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The Chinese New Year Luncheon for Resident 3+2 Students



3+2 Students at the Chinese New Year Celebration

As part of the Chinese New Year celebration, a luncheon was held for the current 3+2 students on campus February 18 in the 4th floor conference room of the Classroom Building.

The room was decorated with the Chinese Spring Festival couplets to evoke the joyful atmosphere of the traditional Chinese New Year festival. All students and faculty members involved in the 3+2 Program, as well as visiting scholars from China, were invited to take part in this event.

The luncheon began with welcoming remarks by Dr. Mark Severson, Dean of Natural and Social Sciences, expressing his best wishes for the New Year to everyone attending. Then students from the 3+2 Program, organized by Wang Ziwei and Liu Aijing, prepared some beautiful Chinese-style handmade gifts, while others drew lots for the chance to offer entertaining, impromptu performances. The 3+2 Program at Buffalo State is a special program for Chinese undergraduate students to complete a two-year graduate program at Buffalo State after three years of undergraduate study in China.

This Chinese New Year celebration is held every year for our Chinese students to make them feel at home and provide them with an opportunity to communicate with each other and members of the faculty, thus helping to ease their adjustment to life at Buffalo State. The luncheon lasted for two hours and ended with some final remarks by Dean Severson.

Li Xiumei

The CSSA Holiday Party

More than thirty Chinese students and visiting scholars gathered in room 115 of Bacon Hall from 3 to 9 p.m. on February 20 to make traditional Chinese dumplings and to continue the Chinese New Year celebration. The activity was organized by Moyi Kong, president of CSSA (Chinese Student & Scholar Association), and funded by the Chinese Consulate of the United States.

Each year, the Chinese Consulate provides special support to Chinese students and scholars for their cultural activities, such as Chinese New Year, National Day holiday, Mid-Autumn Festival, etc. Besides making dumplings, all the participants enjoyed their time together watching the Spring Festival gala, playing cards, singing songs, and chatting freely. Such activities are very popular among Chinese students and scholars and play an important role in fostering social interaction and lessening their homesickness.

Buffalo State Receives BUU Students for the 3+2 Program

On February 4, a group of seventeen Chinese students invited to visit Buffalo State from Beijing Union University (BUU) gathered together to attend a luncheon on campus organized for their farewell.

They came to visit Buffalo State for a week as part of an invitation-only event for Chinese students interested in the 3+2 Program. This visit included a campus tour, participation in actual classes taught by a number of Buffalo State faculty, and a Q&A panel discussion and luncheon.



Visiting Students from BUU (left). Dean Johnson talks to BUU students (right).



The CCS Semester Seminar Features Wang Yan and Li Xiumei



Professor Wang Yan at the Seminar

Each semester, the Center for China Studies hosts a seminar presentation at Buffalo State that highlights the interests of our visiting scholars from China. The CCS Spring 2016 Seminar was held on Tuesday, April 12 in Classroom Building B322. The seminar was sponsored by University College and chaired by Dr. Zhang, Director of CCS. Two English professors named Wang Yan and Li Xiumei from Jiangsu University of Science and Technology were invited to offer presentations on Chinese culture. Some Chinese snacks were prepared for those attending. More than one hundred students, including American students and 3+2 Program students, attended the seminar.

Professor Wang Yan, a visiting scholar at Buffalo State, offered a delightful presentation on the eight major cuisines of China, which includes the regional cuisines of Shandong, Guangdong, Sichuan, Hunan, Jiangsu, Zhejiang, Fujian, and Anhui provinces. Since China covers such a large territory and has many different ethnic groups, cuisines from different regions are quite distinctive and reflect each region's geography and cultural history. Professor Wang's presentation identified some of the most popular dishes of each region, and described the essential ingredients, cooking techniques, and the historical and cultural background of the various styles of Chinese cuisine.

Professor Li Xiumei, also a visiting scholar at Buffalo State, offered a presentation on the Chinese Spring Festival, the grandest and most ceremonious Chinese festival with more than 4,000 years of history.

