

# ORIENTATION

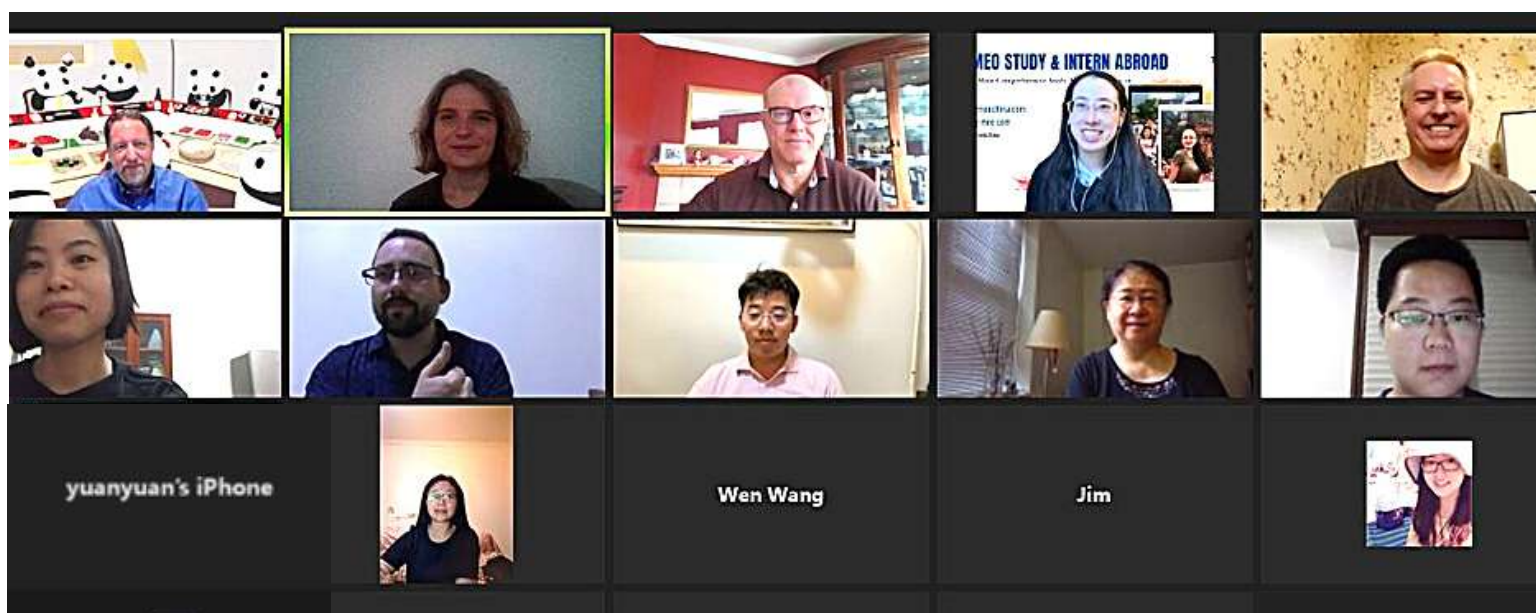
## Chengdu American Center

### G-MEO 2021 Alternative Fall Semester

This fall, G-MEO's Chengdu American Center for Study Abroad has welcomed sixty-six Chinese international students from five US universities: Fairleigh Dickinson University, American University, Norwich University, Stevens Institute of Technology, and University of Denver. Both in-person and online classes covering topics in Business, STEM, Humanities, and Internship are available.



*Welcome from G-PANDA!*



*Greetings to our old and new faculty members!*

### First Faculty Meeting

The first faculty meeting was held a week before the start of the Fall semester. At the meeting, G-MEO COO Dr. Sherry Sun gave an overview of G-MEO's alternative semesters/programs after the outbreak of COVID-19, introduced the upcoming Fall semester, and welcomed all the returning and new faculty. Then Dr. Jason Scorza, Vice Provost for International Affairs at Fairleigh Dickinson University, gave the keynote speech, which was dedicated the idea of bringing enthusiasm to what we are doing and sharing that enthusiasm and love with our students. Our new faculty members also got to introduce themselves at the meeting.



*Students signing in*

### Orientation Day

On September 4th, the Center hosted on-site orientation for the 2021 Alternative Fall Semester. The G-MEO staff team, faculty representatives, students, and distinguished guests attended the orientation. The Center's Director Ms. Sara Luo gave a welcome speech and introduced G-MEO's Chengdu team. Presentations on program policies and expectations were given during the academic session by Dr. Andy Guth.



