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SCU NEWS LETTER

2018四川大学国际 SUMMER

2018 N° 23

UNIVERSITY IMMERSION PROGRAM



SPOTLIGHT

2018 UIP:
Successful Launch of SCU's
International University Immersion Program
Grand Opening Ceremony







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The Newsletter is published by the International Office of Sichuan University. We aim to share the latest news and events on our campus with our faculty members, students, and alumni of the University, as well as friends around the world. We welcome any suggestions or comments from our readers.

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SCU Hosts National Planning Meeting on Undergraduate Education

On June 21st, the Chinese Ministry of Education held its National Planning Meeting at Sichuan University. The meeting, which was all about “Undergraduate University Education in the New Era,” focused on the themes of undergraduate student-oriented education, implementing the ‘four returns,’ and promoting world-class undergraduate education with Chinese characteristics. Chinese Minister of Education, Chen Baosheng, was the main speaker.

Chen Baosheng stressed that a university’s essential role is to cultivate talent, while undergraduate education is at the heart of this endeavor. University leadership should strategically invest in “undergraduate student-oriented education” by prioritizing undergraduate programs, which, according to Chen, must move to the top of national higher education agendas in the new era of educational development.

Chen further argued for the importance of advancing the so-called ‘four returns,’ the first being a return to general knowledge and guiding students in their pursuit of genuine core learning. Second is the return to the original role of teachers as pro-

fessionals fully dedicated to their students’ education. Third is the return to original intentions, persisting in proper, systematic teaching, and adhering to given standards. The fourth ‘return’ is a return to the Chinese educational dream, advancing



education reform and implementing education that serves the country.

The education minister also highlighted the need for innovation in Chinese higher education conceptualization and ideas, teaching methods and technologies, as well as international competitiveness so as to afford a leading role in global higher education to Chinese educational standards and methodologies in global higher education.

The Vice Minister of Education, Lin Huiqing, presided over the meeting, while a number of representatives from regional education departments and other higher education officials held speeches. Via simulcast in various locations, over 50,000 participants altogether were able to join the event.

SCU President Li Yanrong delivered a speech on “Developing World-class Undergraduate Education,” introducing SCU’s undergraduate training and practice in classroom reform, reinforcing qualified faculty, expanding students’ global horizons, and helping to advance innovation & entrepreneurship.

Before the meeting, Education Minister Chen Baosheng and several education officials from the Ministry of Education joined other representatives for an inspection tour of Sichuan University’s educational facilities and teaching environment, observing Yang Jun’s class on cell biology and Zhang Lu’s English composition course, as well as 43 other teachers’ open classes. Chen Baosheng offered highly positive feedback in response to the faculty members’ excellent teaching presentations, as well as on the general undergraduate teaching



situation at SCU. The delegation also visited the museum at West China College of Stomatology, the State Education Demonstration Center, the West China

College of Clinical Medicine, its Remote Medical Care Center and other SCU facilities and institutes. Chen and the other delegates were visibly impressed

by the quality of teaching, cutting-edge research, and extensive social welfare projects at Sichuan University's West China medical colleges and hospitals. ㏏

“Undergraduate Student-Oriented Education & the ‘Four Returns’”:

Successful Forum on Promoting World-class Undergraduate Education

On June 20th, the forum on promoting world-class undergraduate education was successfully held at Sichuan University. Representatives from over 150 colleges and universities across China attended the forum, joining in-depth discussions on the theme of “undergraduate student-oriented education, the ‘four returns,’ and constructing world-class undergraduate education.” Wu Yan, Head of the Department of Higher Education at the Ministry of Education and Wang Jianguo, Chairman of the University Council of SCU, jointly presided over the forum and each held a speech.

Wang Jianguo explained that Sichuan University is diligently studying “Xi Jinping thought on Socialism with Chinese Characteristics for a New Era” while reinforcing its dedication to comprehensively raising the qual-





ity of talent training as a core objective and implementing the 'four returns' as an important contribution to actualizing the Chinese Dream of national rejuvenation in the areas of education and knowledge production.

Wu Yan pointed out that the promotion of world-class education constituted a meaningful indicator of the development of Chinese higher education in the new era. The forum thus represented a significant event in terms of the necessity to build a solid foundation for the continuing work of promoting world-class undergraduate education in China. Wu expressed his hopes that participants would seize this opportunity to accelerate the comprehensive advancement of world-class undergraduate education, strengthen world-class disciplines, and educate world-class talents. ㊦

Formal Release of *World-class Undergraduate Education Manifesto* (Chengdu)



On June 22nd, the Ministry of Education held a news conference marking the official launch of the "World-class Undergraduate Education Manifesto" (Chengdu), a document jointly issued by SCU and its and partner universities and colleges. A total of 150 colleges and universities across the nation jointly committed to the aims and policies outlined in the manifesto, including a commitment to national rejuvenation by focusing on students' education as the core responsibility of higher education reform in the new

era, as well as a dedication to student-oriented undergraduate education, the 'four returns,' open cooperation, and groundbreaking innovation.

On the same day, the Ministry of Education's press office also organized a series of interviews with various education officials and university leaders including Wu Yan, Wang Jianguo, and the President of Fudan University, Xu Ningsheng, who each introduced the reform efforts of their respective universities and answered reporters' questions. ㊦



2018 UIP:

Successful Launch of SCU's International University Immersion Program Grand Opening Ceremony



On July 8th, the opening ceremony for the 2018 University Immersion Program (UIP) was held in grand style at SCU's Jiang'an Campus in Chengdu. 187 professors from 144 top-ranking universities and 26 countries and regions around the world, including Harvard University, the University of Oxford, Cornell University, Stanford University, the National University of Singapore, and Japan's Tohoku University, along with more than 600 international students and SCU faculty and students came to witness this special highlight of exciting artistic performances and international encounters.

SCU President Li Yanrong, on behalf of all the students and faculty members of the university, welcomed the international guests, expressing his hopes that SCU students would make the very best of this opportunity to expand their horizons

through study, knowledge acquisition, and the forging of new friendships; he encouraged visiting students and instructors to share their acquired experiences and impressions of China and Sichuan University with their fellow students, col-

leagues, and friends back home.

President of Texas Tech University, Lawrence Schovanec, in his speech commended SCU's annual University Immersion Program for its crucial contributions in





bringing together students from around the world to foster mutual understanding and promote the cultivation of cross-cultural ties and friendships. Thomas Hanschke, President of Germany's Clausthal University of Technology, pointed to the longstanding ties between SCU and his university, spanning all of 14 years, during which more than 250 students and faculty members from both sides have engaged in collaboration and academic exchanges between Clausthal and SCU. Hanschke also mentioned the joint establishment of the Chinese-German International College, which promises further gains in the international collaboration between the two schools.

Professor Simon Redfern of the University of Cambridge, Professor Frieda Ekotto of the University of Michigan, Professor Hitoshi Ohnishi of Tohoku University, Professor Harry Thomas Dickinson of the University of Edinburgh, Professor Yang Yingzi of Harvard University, international student Alena Lesovaya of the Herzen State Pedagogical University of Russia,

and SCU student Wang Fan of the Wu Yuzhang College each addressed the audience in turn, all noting that they looked forward to the coming two weeks of learning, exploring, and working together.

Following the speeches, Chairman of the University Council of SCU, Professor Wang Jianguo, handed the 2018 UIP banner along with the SCU flag to student representative Alena Lesovaya, marking the official launch of this year's UIP.

The opening ceremony was followed by a rich and colorful program, displaying the exquisite talents and energy of SCU's student body, Chinese and international, in songs, dances, and athletic performances.

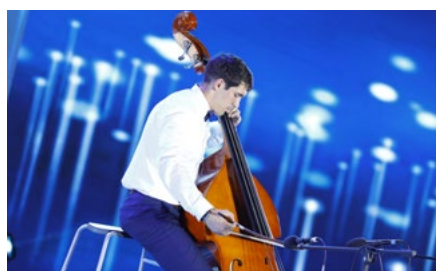
SCU's University Immersion Program was first held in 2012. It is a program designed to train students in areas of global awareness, cross-cultural competencies, and wider cultural understanding. UIP also forms an important component of SCU's double world-class university construction



scheme. Each year nearly 200 experts and scholars from the world's leading universities are invited to give a total of several hundred courses fully taught in English in subjects spanning disciplines in the humanities, medicine, science, and engineering, relating specialized, front-line research, as well as conveying foundational knowledge in engaging lectures. During these two weeks of unique encounters and experiencing rich cultural diversity, SCU students have the opportunity to learn from some of the world's leading scholars in their fields without leaving their own campus. Due to the high quality of its course offerings, wide variety of subjects, and many international professors and students joining the program every year, UIP, after six years of continual progress and improvement, has already become an "SCU specialty," an important trademark of the university at home and abroad.

In 2018, the UIP course offering was the most extensive yet, while the number of participating international students has risen yet again compared to last year: for the first time, the program includes a "PhD Student International Academic Forum," as well as the "Innovation and Entrepreneurship Exhibition" for SCU students to exhibit their outstanding scientific and entrepreneurial innovations.

On the day of this year's UIP launch, activity stations were set up on campus, inviting visiting students and faculty from around the world to experience Chinese culture. SCU international students also hosted a "Fine Foods Exchange Table," serving up delicacies from their home countries and offering UIP participants a cross-cultural culinary experience. A range of artistic talents, styles and ex-



pressions of rich cultural diversity were also exhibited, while international students had a chance to try their hand at Chinese painting and calligraphy.

More than 220 courses will be offered

during the two weeks of this year's UIP, along with various academic lectures. 35 SCU colleges will host over 40 "international exchange camps" for international and SCU students to learn and explore together. ㊦

UIP Classroom:

US and UK Courses at Wu Yuzhang Honors College Offer Students New Perspectives on Environmental Economics, Visual Cultures, and Mental Health

UIP classes were in full swing by Monday, July 9th, as SCU students at the Wu Yuzhang Honors College sampled a variety of new teaching styles and methods in their international immersion courses. The college invited professors from the University of Durham, the University of Michigan, Michigan State University, and Idaho State University to give courses in economics, leadership development, environmental economics, and visual culture.

and visual culture.

Courses at this year's UIP were once again well received by students, who joined in-depth discussions with professors from around the world and benefitted from an interactive, cross-cultural learning experience that proved academically challenging and was geared toward building students' global competencies and cross-cultural awareness. 🙏



Professor Moody introduces SCU students to mental health issues in leadership through team work and problem solving exercises



Professor Marsiliani engages in lively discussions with students in her class on environmental economics



Professor Renstrom of the University of Durham teaches an interactive class in economics



SICHUAN EARTHQUAKE
10 YEARS ON
2008.5.12 - 2018.5.12

SCU Organizes International Forum for Tenth Anniversary of Wenchuan Earthquake

On May 12th, the tenth anniversary of the 2008 Wenchuan Earthquake, SCU hosted an International Memorial Forum which convened at the SCU-Hong Kong Polytechnic University Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction.

Niu Zhijun, Deputy Bureau Chief of the China Earthquake Administration; the Vice Governor of Sichuan Province, Yang Xingping; Wang Xinli of the Ministry of Education; Nepal's former Minister of Education, Ganga Lal Tuladhar; Academician Cui Peng of the Chinese Academy of Science; Chairman of the University Council of SCU, Professor Wang Jianguo; SCU President Li Yanrong; and Vice-President Shi Yanjing attended the Opening Ceremony. Government representatives, experts and scholars from Nepal, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and other Southeast Asian countries, along with experts and scholars from well-known Chinese universities, and faculty and student representatives of SCU, as well as relevant personnel, joined the general meeting.