At the farewell luncheon, all the students from BUU talked about their wonderful experience at Buffalo State, and all of them were greatly impressed by the pleasant environment, excellent resources and facilities, and the friendliness of the faculty. At the end of the luncheon, Dr. Scott Johnson, Dean of University College and Associate and VP for Undergraduate and International Education, and Professor Zhang Jie, Director of the Center for China Studies, issued completion certificates to all seventeen students and their chaperone teacher, Professor Gao Hua.

Wang Yan

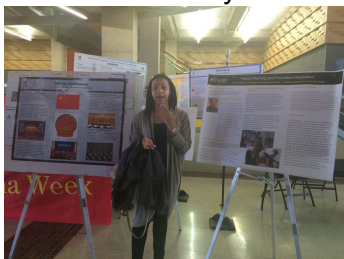
Professor Li's presentation described four aspects of the Spring Festival: its historical origins, the Chinese zodiac, customary practices and activities, and some of the traditional taboos associated with the Spring Festival. She began by noting some of the similarities between the Spring Festival and the traditional Christmas holiday of the West and then offered a vivid and elaborative description of China's fascinating festival culture. The CCS seminars, which are now gaining more and more popularity among our students, aim to provide an interesting forum for presenting various aspects of Chinese culture to the Buffalo State community.

Li Xiumei

China Week 2016

This semester, the Center for China Studies organized another series of activities as part of its annual "China Week" commemoration. The events were scheduled from April 18 to April 22, and Dr. Zhang, along with some students from Buffalo State and all the visiting scholars from China, took part by offering poster presentations, talks on Chinese culture, displays of distinctive Chinese products, and other interesting events.

The poster presentations, organized by Buffalo State students interested in various aspects of Chinese culture, history, and politics, covered topics such as the environment of China, Chinese political policies, the problem of Taiwan, and Chinese cuisine. The presentations attracted the attention of many students and other members of the Buffalo State community.



A student showing her work during China Week (left).
Visiting Scholars sell Chinese merchandise (right).



Several visiting scholars from China presented introductions to Chinese culture, including the different regional artforms and customs of China, such as folk art, opera, paper cutting, embroideries, shadow play, to name a few.

A display of Chinese products held in the Student Union and lasting for the entire week, proved very appealing to the many students, staff, and faculty members that stopped by. The display included distinctively Chinese items such as silk scarfs, embroidered wallets and purses, decorative folding fans, Chinese tea, Beijing opera masks, and other Chinese handicrafts.

"China Week" has proven to be an interesting and significant means to promote cultural exchange and communication. Indeed, it has become, to some extent, a bridge connecting Buffalo and China.

Wang Yan

New Visiting Scholars from China

Another six visiting scholars from China have arrived at Buffalo State to carry out their research during the 2016 spring semester. They are: Fang Le, Wang Yan, Ma Longfei, Yu Xucai, Zhou Xianfeng and Li Xiumei.



Some of our new Visiting Scholars

Fang Le, Ph. D., Section Chief of Division of Comprehensive Intervention, Department of Non-Communicable Disease Control and Prevention, from Zhejiang Province, will undertake research on mental health for half a year under the guidance of Dr. Zhang Jie. He is funded by Zhejiang Provincial Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Wang Yan and Li Xiumei both come from the School of Foreign Languages of Jiangsu University of Science and Technology. They will be here at Buffalo State for a half-year visit. Both of them, majoring in English, are doing their research under the guidance of Dr. Jean Gounard, Director of the International Student Affairs Center, and are funded by the Government of Jiangsu Province.

Ma Longfei also comes from Jiangsu University of Science and Technology for a half-year visit. He will carry out research on community health and sports under the instruction and guidance of Dr. Zhang Jie. He is financially supported by his university, Jiangsu University of Science and Technology.

Yu Xucai and Zhou Xianfeng are both professors from Hunan University of Science and Technology. They are funded by the China Scholarship Council (CSC). They will be here for a whole year, conducting research on education under the guidance Dr. Zhang Jie.

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