China Adventure High School Residential/Travel Program 2008

June 22, 2008 – July 12, 2008

A program designed to provide a three-week enrichment experience for high school students in contemporary Chinese culture and language.

How the Program Works:

- Twenty high achieving high school students, entering grades 11 or 12 will participate in a one-week residential program on the MSU campus followed by two weeks in China.
- Students will have the option of earning 4 MSU credits.
- Travel in China will include a 14 day study tour to the cities of Beijing, Xi’an, Suzhou, Hangzhou, and Shanghai.
- Applicants should be open-minded, flexible, willing to accept new challenges and ready for rewarding experiences.

Sponsored by the Office of International Studies and Programs, the Asian Studies Center, the Office of Gifted and Talented Education and the Honors College at Michigan State University.
Contemporary Chinese Culture and Language

The aim of this program is to provide a three-week enrichment activity for high achieving high school students entering grades 11 or 12. An option is available for students to earn 4 MSU credits in an Integrative Studies Arts and Humanities course. The program will include one week on the MSU campus followed by two weeks of study touring in China. Students will have first hand experience in understanding Chinese people, their language, and culture.

Application Considerations

• Student must submit a valid passport to the GATE Office by March 21, 2008.
• Applications are evaluated as they are received. Students will be notified of their status within one week of receipt of a completed application.
• Students who wish to receive MSU credits must register prior to the start of the program by completing a MSU Application for Admission High Achieving High School Student form.
• Students and parents should plan to attend the orientation meeting in May, held at Michigan State University. Out-of-state students and parents will receive information packets and may contact the program leader via e-mail.
• All students will depart from Detroit Metro Airport when traveling to China. Bus transportation will be provided from the MSU campus to the airport.
• Michigan families must plan to meet their students in Detroit Meto Airport upon returning from China.
• Parents of out-of-state students will be responsible for their child’s travel plans to MSU and from Detroit Metro Airport.
• Students must submit their final project by July 31, 2008 to the course instructor.
• Previous study of Chinese language on the part of the applicant is not necessary.
• The cost per student is $3,850.00 to be paid in advance, however only deposit money should be sent with this application. The total cost includes airfare, so the estimated fee may be subject to change due to fluctuations in flight costs.

Timeline

3-14-08 Applications must be postmarked by this date
3-14-08 Tuition due by this date
4-19-08 Orientation at Michigan State University
6-22-08 Student registration and check-in at the residence hall
6-23-08 One-week residential program on MSU Campus
6-28-08 Students check out of residence hall and depart the MSU Campus for Detroit Meto Airport to fly to Beijing, China
7-12-08 Students return to Detroit Metro Airport from Shanghai, China
7-31-08 Final research projects due to program instructor
Course Assignment and Work

Students will have short reading assignments for each class as well as short readings to do while in China prior to the various site visits. Language instruction will include daily homework assignments. Each student will read Ji-Li Jiang’s *Red Scarf Girl*, a first-hand account of the Cultural Revolution. For students receiving college credit, please refer to the curriculum section for grading information.

Extra Curricular Activities

Students will have opportunities during their stay on the MSU campus to participate in extra curricular activities. These will include the showing of Chinese films, meeting with Chinese international students attending MSU, learning Chinese songs and games, learning calligraphy and paper cutting or other such crafts. Taiji lessons will be demonstrated with students encouraged to participate. Students will also be able to use the IM facilities while on campus.

Residential Housing and Student Conduct

Students will be staying in the Mason-Abbot/Snyder-Phillips, dormitory complex centrally located on the campus of Michigan State University, for the duration of the program. Two students will be assigned per room.

The China Adventure program sets the highest expectation for its participants in both academic participation and personal deportment. Students will be dismissed from the program for use of alcohol, tobacco or drugs, and for behavior that threatens the safety of themselves or other students.

Eligibility and Admission Process

Students eligible for the China Adventure program must:

- be entering grade 11 or 12 in the fall of 2008
- be open to new experiences in a culturally unfamiliar environment
- have a desire to work in an academically challenging environment

In order to be eligible, students must have the following:

- two recommendations: one from an educator, one from an adult
- a student essay
- GPA of 3.5 or above
- documentation of strong standardized test scores (PLAN, PSAT, ACT OR SAT)
- current transcript

These must be sent along with a completed application and deposit check for $500.00 made out to Michigan State University. Students wishing to earn college credit must also complete the Application for Admission High Achieving High School Student.
Parent/Student Orientation

An orientation program will held for students and parents on the campus of Michigan State University on April 19, 2008. Program and travel information will be shared including health and safety issues, communication via phone and internet, banking, what items to bring and to pack, legal issues, etc. For out-of-state student and parents, an orientation packet will be sent with information on how to obtain answers to additional questions students and parents may have regarding the program or travel.

