



ESL program serves global audience

Walk around the U of R campus for a few minutes and you'll quickly appreciate that the University is a scaled-down global community. You'll see people in their unique national costumes and hear unfamiliar languages mixed in with various forms of accented English.

That may not seem unusual, because universities do attract teachers, researchers and students from around the world. What sets the University of Regina apart from many other schools is its English as a Second Language (ESL) program, which aims to attract students wanting to polish their English language skills.

"About 70 per cent of our ESL grads enter an undergraduate program here, says Liliana Domingue, who heads the ESL program. "The rest of them want to improve their English for work or travel, or for further study later."

The largest numbers of students in the ESL program come from Mexico, mainland China, Korea and Japan. Significant numbers also come from Thailand, the Middle East and Latin America. About 200 students attend each of the 12-week programs offered during the fall and winter months. Close to 300 students take part in the spring and summer programs, which compress the same courses and activities into eight weeks.

The various ESL program options are designed not only to improve students' proficiency in English, but also give them opportunities to experience Canadian culture first-hand. Students in the regular ESL program, for example, spend their weekday mornings listening, speaking, reading and

writing in English on topics of interest to them. They create their own afternoon programs from a menu of electives that allows them to focus on academic English, improve their skills in business or technical writing, or practice speaking English in the community.

"Writing is the most important thing for students planning to enter the regular undergraduate program," Domingue explains. "Learning how to write in a second language usually takes longer than speaking it," she adds.

The cultural possibilities, it seems, bring out the creativity in the ESL students. Recently some Korean students in the regular program visited Argyle School to teach their culture, games and songs to students there. "They also visited a senior's home, which went over very well," Domingue says.

ESL also offers five-week intensive English and culture programs. Besides language courses and workshops, this program offers activities such as horseback riding, canoeing, ice skating, curling, and attending the RCMP's sunset ceremonies in summer, or a hockey game in winter. ESL students also have access to all facilities at the U of R.

Homestay is one of the key cultural components of the ESL program. There are usually close to 200 families in Regina and area playing host to short-term and regular ESL students at any given time. Students are matched with Homestay participants according to their needs, hobbies and interests, Domingue says.

Deanne and Patrick Stawarz both teach in



Heather Jans (background) fell into teaching ESL accidentally, and then fell in love with it. "It's great to work with adult students," says Jans. "They're enthusiastic, and they come from so many different cultures and backgrounds." Jans is shown teaching the highest level ESL class - (1-1) Melissa Alvarado from Mexico, Chen Keke from China, Gang Tao from China, and Jung-sub Lee from Korea - which is the final preparation before students enter regular university courses.

U of R Photo by A/V Services

Regina, and they've hosted two female students from Japan. "They ask questions about the city and the country, and they want us to check their homework," Deanne says. "We took both

of them to Banff during their holiday break, and they're very appreciative. It's a great way to share cultures. Homestay has been a very positive experience for us," Deanne concludes.

CAMPUS LIFE CALENDAR

Thurs., Jan. 15 - 8 p.m.
Playwrights Reading Series
"How I Married off Almighty Voice"
Speaker: Daniel David Moses
Shu-Box Theatre
Info: 585-5562

Fri., Jan. 16 - 3:30 p.m.
Playwrights Reading Series
A reading of recent plays and poetry
Speaker: Daniel David Moses
First Nations University of Canada lobby
Info: 585-5562

Fri., Jan. 16 - 4 p.m.
History colloquium
"Writing Saskatchewan Women"
Speaker: Ann Leger-Anderson
Rm. 349, Administration-Humanities Bldg.
Info: 585-4209

Fri., Jan. 16 - 4 p.m.
Visual Arts lecture
"Home and Other Fictions"
Speaker: Rachelle Viader Knowles
Rm. 050, Riddell Centre
Info: 585-5557

Wed., Jan. 21 - 12 p.m.
Saskatchewan Instructional Development & Research Unit seminar
"The New International Office"
Speaker: Alain Boutet
Rm. 215, Education Bldg.
Info: 585-4309

Wed., Jan. 21 - 10:30 a.m.
Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy Lecture
"Aboriginal Peoples and Saskatchewan Industry"
Speaker: Jamie McIntyre
Gallery Building, College Avenue Campus
Info/Register: 585-5775

Wed., Jan. 21 - 12 Noon
Social Policy Research seminar
Poetry reading and a presentation
Speaker: Bruce Rice
Rm. 438, Education Bldg.
Info/RSVP: 585-4117

Sat.-Sun., Jan. 24 (8 p.m.) - 25 (2 p.m.)
Theatre production
The Prague Visitor
Shu-Box Theatre
Info/Tickets available only at door 585-585-562

Thurs., Jan. 29 - 1:15 p.m.
Saskatchewan Institute of Public Policy Lecture
"Education Opportunity-Privacy Legislation Compliance in Saskatchewan"
Speaker: R. Gary Dickson, Q.C.
Gallery Building, College Avenue Campus
Info/Register/Tickets: 585-5869

