Building U.S.-China Bridges
China Center Annual Report 2005-06
Inside

From the Director ........................................................................................................ 1
Students and Scholars .......................................................................................... 2
Faculty ..................................................................................................................... 3
Alumni ...................................................................................................................... 4
Training Programs .................................................................................................. 5
Community Engagement .......................................................................................... 6
K-12 Initiatives ......................................................................................................... 7
Corporate Partnership ............................................................................................... 8
China Center Friends ............................................................................................... 9
Contributors ........................................................................................................... 10-12

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).
Minnesota’s interest in trade, exchange, and educational and cultural collaborations with China has exploded during the last year. The China Center’s initiatives have flourished, too. With the generous support of you and others in our community, we have built a vibrant network of individuals and organizations in Minnesota and China working together to strengthen U.S.-China bridges.

I was honored to join Governor Tim Pawlenty for his trade mission to China in November 2005—the largest mission to China organized by a U.S. state. More than 200 Minnesotans traveled with the governor to explore exchange in business and trade, education, medical products, environment, food, agriculture, renewable energy, and other areas. The education delegation was led by University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks. This opportunity introduced China to many Minnesota business people, educators, students, and other professionals, and I believe the results of the exchanges developed through this trip will be ongoing.

Since my arrival at the China Center, one of my key priorities has been to bring Mandarin language education to more Minnesota classrooms. I am delighted to report that this initiative has gained a great deal of momentum this year. The China Center has worked with the Minnesota Legislature, the Minnesota Department of Education, local area schools and districts, Chinese language teachers, University experts, and the Chinese government to find ways to expand the number of Chinese language programs in Minnesota’s K-12 schools. Together we have identified strategies in teacher certification and professional development, secured funding, and expanded the resources for a Chinese language and culture curriculum. In June, the China Center organized a delegation of Minnesota educators, led by Education Commissioner Alice Seagren, to China to explore partnership opportunities and other resources for their Chinese language programs. The China Center will continue to connect education professionals with the resources to teach our children Chinese and prepare them to interact with a country and people that will most definitely be a part of their future.

The University of Minnesota is continuing to expand its longstanding relationship with China. In November, the U of M and the Graduate University of the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) conducted the first joint forum in the fields of information technology, nanotechnology, renewable energy, and environmental science and technology. Seventeen U of M faculty and staff joined their peers at CAS to discuss their research in these fields. Many joint research ideas were discussed and collaborative links established. The second joint forum will be held this spring in the Twin Cities. The Crookston campus also continues to build relationships in China. I traveled to Hangzhou last December with Vice Chancellor Joe Massey and Chancellor Emeritus Donald Sargeant to develop a cooperative agreement between Crookston and Zhejiang Economic and Trade Polytechnic, and this fall both sides will collaborate to offer associate and baccalaureate degrees.

I’d like to extend my heartfelt thanks to all of you who have so generously supported the China Center over the last year. Our Red Pockets annual fund continues to support University students who will study or conduct research in China. Fred and Jennie Hsiao and Amy Xu and Michael Schumann have created endowments for scholarships that will benefit generations of students. The Corporate Partnership continues to expand, with the addition of Thomson Legal & Regulatory, Petters Group Worldwide, St. Jude Medical, and MCG Inc. as new partners.

It has been inspiring to see the China Center’s initiatives gain so much support from our community, and I am truly privileged to work with you to build these Minnesota-China bridges.
Crookston campus develops collaborative associate and baccalaureate degrees

Last December, University of Minnesota, Crookston Vice Chancellor Joe Massey, UMC Chancellor Emeritus Donald Sargeant, and China Center Director Hong Yang traveled to Hangzhou, China, to develop cooperative agreements between UMC and Zhejiang Economic and Trade Polytechnic (ZETP). ZETP has an applied degree mission similar to UMC’s and an enrollment of 6,000 students. The discussions resulted in an understanding that UMC and ZETP would collaborate to offer associate in applied science (A.A.S.) and bachelor of science (B.S.) degrees.

The first A.A.S. collaborative three-year degrees—in agriculture business management and information technology management—will be taught at ZETP. UMC will offer one course per semester in China for each of the three years. The A.A.S. degree program is scheduled to begin in fall 2006, with a projected enrollment of 80 students in each program.

