Faculty Report Template

Name: Lei Guang and Lilly Cheng

Faculty/Rank: Professor, and Professor Emeritus

Department: Political Science and Asian Studies; Confucius Institute

College: CAL

Office phone: X44428

E mail address: lguang@mail.sdsu.edu

Proposal title: 2010 SDSU CHINA STUDY ABROAD

Country visited: CHINA

Institution visited: EAST CHINA NORMAL UNIVERSITY, FUDAN UNIVERSITY, XIAMEN UNIVERSITY, CAPITAL NORMAL UNIVERSITY, TSINGHUA UNIVERSITY


Number of student participants: 20 STUDENTS

Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded (list titles, countries and dates): None.

Have all required reports been submitted? Yes.

Other funding for this activity available/applied for: Title VI grant to the Chinese Studies and Language program

Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum):

OIP travel funding is used to support Asian Studies’ effort in building SDSU China programs. This is a consolidated grant that Lei Guang applied on behalf of the new Chinese Studies and Language program. Funding is used (1) to subsidize travel by several SDSU faculty members (Lilly Cheng, Hiroko Johnson, and Lois Olson) to teach in the Shanghai summer program, hosted by the East China Normal University, and (2) to subsidize travel by Lei Guang to several universities in China (Xiamen, Fudan, ECNU, Capital Normal and Tsinghua) to set up two additional summer programs for 2011 and make arrangement for a faculty travel/study trip in summer 2011.
A. Shanghai Summer program 2010

Travel report:

I. Opening/overview of intentions/activity

This study abroad program aims to introduce Chinese history, culture and business practices in an exciting three-week program taught in English by SDSU professors and scholars from China. Students earn 3 units toward GE or Asian Studies requirements, or study-abroad credits toward other majors. Students are also encouraged to apply for the SDSU AS Study-abroad scholarship.

The Shanghai Program is administered by the new Chinese Studies and Language Program in Asian Studies, the Confucius Institute, and the College of Extended Studies at SDSU. It is a 3-week program from May 28, 2010 to June 20, 2010. The program provides a mix of lectures by SDSU professors and Chinese scholars, plus field visit to local historical sites, business enterprises and cultural exhibitions. No Chinese language is required.

Shanghai Summer Program features and activities Include:

- Lectures by SDSU professors Lilly Cheng, Hiroko Johnson, and Lois Olson in Chinese history, society and business practices.
- Guest lectures by Chinese scholars on business development and Chinese culture, including lectures on calligraphy, and Taichi.
- All lectures taught in English.
- Visits to 2010 Shanghai World Expo events, forums and exhibitions
- Field visits to business enterprises, historical sites and high-tech parks, including trips to Zhu Jia Jiao, Hangzhou (neighboring city), and optional weekend trip to Beijing
- Hosted by the East China Normal University, one of the best universities in China
- Open to both SDSU students and members of the general community.

SDSU Faculty members who participated in the program include: Dr. Lilly Cheng, Professor Emeritus and Managing Director of Confucius Institute; Dr. Lois Olson, Lecturer in Marketing; Dr. Hiroko Johnson, Professor of Art History.

II. In preparation for the trip abroad

This is the second year we ran the summer program at ECNU in Shanghai. Many details of the program were worked out in the first year. Two of the lectures (Dr. Cheng and Olson) taught during its first year too. Based on feedback from the first year, we made a few changes to the classroom and residence hall. In view of the Shanghai expo, we also added field trips to the Expo. Promotion of the 2010 program started from the end of
2009 and lasted till March 2010. Staff members made short presentations in class, held information sessions, posted fliers, sent emails and social media ads (e.g. Facebook page and Facebook advertisement) in order to reach as wide an audience as possible. Testimonials from previous program participants were also used as an effective way for student recruitment, as well as the recommendation from faculty members to students.

After recruitment, two pre-departure meetings on the campus of SDSU and SDSU-Imperial Valley Campus were held and numerous email announcement and updates were sent to participants and faculty members regarding the pre-departure reading, preparation for the trip and the updated program schedule. Besides the two program faculty members, Dr. Lilly Cheng and Dr. Lois Olson, four guest lecturers from China were also invited to give lectures on Chinese culture, education, social studies, art and business during the program in Shanghai. One staff member, Julia Chang, served as the coordinator responsible for communication with ECNU, arrangement of student life and excursions, and management of course logistics.

III. Upon arrival/specific activity

The program started on 5/28/2010 and finished on 6/20/2010 for 22 days. Participants left the US on 5/28 and arrived in Shanghai on 5/29. They were picked up by the coach arranged by the ECNU to go to the university campus. Participants checked in the International Cultural Exchange Center, a dormitory reserved for International students on ECNU campus. After check-in, participants were led to brief campus tour and a trip to local grocery store. On the next morning, they were invited to an orientation held by ECNU staff and took a campus tour and learned public transportation to get to various places from the campus. After lunch, they were taken to a city tour in Shanghai, visiting the Urban Exhibition Center, People’s Square, Nanjing Road, and the Bund, among other sites. A trip to the local grocery store right outside of the ECNU campus was also arranged for students to purchase essential for their 3-week stay in the International Exchange Center, where most International students stay on the campus of ECNU.

