Volume 15, Issue 1, April 2015 vipp.isp.msu.edu

VIPP *e*Newsletter

Professional Development - Cultural Enhancement - Global Awareness





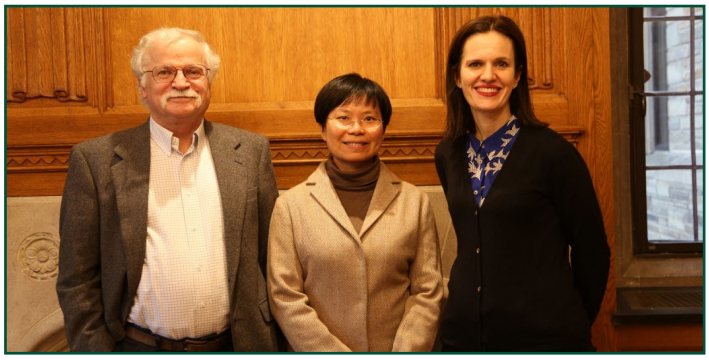

Ying Gan's Speech at Cornell Law School

written by Dr. Ying Gan

Upon the invitation of Cornell Law School, Ying Gan, Professor from East China University of Political Science and Law, VIPP participant, delivered a splendid lecture titled "New China, New Dream--Market Economy Reform and Social Changes, Seen from a Foreign Trade Law Angle" on November 10th in Myron Taylor Hall of Cornell. This was one of the Clarke Colloquium Series presentations sponsored by the Clarke Program in East Asian Law and Culture of the Law School, where faculty and senior graduate students from the law school and other schools of Cornell meet to present and discuss works-in-progress on law and culture in East Asia.

The speech started with the enlightenment of Chinese history, attracted the audience with the question: what impact will be on a country if it adopted the close-door policy or open-door policy? Then Prof. Gan showed the history which gave the pictures and hinted the logical relationship between the opening door policy and social prosperity; and the closing door that leads to decadency of the empire. One has also to prove, from an economist view, that foreign trade is the great engine for economic growth in openness, that is, a country's development of economy largely depends on the development of its external economic relations. Study shows that: there existed a unique and strong cointegration relationship between China's GDP and its foreign trade.

Based on the above, the speech proceeded on the evolvement of China's Foreign Trade Laws and focused on the legal framework of Foreign Trade Law, which is largely shaped by the development of China's involvement into the global economy, and which put emphasis on the obedience of international



VIPP participant Professor Ying Gan (center) with Ziff Professor of Law, Kevin M. Clermont (left) and Professor of Anthropology, Dr. Annelise Riles (right), both at Cornell Law School

agreements that China participated, such as the WTO agreements, United Nation's Convention on Contract for International Sales of Goods, and all major conventions for protection of intellectual properties, while the international customs and practice were also part of the legal system. The leading domestic law that reflects these is the Foreign Trade Law 2004 which codified fundamental principles and policies and established a basic administrative framework. It changed absolutely the status of natural persons in doing foreign trade, cured the problems caused by foreign trade agencies. Ensued this great reform, came the leap of foreign trade, which, together with other provoking elements, led to the changes of the economy, changes of the market, and, last but not the least important, the changes of the society that reflected in Chinese people's life and ways of thinking.

Things seemed to move towards goodness; nevertheless, problems still existed, such as the dilemma between development of foreign trade and protection of environment; frictions concerning intellectual properties protection; and trade frictions and

Yin Gan's Speech at Cornell Law School (cont.)

disputes, etc. The lecturer drew the audience into deep thinking by provoking them to compare all these problems between China and the USA.

From the perspective of the changes in foreign trade and its law and the problems therefore arose, the close link and mutually reinforcing between national openness and prosperity may be seen clearly, this also provides ideas on the path of development in the future: though the road ahead is full of difficulties and obstacles, but it is one right way leading to a better society, leading to the realization of Chinese dream.

The 2-hour-speech made the audience absorb the maximum of the lecturer's ideas and think seriously. Faculty members and students from the law school and other schools, asked various questions and showed great interest in China's reform and opening-up policy and the legal changes taken place. This speech was appraised by Professor Kevin M. Clermont as "Brilliant!". As the famous orator Stephen Lucas said, the most important part of speaking is thinking. The ability to think critically is vital to a world in which personality and image too often substitute for thought and substance.

