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Richard K. Taylor
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NOTE TO EDITORS: The Beijing referred to in the story is the new, phonetic spelling for what used to be called Peking.

Agreement with China to bring
4 special students to Laurier

Four teachers and researchers from China arrive in Waterloo late in July and will spend eight months as students in the school of business and economics at Wilfrid Laurier University.

They are among the first of more than 300 Chinese professionals who will come to Canada over the next four years as part of the new Canada-China human resources development training program.

The program is financed largely by the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), and will be administered by World University Service of Canada (WUSC).

Coming to Laurier are Jia Huaqin, 37, a teacher in the international business management department of the Beijing Institute of Foreign Trade; Zhang Wu Ling, 34, teacher and researcher in the Beijing Institute; Zhou Shouyuan, 26, a researcher in the Research Institute of International and Economic Co-operation, and Yang Zhiyuan, 32, a teacher at the Beijing Institute.

All have university or equivalent education.

Jia has the equivalent of a bachelor's degree in economics and hopes to pass on foreign management theory and skills to his students on his return to China. He now assists a professor at the Beijing Institute.

Zhang has studied in China and at the London School of Economics in Great Britain and has, with her husband, translated and published a Chinese version of The Godfather.

Zhou holds a B.A. in English from the Beijing Foreign Language Institute. Her present work involves research into labor force requests from countries in southeast Asia. She also interprets at the United Nations in New York two or three times a year.

Yang has worked on producing a Chinese/English dictionary of international trade vocabulary. She has also worked in an export-import company in Shanghai and will teach undergraduate students on her return to China.

At Laurier, the four Chinese will study a variety of marketing, accounting, human resource management, statistics and finance courses.

Robert J. Ellis, an assistant professor of business who will be their faculty advisor, said all four are interested in acquiring additional managerial expertise.

In addition to study on campus, they will be taken on field trips to various industries as part of their familiarization with the way business is done in Canada.

At the end of their stay at Laurier, they will also tour part of Canada, just like any sight-seer, before returning to China, Dr. Ellis said.

Working closely with the visiting students will be James Wilgar, Laurier registrar, and Fred Nichols, dean of students. Also taking an ongoing interest in their welfare will be Barbara McLean of Waterloo, WUSC liaison officer for southwestern Ontario.

Wilgar said the objective of the program is to expand the professional and academic expertise of Chinese professionals who already hold important administrative positions in their home country.

He said that prior to coming to Canada all 300 students who eventually will participate will have taken an intensive language training course and passed an examination in English (or French) at the Canada-China Language Training Centre in Beijing.

They will have been interviewed by WUSC personnel in Beijing and, once in Canada, will undertake an additional six weeks of language training. The four coming to Laurier will undertake this training in Toronto.

For the first week or two of their stay in Waterloo, local families who are members of the Homestay program will play host to the four Chinese. The Homestay program is designed to assist students with their orientation into Canadian society.

Accommodation during the academic year will be provided either in a Laurier graduate residence or with a host family in the community, Nichols said.