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SCU NEWS LETTER

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SPOTLIGHT

“Constructing a World-class University”

SCU's First International Advisory Board
Holds Second Plenary Session







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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. Any suggestions and questions are welcomed from our readers.

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"Constructing a World-class University"

SCU's First International Advisory Board Holds Second Plenary Session



On September 28th, the First International Advisory Board (IAB) of Sichuan University held its Second Plenary Session in Chengdu. Following last year's inaugural session, this meeting focused on developing SCU into a world-class university of global outlook and engagement. The round-table meeting of the IAB was attended by a number of prominent delegates: Zhang Meiying, Vice Chairwoman of the CPPCC & Honorary President of SCU's IAB, Mr. Ding Zhaozhong, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics and professor at MIT, Chen Xiaoya, former Vice Minister of the Ministry of Science and Technology, Huang Zhongying, former Chairman of Chengdu's Municipal Political Consultative Conference, Wang Jianguo, Chairman of the Board of Sichuan University, and SCU President Xie Heping. University leaders and representatives of various colleges and departments joined the plenary session.

President of Sichuan University and of the IAB, Academician Xie Heping, delivered the keynote address, offering a comprehensive review of the principal work and key developments since the board's last

meeting. He introduced the basic concept of building SCU into a world-class university, eliciting constructive feedback and suggestions from board members on how to tackle the concrete challenges the university faces in the process of internationalization.

Government leaders and delegates from around the globe discuss SCU's internationalization

Other delegates at the plenary session included Mr. Mohamed Abdou, Academician of the Academy of Sciences for the Developing World and distinguished professor of the University of California at Los Angeles; Mr. David Agnew, Dean of Seneca College of Applied Arts and Technology in Canada, Mr. Luigi Ambrosio, Director of the Chemical Science and Materials Technology Department of CNR; Mr. Edward Beech, Information Technology Director at Central Oregon Community College and descendant of Joseph Beech, founder of West China Union University; Mr. Stephen Cheng, Academician of the National Academy of Engineering of the United States and

professor at the University of Akron; Mr. John E. Endicott, President of Woosong University of the Republic of Korea; Guo Tao, former Party Group Secretary of the China State Construction Engineering Corporation; Mr. Asaf Hajiyevev, Academician of Azerbaijan Academy of Sciences and Secretary General of the Heihe Economic Organization; Mr. Hiroki Kenzo, Coordinator of the UN High-level Experts Group on Water and Disasters and Vice President of the College of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism; Mr. Leonard W. J. van der Kuijp, professor at Harvard University; Mr. Wei Yao Liang, lifelong Fellow and Honorary professor of Gonville and Caius College of Cambridge; Li Ping, President of Kyland Technology Co., Ltd.; Liu Ruyin, President and CEO of CL Investment Group and Dean of Valley CL Innovation College in the United States; Liqiu Meng, former Managing Vice President of the Technical University of Munich and Academician of the German Academy of Sciences; Mr. Chul B. Park, Academician of the Canadian Royal College of Science and the Canadian Academy of Engineering and distinguished professor of the University of Toronto; Mr. Nicholas A. Peppas, Academician of the National



Academy of Engineering, the Institute of Medicine of the United States, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and professor at the University of Texas at Austin; Tetsuo Shoji, former Managing Vice President of Tohoku University; Barbara Snyder, President of Case Western Reserve University; Song Yonghua, Academician of the Royal Academy of Engineering of Britain and Managing Vice President of Zhejiang University; Cun-Yu Wang, Academician of the Institute of Medicine of the United States and Associate Dean of the School of Dentistry of the University of California at Los Angeles; Ruanzeng Yuanqi, Vice Chancellor of Hong Kong Polytechnic University; and Zheng Jiayi, President of Taiwan's Tamkang University.

One highlight of the day's proceedings was the appointment of Mr. Ding Zhaozhong as Honorary Dean of SCU's College of Physical Science and Technology and the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

Following the plenary meeting, Yin Li, Vice Secretary of the CPC Sichuan Provincial Committee and Governor of Sichuan, and Fan Ruiping, Standing Member of the CPC Sichuan Provincial Committee and Secretary of the CPC Chengdu Municipality, met with various delegates to discuss in-depth cooperation in promoting SCU's science and technology programs, building SCU into a top-ranking university, and promoting the cultivation and exchanges of high-level talents with the goal of advancing socio-economic development and growth in the region, both in Chengdu and throughout the province.

SCU President Xie summarizes major achievements

In his keynote address, President Xie Heping reviewed a number of the university's important achievements over the past year: "Since the IAB's last meeting, Sichuan University has met its targets in eight key areas: the strategic restructuring of

SCU's leading groups and colleges, drawing up a detailed strategy for constructing a world-class university, comprehensively employing strategies for high-level talent recruitment, strategically implementing higher education reform, attaining set goals in cutting-edge and innovative research, comprehensively promoting high-end international exchanges and cooperation, advancing high-quality social services provision, and implementing plans for setting up student-centered services and activities." President Xie went on to talk about programs introduced at SCU to build a world-class faculty exemplifying personal and academic integrity, outstanding scholarly accomplishments, and excellence in teaching.

Becoming a "world-class university"

On the eve of its 121st anniversary, SCU was officially recognized as a key institution for constructing a world-class university. Members of the board offered

valuable suggestions on meeting relevant targets toward internationalizing the university. To accelerate the process, SCU will focus on ten major objectives: first-class faculty construction, first-class talents cultivation, first-class disciplinary platform construction, first-class research innovation system, first-class academic and scientific achievements, first-class medical services (supplied by West China Hospital), first-class institution-locality cooperation mechanism, first-class international cooperation and exchanges, first-class cultural inheritance and innovation, and first-class research environment and professional support.

International think tanks offer their perspectives on the development of SCU

One of the foci of this year's meeting was "how to bring into play the multidisciplinary advantages of SCU and cultivate forward-thinking talents competitive on an international stage." The board also discussed the question of "how to push forward first-class discipline construction at SCU on global science and technology frontiers and within emerging interdisciplinary constellations."

Visiting delegates spoke highly of the university's achievements over the past year. Zhang Meiying expressed support and appreciation of President Xie Heping's leadership in the process of internationalizing Sichuan University and the concrete steps taken in the past year to help SCU reach its targeted growth.

Mr. Ding Zhaozhong offered his overall impression of the meeting: "I spend most of my time working in the laboratory and rarely participate in non-scientific research



meetings. However, having attended the International Advisory Board meeting of Sichuan University for two consecutive years, I can say that I've really benefited a lot from an inside look at the workings of the IAB. If you want to define a "world-class university," "good students" and "good professors" are important indicators. Sichuan University has plenty of research funding and provides an excellent scientific research environment, which is

vital to attracting and retaining first-class talents."

Nicholas Peppas, Academician of the National Academy of Engineering, Institute of Medicine of the United States, and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, as well as professor at the University of Texas at Austin, noted that Sichuan University, as western China's top university and one of the leading comprehensive



tegral member of the United Nations High-level Experts Group on Water and Disasters. With the help of SCU, some of the world's leading researchers from the UN's disaster prevention and mitigation research institutions are now bringing their experience and innovative solutions to Sichuan."

The Vice President of Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Ruanzeng Yuanqi, spoke highly of SCU's proposal to build a world-class university with "Chinese Characteristics, Sichuan University Style." "Sichuan University has formed its own unique strategic advantage while focusing its attention on the western region. As this underscores the university's social services, SCU has fully demonstrated the responsibilities and duties of a world-class university and laid a solid foundation for the cultivation of talents with international vision and accountability."

In concluding the meeting, President Xie Heping expressed his appreciation and hopes for future cooperation between SCU and visiting delegates. He asked for everyone's continued support in developing SCU into a world-class university with "Chinese Characteristics, Sichuan University Style."

Global Recruitment and a Tradition of Excellence – Interviewing Ding Zhaozhong and Liang Weiyao

Experts and scholars from renowned institutions around the world came together at Sichuan University for the Second Plenary Session of SCU's First International Advisory Board (IAB). During the meeting, delegates discussed ideas and strategies for developing SCU into a world-class university. 山

universities in China, also enjoys a strong reputation worldwide and shoulders the responsibility of further promoting its scientific research globally. He hopes that the IAB will continue to drive the development of SCU, and also take this opportunity to further strengthen cooperation in various fields of science.

"In recent years, SCU has driven important developments in the field of

international disaster prevention and mitigation," said Hiroki Kenzo, Coordinator of the United Nations High-level Experts Group on Water and Disasters and Vice President of the College of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism. "It hosted the Ninth Session of the United Nations International Conference on Water and Disasters, contributing substantially to the field. Sichuan University has become an in-

Ding Zhaozhong:

"Building a World-class University Requires World-class Students and Professors"



Nobel laureate Professor Ding Zhaozhong (Chao Chung Ting) of MIT, Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Overseas Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and Honorary Professor of SCU, returned to Sichuan to participate in the meeting.

"Sichuan University has grown on me."

Professor Ding spent eight of his childhood years in Chongqing, Sichuan, he says, still feels like home to him; when he speaks Chinese, he reverts to a Sichuanese dialect.

The relationship between Ding Zhaozhong and SCU dates back to September 2015, when he came to Sichuan University to give a lecture on "Exploring the Mysteries of the Universe." On the eve of SCU's 120th anniversary, Professor Ding Zhaozhong paid another visit to SCU, during which he lectured on the origins of the universe and was appointed honorary professor. This year, on the occasion of SCU's inclusion in the ranks of Chinese universities selected for the national world-class universities construction project, Ding Zhaozhong returned to SCU as a member of the university's International Development Strategy Advisory Board. He offered suggestions on



curricular development and recommendation of high-level talents to provide high-end consulting on constructing a world-class university.

Over the past two years, Sichuan University has left a deep impression on Ding Zhaozhong. On one hand, he "feel[s] at home" every time he comes to SCU; on the other hand, he is impressed by the quality of students at SCU and their interest in the topics he has lectured on during his visits. His lectures at SCU were followed by thoughtful questions and lively discussion: "The questions asked by SCU students," he remarked,

"are insightful; the way they ask questions and critically engage the issues at hand reveals sophistication of thought, as well as a certain level intellectual maturity."

In his role as member of the Advisory Board, Professor Ding has explored the question of what constitutes a world-class university: "As to the definition of 'world-class university,' different regions and different peoples have different understandings. MIT, where I work, is a well-known institution in the US. Many people apply to it, but few are accepted. Students come from across the United

States, as well as from around the world. In China, university ranking is highly valued, but in the United States, people pay less attention to it."

When asked about specific steps that need to be taken toward constructing a world-class university, Ding believes that the first task is to enrol good students. Ding pointed out that in order to run a university well, the university must find ways to enrol the best students within the region, nation-wide, and from around the world. Secondly, it must employ outstanding professors to impart knowledge to the students. Finally, it must provide its researchers with adequate resources and funding. "Good students" and "good professors" form the heart of a university and are the foundation of solid growth.

During the Advisory Board meeting, Ding commended the keynote address

given by SCU President Xie Heping, stating that Xie had provided a detailed and comprehensive report outlining specific strategic measures for the further development of SCU. Professor Ding believes that as long as SCU actively pursues the measures outlined in the report, it is bound to speed up the construction of a world-class university.

Honorary Dean of two colleges

In conjunction with the convening of the Advisory Board on September 28th, Ding Zhaozhong happily accepted the appointment letter handed to him by President Xie Heping, confirming Ding's appointment as Honorary Dean of the College of Physical Science and Technology and of the School of Aeronautics and Astronautics.

During this visit to Sichuan University, Professor Ding repeatedly emphasized

the importance of recruiting excellent students, noting that "academic excellence refers not merely to high test scores, but to a student's ability to raise questions, even wild questions." In order to carry out scientific research, Ding maintains, young students must possess "a firm will and a clear goal... The most important and meaningful work of scientists is to do what people deem impossible and even unimaginable. Scientists must adhere to their own interests, pinpoint their target, and then strive to achieve it." Concerning the supposed conflict between scientific interests and employability, Professor Ding was adamant that "scientific research is unceasing exploration out of curiosity about nature rather than for economic benefit." Ding reminded students to trust their own instincts: "Do what you know is the right thing to do. Don't change your course just because the majority opposes you." 🙏

Liang Weiyao:

"Tradition and Tolerance"

Another member of the International Advisory Board of SCU, Liang Weiyao, was the first ever ethnic Chinese scientist to win the Napoleon Outstanding Achievement

Award and Academician of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge. He believes that in order to become a world-class university, one of the most important conditions is to have good talents,

good students, and good faculty, and to provide them with the opportunities and freedom to innovate so as to retain them: "Sichuan University's Construction Plan is moving in this direction. I

firmly believe that this is the right way forward."

Professor Liang adheres to the motto that "academic tradition precipitated by history" is one of the guarantors of academic excellence. In his view, world-class universities like Cambridge or Oxford are first in the world today because "the experiences gradually accumulated in the course of their considerable histories have inevitably corrected many errors in the process of developing into world-class institutions."

It is Cambridge's tradition, Liang insists, that ensures the university's ability to attract outstanding faculty and students from around the globe. "Although I have been in the UK for more than 50 years, I can still learn something new every day. I learn something new every-time I sit down to lunch or dinner with colleagues or meet with my students. This kind of academic atmosphere is really important, and I think few universities offer an atmosphere of similar intellectual rigor," Professor Liang said.

