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## A letter of thanks from an American youth

From July 8 to 20, 16 students and teachers from Northampton Community College in the United States participated in the summer camp organized by Jinhua University of Vocational Technology in Zhejiang province. The theme of the camp was "A Dialogue Across Time and Space: An Exploration of China's Ancient Architecture." Through classroom lectures, in-person experiences, and in-depth discussions, the American students fully appreciated the natural beauty of China's landscapes, the linguistic beauty of the Chinese characters, the kindness of Chinese people, and the artistic beauty of ancient Chinese architecture. They also established a deep friendship with the Chinese teachers and students.



group photos of students and teachers from both universities

The summer camp provided rich Chinese language courses, which allowed American students to experience the profoundness and charm of Chinese characters through speaking, writing, and drawing. Within just 13 days, the American students had learned over 150 Chinese words and passed the HSK-1 test.



Students learning Chinese characters in a calligraphy class

"In the future, I will continue to learn the Chinese language, take the initiative to learn about China's affairs, and make more Chinese friends. I hope to have more exchanges with Chinese students," said Brookelyn Kelsey Farrell.

"Chinese ancient architecture is so amazing! They have built such wonderful structures with only wood." "The ancient buildings with upturned eaves are beautiful!" Under the guidance of Professor Chen Zhongdong from the Architecture Engineering College, the American students attended a course, called *An Appreciation of Chinese Ancient Architecture* and tried to build *dougong* (interlocking wooden brackets) models themselves.



Students engaging in experiencing the wisdom of *mortise and tenon joint* structure in ancient Chinese architecture

Led by Lecturer Cao Rui from the Architecture Engineering College, the students also went on a field trip to various attractions featuring Chinese ancient architecture, such as Jinhua Ancient City, Buddhist Shrine Ancient Town in Yiwu, Luzhai Residence in Dongyang and Qingming Shang He Tu at Hengdian World Studios. The field trip enabled American students to fully appreciate the profound culture of Chinese ancient architecture.



American students at Buddhist Shrine Ancient Town in Yiwu

In addition, the students also went to Hangzhou, Shanghai and other places to feel the appeal of the international metropolis and witness China's progress and development. "From wooden structure to modern construction, this trip is like a dialogue across time and space, which is truly unforgettable," said Madison Marque Bailey, one of the American students.

The summer camp also offered a woodworking course, where American students were taught to make Zuzi boxes and Zuzi lanterns, the traditional wooden decoration items in China. At the woodworking creative workshop of Professor Xu Xiaoping from the Design College, the students had a hands-on experience of assembling, cutting, carving, polishing, and oiling, through which they fully learned the building techniques and China's craftsmanship of striving for excellence and innovation.



Students experiencing e-commerce streaming and Hanfu

During the 13 days, Chinese and American teachers and students learned together, deepened their understanding of each other, became good friends, and left an unforgettable memory.

"I'm very happy that I have made many Chinese friends, and I hope I can study in China in the future. We are all willing to be a bridge to enhance the friendship between Chinese and

American youth. I also welcome my Chinese friends to study in America," said Angel Gerardo Jimenez, one of the American students.



By writing letters and drawing pictures, the American students expressed their love for China, their affection for Jinhua University of Vocational Technology, and their gratitude to the teachers and student volunteers. They wrote many thank-you letters the night before departure.



"Thank you for the invitation and thoughtful arrangements by the Jinhua University of Vocational Technology. This has been a fulfilling and meaningful journey, which exceeded my expectations. We could feel the hospitality and friendliness of Chinese people and have seen a real and multi-dimensional China. We will share with our families and students in the U.S. the scenery and humanistic landscapes we have seen, and the kindness of Chinese friends we have felt in China." said Christine Muriel Pense, Dean of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences at Northampton Community College.

## China-U.S. Youth Inner Mongolia exchange camp concludes

From July 11 to 20, Inner Mongolia Agricultural University invited some student representatives from Hawaii, North Carolina, and New York to China to attend the China-U.S. Youth Inner Mongolia Exchange Camp, called "Summer in Inner Mongolia, Closer to Each Other".

