

## TAIPEI CHENGGONG SENIOR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS VISITED BREBEUF JESUIT PREPARATORY SCHOOL

Seven students from Taipei Chenggong Senior High (CGSH), along with their teacher chaperone, Ms. Vivian Wu, visited Brebeuf Jesuit Preparatory School from October 29 to November 12, for a two-week exchange program. Through the arrangement of Ms. Shihling Chui, the Chinese teacher at Brebef, these Taiwanese students were able to stay with host families, experience school life in America and visit famous scenic spots around Indiana. They also met Mr. Albert Chen, a local Taiwanese businessman who is also an alumnus from CGSH. Mr. Chen invited CGSH exchange group to a Pacers game and topped off their visit with an unforgettable night.

Here are some reflections from CGSH students about their exchange experience.

### Michael Chen (Kuan-Hung Chen)

My first impression about Indiana started with the flaming red maple leaves and wide plains. During my visit, I was lucky enough to be surrounded by friendly and helpful people wherever I went. There were always people smiling at me, offering help or even opening a door for me. The friendliness of people here has warmed my heart since the first day of my arrival.

Going to different classes at Brebeuf was an eye-opening experience for me. For example, a lot of classes are student-centered. In Theater Arts and Religion classes, teachers encouraged group discussions and encouraged students to share their opinions. I benefited a lot by trying to participate in such discussions. What surprised me even more is how most Brebeuf students use their computers in a productive way at school. Every student has a laptop here. However, instead of using it for games, most Brebeuf students use their laptops to take notes or to do homework in class or during their free periods. Students are given chances to learn to how to discipline themselves and make the right choices. This is quite different from how we learn things at school in Taiwan.

### Daniel Chen (Wei-Chun Chen)

To be honest, I was pretty nervous before visiting Indiana not only because this is my first visit to the U.S., but also because I was not sure whether I could use English to communicate with people for the entire two weeks. In the past, my idea of communication was to just convey my message through verbal and body language. During this visit, I learned that effective communication is not just one-way communication. In addition to talking, I have to listen attentively in order to ask questions and keep the conversation going. I was pretty lucky to encounter nice people who invited me to talk about my opinions. Due to the fact that American culture is pretty popular in Taiwan, I didn't have too much cultural shock. Yet, it was still exciting to see firsthand what I saw in the movies, such as big mansions with front and back yards and familiar American restaurants.

This exchange trip was rewarding both academically and culturally. During our visit, English transformed from a dull class subject to a useful tool for daily communication. While learning more about the culture and school life in America, I also felt proud to be an ambassador to help people to know more about Taiwan.

### Jerry Lin (Ze-Li Lin)

During my two-week visit to Indiana and Brebeuf, I experienced quite a few differences from my home country. First of all, the cold and dry climate here is more comfortable than the hot and humid climate in Taiwan. Thanks to my host family, I started to realize how important sports are for American students. My host student can play lacrosse and ice hockey. He doesn't play sports just for fun. It takes a lot of time and commitment to be a good athlete. It also needs a lot of family support. When students are practicing, their families get to know each other and build bonds. That is how sports have become an important aspect of most American families.

The American school system is also quite different from that in Taiwan. Students here have to move between different classrooms for each class. They can also decide what classes to take according to their interests, which is something most students in Taiwan can't do. Additionally, American and Chinese students are different in how they participate in class. For example, unlike American students who eagerly share their opinions in class, most Chinese students are too shy to speak up. However, when it comes to classroom behavior, Chinese students tend to be more respectful and better-behaved.

Besides shadowing classes, we also visited several tourist attractions in our field trips. Among them, Purdue is my favorite. It was amazing for me to visit such a high-ranked school with its well-equipped classrooms and labs, knowledgeable faculty, modern recreation center and nice student dining halls. Visiting Purdue motivated me to plan to study abroad to learn from students from all over the world.

This trip allowed me to expand my horizon through all kinds of new experiences. Seeing how hard students work at Brebeuf helped me to step out of my comfort zone to try something new and to keep improving myself so that one day I will be able to compete with others in the world.

### Eric Chen (Wei-Hsin Chen)

What caught my eye after the plane landed in Indianapolis was the scenery with historic houses, nicely cut lawns, endless forests, streets without messy and random store signs, and the blue sky. All of these are so different from what we see in Taiwan.

Being surrounded by so many unfamiliar things, I was pretty nervous at first. Fortunately, my nervousness soon melted away thanks to the receptiveness and hospitality of people I met here. They always patiently listened to me even though my English was not very fluent. Even when I was talking about boring things, they still showed interest in me and asked me questions.