At the beginning of the forum, participants observed a moment of silence to commemorate those who lost their lives

and loved ones to the 2008 earthquake, as well as those who dedicated themselves to the ensuing rescue mission.





Niu Zhijun and Wang Xinli in their respective speeches stated that they looked forward to working more closely with partners across national borders on disaster prevention education so as to more effectively reduce the risk of earthquakes and other natural disasters.

During the Opening Ceremony, the plaque for the new National Youth Research Base for Disaster Mitigation Education was unveiled. The Research Base will draw on the resources and strengths of different disciplines and international collaborative projects to support disaster mitigation education and raise general awareness. The goal is to help young students improve their emergency response and crisis management skills so that they will be able to assume greater social responsibility in confronting human catastrophes.

During the forum, Cui Peng gave a talk on "Western China and the 'Belt & Road Initiative' Young Talent Training in Disaster Mitigation and Prevention," while Ganga Lal Tuladhar reflected on the "Current State of Disaster Prevention Education and Relief Work in Nepal," the Dean of SCU's West China Medical School, Li Weimin, gave a talk entitled "Huaxi's Emergency Response Medical Care & the History, Present State, and Future of Emergency Medicine," and Gretchen Kalonji spoke on "The History, Present State and Future of IDMR Disaster Education Development and 'Belt and Road' International Cooperation."

In his speech, SCU President Li Yanrong encouraged his listeners to help improve people's awareness and capability to mitigate and respond to natural disasters; the younger genera-

Wang Jianguo gave an address on behalf of Sichuan University, summarizing SCU's efforts over the past ten years in education, research, social welfare and medical care, as well as high-end international collaboration and exchange in the area of earthquake prevention and natural disaster mitigation, which have brought SCU's strengths as a comprehensive university to the fore. SCU will continue to dedicate itself to serving

society, assuming responsibility, and working together with universities from across China and around the world to educate high-end experts, develop front-line, innovative technology, and exploit the skills and knowledge of SCU's leading institutes to offer greater contributions to global disaster and crisis prevention, management and reconstruction.

tion, in particular, must be educated; the capacity to respond scientifically to large-scale natural disasters must be improved; by consolidating the amassed knowledge of past experience, all that can be done must be done to reduce the casualties of future disasters. Sichuan University on this occasion renewed its commitment to working with international friends and partners to promote the study of disaster prevention and mitigation.

Through a series of academic exhibitions, publications, meetings, and international initiatives on disaster prevention, mitigation, and relief work, a concerted effort has been made to consolidate China's wisdom and experiences (not only from the 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, aftershocks and subsequent reconstruction work, but also from experience gained in China's more distant past) to create a platform for authoritative, international dialogue on disaster management, reconstruction,



and sustainable development in China, throughout the "Belt and Road" region, and beyond.

As a university known to the world because of calamity, Sichuan University has more recently turned its attention to the world in order to support other



regions and countries struck by disaster, such as Xinjiang Province, Jiuzhaigou Valley, and Nepal.

As one of SCU's younger disciplines, the field of "disaster science and management" is among those selected for "world-class discipline construction." 卐

Hong Kong's Chief Executive Carrie Lam Visits SCU on Tenth Anniversary of the 2008 Sichuan Earthquake

On May 11th, the current Chief Executive of Hong Kong, Carrie Lam, led a delegation to Sichuan

University to visit and inspect the SCU-Hong Kong Polytechnic University Institute for Disaster Management and

Reconstruction. Director of the State Council's Hong Kong and Macau Affairs Office, Zhang Xiaoming, representatives



classes that was just wrapping up a session on CPR with middle school students from Shatin, in Hong Kong's New Territories. She encouraged the young students to study hard, engage in further cultural exchanges, and strengthen their ties of friendship with their mainland teachers and fellow students.

The inspection team then visited the International Emergency Response Medical Unit (Sichuan Province) who had set up a hospital tent at the institute. The unit, coordinated by SCU's West China Hospital, passed official assessment by WHO experts on May 5th, making it the world's first international, non-military emergency response unit of its kind (EMT Type 3). Lam made detailed inquiries about the cooperation between Hong Kong and West China Hospital and the work of the institute while touring the medical facilities on site. She praised SCU's contributions to global emergency medical responses.



Before ending her visit, Carrie Lam attended a special meeting to discuss the past, present and future of disaster aid and reconstruction efforts. Reflecting on the work of the past eight years has taught her, first, the importance of early planning, second, the need for sustainable development in disaster-struck regions, and third, the efficacy of strong management skills, people-oriented policies, and social cohesion.

Noted experts and scholars from Sichuan University, the University of Hong Kong and the Chinese University of Hong Kong attended the meeting and shared from their various experiences in disaster management and reconstruction. ㊦

of the Hong Kong SAR Government and Sichuan Province, Chairman of the University Council of SCU, Wang Jianguo, President Li Yanrong, and Vice President Yan Shijing joined the inspection visit.

The SCU-Hong Kong Polytechnic University Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction is the world's only interdisciplinary, international, high-end center for education, scientific

research and social service in the new discipline of disaster management and reconstruction. Perusing the institute's special exhibition on the past decade's reconstruction work following the devastating 2008 Wenchuan earthquake, Carrie Lam expressed her deep appreciation for SCU's significant achievements.

In the Center for Post-Disaster Education, Carrie Lam visited one of the

Earthquake Prevention Engineering Seminar Convenes at SCU with 41 Academicians in Attendance

From May 10th to 13th, the Chinese Academy of Engineering co-hosted the 246th China Engineering Science and Technology Forum and Tenth National Earthquake Prevention Engineering Seminar at Sichuan University. More than 40 academicians and 800 other experts from across China in the fields of earthquake prevention engineering, education, design, manufacturing, and construction joined the event. Professor Xu Weilin, Vice President of Sichuan University, gave the opening address. SCU President Li Yanrong, Vice-Governor of Sichuan Province, Yao Sidan, and Academician Li Xiaohong each addressed the forum in turn.

Coinciding with the tenth anniversary of the Wenchuan earthquake of 2008, the forum brought together nine academicians and 33 other prominent experts in their respective fields of engineering (including "Yangtze River Scholars," "National Outstanding Young Scholars," and "1000 Talent" award winners from Europe, the US, Japan, and Australia) to discuss new technologies and applications in earthquake prevention measures. Each of the 42 experts gave a separate talk. The forum and seminar focused on issues such as



properties of seismic waves, scientific surveys, analyzing seismic defenses in architectural design, shock absorption measures, and emergency response and reconstruction work, among other topics. In important

ways, this event contributed to the spread of knowledge and better understanding surrounding disaster management and seismic defense engineering in science and industry, as well as at the administrative levels. 🏢

SCU Hosts the China (Sichuan)-Belt and Road Regional Collaboration Workshop on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation and Second Sino-South Asia Disaster Prevention and Reduction Forum

On the afternoon of May 11th, the China (Sichuan) 'Belt and Road' Regional Collaboration Workshop on Disaster Prevention and Mitigation and Second Sino-South Asia Disaster Prevention and Reduction Forum convened at SCU. The Nepalese Ambassador to China, Leela Mani Paudyal, and Deputy Director of the Sichuan Foreign Affairs Office, Shen Chao, as well as government officials, experts and scholars from Nepal, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, India, Bangladesh, and Myanmar, alongside delegates from prominent universities across China, joined the meeting. SCU Vice President Yan Shijing presided over the opening ceremony while Chairman of the University Council of SCU, Wang Jianguo, spoke on behalf of the university.

The forum lasted two days and was organized to coincide with the tenth anniversary of the Great Sichuan Earthquake of 2008. Serving as both a commemorative event and opportunity to extend international collaboration on disaster



research, the invited experts and scholars spoke on topics such as the experiences of Chinese-South Asian collaboration in the field of disaster prevention; reconstruction and development efforts following the Wenchuan earthquake; reducing the risks of disasters; and collaborative emergency response efforts at the national, regional, and international levels. The forum also witnessed the establishment of the China (Sichuan)-

South Asia Disaster Prevention and Mitigation University Alliance (which will promote interdisciplinary regional collaboration); created new channels and a platform for dialogue and exchange on disaster research in China and South Asia; and promoted the internationalization, integration, and standardization of disaster prevention measures nationwide and across South Asia. 🏛️

Ten Years of Disaster Prevention Education and Scientific Rigor



In June of 2008, just one month after the catastrophe, SCU and Hong Kong Polytechnic jointly established the Sichuan University-Hong Kong Polytechnic University Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction, which rapidly began recruiting scholars and experts from different academic fields to provide high-end research and solutions on disaster management strategies, as well as offer long-term assistance toward the rebuilding of disaster-struck areas. Not long afterwards, and on the basis of their initial collaboration, the two universities went on to jointly establish the world's first School of Disaster Reconstruction and Management.

The school has generated significant research on disaster response, developed important reconstruction technologies, has offered specialty training, and provided education and awareness raising in the area of disaster prevention and mitigation. As such, it has become an important global base for educating

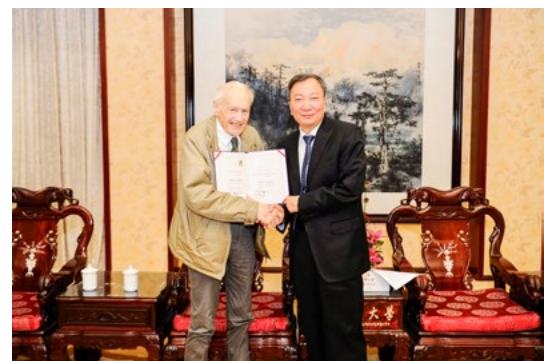
high-end specialists and producing leading-edge research in this field. To date, nearly 400 master and PhD students have graduated from the school, while over 6000 have received training altogether. The school's contribution to disaster management and reconstruction education has been substantial both in terms of the number of students educated and the quality of instruction.

At the same time, SCU's disaster prevention and mitigation research group has trained a number of talents, who are ensuring the continued development of the field.

Sichuan University will continue to mine its resources and work together with higher education institutions and organizations across China and around the world to respond to global natural disasters, work hard to develop the field of disaster studies in China, and consolidate its strengths to support disaster prevention and mitigation, as well as reconstruction efforts, around the world. ㊦

On the afternoon of June 8th, Sir Anthony J. Leggett, winner the 2003 Nobel Prize in Physics, visited Sichuan University, where he was appointed honorary professor of SCU. Leggett is a professor of physics and chief scientist at the Institute for Condensed Matter Theory at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. President Li Yanrong met with Professor Leggett at SCU's Wangjiang Campus. Vice President Liang Bin, along with faculty and staff from relevant departments, attended the meeting.

President Li offered Professor Leggett a general introduction to Sichuan University, pointing out the importance of physics as a foundational discipline to engineering courses at SCU; physics was introduced early on and has rapidly developed over the past few decades. In the framework of SCU's promotion as a world-class university, it has concentrated on further developing various sub-disciplines, including material physics. As Professor Leggett is among the world's leading scientists in quantum mechanics,



Winner of the 2003 Nobel Prize in Physics, Sir Anthony J. Leggett, Awarded Honorary Professorship



President Li hopes he might offer his unique contributions to developing this field at Sichuan University by recommending talented early-career scholars to promote the construction of quantum mechanics and related fields at SCU.

