

WEEK 3 (JUNE 18-24, 2018)

Prepared By: Mr. Matthew Law

DAY 15

(Monday, June 18th, 2018)

This day marked a Chinese holiday, the Dragon Boat Festival. Still unable to load money on their student cards due to the holiday, students improvised breakfast by trying street food vendors or buying fresh fruit from local markets for breakfast. Students met with Dr. Wang in the morning to do some sightseeing in Beijing. Original plans had been to travel to the Great Wall but due to the possibility of severe weather the plans were changed to visit the Olympic park. The group traveled by subway to the Olympic park where the 2008 Summer Olympic games were held. It was a nice experience to see in-person the architecture of the structures that they had seen on television broadcasts. Lunch was had at a restaurant in the shopping center under the Olympic park. The next activity was to visit the China University of Geosciences campus in Beijing and meet with Dr. Hua-Wei Zhou. Dr. Zhou is the dean of the department of Earth and Atmospheric Sciences at the University of Houston and happened to be in Beijing during our visit. After a visit with Dr. Zhou and a photo opportunity the group traveled back to the dorm by subway and were given free time for the remainder of the day.



Students exploring Beijing Olympic Park. Bird's Nest Stadium in background. From left to right: Matthew Law, Lorena Ramirez, Margarita M. Solares Colón, Anika Huq, Zachary Parra & Bhavya Merchant.



Meeting Dr. Zhou at CUG Beijing. From left to Right: Margarita M. Solares Colón, Matthew Law, David Wang, Bhavya Merchant, Anika Huq, Zachary Parra, Lorena Ramirez, Dr. Hua-Wei Zhou and Anna Wang.

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DAY 16

(Tuesday, June 19th, 2018)

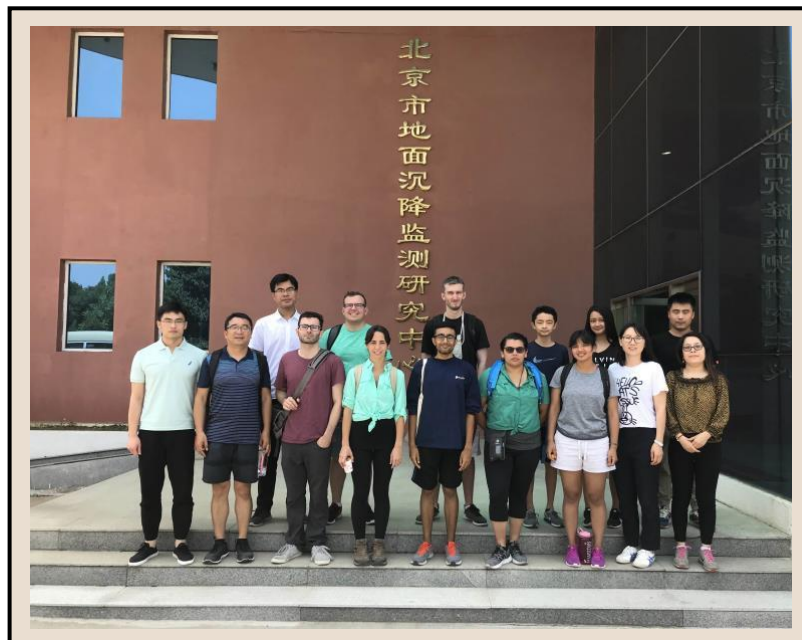
Today was the students last full day in Beijing before traveling to Wuhan. In the morning the group met Dr. Wang and local experts with the Beijing Institute of Hydrogeology and Engineering Geology, and traveled by private bus to the Beijing Subsidence Exhibition where they learned about the geology of the Beijing subsurface. Especially interesting was the cross section display that depicted the underlying strata of the region. The section displayed the different sequences of soft sediments and depths to the underlying bedrock by using realistic sediments and rock-like surfaces to create a life-like depiction of the geology. Within the Exhibit are several extensometers and water level monitoring wells up to 1700 m down to the bedrock. Also on display is information about hazards of subsidence to educate the visitors about the importance of studying and monitoring subsidence and why it is necessary to invest in subsidence research. After the conclusion of the tour the group then returned to the dorm to prepare for travel the next day.



Students observing cross section of Beijing Subsurface. Cross section line runs from west to east Beijing.



Students learning about extensometers that are housed within the subsidence exhibit.



