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### In This Issue:

- I. The China Scholarship Council to Send Ph.D. Students to Buffalo State
- II. Center Hosts Scholars from China in Spring 2007
- III. Center Sponsors Spring Seminar
- IV. Faculty Collaborate on Electronic Commerce Research
- V. Chinese Artist Exhibits Work
- VI. Buffalo State Welcomes New Staff Member of Chinese Heritage

## The China Scholarship Council to Send Ph.D. Students to Buffalo State

This fall semester, a large group of Chinese scholars will be joining our campus community to study for one year at Buffalo State. They are being supported by the China Scholarship Council, a Chinese government organization. Most of the visiting scholars will be Ph.D. students from the Central University of Finance and Economics. A number of Buffalo State faculty members have offered to serve as their mentors during their stay, including Dr. William Ganley, Dr. Kim Irvine, Dr. Vida Vanchan, Dr. Michael Lazich, Dr. Jill Norvilitis, and Dr. Zhang Jie. We are looking forward to working with these international scholars and expect their visit to generate interesting opportunities for collaborative research.

## Center Hosts Scholars from China in Spring 2007

The Center for China Studies is hosting four scholars from China for spring 2007. Dr. Tang Yong, psychiatrist from Nanjing Brain Hospital, and Dr. Li Jie, epidemiologist from the Central South University School of Public Health, are both research fellows of Dr. Zhang Jie. They are in Buffalo for training for Dr. Zhang's National Institute of Mental Health grant research project in China. Ms. Zhou Li, director of the International Education Exchange Center at Hebei Institute of Vocation and Technology, is supported by the China Scholarship Council and is studying on campus under the guidance of Dr. John Popovich of the Department of Educational Foundations. Ms. Hao Xueli, an artist from Beijing Institute of Fashion Technology, has been invited by our Design Department to teach and share her China experience with our students. Ms. Hao has been working with Professor Richard Ross.



Hao Xueli with Her Students.

## Center Sponsors Spring Seminar

The Center for China Studies spring 2007 seminar was held on Thursday, March 22. The event was co-sponsored by the Dean of University College. This seminar featured presentations by Dr. Li Jie and Dr. Tang Yong, visiting scholars from the Central South University School of Public Health in Changsha, Hunan Province. Both Dr. Li and Dr. Tang are here to receive training for the NIMH funded project directed by Dr. Zhang Jie. The primary aim of this project is to identify correlates and test a strain theory of suicide among Chinese rural young women,



Seminar Speakers Li Jie (left) and Tang Yong (right).

who are at a particularly high risk of suicide. Dr. Li Jie's presentation was entitled "Interviewing Sex Workers for HIV/AIDS Intervention." This presentation explored some of the sensitive challenges faced by researchers in the field when interviewing sex workers. Drawing upon her considerable experience with such work in China, Dr. Li described some of the interpersonal skills and questioning techniques that have helped her to successfully contact and interview Chinese sex workers.

Dr. Tang Yong's presentation, "Suicide Prevention in China: What Should Be Done," compared the suicide rates of some of the world's major countries and analyzed the significance of some of the national and geographical variations in these statistics. He also summarized some of the current theories of suicide in China and explained the 'strain theory' that is the focus of the NIMH project.



Professor Tang Yong in Seminar.

Following the completion of both presentations, Dr. Zhang moderated a general question and answer session during which students and others directed questions to the presenters and offered some relevant comments of their own. This seminar was an excellent opportunity for engaging our college community in yet another China-related research activity taking place at Buffalo State College.

## Faculty Collaborate on Electronic Commerce Research

Dr. William Lin of Buffalo State's Computer Information Systems Department reports that electronic commerce (e-commerce, e-business) has grown very quickly in a short time. Whatever term is used, a working definition encompasses the utilization of the Internet for business and personal transactions. Modern organizations with a web presence often aim to reach far beyond their immediate geographical areas. Common busi-

ness issues such as payment practices, delivery mechanisms, and customer service take on an added layer of complexity when intertwined with the societal, economic, legal, technological, and cultural environments in which participants reside. Current activities and practices in the United States and in China serve as a sharp contrast, providing potential opportunities for further research. First, some numbers:

- US Internet users: approximately 200 million (almost 70% of the population)
- Chinese Internet users: approximately 137 million (about 10% of the population)
- US and China are the top two nations worldwide in the number of Internet users
- Internet users in China are expected to exceed the number in the US by 2008

At this point only a small fraction of the 137 million Chinese Internet users engage in e-commerce. The growing Chinese economy, along with a corresponding rise in the standard of living, leads most analysts to predict that Internet activities will become more diverse. Since the US is the unquestioned leader in the application and utilization of



Professor Bill Lin and his Chinese collaborator Dr. Wang Yanli.

e-commerce, American practices may serve as a reasonable model for other emerging economies.

Dr. Lin's current study is based on data collected from college students at Capital Normal University in Beijing and at Buffalo State. Wang Yanli, a CNU faculty member, coordinated the process in Beijing and gathered responses from about 160 students. The same questionnaire was completed by about 180 students at Buffalo State. The analysis is currently in process. Despite the rapid growth of technology and increasing sophistication of business practices and tools, the Internet (and its subset, e-commerce) is available to only a small fraction of Chinese citizens. Internet users in China tend to be overwhelmingly young, educated, and urban. The vast majority of China's population has yet to derive much benefit from such advancements. The results and discussion emanating from the current study may be of interest to academic researchers, business organizations, social and cultural observers, as well as governmental entities. It is also expected that additional ideas and lines of exploration will arise as the project winds down in the coming months.

## Chinese Artist Exhibits Work

In the fall of 2006, Professor Xueli Hao, an international visiting artist from Beijing's Institute of Fashion Technology, had a retrospective exhibition of her graphic design work in Upton Hall Gallery. The show was comprised of thirty samples, including client commissioned packages, posters, and corporate identity systems. Her work exposed our students to an Asian aesthetic in graphic design. Professor Hao's designs are categorized by a graphic, refined simplicity of form and a bold use of color and texture.

## Buffalo State Welcomes New Staff Member of Chinese Heritage

Zhang Shiwei, assistant manager of networking in Computing & Technology Services at Buffalo State, is an information technology professional with more than ten years of working experience at various institutions and companies, including Vanderbilt University, Amherst FiberOptics, Inc.,

Lake Region Manufacturing, Frontier Information Technologies, Inc., Hamline University, and Northwest Aerospace Training Center. Mr. Zhang holds an MS degree in Telecommunications from St. Mary's University of Minnesota and an MS in Engineering from University of Minnesota. His wife Liu Xianmin and daughter Helen Zhang currently live in Brentwood, Tennessee. His personal interests include public affairs and religious studies.

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