saw the U.S. President Barack Obama in person. It is an amazing experience which cannot be forgotten. In order to help us deepen the understanding of American society and culture, Professor Justine Su and Professor Robert Gustafson arranged a visit for us to attend the taping of the NBC’s ace show The Tonight Show with Jay Leno about a month ago. At that time, nobody knew who would be the guest of the show. To everyone’s surprise, the guest was President Barack Obama. We could not believe our good fortune! As a part of his campaigning to retain the US Presidency, Barack Obama appeared on The Tonight Show. Obama, who was fresh-faced despite traveling 5,300 miles in one day, addressed his performance during the first presidential debate, citing his low energy and poor presentation skills for the upset. He also made an effort to crack jokes throughout the night. When Jay compared the debate to his conversations with the First Lady, Obama pointed out a significant difference: “With Michelle, I just concede every point. That’s why we celebrated our 20th anniversary.” Obama also addressed the housing crisis, bank regulations, tax extensions, and troop withdrawal from Afghanistan—hitting the talking points he discussed during almost every public appearance in the presidential campaign.

The interview ultimately came full circle and turned casual again when the President responded to audience questions. He joked that in an election year, the White House couldn’t afford to dole out apples in place of Halloween candy like it did last year. And his response to the cure for “Romnesia” is “Obamacare covers pre-existing conditions.”

We sat in the studio watching Jay Leno’s interview with President Obama, away from him in just about 30 meters. We were all very excited, because this is the highest-ranking political figure we had seen so far. Obama’s affinity and humor left us with a very good impression. Although we cannot vote, we have become his supporters. And when he won the election and got re-elected on November 6, 2012, we were overjoyed for him!

A Visit to Huntington Library

**by Sun Weiqun, Shanghai Bangde College**

Thanks to Prof. Carol Shubin and her 86-year-old mom, Ms. Hilda Rosenbluth, the visiting scholars at CSUN from Shanghai and Nanjing visited Huntington Library in December, 2012. The Huntington is unique in its legacy of renowned art collection, unusual books, and beautiful botanical gardens that attract visitors and research scholars from all over the world. It is the first time for the Chinese scholars to see a place that has assembled research materials, art objects, and rare plants to showcase the development of western culture and how it has been infused with diverse cultures from other parts of the world. The botanical gardens have so many authentic plants and flowers with accompanying architectural constructs from their original countries that we felt we were visiting these countries for real. We lingered a long time in the gorgeous Suzhou Garden, with its elegant tea house, water ponds and pavilions, and the winding corridors with exquisite Chinese carvings and paintings. The weeping willows and Chinese bamboos soothed our minds and bodies and made us homesick for China. “Shall I compare thee to a tour of spiritual content?”

Yes, Huntington Library is not only an extraordinary center of art collections and botanical wonders, but also an ideal place of gatherings for scholars from all over the world.
我在美国过的节日

by Zu Li  胡莉  Nanjing Univ. of Science & Technology

到中国已经整整一个月了，常常想起在美国生活和学习的点点滴滴，今日怀着感恩之心，念相识之友，感有趣之事，写下我们在中国住处的见闻。我们住在上海，这是一座古老而现代化的城市，既有传统的中国建筑，又有现代的摩天大楼。中西合璧的风格，让人感到既熟悉又新奇。

中秋节，是中国的传统佳节。在中秋节，人们会吃月饼，赏月，表达对远方亲人的思念。今年的中秋节，我们在上海度过了一个难忘的节日。月圆之夜，我们在阳台上赏月，吃月饼，喝着茶，享受着这样的夜晚。

在中秋节，我们还参加了一次传统的中秋晚会。晚会中，有优美的舞蹈，动人的歌声，还有各种精彩的节目。晚会的最后，我们还收到了来自中国朋友们的中秋礼物。这是一份特别的礼物，让我们感到非常的温暖。

在这个特殊的日子里，我们还特意去了一家月饼店，购买了一些传统的月饼。月饼是中秋节的象征，也是中国文化的代表。我们买了几种不同的月饼，品尝了各种口味，感受到了月饼带来的甜蜜和快乐。

