Office of International Programs
Faculty International Program Development Grants
Report

Please complete this form after you return from travel and email to oip@mail.sdsu.edu.

Name: Soh-Leong Lim, Ph.D.
Faculty/Rank: Associate Professor
Department: Counseling and School Psychology
College: College of Education
Office phone: 594-0778
Other phone: -
E mail address: slim@mail.sdsu.edu

Proposal title: China - Establishing Internship and Research Experiences for SDSU Students in the Area of Counseling and Mental Health.

Country/ies visited: China

Institutions visited:
1. Xiamen University, Xiamen, Fujian, China
2. Huajiao University, Quanzhou, Fujian, China
3. Novellink Fellows Graduate Program, Xiamen, China.
4. Compassion for Migrant Children in Shanghai
   (http://www.cmccchina.org/)

Dates of travel: July 2010 – July 2011 (in the period of my sabbatical)

Number of student participants: (laying the groundwork for future student involvement in research and internships. Graduate: 1-2 students per year).

Previous IP proposals submitted and grants awarded: Nil
(list titles, countries and dates):

Have all required reports been submitted? N.A.

Other funding for this activity available/applied for: Nil
Proposal Abstract (75 word maximum):

In the last 3–4 years, I have been engaged with Chinese colleagues in research and the training of mental health counselors in China. I have also mentored students in professional presentations at international conferences, including China. I hope to expand my teaching and research involvement by increasing opportunities for students. This travel grant will help me meet my counterparts in China to establish international internships and international research experiences for our students at SDSU.

Travel report:

I. Opening/overview of intentions/activity

China is very responsive to developments in mental health for its vast population. Mental Health is an emergent field in China and SDSU can meaningfully contribute to its development, with faculty and student involvement. At SDSU, we have a strong Marriage and Family Therapy (MFT) program. We also have motivated students with multicultural competencies and global vision, and who are ready for more opportunities for international professional experiences.

II. In preparation for the trip abroad

I had prior links with CMC and Novelink Fellows Graduate Program in China. I saw these two sites as potentially suitable for research and internship opportunities for the students. I also had initial contacts with personnel from Huaqiao University and Xiamen University. These are two universities in China that are closely associated with SDSU. SDSU also has a current student and faculty agreement with Huaqiao University (Dr. Lilly Cheng, School of Speech Language & Hearing Sciences: [http://oip.sdsu.edu/activeMap/asia/china.htm](http://oip.sdsu.edu/activeMap/asia/china.htm)). I also spent part of my sabbatical at the Mental Heath Crisis Center at Huaqiao University. Xiamen University is associated with SDSU through the Confucius Institute. I am an active member of the Confucius Institute (CI) [http://confucius.sdsu.edu/faculty.html](http://confucius.sdsu.edu/faculty.html). The CI at SDSU aims to strengthen educational and cultural cooperation between China and the United States.

III. Upon arrival/specific activity

A) At Huaqiao University (HQU), Quanzhou, I met with Professor Youfu Xie, Vice Dean of the College of International Exchange together with Mr Shimin Xiang, the Director of the International Office to discuss possibilities of international exchanges. I was then introduced to Professor Bingjie Zhao, Director of Psychology Health Education and Counseling Center of Huaqiao University and the Director of Fujian Association for Mental Health. We discussed ways in which we could further our collaborative efforts in the area of student and faculty involvement and mental health research and training. I also visited the Psychology Health Education and Counseling Center located on campus and met with the counselors. HQU also has a branch
I visited the Psychology Health Education and Counseling Center at this Xiamen branch and had extensive discussions with Dr. Jianhong Liu and Ms. Hairong Wang, the two psychological faculty members there. While in Xiamen, I met with Ms. Liu, a faculty counselor with the Psychological Center at Xiamen University, Xiamen, Fujian, China.

B) Compassion for Migrant Children (CMC) was located in the outskirts of Shanghai, in Tangwan Village, Wujing Town, and in the Minhang District. I met with Ms Grace Nieh, the Regional Manager of CMC Shanghai. We toured the facilities and discussed research and internship possibilities for SDSU students, both in the Shanghai and Beijing facilities (http://www.cmc-china.org/).

C) I met with staff members of the Novelink Fellows Graduate Program in Xiamen (www.hxnovelink.com) and discussed research and internship opportunities for MFT students, especially in their work with families, youth, and children.

IV. Conclusion, recommendation, and next step?

In the MFT program, we train our students to think globally, to be culturally responsive and have competencies to work cross-culturally. SDSU students will gain invaluable international experience in doing research and internship experiences in China. I will be mentoring these students in the research together with my colleagues in China. Together, we will be involved in critically integrating Chinese cultural norms and values (embedded in Confucian and Daoist philosophy), with mental health traditions developed in the West.

We have students in the MFT program who are skilled in Mandarin and a good number of students who have expressed interest in international research and internship experiences. Students can also fulfill their CSP 710A: Masters Research Project course requirements by doing their research in these Chinese universities or institutions. Internship hours can be accrued to the total number of hours required for graduation requirements and MFT licensing.

The activities are supervised field research and/or international internship experience; they involve direct mentoring and supervision as well as supervision and mentoring arrangements with partner institutions.