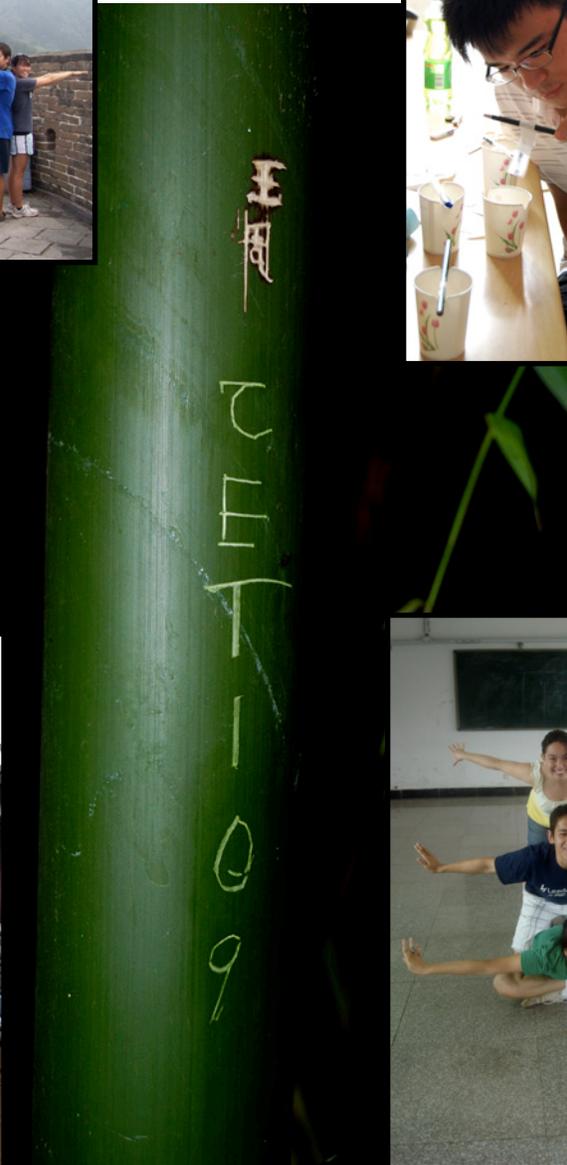

CETI 2009

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Kunming University Of Science and Technology: Oxbridge Campus

June 08, 2009 - June 26, 2009



Kunming

Kunming University of Science and Technology (KUST) is located in Kunming City of the Yun'nan Province. Because of its year-round temperate climate, Kunming is often called the "Spring City" or "City of Eternal Spring". It is located at the northern edge of the large Lake Dian, surrounded by beautiful temples and lake-and-limestone hill landscapes. Kunming is also famous for its traditional Chinese architecture buildings and structures, the oldest of which date back to the Ming and Tang dynasties.

Campus

The Oxbridge Campus is a small campus of the Kunming University of Science and Technology. It is easy to get to places in and around the campus: 5 minute walk to class, food, or groceries. Also, there are convenience stores, an eyeglasses shop, printing booths, China Mobile, etc. right at the edge of the school campus.

Students

We taught a different group of about 20-40 students each day. Levels of English were varied, though generally lower than expected. However, as long as we spoke slowly, loudly, and clearly, we managed to get the message across. A few students had excellent English and helped us translate tricky words. Generally respectful and enthusiastic. Students on this campus do not major in science, engineering, or technology fields - but management, English, etc.

Curriculum

The teaching portion of our stay at Oxbridge consisted mainly of individual lectures in the morning and activities planned by the student organizers in the afternoons. Karen's lectures focused on current issues in Biology such as Stem Cells and Cancer. Phylo's lectures focused on Health and Nutrition. Adrianna taught both music and some classes tied together by a CSI theme. We also had smaller discussions about aspects of American culture and the differences between Chinese student life and American student life. Since many of the students did not have as broad a technical or English vocabulary as we had hoped, we had to make adjustments in our curriculum so the lectures would be better understood. We also had fun evening activities such as an MIT culture lecture, quiz bowl tournament, and movie nights.

Housing

Each of us had our own room to ourselves (even though the room is made for 6 people). Rooms are very clean, equipped with nice facilities such as a private sink, bathroom and shower on an outdoor balcony. Washing machines are available on each floor for a small fee. Dorm staff are very friendly and helpful. The student organizers equipped us all in our rooms with bedding, towels, shampoo, soap, toothbrush/paste, mirror, tissues, etc.

1. **Broadband internet** is available in the rooms. Internet was cut off at the very end because of the beginning of final exams period. However, wireless is always available in the main building's library.
2. **Electricity** is usually cut off around midnight since the students have an enforced bed time. Fortunately, the student organizers managed to get us electricity 24-7.
3. **Hot Water** is available only in the afternoon since Oxbridge is green and water is heated by the sun. Showering in the afternoon is highly encouraged and not at night unless you like to turn blue.

Food

Food was provided through a meal card that works very similarly to a MIT TechCash card. The cards came with some money that lasted for about a week and then we had to refill it at

the canteen. The canteen has four floors and the food is cheap and tasty. In addition to the canteen, the campus has a tea shop that serves lots of drinks and a selection of bakery breads/cakes. The tea shop has a nice atmosphere if you would like to set up a free talk.

Suggested Places to Visit

Kunming has beautiful weather and beautiful scenic spots. It is also enriched with different aspects of Chinese Culture, especially its minority ethnic groups. Student organizers planned outings for us almost every weekend and helped us get to know the city a lot better.