Liang left home to study in England at the age of 17. What impressed him the most was that, whether during his undergraduate studies at Imperial College London, or working towards a doctorate at the University of Cambridge, he never experienced discrimination because of his race or English proficiency. Speaking of his experiences as an international student in the UK, Professor Liang commented, "British society judges a person mainly by merit and ability."

As concerns the construction of a world-class university, acceptance and inclusion of talents is only the first step,



according to Liang. What is even more important is fully trusting and supporting the faculty and research staff who forms the university's core. Professor Liang recalled his first summer at Cambridge as a doctoral student. His supervisor sent him to the United States to attend an international academic conference on his own: "The trust my supervisor placed in me fueled my own sense of responsibility. I felt that my value had been recognized, and I knew I would never let him down. I decided I would give my very best and go the extra mile in representing my supervisor and the University of Cambridge at that conference."

According to Professor Liang, the first priority in building a world-class university is to recognize the university's essential reliance on outstanding faculty and students. It is an issue that needs to be considered from a global perspective, Liang maintains. If SCU only focuses on attracting talents from southwest China

or even all of China, the university cannot be considered 'world class.' "When hiring new teachers or professors, many universities seek out candidates among their own alumni first. In contrast, most senior lecturers at Cambridge are recruited from other institutions. They may have been educated at Cambridge at a certain stage, but eventually experienced a process of leaving and later returning to Cambridge." Liang referred to his own experience as an example: "I am an ethnic Chinese from Indonesia and received my bachelor's degree from Imperial College London. I had no previous connection with Cambridge before going there as a graduate student, so I was considered an outsider. But I stayed at Cambridge after finishing my doctoral course, and have remained there till this day. Outsiders can contribute new ideas and perspectives, which is good for the development of a university. People might stagnate by staying in one place, but flourish if they move into a new environment. Attracting talented

“outsiders” and drawing on their full potential is one mark of a world-class university.”

“In addition,” Liang advises, “a university must have strategic measures in place for retaining outstanding students and faculty. It’s not difficult, for example, to invite individuals who are prominent in their field to teach at the university. But after three or five years, they may feel dissatisfied and leave. This is not always a question of salary. What matters most is the working en-

vironment. The university should supply faculty and research staff with the freedom and adequate opportunities to innovate. A good working environment is one that fosters freedom of thought.” At Cambridge, Liang recalls, he and his fellow PhD students were given the freedom to choose research methods and topics at their own discretion. “Allowing young researchers this kind of freedom, allows them to pursue their academic interests with the rigor of personal commitment. If people are always pursuing somebody

else’s research agenda, they will never be as dedicated. They’ll find some other outlet for their talents and creative ideas.”

Professor Liang believes that President Xie’s vision for building SCU into world-class university are promising of success and that the specific plans he proposes to implement will steer the university toward excellence in the long-run, which, for Liang, is the decisive factor in building a top-ranking institution of global and historical distinction. 🏛️



Yangtze-Volga Sino-Russian University Alliance Launched in Chengdu



October 27th marked an important milestone in advancing the “Yangtze River-Volga River” cooperation, when the Sino-Russian “Yangtze-Volga” University Alliance was officially launched in Chengdu. The launch was followed by a high-caliber think tank forum, the first major event of the Alliance. Sergei Dmitriyev, President of Nizhny Novgorod State Technical University, was designated chairman of the Russian side of the Alliance, while SCU President Xie Heping was chosen to chair the Chinese side.



Over 150 delegates, including presidents of 36 Russian institutions and 29 Chinese universities, all members of the Sino-Russian University Alliance, as well as renowned experts and scholars in international relations and other fields, attended the launch. The conference was chaired by Yan Shijing, Secretary-General of the Alliance and Vice-President of Sichuan University.

In his opening address, President Xie pointed out that the Alliance would undertake the responsibility and mission of promoting cultural exchanges and high-end inter-institution cooperation between the two nations and supporting China's "Belt and Road Initiative"; it will strive to build a key platform and yardstick for facilitating in-depth exchange and cooperation in the areas of education, science and technology, and culture between China and Russia. As the Chairman of the Chinese parties in the Alliance, President Xie outlined his expectations for the Alliance: to become a recognized trademark in Sino-Russian academic cooperation and cultural exchange; to become an influential think tank in promoting the Belt and Road Initiative and Sino-Russian "Yangtze-Volga" cooperation; to become a powerful support for fueling efforts toward building world-class universities in both countries; to become a mechanism for consolidating international resources and driving Chinese and Russian development; and to become an important platform for cultivating future leaders on both sides. Sichuan University hopes to take this opportunity to join hands with other Alliance members, to jointly shoulder relevant responsibilities, and to contribute



SCU's resources to facilitating Sino-Russian relations while promoting China's Belt and Road Initiative.

Addressing the conference on behalf of the Russian side, Chairman Sergei Dmitriyev introduced the more than 60 Chinese and Russian universities in the Alliance, commending their concerted efforts toward progress and expressing



his hope for a close and fruitful working relationship. Member universities should take pride in this opportunity to jointly work toward economic and social progress in the region and making vital contributions to Sino-Russian relations.

Six experts from China and Russia delivered keynote speeches on a range of



Initiative. The initiative calls on members of the Alliance to contribute their influence, skills, and intellectual resources toward building an enduringly peaceful, mutually prosperous, and inclusive world.

Sichuan University boasts a long history of cooperation and exchanges with Russian universities. In 2012, Ms. Matvienko, President of the Russian Federal Committee, remarked during her visit to Sichuan University that "Russian institutions stand to benefit from partnering with Chinese universities like Sichuan University. These partnerships also advance Sino-Russian cultural and educational cooperation overall."

In recent years, Sichuan University has put forth tireless efforts in promoting exchanges between China and Russia by building cooperative relationships with Lomonosov Moscow State University, St. Petersburg University, Nizhny Novgorod State Technical University, and other celebrated Russian institutions. SCU has also been instrumental in establishing jointly run centers and research institutes, such as the Center for Modern Russian Studies and the Research Institute of Sino-Russian Culture, which have overseen a series of noteworthy research and publication endeavors, the latest of which is an *Exhaustive Dictionary of Chinese Culture*, a major Sino-Russian collaborative undertaking spearheaded by SCU and the Russian Academy of Sciences. President Xi Jinping has commended the project. This is one of many collaborations that exemplifies SCU's commitment and ongoing contributions to cultural and educational exchanges between Russia and the People's Republic of China. 🏛️



topics concerning Sino-Russian cooperation, including "The Belt and Road Initiative and Sino-Russian Regional Development," "Docking Mechanism for Cooperation between 'Belt and Road' and 'Yangtze-Volga,'" "Prospects and Challenges of Sino-Russian 'Yangtze-Volga' Cooperation," and "Economic, Trade, and Cultural-Educational Cooperation within the Framework of

'Yangtze-Volga.'" Speakers offered their suggestions on developing the 'Yangtze-Volga' cooperation mechanism, as well as on educational cooperation, cultural exchange, and economic development in the region.

At the closing ceremony, member universities jointly released the 2017 "Yangtze-Volga" University Alliance Chengdu

A Delegation Led by Nobel Laureates Visits SCU

On September 11th, a delegation led by Professor Steven Chu, Nobel Prize winner in Physics and the 12th U.S. Energy Secretary, and Nobel laureate Professor Daniel Komen, visited Sichuan University. Academician Xie Heping, President of Sichuan University, welcomed the distinguished guests. Academician Gao Jie of the Chinese Academy of Engineering, SCU Vice Presidents Yan Shijing, Xu Weilin, and Liang Bin, as well as SCU faculty from relevant colleges and departments, joined the meeting.

President Xie introduced Sichuan University as one of the oldest, academically most comprehensive and largest universities in China. Placing a high value on the study of green and low-carbon energy, SCU has established the Institute of New Energy and Low-Carbon Technology, which is chiefly dedicated to research on two revolutionary technologies of carbon capture and utilization (CCU). At present, the Institute is working on a distinctive system for low-carbon economy and technology integration to promote a more sustainable relationship between humans and their natural environment.

Professor Steven Chu expressed deep



appreciation for the warm welcome he and his colleagues received at Sichuan University. He noted that carbon capture and utilization are cutting-edge technologies at leading research institutes in the States and worldwide. Chu hopes that SCU will deepen its cooperation



with its US counterparts in the field to strengthen global collaboration in green energy development.

Following their meeting, the delegation visited the Institute of New Energy and Low-Carbon Technology and was intro-

duced to SCU's latest achievements in the field of CCU, which are on par with international standards, offering promising prospects for further international cooperation.

The experts in this delegation also included: James Sweeney, Director of the Precourt Energy Efficiency Center

at Stanford University, Xie Desun, Director of the Asia-Pacific Center at Stanford University, Mr. Zhou Xiaoxin and Mr. Zou Zhigang, Academicians of the Chinese Academy of Science, Zeng Rong, Dean of Energy Internet Research Institute at Tsinghua University, Song Yonghua, Vice President of Zhejiang University & Fellow of the

Royal Academy of Engineering, Zhang Xiaofeng, Executive Vice President of the U.S.-China Green Energy Council, Professor Paul McEntire of Stanford University, Sam Wang, CFO of the U.S.-China Green Energy Council, as well as Mike Zhang and Dr. James Caldwell, directors of the U.S.-China Green Energy Council. 🏢

Nobel Laureate Robert C Merton Holds Special Lecture at SCU

September 13th was a memorable day for students of economics at Sichuan University. Renowned economist Robert C. Merton, winner of the Nobel Prize in Economics and professor at MIT, gave a special lecture on the "Role of Financial Innovation, Financial Science, and the Derivatives Market within Global Economic Growth and Development." The lecture drew hundreds of teachers and students from the university's College of Economics and College of Business.

Merton's lecture focused on financial innovation, financial science, global economic growth, and the growing derivatives market. He also introduced the historical development of financial science; by examining past financial crises, he was able to pinpoint the function of



financial derivative tools in the dispersion of risks, noting that the innovation in the derivative tools will help to improve the policy target and reduce costs arising from the diversification of risks.

He also underlined the importance of the derivatives market and financial innovation in today's world economic development. His simple yet profound, humorous yet serious lecture elicited

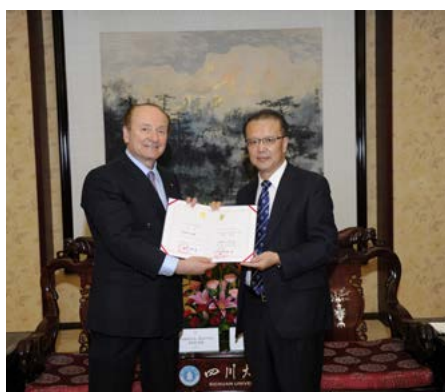


design was positive; however, given the different qualifications of the users and the unpredictable change of the actual market, the reasonable use of derivatives encountered unforeseen challenges; therefore, universities should strengthen the cultivation of students in finance in terms of professional ethics and promote the healthy development of the financial industry.

After the lecture, SCU Vice President Yan Shijing met with Professor Merton at the VIP Hall of the Wangjiang Campus. The two discussed concrete possibilities for further academic exchanges and co-operation. On behalf of SCU, Professor Merton was then awarded the title of honorary professor of the university.

During the meeting, Yan Shijing extended a warm welcome to the visiting delegation led by Professor Merton, whose visit fell on the eve of the 121st anniversary of SCU. Vice President Yan expressed his hopes that Professor Merton would visit SCU again and lend his advice in the construction of SCU's finance department, as well as the general development of the university.

Professor Merton supports SCU's efforts to transform itself into a world-class university, recognizing SCU's established tradition within China as a valuable factor in the process of internationalizing. He hopes to return to Sichuan in the near future to engage in further exchanges and cooperation with SCU. Sichuan University, Merton thinks, holds valuable insights into globalization and should make use of its strategic vantage point to advance further research on improving financial systems both in China and around the world. 卐



approving applause from the audience.

During the Q&A session at the close of his lecture, Professor Merton answered questions raised by teachers

and students concerning the morality and ethics in the application of financial derivatives and the return of stock yields. Merton explained that the original intention of the financial tool

110 Years of Chemistry at SCU



In celebration of the 110th anniversary of the discipline of chemistry at Sichuan University, school leaders organized a series of academic activities held from October 27th to 28th. The celebration was attended by a number of renowned scholars of chemistry from around the globe, including, Professor Jean-Marie Lehn, French chemist reputed as the 'Father of Supramolecular Chemistry' and winner of the 1987 Nobel Prize in Chemistry; Professor Amos B. Smith III, Editor-in-chief of *Organic Letters* and professor at the University of Pennsylvania; Professor Gregory C. Fu, Associate Editor-in-chief of the *Journal of American Chemistry* and professor at the California Institute of Technology; Professor Scott J. Meiller, Editor-in-chief of the *Journal of Organic Chemistry* and professor at Yale University; Professor Tamio Hayashi, Editor-in-chief (Japan Division) of *Tetrahedron: Asymmetry* and professor at Nanyang Technological University in Singapore. Among the visiting scholars, five delegates delivered lectures on their respective fields to an eager audience of students and teachers gathered at SCU's College of Chemistry.

The engaging lectures given by these five well-known chemists were followed by an extensive Q&A session, during which the presenters patiently listened and thoughtfully responded to each ques-



tion. Younger scholars from SCU's College of Chemistry had an opportunity to present their research and projects in progress, upon which the visiting senior scholars offered advice and encouragement to further pursue their scientific

aspirations.