Upon graduation, about 25 percent of the A.A.S. graduates will transfer to UMC to complete the B.S. degree in agriculture business management or computer software technology. It is expected that these students would complete the degree in three semesters, plus a summer session. Chinese students from this collaborative have already enrolled at UMC this fall. In addition to providing educational opportunities for Chinese students, these agreements will lead to increased international experiences for UMC students and faculty, increased international student enrollment, and strengthened curriculum and outreach.
U of M and Chinese Academy of Sciences host first bilateral research forum

The first bilateral research forum between the University of Minnesota and the Chinese Academy of Sciences (CAS) was held in Beijing last November. The forum allowed faculty and scientists from both the U of M and CAS to share ideas for scientific exchange, identify common interests for future collaborations and research, and strengthen ties between the two institutions.

Seventeen University faculty attended, including: Dr. Timothy Mulcahy, vice president for research; Dr. Steven Crouch, dean of the Institute of Technology; Dr. Robert Elde, dean of the College of Biological Sciences and committee chair of the University’s Initiative for Renewable Energy and the Environment; Dr. Lanny Schmidt, a Regents Professor, member of the U.S. Academy of Engineering, and a world-renowned scientist in hydrogen energy conversion; Dr. David Pui, Distinguished McKnight University Professor and expert in nanotechnology; and Dr. Zigang Dong, Hormel-Knowlton Professor, executive director of the Hormel Institute, and Distinguished McKnight Professor. The topics at the forum included research in the areas of information technology, environmental sciences, and renewable energy. A second forum is scheduled to be held at the University of Minnesota in the spring.
Alumni receive awards and honors from the University

Alumnus Fai-nan Perng, governor of the Central Bank of China, was awarded the Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Minnesota in August. His innovative leadership brought the Economic Research and Foreign Exchange departments of the Central Bank to new levels of professionalism and service to the economy. His wise leadership, as deputy governor and governor, maintained the stability of the New Taiwan Dollar and avoided the costs of the Asian financial crisis in Taiwan. Perng earned a master's degree in economics from the University in 1971.

Dr. Shenggen Fan visited the University in May to accept the Distinguished Leadership Award for Internationals, an award given to alumni, former students, and friends of the University who have distinguished themselves as leaders in their professional careers. Fan, who is from China, received a Ph.D. in applied economics in 1989. In naming Fan a recipient of the award, the selection committee cited his important work to alleviate hunger and poverty in China and around the world. He is described as one of the best agricultural economists working on the transition economy and China’s rural development today. Fan is currently division director of development strategy and governance at the International Food Policy Research Institute. In 2005, the National Science Foundation of China gave him its prestigious Outstanding Young Scholar award. Also receiving the award was Dr. Winston C. Y. Yu from Taiwan, who earned a Ph.D. in animal science from the University in 1979.

New alumni chapter opens in Guangzhou

University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks traveled to Guangzhou last November to meet with some of the University’s most enthusiastic alumni. President Bruininks, First Lady Susan Hagstrum, Vice President for Research Tim Mulcahy, Institute of Technology Dean Steven Crouch, China Center Director Hong Yang, and others helped to inaugurate the University of Minnesota Alumni Association, Guangzhou Chapter. Seventy alumni turned out for this event, which was held at Lingnan (University) College at Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, site of the Carlson School of Management’s China Executive MBA program. Almost 150 of the Guangzhou alumni are graduates of the CHEMBA program. The Guangzhou chapter is already one of the University’s most vibrant and active overseas chapters.
Mingda Institute named a top program by Chinese government

Vice Minister Sun Zhaohua from China State Administration of Foreign Experts Affairs (SAFEA) visited the China Center in April. SAFEA is the only government organization authorized to oversee international training for Chinese talent. The China Center’s Mingda Institute for Leadership Training is recognized by SAFEA as one of the few foreign organizations approved to provide training. Vice Minister Sun met with Associate Vice President Gene Allen to discuss closer cooperation between SAFEA and the University of Minnesota. Vice Minister Sun praised the training programs conducted by the Mingda Institute, saying he was impressed by the wide spectrum of disciplines and faculty expertise the University offers to trainees. Accompanied by China Center staff, Vice Minister Sun toured the University and surrounding areas to better understand the environment where trainees study and live.

Over the last several years, Training Coordinator Yuedong Zhou has attended SAFEA’s international conference to renew the China Center’s training license and to promote the University of Minnesota and the State of Minnesota as a training destination. His efforts at this conference have increased the University’s reputation as a premier training destination, which is currently ranked in the top 20 international training centers. Over the last year, approximately 15 training delegations totaling more than 385 people have gained a new level of expertise here at the University and the Mingda Institute.

