

Last Week

On Tuesday during our last week the Chinese teachers had to do a ten-minute partial lesson from their Chinese textbooks of English, using some of the classroom methodologies that we had demonstrated during this course. They did well. On Wednesday each class presented a half-hour program of some aspect of Chinese culture. The first class reviewed the elements of the major Chinese holidays: Spring Festival (New Year), Dragon Boat Festival (early Summer), and Mid-Autumn Festival (late Summer/early Fall), whose dates vary according to the lunar calendar. For the latter they enacted the legend whereby Hou Yi shoots down nine of ten suns to cool the Earth, but later his beautiful wife Chang'e drinks a special elixir and becomes immortal and flies to be permanently on the moon.



The next class enacted a story about the education of the young Confucius. The class chanted a famous 3-character per line poem while one of the Chinese leaders demonstrated calligraphy of Chinese characters, making a scroll as a gift to Elaine, our Team Leader.



The third class presented a series of the years. The next class enacted the story of Mulan, a famous historical woman warrior. The last presentation reviewed elements of traditional Chinese wedding events.

songs reflecting style changes over



On Thursday we had the closing ceremonies at which all of the Chinese teachers received certificates of attendance in our Bridges course on classroom English. Each class did a special



presentation as a closing. Finally, two of us teachers did a duet in Chinese. Then all six of us sang two songs in English.





Afterwards the school leaders took us Americans to a special restaurant at the park entrance for a late lunch. Then we packed for our fast train trip to Beijing.



In early August 2011, as we finished teaching in Xining, Qinghai Province, one of my Chinese teacher/trainees, Helena (Zhang Wen Xiu) brought her daughter to meet me in my dormitory room. Yamila (Han Ting Yun) was about to go to Havana, Cuba, for her university studies. Yamila and I have corresponded by email since then.

She eventually graduated and got a job with a travel agency in Beijing. Yamila and I arranged to meet again last Saturday afternoon at the Temple of Heaven with dinner afterwards. We spent a very enjoyable five hours together, getting to know each other better face to face.



Helena, Ed, 2011



Yamila, 2011

The skies were on the verge of rain, but it did not come. My attempted selfie is not good of myself. I had



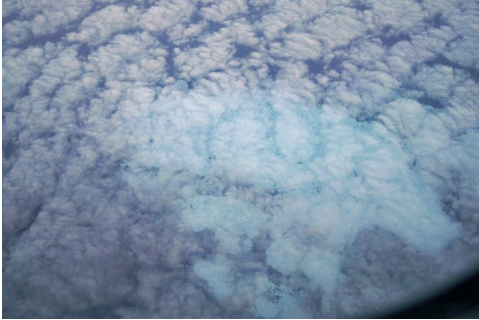
Yamila, 1 Aug.2015



been to the Temple of Heaven three times previously, including on a sunny day, so I did not take scenic photos. Instead I took pictures of some details that I had not previously recorded. The last photo in this set is of a dining room in the restaurant that specialized in Peaking Duck.

The trip home to America was a long one. We had to board the bus at the Ruyi Hotel before its 6:00 AM departure Sunday morning, August 2. The first flight itself took twelve hours and passed over eastern Siberia, the Arctic Ocean north of Alaska, Canada's Northwest Territories, Manitoba, and finally Chicago. A shorter flight took me to Denver. I had to wait an hour for a shuttle bus to Arvada. From there my wife took me home

just before 6:00 PM Sunday evening, also August 2. Counting 14 hours of time zone changes, the total time was about 26 hours.



Arctic Ocean ice below clouds



Moon reflection on Northwest Territories lake, Canada



"Glory" around aircraft shadow on clouds in Manitoba.



Chicago's O'Hare Airport from N



Chicago and Lake Michigan

There was a casualty on the flight from Chicago to Denver: my suitcase. I have had it since late 1996 and it has been on twenty international trips. It is made of rigid aluminum. Therefore it took a major impact to make the dent and crack the shell's aluminum in two places. American Airlines expects to replace it. It cannot be repaired and Samsonite does not make aluminum suitcases anymore, so I will get a somewhat flexible and less strong plastic (polypropylene or polycarbonate) version as the replacement.

Dr. Ed Holroyd
5 August 2015

