Niagara University: College of Business. For the last seven years, Dr. Tenpao Lee (Professor of Economics and Management) has led a group of students to China. In 2011, Dr. Jim Kling (Associate Professor of Management and Supply Chain) accompanied Dr. Lee and the ten students and kept a live blog of the trip which visited four cities in China and Tokyo, Japan. After a few group pictures, the blog begins in this document— in the chronological order it was posted during the trip. It includes short updates and student reflections. Thanks for your interest.

Below: Our group of twelve. The Following picture: The trip was a lot of FUN too!
There were many opportunities to meet and visit with Chinese students and others on the trip.
The blog as it was posted (with a few noted clarifications) begins on the next page.
Welcome Family and Friends

This site is designed to keep you updated about students at NU as they travel to China and Japan and return. The primary blogger is Jim Kling, NU prof accompanying the trip, but students will be able post comments and pictures too.

05/19/2011

Our Plane American Airlines 777

This is the inside of the Boeing 777 that we are flying from Chicago to Shanghai.

05/20/2011

Here are the two profs traveling to China and Japan with the students. Dr. Tenpao Lee is a very experienced traveler, Dr. Jim Kling not so much.
05/20/2011
SIMPLE DAY SCHEDULE:

Monday May 23: Travel Via American Airlines BUF-Chicago-Shanghai (Note: Flight was changed at the last minute to depart Toronto for Chicago.)

Tuesday May 24-Saturday May 28: In Shanghai: Presentation, Expo, Boat tour, Port Tour, Tour to Hongzhou on Friday, other attractions.

Sunday-Monday May 29-30: Nanjing, Dr. Sun’s Memorial, Confucius Temple, Presidential Palace

Overnight Train

Tuesday-Wednesday May 31 June 1: Jinan, The University, Mt. Tai Shain

Thursday-Sunday June 2-June 5: Beijing, Temple of Heaven, Great Wall, Forbidden City, Summer Palace, Shopping, other attractions.

Monday-Wednesday June 6-8: Tokyo, Japan

Thursday June 9 Return Tokyo-Chicago-BUF
We are here in Shanghai China. The flights--Air Canada from Toronto--and AMR from Chicago went perfectly on time. All the students are well and the 14 hour plane trip was not bad as there were a few empty seats so some of us could stretch out, move around, etc. We have checked into the University dorm hotel and just finished a wonderful Chinese multi-course dinner. I am writing this message from one of our host's office as I have no internet connection in my room for my computer. Tomorrow, hopefully I will be able to post pictures. For now, know all is well. Jim Kling 7:55 p.m. Shanghai time, 7:55 a.m. Niagara Time

05/24/2011
Update: Today, Wednesday, will be an all day visit to Shanghai. Late return. Posting pictures still difficult. Weather good. Limited internet access still and we share time. To see all posts go to profile tab above. Jim Kling 920 a.m.
05/25/2011

Wednesday Morning our students gave a presentation to a Chinese class. The Chinese students also gave presentations. All students were there although the picture may cut some out. Many good questions. Our students and Chinese students had fun and very friendly. Jim Kling 720 a.m. Thursday, for all posts click on profile or on pictures.

Wednesday after lunch went to Shanghai city center by bus. Modern parts a lot like Toronto or NYC but bigger. 7 Chinese students accompanied us. After Dinner went on cruise boat. Shanghai skyline lighted at night is magnificent. Modern, Chinese, and imperial architecture. Very impressive. Arrived back to East China Univ. campus at 9 pm had party with Chinese students until 1130. They have midnight curfew. All Chinese food so far and so far so good. Weather is pleasant, a bit cool and mostly cloudy. Some students very tired. Jim Kling 745 a.m. For more posts go to profile bar or click on pictures.
05/26/2011
Thursday morning we go to China cultural Museum. These traditional Chinese fishing boats take three years to build. All students are well but Tenpao is doing best to exhaust them. Somehow they seem to recover well in evening if some social activities are mentioned. Friday in a few minutes we go to Hangzhou a two hour drive. Jim Kling 655 a.m. Friday. For more posts go to profile button.

Thursday China Expo. Every day here in Shanghai we go to sites and are accompanied by students from the East China university. Here are all the girls in front of the China Expo. Set to close in 5 days. Jim Kling 750 a.m. For more posts click on profile.
Thursday afternoon after expo went to former Communist era factory shop complex turned into shops. Our favorite shopping so far. Then to Pizza Hut for dinner. My table of four had pan pizza and expensive drinks such as smoothies. Total for our table 170 rmb which is about $7 each. For more posts go to profile or click on pictures. Friday, in a few minutes we go to Hangzhou a two hour bus ride. Jim Kling 645 am Friday.

Shanghai at night. We were here on a boat cruise Wednesday night.
On Friday we traveled by Bus to Hangzhou, a Chinese lakeside resort and known as paradise on earth. This is a beautiful site and we had a very good experience but pollution and 90 minute traffic jam to get out of city at end of day. It was very interesting to see the "countryside" between Shanghai and Hangzhou. Small traditional farm plots and many nicer homes and several large industrial plants and coal burning power plants. Always hazy and could smell acrid smoke on trip back in dark. A high speed train line followed the highway. Clearly a bustling economy with all of its benefits and challenges. Huge new apartment complexes going up. It is fascinating and makes our challenges back in the USA look small. Posted by Jim Kling Saturday 6 a.m.

05/27/2011
Professor Lee teaching us the Eastern way at the Buddhist Temple in Hangzhou.
05/27/2011

Friday in morning climbed to top of this Pagoda in Hangzhou West Lake. We also took a boat ride and visited a Buddhist temple. Off to train station now to get train to visit the container ship port at Shanghai.

Mandi: Back to Friday's trip to Hong-Zhou, we visited many different Buddhist temples. Each one had a different Buddhist God to pray or wish to. The statues of the Gods inside the temple were very large and impressive. There were also trees in which people could write their wish on a red cloth and tie it to the tree in hopes of their wish coming true. Many wishes were for good health and hopes of getting accepted into universities. Hong-Zhou was very large and involved a lot of walking but it was an amazing experience once we reached each temple. Blog by Mandi (Wearing LOVE PINK).
Saturday the students below explain. Here is a map of the bridge, island port and the new city described below. Tomorrow, Sunday we go by high speed train to Nanjing. Jim Kling 930 pm Saturday. We should have internet in Nanjing.

