

中國中心

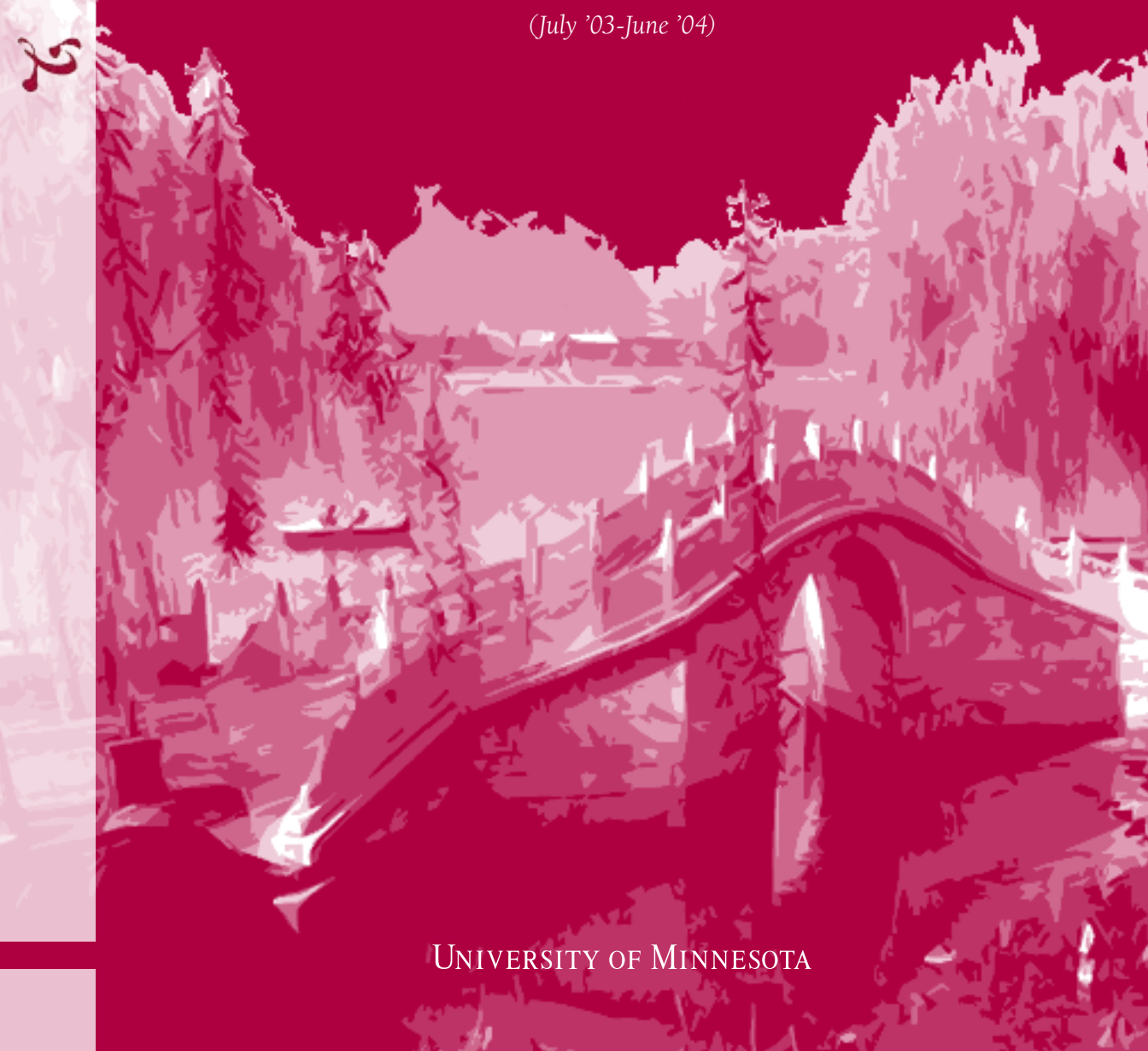
# 25 China Center 1979-2004

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## *Annual Report* **2003–2004**

(July '03-June '04)

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA



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**Note about Chinese names:** The China Center's policy is to print an individual's name according to the custom of the place where they live. (e.g., family name first for a person who lives in China).