This lecture series was chaired by Academician Feng Xiaoming, Professor You Jingsong, Professor Hu Changwei, and Professor Jason Chruma of SCU's

College of Chemistry and attended by scholars and students from Sichuan University, Sichuan Normal University, Chengdu University, and other universities in the area. ㊦

Nobel Prize Winner Jean-Marie Lehn Visits SCU

On October 27th, SCU Vice President Hou Taiping welcomed Professor Jean-Marie Lehn, Winner of the Nobel Prize in Chemistry, to Sichuan University. Representatives of relevant colleges and departments joined their meeting. As an introduction to SCU, Vice President Hou offered an overview of the university's schools and programs, major projects, including international cooperation and exchanges, talent cultivation, recent developments, and major accomplishments in scientific research. Hou explained that Sichuan University is one of the country's academically most comprehensive institutions of higher learning, as well as ranking among China's top universities with the longest tradition. Known as the country's foremost university in the southwest, SCU has long since valued its overseas cooperation and exchanges and established solid, long-lasting partnerships with numerous high-



ranking academic institutions around the world. Hou expressed his hopes that Professor Lehn's visit would promote the development of chemistry at SCU and mark the beginning of a fruitful relationship, and that both parties might benefit from sustained cooperation and exchanges in the areas of teaching, scientific research, and

talent recruitment.

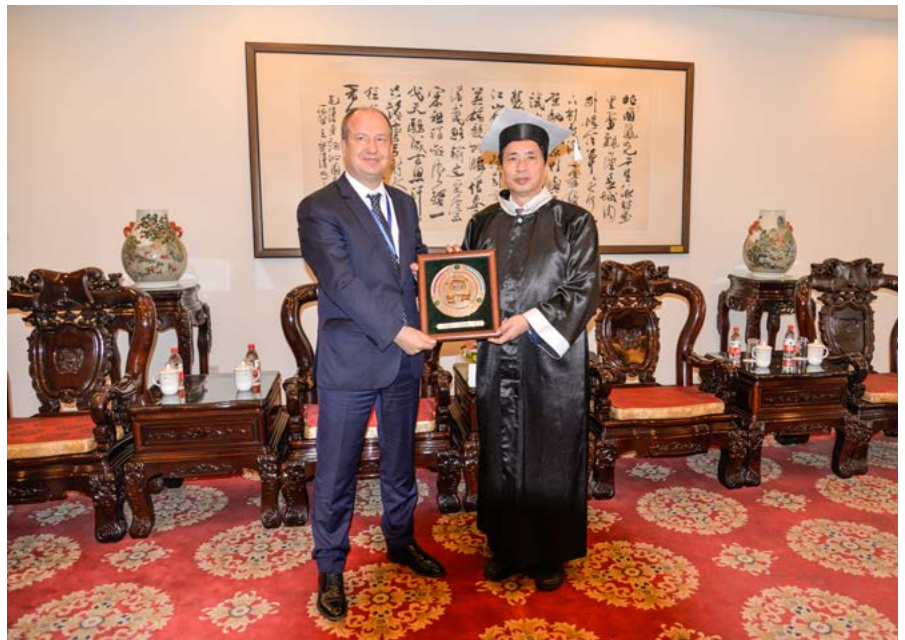
Professor Lehn thanked his hosts for the warm welcome he received at SCU. He noted that he very much looked forward to more in-depth cooperation with SCU's Department of Chemistry and expressed his best wishes for the future development of Sichuan University. ㊦

President Xie Heping Awarded Honorary Doctorate by Russia's Bashkir State

In appreciation of SCU President Xie Heping's academic accomplishments and efforts in promoting cooperation and friendship between Sichuan University and Russia's Bashkir State Medical University, the Russian university selected Academician Xie Heping as distinguished recipient of its honorary doctorate. The award was conferred by President Valentin Pavlov on behalf of Bashkir State on September 26th, 2017, during a ceremony held on SCU's Jiang'an Campus. The honorary doctorate is the highest academic distinction awarded by Russia's Bashkir State Medical University; in its more than 80-year history, it has conferred the award on only seven other occasions. President Xie was the eighth recipient.

During the award ceremony, Academician Xie expressed his sincere gratitude and firm intention to promote continued cooperation between the two institutions: "This award represents a great honor, and also reminds me of the important responsibility to further relations between our two countries, especially in the area of medical research."

President Pavlov acknowledged the key role President Xie Heping has taken on as the Chinese head of the partnership, and noted how Xie's constructive



leadership and vision have significantly contributed to their ongoing collaboration, which has been commended both by President Xi Jinping and President Vladimir Putin in recognition of the two universities' contributions to the advancement of Sino-Russian relations.

Russia's Bashkir State Medical University and SCU are developing their extensive cooperation in talent cultivation, faculty and student exchanges, as well as in scientific research. Both Xie and Pavlov have noted wide overlaps and many research areas well-suited to international cooperation, particularly



in a number of fields in the medical sciences pursued by both institutions. The two sides look forward to working together to advance cutting-edge research in these fields. 卐

Fifth Educational Cooperation Forum of SCU Confucius Institutes Held in Seattle

From August 3rd to 5th, the Fifth Educational Cooperation Forum of SCU's overseas Confucius Institutes was held at the University of Washington in Seattle. The forum was attended by Professor Yan Shijing, Vice President of Sichuan University; Dr. Jeffrey Riedinger, Vice President of the University of Washington; Dr. Stefanie Lindquist, Vice President of Arizona State University; and Dr. Seowon Kam, Vice President of Woosong University. Chinese and local deans, as well as a number of instructors and administrators from the Confucius Institutes in Washington State, the University of Utah, Arizona State University, Woosong University, and the Vrije Universiteit Brussels also joined the three-day meeting.

In his keynote speech, Professor Yan Shijing first introduced Sichuan University's ambition to build a world-class university that provides new opportunities for the development of Confucius Institutes and poses new challenges to them as well. He called on the Confucius Institutes represented to actively integrate into Sichuan University's endeavor to build a world-class university, and seek out new development opportunities: to develop high-level and high-quality



Confucius Institutes suited to respective local cultural and structural demands, secure sustainable development, and, in cooperation with

SCU, turn their Confucius Institutes into bases for international Chinese language learning and promotion of Chinese culture.

Each Confucius Institute introduced its work, strategic planning, and achievements since the Fourth Educational Cooperation Forum of SCU Confucius Institutes. The Confucius Institute at Arizona State University briefed the Forum on a recent proposal to include Chinese language teaching into its AP Program (the first ever institute promoting such an initiative in the US); the Confucius Institute at VUB-Vrije Universiteit Brussel introduced its three major functions, which are education, research, and communication; the Confucius Institute at Washington State University outlined its strategic plans for the next three to five years and how to leverage the Confucius Institute platform to promote high-level exchanges between Chinese and foreign countries; the Confucius Institute at Woosong University shared its experiences on how to improve communication and cooperation with the host university; and the Confucius Institute at the University of Utah introduced its recent progress in Chinese immersion teaching. Delegates at the meeting held thematic discussions around the presentations of the Confucius Institutes, looked at the challenges faced by each one, and put forward corresponding suggestions and solutions.

The Educational Cooperation Forum of Sichuan University Confucius Institutes hosted by Sichuan University is organized by SCU and its cooperative Confucius Institutes in turn and at regular intervals. This session was organized by the University of Washington and chaired by Dr. Jeffrey Riedinger, Vice President of UW. 山

SCU Selected for “Dual-world-class University Construction”



September 21st saw the publication of a list of nationwide institutions and disciplines selected for world-class university and world-class discipline construction. The “strategic plan for dual-world-class university construction” has approved 42 Chinese institutions of higher learning for world-class university construction, while 95 institutions were chosen for world-class discipline construction. Included in the list for “dual construction,” Sichuan University has also been ranked as one of 36 category-A universities.

The “dual-world-class” construction project is designed to be carried out in three steps: a select number of universities and disciplines will aim to attain world class distinction by 2020, while certain disciplines will compete for forefront positions among world-class disciplines; a larger number of Chinese institutions will strive to join the ranks of world-class institutions by 2030, while a selected number of universities will rise to the top of world-class universities; finally, Chinese universities will aim to take a leading role in global higher education by 2050.

In line with its vision to “Take Root in Western China, Reinforce Unique Fea-



tures, Lead in Innovation & Creation, and Rank among the World’s Top Universities,” Sichuan University will strive to build itself into a university that is able to nurture globally competitive talents and take up the challenges of future development; a university that is generating new ideas, new knowledge, new theories, and new technologies while facilitating global human progress; a university that is coordinating and leading the development of key and core technologies for strategic emerging industries and providing high-end think tank support for economic & social development; a university that guides the development of advanced culture and safeguards its civilization’s spiritual nurturing ground. 山

Sichuan University continues to welcome prominent scientists and educational leaders from around the globe in efforts to build stronger transnational ties in higher education and actively advance scientific collaboration among the world's leading scientific researchers. The initial step toward building international collaboration is often the exchange of formal visits by university leadership to explore the viability of academic partnerships. SCU takes a strong initiative in forging international exchange by regularly hosting scientists and university leaders from around the globe.



Leading Physicists Simon Redfern and Martin Dove Visit SCU

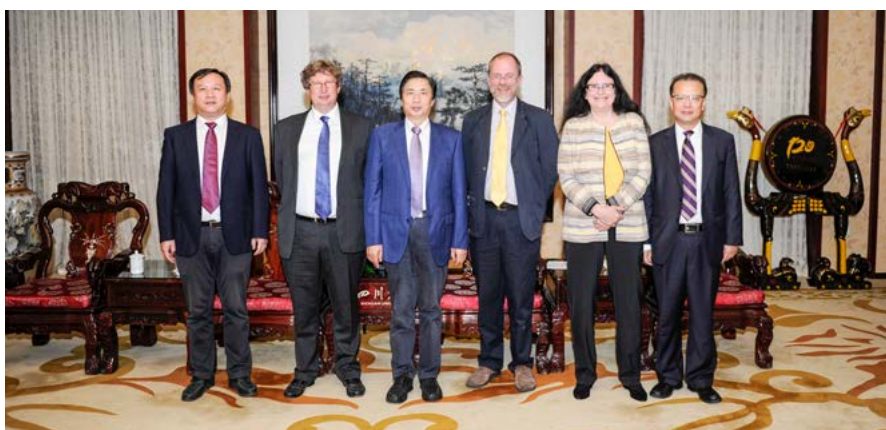


On September 1st, SCU President, Academician Xie Heping, met with Professor Simon Redfern from the University of Cambridge and Professor Martin Dove from Queen Mary University of London. Vice Presidents Yan Shijing and Xu Weilin, along with leaders of relevant colleges and departments, joined the meeting.

At the start of the meeting, President Xie Heping introduced Sichuan University, highlighting its strategic moves toward internationalization and building a world-class institution. Sichuan University, President Xie explained, is in the process of building a new College of Geosciences by consolidating its strengths in geological disaster science, environmental science, rock mass mechanics, and other relevant disciplines – SCU boasts two internationally famous experts in geoscience.

Professor Redfern emphasized the University of Cambridge's valued cooperation with Chinese universities over the past years. A number of geoscientists from the University of Cambridge have already participated in collaborative research projects based in Chengdu and southwest China. Redfern hopes that Cambridge's cooperation with SCU in the field will solidify in the very future.

Professor Dove gave an overview of his university's in-depth partnership with Sichuan University in the physical sciences. A returning overseas distinguished guest lecturer of SCU's University Immersion Program, Dove promotes collaboration between SCU and Queen Mary in neutron research and analog computer technology. 🏠



Delegation of Harvard Professors Visits SCU

lectual developments of Lien-sheng Yang and Francis W. Cleaves.

Professor Michael A. Szonyi delivered three lectures, beginning with "The Past 60 Years of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies," which probed the political relationship between China and the United States, as well as the academic work of the Fairbank Center over the past sixty years. Next, Professor Szonyi gave a talk on his own current research, "A Complicated Legal Case in *The Plum in the Golden Vase*: Perceiving the Legal History of the Ming Dynasty from Literary Works." Finally, he presented findings on a small rural temple in southeastern China, tracing its history and exploring the relationship between local residents around the temple and the state.

Professor Elizabeth J. Perry, who is also the Henry Rosovsky Professor of Government at Harvard, held a lecture entitled "Church Universities in the Period of the Republic of China," a study that examined the appraisal system of contemporary Chinese universities against the characteristic features of Christian universities during the Republican era and traced the latter's Sinicization.

Professor Leonard W. J. van der Kuijp gave a lecture entitled "Why Do Tibetan Studies?" in which he introduced some highlights of Tibetan history and Tibet's relations with surrounding cultures, making a strong case for the importance of Tibetan studies.

Overall, the lectures were well attended and both students and faculty asked many questions and offered interesting feedback during the Q&A

During SCU's 121st anniversary celebrations, a delegation of Harvard professors came to Sichuan University for a four-day visit lasting from September 24th to 27th. On December 22nd of last year, the Research Center for the Study of West China at SCU and the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard University had signed an MOU to establish a cooperative research center. The visit this September was intended to concretize specific research projects and contents for comprehensive collaboration between the two sides.

The delegates from Harvard included Professor Michael A. Szonyi, Director of the Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies at Harvard; Professor Elizabeth J. Perry, Director of the Harvard-Yenching Institute; Professor Leonard W. J. van der Kuijp, Head of the Department of South Asia and Chairman of South Asian Studies at Harvard University; and Li Ruohong, Deputy Director of the Harvard-Yenching Institute. During their stay, the group of Harvard professors engaged in a series of in-depth academic exchanges with faculty and students at SCU.