Saturday the group had the opportunity to head to one of Shanghai's free trade area's. Entering the free trade area by bus we took the east sea bridge which is 34.5 km's long and was renamed during construction. After being named East Sea bridge (from the donghai bridge), the East sea Dragon (apparently) left the area and construction continued smoothly. After the bus ride across the bridge we arrived at Shanghai's Yangshan Deep water port. This port is being constructed in 4 parts; the first 2 have been completed. This particular port is massive one of the worlds largest; 13 million TEU's go through the port each year according to the tour guide. (A TEU is one half of a truck trailer: twenty foot equivalent) Graham 9:25 Saturday
Saturday we actually went to a calm part of china, hardly any people at all! We visited a new city that has just been built in the past 6 years. The city was man built. The construction started 30 years ago when they built a levy in the sea to block the water and for it to become dry land. The land slowly developed into a wetland and about 5 years ago they filled in the wet land with sand and built an entire town over it. All the roads were brand new and the architecture was amazing, but the city is still empty! All the new buildings and hotels are unoccupied; one of our Chinese friends told us that land may be bad luck to some Chinese because it isn't natural and killed wildlife. The picture is of the girls playing on one of the structures in the new city. It was a peaceful day and still very interesting! I hope my mom and my friends appreciate all my new knowledge and are jealous! --Katlin 9:18 pm

Saturday! Hey mom and dad! China has been amazing so far and we've been going all day since early in the morning. We have to leave Shanghai tomorrow (Sunday). Today we went to the Shanghai port and it was very interesting. Then to a city that they are building around a man-made lake that's pretty much dead and empty. I hope all is well at home.. Mom, be prepared to cook some food when I get home. I will have a bunch of requests! Oh also today I tried Octopus I will never need to have that again and I have proof!! See you soon! Love you! Maddi Saturday 9:10pm.
Saturday afternoon we visited Dripping Lake with our Chinese friends. The lake is man-made and is surrounded by a developing city which is also built on man-made land. There are many empty buildings and few people. We are likely a few of the first American tourists to ever visit this area. Many Chinese people are fascinated by American tourists and like to take pictures of us as they pass by. The visit was interesting and was a relaxing break from the face-paced city. Molly Dillon Saturday, 9pm.

NOTE: This is not Dripping Lake. It is Hangzhou.

05/28/2011  Picture of Saturday Night's farewell party with the Chinese students from East China University. If you are new to the blog, click on the profile bar to see all the posts or click on a picture. We are averaging over 150 hits a day--thanks for following our trip. Jim Kling Sunday 1005 pm.
05/29/2011

Early Sunday morning we left Shanghai and headed off on our next adventure. We headed to the train station at 7:30 by bus. When we arrived we decided that it was time to eat. We had a delicious breakfast of Egg McMuffins, hash browns, orange juice and coffee!! Never had McDonalds been such and exciting sight! After our delicious breakfast we headed off to the train. The picture is of us preparing to board. The train station was huge with lots of trains and all sorts of things. Once we boarded we spent our time on the train playing cards, reading and just chatting. The ride was very smooth and fast compared to our train ride yesterday. It was really neat that as we were going we could actually see our current speed, at some points we got close to 300 km/h. The ride was very enjoyable and we arrived safely to Nanjing. Hotel vans picked us up from the station and we are now at our amazing 4 star hotel!!! We had many amazing adventures in Shanghai but it was time to move on and explore the rest of the country. We just had a great day here and it is now 7:26 Sunday evening. Hi to everyone back home! Love and Miss you all ~Julia
Sunday we went to the "Memorial Hall of the victims in Nanjing Massacre by Japanese Invaders." In 1937-38 at the start of WWII Japan invaded China and here in Nanjing there was the "rape of Nanjing." 300,000 people mostly civilians were killed and the city was looted and largely burned. It was the capital of China at the time. We walked through this museum like Memorial Hall. For a change, Kal wasn't the last of the group--looking for shopping. Maddi and I are history buffs and everyone was waiting for us at the end. Jim Kling 833 pm Sunday.

Brent: Sunday was a fantastic day (not unlike all of the other days spent here in China so far). Today we arrived in Nanjing by way of high-speed train. Great weather, good food, and some interesting locations made the day one of the most enjoyable we have seen yet. The memorial hall of the massacre at Nanjing was our first stop in the city and it served as one of the most riveting experiences so far in the trip. All politics aside, the Memorial Hall served as a strong testimony to the atrocity of war and the amount of devastation it can cause not only to the structure of a city but more importantly the incredible impact it can have on the occupants of that city. There was an uplifting side to the Memorial in seeing some of the humane actions people took in order to help some of the victims of the massacre. Our second stop in the city was the Confucius Temple. Surrounding the Temple was a beautiful area filled with small shops and a breathtaking river. After some shopping we headed back to the hotel and I took a walk around the surrounding area. In a small park square we found a large group of older locals doing a sort of aerobics class. It is eye-opening to see how important exercise is to all of the citizens, it might be a good idea for me to learn a lesson from the people here and take a jog after dinner some me.
Sunday: By Andrew: After we dropped off our stuff at the hotel, the crew took the taxi to the memorial hall of Nanjing massacre, the hall has many graveyards of the victims during Nanjing massacre around it and the hall is built not only for the historical purpose, but also a place where people can show respect to the victims. the other purpose of that memorial hall is to hope the future will be peaceful, as one of the quotes written at the memorial hall is "forgivable, but unforgettable.,” which means Chinese people had forgiven what happened during the massacre, but it is something we cannot allow to happen again in the future.