Training alumnus named Beijing education director

Professor Liu Limin, a graduate of the Mingda Institute, was recently appointed director general of the Beijing Municipal Commission of Education, the chief education officer of the Beijing government. Liu is a leading Russian studies scholar in China. At the Mingda Institute, he participated in a month-long training in August on higher education administration with 19 other university leaders and government education officials from Beijing. When President Bruininks led the education delegation of Governor Tim Pawlenty’s China Mission, Liu hosted the University delegates. President Bruininks and Dr. Liu also signed a collaborative agreement between the University of Minnesota and Capital Normal University. Since then, with the assistance of the China Center, CNU and the Morris campus have been working closely on an undergraduate exchange and summer study abroad program for Morris students. About 30 Morris students will be studying Chinese language and culture at CNU this summer. Most recently, Liu hosted Commissioner Alice Seagren and the Minnesota K-12 delegation in Beijing (see p. 7). We sincerely congratulate Professor Liu on his new appointment and are proud that the Mingda Institute had the opportunity to host him.
Community Engagement

Year of the Dog celebrations

Chinese New Year celebrations are always a great time to gather and share good wishes with friends and family. Last winter, the China Center sponsored a Chinese New Year celebration featuring renowned Minnesotan Jim McGregor, the author of One Billion Customers: Lessons from the Front Lines of Doing Business in China. McGregor spoke to a sold-out crowd. He offered a “common sense” approach to doing business in China, winding his advice with tales of his time living in China.

The China Center also celebrated the Year of the Dog with its corporate partner Best Buy, which invited the China Center to bring a taste of Chinese culture to their Chinese New Year’s celebration. China Center staff and friends demonstrated their talents in Chinese calligraphy and offered information on other New Year traditions. The China Center booth was one of the most visited, and there was a warm and enthusiastic response from the Best Buy employees.

Art Rolnick discusses exchange rate policy at Griffin Lecture

Dr. Art Rolnick, senior vice president and director of research at the Federal Reserve Bank of Minneapolis, and an associate economist with the Federal Open Market Committee, was the featured speaker at the 2005 Bob and Kim Griffin Building U.S.-China Bridges Lecture. He shared a fascinating discussion of currency exchange rate policies, trade deficits, and job creation. He began the lecture by stating his premise: China’s “exchange rate policy is raising some concerns with U.S. policy makers and the media. They’re almost painting the Chinese as the economic leader to worry about, as they did back in the eighties with Japan. And I’m going to argue that these concerns from the economist point of view are not warranted. Indeed, I’m going to argue that we should be celebrating and applauding, not fearing and criticizing Chinese economic progress.”

Since its creation in 2001, the annual Griffin Lecture has featured a number of respected experts on China and U.S.-China relations. We are grateful to Bob and Kim Griffin for making this annual dialogue possible. A transcript and audio of Dr. Rolnick’s lecture is available at http://www.chinacenter.umn.edu/news/eventsannual_griffin.html.
Legislation

In recent months, many government leaders from both the state and national level have called for additional Chinese language instruction in the K-12 schools. President Bush identified Chinese as a strategic language important to our nation’s security, and Governor Pawlenty supported increasing K-12 Chinese language instruction to ensure that Minnesota remains competitive. The China Center has partnered with a number of individuals and organizations over the last year to examine ways to increase the number of students learning Chinese. Upon returning from the governor’s mission to China last November, China Center Director Hong Yang met with several legislators to encourage them to support the governor’s call to increase Mandarin language in Minnesota public schools. House Majority Leader Erik Paulsen sponsored successful legislation, which provides $250,000 for initial implementation of a Mandarin Chinese language curriculum.

China Day

More than 500 junior and senior high students attended the China Center’s annual China Day, which focused this year on Minnesota businesses in China. The day began with a dance by the Chinese American Association of Minnesota Dance Theater. Several students volunteered to perform the Chinese lion dance to the roaring cheers of their classmates. Local business leaders gave the students a look into each company’s China business strategy and shared business plans and personal experiences from working and traveling in China: Bryan Kooistra from Best Buy Co., Tim Morin from Four51°, and Robert C. Wahlert from Hormel Foods. The students pressed the representatives with tough questions about their China business and their company’s interest in corporate responsibility and citizenship.

