The first year of the Confucius Institute Summer Camp in China turned out to be a very successful one. A group of 9 students, who all studied Chinese at Xavier, from various areas of studies, including chemistry, biology, pharmacy, education, music, and political science as well as a faculty from the College of Pharmacy, Dr. Lori Crawford, attended the camp from May 15 to May 29. Everyone returned with package of an eye opening experience and fun memories to cherish for life.

The team at the College of International Education and Exchange of Hebei University created a busy schedule with rich programs including language lessons in the mornings and various cultural activities and excursions in the afternoons. Students learned paper cutting, Chinese calligraphy and painting, tea culture, Peking opera, Chinese folk music, and Taichi. They also visited local hospitals and pharmacies, a Han Dynasty royal tomb in Hebei, a historic Zhili Provincial Governor's Office and a famous solar power manufacturer. Some students participated in the Baoding International Diabolo Festival. Avion Bailey, a student from the Biology department was videoed by a local TV reporter. Avion loved playing diabolo (a Chinese yoyo) and practiced for days prior to the festival. Sheridon Trepagnier IV, a graduate student from the Division of Education, was also interviewed by the reporter. Xavier students were actively engaged in student exchange activities and had formed partners from their respective departments. During our stay, there happened to be an English Week organized by the English Department and International English & Cultural Studies. We actively participated some of their activities including the opening ceremony, English Night, and English Corner. Dr. Crawford and two pharmacy students visited the Traditional Chinese Medicine hospital and the herb market.

The group left Hebei on May 26 and spent 3 days in Beijing. They visited the Great Wall of China, the Forbidden City, Beijing Zoo, and the Confucius Institute Headquarter. At the Confucius Institute Headquarter, students were able to experience Chinese Learning high technology equipment and tour the exhibits of Chinese learning materials, Confucius Institutes of the year, and some cultural displays. They also met Mr. Feng Chao, the official in charge of North American Confucius Institutes, and asked him about Confucius Institute scholarships.

The trip was an eye opening experience for all the students. Every one enjoyed the whole trip and learned quite a lot of China and Chinese culture. A’Vanti Glenn, a student from the Music Department, said “Being in China was an experience worth having and one that will always be remembered. I wouldn’t be able to forgive myself if I did pass it up.” Ahmeena Anderson, a Chemical student, wrote to her friend: "One of my most memorable moments was when I was playing recreational volleyball with some students and professors from Hebei University. It showed me how different our two cultures are, yet how similar we as people are. I had an amazing experience, and I can't wait to share stories with other students. "
Overall, this was a fruitful trip and unveiled a successful beginning of summer cultural camps in the years to come.

Beautiful HBU Campus

Student Exchange
Cultural Activities

Avion, Ahmeena, and Leo Playing Volleyball with HBU Faculty

Avion, Josheph, and Sheldon Practicing Diabolo

Learning Chinese
Adina Playing Shuttlecock with local senior citizens

Learning Paper cutting
Adina, Ahmeena and Leonard Wearing Peking Opera Costumes

Students with the Peking Opera Club Teacher and Students
Learning Chinese Fold Songs with Chinese Students from the Music Department

HBU Art Troupe Performance
Dr. Crawford, Adina Ewing, and Jazmine Thompson Visiting the Chinese Medicine Hospital

Adina Experiencing Pulsing (Left, former director, famous doctor Chen Yiyun; middle, Associate director of the Baoding Chinese Medicine Hospital Mr. Zhao Feng)
Learning Tea Culture

Talking to Students at the English Corner
Singing Chinese Song at the English Week Closing Ceremony
Visiting a Historical Royal Garden

At the Chinese Herb Supermarket
Visiting Yingli Solar Green Energy Company

Meeting the Vice President of HBU
Beautiful and Delicious Chinese food
Learning Taichi

Learning Chinese Calligraphy
Thank-You Party with Chinese Teachers and Students
Touring the Tiananmen Square

Forbidden City
Climb the Great Wall of China

At the Confucius Institute Headquarter