Sunday was a good day for the students. The weather cleared, the train was fast (250-300 kph), we got out more on our own, lunch was ordered specifically by Tenpao (he knows what we like now), and the hotel is five-star. The next ten days will be different from the first week. While in Shanghai we were escorted around by the East China students who we liked a lot, they joined us each day on various outings. Now we are out on our own. For instance, today we had to split into three cabs to get around Nanjing, and Group 1 (Maddi, Julia, Molly, and Jim (me) got dropped off on the other side of the large "temple shopping area." We went into the temple which we nicknamed the maze temple, as it was unclear what it was all about and for tourists like us a miracle we found our way out. The rest had simply started shopping and wondered where we were. The "maze temple" is pictured. In case you are wondering, each group has an international cell phone in case we really get separated. Tomorrow we will check out of the hotel late, do karaoke while we wait for the midnight overnight train to Jinan, so not sure about posts the next 48 hours and not sure what the internet connection will be in Jinan. Everyone is doing great! Jim Kling Sunday 848 pm.
05/30/2011

Monday Afternoon I have just enough time for one quick entry before late check-out from the Hotel. Some sightseeing, dinner, karaoke, and then long wait for 1 a.m. train which gets in at 7 a.m., then climb mount tai shan in early morning, then to jinan university. Picture here is at the Presidential palace, the "white house" of the government for first half of 20th century and before. May be awhile before next entry. New viewers use Profile tab to see more entries. Jim Kling 120 pm Monday.

Monday night before the train we went to Karaoke next to our hotel. Everyone sang at least one song. Graham was the inspirational leader. Here are the "beauty girls" as they all have been nicknamed by the Chinese. Jim Kling 445 pm Tuesday.
We have arrived in Jinan at the University hotel which is of good quality and the fastest internet yet. We successfully climbed Mt Taishan after the night train ride. I will try to get students to blog tonight on the details. Here is the Railroad station in Taishan, very "undeveloped" as our greeter told us. We go to dinner with the Dean of Jinan University Business School tonight at 6. Finally today some truly rural countryside. This area of China reminds me of Arizona-Utah area of USA. Jim Kling 455 pm Tuesday. For more posts go to Profile bar.

Tuesday night: When we first arrived at this hotel, it definitely exceeded our expectations after spending a night on the overnight train. This also was one of the first nights that we as a group got to be dressed up for an occasion, everyone looked spiffy :). The dinner was very extravagant and extraordinary. There were a couple of dishes that we did recognize from the dining out for these couple of days, however;
there were also several dishes that were different to what we were used to. The Dean of the business school and his associates here at Jinnan were very welcoming beyond our expectations. They took their time to teach us their traditional Chinese drinking culture (tip the cup/bottle over your head after you're done drinking to make sure it's empty). We were very surprised, at the same time fascinated. The extravagant dinner was followed by a professional noodle chef demonstrating the ways and techniques to make fresh noodles, we were all very impressed while observing. Overall, this dinner was by far the most splendid dinner we had here in China, thanks to the careful consideration of the Dean of the school of business, and Connie, his associate who helped us today. . Blogged by Anh Tran, 9.59 PM China time.

06/01/2011

Back to Tuesday Morning our train got in late and then we climbed Mt Taishan at mid-day. Here is a picture. Over 3000 steps to the top. Took 2 hours. Jim Kling
06/01/2011

Wednesday: Here is our very nice hotel in Jinan. Anh's blog about the dinner was right on. The Dean and staff here have been wonderful hosts. They have invited us to dinner again tonight. The students are making a very favorable impression here--you should all be proud.

Jim Kling 5 pm

Wednesday morning we met a group of Chinese students and gave our presentations and then had time to speak one-on-one. Jim Kling 5 pm

Wednesday afternoon we did some light sightseeing at a museum and local park. The Chinese do a great job with their parks. We saw numerous couples getting their advanced wedding pictures. One couple agreed to join us for a photo. This is the reverse of normal when people are constantly asking us to pose for photos with them. Graham and his tattoos, Kal with her dark complexion and the blond girls get the most requests. This was especially true today since this is not a tourist spot so it is unusual to see Americans. Also, there are few if any English accompaniments to signs here once outside the university.
Wednesday, our full day at Jinan University the sky is blue and everyone is healthy. Jinan U is 30,000 students. The city has a military base and gasoline refinery center. But is up next to some small mountains and is very attractive place to live in my opinion. (Note: Actually the city is considered too hot by most Chinese people). I have posted a series of short posts with pics today. Students are resting before dinner.. Jim Kling 515 pm
Wednesday evening our dinner was less formal but still a lot of fun. Graham, our definitely over 21 Canadian student was our designated drinker and more than upheld the honor of his university and country. After the event, pictured here is our hotel lobby. Now off to Beijing. We expect good internet connections there but we have learned to expect the unexpected. Jim Kling Thursday 645 am

Thursday

Thursday we made it to Beijing by train and subway by 3 pm then went shopping at the famous discount markets--electronics, handbags, north face jackets, pearls, etc. See picture. Tomorrow the Great Wall. For some reason the internet here is not letting us access notepad.com so I am posting this via my contacts in Lewiston. With internet here, expect the unexpected. Jim Kling Thursday 9 pm
06/02/2011

In Beijing

We are in Beijing today and will be leaving shortly for the Great Wall. It is a real eye-opening trip and my colleague Dr. Lee is a very good teacher of Chinese culture, etc. which makes this better than a regular tour. If you are a follower of the post there may be few entries the next three days. For some reason typepad.com is blocked here in Beijing or is not working, since it won't come up on the internet.

06/03/2011

Friday Morning

Friday morning we set out early for the Ming Tombs. There are 13 in all but only two have been refurbished. These were built around the year 1400 and is the original construction although repaired of course so they can be toured. I was most impressed by the huge wooden pillars which I assumed to be original. It was a beautiful clear day with a nice breeze. Afterwards, we all walked through a gate which returned us to the living world and in the chinese tradition say "I'm back" when we do so. Jim Kling Friday 815 pm.

06/03/2011

Friday Mid-Day
Friday Mid-day. It's a nice day to climb the Great Wall. Sunny and breezy with good visibility. The crowds were light. Here is one picture from the “top” of the section we climbed. Near the wall at the entrance-way was a symbolic trio that represents three big influences in China today. A series of stone plaques representing the generals who helped build the wall in the Ming and Qin dynasties over hundreds of years--this is the traditional China. Next to these plaques is a large set of Chinese words in the wall that Chairman Mao said: "If you have not climbed the great wall you cannot be a hero." Many people were having their pictures taken here. Directly Across the street was a KFC! I will try to get the kids to blog more on their experience. Jim Kling 830 pm. Friday. If you are new to Blog click on Profile Bar to see more posts.

