The official convocation event held in Zhuhai in September officially began the four-year journey of the inaugural class of 160 students at Bryant Zhuhai, a joint program between Bryant University and Beijing Institute of Technology Zhuhai (BITZH).

The BITZH theater was decorated with United States and Chinese flags and the logos of Bryant University and BITZH. Academic Dean of Bryant Zhuhai Dr. David Lux and Vice President of BITZH and Administrative Dean of Bryant Zhuhai Dr. Kevin Zhen introduced special guests from both the U.S. and China. They included Bryant President Ronald K. Machtley, BITZH Chairman of Board of Trustees Dr. Taoguang Wang, Bryant University Trustee David Weinstein, Vice President of International Affairs Dr. Hong Yang and Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza. Bryant alumni representatives from China as well as staff members from the U.S. General Consulate at Guangzhou were also in attendance.

A flag ceremony immediately followed the national anthems of both countries. Both deans and the entire student body read the Bryant pledge. Ambassador Zhang Qiyue, Chinese Consul General, also sent a congratulatory letter from New York.

In speeches, Machtley, Wang, Weinstein, and Elorza stressed the innovative idea of establishing this joint program, emphasized the high standards of the curriculum, and the goal of graduating young leaders.

The academic program in Zhuhai has been designed to mirror Bryant’s nationally recognized curriculum vigor and quality of faculty and is taught in English. The graduating students will receive a Bryant University degree.

Bryant Zhuhai is the first joint program where both institutions are privately run. In addition, Bryant:

- becomes the first and only American university with a presence in Zhuhai;
- is the first university to establish a partnership with a private institution in China;
- offers the only U.S.-China joint four-year undergraduate business degree program in China.
Dear readers, Ni Hao!

After four years of preparation, Bryant Zhuhai, a joint education program between Bryant University and Beijing Institute of Technology, Zhuhai, officially opened for its inaugural class in September. On Pg. 1, you will read a short report on the inaugural convocation that was attended by leaders of both universities as well as the mayor of Providence.

The 2015 4MILE program was redesigned. While keeping many of the informative programs that prepare new students, the program emphasized continued interaction between new students and peer counselors, a new parent reception at the President’s Residence, and the 4MILEstone program as road map to guide international student success. On Pg. 3 is a counselor’s reflection on the program.

Bryant hosted a nationwide forum on “Comprehensive University Internationalization: Strategies for East and South Asia” in November. Representatives from 32 institutions across the country attended the conference on campus. A highlight of the forum is presented on Pg. 4.

Bryant–China University of Geosciences (CUG) Summer Exchange Program marked its fourth successful year last year. Students from Bryant paired with students from China both on the Bryant campus and traveling to the Western states to explore America’s natural beauty and resources (Pg. 6).

The Bryant University Dragon Dance Team, the first university-sponsored team in the United States, participated in the China Collegiate Dragon and Lion Dance Competition last summer. The team, which includes students from several different countries, took home the gold trophy in the best performance category (Pg. 5).

The Global Community Hour, one of Bryant’s signature international educational initiatives to help build cultural competency, is celebrating its 10-year anniversary in April. Learn the countries that have been covered by this program on Pg. 7.

Last year’s celebration of the Mid-Autumn Festival had a unique cultural theme of “China’s intangible national heritage.” In collaboration with Prince Kung’s Mansion in Beijing, a master puppeteer from Shandong Province shared his incredible skills on Bryant campus and in the Confucius Classrooms in the region (Pg. 7).

The U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute continued to work with the Sino-American Bridge for Education and Health (SABEH), a non-profit organization based in Boston, to increase the number of Chinese educators in U.S. as well as sending U.S. teachers to China. (Pg. 11).

Working with faculty and staff members, the U.S.-China Institute continues to offer a successful Sophomore International Experience (SIE) in China. For the past nine years, Bryant students have traveled to Beijing, Guilin, Zhuhai, and Shanghai. (Pg. 10).

Student Affairs sent a senior-level delegation to China this year, visiting our partner schools: China University of Geosciences at Wuhan and our new branch campus in Zhuhai (Pg. 8).

Finally, I invite you to participate in our upcoming events this year, including our monthly seminar, a series of summer programs, and the Mid-Autumn Festival and WaterFire in the fall.

Hong Yang, Ph.D.
Vice President for International Affairs
Charles J. Smiley Chair Professor
Director of the U.S.-China Institute and the Confucius Institute
Another Successful Year for 4MILE
BY: KENDRIK LECHNER ’18

The 4MILE (Multicultural and International Leadership Experience) program had another successful year filled with laughs, adventures, and team building. Dozens of students participated in this year’s program ranging from those who traveled from as far away as China and had never set foot on the Bryant campus, to domestic multicultural students, who were just a short drive from home.

