



# Center for China Studies

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### China Center Moves

The Center for China Studies is now part of the International & Exchange Programs unit of University College and reports to Assistant Dean Lee Ann Grace. Other offices in the unit are International Education, International Learning Styles, International Student Affairs, the International Studies Minor, and Special Programs (which administers the National Student Exchange and other domestic programs).

The new Center for China Studies office is located in South Wing 430.

The Center for China Studies looks forward to fruitful collaboration within the International & Exchange Pro-

grams unit as it promotes the expansion and development of international programs at Buffalo State College.

### China Project Funded for 1 Million by NIH

Dr. Zhang Jie, Director of the Center for China Studies, has been awarded a grant of about one million U.S. dollars from the National Institutes of Health to study the problem of suicide in rural China. This four-year grant will allow Zhang Jie and his selected team of Ameri-



Dr. Zhang Jie talks to faculty and students.

can and Chinese scholars to explore risk factors of suicide among Chinese rural young women and to test a sociological theory of suicide that may be applied generally to other populations in the world.

### Collaborations Established with the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs

In January 2005, representatives from Buffalo State College traveled to China to work out the final details for their recently initiated collaboration effort with members of the Social Policy Research Center of the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs. A signing ceremony was held in China after the details were finalized. The sign-



Buffalo State delegation accepts the China Ministry of Civil Affairs gift.

ing ceremony included members of the Buffalo State delegation and members of the Ministry of Civil Affairs. Buffalo State representatives included Dr. Christopher B. Aviles and Ellen Kennedy (Social Work Department), Ted Turkle (Director-Research Foundation), Stephanie Zuckerman-Aviles (Director-Career Development Center), Dr. Zhang (Director of the Center for China Studies), and Dr. Lin Gordon (Director- Academic Service Center, University of Delaware). Ministry of Civil Affairs representatives included Dr. Wang Qiyang, Mr. Zhu Yong, and Mr. Liu Genguang, Director and Deputy Directors of the Social Policy Research Center of the Chinese Ministry of Civil Affairs.

Mr. Zhu Yong took the Buffalo State delegation to several Chinese social welfare agencies in Beijing, Hainan Island, and Shanghai. The agency visits helped give the delegation a vivid picture of the comprehensive services that the Ministry of Civil Affairs provides to the Chinese people. The agency visits included an inpatient psychiatric hospital, community health clinic, community services agency, neighborhood community center, nursing home, day care center, and a foreign language institute. Members of the Buffalo State delegation were



The Delegation in Hainan.

impressed with the comprehensiveness of the agencies and with the services the agencies deliver to the Chinese communities.



Buffalo State delegation and members of the Ministry of Civil Affairs.

The next step in the collaboration is for a delegation from the Ministry of Civil Affairs to visit Buffalo State to study the structure of U.S. social welfare services. Patrick Dexter (Chair- Social Work), Dr. Christopher B. Aviles, and Professor Ellen Kennedy will conduct workshops on theoretical models of social welfare and arrange for the Chinese delegation to visit public, private, and non-profit agencies in Western NY that serve the poor, elderly, children, homeless, the hungry and mentally ill. The Chinese delegation is planning to visit Buffalo State in the late summer of 2005.

### **Culture Show: 100 Years of China through Fashions**

The “100 years of China: A Cultural Show with Chinese Fashions” was a large scale interdisciplinary





project that involved participants from Buffalo State College, the University at Buffalo, the Western New York community, and beyond. The well-attended, long awaited event was held April 19 at 12:15 P.M. at the Warren Enters Theater in Upton Hall.



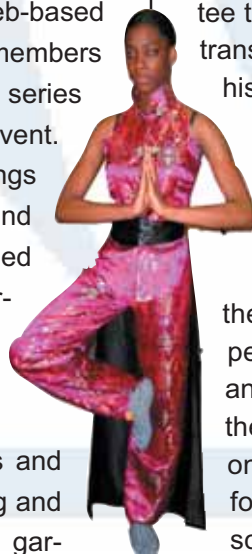
The production of this show was the focus of a special project class, FTT495: China Fashion Show, developed for students by Professor Elaine Polvinen and Dr. Liza Abraham. The main purpose of the course was to learn how to produce a fashion show with a brief introduction to historical trends in Chinese fashion. The twenty-one students enrolled in the class learned and experienced first hand how to plan, develop, produce, and merchandise a major fashion media event in collaboration with a hospitality student team.

At the start of the spring semester, students in the class were introduced to the history of Chinese fashion



from selected web sites. The continual communication that this project required was ideal for the web-based course format. Class members were required to perform a series of tasks working up to the event. Selected assigned readings were converted to audio and PDF file format and uploaded to the course site to familiarize students with Chinese fashion and culture.

Students formed the following committees and elected a group leader for each: advertising and promotion, commentary, donations, food, gar-



ment organization, makeup and hair, models, music and production, and security. Students engaged in continual communication via class and private group discussion boards on Blackboard, as well as through individual e-mail and cell phones.

The designer, Ms. Shan Xiaoyan (Yanyan) visited Buffalo State College several weeks before the show to present reference materials to the students for makeup and historical music selections.



Yanyan preparing garments for the show.

She also presented the students with information about the historical periods she identified as inspirations for the modern garments she designed for the show. Ten



of the eleven scenes in the show represented modern garments inspired by past periods of history. Only the first scene, from the Qing dynasty, had reproductions of traditional Chinese garments. Professor Michael Lazich from the Department of History worked with the commentary committee to develop a smooth flowing Chinese to English translation of the show's commentary and clarify the historical details of the various scenes.