*Dr. Hong Yang,  
Director*

In our 25th anniversary year, we at the China Center reflected on our beginnings, joined our supporters to continue to strengthen the University and Minnesota's ties with China, and mapped out a plan for the future. I am proud to provide this report, which shares our accomplishments for 2003-04 and gives you a glimpse of where we are headed.

The China Center kicked off its 25th anniversary yearlong celebration on Chinese New Year's Eve with more than 400 supporters and members of the University community. We enjoyed a dynamic speech by former U.S. Senator Rod Grams and were entertained by traditional Chinese dancers. We acknowledged our former directors Dr. Mei-Ling Hsu, Dr. M. Patricia Needle, and Dr. David Y.H. Pui. I shared my vision for taking the China Center to the next level, announcing several new initiatives including the Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture, Red Pockets Scholarships, China Center Friends, and Corporate Partners.

The Mingda Institute for Leadership Training is again thriving despite the challenges of SARS and the current visa climate. This has allowed me to focus more on strengthening our development efforts both here and in China. We rolled out two programs—China Center Friends (CCF) and Corporate Partners. CCF now includes 115 supporters who contribute time, talent, and treasure to further the China Center's mission. The first company to join the Corporate Partners is the accounting firm Lurie Besikof Lapidus and Company, LLP. Together we twice hosted our successful China Business Colloquium with business experts from Minnesota and China.

In November 2003, Beijing Fazheng Group became the first Chinese company to make a donation to the University of Minnesota, with a \$150,000 gift to the China Center to develop educational exchanges between the University and China. One such program is the Law School's LL.M. degree program, which will be offered in Beijing starting in 2005. Another major step in our development efforts came with a \$500,000 endowed gift from Mr. and Mrs. Bob and Kim Griffin to establish the Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture, which will feature prominent China experts, government officials, and business leaders discussing policy and cultural issues.

One of my main priorities is to expand ways to connect Minnesota students with China. Our initiatives in this area last year were a great success. The first Red Pockets Annual Fund drive created around \$3,000 in new scholarship funds. We continue to work with University departments to develop short-term seminars in China, and as part of our community outreach, we host China Day each year for Chinese language students from local high schools.

I thank you for your generous support of the China Center and its programs in 2003-04. It has made our 25th anniversary year a memorable one. We will continue to enact initiatives that make a positive impact in Minnesota and China. I invite you to join us in building cultural, economic, and civic bridges that better the future relations between the U.S. and China.

### Students view past and present of Chinese architecture

Thirteen University students participated in the three-week China Seminar, “China’s Architecture and Urban Development,” during May Session in 2004. The seminar was organized by the China Center and led by College of Architecture and Landscape Architecture (CALA) faculty Dr. Arthur Chen.

The students heard lectures regarding China’s architecture and urban development and then visited these important sites first-hand. Top faculty from Macau University of Science and Technology, Tongji University in Shanghai, and Qinghua University in Beijing spoke about the development of architecture in each city.



Dr. Chen and students view unique architecture in Shanghai.

Highlights for students included climbing the “wild” section of the Great Wall at Jinshanling (where sections of the wall stand as they did thousands of years ago) and viewing Shanghai’s rapid development from the top of Jin Mao Tower.

Participating students—most of whom had never been to China—said the trip helped them understand the latest developments in architecture and urban development and inspired them to incorporate Chinese ideas into their future designs. In addition, students said they now have a clearer idea of the extent and pace of China’s rapid urban development, which for some sparked an interest in returning for further study or professional work.

Other colleges at the University planned short-term seminars in China, including the Institute of Technology with 22 students studying software engineering and the College of Liberal Arts with 10 students studying urban sites and global trade.