Professor Leggett was recognized with the Nobel Prize in Physics in 2003 for his original work on superfluidity. He is a member of the American Academy of Sciences, fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, overseas fellow of the the Russian Academy of Sciences, and member of the Royal Society. He has also been appointed to the Order of the British Empire.

During their meeting, Leggett thanked President Li for the kind welcome at SCU and expressed appreciation for the honor of being appointed overseas professor. He stressed his willingness to contribute his own wisdom and knowledge, particularly in the area of quantum physics and related fields to promote the development of physics at SCU. He looks forward to many opportunities to interact and cooperate with SCU students and faculty.



Wrapping up their meeting, President Li, on behalf of the university, presented Sir Leggett with a letter appointing him honorary professor of SCU.

Later that afternoon, Professor Leggett gave a special lecture at the Wangjiang Campus on Bell's Theorem, Entanglement, Quantum Teleportation and Related Research, which was open to all students and faculty. Professor Leggett's half-hour lecture offered clear theoretical analysis



and brilliant insights, while providing a basic introduction to quantum teleportation.

Leggett's lecture was welcomed with great enthusiasm from the audience, who engaged in the Q and A session that followed with great interest.

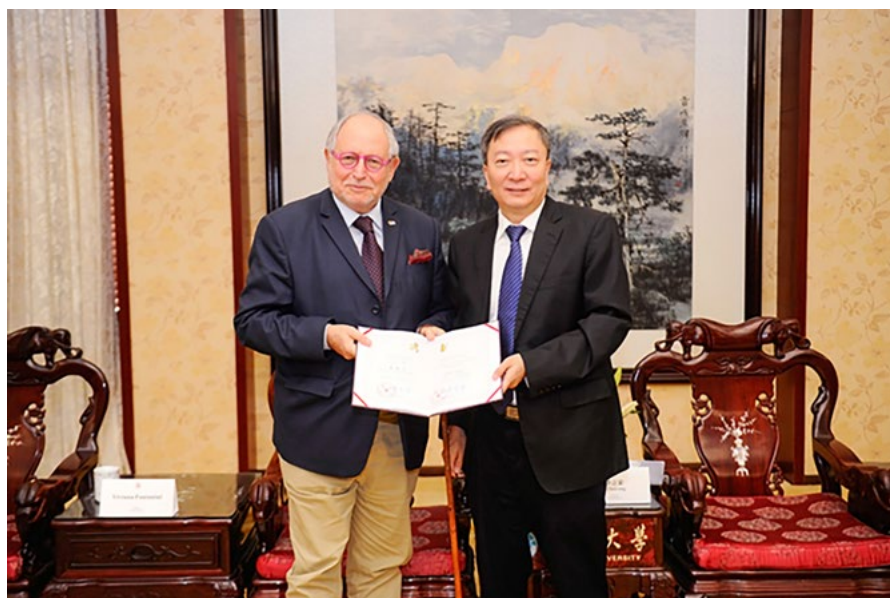
During his stay, Professor Leggett gave another lecture at SCU's Jiang'an Campus, this one entitled Testing Quantum Mechanics Towards the Level of Everyday Life. At Jiang'an, Sir Leggett also met

with students and faculty from the College of Polymer Science and Engineering and related departments at SCU and engaged in in-depth academic discussions and exchanges. ㏏

Argentine Ambassador Appointed Visiting Professor of SCU

On June 26th, Argentina's Ambassador to China, Diego Ramiro Guelar, visited Sichuan University, where he met with SCU President Li Yanrong. Vice President Yan Shijing joined the meeting, while faculty and staff from SCU's Human Resource Department, Department of Social Science Research, International Office, College of Foreign Languages, School of International Studies, Institute for Latin American Studies, and other colleges and departments also attended.

During their meeting President Li Yanrong introduced the Ambassador to the state and development of international relations and various regional area studies at SCU, highlighting in particular the progress of the Institute for Latin American Studies and the Spanish Language Department. Sichuan University, as Li pointed out, launched its Spanish language program in 2010 to train students with a foundation in the humanities who wanted to study an additional western language; the Institute for Latin



American Studies, which was founded in 2015 to undertake extensive research on Sino-Latin American relations, as well as Latin American literatures and cultures, has already produced substantial results. President Li hopes that Ambassador Guelar will continue to keep an eye on developments at SCU and support its research on Latin American

– particularly Argentine – culture and the work of the Spanish Department in promoting strategic relations between Sichuan University and leading universities in Argentina and offering vital contributions to Sino-Latin American cultural collaboration and exchange.

Ambassador Guelar thanked President

Li for his university's efforts in promoting Latin American studies and building a strong Spanish language program. Sichuan University, the Ambassador noted, plays an important role in connecting his country with China and Chinese culture and has also made invaluable contributions in the promotion of educational exchanges and cooperation between universities in Argentina and top Chinese institutions of higher learning. The

Ambassador looks forward to the two countries' deepening and extending their cultural and educational collaboration and working towards a stronger, fruitful bilateral relationship.

During the meeting, the two sides further discussed plans on educational exchanges and collaborating on a jointly launched, international Latin American research forum.

President Li Yanrong presented Ambassador Guelar with a letter appointing the Ambassador visiting professor of Sichuan University.

On the same morning, Ambassador Guelar toured the Spanish Department at SCU's College of Foreign Languages, where they visited a Spanish language class and the Ambassador gave a talk on "Argentine-Chinese Cultural Relations." 🏛️

Spain's Ambassador to China, Alberto Carnero Fernández, Visits SCU

On May 11th, SCU President Li Yanrong met with the Spanish Ambassador to China, Alberto Carnero Fernández. The Ambassador's wife joined the visiting delegation, while SCU Vice President Yan Shijing, representatives of the Provincial Foreign Affairs Office, and members of the faculty and staff of Sichuan University attended the meeting.

President Li Yanrong welcomed the Spanish Ambassador, who was visiting Sichuan University for the first time, and introduced the university's background, recent developments, and well-established history in the study of foreign languages. In 2010, SCU established its Spanish Department, which has greatly contributed to the demand for foreign language experts in the region

and boosted Sino-Spanish scholarly exchanges. President Li is confident that the Ambassador's visit will encourage further cultural exchange between the

two countries and promote enhanced collaboration between Sichuan University and Spanish institutions of higher learning.





Ambassador Alberto Carnero Fernández pointed out that Spain and China are just this year celebrating 45 years of diplomatic relations. With the joint efforts of the governments and citizens of both

that collaboration in higher education is more urgently needed than ever as new avenues for promoting goodwill and cultural exchange are being sought out. The Ambassador acknowledged SCU's

nations, bilateral relations have rapidly developed and cooperation in various sectors has yielded fruitful and substantive results. At the moment, Sino-Spanish relations are presented with unprecedented opportunities so

standing as one of China's leading comprehensive universities, with numerous achievements in recent years in education, development of its academic disciplines, scientific research and international collaboration. He, too, hopes that SCU and Spanish universities will enter stronger partnerships in the future to promote the overall development of Sino-Spanish cultural and educational collaboration and exchange.

Following their meeting, the Spanish Ambassador and his wife went to observe a class in the Spanish Language Department; they talked to SCU students and faculty who wanted to know more about Spain and Spanish culture. 🏠

The Honorable John McCallum, Canadian Ambassador to China, Visits Huaxi

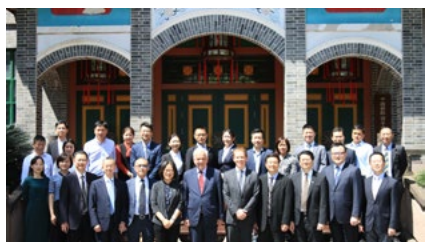
Canadian Ambassador to China, John McCallum, recently visited Sichuan University, where he toured facilities and met with faculty of the West China (Huaxi) School of Stomatology. Ambassador McCallum was accompanied by the Canadian Consul General in Chongqing, Jeff David, and the Canadian Education Commissioner at the Chongqing Consulate, Peter Liao. Relevant personnel of the West China School of Stomatology, West China School of Clinical Medicine, West China School of Public Health, and SCU's International Office wel-



comed the visiting delegation.

At Huaxi's Museum of Stomatology, the Canadian delegation learned all about the origins and history of Chinese dentistry and oral medicine, examining exhibits of over 100 years of the school's history with great interest. Ambassador McCallum even donned the white Chinese physicians' garb to pose for photos. McCallum expressed his admiration for the school's drive for scientific rigor and its superior academic program sure to produce future talents of high quality and international outlook.

The head of Huaxi's School of Stomatology offered an overview of Sichuan University's cooperation with Canadian institutions of higher learning and their present cooperative partnerships in both education and scientific research. Ambassador McCallum expressed support for Sino-Australian cultural and educational cooperation and signed the guestbook with a personalized note. 卐



SCU Overseas Promotional Event Successfully Held in Munich



On June 7th, a delegation from Sichuan University successfully convened an overseas SCU promotional event in the Bavarian capital of Munich. SCU Vice President Yan Shijing; President of the Technische Universität Clausthal (Clausthal University of Technology), Thomas Hanschke; Head of the Education Department of the Chinese Consulate in Munich, Huang Chongling; Professor Hou Zhengmeng of Clausthal University of Technology,

and relevant personnel of Sichuan University joined the event.

Yan Shijing opened the meeting with an introduction to Sichuan University, its present state, development, and future orientation, and went on to review the long and fruitful history of solid cooperation between SCU and institutions of higher learning in Germany. SCU recognizes the vital role of talent cultivation in impacting the long-term



Many young academics who attended the event commented that the talks given helped them better understand developments in the contemporary Chinese academic job market and gave them important pointers for their own future career planning.

development of a university, Yan noted, and welcomes international scholars who want to make China, Sichuan, and Chengdu their home and would choose SCU as a platform for their professional and academic development.

Thomas Hanschke, President of Clausthal University of Technology, and Huang Chongling, Head of the Education Department of the Chinese Consulate in Munich, in turn addressed the audience of international scholars.

Dr. Wei Chang, researcher at the Max Planck Institute for Medical Research and enrolled in the "One Thousand Talents" Young Scholars Program, who studied

and has been working in Germany, joined the event to specifically address the issue of why he had chosen to return to China and why he selected Sichuan University as his new employer. In his promotional speech, Dr. Wei encouraged his fellow scholars to relocate to Sichuan: "The road to the 'land of plenty' (*tiānfùzhīguó*) is no longer arduous: Come to Sichuan and find out for yourself!"

Five young scholars from the Free University of Berlin, the Technical University of Berlin, Clausthal University of Technology, the University of Basel, and the University of Toulouse, respectively, signed contracts with SCU on the spot.

This was the first time Sichuan University went abroad to hold an international promotional event of this kind; it was an undertaking to which the university's leadership attached a great deal of importance, hoping that by way of this and similar events more and more young talents will have the chance to learn about the excellent opportunities and unique working environment at SCU. The "Global Young Scholars" overseas special forum and SCU overseas promotional event are important recruiting channels and part of the university's wider internationalization and developing international talent strategies. Other promotional events are also planned for the coming year in England and the United States. 卐

Chinese-German International College

SCU and Clausthal University of Technology Sign Agreement to Establish Joint College

On July 8th, the day of the 2018 UIP (University Immersion Program) launch at SCU, internationalization initiatives at Sichuan

University took a new turn: SCU formally signed a cooperative agreement with Germany's Clausthal University of Technology, paving the way for the two

schools to establish a joint international college based in Germany. The agreement marks Sichuan University's first venture into running a college outside

the People's Republic of China and on German soil. SCU President Li Yanrong and President of Clausthal University of Technology, Thomas Hanschke, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective schools.