Group photo outside Beijing Subsidence Exhibition Hall

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DAY 17

(Wednesday, June 20th, 2018)

Students awoke early to check out of the dorm and met Dr. Wang at the subway station at 8 am. Being rush hour, the subway was extremely busy and the first train students had to push their way in to the cramped train car with all their luggage. Due to the extreme number of passengers not all of them made it on the first train. Additionally there was some confusion about which stop to exit for the transfer and some exited the train early. Luckily they were still able to maintain contact through WeChat and eventually met up at the correct transfer station. The

remainder of the subway ride was without incident and everyone arrived at the high-speed train station. Students picked up their tickets and decided to enjoy some breakfast from McDonalds while they waited for departure. Although Wuhan is approx. 1000 km from Beijing, the high speed train travels at speeds over 300 km/h. Including a few stops, the train ride took about 5 hours to arrive in Wuhan. After arrival students were met at the gate by Dennis and Evan, two volunteer students from China University of Geosciences in Wuhan. They greeted the group members and led them to the private bus that was waiting to carry them to the university where they would be staying the next two

weeks to take Chinese language and culture classes. After a short ride the bus arrived at the Silk Road Institute, the international student dorm that would be the living quarters for the student's stay in Wuhan. The students were met by Rainbow, the organizer of the program in Wuhan. She helped the students get checked in and receive their student cards and keys that are required for entry into dorm as well as hot water and money for the canteen. That night students unpacked and adjusted to their new living quarters.



Scenery from high speed train on route to Wuhan



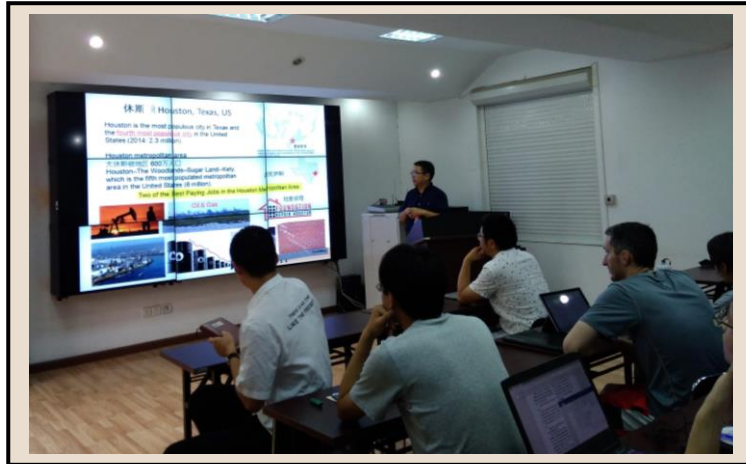
Students arrive at Wuhan railway station.

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DAY 18

(Thursday, June 21st, 2018)



Dr. Guoquan "Bob" Wang giving a lecture at CUG Wuhan

They visited the fossil wood exhibit where almost entire trees were preserved as fossils and are displayed outdoors. Dr. Wang wanted to visit his old dorm that he stayed in for 4 years while an undergraduate at the university. The group met two of the students living in the same room that Dr. Wang stayed in. Now it only houses 8 students, when Dr. Wang was a student it housed 12. That evening the students attended a welcome dinner hosted by Dr. Changqian Ma, the dean of the international college. Students were treated to Wuhan cuisine including delicious fish and duck dishes.



Admiring the fossil wood specimens



Welcome dinner hosted by Dr. Changqian Ma

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DAY 19

(Friday, June 22nd, 2018)

Friday morning brought the beginning of formal classes at CUG Wuhan. In the morning the students were given a welcome ceremony and introduction lecture. After the lecture they were given a tour of campus from student volunteers Dennis and Cauchy. They toured the library and went to the North campus. To get to the north campus you have to go through a tunnel that cuts through a hill separating the campuses. Artwork decorates the tunnel walls, styles ranging from traditional Chinese art to modern graffiti art. Students also visited the East Lake at the North side of campus. After the tour was finished they enjoyed a meal at one of the university canteens. That afternoon students began their first Chinese language class taught by Ms. Suki Yin. Students were given Chinese names that would be used for the rest of their stay in China. Next was to learn pinyin initials and finals to help with pronunciation of the Chinese language.

DAY 20

(Saturday, June 23rd, 2018)



Students learning the Chinese opera choreography

Morning class continued with language classes with Ms. Qiao Huang, where students learned basic phrases and how to introduce themselves using their names and where they are from. That afternoon students learned a traditional Chinese song “Mo Li Hua” with Ms. Jialin Fang. The catchy tune stuck with the students and they could be heard singing it days later. Students also learned the Chinese opera song “Fu Qi Shuang Shuang Ba Jia Huan.” Later that night some of the students went with Dr. Wang to watch Incredibles 2 at the movie theater near campus.

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DAY 21

(Sunday, June 24th, 2018)

On Sunday students were given a free day to rest and find other activities to do. Students went to check out the shops at Optic Valley Square, a shopping mall a short walk from campus. Hungry for some familiar food students ate at a Pizza Hut near the mall. Feeling adventurous, some students also ordered Chinese style pizzas including durian pizza and eel pizza.



Students enjoying Pizza Hut on their free day