4MILE is a week-long cultural and leadership program for first-year international and domestic multicultural students that helps them acclimate to Bryant and form connections with other multicultural students.

As a peer counselor, it was amazing to watch the students and peer counselors grow during the week. We were able to connect with individuals who would enlighten us on cultures we know little about. For students, being away from home is a large stepping stone in their lives. Saying goodbye to family members, who may live across the globe was, for many, the most difficult part.

One of the highlights of this year’s program for me was seeing the students bond at a bowling event. After a full day of workshops designed to familiarize them with Bryant and prepare for academic success, they were ready to take their connections to a new level on the bowling lanes. This was a lot of fun and an opportunity for the students to get to know each other better.

Another activity that stimulated bonding and teamwork was a ropes course. The students had to work together to get through the course as a team. By the end of the day, they had built new relationships through relying on the help of their classmates.

In addition to these adventures, 4MILE was also a chance to prepare for life at Bryant and life in the U.S. Students were able to attend various educational sessions that ranged from preparing for life in college to using a credit card. Having this knowledge was vital so that, when school started, the students were adequately prepared for any challenges they might face.

Students and peer counselors create an inseparable bond that is strengthened by the memories and experiences they shared. They are prepared for the journey that awaits them and will always have a 4MILE friend nearby if the going gets tough.

Kendrik Lechner ’18 (Middlebury, CT) served as a peer counselor during the 4Mile program last August.

“Making new connections with other students aided this process. It was a really helpful experience because it allowed me to make friendships that I still have now.”

Yulie Henriquez ’19, East Providence, RI

“It really was a great experience involving activities that helped me ease into college life.”

Aataman Bajaria ’19, Vadodara, India
Bryant University hosted a forum on Comprehensive University Internationalization: Strategies for East and South Asia in November. The forum was hosted by the Association of International Education Administrators, which selected Bryant as the site of this prestigious conference.

“This is a particularly timely topic for these great universities around the country to gather at Bryant,” said President Ronald K. Machtley. “Based on studies, the growth of population among students will come from these countries. If we are going to educate students for their futures, it needs to be in the context of a global environment.”

The forum created a dialogue for academic institutions to better understand East and South Asia’s fast evolving education systems and the implications for U.S. higher education institutions. Representatives from 32 institutions came to Bryant and listened to sessions, which addressed topics such as effective recruiting practices, serving the international student population, and developing strategies for operating in East Asian countries.

Several members of the Bryant community led sessions. They included:

• Hong Yang, Ph.D., Vice President for International Affairs and Charles J. Smiley Professor, on creating a permanent presence in East and South Asia
• John Eriksen, Director of International Admission, on recruiting in East and South Asia
• Jongsung Kim, Ph.D., Professor of Economics, on the dynamics of East and South Asian Education Systems
• Mailee Kue, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Center for Diversity and Inclusion, on challenges for Asian students in American universities
• Kongli Liu, Associate Director of Academic Programs at the U.S.-China Institute, on student recruitment and student mobility

“Understanding Asia is becoming more and more important for American institutions,” says Yang, who was the host of this conference. “Not only for recruiting students, but for engaging with China and other countries in Asia. I think this conference is at the perfect time to get people together to discuss these important issues.”

Kue helps international students transition to Bryant with the 4MILE (Multicultural and International Leadership Experience) program, uniquely designed for first-year international and domestic multicultural students.

“I approach my work from the lens of racial and cultural dynamics,” Kue says. “It is really important to consider in our work with international students that they experience microaggressions and can become very confused. They haven’t been exposed to certain stereotypes.”

Four international Bryant students also shared their experiences of studying at Bryant at the conference, including:

• Eaindra Aung ’16, Burma;
• Takanari Konuma ’17, Japan;
• Leiyan Li ’17, China;
• Giang Phi ’17, Vietnam.
In summer 2015, Bryant’s Dragon Dance Team brought home another trophy from an international competition. The team traveled to China, competed in the China Collegiate Dragon and Lion Dance Competition and won the gold trophy in the best performance category. The first American college sponsored dragon dance team, the Bryant team, established in 2009, has won two bronze medals in previous competitions and has performed for an estimated audience of more than 170,000 people in the U.S. and China.

Our first destination during this trip was Shanghai, China. This crucial leg allowed us to adjust to life in China as well as to the time difference. During these two days, we visited various sightseeing destinations such as the Bund, Pearl Tower, and the world famous two-mile shopping street in Shanghai.

