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### News from the Director

Zhang Jie



With support from the Provost's Office, the FNSS Dean, Research Foundation, Center for Health and Social Research, as well as the Department of Sociology, the Center for China Studies was inaugurated and started to operate in Fall 2000. The mission of the Center at Buffalo State is to promote and coordinate research, scholarly exchanges, academic programs, and economic development with China. Center activities will advance the intellectual, personal, and professional growth of students, faculty, staff, and the general community in Western New York by providing an international perspective regarding China in the context of an ever changing and diverse world. The Center's goal is to provide Buffalo State and the Western New York community with enriched opportunities for cultural, academic, and economic development by facilitating collaborative programs in China. As the founding director of the Center, I thank all those parties and individuals who have contributed to the establishment of this academic venture. Without them, the Center is not possible. Meanwhile, I also

thank the following ten scholars and administrators who are willing to serve as the Center's consultants:

- Conorozzo, Angelo - Associate Director, Center for Development of Human Services [conoroaa@buffalostate.edu]
- Fraser, Gordon - Director and Professor, the Great Lakes Center [frasergs@bscmail.buffalostate.edu]
- Gounard, Jean F. - Director, International Student Affairs [gounarjf@buffalostate.edu]
- Grabiner, Virginia - Chair and Associate Professor, Sociology [grabinve@buffalostate.edu]
- Grace, Lee Ann - Director, International Education [gracela@buffalostate.edu]
- Norvilitis, Jill - Assistant Professor, Psychology [norviljm@buffalostate.edu]
- Polvinen, Elaine - Associate Professor, Technology [polvinem@buffalostate.edu]
- Simmons, Richard - Coordinator and Research Program Developer, Center for Health and Social Research [simmonrj@buffalostate.edu]
- Turtle, Edgar (Ted) - Director, Research Foundation [turkleeh@buffalostate.edu]
- Wiczorek, William - Director and Professor, Center for Health and Social Research [wiczowf@buffalostate.edu]

The Center for China Studies is currently located at Classroom Building Room B310. The Center's phone number is 716-878-6328 and its FAX number is 716-878-4009. You can also reach the Center by email to: chinacenter@bscmail.buffalostate.edu. For further and

updated information about the Center, you may also visit the website at [www.buffalostate.edu/~ccs](http://www.buffalostate.edu/~ccs). The CCS Newsletter is currently bi-annual, one issue per semester. We distribute it to the Buffalo State community electronically while send hard copies to selected individuals. If you know any people who might be interested in reading the Newsletter but have not received it, please contact us and let us know their email or mailing addresses. My best wishes to you all.

## **Buffalo State Delegation Visited China in Summer 2000**

*William Wieczorek*

During June of 2000, a Buffalo State College delegation of administrators, faculty, and staff conducted a groundbreaking trip to the People's Republic of China. The Buffalo State College delegation visited three major cities in China (Beijing, Dalian, Xi'an) and was hosted by one university in each city, although visits were made to several additional institutions of higher education. In Beijing, the capital and cultural center of China, the host was Capital Normal University, which is quite similar to Buffalo State College in that it is a large, comprehensive institution with a major emphasis on teacher education. In Dalian, a wealthy coastal city known for its highly successful economic development zone, the delegation was hosted by Dalian Medical University, which already has a collaborative program with Buffalo State College's Center for Health and Social Research. The third city visited was Xi'an, the ancient capital of China known for its archeological treasures, where Xi'an Foreign Language University was the host. A wealth of opportunities for joint research, faculty exchanges, and student recruitment and/or exchanges were apparent at each institution visited. Preliminary agreements to conduct exchanges and joint research were signed at each of the three host universities. The pioneering nature of this trip, especially the diverse composition of the delegation, is highly noteworthy. Our Chinese hosts had never experienced a delegation of this size or composition. The members of the delegation are:

- *Mr. Angelo Conorozzo, Center for the Development of Human Services*
- *Dr. Gordon Frazer, Great Lakes Center*
- *Dr. Virginia Grabiner, Department of Sociology*
- *Dr. Thomas Kinsey, Interim Dean, Graduate Education and Research*
- *Dr. Jill Norvilitis, Department of Psychology*

- *Ms. Elaine Polvinen, Department of Technology*
- *Mr. Richard Simmons, Center for Health and Social Research*
- *Mr. Edgar Turkle, SUNY Research Foundation*
- *Dr. William Wieczorek, Center for Health and Social Research*
- *Dr. Zhang Jie, Department of Sociology*

Typically only a few administrators visit at a time, which does not provide an opportunity for direct interaction with faculty and students. However, our Chinese hosts expressed their appreciation at being able to match their faculty and programs with the interests of the faculty and staff members of the delegation to facilitate exploration of specific areas of mutual interest. All members of the delegation participated in numerous contacts with Chinese faculty and administrators, and more limited contact with Chinese students. Each member of the delegation gave at least one presentation on his or her area of expertise. These presentations were extremely well received; they focused the discussions and facilitated the identification of areas of mutual interest.