At the opening ceremony, Chinese and American students watched lion dance shows, martial arts performances, and traditional music shows featuring the *guzheng*, cucurbit flute, and bamboo flute. They also enjoyed a Mongolian dance performance, tried on *Hanfu* and Mongolian robes, tasted Chinese tea, competed in chess, and practiced martial arts. Through these interactive experiences, they were able to appreciate the charm of traditional Chinese culture.



Chinese and American students practicing martial arts



Chinese and American students trying on traditional Chinese costumes

The American students visited Hohhot and Bayannur from July 11 to 17. Together with the students from Inner Mongolia Agricultural University, they explored the Inner Mongolia Museum, Moni Mountain Intangible Heritage Town, Saishang Old Street, and the Yili

Modern Intelligent Health Valley in Hohhot, experiencing the rich history, culture, and modern development achievements in the region. In Bayannur, they had a Chinese lesson in the poem *Thoughts in the Silent Night* of Tang Dynasty together with the students from Hetao College and participated in intangible heritage crafts such as dough figurines and cloisonné techniques. Together, they made and enjoyed dumplings, immersing themselves in Chinese culture. They also visited Wuliangshuai Lake to witness the region's ecological transformation prioritizing ecology and green development.



Students making horse head string instrument with mortise and tenon joint structure at Moni Mountain Intangible Heritage Town



Students experiencing dough figurine



Students engaging in cloisonné techniques



Chinese and American students making dumplings together

During their visit to Beijing, the American students participated in the Peking University International Culture Festival, visited Tiananmen Square, climbed the Mutianyu Great Wall, and marveled at the grandeur and historical richness of ancient Chinese architecture.

Through over ten days' journey, the American students gained firsthand experience of China and had a deeper understanding of the country. They saw a real, vibrant, and multi-dimensional China, engaged in exchanges with Inner Mongolian youth, became good friends with each other, and forged a deep friendship.

"This is my first time in China. I was so worried at first because the country is new to me. However, when I came here, I found my view of China changed in an instant. I have realized how wonderful China is, and everyone is so friendly to me. I am astonished by the beautiful natural scenes here, and I'm also fascinated by its culture and arts. From that moment, I have realized how lucky I am to have the opportunity to participate in this program. I want to thank everyone who has helped me in joining this program," said Jahn Dorin, one of the American students.



Students engaging in exchange activities at Peking University



Students at Mutianyu Great Wall

Cynthia Ning, the leading teacher, said "We would like to express gratitude to Inner Mongolia Agricultural University for its thoughtful arrangements and China Education Association for International Exchange as well as the Education Bureau of Inner Mongolia Autonomous Region for their great support, which has made this Inner Mongolia camp possible in such a short time. The program has provided opportunities for American students from across the Pacific Ocean to explore, experience, and understand today's China, and learn about China's achievements within the past decades." "I hope the students in the program can take concrete actions to become friendship ambassadors of a new generation, making efforts for the healthy development of China-U.S. relations," she said. She warmly welcomed the Chinese students and teachers to pay a return visit to America and experience the culture and warmth of Hawaii.

## Maritime Silk Road of Quanzhou Ocean Research Workshop held

On July 12, a China-U.S. youth exchange camp in Fujian 2024, "Song and Yuan Dynasties of China: Maritime Silk Road of Quanzhou Ocean Research Workshop" officially opened at Quanzhou Ocean Institute. The 5-day camp, featuring Chinese maritime culture, aimed to invite over 30 American students to embark on a remarkable journey of ocean research and enable them to experience the special charm of Quanzhou and Maritime Silk Road.

The American students first visited Quanzhou Ocean Institute, where they toured the school's distinctive World Special Ship Exhibition Hall, the Yuhang Training Ship, the VLCC Full Mission Engine Simulator, the 360° Full-View Ship Control Simulator, and the Ocean Science and Education Museum. They gained marine knowledge and had a deeper understanding of marine culture.



On the following days, the participants visited cultural landmarks in Quanzhou. They explored some historical sites, such as Liusheng Tower, Linluan Ferry, Gusao Tower, Yongning Ancient Town, Luoia Temple, and Jinjiang Wudianshi Traditional Blocks. They also visited the Shimao Maritime Silk Road Museum, Dehua Ceramics Museum, and Dehua International Ceramic Art City. They not only immersed themselves in the thousand-year glory of the Maritime Silk Road but also engaged in traditional porcelain-making techniques like clay pulling and painting, touching the traces of history with their own hands.