06/04/2011

Bucket List Item: THE GREAT WALL OF CHINA – Check.  By Kal
It’s something that everyone knows of and many dream of seeing one day; an item on that checklist of to-do’s in one’s lifetime, hoping to be realized... As of yesterday, for the fortunate 12 of us on this journey, this item can now be proudly crossed off.

We were on Day 12 of our China adventure and while each day has been incredible, no doubt the cram-packed days of touring, have been exhausting. However, bright and early yesterday morning something seemed different as we boarded the bus that would eventually take us to the infamous ‘wall’. A sort of renewed energy, you could say – a renewal that was evident in each of us. As we neared out destination, the anticipation mounted. It was an unsaid game of ‘who could spot the Wall, first’... The various signs confirmed that we had almost arrived and then as we turned that final bend, it began to unfold before us; The magnificent Great Wall of China. It was pretty surreal to actually see this famous site, right there in front of us. We visited the Badaling entrance of the Wall. Before the group split in two to conquer separate directions of the Wall, we stopped to take a group photo with Mandi’s Buffalo Sabres flag to show some true, team-pride! Of course, Mandi also got a great solo-shot later on, which will no doubt make the jumbotron next season.. (right, guys?!).
I think I can speak for all of us when I say that this experience may have meant something slightly different to each of us, it was something special. Perhaps it’s the fame of this site – or the history, or perhaps even the mystery. Regardless, it was something that we have all shared and will never forget! Can’t believe we only have one day left in China – then off to Tokyo on Monday! See you all soon J Kal Hawkins, Saturday, 9:17 PM.

Negotiating in China by Molly. When shopping in China, especially at the Pearl Market, the price is always negotiable. Designer purses, sunglasses, wallets, pearls, North Face jackets, and suitcases are just a few of the purchases we have made by negotiating as much as possible. Though we have over paid for some items, we have improved our skills throughout the trip. The trick to getting a good price is setting a maximum price and walking away if the seller does not agree. When you walk away, you usually get your desired price. Building relationships with the merchants, buying items in bulk, and agreeing to bring your friends back to buy things are all valuable tools when bartering. Some of our best deals include 120 yuen for North Face Jackets (equal to about $20 U.S.) and 400 yuen for Beats Headphones (equal to about $66 U.S.). These items each cost between $200 and $300 at home. Many students also negotiated on pearl and jade jewelry, for prices around 50 yuen (less than $10). We had a good time shopping, and feel accomplished for the bartering we have done. When we returned to the market a second time, many of the sellers recognized us and gave us more deals. The North Face man sold about 10 jackets to our group alone. Brent also got a deal on t-shirts by taking a young Chinese lady out for ice cream. Everyone at the market wants to become your friend to offer a “special price.” We have learned that these prices are not so special after all. You have to be tough and hold your ground. The sellers are very skilled sales people. If you could see us in action you would be very proud! Family members can look forward to all sorts of goodies when we return! The toughest part is, fitting it in our suitcases! We have finished most of our shopping, and have had no trouble spending our money, but we have definitely gotten the most for our money here in Beijing. Love to everyone at home. See you in a few days! Molly Dillon, Saturday 8:30 pm.
Repost of Friday afternoon. After the trip to the Ming Tomb and Great Wall we finally had some down time. A few of us went to get some laundry washed. Most clothes washing here is still done by hand and then hung out to dry. You see apartment buildings with the windows open and people's laundry hanging out very commonly. For 5 Yuan which is about 80 cents we took a bag of clothes to the University laundry here and they washed it in one hour but don't dry it. Also we hand wash our clothes in the sink and hang it up to dry. Here are my shirts hanging up in our hotel room. We are eating most meals here in the hotel and the food is good. Jim Kling Friday 730 pm.

Saturday Morning here is the group at the Forbidden City. Impressive in its scale and historical significance but crowds were large, weather humid and lots of walking. Then we went to a couple of shopping areas including our favorite "pearl market area." Lots of negotiation skills learned today and a great lesson in markets for all our business students. Sunday is to be a day to relax before our early morning flight to Japan on Monday. Jim Kling Saturday 545 pm.
Saturday morning we walked over a mile to the subway and then got off at the area of the forbidden city. This was the emperors palace and historically has a lot of significance where the emperor would meet foreign officials, empower other leaders, etc. The forbidden city is a huge series of 15th century palace structures and sits at one end of what is somewhat like Washington DC's Mall area. Many government buildings and the famous square are here, parades are here, etc. as Beijing is the capital of China today. Pictured here is the square. Jim Kling Saturday 540 pm.