The success of the delegation's visit led to the formation of the Center for China Studies at Buffalo State College to coordinate future initiatives in China. The unique opportunities available through collaborative research, faculty exchanges, student exchanges, and student recruitment in China provide additional pathways for Buffalo State College faculty, staff, and students to reach their full intellectual potential. Another Buffalo State College delegation to China is planned for August, 2001.

## **Overview of the Three Chinese Universities**

*Virginia Grabiner*

### **Capital Normal University**

Of the three universities Buffalo State has relations with, Capital Normal, a comprehensive university, is most like Buffalo State. Its major mission is the education of middle and secondary school teachers, so the affinity was immediate. However, Capital Normal is significantly larger than Buffalo State because it has a graduate school. It has eighteen departments and offers twenty-one undergraduate majors. These are similar to the ones offered at Buffalo State, except that the various languages that are taught have their own departments.



It was clear from this and our other visits, language study is extremely important in Chinese education. All told, there are nearly 18,000 students, approximately 7,300 of whom are undergraduates. It employs about 600 full-time faculty members. It also has an affiliated high school. Admission to this school is highly sought after because that's one avenue for entry into Capital Normal. Its graduates make up a large portion of the teachers in and around Beijing. Capital Normal is very active in establishing research institutes and international exchanges like ours. There are twenty-seven research centers/institutes and thirty-one exchange programs. While touring the campus, we encountered a group of exchange students from England, hard at work learning Chinese. Like many Chinese universities, the campus is self-contained. A wall surrounds the campus and one enters through a wide, open, gate. Students can study, eat, and shop on campus. While more spartan than Buffalo State College facilities, students and faculty have access to modern computers and other technologies

Website: [www.cnu.edu.cn/english/english.htm](http://www.cnu.edu.cn/english/english.htm)

### Dalian Medical University



Located on the eastern coast of northern China, this university trains students in various medical sciences

and medical associated administrative professions. These specialties are more broadly defined than in the U.S. For example, the university has a cosmetology college and a photography department as well as the expected general training and specialties such as obstetrics and gynecology and pharmacology. In recent years, the university has become very active in the establishment of international exchanges and cooperation programs. It has established twenty-one research institutes. Buffalo State's Center of Health and Social Research has joined Dalian Medical in establishing the Institute of Behavioral Medicine. This has become an important part of Buffalo State's association with Chinese institutions. Drs. William Wieczorek and Zhang Jie are respectively co-director and associate director of that institute and they are conducting major research projects on suicide and alcoholism in China.

Website: <http://www.dlmedu.edu.cn/english>

### Xi'an Foreign Language University



Located in the ancient city of central China where the terra cottas were found, this school prepares Chinese students to teach foreign languages and to work in tourism, international finance and trade, economic cooperation and secretarial services. It also has an extensive Chinese study program for international students. The Chinese student body numbers approximately 3,200 with a faculty of about 450. As China's cooperation with the West has become increasingly important, learning English has become a major part of Chinese education. Virtually all elementary school children study English. The students we met at Xi'an were quite fluent in English and anxious to practice their skills and learn about our country. The possibilities for exchanges of students and faculty with this University are exciting because of its orientation toward language and cultural studies.

Website: <http://campus.fortunecity.com/princeton/321>



## Farewell Banquet for Three Visiting Scholars from China

Zhang Jie

A farewell banquet in honor of three visiting scholars from China was hosted by the Center with support from the Research Foundation at the Chang's Garden restaurant, January 4, 2001. Present at the event were President Muriel Howard, Dean Larry Flood of FNSS, Director Ted Turkle of the Research Foundation, all the consultants of the Center, and several individuals who have contributed to our visiting scholars' experiences at Buffalo State. The three out-going scholars were Dr. Lu Yongli of Beijing Normal University, Dr. Jia Shuhua of Dalian Medical University, and Professor Ji Deyuan of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. We thank them for their great



contributions to various projects on-campus during their stay here in Buffalo, and wish them good luck in their academic endeavors when they are back in China.

## Second Faculty Delegation to Visit China in August 2001

Zhang Jie

Following last year's successful faculty/staff delegation visit to China, the Center for China Studies is making preliminary plans for another visit to the three Chinese universities during August 2001. This trip will include official visits to Capital Normal University in Beijing, Xi'an Foreign Language University in Xi'an, and Dalian Medical University in Dalian. All Buffalo State faculty, staff, and administrators who are interested in China studies are eligible for application, although preference will be given to those who have never been to China and those who have a China related research project or agenda. A selection committee composed of CCS consultants will review the applications and recommend a list of participants. Interested individuals should contact the Center for China Studies at X6328 or [chinacenter@bscmail.buffalostate.edu](mailto:chinacenter@bscmail.buffalostate.edu) for further information on the application procedure. The deadline for receipt of applications will be announced at a later date.

*CCS newsletter layout by Elaine Polvinen, M.F.A.*

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