Yanyan and the students coordinated with ten professional beauticians from the Continental School of Beauty Culture for the hair and make up. During the week before the show, Yanyan personally fitted and worked with the thirty models on choreography for the individual scenes.



Model having make up applied.

Students organized a raffle that raised \$400.00 for the Center for China Studies in the fifteen minutes before the show started. They arranged to have twenty-eight raffle prizes of various goods and services donated for the



Steve Burgeson with a student at the reception.

event by the WNY community. Nine Hospitality students under the direction of Steve Burgeson created the Chinese cuisine presentation. The Hospitality students did a magnificent job of preparing, presenting and serving a selection of Chinese entrees. The line did not end until all the prepared items were dished out! That is a sure sign of a successful presentation.



Asian Students Association presenting the Fan Dance.

The fashion show played to a packed theater. The exceptionally diverse audience comprised of old, young, students, faculty, staff, administrators, members of the WNY community, and UB instructors and students truly enjoyed the entertaining production. The voice of the commentary was Professor Janet Kaye from Communication. The Dean of University College, Dr. Janet Ramsey, presented the opening remarks. A last minute (but delightful) addition to the event was a Chinese Fan Dance presented by the Asian Students Association just before the show started. Feedback regarding this project that involved diverse groups off and on campus has been very positive. The Center for China Studies is most grateful to all those who participated in this diverse and entertaining project.

## Faculty Ready to Teach in Xi'an

As part of the BSC international scholar exchange program, Dr. Virginia Grabiner, Chair of the Department of Sociology, and Dr. Eugene Grabiner, Professor of Sociology at Erie Community College, are scheduled to teach at Xi'an International Studies University from mid May through the end of July 2005. Among the major topics they plan to teach are American Popular Culture and the U.S. Constitution. Each will present a series of lectures. Virginia will focus on Popular American Culture. She has decided to introduce this topic by showing and analyzing the classical American film "The Wizard of Oz." She also intends to offer presentations on American slang, American popular music, and the translation of street, store, and public signs into colloquial English. Gene will lecture on the American Constitution, natural law theory, and IQ testing. It is hoped that there will be something for everyone. Students should enjoy the popular culture series and more experienced scholars should enjoy



The Grabiners and their daughter Nadia.

the theoretical and more abstract subjects presented. Let us wish Virginia and Gene the best of luck as we eagerly await news of their exciting experience this summer.

## Chinese New Year Performance by Beijing Overseas Association

During the Chinese New Year festival of 2005, the Beijing Overseas Chinese Association sent a performing troupe to Buffalo to celebrate the joyful holiday with the local Chinese-American community and the general public. The Center for China Studies acted as a major organizer and sponsor for this entertaining cultural event. The show was held in the auditorium of Sweet Home High School on Friday evening, February 11. The performances consisted primarily





of Chinese singing and dancing, along with some delightfully funny comedy routines. The show was intended to present a view of Chinese culture through the Chinese performing arts, and the successful event attracted a diverse audience from all over Western New York. The Center for China Studies was honored to be a major participant in hosting this event.

### Visiting Scholars on Campus this Semester



NIH fellows from left to right, Song, Xu, and Pan.

This spring semester, three visiting scholars from China have been visiting Buffalo State College. They are all research fellows with Dr. Zhang Jie's research project funded by the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Dr. Song Zhenshao is a social psychologist from Beijing Normal University, Dr. Pan Guowei is an epidemiologist from Liaoning Province Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and Dr. Xu Huilan is professor of social medicine and biostatistics at the Central South University in Changsha, Hunan Province. Their offices are temporarily provided by the Department of Sociology. Please come to visit them!

### Master Bai Gengyan's Solo Exhibit at Buffalo State

Mr. Bai Gengyan, a master of Chinese landscap- ing painting, visited Buffalo State Col- lege and attended the closing ceremony of his solo exhibit in the Upton Gallery on February 11, 2005. As a professor at the Tianjin Fine Arts Academy in China, Mr. Bai's artwork has been displayed in exhibitions all over the world.



Mr. Bai illustrates calligraphy to an audience.



Mr. Bai presents his calligraphy to Buffalo State.

Following the show at Buffalo State College, Mr. Bai continued his trip in the U.S. to New York City, where he presented the same exhibit at the headquarters of the United Nations. Master Bai Gengyan and his team of four were guests of the Center for China Studies.

### Five More Scholars Due to Arrive from Capital Normal for Bilingual Training

This summer Buffalo State will host the seventh session of the bilingual training program with Capital Normal University. Five professors from various departments of Capital Normal University will stay on campus from mid-May through the end of August, auditing classes in their area, meeting their mentors from Buffalo, polishing their English, and establishing



Buffalo State delegation and CNU bilingual scholars in Beijing in January.

new collaborative research ventures with Buffalo State professors. The five scholars are Mr. Deng Yuheng (Chemistry), Ms. Hao Xueting (Fine Arts), Mr. Kong Dezhou (Political Science), Ms. Wang Yanli (Computer Science), and Ms. Yan Xiaofei (Psychology). The Buffalo State and Capital Normal joint program to train Chinese professors to teach their courses in English started in the Fall of 2001, and by the end of the summer sixteen Capital Normal professors will have participated in the program. Please join the Center for China Studies in welcoming the new scholars on campus this summer.

*CCS Newsletter*

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