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The Seventh Session of the CCS Consultants

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The CCS Fall 2012 Seminar Features Li Na and Gao Li during International Education Week

Visiting scholars Li Na (Capital Normal University) and Gao Li (Central University of Finance and Economics) presented their studies at the CCS Fall 2012 Seminars. Li Na discussed how Chinese commercial ads become attractive, and the topic of Gao Li's presentation was "National Prosperity and the Communist Party in China." Both topics were well received by the audience.

Beijing City University Faculty Exhibit



Beijing City University Delegation.

A delegation of seven faculty members from Beijing City University (BCU) visited Buffalo State at the beginning of the fall semester. The delegation was composed of visual artists from the University's School of Fine Arts. An exhibit of the art works by the BCU fine arts faculty was displayed in the Upton Gallery, which attracted a large number of students, faculty, and staff



Lecture on site.

on campus. The leader of the delegation was Ms. Shen Li, a former graduate student of fashion design mentored by Professor Elaine Polvinen in the Department of Technology. We are expecting more exchange opportunities between Buffalo State and Beijing City University in the future.



Student participation.

East Aurora High School Students Visited the Center

The Center for China Studies hosted three high school students on October 18 from East Aurora High School, who visited the Center as part of a field studies project on China-related issues. The mission of East Aurora High School is to provide learning experiences that help each child to achieve his or her maximum intellectual, social, physical, emotional, and moral growth and development.



East Aurora High students visited the Center.

The three students had participated in an international program about Confucius and wanted to know what we scholars and students from China think of Confucianism and the impact of Confucianism in China as well as the changes in Confucianism in recent years. Three visiting scholars (Lin Lin, Zhou Rui, and Liu Huang) participated in the meeting. They talked about various issues related

to Confucianism and China. To their surprise, the high school students already knew the topic and were relatively conversant with various aspects of Confucian philosophy. Both parties enjoyed the discussions that covered the major topics the students wished to address and other China-related issues.

The high school students videotaped the meeting, and as part of their project they produced a short video program that included the discussions. They added some pictures and videos that reflected some of the developments in China in recent years and then described Confucius and China in their own words on the basis of their discussions with our visiting scholars.

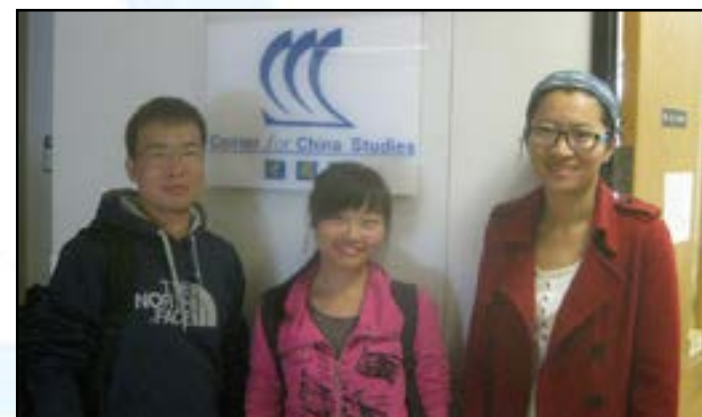
New Visiting Scholars from China for 2012–2013 Academic Year

For the 2012–2013 academic year, the Center for China Studies plans to host eight more visiting scholars from China. Among them, one is a faculty member at Capital Normal University (Li Na). There are also five Ph.D. students:



Liu Juan and Tao Mengke.

three from Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing (Zhang Chunyang, Liu Yang, and Gao Li); one from Beijing Normal University (Lin Lin), and one from Shandong University in Jinan (Zhou Rui). Two of the visiting scholars are master's students from the Central University of Finance and Economics (Liu Juan and Tao Mengke). We wish them the best of luck during their visit and study here in Buffalo.



Zhang Chunyang Liu Huang and Lin Lin.

Delegation of China Ministry of Education Visited Buffalo State and Discussed Potential Collaborations



Chinese Education Delegation on Campus.

