

The group continued to spend week 4 at the China University of Geosciences in Wuhan learning Chinese language and culture.

### **June 25, 2018**

Today's morning class was on China today: Chinese culture and history. The class began with a chronological history of the Chinese dynasties, from the Qin Dynasty through the Ming Dynasty. We first learned about each dynasty in their own historical context, but then discussed how each major period in Chinese history has shaped its modern culture, the attitudes and beliefs of its people, and how those traditions and beliefs differ from American and Western ideology. Furthermore, we gained insight into Chinese architectural and dress styles during each dynasty and how they influenced modern China. Most interesting, in particular, was our discussion on status symbols throughout Chinese history.

In the afternoon, the group attended a calligraphy class. They were very lucky to be taught by a well-known calligrapher, Dr. Jianguo Zhang. He gave us a good foundation in the art of calligraphy and even allowed us to buy some of his work for a discounted price. Moreover, his volunteer assistant continued to offer calligraphy lessons to the group every morning for the week.



*Chinese Calligraphy Class*

## June 26, 2018

Today, the students woke up bright and early for their daily calligraphy lesson and then later attended a morning class on Mandarin numbers and colors. They learned the Chinese number system, basic transaction phrases, and finished off with an auction activity where they had to guess the price of items brought in by the teacher. The afternoon consisted of Chinese Kung Fu, or Wu Shu, performances. The instructor, Xiochun Lai, spent several years teaching university students in the U.S. and gave us a very thorough lecture of the history of Chinese martial arts. She then invited several students from the CUG Wu Shu club to perform for us. The performances included, the Five Animal Boxing routine, Tai Chi, and broadsword and nunchuck performances. The Chinese students also offered to provide Tai Chi lessons in the mornings.



*Kung Fu Performance*



*Broadsword Performance*

## June 27, 2018

Wednesday's morning class was on Chinese Language: Hobbies. The students learned many useful Chinese phrases to discuss hobbies and interests which they quickly put into practice during class. Pairs each took turns in front of the class creating simple dialogues with each other. Some of the students found it quite difficult which led to some comical situations. However, by the end everyone had a good time and even became competitive with each other. In the afternoon, they practiced Chinese paper cutting. Paper cutting is a very traditional Chinese folk art used during many important occasions in people's lives. Paper cuts are used to celebrate the birth of a child, marriage, and even old age. The students created the "Double Happiness" paper cut which is used to celebrate marriage. Then they created the Spring paper cut to celebrate the Spring Festival. At night, some of the students attended their first Tai Chi class taught by the Tai Chi club students and some students went Swing dancing in the city with the local Swing organization, Swing Wuhan.

**June 28, 2018**

The morning class today was on telling time and phrases to describe campus life. The students learned many useful phrases that they could use to assimilate into the CUG campus. Instead of an afternoon class, the students toured the CUG Geology museum. They were accompanied by some volunteers from another department on campus. Interestingly, this time the students, being Geology and Geophysics majors, taught the volunteers many interesting facts about the exhibits in the museum. Afterwards, some of the group socialized with some students from the University, including a Russian student from one of the neighboring universities.



*Ancient Seismogram*



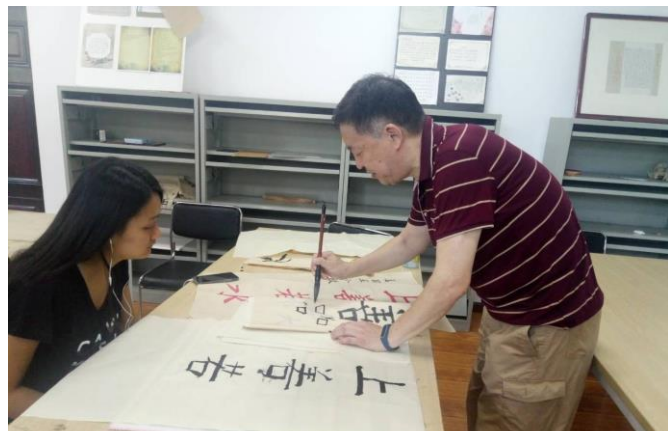
*Dinosaur Fossils at the CUG Museum*

**June 29, 2018**

After calligraphy practice, today's morning class was an introduction to Chinese tourist cities. The group watched several videos on the food and culture of each of the major Chinese cities. In the afternoon, the students practice traditional Chinese painting. They painted a flower scene, some of which were more abstract than others. At night, the students went out with some of the University students for a well-deserved break.



*Flower Painting*



*Morning Calligraphy Class*

## June 30, 2018

Saturday was a break day. One student taught a dance workshop with the local Swing Dance organization and others attended another Tai Chi class and even got to dress in traditional Chinese martial arts clothes. They then went to a local Indian restaurant located in the center of a lake! That night, there was a going away dance party at Swing Wuhan and then the group watched the World Cup soccer game together and prepared for the next day.



*Dancing with Swing Wuhan*



*Tai Chi Class*

## July 1, 2018

Today's morning class was on asking for directions. The instructor made the class very interactive by having us play several games. For the first game, the students broke up into groups to play Fruit Ninja; one student was blindfolded while the other student had to yell out where the fruits were flying: left, right, top, bottom, middle (in Mandarin). The first game was challenging, but it really helped everybody think on their feet. Next, one team member had to help the blindfolded student locate hidden students throughout the room by yelling out the commands and by the end, everybody had a good grasp on the basic directions. In the afternoon, the students attended a Chinese knot tying class. They produced several knots including a Chinese luck symbol and cute little dragonfly. After that, it was off to the Tai Chi class once more!



*Collaborative Fruit Ninja*



*Chinese Knot Tying*