在中秋节的晚上，我们还去了上海的外滩。外滩是上海的著名景点，夜晚的外滩灯火辉煌，仿佛一幅美丽的画卷。我们在外滩上散步，欣赏着夜晚的美景，感受着上海的繁华。

总的来说，中秋节是一个充满欢笑和喜悦的节日。在这个特殊的日子，我们感受到了家的温暖和友情的力量。我们期待着下一个中秋节的到来，期待着再次与朋友们一起度过这个美好的节日。
我的留学梦

by 杜科 华中师范大学

在人生的十字路口上所以我每一项选择都能举轻重，正当我在迷茫的时候，一个机缘巧合的机会，我得知华中师范大学与CSUN正在携手建立姐妹学校，有学术交流往来的往来。我觉得这对于我来说是一个很好的学习机会。从小就有一个留学梦，希望能在远离家乡美国学习深造。

美国在我印象中是一个充满梦想的国度，正是因为有了梦想，我们才敢去追求，我们才敢去为了那个梦想倾洒我们的青春，这次正好也是一个机会，所以我毅然决然的就踏上了这段留学之旅。初到CSUN，最先让我眼前一亮的就是学校那座气势恢宏的图书馆，在蓝天与绿树的衬托之下它正如那幅画面中飘扬着的美国国旗，它在那片土地上代表着每一棵生长在这里的人。听同学说很多美国大学都拍摄电影时都会用在CSUN的图书馆取景，这也更加印证了它在CSUN中那标志性，其次就是它那浓厚的学术氛围以及健全的课外活动和课外辅助教学体系引起了我很大的兴趣。在CSUN你随处可见的求学之姿，以供学生们有更良好的学习环境。在汲取美国学习方式更注重于兴趣为主，导师们会针对你的选择，来帮助你完成你的学业，在课堂上让我印象最深的就是老师们的耐心以及对于自己教学任务的严谨态度。他们会一遍遍重复地教你，甚至细腻到每一个知识点，直到你理解了为止。除了课堂外，老师也会积极地去讨论学习中存在的种种难题，然后一起去挖掘问题，解决问题。

华夏之音长飞扬——记中央民族乐团南加中国新年音乐会

by 吴彼得博士

当秋姐赴美中国民族音乐家音乐会，并展开我在这所大同大学的音乐系教书。正如《春江花月夜》中所言，古人的欣赏是自由的，感性而理性。

此曲为中央民族乐团的创作，每一节篇章都细腻而丰富。《春江花月夜》共有五部分：宫、商、角、徵、羽，悠扬而悠扬。在此曲中，演奏者们以不同的乐器和演奏技巧来表现音乐的丰富性和变化，给人以深刻的印象。此曲不仅有传统的音乐元素，还有现代的创新手法，使得整首曲子既有古典的美，又有现代的活力。此曲在音乐会上赢得了观众的热烈掌声和赞赏，成为了音乐会的一个亮点。
CONTEMPLATING CHINA

by Steve Holle, Elementary Education

Dr. Yvonne Chan invited 121 teachers, administrators, and staff from Vaughn Next Century Learning Center to tour and teach in Beijing, Suzhou, and Shanghai during the 2012 spring break. Dr. Justine Su of The China Institute expertly facilitated this educational journey. As one who was fortunate enough to participate, here are a few reflective impressions: First - the Chinese children in the public schools we visited were not sitting in rows receiving instruction and required to regurgitate facts. Rather the class size was smaller than expected, students were arranged in 4 or 5 cooperative groups of 7 or 8 students in each group and there was a wealth of inquiry and peer discussion. Children were actively engaged, all hands went up when a question was posed and an obvious comfortable atmosphere prevailed. The instructors effectively implemented a sense of humor during lessons to promote an enthusiastic learning environment. April Fool’s Day was written on the blackboard and the teacher explained that studying important cultural events was part of learning the depth and complexity of another language.

Second – children dressed in brightly colored athletic uniforms (each color indicated their particular grade level) ran from their multistory instructional buildings out to the sports field. Of course this behavior is in direct contrast to the way we insist our children walk at all times. When students need to use the restroom, they quietly and quickly jogged to and from the lavatory to limit the loss of instructional time. When I inquired about the running, explaining to the group of 11th grade students that in America we always walk, they rapidly replied, “We want to walk but they make us run.” We all got a big laugh out of this comment.

