



Center for China Studies

CCS Newsletter

Email: chinacenter@bscmail.buffalostate.edu

Vol. 3, No. 1 (Fall 2002)

Website URL: <http://www.buffalostate.edu/centers/ccs/>

Director: ZHANG Jie, PhD
Assistant: Dawn Barie
Classroom Building B310

In This Issue:

- I. Upton Hall Gallery Exhibits Inspirational Chinese Designs
- II. Buffalo State Welcomes New Visiting Scholars from China
- III. Buffalo State Faculty and Staff Visit China
- IV. Buffalo State Hosts Visitors from China
- V. Business Tour of China Being Developed for September 2003
- VI. Director of Center Receives President's Award for Excellence in Teaching
- VII. Buffalo State Scarves and Ties Available for Sale

Upton Hall Gallery Exhibits Inspirational Chinese Designs

By Elaine Polvinen



Upton Hall Gallery

From September 16 to October 4, Upton Hall Gallery hosted a digital textile design exhibition entitled *Inspirational Chinese Designs: East and West Interpretations*. This collaborative exhibit featured work by faculty at Buffalo State College and Capital Normal University in Beijing.



Opening Ceremony and Reception

The well attended exhibit opened on September 16 with a reception sponsored by the Office of Equity and Campus Diversity. The exhibition was jointly sponsored by Buffalo State College, the Research Foundation at Buffalo State, the Center for China Studies and the Office of Equity and Campus Diversity. The display of colorful contemporary design interpretations inspired by traditional Chinese images was the culmination of an 18-month collaboration initiated when a delegation from Buffalo State visited Capital Normal in the summer of 2000. The initial travel to China was sponsored in part by the Research Foundation at Buffalo State and by Capital Normal University in Beijing and was facilitated by Buffalo State's Center for China Studies. The exhibition initially opened in January 2002 at Capital Normal and is scheduled to travel to Taiwan in 2003.

The design collaborators for the exhibition were Elaine Polvinen, MFA, associate professor, Technology Department, Buffalo State; Shen Li, instructor of design, Fine Arts Department, Capital Normal; and Yi-meei Wang, MFA, associate professor, Textiles and Clothing Department, Fu Jen University in Taipei, Taiwan.

The digital textile designs, created primarily with Adobe® Photoshop and Illustrator, were displayed as wall posters, wall hangings, scarves and draped forms. One section of the exhibit featured six dress forms with fabric draped and pinned into garment

Center for China Studies, SUNY College at Buffalo, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY, 14222

Telephone: 716-878-6328

Page 1

Fax: 716-878-4009

shapes. These were created by David Brinson, adjunct instructor in Buffalo State's fashion textile technology program. The exhibit included a manuscript authored by the designers entitled Development of an International Collaborative Digital Decorative Design Project. The illustrated manuscript detailed the collaboration, the design development process and preparation for the initial exhibition. It was accompanied by a Power-Point display of the original images from Chinese art history that inspired the designs in this project.

A delegation from Capital Normal, which included Xu Xiangyuan, president, Liu Xiaotian, executive associate dean of the College of International Education, and Li Qingzhong, director of the Mathematics Department, attended the opening reception and ceremony during a two-day visit to Buffalo State. Buffalo State's president, Dr. Muriel A. Howard, warmly welcomed the delegation (see photo) and expressed her delight with the cooperation and numerous collaborations that have



President Howard at the opening

developed with Capital Normal since the initial trip to Beijing. Capital Normal's president noted his great pleasure with the results of the collaborative project and the growing friendship and increased positive cooperation between Buffalo State and Capital Normal. President Howard introduced the design collaborators and extended a warm welcome to visiting professor Shen Li,

who had just arrived for a four-month stay at Buffalo State to work with faculty in the Technology Department. President Howard thanked all who had contributed to the success of the exhibit, which can be seen on-line at http://facstaff.buffalostate.edu/polvinem/china/bsc_exhibit/

Closing Ceremony



Shen Li at the closing ceremony

On October 3 Shen Li presented a slide lecture on her recent research into the traditional ethnic costumes of the Miao nationality. Zhang Jie, director of the Center for China Studies, translated. The slides focused on the intricate embroidery details of traditional Miao garments. Prof. Shen explained that the embroidered pictograph illustrations took the place of written historic documentation in the Miao culture. Many garments required years to complete and one generation often purposely left a garment to be finished by the next to symbolize continuity.