On the morning of September 25th, Professor Michael A. Szonyi participated in a symposium with SCU faculty and students. He said that the symposium lent



him deeper insight into SCU's history and academic disciplines, as well as into the potential for academic cooperation between the two institutions. Meanwhile, he spoke highly of the academic research conducted by SCU faculty and indicated that he looked forward to further academic cooperation with SCU researchers.

Delegates also gave a series of insightful lectures during their stay. Dr. Li Ruohong delivered a lecture on Lien-sheng Yang and Francis W. Cleaves, during which she mapped out the evolution of the research paradigm of American Sinology by tracing the respective intel-

sessions following. Several well-known SCU professors, as well as many young scholars and students, participated in the discussions. The six lectures attracted more than 2,000

listeners from on and off campus.

The visit of the Harvard delegation was one of the activities conducted by SCU's College of History and Culture

to celebrate the 121st anniversary of Sichuan University. It was also the first academic activity following the establishment of the Harvard-SCU Cooperative Research Center. ㊦

SCU Welcomes Ho-Kwang Mao, Fellow of the American Academy of Science

On September 9th, SCU President Xie Heping met with Mr. Ho-Kwang Mao, member of the American Academy of Science, Overseas Fellow of both the Royal Society of London and the Chinese Academy of Sciences and internationally renowned expert in high pressure physics. Their meeting was convened at the VIP Hall of SCU's Wangjiang Campus. Lin Haiqing, Director of the Beijing Research Center of Computing Science, Vice President Liang Bin, and representatives from relevant academic departments also participated in the meeting.



On behalf of Sichuan University, President Xie extended a warm welcome to Ho-Kwang Mao, whose visit fell on the eve of SCU's 121st anniversary celebrations. President Xie gave a brief overview of SCU's history, discipline construction, scientific research, and personnel training. Sichuan University, he explained, attaches great importance to the introduction and cultivation of talents and is now striving to comprehensively build itself into

a world-class university. Academician Ho-Kwang Mao has achieved remarkable results in high-pressure physics, high-pressure chemistry, high-pressure material science, and geophysics, fields in which SCU also takes a keen interest. President Xie expressed his hopes that Academician Ho-Kwang Mao would continue to follow and support SCU's development in these fields, as well as provide guidance in the area of personnel training, academic exchange-

es, and research collaboration.

Academician Ho-Kwang Mao expressed appreciation for SCU's hospitality, briefing his hosts on the current state of his research and the development of related scientific fields. Professor Mao looks forward to conducting in-depth exchanges with relevant institutes of Sichuan University and jointly boosting collaborative research, undergraduate teaching, and graduate supervision. ㊦

Professor Lukyanov of the Russian Academy of Sciences Visits SCU

On October 10th, SCU President Xie Heping met with a visiting delegation led by Professor Lukyanov, Director of the Far East Comparative Civilization Research Center of the Russian Academy of Sciences' Far East Institute and Vice President of the International Confucian Association. SCU Vice President Yan Shijing and representatives of relevant colleges and departments also attended the meeting.

President Xie pointed out that Sichuan University had established strong cooperative ties with the sinologists of the Far East Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences in recent years, and that SCU counted Professor Lukyanov among its close partners. He expressed his hopes that mutual cooperation between the two sides would continue to grow and deepen and that both institutions would make fuller use of SCU's multidisciplinary strengths, which President Xie expects will in turn contribute to the ongoing flourishing of Sino-Russian relations.

During the meeting, Lukyanov expressed his sincere thanks for SCU's outstanding contributions to ongoing Chinese-Russian translation projects headed by the Far East Institute of the Russian Academy of Sciences. The Institute, as Lukyanov noted, has strengthened its collabo-



ration with Sichuan University in the past few years; together, the two sides most recently established the Sino-Russian Cultural Research Center. With the efforts of scholars from both sides, Russian versions of *The Book of Odes* and *The Doctrine of the Mean*

were published in Russia, and the translations of *I Ching* and *The Spring and Autumn Annals* are already underway. These works have played an irreplaceable role in helping Russians from all walks of life better understand Chinese



history, tradition, and culture, enriching the cultural dialogue and mutual understanding between China and Russia. Professor Lukyanov looks forward to continued exchanges between his institute and Sichuan University. ㊦

SCU Signs Cooperation Agreement with the University of Kentucky

On August 30th, Sichuan University and the University of Kentucky held a signing ceremony at SCU to mark an agreement of cooperation between the two institutions. Ms. Susan M. Roberts, Vice Provost of the University of Kentucky, and Professor Yan Shijing, Vice President of Sichuan University, attended the signing ceremony along with leaders from relevant departments on both sides.

On behalf of SCU, Professor Yan expressed his warm welcome to the delegation led by Ms. Susan M. Roberts. He introduced the history, disciplinary concentrations, international cooperation projects, and exchange programs at Sichuan University, adding that SCU attaches great importance to international cooperation and exchanges and has seen fruitful results in international collaborative teaching in recent years. Sichuan University and the University of Kentucky share a solid foundation for cooperation in the fields of electronic information and physics. Yan hopes that the two sides will also carry out extensive and in-depth



cooperation in the field of clinical medicine in the future.

Vice Provost Roberts expressed her gratitude for the warm reception received by Sichuan University. She hopes to deepen mutual understanding between the two institutions and

promote cooperation in personnel training and scientific research.

In closing, the two sides signed the Cooperation Agreement between Sichuan University and the University of Kentucky. 卐

SCU's Lab for Clean Technology in Leather Manufacturing Signs Agreement with Romanian Research and Development Institute

Following the invitation of SCU Professor Chen Wuyong of the university's National Engineering Laboratory for Clean Technology in Leather Manufacturing, Dr. Carmen and three other researchers from the Romanian National Research and Development Institute for Textiles and Leather came to Chengdu on October 10th for a full week of successful meetings at Sichuan University. During their visit, SCU's Laboratory and the Romanian Institute signed an agreement to establish a joint laboratory on clean leather manufacturing technology under China's Belt and Road Initiative.



The signing ceremony of the joint laboratory was held at Sichuan University on the morning of October 11th. Academician Shi Bi, Director of the National Engineering Laboratory for Clean Technology in Leather Manufacturing, and Dr. Carmen, Head of the Leather Research Department of the National Research and Development Institute for Textiles and Leather and the Leather and Footwear Research Institute, signed the agreement on behalf of their respective institutes. According to the agreement,

the two sides will further pursue collaborative projects in research on clean leather manufacturing, leather waste disposal and recycling – as well as scientific personnel exchanges and training – and will further advance international scientific



cooperation between China and Romania under the Belt and Road Initiative.

The history of cooperation between Chinese and Romanian research institutes dates back to more than ten years ago.

The two countries share an excellent foundation for collaborative research endeavours in a range of scientific fields, while the establishment of this joint SCU-Romanian laboratory will promote international scientific cooperation.

Representatives from the College of Light Industry, Textile, and Food Engineering and the Office of Scientific Research and Development also attended the signing ceremony. ㊦

Case Western Reserve University Signs Cooperative Agreement with SCU

On September 29th, Sichuan University held a signing ceremony with Case Western Reserve University (CWRU). The ceremony was attended by SCU President Xie Heping, CWRU President Barbara Snyder, and representatives of various departments.

President Xie opened the meeting by extending a warm SCU welcome to President Snyder and her team. He also thanked her for her valuable suggestions and insights concerning how to build SCU into a world-class university, which Snyder had offered in her capacity as a member of SCU's International Advisory Board. President Xie then expressed his hope that both universities take advantage of their newly established agreement to advance comprehensive and in-depth cooperation in research, training, and faculty exchanges between SCU and CWRU.

President Barbara Snyder remarked that it was an honor to visit SCU during its



121st anniversary celebrations and to participate in the International Advisory Board's Second Plenary Session. She looks forward to extensive and fruitful exchanges between the two universities in the coming years.

The two sides, represented by Xie Heping and Barbara Snyder, then signed the Cooperative Agreement between SCU and Case Western Reserve University, marking the official beginning of their academic collaboration. ㊦

International Symposium on the Himalayan Region Convened at SCU



The 2017 International Symposium on the Himalayan region convened at Sichuan University from July 7th to 9th. The focus of the meeting was to cement exchange and communication between SCU and other strategic domestic and overseas research bases to support SCU's research on the Himalayan region. The Symposium was organized by the Cambridge Rivers Project-Sichuan University Database and sponsored by the Collaborative Innovation Center for Security and Development of Western Frontier China (CWF) and SCU's Himalayan Center for Cultural & Religious Research.



The opening ceremony held on July 7th was attended by SCU President Xie Heping, along with other university representatives and leading scholars researching the Himalayan region. Delegates came from Harvard University, Cambridge University, and other universities and research institutes at home and abroad; SCU faculty from relevant departments also attended the event. Dr. Wu Ning, head of the Ecosystem Division under the ICIMOD, and Professor Leonard W. J. van der Kuijp from the Department of South Asian Studies at Harvard University each gave a short opening address pondering the future direction of Himalayan studies; their insights and commentary were well

received.

On behalf of the university, President Xie welcomed and thanked his friends and experts from around the world, noting that, as neighbors of the region and having established a longstanding tradition in the field, SCU held a geographic advantage which it hoped to share with other institutions advancing research on the region. Joining with other universities and relevant scholars, Sichuan University plans to set up an international cooperation platform that promotes cutting-edge, collaborative research contributing to a deeper understanding of the complex challenges faced throughout the Himala-

yan region. Taken together, these research initiatives are further understood to support China's Belt and Road initiative and, by extension, to serve the wellbeing of the countries and peoples along the Belt and Road.

Keynote speeches were given by Huo Wei, Director of SCU's College of History and Culture; Luo Zhongshu, Director of CWF and Dean of SCU's School of International Studies; Professor Leonard W. J. van der Kuijp from the Department of South Asian Studies at Harvard University; Professor Hildegard Diemberger, Director of the Mongolia and Inner Asia Studies Unit (MIASU) of the University of Cambridge;

and Dr. Wu Ning, head of the Ecosystem Division under the ICIMOD, as well as other experts and scholars covering the progress made in recent years in studies on the Himalayan region.

During the two-day conference, visiting delegates held in-depth discussions surrounding the Himalayan region and research progress made in recent years, Sichuan University's vision for Himalayan studies, Himalayan database construction, Himalayan region research project cooperation, as well as the translation and publication of relevant research results. 🏔️



Second China-UK High-Level Cooperation & Advanced Functional Materials Forum Held in Chengdu

On September 12th, the Second China-UK High-Level Cooperation & Advanced Functional Materials Forum, co-organised by Sichuan University and the Department of Foreign and Overseas Chinese Affairs of Sichuan Province, was held in Chengdu. Peng Yu, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of Sichuan Provincial People's Congress, Academician Xie Heping, President of Sichuan University, Nick Miles, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Nottingham, and William Gillin, Director of the Materials Center at Queen Mary University of London

attended the opening ceremony and delivered their respective speeches. More than 200 people, including well-known domestic and international scholars, as well as representatives of relevant government agencies and enterprises, attended the forum. SCU Vice President Yan Shijing presided over the opening ceremony.

President Xie Heping gave a keynote address at the opening ceremony, in which he introduced materials science and engineering as a leading discipline at SCU. By leveraging its multidisciplinary

advantages, Sichuan University has established such national key disciplines as materials science and engineering, atomic and molecular physics and related sub-disciplines, while simultaneously launching a number of high-level research institutes like the State Key Laboratory of Polymer Materials Engineering. In 2012, it founded the Sino-British Materials Research Institute in collaboration with Queen Mary University of London and built an international, high-calibre research team, which has yielded substantial research results over the past five years. President

Xie expressed his confidence that Sichuan University would take the forum as an opportunity to strengthen exchanges and cooperation with the world's leading experts and scholars in materials sciences, while striving to build its materials science and engineering program into a world-class discipline supporting SCU's development toward world-class distinction.

Peng Yu, Deputy Director of the Standing Committee of Sichuan Provincial People's Congress, spoke of the hopeful prospects of advancing further scientific and educational exchanges between Sichuan University and UK institutions based on a strong record of collaboration. Peng noted the important role SCU plays in the "industry-university-production cooperation" system of Sichuan's new materials industry by consistently consolidating solid scientific research findings in the field of advanced functional materials, for example. Provincial-level bodies, he stated, hope to take advantage of Sichuan University and other research institutions to boost joint innovation for the development of the region and to enhance cultural and educational exchanges that will strengthen the ties of friendship between Sichuan and Great Britain.

Nick Miles, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the University of Nottingham, noted that his university treasures the cooperative relationship with Sichuan University; Miles hopes that both sides will strengthen exchanges and mutual trust in advanced functional materials research and related domains, while giving full play to their respective advantages in building a global knowledge exchange center.



William Gillin, Director of the Materials Center, Queen Mary University of London, briefly introduced the history of the Sino-British Materials Research Institute and its notable achievements in cooperative research. Gillin is convinced that the bilateral research cooperation will play an increasingly significant role in the fields of computer science, telecommunications, clean energy, and materials science.

Nine celebrated domestic and overseas scholars, including Jiang Lei, Academician of the Chinese Academy of Sciences, and Peter Littlewood, Fellow of the Royal Society, briefed attendees on cutting-edge research results in the field of advanced functional materials. The talks

included titles such as "Smart Interfacial Materials: From Super-wettability to Binary Cooperative Complementary Systems," "Tuning of Phase Transitions in Oxide Material," and other presentations of researchers' most recent findings.