Curriculum

This program will introduce students to the exciting field of Chinese studies. Each day will begin with a three-hour class on history and contemporary culture of China. Topics covered include the physical and cultural geography of China; an overview of Chinese historical themes; creation of a unified China; Confucianism and the Confucian state; introduction of Buddhism and the creation of the Daoist religion; poetry and literature; the Silk Road; international trades and the dispersion of ideas, religions and inventions; the coming of the West and its challenges; the rocky road to revolution and the establishment of the PRC; understanding contemporary China through literature, music, politics, and economics. Each afternoon will begin with a two hour Chinese language class based on the first year textbook and taught by a MSU language instructor.

Students earning 4 MSU credits in an IAH (Integrative Studies Arts and Humanities) course in Contemporary Chinese Culture and Language will be graded as follows: 25% of the grade will be based on the language portion of the course, 25% will be based on an analytical review of a selected book, 25% on an annotated journal of impressions and analysis of time in China, and 25% on the individual project. The final product can be a video, PowerPoint presentation, traditional research paper, a photo essay or a project idea approved by the instructor.

During the travel portion of the course, students will have lectures with site visits in Beijing, Xi’an, Suzhou, Hangzhou, and Shanghai. Projected sites to be visited in Beijing include: the Imperial Palace, Tian An Men Square, Beihai park, a local school and a Peking Duck Dinner; Badaling and The Great Wall and the Ming tomb; the Lama Temple, a Confucian Temple, Bell Tower, and Riksha tour of Hutongs, and visit a local family’s home. Begin Day 5 with Tai Chi Chuan exercises, visit the Temple of Heave and then a flight to Xi’an. Enjoy a guided tour of the Xi’an with visits to the city wall; the Xi’an mosque, bell and drum towers, the stele museum, the Terracotta Warriors, a Banpo village, Qin Shi Huang’s tomb, and the Hua Qing hot springs. We will visit the Shaanxi Provincial Historical Museum, Big and Small Wild Goose Pagodas, tea ceremony, and rural village, and visit Hua Shan, climb a mountain, and go shopping. Students will fly to Shanghai to visit the Jin Mao Tower, a visit to the Bund and enjoy an acrobatics show. On Day 8, visit a local hospital to learn about Chinese medicine and acupuncture, take a guided tour of Shanghai, and visit Nanjing Lu’s interesting shops. Take the train to Suzhou to tour a daoist temple and gardens. On Day 10 tour a water gate and Grand Canal; Buddhist temples and gardens and in the evening enjoy a musical garden performance. On Day 11, take a train to Hangzhou, then rent bikes to tour West Lake for a boat ride, followed by an evening musical garden performance. The next day, ride a bus to Mei tea village and Six Harmonies Pagoda, in the afternoon, visit a medicine museum and Founder’s Home, climb hill overlooking the lake, see local museum. That evening, enjoy concert of Chinese music, and an evening at the night market. Day Thirteen; take a bus to Shanghai with a stopover at the water village, then complete last minute shopping before flying home the next day. Since one requirement of the program is to keep a journal, students will be given questions to answer in the journal about each site we visit. In addition, students will continue with Chinese language study with a focus on practical topics they can use when touring sites and meeting the local residents.
**Passport and Visa Information:**

Students will be required to obtain a passport and visa for participation in this program. U.S. and non-U.S. citizens need a valid passport both to enter other countries and to return to the United States. If you already have a passport, make sure it is valid until at least six months after your return date. If you must apply for or renew a passport, do it immediately. Due to recent changes in US laws, passport application processing takes 3 months or more. Passport forms are available at many federal and state courts, probate courts, some county/municipal offices and some post offices. They can also be downloaded from the Internet.