*After 20 years, Jiang Huashang finally returned to Minnesota. Jiang, a professor at Nankai University, was a visiting fellow at the University of Minnesota in 2003-04. He first visited Minnesota in 1985 as part of a group of Nankai English majors who were performing “Thunderstorm,” a Chinese play in English by renowned Chinese playwright Cao Yu. He recently wrote about his first visit to Minnesota, “Without the help from the China Center and without the deep understanding of each other’s culture, it could have never taken place. Isn’t that something we should remember and never, never forget?”*



Jiang Huashang and his wife in 2003



Nankai University students perform “Thunderstorm” at the U of M in 1985

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## Law School to offer LL.M. program in China

With help from the China Center and one of its generous Chinese donors, the University of Minnesota Law School is making plans to offer an LL.M. (master of laws) degree in Beijing starting in June 2005. The Law School will partner with the China University of Political Science and Law and Beijing Fazheng Group (BFG). Mr. Wang Guangfa, CEO of BFG, donated \$150,000 to the China Center to develop academic programs and exchanges between the University of

Minnesota and institutions in China (see p. 12). The program will be delivered by University of Minnesota faculty in English in a new building built for the program by BFG.

With the growing economic and political importance of China, there is a large and increasing demand for law education in China. “We have had many Chinese students in our LL.M. program in the Twin Cities, and they have indicated that there is a growing market for this kind of program in China,” said Fred Morrison, Law School professor.



*Law School faculty Fred Morrison and Meredith McQuaid and China Center Director Hong Yang meet with Law School alumni in Beijing in 2004.*

Through this partnership, the Law School hopes to continue and expand the University’s historic ties to China by offering this new opportunity for Chinese students and also to build the necessary relationships to establish programs for U.S. law students to understand issues important to China.

“The China Center has helped us in many ways,” said Professor Morrison. “It provided the first introductions to institutions and companies in China that have helped make the program possible. Also, it has provided translation and other services and the enthusiasm and support that are essential.”

The University’s Institute of Technology and the Academic Health Center are also considering offering degree programs in China.



Meredith McQuaid (student on left) participated in the University of Minnesota’s first Summer Intensive Chinese Language Institute with Nankai University in 1980. Today McQuaid is associate dean and director of the Law School’s international programs and has helped plan the new LL.M. program to be offered in Beijing (see above).

*The University of Minnesota has had more than 8,000 Chinese alumni since 1914, many of whom maintain strong connections to the University and give their time and talent to support their alma mater. Below are the stories of two such alumni.*

## Richard Fong

Mr. Richard Fong came to the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management in 1975 and received a B.S. in marketing and international business in 1976 and an M.B.A. in 1982. Today, he is a highly successful human resources executive in China and Hong Kong—a career path formed at the University. Mr. Fong returned to Hong Kong in 1993 and has since held several high-level human resources positions in Hong Kong and mainland China, including senior adviser in the Industrial Training Division of Hong Kong's Vocational Training Council. Mr. Fong is a partner and principal consultant with Global Synergy Alliance, Ltd., a consulting firm in Hong Kong.

Since returning to Hong Kong, Mr. Fong has maintained a strong connection to the U of M. He has been instrumental in the plan to establish a University of Minnesota Alumni Association chapter in Hong Kong, and he serves as a helpful and knowledgeable contact in Hong Kong for the China Center.

## Charles Lee

Dr. Charles Lee grew up in mainland China and Taiwan but lived his adult life in America. His bicultural journey began in 1963 when he traveled from Taiwan to the University of Minnesota, where he earned master's degrees in civil and aeronautical engineering and a Ph.D. in applied mathematics. He began his business career in corporate strategy and business development at Sperry Univac and AT&T. In 1977, he joined Exxon Enterprises and two years later Xerox Development Corporation—venture capital offspring of their parent firms. In 1981, he founded his own venture capital firm, Abacus Ventures (now Charles Lee Enterprises), which has become a leading venture capital firm specializing in information technology with an international scope.

Surprisingly, when asked how he would like to be seen, Dr. Lee speaks of his personal identity as a bicultural person—deeply Chinese and yet successfully American—and his dedication to being an effective “bridge” between the East and the West. One way is through the publication of his book, “Cowboys and Dragons: Shattering Cultural Myths to Advance Chinese/American Business.”

Dr. Lee is a strong supporter of the University, especially through his work with the China Center, where he has been a featured speaker at the China Business Colloquium and the Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture.



The first Chinese students at the University of Minnesota were the Pan brothers (2nd row) and Harding Quang (front), who arrived in 1914.

