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EDUCATION

Chinese students win in Vancouver

Government scholarships of \$6,000 to \$10,000 go to outstanding scholars

By XIANG LI
in Vancouver
for China Daily

Sixteen Chinese students at Vancouver-area universities were awarded Chinese government scholarships for their outstanding academic performance.

The awards ceremony was held on May 22 at the Chinese Consulate General in Vancouver. Consul General Liu Fei gave the opening address despite chanting outside the consulate fence by a group of Vietnamese over the disputes in the South China Sea.

"China needs well-equipped talents to knock back the intruders," Liu said. "The responsibility of protecting our territory will soon lie on the shoulder of the young generation, especially those of you standing right here."

The 2015 winners, from the University of British Columbia, University of Alberta, University of Victoria, Simon Fraser University, University of Calgary and University of Northern British Columbia, received scholarships ranging from \$6,000 and \$10,000.

While 14 of the award recipients were awarded the Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Students Abroad, the other two recipients received the Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Students from Xinjiang Uyghur autonomous region.

Ma Mingxu, who obtained a master's degree in petroleum engineering at the University of Calgary last year, is one of the awardees from Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region. He said he hoped to change stereotypes about his hometown.

"I don't want people to arbitrarily link Xinjiang with violence and poor academic performance. Actually, people from Xinjiang are pretty smart. They are able to acquire government scholarships," Ma said.

Yves Tiberghien, director of the Institute of Asian Research at UBC, also attended the ceremony. He impressed attendees with his inspiring congratulatory speech in fluent Mandarin. He stressed the hardships of students studying abroad and encouraged them to maintain passion and hope.

"It is very hard to study here in Canada or anywhere abroad. As not everybody comes from a wealthy family, this fellowship plays a key impact on your life," said Tiberghien.

"I know you have gone through lots of strains and adjustments. But as we emerge from those hardships, we will be able to do amazing things that those of your classmates who don't have those experience cannot do."

The Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Students Abroad was established in 2003 and

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Yves Tiberghien, director,
Institute of Asian Research, UBC

had been given to 4,914 academically excellent PhD students for 13 years.

The Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Students from Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region was created in 2011. Any undergraduate, graduate or PhD student under 40 years old from Xinjiang is eligible to apply for the scholarship.

Published annually, both scholarships aim to reward Chinese students abroad whose performances are outstanding and encourage those talents to donate further to China's development after graduation.

According to statistics from the Ministry of Education of China, the growth rate of students abroad who choose to return to China after graduation has been soaring since 2000.

Among 50,000 Chinese students abroad, fewer than 20 percent of them returned to China after graduation in 2000. However, more than 80 percent of about 420,000 Chinese students abroad chose to go back to China after graduation in 2013.



Zhang Linting (left), one of the recipients of the 2015 Chinese Government Award for Outstanding Self-Financed Students Abroad, with Consul General of China in Vancouver Liu Fei on May 22.

Speech: More voices to be heard

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"My father was always strict with us so we'd avoid repeating his experience," He said.

Unlike his father, He's mother was more like a friend, who always encouraged him through the challenges of learning and life.

"One of the biggest problems for rural students is that the available educational resources are limited and students lack motivation," He said. "So thanks go to my dad for pushing me to study in that environment and to my mom, whose encouragement helped keep me focused on my studies."

He graduated from the University of Science and Technology of China — one of China's top universities — with a bachelor's degree in 2009 and was accepted into Harvard's PhD program on full scholarship the same year. All he knew about America was from books and films and he was in for some culture shock.

"I hope more of China's voices will be heard in the West, since what we have done so far is far from enough," He said.

He is now doing postdoctoral work at MIT in bioengineering, studying methods of computer-assisted drug screening and early detection of cancer.

It hasn't been an easy road, but that's okay. "Perhaps it's because I suffered a lot growing up, so many frustrations to me are things I can definitely bear," He said.

DIPLOMACY

US preps for 8th high-level S&ED

By CHEN WEIHUA
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China and the United States will kick off their annual high-level bilateral meeting early next month in Beijing to address a set of serious bilateral economic and security issues.

The Eighth Strategic and Economic Dialogue (S&ED) will be the last one to be held under the Obama administration.

Nathan Sheets, the US undersecretary of Treasury for international affairs, praised the last few years' S&EDs for making progress in such areas as promoting the rule of law, strengthening regulatory transparency and encouraging economic reforms.

Sheets said he was especially happy with last year's S&ED, which took place a few months before President Xi Jinping's state visit to the US in September. "We were able to have a robust exchange of ideas and make concrete progress on an ambitious set of economic outcomes," he told a group at the Brookings Institution on Tuesday.

Sheets said the US will engage China on a number of key issues this year, including global excess industrial capacity, investment liberalization and macroeconomic rebalancing. He gave a long list of US concerns, from market access to a level playing field and exchange rates.

Chinese officials have not publicly talked about their agenda for this year's S&ED. But China has long pressed the US to lift its outdated restrictions on high-tech exports to China, to make the CFIUS (Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States) review process of Chinese foreign direct investment in the US fairer and more transparent.

Sheets said the two authorities were discussing mechanisms to facilitate RMB trading and clearing in the US, something he described as a "priority highlighted in President Obama's meeting with President Xi last September". He said the US is waiting

“We were able to have a robust exchange of ideas and make concrete progress.”

Nathan Sheets, US under-secretary of the Treasury

for a new negative list from China in negotiating a high-standard Bilateral Investment Treaty (BIT).

Hope for a BIT to be concluded under the Obama administration has been dampened by the 2016 US campaign. The Obama administration is still trying to get a divided Congress to ratify the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Anti-trade rhetoric has been running strong on the presidential campaign trail.

