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East China University of Science and Technology Delegation Visits Buffalo State

The School of Arts and Humanities Departments of Design and Interior Design hosted a delegation from East China University of Science and Technology (ECUST) October 24–26. The delegation of the School of Art, Design and Media at ECUST was comprised of its associate dean, Professor Jiang Xiao Hong, administration secretary, Associate Professor Zhang Qing, and Associate Professor Shang Huifang. The



ECUST Delegation Visits Buffalo State.

highlights of the visit included a presentation by Professor Jiang on traditional Chinese pattern application in modern advertising design and a talk by Professor Shang on the discipline of public art in the School of Art, Design and Media at ECUST. Assistant Professor Bhakti Sharma of Buffalo States Department of Interior Design, presented the delegation with student work in interior design, and Professor Stan Friesen similarly presented student work in communication design. The delegation also participated in a discussion led by Dr. Benjamin Christy, Dean of Arts and Humanities, on possibilities for future collaboration, faculty exchange, and joint research projects, thus opening a new era of cooperation between the two schools. Other Buffalo State officials and faculty members participating in this discussion included the chair of Interior Design, Professor Terry Postero, chair of Design, Professor Robert Wood, vice president and operations manager of the Research Foundation, Mr. Ted Turkle, director of the Center for China Studies, Professor Zhang Jie, Professor Jim Astrella from Design, and Professor Jiang Lin Xia from Fine Arts.

Visiting Scholars Present Seminars

Dr. Wang Su of the China National Institute for Educational Research gave a talk on “Education Reform in China” on October 18; and Dr. Yu Wenyi, professor of economics and finance for the Peking University Center for Cultural Finance Study, offered a presentation on the “Establishment of New York’s Creative Industries Exchange” on November 15. Both



Dr. Yu Wenyi Giving a Talk.

talks attracted interested faculty and students as well as local community members in education and finance.



Dr. Wang Su and Her Mentor Dr. Steve Macho.

Dr. David Wilson Involved with China Studies



Dr. Wilson at a Conference in Sichuan, China.

David Wilson, associate professor of mathematics, experienced a semester of research in Chengdu, China as a visiting scholar at Sichuan Normal University this past February through June. He examined teaching and learning mathematics at the elementary school level with a focus on grades 1, 3, and 4. Both qualitative and quantitative data were collected and included observations of teaching and teacher meetings, interviews with teachers and administrators, survey responses from grade 4 students and teachers, and performance data on grade 4 assessment items from approximately 375 students. Preliminary analyses of the data identified several aspects of school organization and practice as contributing factors that lead to high-quality teaching and learning environments and, consequently, high levels of student achievement. Specifically, Chinese elementary schools have subject area teachers beginning in the first grade. Mathematics teachers focus on improving their

teaching throughout the school year through weekly meetings and “public lessons” where colleagues and other professionals observe a teacher present a lesson, share reflections on the lesson, and learn from experienced “master teachers” who help deepen pedagogical and content knowledge. The use of a curriculum that is coherent, focused, and continually revised and updated to incorporate ideas for improvement also has an important role in improving the quality of teaching.

A second outcome of Dr. Wilson’s work in China has been to connect with faculty and graduate students at Capital Normal University in Beijing. During the fall 2011 semester Li Ting Song, a graduate student in elementary mathematics education, has been a visiting scholar at Buffalo State. In addition to collaborating with Dr. Wilson, she is studying undergraduate elementary mathematics teacher preparation, observing classes at Smallwood Elementary School in Amherst, and investigating innovative American curricula. Ms. Song hopes to study for her Ph.D. next year in the United States. Her advising professor, Dr. Shu Zhu Gao, will visit Buffalo State in April 2012. He will present several talks for mathematics education students and faculty as well as co-present with Dr. Wilson at the research session of the National Council of Teachers of Mathematics annual meeting in Philadelphia. It is hoped that this collaboration among faculty and students will continue with Buffalo State students and faculty traveling to Capital Normal in the coming year.

Dr. Lai to Lead Winter Study Abroad Program in Beijing



Dr. Lai and Students in Beijing.

Dr. Christine Lai is preparing eleven students for a two week Beijing Study Program in January 2012. Students will visit Central University of Finance and Economics and attend lectures by Chinese faculty on Chinese language, history, culture, and the Chinese economy. Students will also participate in Chinese company tours, including the Beijing Hyundai plant. Visits to historical and cultural sites such as the Great Wall, Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the

Temple of Heaven are also planned. The program is open to all Buffalo State students regardless of their major. Business students receive credit for an upper level business elective, and students in the Asian Studies Interdisciplinary Minor receive credit toward their program requirements. Students from other majors must consult with their major department chairpersons for information regarding course credit in their programs. This will be the fourth group of students to experience this Beijing program.

China Center Hosts New Visiting Scholars



Visiting Scholars in Fall 2011.

Dr. Yu Wenyi, associate professor at Peking University, is spending one year on campus conducting mathematical research in evaluating cultural items, the biggest challenge in the development of cultural industries. Ms. Li Ziyao, a Ph.D. student from Shandong University School of Public Health, is working with Dr. Zhang Jie for a full year to study and publish with the National Institute of Mental Health sponsored project. Ms. Ma Zhenyu, a junior faculty member at Guangxi Medical University School of Public Health, is sponsored by the China Medical Board and is spending six months at Buffalo State for health research methods training under the guidance of Dr. Zhang Jie. Three additional Chinese Ph.D. students are visiting Buffalo State. Ms. Hong Juan, from Central University of Finance and Economics, is supported by the China Scholarship Council and is studying labor economics. Ms. Jiang Zhuoye is from the University of Science and Technology in Beijing and is studying sociology with Dr. Zhang Jie. Ms. Shen Zhuoqing is from Renmin University in Beijing and is a psychology major. Four Master's students from the Central University of Finance and Economics, Li Li, Tan Jiandan, and Zhang Xiangguang, are also spending six months at Buffalo State with financial support from the Beijing Scholarship Council.

Buffalo State Representative Visits China for Student Recruitment

As one of the opt-in campuses working with the SUNY Global Affairs Office initiative to increase our international student enrollment, Buffalo State sent International Admissions Coordinator Sandra Burnham to China in October. Ms. Burnham traveled to eight cities in China, visiting high schools and attending recruitment fairs. In addition to meeting with students, she spoke with school administrators interested in establishing global partnerships and programs with Buffalo State both at the undergraduate and graduate level. Although the eighteen days in China were a rigorous and ambitious travel schedule, Ms. Burnham reported that she



Sandra Burnham at Gaoxing No. 1 High School.

enjoyed warm Chinese hospitality and learned more about the culture. She looks forward to the positive rewards Buffalo State will gain from this recruitment initiative.

Visiting Scholar Assists in Classes

Jiang Zhuoye, a visiting scholar from University of Science and Technology Beijing and a Ph.D. candidate in sociology, gave a presentation on China and its criminal justice system to undergraduate students in Dr. John Song's Comparative Criminal Justice class November 28.



Visiting Scholar Jiang Zhuoye Presenting in Class.



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