

GLOBAL INTERACTIONS

2nd Women's Symposium & Study Program was a HUGE success! See pages 2-5.

JUNE 2008



Citizens make contributions



Arizona Women's Delegation Donations

Our lives are saddened by the May 12 earthquake that killed more than 70,000 people with more than 17,000 missing and countless others who are without homes in Sichuan Province in an area of 15 million inhabitants.

On the heels of the May 2 cyclone that hit Myanmar killing an estimated 78,000 – 128,000, this unfathomable death toll has disrupted families, lives, and incalculable futures of people whom we have never met and whose suffering we cannot conceive.

As members of our global community, may each of us in our own way respond to the rebuilding of these families and neighborhoods as they seek to reconstruct their lives and communities.



Shanghai Students at Memorial



Madame Zhang Lili, President of Shanghai Women's Federation and mothers pledge support

OPENING OF SIAS RESEARCH INSTITUTE FOR APPLIED COGNITIVE SCIENCE

May 24 – SIAS International University

Shawn Chen unveiled the plaque designating the opening of the SIAS Research Institute for Applied Cognitive Science on SIAS campus. Dr. Yang Ningyuan directs this first ever institute that will apply the research combining cognitive science and information technology into a curriculum to optimize learning. According to Yang, "By applying cognitive science to information technology, we can optimally tantalize the brain so it can operate smoothly and efficiently."

The first project at SIAS is to equip SIAS students with a memory engine to help them build English vocabulary. The project will expand to other subjects. The long run goal of this memory engine project is to turn human learning from processes driven by experience to scientific workflows, allowing information to be learned faster and easier. This is what Yang calls "scientific education in the new intelligence age!"

Dr. Yang was a keynoter at our America-Asia Summit on Education Partnerships in April.



PETER SENGE'S SUMMIT KEYNOTE ONLINE

Dr. Senge's Keynote address from the April 2008 America – Asia Summit on Education Partnership in Phoenix is now available on our website. We received numerous requests to make his keynote available and are pleased that Dr. Senge granted permission for it to be viewed from our homepage at www.globalinteractions.org.

FINDING NEMO AND PREVIOUS DELEGATES

Global Interactions has spent 23 years engaging thousands of American and international participants in our programs. This month our staff has committedly and diligently sought to update our files and re-connect with our previous participants. We have been abundantly rewarded for our work and this June's newsletter will reach an expanded group of people. The work of the earliest delegations that went to China in 1985, are indeed, Global Interactions' pioneers whose participation paved the way for our future work and are whose shoulders we have stood on in each successive program. Welcome back to Global Interactions!

2nd Annual Women's Symposium & Study Program Keynote Speakers



Dr. Li Yanling
Director International
Liaison Office, Shanghai
Women's Federation



Sherry Liu
Consultant
Beijing



Xu Binhe
Sias University
Zhengzhou



Sandra Teh
Harpo Studios
Chicago



Karen Dickinson
Quarles & Brady Law
Phoenix

2nd Annual Women's Symposium & Study Program A HUGE SUCCESS!

May 16-28, 2008 The first Arizona Delegation to engage in the Arizona Governor's Division for Women and the Shanghai Women's Federation Partnership.



Shanghai Women's Federation Building



From Left to Right (Front): Sharlene Walker, Karen Dickinson, Madame Zhang Lili, Jerrie Ueberle, Ruth King (Back): Madame Kang Huijun, Fatima Halim, Madame Dai Xiaoyun, Dr. Ave Sims, Chris Paler, BJ Katz, Dr. Li Yanling, Carol LeMaster, Teresa Jackson, Patricia Isaacson, Sandra Teh, Ina Copeland, Ma Jing, and Hank Caple

The delegation continued from Shanghai to Zhengzhou and participated in the Second Women's Symposium on SIAS International University Campus with 1,500 college women, followed by three days visiting rural women in Henan province. Thank you to the Arizona Delegation for their contribution of photographs and stories.

