

VIPP eNewsletter

Professional Development - Cultural Enhancement - Global Awareness



Higher Education Administration Workshop for Universities from China

written by Juliet Zhu



The Global Workshop on the Higher Education Administration at the Residential Learning & Services lecture.

From September 28 to October 17, 2013, 26 administrators and faculty from 19 Chinese universities attended a Global Workshop on Higher Education Administration organized by VIPP. During the workshop, participants were introduced to various aspects of higher education in the United States. For example, they took a close look at how different institutes and departments of MSU are organized through visiting these organizations and by attending the lectures presented by the following executive officials:

- Dr. Deborah DeZure, Assistant Provost from the Office of Faculty and Organizational Leadership;
- Karen Corley, Assistant Director of Outreach from the Department of Residential Learning and Services;
- Jen-Nien Yang, Assistant Director of Learning Design and Technology;
- Donna Zischke, Director of Academic Human Resources;
- Renee Zientek, Director of Office of Service-Learning and Civic Engagement;
- Kristi Coleman, Associate Director of Career Services Network;
- and Kim Kokenakes, Director of University Services.

Additionally, workshop participants shared with professors and officials from the United States the insights and issues faced by their home institutions. They contributed thoughtful reflections to the current issues faced by both the United States and China. Furthermore, participants compared the higher education system of the U.S. and China, not only by appreciating the highlights of the system, but also by critically commenting on the possible improvements.

Furthermore, on October 8, the VIPP group visited Lansing Community College (LCC) and was

welcomed by President of LCC, Dr. Brent Knight, and President of Michigan Community College Association (MCCA), Mr. Michael Hansen. Additionally, Mr. Gordon Belt, Program Director of Applied Manufacturing, introduced the mission, vision, core values and structures of LCC. He also highlighted the strength of the applied manufacturing program. The presentation attracted the group members' attention from the first minute to the last. LCC's unique mode of catering to each student's individual need and combining teaching with hands-on experience inspired workshop participants to think about an alternative way of running educational institutions in China.

Later that day, Mr. Gordon Belt led the group through a lab tour, which excited the group about learning how to operate the cyber-welding machines and seeing various special labs specifically designed for different majors. After this one-day visit, some group members commented that the presentations and lab-tour changed their views on community colleges and enlightened them with new ways of organizing their universities in China, in turn, providing their students with better education service.



Participants at the academic Human Resources lecture.

October 11 was another big day: the group went to Wayne State University (WSU) in Detroit to learn how the Confucius Chinese School had been developed in the U.S. The group was impressed with the unique parent service offered by WSU.

VIPP hosted a graduation lunch at MSU's Kellogg Center on the last day of the workshop. Certificates were presented to workshop participants. Hopefully, the workshop left everyone with a great memory.

VIPP meets Senator Stabenow

written by Kari Kammel

On September 4, 2013, Technical and Vocational Training Corporation (TVTC) executives from Saudi Arabia, Lansing Community College (LCC) Business & Community Institute staff and the VIPP Middle East Program Team met with Senator Debbie Stabenow during the launch of the New Skills for New Jobs Act in Michigan, as part of their training program.



The TVTC group with Senator Stabenow, VIPP Middle East Program Team and LCC staff.

Global Workshop for Packaging Industries

written by Dr. Kiwon Kang

Throughout late September and early October 2013, VIPP hosted a week-long specialized program for early-career professionals in the packaging industries of Korea. Dr. Jin Kie Shim, Director of the Packaging Center, accompanied by ten workshop participants, arrived to East Lansing to learn cutting-edge knowledge and future trends in various fields of packaging.



Participants visited MSU Recycling & Surplus. James Ives, Education Coordinator of MSU Recycling, introduced many different services to help people to reduce waste and recycle.



Curt Carpenter, Engineer at Centurion Medical Products, explained about the process of producing medical bandages.

During their visit, the group attended engaging daily lectures, professional field visits, round table sessions and other specialized activities with MSU professors and other professionals. They also had the opportunity to attend the 2013 Pack Expo at Las Vegas from September 24 to 25, 2013. This workshop was sponsored by the Packaging Center at Korea Institute of Industrial Technology.