Li Yanrong opened the meeting by welcoming the German visitors. Clausthal University of Technology, Li noted, is among Germany's famous polytechnics and boasts a strong foundation in studies on energy, economics, and related fields. SCU attaches great importance to internationalization, particularly the task of training students in various aspects of global competitiveness. Over the past years of fruitful collaboration and exchange, Clausthal University of Technology has become an important cooperative partner for SCU. The joint establishment of an international college marks a significant event in the shared history of the two schools. President Li anticipates a closer working relationship in the areas of education and scientific collaboration. Li emphasized that establishing a joint college between Chinese and German higher education institutions represents an innovative move in Sino-foreign academic collaboration. Requiring the joint efforts of both schools and a willingness to chart new territory, the venture offers the unique opportunity to combine the academic distinctions of both sides. The founders will be establishing innovative courses of study focused on exploiting interdisciplinary strengths and the potential for international engagement. With a strong global outlook and plans to develop new engineering majors, the college also stands to offer significant contributions to socio-economic development in both countries.



President Thomas Hanschke thanked President Li for the generous reception at SCU, stating that his university deeply valued its cooperation with Chinese higher education institutions and attaches a great deal of importance to its cooperative partnership with Sichuan University in particular. Hanschke is certain that the signing of this agreement will serve to further advance the systematic cooperation between the two schools and that, with the efforts of both its German and Chinese initiators, the joint college is guaranteed to be-

come a great success. In the presence of all attending faculty and staff members as witnesses of the event, Presidents Li and Hanschke together signed the cooperation agreement, outlining plans for the joint establishment of the Chinese-German International College, along with other items of consensus.

Vice President of Clausthal University of Technology Alfons Esderts and SCU Vice President Yan Shijing, as well as representatives of relevant schools and departments, joined the ceremony. 🙏

SCU Delegation Visits UK Partners

In order to actively promote increased cooperation between Sichuan University and higher education institutions in the UK and encourage international talent recruitment, Chairman of the University Council of SCU, Professor Wang Jianguo, led a special delegation to the UK from June 8th to 12th to conduct a series of promotional events: the delegation held meetings with SCU's important cooperative partners in the UK; visited different universities, including Cambridge University and Queen Mary University of London; participated in a job fair organized by the Sichuan Provincial Government; and met with representatives of SCU's alumni, faculty and students residing in the UK.

On the morning of June 10th, delegates met at the Education Department of the Chinese Embassy in London for a special meeting with SCU's main cooperative partners in the UK. Attending the discussions on cooperation and development were 30 representatives from the University of Cambridge; the University of Oxford; Imperial College London; Queen Mary University of London; Royal Holloway, University of London; the University of Birmingham; the SCU UK Alumni Club; and the Association for Sichuan Expatriates in the UK. Wang Yongli of the Chinese Embassy's Education Department and Huang Jianfa, Member of the Standing Committee of Sichuan Provincial Committee, jointly chaired the meeting, taking in the ideas and proposals put forward by the at-



tending scholars and experts.

Wang Jianguo introduced some of the noteworthy developments at SCU over the past years; SCU's cooperation with higher education institutions in the UK has witnessed substantial results while forging stronger ties between China and the UK in the area of educational and cultural relations. Wang hopes that both sides will take full advantage of this "golden age" in Sino-British relations to reinforce their fruitful cooperation.

Scholars and experts of the various institutions represented addressed the meeting in turn, summing up their respective experiences in cooperating with Sichuan University and discussing topics such as Sino-British faculty exchanges and attracting outstanding talents to help promote "dual world-class" (*shuang yiliu*) university construction at SCU.

On the afternoon of June 10th, the Sichuan Province European Promotional Event and Job Fair was held in London,

which drew over 400 experts from top universities and research institutions across Europe, including the University of Cambridge, the University of Oxford, Imperial College London, and others. Professor Wang Jianguo gave a promotional talk, inviting leading scholars to come to Sichuan University and help contribute to development, innovation at progress. Dozens of promising young scholars expressed their interest in working at SCU while 10 Distinguished Young Scholars enrolled in the "Thousand Talents Program" signed agreements on the spot.

On June 11th, the delegation left for Cambridge, where they met with the Pro-Vice-Chancellor for Research at the University of Cambridge, Professor Chris Abell. The two sides swapped ideas on how to further improve their working relationship and discussed how best to develop cooperation in areas of common strengths. Proposals were put forward to increase exchanges between the two universities, build upon and expand existing channels of cooperation, and work on joint projects in medical education.

Following the meeting, Wang Jianguo participated in the "Cambridge-SCU Deep Underground Science Joint Research Planning Meeting." Simon Redfern, Head of the Department of Earth Sciences at the University of Cambridge, chaired the meeting; Professor David Cardwell, University of Cambridge Pro-Vice-Chancellor-elect, Head of the Department of Engineering, and Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering, also joined the talks. The two sides discussed in-depth plans for the joint Earth Science Research Center and talked about branching out into new fields of cooperation, joint sci-

entific ventures, Sino-British student and faculty exchanges, and professional skills development, among other topics. SCU's College of Hydraulic and Hydro-electric Engineering and Cambridge's Earth Sciences Center signed a memorandum of understanding pertaining to their planned cooperation. It is hoped that the various joint projects undertaken between SCU and the University of Cambridge will not only promote scientific proliferation within the two universities, but serve development goals on a much wider scale in both countries, and beyond.

At the invitation of Professor Colin Bailey, President and Principal at Queen Mary University of London, the delegates also

visited that university, where they met with President Bailey and Vice-Principals Colin Grant and Steve Thornton. While SCU and Queen Mary already enjoy a strong working relationship, Wang Jianguo pointed out that the two sides hope to expand their cooperation. Both universities were introduced in terms of the academic strengths and current state of internationalization at each, and a brief history of their cooperation was outlined; the two sides hope to expand student and faculty exchanges, joint education programs, and scientific collaboration, particularly as concerns cooperation in the areas of clinical medicine and stomatology. A satisfactory consensus was reached on the projected goals of the partnership. 卐



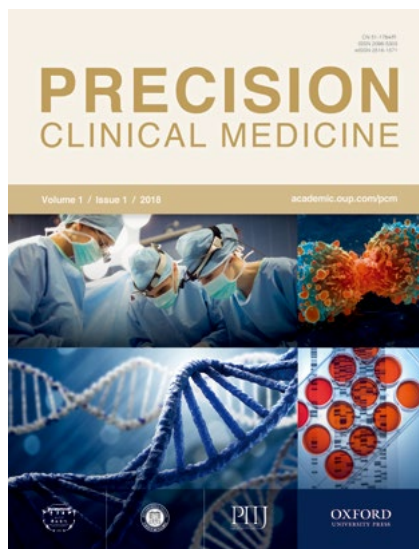
Oxford UP and West China Hospital Launch Joint Journal on Precision Medicine

This spring, Oxford University Press and West China Hospital's joint English-language journal *Precision Clinical Medicine (PCM)* was officially launched online.

Precision Clinical Medicine is an international, peer-reviewed, open access journal that publishes original research articles, case reports, reviews, editorials, and perspectives on all aspects in the field of precision medicine. The journal aims to provide new theories, methods, and evidence for disease diagnosis, treatment, and prevention.

Dr Weimin Li, editor-in-chief of *Precision Clinical Medicine*, said that West China Hospital has established a precision medicine-oriented development strategy for the coming ten years. The hospital is pleased to cooperate with Oxford University Press on *Precision Clinical Medicine* and hopes to make the journal a new communication platform for the latest development of related research and clinical application of precision medicine.

Rhodri Jackson, editorial director of Asia Journals at Oxford University Press, expressed his excitement on partnering with West China Hospital to launch *Precision Clinical Medicine*. He is confident about



the top-quality team assembled for the journal and believe that Oxford University Press, West China Hospital, and the editors of the journal can work together to make *Precision Clinical Medicine* the pre-eminent journal in its field.

Oxford University Press released the news on EurekAlert! (EurekAlert! is an online, global news service operated by AAAS, the science society. It features news and resources focused on all areas of science, medicine and technology).

Original link: https://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2018-04/oupu-oup042718.php

About Oxford University Press

Oxford University Press publishes over 400 academic and research journals covering a broad range of subject areas, two thirds of which are published in collaboration with learned societies and other international organizations. Oxford University Press has been publishing journals for more than a century and, as the world's largest university press, has more than 500 years of publishing expertise.

Michael Szonyi, Director of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University, Visits SCU to Discuss Next Stage of Research Cooperation

This spring, Michael Szonyi, Director of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University, visited SCU, where he investigated recent developments at the joint Fairbank-Sichuan University Research Center for the Study of West China and followed progress on two current research projects, "Historical Survey and Research on Society in Rural Western China since the Ming and Qing Dynasties," and a jointly launched project entitled "Caught between Rivers and Mountain Ranges: Building Immigrant Communities in Modern Sichuan."

On this visit, Professor Szonyi joined two separate field research expeditions, participated in a research seminar, and also met with SCU leadership to discuss further cooperation between Sichuan University and the Fairbank Center. The Vice Dean of SCU's history department, Professor Wang Guo, joined Szonyi in leading the first visit to eastern Sichuan. Their investigations here focused mainly on transport, coal mining, the salt trade, various ethnic groups, and related themes, leading them to northern Chongqing's



Touring the ancient capital of the Bo



Touring western Sichuan

Beibei and Hechuan districts, as well as to Shehong county, Xingwen county, and surrounding villages.

Following the first research trip, Pro-

fessor Szonyi joined a seminar with the "Society in Rural Western China" group to summarize early findings and discuss the next stages of the research. Professor Wang Guo and Professor

Li Deying of the history department, along with other faculty members and a number of students, joined the meeting, during which Professor Szonyi offered helpful suggestions on the methodology employed and how to gauge results.

Together with Professor Li Deying of the history department, Professor Szonyi led another research tour, this time of western Sichuan, looking at water irrigation systems, agriculture, the Daxi state in Sichuan and society during the Ming and Qing dynasties,

immigration, and clan culture, among other topics. The group conducted research in Chengdu, Dujiangyan, Xinjing county, Pengshan county, and Chengdu's Longquan and Newtown districts.

During his stay, Professor Szonyi also spoke with SCU's Vice-President Yan Shijing, the head of the department of social sciences, Fu Qilin, and the dean of the history department, Huo Wei. The two sides discussed further research cooperation plans and a proposal to establish a joint historical

resources database.

The joint research center had been established following the signing of two MoU's between a group of Harvard professors and SCU in December 2016 and September 2017, respectively. This April, Vice President Yan Shijing and Professor Huo Wei paid a return visit to the Fairbank Center to discuss matters of cooperation. Professor Szonyi's visit this time marked further progress in the important research cooperation between the two universities. ㏏

SCU and Sri Lanka's University of Peradaniya Sign Cooperation Agreement

On May 10th, a signing ceremony was held at Sichuan University to mark the beginning of a new cooperative relationship between SCU and Sri Lanka's University of Peradaniya. Before the ceremony, SCU President Li Yanrong met with Upul B. Dissanayake, president of the University of Peradaniya. SCU Vice President Yan Shijing, as well as representative faculty and staff of the Social Sciences Department, the International Office, the College of History, the Law School, and the School of International Studies, also joined the meeting.

