

International Program Description

My International Experience was mainly carried out in Fuzhou China, with weekend excursions to the following places, in order: The Fujian Transgenic Rice Research Facility, The Xiamen Environmental Protection Beareau, The Wuyi Mountains (A World Heritage Site), and finally a trip to Beijing before we departed back to the United States.

China's struggles, and the examples provided by these locations in particular, strongly relate to the research done in the BESC field of study. China has had, and continues to have, many issues with pollution- including control and remediation, which can be seen in Fuzhou and the other places we visited on our weekend expeditions. These examples, and the examples of how China is trying to solve it's various pollution problems, provided the perfect background for our Bio-environmental studies.



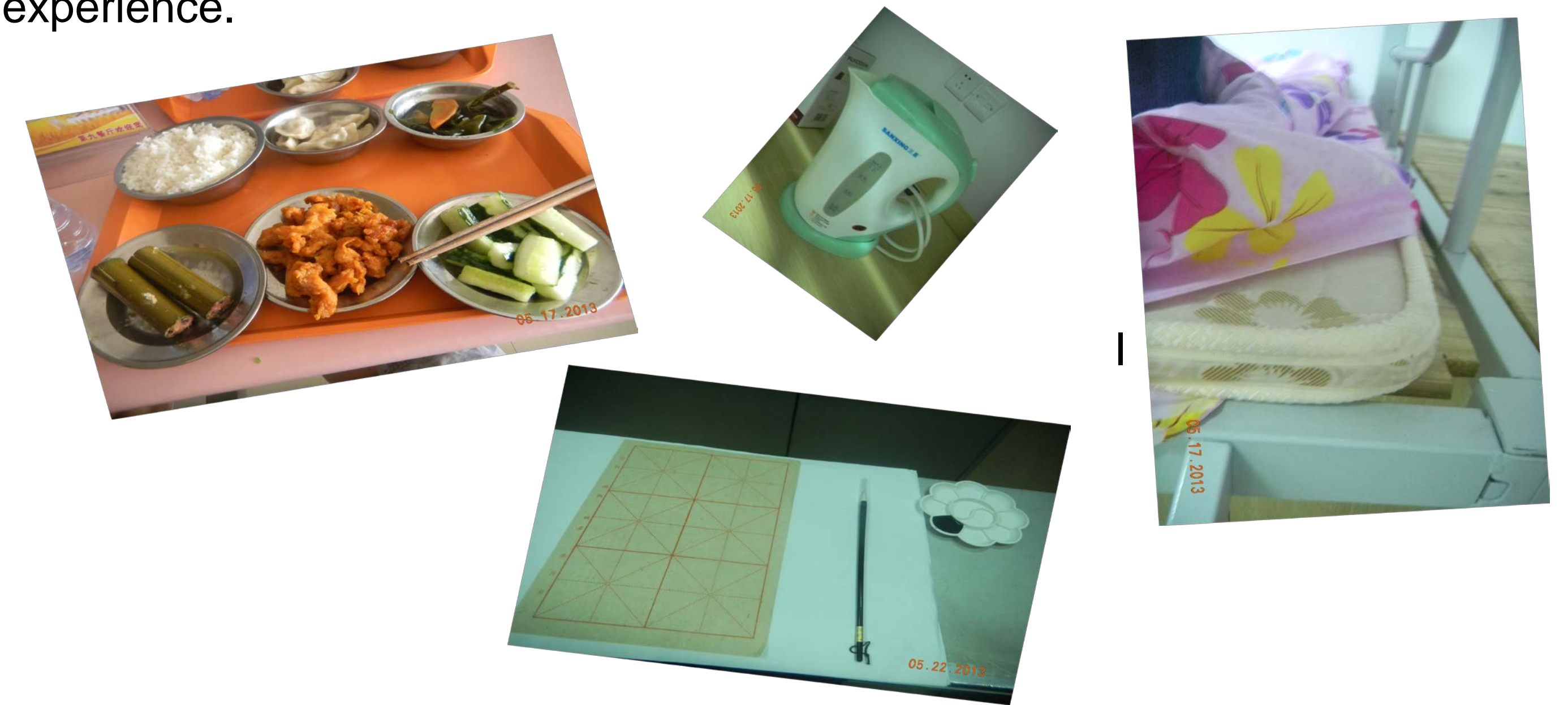
Internship Objectives

My main responsibilities during this Study Abroad experience were to assist the professors with anything that might need done, and to provide written updates on my encounters and environmental observations, as well as to provide any solutions I may come up with. The object of this internship was to train me to recognize and provide potential solutions to issues regarding pollution in situations similar to those I encountered in the China. This may one day be an important skill for the proper performance of my profession, or may be a highly sought after skill that will aid me in acquiring a superior position.



Description of Experience

This trip was definitely a contrast of cultures, with some unexpected (and sometimes unpleasant) surprises. However, it was absolutely amazing and eye-opening to be immersed in the incredibly interesting Chinese culture. It was truly an adventure to travel around and learn so many things about the history and customs of the people with which we were surrounded, as well as their present concerns and challenges. I couldn't have asked for a more interesting experience.



Relationship to Career Goals

This international experience will help further my career goals in several important ways. The first is letting me complete 6 credit hours worth of work in under a month, including my required internship. The second is by boosting my resume: this experience will definitely impress any perspective employers! The third, and most important, way in which this experience will further my career goals is by giving me such an amazing experience to further my knowledge of the world outside of the United States, and allowing me to view and understand how people in developing countries live and work.

References

<http://plantpathology.tamu.edu/bescposter2012/>

Acknowledgements

I would like to recognize both of the professors who led us on this trip, Dr. Daniel Ebbole and Dr. Wan Bo Shim for their amazing job in organizing and carrying out this, the first ever, BESC Study Abroad in China in such a spectacular way. I would also like to thank the staff at FAFU University for being such gracious hosts and helpful guides.

Sponsors for high impact experiences for BESC and the BESC poster symposium include the Department of Plant Pathology and Microbiology, the College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, the Office of the Provost and Executive Vice President for Academic Affairs.