Bryant University celebrated another milestone as a leader in international education on August 3 by welcoming the first group of Bryant Zhuhai students from its branch campus in China to the Smithfield campus. Eighty-seven students – more than half of Bryant Zhuhai’s inaugural class – spent two weeks in the United States as part of the Sophomore International Experience program.

Continued on page 2
“Seeing you here at Bryant, just one year after you began this transformational experience, just makes me so proud,” President Ronald K. Machtley told the students. “It is such a great honor to welcome you to the Bryant campus.”

“For me, this is a very special moment,” said David Lux, Ph.D., academic dean at Bryant Zhuhai. “I feel honored to represent both Bryant University and Bryant Zhuhai and to have these intercultural conversations and the opportunities to work between the two cultures.”

The Sophomore International Experience (SIE), available to students at both campuses, allows students to learn firsthand about cultures and commerce in other countries. The three-credit course, held during winter and summer breaks, begins the semester before departure with an introduction to cultural norms, historical reading and analysis, language study, and art appreciation.

While in Smithfield, the Zhuhai students learned about American business culture, mass media, politics, and more from Bryant’s Smithfield-based faculty members. They also interacted with Bryant’s Smithfield students and learned some of the fine points of American football from the Bulldog football team. The Zhuhai students also met with Providence Mayor Jorge Elorza, visited the Rhode Island State House, and traveled to Boston to tour the offices of the international accounting firm PricewaterhouseCoopers. Students also visited Providence, Newport, Boston, New Haven, New York, and Washington, D.C., before returning to China.

“By participating in the SIE USA program, you have an opportunity to open yourself. I hope that you opened your arms for more friends, opened your eyes for a new culture, opened your mind for new ideas, and opened your heart for a new world,” Professor Hong Yang, Vice President for International Affairs remarked in Washington D.C. at the program’s opening ceremony.

Bryant University’s first-entering class of 160 Chinese students began their studies at Bryant Zhuhai last September. In collaboration with Beijing Institute of Technology Zhuhai (BITZH), the new four-year undergraduate program prepares students with the global perspective that is essential for success in today’s international business world. The academic program in Zhuhai, which is taught in English, is designed to mirror the vigor of Bryant’s nationally recognized curriculum and the quality of faculty. The graduating students will receive a Bryant University degree.
Letter from the Director

Dear readers, Ni Hao!

Ten years ago, President Machtley signed the agreement with Hanban in Beijing to establish Bryant University as the site for the 14th Confucius Institute in the United States. In the past decade, the Confucius Institute at Bryant University has played a key role in educational and cultural exchanges between Bryant and various Chinese public and private institutions. The impactful Confucius Institute’s programs increased cultural diversity and awareness on campus and its affiliated Confucius Classrooms have benefited local K-12 schools and communities at large. A community program has recently been carried out at the Ralph Wheelock School in Medfield, MA (Pg. 11). Bryant will celebrate this 10-year anniversary milestone through a series of events in the fall semester (Pg. 4).

In August, the Bryant Smithfield campus welcomed 87 Chinese students and 7 staff members from its Zhuhai campus for the Sophomore International Experience (SIE). The program, modeled after Bryant’s decade-long successful SIE program in other countries, provided Bryant Zhuhai students a unique American experience as an important part of Bryant’s strategic collaboration with Beijing Institute of Technology in Zhuhai. Their stories and images can be found on (Pg. 2).

On pages 6-7, you will also read reflections of Bryant Smithfield students who studied abroad in Tokyo and Shanghai. Whether it was climbing Mt. Fuji or a weeklong trip along the ancient Silk Road, these experiences are unforgettable and life-changing for our students.

One of our faculty members, Crystal Jiang, Ph.D., describes her research on trust relationships among senior business executives in international business on page 5. Jiang recently conducted a field survey in China, and some of her key findings were recently published in international journals.