I feel sad about leaving Indiana because I was just starting to feel a sense of belonging. It was also wonderful to be able to visit Indiana during this colorful season and enjoy so many things.

### Kenneth Zhang (Jing-Yuan Chang)

I am really thankful for the efforts of teachers from both Brebeuf and CGSH and the support from my family to make this exchange trip happen. Although I struggled with the jet lag, I had great fun during this trip. I was glad to know that most people here have heard about Taiwan and are interested in knowing more about it. I felt like an important guest rather than a stranger here because suddenly whatever I said mattered. People here are enthusiastic about what they do, whether it is hosting exchange students, or studying at school. They want to do their best at what they do. The people in Indiana are what impressed me the most during my two-week visit.

### Jeremy Zhuang (Hao-Yang Chuang)

I am happy to visit Indiana, a state with warm and welcoming people, and Brebeuf, a unique school with joyful class atmosphere and great students. During our two-week visit, we witnessed the Cubs winning the World Championship, and the presidential election, both of which are once-in-a-lifetime experience for me.

I tried many new things during this trip. For example, I learned about ice hockey and field hockey. I also went to my first NBA game at Bankers Life Fieldhouse thanks to the invitation from Mr. Albert Chen, a former student from CGSH. It was unforgettable to see the fantastic skills of NBA players and to cheer for the Pacers.

I really appreciate what my host family has done to give me such incredible experience during my first visit in America. I would certainly re-visit Indiana, a warm and welcoming place.

### Jeffery Liu (Hsuan-Tsen Liu)

I have always wanted to visit the U.S. someday. Therefore, taking this exchange trip is like a dream come true and because of this trip, Indiana has become my second hometown.

Upon arrival, the design of Brebeuf's school building caught my eye immediately. Thanks to the support from Brebeuf's principal, Mr. Van Slambrook and the President, Father Jack, we were able to see what a college prep high school is like in America. At Brebeuf, students are given chances to explore their interest to become well-rounded people. In addition to doing well academically, students are encouraged to get involved in various extracurricular activities and sports events. During their four years at Brebeuf, students have plenty of time to plan for college beginning with their freshman year. Teachers pace their curriculum in a nice way to prepare their students for college education. They try to provide opportunities for students to reflect on what they've learned to develop students' critical thinking and problem-solving abilities. Even though students at Brebeuf have more free time than students in Taiwan, they can gradually explore their own interests by taking courses they like. This is a good model for high school education in Taiwan in the future.

## SUNSET YEARS

"Age is an issue of mind over matter. If you don't mind, it doesn't matter." ~Mark Twain



Dr. Patrick Lau was born in Hong Kong and immigrated to the U.S. after high school. He retired from the VA Northern Indiana Health Care System where he served as Chief Radiologist and moved to Florida with his wife in 2011. He was an active member & contributor of IACA and ICMA while in Indiana. Dr. Lau is also a scholar of art and literature and a prolific writer, he has been a dedicated columnist for Indy Asian American Times since 2010.

In the blink of an eye, seventy-one years have gone by so fast. It seems just yesterday. Nevertheless, when we reach old age, all the ordeals and struggling during our youth and middle age have finally come to an end; we are able to retire and rest quietly and peacefully. Once we have passed the glorious years, we are in the sunset of our lives. The warmth of the winter sun is gradually melting our lives. 李商隱：夕陽無限好，只是近黃昏。The setting sun is spectacular, but the twilight is impending. 朱自清：但得夕陽無限好，何須惆悵近黃昏。 However, while enjoying the fabulous sunset, we should not be disconsolate about the approaching twilight.

We can hold on to the beautiful memories of spring, the warm summer experiences, and the rich autumn harvest. And in the leisurely winter of our lives, we feel the pride of age. We do not have the impetuosity of youth, and the haste of middle age. We have the serenity, calmness and happiness of old age. We are no longer disturbed by the pressure from work and the temptation of fame and fortune. We enjoy the quietude, peace and beauty of the life of the golden age.

Though we cannot go back to that swiftly passing time of our youth; and we cannot go back to those wasted years, we can sit serenely under a shady tree, listening to the quiet sound of the blooming flowers. When we are old, the world will be prettier. We will stroll along the old path on which we had been rushing hurriedly in the past, reminiscing all the happenings and endeavors over those years. Time can change everything, including our faces and bodies. We no longer possess a child's smiling face or the beauty of youth. We understand that solitude, loneliness and agony of failure are indispensable life spices.