Third – I was not expecting the high level of English vocabulary and conversation. As I entered a pre-school classroom I leaned down and asked an approaching smiling young boy, “What is your name?” “My name is John.” His complete sentence response surprised me, “How old are you John?” “I am 6 years old,” he proudly replied. John then gently took my hand and led me over to the “market.” The classroom configuration allowed for an abundance of learning stations where children roll-played everything from doctor to policeman to homemaker to store owner. John cautiously pulled out a colorful tray of plastic vegetables and promptly began to identify each, “Mushroom, cucumber, carrot, etc.” I only wish our pre-school children could do the same.

Finally – (and I could go on forever explaining how amazing this entire adventure was) I could not help but notice the bonding that was taking place. I witnessed Kindergarten teachers hanging out with middle school teachers, lower grade administrators shopping and bargaining alongside high school teachers at the local bazaar. At meal times we sat at traditional round tables of 10 and ate together sharing various experiences, like walking the Great Wall or how much someone paid for chopsticks that were going to be a gift to their students back at Vaughn. A week with Tony Robbins could never match the natural team building that was generated from this extraordinary opportunity.

The multitude of memories from this educational expedition will last a lifetime and I am deeply honored and everlastingly thankful to be a member of the Vaughn family.
Representatives from California State University, Northridge’s Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication signed an agreement that will allow students at Shanghai Normal University (SHNU) to complete an accelerated master’s degree in music. The program, which is called “3+1+1,” will begin this fall. It is exclusively for students in the Music College at SHNU who qualify for conditional enrollment in the Department of Music’s graduate program. “This kind of a partnership is very enriching for our own students and faculty,” said Robert Bucker, dean of the Mike Curb College of Arts, Media, and Communication. “The introduction into our community of more international students just gives our youngsters a better sense of what the competition is around the world. “In the arts, we work in a business that’s not just about the region. It’s about the international community,” he said. Shanghai Normal University is one of more than 40 “sister” relationships Cal State Northridge has with Chinese universities and government entities. Shanghai Normal University has had a relationship with CSUN for more than 20 years, hosting the Women’s Chorale, jazz band and theater students. Visiting scholars from SHNU have come to Cal State Northridge, and CSUN administrators and faculty have gone to China. The 3+1+1 program is one of several degree program agreements between CSUN and SHNU. The College of Business and Economics and the Department of Art have undergraduate programs that allow Shanghai Normal University students to earn a bachelor’s degree through a combination of courses taken in China and at CSUN.

“One of the most important goals of Chinese education is to be international,” said Cong Li, dean of the Music College at SHNU, through an interpreter. “Music is without borders. We are really happy to develop this relationship.” Li said Cal State Northridge has “one of the best” music programs in the United States. He said this is the second educational exchange program approved by SHNU. A year ago, they signed a 2+3 agreement with a Russian university to allow Chinese students to earn a bachelor’s degree and master’s degree in music through work in both countries. Shanghai Normal University will begin the process of admission into the program when freshmen are accepted into the university. At that time, SHNU faculty will recruit promising students, enroll them in intensive English-language classes and supervise the application process. CSUN faculty will first become involved in the audition process at the conclusion of the freshman year. Each year, a cohort of between 20 and 25 SHNU freshmen who pass the audition will be conditionally accepted into the program.

The summer before the SHNU student’s senior year, the student can opt to take a summer classes at CSUN’s Tseng College in “Summer English and Cultural Experience” to help them transition to the campus and Southern California culture. Students in the 3+1+1 program must pass an approved English-proficiency exam prior to admission. Shanghai Normal University students are responsible for all tuition, living expenses and other costs associated with the program. The first cohort is expected to arrive at CSUN in the fall of 2014 and graduate with a master’s degree in 2016. Katherine Baker, director of CSUN’s Women’s Chorale and one of the music faculty traveling to China this summer to audition freshman students for the program, said this is a wonderful opportunity for students at both universities. “This is an opportunity for them to make great friends and scholars that will be part of their network,” said Baker, who has traveled to China with the Women’s Choral.
Welcome to Chinese Students and Scholars Association

by You Wu, President of Chinese Students and Scholars Association

Chinese Students and Scholars Association at CSUN was established in 2008. This organization is a social club that was formed by a group of ambitious and patriotic Chinese students and scholars. Currently CSUN-CSSA has over 300 members who are CSUN students and visiting scholars. We are also a member of Southwestern Chinese Students and Scholars Association. Our mission is to promote friendship and camaraderie amongst members. CSUN-CSSA has organized many large events in the past several years, including Chinese Culture Night in 2010, Karaoke Singing Competition in 2010, 2011 and 2012, Badminton Competition in 2012 and Basketball Competition in 2012.