A visa is official permission granted by the authorities of a country where you will study or travel that allows you to enter and remain in that country for a specific purpose. The visa itself is frequently a stamp in your passport, not a separate document. You will need a passport before applying for a visa and the passport plus visa process may take several months, so start early. This program includes the visa application fees. **You must complete the visa application and return it with your passport by March 14, 2008 to our office.**

**Immunizations:**

Students participating in this program are strongly encouraged to receive a series of immunizations specific for travel within Asia. Students should schedule an appointment to be seen at a travel clinic at least 4-8 weeks before the program to inquire about the recommended and/or required vaccines you may want to consider before departure.

**Program Costs:**

The program fee is $3,850.00 and includes the following:
- non-refundable application fee ($50.00)
- deposit ($450.00)
- pre-departure orientation
- visa application fees
- food and housing June 22 – June 28 on MSU campus
- course materials and supplies
- risk insurance and international health insurance
- t-shirt
- transportation to the airport
- airfare from Lansing to Beijing and return airfare Shanghai to Lansing
- hotels, sightseeing, most meals, transportation, etc. while in China

Amounts not included in the program fee for which participants will need to budget include:
- MSU tuition and fees* if earning MSU credits
- any additional airfare other than program flights listed above
- some meals in China
- personal spending money
- travel insurance

*Non-MSU students pay the Lifelong Education rate, regardless of state of residence.
Fees and Tuition Policy:

- A check or money order for $500.00 ($450.00 deposit and $50.00 application fee) must accompany the China Adventure application.
- Students earning MSU credits must submit their Application for Admission High Achieving High School Student.
- The deadline for payment of the program balance is March 14, 2008.
- All checks or money orders should be made payable to Michigan State University.
- The China Adventure application fee of $50.00 is only refunded if the student is not accepted into the program.
- Refunds are processed in 6-8 weeks.

Withdrawal Policy:

Residential program tuition can only be refunded if the student cannot attend because of a medical emergency or serious medical problem documented by a doctor. In order to receive a refund due to your withdrawal from the China Adventure program, a written withdrawal letter will need to be sent to the GATE office. The date on which the notice is received will be the Date of Withdrawal. The notice must be written by you, the student, and can be in the form of a letter or email; a telephone conversation cannot be used to initiate a withdrawal. Please note that the deposit fee is non-refundable and not included in the following withdrawal/refund chart. The withdrawal policy is based on the start date of your program.

If the student purchases travel insurance, they would be able to recoup 100% of their investment, less the insurance premium and the agency travel penalty in the event that they cancelled due to illness or injury of anyone in their immediate family that would keep them from traveling. Therefore it is strongly recommended that parents purchase travel insurance. This should be purchased at the same time when sending in the final China Adventure deposit. Purchasing a policy with trip cancellation will provide air ticket protection in the event the student has a change of plans. Websites such as www.travelguard.com can assist parents with travel insurance questions and policy cost.

Withdrawal Chart:

Please find below the amount of money for which you are liable given your date of withdrawal (written notification received by GATE Office):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Days Before Start Date</th>
<th>Liability</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0-29</td>
<td>Lose 100% of cost</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>30-85</td>
<td>Lose $1,170</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>86-115</td>
<td>Lose $495</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>116+</td>
<td>$245</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
China Adventure 2008 Program
Application Form

Applicant’s Name (Last, First, M.I.) ____________________________________________________________
Applicant’s Date of Birth _____ - _____ -_____ Age _____ Gender ______________
Applicant’s Mailing Address __________________________________________________________________
                                                                 Street                                          City                                   State                  Zip
E-mail ___________________________________
Telephone (         ) __________________________
Are you a U.S. citizen?  Yes_____ No_____
If yes, Passport # _________________________________________
If no, Visa status ____________________________________________________________________________

Name of School ____________________________________________________________________________
School Telephone (        )__________________________
School District _____________________________________________________________________________
Expected Year of Graduation __________
SchoolAddress________________________________________________________________________ ______
                                                                 Street                                       City                                      State                    Zip
Name of Counselor __________________________________________________________
Father’s/Guardian’s Name _________________________________ Daytime Telephone (       ) _____________
Mother’s/Guardian’s Name ________________________________ Daytime Telephone (       ) _____________
Parent/Guardian Mailing Address _________________________________________________________________
(If different than applicant’s)            Street                                     City                                 State                    Zip
Has the applicant ever been dismissed, suspended or placed on probation for poor scholastic work or
disciplinary reasons?    No ____ Yes ______
If yes, please give details on a separate sheet of paper and attach it to this application.

