Acknowledgements

Students who participated in this year’s summer China study abroad program and those who participated in the long-term study abroad programs at Shanghai University (The Coke Scholars) would like to thank the Coca-Cola Foundation for financial support. Without the support from the Coca-Cola Foundation, it would have been impossible for many of the Morehouse students to have this life changing experience.

Students who participated in this year’s summer China study abroad program and those who participated in the long-term study abroad programs at Shanghai University also would like to thank Shanghai University for its friendship and support. Special thanks go to the School of Materials Science and Engineering, the College of Liberal Arts, the College of International Exchange, and many faculty and students at Shanghai University who gave Morehouse students once in a lifetime experiences. 谢谢你们！
Prologue

“This program changed my view of China by showing me what the people and the atmosphere were about aside from what I believed. I am now able to understand how the Chinese are able to accomplish the things that they do because I have seen and have been taught why they work so hard.”

“I am very grateful for the opportunity. I would say that overall the program was very successful. I am now able to carry on a conversation in Chinese which I wasn’t able to do before the trip. I believe this trip is necessary for anyone who is seriously considering pursuing Chinese as a minor just because of all the improvements that they can make while in China.

“Studying in China was one of the most influential experiences in my life. While there, I was given the opportunity to study the language while also interacting with the native people. It also allowed us to gain a better understanding of the proud traditions of the Chinese. I believe that it is imperative to know the history of another culture in order to understand the people. This will allow for greater bonds to form and will strengthen the relationships between people of varying backgrounds.”

“This trip has opened my eyes to a new way of thinking. It is interesting to live with people who have a culture that is so different from my own. Despite this difference, many of the Chinese citizens share the same goals and aspirations as the American people. In the end, we are all people searching for happiness and trying to create a better world. It has become clear to me that globalization is reaching all regions and is converting many unique nations into one coherent whole. Experiencing China has allowed me to understand the importance of developing bonds with other nations in order to establish connections that will seek to improve the status of all nations and people.”

“The program has shaped my understanding of what regular life is like among the newly-emerged Chinese middle class. I had never been to China before, so this trip has formed the entirety of my understanding of the contemporary Chinese lifestyle.”

“There are plenty of places to go to study Mandarin Chinese, and I thought Shanghai University served that purpose quite well. I would love to participate in more study abroad programs in China in the future. I thought this was a wonderful experience, and I learned about as much Chinese in that three week program as I did in an entire academic year of Chinese language college classes. I think the Summer Study Abroad program in China is a worthwhile program that certainly instills and cements interest in learning more about Chinese language and culture.”
After a more-than-24-hour journey, the Morehouse summer China study abroad group finally arrived at the Shanghai Pudong International Airport at 3am on May 16, 2012.
A warm welcome lunch for the Morehouse students at Shanghai University
On behalf of the Morehouse Chinese Studies Program, Dr. Yang presented a Morehouse Chinese Studies Program T-shirt to Chu Laoshi for her support and help at Shanghai University.

Chen Laoshi took care of Morehouse students’ everyday needs. A big helper!
Morehouse students were excited about their first experience of taking a high speed train to Beijing!

“It has been one of my goals for some time now to travel on the very efficient high-speed trains in China. I even did a presentation on travelling by train in China in one of my Chinese courses.”
Morehouse students visited the famous Temple of Heaven. （天坛）

“The four days in Beijing were awe-inspiring. Each monument and historical site we visited delighted me beyond words.”

Morehouse students were testing the amplifying effect at the Temple of Heaven.
Dinner Time: Morehouse students tried the famous Peking duck at Dong Xing Lou, which is a more-than-100-year-old restaurant.

“The food was exquisite and provided a taste of China to our taste buds.”

“What was very interesting is that we ate a different type of Chinese food each time we went out. I can’t recollect a time when a dish was put in front of us that we had already tried before. It was truly a unique dining experience and something that I will never forget.”
Morehouse students visited the Great Wall at Juyong Pass (居庸关长城) in Changping County.

