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Professor Elaine Polvinen to be Remembered



Elaine Polvinen

We sadly announce the passing of Professor Elaine Polvinen on October 12, 2015. Professor Polvinen was a founder of the Center for China Studies at Buffalo State and professor of fashion and textile technology.

Professor Polvinen was the producer of the CCS Newsletters over the past 15 years since the inception of the Center for China Studies in 2000. She generously contributed to the growth and healthy development of the Center in many other ways, including monetary donations from her paychecks

institutional collaborations with China, mentoring Chinese students, and hosting visiting scholars from China. For her teaching and research, Elaine was especially engaged with contacts in China, and she was instrumental in a cross-cultural show, *Inspirational Chinese Designs: East and West Interpretations*, which was held at Buffalo State and in Beijing. Her notable achievements and consistent participation have contributed greatly to the success of the CCS.

Professor Polvinen joined the Buffalo State community as a lecturer in the fashion technology program in 1991. She was appointed as an assistant professor in 1993 on the strength of her involvement with students, artistic experience in weaving and wearable art, knowledge of computer software, and industry contacts. She quickly helped to develop two new courses in the fashion technology program and served as faculty adviser for the student Fashion Club. In 1994, she was appointed to the graduate faculty. She was promoted to associate professor in 1997 and to full professor in 2005. A year later, she became coordinator of fashion and textile technology. In 2008, she founded Runway, the department's annual showcase of student-designed fashion.

Before coming to Buffalo State, Prof. Polvinen served as an instructor at the University at Buffalo, Empire State College, and Syracuse University. She earned a bachelor's degree in design from Buffalo State before earning her MFA at the Rochester Institute of Technology. Elaine was a dear friend to all of us. Her amiable presence and contagious laughter will be sadly missed in the China studies community. This is not only a great loss for us, but it is a tremendous loss to the whole campus and SUNY.

The CCS Semester Seminar



Zheng Tao at the Seminar

The CCS 2015 Fall Seminar, hosted by the Center for China Studies, was held on Oct. 15, 2015. Dr. Zhang Jie, Director of the Center for China Studies, invited two professors from Beijing Union University to give talks on the culture of Beijing. Many students, including American and international students, attended the seminar.

Prof. Zheng Tao, who is a native of Beijing, prepared a veritable explosion of cultural information with many well-chosen images of the traditional signals of the local culture of Beijing. Her presentation included life in the hutong, the alleyways and neighborhoods of old Beijing; the traditional artifacts and art forms that have become cultural symbols of Beijing (such as snuff bottles, pinwheels, kites, etc.); and Beijing cuisine, a combination of both imperial dishes and local foods. During her talk, students were encouraged to raise questions and contribute to the general discussion, and small but interesting gifts were given to participants.

Prof. Xia Wenhong has witnessed dramatic changes in Beijing since she came to live in the city fifteen years ago. The social function of people's leisure activities were among the main topics in her talk, while she also focused on the distinctive urban planning of Beijing and some of the major attractions in the city. With the aid of maps and pictures of people's daily life, she helped students form a vivid picture of modern Beijing so they could have a better understanding of both the city and the people.

The seminar aimed to establish a cultural bridge between the East and the West that could arouse young people's interest in getting to know more about one of the largest and most interesting cities in the world.



The CCS Fall Seminar

ZZULI Delegation Visited Campus

A delegation from the Zhengzhou University of Light Industry (ZZULI) were our guests on September 24, 2015. Buffalo State and ZZULI have signed an agreement for student and faculty exchange including the 3+2 program, and it was one of the official visits by the ZZULI administration.

The head of the delegation was ZZULI Vice President Mao Duobin, and the delegation included five other individuals, including the deans of different schools. Buffalo State Provost, Professor Melanie Perreault, attended the formal meeting and the faculty deans participated in the business meetings in the afternoon.

The issues discussed at the meetings included a faculty exchange, student exchange, the improvement of the existing 3+2 programs, and the possibility of a new 2+2 program. We also discussed the opportunity to host a winter camp for the ZZULI students in Buffalo this coming winter.



ZULI Visited Campus

Study Abroad in China Planned

Dr. Tao Tang, Professor of Geography at Buffalo State, will offer “GEG 360: Geography of Asia (CRN#4076)—field trip in China” class in the spring 2016. This course satisfies the Non-Western Civilizations requirement of the Intellectual Foundations Program at Buffalo State. Students taking this class will have the opportunity to travel to China for two weeks. Interested students should contact Dr. Tao Tang at

email: tangt@buffalostate.edu or
telephone: 878-4138 for registration.

