Happy New Year!

Due to the success of our dance team’s first performance, we were invited back to perform again at two more New Years Events. The first was a lunch with SJTU faculty on the Xuhui campus. We were joined by multiple other acts, including a dance troupe made up of medical students dressed in flaming pants and crop tops and one group of kindergarteners dancing to Gangnam Style. Our dance went very well again and we were well received by all who attended, especially after one of our GEARE students, Nitesh Bajaj, did an interview in Chinese after our dance!

Later that same evening, all 40 students were invited to a dinner with SJTU faculty and students at which the dance troupe again performed, but were then joined on stage by the rest of the group. We all sang Hail Purdue together as well as a Chinese song we had learned about friendship. All of the students new this song very well and sang along with us, excited that we had been able to learn it. It was a great night filled with delicious food, excellent entertainment and even a fireworks show! Our appearance was so appreciated that we even made the front page of the SJTU school website for our contributions!

Up - Coming Events:

March 31 - First SJTU football game
April 4 - No classes for Tomb Sweeping holiday
May 9-10 - Final Exams

SJTU Football

This semester, a few of our ETA students have joined the SJTU Lions football team as players and coaches. They have been practicing twice a week in preparation for their first game against a local international high school.

Dancing med. students
One more completed performance!
Top L: Students seated at New Years dinner
Top R: All 40 Boiler-makers singing Hail Purdue! for the SJTU students
Left: Group photo with SJTU faculty and friends
More New Years Celebrations

On New Years Eve, the group went back to the same restaurant that we ate at for our welcome dinner for a New Years banquet. This time, there were no SJTU students or faculty, and most noticeably for us, no goose foot on the menu! The food was great, and we were able to share stories of our experiences so far and plans for the New Years break. It was also a time for us to say thank you and goodbye to our wonderful Purdue professor, Dianne Atkinson as she was heading back to Purdue while we were going on our class trip. We greatly appreciated all of her help in these first weeks in China and were sad to see her go. After the dinner, all of us headed around the city to watch the fireworks, which went well into the early morning and came from everywhere around Shanghai.

Top: Group seated at New Year’s Eve Dinner

Middle: Group photo on New Year’s Eve with Dianne and our Chinese teacher, Susan

Bottom: View of Shanghai fireworks from the roof of the Faculty Club Hotel
Class Trip to Suzhou and Hangzhou

Thanks to some hard work from the international office, a class trip was arranged for our program that took us to Suzhou and Hangzhou, two areas about 2 hours outside of Shanghai. We had a fantastic English speaking tour guide who took us around many sights each day and gave us the history behind all of them. We stayed in great hotels and got every meal provided for us and the evenings to ourselves to explore, shop and catch up on sleep. During our trip, we visited temples, gardens, the famous West Lake of Hangzhou, a silk factory, caves and a tea farm. All of the attractions were a lot of fun and students had a great time learning about the history and becoming a tourist attraction in ourselves, being the biggest group of foreigners that most of the Chinese people had probably ever seen!
Move to Minhang Campus

After our class trip, the group packed up our belongings and moved to the SJTU Minhang campus to begin our classes there. As we had two full weeks off for the New Year, some students started their vacations early, leaving roughly 30 students to move 40 people’s luggage into the dorms. Despite being outnumbered, the students did very well and were very efficient in moving. We were all pleasantly surprised by the dorms, as we have our own bathrooms and more storage space than we’ll be able to fill while we’re here. We also have a great location near to our classrooms and the track and soccer fields which have become very popular for students as we have a lot of free time!
Spring Break Travels

In our two week break from classes, many students took the opportunity to tour cities around China as well as traveling around other parts of Asia. As you can see from the map below of the locations to which people traveled, the Boilermakers were well represented throughout China for the two week break.

Orange Trip

Travelers: Scott Hoyer
Destinations: Chengdu, Mt. Emei, Leshan
Highlights: “Mt Emei had spectacular scenery with lots of interesting Buddhist sites. The golden summit was particularly impressive. I also made a quick trip to the Giant Buddha in Leshan.”
Spring Break Travels Continued

Red Trip
Travelers: Catriona Sproul, Joe Musto
Destinations: Pingyao, Xi’an
Highlights: “The highlights of our trip included helping children in Pingyao practice their English on the street, visiting the terracotta warriors in Xi’an and biking around the wall surrounding Xi’an.”

Purple Trip
Travelers: Sanford Chang, Brian Lee, Carmen Valverde, Jeremy Knafla
Destinations: Guilin, Fenghuang
Highlights: Took a cruise down the Li River, visited a minority village had only cut their hair once, saw the rice terraces north of Guilin, visited a canyon and waterfall along the Tuojiang River

Pink Trip
Travelers: Kat Frangos, Kristy Baldwin, Nitesh Bajaj, Kathleen Leisring, Russel McIntosh, Kara McManus, Derek Tan
Destinations: Kunming, Lijiang, Shangri-La
Highlights: “We explored the Jade Dragon Snow Mountain area and hiked the Himalayan foothills in Tiger Leaping Gorge. We then headed north to Shangri-la to get a taste of Tibetan culture – the beautiful Songzanlin Monastery and old town Shangri-la, Tibetan ponies and villages in the Napa Hai Grasslands, a Tibetan dinner party and yak pictures. At the end of the week, we spent some time in old town Lijiang, downtown Kunming and the Yunnan Stone Forest before coming back home to Shanghai.”
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

Spring Break Travels Continued

Blue Trip

Travelers: Jessica Traver, John Roberts, Tyler Jenkins, Nathan Schwenk

Destinations: Vietnam - Ho Chi Minh City, Dalat, Nha Trang

Highlights: “We started in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon) where we visited the Vietnam war museum and the Chu Chi Tunnels. We then moved north to Dalat where we went rappelled down waterfalls and rode elephants. We then did an amazing 85+ km bike ride from the mountains of Dalat into the beaches Nha Trang where we relaxed on the beautiful sandy beaches for 4 days. The highlight of our trip was definitely the canyoning in Dalat and the bike ride from dalat to Nha Trang.”

Yellow Trip

Travelers: Elizabeth Woodruff, Bryan Searfoss, John Swinford, Adam Taylor

Destinations: Guilin, Yangshou, Guangzhou, Shaoguan, Shenzhen, Macau, Hong Kong, Xiamen

Highlights: Visited rice terraces and Elephant Trunk Hill in Guilin, Danxia Mountain in Shaoguan, the Casinos in Macau, Victoria’s Peak in Hong Kong, took a Wilson Factory tour in Xiamen

Thanks to everyone who shared their pictures and Spring Break stories for the newsletter!