SHANGHAI



Xu Weina, from the International Liaison Office of the Shanghai Women's Federation, met the Arizona Women's Delegation at the Pudong International Airport. Moving our luggage to a van, we crossed the airport concourse to board the MagLev (Magnetic Levitation Train) to Longyang Station. This 7 minute ride on the high speed railway would have required 45-60 minutes by freeway! What an extraordinary arrival into Shanghai!



An early morning cultural experience is to join the numerous groups that meet in public parks for exercise, socialization, and practicing Tai Chi, sword, flag, dance drills, and other group activities.

Ave, Sandy, Karen, and I got up our last morning in Shanghai at 6:00 am to practice Tai Chi with the senior citizens. I have been a student for over 10 years and found an emotional awakening and connection there. –Terri Jackson

Three Day Memorial Marked Countrywide Mourning May 19, 2008

A group of mothers spoke about their feelings after the devastating earthquake in the Sichuan Province. Although I don't understand Chinese very well, I do understand mama, baba (father) and haizi (children), and cried along with these mothers, Madame Zhang Lili of the Shanghai Women's Federation, Jerrie Ueberle of Global Interactions, and those in the crowd, for those killed and hurt in the earthquake. The whole country of China stopped for three minutes on May 19 to honor those killed and injured in the horrible earthquake, as part of three days of official mourning across China. Three minutes for the amount of time the earthquake lasted at the same time exactly one week later. Our delegation was honored to participate in one of the memorials in Shanghai, which included people giving blankets and children donating money. The most moving moment was three minutes of silence, when all movement on the streets stopped, the city's emergency siren wailed and all those in their cars on the streets honked their horns for the entire time. It felt like a collective wailing of humanity for the extreme loss of life and the death of so many haizi. Almost immediately after the earthquake, people all over the world began sending condolences and donations to help. This tragedy brought the people of China closer to the world and the world closer to the people of China. –Karen Dickinson





At an afternoon site visit to the Huayang Community Culture Center we engaged with seniors who come to the center to do crafts, socialize, and make articles to sell as fundraising for projects. There were daycare classes for children, as well as, afternoon programs for school age students. The center was an active community facility and the staff showed great pride in the work being done.



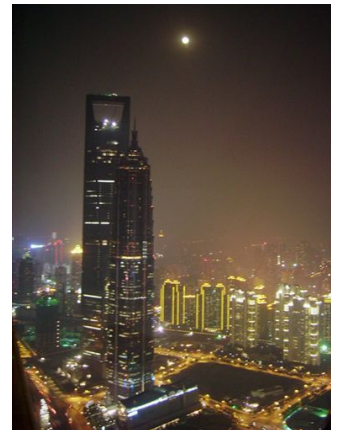
The delegation visited the Minhang Women's Federation in a suburban area. The local police officers gave us a briefing on their anti-domestic violence project. The statistics shared were very positive yielding only 3 urgent cases of violence in the last year. Education, counseling, help lines, and access to the court system enabled families to access services and prevent violence in their community and homes.



Shanghai Urban Planning Center's Scale Model of Shanghai's current and future growth



Dr. Li Yanling, Director of International Liaison Office and Delegate Theresa Jackson



View of Shanghai at night from Oriental Pearl Tower

SIAS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY



SIAS INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY AND WOMEN'S SYMPOSIUM May 21, 2008

We arrived at Zhengzhou airport and were met by the SIAS students' welcoming committee led by Ginny Chu who coordinates the student assistants, a group of honor students who serve the administrative offices at SIAS. Each delegate received a huge floral bouquet as students gathered our luggage and led us to the awaiting SIAS school bus for travel to Xinzheng.

Shawn Chen, founder of Sias International University, welcomes Homecoming visitors to campus.



1,500 female SIAS students attended the 2nd Annual Women's Symposium on SIAS campus. They eagerly welcomed the official Delegation from Arizona. It was a deeply moving experience to be able to assist these young women in feeling more secure in their roles as global citizens. –Carol LeMaster



Arizona Delegation & Dr. Li Yanling



Opening Ceremony in the Performing Arts Auditorium



2008 FIRST ANNUAL PHOENIX RISING WOMEN'S LEADERSHIP AWARD

Through the generosity of the delegates attending the Second Women's Symposium on SIAS International University campus a scholarship fund was established. An annual \$1400.00 scholarship will be given to a women applicant whose application will be vetted by Global Interactions and delegates from the Symposium. This year's award will be presented at the beginning of school in September; the recipient will be announced at that time. This award, which will cover a full year of education, is highly competitive and will go to a student whose application stresses academic excellence and financial need.