Education Delegation

The China Center, with support from the Chinese Language Council International (Han Ban) under the Ministry of Education in Beijing, organized a group of Minnesota superintendents, principals, and teachers to travel to China in June. The delegation was led by Education Commissioner Alice Seagren and funded by Han Ban. The purpose of the visit was to give Minnesota educators a first-hand understanding of China, its educational system, and the resources available to start a Chinese-language program in their schools or districts. Delegates learned strategies to bring Chinese language and culture into their classrooms and were able to explore potential relationships for their schools. The delegation visited primary, middle, and high schools in Beijing and Xi’an (capital of Minnesota’s sister-state, Shaanxi Province). Commissioner Seagren addressed more than 400 U.S. and Chinese educators at an international conference on the Chinese language at the Great Hall of the People. The trip was a great success, and many of the delegates have already begun to implement or plan Chinese language and cultural courses at their schools.
Corporate Partnership

New businesses partner with the China Center

The cooperation between the China Center and its Corporate Partners continued to grow over the last year, with the addition of MCG Inc., Petters Group Worldwide, St. Jude Medical, and Thomson Legal & Regulatory as new partners. We are grateful for the partners’ support for China Center initiatives. In addition to our core programs, the China Center has also worked to develop programming and opportunities for Minnesota’s businesses and their employees. This year through our China Business Colloquium and other special events, our corporate partners were able to connect with many experts on business in China and Chinese visitors including Professor Cheng Siwei, vice chairman of the Standing Committee of the National People’s Congress, who spent an evening discussing the U.S.-China relationship with business and community leaders.

Colloquium: Lessons from the Front Lines of Doing Business in China

Jim McGregor was the featured speaker at the China Business Colloquium in January. Author of the highly acclaimed book, One Billion Customers: Lessons from the Frontlines of Doing Business in China, McGregor talked about his own experiences in China over the last 15 years and gave specific tips on the differences between Chinese and U.S. management styles. He discussed why joint ventures often fail and what approach to blending the two styles might work the best, while peppering his talk with his own observations on U.S.-China relations and humorous stories from his journey. Also at the colloquium, Merchant and Gould Attorney Anthony R. Zeuli discussed the intricacies of protecting intellectual property in China, recounting his own experience working through IP issues for a client. Closing the seminar, Jeff Jiang—representing our cosponsor, Lurie Besikof Lapidus and Co.—discussed the company’s China Strategies Consulting Group.

China Center provides customized training to businesses

The China Center recently launched a customized training initiative for businesses. In a unique place between education, government, and business, the China Center is able to consult and advise both University and non-University organizations in developing and executing their China strategies and making connections here and in China that will help them succeed. The China Center can conduct on-site training for employees who are working with China. These training sessions include discussion of the general aspects of Chinese business culture, but also allow the China Center’s staff to focus on communication or other areas specific to the business. The China Center will also work with participants to develop better strategies for interacting with their Chinese partners or potential clients.
Lecture by NASA scientist

Dr. Mark Lee, a senior program executive at NASA headquarters in Washington, DC gave a presentation to China Center Friends in May, “The Starting Point of Life: The Mission to Moon and Mars and China’s Shen Zhou Program.”

Lee talked about the scientific study of the origins of life and gave a brief overview of NASA’s missions to the moon and Mars. He then contrasted the NASA missions with China’s space program, specifically its Shen Zhou satellite program. He highlighted the differences in NASA’s approach and that of the Chinese government and suggested areas for mutual collaboration and potential areas of competition.

About the China Center Friends

China Center Friends is a group of interested and engaged people who have a strong passion for China, its history, culture, and people. They are core supporters of the China Center’s initiatives and often times volunteer at programs and events. We welcome your support as a China Center Friend. Please contact the China Center at 612-624-1002 or visit our website at http://www.chinacenter.umn.edu for more information about joining the China Center Friends.

Language Partner Program

Another way to be a friend of the China Center is to take part in our Language Partner Program. This is an opportunity for those who are learning the Chinese language to connect with Chinese students and scholars at the University of Minnesota who are interested in sharpening their English skills. In addition to helping each other improve their language ability, this program creates an opportunity for cultural exchange. One of the best ways to create a bridge of understanding between our two countries is by having people from China and the U.S. develop personal friendships. The Language Partner Program is an ideal opportunity to form these relationships in an informal environment based on the common interest of language study. Over the years, many program participants have formed lasting relationships with their language partners. We hope that anyone interested, regardless of their language ability, joins us in this great program. For more information, please contact the China Center at 612-624-1002.
The University of Minnesota Scholarship Drive—The Promise of Tomorrow

by Diane Young

A top priority set by University of Minnesota President Robert Bruininks is to increase the number of scholarships and fellowships available for students. Several years ago the Promise of Tomorrow Campaign, a multi-year project with a goal of $150 million, was initiated to increase by 50 percent the number of students who receive scholarships. The Promise of Tomorrow Campaign has been the most ambitious ever at the University. The good news is that the idea of scholarships has resonated with alumni and friends. To date, more than $132 million have been raised.

