

## From the Desk of the Chancellor

### Progress in China

 SHARE

**Dec. 16, 2014**

After my presentation at the Confucius Institute's Presidents Forum and the formal close of the conference, Zeb Davenport, vice chancellor for student affairs; Joe Xu, IUPUI Confucius Institute director; Menji Wu, associate director; and I traveled from Xiamen to Guangzhou for the annual meeting of the Cooperative Development Committee, which plans and facilitates our increasingly deep relationships with Sun Yat-sen University (SYSU).

The Cooperative Development Committee consists of leaders from SYSU and IUPUI representing international programs at both institutions. Committee members include Gaungmei Yan, SYSU vice president for International programs, and Gil Latz, IUPUI associate vice chancellor for international programs, as well as disciplinary leaders like David Russomanno, dean of the School of Engineering and Technology and professor of electrical and computer engineering.



Chancellor Bantz and Gaungmei Yan, SYSU vice president for international programs, exchange gifts. | PHOTO BY MENJI WU

The meetings included a report on the 2+2 program in mechanical engineering that brought 19 SYSU students from China to IUPUI this fall. There was also a progress report on the creation of SYSU's faculty development center and substantial discussions on enhancing research opportunities for both faculty and students.

Significant progress is being made that will result in additional faculty, staff and student exchanges and joint work. There were substantial follow up assignments -- including plans for IUPUI faculty and staff to host SYSU faculty and staff to speed the work on faculty development as well as research programs.

Each of the IUPUI participants -- Gil Latz, Zeb Davenport, David Russomanno, and myself -- had follow-up meetings. My visits focused on the new SYSU School of Philanthropy (IU Lilly Family School of Philanthropy contributed to its development), the SYSU Cancer Center, and a visit to the National Supercomputer Center in Guangzhou.

The faculty members in the SYSU School of Philanthropy are making progress in developing a database on giving in China -- including private foundations, grassroots non-governmental organizations (NGO), and environmental NGOs.

The SYSU Cancer Center was extraordinarily interesting as we visited their new facility, which offers more than 1,500 beds. Professor Qian Chaonan, vice president of the Cancer Center, provided an intriguing overview of both the general prevalence of cancer in China (lung cancer is most prevalent) and the SYSU Center's specialty, nasopharyngeal cancer.

The final visit of the trip was to the National Supercomputer Center on the SYSU East Campus and the SYSU East Campus student activity center. For a former data cruncher like me, seeing a contemporary supercomputer of world scale was a treat. The Chinese name of the machine is **Tianhe-2**; the English version is Milky Way 2, which is a terrific name for what was ranked the fastest computer in the world in the Top 500 computer list in November 2014. The physical size and phenomenal computing speed of supercomputers has grown dramatically since their launch with the CRAY-1 (80 MFlops or  $10^6$  Flops vs. 54 PFlops or  $10^{15}$  Flops) nearly 40 years ago!

Finally, we saw that SYSU students have very similar usage of student center space on campus -- study, group work, music rehearsals, dance groups, art exhibitions, and, of course, dining! Vice Chancellor Davenport had the opportunity to spend time with our SYSU colleague who is scheduled to arrive at IUPUI in March for an extended opportunity to learn about the Division of Student Affairs' work in co-curricular learning, student activities and management.

The opportunity to see our SYSU colleagues and their enthusiasm for partnering in research, teaching and administration was valuable. As a leading university in China and the world, Sun Yat-sen University offers both an amazing opportunity for learning with colleagues and for IUPUI to engage the world.

[Read more From the Desk of the Chancellor stories »](#)