



**BUFFALO STATE**  
The State University of New York



CCS Newsletter

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with this delegation. The implementation of faculty and student exchange programs between the two colleges were among the topics discussed. The representatives from Xinyang agreed to consider sending English teachers to Buffalo State for a summer camp. They also discussed the possibility of recruiting students from the Chinese vocational school to pursue bachelor's degrees at SUNY Buffalo State.

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**Meeting with Delegation from Xinyang College of Vocation and Technology**

**2. SUNY's China 150 Program 10th Anniversary Commemoration**

Eleven years ago, on May 12, 2008, a devastating earthquake in Sichuan Province, China killed over 69,000 people, with 374,176 reported injured, and 18,222 listed as missing as of July 2008. One of the aftermaths of the quake was that thousands of college students had difficulty continuing their education, with homes destroyed and family members lost. Immediately after the tragedy, the State University of New York initiated a campaign to help those students living in the earthquake zone, and 150 students were selected to be enrolled in 22 SUNY campuses in the fall of 2008. Buffalo State accepted 17 of the 150 students. After completing one academic year at the various SUNY schools, the students either returned to China or remained in the US to finish their undergraduate education. Ten years later, many have returned to New York to thank the State University of New York and each of the campuses that hosted them for their generous support.

In return for the humanitarian gesture of the SUNY schools, the China Scholarship Council (CSC) invited 200

**1. Delegation from Xinyang College of Vocation and Technology Visits Buffalo State**

A delegation from the city of Xinyang, Henan Province, China, visited Buffalo State July 18, 2019. The delegation was originally to include the President of Xinyang College of Vocation and Technology, the Dean of its School of Mathematics and Computer, the Dean of the School of Construction Engineering, and the Director for the Center for Applied Foreign Languages. Unfortunately, however, because of weather-related delays of flights and other problems, only Professor Huang Decheng, Dean of Mathematics and Computer, and Professor Liu Yuqing, Dean of Construction Engineering, arrived on time. Dr. Robert Summers, Assistant Provost for Global Engagement, Dr. Zhang Jie, Director of the Center for China Studies, and Dr. Hongliang Xu, Professor of Mathematics participated in a joint meeting

college students from SUNY campuses to visit China for two weeks in the summer of 2009.

The 10th Anniversary Commemoration was held in the Chinese Consulate General in New York City on Wednesday, August 21, 2019. Mr. Huang Ping, the Consul General and Dr. Tod Laursen, the Provost of SUNY, spoke at the ceremony, which was followed by remarks from students and administrators on their experiences and reflections of 10 years ago. Dr. Robert Summers, Assistant Provost for Global Engagement, Dr. Chenchen Huang, Professor of Business, and Dr. Zhang Jie, Professor of Sociology and Director of the Center for China Studies, attended the commemoration on behalf of Buffalo State.



**Chinese Consul General at the SUNY's China 150 Program Commemoration**

### **3. The Labor Day Parade**

On the first Monday of September every year, the SUNY United University Professions (UUP) participates in the local Labor Day parade. Once again this year, Chinese visiting scholars to Buffalo State were asked to participate in the event.

The visiting scholars arrived at the designated gathering place around 10:50 a.m., where UUP workers gave them T-shirts and hats designed for the occasion. The visiting scholars happily volunteered to help them. Around 11:30 a.m., the parade officially began, and about a half hour later it was the UUP's turn to join the procession. Everyone was in high spirits. The atmosphere was very warm, with parade marchers shouting slogans and giving candy to the children who were watching along the route.

