

Week 5 (July 10th – 16th, 2017) Report.

Monday July 10th marks the culmination of the student's time in Wuhan. This milestone was marked with a Graduation ceremony in the afternoon. During this ceremony Vaslios Tsibanos gave a speech about our time and activities at the China University of Geosciences in Wuhan, Hannah Bonner and Erica Lucas performed a Tai chi piece they had learned with our instructor Mrs. Sunny, and all students and volunteers were presented with certificates for completing the two-week cultural program. The rest of the day was spent relaxing and enjoying the restaurants around Wuhan.



Students pose with their certificates for completing the culture course at the China University of Geosciences at Wuhan.

Tuesday July 11th was a free day. Students took this time to relax and enjoy Wuhan for one last day and prepare everything they would need for their next 2 weeks in Zigui and Badon. Many students went to the optical valley mall area, did laundry for perhaps the last time in a while, or simply enjoyed the campus one last time.

Wednesday July 12th was a long day of traveling. Students woke up early to eat a large breakfast before the journey to Zigui. At 9am Dr. Zhou, the field instructor for Zigui and the legendary bus driver Shifu met the students in front of the lobby of their dorm. Students said their goodbyes to volunteers and boarded the bus for their 8-hour trek to Zigui. Along the ride students had a chance to have a wonderful and much needed lunch in Shashi, as well as several stops to stretch their legs and purchase snacks for the road. Once the students arrived at the CUG field campus they were met with a very warm reception from the staff and other CUG students. The students were pleasantly surprised to find that the field campus offered many of the amenities they enjoyed at the Wuhan campus. After eating a quick dinner at the canteen, the students took a quick tour. There, they learned that the WIFI in their dorms was plentiful and strong. The campus store featured a nice selection of drinks, snacks and field gear. Laundry service was also available as long as you could have one of the full-time students pay for it with their laundry cards. The students then went to their respective dorms and took some much-needed rest to prepare for their early wake up and first day in the field with Dr. Zhou.



2 Students enjoy a lunch in Shashi on their way to Zigui.

Thursday July 13th. The students began their first day in the field guided by Dr. Zhou. They made several stops throughout the day and observed the geology of the Three Gorges

Reservoir region. The formations that were investigated were the Igneous Huang Ling group, which consisted of mainly granite and diorite. The Xiong ling metamorphic complex that consisted of mostly amphibole rich schist. And, lastly the Liantou sedimentary formation that is comprised of primarily dolomite. The focus of these stops was to investigate and observe the boundaries between these lithologic groups, and their relationship to the surrounding country rock. The students headed back to the CUG field campus in time to enjoy food at the canteen and explore more restaurants around the small mountain town.



4 Students getting down to business determining the composition of the igneous body at the 1st stop.



3b Students examine the boundary between the igneous body and the metamorphic complex.

Friday July 14th. The students again woke up early to begin their rainy day of field work. They ate breakfast and grabbed food to bring with them to eat during lunch. Dr. Zhou guided the students on several stops to observe the Liantou sedimentary formation in the Three Gorges



5 Students stop alongside the road to take advantage of the view for a photo

Reservoir region. This formation features primarily dolomite and red sandstones. Dr. Zhou then guided the students up into the mountain to look down on the Yangzi river as well as an incredibly lucky view of the Three Gorges Dam. Afterward the students again headed back to the CUG field campus to spend the rest of their evening relaxing and taking in more of Zigui's welcoming atmosphere.



6 A beautiful view of the Three Gorges Dam taken from a the top of an adjacent mountain.

Saturday July 15th. The rain did not let up throughout the night nor the morning so the students were given a day at the campus to work on their individual projects and continue



7 University of Houston Student Vasilius Tsibanos Admiring the view from the CUG Field campus in Zigui.

exploring the city. Dr. Wang arrived with his family this morning and was a welcome site to the students who had missed him dearly. Field work would continue in rain or shine on Sunday.

Sunday July 16th. The students, as per usual woke up early in order to get a head start on the day. They ate their breakfasts and grabbed extra food for lunch. Led by Dr. Wang and Dr. Zhou the students continued to observe sections of the Liantou sedimentary formation in Baishiqiao, as well as locations that display structural characteristics of the area. In Baishiqiao they observed faults and folds within the formation and received lectures on how the formations have changed over time.



9 Dr. Zhou shows how the fault has caused layers of rock to separate and how they can be correlated to one another.



8 The circled portion is a classic example of a box fold.

The students made stops at a few local stores that specialized in polishing large slabs of local stone and took this chance to enjoy their lunch and take group photos. From there they made a



10 Students pose in front of a large polished slab

brief stop at the Hubei Changyang Qingjiang

National Geopark, but did not have enough time to explore the park in depth.



From there they drove to the train station in Yichang to pick up their Chinese counterparts from the Beijing University of Technology. They enjoyed dinner at KFC or one of the many restaurants Yichang has to offer as they waited for the train to arrive. Once the Chinese students were picked up, everyone loaded into the bus and headed back to the CUG field campus in Zigui for some much-needed rest. In the morning, the students will travel to The Three Gorges Dam to tour the facility.



11 Students meet their Chinese counterparts from the Beijing University of Technology