After arriving in Shanghai on January 4, 2013 Purdue ETA and GEARE students have successfully begun adjusting to the Chinese lifestyle. Classes are fully underway on the Xujiahui Campus and when we’re not in class or doing homework, we’ve been able to start traveling around the Shanghai area. This newsletter is meant to give an idea of where we’re living and taking classes and to highlight the welcome dinner that we very much enjoyed.

Inside this issue:
- Welcome Dinner 1
- Faculty Club Hotel 1
- First Week of Classes 2

Welcome to Shanghai

SJTU Welcome Dinner

On January 5th, Shanghai Jiao Tong University treated the ETA and GEARE students to a traditional Chinese banquet hosted by the Chinese deans, professors and students. Purdue and SJTU students sat side by side at tables, discussing pop culture, classes and the arrangement of food being served. Each table was equipped with a round revolving platform on which food platters were placed and slowly spun for everyone to try. With the help of the Chinese students, Purdue students were slowly able to identify common meats and vegetables and even learn about some that we’d never heard about. The highlight of the dinner was the Purdue students being equipped with plastic gloves, unaware that they would soon be served a whole goose foot to pick up and eat off the bone. Needless to say, it was a surprise main course for everyone involved and the responses ranged from intrigue to disgust to enjoyment. Everyone left the dinner with full stomachs, new friends and good stories to tell.

The Faculty Club Hotel

While attending classes on the Xujiahui campus, students are staying in the Faculty Club Hotel. Rooms are equipped with two beds and a private bathroom and a distinct lack of storage space. Being the bright young Mechanical Engineers we are, multiple solutions have been determined such as living out of our suitcases, using the floor and even using the windowsill for storage space.

ETA, GEARE and Chinese students pictured with faculty from Purdue and SJTU.

The infamous goose foot.

The typical shared room.

The outside of the Faculty Club Hotel.
Welcome to Shanghai

ME 497
In this class taught by Dianne, we have begun to discuss the complexities behind adapting to the Chinese way of life and how this experience will benefit us in the long run as we move into our careers. We have also started going on site visits to various companies in the Shanghai area, an interesting glimpse into being a practicing engineer in China.

CHNS 280
In this class, taught by Sa Weiqi, a good friend of the ETA program, we learn about Chinese pop culture as well as the do's and don'ts of being in China. So far we have loved learning the background behind a lot of Chinese behaviors and what we've all been getting wrong in our first week here.

Chinese Language
For most students in our program, this is the first taste of Chinese language that we've had and it has posed a challenge for most of us in this first week. We have only begun to learn the syllables and their meanings, repeating them after our professors, Susan and Katrina until they are ingrained into our minds.

First Week of Classes

What to look forward to:
In our ME 497 class with Dianne Atkinson, we have been given a list of 20 things to discover around the Shanghai area of which we have to pick 10 to accomplish in January. Stay tuned for pictures and stories as we check these off our China bucket lists!

Views from Shanghai:
The building in which our classes are held.
A glimpse of one of our two classrooms.

Travel Facts:
- Flight Time: 14:30
- Distance from Chicago: 7056mi
- Population of West Lafayette: 29,921
- Population of Shanghai: 23,019,148

The ETA and GEAR programs in China are made possible by a long standing partnership between Purdue University and the Shanghai Jiao Tong University. Any questions or requests for pictures can be sent directly to the editors of this newsletter at purdue.eta.sjtu@gmail.com