International visiting scholars bring different academic and cultural experiences and perspectives to our Bryant community, while benefiting from interactions with Bryant faculty for research and other intellectual activities. On page 11 is a profile of a visiting professor from Korea, one of our J-1 visiting scholars recently hosted on campus. We also included an interview with an alumnae who is serving as a senior financial analyst in Chengdu, in China’s Sichuan Province (Pg. 10).

Finally, the U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute will host a series of events in the fall semester, including an exhibit on the story of Shanghai Jewish Refugees, the Mid-Autumn Festival featuring Chinese porcelain from Jingdezhen, a Providence WaterFire to celebrate World Confucius Institute Day, and International Education Week (Pg. 5).

I invite you to participate in these exciting activities this 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
In October 2006, the Confucius Institute at Bryant University became the first China-funded institute in Southern New England dedicated to the promotion of Chinese language and culture. Now, ten years later, Bryant continues to be a leader in fostering U.S.-China exchanges for schools and communities across New England.

This fall, the Confucius Institute is celebrating its 10-year anniversary with several events designed to enrich the understanding of Chinese culture.

On September 21, Bryant is hosting the annual Mid-Autumn Festival. The festival is a holiday commonly celebrated in China to give thanks for the current year’s harvest, similar to Thanksgiving. This year’s festival features a porcelain display from Jingdezhen, a small city in Jiangxi Province in China. Jingdezhen has a documented history of producing ceramics for 1,700 years including the first piece of Chinese porcelain to reach Europe in 1338. In addition to the exhibit, the festival consists of a short lecture and discussion on Chinese porcelain.

The U.S.-China Institute and Confucius Institute at Bryant University are proud to sponsor WaterFire Providence on September 24. Prior to the lighting, the Confucius Institute is hosting 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 are showcasing Chinese culture, such as architecture, calligraphy, ceramics, knots, silk, and paper cutting.

On October 26, The Confucius Institute, U.S.-China Institute and Bryant University Hillel are teaming up to host Shanghai Jewish Refugee Exhibit: A Piece of Local History. Two local women will share how Shanghai became their new home after fleeing Poland during World War II. The event will also feature a panel discussion led by Rabbi Steven Jablow, Jewish Chaplain.

In 2010, the Mid-Autumn Festival featured “Grassland History and Culture” in partnership with the Inner Mongolia Museum.

Alumnae Yiran Dong ’16 performs with her pipa at WaterFire Providence during Global Confucius Day.

In 2009, K-12 students traveled to China, supported by the Confucius Institute. That year’s trip was called Green China and focused on sustainable living.
The Confucius Institute and the U.S.-China Institute at Bryant University, along with Bryant University Hillel, are hosting the Shanghai Jewish Refugee Exhibit: A Piece of Local History. Ada Winsten of Providence, RI and her sister, Suzanne Kuszner of New York, NY will share with the Bryant community their first-hand account of their two-year journey from Poland to Shanghai during the Holocaust in Europe.

Beginning in 1933, Shanghai opened to roughly 18,000 Jewish refugees. The Jews who arrived in Shanghai were fleeing persecution in Russia and Europe. Shanghai was one of very few places in the world that remained open to Jewish refugees during that time.

Winsten and Kuszner were small children, when Germany invaded Poland in 1939. In order to survive, Winsten’s parents courageously decided to flee the country with their two daughters. The women fled with their family to Lithuania and then traveled in the middle of the night to Siberia, where they boarded a train bound for Moscow. Once in Moscow, they were fortunate to get on a ship to Kobe, Japan, where they spent one year in dire conditions before fleeing to Shanghai, where they spent the bulk of their childhood.

Winsten and Kuszner will share their harrowing tale on October 26 at 5 p.m. in the George E. Bello Center for Information and Technology Grand Hall. The event will also feature a panel discussion led by Rabbi Steven Jablow, Bryant’s Jewish Chaplain.

Crystal Jiang’s, Ph.D., research has been widely cited and received the best paper award at the Academy of Management and the Academy of International Business. Associate Professor of Management Crystal Jiang, Ph.D., focuses her research on firms originated from emerging economies in knowledge management, cross-culture management, and innovation strategy among others.

