Natural and Social Sciences Delegation Visits China for Recruitment

A Buffalo State delegation led by Mark Severson, dean of the School of Natural and Social Sciences, visited Beijing March 17 – 24. Other members of the delegation were Professors Tao Tang, Geography and Planning; Professor Gregory Wadsworth, Biology; Professor Hongliang Xu, Mathematics; and Professor David Wilson, Mathematics. The delegation met with counterparts at Capital Normal University, where they discussed plans to develop cooperative educational programs such as 2+2 baccalaureate programs and 3+2 baccalaureate/Master’s programs. The delegation also discussed expanding faculty exchange opportunities.

In addition, the delegation met with the College of Education and the College of Arts and Science at Beijing Union University. These were the first meetings between Buffalo State representatives and Beijing Union. Discussions focused on developing relationships that can lead to faculty and student exchanges, with the possibility of developing cooperative educational programs at a later date.

Visiting Scholar Li Hongmei Gives Presentations on Chinese Silk

Li Hongmei, currently a visiting scholar at Buffalo State, is a professor in the Art and Design Department at Beijing Union University. Her involvement in Runway 5.0 is especially beneficial to participating student designers, considering her international influence and skill in fabric arts. Professor Li’s collection includes a unique silk, a product of China Gambiered Canton Gauge, which has been dyed with a special herbal plant juice grown in the Guangdong Province of China. The silk has been covered by silt from the Pearl River Delta region and includes a variety of rich minerals.
It is then exposed to sunlight in the flat grassland. This process is done completely by hand and without the use of chemicals, making it eco-friendly. The process is indicative of not just a forward-thinking design principle, but it is in line with the cultural heritage of her native China, in that it has been sustained for generations. The fabric is different from most we see today, since it is both traditional and modern. Professor Li is excited to share this process and product with students and participants as part of her Runway 5.0 collection and in several presentations she has given on the Buffalo State campus as well as at Genesee Community College.

**China Week 2012 Is Great Success**

The seventh China Week at Buffalo State, organized by the Center for China Studies and the Chinese Student and Scholar Association, was held April 9–13. This annual event on campus is intended to promote a better understanding of Chinese culture and society. A series of China-themed activities were featured during the week, including a lecture on Chinese fabric technology by Li Hongmei, professor of Beijing Union University; a screening of the opening ceremony of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games; and Chinese arts and crafts exhibits and sale by visiting Chinese scholars. The scale of this year’s event was somewhat reduced because of the Campbell Student Union building reconstruction, but all activities attracted the usual interest of many students and faculty.

**Scholarship Offered for Study Abroad in Beijing**

Every summer, Buffalo State students have an opportunity to join the study abroad program in China organized by the Linguistics Department at the University at Buffalo and co-sponsored by Buffalo State. The Center for China Studies supports these students with a scholarship of up to $300 each. The guidelines for applying are as follows:

Eligibility: Students must be matriculated at Buffalo State at the time of the scholarship application. Meritorious candidates will be identified on the basis of:
- GPA of 3.0 and above (must have completed at least one semester at Buffalo State)
- Relevance of overseas study to student’s academic program and career goals
- Service, activities, interests, work experience
- Essay
- Interview

Recipients of the scholarship awards will be expected to contribute to the promotion of the Beijing program for the Office of International Education. Promotion activities may include:
- Assisting with student information meetings and orientations
- Writing articles for The Record
- Participating in dorm or classroom presentations
- Staffing tables in the Student Union.

Application Procedure: To apply, please submit the following:
- China Scholarship Application Form
- Statement of service, activities, interests, work experience (or résumé)
- Essay
- Statement of willingness to provide service to the Office of International Education in promoting the Beijing program. Give us some idea of the contributions you might make in this effort; you need not feel limited to the list above if you have special skills you would like to offer (e.g. graphic design, broadcasting, developing Web pages).

Applications should be submitted by April 1 to: China Scholarship Committee, South Wing 410, Buffalo State, 1300 Elmwood Avenue, Buffalo, NY 14222-1095.
Capital Normal University Professor Visits Buffalo State’s Department of Mathematics

Gao Shuzhu, associate dean and professor in the College of Elementary Education at Capital Normal University, presented two talks for Buffalo State faculty and students. On April 18 he shared some of the historical meanings of Chinese characters and connected these with their mathematical significance and other issues related to their use today. On April 20 he focused on the natural mental structures in children and implications for teaching mathematics.

Dr. Yu Wenyi Develops Trade Platform to Promote U.S. Products in China

Dr. Yu Wenyi, visiting scholar from Beijing University, has made progress in promoting the export to China of products made in the United States via an online shopping platform called Dian Lian Dian (DLD), which has over 1000 full time employees and 500 branches around China. Dr. Yu has set up a website www.DLDexport.com in Buffalo as a bridge platform and purchased commercial property to include office, exhibition, and warehouse space for his Export Bridge Model.

As a renowned expert in cultural industries finance in China, Dr. Yu has been communicating with Western New York artists and trying to develop local cultural industries. His platform for online trading of oil paintings includes innovations, such as the introduction of the share concept of a stock exchange into oil painting investment. The platform will go public by the end of June, and oil paintings from U.S. campuses and studios will be selected to be traded worldwide. Creative ideas will also be traded on the platform, so global investors can buy the rights for such ideas.

In April Dr. Yu presented his business proposals to the White House by letter and received an encouraging response from President Barack Obama, in which the president expressed his appreciation for Dr. Yu’s “thoughtful suggestions.” Dr. Yu’s proposals are aimed at helping to improve the U.S. economy and employment.

Thanks Extended to Dr. Lee Ann Grace

Dr. Lee Ann Grace, director of international education and assistant dean for international and exchange programs, will retire from Buffalo State this year. The Center for China Studies board takes this opportunity to thank her for her contribution to the development and growth of the Center over the past 12 years, as board member, newsletter editor, and supervisor. The Center in the past decade has hosted nearly 100 visiting scholars, graduate students, and undergraduate students from China, and without Dr. Grace’s diligent work on visa paperwork, this would not have been possible.