Through immersive learning and hands-on practice, the American students fully experienced the richness of Chinese traditional culture and the profoundness of Chinese maritime culture. They had a deeper understanding and respect for cultural diversity and inclusiveness. Cai Xueling, President of the Chinese American Youth Association, stated that this exchange camp had significant cultural importance, enabling the participating students to gain a deeper understanding of Chinese culture.



Quanzhou Ocean Institute also thoughtfully arranged an exchange session between the Chinese and American students. During the interaction, the students of both countries made sailor knots together and experienced the fun of making dumplings. At the closing ceremony, both teachers and students gave a full display of their talents, bringing the atmosphere to a peak. The cultural exchange and integration between the two countries were fully reflected at the moment. The participating students said that the event not only enriched their knowledge and broadened their horizons but also deepened mutual understanding through interaction, resulting in a lasting friendship and good memory.



## Volleyball friendship of China-U.S. youth at FJNU

From July 13 to 16, the China-U.S. Volleyball Friendship Tournament took place at the Cangshan Campus Gymnasium of Fujian Normal University. A total of 72 players from six teams, including the Nighthawk team from the U.S., the Fu-Star and Soaring teams of Fujian Normal University, the Fujian Youth Men's Volleyball Team-1 and Team-2, and the Jimei University Men's Volleyball Team, competed together. The athletes were full of energy and displayed agility and excellent teamwork, showing exciting matches to the audience.



On the morning of July 16, Chen Zhonghe, former head coach of the Chinese Women's Volleyball Team and former deputy director of the Fujian Provincial Administration of Sport, attended the China-U.S. volleyball cultural exchange event. Drawing from his personal coaching experience, he shared with Chinese and American volleyball players the journey

of the Chinese Women's Volleyball Team and the championship glory with heartfelt language and vivid examples. He offered a thorough interpretation of the connotation and contemporary value of the "spirit of Chinese women's volleyball team," and encouraged the players to carry forward the spirit of patriotism, teamwork, perseverance, and the will to never give up. Chen also called on the players to practice volleyball skills and tactics diligently, aim for the highest, and strive to contribute to the popularity and development of volleyball. Before the event, the volleyball players from both countries visited some places, such as the Fujian Normal University's Old Photo Gallery.



On the morning of July 13, Hou Chundi, coach of the National Youth Men's Volleyball Team and national-level volleyball coach at the Fujian Provincial Youth Sports School, and Xu Yunli, the Olympic champion of the Women's Volleyball, Deputy Director of the Public Sports Department at Fujian Normal University, and Vice Dean of the School of Sports Science, jointly gave a "Champion Course" to all the athletes participating in the China-U.S. Volleyball Friendship Match. Through group exercises, fun games, and confrontation exercises, they taught volleyball skills and tactics to the athletes.



### Celebration of the 30th anniversary of the Princeton in Beijing Program



On July 14, the 30th Anniversary Celebration of the Princeton in Beijing Program & the International Chinese Education Symposium was held at Beijing Normal University. Vice President Zhou Zuoyu delivered a speech. More than a hundred people, including experts and scholars from the universities at home and abroad, and representative alumni of Princeton in Beijing program from around the world, attended the event.

Zhou Zuoyu stated that over the past three decades, the Princeton in Beijing program had cultivated many outstanding students and Chinese language teachers, achieving remarkable results that had made unique contributions to building a bridge of friendship between the peoples of the two countries and promoting communication between the two governments. He emphasized that the development of the program reflected the courage, wisdom, dedication, and perseverance of successive generations of the related faculty

and staff of Princeton in Beijing Program. It also benefited from the sincere understanding and communication between the two sides and showed the strong desire for exchange, interaction, and cooperation between the two countries. He expressed a strong desire to continue to explore and innovate to cultivate more outstanding talents and contribute to the promotion of cultural exchange and cooperation between China and the U.S.



The founder of the Princeton in Beijing program, Professor Zhou Zhiping of Princeton University, fondly reviewed the extraordinary history of the program and summarized the successful experience of its establishment and development over the past thirty years. He thanked Beijing Normal University and Princeton University for their long-term support and expressed sincere gratitude to all the teachers, students, and people from various sectors who had supported the Program. Zhou Zhiping stated that the 30th-anniversary celebration was not only a summary and reflection on the past thirty years but also a new starting point for a new journey. He sincerely wished the Princeton in Beijing Program another glorious thirty years.