When we are old, we are hobbling, and our eyes are dry and our vision deteriorating. Then, we ardently hope that our spouses will accompany us walking down the road; standing by us, never tired of listening to our endless stories. When we are old, we may face

loneliness and seclusion. We no longer have juvenile intemperateness and youth's romance; however, we have better perception and insight of the meaning of life. We say kind words, and we act truthfully. Then, we will savor a cup of good tea, and enjoy listening to a golden oldie. And we will look at our old pictures, reminiscing the happy moments of our youths.

When we are old, we instinctively yearn for returning to nature's embrace. Quietly, we appreciate the beauty and harmony of nature. Our mind is like a calm lake without ripples. We acknowledge that we have led an ordinary life. Nonetheless, during the past in life, as long as we have struggled and pursued our dreams and ideals, it does not matter even we have encountered failures. Nikolai Ostrovsky wrote, "Man's dearest possession is life. It is given to him but once, and he must live it so as to feel no torturing regrets for wasted years, never know the burning shame of a mean and petty past."

When we are old, we cherish love; we cherish family relationships and friendships. At dusk, we will treasure every dawn. Looking back, we recall the bitter sweet in our life. There is no regret of our youth. Victoria Holt once said, "Never regret. If it's good, it's wonderful. If it's bad, it's experience." Having experienced so many vicissitudes of life, we fell down many a time, yet we got up and walked through this road of the youth and middle age. Life is like a bottle of wine, the older the tastier. And if we let our spirit be free, we can remain young at heart.

人老心不老。老驥伏櫪，寶刀未老。

## IU PRESIDENT RETURNS FROM ASIA TRIP



Michael McRobbie (right) and Beijing Normal University Vice President Zhou Zuoyu

Indiana University officials are touting the success of a recent visit to two Asian nations. The delegation led by President Michael McRobbie took part in signing agreements with two universities in China, celebrating the 30th anniversary of the IU Alumni Association's Korea Chapter and meeting with officials from the Korea Foundation.

More specifically, the IU School of Education and the Institute of International and Comparative Education at Beijing Normal University have signed

a formal cooperation agreement after a decade-long partnership. An agreement between Tsinghua University and the School of Engineering and Technology at IUPUI will launch joint research on autonomous cars.

McRobbie says "each of our trips, and this was no exception, has served to initiate new and important relationships aimed at providing IU students with added opportunities to study abroad, as well as new research collaborations for our faculty, in one of the most economically, politically and culturally dynamic regions of the world. Through our continually increasing engagement in East Asia and the enhanced connections we have fostered through the IU China Gateway office, we are making outstanding progress toward our goal of encouraging more students to study overseas in strategically important countries and achieving greater diversity on our campuses, ensuring that IU students are fully prepared for the competitive global marketplace they will enter after they graduate."

McRobbie has completed eight official trips to China and six to South Korea in his nine years as IU president.

Source: Inside Indiana Business

## LILLY DIABETES DRUG GAINS FDA APPROVAL

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration has approved a new drug developed by Indianapolis-based Eli Lilly and Co. (NYSE: LLY) and Connecticut-based Boehringer Ingelheim Pharmaceuticals Inc. Lilly says Synjardy XR will improve blood sugar in adults with type 2 diabetes when used with diet and exercise.

Lilly says the approval is based on results from multiple clinical trials. The drug is the eighth treatment developed through the partnership between the two companies to be approved by the FDA, according to Paul Fonteyne, chief executive officer of Boehringer Ingelheim.

"Adults with type 2 diabetes often take multiple medications, sometimes more than once a day, to manage their condition," said Fonteyne. "With Synjardy XR, adults with type 2 diabetes now have another convenient daily option to help them reach their glycemic goals, whether they are already being treated or are just at the beginning of their treatment." It's the second FDA approval for a type 2 diabetes treatment for the two companies this month. Last week, Lilly announced its drug Jardiance had received new approval to be used to reduce the risk

of cardiovascular death among adults with type 2 diabetes and established cardiovascular disease.

Source: Inside Indiana Business



Eli Lilly Complex in Downtown Indianapolis



First row: CGSH Teacher Chaperone, Ms. Vivian Wu; Brebeuf Principal, Mr. Van Slambrook; Brebeuf Assistant Principal, Mrs. Jen LaMaster; Brebeuf Chinese Teacher, Ms. Shihling Chui



Before watching Pacers game, Mr. Albert Chen invited CGSH exchange group to have dinner at Skyline Club.



Brebeuf host families sending off the CGSH exchange group at Indianapolis International Airport.