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In This Issue:

- I. News from the Director
- II. The Presidential Delegation Visited Three Chinese Universities (College Relations)
- III. Post-Trip Reception in Honor of the Presidential Delegation at Buffalo State (Angelo Conorzozzo)
- IV. Chinese Consul General Visited Buffalo State (Jean Gounard)
- V. Visiting Scholar Discusses The Art of War (William Wiczorek)
- VI. Job Openings in China: Teaching English as a Foreign Language (Paulette Wydro and Liang Guanghai)
- VII. Research Opportunities in China (Jill Norvilitis)
- VIII. About the Logo of CCS (Zhang Jie)

News from the Director

Zhang Jie



The Center for China Studies, since its inception in the Fall of 2000, is getting more and more established, thanks to the support from various administrative offices on campus. Many China related projects are under construction or into action at this moment, as you can read from this current newsletter. We welcome, as always, those who are interested in China studies to contact us with their ideas and new projects.

We have received inquiries from other institutions in the country, especially other campuses

of SUNY about our activities and programs. Provided enough resources and when opportunity arrives, we will consider the establishment of a SUNY wide network on China studies. Please help us connecting all those who are interested in China studies by giving us their names, specialties, addresses, as well as email addresses.

Following three successful academic trips to China in the past three years, which have established and strengthened Buffalo State's relations with three universities in China, the Center for China Studies is organizing a research trip to China. This 10-day visit to China, tentatively scheduled for January 7-17, 2002, will be made by Buffalo State faculty members who have an existing China related research project or solid agenda. The major purpose of the trip is for some of our researchers to meet their collaborators and to look at the facilities at Capital Normal University in Beijing, Xi'an Foreign Language University in Xi'an, and Dalian Medical University in Dalian. Other researchers who have already started their projects in China will take the opportunity to do further work with their Chinese colleagues. The international travel should be covered by each participant's department or grant, and expenses in China will be taken care of by our Chinese hosts. For more information about the academic trip, please contact the Center for China Studies at HB 310 or chinacenter@bscmail.buffalostate.edu or call 878-6328.



The Presidential Delegation Visited Three Chinese Universities

College Relations

President Muriel Howard, Dr. Richard Podemski, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research, Mr. Ted Turkle, Director of the Research Foundation, Dr. William Wieczorek, Director of the Center for Health and Social Research, Mr. Anthony Chase, Assistant to the President, and Dr. Zhang Jie, Director of the Center for China Studies visited the three Chinese universities that have collaborative relations with Buffalo State from April 3 to 10, 2001. During the visit, President Howard signed articulation agreements with the three universities. The agreements promote faculty and student exchanges and cooperative research between Buffalo State and the Chinese institutions.



Preliminary agreements were signed in June 2000, when a 10-person Buffalo State delegation visited each institution in China. The new agreements will lead to "outstanding opportunities for both faculty and students," said Richard Podemski, Dean of Graduate Studies and Research. Several cooperative ventures are already



under way or on the horizon. One current joint research project, funded by the National Institute of Mental Health, is a study of suicide in China and in the West by Zhang Jie, Associate Professor of Sociology, and visiting professor to Dalian Medical University. Dr. William Wieczorek, Director and Research Professor with the Center for Health and Social Research, plans to partner with Chinese scholars to study alcohol consumption and injuries in China and the United States.

Plans are progressing for Chinese scholars to work with Buffalo State through the Great Lakes Center for Environmental



Research and Education, the Center for Development of Human Services, and the Visual Arts Departments. Dean Podemski said the college is hoping to identify additional research projects as well as faculty members interested in serving as advisers for Chinese graduate students.

Post-Trip Reception in Honor of the Presidential Delegation at Buffalo State

Angelo Conorozzo



On April 26, 2001 the Center for China Studies and the Research Foundation sponsored a reception for President Muriel A. Howard to share the experiences of the college's recent delegation to China with the college community.



