

REFLECTIONS IN BEIJING
SOWK 507
Beijing/August 10-21, 2012

My trip to China was amazing. It was a very different experience than my other foreign travels. I feel lucky to have been able to see Asia in an educational and experiential context. I was fortunate to be able to travel to Shanghai prior to Beijing and to Xian to see the Terra Cotta Warriors.

Highlights

- having Lily, Lynn's Chinese-American, Irish-Jewish daughter on the trip!! very emotional for me
- being met at the airport by Eileen from The Beijing Center
- seeing and learning history of Confucius Temple, I knew some Confucius quotes but never knew about the scholars, sages, and philosophers of Confucianism. Intellectuals of the academies very interesting
- eating in fast food Chinese restaurants with natives of the country
- lectures by Lynn Boyle
- did not enjoy lecture by Dean Russell Moses (very emphatic and opinionated)
- enjoyed lecture by Shawn Hsieh about Social Work and NGOs in China, interesting
- **experiencing the Great Wall with Lily Boyle!! Running along the steps and stairs, taking pictures, venturing to the end of the path. Loved the hot, humid, and sunny day. Toboggan ride at the end was fun!**
- I DID enjoy watching The Last Emperor. I had never seen it. I would have liked the film to be shown in the evening after dinner
- shopping in the Pearl and Silk markets - fun to bargain
- visiting the CCCWA!! Tour was interesting and I was fascinated by the president(?) and his talk. Special to have the Chinese woman of the agency do the translation, she was very good
- visiting the Amazing Hands orphanage and interacting with the children and their caregivers. Loved that we brought Loyola teddy bears for the children to play with and keep, so good
- presenting "One Child Policy" (a culturally sensitive topic) to the MSW students at Peking University
- liked the hutong and pedicab tour -- lecture in the man's home was too long

Program furthered professional development

- a unique learning opportunity at LUC-SSW
- learning to build and enhance culturally competent skills. Made me aware I need to understand and learn about culture when working with clients that are culturally unfamiliar to me
- very important to have my education and professional development include experiential learning. Engagement through discussion, visualization, and action
- gained a better understanding of course material, specifically social welfare issues in another country and in an exceptionally different culture
- learn to compare and contrast US social welfare policies with those in China, specifically the policies and practices around international adoption
- my experience in China enhanced my understanding of political and governmental policies, economic systems, and social welfare issues from US and Chinese perspectives
- cross-cultural frame of reference will enhance my work in any setting I eventually practice
- expand my thinking of social welfare and it's application in social work
- a special and educational part of my LUC-SSW experience

Thank you to all the people and academics who coordinated this wonderful trip, especially to Lynn and Lily Boyle who made this trip very personal and special -- ok, I'm getting emotional again