

Soaking up that Trojan Spirit



Visiting Chinese professors gain experiences in, out of classroom

Four professors from the People's Republic of China are making their home in Troy, AL, through the spring semester as part of the 1-2-1 Sino-American Dual Degree Program.

That program, now a standard model in the United States for partnering with foreign universities, brings students to TROY for two years and returns them to their home institutions for a final year. At commencement, the students receive both a degree from Troy University and their home university.

The program also exchanges faculty members. Visiting professors spend up to a year at TROY, learn American teaching practices and expanding those horizons.

Currently, Ms. Ren Tianshu, Liaoning University of Petroleum and Chemical Technology; Ms. Sun Yizen, Xi'an University of Science and Technology; Ms. Feng Wei of Hubei University; and Mr. Sun Qiang, Wuhan University of Technology, are getting a taste of America and American higher education.

"At TROY, I think what the teacher teaches is much easier to understand [than in China]," said Sun, a professor of computer science in her third year, who is sitting in on computer classes here.

Although she admits the American textbooks are much thicker, she said in-class discussion intensifies the learning process.

"In China, students dislike asking questions in

class," she said. "They ask for help after class."

Wei and Qiang agree the program structures and method of delivery are new to them.

Both have been teaching on the University level for more than 15 years.

"I feel it is helpful to have more freedom in the academic atmosphere," Wei said. "At TROY, there are lots of interactions and teachers give some inspiration for how the knowledge can be used."

Qiang said China's system, that has teaching-level and separate research-level professors, was very structured and students are "fed" information.

"In [Assistant Professor Chuck]Thompson's microeconomics class, he teaches and then asks the students 'yes, no and how'," he said.

Qiang is an associate professor of technology, economics and management at Wuhan; Wei is an associate professor in the Hubei's department of tourism and management. Both universities are located in Wuhan, central China's largest city.



At top, Sun Qiang dances with T-ROY during a Trojan basketball game. At right, the visiting professors pose with student musicians during the College of Communications and Fine Arts Christmas dinner.



Parade of nations. Troy University students display flags of their native countries during the University's 24th annual International Student Cultural Organization Festival. The event, held March 3 in the Trojan Center Ballrooms on the Troy Campus, featured a buffet of international cuisine prepared by the students and a program of music, dance and other entertainment.

Grice to fill new director of study abroad role at TROY

John Grice, formerly international student and study abroad program coordinator at Coker College in Hartsville, SC, has been named as the director of study abroad at Troy University.

The new position is a part of a reorganization of TROY's international programs area of University College. University College directs operations of the University's campuses and sites outside of the state of Alabama. No taxpayer money goes to the operation of sites outside of the state.

Grice, who holds a Master of Arts degree in political science from Exeter (England) University and a bachelor's degree in political science from Presbyterian College in Clin-



ton, SC, has traveled extensively outside of the U.S., visiting 16 countries.

Grice served with the U.S. Peace Corps in Zemen, Bulgaria, and speaks the language. The first Peace Corps volunteer to serve in Bulgaria, Grice filled the role of environmental coordinator, as well as having the duties of community development and eco-tourism guide.

Grice says he sees great potential in the new position at TROY.

"I am very optimistic about our program here at TROY," he said. "Chancellor Hawkins has put an emphasis on international and study abroad programs. I am very excited to be in this position, and I am confident that our program is going to be successful."

Schmurr-Stewart named dean of international student services

Darlene Schmurr-Stewart has been named dean of international student services at Troy University in an effort to enhance opportunities offered by the University to its international students through a reorganization.

"The reorganization copes with the significant growth of international students on the Troy Campus," said Dr. Curtis Porter, associate vice chancellor for international affairs.

Schmurr-Stewart has, most recently,



served the University as dean of student services on the Phenix City Campus. Prior to her affiliation with TROY, she was associate registrar at Lake

Forest College in Lake

Forest, IL, and was registrar at Bethany Theological Seminary in Oak Brook, IL.

She holds a Master of Business Administration degree from Troy University and completed her undergraduate studies at Bethel College in North Newton, KS.

Schmurr-Stewart said she was honored to serve the international students at Troy University.

"I believe my primary mandate in this position is to care for the welfare of the international student population during their tenure at TROY. Equally important is to envision and implement opportunities for interaction and cross-cultural understandings between our international and American students," she said.

Through University College, TROY operates more than 60 sites in 16 U.S. states, 11 countries and one U.S. territory.