As one of the main sub-sessions of the "2017 Western China Overseas High Tech and High Talents Conference," the Second China-UK High-Level Cooperation & Advanced Functional Materials Forum is intended to offer a unique opportunity to scientists and experts for dialoguing on important breakthroughs in advanced functional materials science and exploring relevant practical application and development prospects. 🏢

Disaster Prevention and Mitigation Forum Held at SCU

On September 12th, the China (Sichuan)-South Asia Disasters Prevention and Mitigation Forum convened at the Academic Lecture Hall of SCU's Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction. The event constituted one of the sub-forums of the Sixteenth West China Conference on Overseas High-tech Talents of 2017.

Convened with the purpose of "deepening pragmatic cooperation in the field of disaster prevention, mitigation and relief in China and South Asia" and set against the backdrop of China's Belt and Road initiative, the two-day forum focused on specific topics such as disaster prevention, mitigation and relief, post-disaster restoration and reconstruction, and innovation in disaster education. The forum presented a significant opportunity to strengthen close cooperation with South Asia in the field of disaster prevention, mitigation and relief, to promote international cooperation in regional disaster prevention, and to discuss innovative models for disaster education.

SCU Vice President Hou Taiping addressed the opening ceremony, welcoming the world-renowned experts and scholars who had come to Chengdu to discuss disaster prevention and mitigation in China and South Asia. The visit-



ing delegates shared their insights on the development of innovative technologies for the prevention and mitigation of disasters.

Mr. H. E. Leela Mani Paudyal, Nepalese Ambassador to China, expressed the need for innovation and ongoing research to help Nepal prevent and cope with natural disasters, noting that, as

a disaster-prone country, Nepal faces some of the same challenges as Sichuan Province and other countries in South Asia. The Ambassador hopes that affected countries will cooperate more by sharing their experiences and relevant research findings. The forum, he said, would promote in-depth exchange and cooperation between China and South Asian countries in the field of disaster

prevention, mitigation, and post-disaster reconstruction.

Professor Ranjith Dissanayake of the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka; Professor Jiba Raj Pokharel, Dean of Nepal Academy of Science and Technology; Professor Tahmeed Malik Al Hussaini of Bangladesh University of Engineering and Technology; and Mr. Yang Siqun, Chief Engineer of the National Disaster Reduction Center of China, also shared their expertise and experience in disaster

prevention and mitigation from the perspective of conditions in their own countries.

During the round-table meeting, Mr. Rakesh Hamal, Member of the Social Welfare Committee Executive Committee of Nepal; Zhang Ying, Senior Engineer of the Beijing Earthquake Bureau under the China Earthquake Administration and Chinese Association of Disaster Prevention; Professor Gretchen Kalonji, Dean of the SCU-

Hong Kong Polytechnic University Institute for Disaster Management and Reconstruction; and Professor Md. Shamsuzzoha of the Disaster Management Institute of Patuakhali Science and Technology University, held talks on two themes: first, the "Role of NGOs and Private Enterprises in Disaster Prevention and Mitigation"; second, "Cooperation among Institutions of Higher Learning: Transnational and Multi-institutional Alliances on Educational Curricular Innovation." 🏠

SCU Hosts International Forum on the Frontier of Stress Medicine

On September 22nd the International Forum on the Frontier of Stress Medicine convened at Sichuan University. The event was sponsored by West China College of Preclinical Medicine and Forensic Medicine at SCU. Liang Bin, Vice President of Sichuan University, attended the opening ceremony and delivered a speech. Chinese and overseas scientists who have won acclaim in the field of stress medicine, heads of relevant departments, as well as teachers and students of related medical majors at SCU participated in the forum.

The forum invited domestic and overseas experts and scholars to share the latest results and developments in stress

medicine, as well as discuss current challenges in the field, all in an effort to promote scientific research, disciplinary

development, and talent cultivation in stress medicine and related domains, boost SCU's exchange and cooperation



with its overseas counterparts, and fuel SCU's efforts in building itself into a world-class university.

At the opening ceremony, Vice President Liang Bin, on behalf of Sichuan University, awarded guest professorial appointment letters to nine scholars and experts, including Xiang Rong, Yangtze River Scholar and Chief Scientist of the

National Basic Research Program of the Ministry of Science and Technology, and Li Yunqing, winner of the National Science Fund for Outstanding Young Scholars and Yangtze River Scholar.

Twelve scholars and experts, including Professor Liou Yih Cheng of the National University of Singapore, Li Chengtao from the Institute of Forensic Science

of the Chinese Ministry of Justice, and Professor Liu Jin from the Department of Anesthesiology of West China College of Medicine, addressed the forum respectively. They spoke on topics ranging from "Proline Isomerization: An Intrinsic, Molecular Switch" and "MPS Technology-based Forensic Genetic Marker Application Research" to "Clinicians and Translational Medicine." 🏠

2017 International Academy of Systems and Cybernetic Sciences Conference Convenes at SCU

From October 21st to 22nd, the 2017 International Academy of Systems and Cybernetic Sciences Conference successfully convened at SCU's College of Business. The conference was attended by local experts and scholars in the field, as well as by IASCYS (International Academy for Systems and Cybernetic Sciences) academicians from the United States, Australia, New Zealand, France, Denmark, Canada, Germany, and China.

Addressing the opening ceremony, Vice President Yan Shijing expressed his hopes that this year's Systems and Cybernetic Sciences Conference would serve not only to promote related disciplines at Sichuan University, but would



further facilitate development in the field of systems and cybernetic sciences globally.

Head of the IASCYS, Stuart A. Umpleby, gave an overview of the previous years' conferences and stressed that the most important work of the IASCYS was to consolidate the expertise of scientists in relevant fields to advance innovative achievements conducive to human progress.

Following the opening ceremony, delegates offered a series of lectures on a range of topics in research and development, as well as issues of education, in the field of systems and cybernetic sciences.

A round-table symposium on "Current Developments and Education in Systems and Cybernetic Sciences," convened on the second day of the conference. IASCYS academicians engaged in lively debates with attending SCU faculty and students. Delegates also held productive discussions on the IASCYS's intellectual contributions to the development of science and education and the IASCYS's efficient operation.

Composed of 36 member states and international societies, the International Academy for Systems and Cybernetic Sciences was formally established on April 7th, 2010, following two years of preparation. The IASCYS has its headquarters in Vienna. This fall the Academy held its fourth academic conference. Professor Xu Jiuping, professor at Sichuan University's College of Business, and Stuart A. Umpleby of the IASCYS served as co-chairs. 🏠

SCU Listed Among Top 200 Universities Worldwide in ARWU Ranking



On August 15th, the Academic Ranking of World Universities, one of the world's top four university ranking systems, released its 2017 Rankings, which list SCU among the world's top 200 universities.

The Shanghai-based ranking system was the first ever to publish a comprehensive ranking list of universities worldwide. It was first released in 2003; this year's publication was its 15th edition. The ranking indicators include the number of alumni and teachers who have won Nobel Prizes

or Fields Medals, the number of well-cited scientists, the number of papers published in *Nature* or *Science*, the number of papers included in the Science Citation Index (SCIE) or Social Science Citation Index (SSCI), faculty performance, and other objective data.

A total of 45 universities in mainland China were listed in the Top 500 Universities category of 2017. Harvard University, Stanford University, and the University of Cambridge hold the top three positions respectively. 🏠

SCU President Xie Heping Speaks on Energy Development at the US-China Green Energy Summit

On September 12th, 2017, the US-China Green Energy Summit Keynote Session convened in Chengdu. SCU President Xie Heping attended the summit on invitation, joining discussions on the development prospects of global green energy with Professor Steven Chu, winner of the Nobel Prize in Physics and the 12th United States Secretary of Energy, Nobel laureate Professor Daniel Komen, and Professor James Sweeney of Stanford University.

During his keynote speech, Academician Xie Heping, drawing on his own research findings and analyses of worldwide trends, put forward three hypotheses concerning the future development of global energy use, stating: first, that development prospects for global green energy were in China; secondly, that the worldwide oil crisis would not occur; and finally, that coal might become the most economical and sustainable clean energy of the future.

The Development Prospects of Global Green Energy Are in China

In June 2014, General Secretary Xi Jinping proposed an initiative for energy



reform that covered energy consumption, supply, technological innovation, and system reforms. The Chinese government has since taken further measures to prioritize energy conservation, diversifying energy structures and comprehensively accelerating the development of new energy and the 'Internet plus' initiative in multiple fields to promote the development of green energy.

SCU President Xie discussed the future of public transportation in China's large and medium-sized cities, citing the planned expansion of the Chengdu Metro system, as an example: although Chengdu did not begin construction on

its first metro line, Metro Line 1, until December of 2005, construction on consecutive lines followed rapidly. The total length of 13 metro lines, including lines now under construction, is projected to add up to ca. 450 kilometers. According to Xie, this development, along with the use of high-speed metro trains, electric buses, shared bicycles, and shared electric cars conveniently located, goes a long way toward realizing the goal of convenient, fast, punctual, and near zero-emission transport via which people can seamlessly reach any corner of the city. Xie gave a specific example: one of his overseas friends took only 30 minutes by metro and shared bike to cover

the distance of 20 km from Chengdu's Shuangliu Airport to his home, which means near zero emission, a reduction of carbon dioxide emissions by some 5.4 kg compared with a taxi ride covering the same distance. China's "Internet plus" transport industries thus signal promising developments for the future of green energy worldwide.

Worldwide Oil Crisis Won't Happen

President Xie predicts that oil will in the next two to three decades gradually withdraw from the transport industry. The Chinese government has pulled out all stops to develop electric vehicles and fuel cell-driven vehicles to mitigate the smog problem. Xie estimates that the world will no longer produce conventional cars after around 2040: hybrid vehicles and pure electric vehicles will dominate the market with fuel cell-driven vehicles catching up from behind. In 100 years, according to Xie, people around the world will only drive intelligent fuel cell-driven vehicles.

Coal May Become the Most Economical and Sustainable Clean Energy of the Future

President Xie explained that China has

built a number of clean coal power plant demonstration projects, such as Shenhua's Guohua Taishan, Zhoushan, Huaneng's Yuhuan Power Plant and Zheneng's Jiaying Power Plant. These coal-fired power plants can achieve extremely low emission rates, even down to near zero emission. Their emission rates of soot, sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxides, and mercury are even lower than the emission standards of natural gas power plants; their IGCC soot emission can reach below 0.6mg/m³, close to zero emission; sulfur dioxide emissions can reach below 0.9mg/m³, also near zero emission. By the end of 2016, China's coal-fired power plants had completed ultra low emissions-oriented restructuring totaling 320 million kilowatts.

President Xie believes that, with an exploitation history of over 1,000 years, coal counts as one of the earliest and most economical resources exploited and utilized among fossil energy. According to the 11th World Energy Conference, the world's total coal reserve is estimated to be at about 1.36 trillion tons, which can be exploited for about another 400 years. New energy sources developed in the past hundred years include nuclear energy, wind energy, solar energy, light energy, geothermal energy,



biological energy, and other renewable energy. Despite such characteristics as reproducibility and short production cycles, taking photovoltaic power generation as an example, there are still problems like high pollution and high-energy consumption in the manufacturing process of photovoltaic materials and photovoltaic modules.

President Xie therefore proposes a new paradigm for defining "clean energy," holding that "clean energy" should be assessed by a standard of emissions, instead of the source of energy (fossil energy or new energy), and clean energy's quality and category should be determined based on the type of energy's overall environmental effect and economic efficiency calculated based on its full life cycle. If all state governments committed themselves to investing in clean coal technology, developing a series of new-type technologies of desulfurization, denitration,



dust removal, especially revolutionary technologies for capturing and utilizing CO₂ (CCUS) – and were actually able to reach near zero-emission targets – coal could realistically become the most economical and sustainable clean energy of the future.