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## Mingda Institute hosts eleven training programs in 2003–04

Despite the setback of canceled programs due to SARS and the ongoing struggle to secure visas, the China Center’s Mingda Institute of Leadership Training bounced back with a very successful year in 2003-04. Since



*Dr. Ren Jie and former University Vice President Sandra Gardebring at the Sichuan delegation graduation ceremony*

November 2003, the Mingda Institute has hosted four long-term and seven short-term training groups made up of 144 Chinese government officials and executives.

Over the last year, the China Center welcomed four long-term delegations—a group of 17 Sichuan government officials for a four-month training program in public policy and administration, a four-month and a two-month group of CEOs from Zhejiang state-owned companies and private business for training in advanced business leadership, and a group of 18 Zhejiang foreign trade specialists and attorneys for a six-month program in international trade

and WTO. The last group arrived in Minnesota at the end of January. They had never experienced a winter as cold as in Minnesota, but they were strengthened by the “unforgettable” and very warm “Minnesota nice.”

“We had so many knowledgeable seminars by University of Minnesota professors, wonderful visits to companies like Cargill and 3M, valuable first-hand experience of working and living with the local people, and heart-warming interactions with our English partners and Minnesota families,” said Mr. Fang Yuanlong, leader of the WTO training delegation.

In addition to long-term programs, the Institute has conducted seven short-term programs and hosted more than ten delegations in the past ten months. These training programs have increased Minnesota’s profile in China. “We never realized the Midwest is the heart of this country—geographically as well as traditionally and culturally—until we visited Minnesota,” said Ms. Li Ming, deputy commissioner of Beijing Municipal Education Commission, who led a delegation of 24 presidents and vice presidents from universities in Beijing.

The future looks bright for the Mingda Institute. The Zhejiang government greatly regarded the training program and scheduled a second Zhejiang WTO group of 26 executives for a six-month training, which began in November 2004. In addition, the Sichuan government has named the China Center as its U.S. training base and will send four short-term training delegations of mayors and commissioners to Minnesota by the end of 2004.



*Members of the Zhejiang CEO delegation enjoy a Minnesota winter day.*

## Community Engagement

### China Day

The China Center's third annual China Day event was truly a global event—if 900 million people in 100 countries counts as “global!” “Meet China,” a weekly Chinese television show, taped a portion of the event for broadcast to its more than 900 million viewers in 100 countries.

Almost 400 students from Breck School, South (Minneapolis), Central (St. Paul), Highland Park, and Minnetonka high schools gathered in Coffman Memorial Union on April 25 for China Day—an annual event organized by the China Center to encourage students to continue their Chinese language study.



*Former Provost Christine Maziar and local high school students during the live videoconference*

Activities included a live panel discussion between high school students at the University and students at Beijing Royal School in China; a presentation by U of M student Ryan Johnson, who studied in China; skits by U of M Chinese language students; and lunch at various Chinese restaurants around campus.

### China Center Friends

In spring 2004, a group of dedicated volunteers launched the China Center Friends, a new organization that will assist the China Center in advancing its mission of building bridges between the U.S. and Greater China. The first CCF volunteer executive committee included President Jill Griffiths, David Cheng, Charles Lee, John Lee, Sing Lo, Mindy Ratner, and Bob and Pam Schultz.

Several times a year, China Center Friends will offer events to its members, such as cultural gatherings involving Chinese music and art or discussions with guest speakers on topics relevant to U.S.-China relations. The China Center Friends held its inaugural event on May 7, with a Chinese Tea Ceremony featuring Dr. Zigang Dong, executive director of the Hormel Institute, who spoke on “Tea and Cancer Prevention,” as well as a traditional Chinese tea demonstration and tasting by Dr. Pai Kao of the Mayo Clinic.

The success of China Center Friends depends on volunteers, and anyone with an interest in China is invited to join. For information on how to become a member of China Center Friends, please call the China Center at 612-624-1002.



*Dr. Pai Kao presents at the China Center Friends' traditional tea ceremony event.*



## China Business Colloquium

In fall 2003, the China Center—with the help of its corporate partner, Lurie Besikof Lapidus & Company, LLP (LBL)—launched the China Business Colloquium, an ongoing series of business seminars for those interested in the nuances of the business climate and culture of China.

