

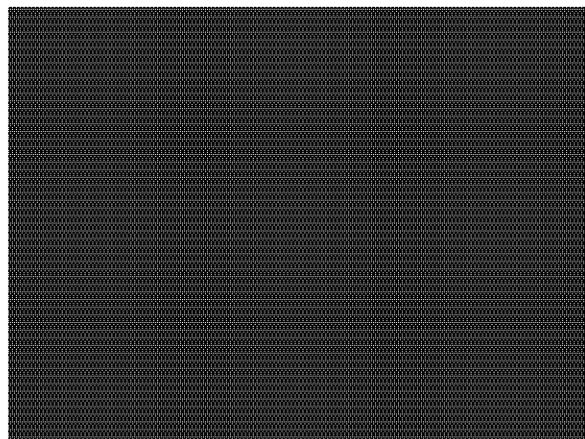
ating seniors would also be considered. Students would also be required to make some sort of presentation about what they had learned upon returning to campus. The group of thirty talented and enthusiastic students representing a variety of disciplines and classes were then selected.

With this set of students in mind, faculty began organizing study experiences with their Chinese facilitators and preparing a series of preparatory educational sessions for our students. Some teams planned field work, some planned research projects with publication as a goal, and some organized exchange concerts and trips to other cities in order to give our students the broadest experience possible. Because of the SARS outbreak, we decided to postpone our trip until the summer of 2004. We will then implement year two and three of the Building Bridges program concurrently.

Although our own study experiences are defined in terms of our own areas of research, our time spent together in a foreign country provided us the opportunity to appreciate other disciplines and to begin to sense how others view the world somewhat differently. When we experienced an earthquake in Tokyo, our geologist explained it to us. When we observed traditional Chinese opera and kabuki theater, the music and theater faculty shared their insights. This exposure to culture and to the role of an academic field in a culture different from one's own is what we ultimately share with our student fellows.

In addition to these two trips to China and Japan, there are several more ways in which the Building Bridges Program seeks to increase interest in Asia. The subsequent years of this intricate program involve an intensive language study experience for 10 students and a tour of China and Japan by choral and instrumental groups from the Music Department. In addition to these programs for students, there are short-term faculty exchanges and opportunities for graduating seniors or recent graduates to teach English at Central China Normal University. But, we believe that the most unique aspect of our four-year program is that it brings students and faculty from a variety of disciplines together for a significant period of time. With experienced, dedicated and enthusiastic colleagues leading the way, Augustana College's Building Bridges can literally "build bridges" between our Asian Studies program and the broader academic community it serves.

Don't forget...
The **deadline** for submitting items
for the Spring 2003 *ASIANetwork*
Exchange is
February 1, 2003
Thanks!



Sangeetha Rayapati and Ralph Bertrand

The Biology in Chinese Culture Program of Colorado College at Tzu Chi University, Taiwan **Ralph Bertrand, Colorado College**

Due to the demands of a rigorous course sequence, science majors at Colorado College have limited opportunities to study overseas. In response, Colorado College's Biology and Chinese Culture Program (BCCP) was designed to allow natural science majors the opportunity to study abroad while gaining credit toward their respective majors. The BCCP program, funded by a generous grant from the Freeman Foundation, was created to support greater cultural understanding between young scientists from Asia and the United States. Students participating in BCCP continue to pay Colorado College tuition while the grant covers the costs of transportation, room and board, and excursions throughout Taiwan and other Asian sites. The first BCCP program, beginning in the spring of 2002, involved a group of seven Colorado College students who traveled to Tzu Chi University in Taiwan. In 2003, the program sent ten students. The 2004 spring semester will send another seven students.

Tzu Chi University is located in the picturesque seaport city of Hualien, Taiwan, situated between the Central Mountains and the Pacific Ocean. Tzu Chi University, funded entirely by the Tzu Chi Foundation, emphasizes research in the life sciences and medicine. Tzu Chi University supports the Foundation's mission of charity, medicine, education, and culture.

Students begin the BCCP after winter break when they first return to Colorado College and take a two-week preparatory Chinese language class before departing for Taiwan. While at Tzu Chi, Colorado College students take a series of four courses per semester. Faculty and students participate in only one course (three and a half weeks each) at a time, which allows faculty freedom in structuring their courses.