The parade was followed by a free picnic. The visiting scholars were deeply impressed by what they saw and experienced. This parade not only gives us a chance to personally experience American culture, but also deepens Chinese people's understanding of an important American tradition. (Liu Feng)



**Visiting scholars at UUP Labor Day event**

### **4. Visiting Scholars and 3+2 Program Students Celebrate Mid-Autumn Festival and Thanksgiving**

The Mid-Autumn Festival is a traditional Chinese festival held on the 15th day of the 8th month of the lunar calendar with a full moon at night, corresponding to mid-September to early October of the Gregorian calendar. It is one of the four traditional festivals of China, along with the Spring Festival, the Qing Ming Festival and the Dragon Boat Festival. The full moon symbolize reunion, such as returning to one's hometown, family reunion, and the reunion of lovers. Since ancient times, the Mid-Autumn Festival has customarily been a time for admiring the mysterious beauty of the full moon, eating moon cakes, lighting lanterns, and enjoying the flowering Osmanthus.

On September 12, the patio conference room in Classroom Building was transformed into a Mid-Autumn Celebration Hall, with colorful banners, soft music, and mouthwatering food. It was a very special and intimate occasion for both those Chinese students who just arrived in the United States and for those visiting scholars who have been here for some time and are therefore a bit homesick. It was also an excellent opportunity for all Chinese at Buffalo State College to get to know each other and share their interests and life experiences. Delicious beef and warm soup was served to fill everyone's stomach and refresh their heart. Dr. Zhang Jie brought different flavored mooncakes such as sweet bean, lotus seed, and five kernels for everyone to enjoy. Dr. Macho, Dr. Zhang Jie, and Mrs. Tricia Herritt also attended the party and brought a mid-autumn blessing for everyone. It was such an unforgettable experience for some of the Chinese students because it was the first Chinese festival they had abroad, but it was also last one to celebrate in the US for others that were soon returning home. (Jin Yajun)

On November 15, Mr. and Mrs. Philip and Barbara Klumpp, the language and culture teachers for the Chinese visiting scholars, invited their Chinese friends to visit their home for a Thanksgiving dinner. A total of 20 visiting scholars took part in the occasion. Mr. and Mrs. Klumpp cooked an authentic Thanksgiving dinner. Before the dinner, they explained the origins of Thanksgiving Day as well describing some of the traditional ways to celebrate it. After the large, delicious meal, the scholars were given four pieces of corn and in turn expressed their gratitude to those near and dear to them for their consistent love and support. Afterwards, everyone participated in some entertaining and innovative games such as "You Perform, I Guess." The visiting scholars genuinely enjoyed the holiday atmosphere and learned much about American culture. It was a fun and informative exchange between the two peoples. (Wu Mingyi and Tian Zhiyuan)

Since Thanksgiving is a traditional American holiday, the CCS also hosted a dinner for the 3+2 students. It was held on Friday, Nov. 15 at noon and featured an authentic Thanksgiving dinner catered by the Boston Market. Dr. James Mayrose, Buffalo State Interim Provost, Dr. Wendy Patterson, Dean of the School of Education, and Dr. Robert Summers, Assistant Provost for Global Engagement, and several other faculty members celebrated the holiday with the students.



Chinese visiting scholars celebrating Thanksgiving at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Klumpp

### **5. Visiting Scholars Hosted by Dr. Macho for a Pre-Thanksgiving Dinner**

On October 14 (Columbus Day), Dr. Steve Macho and his wife Kate invited the Chinese visiting scholars from the Center for China Studies to their home for the celebration of two festival holidays from two cultures: American Thanksgiving and the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival. Professor Zhang Jie, the Director of the Center for China Studies, helped to organize and provided support for this delightful occasion.

To begin the day, Dr. Macho guided the group of visiting scholars to Beaver Meadow Audubon Center for a picturesque and well-known autumn view of North America.

The group immersed themselves in the green and gold of the beautiful autumn scenery highlighted by the peaceful lake under the grand sky.

Following two days of careful preparation, the traditional American Thanksgiving meal was served together with Chinese dishes. This special meal included roast turkey, smoked turkey, sausage, roast pork chops, pumpkin pies, and mashed potatoes, together with dumplings, noodles, and mooncakes, to mention a few, which was indeed a feast for the body as well as the soul.