In addition, Prof. Shen showed exquisite examples of wax embellishments. She noted that the complex wax designs containing butterflies and dragons were created directly on the cloth, with no pre-planning. The procedure used to make beautiful pleated skirts from multiple yards of cloth was also explained.

Most striking among the slides of traditional celebrations were the silver garment and headdress embellishments worn by the young women and used as a marriage dowry. Prof. Shen stated that these young women sometimes wore up to twenty kilos of silver. Another tradition was to give a jacket to a young man who was considered popular, so the most popular man in the village was the one who wore the most jackets. Currently, the traditional garments are produced primarily for trade and are worn only for the numerous festivals held during the year.

In response to a question about whether any effects of western culture had reached the Miao people, Prof. Shen replied that they have heard of MTV, CDs and phones and they very much like modern conveniences. She also mentioned that the younger generation is not strongly committed to learning and passing on the traditional Miao skills and customs. After the presentation, the audience was invited to join Prof. Shen in Upton Hall Gallery to closely view and touch the Miao garments one last time before the exhibition closed with a ceremony sponsored by the Center for China Studies.

Buffalo State Welcomes New Visiting Scholars from China

By Lee Ann Grace



From left to right above: Sun Yan, Shen Li, Deng Jingli, and Gao Feng.

Four visiting scholars from China are on campus this semester. During their four- to six-month stays, the scholars will polish their English, learn how to teach their courses in English in China, exchange skills with their American counterparts and collaborate on research projects with Buffalo State professors. Please feel free to welcome

them. Their contact information follows: Gao Feng (878-4516), Department of Political Science, from Capital Normal University (CNU); Deng Jingli (878-5529), Department of History and Social Studies Education, from CNU; Shen Li (878-4807), Department of Technology, from CNU; Sun Yan (878-6328), Department of Sociology, from Dalian Medical University.

Buffalo State Faculty and Staff Visit China

By William Wieczorek, Lee Ann Grace, Lin-Xia Jiang and Zhang Jie

William Wieczorek, director of the Center for Health and Social Research and consultant to the Center for China Studies at Buffalo State, was a participant in the First China International Symposium on Alcohol and Health held in Shanghai September 15-18. His presentation, entitled "Persistent Drinking Drivers: Description and Implications," discussed the high level of substance dependence, health and other psychosocial problems commonly found among repeat drinking-driving offenders. Participants from China and 17 other countries attended the conference. Afterward, Dr. Wieczorek visited the joint Dalian Medical University-Buffalo State College Institute of Behavioral Medicine to discuss future projects with Jiang Chao, Director-General of Health for Liaoning Province and other staff at DMU.

Lee Ann Grace, director of international education, and Howard Henry, lecturer in the Health and Wellness Department, visited Buffalo State's partner institutions in China July 8-19. Prof. Henry, a retired social worker in the field of addictions, lectured on "Family Dynamics of Addiction" at Dalian Medical University and discussed possible research collaborations with several faculty at Dalian, with the director of the counseling center at Capital Normal University and with representatives of the Center for Disease Control in Liaoning Province (where Dalian is located).

Dr. Grace explored short-term study opportunities for Buffalo State students at the three universities.

In addition to arranging these academic activities, the partner institutions ensured that Dr. Grace and Prof. Henry saw the natural, historic, and artistic treasures of Beijing, Xi'an and Dalian and sampled local delicacies in abundance. Among the many highlights of the trip were a performance of the Peking Opera, seeing the terracotta warriors, managing the very slippery sea cucumber with chopsticks, singing karaoke with the former President of Dalian Medical University (now an official of Liaoning Province) and successfully ordering meals and taking taxis with very limited Chinese language skills.

To their new friends in China, Dr. Grace and Prof. Henry say "Feicháng gǎnxiè!"



Professor Lin-Xia Jiang at CNU

Lin Xia Jiang, associate professor of art and coordinator of the painting/drawing program of the Fine Arts Department delivered a well received visiting artist lecture entitled "Formalism in Western Modern Art" at the College of Fine Arts of Capital Normal University in Beijing on October 8. The lecture was part of the ongoing exchange program between Buffalo State and CNU, supported by the Research Foundation at Buffalo State and the Center for China Studies. Prof. Jiang also discussed exchanging exhibitions of faculty/student art work between Buffalo State and CNU.