Dr. Jiang investigated trust relationships between senior business executives and their overseas partners. Drawing on the similarity-attraction paradigm, social categorization theory, and the distinction between cognition- and affect-based trust, she and her coauthors argued that executives trust their overseas partners differently, depending on the partners’ cultural ethnicity. In a field survey of 108 Chinese senior executives, they found that these executives have higher affect-based trust in overseas partners of the same cultural ethnicity as themselves; cognition-based trust is associated with affect-based trust differently when overseas partners are of the same or different cultural ethnicity. Their findings have both theoretical and practical implications related to inter- and intra-cultural trust on international business and networking (guanxi) dynamics in China.

Dr. Jiang is an Associate Editor of the New England Journal of Entrepreneurship and is an active member of the Academy of Management and the Academy of International Business.

Professor Jiang has been invited to present her research in both national and international conferences and has published her work in the top tier journals in the field such as the Journal of Management (JOM), Journal of International Business Studies (JIBS), Journal of International Management (JIM), and Journal of World Business (JWB).
Eight Things I Learned While Studying in Shanghai

BY TARA LONG ’17

Tara Long ’17 spent a full semester during her junior year studying in Shanghai, China. Here are eight takeaways from her life-changing trip.

Remember 8.
Whenever you go to a restaurant, mall, or department store the Wi-Fi password will most likely be the number 8, repeated eight times (88888888).

A weeklong trip in Dunhuang, Lanzhou, and Xiahe County had the most impact on me.
My fellow students and I flew to Lanzhou where we took a three-hour bus ride to Xiahe, a Tibetan town, where we visited an orphanage. I had the privilege to teach English to a group of children there. We stayed overnight in a village called Eight Angels and the host family taught us how to make yak butter. The following day, we took a 12-hour train ride to Dunhuang, located in the Gobi Desert. It was breathtaking. I had the opportunity to ride a camel and see miles and miles of sand. Over the course of the next few days, we learned about the history, culture, and life in the region. By the end of the trip, I could not stop smiling. I learned to live life to the fullest, and be more adventurous, and to not take little things for granted. I am so grateful for this wonderful experience.

The language is difficult.
My goal prior to my trip was to learn to speak Chinese “fluently.” I quickly realized that would be an impossible task. I discovered just how difficult a language Chinese is. If I participated in an extended homestay, I would have learned more.

Be open-minded.
Chinese culture is unique and I was questioning everything during my first days there. I often said to myself “only the Chinese would do this” or “leave it to the Chinese to believe in this…” I quickly found that I was being ethnocentric. Instead of questioning the culture, I learned to accept it. I adapted and found myself benefitting from what I was learning.

One of the biggest cultural differences is family roles. Usually, the parents work and the grandparents take care of the grandchild. The grandfather brings the child to and from school, while the grandmother cooks and cleans for the family. I felt that each Chinese child was so loved and so intelligent because he or she constantly was learning from so many older people around them.

Accept and adapt.
I was pleased with how quickly I adapted to the Shanghai lifestyle. The first week of traveling around the city, I was surprised by how the people were cutting lines, pushing, and shoving on the subway, and not waiting at crosswalks. By the third week, I was blending in like a local. I had spent almost 16 years living in Japan, where abiding by the law was very important. Crossing the street on a red light and cutting lines would never be accepted. Pushing and not waiting in lines is accepted here.

Approach each new day with positivity.
I had the pleasure to be around many outgoing people and I am thankful for the classmates that I surrounded myself with. I was lucky to be around people who were very accepting, open-minded, and adventurous.

Studying abroad has helped me become both independent and outgoing. I still enjoyed spending time by myself in China. Every Sunday was “me time,” where I would get on the subway and explore the city. While exploring I would meet different people and share experiences.

