Strategic Alliances with Zhejiang and Other Chinese Universities

Late in the nineteenth century, Qiushi Academy opened its doors in the ancient garden city of Hangzhou in southeast China. Qiushi, meaning “seek the truth,” emphasized research and scholarship, and from the start sought the highest goals of academic study. During the twentieth century, it grew into four separate universities, which in 1998 were reunited as Zhejiang University.

Students at the newly combined institution number 40,000; they pursue degrees in the full spectrum of academic disciplines, from philosophy and literature to engineering, agriculture, and medicine. With its continuing emphasis on scholarship and research, Zhejiang remains unsurpassed as a destination for the best scholars and students in China.

Located in a peaceful natural setting on West Lake and offering powerful research centers at the university, Hangzhou in the past 15 years has seen a huge influx of industry and business. The ancient town, which boasts research centers for Nokia, Motorola, several Internet firms, and many other entrepreneurial efforts, is now considered China’s Silicon Valley.

The IU Office of Overseas Study is exploring ways to partner with Zhejiang’s International College and its College of Business and Management to expand the possibilities for IU students to study in China. The development of short-term study tour programs will enable the Office of Overseas Study to meet the academic interests of undergraduate and graduate students in specific IU schools and departments, such as Business, Informatics, East Asian Language and Cultures, and Public and Environmental Affairs.

IU has shared resources with Zhejiang for a quarter century, primarily through faculty exchanges arranged through the IU Office of International Programs and the School of Law—Bloomington. Last spring, six IU officials paid an extended visit to the campus to explore ways to enhance this relationship. The result was an institutional agreement that provides for expanded faculty and graduate student exchanges, as well as administrator exchanges.

An immediate product of that new agreement was a summer course in American Studies. Twenty-five Zhejiang students spent part of their summer in Bloomington. This effort was coordinated by Shawn Reynolds for IU and by Shen Min, who accompanied the students to Indiana.

In October, Dean Lauren Robel was visiting lecturer in U.S. constitutional law at Zhejiang’s Guanghua Law School. She also discussed an agreement for exchanges of law faculty and students, joint research, and Zhejiang student participation in the IUB Master of Laws degree program.

Recognizing Zhejiang’s importance to China’s “Silicon Valley,” the School of Informatics has taken steps towards a formal linkage with Zhejiang’s School of Computer Science, which may be expanded to the School of Business, the Department of Mathematics, and the School of Information Science and Engineering at Zhejiang.

OTHER INITIATIVES IN CHINA

The members of the IU delegation later met with representatives of several other institutions. To develop strategic recommendations regarding international activities to the School of Informatics’ globalization committee, Michael Dunn and David Hakken visited Fudan University in Shanghai to meet with representatives of the School of Science and Engineering, the Department of Philosophy, the American Studies Center, and the Office of Foreign Affairs. Dunn and Hakken also visited Shanghai International Studies University. At all of the institutions visited, Hakken presented research on the Partners across the Pacific or “PxP” project on U.S./Asia university linkages.

In fall 2006, the School of Law—Bloomington entered into an agreement with Fudan University to allow for student and faculty exchanges. Robel visited Fudan University to greet the newly appointed dean of the School of Law and dean for international programs.

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Students Win Fulbright Grants for 2007–2008

Paul Schauert
Ethnomusicology, Ghana (declined grant)

Nicole Willock
Religious Studies/Central Eurasian Studies, China and India

The Office of International Programs disseminates information on these grants and other external grant opportunities for graduating seniors and graduate students. For further information on these grants, contact Rose Vondrasek, Fulbright Program advisor, Franklin Hall 319, telephone (812) 855-7557.

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For some years now, U.S. academic institutions, like U.S. business and industry, have been attracted to the opportunities arising from China’s unprecedented economic expansion. As the generation of new knowledge becomes a worldwide endeavor, U.S. universities will fall behind if they don’t move forward into productive alliances with institutions abroad. The problem is to find the most compatible institutions with which to partner and the most productive ways to make the partnership work. With Zhejiang and with Fudan and a few other institutions, IU has found congenial partners and so established the infrastructure for IU’s active future in Asia.

Kathleen Sideli and Patrick O’Meara visited several study abroad programs to assess the variety of academic cultures, language use requirements, and course work available in various programs where IU students might wish to study. Visits included the Council on International Education Exchange (CIEE) program in Shanghai at East China Normal University, the

Fulbright U.S. Student Program
http://us.fulbrightonline.org

Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Grants
http://www.ed.gov/programs/iiegpsddrap

Office of International Programs Graduate Funding Opportunities
http://www.indiana.edu/~intprog/grad.html

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IU delegation with Mr. Wang Li, vice director of international relations, Zhejiang University. L to R: Shawn Reynolds, Lauren Robel, Patrick O’Meara, Wang Li, Michael Dunn, and David Hakken.

Shawn Reynolds, Director International Partnerships and Strategic Initiatives, OVPIA

Shen Min, Coordinator, Zhejiang International Relations Office

Lauren Robel, Dean of Law, IUB

Kathleen Sideli, Associate Vice President for Overseas Study, OVPIA

Alliance Overseas Study Abroad Programs at Fudan University and at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, and the Middlebury College program at Zhejiang University of Technology.