October is Scholarship Month at the University of Minnesota—the perfect time to find out what it would take for you to establish a scholarship. A minimum of $25,000 payable over five years may qualify for a matching opportunity too. I would welcome the opportunity to share ideas about how you can participate in the Promise of Tomorrow Campaign. By establishing a scholarship or fellowship, you have the opportunity to enlarge a student’s world view, inform a career choice, and build U.S.-China bridges all at the same time. Call me at 612-624-8819.

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

“ My spring semester in Hong Kong was the most fulfilling, unique, and special one yet. I learned a lot about my field of study, myself, and a different culture. It was an experience I will never let go and I am very grateful that the Hsiao Scholarship helped me go through with it!” — Scott Merth

China Center Scholarships and Exchanges, 2005-06

The China Center is proud to offer scholarships and exchange opportunities to University of Minnesota students. These are made possible by generous gifts from donors and long-standing relationships with Chinese institutions. With continued support from generous donors, the China Center hopes to offer additional scholarships to encourage even more students to study in China.

Hsiao Scholarship
Lawrence Davis
Lisa Eimer
Brian Lebens
Scott Merth

Chinese Government Scholarship
Julie Marcia Birkholz

China Universities Exchange Program
Lulu Yihu Huang

International Reciprocal Student Exchange Program
Nicholas Ian Havey

Red Pockets Scholarship
Matthew John Carlson
Stefan Daniels
Abby Marie Warnert
Shilesh Muralidhara
Tyler Stigen

10
Thank you to the following individuals and organizations who generously supported the China Center in 2005-06.

Gifts listed were received or pledged between July 1, 2005, and June 30, 2006.

**Gifts of $50,000**
Fred F. & Jennie H. Hsiao

**Gifts of $25,000 to $30,000**
Petters Group Worldwide L.L.C.
Thomson Legal & Regulatory
Amy Xu & Michael Schumann

**Gifts of $1,000 to $9,999**
Bruce B. Dayton & Ruth A. Stricker
IBM Corporation
Joel A. Lebewitz
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**Gifts of $100 to $499**
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China Tribune
Chinese American Business Association of Minnesota
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Hennepin County Board of Commissioners
Hennepin County Medical Center
Hong Yang and Jie Ma Family
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University of Minnesota, Duluth
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University of Minnesota, Morris
College of Veterinary Medicine
### Financial Report

**7/1/05–6/30/06**

**Revenues: $658,999**

- Non-recurring State Support $25,152
- Corporate Support $71,719
- State Support $252,999
- External Sales $270,165
- Reciprocal Exchange $22,070
- Individual Support $16,895

**Expenditures: $563,798**

- General Operating $41,921
- Educational Outreach and Public Service $106,932
- Program Development $143,545
- Mingda Training Programs $175,419
- Student Scholarships $42,128
- Travel Grants $16,144
- Visiting and Exchange Scholar $37,708

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**Warpeha gives time and talent to the China Center and community**

The China Center benefits from the support of its volunteers, and few would deny that Mary Warpeha is one of the best. She has been a featured speaker for many of the China Center’s training programs. As the Minnesota chapter president of the U.S.-China People’s Friendship Association, Warpeha understands the long-term value of building U.S.-China friendships. Beyond her official role, she has strived to give our Chinese visitors a taste of Minnesota—she has welcomed almost 500 China Center trainees and visitors to her home over the last four years, she has shared many meals and adventures with them, and she has given them an impression of Minnesota and the U.S. that is long lasting. In her visits to China she reconnects with her former students and friends. Her service of time and talent for the China Center’s trainees is greatly appreciated.
China Center Advisory Council Members
2005-06

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Nils Hasselmo
Annie Wu (Hong Kong)

President
Mahmood Zaidi

Term Ending June 2006
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Edward Farmer
Joel Lebewitz
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Weiming Lu
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Term Ending June 2008
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1:00 p.m. to 4:30 p.m.
Monday through Friday

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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

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