Field Visit to Chicago

written by Dr. Kiwon Kang



Participants outside the Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago.

Five VIPP visiting scholars, who were participating in the Global Professional Education Program, had the opportunity to visit sites in their fields of interest in the Chicago area from October 10 to 12, 2013. The visiting scholars came from Korea Exchange, Koscom and the Korea Deposit Insurance Corporation. They visited Chicago Mercantile Exchange, Archer Daniels Midland Investor Services, Chicago Trading Company, Federal Reserve Bank of Chicago and attended a seminar entitled, "Current Profile on U.S. Financial Market," presented by Dr. Jin Choi, a professor in the Economics Department of DePaul University.



Participants listened to Dr. Jin Choi, who explained the function of the trading floor at Chicago Mercantile Exchange.

Field Trip To Peckham

written by Hong Zhong



From left to right: Dr. Erika Butler, Young-Kil Kim, Mr. Scott, Qi Huang, Heeyoung Lee and Hong Zhang at Peckham Inc.

On the morning of October 14, 2013, VIPP visiting scholars of the Cross-Cultural Business Communication Skills class had a field trip guided by the professor, Dr. Erika Butler, to Peckham Inc., a nonprofit community vocational rehabilitation organization located on Capital City Blvd. in Lansing. Peckham was founded in 1976 to provide job training and competitive employment opportunities for people with disabilities from different countries and regions. It was an exciting and valuable experience for students to visit because of its diversity, product quality and employee performance.

The students began their tour with a video led by Mr. Scott, who is working for the Human Resources Department of Peckham. The video was a general introduction to the company, showing the scholars how it specializes in creating positive changes with government funds in the lives of people with disabilities or those that face other barriers of employment. Peckham's manufacturing products include performance wear (mainly women and men's half-zips) and apparel manufacturing, most of which are made for the American Navy. Peckham also conducts business collaboration with famous brands, such as The North Face and Patagonia. It even has its own farm, which provides organic vegetables and herbs. In the video, it really made the students amazed to see that each of the employees looked so happy and capable in a friendly and well-organized working environment. Mr. Scott told the scholars almost all of the furnishing materials at Peckham are eco-friendly, including the

carpet and wood floors. After the video, Mr. Scott answered the scholars' questions; they were eager to explore the real journey here.

The whole building is divided into several sections: the art studio, sewing section, office section, passport-processing section, gym center, dining room, etc. Each section is wheelchair accessible and accommodates those with mental illness. In the art studio, where each employee could paint, we saw a lot of nice paintings. The most surprising story is about a nearly-blind individual who painted amazing artwork in the studio. Each painting has a good story to tell; the joy and sadness in one's life.

In the working section, we visited several divisions, and we gradually realized Peckham is very welcoming to each disabled person, providing great care and assistance. Peckham discovers each person's potential and seeks his or her true individual value in the world, which is significant to help people. As the Chinese saying goes, it is better to teach one how to fish instead of feeding one fish.



The west entrance of the Peckham Inc. building.

The language learning here also helps the employees find a way to communicate better with the world and help them to live more comfortably in United States.

Peckham embraces different cultures and various customs, which makes it a very special and amazing place. The field trip to Peckham allowed scholars to explore aspects of the business world and a diversified culture from a hands-on perspective. It was an activity that positively enhanced our process of learning.

A Field Trip to the Michigan Hall of Justice

written by Young-Kil Kim

On October 10, 2013, Korean VIPP participants from the SH Corporation, Busan Metropolitan Government, Gyeonggi-do Government and SK Telecom, visited the Michigan Hall of Justice with our program coordinator, Dr. Mina Shin. Previously housed inside of the State Capitol, the Hall of Justice is now located in a brand-new six-story building dedicated in 2002. The Hall of Justice stands in downtown Lansing, facing the Capitol, symbolizing its independence as a judicial branch of government, yet, its close relation to the executive and legislative branches of government.

