

Eaglebrook

SUSTAINABILITY
SPRING 2015



Eaglebrook's

CHINA CULTURAL EXCHANGE PROGRAM

Founded in 2013, Eaglebrook's China Cultural Exchange Program provides opportunities for Eaglebrook faculty to experience China firsthand. Through this unique program, faculty members increase their understanding of Chinese family values and social expectations, and learn about the educational background of Eaglebrook's Chinese students.

During the March 2014 break, four Eaglebrook faculty members traveled to China as part of the school's China Cultural Exchange Program. Their destinations included Beijing, Shanghai, and Xian. While there, the group met with current, former, and incoming Eaglebrook students and families. "It was nice to visit with Eaglebrook families, and hear about their connections to the school and how they feel about it now," observed Eaglebrook Chinese language teacher Yuan-Hsiu Lien.

The group visited a typical Chinese public school, as well as Shanghai's YK Pao School, an independent, bilingual school for children in grades K-12. YK Pao has a special connection to Eaglebrook—Tony Jaccaci '84 is now teaching at YK Pao. Joe Elias taught at Eaglebrook, then at YK Pao, and is now back at Eaglebrook. Two students from YK Pao visited Eaglebrook for two weeks in the fall of 2014, and two Eaglebrook students will visit YK Pao in March 2015 as part of an exchange program between the two schools.

According to Richard DeSalvo, another Eaglebrook Chinese language teacher who made the trip, "Last year's trip was a great experience and successful starting point for this program. In the United States, it is still rare to learn about non-Western history or culture in middle school or high school. Eaglebrook is very unique in that respect, since we do offer Japanese, Chinese, and Middle Eastern history classes, to name a few. This program is exciting because it allows our faculty to explore and learn about Chinese history and culture. In addition to expanding faculty knowledge about China, I also think there's tremendous value in having curious and experienced faculty in the classrooms and dorms who really know our students, and can relate, even in a small way, to their experience."

Right: Yuan-Hsiu Lien, Richard DeSalvo, Kylie Mones, and Dusty Mones in China in March 2014.