The second leg of our trip was the reason we were in China – the dragon dance competition in Xuzhou, China. During this portion of our stay in China, I became much closer to my Bryant University dragon dance teammates. I also made many new friends from the China University of Geosciences (CUG). We spent more than eight hours a day with the CUG students and were able to form very unique friendships with the Chinese students.

As an American student, I felt immersed in the art of dragon dance. I still remember the first day of training. We trained for almost four hours, which was equivalent to two weeks of our typical training at Bryant. Finishing the night practice session, one of the CUG students said that on average they would practice five hours a day. It really hit me that dragon dance was both an art form and a discipline. From that day on, practicing four hours a day was easier as I became accustomed to the strenuous sessions.

Our performances were a reflection of our hard work and dedication to dragon dance. We moved like a team, and the practice was crucial to this. When it was announced that we won the gold award in the best performance category, I was quite happy. I give much credit to Professor Hu from CUG for teaching us many new moves, as well as mentoring us. We could not have executed this performance without her. Winning first prize was also quite nice as it acknowledged all the sweat and hard work we put into dragon dance.

Kevin Zhu ’18 (Newton, MA), president of Bryant’s Dragon Dance Team, reflects on his experience.
For the past three years, Bryant University and the China University of Geosciences (CUG) in Wuhan have been collaboratively providing a cross-cultural summer-exchange program for each school’s students. The U.S.-China Institute welcomed students and teachers from CUG for the chance to experience American culture, customs, and lifestyle. Students from CUG came to the United States, not only to learn about the country, but also to explore it with Bryant students. The program included lectures and academic work, along with daily trips around New England and the Western region of the country.

This year, the program included 13 CUG students with one teacher, eight Bryant students, staff members from the U.S.-China and Confucius Institutes, and Bryant professors Qin Leng, Ph.D. and David Greenan, MBA. Bryant students and faculty were responsible for helping the CUG students with academic work and educating them about topics from baseball to American politics. The Chinese students shared their insights during lectures and answered questions about life in China.

The two-week program began with icebreakers and lectures at Bryant. During the evening, Bryant students and CUG students stayed together in the residence halls. In fact, many CUG students said their time in the residence halls with Bryant students was their favorite part of the program. While staying at Bryant, the group also took day trips to Boston, New York City, Providence, and Newport. Every day, CUG and Bryant students presented an oral site report on that day’s location. This not only enhanced students’ presentation skills and expanded their knowledge, but also helped CUG students improve their English.

The second-leg of the program was an excursion out West, led by Vice President for International Affairs and Charles J. Smiley Chair Professor Hong Yang, Ph.D. Yang is also a professor of science and technology and director of Bryant’s U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute.

The group flew to Seattle, Washington, and then drove to Moscow, Idaho. This part of the program focused heavily on the geology and mining history of the western United States. During the few days in Idaho, the group visited: Cour d’Alene, the University of Idaho, Lewiston, Clarkson, Boise, and the Clarkia Fossil Bowl.

The two weeks were packed with different activities and work during which, the Bryant and CUG students bonded with one another. Students loved asking each other about their lifestyles in the different countries, and soon realized how similar they really are. Students were complete strangers when the program began, but became international friends, making it hard to say goodbye and return home. The program certainly gave all the students a new appreciation not only for home, but for international experiences as well.
Global Community Hour
10th Anniversary

The Global Community Hour, one of Bryant’s signature educational initiatives to help build cultural competency, will celebrate its 10-year anniversary in April.

The long-running series, sponsored by the Office of International Students and Scholars, is held monthly throughout the academic year and has become a very popular event on campus. A Bryant international student guides the audience through a tour of his or her featured country. Each session includes samples of authentic cuisine.

Over the past 10 years, the Bryant community has traveled to 43 countries covering six continents, without ever leaving campus. The Global Community Hours help members of the Bryant community, including faculty, staff, and students, develop their global perspective. The program contributes to the community’s understanding of the interconnectedness of nations as viewed through the perspective of Bryant’s own international students and scholars.

GLOBAL COMMUNITY HOUR

COUNTRIES TRAVELED
Canada • Bahamas • Honduras • Jamaica • Trinidad y Tobago • Ecuador • Venezuela
Ghana • Nigeria • Rwanda • Tanzania • Kenya • Zimbabwe • South Africa • Mauritius
Spain • Poland • Ireland • Denmark • France • Italy • Greece • Croatia • Albania
Bulgaria • Kuwait • Ukraine • Kazakhstan • India • Bangladesh • Bhutan • Myanmar
Vietnam • China • South Korea • Japan • Mongolia • Russia • Malaysia • New Zealand

SPONSORED BY THE OFFICE OF INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

This map shows countries the Global Community Hour has traveled since it began 10 years ago. More than 40 countries have been explored so far with many more still to go.