Lectures started on Monday, May 31, with Professor Olson teaching about business strategies and practices in China for the first three days. Her lecture was followed by a pre-arranged excursion to Hangzhou city on June 3rd. Students took a coach to go to Hangzhou which is 3-hours bus ride from Shanghai. After visiting West Lake, the students broke into two groups. One group went hiking with one of the SDSU students who live in Hangzhou, whereas the other group visited a tea house for local delicacy and tea tasting. At night the students visited a night market. Students returned to Shanghai on Friday, while ten students participated in an optional three-day weekend trip to Beijing. While in Beijing, students visited the Forbidden City, Great Wall, Wang-fu-jing, Olympia Park, and enjoyed the local Chinese cuisine - Beijing Roast Duck. Students who stayed behind in Shanghai spent the weekend in visiting World Expo.

In the second week of the course, Professor Lilly Cheng gave lectures and invited guest speakers to lecture on such topics as China’s internet culture, and its education system. This week is also filled with visits to cultural sites (e.g. Yu Garden), cultural events (e.g.
acrobatic show), local schools and a state-owned enterprise (e.g. Baogang Steel). Professor Johnson continued with lectures on Asian and Chinese art on June 11 and 14 (Friday and Monday), and led a guided tour of the Shanghai museum. Students took advantage of weekends to visit more sites such as Zhujiajiao, and the Expo. The course ended with more lectures by Professor Cheng on cross-cultural communication, supplemented by guest lectures on China’s food culture and etiquette, calligraphy and other cultural presentations. Students departed Shanghai on June 20th, and arrived back in the US on the same day.

IV. Conclusion, recommendation, and next step

Through living and studying in China, students have gained a clear understanding about the Chinese culture, society and the history. From the evaluation after the trip, most students consider the trip to have exceeded their expectation. They especially appreciated the interaction with the local people. One suggestion from the participants for the next year’s program is to increase the length of the program and leave more down time for students to arrange their own trips to other cities of China during the program. Even though the program didn’t require participant to know Chinese language, students gained some basic language skills, and some are interested in learning more about the Chinese language after they return. Some business major students wish the program would add more lectures on, or visits to, local businesses and even provide internship after the program is over.

Another matter we need to consider, from sustainability point of view, is if we can use local faculty to staff the course. As we offer more summer courses in China, staffing these courses using our own faculty will become a little difficult. This time around we had to switch instructor because of the last-minute withdrawal by Professor Abalahin. We feel that ECNU is capable of staffing such introductory courses, so local staffing is something we can look into in future.

B. Visits to Chinese Universities in September 2010

In addition to the 2010 Shanghai summer program, Professor Lei Guang also used part of the OIP funding on visits to several Chinese universities in September. The purpose of his visits is (1) to make preliminary arrangements for three summer programs in China in 2011, and (2) to set up sites for a faculty travel-study trip that is mainly supported by the Title VI grant awarded to the Chinese Studies and Language project under Asian Studies.

Professor Lei Guang visited three universities in Shanghai. At ECNU, he met with Associate Director Huang of the Office of International Education and explored the possibility of local staffing for a summer course on China for SDSU students. From Director’s Huang’s introduction, ECNU is fully capable of offering English-instructed courses on China, drawing on recent returnees from overseas universities. It is agreed that Professor Guang will work out a curriculum outline for next summer course and negotiate with ECNU further on its role in staffing and hosting the summer course.
At Fudan University, Professor Guang met with the head of its American Studies Institute to discuss arrangements for an SDSU faculty travel-study trip next summer. Fudan University has agreed to host the group for three days, during which it will arrange at least two workshops for the faculty on such topic as Sino-US relations, and Media and Politics in China.

While at Fudan, Professor Guang also met with the director of its Office of International Studies to thank him for giving out summer scholarships for two SDSU students in the past summer and to explore the likelihood of moving our Shanghai summer program from ECNU to Fudan. Fudan has a strong faculty in humanities, language, and social sciences, and their summer program can potentially benefit SDSU students.

While in Shanghai, Professor Guang also paid a visit to Shanghai University. This university currently has a 2+2 business major program with Sydney Institute of Language and Commerce in Australia. It is interested in exploring a similar collaborative program with an American institution.

Professor Guang’s next stop is Xiamen University, our partner university for the Confucius Institute. He met with the staff members of the International Student and Exchange office, faculty members from political science, sociology, international economics to discuss arrangements for visit by SDSU faculty members. Possible topics would include lectures and field trips focusing on Xiamen as a special economic zone, and rural areas. Professor Guang will be leading a group of eight faculty members from SDSU to visit Xiamen in June 2011.

Professor Guang’s last stop is Beijing where he visited two universities that we currently have, or are planning to hold, summer programs. At Capital Normal, Professor Guang met with the associate Deans of International Student and Exchange and ironed out the details in the MOU for the first summer Chinese language program. At Tsinghua University, Professor Guang visited with the Tsinghua Extension which administers the summer service learning program. SDSU has been sending students to this program in the last five years. Asian Studies hopes to continue this partnership in order to send more of our students there. At Tsinghua, Professor also met with its sociology department chair and discussed arrangements for the faculty delegation visit. A seminar on China’s social problems will be organized in Beijing for the faculty visitors. Beijing is going to be the last stop of the faculty visit.

Above describes the activities the Chinese Studies program has undertaken using the generous faculty grant from the OIP. Such activities benefit SDSU students and faculty directly via an existing summer course, construction of new summer program, and arrangement for faculty development in the area of Chinese studies. We want to thank the OIP for its continuing support of our various international initiatives involving China.