Fri., Jan. 30 - 3:30 p.m.
Playwrights Reading Series
"Cross Cultural Dramaturgy"
Speaker: Judith Rudakoff
Shu-Box Theatre
Info: 585-5562

Sat., Jan. 31 - 8 p.m.
Fine Arts Subscription Series
Department of Music faculty members performing various pieces
University Theatre, Riddell Centre
Tickets: \$8 Adults/\$6 Students & Seniors
Info: 585-5583

For a complete Calendar of Events at the University of Regina visit our Web site at www.uregina.ca

Chinese scholars holiday break an odyssey

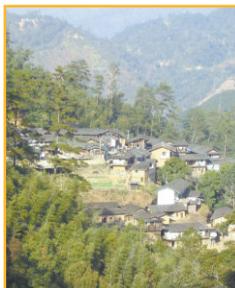
Traveling home for the year-end break is a time-honoured university tradition, but few could match the odyssey just completed by U of R professor Guoxiang Chi.

Nor could most match the modes of transport Chi used to reach his home in a remote village surrounded by mountains, in southeastern China. To further complicate matters Chi, an assistant professor in the Department of Geology, first traveled east before heading west to go home.

"The Chinese Embassy in Ottawa had organized a delegation of 12 Chinese Canadians at various universities, to visit some universities in the relatively underdeveloped area of western China," Chi explains. "The delegation included four of us from the University of Regina, including my colleague Dr. Qing in the Department of Geology."

Members of the delegation traveled to Ottawa, where they were guests of honour at a banquet hosted by the Chinese ambassador to Canada, before flying to Vancouver, Beijing, Xi'an and Guangzhou, the site of a large annual convention of overseas scholars in science and technology. Chi and Qing met with geologists at Chang'an University to discuss their common interest in mineral deposits. In particular, they talked about the largest lead-zinc deposit in sandstone in the world, which is located in southwestern China. They expect to make a field trip to the area with other geologists this summer to investigate the origin of the deposit.

Following the convention in Guangzhou,



University of Regina geology professor Guoxiang Chi's home village in the mountains of southeastern China: a four-day odyssey by plane, train, automobile, and foot.

Photo by Guoxiang Chi

Chi took the train to Longyan, where one of his uncles picked him up in a borrowed car. The uncle dropped him off at a village about five kilometers from his home village. Chi hiked the last leg of his trip home. "Mostly downhill," he says.

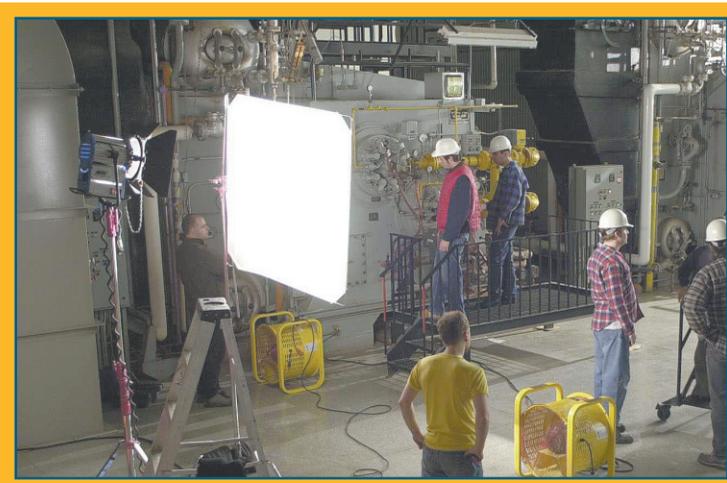
Chi's mother, sister and three younger brothers live in his home village. During his stay he and his brothers hiked in the

mountains looking for a final burial place for their father that would bring good luck to his descendants. It's a sign of respect that they waited for him, as the oldest brother, to come home so they could make this decision, Chi explains.

Chi came to the U of R in summer 2002, following 10 years doing research in Quebec for the University of Quebec and the Geological Survey of Canada. He learned English in high school, but being in Regina is his first opportunity to use it in an English-speaking environment.

Chi has made inroads in Saskatchewan into his two major research interests, petroleum geology and mineral deposits. Picking up a small clear plastic container from a box full of mineral samples collected from the oil-rich southeastern corner of the province, Chi explains that tiny "fluid inclusions" of water, oil or gas in the minerals give clues as to what kinds of fluids have migrated through these areas. His work could help find more oil or gas reserves. He's also making contact with people familiar with the geology of Saskatchewan's Precambrian Shield, and hopes to do some research with others on gold deposits in the northern area of the province.

How did someone from the mountains in China end up on the Regina Plains, four days travel time from home? "After 10 years of research, it was time for a change, and I wanted to try my hand at teaching," Chi says. "I'm enjoying it, and I'm very comfortable working here."



The University of Regina Heating Plant gets a star role as the innards of the oil rig, The Ocean Ranger, in a Partners in Motion documentary about the 1982 oil rig disaster. Filming took place in the plant earlier this week.