Mid-Autumn Festival

In September, Bryant University’s U.S.-China Institute hosted the annual Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration. Similar to Thanksgiving, the Mid-Autumn Festival is a holiday celebrated in China to give thanks for the year’s harvest. This year’s festival showcased Chinese culture on the Smithfield, RI campus and was part of the 10-year anniversary celebration of the U.S.-China Institute.

This year’s celebration featured a shadow puppet presentation performed by master puppeteer, Mr. Zheng’an Fan of Prince Kung’s Mansion in Beijing, and a performance by the Bryant University Dragon Dance team. These performances were followed by a reception that featured the serving of traditional Chinese moon cakes, as well as an elaborate exhibition on Prince Kung’s Mansion.
A delegation from Bryant’s Student Affairs division visited China in January to open discussions about increasing cooperation with Bryant’s Chinese partners. Vice President of Student Affairs and Dean of Students John R. Saddlemire, D.Ed., Associate Dean of Student Affairs John Denio, and Special Assistant to the Vice President for Student Affairs Megan Fox, spent 10 days in China holding high-level discussions with their counterparts at Beijing Institute of Technology in Zhuhai, as well as learning the current state of student affairs at Chinese universities.

Their first stop was Bryant’s new campus in Zhuhai, Guangdong Province. At Bryant Zhuhai, they met with staff, students, and faculty in the new Bryant Zhuhai building, which was completed in January. They observed the living and working facilities, and sampled local cuisine after discussions with colleagues.

The delegation then visited Bryant’s partner school, China University of Geosciences (CUG), Wuhan. At the CUG campus, they discussed how student affairs staff from both schools can learn from each other and work together on certain projects.

Along with Vice President of International Affairs Hong Yang, Ph.D., the delegation participated in an interview process to select Bryant scholarship recipients from a pool of CUG candidates who are interested in attending Bryant. After the meetings, they were able to visit the Yellow Crane Tower and Hubei Museum, famous historical sites in Wuhan. The group then returned to Bryant Zhuhai to take part in its inaugural Innovation and Design Experience for All (IDEA) Program. They observed the interaction between Bryant Zhuhai students and students visiting from Bryant’s Smithfield campus, who are participating this year’s SIE China program.
The U.S.-China Institute continued the celebration of its 10th anniversary by sponsoring Chinese Culture Night at WaterFire Providence, this September.

“The U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute at Bryant University are proud to be a sponsor of WaterFire Providence,” says Vice President for International Affairs Hong Yang, Ph.D., professor of science and technology and director of Bryant’s U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute. “We enjoyed sharing our diversity with the community through promoting Chinese language and cultural heritage.”

Prior to the lighting, the Confucius Institute hosted performances highlighting Chinese culture and performance art including a Chinese Dragon Dance performance on the Waterplace Park Basin stage. Under tents, volunteers from Bryant University showcased Chinese culture, including architecture, calligraphy, ceramics, knots, silk, and paper cutting.

Mr. Zheng’an Fan, from Prince Kung’s Mansion in Beijing, performs at Chinese Culture Night during the World Wide Confucius Institute Day and WaterFire celebration.

The Chinese calligraphy tent was popular among visitors to this year’s Chinese Culture Night at the WaterFire event sponsored by the Confucius Institute at Bryant.
The Sophomore International Experience (SIE) is a two-week alternative to traditional semester-long study abroad. Students learn firsthand about the cultures and commerce in other countries. Three students who traveled to China for SIE share their experiences.

### 2016 SIE China Reflections

**Ali Feehan ’18**

“I only traveled for 14 days, but I feel I have learned more about the Chinese culture than I could have learned from any book, article, or website. I also learned how to travel internationally, an invaluable skill for someone like me who wants to work in international business. Throughout the course of the trip, my view of China has completely evolved. Looking back and comparing what I thought China was, to what I now know China actually is, I am embarrassed at how unaware I was.”

**Jackson Tansey ’18**

“During our time as mentors at Bryant Zhuhai, not only was I able to help these students, but they gave me such an insightful view into the lives of college students our same age living halfway around the world. It is amazing how we all go through the same struggles and stressors as college students. It made us feel closer to these kids than we ever knew imaginable.”

