

## The PAU Program in the Global Advancement of Counseling Experience in China

By Stanley Sue, Ph.D.



Dr. Martha Chiu introduces Dr. Stanley Sue to the PAU Masters Program in Counseling— China students for his talk, Sept. 2014

As a member of PAU's China Advisory Council, I visited China on September 12-22, 2014. The purpose of the trip was to (1) evaluate the status of the PAU Program with Dr. Martha Chiu and Sheng-Yang Chiu, (2) discuss the program with Dr. Weining Chang, (3) meet with students in the Program and give a lecture, and (4) provide a lecture to the psychiatrists at Shanghai Mental Health Center.

I was very impressed with the work accomplished by Martha and Sheng-Yang. As the pioneering leaders of the China program, they have amassed a solid group of students who want to obtain their Masters degree in Counseling and to serve as counselors.

Their program of training involves online counselor education courses and local-agency practicum and internships. Martha and Sheng-Yang's creativity and resourcefulness have facilitated the stability and productivity of the program. However, they decided to move back to the United States, so it was necessary to find another person who could direct the program in China. (Incidentally, Martha is continuing to serve as a faculty member at PAU.)

Just a few days prior to my China visit, PAU started to negotiate the China Directorship position with Dr. Weining Chang, the finalist for the Directorship of the China program. Weining is a prominent and outstanding psychologist, trained in the United States but employed primarily in Singapore. I have known her for many years. Because both of us would coincidentally be visiting China at the same time, Weining indicated a desire to meet with me to discuss the program. Weining appears to be a strong administrator and leader who can make many contributions to the program.



Students in Palo Alto University Masters Program in Counseling — China listening to Dr. Sue's talk in Beijing, Sept. 2014

Finally, I presented two talks in China. The first focused on mental health services and involved a group of about 18 students and supervisors associated with our MA program in Beijing. The talk was televised to other cities in China, so that PAU Program students in the other cities could view the talk and submit questions or comments online.

The students in Beijing appeared to be serious minded, dedicated to the Program, and intelligent. Their backgrounds varied considerably but all were motivated to become counselors. I was very impressed with the quality of the students.

I made a second presentation on culture and mental health to a group of about 20 psychiatrists at the [Shanghai Mental Health Center](#) (SMHC). The staff appeared to be very open to cultural issues. PAU is hoping to collaborate with SMHC in the training of our students. Interestingly, China has initiated progressive laws and policies that affect the care and treatment of people with mental disorders.

I felt my visit was productive and the China program, while in a state of administrative transition, has promising opportunities to grow and develop.

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