At the ceremony, Rebecca Graves-Bayazitoglu, Associate Dean of the Office of International Programs at Princeton University, Wang Jing, the U.S. Director of the Princeton in Beijing Program, Feng Liping, Dean of the International Chinese College at Beijing Normal University, Chen Fu, Professor of the International Chinese College, Liang Xia, a teacher of the program, and Blazejewski Matt, an alumnus of the program, all delivered speeches.

Experts and scholars from various universities and institutions in China and the U.S. held a symposium.



The Princeton in Beijing Program is an intensive summer Chinese language training program jointly established by Beijing Normal University and Princeton University. The Program was founded in 1993 and was based at Beijing Normal University. It is the first "immersive" summer Chinese language training class jointly organized by Chinese and American universities, pioneering China-U.S. cooperative Chinese language training programs. Each year, it enrolls students from prestigious universities in the U.S. and worldwide for two months of immersive intensive Chinese language study at Beijing Normal University during summer vacation. Since its inception, the program has trained more than 4,500 students and over 1,800 Chinese language teachers. It is renowned in the field of international Chinese language teaching for its unique teaching model and excellent teaching results and has become a model for China-U.S. university cooperation.



## An immersive pre-college summer program at Westlake University



In July, 53 high school students from 40 schools across 18 U.S. states gathered in Hangzhou to participate in Westlake University's pre-college summer program. The program focused on four academic tracks: biology, chemistry, mechanical engineering, and biomedical engineering, conducting two-week scientific research training.

The biology group's theme was genes and genetics. The students learned to use the CRISPR/Cas9 gene-editing tool to mutate specific genes and tracked the resulting expression changes using fluorescent proteins. Through the research practice, the students grasped the theoretical foundation of gene manipulation and laboratory skills in molecular biology.



Seth Thompson, a high school student from Illinois, said, "We learned about CRISPR gene-editing technology and did a lot of research on gene nucleotides. In the lab, we analyzed and cut them, creating our own edited nucleotide and gene chains...It was a challenging but also amazing experience."

The chemistry group focused on inorganic nanoparticles, learning the knowledge and skills in chemical synthesis and characterization,

exploring the practical applications of nanoparticles, and gaining a deep understanding of how chemistry affects and changes our lives.

We first bonded special magnetic nanoparticles into lines using another type of nanoparticle to make them stick together to create the nano stir bars and to make sure they formed lines. We used magnets since the magnetic field forms lines. We then aminated the stir bars in preparation to attach the gold to them, a chemical reaction that bonds an amine group to the outside of the stir bars, which allows gold to bond to the stir bars. Then, we isolated the gold nanoparticles from the other atoms it was bonded to before adding them to the solution with the stir bars. We performed a chemical reaction in which the gold bonds to the stir bars before using the relative strength of the bonds gold had formed to add more gold in the shape of small wires coming off of the stir bars. explained Nyx Roman from Maryland, "I loved the program so much and performing and learning about the various chemical reactions was incredibly informative."

The mechanical engineering group focused on the design, manufacture, and control of bionic robotic fish. All components were designed by the participants and produced using 3D printing. The final robotic fish needed to swim in water for a long time while maintaining balance and direction.

Michael Anderson from Illinois said, "I enjoyed this experience. I'm in the mechanical engineering group, and we needed to create a robotic fish, not just theoretical study, but hands-on work. That was interesting! You find out that you make mistakes, and you must learn to deal with the consequences rather than just erase everything and start over."

The students in the biomedical engineering group entered the Joint Laboratory of

Biomaterials and Regenerative Engineering at Westlake University (B-REAL) to learn how to prepare biodegradable polymers (biomaterials) and use various technologies, including 3D printing, to make scaffolds from biomaterials for the regeneration and repair of human tissues such as skin, bones, and nerves.



Michael Hervey, a high school student from Arizona, remarked after two weeks of research training, "We've been making polymers, using citric acid and another chemical to make polymers for tissue regeneration. You can't learn these things in a U.S. high school classroom."