Miss Rachael Drenovsky, the Coordinator of the Learning Center, greeted us and provided an informative guided tour of the inside of the building. We had a close look at the interior of the Hall of Justice and learned about the historical backgrounds behind it, such as paintings of previous judges and details of architectural design.

Entering the Learning Center, Miss Drenovsky explained about the Michigan judicial system, which is composed of the Trial Courts, Court of Appeals and Supreme Court in a hierarchical order from the bottom to the top. She told us that every year about 3 million court cases are filed across Michigan, but only 2,000 new cases end up at the Michigan Supreme Court for decision.

The main gallery of the Learning Center is structured around the theme of the laws critical to our daily lives, including labor laws, family laws, environment laws and traffic laws. It provides interactive learning where tourists explore each theme at their own pace through fun computer games and hands-on activities. It was clear that the Learning Center aims to educate all age groups, from elementary students to adults. In fact, the Learning Center is a popular location for school-aged kids for field trips in Michigan. While standing at the simulated court room, I realized the biggest difference between the U.S. and South Korean court systems is the jury system. Even though the jury system may have pros and cons, I believe that it could be more reasonable and impartial, as long as the right jury pool is chosen.

We were lucky to visit the Supreme Court courtroom located on the

sixth floor since the court was not in session. Generally, the trials are open to the public, but Miss Drenovsky advised us to study about the cases in advance to better understand the arguments. The aesthetic of the room hinted us the power and authority of the Court, through which democracy and justice are executed and protected in Michigan.

The field trip was an excellent learning experience for us, especially those of us working for the government, to understand the government system in Michigan and the Judicial system. I'd like to revisit the Michigan Hall of Justice with my little son and family since it is open to public Monday through Friday. I'd like to recommend a visit to the Hall of Justice for VIPP participants to learn about the legal system in Michigan. Indeed, the great government resources are nearby us and we should explore them.



From left to right: Dr. Mina Shin, Miss Rachael Drenovsky and VIPP participants Young-Kil Kim, Chae Won Lim, Yong Joo Lee and Heeyoung Lee at the Hall of Justice.

VIPP Students Learn about Food and Enjoy a Fruity Michigan Year

written by Jessica DeForest

Visiting scholars in the VIPP Food and the Environment course got a chance to learn about and sample Michigan's abundant produce firsthand through field trips to several farmers' markets and during walks through the woods at Fenner Nature Center's Apple Butter Festival in the summer and fall semesters this year. Participants also brought their family members along on most our trips. The content of the Food and Environment course changes every semester, and the focus of the field trips vary according to the season, so many scholars take the course more than once.



Scholars and their families make apple butter the old fashioned way.

The year 2013 has been spectacular for fruit and other produce in Michigan, in sharp contrast to last year, when a very early "false spring" followed by a hard return to cold weather and a sustained drought during the summer reduced many of Michigan's crops to the lowest productivity we have seen in many years. Maple syrup production, fruit crops (such as apples and sweet and tart cherries) and even summer vegetable and grain crops suffered very poor harvests last year, leading to increased prices (as Michigan producers had to import some of our most famous crops). Michigan produces more tart cherries than any other state in the country, but in 2012, tart cherries had to be imported from as far away as Poland just to keep up with sales.



Scholars enjoy the pond at the Fenner Nature Center's Apple Butter Festival.

Perhaps the low production last year gave our fruit trees a needed rest, because this year, fruit crops have been the most bountiful I've noticed in years. A drive through Michigan's apple and peach country, only about 50 miles from MSU's campus, reveals trees full of ripe, juicy fruit. Even now, in late November, one can walk around within a few miles of campus and find fine apples still hanging from the trees, just waiting to be picked and eaten or turned into a nice pie.



VIPP students find a beautiful apple tree near the Meridian Farmers' Market.



VIPP scholars learn how to read American food labels.