Zhang Jie, director of the Center for China Studies and associate professor of sociology, was invited by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH) to present his research at the

First Joint Workshop to Build Collaboration Between the US NIMH and the China Center for Disease Control held in Beijing October 30 - November 1. Dr. Zhang was one of the six US scientists selected for the workshop.

At the invitation of the Great Alliance of China Reunification of Taiwan, Dr. Zhang visited Taiwan July 5-16, as leader of the delegation of the Association of Chinese Professors of Social Sciences in the USA. During their stay, the delegation visited academic institutions, local government offices in Taipei and Taichong, political parties and sightseeing spots.

Buffalo State Hosts Visitors from China

By Lee Ann Grace, Jean Gounard, and Angelo Conorozzo



Above from left are Liu Xiaotian, executive associate dean of the College of International Education, Shen Li, visiting scholar and exhibition artist, Xu Xiangyuan, president of Capital Normal University, President Howard, and Zhang Jie, China Center Director.

Xu Xiangyuan, president of Capital Normal University, accompanied by Liu Xiaotian, executive associate dean of the College of International Education and Li Qingzhong, director of the Mathematics Department, joined Shen Li, faculty member in CNU's Department of Fine Arts, in Buffalo for the September 16 opening of the joint exhibition of textile works by Prof. Shen and Elaine Polvinen of Buffalo State's fashion and textile technology program. During their visit the CNU delegation also met with Buffalo State faculty and administrators and toured campus facilities. Their tour of downtown Buffalo included a visit to City Hall, guided by David Granville of the Buffalo Arts Commission, and witnessing a spectacular view of the entire area from

the observation deck. After visiting Letchworth State Park they were treated to a maritime tour of the Black Rock Canal on one of the Great Lakes Center's research vessels and were hosted for dinner by President Muriel A. Howard.

A truly memorable moment of the visit was the delegation's negotiating with the cook (in Chinese) for a more authentic meal in a Chinese restaurant in the tiny Village of Perry, near Letchworth, where not a single pair of chopsticks was to be had!



Meeting at the Research Foundation

2002 will be remembered as a productive year for Chinese visitors coming to Buffalo State, thanks to the joint admissions program with Mohawk College in Ontario, Canada. Indeed, more than thirty Chinese Radio and T.V. University delegates and several presidents will have visited Buffalo State by the end of the year. As a consequence of these visits, large numbers of Chinese students are expected at Buffalo State in the near future. Wang Qiyang, deputy director of the Policy Research Center of the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs and Li Kang, a researcher at the same institute, visited Buffalo State October 10-14. During their stay, they met with administrators at the Research Foundation and Center



The CMCA officers with the Asian Connection

for Development of Human Services. Joint research projects between the hosts and guests were discussed. Dr. Wang and Dr. Li also visited the Asian Connection Chinese School and gave a talk on adopting children in China.

Business Tour of China Being Developed for September 2003

By Zhang Jie

The Center for China Studies proudly announces a trip for business professionals to China sometime in late September 2003. A major purpose of the trip is to inform participants about China, its culture and economy. The visits will focus on Beijing, Dalian and Xi'an, where the participants will meet with local government officials and business people to explore opportunities in China. Interested business leaders are welcome to contact the center for more information, and details of the trip will be printed in the next issue of the CCS newsletter.

Director of Center Receives President's Award for Excellence in Teaching

By Lee Ann Grace



The awardee with President Howard

Zhang Jie, associate professor of sociology and director of the Center for China Studies, was awarded the 2002 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching at Buffalo State College. Congratulations on this most deserved honor!

Buffalo State Scarves and Ties Available for Sale

By Elaine Polvinen

President Muriel A. Howard initiated a digital textile design project with Prof. Elaine Polvinen last summer that included design of silk ties and scarves with a Buffalo State College theme. A variety of sample designs were developed using Adobe® Photoshop and Illustrator.



Once President Howard selected the final designs, these were sent to Prof. Shen Li at Capital Normal University in Beijing. She located a manufacturing facility and sent the completed items to the Buffalo State Alumni Association, where they are currently available for sale. This project was facilitated by the Center for China Studies.



CCS Newsletter
copy editor: Lee Ann Grace, PhD
layout @ design: Elaine Polvinen, MFA

Buffalo State
State University of New York

Center for China Studies
Buffalo State College
State University of New York
1300 Elmwood Avenue
Classroom Building B310
Buffalo, New York 14222