An exhibit of photographs from both last year's and this year's delegation accompanied the reception for

faculty, staff and students. President Howard spoke about the delegation's visit to Beijing, Dalian, and Xi'an China. She reported that on behalf of the college she signed agreements of cooperation with Capital Normal University in Beijing, Dalian Medical University in Dalian, and Xi'an Foreign Language University.

The large turnout was enthusiastic over Dr. Howard's remarks about opportunities for cooperation between Buffalo State College faculty, staff, and students and the three Chinese academic institutions. This year's delegation solidified the spirit of cooperation between these Chinese universities

and the Buffalo State College community. According to President Howard many opportunities exist for joint teacher and student exchanges as well as unlimited opportunities for joint research projects. The President reinforced this spirit of cooperation by noting "there should be no reason why any faculty, staff, or student at Buffalo State who wants to travel to China on a cooperative program should not be able to."



The Research Foundation and the Center for China Studies wish to thank Associate Professor Lin Xia Jiang of the Fine Arts department who, with the help of his students, mounted the photo exhibit. Also we thank the President and the members of the delegation for their remarks and the possibilities for future cooperative ventures that they brought back from China.

The Chinese Consul General Visited Buffalo State

Jean F. Gounard

As a result of a collaborative effort between the Center for China Studies, the Office of International Student Affairs, and the Asian-American Students Organization, and thanks to a grant from the President's Council for Equity and Diversity, the Honorable Zhang Hongxi, Chinese Consul general of New York, was able to visit Buffalo State on Monday, March 26, 2001.

Not only was he able to facilitate exchanges of ideas between key individuals from our campus and his 10-member delegation at the official luncheon given in his honor by Provost Gary Marotta, but he also took great interest in learning more from Dr. Betty Cappella on Project FLIGHT. He and his colleagues were extremely intrigued by the tour that they were given during the afternoon in the Project FLIGHT book room. Following the tour, the Honorable Zhang Hongxi took part in an official Opening Ceremony of an exceptional Exhibition of photographs of the Beijing Opera that is currently on display in Butler Library.

The capstone of the Chinese Consul General's visit to our campus was his speech on the Chinese economy, "The Growing Economy of China," which he delivered in the Student Union Assembly Hall in the evening. In front of well over 100 students, faculty, staff and community members, and through an interpreter, the Honorable Zhang Hongxi underlined the vibrancy of the new Chinese economy and its positive future as an "oriental miracle" while welcoming and thanking Buffalo State College's commitment to educational ties with China.

Visiting Scholar Discusses The Art of War

William Wieczorek

On February 8th, Mr. Ji Deyuan, a Chinese visiting scholar at the Center for China Studies and the Department of Sociology, presented an overview of *The Art of War* to a standing-room audience in the Classroom Building. A researcher with the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences in Beijing, Mr. Ji is an expert on this classic work on military and other strategies.

孫子兵法



This work is one of the enduring books of human history, dating back to at least 221 B.C. (Spring and Autumn period) and maybe to as early as 722 B.C. (Warring States period).

Mr. Ji reported that the study of *The Art of War* is a major field for Chinese academics with specific research societies and conferences devoted to the book and its author. The broad focus of the book is how to use strategy to achieve your goals, which applies to all walks of life from investment, to interpersonal relationships, to wars between nations. The book owes its continuing popularity to the universality of the strategies and strategic factors it describes.

Mr. Ji provided an overview of the main strategies and points considered by Sun Tzu by using an effective slide program to overcome potential language barriers with the audience. *The Art of War* identifies five factors that must be accurately considered in any battle or negotiation. These five factors are: politics, weather, terrain (geography), commander (leadership), and doctrine (organization). Clearly, *The Art of War* is an intellectually stimulating topic with unlimited applications to all phases of life for both individuals and organizations. Mr. Ji's presentation on *The Art of War* was greatly enjoyed by all present.