A 3+2 Student's Reflections at Buffalo State

Wang Ziwei:

I am a 3+2 program international student coming from the Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing. As a senior student, I am feeling that time virtually flies like a rocket, and in recalling the past three years so many reflections are flooding in my mind.

To be frank, everything about the country seemed utterly different from what I'd experienced before. The university life here is not only a place for us to learn professional knowledge, but also a place for us to develop our comprehensive abilities. Campus

life is really different from what I have experienced at Central University of Finance and Economics; life here is rich and colorful.

Generally speaking, if time being of all things the most precious, wasting time must be most prodigal. Actually, I had more free time in my old school, so I often wasted my time on trifles such as movies and the Internet. However, that's all changed here. There are many clubs and activities that we can take part in training us to learn how to communicate well with others around us. And in study, at the beginning, I am not used to having so many seminars, and there seems to be so much reading. It has been hard to adjust, but now I'm getting satisfaction from my study life. After all, this kind of study enriches my life, broadens my horizons. I don't want to live an empty life.

Last but not least, the most appealing part of all is the creative educational environment. Chinese students believe in holding their teachers and parents to a very high level of achievement and status. But this kind of “authority” is so overpowering so that students cannot develop their ability of envisioning, creativity, and innovation. In China, people always canonized benevolence, righteousness, loyalty and credit as the highest moral criteria. Students are supposed to be meek and submissive, which can cause the creativity of people to be repressed. Under this kind of environment, it is hard for them to think out of the box and realize their own ability to be creative.

However, today, as a Chinese student, I can go off the beaten track and consider things in a more creative environment. This owes much to my teachers' distinctive and creative teaching methods here. All of us know how important a creative environment is for us. We have to learn as much as possible to prepare ourselves to be creative people and behave well in a creative environment.

I am confident that after a semester, I will totally get accustomed to college life and learn how to balance between study and entertainment. As a result, I am able to get used to the small society with an active attitude, creating my own value of life. I believe that studying here is an experience I shall never forget and shall value for the rest of my life.

New Visiting Scholars from China

Five new visiting scholars from China have arrived at Buffalo State to begin their studies in the fall semester 2015: They are Xia Wenhong, Zheng Tao, Liu Xinxia, Guo Peiting and Ba Nengqiang.



Visiting Scholars at the Research Forum

Both Xia Wenhong and Zheng Tao are here for a half-year visit. They are associate professors teaching comprehensive English courses, which include English listening, speaking, reading and writing, at Beijing Union University. They are doing their research under the guidance of Dr. Jean Gounard, Director of the International Student Affairs Office. Both of them are being supported by Beijing Union

Liu Xinxia is here for a one-year visit. She is an associate professor teaching human resources management at Northeast Agriculture University, China. She is doing her research under the guidance of Dr. Zhang Jie. She is being supported by the China Scholarship Council (CSC).

Guo Peiting is a Ph.D. student from Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing, China. He arrived in the fall of 2015 as a short term visiting scholar under Dr. Christine Lai's guidance. His research is sponsored by the Beijing Scholarship Council and focuses on how fiscal policies may help small and medium enterprises.



Xia Wenhong and Zhang Jing at the Research

Ba Nengqiang arrived in the fall of 2015 for one-year of study at Buffalo State. He is an associate professor teaching philosophy at Capital Normal University and is chief editor of the Educational Publishing Center in People's Publishing House. He is doing his research under the guidance of Dr. Zhang Jie.

On October 29, the 16th Faculty/Staff Research and Creativity Fall Forum was held in Houston Gym at Buffalo State. Dr. Zhang and the visiting scholars in the Center for China Studies participated in this conference by offering seven poster presentations. This is an annual presentation of various research projects by visiting scholars from China. Dr. Zhang presented a study on suicide rates among Chinese rural young adults. Yang Fangru, a visiting scholar from Xiangya Hospital, presented a study on Chinese physicians' awareness and attitudes towards mental disorder and mental patients. Zheng Tao presented a study on the use of 'flipped classroom' in TESOL. Xia Wenhong presented a study on constructing an English teaching and learning model based on CMOOCs. Guo Peiting presented a study on loan loss provisioning cyclical patterns and determinants of Chinese banks. Liu Xinxia presented a study about migration patterns in the process of rural urbanization. Zhou Jinzhang, a visiting scholar from Beijing Normal University, presented a study on the developmental trajectories of deviant behaviors among adolescents in Beijing. These research projects attracted the interest of many professors and students and greatly helped the Buffalo State community understand contemporary China in several different areas.