A typical semester includes two Asian studies courses and two science courses. All courses are taught by Colorado College faculty in classroom and laboratory space provided by Tzu Chi University. Science courses offered include cell biology, genetics or neuroscience. Students have found the science courses to be as challenging as those at the home campus would be and have been pleased with the superb laboratory facilities at Tzu Chi. Courses in Asian studies are designed to incorporate Chinese language with Chinese culture and history and typically include some travel. In previous years, students have visited islands off the coast of Taiwan to study indigenous cultures or have traveled to various museums in Shanghai and Hong Kong. Furthermore, beginning in the spring of 2004, students will have the opportunity to live with Taiwanese families during their first Asian studies class. Despite any initial difficulties associated with culture shock, participants have commented that their experience at Tzu Chi was both culturally and personally enriching.

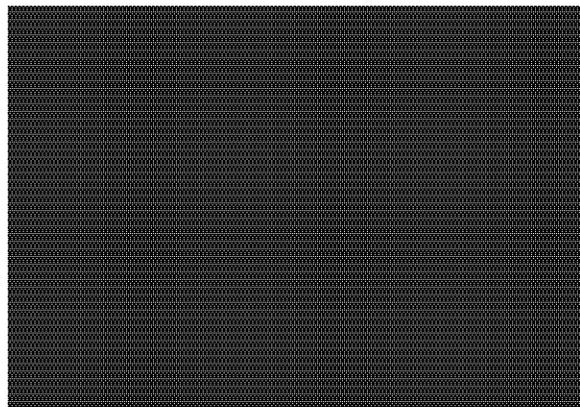
While at Tzu Chi, Colorado College students have the opportunity to live with current Tzu Chi students in on-campus dormitories. BCCP participants have commented that their Tzu Chi hosts are invaluable resources, and most students develop close relationships with their Tzu Chi roommates. In addition to taking demanding course loads, Colorado College students participate in a variety of extracurricular activities. Students volunteer at Tzu Chi hospital and teach English to elementary and middle school students. Students also participate in athletic activities such as basketball or track and field, hosted at Tzu Chi. Students have the option to take evening courses in floral arrangement, martial arts, and Chinese language, and can travel during the weekend on a number of excursions arranged by Tzu Chi University.

Students also participate in a structured ten-day spring break, during which there is an opportunity for group travel. Spring break trips have included visits to cities in the People's Republic of China as well as snorkeling trips off the southern coast of Taiwan.

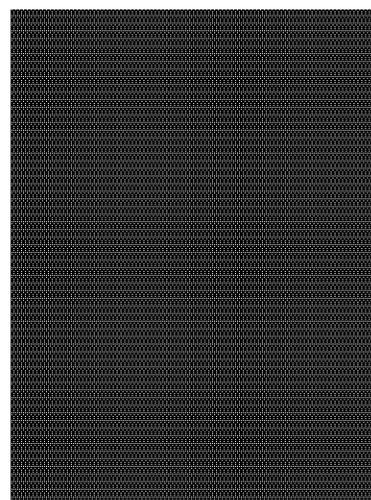
Overall, the BCCP provides a unique opportunity for Colorado College science majors to study abroad. As a result of the program, Colorado College has not only developed an amiable relationship with Tzu Chi University, but is meeting the goals set by the Freeman Foundation to further Taiwan-U.S. relations and cultural awareness.

The Freeman grant also supports a summer exchange program between Colorado College and Tzu Chi University, in which five to ten students from Tzu Chi have arrived over the past two summers to take a variety of courses offered at Colorado College. They take courses in anthropology, art history, architecture, environmental science and human physiology. The College provides housing, some transportation, and social activities.

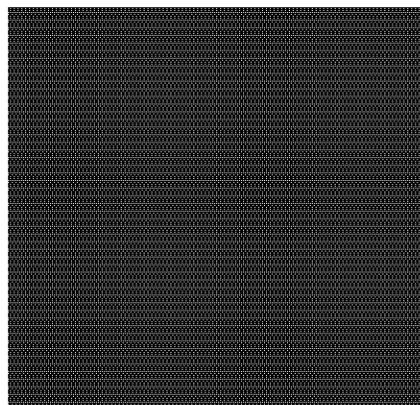
*Photos from the 2003 ASIANetwork Conference
held in Greenville, SC
April 11-13*



Preconference Tour, BlueRidge Mountains



Chia Ning at White Oaks



Wonderful breakfasts!