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Buffalo State Graduates Teach English in China

by Travis Sky Ingersoll

Editor's Note: Mr. Travis Ingersoll and Ms. Melinda Massaro, recent graduate of Buffalo State College went to China in fall 2002 to teach English. They will spend one academic year in China and are scheduled to be back in the summer of 2003. Their teaching in China is arranged by the Center for China Studies. Following is what Travis has to say about their experiences so far ...

At this point, I've been living and teaching in Dalian, China for nearly six months. By far, this is the most challenging adventure I have ever taken on! From walking into classes, confronting 100 open-jawed Chinese students who've never met a foreigner, to the uncomfortable experience of being pointed and stared at by

everyone you pass, it can be tough at times. However, the time I've spent here has armed me with a vast and deepening pool of patience. More than that, my exposure to Chinese culture has widened my understanding of the ocean we call humanity.

As a first-time teacher I've gained valuable experience educating classes ranging from elementary school children to college students. Every day I get practice at public speaking. After get-



ting up in front of 100+ people who all look very different from me and teaching them in a language not their own, any stage I'll have to speak from in the States will be a breeze! I often tell my students that I hope they learn as much from me as I do from them, and that's the truth. In today's troubled world, when given the chance to change things for the better, why would anyone pass up such an opportunity? The time my students spend with me, in and out of the classroom, demonstrates the similarities in all human beings. More importantly, it shows them how people they once thought were too different to

relate to, can end up being great friends if you give them a chance. And who wants to go to war with a country full of friends and family?

I highly suggest such an adventure for anyone who has recently graduated, and who would like to see the world while gaining personally valuable and professionally marketable experience. But make sure all the t's are crossed and the i's



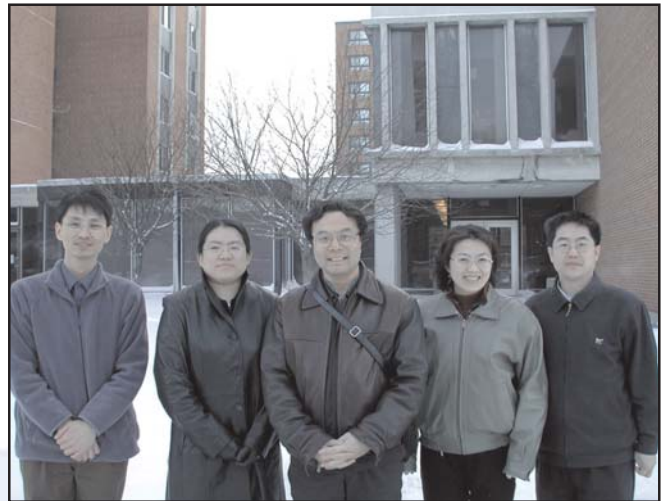
are dotted before you step onto an airplane, because once you get here communication can become a big problem! The opportunity for adventure is great, and relatively inexpensive. During my stay, I've traveled by boat to see a 600+

year old Taoist monastery in Yantai, walked overgrown sections of the Great Wall, been to tea houses to watch musicians play traditional Chinese instruments, played Frisbee with locals at Tiananmen Square and been to more temples than you could imagine! All that and I'm only halfway through the journey! Ahhhh, you just can't get better than a life full of travel!

Buffalo State Welcomes New Visiting Scholars from China

by Zhang Jie

This semester Buffalo State is hosting the second group of visiting scholars under the Capital Normal University Faculty Bilingual Training Program. During their 4-6 month stay, scholars in this program are to (1) polish their English, (2) learn how to teach their courses in English in China, (3) exchange skills with their American counterparts and (4) collaborate on research projects with Buffalo State faculty. Currently, Dr. Ding Jinhong (first left) is being men-



tored by Jill Norvilitis in the Psychology Department and Dr. Liu Yongshun (first right) by Tang Tao in Geography and Planning. The photo also shows the outgoing first group of scholars from second left to right: Dr. Deng Jingli, Dr. Gao Feng, and Professor Shen Li.

Additional scholars are expected in the summer and fall of 2003.

Buffalo State Faculty and Staff Will Visit China in May 2003

by Dawn Barie

From May 23 to June 1, the sixth delegation of faculty and staff from Buffalo State College will visit Beijing, Xi'an and Shanghai, China. This group will also include graduate students. The purpose of the trip is to promote faculty exchange with Buffalo State's three sister institutions: Capital Normal University, Dalian Medical University, and Xi'an Foreign Language University.

Those participating in the trip will have the opportunity to meet with Chinese scholars and give presentations at the three universities to exchange knowledge related to their fields of expertise and initiate collaborative research projects. The delegation will also experience traditional Chinese

cultural events, tour historical sites, and meet with local people to gather information, Chinese artifacts and pictures to later share with students at Buffalo State.

Buffalo State Hosts Delegation from Capital Normal University

by Ding Jinhong



A delegation headed by Dr. Fang Ping, Associate Dean of the School of Education and Chair of the Psychology Department at Capital Normal University in Beijing, visited Buffalo State March 11-13. Dr. Ding Jinhong, a current visiting scholar from CNU, facilitated this visit by his colleagues, who also included Professor Zhang Jingbin, Associate Dean of the School of Education, and Professor Guo Chunyan of the Psychology Department.

During their stay, the delegation toured the Buffalo State campus, met with faculty from the Psychology Department and visited the Office of



International Education. They also met Dr. Richard Podemski, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Mr. Ted Turkle, Director of Research Administration and Service, and Dr. Larry Flood, Dean of the Faculty of Natural and Social Sciences, as well as Dr. Zhang Jie, Director of Center for China Studies.



The purpose of the delegation's visit was to learn more about the management of research and graduate student education in the United States, to promote collaborative research between Buffalo State and Capital Normal and to identify funding opportunities.



"The visit was fruitful. Thanks to Dr. Zhang Jie for his wonderful arrangements for our trip. We also thank Dr. Michael Lazich, Professor of the Department of History and Social Studies, and Ms. Dawn Barie, Assistant at the Center for China Studies, for their heartfelt assistance," said Professor Fang Ping upon the delegation's departure.



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