SCU Takes the Initiative on Tackling Global Energy and Climate Issues

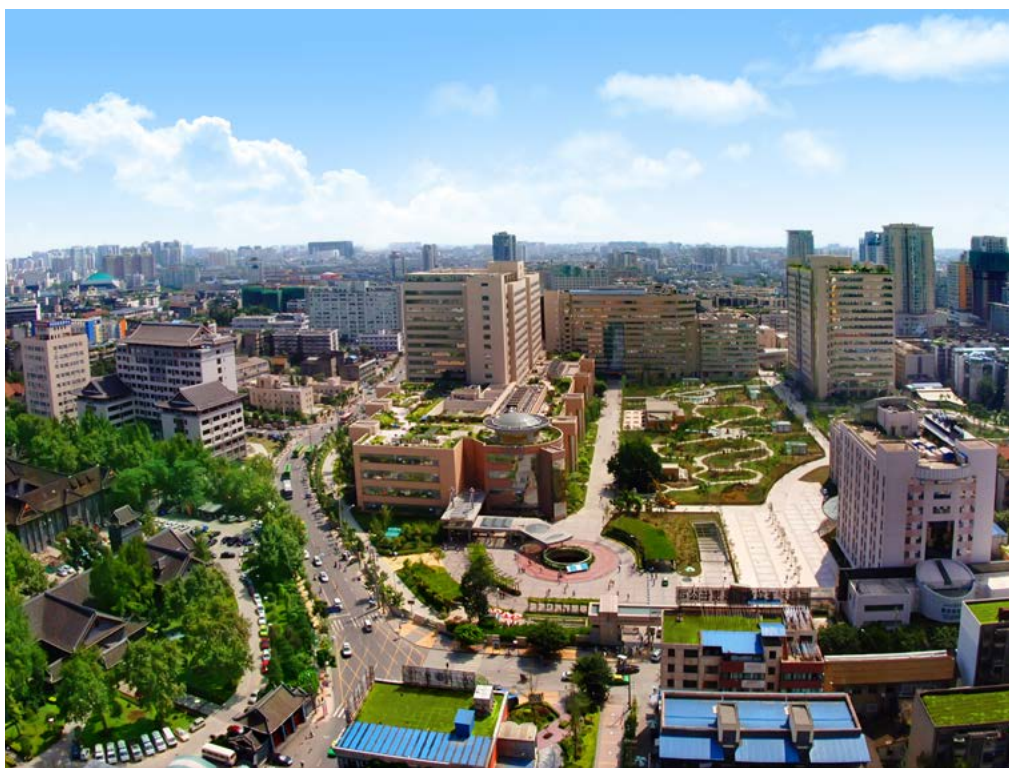
President Xie Heping thinks that in the face of energy and climate concerns, people can neither ignore history, nor neglect the reality of future challenges; people must instead face the future. On this score, Xie hopes that SCU will pursue further cooperation projects with the US in the field of green energy in a comprehensive, open, and diversified manner. He envisions a Sino-US energy cooperation platform aimed at promoting the development of renewable clean energy to facilitate joint research on crucial challenges such as waste of wind, light, and water resources, low utilization rates of new energy-generated power, as well as environment, space, and safety issues arising from the exploitation of underground resources. He also urges scientists on both sides to make fuller use of existing international energy laboratories, centers, and platforms, jointly supervise master and doctoral students, and support the organic integration of teaching and research. President Xie hopes that more incentives can be created to encourage young, entrepreneurial innovators and develop revolutionary technologies in CCUS, Energy Internet, and green energy in a bid to create a new patterns of global green energy development. 🏡

SCU West China Hospital Ranks First among China's Medical Institutions

According to the 2017 *Nature Index* tables in the latest *Nature Index* supplement, West China Hospital of Sichuan University ranks first among China's medical institutions.

In November 2014, the *Nature* Publishing Group published its globally distributed *Nature Index* with a brand-

new "weighted fractional count" (WFC) index. Based on calculations and statistics of the number of research papers of various research institutions published in the previous year in 68 journals of natural science, including the *Nature* series, the index tracks about 60,000 quality research papers, covering more than 20,000 research institutions. 🏡



SCU Professors Among China's Most Quoted Authors in Royal Society of Chemistry Journals

To highlight Chinese authors' outstanding contributions to international research in chemistry, the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) has recently summed up the citation status related to papers published in its over 40 journals. After screening the list of top 1% articles (in random order) published between 2014 and



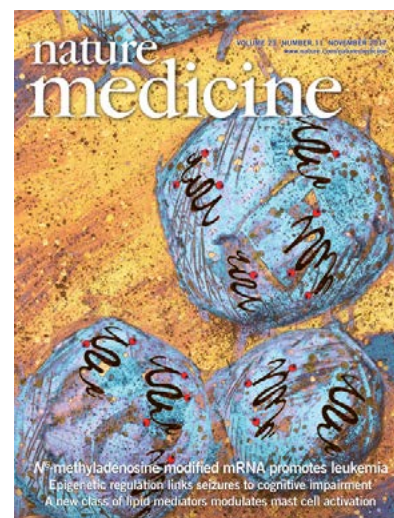
2015 that were heavily cited in 2016, the RSC sorted out a list of authors whose first academic institutions were Chinese (including institutions in Hong Kong and Taiwan). Professor at SCU Academician Feng Xiaoming, Professor Zhao Changsheng, Professor Hou Xiandeng, and Professor Sun Xuping were all included in the list. 🏠

Dr. Zhang Dunfang Publishes Article in *Nature Medicine*

SCU's Dr. Zhang Dunfang of West China Hospital's National Key Laboratory of Oral Diseases has published his latest findings in *Nature Medicine* with an article entitled "D-mannose Induces Regulatory T Cells and Suppresses Immunopathology." The research was jointly supported by the US National Institutes of Health (NIH), the National Key Laboratory of Oral Diseases, West China Hospital of Stomatology, Sichuan University, the Center for Reproductive Medicine, Shandong University, and the Affili-

ated Drum Tower Hospital of Nanjing University's Medical School. Professor Chen Wanjun of the NIH was one of the article's co-authors.

Zhang and his colleagues found that D-mannose induces regulatory T cells and suppresses immunopathology. This previously unrecognized immunoregulatory function of D-mannose may have important clinical implications for immunopathology. Dr. Zhang's Chinese supervisor is Professor Chen Qianming. 🏠



Dean of SCU-Pittsburgh Institute Dr. Minking Chyu Awarded US\$ 777K by the US Department of Energy

Dean of the Sichuan University-Pittsburgh Institute (SCUIP), Dr. Minking Chyu, is developing a way to improve gas turbines using 3D printing. The project has won Dr. Chyu and his team of researchers a grant of US\$ 777,192 from the US Department of Energy (DOE).

Dr. Chyu, Distinguished Service Professor and the Leighton and Mary Orr Chair Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Materials Science at the University of Pittsburgh's Swanson School of Engineering, has devised a method he hopes will reduce conventional adverse effects on gas turbines and increase their efficiency. The substantial funding was awarded to Chyu and his team on the basis of his trailblazing study "Integrated Transpiration and Lattice Cooling Systems Developed by Additive Manufacturing with Oxide-Dispersion-Strengthened Alloy."

The Sichuan University-Pittsburgh Institute (SCUIP) was jointly established by Sichuan University and the University of Pittsburgh with the goal of providing a world-class engineering education focused on design and innovation with a global outlook. 🏢



For more information, visit:
<http://scupi.scu.edu.cn/en/>

SCU's Zhang Xuehua to Explore Antarctica as Part of Scientific Exploration Team



According to the Homeward Bound Leadership Program's recent announcement, Professor Zhang Xuehua of SCU's Institute of New Energy and Low-carbon Technology has been selected as one of the five Chinese women scientists in a research team headed to Antarctica for scientific research.

Professor Zhang Xuehua's research chiefly concentrates on environmental policy and supervision, environmental regimes, sustainable agriculture, and urban waste management. In cooperation with domestic environmental protection organizations, her research team is exploring development patterns of non-point source pollution control and ecological agriculture in rural areas, as well as working on the protection of water sources. The team has succeeded with its trial project run in Chengdu and is planning to run the project in other areas of Sichuan Province and across China.

"Joining an Antarctic expedition has been a dream of mine for years...", muses Professor Zhang. "I'm looking forward to seeing Antarctica and deepening my understanding of the conti-



nent's ecological environment, while at the same time cultivating my leadership skills as a woman. The leadership training will be conducive to my efforts in sustainable rural development, waste management, and recycling based on community mobilization. I also hope to establish long-term contacts and friendships with other female scientists from around the world and to explore new ways of cooperation in addressing climate change and



pursuing sustainable development."

Homeward Bound Leadership Program is reported to be the world's largest Antarctic expedition for female scientists, jointly sponsored by Fabian Dattner, an Australian expert in leadership, and Jess Melbourne-Thomas, a marine scientist at the Australian Antarctic Division. Launched in 2016, this program is committed to a ten-year outreach initiative to build a coalition of 1,000 women in science across the globe, cultivate their leadership and decision-making, help them exert their influence on environmental protection and science policy in the future, and contribute to better protection of the earth. In its second year, the second program has recruited 80 outstanding women from around the world, who will, after a year of necessary training, head for Antarctica for a three-week scientific research expedition next February. 卐

SCU Research Group Credited with Breakthrough in Regenerative Medicine

A research team from the National Key Laboratory of Biotherapy, West China Second University Hospital, Sichuan University, and guided by Professor Ding Bi-sen and Professor Cao Zhongwei, recently found that dually targeting the vascular niche and perivascular fibroblasts via a specific editing approach could shift “fibrosis promoting” niches to “regenerative” ones in damaged liver and lung tissue, promoting the efficient engraftment of parenchymal stem cells and boosting the regeneration of fibrotic liver and lung tissue. The related findings were published online by *Science Translational Medicine* on August 30th, 2017.

Professor Ding and Professor Cao committed themselves to exploring the

mechanism by which tissue micro-environments regulate the regeneration and fibrosis of organs over many years. Compared to traditional knowledge that endothelial cells function to maintain vascular structure and to transport blood, their previously pioneering work suggested that vascular endothelial cells can secrete numerous paracrine growth factors to form “inductive” niches to regulate the balance between the fibrosis and regeneration in the liver and lung. However, how to effectively alter the dysfunctional vascular micro-environment in fibrotic livers and lungs so as to improve the engraftment of parenchymal stem cells and their regeneration is still in the early stages of investigation due to the lack of systematic studies and effective methods.

Mentored by Professor Ding and Professor Cao, Ye Tinghong et al. demonstrated that endothelial cells’ specific over-expression of the hepatocyte growth factor (HGF) in combination with NADPH Oxidase 4 (NOX4) inhibition by GKT137831 to dually edit the vascular and perivascular niches could transform “dysfunctional” niches into “regenerative” ones in genetically induced chronic/acute liver and lung failures in mice. By performing parenchymal stem cell transplantation, pathological examination and flow sorting analysis, they evaluated the phenotypic and functional aspects of impaired livers and lungs. The results showed that “regenerative” niches significantly facilitated the engraftment of lung progenitor cells and hepatocytes, bypassing fibrosis to enhance regeneration. In addition, this dual niche-editing strategy also enhanced the transplantation of lung progenitor cells and hepatocytes into immune-deficient nude mice, promoting tissue regeneration in fibrotic mice models. Their proof-of-principle evidence may help develop cell therapy approaches to enable fibrosis-free repair in various organs.

This research was funded by the National Natural Science Foundation of China and the National Foundation for Stem Cell and Translational Research. 卐



Discovery of a New Therapeutic Target for Stroke Patients

Chinese and Australian researchers have used experimental drugs to target a recently described molecular pathway that damages the brain after a stroke, bringing these treatments one step closer to the clinic for stroke sufferers.

Professor Peng Lei and Professor Ashley Bush at Sichuan University in China and the Florey Institute of Neuroscience and Mental Health in Melbourne respectively, have been interested in a protein called tau for many years as it is known to play a leading role in Alzheimer's disease progression.

Using pre-clinical animal models of ischemic stroke, the pair have now shown that the tau protein, which stabilizes the cellular 'train track' that transports molecules around cells, is also involved in a stroke.

Professor Lei and Professor Bush have published their new findings in *Molecular Psychiatry*, showing that tau levels are markedly reduced following a stroke. One of the main functions of tau is to transport iron out of brain cells. Lower tau levels therefore lead to a build-up of iron in cells. This increase leads to brain cell death through a newly described molecular pathway, called ferroptosis, which depends on iron.



Professor Lei, who conducted the experiments, says: "Excitingly, we were able to intervene following stroke with five different experimental drugs designed to either lower iron levels, or block the ferroptosis pathway. Although all the treatments helped prevent brain damage, the ferroptosis-inhibiting drugs performed the best, reducing the damaged area by more than half, with the animals functioning significantly better on tests of motor coordination and cognitive performance."

Ischemic strokes are caused by a blocked blood vessel, meaning the brain is starved of oxygen. They comprise 70 per cent of all strokes in China, and acute treatment involves removing the

blockage either by surgery or giving a clot-busting drug. Unfortunately, only 11 per cent of stroke patients receive this treatment in the prescribed time, and of those, only half show functional improvement. Better treatments are urgently needed.

In this study, the ferroptosis-inhibiting drugs liproxstatin-1 and ferrostatin-1 were delivered via the nose, which allowed their rapid, direct uptake by the damaged brain cells. This route, and the pathway they target, also means they could potentially be easily carried and administered by ambulance paramedics without the need for special brain scans or blood chemistry to be analysed. 🙏

Ma Jianyi of SCU's Institute of Atomic and Molecular Physics Publishes Article in Science

The leading scientific journal *Science Magazine* has recently published a paper co-edited by SCU Professor Ma Jianyi entitled "Encoding of Vinylidene Isomerization in Its Anion Photoelectron Spectrum." The result is of great significance in understanding isomerization of radicals and controlling the chemical reactions at quantum state level.