My favorite part of studying abroad in Shanghai was interacting with community. I always found myself practicing Mandarin. Everyone appreciated when I would stop and say “ni hao” and practice conversation. I noticed how kind and patient they were when I spoke broken Mandarin. I never thought I would form a relationship with the local people so quickly. The little conversations with the locals were a highlight of my day.

Be kind.
I made sure to be kind to everyone around me, even if that effort was not always reciprocated. I would often get stared at and some of the stares were not friendly. Once at a restaurant, I felt that the waitresses were reluctant to help us because my friends had black skin. When a waitress finally did serve us, we complimented her English ability and continued to show kindness. I do believe we represented America well by being polite that day in the restaurant.

You will find your comfort zone.
I was born in Scotland and grew up in Japan. Living in Shanghai was another great experience where I had the opportunity to learn the language and be immersed in an amazing culture. After overcoming culture shock while living in Shanghai, I soon found that adapting to the local culture made life more interesting. It was nerve-racking when I had difficulty communicating, which certainly made ordering food a challenge. I loved living in China. These are the memories that make living abroad special.

Long, a Chinese major, was recently accepted to graduate school at East China Normal University in Shanghai.
Last fall, I studied Japanese language and cultural studies at Kanda University of International Studies in Tokyo, Japan. During my stay I lived in a dormitory about 25 minutes by train from Tokyo. A train station connected to one of Tokyo’s busiest lines was within walking distance from the dorm, so I could move around very conveniently. The dorm housed around 300 other college students.

The Japanese culture is profoundly different from American culture. This poses challenges to most students studying abroad, but I adapted to the differences while developing an appreciation for the culture. Being 6,700 miles away from home increased my anxiety, but this program offered a great support network including the university, the study abroad center, the other American students I studied with, and the Japanese students who had been paired with us.

Two specific events during my time in Japan had a profound effect on me. I will never forget watching the sunrise from the summit of Mt. Fuji, a 12,000-foot mountain that seemingly floated in the sky. When my group and I finally reached the peak, I was exhausted from the bitter cold, soaked from being rained down on for 12 hours, and almost depleted of artificial oxygen. These conditions, along with all the other worries I had at the time, seemed to fade away when the sun started to peek through. The bright red sun at eye-level and the clouds below our feet created a surreal feeling.

I will also forever remember my experiences of visiting the Tohoku region of northern Japan forever. I made my way by bullet train to two areas, Sendai and Fukushima, which were severely affected by the 2011 Tohoku earthquake, tsunami, and subsequent nuclear disaster. I saw the ongoing recovery efforts and had the opportunity to visit a relocation center for displaced residents of Fukushima. Speaking with those who had experienced tragedy firsthand was truly humbling.

Studying abroad was the best experience of my life. Aside from the benefits of practicing and utilizing Japanese every day, the most rewarding thing I took back from Japan are the relationships I created. To this day, I still wake up early in the morning to FaceTime my friends at Kanda University. One of my Japanese friends from the school is planning a trip to visit me during summer break. I am still in touch with the majority of American students from the program as well. We all shared an unforgettable time in Japan. These are relationships I will keep for a lifetime.
2015-2016 International Programs

This year’s Spring Break Cultural Trip stopped at Zion National Park in Utah.

Bryant students Catherine Chang ‘16, Mijeong Shin ‘19, and Ben Murphy ‘19 volunteered to help during Bryant’s annual Chinese New Year celebration.

Christopher Ratcliffe, MBA, poses with employees of Guangdong Electric Power Design Institute. Ratcliffe taught a one-week Business Strategy course over the summer at the company headquarters in Guangzhou, Guangdong Province.

Stefanie Boyer, Ph.D., shared her sales expertise with employees of Guangdong Electric Power Design Institute and Northeast Electric Power Construction Co. over a five-day program in Guangzhou China.

A group of recent Bryant international graduates pose with classmates, family, and faculty members on the shore of the Seekonk River in Providence, RI.
Bryant Zhuhai students took part in their first Outward Bound program, a program focused on team building. Students experienced a ropes course, hiking, and camping in Zhuhai.

