Mid-Term Update

Already over halfway through the semester, the students of the fall term are quite comfortable in their surroundings, dealing with the Chinese culture, and becoming more local than the staff themselves! The Center has transitioned into the second half by bringing students on a cultural excursion to nearby historical and cultural sites, offering new courses including Organized Crime, Human Trafficking, and Global Business, and welcoming several university delegations. Over the next month, we will offer several more cultural activities and sessions on student development. We hope the students and faculty take full advantage of their remaining time in Chengdu and China.

Chengdu’s Top 10 Rankings

*Business Travel* magazine recently released the latest “most livable cities” rankings that included cities such as Cape Town, South Africa, Amsterdam, Netherlands, and Montreal, Canada. Likewise, *Forbes* magazine also published its list of the fastest growing cities in the next ten years. At the top of both lists sits Chengdu, China.

These rankings should come as no surprise as Chengdu hosts 190 Fortune 500 companies, has two working subway lines with eight more either under construction or in planning over the next 30 years, uniquely blends historical and modern Chinese culture, and is home of delicious food and beautiful nearby scenery.

To read the entire article, please click HERE (Chinese only).
October/November Events

Feel October 1st

To celebrate the Chinese National Holiday and in a truly great escape of the busy bustle of everyday life in the city, the Chengdu American Center for Study Abroad was honored to be invited by Director Li Jicheng of Hengping Law Firm and his friends to participate in a day of cultural activities in Chengdu’s nearby suburban district of Wenjiang where we spent the day eating delicious meals at a quaint farming house situated on several acres of land and were greeted by fresh clean air and beautiful fields of flowers, plants and trees.

For more of the story, follow this link: http://blog.gmeochina.com/?p=1082.

Cultural Excursion

At the end of October, the Center took students on a three-day cultural excursion to the Dujiangyan Irrigation System, Leshan Giant Buddha, and Huanglongxi Ancient Town. Not only were students able to learn about the historical significance of UNESCO World Heritage Sites and Chinese traditions, but they also had the opportunity to buy souvenirs, try tasty Sichuan snacks, and even relax in a local hot spring!

Students and faculty pose with members from Sichuan Equity Law Firm and the host family of Wenjiang District.

Lena Chhay (DU), Caitlin Gilmore (FDU), Brittany Weatherbee (NU) and Morgan Maurer (DU) take a picture in front of the Leshan Giant Buddha.

Students and faculty learn how food is cooked in the countryside.

Jessica Coke (NJCU) and Alaina Thorne (FDU) take a picture with another visitor of Leshan Buddha.
Comparative Criminal Justice Seminar

On Thursday evening, October 23rd, 2014, the Chengdu American Center for Study Abroad and Sichuan Equity Law Firm co-hosted the Comparative Criminal Justice Seminar at the Chengdu American Center for Study Abroad. The idea was initiated by Kirk Nixon, professor of criminal justice at the Center, and his desire to bring local members of the law community to speak about China’s criminal justice framework, and then later established and coordinated by Director Jingyu Wang of the Chengdu American Center for Study Abroad and Director Li Jicheng of Sichuan Equity Law Firm. The objective of this seminar was to provide a general overview, as well as an exchange of knowledge, of the criminal justice practices in the U.S. and China.

Student Comments about Courses at the Center

• “The course content is very interesting. I actually enjoy learning Mandarin, but it is challenging. The books also do break the material down very well.”

• “Very interesting and engaging. Every class I learn something new, no matter what the topic is.”

• “Excellent! It is a shame that the class was so short and not full semester, to learn further information in greater detail. Excellent teacher!”

For more information about the Chengdu American Center for Study Abroad course offerings as well as g-MEO’s Direct Enrollment Program, please visit g-MEO’s Study Abroad Program Management System HERE.
Delegation Visits

Carroll University Visit
On October 15th, a delegation from Carroll University that included Ms. Katherine Hammett, Director of International Education, Dr. Charles Byler, Dean of Humanities and Social Sciences and Dr. Jane Hopp, Dean of Natural Sciences and Health Sciences, came to visit the Center with the purpose of continuing the ongoing discussion of partnership and program development.

Dr. Katherine Dunsmore Visit
During the week of October 13th – 17th, 2014, Dr. Katherine Dunsmore of Fairleigh Dickinson University visited Chengdu and the Chengdu American Center for Study Abroad. Her main purpose was to teach three sections of the online Intercultural Communications course face-to-face while also interacting with her students on a one-on-one basis by holding office hours throughout the week. Dr. Dunsmore also led a brief session for all the Center’s students on the study abroad experience as it relates to intercultural communication. She listened to examples of students’ experiences in daily life and their internships, and then helped analyze the situations by describing, interpreting, and evaluating their observations.

Dr. Robert Edwards Welcome
Although it was sad to see Professor Kirk Nixon leave after the first two months, the Center is excited to welcome once again Dr. Robert Edwards. Dr. Edwards taught with the Center last spring and will be teaching two courses this fall: Organized Crime and Criminal Justice Ethics.

Fairleigh Dickinson University Visit
During one of her recruitment tours in China, Ms. Barbara Heissenbuttel, Director of International Admissions at Fairleigh Dickinson University, came to visit our Center on November 3rd. It was a pleasure to speak with Ms. Heissenbuttel about future developments between g-MEO and FDU, especially in relation to international student recruitment.

Dr. Katherine Dunsmore sits down with Morgan Maurer (DU) to discuss topics in the Intercultural Communications course.

Dr. Dunsmore leads a discussion about the study abroad experience and how to utilize the unique opportunity to the fullest extent.