President Li Yanrong welcomed President Dissanayake and offered his best wishes for the signing of the coop-



eration agreement. Li introduced the general state of SCU and reviewed the positive working relationship between the two universities up to now. SCU is currently in the process of accelerating

its world-class university construction, and internationalization on all fronts is an important component of its strategy. The University of Peradaniya is undoubtedly among Sri Lanka's best

universities; like SCU, it is also a leading comprehensive university. President Li is confident that the signing of the agreement will contribute to a stronger partnership between the two schools in the areas of student and faculty exchanges and collaborative scientific research. The agreement will also strengthen existing educational ties between China and Sri Lanka, contributing to the important friendship between the two countries.

The forerunner of the University of Peradaniya was the University of Cey-

lon, which was founded in 1942. It is located in the central part of Sri Lanka. President Upul B. Dissanayake expressed his thanks for the warm welcome at Sichuan University before introducing the general state of affairs at Peradaniya. He looks forward to the rich opportunities for development the agreement between SCU and his university will bring about and is confident that the cooperative partnership between the two schools is set to yield promising results.

Following the exchanges, President Li

and President Upul B. Dissanayake each signed the "SCU- University of Peradaniya Cooperative Agreement" on behalf of his university, promising to further promote Chinese-Sri Lankan cultural relations and academic and educational exchanges between the two countries. The agreement stipulates that the two schools will develop joint undergraduate and graduate education programs and engage in collaborative scholarly projects such as the joint Indian Ocean Region Studies Institute. 🏛️

President of the University of Macau, Song Yonghua, Signs Cooperation Agreement with SCU

On July 2nd, Song Yonghua, President of the University of Macau, led an inspection team of higher education officials from Macau on a special visit to Sichuan University. SCU President Li Yanrong and Vice President Yan Shijing welcomed the delegation.

President Li gave a brief introduction to SCU and outlined a number of recent key developments, explaining that Sichuan University attaches a great deal of importance to its cooperative partnerships with universities in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Macau, as is evidenced by several new programs introduced



in recent years. Li stressed that he looked forward to the increased cooperation and exchange with SCU's partners in Macau that this visit promised to bring about.

Representing the delegation from Macau, President Song Yonghua, congratulated his

hosts on the tremendous progress at Sichuan University, his alma mater. Delegates expressed their hopes to deepen ties with Sichuan University in the near future and to promote student exchanges, joint education programs, and collaborative scientific research.

At the close of the meeting, Li Yanrong and Song Yonghua signed two MoU's, namely, the "Research Collaboration and Academic Exchange Agreement between Macanese Universities and SCU" and the "Undergraduate Student Exchange Agreement between Macanese Universities and SCU." ㊦

SCU and Texas Tech University Sign Cooperation Agreement

On July 8th, the President of Texas Tech University, Lawrence Schovanec, led a visiting delegation to Sichuan University. President Li Yanrong welcomed the delegation at SCU's Jiang'an Campus in Chengdu and signed the agreement with Texas Tech on behalf of Sichuan University.

President Li opened the meeting by extending a warm welcome to Lawrence Schovanec, noting that Sichuan University attaches a great deal of importance to internationalization; for the past seven years, in order to strengthen students' international competitiveness, SCU has organized a "University Immersion Program" (UIP) every summer, allowing participating students from China and abroad to study together and build friendships across cultures. This year SCU has also launched its "Global Horizons" international student exchange program, granting more SCU students opportunities to study at leading universities around the world. SCU deeply values its cooperation with Texas Tech University, as Li further noted. Confident that this new agreement will serve to strengthen the



partnership between the two universities in important areas, including educational and scientific collaboration, President Li also sees this cooperation as contributing to wider socio-economic progress in both countries.

Lawrence Schovanec thanked his hosts for the kind reception at SCU, noting that Sichuan University is currently one of the school's most important international collaborative partners. According to Schovanec, the signing of the agreement with SCU represents an important move toward further internationalizing for Texas Tech University. President Schovanec

hopes the agreement will also deepen understanding and strengthen collaboration between the two universities while benefitting both sides.

In the presence of the assembled guests, President Li and President Schovanec signed the cooperation agreement, each representing his school. The agreement stipulates that SCU and Texas Tech University will collaborate in scientific research, educational programs and other areas. Vice President of Texas Tech University, Joseph A. Heppert, and SCU Vice President Yan Shijing also joined the signing ceremony. ㊦

Professor Liu Lunxu of SCU's West China Hospital Elected Member of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery at Annual Conference in San Diego

By Leng Xuefeng

The 98th Annual Meeting of the American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) opened at the San Diego International Conference Center in California on April 28th. Thousands of experts and scholars from all over the world participated in this year's meeting. Among them was Professor Liu Lunxu of SCU's West China Hospital, who was newly elected to the AATS for his leading role in developing the "single-direction VATS lobectomy" and for his crucial contributions to thoracic surgery in China as one of the country's first thoracic surgeons to perform VATS lobectomy comprehensively to treat lung cancer.

At this year's meeting, five nominees from China were elected new members of the AATS, four experts from the field of thoracic surgery and one expert in cardiac surgery. They were Professor Chen Chang, Vice Dean of the Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital, Shanghai Jiao



Tong University; Professor Jiang Gening, Chief of the Department of Thoracic Surgery of Shanghai Pulmonary Hospital, Shanghai Jiao Tong University; Professor Liu Lunxu, Vice President of West China Hospital & Vice Dean of West China School of Medicine of Sichuan University; Professor Tan Lijie, Deputy

Director of Department of Thoracic Surgery, Chief of Department of Esophageal Diseases from Zhongshan Hospital, Fudan University; and Professor Wang Chunsheng, Chief of Department of Cardiology of Zhongshan Hospital, Fudan University.

Professor Liu Lunxu has played a leading role in China in the introduction of complete video-assisted thoracoscopic surgery (VATS) as a radical treatment for lung cancer. In the international arena, he developed the "single-direction VATS lobectomy" and was the first surgeon to treat central lung cancer by performing complete VATS bronchovascular double sleeve lobectomy. He developed the non-grasping en bloc mediastinal lymph node dissection (MLND), "suction-compressing angiorrhaphy technique (SCAT)" for thoracoscopic massive hemorrhage, and comprehensive treatment strategies for complex anatomy of hilum. Liu also performed the first

successful bilateral lung transplantation in western China. He has won the Chinese Medical Sci-Tech Advance Award (first class) and the Sichuan Provincial Science and Technology Advance Award (first class). Liu's election to the AATS not only recognizes Liu's significant efforts and achievements in minimally invasive thoracic surgery, but also encourages continued contributions to the diagnosis and treatment of thoracic heart disease worldwide.

The American Association for Thoracic Surgery (AATS) is an international organization that encourages, promotes, and stimulates the scientific investigation of cardiothoracic surgery. Founded in 1917 by a respected group of the earliest pioneers in the field, its original mission was to "foster the evolution of an interest in surgery of the Thorax." Today, the AATS is the premiere association for cardiothoracic surgeons in the world and works to continually enhance the ability of cardiothoracic surgeons to provide the highest quality of patient care. Its more than 1,400 members from 41 different countries have a proven record of distinction within the specialty and have made significant contributions to the care and treatment of cardiothoracic disease. AATS has strict requirements for membership application. Its members have a good reputation in the field of cardiothoracic surgery and have made active contributions to the diagnosis and treatment of cardiothoracic disease in the world. Elected members are not only leading scientists in their fields of specialization, but also front-line experts and project leaders in their respective disciplines. ㊦



About

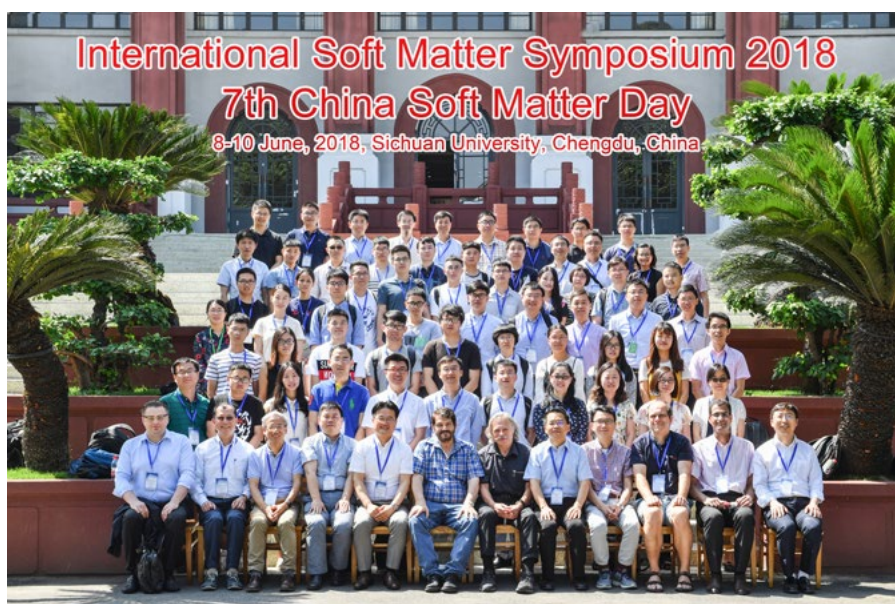
Prof. Liu Lunxu is the Vice President of West China Hospital & Vice Dean of West China School of Medicine of Sichuan University, professor, chief physician, doctoral tutor, Fellow of The Royal College of Surgeons (RCS), member of the AATS, and winner of the distinguished title of "Young and Mid-career Expert with Outstanding Contributions to National Health and China's Family Planning Commission." Currently he also serves as Vice President of the Chinese Association of Thoracic Surgeons and the Chairman of Expert Committee of Minimally Invasive Thoracic Surgery of Chinese Association of Thoracic Surgeons, Standing Committee Member of the Chinese Society for Thoracic and

Cardiovascular Surgery and Head of the Thoracoscopic Surgery Group of the Chinese Society for Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery, Committee member of the Chinese Anti-cancer Association (Lung Cancer), Vice Chairman of the Expert Committee of Thoracic Surgery of the Chinese Research Hospital Association, Vice Chairman of the Thoracic Surgery Group and Chief of ERAS Group of the China International Exchange and Promotion Association for Medical and Healthcare, and Vice Chairman of the Integrated Thoracic Surgery Committee of the Chinese Association of Integrated Medicine. He also sits on the editorial board of the Chinese Journal of Clinical Thoracic and Cardiovascular Surgery and Video-Assisted Thoracic Surgery.