Kaoru Paganelli, Assistant Director of the International Students and Scholars Office and visiting scholars Consolata Mutua, Communication Department; Zhongyuan Zhang, Confucius Institute; Li Chen, Confucius Institute; and Younghewa Lee, Marketing Department pose for a photo after presenting their work at Bryant’s annual Research and Engagement Day.

STARTALK lead teacher Ping Cui guides students in this year’s program on writing Chinese characters. STARTALK, a Critical Need Language Program overseen by the National Foreign Language Center, has been held on Bryant campus every summer for 9 years.

The Bryant Zhuhai soccer team takes on an opponent in a friendly match at the Beijing Institute of Technology campus in Zhuhai.

Bryant Zhuhai students and staff during the annual sports competition. The event brings together competitors from across all colleges on the BITZH campus.

Bryant Zhuhai Student Association members relax after a meeting.
Recently, U.S.-China Institute Academic Coordinator Jason Wang caught up with Bryant International Alumnae Julia Qian to find out about her life after graduating from Bryant in 2010.

NAME
Jiang Qian “Julia”
CLASS
2010
MAJOR
Accounting
CONCENTRATION
Economics
CURRENT EMPLOYER
Intel Corporation
JOB TITLE
Sr. Financial Business Analyst
CURRENT LOCATION
Chengdu, China

What do you find interesting about your current position?
I work closely with engineers so I have opportunities to visit the manufacturing floor and see how the factory operates. An interesting aspect about working in a manufacturing company is that I get to see firsthand how computer chips, the same that power the devices I use every day, are made from start to finish. I also get to see the next new technology before most people. So, it’s also interesting to see how the technology is constantly improving.

What aspect of your current position challenges you the most?
One challenging aspect of my role is that in addition to working within the finance group, I also work directly with people in various different functions, from factory managers to engineers to support groups such as procurement, tax and accounting. There’s a significant amount of coordination effort involved and one of the challenges is trying to juggle the various ongoing projects that rely on multiple areas while simultaneously balancing this with my daily responsibilities.

Similarly, I find each department has teams with different perspectives on their priorities, so trying to influence other teams to have the same passion and stay involved in executing strategic goals in addition to their own daily responsibilities is pretty challenging. In order to achieve your own objectives, you need to put yourself in the other persons’ shoes and be able to successfully communicate both why a project is important and how it benefits the individual with whom you’re working. Additionally, working directly with people from various diverse backgrounds makes developing relationships and adapting my communication style critical in successfully executing these projects.

What has been your most rewarding experience in your current position?
The most rewarding experience has been leading the on-site English program. Because the site demographics include a mix of office employees (e.g. Engineers, Finance, etc.) as well as technicians, their objectives and context in which they speak English can be very different. I was fortunate to lead efforts to design a curriculum that helps to accomplish the different goals. Last year, I was on the committee team that developed teaching materials used by the technicians as part of a six-month training program designed to develop their English in preparation for short-term assignment to the U.S. I’ve also had the opportunity to be the editor of the bi-weekly site newsletter that provides various English lessons and helpful tips to a factory of over 2,000 employees. Various colleagues have shared positive feedback. A few times a year, I’ve been able to give tours of the factory to visitors, including high-profile executives and management from other countries. To have the chance to interact with those other than my immediate co-workers has also been enjoyable and rewarding.

What are your best memories from Bryant?
Some of my favorite memories from Bryant was being able to spend time with friends in and out of classes every day. It becomes more difficult to stay in touch with friends once they start working in different locations and have more responsibilities. I also remember my favorite professors. I had some great professors where I was able to walk into their office and ask for advice anytime. Others were strong mentors during my time at Bryant and had a significant impact on my academic and professional development. I am grateful for those relationships and I keep those memories with me from my time at Bryant.
Young Students at Wheelock School Stay Active and Learn Chinese

Professor Li Chen, a visiting Chinese professor at the Confucius Institute at Bryant University, taught Tai Chi and Mandarin to students at the Ralph Wheelock School in Medfield, MA this past winter. Professor Chen taught a 14-week class where elementary school students learned a complete set of simplified Tai Chi exercises and became proficient with Tai Chi commands in Mandarin.