Journalistic Experience in Michigan

written by Yunyun Liu

Is there any difference between being a journalist in China and in America? It turns out the answer is affirmative.

It is much easier to schedule an interview with a government official in the US, who seemed to be more experienced in dealing with a journalist. They are eager to voice their opinions and their argument is very persuasive. A Chinese equivalent might be hesitant to accept an interview for fear of making mistakes or fooling himself in front of the national audience.



Group Interview with Michael Flanagen, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction-2

During this fall semester, Professor Eric Freedman of School of Journalism arranged three interviews for his students and visiting scholars. Our interviewees included: Michael Flanagan, the state superintendent of public instruction; Karla Swift, President of the Michigan State AFL-CIO (American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations); Mike Hansen, President of the Michigan Community College Association. Flanagan talked about teacher's shortages



VIPP participants, journalists Yunyun Liu, Junmian Zhang and Zhen Tan with Karla Swift (second from right), President of the Michigan AFL-CIO

in the state, charter school oversight and performance and foreign language instructions especially the non-traditional ones like Arabic, Chinese, Korean and so on.

Swift shared with us about her experience of mobilizing local workers to get to the voting booths to vote for someone who can best represent the workers' interests. She also took us for a tour in AFL-CIO office building to show how the union works.

Hansen talked about a growing number of students who are willing to take online courses from community colleges, and the community colleges' new programs which aim at preparing students for "green economy" jobs.

The interviewees were candid and welcoming. It is our hope that Chinese officials could be more open to journalists and work together with journalists to inform our citizens in a more effective way.

Breaking Through the Walls

written by Yunyun Liu

My husband told me this story one day, before I left China for MSU on September 14, 2014:

When his German boss called and asked, "How are you Mr. Wan?" My husband, who had perhaps just drunk a bottle of wine, said this: "VERY GOOD!" His boss sounded extremely surprised, "Very good? Are you sure, Mr. Wan? You sound like an American!"

My husband was confused: Why should "very good" be a problem? And why can't I be very good? His boss then explained, "Well, unlike our American colleagues, our dear Chinese colleagues usually say 'Just so-so,' 'Just fine,' or 'I'm ok'..."

They both laughed -- it's very true that none of their Chinese co-workers ever said "very good" in reply to this simple daily greeting.

After reflecting on this subtle discovery, I couldn't help wondering: Are we so downbeat that even an occasional expression of satisfaction comes as a big surprise to others?

In China, we are a typical middle-class family; and we are a middle-class family even by American standards. We live in a one-million dollar apartment in Beijing; our son goes to a private bilingual kindergarten; we go to movies, theaters and concerts; we stay in five-star hotels during vacations. So why aren't we happy?

Thanks to the visiting scholar program offered by Michigan State University, I was finally granted a respite and I landed in the U.S. In Chinese, America (Meiguo) literally means "beautiful country." But we never think of America as a beautiful country. Through history textbooks and the Hollywood blockbusters, America, to many of us, is synonymous with imperialism, violence, and aggression. My mother was extremely worried when she heard that I was going to study in the US: *Be careful! Americans are dangerous! They have guns! They can shoot whoever they want!*

As a native of Nanjing, whose parents were lucky survivors of the 1937 Nanking Massacre (when invading Japanese troops savagely killed more than 300,000 people in Nanjing), my mother was born to be afraid of guns, and she has passed that fear on to me.

But if my mother's concerns were true, why do Americans appreciate their lives more than we do? Are they irrational? I brought this question with me when I arrived in Spartan Village.

Surprisingly, everyone is so nice. Wherever I go, total strangers will start a conversation with a big smile on their faces -*How are you doing?*- as if we've known each other for quite some time. In China, if we tried to smile and say hi to everyone we met, our face and tongue would be numb by the end of the day. But here in America, on MSU campus in particular, the chances are that we'll run into a hopping squirrel more often than a human being. *Of course the Americans are nice to strangers, I said to myself.*

The second day in Spartan Village was quite frustrating, as I could not get cable news on my newly-bought TV. Three teams of maintenance workers came by, and they concluded that the problem was with the TV.

"Return the TV, and get a new one," they said.

"That's impossible! I've already opened the box; I lost the instruction book and it's been three weeks since I first bought it." In China, if you open the package, it means you take the product, good or bad. You want to return it? Just imagine how much you have to pay for a divorce! To save money, I had bought the cheapest set, totally forgetting lessons learned at home: cheap means bad. Now, I had to pay the price. I hated myself for making such stupid mistake.