More than 40 people attended the first seminar on current trends and issues for U.S. businesses in China. Mr. Kent Kedl, China Center Advisory Council member and executive director for Technomic Asia, spoke on the general business environment and market trends, and Mr.

Wang Guangfa, president and CEO of Beijing Fazheng Group, spoke about the evolution of Chinese businesses and successful strategies for partnering with these businesses. Finally, Ms. Joan Brzezinski of the China Center talked about Chinese culture and the implications cross-cultural factors have for business communication and partnerships.



*Participants in the China Business Colloquium, April 2004*

### Did the Chinese discover America?



*Professor Wu Jin and Susan Stekel Rippley, assistant curator at the University's James Ford Bell Library, display the Pizzigano Map from the library's collection, which some experts say provides evidence that the Chinese discovered America. Professor Wu—former education minister in Taiwan and former president of National Cheng Kung University—spoke in June to a standing-room-only crowd about Admiral Zheng He's voyages and their application to the present. The presentation was later broadcast on TPT public television.*

The second colloquium in April 2004 featured Dr. Charles Lee, a University of Minnesota alumnus and author of the book, "Cowboys and Dragons: Shattering Cultural Myths to Advance Chinese/American Business." He spoke about his observations of the cross-cultural dynamic in U.S.-China business through stories from his entrepreneurial and corporate experience. Ms. Gina DeConcini, partner with LBL, discussed the tax implications of various business structures in China.

The China Business Colloquium has been a great success not only supporting the University's outreach mission through custom-designed seminars for business people, but also as a vehicle to better connect Minnesota businesses with like-minded Chinese business people through networking with Chinese government officials and business leaders in the Mingda Institute for Leadership Training (see p. 5).

## Giving Makes Greatness Possible!

by Diane Young

The passion and enthusiasm for *Building U.S.-China Bridges* is proving to be contagious. Through time, talent, and treasure, China Center supporters are generously playing key roles in moving this vital mission forward. Several benchmarks illustrate this evolving story. For example:

- China Center Friends now number 115.
- The average gift size for the first Red Pockets Appeal was \$130.
- Two organizations have joined the China Center as Corporate Partners.
- Gifts to the Director's Fund increased by 267 percent over last year.
- Four hundred guests celebrated at the 25th anniversary dinner.
- Three donors have been recognized as Presidents Club members by virtue of their gifts to the China Center.
- Two major gift commitments have totaled \$650,000.

These are successes by any standards. The synergy created by philanthropy, volunteerism, a talented staff, and a compelling mission is propelling the China Center forward. For this positive movement, everyone involved can feel a sense of personal pride and accomplishment.

I look forward to next year's annual report, imagining what next "firsts" there will be to report. First bequest? First planned gift? First online gift? To discuss the first two, call me at 612-624-8819. For the last one, go to [www.giving.umn.edu](http://www.giving.umn.edu).

*Diane Young is a University of Minnesota major gifts officer working with the China Center to make greatness possible through philanthropy.*

### ***Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who generously supported the China Center in 2003-04.***

*Gifts listed were received between July 1, 2003, and June 30, 2004.*

#### **Gifts of \$500,000**

Bob & Kim Griffin

#### **Gifts of \$150,000**

Beijing Fazheng Group

#### **Gifts of \$50,000**

Jennie & Fred Hsaio

#### **Gifts of \$1,000 to \$9,999**

Chinese Consulate General in Chicago

Bruce B. Dayton & Ruth A. Stricker

Lurie Besikof Lapidus & Company, LLP

Rongsheng Ruan & Aihua Song

Shaw-Lundquist Associates Inc.

Sit Investment Associates Inc.

Walter & Mary Warpeha

Wells Fargo Asian Connection Minnesota

## Bob and Kim Griffin endow lecture series

Building a legacy for their children and for Minnesota, Bob and Kim Griffin donated \$500,000 to the China Center to create an endowment fund establishing the Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture. The lecture was created at the China Center in 2001 by Dr. Hong Yang and has featured well-known academic leaders, notable entrepreneurs, and government dignitaries speaking about issues relevant to U.S.-China relations. Past speakers have included Professor Jiang Zhenghua, vice chairman of the Standing Committee, National People's Congress of China; Dr. David Aikman, a senior fellow at Washington's Ethics and Public Policy Center and a former senior correspondent of Time Magazine; and former U.S. Senator Rod Grams.