The 53 American high school students expanded their academic horizons and sparked their interest in scientific research in Westlake University's advanced research laboratories. In addition, they also participated in a variety of campus cultural activities at Westlake University and visited Hangzhou, a city where innovation and history coexist.



### Understanding China-U.S. friendly exchanges through archaeology

"The professor explained the cultural connections between America and China that go

back about a hundred years, much of which I had never heard before," "The professor's lecture is fascinating. When I was a child, I was very interested in archaeology, and I still am today," shared Robert Casillo from Louisiana excitedly after the lecture.



On July 16, Shandong University welcomed over 400 young representatives from 10 countries, including the U.S., Malaysia, and Sri Lanka. Among them, nearly 300 students were from the U.S. They were also the participants of the 2024 Global Youth Conference & China-U.S. Youth Camp, who came to the university for a special lecture on "China-U.S. Cultural Exchange."

To ensure the success of this event, Shandong University meticulously planned the lecture content, systematically reviewing the history and status quo of China-U.S. cooperation in cultural heritage preservation. The aim was to help the participants understand China's "openness and inclusiveness" through the lens of "Archaeology at Shandong University" and learn the history of friendly exchanges between China and the U.S. Focusing on the theme of "Ancient Chinese Civilization from the Perspective of World Heritage", Professor Jiang Bo from the Institute of Cultural Heritage at Shandong University, started with the collaboration between Shandong University and the U.S. in exploring the context of human civilizations and promoting exchanges and mutual learning among civilizations. Then from a global perspective, Professor Jiang teased out the unique value of Greek, Roman,

and ancient Chinese civilizations in global history by examining the Acropolis of Athens, Pompeii, Liangzhu Archaeological Site, and Quanzhou Ancient City. After analyzing the concepts and technological approaches to showing and reconstructing world heritage sites, he introduced how China's experience in cultural heritage preservation contributed to the World Heritage cause. His lecture helped the students better understand the significance of cultural heritage in enhancing cross-cultural communication and building mutual trust.



After the lecture, the students actively engaged in discussions and raised questions on topics such as underwater archaeology and marine ecological protection, Confucius and world philosophy, archaeomagnetic dating, Maritime Silk Road findings, and the right of ownership of cultural heritage. This deepened their understanding of Shandong University's archaeology discipline and sparked greater enthusiasm among these students to study in China.



Shandong University has a long history of cooperation with the U.S. Notable figures include Calvin Wilson Mateer, also known by his Chinese name Di Kaowen, who founded Tengchow

College (the precursor to Cheeloo University), Watson McMillan Hayes, who served as the first Provost at Shandong Imperial College, and James Boyd Neal, who established Huamei Hospital (the forerunner to Qilu Hospital). They have made outstanding contributions to the founding and development of Shandong University. In recent years, Shandong University has built an all-dimensional, multi-tiered, and wide-ranging cooperative network with over 40 American universities. Notably, in the field of archaeology, it has collaborated with Yale University to create the "Joint International Research Laboratory of Environmental and Social Archaeology" and with the University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA) on the "Waystation Initiative". Through these collaborative platforms, Chinese and American faculty and students have engaged in a series of mutual visits and exchanges, which have played a significant role in advancing people-to-people and cultural exchanges between China and the U.S.

From July to August 2024, Shandong University hosted a month-long archaeology summer program series, including the International Summer Workshop-Chinese Archaeology and Undergraduate International Faculty Program, which attracted nearly 50 scholars and students from about 20 overseas institutions, such as the University of Chicago, Yale University, UCLA, the University of Michigan, the University of Alberta, and Leiden University. The participants discussed cutting-edge interdisciplinary topics on archaeological theory, economic archaeology, maritime archaeology, paleopathology, human origins and evolution, settlement archaeology, and discoveries in overseas archaeology. The exchange of ideas sparked innovative views, promoting transnational and interdisciplinary interaction in archaeological research and strengthening the inheritance and innovation of traditional Chinese culture.

## A joint geological expedition by Chinese and American students



The "2024 Sino-US Joint Student Geological Field Trip," organized collaboratively by Guizhou University and Trinity University in the U.S., successfully concluded. During the field trip, the students from both countries actively participated in learning and engaged in extensive exchanges. The field trip also enhanced their professional skills. In the trip, they showed the vibrant spirit of young college students. This endeavor has laid a solid foundation for academic exchanges and cooperation in the field of earth science research between Chinese and American universities.