After being fretful and upset for three days, I turned for comfort to my Chinese American friend.

"Of course you can return it. You can actually return it even if it's just because you don't like it. You know nothing about consumer protection? It's your right!"

My right?

Living in a culture which appreciates obedience and harmony, I never complain even if I feel like I've been wronged, because I know for sure, no matter how reasonable my case is, I will never win a lawsuit against a big entity or the government. Like many of my fellow countrymen, I always console myself by using the idiom: *Suffering is a blessing in disguise.*

My friend, however, dragged me to Walmart. Without a single question

Breaking Through the Walls (continued)

being asked, I returned the TV, got a full refund, and bought a new one.

With my new Samsung TV connected to the cable, I lay down on my sofa and randomly flicked through the channels, happy and satisfied - life was so beautiful knowing that my individual rights would be respected and protected. All my previous feelings of nervousness disappear in a flash.

So why can't we argue for the same protection back home?

All of a sudden, some lines from Shawshank Redemption struck me: *These walls are funny. First you hate them; then you get used to them. Enough time passes, you get to depend on them. That's institutionalized.*

Are we all victims of institutionalization in our society? Perhaps. Before I came to the U.S., China was all I knew. I am used to Beijing's toxic air and the never-ending traffic. I'm used to swallowing my complaints and never asking questions. I was raised to follow other people's directions and not my own heart. I was taught at a very young age that an individual should always submit his or her own interests to the interests of the group. Talk of 'individual rights' is shameful.

But who can we blame? China opened itself just a little over three decades ago. We are actually new comers in this sophisticated international arena. There are so many lessons that we must learn from the rest of the world.

Change is hard, and it never happens all at once.

But like Andy, the hero in the movie, we can always hope. With more Chinese people like myself going abroad to study and do research, we will bring home the most advanced social, economic and technological knowledge – knowledge that will help us to break through the walls and set us free from institutionalization.

One day, after studying for a month in MSU, I was a little startled to hear myself replying "very good" to the question "how are you doing today?"

It's not just because I want to blend in, I figured. It's because I really am.



Yunyun Liu is Assistant Executive Editor at Beijing Review, China International Publishing Group.

VIPP Law Participant Shares his Experience with VIPP Program

written by Abdulaziz Alhson

My name is Abdulaziz Al-Hson. I have applied to MSU/VIPP which has different courses for many specialties. I contacted the MSU/VIPP to find out what they have for legal studies and as a result, I was offered the Specialized Global Legal Training Program with a focus on International Commercial Law. Furthermore, the courses offered content in the areas of International Trade Law, Legal Research in an International Context, U.S Commercial Law Firm, and Independent Research which caught my attention. The program was six months long divided into two parts- first studying in MSU/VIPP for three months and second practicing in a law firm. There are many interesting and valuable things that I have learned and enjoyed. I have enjoyed the warm welcome from the staff who work there and the activities which have been going on in VIPP. Even more, the valuable things for me were learning the U.S. Legal system and how the law is implemented in USA. I also learned how to research and write in an American Legal System and how to write internal memo to your boss and colleagues. Furthermore, I learned how to read and analyze American and international cases. In the end I have enjoyed the experience with VIPP and I will apply what I have learned there in my work.

VIPP-MOA (China) Pesticide and Pest Management Education Workshop

written by Dr. Xiaoqing Chen

As a top-notch research and teaching institution, Michigan State University has always attracted groups and delegations from all over the world. From March 2 to March 10, 2015, VIPP joined hands with the Ministry of Agriculture of China and held a Pesticide and Pest Management Education Workshop at MSU. Eleven senior researchers and agronomists, who were from various national and provincial Agro-technical Extension and Service Centers and Plant Protection Institutes participated in this workshop.



VIPP workshop participants from Chinese Ministry of Agriculture at MSU Rural Development Laboratory facility

The purpose of this workshop was to provide training and to exchange ideas on topics surrounding pest management, pesticide application, environmental protection, and implementation of alternative techniques and methods. Given the time constraints, a total of 9 lectures had to be packed into the tight schedule of the one-week-long workshop. Outreach Specialist John Stone from the MSU Pesticide Safety Education Program alone gave 5 lectures, with topics covering pesticide application laws, pesticide applicator safety, pesticide application, Integrated Pest Management (IPM), and IPM Implementation. Other contributors included Dr. Michael Chen and Dr. Wayne Jiang from the IR-4 Program, Dr. Scott Swinton from the MSU Department of Agricultural, food, and Resource Economics, and Dr. Joe Cousins, VIPP's longtime faculty. Many topics, such as certification of pesticide applicator and regulations on pesticide registration, drew focused attention of the participants, which in turn gave rise to heated and prolonged discussions.