Countryside reflection by Jim Kling. Beijing is a very contemporary city. Before we are off to Tokyo which is even more so I want to blog on the countryside that is visible from the train but is hard to take pictures of. Around Shanghai, which is China's most prosperous city, the "countryside" consists of a mix of micro farms with houses mixed with industrial developments. According to our students in Shanghai,
the rich of China’s countryside have nice three story homes adjacent to maybe 1/8th of an acre planted vegetables, etc. Imagine the size of three hotel rooms stacked on top of each other this is about the size. Many will have a car parked outside. Some of the best of these are pictured in the background along with a larger field and high speed train line. These plots are private land ownings and so you might see one nicely rebuilt home and next to it a two story traditional brick and stucco home "undeveloped." Between Shanghai and Nanjing there was no rural area at all as we would think of it. China’s countryside is a fascinating mix of smaller cities with new apartments going up while crumbling one and two story dwellings, of brick and stone are still predominant, always in rows. Most are clearly lived in while others have been abandoned. Lots of crumbling stone and construction debris but little trash in our sense, as everything possible is recycled quickly--you never see junk cars or other valuable trash that mars the side of the northeast corridor rail line in the USA. On the train, small rivers or canals are common, around Shanghai always lined with motorized barges moving mostly coal but I am sure many other commodities. Sad to say smog and a smell that is some mix of coal burning and plastic manufacturing fills the air most of the time in this densely populated part of the country. On our night train from Nanjing to Taishan I glimpsed true rural land with large tracts of wheat and low mountains. It was good to see true rural land. Bus from Taishan to Jinan, very pretty countryside, many areas too steep to farm, sparsely populated. from Jinan to Beijing lots of agriculture vegetable farming and what appeared to be more commune style housing and larger fields, housing not in very good condition, but always with new construction somewhere around. The contrast is shocking at times. Imagine a tract of the worst two story apartment housing Niagara Falls has to offer all in drab gray-brown color with no electricity. Then next to it a wide modern street and 3-5 story new condominium style housing that would not be out of place in Ft. Myers Florida or other developing cities. And industry and power plants mixed in seemingly indiscriminately. For instance, in Nanjing city there was a large power plant with a brand new high rise apartment building right next to it and an aging hospital on the other side. I have a picture of this I will try to post later. China is making great strides but it is a huge challenge. Jim Kling
Reflections by Mandi on Trains. Throughout this trip, we have experienced plenty of planes, trains and automobiles. For me, the most exciting part was getting to experience a train. I’d never been on a train before, let alone an overnight sleeper train. On this trip so far, we’ve taken 3 trips via train throughout China. Two out of the three trips had me (if not everyone) surprised. The first train ride we took was via one of the newest high-speed trains in China from Shanghai to Nanjing. The train station looked more like the Buffalo Airport, probably even nicer (Shanghai station pictured, some weren’t so nice). It was new, clean, large, and very modern. Once we boarded the train, I think everyone was pleasantly surprised. The high-speed train was everything we expected and more. Like its station, it was new, clean, and modern. The seats felt nicer than airplane seats and the ride was smoother than a new car. It was also exciting to see how fast it went – slightly more than 310km/hr!

After our short stay in Nanjing, we were off to Taishan to climb Mt. Tai before going to Jinan. The trip from Nanjing to Taishan could not have been more different than the ride to Nanjing was. We took an overnight train which was supposed to be about 6.5 hours long, but ended up being about 8 hours due to technical difficulties. The train station was much older and not very well kept. The overnight train was also fairly old, and much more crowded than the high-speed train. The train offered 2 different tickets – “soft-sleepers” and “hard-sleepers.” “Soft-sleepers” had 2 bunk beds in each cabin that had 2 beds each. “Hard-sleepers” had 2 bunk beds in each cabin that had 3 beds to each bunk. Two of us were privileged enough to be in the soft cabins while the rest of us were in the hard cabins and all of us had a top bunk. The train ride itself wasn’t as smooth or comfortable as the high-speed train but for an older train it was still fairly well kept and offered basic sleeping necessities such as pillows and blankets. It was definitely interesting to experience the older version of train transportation and also get to see where their train technology is headed! That’s all for now! Off to Japan in the morning! See you all soon! – Mandi

(Sunday, 6/5/11 10:05pm)
Sunday June 5th: Chinese Food by Katlin Gurz - General Tso’s chicken, beef and broccoli, fried rice or even fortune cookies are not to be seen in China. The food in China definitely was a surprise compared to the Chinese food that is served in America. It is a different experience to see only Chinese restaurants around in comparison to the large variety we have back at home. When thinking of places to eat at home you decide whether you want Italian, Greek, Japanese, Mexican or many more. The diversity here comes down to Chinese food, McDonalds, KFC, or Pizza Hut. The fast food chains are also very different from the way they are at home. McDonalds seem to be a lot more high class here, even having different types, such as McCafe, and McDonalds Ice Cream Shop. The Pizza Huts and KFC’s are targeted towards the Chinese pallets. The pizzas have a lot of fish on them and you can’t custom order them, and KFC serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner each having Chinese options.

Our dinners didn’t consist of fast food places though, we were fortunate to have many traditional Chinese dinners. For dinner we would usually be seated in a VIP section (no big deal) which included a private room with impeccable service. We would be served multiple dishes at a pretty fast rate on a lazy Susan in the middle of the table. The dishes included a lot of seafood, tofu and pork. The dishes were usually sweet; they don’t add salt or cheese to their food unlike America. I found that the hardest meal to get used to was breakfast. We were usually given a bowl of soup and a hardboiled egg. They eat a lot of vegetables and meat with their breakfast, but not like bacon and sausage. One meal that sticks out in my head was a big bowl of soup that included chicken feet, haha that was interesting! We also got served the leftovers of a chicken all served together, such as chicken feet, heart, liver and even the beak. Not a lot of people were too adventurous to try that one! Our group did very well trying everything though! Towards the end of the trip, Dr. Lee spoiled us with our favorite meals so it got difficult to become adventurous again! Compared to America the food here is much healthier for you, a lot less fried and salty foods and many vegetables! Ps. they also don’t have those cool Chinese takeout boxes if anyone was wondering! I specifically asked J off to Japan bright and early, see everyone soon !! Katlin 9:38 pm
Sunday June 5th: **Last Day in China. By Julia**  
After a full two weeks of traveling across the country everyone was pretty exhausted and worn out, so on our final day we had the luxury of sleeping in. We spent the morning relaxing and trying to re-energize ourselves as we prepare to head to Japan. Also it took many of us a good part of the morning to try and repack our suitcases to fit in all of the goodies that we purchased over the last few days. After a relaxing morning most of the group ate lunch and we went off separate ways to explore Beijing. I was lucky enough to meet up with a friend from school Shan. She attended school with me for a year on her study abroad and we had many classes together and became good friends. Lucky for me she lived only a short drive from the hotel where we were staying. My dad and I met her at the south gate of the school and we headed off with her and her father. They drove us to see their apartment which was very nice and furnished in a typical Chinese fashion. After spending some time there with her family, Shan took us to a local traditional place to eat. It was a Beijing Noodle House where we ate a delicious meal! Basically we had a bowl of handmade noodles with veggies, sauce, and some meat was added to. It was quite difficult to mix all together so one of the waitresses helped us all. This was a real test of our chopstick skills, but I can say that we both did incredibly well! It was very nice to be able to spend some time with Shan and see the way she lives and meet her family; it really gave me another perspective on the Chinese lifestyle.