International Soft Matter Symposium & 7th China Soft Matter Day Successfully Convened at SCU

By Chu Liangyin Liu Zhuang

Hosted by SCU and organized by the School of Chemical Engineering, the “International Soft Matter Symposium 2018 & 7th China Soft Matter Day” successfully convened from June 8th-10th. Among those who joined the symposium were David A. Weitz, professor at Harvard University and member of the National Academy of Sciences (USA), the National Academy of Engineering (USA), and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Paul Chaikin, professor at New York University and member of the National Academy of Sciences (USA) and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences; Jerome Bibette, professor at the Ecole Supérieure de Physique et Chimie Industrielles in Paris; Professor Cheng Zhengdong of Texas A&M University; Professor Jin Woong Kim of Hanyang University; Professor H. Daniel Ou-Yan of Lehigh University; Professor Daeyeon Lee of the University of Pennsylvania; Professor An-Chang Shi of McMaster University; and Professor Sun Luyi of the University of Connecticut. Altogether nearly 40 invited experts in the field of soft matter research attended the symposium and gave talks on the latest results of their work. Further institutions represented at the event included

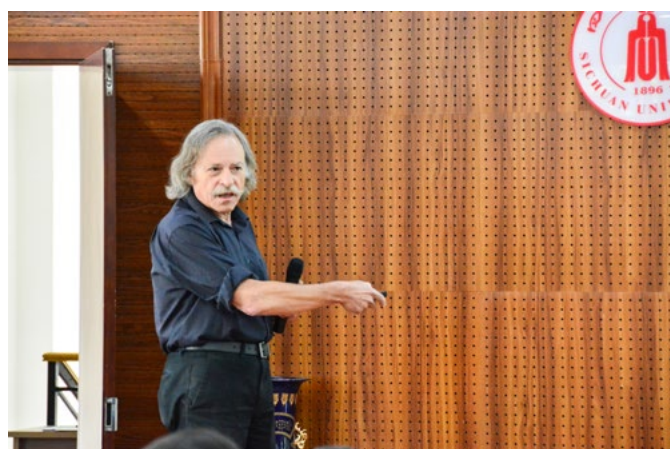


the Leipzig Institute for New Materials Research, the Institute of Physics at the Chinese Academy of Sciences, the University of Hong Kong, the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Tsinghua University, Zhejiang University, Fudan University, and other prestigious research institutes and universities in China and abroad.

Sichuan University's Professor Chu Liangyin presided over the symposium's opening session, while David A. Weitz held the first keynote; other participants' talks also focused on recent de-

velopments in the field of soft matter research.

Experts in physics, biology, chemistry, and materials offered substantive reports on the theme; specific topics included: phase separation in colloidal suspensions, Janus colloid surfactants for pickering emulsion microreactors, Janus colloid surfactants for pickering emulsion microreactors, microfluidic-directed intelligent materials with highly-ordered micro or nanostructures, bio-inspired multifunctional stimuli-responsive



- ① Professor David A. Weitz of Harvard University gives keynote: "Phase Separation in Colloidal Suspensions"
- ② Professor Paul Chaikin of New York University
- ③ Professor Jerome Bibette of the Ecole Supérieure de Physique et Chimie Industrielles in Paris
- ④ Excellent Poster Award Ceremony

materials, programmed deformations of photolithographic patterned hydrogels, bio-inspired multifunctional hydrogel nano-/micromotors, flexible electronic textiles (E-textiles) for wearable devices, microfluidic strategies for cell encapsulation and application in regenerative medicine, facile synthesis of non-spherical organosilica particles with tunable morphology, electrical energy generation from a self-propelled droplet, microfluidic generation of micro/nanostructured biomaterials and 3D

printing of conductive tough-hydrogel microfibers with ultra-stretchability and stress-sensitivity, etc. The participants held in-depth exchanges and discussions on related topics.

The atmosphere during the three-day academic symposium was lively and laid back: participating experts and students engaged in constructive discussions, while students' questions were answered clearly and thoroughly. The event also featured a poster competition and award ceremony to recognize

the four most excellent posters displayed. The symposium offered SCU students and faculty a significant opportunity to engage with internationally leading scientists and to learn about the newest innovations in soft matter research, while at the same time offering specialists in this field an important platform for discussion to promote international exchange and cooperation in the field of soft matter science and technology, as well as advance further development in the field.

SCU Hosts International Consensus Conference: "Definitions in Biomaterials"

By Zhao wanlu

Over 50 leading scientists from around the world gathered at Sichuan University for a consensus conference on biomaterials, at which SCU's Professor Zhang Xingdong proposed a new definition of "tissue-inducing biomaterials."

From June 11-12, Sichuan University and the Chinese Society for Biomaterials successfully co-hosted the 2018 Conference on Definitions in Biomaterials, organized by the International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Science and Engineering. More than 50 eminent biomaterials scientists from 17 countries and regions, including China, U.S., U.K., Australia, Canada, Germany, Italy, Japan, Korea, Singapore, South Africa, Spain, India, Portugal, Romania, Hong Kong S.A.R. and Taipei, attended the conference. SCU's Professor Zhang Xingdong, member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering and overseas member of the U.S. National Academy of Engineering, chaired the sessions.

At the beginning of the conference, SCU Vice President Professor Xu Weilin, on behalf of the university, extended his thanks and a warm welcome to the attending delegates and briefly introduced the present state of research in the field of biomaterials science and engineering at SCU. The conference, Xu stated, promised to further improve, revise and re-define definitions in the discipline of biomaterials, which would constitute a milestone in the his-

tory of biomaterials and significantly impact the development of the biomaterials science and engineering worldwide.

The conference featured six subject-specific sessions, namely General Biomaterials, Biocompatibility, Regenerative Medicine, Implantable and Interventional Devices, Drug/Gene/Contrast Agent Delivery, and Emerging Biomaterials and Technologies. Professor David Williams (Fellow of the Royal Academy of Engineering in the U.K.), Professor James Anderson (Member of the National Academy of Engineering and National Academy of Medicine in the U.S.), Professor William Wagner (Editor-in-Chief of the distinguished biomaterials journal *Acta Biomaterialia*), Professor Chang Jiang (Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry), Professor Nicholas Peppas (Member of the National Academy of Engineering and National Academy of Medicine in the U.S. and Overseas Member of the Chinese Academy of Engineering) and Professor Kristi Anseth (Member of the National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering and National Academy of Medicine in the U.S.) were the plenary speakers of the six sessions, respectively. After heated discussions, consensus on definitions was reached for a number of different terms.

This conference was the second consensus conference on biomaterials definitions following the first one held under



the auspices of the European Society for Biomaterials in 1986. However, for this time, the conference was organized by the International Union of Societies for Biomaterials Science and Engineering, and the attendees were from 17 countries and regions. The proceedings of the conference will be co-edited by Professor Zhang Xingdong and Professor David Williams and published as a book provisionally titled "Biomaterials Definitions for the 21st Century" by Elsevier. During the conference, Professor Zhang proposed a new definition of "tissue-inducing biomaterials," which won the general consensus and was included in the definitions list. It was the first definition in biomaterials proposed by a Chinese scientist. ㊦

13th Sino-US Forum on Nanoscale Science and Technology Jointly Hosted by Southwest Jiaotong and SCU

By Yu Kui

The 13th Sino-US Forum on Nanoscale Science and Technology was successfully held at the Inter-Continental Chengdu Global Center from June 29th to July 3rd. Acknowledged by the nano community in China as “the best” large-scale nano conference – especially with regard to the encouragement that it provides to young scholars and students – the forum has brought ethnic Chinese researchers together once a year since 2006.

For several years, Sichuan University has endeavoured to bring the forum to Chengdu and was honoured last year to be selected to host the 13th forum, jointly with Southwest Jiaotong University. Several government departments of Sichuan Province and Chengdu City provided strong financial support. More than 1,300 people participated in the forum, including prestigious national and international academicians, senior and junior professors, students and industrial researchers. The forum organized 51 invited talks on leading-edge nanoscience and nanotechnology, together with 42 invited posters and 124 student posters and 4 panel discussions on current topics in the field.

On the evening of June 29th, the Vice Governor of Sichuan Province, Mr. Zhu Hexin,



hosted a special dinner ceremony to welcome the scientists who came to Chengdu for the forum. SCU President, Professor Li Yanrong, and Chinese-American Academician Zhang Xingdong, also of Sichuan University, joined the ceremony.

Assistant President of Southwest Jiaotong University, Professor Wang Xiaoru, chaired the opening ceremony on the morning of June 30th. During the same session, the President of Southwest Jiaotong University, Professor Xu Fei, and SCU Vice President Professor Yan Shijing each addressed the forum.

The forum focused on “Nanoscience and Advanced Nanotechnology” and consisted of four sessions, namely, “Nanobiology and Nanomedicine,” “Nanomaterials Synthesis and Characterization,” “Nanomaterials Potential for Energy and Environmental Sectors” and “Nano-production for Applications.”

July 1st was dedicated to a celebration marking the 10th anniversary of *Nano Research*. The Editor-in-Chief of *Nano Research*, American Academician Professor Dai Hongjie, announced that Academician Professor Chad Mirkin from North-



western University and Academician Professor Jiang Lei from the Chinese Academy of Sciences would share the 2018 “Nano Research Award” for their outstanding contributions to the field of nanoscience and nanotechnology. The two awardees delivered inspiring presentations on their scientific research. Also, another 12 experts participated in the celebration with their scientific presentations.

In the four stimulating and fruitful panel discussions, the audience, including senior and junior professors, students and industrial researchers, shared their enthusiasm with the panel members. In this way they provided much insight with their fervent contributions. Professor Nie Shuming (Nanjing University) led the discussions on “Prospective of Nanomaterials in Medical Applications,” Academician Zhao Dongyuan (Fudan University) on “Fun-

damental Research in the Foreground,” Professor Song Yanlin (Chinese Academy of Sciences) on “Outlook of Nanomaterials in Energy and Catalysis Markets,” and Academician Jiang Lei (the Chinese Academy of Sciences) on “Development Directions of Novel Nanomaterials and Advanced Characterization Tools.”

In the closing ceremony held on the afternoon of July 2nd, two of the three forum chairmen, Professor Sun Shouheng (Brown University) and Professor Zhou Zuowan (Southwest Jiaotong University), announced the winners of the Student Poster Award of the 2018 Forum. *Nano Research* supported the Award also. Academician Zhao Dongyuan (Fudan University) and Professor Liu Jie (Duke University, Editor of *Nano Research*) presented the six gold awards to the winners. Professor Yu Kui (Sichuan University, the third Forum

chairman) and Professor Peng Xiaogang (Zhejiang University, Editor of *Nano Research*) gave the 18 silver awards to the winners.

Last but not least, deep gratitude was expressed to the organizers and sponsors whose tireless work and generous support were invaluable to the successful convening of this year’s forum, which provided an excellent opportunity for the world to learn more about Sichuan University, in addition to Chengdu and Sichuan Province. Moreover, the forum enabled and strengthened the capability of Sichuan University to collaborate with the best research groups in nanoscience and nanotechnology from around the globe. This outstanding 13th Sino-US Forum is sure to contribute significantly to SCU’s important efforts toward developing a world-class university. 🏡

Professor Zhong Benhe's Research Team: Cherish Your Country, Never Give Up

Under the leadership of its outstanding principal investigator, Professor Zhong Benhe, SCU's chemical engineering faculty group has made a number of remarkable achievements, for which it has repeatedly won the National Science and Technology Innovation Award. The group has dedicated itself to advancing research on innovative technologies and, over the last few decades, has paved the way for the rapid development of China's phosphate fertilizer industry.

Over several decades of dedicated work, Professor Zhong developed a "new technology for producing ammonium phosphate (MAP) with the help of the ammoniated slurry concentration process" (hereafter referred to as the "slurry concentration process"), a technological innovation which in its long-term impact is comparable with Yuan Longping's development of hybrid rice varieties.

