



INTERNATIONAL FACULTY ATTEND PROVOST'S TEACHING ACADEMY AT TEMPLE UNIVERSITY

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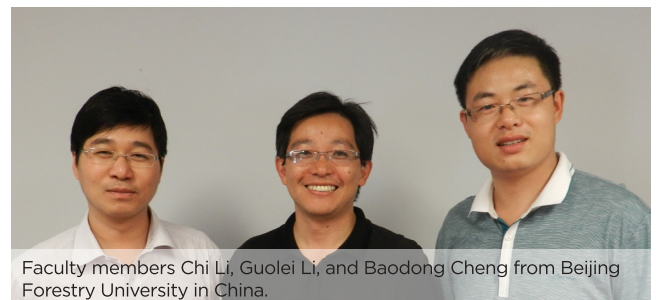
"I have thoroughly enjoyed the opportunity to be a student again," said Chi Li, an associate professor of landscape architecture at Beijing Forestry University in China. He is accompanied by two colleagues, Guolei Li, associate professor of forest siculture, and Baodong Cheng, associate professor of international trade.

The Beijing Forestry University representatives are joined by 15 faculty members selected as key department leaders from across disciplines at Temple University to participate in the Provost's Teaching Academy, a five-week course during the summer that prepares faculty to instruct graduate students focused on teaching and academic careers.

The Provost's Teaching Academy, now in its third year of operation, is implemented through the Teaching and Learning Center (TLC). This year, following Temple's global commitment strategy, is the first time an invitation to participate was extended to a select group of international faculty.

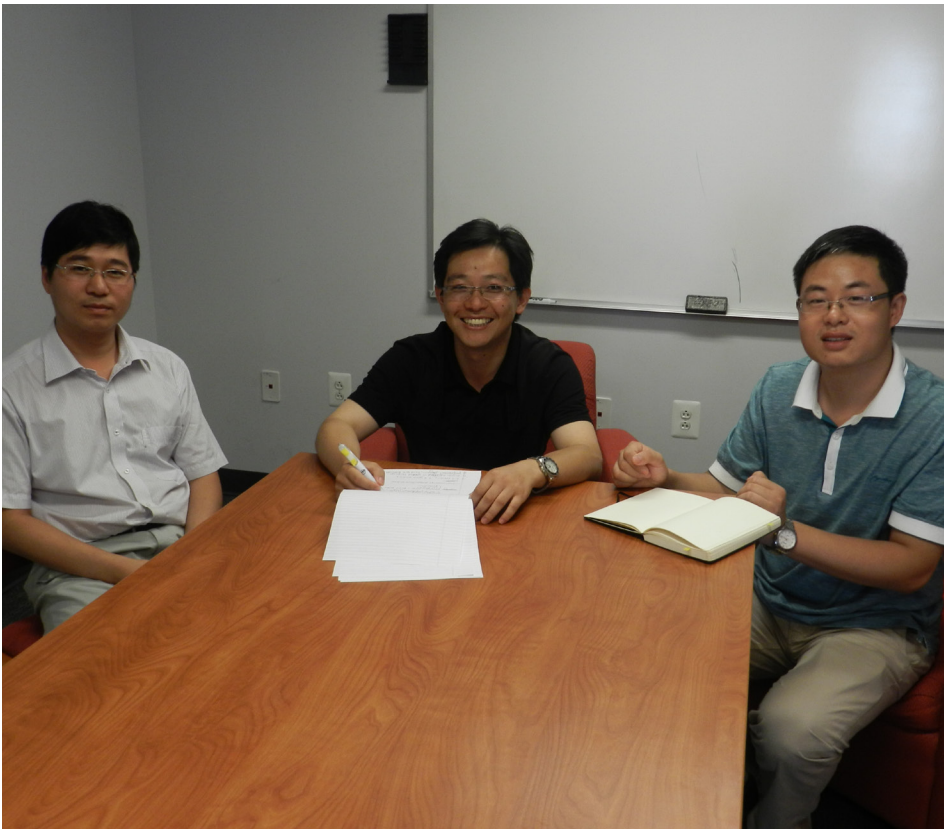
"When you are talking about human-learning, divisions are arbitrary between international and domestic faculty," says Pamela Barnett, PhD, associate vice provost and director of the Teaching and Learning Center. "The underlying conversation is the same regardless of an instructor's origin, but the discussion is more productive with myriad perspectives."

Brooke Walker, assistant vice president for global programs and international services at Temple, helped facilitate relations with Beijing Forestry University. "Faculty exchange helps stimulate a dialogue about teaching that goes beyond the classroom, the campus, and the country's borders," remarks Walker. "Temple



Faculty members Chi Li, Guolei Li, and Baodong Cheng from Beijing Forestry University in China.

is honored to be working in partnership with Beijing Forestry University on faculty development initiatives."



As one of the key national universities directly under the Ministry of Education in China, Beijing Forestry University (BFU) provides advanced education in the studies of forestry and ecological environment, as well as in science, engineering, liberal arts, management, economics, law and fine arts. BFU is ranked among the best in China and Asia for forestry and ecological environmental studies.

The foundation of the academy revolves around making teaching about ‘student-learning.’ “The dominant model for decades was 100 percent formalized lecture,” says Stephanie Laggini Fiore, PhD, associate director of TLC. “Research now shows a fundamental shift in teaching practice that focuses more on how students are best absorbing the material and findings show it’s through interactive teaching methods, group work, and innovative hands-on approaches. Faculty are often content experts, but are not adequately trained on how to best

teach their subject area.”

“I’m learning a great deal about measuring student development, assessing learning styles and gathering feedback,” expresses Baodong Cheng, the senior member of the group. “I’m looking forward to applying what I’ve learned to my own courses and sharing ideas with other faculty in China.”

The academy creates an environment for faculty to learn about and discuss best teaching practices, course design, teaching methods that incorporate collaborative learning and the

use of technology, as well as an opportunity to read persuasive research on inclusive teaching techniques and reflective practice.

“The instructors are kind and considerate of those of us who learned English as a second language,” reflects Guolei Li, one of the international participants. “Their teaching style is very inclusive and by sending us the presentation materials prior to class, we are able to better prepare for in-class discussions.”

All the participants enjoy having time set aside to read new literature and to have an opportunity to talk specifically about teaching and modern pedagogy. The Temple faculty are particularly enthusiastic about adding an international perspective into the equation this year. “While the Provost Teaching Academy is a great chance for professors to work across disciplines, I feel privileged to have two international professors in the group who are experts in my field,” says Bess Yates, assistant professor in landscape architecture and horticulture, who is also part of the cohort this summer. “They helped me generate some new ideas for teaching landscape planning and design as well as new methods for conducting field work.”



Pamela Barnett, PhD, and Stephanie Laggini Fiore, PhD, of Temple University’s Teaching and Learning Center.

Overall, the Provost’s Teaching Academy will not only enhance the teaching expertise of faculty, now on a broader

international level, but it has already proved to be an incubator for best teaching practices and new ideas that will have a huge impact on the next generation of students.