Free radicals play an important role in the combustion process, chemical synthesis and biological reaction. However, it is difficult to do elaborate measurements using experimental methods due to the high activity. How to measure and understand the process involved in radicals is a challenge in chemical physics researches. Vinylidene-acetylene isomerization is the prototypical example of a 1,2-hydrogen shift, one of the most important classes of isomerization reactions in organic chemistry. This reaction was investigated with quantum state specificity by high-resolution photoelectron spectroscopy of the vinylidene anions H_2CC^- and D_2CC^- and quantum dynamics calculations. Peaks in the photo-

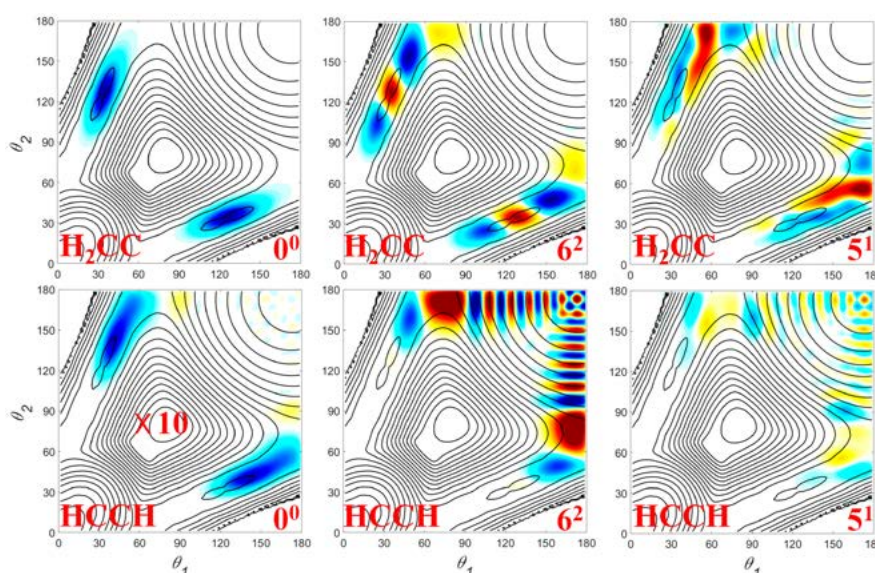


Figure 1. Calculated wave functions for the vibrational levels of vinylidene, where acetylene locates at $(180^\circ, 180^\circ)$, vinylidene locates at $(34^\circ, 126^\circ)$.

electron spectra are considerably narrower than in previous work and reveal subtleties in the isomerization dynamics of neutral vinylidene, as well as vibronic coupling with an excited state of vinylidene. Comparison with theory permits assignment of most spectral features to eigenstates dominated by vinylidene character. The results reveal that the isomerization strongly depends on the vibration mode of vinylidene, a typical mode specific reaction. The lowest energy vibra-

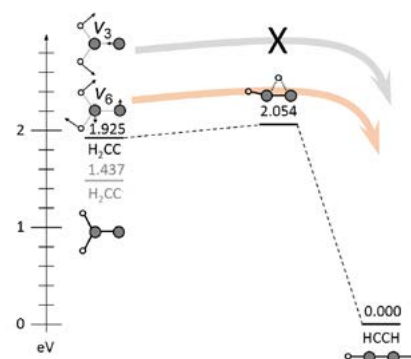
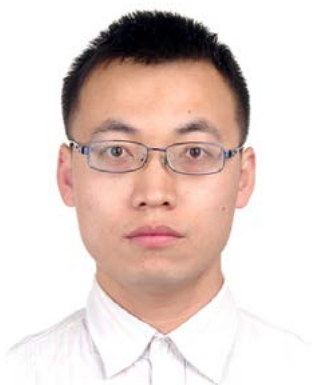


Figure 2. Vibrational mode specific behavior for vinylidene isomerization process.



tion mode of the torsion crosses the barrier with least resistance.

The research has also shown that the tunneling effect, Fermi resonance, and isotopic effect has an important influence on vinylidene isomerization. The complex scientific problem was solved by combining experimental and theoretical approaches, and the findings are important as they contribute to a fuller understanding and means of controlling molecular reactions at the quantum state level.

Ma Jianyi received his Ph.D. from Sichuan University in 2009. His doctoral

supervisor was Professor Li Xiangyuan. He was a postdoctoral fellow studying with Professor Hua Guo at the University of New Mexico. In 2012, he joined the Institute of Atomic and Molecular Physics at Sichuan University and is now a Professor of Physics. His research interests include reaction dynamics, microwave chemical reaction, and combustion simulations. 卐

Professor Ma's article can be accessed via the *Science* website: <http://science.sciencemag.org/content/358/6361/336>

Professor Li Ning's Clinical Research Findings Published on *Jama*

In recent years, Professor Li Ning and his research team from the Acupuncture Center of West China Hospital have increased their academic cooperation with leading domestic acupuncture research groups and have participated in a number of national key clinical research projects. After the publication of an article Professor Li co-authored for the *Annals of Internal Medicine* in September 2016, "Acupuncture for Chronic Severe Functional Constipation: A Randomized Trial," Li and his research team completed another national key clinical research project led by the China Academy of Chinese Medical Sciences.



This time, their research results were published online by the *Journal of the American Medical Association* on June 27th, 2017, in an article entitled "Effect of Electroacupuncture on Urinary Leakage Among Women With Stress Urinary Incontinence: A Randomized Clinical Trial." Relying on high-quality clinical evidence, their study, which began in 2013, has proven the efficacy and safety of electroacupuncture on urinary leak-

age among women with stress urinary incontinence. Considering the academic influence of this study, acupuncture treatment may have implications for clinical guidelines and, with the international attention it is drawing, stands to impact the quality of acupuncture research in China. This study has become another milestone in sharing the benefits of Chinese acupuncture with the world at large. ㊦



Graduate of SCU's College of Chemistry Dr. Yuan Zhangchun Wins Reaxys PhD Prize

At the recent 2017 Reaxys PhD Prize forum, Dr. Yuan Zhangchun of SCU's College of Chemistry was selected from among around 500 applicants as one of three recipients of the Reaxys PhD Prize.

As a PhD candidate, Dr. Yuan was supervised by Bo Liu, Professor at SCU's College of Chemistry from 2010 to 2016. Yuan's research focused on total synthesis of complex natural products. In pursuit of his PhD, Dr. Yuan and his co-workers developed novel methodologies and biomimetic strategies to achieve the first total synthesis of bolivianine, a natural product outfitted with a heptacyclic skeleton and nine stereogenic centers. They managed this in only 15 synthetic steps (J. Am. Chem. Soc. 2013, 135,

9291-9294). On the basis of this success, Yuan and his co-workers subsequently devised an ambitious cascade strategy and completed the first total synthesis of natural lindenane-type dimers in the world (Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., 2017, 56, 637-640).

This synthetic breakthrough establishes a solid base for the medicinal development of this bioactive natural family containing about 100 members.

The Reaxys PhD

Prize is annually awarded to young chemists of exceptional promise and noteworthy contributions in chemistry. Now in its eighth year, the prize has drawn submissions from over 400 institutions around the globe. ㊦



BRIEF NEWS



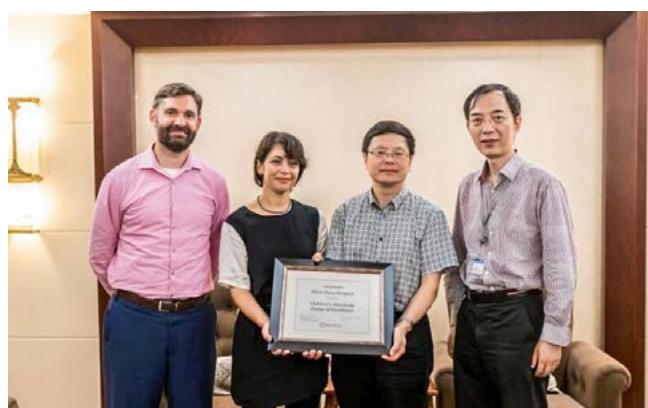
September 18th

- SCU Students Tie for Most Gold Medals at the Third National College Students "Internet, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship" Competition



July 11th

- SCU Professors Xiao Zhixiong, Wang Junfeng, and Ang Ran Announced China's 2016 "Scientists of the Year"



September 15th

- West China Hospital's Team for Research on Childhood Heart Disease Earns International Distinction with Designation as China's First "Children's HeartLink" Center



September 18th

- SCU Hosts Delegation from Poland's Warsaw School of Economics to Discuss Future Cooperation and Promotion of Sino-European Relations



September 19th

- SCU Launches International China (Sichuan)-Guinea High-Level Seminar on Government Affairs



October 26th

- Delegation from Taiwan's Yuanpei University of Medical Technology Visits SCU, Two Sides Discuss Advancing Academic Cooperation and Exchange



October 11th

- President of Notre Dame, Thomas G. Burish, meets with SCU Vice President Yan Shijing to Discuss Student Exchanges and Academic Collaboration



October 19th

- SCU Holds Talks with Delegation from the Free University of Brussels



October 19th-20th

- Notre Dame's Handbell Choir Performs at SCU



October 25th

- SCU VP Meets with Delegation from the University of Otago to Discuss Cooperation in Medical Research



SCU 2017 University Immersion Program



Every July, Sichuan University organizes a two-week University Immersion Program (UIP), inviting prominent professors and leading scholars in their fields to give courses and hold lectures at SCU. The courses offered are geared both toward Chinese and international students, graduates as well as undergraduates. The program offers a wealth of opportunities for cross-cultural interaction and intellectual exchange. Following this year's UIP, we introduce some of the highlights, as well as impressions of participating lecturers and students.



Lecturers Offer Their Impressions of UIP



Simon Gaskell - Principal of Queen Mary University of London

UIP Helps the World Learn about SCU and Helps SCU Integrate into the World

Back in 2012, SCU and Queen Mary University of London jointly founded the "Sino-British Materials Research Institute." Since then, the two universities have pursued in-depth exchanges and cooperation in scientific research, talent cultivation, and faculty exchanges. This summer marked the third visit of Queen Mary's principal, Simon Gaskell, to SCU.

"This is my third visit to SCU. I am amazed at the changes and development."

In an interview with SCU, Professor Gaskell commented on the changes he's witnessed at Sichuan University over the last few years: "The campus looks fantastic. Students' communication skills have drastically improved over the

last five years. The university has internationalized on many levels. These are all important steps toward building a world-class university."

"UIP helps the world learn about SCU and helps SCU further integrate into the world," Professor Gaskell further noted. According to Gaskell, the university's annual Immersion Program (UIP) has

three important functions: first, it serves the internationalization of Sichuan University; secondly, UIP promotes interdisciplinary fusion and cooperation in scientific development; thirdly, UIP has diluted the boundaries between research and teaching.

“UIP has provided SCU students with access to the world at large.”

Professor Gaskell observed that SCU’s Immersion Program allows students from lower-income backgrounds who cannot afford the cost of studying abroad to enjoy a world-class education and dialogue with well-known professors from around the world. This promotes equality in higher education. Educational equality is an essential building block of SCU’s mission to train the next generation of leaders. Gaskell, too, believes that investing in students’ education always pays off. And offering a world-class education is one way to



strengthen that investment.

“World-class university construction cannot remain a proposal on paper. It requires courage and hard work to implement.”

Sichuan University has a lot to learn

from Queen Mary in terms of development. Building a world-class university, Gaskell maintains, requires dedication and hard work. Not only is the university’s top leadership called upon to act; colleges, departments, and faculty at all levels – as well as the students – should be involved in the process.

Nikolas Kirby - Professor of the University of Oxford

Ask More Questions!

Nikolas Kirby from the University of Oxford left a deep impression on SCU students, who enjoyed Kirby’s substantive and insightful lectures, as well as his humor and open-mindedness.

“The class is a battlefield without smoke or gunpowder.”

The course Kirby held at SCU, *Political Philosophy and Public Policy*, is a rather

theoretical course in abstract speculation. Kirby, however, brought the topic to life by introducing challenging insights in an engaging manner, often gesticulating wildly, and always encouraging in-class discussion. By introducing a series of speculative questions on topics such as personal preference, utilitarianism, and liberalism, he inspired his students to think from different angles and to use the art of argumentation. “I’m here to help you ask more questions instead of just

telling you the answers,” Professor Kirby told his class, consistently encouraging students willing to engage and ask their questions with positive feedback.

Kirby says he has enjoyed interacting with his Chinese students. During his two-week course, he did his best to probe their potential as political philosophers and future policy makers: “I hope that when they talk about national policies and economic development over their next hot pot din-

ner, they won't forget to support their viewpoints with the political philosophy theories I taught them." Kirby advises SCU students to "learn more about the 'big issues' in history and philosophy" and to develop a keener problem consciousness rooted in a thorough understanding of history.

Professor Kirby remarked that the sheer scale of SCU's annual Immersion Program and the opportunities it offered for "face-to-face interaction" between students and professors from around the globe revealed "SCU's ambition and determination to build a world-class university."



Niklas Swanstrom - Professor of Johns Hopkins University

SCU's Students Have Become More Incisive

Professor Niklas Swanstrom, a leading expert in international relations, took part in SCU's UIP for the third time this summer. "Compared to my first visit to SCU," Swanstrom remarks, "The academic level of students is decidedly higher. Students' communica-

tive competency is stronger, their thinking is quicker, and they raise more critical questions." In his view, the University Immersion Program can be credited with these changes: "I think UIP has served SCU students well. One aspect I would change about it, however, is the length of

the program. If it were longer than two weeks, students would benefit more."

"Use negotiation skills to strive for a win-win result."

During his stay at SCU, Professor Swanstrom gave a fascinating lecture on "Conflict and Negotiation: Key Concepts." He opened his lecture with a famous adage from *The Art of War*: "Know your opponent and know yourself." Swanstrom drew on other examples familiar to students to highlight important concepts in international relations and presented a series of cases to illustrate the art of negotiation.

"SCU is developing at a remarkable rate."

"Dare to explore and try something dif-



ferent," Professor Swanstrom advised in another lecture dealing with international negotiation skills. Swanstrom's hope is to equip Chinese students with the basic consultation and negotiation

skills necessary to compete and excel in international arenas. He encouraged students to grow with SCU: "Sichuan University is developing at a remarkable. Its students are very lucky. Study hard

and enjoy your years at university. Take this chance to learn all you can for personal and professional development in an increasingly internationalized world."

Sophia Chu - Harvard University

We're Moving Harvard Classes to SCU

Chengdu is Sophia Chu's hometown. When she first received an invitation from Sichuan University to lecture at UIP, she eagerly accepted, glad for an opportunity to return to her home of origin and experience Chinese higher education from a new perspective. Dr. Chu gave two courses at SCU during this summer's Immersion Program: *Leadership* and *Sustainable Development*.