Besides these events, the main focus of CSUN-CSSA is to help Chinese students and scholars to get used to U.S. life. We have been co-hosting the Chinese New Year’s Celebration Banquet with the China Institute. We hope to build a friendly and open Chinese Community at CSUN for all students and scholars. In the New Year 2013, we are planning to organize more cultural events and students gatherings, which will present a new Chinese student image to the public. All CSUN students and scholars who respect Chinese culture and have interests that are congruent with the mission of this organization will be encouraged to join us. We are creating a website that will be linked to the China Institute’s website: http://www.csun.edu/china_institute/. Please contact Ms. You Wu at (818) 428-0830 or e-mail: csuncsa@yahoo.com or you.wu.31@my.csun.edu for more information about the CSSA and its upcoming activities.
2013-2014 Faculty Development Grants

Faculty at CSUN with an interest in China are invited to apply for initial seed money from the China Institute to start a project in their discipline that advances the field of China Studies or promotes long-term exchange and collaboration for faculty and students. Applicants should explain how this grant may stimulate larger and longer range projects. There will be two grants of $1000 each, which can be used to support travel expenses for faculty’s visit to China to conduct their projects.

Applicants should submit a written proposal of no more than three double-spaced pages. It should cover the nature and purpose of their project, how they intend to carry it out, how it may help CSUN students or our collaborative relationship with Chinese institutions, and how the funds will be spent related to their travel to China. We encourage faculty to initiate projects related to China and to use the grant as the initial seed money to generate more funds to support the projects in the long-term. The grants are limited to use by CSUN faculty, not by faculty in international partner universities.

Additionally, a one page resume highlighting relevant experiences must be included. A word file containing the proposal and resume must be submitted to the China Institute Review Committee via e-mail: harold.giedt@csun.edu & zsu@csun.edu no later than March 4, 2013. A China Institute Grant and Scholarship Review Committee will review all applications carefully and make recommendations to the China Institute Director and Executive Committee. Decisions on awards will be announced by May 1, 2013. Grant recipients are expected to provide written reports on their grant activities to the China Institute by June 30, 2014. Faculty interested in further information regarding these grants may contact the China Institute by e-mailing Dr. Harold Giedt, Chair of the Review Committee at harold.giedt@csun.edu or Dr. Justine Su at zsu@csun.edu.

2012-2013 China Scholarship Council Award Program

Undergraduate and graduate students in all fields of study are invited to apply for up to four awards from the China Scholarship Council to study any selected subject matter in one of the best institutions of higher learning in China. The Chinese government scholarship will cover all tuition and living expenses for the awardees to study in China for the entire 2013-2014 Academic Year.

Thirty-three CSUN students have received these prestigious awards in the past 12 years to study in China in order to further their understanding of the Chinese culture, language and traditions as well as their knowledge in a specialized area. They have studied at Beijing Film Academy, Shanghai Normal University, Nanjing Normal University, Peking University, Qinghua University, People’s University, Shanghai Donghua University, Sichuan University, Central Academy of Fine Arts, Central Theatre Academy, Tianjin Foreign Language University, Shanghai Fudan University, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, Northeast Normal University, Wuhan University of Science and Technology, Central China University of Science and Technology, Central China Normal University, and Southwest Jiaotong University.