Besides lectures, VIPP also arranged some field trips and laboratory visits. During the workshop, the participants had visited Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development Laboratory, the lab of MSU IR4, and a pesticide and fertilizer packaging facility of Crop Production Service, a privately owned agricultural service enterprise located in Sunfield, Michigan. The highlight of the workshop was their visit to the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development. In the Department, Director Jamie Clover Adams met with the participants. She not only introduced the great achievements her department has achieved in recent years, but also expressed her anticipation of future trade relations with China.

For decades, MSU has enjoyed a good partnership with the Chinese Ministry of Agriculture. As the leader of this delegation, Youquan Chen, pointed out, a large number of Chinese agricultural researchers and experts have benefited from the variety of academic programs held at MSU. They are certain that with the current workshop turning out to be a great success, the collaboration between MSU and China's agriculture sector will continue.



Workshop participants with Jamie Clover Adams (center), Director of the Michigan Department of Agriculture and Rural Development

After the intense training program here at MSU, the participants left for California Polytechnic State University and took additional 3-day training there.

VIPP Lecture Series: An Endeavor to Spark Participants' Academic Interests

written by Dr. Xiaoqing Chen and Dr. Mina Shin

As an MSU program that boasts the largest number of international visiting professionals on campus, VIPP goes to great lengths to help its participants reach their goals in professional development, cultural enhancement, and global awareness. In Mid-February, VIPP launched its own Lecture Series event as part of the professional development enhancement endeavor for its participants.

Dr. Xiaoqing Chen kicked off the lecture series by presenting a speech entitled Classroom Foreign Language Teaching: A Theoretical Underpinning. Dr. Chen's lecture sought to shed some light on the theoretical backgrounds of a variety of common pedagogical practices in foreign language classrooms. Furthermore, it delved into empirical research on the effectiveness of these classroom practices. By introducing to our participants what has been done so far in this subarea of second language acquisition, the lecture intended to encourage them to explore this area in China's foreign language teaching context.

Given that many language teachers use film texts often in their classrooms, the second lecture in this series: Introduction to Film Analysis for Language Teaching, was also pertinent to foreign language teaching. Dr. Mina Shin provided an introductory overview of the film analysis from narrative to cinematography and editing. From this lecture, the participants acquired a better understanding of film medium itself and explored how they may use film texts more effectively in their teaching.

Positive feedback from VIPP participants indicates that the Lecture Series has been well received. In the future, more lectures will be included and will cover a wider variety of topics and disciplines. In addition, contributors to future lecture series will be not only from VIPP, but other respected MSU academic programs as well.

An Afternoon of Winter Fun

written by Leigh Baker

VIPP participants and their families enjoyed an afternoon of winter fun on Saturday, February 23, 2015. Participants and staff traveled to Burchfield Park, part of the Ingham County park system in Holt, Michigan to ski on over 5 miles of groomed cross country skill trails. Cross country skiing is a very popular past time in Michigan and is an excellent activity to get outside and enjoy winter.

Participants had the opportunity to learn about the equipment needed in skiing. Cross country ski boots are selected based on shoe size and the shoe locks into the base of the ski. Skis have varying lengths and depend on your height and weight. Ski poles help with balance and are used for momentum while on the trails. We learned that they should come up to just below your armpits.

Once outfitted with our gear, we were ready to go! We learned that to effectively ski, gliding one ski at a time as if we were running helped us gain momentum. When approaching a hill, we were told to bend our knees and lean forward. Sometimes that worked, other times we fell in the snow. However, we all enjoyed a beautiful, sunny afternoon! For those that did not wish to ski, Burchfield Park also had a large (and very steep) sledding hill which the children very much enjoyed!

After our skiing adventure, we took time to warm up with hot chocolate and a winter bonfire. Roasting marshmallows over the bon fire to make s'mores warmed us all up and was a nice ending to a wonderful winter day in Michigan.