While teaching forefront basic theory and professional knowledge, Sophia Chu employed Harvard University

teaching methods, introducing focused discussions, summarizing exercises, and a series of in-class debates to stimulate students' critical thinking and enhance their communicative competencies.

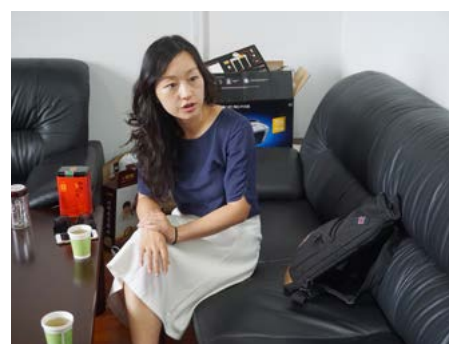
In the context of one of her courses, Dr. Chu invited Louie Cheng, founder of Harvard University's Pure Living, as a virtual guest speaker to deliver a speech on clean air solutions for green buildings, which was well received by her students, most of whom had never experienced video conferencing in a classroom before.

"UIP has provided me with a platform to meet academic colleagues from all over the world."

"By participating in UIP," Chu noted, "I have gained new insights into contemporary Chinese life, particularly of the younger generation. UIP provides an excellent opportunity for getting to know exceptional scholars from different countries and enjoying intellectual exchanges in an international setting."

A Bridge of Cooperation between Sichuan University and Harvard University

"I want to help build a bridge between Sichuan University and Harvard University, as well as other top American universities," says Chu, who hopes to return to Chengdu for SCU's Immersion Program next summer.



Aaron Potito - Professor of National University of Ireland

I love teaching at SCU

This summer Professor Aaron Potito visited China for the fourth time; this was also his fourth visit to Sichuan University to participate in the University Immersion Program. "Every time I come," Potito told SCU, "I notice changes in the city and the university... I love China, and I really enjoy lecturing here at SCU."

"Lecturing in China has been a rewarding experience."

This year Professor Aaron Potito held a course entitled "Long-term Perspectives on Fresh Water Pollution," during which students had the opportunity to practice field observation by testing the water quality on campus. Potito also paired international exchange students with resident SCU students. After his lectures, the professor was routinely surrounded by students wanting to ask questions and engage in further discussion.

Professor Potito finds that Chinese students are both focused and enthusiastic, which makes teaching them a delight.

"A growing number of professors in Ireland," says Potito, "want to come to China to participate in SCU's Immersion Program and experience Chinese culture. For me personally, the program has proven very rewarding," says Potito,

who has become a valued friend of Sichuan University.



Scott Snyder - Professor of University of Chicago

SCU Students Deserve the Best

Professor Snyder has been to China on fourteen different occasions. This year marked his first visit to SCU. During the UIP, he offered a course on chemistry entitled "The Chemistry and Biology of Natural Products." Professor Snyder is committed to synthesizing the natural products of a variety of polyphenols and alkaloids.

His findings have been published in *Nature*, *Science* and other top-ranking international scientific journals.

"I want to encourage my students toward excellence."

To enhance students' classroom learning

experience, Professor Snyder carefully prepared notes for each class, which he distributed to students for preview before every session. He set quizzes for his students at the beginning of each class to track their progress. "I want bring the best of myself to the classes I teach here," says Snyder, who hopes that his students will someday make their own

scientific contributions.

Students at SCU value Snyder's teaching: "His class is quite impressive... Professor Snyder prepared each lesson with great attention to detail, and his lectures were challenging. We are grateful that we had the opportunity to learn from a leading scientist in his field."

"UIP offers a unique experience."

Students and teachers from countries and all around the world came together at Sichuan University to gain and impart knowledge. SCU's Immersion Program benefits not only students taking the courses on offer, but also instructors flown in from different countries and



experiencing Chinese culture in a higher education setting. "In addition," Professor Snyder noted, "UIP has presented me with a unique opportunity to interact at length with prominent scholars in

chemistry, people interested in the same research that I'm pursuing." Professor Snyder hopes to return to Chengdu to participate in the program again.

Daewon Haam - Professor of Columbia University

UIP Reveals SCU's Development Potential

Professor Daewon Haam is from the School of Dental Science at Columbia University in New York City. This summer he participated in SCU's Immersion Program for the first time, offering short-term courses to students at West China College of Stomatology and sharing his insights into clinical medicine.

"SCU students have received a world-class education."

Professor Daewon Haam came to Chengdu to serve as a judge for the International Stomatological Skills Contest held by West China College of



Stomatology. During his stay at SCU, he held lectures on the "Biological Consid-

eration of Extraction Socket Healing in Implant Dentistry" and "Interdisciplinary Treatment Planning for Implant Site Management in the Esthetic Area."

He spoke highly of the students here: "They are well-trained in professional skills, equipped with good study habits and learning methods, and seem to possess a well-rounded perspective on life; they interact well with exchange students from different countries; they are quick learners and easily grasp new concepts. SCU students have received a world-class education."

"UIP reveals SCU's development potential."

Professor Haam Daewon was grateful for this opportunity to visit SCU, stating that the time had been “fruitful” and helped broaden his horizons. He said that “Sichuan University, although located far from the highly developed eastern coastal cities, has shown great

courage and foresight; it invites teachers and students from around the world to communicate with its faculty and students each year, constituting a significant international platform for dialogue and cooperation. University activities are well organized, which is extremely

rare in many other countries.” Professor Daewon Haam looks forward to next year’s UIP, stating that he plans to reorganize his courses and lectures and “bring more cutting-edge knowledge to SCU students.”

“Internationalization will fuel SCU’s transformation into a world-class university.”

Daewon Haam believes that Sichuan University already possesses a strong education system and tradition: “If SCU continues to pursue internationalization in its educational and research practices, its goal of building a world-class university is not that far away... I hope the School of Dental Science at Columbia University and SCU’s West China College of Stomatology will engage in more in-depth and comprehensive academic exchanges in the near future.



Wang Xuesen - Associate Professor of the National University of Singapore

Life Is a Marathon

Associate professor Wang Xuesen gave a lecture on the future of green energy systems geared at SCU freshmen in science and engineering. The lecture covered current energy systems’ status and problems, renewable energy and its limitations, and insight into green energy systems. Wang engaged his students by encouraging lively discussion on domestic and international energy debates and offering vivid analysis on topical issues of real-life concerns.

“Students need a better understanding of how science impacts people’s everyday life.”

“Energy and the environment are not only scientific issues, but social issues that concern us all. SCU’s students are being educated to lead in various sectors of society; they need to develop a scientific understanding of the world they inhabit in order to make meaningful contributions to energy conservation and environmental protection in the future,” says Wang, who also taught courses on “Science and Society” and “Spreading the Spirit of Science” while at SCU.

“Life is a marathon; it’s critical to lay a good foundation.”

Professor Wang believes that apart from setting ambitious goals for themselves, students in mathematics and the natural sciences must first of all lay a solid knowledge foundation for themselves on which to build their scientific endeavours: “Young people should not be too anxious for success. Life is a marathon rather than a sprint. Students should diligently devote themselves to study and research, which will help point them in the right direction for their own development and future contributions.” 🏆

Student Experiences

Harvard Student's Address at UIP Opening Ceremony

At the opening ceremony of the 2017 University Immersion Program, Perry Arrasmith, student at Harvard University, delivered a welcoming address on behalf of all participating international students. Arrasmith described the significant cultural differences between China and the US that he noticed upon his arrival in Sichuan: from food culture to interpersonal protocol and the types of leisure activities people engage in, Sichuan presents a world of unknown cultural territory waiting to be explored. For Arrasmith and his fellow international students, SCU's University Immersion Program presented a unique opportunity to get to know China and her people through tailor-made courses and activities, an experience which, for many, is certain to be the first of several meaningful encounters with China.

Glimpses of Chinese Traditional Culture: International Students Attend Art Classes at SCU

During this summer's University Immersion Program, Sichuan University attracted international students from around the globe with specially designed courses on Chinese traditional culture. Interested students attended calligraphy and painting classes, immersed themselves in Chinese traditional art, and took advantage of opportunities to



interact daily with Chinese students and teachers.

“Knock Your Brain”: Medical Students from around the World Meet Chinese Medical Students at SCU

West China College of Medicine organized a special competition called “Knock Your Brain” for Chinese and international medical students. Students from Sichuan University, the University of Massachusetts, Thomas Jefferson University, the University of Western Ontario, the University of Basgill, the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, and Shanghai Jiaotong University’s School of Medicine were divided into eight groups for four matches, including “boom in order,” “entrapment,” “fighting with bananas,” and “gesticulate and guess.” Through the intense and stimulating games, participants not only had a great time, but practiced their medical training skills as well.

“Yuzhang Big Bang Theory” Contest Held at SCU’s Wu Yuzhang Honors College

On July 12th, 2017, exchange students from the University of Leuven, University of Ghent (Belgium) and Toulouse INP (France), together with SCU students, participated in a scientific research project contest called “Yuzhang Big Bang Theory.” 15 contest projects from different disciplines showcased the students’ enthusiasm in research and innovative creations. The contest also offered a platform for international students to interact with Chinese students and discuss their ideas and scientific interests.



Harvard University International Exchange Camp: Exploring Chinese Culture at Sichuan University

by Yang Kun

This summer's UIP was joined by a group of adventurous Harvard students eager to explore the riches of Chinese culture during their two-month stay in Sichuan. They studied at SCU, toured important landmarks across the province, and even learned some Kung Fu, practiced calligraphy, and made their own Chinese tea from scratch.

Study

The most fundamental course for students learning about China is of course the class on Chinese language. Of all the classes he attended at SCU, Harvard International Exchange Camp participant Clarence Chan enjoyed his Chinese class the most: "My favorite course was the Chinese Language course because the teachers were interesting, and they were more than willing to help improve their students' Chinese."

Jay Gopalan remarked that the "Chinese language course was the most important course I took here. UIP has not only improved our Chinese language proficiency, but allowed us to experience the charm of Chinese culture."

SCU arranged various courses, including calligraphy, painting, Kung Fu, and lectures given by SCU professors once a week. Calligraphy, painting, and Kung Fu courses offered the students a rare glimpse of Chinese traditional



culture.

When asked what he thought about the Kung Fu course, Jay Gopalan commented, "The teacher was phenomenal and very passionate. He explained things very clearly."

One student was deeply impressed by a lecture entitled "The Development of Chinese Higher Education," given by SCU Professor Shi Jian: "I have a lot of respect for Professor Shi. He told us that he taught himself English during the Cultural Revolution. His English is really good, and his account left a deep impression on me."

Sightseeing

During their stay in Sichuan, the group visited a number of world natural and cultural heritage sites, including Leshan's Giant Buddha, Mount Emei, Mount Qingcheng, the Dujiangyan Irrigation Project, Chengdu's Giant Panda Research Base, and other scenic attractions.

Another highlight for the students was learning all about the art of tea making at Mount Mengding, the world's cradle of tea culture. One student recalls: "The tea-making trip was fabulous. Although I had to brave insects and the wild, it



university, which I think is a good thing. Here, students seem to have a special bond with their friends and take time to socialize. Back home, college students are always in a hurry, jumping from one activity to the next."

Anna Mazur:

"Chengdu is not what I had imagined China to be. It is much more modern and developed than I'd anticipated. I am from New York City, and I found it amazing that Chengdu was a more modern version of my hometown... All of our trips within and outside of Chengdu were amazing. I learned a lot about Chinese culture and its rich history. We went to several religious mountains, picked and made our own tea, and, of course, saw the pandas. It has been an incredible experience and I am very grateful that SCU makes experiences such as mine available to foreign students."

"I was deeply impressed with my teachers and tutors during the 2017 University Immersion Program at SCU. I sensed that they took a sincere interest in my learning progress. When I struggled to understand certain concepts about the language, they were patient and took additional time to explain things."

"My stay in Chengdu has been awesome and even exceeded my expectations. I enjoyed meeting new people and sharing the different aspects of our varying cultures. I felt welcomed because of the warm reception and courteous treatment I received throughout. I was also excited to visit new places in Chengdu and see things which I will probably never see anywhere else." 🙏

was an unforgettable adventure. The green tea leaves made delicious tea. I would never have had this experience had I not come to China."

Tasty Food

Experiencing the Sichuanese cuisine was a special treat for the students from Harvard.

Perry recalls, "I myself remember the tears welling in my eyes the first time I ate too much hot pot. Since then, I am proud to tell you, I have grown to enjoy spicy food and even hot pot... Apart from hot pot, I have tried Kung Pao

Chicken, bubble tea, sweet and sour pork and some other delicacies. My favorite was the bubble tea."

My Impressions of UIP 2017

Perry Arrasmith:

"During our tour of Sichuan, what I enjoyed most was getting to meet and interact with Chinese students. I had some fascinating conversations that lent me a new perspective on life."

"Students at SCU come across as pretty relaxed compared to students at my home

SCU's US Confucius Institutes Celebrate 10th Anniversary





||| ECHO |||

*The most important and meaningful
work of scientists is to do what people deem
impossible and even unimaginable.*

“ *Scientists must adhere to their own interests,
pinpoint their target,
and then strive to achieve it.* ”

Ding Zhaozhong

Nobel Laureate in Physics

Professor at Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences



四川大學
SICHUAN UNIVERSITY