UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE is pleased to offer the 9th annual special trip to China with UD Trustees Distinguished Professor of Music Xiang Gao.

A RARE OPPORTUNITY to tour China with UD violin professor Xiang Gao and UD Chinese language instructor Renee Dong to experience five thousand years of history, culture, and music.

UD friends, faculty, staff and alumni are invited to a private trip to China under the direction of two experienced bi-lingual and bi-cultural China touring directors originally from China.

A 13-day tour to visit China’s most important historical cities:

- BEIJING
- XI’AN
- SHANGHAI
- SUZHOU

Departing on June 15, 2015

EARLY RESERVATIONS ARE HIGHLY RECOMMENDED AS SPACE IS LIMITED.

Deposit of $400 with each reservation must be received by January 15, 2015.

- For reservation and visa forms, visit our website www.UDconnection.com/china-trip
- For other questions, email Professor Gao at xiangg@udel.edu

Tour Features

- MANY UD SPECIAL EXCURSIONS/PROGRAMS led by UD tour directors Professor Gao and Professor Dong that U.S. touring companies are not able to accommodate.
- INTERNATIONAL (NYC-Beijing-NYC) and DOMESTIC (within China) AIR TRAVEL and first-class (air-conditioned) ground transportation.
- 12 NIGHTS world-class hotel accommodations.
- Top quality, English-speaking, local tour guides under the daily direction of UD tour directors.
- 29 MEALS: 12 Western-style breakfast buffets, 9 lunches, and 8 dinners including a dumpling banquet in Xi’an, Beijing Roast Duck dinner and farewell dinner party in Shanghai. All menus personally selected by Professor Gao.
- CULTURAL ENTERTAINMENT: Tang Dynasty Dance in Xi’an, Chinese traditional music performance, Chinese traditional acrobatic performance, boat ride on the Huangpu river in Shanghai, etc.
- SPECIAL UD CULTURAL OFFERINGS: Short lectures including “Modern Chinese Society” by Professor Dong; “Musical and Cultural Traits of China” and “Survival Chinese” with Professor Gao; Brush painting and Calligraphy class, etc.
Itinerary

(Tentative and updated August 2014)

Day 1: (Mon) US/BEIJING
Take an international flight from New York City to Beijing, China. Meals and snacks will be served on the plane.

Day 2: (Tue) BEIJING(SD)
Upon arrival in Beijing, you will be greeted by Professor Gao and transferred to your hotel. A welcome dinner banquet will be waiting for you.

Day 3: (Wed) BEIJING (WB, L, D)
The highlight today is a trip to the astonishing Great Wall of China, the only man-made structure on Earth that can be observed from the moon. After a dumplings feast in norther Chinese style, Professor Gao's short lecture, "Musical and Cultural Traits of China," will be followed by a Chinese traditional music performance.

Day 4: (Thurs) BEIJING (WB, L, SD)
Today you will tour the delicately crafted Temple of Heaven, where the emperors used to pray for good harvest. After lunch, you will have time to shop for antiques and gifts before touring the Hutong (Chinese alleyways) by riding aboard a pedicab through the narrow lanes of the old residential quarters. Arranged by Professor Gao, you will have the opportunity to take a glimpse of the local residents' daily life. Attend a Beijing Roast Duck dinner party in the evening.

Day 5: (Fri) BEIJING (WB, L, D)
The excursion today includes a visit to the Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, the largest and most intact assemblage of ancient structures of the imperial palace. This was the palace for 24 Ming and Qing Dynasty emperors who ruled China for over 500 years. Lunch is followed by a visit to the Summer Palace, the famous resort of the Empress Dowager Ci Xi. Feast your eyes on the Long Corridor, Longevity Hill, and Kunming Lake. If time allows, more gift shopping will be arranged before the world famous Chinese acrobatic show in the evening.

Day 6: (Sat) BEIJING(WB, L)
Two special presentations/classes will be offered before lunch:
1. Survival Chinese Language and Calligraphy;
2. Lecture "Modern Chinese Society." After lunch, you will have free time to explore this wonderful city on your own and to finish your last minute shopping.

Day 7: (Sun) BEIJING/XIAN (WB, SD)
After breakfast, you will take a flight to Xi'an, the ancient capital city for 11 dynasties in Chinese history. You will also take a tour of the well-preserved city wall upon arrival in Xi'an. Enjoy a world famous dumpling dinner banquet, followed by an on-stage spectacular show of Tang Dynasty dance and music.

