

Last Week

Our last week was busy. This is a photo of my class in our classroom. We did what we called microteaching. The teachers were to present to the class a short lesson from their own textbooks with methodology improvements to demonstrate something that they had recently learned to make their English classes more interesting and effective.

Sunday morning our Chinese staff took us to the Yan Chun restaurant for breakfast. It was in their new building, with their old building closed for repairs. Jessie took a photo of me to show that I could handle noodles with chopsticks. Adele is to my left.



Monday evening we went to the apartment of our assistant site director, Jessie (Xiao Jun, left in first photo), and had a light dinner with her extended family, including

her 4-year old daughter, Mia, and a friend from childhood and her daughter. We practiced making dumplings.





Their kitchen; view of river from floor 20; musical demonstration.



Afterwards we took a walk by the river. The last photo shows me with Xiao Jun, with her dark apartment building behind.



Tuesday noon my class took me to the Picasso restaurant for lunch. Its huge buffet selection was too big even for several photos. Most of my class are in this photo enjoying their fellowship and food.



During the third week our class presented for the entire group the story of the White Serpent, a love story of long ago in our Zhenjiang city. On Thursday morning after another Yan Chun breakfast, four teachers took me to the park across the street where the story was commemorated, including a cave and statue of the white and green serpents who had appeared as people.

白龙洞
 宋朝《高僧传》载 此洞内原有白蟒 吐毒
 气如烟薰 人过则亡。唐高僧灵坦入洞参禅 大蟒
 归海而去。 民间传说由此可通杭州西湖断桥。

White serpent Cave
 According to Chinese Buddhist Classic The Biographies of Eminent Monks (Song Dynasty) "The cave was once the domicile of a white serpent who blew out noxious fog that would poison to death any passerby. In Tang Dynasty a prominent Buddhist Monk named Ling Tan entered the cave for meditation of Zen and the serpent fled to the sea."
 Legend has it that the cave leads directly to the Broken Bridge of West Lake, Hang Zhou.



I also show a view towards the city from the hilltop in that park, with a branch of the wide Yangtze River.



The graduation ceremony was in late morning on Thursday. This is the photo of all teachers and staff, except for Adele who was taking all of the photos with my camera.



Then the education authorities thanked us with a large lunch.

Ed Holroyd
5 August 2014