Applicants should submit a written proposal of no more than three double-spaced pages, outlining the following: purposes and rationale for the proposed study, how it will fit in the students’ overall career goals, intended outcomes or achievements and their significance to CSUN’s China exchange programs, and description of previous knowledge in Chinese language and culture. A single page resume of education and relevant experience should also be included. After a preliminary review, selected candidates will be invited to complete special application forms from the China Scholarship Council. A word file containing the application proposal and resume must be submitted to the China Institute Review Committee via e-mail: harold.giedt@csun.edu & zsu@csun.edu no later than March 12, 2013. Two recommendation letters from each applicant’s faculty should also be e-mailed to this address by the deadline.

A four-person committee will review all applications and make recommendations to the China Institute Director and the Executive Committee. Selected applicants will then be forwarded to the Chinese Consulate General Education Section and China Scholarship Council for further review. Final decisions on awards will be announced late in the spring or early in the summer of 2013. Upon their return from China, awardees will be expected to make a formal presentation to the campus on their experiences in China as part of the China Institute Lecture Series. Applicants are encouraged to seek general information and guidelines related to this competition from the China Institute by e-mailing Dr. Harold Giedt, Chair of the Review Committee, at harold.giedt@csun.edu or Dr. Justine Su at zsu@csun.edu.
Recipients of Chinese Government Scholarship Council Awards

1999 - Angus McNelis
(film studies),
Beijing Film Academy

2000 - Bernard Forster
(education),
Shanghai Normal University

2001 - James Lo
(film studies),
Beijing Film Academy

2001 - Oliver May
(music),
Nanjing Normal University

2002 - Jennifer Lew
(art),
Central Academy of Fine Arts in Beijing

2002 - John Greer
(English),
Sichuan University

2003 - Songkrant Sanilmsuwan
(film studies),
Peking University

2004 - Clayton Koenig
(linguistics),
Peking University

2005 - Sean Hill
(theatre),
Central Academy of Theatre Arts

2005 - Patric McInnis
(theatre),
Central Academy of Theatre Arts

2006 - Kimberly Moultrie
(health science),
Tianjin Foreign Studies University

2006 - Daniel Galimberti
(business),
Shanghai University of Finance and Economics

2008 - Matthew Myers
(finance),
Shanghai University of Finance and Economics

2008 - Dara DiGerolamo (journalism),
Shanghai Fudan University

2009 - Susan Tang
(health science),
Central China University of Science and Technology

2009 - Danielle Cabello
(English),
Northeast Normal University

2009 - Lisa Farber
(theatre),
Central Theatre of Academy in Beijing

2009 - Don Duprez
(anthropology),
Wuhan University of Science and Technology

2010 - Karen Danielian
(finance),
Shanghai University of Finance and Economics

2010 - Kelley Friedland
(health science),
Huazhong University of Science and Technology

2010 - Areeya Tivasuradej
(geography),
Southwest Jiaotong University

2010 - Dale Chang
(teacher education),
Central China Normal University

2010 - Lisa Farber
(theatre),
Beijing Language and Culture University

2010 - Matthew Myers
(finance),
Qinghua University

2011 - Michelle Lao
(Kinesiology),
Hua Zhong Normal University

2011 - Justin Shenkarow
(MBA),
Shanghai University

2011 - Won Gi Lee
(Language),
Zhejiang Normal University

2012 - Daniel Cabello
(English),
Qinghua University

2012 - Andrew Jarvidi
(Political Science),
People’s University

2012 - Alexander Renner
(business),
Shanghai University of Finance and Economics

2012 - Nina Rocklin
(fashion Design),
Shanghai Donghua University
The China Institute Outstanding Contribution Award

Dave & Jan Kolstad are the recipients of this year’s Outstanding Contributions Award.

They began their association with the China Institute in 2002, when they started to host Chinese visiting scholars at CSUN as guests in their lovely home in Northridge. Amy Guoying Chen, a young leader sent by the Guangzhou Government to CSUN as a visiting scholar, and her family were the very first to stay in the Kolstad home, and she introduced the American couple to other visiting scholars from China. The friendship between the Kolstads and Chinese scholars grew from one person and one family to many scholars and their families, and expanded from Chinese scholars and students to include international students and scholars from other countries. Many of us have hosted Chinese scholars and students at CSUN and in our homes, but no one except Dave and Jan have been able to play hosts to large groups (sometimes as many as 80 for one gathering) of Chinese and international students and scholars consistently, every other week, for more than 10 years in the past!