Dr. Macho explained that he had been treated with great hospitality when he worked in China and he wanted to return this hospitality here in his home. Dr Macho and Kate also shared with the scholars their understanding of Thanksgiving as a festival for the harvest season. For them, the holiday is a time to share, to give, and to enjoy warm companionship. The scholars felt deeply connected because of the common values the two cultures share.

After the meal, the Chinese scholars had a pleasant and eye-opening tour around a dairy farm owned by one of Dr. Macho's friends. The scholars observed how the dairy farm operated, how the cows were fed and milked, and how the milk was processed and stored before it was shipped to supermarkets. For most, it was truly an unforgettable, first-time experience.

The CCS wishes to thank the Machos for their hospitality in hosting the visiting scholars as well as their continuing support for the mission of the Center for China Studies. (Tian Fang)

### **6. Research Seminar Held for International Students and Visiting Scholars**

On Thursday, October 24, 2019, a research seminar was held in Classroom Building B108 during Bengal Pause for international students and visiting scholars, who were given a presentation by Dr. Zhang Jie, Director of the Center for China Studies, on undergraduate research for term papers and academic publications. Afterwards, Dr. Hongliang Xu, Professor of Mathematics and coordinator of faculty research, offered some valuable tips for the submission of project presentations for the upcoming Research Fall Forum. Over forty students and visiting scholars attended the presentation. The event was organized and supported by the Office of International Student and Scholar Services.

## 7. CCS Participates in the Buffalo State Research Foundation Fall Forum

The 20th Annual Faculty/Staff Research and Creativity Fall Forum was held in the Houston Gym on Thursday, November 14, 2019. At this event, there were fourteen poster presentations by the Chinese visiting scholars from the Center for China Studies.

Dr. Katherine S. Conway-Turner, the President of Buffalo State, introduced the event and praised the participating faculty and staff for addressing various topics of significant importance. The event included presentations on a wide range of research and scholarly activities. Dr. James Mayrose, Buffalo State Interim Provost, expressed his appreciation to all participants for their individual and collective commitment to intellectual discovery.

The Chinese visiting scholars welcomed this opportunity to share their research and actively engage with other faculty and staff members who expressed interest in their studies. The scholars believed that the forum was a very useful and worthwhile occasion for all to share their studies and promote their different disciplines. (Liu Mingli)



**Chinese participants at the Buffalo State Research Foundation Fall Forum**

## 8. Dr. Xing Lei, a Visiting Scholar from China

I am an associate professor of history at a university in Sanya, Hainan, China. I came to Buffalo State as a visiting scholar in October 2018 and will finish my one-year of study this month before returning home. When I first arrived in Buffalo, I was generously assisted by Professor Zhang Jie and some of the other visiting scholars, who picked me up from the airport, helped me settle in my apartment, and cooked my first meal in Buffalo to welcome me. Their kind assistance made me feel warm and lucky.

During my stay, I attended two courses taught by Dr. Michael C. Lazich. One was the Modern History of China (HIS 338) and the other was East Asia: the Traditional Era (HIS 310). I had many opportunities to exchange ideas and opinions with Dr. Lazich, and I have learned much from him. In this process, I was able to compare some of the different approaches to teaching that I observed between Chinese and American history classes. I was also given the opportunity to offer some presentations of my own to the students in these classes. This experience enabled me to improve my spoken English and has helped prepare me to eventually offer courses in English at my own university in China.

During China Week 2019, I had the pleasure of introducing Chinese culture to many foreign friends at Buffalo State and handing out various examples of Chinese handicrafts offered as part of this yearly event. On Labor Day, I participated with the UUP in the local Labor Day parade. On Columbus Day, I went to Dr. Steve Macho's house along with the other visiting scholars to celebrate the fall recess with a pre-Thanksgiving dinner. All these activities enriched my life experience and gave me a deeper understanding of American culture.

In conclusion, I have learned much with regard to living an independent life and becoming mentally strong. I also experienced many different aspects of life in America and made many friends. I will never forget this cherished experience of studying in America as a visiting scholar. (Xing Lei)



**Dr. Xing Lei at Buffalo Sabres Hockey Game**



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