Job Openings in China: Teaching English as a Foreign Language

Paulette Wydro and Liang Guanghai

A private school in Shandong, China is hiring 3 to 5 English Teachers. Priorities are given to native speakers of English with TESL degrees or training. The offer is as follows:

- Teach English to grade one through high school level
- All living expenses, room and board
- All food costs and medical insurance covered
- Round-trip tickets from US to China
- Stipend of \$4000 US paid
- 9 months service September 2001 - July 2002

Two teachers have already been contracted to join the school in the coming Fall semester, who are Mr. Hugh Carroll from Niagara University and Mr. Kevin Michael Bliss from Centereach High School respectively. Mr. Hugh Carroll holds a Master's degree in Creative Studies and Mr. Kevin Bliss holds a double degree: Bachelor in Philosophy and Humanities. They will enjoy a variety of benefits from the school such as free international roundtrip airfare, free housing and utilities, free food, a telephone and computer, free internet access, medical coverage and Chinese language lessons. Also monthly salary (RMB3000.00) and overtime pay is included. Additionally, the school provides free schooling for accompanying school age children of teachers as well as traveling fees for Summer and Winter breaks.

The school expects three more teachers and a vice president to join the team. The vice president will receive 1.5 times that of a teacher's salary package.

Research Opportunities in China

Jill Norvilitis

Prior to my trip to China with the Buffalo State College delegation last summer, the extent of my experience with conducting research in China was limited to one project that I had worked on with Zhang Jie. During our stay, we visited several institutions. The first was Capital Normal University in Beijing that is an institution similar to Buffalo State in that it focuses on teacher education but is a comprehensive institution. There the delegation and I met the Vice Director of the Institute of Education Science, Fang Ping. Like me, Fang Ping is a psychologist interested in the well-being of school children. While there, he and I were able to talk about our shared interests. Over the past several months and through many e-mail messages, we have devel-

oped the start of a research plan. Ultimately, we hope to evaluate a school intervention program for children with ADHD in both countries, but first we must compare perceptions of the disorder in the two countries because diagnostic reliability and validity have not been established using western criteria in China. It is exciting to begin this comparative work in completely uncharted territory.



My second project to come out of that trip was actually inspired by observation. Traffic in China is very different than in the West. There are few traffic signals and many cars, bikes, and busses that simply seem to flow together (although not without incident: we saw many fender benders during our stay). This led me to question the presence of driving aggression. This level of apparent chaos in the West would lead to high levels of such aggression, but this was not at all apparent in this collectivist culture. Because Dwight Hennessy of the Psychology Department studies roadway aggression, I saw an opportunity to collaborate with both local and foreign colleagues. Currently, we are preparing for a study of this area this summer with Li Jie, a graduate student at Dalian Medical University, and Jia Shuhua and Jiang Chao, her supervisors. We hope that this is the first of many studies together.

I believe that my experience with research in China is fairly typical. If someone is interested in cross-cultural research, the opportunities are available. Cross-cultural work is a slow process, but a very rewarding one. I am grateful for the door that was opened to me because of my part in the campus delegation. I look forward to continuing collaboration with my new-found colleagues.



About the Logo of CCS

Zhang Jie

Some people have inquired about the origin and implication of the CCS logo, which was designed by a group of artists at Capital Normal University. The three Chinese characters are from left to right “Middle Kingdom Studies” and pronounced as Zhong Guo Xue. Ancient Chinese (of course before Columbus) thought their country was in the middle of the world, thus the name of China in Chinese. We also see the artistic let-

ters of CCS besides the words “Center for China Studies. The logo is composed of two colors: yellow and blue. The color of yellow is regarded as Chinese civilization that originated from the basins of the Yellow River. The blue is the color of the ocean. To Chinese, the western civilization is beyond the blue ocean. The contrast between the two colors resembles the conflict between the yellow and the blue civilizations. The Center for China Studies located at Buffalo State studies China from the western perspectives.

Newsletter by Elaine Polvinen, MFA

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