Sheets noted that China has begun embarking on a reform agenda toward more sustainable and balanced growth by addressing issues such as industrial overcapacity, opening up the service sector, strengthening the social safety net, implementing land reform and promoting a more market-based financial system.

"Constructive engagement with China is important for the United States and for the millions of American jobs which depend on a strong, stable and growing global economy," he said.

State Councilor Yang Jiechi and Vice-Premier Wang Yang will head the Chinese delegation to this year's S&ED. The US team will be led by Secretary of State John Kerry and Treasury Secretary Jack Lew.

Kerry will also join Vice-Premier Liu Yandong for the Seventh China-US Consultation on People-to-People Exchange (CPE).

EDUCATION

Chinese students in Iowa accused of cheating

By HEZI JIANG in New York
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More than 30 Chinese students at the University of Iowa have been accused of cheating on an online exam and could face expulsion.

The revelations came after ProctorU, a national proctoring service that provides identity verification for the university's online courses, alerted the school that at least 30 students enrolled in online courses may have attempted to cheat by having others take their exams.

The cases were discovered through discrepancies in IDs provided by the test-takers in one or more exams, and in some cases, in multiple courses, university spokeswoman Jeneane Beck wrote in an e-mail to China Daily.

The university did not identify the students as Chinese, but various China-based media did.

"The university takes the issue very seriously and is reviewing the matter

“The university takes the issue very seriously and is reviewing the matter carefully.”

Jeneane Beck, university of Iowa spokeswoman

carefully. If it is determined a student has cheated, the university will take appropriate disciplinary action, which may include expulsion or suspension," Beck wrote.

The topic has become a hot one on internet platforms, including Zhihu — China's equivalent of Quora.

"As an international student who consistently receives e-mail ads from exam imposters and homework ghost-writers, I'm so glad the school

is taking action," said Li Xun.

"Good Job, University of Iowa," said a user, who said he was an undergraduate student at the university and wanted to remain anonymous because some of his friends were involved in the cheating.

"Some cheating operations were unbelievable," the student said. "They put the ads on poster boards, in cafeterias and even outside the international student office."

The university has welcomed international students in the past few years, and a majority of them are from China. In a CNN report last year, the reporter described Iowa City as "a town where bubble tea shops outnumber Starbucks".

"State funding is going out the door," said Sarah Gardial, dean of the Iowa Business School, where an in-state undergraduate student pays \$9,519 for an academic year while an international student pays \$29,659.

"The funding model actually encourages us to take a

higher percentage (of international students). That's why we started down that path."

More than 2,500 Chinese students were enrolled at the university in fall 2015, and more than 2,000 are pursuing undergraduate degrees.

Chinese students pay an estimated \$70 million a year in tuition to the University of Iowa and pump an estimated \$100 million into the local economy, said the CNN report.

Some argue such door-opening lowered the qualifications of students, many of whom do not have the language skills needed in class and seek shortcuts to good grades.

The University of Iowa Chinese Students and Scholars Association issued a statement asking the public not to "label all Chinese international students with plagiarisms".

"Most of us worked very hard in this foreign country that's thousands of miles from home... only we know how many all-nighters we have pulled," wrote the group.

BUSINESS

Triangle Tire ready to get rolling in China

By PAUL WELITZKIN
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As he toured the Triangle Tyre Co Ltd facilities in China in 2015, tire industry veteran Manny Cicero felt a sense of déjà vu.

"I started a long time ago with Bridgestone when it was a largely unknown Japanese company," he recalled.

"When I went to Japan and saw the Bridgestone facilities for the first time, I was amazed and realized that this company has potential," he said. "I had a similar feeling when I went to Triangle in China."

Cicero is now the CEO of Triangle Tire USA, a start-up subsidiary of Triangle Tyre Group in China, a well-known tire manufacturer on the mainland for 40 years. Although it has been selling its line of tire products in the US for some time, Cicero said the company is making a major

“When you see Triangle in China, you realize this shouldn't be a low-priced tire.”

Manny Cicero, CEO, Triangle Tire USA

push in the US market to become a global brand.

"If you want to build a global brand you better be in the US," said Cicero.

Last year, Triangle established its American headquarters in Franklin, Tennessee, outside of Nashville, after opening a technical center in Akron, Ohio, in 2011.

Now all of Triangle's factories are in China. "We are looking at building

a plant outside of China, but there has been no commitment yet on where it will be located," Cicero said.

The Franklin headquarters staff is at about seven right now. "We hope to go to about 20 employees by the end of the year," said Cicero.

The Akron center serves as a research and development facility that employs 10 engineers to "help us develop better products for the North American market," added Cicero.

Triangle offers full lineup of tire products. Triangle Tire USA will market medium/heavy truck tires, as well as passenger and light truck tires, including ultra-high-performance, winter and specialty trailer tires. The company also offers off-the-road tires for the construction and mining industries.

Cicero said the company is changing its US distribution strategy. Previously it relied on third-party representatives to market its tires. That model "wasn't sustainable

for long-term growth and brand building."

"We are now looking for distribution partners who want to co-invest with us in building the Triangle brand," Cicero said.

He said ideal partners would include tire retailers and commercial dealers with multiple outlets.

Cicero has been meeting with key US tire distributors to discuss how Triangle can help expand their business. The company aims to attract quality distributors "and to support them in marketing and sales to help build the Triangle brand."

Cicero said that while he was at the Triangle facilities in China, he realized that it was a sophisticated company with modern factories and an outstanding product lineup.

"When you see Triangle in China, you realize this shouldn't be a low-priced tire. This company makes quality products that offer real value," he said.