**Julie Fougere ’18**

“The two weeks abroad altered my views on the world completely and have caused me to seriously consider working in a different country in the future. I know I just got home, but all I can think about is going back to Shanghai. It truly was the only place I have ever been in my life that I feel like I left something behind when I departed and I know I won’t get that feeling to go away until I go back.

Thank you again for giving me the push to go out and get what I want out of life. I know my next life chapter will involve China and I wouldn’t have known that without this SIE trip.”

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**Bryant SIE China students jump with joy at the Forbidden City in Beijing, China.**

**Students visit Lenovo and learn more about the company’s daily operations.**

**A trip to Beijing is incomplete without a visit to the Great Wall. The SIE group visits the Mutianyu section.**
Since 2005, the Sino-American Bridge for Education and Health (SABEH) has been sending teachers from the United States to China to conduct workshops on student-centered classrooms. Focusing on three key principles, the U.S. teachers share with their Chinese counterparts instructional techniques that provide students with frequent opportunities to increase interaction, improve comprehension, and develop critical thinking skills.

More than 100 U.S. teachers and 2,000 Chinese teachers have participated in the program, since its inception in 2004. SABEH teachers spend several weeks each summer collaborating with Chinese teachers and learning about China’s history, geography, people, and culture. Each year, SABEH holds a series of pre-departure planning meetings, in partnership with Bryant University’s U.S.-China Institute, to help prepare U.S. teachers for their work in China.

Evan Czyzowski, a New Hampshire high school teacher, who has taught in China with SABEH each summer since 2012, was recently named the organization’s director of education. During the summer of 2015, Czyzowski oversaw two SABEH programs: one at the Fujian Teachers’ College in Fuzhou, where 13 U.S. teachers worked with more than 300 Chinese teachers, and another at Greentown Yuhua School in Hangzhou, where seven U.S. teachers worked with more than 120 Chinese teachers and 70 Chinese high school students.

Chinese teachers design lessons for their SABEH courses.

Chinese teachers face many of the same challenges as American teachers, such as how to best engage students, but they also face large class sizes and the pressure of the high-stakes Gaokao examination. Chinese teachers are eager to learn how American teachers create student-centered classrooms.

Czyzowski emphasizes that “Chinese teachers and administrators want to learn more about American education practices to engage and promote student learning. In the end, both American and Chinese students are the ones who will benefit most from this collaboration.”

For more information about SABEH’s exchange programs for experienced teachers and a 2016 application, please visit SABEH.org.
Upcoming U.S.-China Institute Events

February 27, 2016
2 – 5 PM
Chinese New Year Celebration at Bryant
Join us in celebrating the most important Chinese festival of the year and welcome the Year of the Monkey with traditional cultural performances, raffle prizes, and more.
Location: Bryant University Chace Wellness and Athletic Center Main Gym
Free and open to the public
Doors open at 1:30 PM

March 28 & April 18, 2016
HSK Test
This is a six-level, international standardized Chinese proficiency test designed to examine students’ ability in the application of the Chinese language in their studies and personal lives.

April 4 & May 30, 2016
YCT Test
This is a four-level, international standardized test of Chinese language proficiency, designed to help young students evaluate their Chinese language skills.

Registration Deadline
10 days prior to the exam date
For more information, please contact Li Chen at lchen4@bryant.edu or visitchina.bryant.edu and click on “Test Services” through the Confucius Institute tab.

China Seminar Series
Each month during the school year at Bryant, we feature a different guest speaker, each an expert in his or her respective field, who talks about different issues related to China.
For more information, visit our website at china.bryant.edu or find us on Instagram or Facebook.

February 26, 2016
Global Community Hour
One of Bryant’s signature educational activities to help build cultural competency will visit Kenya, presented by Consolata Mutuna, a visiting scholar hosted by the Communication Department. The presentation on Kenya will be followed by a small sampling of local cuisine. Seats are limited. For more information, contact the Office of International Students and Scholars at oiss@bryant.edu.

June 10 – 12, 2016
The Fourth International Symposium on Chinese Language and Discourse
This biennial symposium that advances the exchange of scholarship and emphasizes an empirical orientation in discourse functional studies of the Chinese language. Keynote speakers include: Dr. Mei Fang, Institute of Linguistics at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences; Dr. Agnes He, University of New York at Stony Brook; Dr. Li Wei, University of London. To register for the symposium, please visit 2016cld.bryant.edu. Email any questions to 2016cld@bryant.edu.

The U.S.-China Institute at Bryant University forges academic, business, and cultural partnerships between Bryant University and higher learning institutions, business enterprises, and governmental offices in China.

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