Despite the rich variety of fresh produce to be found here, the United States has among the highest levels of diet-related illnesses, such as heart disease, diabetes and obesity, in the world. This is partly because our agricultural policies favor over-production of cheap over-processed, chemical-ridden foods and do very little to improve access to nutritious, good-tasting, fresh foods. VIPP's Food and Environment scholars learn how to read labels to evaluate the quality and ingredients contained in the foods they find in supermarkets. United States law does not require that imitation foods or those with genetically modified ingredients (GMOs) be clearly labeled, so Food and Environment scholars learn how to identify likely GMOs and fake foods. Even better, they learn where to go to find the best quality food available in the area.



A friendly farmer sells fresh muskmelons and watermelons to VIPP scholar Hong Zhang at the East Lansing Farmers' market.

A very important part of this course is to show how many American consumers are learning to value traditional whole and minimally processed foods. This change in attitude has gradually helped improve access to fresh food and protect local agricultural production and distribution. The desire for good food has led to a great increase in the number and size of farmers' markets all over the United States. Ten years ago, the Lansing area had one weekly farmers' market (the Meridian Farmers' Market). Today, there are four, and the market in Meridian Township has doubled in size and increased the variety of foods sold. Even super markets are working harder to make local, organic food available.



VIPP scholar Zhaoqin Zhang enjoying the scent of fresh basil.

There is no doubt that American natural resources and agricultural policy allow American farmers to produce more food than ever before. However, the apparent efficiency of industrial farming and food processing methods come with many environmental, economic and health costs. VIPP scholars have the opportunity to learn more about these costs and to explore some of the potential solutions that are being tried. Many of these solutions are small-scale and local in nature, but they do not ignore the many ways in which new technologies can make small-scale and organic farming more productive and efficient. It is hoped that VIPP scholars will return home with the knowledge and skills to help protect their own traditional food customs and some ideas about how ordinary consumers can fight for better food for their communities and families.

I Love MSU

written by Weixia Tang

Hi, everyone! My name is Weixia Tang and my English name is Donna. I'm from the Capital University of Economics and Business (CUEB) in Beijing, China. I came here as a research scholar, participating in the Visiting International Professional Program (VIPP).

About two months ago, I came to MSU with my 9-year-old son. We live in Spartan Village. At first sight, I loved this campus and my apartment.

Firstly, I love the autumn at MSU. It is wonderful and fantastic, just like the landscapes I have seen in Hollywood movies. Fresh air, blue sky, piles of cotton-like cumulus clouds, maple trees with green, yellow and red leaves...

Everything is fabulous! My apartment is a two-bedroom; it's

spacious, clean and suitable for my son and I. I like the old-fashioned, hand-made, Chinese-style wooden furniture. Behind my home is the beautiful Crescent Park. There are children's slides, swings, a sandpit and a basketball court, which are my son's favorites. I feel like returning to my childhood. I have taken many pictures to send back to my parents and friends in China. They're all happy for us.

Secondly, I love the people at MSU. In the beginning, I needed lots of help with my new living situation and studies. Whenever I was confronted with problems, someone always gave me a hand.

I went to many places, such as the public library, Wal-Mart, Meijer, BestBuy, AT&T, etc. I have settled down all necessities for our everyday life and studies. I would like to thank many friends, especially the

teachers and faculty of VIPP, my Program Coordinator, Chen Wang, my colleagues from the CUEB and my old friend, Lifeng. Lifeng's son is my son's classmate in Kindergarten. We have not seen each other for three years. When we happened to meet in Spartan Village, I wanted to say, "It's a small world, really?"

Finally, I love the classes VIPP has arranged for us. I also selected a few free English language courses at the Friendship House and Volunteer English Tutor Program (VETP). I attended Trinity Church's ESL and Bible discussion, where I have made many friends from all over the world.

Above is my first impression of MSU-awesome and magnificent!

Best wishes to all,

Donna



Weixia Tang (Donna) with her son at the entrance to the Spartan Village Apartments Complex.