Those of us who have been to Dave and Jan’s international gatherings know that they are not just international feasts of good food and drinks, but also lively educational, cultural and entertainment experiences for participating international students and scholars. Their goals are simple and noble: to assist international students and scholars at CSUN and to help visitors deal with loneliness and life in a new culture. Scholars from China have been welcomed from the earliest days. Jan had the opportunity to take 2 years of Mandarin language school in her twenties, never dreaming how useful it would become many years later! At these twice monthly get-togethers in their homes, usually on Friday nights, they offer meals, games, English conversation times, and just hanging out for international students and scholars to make friends with local American people. Many Chinese scholars and students get over their cultural shock with friendly advice and guidance at these gatherings. They also improve their English conversation skills in discussions on topics ranging from “Understanding Your Talents” and “Ethical Dilemmas,” to “Effective Communication at Home and Cross-culturally.” Four couples have even met their sweethearts here and gotten married! Others had babies and young children under their roof and care, and became their international grandchildren. Even after they went back to their own countries, they still keep in touch with Jan and Dave, who also went to visit some of them to attend their important family and professional ceremonies.

In addition to gatherings and discussion sessions in their homes, Dave and Jan, along with Ian and Erin Downs and other International Students, Inc. (ISI) staff, have also organized and sponsored numerous field trips for Chinese and international scholars and students to local cultural sights, educational centers, and social agencies, including the Getty Center, Reagan Presidential Library, Huntington Library, MEND, the Union Rescue Mission, JPL, The Crystal Cathedral, Hollywood, and a Moorpark Farm at harvest time. They also organized many camping trips, cooking classes, fresh fruit picking, ping pong games, around-the-house activities, and basically just being available for friendship and support whenever and for whoever needs it.
Dave and Jan have made many friends with China Institute faculty, scholars, and students, enjoyed learning about China while developing friendships that have lasted over the years. Eleven years ago, the very first Chinese scholar’s 13-year-old son became like a grandson to Dave and Jan. They have kept close contacts and visited each other in China and Northridge over the years. The Chinese grandson will soon be graduating from Purdue and has invited Grandpa Dave and Grandma Jan to attend the ceremony. Chinese visiting scholars who have lived with Jan and Dave in their house for more than half a year include: Amy Chen Guo Ying and her family; Huang XueGuang; Guo ShiQun and family; Sun LiHong; Wang SongRun and family; Wu Yuhui and family; Zeng ShiHong and family; Han Cong; Wang Yu and family; Xu TianDeng and family; Xu Mengbo and family; Li Rongyi and Lu Airong. Literally hundreds of other visiting scholars and students from China attended the gatherings at the Kolstad House. Dave and Jan would often say that China’s greatest treasure is her people. They feel blessed by knowing so many remarkable visitors-turned-into-friends. They consider knowing the Chinese people to be chief among the many ways their lives are enriched and changed forever by welcoming Visiting Scholars and Students at CSUN. Thank you, Dave and Jan, for being such great American friends to Chinese scholars and students!

Recipients of China Institute Outstanding Contribution Awards

1997 - Dr. Liangkang Lu
1998 - Dr. I-Shou Wang
1999 - Dr. Paul Chow and Dr. Tung-Po Lin
2000 - Dr. Mack Johnson
2001 - E Xuewen, Dr. Harold Giedt, and Dr. Elliot Mininberg
2002 - Angela Lew and Dr. Yvonne Chan
2003 - Dr. Ellen McFadden and Dr. Lou Rubino
2004 - Dr. Kwang-nan Chow
2005 - John Charles
2006 - Dr. Christa Metzger and Shari Ramson
2007 - Dr. Chao Chen and Dr. Mingfang Li
2008 - Dr. Warren Campbell and Dr. Christopher Leu
2009 - Mei Wu, Yihlan Shen Yuen, Li Yaosheng
2010 - Ingrid Yin Ye and Wei Wang
2011 - William Taylor
2012 - Dr. Katherine Ramos Baker
2013 - Jan and Dave Kolsted
Lovely Rural School Kids at Tian Shang Ping in China

Photograph by Jeannie Chen, music

For more information and stories about the China Institute, please visit us at www.csun.edu/china_institute/

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