In the 1980s, Professor Zhong Benhe led a scientific research team that eventually succeeded in securing the intellectual property rights for the internationally leading MAP production technology it had developed, alleviating China's heavy dependency on foreign imports and transforming the world's largest importer of MAP to a major

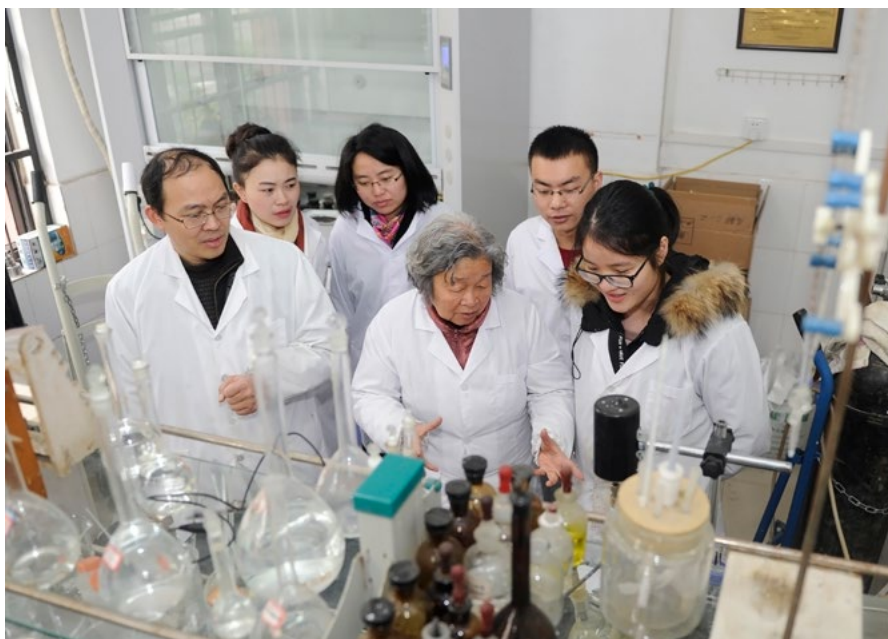


exporter, which also represented important progress in domestic food safety.

The “slurry concentration process” developed by Zhong Benhe’s team also provided a solution to the difficult challenge of how to produce ammonium phosphate from medium or lower quality phosphate ore. In 1988, Professor Zhong’s innovative technology earned her team the first class National Science and Technology Innovation Award. The Chinese government ranked her work among the five great accomplishments in frontline science and technology nationwide for its significant contributions to public welfare by revolutionizing Chinese agriculture and food safety.

Today, after 30 years of developing and refining her work, Zhong Benhe’s technological advances have gained international status, and her technology has become the leading technology in China’s high-concentration phosphate compound fertilizer industry. Zhong Benhe’s research group has taken shape and grown with the development of this important and influential work.

Zhong Benhe has won countless distinguished awards and prizes; numerous honorary titles have been conferred upon this leading scholar and scientific innovator. Today, she is still active in front-line research and dedicated as ever to her teaching. At the age of 80, she’s never late for work; she keeps a busy schedule of meetings, classes, and factory visits. Her students can still turn to her for guidance, whether they’re strug-



gling with problems in chemistry or major life decisions. The members of her team regard her as one of their senior family members: “Professor Zhong may be an elderly lady,” one member remarked, “but don’t let that fool you: she’s got spirit!”

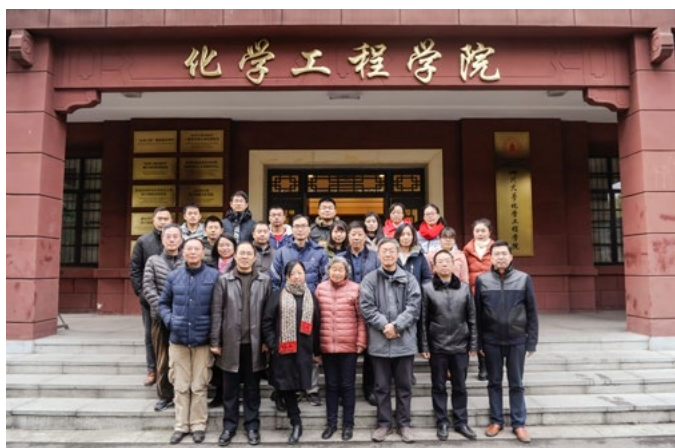
Inheritance and Innovation: Remaining True to Original Intentions

SCU’s chemical engineering faculty team was founded 60 years ago. Today, the group consists of 21 principal members of different ages and career stages who, under Professor Zhong’s

leadership, continue to maintain a cutting-edge research profile and play a defining role in China’s phosphorous chemical industry.

“From the very beginning, our research has concerned itself with the country’s pressing issues, and this won’t change, regardless of changes in the industry or societal transformations.” Zhong Benhe’s team has consistently tackled important national science and technology projects.

Heritage drives innovation. Encouraged by its team spirit and a tradition of excellence, members continue to



make scientific achievements related to solving the country's real needs.

Aimed at addressing the shortcomings of China's high-end phosphorous chemical industry, the group's Professor Li Jun developed new purification equipment and technology, earning the group the Ministry of Education Technological Inventions Award (2nd place). Two other members of the group, Professor Wang Xinlong and Research Fellow Zhang Zhiye, tackled the problem of phosphogypsum utilization and introduced a new route for safe domestic waste recycling, earning the team the Ministry of Education Science and Technology Innovation Award (second place).

Facing the Future: Jointly Tackling the Mission of Our Times

Facing the future, SCU's Faculty Engineering Team is investing itself both in research and teaching. All in all, it has training more than 350 Master's students, more than 80 PhD students, and 15 post-doctoral research fellows,

while numerous graduates have already joined the ranks of outstanding professionals and industry leaders.

At the age of 80, Zhong Benhe is still enthusiastic about teaching: "Giving classes and lectures is the best way to invest in my students and train the next generation of innovators."

The group's members are committed to the task of passing on knowledge and handing over the baton to younger scientists: by forming large groups, more outstanding researchers in chemistry can be trained.

One such researcher, one of Zhong Benhe's students who has just joined the young faculty members of the group, is Wu Zhenguo. "Professor Zhong helps each member of the group consider his or her research direction based on inclinations, career goals and individual strengths." In his own teaching, Wu has been deeply influenced by Zhong Benhe's teaching style and dedication to her work. Wu himself is increasingly gaining the respect and appreciation of his own students.

"Our teachers practice what they preach, that's how they influence us... We've made tremendous progress in our chosen field by being part of this group. In addition, we have also found an anchor for our daily lives. For this I am very deeply grateful," says Liu Yumei, a student member of the research group, for whom her teachers have become role models she wants to emulate.

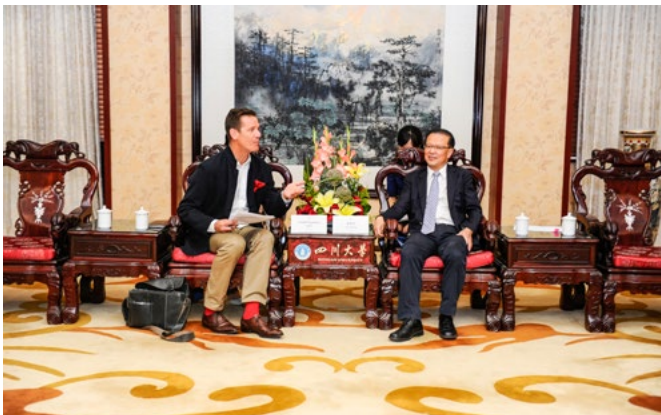
Most recently, a project jointly initiated by Professor Zhong Benhe and Associate Professor Guo Xiaodong, also of the College of Chemical Engineering, has attracted considerable attention for its advances in the study of layered $\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_3\text{O}_7$ and tunnel $\text{Na}_2\text{Ti}_6\text{O}_{13}$ hybrid structures with enhanced electrochemical behavior for sodium-ion batteries. Results of the study were published in the leading international journal *Advanced Science*, which has an impact factor of 12.441. PhD research student Wu Chunjin, also of SCU's College of Chemical Engineering, was first author, while the college is named as first institution. 🏆

BRIEF NEWS



May 28th

■ MIT Geophysicist Holds High-level Lecture Series and Seminar at SCU



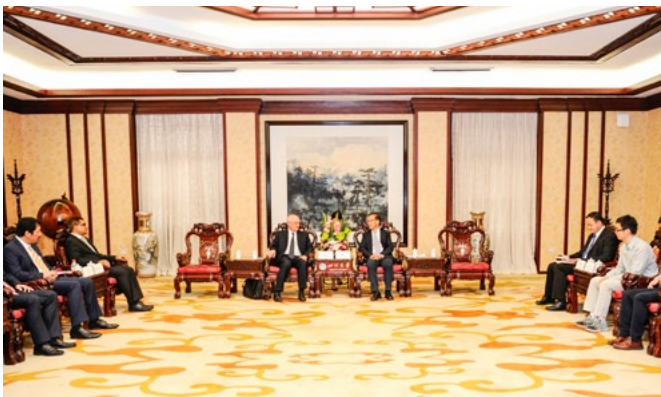
May 16th

■ SCU Vice President Yan Shijing Meets with Frank Eggmann, Swiss Consul General in Chengdu



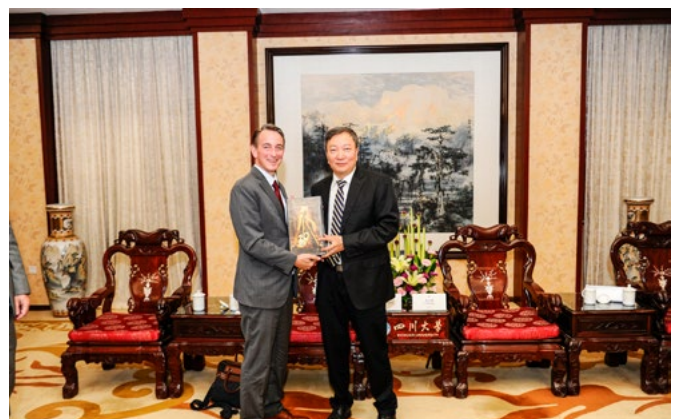
May 23rd

■ John Sanchez, Lieutenant Governor of New Mexico, Visits Sichuan University



May 28th

■ Arnoud de Meyer, President of Singapore Management University, Meets with Vice President Yan Shijing



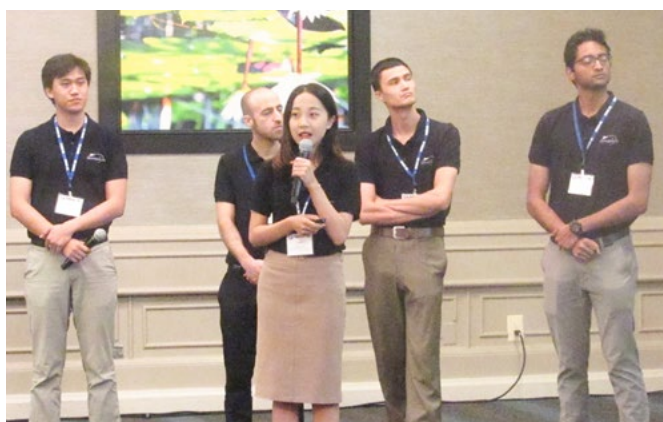
May 31st

■ Jim Mullinax, US Consul General in Chengdu, Visits SCU



June 1st-8th

■ Archival Studies Group from the Republic of Tatarstan Completes Professional Training at SCU



June 19th-21st

■ SCU Students Win Gold at NASA's 2018 RASC-AL Competition



June 29th

■ Chairman of the International Society of Comparative Literature, Zhang Longxi, Appointed Honorary Dean of SCU's College of Foreign Languages



July 2nd

■ Chairman of the University Council of SCU Welcomes Vice-Principal of Queen Mary University of London



July 4th

■ Singaporean Senior Civil Servants Workshop Successfully Held at SCU

SCU Hosts 2018 MSU Chinese Summer Camp

By Zhang Qimeichen, International Office

From June 2nd to June 30th, 21 undergraduate students from Michigan State University (MSU) came to SCU for a one-month Chinese study summer camp. SCU's Overseas Student Office made special arrangements for the group, organizing Chinese lessons, lectures on Tibetan society and culture, and visits to tourist attractions in and around Chengdu.