PERMISSION AND AUTHORIZATION

Parent’s/Guardian’s Signature __________________________________________ Date __________________
Applicant’s Signature _________________________________________________ Date __________________

This form is to be sent with the rest of the China Adventure Program application materials to
Office of Gifted and Talented Education
186 Bessey Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1033

Must be Postmarked by March 14, 2008
CONDITIONS OF PARTICIPATION

I am aware that my participation in the China Adventure Program is contingent upon the following:

- Acceptance into the program according to the selection procedure established by the China Adventure Program Committee. Twenty-five students will be selected as candidates; twenty students will be selected as participants and five as alternates.

- Payment of balance of program cost $3,350.00 upon acceptance as a participant. Tuition for MSU credits is not included in this amount. Students earning MSU credits will be “e-billed” through their MSU Net-ID accounts.

- Completion of all necessary forms.

- My agreement to uphold standards of acceptable behavior, both Chinese and American, as a representative of my school, state and country. Since this program is of high standards, I understand that participants in this program always adhere to appropriate behavior and conduct. At any time during my involvement, if my attitude and behavior are deemed inappropriate, I may be removed from the program.

- My possession of a valid passport. If you already have a passport, please list the number ___________________________ and include a picture of the photo page.

Before you sign the following statements, please give careful consideration to the following:
Students should be open-minded, flexible, willing to accept new challenges, be ready for rewarding experiences, and have a strong interest in China and learning about Chinese culture.

I am committed to and enthusiastic about participation in the China Adventure Program, and I understand the goals and conditions of participation in the program.

____________________________________________            ___________________________
Signature of Student       Date

I am committed to and enthusiastic about my son’s/daughter’s participation in the China Adventure Program, and I understand the goals and conditions of participation in the program.

____________________________________________            ____________________________
Signature of Parent or Guardian      Date

This completed application must be postmarked by March 14, 2008 and returned to:

China Adventure Program
Gifted and Talented Education Programs
186 Bessey Hall
Michigan State University
East Lansing, MI 48824-1033
LETTERS OF SUPPORT AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Please submit with this application the following:

- A one-page, typed essay describing your reasons for wanting to participate in the China Adventure Program. In this essay, please tell what you would bring to this experience and how you would share this experience with others in your school and community. Tell how your interest in China has developed and what you hope to gain from this experience.

- The two Recommendation Forms filled out by a teacher or counselor who knows you well and by another adult who has worked with you, in school or out of school. Please have the forms returned in sealed envelopes.
Recommendation Form

CHINA ADVENTURE PROGRAM

Note to applicant: Please make an additional copy of this page for the required second recommendation.

INSTRUCTIONS TO THE RECOMMENDER: Your answers to the questions on this form will help us select students for the China Adventure Program. Please place the completed form in an envelope and write the student's name on the front. Seal the envelope and sign your name across the flap to ensure confidentiality. Return the sealed envelope to the student who will forward it unopened as part of his/her application, which must be postmarked by March 14, 2008. For questions, please call 517.432.2129.

STUDENT INFORMATION:

NAME OF STUDENT ____________________________________________
NAME OF SCHOOL ____________________________________________

How do you know this student and for how long? ____________________________________________

Please rate the student according to the following list of ten characteristics. This list reflects factors which research has shown are important to successful intercultural adjustment. Please bear in mind that this is an important international program, and students should be able to get along well with peers and demonstrate high ethical standards.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristic</th>
<th>1 = LOW</th>
<th>2</th>
<th>3</th>
<th>4</th>
<th>5</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Open-mindedness &amp; resourcefulness</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sense of humor</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Resilience:ability to cope with failure</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Communicativeness</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Flexibility and adaptability</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Curiosity</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Positive and realistic expectations</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tolerance for differences</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Social maturity</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-Esteem</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Please tell how long you have known this student and in what context you have known him/her. ____________________________________________

Please comment on the student's maturity and character and give your opinion of his/her ability to handle the pace and intensity of being in an unfamiliar environment, while representing his/her high school, state and country. ____________________________________________

_________________________________________  ______________________________________
Typed or Printed Name and Position     Phone Number

Do you know of any reasons (behavioral, emotional or otherwise) whereby this student should not participate in this program? ____________________________________________

_________________________________________  ______________________________________
SIGNATURE        DATE