A group of six administrators from the China Ministry of Education (MOE), led by Mr. Xu Changfa, Chief Director of the National Institute of Educational Science (NIES), visited Buffalo State November 26–28, 2012. At a business meeting with Buffalo State administrators, three major projects for collaboration were reviewed and discussed. The NIES requested the development of a Tech-Ed certificate program for Chinese schoolteachers. They are planning to come to Buffalo State for two to three weeks in the summer to participate in non-credit courses taught by Buffalo State faculty. They also intend to send schoolteachers to Buffalo State to participate in our special Tech-Ed Master's Program. Finally, they are planning to send about 40 high school students in April 2013 to visit our local high schools as well as some major universities on the East Coast.

Visiting Scholars Attended the ACPSS Conference at Pittsburgh University

The 18th ACPSS (Association of Chinese Professors of Social Sciences) International Conference was successfully held at the University of Pittsburgh from October 5–7, 2012, thanks in great deal to co-sponsorship and generous support of the East Asian Library and the Asian Studies Center of the University of Pittsburgh. The United Societies of China Studies (USCS) also



On Their Way to the ACPSS Conference in Pittsburgh.

joined the event in partnership with ACPSS. This year's conference, on "Modernity and Cultural Development: the Changing China in a Globalized and Digitized World," attracted about 80 participants from the U.S., China, and other regions of the world.

At the reception dinner following the opening ceremony, Dr. Thomas Rawski, Professor of Economics and History at the University of Pittsburgh, delivered the keynote speech entitled "Why Didn't China's Boom Begin in the 1870s Rather Than in the 1970s?" Toward the end of the reception, all participants enjoyed a wonderful performance by a folk music band from Lijiang in Yunnan Province, China.

This year's meeting was well received by all participants as the program provided over twenty research paper panels and thematic roundtables for presentation and discussion. Among the most unforgettable features of the conference were an all-you-can-eat seafood buffet on Saturday and a charter-bus tour on hilly roads around the city of Pittsburgh for some stunning nighttime scenes viewed from particularly beautiful vantage points. The meeting was adjourned at noon on Sunday, October, 7.

China Reflection of Ethan Spann, a Buffalo State Graduate, Teaching in Beijing



Ethan Spann in China.

I've lived in China for sixteen months now and I still have trouble finding the right words to explain this vast commu'capitalist society.

After a 40-hour train ride from Beijing, I arrived at a middle school in Yiliang just outside of Kunming in Yunnan Province. I have never felt so welcomed by complete strangers. I've always thought that the best way to experience a new culture is to

experience their food firsthand, and the first 36 hours in my new home would put those words to the test. My welcome dinner consisted of everything from roasted duck brains to goat's blood solidified in vinegar, both cooked in a traditional hot pot. Keeping an open mind and an open palate proved to be wise because everything was delicious.

After I moved to Beijing in February, I realized that the people here are allowed many small freedoms but few big ones. You can drink and smoke anywhere, you can leave litter to be picked up (China has one of the best if not the best recycling systems in the world). There is no such thing as a one-way street. If you drive a luxury car most traffic rules do not apply to you. If you drive a black Audi sedan no traffic rules apply to you (It's the official government endorsed vehicle). You rarely see law enforcement officials doing anything but they are everywhere. Throughout the city there are scattered light posts that pulse red and blue lights reminding you that there are no police here right now, but they aren't

far away. There is no "innocent until proven guilty" if you are arrested. Most interestingly, China has the ability to make it rain. Yes, rain. The WMO (Weather Modification Office) fills anti-aircraft guns with cigarette-sized pieces of silver iodide and shoot them into the sky, forcing the clouds to purge their moisture. It is the fastest way to temporarily clear the air of its pollution. Whenever foreign officials or celebrities come to visit Beijing, you can always tell because the day before sounds like the first level Call of Duty and the following days the sky is a deep beautiful ocean blue like something out of movie. It took a while to get over the several hundred curious stares that I receive on my way to work each day. Somewhere over the Pacific, I had transitioned from fitting in to standing out. What got me over the staring was understanding that the gazes were not in any way malicious but were actually masking smiles. Those smiles belong to some of the most humble, hospitable, and loyal people that I have ever met.

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