

Chinese instructor views America as a second home

by Staci Radke
Editor

Zhang Hu Ping is involved with the AFS (American Field Service), a program designed for students and teachers to gain cultural communication.

This is the first time Alpena has hosted the AFS program. The local chapter is located in Rogers City, where an AFS member is hosted each year. Zhang, along with the other AFS member, is here until June.

Her "home" is with local residents Grant and Karen Werth, who she says, "treat me as a member of their family."

She holds a Bachelor's degree in Art and teaching English. In Shanghai, she teaches English as a second language to other teachers. Zhang is married, and has a son, who is seven.

Her husband is involved with a Sino-American joint venture, a company run by Chinese and Americans together. The Chinese provide the employees, and the Americans provide the necessary funds.

Her hobbies and interests include American folk

singing, theater, reading, knitting, and sewing.

While here in Alpena, she is involved in many tasks. She frequently visits high school and elementary schools in the area. Those she encounters "show great interest in China and the younger students always have lots of questions."

Through these school visits and community visits, she has had an opportunity to learn more about American customs and culture.

Zhang also gives a Chinese class (open to the public) at Alpena High School where she teaches the basics of the language and talks about Chinese customs, culture, people, and government.

When she visits students, she aims to present as accurate a picture of China as possible without political references. Zhang finds it interesting to see the range of interests from the students. Children want to know what other Chinese children do, and are full of questions. High schoolers typically want to know more about Chinese government.

In reference to government, she stated that

the Chinese student demonstrations had some affect on her trip to America. She was originally scheduled to arrive in the United States

where people are eager and willing to open their homes."

Concerning schooling, she stated that Chinese schools are run by the



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I feel at home here, I get along with the American people. Everyone greets me and makes me feel welcome.

--Zhang Hu Ping
Teacher of English
Shanghai, China

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in July, but wasn't able to arrive until October due to the student uprising. She feels "very fortunate to come here after the student demonstration. There was a very tense relationship."

Zhang says that there are many differences in lifestyles between her nation and the United States and Shanghai and Alpena. Living in Shanghai, the largest commercial city in China, with a population of 12.5 million people, she enjoys the relaxing atmosphere of the North country, as we refer to it. She sees Alpena as a "very friendly place,

government, and there is no charge for tuition. Courses are not as practical as those offered here. She was particularly impressed with the marketable skills students gain in vocational education programs at the high school.

The same set of textbooks is used in all Chinese schools, and students have no choice for "extras" like music or physical education.

After graduation, students go on to college to study arts, sciences, etc. Chinese students rarely work and go to school at the same time as they do in America.

One observation she has made is that Americans move constantly. In China, families are accustomed to staying in one household with sometimes three generations of families in one house.

Also, Chinese people have an idea that all Americans are extremely wealthy. She was surprised to see that this was not entirely the truth, that there is poverty here. However, she believes that Americans do have a rather high standard of living. The Chinese are on the same standard of living, with all basic needs (food, clothing, homes) taken care of by the government.

With all of her experiences here in the United States, Zhang is sure to take a new outlook of America and its culture home with her. She will, undoubtedly, tell of how she felt right at home here and of her adaptation to Michigan winters. One highlight will have to include the filming of a movie during her stay.

Zhang says that she will return home with "a vivid impression of America and its people."

ACC instructors win recognition



by Jay McDonald
LBJ Staff Writer

Dr. Priscilla Homola, who joined the English department last fall, has had her latest short story, "The Silver Cord" published in THEMA, a theme-related short story quarterly journal. This is Dr. Homola's tenth published work including a children's book, THE WILLOW WHISTLE published in 1983.

Homola's educational background includes a MA degree from the University of South Dakota and a doctorate from the University of North

Dakota with two years at the University of Vienna, Austria, where she studied Middle High German and Old English.

Homola is the recipient of many academic awards including a Fulbright teaching-research fellowship to the University of Bergen in Norway where she taught for a year. She also won first prize in the North Dakota State Fair creative writing competition in 1986, 1988 and 1989.

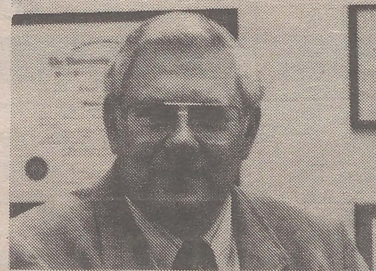
Even though she does not consider herself a professional, Homola began writing for publication at the age of 16 with her first story winning a competition designed for high school students.

Homola feels "there's a fictional world inside me that is the Dakotas. I first noticed it at 16 when I wrote a story based on my mother's 'talk stories'. I have this coherent world already and if I don't

write out of that, it (the story) doesn't resonate". Her latest work comes from her father's world, according to Homola.

Homola writes almost daily and is currently working on two novels. Her short stories are "the foam" from that creative effort, she states. If she has a free week, such as the recent spring break, she produces twenty pages a day on average.

Asked if she is considering giving up teaching to write professionally, Homola emphatically said no. "I always wanted to teach. It is unrealistic to assume I could earn enough money to give up teaching and teaching forces you to read and write constantly. Besides, I am stimulated by the personal interaction with students. I don't want to give that up."



by Staci Radke
Editor

Delysle Henry, political science and business law instructor, has been chosen to be included in three publications, Who's Who in American Law and Who's Who in the World (by Marquis), and Who's Who in American Lawyers (1989).

These biographies are used by many for research, including libraries and businesses.

Achievement is one of the main criteria for selection in these publications. Individuals distinguish themselves by contributing to

a chosen field. Others are selected on the basis of position. Among those included are heads of state, ambassadors, corporate leaders, etc.

Candidates are randomly selected by an editorial board. Upon nomination, the persons are sent forms which include the biographical data to be published.

Henry has taught at ACC from 1959-61, and from 1966-present. He holds a B.A. in History from Eastern Nazarene College, an M.A. in History from the University of Pennsylvania, and a J.D. in Law from the University of Baltimore. He is involved in many local law and governmental organizations and is a practicing attorney.

In being chosen, he added, "I am pleased and surprised. I feel fortunate to be chosen to be in these publications."