VIPP participant Changwon Lee enjoys his ski trip experience with his sons at Burchfield Park

Cross Cultural Teaching Exchange (CCTE) Workshop

written by Xuefei Hao



Participants at the Cross Cultural Teaching Exchange Workshop held in Brody Hall on January 28, 2015.

On January 28, 2015 from 4:30 to 6:30 the Cross-cultural teaching Exchange Workshop was held in the Brody Hall, room 175. This workshop on pedagogy in language and literacy education was co-sponsored by the Visiting International Professional Program (VIPP), the Center for Applied Inclusive Teaching & Learning in the Arts and Humanities (CAITLAH) and the Center for Language Teaching Advancement (CeLTA). Around 50 faculty members, teacher educators, higher education researchers participated in the workshop. Scholars from American side came from CAITLAH, CelTA, TESOL, ELC, Writing, Rhetoric, and American Cultures Department, and Teacher Education Department. Chinese scholars from VIPP came from nine Chinese Universities. The purpose of the workshop was threefold: to develop learning collaborations between college teachers from the U.S. and China; to promote the understanding of schooling and learning in different cultures; and to inspire ideas and prepare for the next cross-culture workshop. Dr. Guofang Li presented as keynote speech: "Rethinking the Role of the Language Teacher in HE: Toward a Pedagogy of Cultural Reciprocity in Language and Literacy Education". 12 table leaders led the discussion on the following six topics:

- **Topic One:** Ann Letson; Shaobing Lu. What is critical thinking? How to cultivate it in language & literacy education?
- **Topic Two:** Peter De Costa; Jian Wang. Should language and literacy education be content-based and/or task-based? In what ways might educators conduct English language learning classrooms in a balanced and effective way to reflect these?
- **Topic Three:** Laura Ramm; Yanzhen Ding. How to cope with challenges of teaching large-sized English classrooms effectively & efficiently?
- **Topic Four:** Dongbo Zhang; Junmei Zhang. What are the roles and expectations of teachers and students? How to enhance the relationships (e.g. mutual learning, classroom interactions, feedback) between teachers and students?
- **Topic Five:** Julia E. Kiernan; Chunxia Liu. How to find a balance between all of the language arts (e.g. reading and writing, listening and speaking) as students learn about language and texts?
- **Topic Six:** Joyce Meier; Zhixin Zhang. Language learning & teaching assessment and evaluation

Among the 12 table leaders, five are from VIPP: Jian Wang, Yanzhen Ding, Junmei Zhang, Chunxia Liu, and Zhixin Zhang.

During the workshop, the participants exchanged ideas and understandings about the structure of learning and schooling around the globe. The topics created amazing dialogue that furthered the understanding of the questions the educators had encountered throughout their careers. The two-hour workshop also successfully promoted academic exchange between American scholars and the visiting scholars of VIPP. After the workshop, some VIPP scholars were invited to attend classroom observations in different academic institutes; some were invited as presenters to share how school expectations, structures, and conventions in China shape the learning experiences of Chinese students. In short, it was a very impressive workshop and the next one will be held on April 23, 2015.

Visit to Mason Middle School

written by Xuefei Hao

Sixteen VIPP participants visited Mason Middle School on February 24, 2015, with VIPP program coordinator, Xuefei Hao and Karen Klein from Asian Studies Center. It was a unique opportunity to learn more about the education system in the United States, as many of the participants have TESOL background and are teacher educators in Chinese Universities. The group of scholars were divided amongst 5 classrooms which included Math, Science, World Cultures, Wood Class, and Interior & Fashion Design to observe a class session.

Upon conclusion of classroom observations the group embarked on exciting tour of the school under the guidance of teacher Kathy Hicks and Assistant Principal Ted Berryhill. During the tour the group was able to view actitivites in classrooms such as Band, Technology, English, Choir, PE, Art, and Shop/Woods class. It was very exciting to be able to actively communicate with teachers and students. Each scholar received a gift pen the students made in Shop/Woods class, which was a very generous gesture from the students.

The tour concluded with Principal Mr. Daniel R. McConeghy providing a Question & Answer session, along with a discussion with the group regarding the K-12 education system and teacher professional development. VIPP participants were very appreciative of Principle McConeghy, his colleagues, and the students at Mason Middle school for sharing their time and knowledge.