Professor Lyman from Trinity University in the U.S. noted that Guizhou was an ideal region for studying Triassic geology. This field trip not only provided students with valuable practical experience in exploring Triassic carbonate platform evolution, the end-Permian mass extinction, and the Triassic marine biotic recovery but also served as a precious opportunity to advance collaborative research between both sides. It expanded students' knowledge and upgraded their fieldwork skills.

It is understood that this field trip marks the fourth joint expedition organized by Guizhou University and Trinity University. The previous ones were held in Guizhou in 2009, 2012, and 2017 respectively. This year's project was mainly carried out in Guizhou and Yunnan provinces.

Over the 23 days, the team leaders of both

sides took the 24 students from Trinity University, Chengdu University of Technology, Kunming University of Science and Technology, Northwest University, and the College of Resource and Environment Engineering of Guizhou University to different places, including Kaili, Pingtang, Luodian, Anshun, Guanling, Xingyi, Luoping, and Kunming. Through field display board presentations, field section descriptions, and outdoor discussions, they conducted in-depth research on Triassic carbonate platform evolution, the end-Permian mass extinction, the Triassic marine biotic recovery, environmental changes, etc.



Snapshots from the Sino-US Joint Student Geological Field Trip

Throughout the three-week field study, the students from both China and the U.S. not only made like-minded friends and formed deep friendships but also enriched their knowledge scope improved their field skills, and had opportunities for exchange. Both American and Chinese students and teachers expressed a desire to continue enhancing exchange and collaboration in scientific research, teaching, and talent cultivation in future projects, to produce more achievements.

Chinese student Zhang Pei commented, "The 23 days of learning have been incredibly beneficial. The knowledge gained is no longer theoretical. The lectures are given outdoors. The vivid and engaging lessons have made abstract concepts in the textbooks concrete. This experience also has paved the way for my future fieldwork plans. Additionally, through the communication with the American students, we have learned new methods of acquiring information and

gained new insights into various cultures."

American student Haley Hamel stated, "Guizhou is truly remarkable, and the tower karst landscapes are amazing! I am grateful for the collaboration between the professors from Trinity University and Guizhou University, which has offered me new insights into Earth science. I like the inclusive teaching and appreciate the prompt help from Guizhou University professors whenever I have questions or need guidance on field tools. I look forward to continuing exchanges and collaborative research with my new Chinese friends."

American student Grace Alcocer said, "I have never left the U.S. before. Working and communicating with Chinese students has taught me so much. We introduce our cultures to each other through exchanging gifts and snacks. It is a wonderful experience. Chinese students are very friendly and eager to communicate, even though English is not their native language. I hope to keep in contact with Chinese students and build a lifelong friendship. I love China's beautiful landscape and hope to return someday to explore more."



### HUST - CSUN summer school successfully concluded

The 2024 Huazhong University of Science and Technology (HUST) -California State University, Northridge (CSUN) summer school was successfully held in Wuhan. The program featured joint instruction by Chinese and American professors, Chinese and American

students attending class together, and mutual credit recognition. The curriculum design reflected a combination of theory and practice. Over the one-month course, the students learned management accounting knowledge and participated in field visits to Jianmin Pharmaceutical Group Co., Ltd. in Wuhan and the Wuhan branch of the French company Valeo. These arrangements aimed to deepen students' understanding and application of theoretical knowledge and enhance their understanding of profound and rich traditional Chinese culture and new quality productive forces. Additionally, the students toured the city and took part in sports activities in their spare time, which allowed them to experience the unique charm of Wuhan and strengthen their friendship with each other.

### ► Courses: Collaborative learning and knowledge exchange



Joint teaching by Chinese and American faculty

Both the School of Management at HUST and the David Nazarian College of Business and Economics at CSUN, are AACSB-accredited business schools. The professors from both universities gave lessons based on the Assurance of Learning (AoL) system, pioneering a model of joint instruction with mutual credit recognition between China and the U.S. For the summer school's academic courses, Professor Gao Ru and Professor Zhu Ling from the School of Management at HUST, and Professor Zhan Jun, from CSUN, jointly taught the students from both universities. After many times of

joint preparation of lessons and discussions on course outlines and assessment methods, their teaching received unanimous praise from the students. The teaching methods included classroom competition, group presentations, and after-class exercises, which helped the students better grasp professional knowledge and skills. Additionally, this program improved the teaching capabilities of both institutions and strengthened the educational collaboration between the two universities.

