



DBU Students Teach English in the Far East

This summer, 24 DBU students along with 5 leaders affiliated with DBU traveled to Beijing, China; Shanghai, China; Kaohsiung, Taiwan; and Taipei, Taiwan, where they led four-week-long English camps.

Ann Boyles, director of DBU's Intensive English Program, selected the participants for the trip. "The students went through an application and interview process," she explained. "I asked them to tell me about their international friends here at DBU, because we want the people going on these trips to have a desire to meet internationals and to work with them."

Judy Gregory, wife of DBU vice president for university advancement, Dr. Rick Gregory, led the team in Shanghai, China. They worked with over 200 children, teaching English to kindergarten through junior high age students.

The Beijing team, led by Ann Boyles, worked with Chinese high school English teachers, who traveled from nine provinces to receive the training given in teaching English.

"Teaching in Beijing was a rewarding experience," shared Whitnae Barrett, a DBU senior. "The students' excitement in studying English and their many questions gave me much joy and a feeling of purpose and accomplishment. I connected with people and developed friendships that I will always cherish."

Dave and Jan Whisler, who have been involved with the Friendship Partner Program with

international students at DBU for over 10 years, led the team in Kaohsiung, Taiwan, and Margie Foster, a DBU adjunct professor to internationals, led the team teaching at Ming Hsin University near Taipei.

The DBU teachers from both China and Taiwan reported developing friendships and mutual respect between the program's participants and themselves. "The people in Taiwan were tremendously grateful and respectful. They served us in every way possible from the day we arrived," shared Daniel Foster, son of Margie Foster.

In Kaohsiung, the DBU teams worked with students ranging in age from 11 to 18. Students participating in the English camps were given a placement test to determine their English skill level. The DBU teams helped the students practice English conversation by using many techniques such as vocabulary drills, drama, group discussions, music and stories.

"China was absolutely amazing," said Clifton Coufal, a DBU student. "I was surprised at how open and friendly everyone was. The participants in our seminar were excited about learning new teaching methods. They have a strong pride in their families and country, and they know that the young people they are teaching are the future of their country."

Pictured Above: DBU students Jennifer Dyess, Tim Gingrich, and Whitnae Barrett visit the Great Wall of China with two of their new Chinese friends.