The rest of the group split up as well, some continued to shop while others headed to the zoo. We all came back together to enjoy our last meal here in China. Overall it was a great day to conclude our exciting two weeks here. Everyone now is doing some last minute packing to prepare for our early departure tomorrow morning! Off to Japan we go!

Julia 8:34 PM Sunday June 5th

---

**June 5th Reflections by Graham Walker.** So I have been throughout China for about the last 2 weeks, and there have been a number of things that have struck me about the culture here. The most predominant aspect I have noticed was the underlying struggle of old culture and new culture. I can imagine with the advent of the internet, globalization, and traveling abroad the people of china can experience other cultures arts, entertainment and ways of life.
When first in Shanghai the group went to many temples with the students of East China University. It was nice to have them as guides as it nice to interact with them, but also get their perspective of Chinese culture. While at these temples they would tell us how when men walk in to a temple they must cross the threshold with their left foot and the opposite for women. In addition there were many specifics to praying at these temples. I would ask them if they still follow these guide lines, and they said it was typically only their parents and elders that would follow these rules.

When first arriving in China we had expected that many web sites would be blocked, Facebook would be one of them. The students informed us that although it is blocked, they have found “proxies” that would allow them to access various social media sites, again, this struggle of old and new. I think my defining moment I noticed this paradigm shift was yesterday the 4th while taking a bus through Beijing. I have been getting use to traditional Chinese music and most of the students have said, yes that it mostly what we listen to. However, yesterday while on the bus I heard Top 40 American Rap being blasted from the streets. Now typically this wouldn’t catch my attention, but you have to understand the context in which I’m hearing this music, in the capital of a communist country.

Who knows maybe it is similar to how many of us grow up thinking we will never be like our parents, but many of us embody incredibly similar mannerisms. I feel as the youth of China grow up they have more access to the world abroad; they will embrace other cultures such as many countries from around the world have. I think this is health to take pieces that we like from other cultures to ultimately make our own identities. However, similar to us, I feel that they too will end up very much like their parents and embody similar values that they were raised on.
We have arrived in Tokyo after uneventful plane ride but long train ride and then walk to hotel. Picture here is on train from far out Narita International Airport. At this hotel we all have single micro rooms. Room has single mattress on floor and not much more. Thank you to Patsy and Melissa being the link to keep the blog going while in Beijing. Once the kids realize they can update their facebooks from here my computer will be in high demand, but I not sure if I have the right electrical connection for my charger. Jim Kling, Monday 350 pm Local Time.

Dinner Monday at Japanese Sushi House with dishes on conveyors which go past your table and you take off what you want to eat. I personally had five different selections, all good. Others were more cautious. Tuesday we leave early to see the Tokyo Fish market. Two computers in lobby of hotel so kids have been checking out facebook and emailing. Jim Kling 930 pm local time.
The Japanese sure eat a lot of fish as is apparent in stores, restaurants, and the fish market. The fish market is a bustling place where mostly wholesale trade is being conducted on fish coming off the docks and being processed and sold. Tuesday 440 pm Jim Kling

Tuesday Morning after the fish market and a nice park like shrine to the Meiji emperor, we ended up in a hip shopping area of Tokyo popular with young people. A TV crew took pictures of all the girls and interviewed Kal and Julia about whether they wanted to look older or younger and what their make-up strategies were. Jim Kling 450 pm Tuesday
Tuesday evening Japanese style dinner in Tokyo. Tenpao and Andrew had "raw fish special" which was squid, octopus, and some other fish. Three of us had grilled "saba" fish which was delicious and most of the rest had roasted chicken. Jim Kling 710 am Wednesday.

Tuesday Night after dinner. Most of us went to Tokyo Tower, pictured here, to get a better perspective on the city. We have been traveling everywhere by subway here in Japan. While shopping was a real deal in China, in Japan everything seems expensive. Jim Kling Wednesday 710 a.m.
06/08/2011

Wednesday we saw our first rain. It was also a day we found several venues closed. Due to the power shortages from the earthquake, fountains, subway air conditioning, etc. are in reduced levels of usage.

Jim Kling Thursday 630 am Tokyo time.

Wednesday some of us went to the Electronics market. It is something like 8 floors of Best Buy. Lots of interesting selection but no real deals. Here is what a Japanese refrigerator apparently looks like.

Jim Kling Thursday 635 am
Wednesday Evening the students had the idea to arrange and treat Tenpao to a final nice dinner as a thank you. Ann and Andrew took the lead in finding the steak house and figuring out how to get there by bus. It was also my opportunity to thank Tenpao and the students by covering the extra yen above what a normal dinner would have cost. Kal joined us a few minutes late and bought a round of drinks. It was a great way to end the trip. Jim Kling Thursday 640 am

Closing Comments from Tenpao. (Pictured, students in front of Beijing Olympic Stadiums)

Dr. Kling asked me to write something for our trip blog.

Parents and Students:

Thanks for your trust and letting me take your kids to China and Japan. We had many unexpected incidents this year, e.g. cancelled flights, insufficient train tickets, etc. However, everything ended with optimal solutions and everyone behaved well and will be home safely soon. I believe this trip will have significant impacts on your kids with lifetime memories. It is cultural as well as educational. Your kids have not only learned things of other countries, but also will appreciate more about our own country. We stayed together 24 hours a day for 17 days. We are a family now and we have helped one another throughout the trip. We know many confidential things of each other and we also created many fond memories among our own. Hope we will have the opportunity to travel together again and I am willing to be a follower rather than a fearless leader.

Tenpao
Trip Home Information. It is now Thursday morning 7 a.m. here in Tokyo. We will go out and get some breakfast and check out by 11 am. It's nearly a two hour train trip to the Narita airport and our flight leaves at 6:15 pm local time. Lots of time for check in and any contingencies. It is flight AMR 154 to Chicago. That flight should get into Chicago about 5 pm Thursday Lewiston time. Flight AMR 4232 is scheduled to get into Buffalo at midnight. Thanks everyone for following the blog. Perhaps I will see some of you at the airport. The students are all required to post one reflection blog (four already have posted). So keep checking the blog. It has been a privilege to accompany these fine young people and learn so much from Tenpao. Jim Kling Thursday 7:10 am Tokyo Time. New viewers use Profile bar to see more posts.
06/10/2011
Friday: Home at BUF at 2 a.m. We left our hotel in Tokyo at what was 10 p.m. Lewiston Time on Wednesday. We arrived at the Buffalo airport at 2 a.m. Friday Lewiston time. 28 HOURS. What a great group of travelers! This picture is at Chicago O’Hare Airport after learning that our last flight segment to Buffalo was ready to board! Jim Kling.