Jing Xiao's Photo Essay

Former Global Professional Education Program (GPEP) scholar, Jing Xiao, began her year-long research and VIPP program in August 2012. During her stay, Jing visited several Canadian cities, as well as Mexico City, and was kind enough to give us a sneak peek of her travels.



A beautiful view of Tahquamenon Falls in the fall.



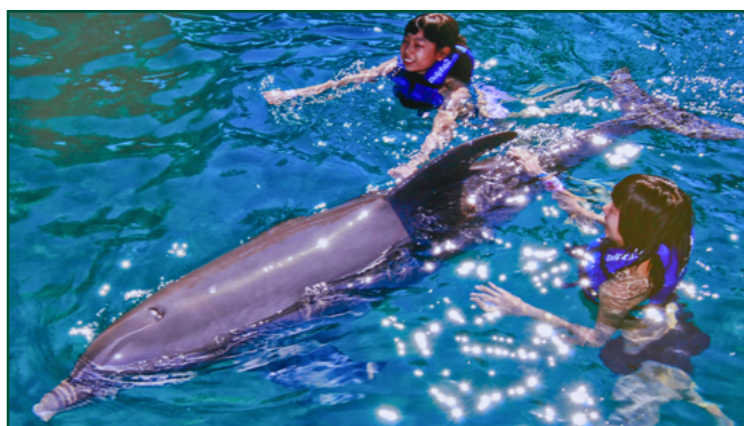
The snowy bridge of Niagara Falls in the winter.



Toronto's bright lights glow in the night sky.



Jing Xiao (left) and her daughter at the Hotel de Glace in Quebec.



Jing and her daughter "dance" with dolphins in Mexico City.



Proud Maya march in Mexico City.



Jing and her daughter at Ottawa's Parliament Hill.

Jing Xiao is the manager of the Beijing Joinyou Technology Corporation, LTD.
She is responsible for Market Planning and the Operations Department.

A SPECIAL THANKS TO JING FOR THESE BEAUTIFUL PHOTOS!

Event Highlights

written by Samantha Shaughnessy

Fall 2013 Orientation – Friday, October 4, 2013: During VIPP's Fall 2013 Orientation, attendees received helpful information on program requirements, on-campus health and family services, MSU sports, law and personal safety and life at MSU

and in the Greater Lansing area. In addition, the Orientation gave the twenty-six new VIPP visiting research scholars and their families the opportunity to meet each other, as well as VIPP staff.

VIPP's Fall Tailgate 2013 – Saturday, October 19, 2013: Rainy weather did not dampen VIPP scholars' and staff's Spartan spirit during VIPP's Fall Tailgate 2013. Attendees enjoyed traditional tailgate cuisine, including hotdogs, hamburgers, chips, fruit and veggies. A great day full of laughter and new friends ended with a defeat against Purdue University, 14-0.

Go Green!



VIPP visiting scholars show their Spartan spirit at the Fall Tailgate 2013.

Annual Thanksgiving Potluck – Thursday, November 21, 2013: Thanksgiving is the time of year to "give thanks," and in the holiday's fashion VIPP wanted to celebrate and give thanks to our participants by hosting the Annual Thanksgiving Potluck in Spartan Village. It certainly was a cheerful gathering featuring the traditional Thanksgiving favorites, including turkey, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce and stuffing. Potluck attendees were also asked to bring one dish traditional to their home country or one dish they particularly enjoyed since arriving to America. Many delicious dishes were prepared from shredded pork to dumplings to pumpkin pies that we can all be thankful for!



VIPP visiting scholars enjoying delicious dishes at the Annual Thanksgiving Potluck.

Renovations

written by Samantha Shaughnessy

Renovations to the VIPP office began in mid-June, and after a much anticipated wait, they are finally complete! The four-month long project brought its share of difficulties, but the end result was worthwhile. Improvements include knocked down walls leaving

VIPP with open spaces, a new kitchen and classroom, "green" sensor-control lighting, new carpet and flooring, modern furniture and so much more. Come stop by the new and improved VIPP offices and enjoy a cup of coffee or tea!

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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://vippp.isp.msu.edu/endowments>

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