Cross-Cultural Exploration of China

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Project Summary
Within three weeks, Prof. Mahaffy and Chen explored the Yangtze River, the 3rd longest river in the world, visit major cities such as Beijing, Chengdu, Shanghai, make connections with various arts organizations and artists, and immerse themselves in the diverse culture of China's various regions. In collaboration, they created a body of work that represents different natural and social perspectives of China through the eyes of an American and a Chinese.

Introduction
The Yangtze River is located in the middle of China. It is the geometrical and cultural boundary between the North and South. In the history of China, it has played an important role; it supplies fertile land for agriculture, fosters an array of culture, and has influenced its residents from generation to generation. The group traveled the major cities and visit renowned heritage sites which lie in the Yangtze River region as well as exchanged

Significance of project
- To enhance our global perspective of Asian/Chinese culture. You can read about and see the various images from Asian countries though, no one can truly appreciate or learn about another culture unless one is willing to immerse themselves.
- The immersion experience provides Chen an opportunity to apply the understanding of western culture through photography. Secondly, she will have an appreciation of professional works, and participate in curating, and promoting the project, therefore, a clearer understanding about the professional side of photography. Lastly, working one-on-one with a professor is a unique and precious opportunity to develop for Chen to develop her professional skills and be successful in the field.
- Develop international connections while visiting galleries, studios, art school and meeting with Chinese artists. The main portion of the project is visual global communication, regardless of the different languages and cultural background.
- It is a groundbreaking activity in the history of UWEC and photography. On one hand, it's the collaboration between faculty and student, but it is also a groundbreaking portrait of China from both an American and a Chinese perspective. On the other hand, the mission of project is to show the different perspectives of China through an American and a Chinese viewpoint. It is a unique way to bring global interaction to China. This interaction has a significant meaning compared to other projects that people have been done before. Mostly, the previous projects about China have been about the economy and politics. This portrait of China will focus on both natural and social landscapes.
- The dissemination of results will cause an unprecedented impact on UWEC community.

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