06/12/2011

Julia's reflection on language differences. Pictured here an unusual international sign. When being in a country such as China or Japan one might think that the language barrier would be a difficult roadblock in our journey, but for the most part that was not the case. Throughout the time we were abroad we were totally immersed in their culture and their language. While that was true there was also a significant amount of English around (especially in the larger cities) that made understanding things much easier. While English signs helped us determine directions and gain a better understanding of our locations, it was the communication with the people that was not nearly as difficult as I had imagined.

While in China Tenpao or other Chinese students did most of the talking for us, but when we were in Japan we were on our own. I was pleasantly surprised by how accommodating people were in both China and Japan to easily help us out. Things as simple as having a small menu to easily point at in McDonalds, or someone in line who speaks a little bit of English willing to help you out. At some points on the trip it was a bit frustrating when someone was just speaking straight at you in Japanese and no one had any idea what they were saying, but these incidents were few and far between. Most incidents like that occurred at the train stations where there was occasionally some confusion about which trains to take and problems with the machines taking our tickets. None of these issues were serious though and were always quickly resolved. For the most part the language barrier was really not as bad as I may have expected.

One of the reasons I think that this may be so is that it seemed to me that Japanese and especially Chinese people are very interested in the way that Americans live their lives and are very accommodating. Many of the Chinese students we talked to wanted to know all about our lives at home and had mastered the English language quite well. In Japan Kal and I were even interviewed about the
different beauty practices of women in the United States and Japan. Both of these cultures were interested in what we thought and who we were. I think that is something that we can take away from this experience, is appreciating that drive to really discover new things about people and cultures and applying that to people we meet at home.

Reflection on Taxis and Traffic by Maddi Saturday 6/11/11
While we were in Shanghai we really got our first glimpse at the amount of traffic in China. It often took us a while to get anywhere in the city by car, unless it was very early in the morning. Nanjing, Jinan, and Beijing were very similar; always congestion and stop and go many times. In Nanjing we took our very first taxi ride and it was crazy. The cab drivers sometimes (or often) drove on the opposite side of the road crossing the yellow line, to pass another car that was going too slow. They pushed the gas when they saw the countdown on the light was getting close to zero, but they never ran a red light. We figured out the reason why they try and get you to your destination so quickly. It is because you’re charged by the kilometer instead of the amount of time it takes for you to arrive at your destination. So they want to get rid of you as soon as possible in order to get the next customer. I would say Nanjing was the craziest city when it came to cab drivers, but that’s only my opinion, and the worst city for traffic was either Shanghai or Beijing. Riding in a taxi in China was an experience I will never forget because of how different it was and how it sometimes was a little scary.
**Andrew’s reflections on pollution in China and Japan.**

Pictured here Nanjing, China, where a Power plant is located directly next to a new apartment building and close to a very picturesque temple from where this picture was taken.

Andrew: We were traveling China and Japan for almost two and half weeks. During this trip, we had seen a lot of differences between China and Japan, such as the air, smoking laws and the cleanliness of the street. First, I am pretty sure all of us knew first off that Japan does not have a pollution problem like China. While we were traveling around China, most of the time we could barely see the clear blue sky because of the pollution and the air is really thick. In Japan, not only did we see the clear sky, the air was very refreshing. As for smoking laws, while we were at China, we saw people smoke everywhere, people can smoke anywhere except the airport and the train station. When we arrived in Japan, we saw people smoking, but in Japan, there is a law that you cannot smoke while you walk. Finally, the cleanliness of the streets of these two countries is very different. China’s streets have a lot of trash lying around, and it is not too bad, but it is something that is quite noticeable. In Japan, the streets were very clean, I am pretty sure that there are people that clean the streets every night. China and Japan have their own uniqueness, all of us are grateful to go on this trip and be able to visit China and Japan.

**Brent's reflection on toilets.** (Pictured is Japanese version). There are some major differences between the USA, China and Japan and these differences could not be represented better than through the toilets of the perspective countries. We all know what the typical experience of using the toilet is in western countries. Well in China and Japan this experience varies from what most people here are used to. In China using the bathroom in public places usually consists of squatting over a hole in the ground. While there are some western style toilets around, there have been many times for me personally when these are just not available. There are also many times where toilet paper is not provided in Chinese restrooms so it is very wise to carry some spare tissue while traveling throughout China. This type of bathroom represents China because it seems to be very economical (with a limited supply of toilet paper people tend not to waste it) and efficient which is very important to a country with so many people.

Japan on the other hand is the exact opposite when it comes to the restroom experience. When I first got to Japan I was slightly puzzled by the small computer attached to the side of the toilet seat. This actually turned out to be a bidet. After a little experimenting with pushing buttons with Japanese characters on them I found the bidet to be a very comfortable experience. Even many public places had this style of toilet. This represents Japan in that there seems to be more of a focus on technology and comfort rather than being economical. Toilets from the USA seem to fit right in-between these two
extremes we experienced in our trip but I would love to upgrade to a Japanese toilet any day.

Anh’s Reflection on fashion in China and Japan (Pictured: Land Rover display in Shanghai).

