

# World Academy

For the Future of Women

Last year Sias International University began the first World Academy for the Future of Women. Women and men from the United States generously donated five weeks of their time and their expenses to come to Sias to train young women for the important leadership roles that must be filled in order to achieve women's equity in China and throughout the world. Sias University invested in the training for you to participate in the World Academy. By all standards the results of the first year of the World Academy were more than we expected. Because of your progress, your enthusiasm, and your courage to discover your purpose and follow your passion, we extended the work of the Academy for you for a second year. We now have two World Academy facilitators on campus to expand the work of last year and to extend the World Academy work into the community and into the world. The second year of the Academy will include an on-line module taught by a doctoral student from Central Florida University, a bi-monthly meeting with Henan women leaders through the Henan Provincial Library that will be filmed and broadcast throughout Henan Province and potentially throughout China .... and a relationship with the United Nations for our Annual Women's Symposium in May 2011 and in 2012.

## Global Interactions, Inc. Newsletter September–October 2010

### Making a World of Difference...



### STAND UP, TAKE ACTION, MAKE NOISE

The World Academy participated in the September 18 United Nations Program designed to bring attention to the goal to end poverty worldwide. A three-day event was organized to:

I) **MAKE NOISE** featuring performances by the Sias marching band, symphony, cheerleaders, and students clubs,

II) **TAKE ACTION** with presentations on the eight Millennium Development Goals:

1. End Poverty and Hunger
2. University Education
3. Gender Equality
4. Child Health
5. Maternal Health
6. Combat HIV/AIDS
7. Environmental Sustainability
8. Develop Global Partnership

And III) **STAND UP** requesting that Sias students sign a commitment card selecting the MDG they will stand for. The commitments are being compiled into a database for future engagement of the students in World Academy events related to the stand they represent. There are now 4738 students committed to taking a stand for the women on one of the MDG projects.

The Academy will continue to enroll students throughout the year and work toward engaging the entire Sias student body in reaching the goals by the 2015 deadline.



## The Facilitators

### Module 1: Creating Possibilities

### September 8th – October 13th

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#### ANN GRIMM



How did I know the message was being delivered?

I knew it when...a World Academy member stood up in class and talked about her dream to own a bakery; and how during her holiday break she went back to her village and asked a local bakery owner if she could spend some time there learning about making the different cakes.

I knew it when...the desire of a young woman to create a 'round table' group on Sias campus modeling the United Nations meant spending hour after hour in the library learning new words in order to effectively describe her idea in English to World Academy facilitators and foreign faculty.

I knew it when.....at breakfast in Peter Hall the foreign faculty continually shared how they could tell a student in their class was a member of the World Academy...because they were always quick to participate in class discussions and had already begun the process of critical thinking.

I knew it when...the look of amazement, joy and mild confusion appeared on the face of each member having learned the concept of CHOICE.

The World Academy for the Future of Women is an amazing place of self discovery, hope and possibility which grows with every new day. All of the efforts back at home have been the key in making the task on the ground a success. Thank you all for your support, ideas and concerns that deliver the promise of hope and success to these young women leaders.

#### LISA THONACK

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"The women of the Word Academy are eager for leadership, willing to work hard, and committed to the vision of the World Academy. They understand that this program will impact their lives. They are counting on us! When it is your turn to facilitate here in China, come with lots of energy, fun, and intentionality. Some of these young women are currently getting use to raising their hands and speaking their voice. Some women are not confident with their English so they will hide in the back of the classroom or rely on a friend to help them express their opinion- don't fall for this. These women specifically are some of the most brilliant! Some women will skip their day class or forsake study time to help the WA facilitators- check in with them before asking them to take on a responsibility. The members want to be around us, learn, and understand how to become successful- you will be humbled."



#### WHO WILL FACILIATES THE ACADEMY?

A team of facilitators with leadership skills in business, corporations, community, global projects, and personal growth will deliver the Academy Curriculum. They each share a passion and commitment for preparing women for leadership roles. The founding facilitators are generously contributing five weeks of their time to be on SIAS campus, and paying their travel costs to participate. The Advisory Board is seeking a comparable Chinese team to co-facilitate with them. In addition, we invite SIAS Chinese and foreign faculty, as support staff and project supervisors to enhance the hands-on projects that will transfer and apply the skills to practice.

