

***Dr. Shepard's Travel to the
People's Republic of China (PRC)
November 1-11, 2008***



**Beijing University of Post
And Telecommunications (BUPT)**



Central University for Nationalities



Guangxi University

Hehai University



Dr. Shepard will join the President and Vice President of Jackson State University (JSU) in visiting several Universities in the People's Republic of China (PRC), for the purpose of making briefings on the Science and Engineering Alliance, Inc. (SEA) Program and exploring areas of potential collaborations for the SEA schools and other historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs).

**SEA Founding Executive Director Travels to People's Republic of China (PRC)
with President of Jackson State University to Explore the Potential for
Collaboration and Partnership with PRC Universities**

November 1-11, 2008



After an 18 hour flight that started in Washington, DC early Saturday morning, November 1, 2008 and a short stopover in Atlanta, we arrived in Shanghai on Sunday afternoon, November 2, 2008. After some rest and handling of logistically matters that took a day and a half, we flew 2 hours from Shanghai to Beijing for a meeting with officials at Central University of Nationalities (CUN).

The CUN started Tuesday afternoon, November 4, 2008 and continued all day on Wednesday morning where Jackson State University (JSU) and CUN signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) pledging to continue and expand their international cooperation. Alternative Medicine is an area of research JSU & CUN are already collaborating on and the two schools expect to initiate additional joint activities.

CUN expressed a strong interest in establishing collaborations in HIV/AIDS research. Following the signing ceremony, I was granted permission to visit some of the historical sites in Beijing. I visited the Great Wall but did not have time to visit the "Forbidden City" or "Tian'anmen Square," all of which are in Beijing. I was on the Great Wall of China Wednesday evening, November 5th (12:30 pm) when it was announced that Barack Obama was elected next President of the United States of America. The President of CUN had reported that 97% of Chinese wanted Obama to become the next President of the United States. I then returned from the Wall to join back in the CUN meeting and banquet. Thursday, November 6th was set for me to meet with faculty and students at Beijing University of Posts and Telecommunications (BUPT) to listen to research interest the BUPT faculty and to share information on the SEA program.

BUPT identified two technical areas where they would like to send faculty & students to SEA institutions: (1) Telecommunications and (2) Information Technology. SEA's strength in the area of Telecommunication is located at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) and the second is a JSU. JSU is poised and ready to move forward. We will assess the interest and readiness of PVAMU to engage in such a collaboration.

Following the Thursday afternoon meeting with BUPT, we left Beijing and flew 3 hours to Nanning which is located in Southern China and the home of Guangxi

University (GU). On Friday, November 7th, we participated in a conference on "Chinese-Foreign University Presidents' Seminar for Cooperation." The conference involved over 20 North American, Asian, European University Presidents and Head of China's Ministry of Education. As part of the welcome and opening ceremony, President Mason gave the opening address. His speech was entitled "Pitfalls & Potential of Academic Internationalization." Dr. Mason opened his address speaking in Chinese to a resounding applause of the audience.

The JSU delegation was assigned to participate in the roundtable discussions on "Communications on Enhancing Cooperation Among Member Universities." Based on the recommendation of President Mason, the group agreed to support the creation of the "Guangxi Global Consortium (GGC)." Under the GGC, international opportunities will be shared among the participating universities, taking into account language differences, time differences, etc. JSU agreed to lead the GGC initiative.

The 2-day conference closed with a spectacular banquet at a magnificent hall. Following breakfast on Saturday, November 8th, we boarded buses to attend the 80th Celebration of GU and tour the campus. Later in the evening the JSU Delegation had a one-on-one meeting with the GU President and his cabinet. Elements of GU's 80th Celebration festivities rivaled the opening of the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games.

On Sunday afternoon, November 9th, the JSU Delegation left Nanning and took a 1 and ½ hour flight to Nanjing which also is in Southern China but not as far south as Nanning. Upon arrival at the airport, the group was met by the President and staff of Enjoy International (EI). EI was formed to create a language & cultural bridge between Chinese & Western cultures. On Monday, November 10th the group continued its meeting with EI. EI has worked to help JSU summer intern students have a smooth entry into their China experience. EI and JSU will continue to discuss the elements of what could become a formal "Enjoy China Experiential Program."

In the afternoon, the JSU Delegation met with President and Vice President of Hohai University (HU) to discuss potential summer faculty/student exchange program with assistance from EI. HU express a desire to explore the possibility of engaging in collaborations dealing with water resources. Following the meeting with HU the group boarded the train for a 2 hour trip back to Shanghai. In summary, JSU used this trip to open a dialogue with many Chinese institutions. The next steps will involve construction of short talking papers (proposals) to move toward refinement. The follow-up will be handled through JSU's Office of Chinese Initiative & VP for Research. The SEA Washington Office will assess whether any of the other three SEA partners and other HBCUs are INTERESTED & READY to join in what could potentially become an important educational gateway for HBCU students.

This was a monumental trip in so many ways. We covered nearly 4,000 miles of travel internal to China. The insight gained from my staff and many colleagues was invaluable. Translating my SEA Business Card into Chinese was greatly appreciated as well as the translation of the SEA Core Technical Areas. Compliments also were expressed on my feeble attempts to use the 10 Chinese phrases below that I practiced for three-weeks prior to leaving:

1. ni hao = hello
2. xie xie ni = thank you
3. bu xie xie ni = no thank you
4. bai bai = bye bye
5. bu Ke gi = you are welcome
6. tai gui le = It's too expensive
7. pian yi dian = cheaper
8. o bu bu bu = oh, no, no, no
9. gan bei = cheers
10. dui bu qi = excuse me

The Powerpoint presentation on the "Do's & Don'ts When N China" provided by my colleagues was of tremendous value. As instructed by the presentation, I tried every food dish placed in front of me without any thought of how different it was from what I am use to. For me, all food choices were excellent. I was especially delighted with the positive comments received on my use of chopsticks.

Tanisha and Tomika did a fine job of working with Mei-Chi Chen Piletz of JSU's Chinese Initiatives Office on setting up the detailed travel schedule and agenda. We left Shanghai at 4 pm on Monday, November 10th and arrived back in Washington, D.C. on Tuesday, November 11th after traveling nearly 4,000 miles within China.













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