Prior to this trip, many of us confused Chinese and Japanese traditions. One of our most common confusion was traditional and modern dress. There were many times during the trip when someone in that group thought a Kimono was a Chinese traditional dress instead of Japan. In fact, the Chinese traditional outfit is called Qipao. Walking the streets of China and Japan are well-dressed individuals who seemed to take fashion to a whole new level. Our first impression of the Shanghainese is that they are very up-to-date on what they wear and are not afraid to wear it. They influenced me to wear high heels on a daily basis! As we made our way through China, we noticed that their styles are very chic, modern, and paired with a lot of contrasts, much similar to the clothing we see on high fashion runways. Unlike China’s hunger for modern wear, the Japanese daily styles are mostly consisted of business attire. There were some similarities in China and Japan’s way of dress but overall the Chinese and Japanese styles are very high fashion like.
Kal's Reflection on Doing Business in China and Confucianism. (Pictured: Downtown Shanghai, the business capital of China)

Having recently left the business world to return to school, with experience in conducting business internationally, I was interested in learning about the differences in how the Chinese approach business. I had worked for an international company and was part of a rapid expansion overseas. As I had similar cultural roots to our overseas friends, I was at an advantage over the majority since I understood that unlike the western world, the role that culture, ancient philosophies and religion played in the business world was significant. In fact, in many eastern countries, not only do these factors play an integral role in business, but as they are so embedded in their way of life, it is hard to actually separate them from business. Rather, it is a natural part of it, to be obeyed and respected. This was no exception in China and I was pleasantly surprised when the opportunity to learn more, presented itself to us.

Upon arriving to the School of Management at the University of Jinan, we received a warm reception, complete with a banner welcoming the Niagara University Delegation, an abundance of fresh fruit, notebooks and pens (for which I was thankful for to take many notes!) and plenty of students, eager to hear about life in the U.S. Shortly after, Professor ZhaoWei, whose English name was Vivian, delivered a presentation, providing a basic introduction to the theoretical underpinning of doing business in China. We quickly learned that whenever conducting business with the Chinese, it would be important to understand the role that Confucianism played. Confucius was a Chinese philosopher whose ideas concerning the importance of practical moral values, formed the basis of Confucianism - a system of these philosophical and ethical teachings. Vivian then explained the five Confucius relationships of benevolence, righteousness, propriety, wisdom and faithfulness and how they each served distinct purposes, leading to specific outcomes. One of the things I appreciated most about this concept was when Vivian explained that these relationships were conducive to stable business dealings because they created harmony, fostered teamwork and therefore, facilitated negotiations and relationships in the workplace. For example, traits that are weaved into the Chinese way including respect for others and a sense of humility allows loyalty and trust to simply be expected. This notion is absent in the western business world and something we could definitely learn from! After the presentations, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to have lunch with Vivian and other esteemed colleagues. Though the majority of the conversations were in Mandarin and required translation, the presence of these qualities and the resulting camaraderie amongst the colleagues were evident and did not require translation at all. This was further witnessed in their mutual admiration for Dr. Lee and his heartfelt explanation about how many Confucius values are traditionally instilled from childhood by way of respect and love that is shown toward one’s parents, throughout their lifetime and beyond. I am grateful for the chance to have learned this first-hand from such great teachers and know it will prove to be very useful in the future!
Jim Kling’s reflections on China’s Economy and self-image.
(Pictured here is the one remaining Mao statue on the campus of East China University. Today, Socialist Economic Development is stressed dover Communist Ideology.

In preparation for the China trip I read several books and was fortunate to pick up Henry Kissinger’s book “On China” which was released a week before our trip began and I read throughout the trip and finished it the day after we arrived back in the U.S. I would recommend “On China” for its opening and closing chapters which helped me to understand the differences between U.S. and Chinese culture and how it impacts diplomatic relationships. I would also recommend Jung Chang’s “Wild Swans: Three Daughters of China” which is a 20th century history of a Chinese family written by the author who was a child during the Cultural Revolution and traces back her roots to her grandmother’s life as a warlord’s concubine.

I will limit my reflections to some on China’s political and economic situation which you might find useful. China is striving very hard to re-establish itself as one of the world’s pre-eminent nations and cultures, a position it held for thousands of years prior to 1800. That time of colonial oppression through communism’s ideological eruption of the cultural revolution in the 1960’s were dark days for China. Around 1980, the leadership of China admitted how far behind the rest of the world China had slipped and adopted progressive policies to regain respect for their people and the nation. Historically, China has not acted as an imperialist power like Great Britain or tried to intervene in affairs around the world like the U.S. It’s goal has been to protect its large nation from outside interference. This is why the Great Wall was built and why it got involved in Vietnam and Korea which when you look at a map you can see how the presence of large foreign militaries in these states can be viewed as threatening. China wants to be able to claim and protect what have been the historical boundaries of China and include Taiwan, Tibet, Macau, Hong Kong, as well as the vastness of Mongolia. China strives to be prosperous because it wants to raise the standard of living of its people and lessen the weakness it perceives compared to the U.S. So one important theme in China today is protecting its historical boundaries and raising its self-image . China also fears the type of chaos that engulfed the country during the Boxer rebellion, WWII, Communism’s “great leap forward” and the Cultural Revolution. It walks a fine line as it pursues development—keeping people’s desire for a better life on track without igniting social upheaval due to pollution and the growing gap between Chinese rich and poor. This is why there is internet censorship and questionable commitment to human rights; these freedoms are considered secondary to
maintaining social order in this country of 1.3 billion persons. If China’s economy someday becomes #1 it is not as a goal to topple the U.S. but to develop itself. The economic problems the U.S. faces today look like child’s play compared to the challenge of modernizing China and managing the increasing expectations of its people. One tactic the Chinese have used successfully is decentralizing economic decisions to the provinces and to individuals. Here in the U.S. we are on an opposite track to centralize control of key industries in Washington. In order to compete with China the U.S needs to rebalance its priorities to support economic growth. These are my reflections based on my background as an economist, business manager, reader of history, and now first-hand travel experience. Jim Kling, Ph.D., Associate Professor of Management, Niagara University.

Wrap Up Blog Entry. This series of blogs is from Niagara University's student trip to China and Japan in May and June of 2011 led by Dr. Tenpao Lee. The entries here both document the trip and are reflections on various topics. It was a fascinating learning experience and also a lot of fun. If you are new to the blog try using the profile bar above for easier navigation to other entries. This Blog will be taken down around July 15, 2011 and its contents transferred to a page on the Niagara University website which will be posted here. The blog was administered by Jim Kling, Associate Professor of Management, who accompanied the students--it was his first trip to China. For comments or questions, contact Jim Kling at jkling@niagara.edu. Thanks to all those who made the trip possible and who followed the blog. Happy Summer. Jim Kling (Dr. James).