Day 8: (Mon) XI'AN (WB, L)
Today you will take an excursion to the Tomb of China's first emperor Shi Huang of the Qin Dynasty and see the awesome Terra-Cotta Warriors and Horses, widely regarded as the eighth wonder of the world. After lunch, you will visit the Tang Palace and one of China's most respected museums, the Shaanxi Provincial Museum of History.

Day 9: (Tue) XI'AN (WB, L, D)
Today, you will visit the Big Wild Goose Pagoda from the Tang Dynasty, one of China's most important historical sites. After lunch, enjoy the rest of the afternoon for your leisure. After a local barbeque group dinner, we will visit the sleepless city of Tang.

Day 10: (Wed) XI'AN/SHPANGHAI (WB, D)
After breakfast, you will fly to Shanghai, China's principal port on a deep estuary of the Yangtze River. Often regarded as "the Pearl of the East," Shanghai has retained the flavor of its past European influences. After we land at the beautiful PuDong airport, you have the option to ride the fastest train in the world – Shanghai Maglev train into the city in 7 minutes to meet the group bus. Then, a bus tour of the city and its Bund area will show you the long, brilliant western tradition of this trading city. Dinner will be in Shanghai style, which is famous for its special seafood and fresh vegetable dishes, and an optional short walk after dinner to the bustling Nanjing Road will conclude your first day in the "New York City" of China.

Day 11: (Thurs) SHANGHAI (WB, L)
Today's excursion takes you to XinTianDi (the "French quarter" of Shanghai) and the birthplace of the Chinese Communist Party. Lunch will bring you to the popular shopping heaven of the city: The old Shanghai street.

Day 12: (Fri) SHANGHAI/SUZHUOU (WB, L)
Today, you will visit Suzhou, the world's capital for silk is famous for its beautiful historical gardens. After visiting the world famous Humble Administrator's Garden, the world famous Suzhou museum designed by the Pritzker Prize-winning, Chinese-American architect I. M. Pei and the Suzhou #1 silk factory, we will conclude with a Suzhou-style lunch. A free afternoon and evening in Shanghai will allow you to explore the "Pearl of the East" on your own.

Day 13: (Sat) SHANGHAI (WB, L, SD)
After breakfast, you will visit the well-known Shanghai Museum of Art and History, which ranks among the greatest museums of the world. After lunch, you will have a relaxing afternoon with a final exploring opportunity before attending a farewell dinner celebration of Shanghai cuisine in the evening, followed by a cruise on Huangpu River to enjoy a fantastic night view of Shanghai that will take your breath away.

Day 14: (Sun) SHANGHAI/NYC (WB)
After breakfast, you will be transferred to the airport for your flight back home.

Abbreviations:
- WB: Western-style breakfast buffet
- L: Lunch
- D: Dinner
- SD: Specialty Dinner

Departure Date (tentative) and Tour Fares
June 15, 2015 Departing from NYC (JFK)
Tour cost (including Chinese visa, all air and ground transportation, double occupancy hotel, 29 meals, local tour guides, and all excursions): $4,699
Single Supplement: $850
Reservation deposit due January 15, 2015: $400
Final payment due March 8, 2015
Deposit and Final Payment: Your reservation will be confirmed upon receipt of your deposit of $400.00 by January 15, 2015 and final payment balance is due March 8, 2015. Note: Final trip cost is subject to change based on the USD/RMB exchange rate on June 10, 2105 and visa application cost of March 8, 2015. (Exchange rate on August 31, 2014: 1USD=6.14RMB) Cancellation penalty: Prior to February 1: No penalty of deposit + February 1 to March 8: $400 + March 9-April 15: 50% of tour cost + After April 15: 100% of tour cost. Proof of US Citizenship and visa application: This tour requires a current passport and a visa to enter China. Your current passport must be valid through February 1 of 2016 and sent to the address listed below with two current 2x2 passport color photos for visa application. Your visa-processing fee is included in tour fare and the original passport will be remitted with a Chinese visa by March 28, 2015. Non U.S. Citizens are responsible to fulfill appropriate entry requirements of China and the USA. Contact your consular office for requirements. International health insurance: Travelers may provide proof of international health coverage. Single supplement: Double occupancy hotel rooms provided and optional single rooms available with supplement payment of $850. Traveler protection insurance: Strongly recommended but not required. You are recommended to purchase international travel protection insurance from other sources.

Responsibility: UD Alumni Association and faculty touring directors cannot be held responsible, in the absence of their own gross neglect, for events over which they have no control, nor for acts and omissions by persons, companies or agencies, including airlines, airlines, restaurants, sea and land transportation companies, which are not directly controlled by UD Alumni Association and faculty touring directors.

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