The 21 students hailed from diverse cultural and national backgrounds: some came from the United States, others from India, Nepal and elsewhere. All were united in their common goal to learn more about Chinese history, ancient Chinese culture, and contemporary Chinese ways of life. They also enjoyed in-depth discussions with volunteering SCU students, studying together, and building new friendships.

The Chinese language classes were everyone's favorite. Most students



were beginners, and the class posed considerable challenges for them. The difficulty of the language, however, was not enough to dampen anyone's enthusiasm. Initially, the only words students could say were

"hello" and "thank you," but nobody was too shy to ask for help, and, whether at the meal table, en route to the next destination or in the classroom, student volunteers readily offered guidance and helpful advice.

Taking the level of their students into account, instructors prepared engaging classroom activities and materials, beginning with basic lessons on *pinyin* and stroke order; students responded well to the interactive methods and lively atmosphere in the classroom. After one month of language study, they had a grasp of simple conversational phrases and were also able to write a number of basic Chinese characters: they have all decided to continue their Chinese studies upon returning home.

In addition to offering Chinese listening, speaking, reading, and writing classes, teachers also incorporated lessons on Chinese culture, introducing students to the fascinating worlds of ancient and contemporary China. Students were initiated into the art of paper-cutting, calligraphy, and other Chinese art forms. They each cut out the word for "happiness," *xi*, giving them a first-hand feel of traditional Chinese art. At the same time, instructors offered insights into contemporary China and taught students Chinese neologisms, including Internet slang, to convey an impression of the broad discrepancies between ancient and modern Chinese.

A special class was also organized on Chinese history and Tibetan society and culture. The teacher introduced the successive dynasties of Chinese history up to China's peaceful rise in modern times, while students compared the respective histories of China and the US and contemplated the bilateral relationship from historical perspectives. "The roof of the world,"





as Tibet is often referred to, is a land of many mysteries, as the Chinese teacher explained, who provided a basic introduction to Tibetan society and culture. The group toured SCU's Tibetan Research Center and was introduced to the general state and results of its most recent studies on Tibet. Students were also able to borrow books from the center's library.

Subsequently, students visited Southwest Minzu University, where they learned more about Tibetan culture. The group ended the day with a visit to an exquisite local Tibetan restaurant.



During the weekends, students ventured off campus to learn all about the art of tea ceremonies, explore Chengdu's famous giant panda research base, visit Le Shan's Giant Buddha, take in the Sanxingdui archaeological site, and admire other cultural and natural treasures of Sichuan Province. The group also visited the famed water irrigation system in Dujiangyan, learning all about its history, and climbed to the top of the Daoist Mount Qingcheng. Every attraction was taken in with curiosity and delight as the tour guides and SCU student volunteers gave detailed explanations on the workings of Dujiangyan's irrigation system, offered an introduction to Daoist history, and introduced the habits of Sichuan's giant pandas. Students showed great interest in the methods and farming styles of the tea farmers, asking them specific questions on the challenges of growing tea in the region. The pandas were by far the most popular attraction: students took picture after picture of the cud-



dly, round creatures; for some, it was their first time to see a panda in real life, an occasion that was celebrated with the purchase of various souvenirs. The snacks sold along Chengdu's Jinli Ancient Street were a special treat to round off a busy day of sightseeing.

When not attending classes, the students from MSU also enjoyed strolling through the streets of Chengdu in groups of 4-5, singing karaoke, or visiting one of the city's many museums. Wherever the young students went, passers-by would stop them and ask to have their picture taken with them. Of course there was plenty on offer for the taste buds – from hotpot to famous Sichuan barbecue – and students showed a fair amount of culinary adventurousness in trying a range of spicy flavors.

The MSU Chinese summer camp came to an end far too soon. All participating students passed their course exams: their Chinese language levels had improved, and they'd built a good foundation for further studies in Chinese language and culture. While the students have already flown home and left this chapter of college life behind, the enthusiasm, friendliness, and warmth the group brought to this campus will linger.

Chengdu and Sichuan University became more than just another "classroom"; they served as an ideal environment to jump into and experience a foreign culture, a window into understanding China, and a place where memories and lasting friendships were built. 🏠



Chinese Loanwords Record Cultural Fusion – From Chiang Rai to Chengdu and Back:

Wangsantiphap Phisonlaya Returns to Thailand with PhD in Comparative Linguistics

Interview with Naomi Thurston



CHENGDU, 24 July 2018. Sichuan University is among China's leading comprehensive universities enrolling full-time international PhD students in a growing number of fields and academic disciplines. Increasingly, Chinese universities are offering MA programs fully taught in English. SCU, for example, offers engineering and some humanities courses, as well as medical programs taught by international and Chinese professors for classes of international students from all around the world. For many PhD programs, however,

students from overseas do what most students going abroad for degree programs do: they learn the language of their host country and do their course work in the primary language of their host institution. Graduate students courageous enough to tackle the course work for advanced degrees entirely in Chinese must commit themselves to intensive language study. As students like Wangsantiphap Phisonlaya from Thailand will confirm, however, the time and perseverance invested are not without reward. Wangsantiphap Phisonlaya – or Wang Xiangli, as her friends in

China call her – has spent the past seven years in Chengdu, completing her M.A. at Sichuan Normal University in Chinese as a Foreign Language and her PhD degree at Sichuan University in comparative linguistics. For her doctoral dissertation, she examined Chinese loan words in modern Thai. Her experience of studying in China, by her own account, has been both tough and rewarding. The close friendships built during her rigorous studies here, however, mean more to her even than the degrees she is taking home with her this month.

What's your impression of the classes you've taken here at SCU?

I really love my classes here: the professors are extremely well prepared for class, they're all very "renzhen," "meticulous and conscientious."

Do you ever encounter difficulties with the Chinese language in class?

I took a class about the origins and development of the Chinese language, "*Hanyu de laiyan fazhan*" which was rather challenging for me as an international student. But I'm really interested in the mate-





June 2018: Daughter of 'post 90's'-generation Wang Xiangli graduates with a PhD in comparative linguistics

rial, so I just asked the professor question after question. He was always prepared to answer my questions and took the time to explain things. The professors at Sichuan University are very patient and helpful, which makes learning fun, even when it's challenging...

I also really appreciate my PhD supervisor. He realized that my PhD studies here might take me longer than the three years common for full-time Chinese PhD students, but he never gave me undue pressure. He was helpful and gave good advice. I also relied on the explanations of my Chinese classmates when I needed help with the language. I really appreciate my Chinese classmates here too.

Dr. Wang may be humble about her limitations in written Chinese when it comes to some rarely used characters or uncommon expressions. The fact is, however, that Wang wrote a 250,000-Chinese character dissertation and passed her oral defense with flying colors. Her dissertation is a tightly organized exposition on modern linguistic borrowing that meticulously categorizes the various types and forms of Chinese loanwords in

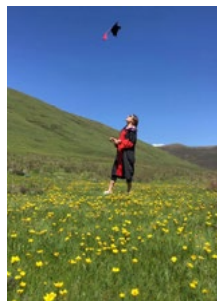
modern Thai and, in light of the historical settings and background, examines how all of this came about.

Why did you choose this field for your PhD research?

I have Chinese ancestors who came to Thailand from the south of China several generations ago. My grandfather even spoke some Chinese with us when we were growing up, although we never learned the written language when we were children. I'm interested in cultural contacts between Thailand and China. China is becoming more and more influential, both economically and culturally in Southeast Asia and worldwide – some

call this phenomenon "Chinese craze." In Thai we use borrowed words like "*kuaidi*," or "*mala*," sometimes just altering the pronunciation a bit, sometimes changing the word class – from noun to verb, for example – and sometimes changing the meaning: the ways in which these changes happen is interesting. Why do these expressions make their way into Thai in the first place? It's quite fascinating.

Wang Xiangli isn't only a researcher: she also loves Sichuan and the people of Sichuan. When asked what her favorite regional dishes are, she was quick to respond: *Huoguo* ("Chinese hotpot") and *Ganguo* ("Chinese dry pot"). She appreciates the pace of life in Chengdu, the fact



Oct. 2017. Wang's hobbies in China: travel, soccer, basketball, and cheering on her favorite teams



Left: June 2018. Wang Xiangli (left) after passing her PhD defense



Right: June 2016. Wang (back-center-left) celebrates with graduating friends

that people know how to enjoy themselves and life is more relaxed than in other Chinese megacities. While living in Chengdu, Wang did not just bury herself in books – her language fluency owes no small debt to countless hours she spent in recreational activities from playing team sports to travel and photography, to her participation in cultural and educational events and competitions, including her participation in “Chinese Bridge,” probably the world’s largest international Chinese proficiency competition sponsored

by Hanban. Wang has also appeared on Chinese television and was the Chinese-Thai translator for a major Chinese TV show with a cult following in Thailand.

To supplement her academic scholarship, Dr. Wang also gave Thai classes at Sichuan Normal University, where she was much loved by her students, but gave up teaching after several semesters to concentrate fully on her PhD research and writing. Most of all, Wang Xiangli was a good friend to many Chinese and international

students alike. Her decision to return to Thailand to care for aging family members was met with sadness in her community of friends here in Chengdu. “You always introduced yourself like this: ‘My name is Wang Xiangli, “*xiang*” as in “fragrant” and “*li*” as in “beautiful.”’... It’s so hard to say goodbye. But I fully expect you to come back...,” writes one friend.

Dr. Wang plans to continue her studies in comparative linguistics with further research on language contact and borrowing after delving into other foreign languages she wants to compare to her native Thai. In a sense, her dissertation already dealt with multiple languages, as she not only examined modern loanwords from standard Mandarin, but also Cantonese, as well as the Hokkien and Hakka dialects, which are quite different from spoken *Putonghua*. Upon returning to Thailand, Wang Xiangli will not just be taking her diplomas back with her, but also the necessary intellectual preparation and cultural experience in order to play a meaningful role in cross-cultural understanding between China and her home country. 卐



At the SCU library: Wang Xiangli after defending her PhD dissertation, “Chinese Loanwords in the Thai Language”

It's Another Season of Graduation



Photo by Chen Yuanming

||| ECHO |||

“ I look forward to many opportunities to interact
and cooperate with SCU students and faculty. ”

--

Sir Anthony J. Leggett

Nobel Laureate of 2003 in Physics



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