

From the Desk of the Chancellor

Chancellor in China

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by Charles R. Bantz

I am in China this week to address the global Confucius Institute conference in Xiamen and to then visit our strategic partner, Sun Yat-sen University, in Guangzhou. My presentation at the conference briefly introduced IUPUI and the launch of our Confucius Institute in 2007-08 with Sun Yat-sen as our university partner. The focus was on how establishing the Cooperative Development Committee, which is designed to each year plan and facilitate our increasingly deep relationships with Sun Yat-sen, has led to numerous relationships.

Internationalism is a priority at IUPUI, where “community” reaches beyond Indiana and the nation to include global engagement, such as our work at Sun Yat-sen and Moi University in Kenya.

The Sun Yat-sen-IUPUI strategic partnership involves numerous schools and reaches across research, teaching, exchanges, medical training, talent development and engagement.

In one of several exchanges of faculty, staff and students, Fulbright Scholar Zhu Jiangang, the Sun Yat-sen Executive Dean of the Research School of Philanthropy and anthropology and sociology faculty visited the IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy for a year. His visit will support our goal of collaborative research as his experience with philanthropy in China is opening new paths for research to our faculty, staff and students.



Chancellor Bantz speaking in China this week.

Seven IUPUI faculty members from the Department of Music and Arts Technology formed two music ensembles -- Big Robot and Steve Allee Jazz trio -- [traveling to China for a performance at Sun Yat-sen University last month.](#)

Three Sun Yat-sen administrators representing engineering, student affairs and external affairs are scheduled to visit Indianapolis in 2015.

Student exchanges have grown more over recent years as illustrated by the first cohort of 19 Chinese mechanical engineering students enrolled in the 2 plus 2 initiative this fall. The program enables students from Sun Yat-sen to study for the first two years in China, and then transfer credits to IUPUI to complete bachelor's degree requirements.

The activities and achievements of faculty, staff and students over the past seven years already illustrate tremendous possibilities of global partnerships and mutual benefits. Two individuals key to program implementers on our campus are Gil Latz, associate vice chancellor of international affairs, and Joe Xu, director of the Confucius Institute at IUPUI.

Joining me on this trip to our sister institution is Zeb Davenport, vice chancellor of student affairs. We both relish the hearty exchange of progress and articulation of possibilities during the conference and look forward to ways in which Sun Yat-sen and IUPUI can take this partnership to new levels in 2015.

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