VIPP participants with Principal Mr. Daniel R. McConeghy in front of the school entrance



VIPP participants in Teacher Kathy Hicks's class



Group discussion with Principal Mr. Daniel R. McConeghy in Robot Lab



VIPP participants in 8th grade Wood classroom with teacher Mr. Bullock

So Blessed to Have You in Our Lives: Spring 2015 Graduation Speech

written by Dr. Junsheng Zhu



Dr. Junsheng Zhu presents his speech at the VIPP Spring 2015 Graduation

Good afternoon, everyone. It is my great honor to express my gratitude and to share my experiences as a visiting scholar at VIPP.

I would like to thank all VIPP staff. Because of your efforts, we had the chance to study and do research at MSU. ***And because of your efforts,*** we could meet VIPP faculty and attend their classes. VIPP tries to connect professional education to the expertise of MSU. To fulfil this mission, you have devised courses centered on language, culture, teaching methodology, research methods and several special topics in economics, law and politics, and more. What's impressed me a lot has been their elaborate preparation of the syllabus, rich assignment reading before class, strict quizzes, and students' active participation.

We are in a small but very nice learning community. Since December 2014, we have got weekly reading materials from Dr. Xiaoqing Chen. As he says, many of us came to MSU to accomplish our academic pursuits, but found English to be a big obstacle in the way. VIPP tried to help us remove this obstacle. Every week we receive several articles carefully selected from different sources, which not only improve our English and benefit our own field of research, but also benefit our communication with another society, culture, people, and nature to understand the world better. And since February 2015, VIPP has hosted its own Lecture Series. Contributing presenters are not only from MSU, but also from among our own participants. I attended the first lecture by Dr. Chen entitled "Classroom Foreign Language Teaching Practice: A Theoretical Underpinning." I really benefited a lot from it. I think that it will help create an atmosphere for academic exchanges in VIPP among multiple disciplines. ***And also because of your efforts,*** we could enjoy our lives more than ever. Almost every week, we got several e-mails from Dr. Xiaoqing Chen, Ms. Xuefei Hao, Ms. Leigh Baker and Mr. Joe. From your messages, we learned about varieties of activities. We were so busy joining all kinds of celebrations, visiting museums, and attending many workshops. From your e-mails, we also got warnings about the winter storm and low temperature and many sweet life enjoyment tips for the cold weather. Through your help, we have been part of MSU and part of East Lansing.

I think other participants must also have got a lot of help from you just like I did. Could I propose a vote of thanks to all staff of VIPP for their great help? Thank you.

I would like to thank all the professors and instructors who taught us. You are from different disciplines. Through your devotion, we were linked with the world-class faculty at MSU. Your courses helped us gain a deeper understanding of our professional fields through achievement of professional development, cultural enhancement and global awareness.

During the Summer Semester of 2014, ***I attended Ms. Jessica Farrar's two classes: English for Meaningful Interaction and Business English.*** With the first class, Ms. Farrar taught us to develop competence in natural conversation through role play and group discussions. Before I took this class, I was tortured by the lack of ability to communicate clearly when I went to the bank for credit card, the Secretary of State for driving license test and especially on the telephone. Ms. Farrar's class gave us a lot of encouragement because of her standard pronunciation, beautiful Michigan accent and considerate speed. Her class on Business English helped us develop fluency, accuracy, and communication skills in order to gain confidence in a variety of English speaking business situations. Even today, it is still a big challenge for me to develop fluency, authenticity, and confidence in using English for meaningful communication. But through her class I realized that the main pursuit to study English is to communicate.

During the Fall Semester 2014, I attended three classes: ***Cross Cultural Business Communication Skills by Dr. Erika Butler, Pedagogy***

Spring 2015 Graduation Speech (cont.)

of University Teaching by Dr. Sonja Wang and Public Speaking by Dr. Susan DeRosa. Dr. Butler tried to help us develop our Cultural Intelligence (CI) and cross cultural communication skills in order to enhance our ability to interact in teams globally. I really appreciated that she helped us to recognize and capitalize on cultural considerations through many interesting illustrations. Dr. Wang aimed to extend the teachers' skills and competencies in supporting student learning. Even though I taught in junior high school for four years and in university for more than 11years, Dr. Wang's class still provided learning and professional development opportunities, which challenged me to question and reflect on my teaching experiences. Besides, Dr. Wang herself is a great encouragement for us since she is also from China, her English is so good. In Dr. DeRosa's class, we had the opportunity to practice speaking skills in every class session. Just as she said in her first class, many people would rather fight a tiger than speak in public. She is so experienced in public speaking and helped us develop confidence to organize our thoughts, research our topic, and get to the point in a speech. With her help, I prepared my presentation for the conference at Cleveland State University. Some friends thought my presentation was quite nice and I owed much to Dr. DeRosa's coaching and evaluation. She also helped me find a professor who has the similar research focus with me. After I drafted this speech, she took much time to help me correct the incorrect words and some grammar mistakes and make it flow more smoothly. If you think any part of my speech today is nice, I will owe much to her contribution.