© Craig Bares Photography

*University of Minnesota President Bob Bruininks presents a certificate to Bob and Kim Griffin at a dinner celebrating their generous gift to the China Center.*

Bob Griffin is president of Griffin International Companies, which he founded in 1997. Under Griffin's leadership as president, the company has become one of the Twin Cities' leading import firms, focusing on custom products developed in the U.S. and sourced from Asia. The Griffins' gift reflects their commitment to promoting mutual respect between the two cultures and their passion to connect Americans with China.

### Gifts of \$500 to \$999

Jo Ann Johnson  
Mindy Ratner

### Gifts of \$100 to \$499

C. Eugene & Connie J. Allen  
Frank Beddor Jr.  
Mario F. Bognanno  
Richard S. & Lucille P. Caldecott  
Tom Cao  
Jo Y. & Hwei-Hsien Cheng  
China Tribune  
Chinese American Business Association  
of Minnesota  
Donna Wain Erickson & Phillip  
Erickson  
Edward L. Farmer  
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Gerald B. Fischer  
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Daniel Luthringhauser  
Richard R. Lytle  
Gary E. Nichols & Christopher L.  
Meyer

**Gifts of \$100 to \$499,  
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Janet M. Nielsen  
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 Victor T. Tong  
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 Nancy R. Wilhelmson  
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 Hong Yang & Jie Ma

**Gifts up to \$99**

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 Diane C. Young  
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 Chinese Students and Scholars  
 U of M Taiwan Student Association  
 U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association

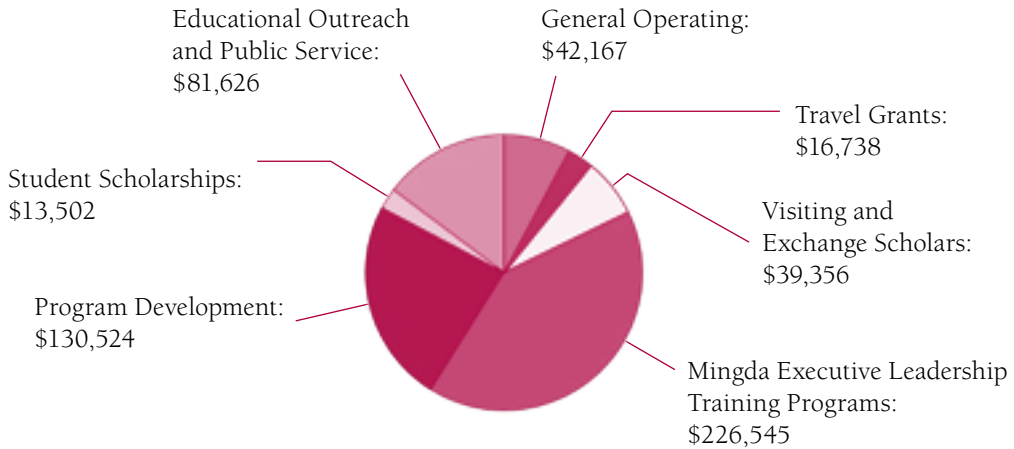
**Supporting University Partners**

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 University of Minnesota Foundation