## Orientation Keynote Speeches

At orientation, we also had two honored guests: G-MEO founder and CEO Dr. David Chang, and Ms. Min Fan, Executive Director of the United States Heartland Association. Dr. Chang gave a live virtual speech to welcome the students joining such a special program where they can have face-to-face classes in a healthy and protective environment, make life-long friends, and enjoy a brand new experience in Chengdu. Dr. Chang also noted the importance of being adaptive and flexible to cope with the challenges and opportunities they meet in their lifepaths. Ms. Fan shared with the students her study abroad experiences as a Chinese international student in the U.S. thirty years ago. She also encouraged our students to take every opportunity to become a well-rounded person.



*Dr. David Chang meeting with the students on Zoom*



*Ms. Min Fan giving a keynote speech at orientation*



*G-MEO's Chengdu Team*



*Prof. Barnabas Seyler of World Food and Culture class*

## Faculty Team

This Fall, we have a team of fourteen faculty members teaching twenty courses. The faculty representatives introduced themselves at the on-site orientation and those who could attend also sent their greetings through video recordings. The faculty team is a great asset of our program. We look forward to a wonderful and fruitful semester with their efforts and contributions.





## Daily Life Session

Along with in-person classes, a series of fun and interesting events are also waiting for the students throughout the semester, including seminars, cultural trips, and other exciting activities. Health and safety were emphasized. The students received other information about available resources at the program site and tips on exploring Chengdu as well.



*Picking out the best drawings!*



*Focusing on their drawing task!*

## Icebreaker Game

The last item of the orientation schedule was an icebreaker game! We planned a couple of interesting activities for students to relax and have fun. In these games, the students were asked to memorize other students' names, do quick and creative drawings, and pass on facial expressions as a team. Small gifts were awarded to the winning teams! These games not only provide opportunities for students to know more about each other but also help them develop trust and support for their team members.

*Passing on facial expressions*



## Student Voice

"Hello, I am a student from Norwich University, Vermont, USA. Why did I choose to participate in the G-MEO program? To be honest, I was deciding between Chengdu and Shanghai for a long time, but I finally came to Chengdu. This is because the cultural history and gastronomic traditions here are even better. For the Chengdu G-MEO program, I have a lot to look forward to, because both this city and this program have given me so many surprises, far exceeding my expectations. Here, I tasted delicious food, appreciated culture, learned about rich history, and most importantly, I met a group of friends from all over the world. In China, there is an old saying, “少不入川，老不出蜀。” (Don't come to Sichuan when you're young because there are too many temptations here that will wear down your ambition; don't leave Sichuan when you are old because this is the land of paradise, a heaven on earth.) Thanks to G-MEO for providing this opportunity, allowing me to meet interesting friends, to encounter this romantic city, and to live in the best moment. Woohoo!"

**--Zenghui Zhang, Computer Science Information Assurance major, Senior, Norwich University**



## Hot Pot Welcome Dinner

During the evening on orientation day, the students gathered at a famous local hot pot restaurant to enjoy some authentic Chengdu hot pot. As most of our students come from other provinces and cities outside of Chengdu, and eating hot pot is always on the top of the to-do list if you are new here. The students really got to experience how spicy the food here is even if they just ordered slightly spicy ones. Everyone had a great time eating and socializing.



*Welcome to the G-MEO 2021 Fall Semester!*

## Student Voice

"Because of the pandemic, I came back to China, and because of this opportunity I came to G-MEO and Chengdu. Chengdu, a city with the same pronunciation as my name, is full of vitality and happiness. During my two and a half days of study and life with G-MEO, the professors and students here are friendly and enthusiastic. They are always ready to help with all their enthusiasm. During the orientation, I also met many old friends and new friends, which made me feel at home here. The most important thing was that it provides us with a face-to-face learning atmosphere and a platform for communication. I hope that in the following days, I can make more new friends, have fun together, and learn more about Ba Shu culture. As a student major in mass media, I will also help to promote our ancient Chinese civilization and Ba Shu culture overseas, so that more people can see China and understand Chengdu. I also hope everything and everyone in G-MEO will carry on smoothly."

**--Du Cheng, Communication Studies major, Junior, American University**



*Hot Pot Welcome Dinner!*



## Student Voice

"My teacher introduced the G-MEO program to me. At first, I just wanted to earn some credits. I couldn't go on study abroad because of the pandemic. Later, I found that people here are friendly and the learning environment is very harmonious. As a local of Chengdu, I could share Chengdu cuisine with my classmates, and I feel very happy about that. I also made a friend from this program. He is from Stevens Institute of Technology, which is also in New Jersey and next to my school. We have agreed to fly back and rent a house together. I feel very grateful to attend this program. It has made my life rich and colorful. I don't feel lonely anymore."

**--Haiyang Jiang, Business Administration major, Freshman, Fairleigh Dickinson University**