During the Spring Semester 2015, ***I attended Current Events by Professor Charles S. Matzke and General Research Methodology by Ms. Teresa Svec.*** In Dr. Matzke's class, we learned quite a lot about American political institutions, political process and especially current public policy issues. I was very interested in Dr. Matzke's commentary about the candidates of 2016 American presidential election. And in Ms. Teresa's class, we were introduced to research methodologies used in conducting scholarly research. Apart from her lectures, we practiced developing a research question, creating a research plan, locating materials, and describing research findings in writing. With her permission, I mailed some of the materials to the postgraduates I advised in China to help them learn to do research. Ms. Svec's class helped both me and my students. She also invited another professor to share her teaching and research. She took us to the Library of Michigan, which was a wonderful experience for me.

I think other participants must also have benefited a lot from all the faculty of VIPP and would like to express their gratitude. Could I propose a vote of thanks to all faculty of VIPP for their devotion to us? Thank you.

We have also enjoyed our lives here. We have made many friends. We have got known with many Americans. They are so nice and we felt their love without reason. We also have made friends with our fellow classmates. We helped each other, travelled as a team, and met a lot for sharing of ideas and also of food. ***We have travelled much more than before.*** I have never visited the famous Forbidden City though I have lived in Beijing for more than 14 years. But here I really traveled a lot. Apart from Michigan, I have traveled to the west of America, Buffalo and Florida. We gasped at the wonderful view of Yellowstone and Grand Canyon national parks, felt wonder mingled with awe at the Grand Canyon and Niagara Falls, saw the incomparable beauty of green summer of East Lansing, the colorful fall trip to Northern Michigan and beautiful beaches in Florida.

The past year was the second most beautiful year for me. I said it was "the second" because the first most beautiful year for me was 2003, when I met my wife in the early summer. I said it was "the most beautiful" because you have made the difference to us. Because of you, we had the chances to come here and have new experiences. Because of you, we enjoyed our study and research here. Because of you, we enjoyed our lives here. Because of you, we have had such a fruitful and plentiful harvest! I don't know whether we will meet again in America or China or some other places in the future. But I know we are so blessed that we have had you in our lives. Thank you.

Junsheng Zhu is professor and the Associate Dean of College of Labor Economics, Capital University of Economics and Business, Beijing China. His research focuses on public policy evaluation.

Contact and Giving Information

VIPP Contact

Mailing Address

Visiting International Professional Program
Michigan State University
International Center
427 N. Shaw Lane, Room 1
East Lansing, MI 48824

Office Phone Number

Domestic: (1) 517-423-3663
International: 00-1-517-423-3663

Office Fax Number

Domestic: (1) 517-353-3010
International: 00-1-517-353-3010

Web Address

http://vipp.isp.msu.edu

Email Address

vipp@msu.edu

Giving to VIPP

If you would like to support the Visiting International Professional Program through a financial contribution, please visit the Giving To MSU website at **http://www.givingto.msu.edu/give.html** or the "Support VIPP" page located on VIPP's website.

You may also send a check to:

University Development
University Advancement
Spartan Way
535 Chestnut Road, Room 300
East Lansing, MI 48824

Please make your check payable to "Michigan State University" and be sure to include the name of the fund you wish to support on the memo line of your check. You may also find a list of the VIPP Endowment Funds on the "Support VIPP" page of the VIPP website.

http://vipp.isp.msu.edu/endowments

Special Thanks to Our Contributors

Qing Xia
Editor

Leigh Baker
Staff Writer and Editor

Xuefei Hao
Staff Writer

Dr. Xiaoqing Chen
Staff Writer

Dr. Mina Shin
Staff Writer

Dr. Yin Gan
Guest Writer

Dr. Yunyun Liu
Guest Writer

Abdulaziz Alhson
Guest Writer

Dr. Junsheng Zhu
Guest Writer

Zokhid Ibragimov
Designer