



Center for China Studies

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China Center to Celebrate Tenth Anniversary

The Center for China Studies was established in the fall of 2000, inspired by a summer trip to China for several Buffalo State faculty members and administrators visiting the country for the first time. A board of consultants was established and the first CCS newsletter was published in October 2000. Over the past ten years, the Center has achieved success in promoting student and faculty exchange with China for study and research projects.

On October 6 the Center for China Studies will commemorate its tenth anniversary with special activities to highlight its history and accomplishments. These activities will include a keynote address as well as presentations and exhibits by Buffalo State students and faculty on their China-related projects and achievements. Members of both the campus and local communities will be invited to attend. Further information will be forthcoming.

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Buffalo State Hosts China Week 2010



Counselor Cen Jianjun (3rd from left) and Consul Wang Ying (1st from right) of the Chinese Consulate General in New York meeting with Chinese students on campus during China Week 2010.



Arts and crafts show of China Week 2010.

China Week, an annual event at Buffalo State intended to promote a better understanding of Chinese culture and society, was held April 2–9. Among the activities that marked this week was a lecture titled “Confucius and Confucianism”



Dr Yu giving a talk on Confucianism.

by Dr. Yu Jiyuan, professor of philosophy at the University at Buffalo. A documentary on the opening ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games was also screened, and visiting scholars and Ph.D. students from China helped organize a Chinese arts and crafts show and sale.

Delegation of the Association of Chinese Daoists Visits Buffalo State



Interim Provost Dr. Railey meeting with the Daoist delegation.

A delegation of Chinese Daoists, led by Daoist priest Tang Chengqing, visited Buffalo State April 6–7. Priest Tang is associate president of the Chinese Association of Daoists and a member of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. During the visit, Dr. Kevin Railey, interim provost at Buffalo State, exchanged gifts with the eight members of the delegation. The Daoist priests and nuns exhibited paintings and other art work to Buffalo State students and faculty. Several students received drawings by Priest Tang, who demonstrated his skill to the audience.



Chinese Daoist delegation visiting Buffalo State.



Chinese Daoist delegation visiting Buffalo State.

Arts Project Established with Chinese Collaborators

Since August 2009, Dr. John F. Siskar, a member of the Art Education Department and the Research Foundation liaison to the School of Arts and Humanities, has been in discussion with members of the Art Education Department at Capital Normal University in Beijing to find areas of mutual interest. Dr. Yin Shao Chun, art education professor at CNU, director of the Research and Development Centre of Fine Arts Education in Asia, and chair of the Children's Fine Arts Committee of the China Artists Association has been one of the key individuals working with Dr. Siskar.



Dr. John Siskar giving a talk at CNU.

In October 2009, Dr. Siskar was invited to give a keynote address titled "Art Education in the United States" for the National Normal University Fine Arts Education Teacher Advanced Training Course hosted by CNU's Academy of Fine Arts.

Current plans include having Dr. Yin visit Buffalo State this fall and give a keynote address at the New York State Art Teachers Association conference in Rochester, New York. Two major projects have been identified as the next steps to be explored: developing a one-year master's degree in art education for Chinese scholars and developing a week-long workshop for Chinese "out of school" arts providers. Additional ways of involving Buffalo State students and faculty in this budding partnership are being investigated.

Chinese Collaborators Participate in Environmental Project

Dr. Tang Tao, associate professor in the Department of Geography and Planning, has been conducting collaborative research and teaching with faculty and students of Capital Normal University since 2004. Several research papers have been published based on this collaborative work, including this year's "GIS spatial analysis of population exposure to fine particulate air pollution in Beijing, China" in the Journal of Environmental Geosciences. Previously, he and departmental colleague Professor Stephen Vermette conducted a summer field course for Buffalo State students in China. Last summer, Dr. Tang supervised a Buffalo State undergraduate student in summer field and geographic

information systems analysis in China. The research was supported by a National Science Foundation Undergraduate Research Fellowship. One of Dr. Tang's collaborators, Professor Gong Huili, executive vice president and provost of CNU recently visited Buffalo State, further strengthening the bilateral relations between the two institutions.



Buffalo State College undergraduate student Lei Cai (third from left) conducting air pollution survey in Beijing with CNU graduate students.

Chinese Language Instruction Continues at Buffalo State

Chinese is one of the most rapidly expanding languages globally, not only in formal educational institutions but also in local communities. The influence of China throughout the world is becoming more and more evident in every field. Chinese language and culture are affecting everyone's daily lives in various ways. As Americans develop a better understanding Chinese culture, they become more capable of seeing beyond American ways of doing things and are more open to different, yet equally valid worldviews. The Chinese language program at Buffalo State helps to open up the mystery of China, with 5000 years of history, to American students.

Chinese language courses are offered at three different levels in the Department of Modern and Classical Languages. Each year Buffalo State students participate in the Chinese language study abroad program in China, directed by Dr. Lu Xuehong of the University at Buffalo. Chinese classes enable students to fulfill their foreign language requirement and help them establish successful professional careers in both China and America.

Despite deep budget cuts for the coming year, with the sup-

port the Center for China Studies Buffalo State will be able to continue to offer two courses of Chinese language for those students who have demonstrated so much interest and enthusiasm in learning Chinese. The Center believes that with China's emergence as a world superpower, the Chinese language will become more and more widely used and play an increasingly important role in international affairs.

Buffalo-Niagara Business Project Formed with China

Could there eventually be a vibrant Chinatown in Western New York? That's only one possible outcome of an organization formed to take advantage of the growing outbound Chinese tourism market.

Buffalo State graduate Tom Christy (Economics, '82), along with others inside and outside the local Chinese community, have formed 友谊, or You-Yi, which means "Friendship." The goal is to make a connection between Chinese tourists and the WNY region. The opportunity for increased Chinese tourist visits and the seeds for the formation of You-Yi, grew out of a formal agreement between China and the United States to allow and encourage Chinese citizens to travel outside China.

"The Memo of Understanding (MOU) between the governments of China and the U.S. was signed in June 2008. The clock is ticking. It's a wide-open playing field for American communities to go to China, embrace the Chinese tourist, and say 'we want you; we have an experience you need to see; come visit our community'," Christy said. "This one action could hold the key to a significant rebirth of the WNY region. Just imagine what a vibrant Chinatown would bring by way of economic development."

For more information about 友谊, contact Tom Christy at 716-228-3367 or via email at aim1986@mac.com.

Buffalo State Hosts Visiting Ph.D. Students and Researchers from China

In spring 2010 the Buffalo State campus is hosting five visiting scholars and Ph.D. students from China. Dr. Qiu Huimin is an established psychiatrist at Shandong Center for Mental Health. She is on campus working with Dr. Zhang on his research project supported by the National Institute of Mental Health. Mr. Zhao Dawei, Ms. Zhu Nina, Ms. Guo Guannan, and Ms. Wang Bimiao are Ph.D. stu-

dents from Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing. Financially supported by the China Scholarship Council, these Ph.D. students will spend one year at Buffalo State studying with assigned mentors in their specific fields. The mentors are Dr. Christine Lai for Ms. Guo and Ms. Wang, Dr. Qian Xingwang for Ms. Zhu, and Dr. Zhang Jie



Visiting scholars from China spring 2010.

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