1. **Minority village** is a showcase of most of the minority groups that live in China. Through a visit to the village, you can learn the life styles and history of different minority ethnic groups of China.
2. **Shilin (Stone Forest)** is a National Cultural Heritage of China and boasts a notable set of karst formations. The tall rocks seem to emanate from the ground in the manner of stalagmites, with many looking like trees made of stone, creating the illusion of a forest made of stone.
3. **Lijiang** is a prefecture-level city in northwestern Yun'nan Province. The old town of Lijiang is also a UNESCO Heritage Site and is famous for its orderly system of waterways and bridges. It differs from other ancient Chinese cities in architecture, history and the culture of its traditional residents the Nakhi people.
4. **JiuXiang** is located about 90 km away from central Kunming. It is famous for its caves, mountains, rivers, deep valleys, minority customs and cultures. You can also enjoy rowing through cliffs and hiking through lit-up caves.

Huazhong University of Science and Technology

July 6, 2009 - July 17, 2009



Wuhan

Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) is located in Wuhan City of the Hubei Province. Wuhan is the most populous city in central People's Republic of China. It is a major transportation hub, with dozens of railways, roads and expressways passing through the city. Wuhan is also the scientific and educational center in Central China, with 35 higher educational institutions such as Wuhan University and HUST. Its comprehensive scientific and educational strength ranked the 3rd in China. The university we went to, HUST, manages Wuhan National Laboratories for Opto-electronics (WNLO), which is one of the five national laboratories in China.

Campus

HUST Campus is huge and it is hard not to get lost. It resembles a small city and if there is a need for any service (post office, phone service, ice cream, etc.) it can be found within campus. HUST also has indoor and outdoor basketball courts, a big gym with badminton courts, and ping pong tables. The main classrooms were about a 15-25 minute walk from our apartments. There are also small vans that can take you to certain parts of the campus for a fee.

Students

We taught the same group of about 50 students every day. The participating students had to apply to be a part of the 2-week HUST-MIT Summer Camp (HMSC). All students were

proficient in English, impressively so. They were very kind, talented, intelligent and hard-working. All students are majoring in some field of science and technology.

Organizers

The organizers are all students. We worked with them closely to plan lectures and activities. They also helped us settle in and address any issues we had.

Curriculum

The curriculum was much more cohesive at HUST. We had culture sessions for the first hour of the morning, and then one of us would give a lecture for the rest of the morning. In the afternoon, we would plan challenges and activities and would sometimes have fun sessions in the evenings (either planned by us or headed by the student organizers). Since the level of understanding was much higher, we were able to introduce more technical materials into our lectures. We taught the same subjects as in Oxbridge. We also had engineering challenges such as an egg drop and tower building contest, which were two of our more popular and successful activities. Furthermore, we assigned group projects where the students would explain how something worked. We got presentations as technical as p and n type semiconductors, to more whimsical ones such as how shampoo works. We also gave an MIT culture lecture, mock press conference, debate sessions, and movie nights.

Housing

Each of us was given a room in the Friendship Apartments, which is a dormitory for international students. Registration at the front desk is tricky and requires a copy of our passports, 2 passport-sized color photographs and filling out a form. Rooms are very equipped with a private bathroom with a western toilet. Washing machines are available for a fee.

1. **Broadband internet** was available in our rooms after asking for it several times from the student organizers. The network administrator assigned each of us an IP address that unfortunately expired before we left the campus. Wireless network can be acquired at a Starbuck's in the nearby shopping mall, or at a cafe right next to the School of Management on campus.

2. **Air-conditioning** was a blessing in the hot weather of Wuhan.

Food

We were each given a meal card that was credited with more than enough money to last for two weeks. The card worked in all the canteens except one on campus, as well as most on-campus convenience stores. HUST has lots of canteens and 2 or 3 were open for the summer. The food was good, clean and generally cheap. The card could also be used to buy from certain convenience stores supplies for activities/experiments for classes.

Suggested Places to Visit

Wuhan is not a tourist city and because of its weather, we spent most of our time over the weekends indoors. However, of a few places we visited, the following were worthwhile.

1. **Hubei Provincial Museum** is one of the best-known museums in China, with a large amount of State-level historic and cultural relics. It has collected over 200,000 cultural relics from the Chu culture and extensive artifacts from the tomb of Marquis Yi of Zeng.
2. **The Yellow Crane Tower** is a famous and historic tower that stands on Sheshan (Snake Hill) and is considered one of the Four Great Towers of China (the other being Pavilion of Prince Teng in Jiangxi, Yueyang Tower in Yueyang and Penglai Pagoda in Shandong). We were able to obtain a fine view of the Yangtze River from the top of the tower.

Advice for Future CETI Participants



Currency Exchange

In almost all parts of China (except for some big cities such as Shanghai and Beijing), the only place to exchange USD to RMB is Bank of China, which is also the only place that can process traveler's checks. You must bring your passport with you to the bank. The most convenient way to get money is to use the ATM machines that are available at most places in China. The ATM machines accept most international cards (Mastercard, Visa, etc.)

Packing

Packing light is necessary if you will be traveling a lot in China. Also, having a big backpack (e.g. a hiking backpack) would be easier than suitcases since in some cities, most places, including the train stations, are not equipped with elevators and escalators.

Insects

Insect repellent is a must especially if you are allergic to insect bites. Sleeping with a mosquito net and/or using an electric racket for mosquitoes will help reduce your chance of getting mosquito bites.

Electronic Equipment

Make sure your electronic equipment is good to use with 220V/50Hz. Plug type mismatch problems can easily be solved by buying a power cord from any convenience store. Buying a phone is recommended so that no team member is lost. You can ask your students for help with purchasing one.

Flights and Accommodations

elong.com and ctrip.com are popular choices among CETI participants. Their representatives speak good English. elong especially offers home delivery of the tickets (the driver only speaks Chinese). Those two websites can also be used for booking hotels. If you prefer staying at cheap hostels, have a look at hostelworld.com.