### ► Sports day: Building friendships and embracing team spirit

HUST organized many fun sports activities for the students. Through these activities, such as tug-of-war, concentric drum games, and basketball and volleyball games, Chinese and American students collaborated and knew each other better. These activities explored common interests and further strengthened the bonds between the students from both countries.



Students participating in fun sports activities

### ► Enterprise visits: Applying knowledge, experiencing Chinese culture and innovation

With the help of HUST alumni, the students got the chance to visit some enterprises to get a deeper understanding of corporate operations and innovation practices. On July 11, they visited Jianmin Pharmaceutical Group Co., Ltd. As a local Wuhan company, Jianmin showed an extensive and profound culture of traditional Chinese medicine (TCM) to the American students. On July 18, they visited Valeo's Wuhan branch, where the company's management

experience and advanced technology made a significant impression on the students.

During the visit to Jianmin Pharmaceutical, the students learned about the company's development history and gained the company's financial, and product information through their introduction. They also had a deeper understanding of the TCM industry in China through hands-on activities such as making herbal sachets and learning and practicing Baduanjin, a traditional Chinese exercise. Jianmin Pharmaceutical was founded in 1637 and it is now a prominent "China Time-honored Brand" with global influence. The visit helped students understand traditional Chinese culture and advanced TCM pharmaceutical processes. The visit is a vivid interpretation of the combination of traditional Chinese culture and new quality productivity and will help the global promotion of TCM. At Valeo, the students were introduced to the latest innovations in automotive lighting technology, as well as the company's highly automated and rigorously managed production lines, highlighting Valeo's commitment to production technology and safety. These visits not only deepened students' understanding of corporate operations but also provided a valuable platform for learning and exchange between Chinese and American students.



Students visiting Jianmin Pharmaceutical and Valeo, making TCM sachets, and practicing Baduanjin

## ► Culture courses: Experiencing Chinese culture and traditional charm

The summer school arranged cultural experience sessions. In the Chinese language class, the students learned some everyday Chinese. On certain topics, through active interaction with the teacher, the students made great progress. In the Chinese calligraphy class, the students used brushes to experience the charm of calligraphy, each writing their calligraphy piece, which was a unique memory for them. The Jingchu culture experience class took the students through the river of history. They explored the stories of Wuhan, had hands-on experience in bamboo weaving, and made their fan. These cultural courses allowed the students to experience fine traditional Chinese culture more vividly and engagingly.



Students participating in Chinese culture classes

## ► City tour: Impressions of exploring charming Wuhan

In their spare time, the students tasted authentic Wuhan cuisine, such as hot-dry noodles, *Doupi* (a pan-fried delicacy of glutinous rice and minced meat), lotus root soup, and fermented rice wine. They also visited famous Wuhan landmarks, including the Yellow Crane Tower, Hubei Provincial Museum, East Lake, and Yangtze River Bridge. American students deeply felt the unique charm of Wuhan.

## ► Farewell party: China-U.S. close bonds and cherished memories

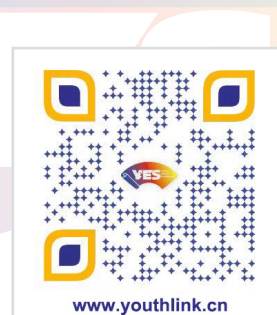
On July 31, a farewell party was held. Chinese and American teachers and students got together for a heartfelt, lively, and warm farewell party. Uriel Arroyo, a student from the summer school, said, "The month-long study and life experience in Wuhan has been incredibly fruitful, and I cannot drag myself away. I am very grateful to the teachers and volunteers who have made this summer school possible." Many students also said that they planned to join the summer school program again next year. They would recommend it to more friends back in the U.S. and encourage more American students to participate in it and become the envoys of China-U.S. educational and cultural exchange.



Students attending the farewell party

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