Research abroad takes Purdue scholars to Taiwan

Hammond, IN - Purdue University Calumet’s Center for Global Studies expanded its footprint recently by leading a delegation of scholars to Taipei, Taiwan to participate in the Purdue Global Research Abroad Program, co-sponsored by the Center on Religion and Chinese Society at Purdue University, West Lafayette, College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences at PUC, College of Liberal Arts at Purdue University, West Lafayette, Office of Research and Graduate Studies at PUC, and International Affairs Office at PUC.

Led by PUC's Liberal Arts and Social Sciences Dean Dr. Ronald Corthell, the Purdue delegation conducted a research field trip - sponsored by the Chinese Cultural University in Taiwan - and presented papers at the International Symposium on the Cross-Cultural and Religious Studies, sponsored by the National Chengchi University in Taiwan.

Twelve Purdue faculty members representing three Purdue campuses, PUC, West Lafayette and Purdue North Central, crossed the Pacific to explore research collaborations from June 3 through June 11, 2015.

“This trip symbolized an important step toward establishing substantial and sustainable research collaborations with our Taiwanese counterparts,” Professor George Hong, director of the Center for Global Studies, said.

Hong, who has authored nine books on modern China studies, organized the trip with noted religious studies expert Dr. Fenggang Yang, president of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion and director of Center on Religion and Chinese Society at Purdue University, West Lafayette.

The other faculty represented a range of disciplines including religious studies, sociology, history, philosophy, communication, cross-cultural studies, visual arts, business, and technology.

Among the research presented was Professor of Media Studies Lee Artz at PUC on “Transnational Entertainment and Global Popular Culture,” Dr. Wei Hong, professor of Languages and Cultures, and the director of the Confucius Institute at Purdue-West Lafayette on “Communicating with the Chinese: From Cultural and Linguistic Perspectives,” and Dr. Kuan-Chou Chen, Thomas M. McDermott, Sr. professor and department head of Information Systems, Finance and Business Analytics on “Systems Thinking: Impact and Implications on Globalization from a Religious Perspective.”
“I could not be more pleased with the interdisciplinary focus and high caliber of projects coming out of the Center for Global Studies,” Corthell said.

As part of the research field trip, participants conferred with administrators and faculty at the renowned Dharma Drum Mountain, one of the most significant international institutions devoted to the study of Buddhism. Dharma Drum’s approach to education focuses on academics, public outreach and caring services.

Other stops along the way included visits to Lung Shan Temple, the National Palace Museum, and Shilin Official Residence - the former residence of the late Republic of China President Chiang Kai-shek. Purdue scholars plan to build on this exposure to develop collaborations with Taiwanese scholars through grant proposal development.

Established in 2006, the Center for Global Studies at Purdue University Calumet is a research and educational center designed to promote multidisciplinary research on globalization and area studies. Focusing on the humanities and social sciences, CGS is also committed to studying practice-oriented fields, such as global environment and global health. In addition, CGS coordinates outreach efforts in the area of global studies by facilitating faculty and students’ collaboration on research and educational activities.

For more information about the Center for Global Studies, call (219) 989-4514, email hongg@purduecal.edu, visit http://blogs.purduecal.edu/cgs/ or www.purdue.edu/crcs.