At the conclusion of the class, the school welcomed parents to enjoy a Chinese cultural performance by their children. The main gym was decorated with Chinese lanterns and pictures of monkeys, the symbolic animal of 2016. All Tai Chi performers wore special red T-shirts designed with a lovely and lively image of a Tai Chi panda. Following Chen’s instructions, students called out Tai Chi commands in Mandarin while demonstrating Tai Chi step-by-step. When the performance was finished, Donna Olson, principal of Ralph Wheelock School, greatly praised the students’ performances and expressed her sincere thanks to the Confucius Institute at Bryant University for providing the Tai Chi class.

In 2008, Bryant University’s Confucius Institute approached K-12 schools with its Confucius Classrooms initiative in Rhode Island and the surrounding areas. The goal is to make Chinese language instruction and cultural studies available to the local community. With the partnership of the Confucius Institute and Confucius Classrooms in 9 K-12 schools in Rhode Island and Massachusetts, students and teachers have opportunities to learn more about Chinese language and culture through a multitude of engaging programs.

VISITING SCHOLAR PROFILE

Younghwa Lee, Ph.D. has been a visiting scholar in the Marketing Department of the College of Business at Bryant University. Working closely with Associate Professor Sukki Yoon, Ph.D., Dr. Lee is doing extensive research in marketing, particularly in consumer behavior, marketing communication, and advertising. She presented her collaborative research at the American Academy of Advertising 2016 Conference as well as at Bryant’s Annual Research and Engagement Day during the spring semester. Interested in further study in advertising, marketing, and consumer behavior in the United States, she is currently looking for opportunities to expand her knowledge in the field.

Before coming to the United States, Dr. Lee received her master’s and doctoral degrees at the Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, South Korea. After obtaining her doctorate, she taught advertising, communication theory, research methodology, and political campaigns at the same university.

Visiting scholar Younghwa Lee, Ph.D., of South Korea, is working alongside Sukki Yoon, Ph.D., in the College of Business’ marketing department.
Upcoming U.S.-China Institute Events

September 21, 2016
Mid-Autumn Festival: Porcelain from Jingdezhen
Jingdezhen has been producing porcelain for over 1,700 years and it is considered among the best in the world. A discussion and porcelain display will take place in Janikies Theatre on Wednesday, September 21st at 5 p.m. This event is free and open to the public. Light refreshments will be served.

September 24, 2016
Global Confucius Institute Day: China Night at WaterFire
The Confucius Institute at Bryant will once again co-sponsor a full WaterFire lighting in Providence. Celebrate China Night with Chinese culture and hands-on activities on Steeple Street. A performance at the Basin Stage starts at 6 p.m. Sunset is 6:38 p.m.

October 26, 2016
Shanghai Jewish Refugee Exhibit: A Piece of Local History
Shanghai was once home to nearly 20,000 Jewish refugees. Join us on Wednesday, October 26th at 5 p.m. in the Bello Grand Hall for an exhibit and panel discussion with local survivor Ada Winsten. Space is limited and reservations are required. To RSVP, contact Leslie Mortland at lmortland@bryant.edu or extension 6887.

November 14 – 18, 2016
International Education Week
International Education Week promotes and celebrates international education and multiculturalism. Highlights during this week include keynote speakers, panel discussions, and programs geared toward increasing awareness and facilitating dialogue. The goal of IEW at Bryant is to heighten campus awareness of social and global issues to promote mutual understanding and international cooperation.

March 11 – 15, 2017
International Affairs Spring Break Trip
Submit an application to take part in the 3rd annual Spring Break trip to the western U.S. sponsored by the Division of International Affairs. Visit some of America’s most beautiful national parks and meet new friends. Space is limited so apply early. For information, please contact Leslie Mortland at lmortland@bryant.edu.

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.

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.