

Week 1 Report (June 4 - June 10)

Monday, June 4

The International Research Experience for Students (IRES): US - China Collaboration on Landslide Research and Student Training Program started today. Everyone met up in Dr. Wang's office for brief introductions, and then they headed to the UH Learning Abroad office for a lecture on culture shock and an introduction on what to expect in China. Afterwards, everyone had lunch together and attended another lecture given by Dr. Youmei Liu. Professor Liu gave a lecture on Chinese culture and the social differences in China vs. America.



Program Participants (from left to right): Anna Wang, Anika Huq, David Wang, Matthew Law, Bhavya Merchant, Danial Rusinek, Margarita Solares Colon, Zachary Parra, Lore Ramirez

Tuesday, June 5

Everyone met in Dr. Wang's lab, and he talked more about the international program as well as the students' roles. He stressed that this program is about cultural exchange as much as it is about science. While the students learn about Chinese culture, the Chinese professors and students also learn about American culture. In the afternoon, Dr. Wang invited three of the previous program participants to share their experiences and to answer questions about life in China. Jennifer Welch, Vasilios Tsibanos, and Lynn Nguyen did a great job at answering everyone's questions.

Wednesday, June 6

Today, the students traveled to the UH Coastal Center to learn about GPS applications and UAV training. Lin Xiong showed the students how the GPS data was collected and stored, and he also explained how GPS was used to monitor subsidence using extensometers and groundwater depth. The students also learned how to operate a UAV by creating a flight path and testing the UAV's basic functions. Afterwards, Lin showed the students how to process the photos from the UAV using Agisoft.



Three extensometers at the UH Coastal Center

Thursday, June 7

The students traveled to Freeport, TX with Lin Xiong and Sarah Zhou to perform a TLS survey. The students learned how to pair LiDAR and high accuracy GPS to study coastal erosion. They performed six scans using one reflector. An ice cream truck passed through the survey site, and Lin bought everyone ice cream.



Everyone enjoying ice cream during a LiDAR scan

Friday, June 8

Friday was designated as a free day for students to finish shopping and packing for the trip. Some students went to exchange currency, while others rested before their long flight.

Saturday, June 9 - Sunday, June 10

Four students began their journey to China Saturday morning, and everyone else left Houston early Sunday morning. Everyone met up in Tianjin Monday morning.