**Contact Jerrie Ueberle at Global Interactions, Inc. for more information:**

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## **Phoenix Rising Leadership Award**

Through the generosity of the delegates attending the 2nd Women's Symposium on Sias International University campus, a scholarship fund was established in 2008. An annual US\$1,400.00 scholarship is designed to give financial support to a women applicant through one year at Sias University. Her application will be vetted by Global Interactions and delegates from the Symposium. This award, which covers a full year of education, is highly competitive and will go to a student whose application combines academic excellence and financial need.

Our 2010 Phoenix Rising Leadership Award Recipient: **RenJuan (Tina)**

An Update on Past Award Recipients:

### **Qiao Hongmei (Emma) - 2008**

Emma graduated in May 2010 and was the recipient of the highest SIAS scholarship, tuition for a masters degree at an American University! She is currently employed at SIAS until she determines her U.S. destination for her advanced degree. Emma and her mother have pledged to give 1,000 Yuan each year to the World Academy for the Future of Women as she advances in her career.

### **Chang Yanshen (Annie) - 2009**

Annie was the first person from her village to go to University. As a World Academy member, Annie hopes to take what she has learned during her studies and bring opportunities to her village. With an entrepreneurial spirit, Annie hopes to help her community to create and grow a sustainable economy. Annie has continued as a second year member of the World Academy for the Future of Women



RenJuan (Tina) receiving her 2010 Phoenix Rising Leadership Award

## **International Forum on Women in Urban Development**

More than 300 women from 58 countries attended the invitational International Conference on Women in Urban Development and Commemoration of the 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Beijing Declaration on Women. The Conference was held September 16<sup>th</sup> -18<sup>th</sup> in Shanghai, China and was hosted by the All China Women's Federation (ACWF), led by ACWF President Madam Chen Zhilli, Madam Chen is also the Vice Chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People's Congress.

Jerrie Ueberle was invited to attend on behalf of Global Interactions and the World Academy for the Future of Women. Ueberle expressed the privilege it was to be among women world leaders and stated:

"The speakers and delegates were inspiring and engaged in the enormity of the concerns facing the world's growing urban needs. It is imperative that the World Academy accelerate our work in preparing leaders for this immediate and urgent world issue."



Front row of the photo: from left to right are members of the ACWF; Madam Meng Xiaosi (Vice President and Member of the Secretariat of the ACWF); Mrs. Carol Cox Wait (a past President of the IWF); Madam Chen Zhili; Senator Gibson; Madam Song Xiuyan (Vice President and First Member of the Secretariat of the ACWF); and Mrs. Fran Streets (a past President of the IWF).

## Freshman Military Review at Sias University

Each September university students in China are required to participate in a military discipline training prior to beginning their academic program. This year the Sias Freshman Military Review was performed by 6,500 new students who were reviewed and ranked for their discipline and performance. Awards to the best platoons, the best platoon leaders, and the best class masters, those who prepared and supported students in this training, were awarded. Sias Board members, faculty, and distinguished guests attended this annual event in the Sias outdoor stadium.



## Ambassador Li Addresses Sias University Students

The opening of the fall semester brought a distinguished figure and his wife, Laoshi Wu, to visit Sias International University. Ambassador Li served as China's Ambassador to the United Nations and the United States. When he returned to China he served as a member of the Standing Committee of the People's Congress.

This first visit to Sias included a campus tour, banquet, presentations to the members of the World Academy for the Future of Women, a Q&A session with international business students, the military review ceremony, and a welcoming address to the Freshman class at the Candlelight Ceremony.

In response to his visit, Ambassador Li stated: "I could not describe with words how much Wu and I enjoyed our trip in Sias, and what a delightful experience of communicating with girls and boys studying there. My regret was my schedule did not allow me to stay longer."

Welcome back, Ambassador!



## **HOW CAN I BE INVOLVED?**

**Become a mentor to one of the students, *apply to be an Academy Facilitator for the 2010-2011 year at SIAS*, provide an internship for a student, *invest in the future of the Academy or the future of an Academy Associate by becoming an Academy Investor in the Future of Women*, *offer project ideas that focus on women's issues*, **connect us with others in your network who would be interested in the Academy and the leaders it will produce**, assist us in making this project known in order to grow the Academy to other campuses throughout China and worldwide, *provide us resources to expand this work ... share your ideas about how we can promote the possibilities for women to make a world of difference.***

Contact Global Interactions, Inc. for more information: Phone: 602.906.8886 E-Mail: [women@globalinteractions.org](mailto:women@globalinteractions.org)