



>>Global Scene

New Opportunities in Educational Exchange, Research and Development with Chinese Institutions

Dean of USF International Affairs 玛丽亚 克鲁麦特 博士 (María Crummett) and Associate Dean for International Programs 安·狄百多 博士 (Ann DeBaldo) visited China last month. Included in the itinerary were visits to top universities such as Peking University and Tsinghua University in Beijing.

"Identifying international internship opportunities for students in rural western China through Peking University's School of Public Health, and learning about the Tsinghua University Poverty Alleviation initiative were two high points of our visit to Beijing!" said Dr. DeBaldo. "We found these two institutions very open to student and faculty exchange, as well as to research collaboration in a variety of fields. Beijing Union University also regularly hosts students studying the Mandarin language and other subjects." Dr. Crummett added, "Partnerships with these institutions in China will certainly have a significant impact on a broad range of international programming at USF -from research and teaching opportunities for our faculty to study abroad, language training, and service learning for our students."



As a participant in a longstanding exchange agreement with Nankai University located in Tianjin [near Beijing], USF also recently welcomed scholar Prof. Liyan Shen, *pictured below, far left*. Recognizing the importance of these active exchanges, Dr. DeBaldo said, "We hope that our recent visit will help to catalyze increased utilization of such existing agreements mutually beneficial to USF faculty and the partnering institution, as well as identify new partners."



Following a visit to the Shandong University of Science and Technology (SUST) in Qingdao further south, Drs. Crummett and DeBaldo visited the Taishan International Cultural College and International Education Center of SUST. Located in Tai'an at the foot of Mount Taishan, one of the sacred mountains in China to which each the emperors historically made pilgrimages to pray for the safety of the Empire, the campus is an artistic blending of ancient with modern and offers charming residences to visiting faculty and students studying the Mandarin language. Dr. DeBaldo commented, "Although there was not enough time to climb the mountain, a visit to an ancient Taoist Temple and a nearby spring that provides clean drinking water all year provided a glimpse into life in Tai'an. I can't imagine a more idyllic place to study." (*The temple is pictured here.*)

Visits to the American Center for Educational Exchange and the Office of U.S. Commercial Service of the U.S. Embassy in Beijing rounded out this highly successful trip. Increased collaborations in educational exchange, research and development with Chinese institutions will go a long way towards the internationalization of USF and USF Health, providing a broader range of opportunities for faculty and students alike. USF is considering applying for a Confucius Institute designation which, if successful, would go a long way towards promotion of activities with Chinese partners.

If you are interested in studying or working in China, or would like more information about this trip, please contact the Office of International Programs at internationalprograms@health.usf.edu