Our sincere thanks to Theresa Jackson for inspiring this annual award and the following contributors who eagerly contributed to its fruition. Contributors include: Ina Copeland, Karen Dickinson, Fatimah Halim, Patricia Isaacson, Theresa Jackson, BJ Katz, Ruth King, Carol LeMaster, Ma Jing, Chris Paler, Danita Rios, Ave Sims, Sandra Teh, Sharlene Walker, and Jerrie Ueberle.

RURAL CHINA – HENAN PROVINCE

The third part of the study program focused on women in rural Henan Province. Although Zhengzhou is considered a rural city, the population exceeds 7 million and engages a bustling agrarian and commercial workforce. Our visits included Zhengzhou City Children's Hospital, model rural communities, households, and a residential school for the deaf.

Most people go to hospitals rather than private doctors for medical appointments to receive services. This hospital has modern equipment and technology and can treat a wide variety of children's ailments with traditional Chinese medicine such as acupuncture and massage as well as Western medicine. The hallways, waiting rooms, and treatment areas were crowded making it difficult to navigate through the building. With China's one child policy, children are a very important to the society. –Terri Jackson



Visit to Zhengzhou City Children's Hospital



This is the grandmother (age 84) of the family we visited in rural China. The other two women are Ruth King, (age 88) mother of Jerrie Ueberle, and Ruth's friend, Sharlene Walker, (age 83). The women instantly connected, sharing a deep understanding of what it means to be a woman in the world today and all without the benefit of words to communicate. –Carol LeMaster

We visited several homes. The elder has his/her own room or his/her own floor, based on the means of the family or the size of the home. In one of the homes, the grandfather occupied the largest room in the apartment. His room was located on the south side, which, according to the daughter-in-law, represented good health. The picture on the left is of our elders. Our elder guest was so happy to see her contemporaries. She grabbed them, set them on either side of her and held their hands. What a beautiful sight. –Fatima Halim



High rise apartments provided living space for three generations. Modern appliances including flat screen T.V.s, computers, and ample kitchen appliances were seen in these newly furnished multi-level dwellings.



We saw many, many miles of farmland. Most of the farm work was done with hand labor.



The student dancers at the School for the Deaf amazed and astounded me with their ability to dance to the beat although they could not hear it. Teacher's visual cues and the sound vibrations assisted the students. - Chris Paler



The women's drum corp welcomed us on the road as we reached the entrance to a village where everyone was engaged in agriculture. The village was totally a farming village. In the last 5 years they had moved from hand labor to mechanical labor allowing everyone to have more time and higher production. When asked what has been the greatest change in your life since you have mechanized?", one woman smiled broadly and said, "We now have spirit!"



Gong Fu performance by 3-4 year olds

The youth are our future. The visit to this center was very uplifting as the youth gave us an inspiring performance. Their discipline and skill were very encouraging. The women's Federation realizes through being physically and mentally fit we can change the world. -Ina Copeland



Dance performance in housing area

Watching the children perform was one of the highlights of the trip. The children begin training at an early age so they can reach the highest level of performance possible. The children not only represent themselves, but the families, village, and community. They must always be mindful of saving "face." -Terri Jackson



A SPECIAL THANKS TO SANDY TEH

Symposium & Study Program Documentary Producer - Sandy is the Assistant Editor for Harpo Studios - Chicago for The Oprah Winfrey Show and Harpo Television projects since 2005. Sandy's role was to document the events of the Arizona inaugural delegation with the Shanghai Women's Federation and the subsequent SIAS International University Second Women's Symposium focusing on Preparing Women for a Global Society, the intergenerational aspects of the mother-daughter relationships, and the issues facing rural women in Henan Province. The historical elements of the 2008 exchange generated Sandy's interest in capturing the current issues for women in three distinct geographic settings and assisting us in telling the stories and building the foundation for our future partnership activities. A graduate of Western Michigan University in Broadcast Production and a student at Beijing Language and Culture University and the Shanghai International Studies University, Intensive Studies Program in Business Mandarin/Cantonese Sandy brought insightful cultural and technological knowledge to support our work. She volunteered her talent, time, and expertise to this project. Expenses associated with her travel were contributed by Alan Brown, Shawn Chen, Sharon Hake, Kathy Palokoff, Judith Luther-Wilder, and Global Interactions. Thank you to Sandy and our donors.

