

OUTSIDE YOUR WINDOW

Getting down to business on Grymes Hill

Chinese delegation from Fudan University includes a stop at Wagner College on their whirlwind U.S. tour

By VIRGINIA N. SHERRY
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GRYMES HILL — The historic port city of Shanghai, China, is some 7,300 miles from Staten Island, but the group of Chinese academics and graduate students from Fudan University there, who visited Wagner College last Friday, seemed right at home as they mingled prior to a dinner in the faculty dining room, hosted by **Dr. Deborah Lieberman**, the college's provost and vice-president for academic affairs, with faculty and students in attendance.

The Chinese delegation — with expertise in finance and venture capital — left Shanghai on Nov. 6, and the first visit on their whirlwind, information-gathering and-exchange tour was San Francisco, Stanford University and Silicon Valley, where they met with venture capitalists.

Then it was on to Boston, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University's Business School, where they met with Professor **Josh Lerner**, a White House advisor.

"He was very friendly, and patient, and answered all our questions," said **Wang Kai**, 28, a tall, outgoing doctoral student in finance, who was on his first trip to the U.S.

Yale University in New Haven, Conn., was the group's next stop, followed by New York City, where the students visited New York University in Manhattan and Wagner College on Grymes Hill.

WAGNER SEEKING LINKS

Dr. Lieberman was clearly enthused about the opportunity to establish a relationship and permanent links between the visiting Chinese academics and their counterparts on her campus.

"For us, as a small, comprehensive academic institution, we think that a long-term relationship, based on mutual trust, is the best," she said. She credited **Christopher Lane Davis**, a senior advisor at the Venture Capital Institute in Washington, D.C., with arranging the match between Wagner and the visiting Chinese delegation. Davis also serves as a senior advisor to Wagner College's president, **Richard Guarasci**.

After New York, the group moved on to Washington, D.C., with meetings



STATEN ISLAND ADVANCE PHOTOS/BILL LYONS

Professor Zhang Luyang, of Fudan University in China, takes a photo while attending a Wagner College basketball game. Sitting with him are Wagner Provost Deborah Lieberman, and Christopher Davis, senior advisor to the president.



Professor Zhang Luyang and his colleague, Professor Pengpeng Zahn, greet Dr. Donald Crooks, assistant professor and director of Wagner's graduate business program; Christopher Davis, and Provost Deborah Lieberman. The group attended a dinner at the Grymes Hill school, in honor of the visiting Chinese delegation.

at the federal Small Business Administration, the National Science Foundation and the federal government's Department of Commerce.

OBJECTIVES

Dr. Zhang Luyang, professor in the international finance department at Fudan University, and managing director of its Research Center for Venture Capital, was on his fifth trip to the U.S.

A major purpose of his delegation's visit was to "understand the mechanisms of the transfer of academic technological developments at U.S. universities to the commercial, business world," he said through an interpreter.

A parallel interest was

"understanding the government arrangements to develop venture capital and 'angel' investment," he added.

He explained that the venture-capital market in China is quickly evolving: About 40 percent of Chinese venture-capital firms are now privately owned, he said. Until five or 10 years ago, almost all of these firms were state-owned, he noted.

IMPRESSIONS

The Chinese students expressed positive views of the U.S.

"All the cities are different, more so than in China," said Wang Kai, the doctoral student. "Boston is something like England — it's a beautiful city. It's not like

San Francisco — it has a long historic background."

"Americans are very friendly," said **Zhang Bei**, 22, who is studying for a master's degree in finance at Fudan University. She added that everything she saw of the U.S. thus far was "wonderful" and "beautiful."

She said that she enjoyed Friday afternoon's tour of Wagner's campus, and learning about the college's curriculum and activities. "The facilities are much better than what we have in Shanghai," she admitted.

And what did she think of the glittering, night-time, wide-open water views from the hilltop campus?

"Very beautiful!" said Ms. Bei.

SPORTS

After dinner, the delegation and their hosts attended the season's opening basketball game at Wagner's Spiro Center, where the Seahawks beat Lafayette College's Leopards, 63-58.

A curious reporter could not help but ask Professor Luyang about the most popular sport in China.

"Table tennis," he replied instantly.

And what sport is Number Two?

"Among young people — basketball!"

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