

UCSC, China agree on first-of-a-kind student exchange

The first student exchange program between UC-Santa Cruz and the People's Republic of China is under way after almost a year of planning and negotiation.

Participating in the program are four Chinese scholars who will live and study at Santa Cruz and three UCSC undergraduates and one graduate who will study in Beijing (Peking), China, for the next eight months.

Trained in English and other foreign languages, the visiting scholars from China will do graduate work in English literature at Santa Cruz. The UCSC students, who have all studied Mandarin Chinese with Senior Lecturer Ching-Yi Dougherty, will do advanced coursework in Chinese at the Beijing Languages Institute.

The Chinese scholars include two women, Lie Zhi and Wei Hui, both teachers of foreign languages in China, and two men, Zhu Wenjun, a student of English, and Wang Shengyin, who is experienced in translation and is a science teacher.

Each of the scholars will have a faculty sponsor while on campus. They will audit a regular course load of classes, and their work will be evaluated by their sponsors in consultation

with their professors. They will live in UCSC's Crown College.

In Peking are UC-Santa Cruz students Jackie Armijo (Palo Alto), of Oakes College, and Simona Gotti (Rome, Italy), of Stevenson College. Both are juniors majoring in politics and Chinese studies. Joining them will be Andrew Ferrier (San Diego), of Stevenson College, a senior majoring in biology, and Lindsey Watts (La Habra), an alumna of Stevenson who

received a bachelor's degree here this past June in a joint major, history and East Asian studies, and is now a UCSC graduate student in comparative world history.

All four have lived or traveled abroad for extended periods: Gotti in Europe and Fiji Islands; Ferrier in Great Britain and Mexico; Armijo in Kuwait, Thailand and Venezuela; and Watts as a member of the University of Colorado's semester at sea program.

The UCSC students will be evaluated by their professors at the Institute and will receive academic credit for a UCSC independent study.

Watts has had three years of language study at UCSC with Mrs. Dougherty; Armijo and Ferrier two, and Gotti one.

"In our classes with Mrs. Dougherty, we read and translated from the Chinese people's daily newspaper, Renmin Ribao, and used language tapes and a text

she developed herself. The text is just about the best in the country; it gives you exactly what you need," said Watts.

"We won't have time for anything except studying while the Institute is in session," said Armijo, "but we'll have a month-long break in February. As students, we'll be able to travel anywhere in the country on our own."

During the break, Gotti would like to cross China and visit Tibet; Armijo

and Watts plan to explore the vast area of north and central China that fans out from Beijing, and Ferrier says he will probably stay in the capital and "speak with as many Chinese as I can to improve my language skills."

As for the future, Gotti, who was born in Italy, would like to work for the Italian Foreign Service or the United Nations; Armijo is interested in the translation and interpretation of news; and Watts in the translation

of literary and historical works and documents. Ferrier, who has a strong interest in biology and chemistry, will probably use his training in Chinese to do work in scientific translation.

The first steps toward the UCSC-China exchange were initiated almost a year ago by History Professor Dilip Basu, whose major academic interests are in India and China. Basu, with the support and encouragement of

Academic Vice Chancellor John Marcum and Dean of Humanities and Arts Helene Moglen, worked out details for the program with Xu Caide, director of the Beijing Languages Institute and Crown College administrator Don Van Den Berg.

"Our students paid all regular University fees here, and the Chinese all regular fees at the Institute; then, essentially, the two groups traded places," said Basu.

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