SHARE YOUR SCHOOL PARTNERSHIP PHOTOS – REQUEST TO PARTNER SCHOOLS

Bob Rink, retired City of Phoenix photographer and Global Interactions volunteer extraordinaire who has accompanied two Challenge: TOMORROW groups to China and produced the DVD of the America-Asia Summit on Education Partnership is eager to continue the documentation of Global Interactions programs.

Bob wants to create a photo page for each partnership that would help school partners document their experience and share visually each of their worlds. It might start out with the agreement being signed at the end of the Summit and move to pictures of schools, the students and special activities or events that can be shared with counterparts in the other country. Self portraits and the neighborhood around the school and community would be interesting. Students at recess, playing games or sports, students working on school projects, on a field trip, or depicting action to inform your partnership school, so someone on the outside has a glimpse of what your world is like, at least, visually. Ask a fellow teacher or several of the students to help out with this part of the exchange. A little descriptive copy or writing might help in understanding the photographs. It's quite possible that these photographs that we create will help bridge the distance between our worlds through this educational exchange. Good luck and have fun! Nan Williams, IT Consultant at the Arizona Department of Education is developing a wiki to display the photos for each partner.

Please send Bob photos of your school working on the partnership you have made with a Chinese school and he will post these on our partnership website to promote the progress being made and engage others in the program. Send to bob@bobrinkphotos.com. We are eager to know what you are doing and the results of the partnerships. Give us your 'best shots'! Thank you!



UPDATES ON PARTNERSHIPS FROM THE 2008 AMERICA-ASIA EDUCATION SUMMIT

Whispering Wind Academy Phoenix, Arizona AND Qivi Elementary School Beijing, China	We have had exchanges with their partner school quite often via telephone and internet. Now we are working on the internet class with the help from CISCO, helping them set up the audio and video conference, so they can teach English and Chinese on the internet to the students. We are very grateful with the help and the opportunity that Global Interactions provided.
Toltec Elementary School District, Eloy, Arizona AND Huaishuling School Fengtai District, Beijing, China	I have several ideas and am eager to move forward. We are working with grades 4-8 on my campus and 6-9 on Huaishuling campus. However, when we talked last April we had ideas that would include younger grades (he mentioned a "connecting" school of elementary grade levels). I just sent a letter (snail mail) written by my wife in Chinese last Saturday. I know it will be difficult with the language barrier, but I am sure we will move forward. It's just a matter of time.
Bostrom High School Phoenix, Arizona AND Ba Da Chu High School ShiJingShan District, Beijing, China	Bostrom's principal is sending Zhang Yuemin a letter of support for our partnership, along with a copy of the powerpoint that was presented to the Bostrom staff. Bostrom's English department chairperson has volunteered to have his students exchange essays with one of Ba Da Chu's English teacher's students. This will begin in September.
Rhodes Junior High World Studies Academy Mesa, Arizona AND Yungang Middle School Fengtai District, Beijing, China	Our partnership happened so late in the year that we have not gotten too far off the ground. I have been working with district personnel about how to set up a telecommunication system for us to have whole class discussions with our partner school. We have also put together a packet of materials to send to Li Qi. We have made plans to have a possible exchange of art work between schools. In the fall we will begin communicating and looking at possible administrator and teacher exchanges and other projects.

Our next issue will feature Challenge: TOMORROW, our youth program taking place in China from July 8-28!

NEXT YEAR'S PROGRAMS:

May 2009 Education Conference
May 2009 3rd Annual Women's Symposium & Study Program
July 2009 Work Force Development
July 2009 4th Annual Challenge: TOMORROW Youth Program