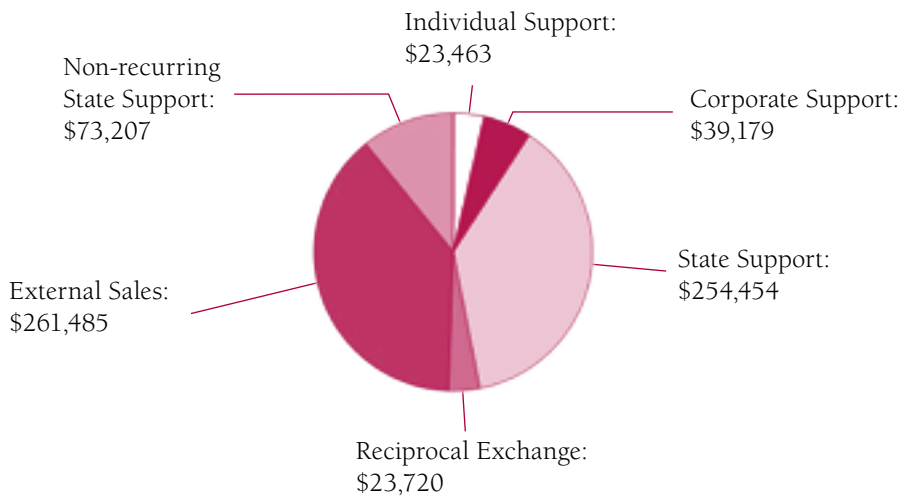
## Financial Report

7/1/03-6/30/04

### Expenditures: \$550,478



### Revenues: \$672,508



Members of the Chinese American Association of Minnesota Dance Theater perform a lion dance at the China Center's 25th anniversary and Chinese New Year celebration. More than 400 people attended the festive event, which included a meal of traditional Chinese food.



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## Annual fund drive supports Red Pockets Scholarships

Inspired by the Chinese New Year's tradition of giving money to young people in red envelopes for good luck in the following year, the China Center launched a Red Pockets Annual Fund Drive at its 25th anniversary celebration in January. Gifts to the Red Pockets fund will support scholarships for University of Minnesota students for study, research, and experiential learning experiences in China. Giving more University students the opportunity to study in China has been a top priority for China Center Director Hong Yang. In its first year, the appeal was quite successful, raising more than \$3,000 in scholarships. The China Center plans to award the first of these scholarships during the 2004-05 academic year.

## Scholarships and Exchange: 2003-04

### China Scholarship Program

*(China Scholarship Council, Chinese Ministry of Education)*

Adam Ruf, Beijing Language & Culture University

### Jennie & Fred Hsaio Scholarship

Mai Xiong, China Seminar, "China's Architecture and Urban Development"

Marianne Smallwood, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology

### International Reciprocal Student Exchange Program

Craig Curtis, Nankai University

## Beijing Fazheng Group supports China Center



*(From left) Gerald Fischer, president, University of Minnesota Foundation; Wang Guangfa, chairman of the board, Beijing Fazheng Group; and Hong Yang, director of the China Center; celebrate at a signing ceremony on Nov. 18, 2003. The ceremony commemorated Mr. Wang's first three-year donation commitment of \$150,000 to the "Fazheng Guangfa Educational Fellowship Fund," which Mr. Wang created at the China Center to assist University faculty and staff in developing or carrying out educational initiatives and collaborations with Chinese partners.*



## CCAC\* Members 03-04

### Honorary Members

Rod Grams  
Nils Hasselmo  
Annie Wu

### President

Robert Kudrle

### President-Elect

Mahmood Zaidi

### Term Ending June 2004

Mei-Ling Hsu  
Robert Kudrle  
Chun-Jo Liu  
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Hy Berman  
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Joseph Allen  
Subir Banerjee  
Edward Farmer  
David Fisher  
Joel Lebewitz  
Weiming Lu  
Judd Sheridan  
Amy Xu  
Yang Wang  
Margaret Wong

\* *China Center Advisory Council*

## China Center Mission

*The University of Minnesota China Center builds bridges between the U.S. and Greater China. To fulfill this mission, the China Center draws on the strengths of the University of Minnesota and partners with public and private organizations in Minnesota and the U.S. to promote relations with Greater China by:*

- *Facilitating educational exchange, collaborative research, teaching, and training activities*
- *Fostering an understanding of history, cultures, and values*
- *Serving as a catalyst and resource for the promotion of economic, governmental, and civic pursuits*
- *Increasing mutual interest and understanding*

## Staff & Office Information

### Director

Hong Yang

### Assistant Director

Joan Brzezinski

### Training Program Coordinator

Yuedong Zhou

### Program Associate

Sarah Joy Rinkenberger

### Program Coordinator

Jennifer Wu Dunn

### Community Program Specialist

Joab Meyer

### Training Program Assistant

Chang Wang

## Office Hours

8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Monday through Friday

## Contact

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The China Center is located on the West Bank of the University of Minnesota–Minneapolis campus.

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# 中國中心

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CHINA CENTER

*Office of International Programs*