To: Dr. Alan Sweedler, Director, Office of International Programs

From: Zheng-sheng Zhang, Associate Professor
      Department of Linguistics and Asian/Middle-Eastern Languages

Re: International Travel Grant

Date: September 28, 2010

Cc: Paul Wong, Dean of Arts and Letters
    Lei Guang, Director of Asian Studies

Report on OIP Supported Trip to China and Taiwan
Summer 2010

This past summer, supported by an OIP grant, I traveled to China and Taiwan to visit four universities that have existing exchange programs with SDSU, namely, Capital Normal University in Beijing (CNU), Hebei University in Baoding, Tianjin University of Finance and Economics (TUFE) and Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, Taiwan (NTNU).

As stated in my OIP grant proposal, the purpose of my trip was two-fold:

(1) to work out the details of the first SDSU summer program held in Beijing next summer at CNU;

(2) to collect information about the four universities for a study-abroad guide being planned as one of the initiatives supported by a Title VI grant for strengthening foreign language instruction and area studies;

In what follows, I will detail my activities at each of the four universities and the main accomplishments.

Capital Normal University, Beijing

The exchange program with CNU was established last year, when the SDSU delegation led by Provost Marlin visited the university. The university has a new International Cultural Complex operated by the College of International Education that is widely known to be the best facilities for teaching Chinese to foreign students.

At CNU, I met with three associate deans of the College of International Education, Deans Han, Lin and Zhang, and two staff members of the college, Catherine Xi and Bingke Guo.
With Dean Han, we updated each other about the current status of the exchange program between SDSU and CNU. I also met with Mr. Guo Bingke, coordinator of exchange programs, about the recruitment of the first group of CNU students coming to SDSU in the coming fall semester. Through Mr. Guo, I met with of the two students coming to SDSU, Liu Yun, and helped her with logistical matters concerning studying at SDSU.

With Deans Lin and Zhang, we worked on the details of the summer program, including the dates, staffing, cost, and logistical matters such as lodging and classroom facilities. I worked with Catherine Xi, coordinator of summer programs, on the budget, including various excursion options. I completed a draft version of the MOU between SDSU and CNU, based on my discussion with CNU colleagues.

For preparation of next year's summer program, I observed two Chinese language classes, one for students from the University of Southern California and one for students from the State University of New York at Buffalo. Both classes were taught by CNU faculty. I was favorably impressed by the quality of instruction. I frequently consulted with Professor Nansong Huang, director of USC's summer program, about their experience and logistical matters.

While at CNU, I stayed at CNU's new International Cultural Complex, which includes the dormitory for international students and will be the accommodation for our summer program participants, as well as our exchange students. I ate in the cafeteria/restaurants in the complex that our students eat in and bought books and snacks in the bookstore and the general store, also part of the complex. I also visited other parts of the Complex, which include classrooms, administrative offices, the swimming pool, and the travel agency. I was impressed by the easy availability of resources. I also explored the area around school and identified possible locations for shopping, banking, dining and internet use.

I took many pictures of the campus and the surrounding area and incorporated some of them in the information sheet for CNU that will be part of the study-abroad guide. In this endeavor, I enlisted the help of Catherine Xi, who completed the information sheet as well.

**Hebei University, Baoding**

The exchange program with Hebei University was established by Professor Paokin Chu of the History department many years ago. Though within driving distance from Beijing, it is much quieter and more traditional, something much appreciated by some students.

At Hebei University, I met with Dean Guo Fulang of the College of International Education and Exchange, Director Xu of the Office of International Cooperation and Exchange, the team of teachers of Chinese and staff members in the Office of International Cooperation and
concerning exchange students.

At the invitation of Dean Guo, I delivered a lecture about SDSU and resources for teaching Chinese as a foreign language to the teachers and a group of MA students in teaching Chinese as a foreign language.

While at Hebei University, I stayed at the University’s dormitory for international students and ate in the cafeteria for them and visited the teaching facilities for Chinese language classes for international students. I also visited the university’s library, which has the most complete collection of local histories and an ancient map of the world drafted by a Qing dynasty Jesuit priest.

I took a number of pictures of the city and the university and incorporated some of them in the information sheet for Hebei University. To get a more rounded picture of the university, I enlisted the help of two of our former exchange students, as well as two staff members from the Office of International Cooperation and Exchange.

Tianjin University of Finance and Economics, Tianjin

The exchange program with TUBE University was established by Professor Mei Zhong of the School of Communication about 10 years ago. It remains one of the more popular study-abroad programs with students (especially international business majors), possibly due to its close proximity to Beijing and its business connection, among other things.

At TUBE, I met with directors of the office of International Exchange and Ms. Grace Huo the coordinator in charge of day-to-day operation. Ms. Huo and I talked about the issue of imbalance, i.e., there are more TUBE students wanting to come to SDSU than vice versa. Ms. Huo suggested different ways to enable more TUBE students to study at SDSU, including allowing some self-supported students on reduced tuition.

Since the school year already ended, I did not get to observe any classes but did meet and talk with the team of teachers of Chinese, with whom I talked about the study and life of our exchange students. I came away with the impression that the teachers appeared to be very dedicated.

I also saw two SDSU students, Chad and Nghi, and Ryan, a former exchange student. I asked all three of them, as well as two other former exchange students to fill out the information sheet about TUBE. All were quite positive about their stay at the school.

While at TUBE, I stayed at the University’s dorm for international students and ate in the adjacent restaurant and visited the library, the gym, the swimming pool, the recreation hall and
classrooms for Chinese language classes. I took a number of pictures of the city and the university, which I incorporated into the information sheet.

**National Taiwan Normal University, Taipei**

The exchange program with NTNU was established by Professor Ming-hsiang Tsou of the Geography department a few years ago. Its Mandarin Training Center, which has had a history of over 50 years, is widely known for its quality of Chinese language instruction.

At NTNU, I met with Director Professor I-ping Liang and Ms. Jo Wang, Regional Manager of the Office of International Affairs. During our meeting, we mainly talked about the issue of imbalance, i.e., there are more NTNU students wanting to come to SDSU than vice versa. We explored different ways to attract more SDSU students to study at NTNU, including publicizing some scholarships available to international students.

Although I did not stay at NTNU, I was part of a summer teacher training program hosted by the Mandarin Training Center of NTNU. Therefore, I was on the campus of NTNU for a whole week and had ample opportunity to experience life around the school and observe the operation at the MTC, which seems to be run very efficiently. While there, I happened to see one of our exchange students Sharon Lee, who is on a NTNU scholarship and has since decided to extend her studies there for another year. I corresponded with Sharon about her experience there, which has been overwhelmingly positive.

I took a number of pictures of the city and the university and incorporated some of them into the information sheet for NTNU. Jo Wang of NTNU and the exchange student Sharon Lee helped to fill out the information sheet about the university and the Mandarin Training Center.