The men of Morehouse sang “Dear Old Morehouse” at the Great Wall.
“Visiting the historic sites was like taking a step back in time to many different points in Chinese history.”

“To visit rare treasures of a people's homeland is truly the best manner to understand the journey the land’s people have traveled through time.”
“I knew that Chinese food in America was westernized so I felt it was a great privilege to taste the authentic flavors of Chinese cuisine.”

Morehouse students learned how to order their noodle dish at a traditional noodle house.
Morehouse students visited the Forbidden City. （紫禁城）
Morehouse students at Tiananmen Square

（天安门广场）

Morehouse students in front of the Chairman Mao Mausoleum

“Dr. Yang has done a fantastic job organizing an incredible study abroad program for Morehouse College students, combining cultural and historical aspects with an intensive language program.”

“The historic site visits gave me an opportunity to visit places I had only read about or listened to lectures about. For many of us visiting the Great Wall, the Forbidden City, Tiananmen Square and other sites will be a once in a lifetime experience, which we will never forget. In some strange way, experiencing such sites firsthand is more educational than simply hearing or reading about them.”

“I feel that I know more about the world as a result of visiting Tiananmen Square in Beijing, Red Square in Moscow, and remnants of the Berlin wall in Berlin. Perhaps being well traveled does have an intrinsic value.”
Jingshan Park (景山公园)

Beihai Park (北海公园)

“Our adventures with Yang Laoshi led us from the Great Wall to the Forbidden City, from Tiananmen Square to Beihai Park and I loved every minute of it. It is one thing to see the Great Wall in a book but to actually see it, climb it and touch it was visceral.”
Students enjoyed their lunch at a local’s house inside a small Hutong. （胡同）

Morehouse students had a chance to ride a cycle rickshaw to visit a Hutong in Beijing.
Morehouse students utilized the subway system to go from place to place in Shanghai.

“I felt very comfortable getting around by subway in Shanghai.”

“After participating in the program, my view of China has drastically changed. Also, after being immersed in the Chinese culture for an extended period of time, I feel as though I have a better understanding of China as a country.”
Morehouse students visited the famous Nanjing East Road in Shanghai.

Visiting the Bund (外滩) at night was an eye-opening experience.
Trying famous Shanghai soup dumplings was definitely a unique experience for the men of Morehouse.

“I really enjoyed the food; some of the signature dishes of the varied Chinese cuisines were some of the most delicious things I’ve ever eaten.”
Morehouse students visited Yu Garden and practiced how to negotiate prices with shop keepers.

“The first and foremost thing that I enjoyed about China was the ability to practice Chinese. I loved reading Chinese signs every day, hearing spoken Chinese and even watching Chinese television.”

“Exploring during our free time was actually a great way for us to practice our Chinese. It allowed us to not only practice speaking Chinese but practice our listening skills as well.”
Life would be different without those wonderful Chinese friends at Shanghai University!

“It was pretty cool to note that despite being separated by thousands of miles we still had some common interest like sports and movies. It was fun to play basketball and notice their extreme politeness in catching fouls and making sure people were fine after collisions.”
“The interactions between the Shanghai University students and our study abroad group made for an excellent learning opportunity. The one-on-one sessions became a window into Chinese culture.”

Another aspect that was extremely enlightening to me learning Chinese was the one on one time that we had with the Chinese students. Even though it was an unconventional way of learning Chinese, I believe that it worked just as well as sitting in the classroom. They provided insight about the culture and Chinese language that was impossible to receive from any type of book or teacher. Just by spending time with them I was able to learn so much about what goes on in the everyday lives of people my age in China.
“Spending time with Chinese students was another great part of the program because not only did I get to practice the Chinese that I did know, I was also able to learn more about everyday Chinese life.”
“This program allowed us to form bonds with Chinese students, which was beneficial to all of us in many ways.”
Morehouse Chinese Studies Program’s summer intensive language and culture training is rigorous. Students had four hours of language classes in the morning, and two hours of one-on-one in the afternoon.
Morehouse students had Chinese classes four hours every morning.

Morehouse Deans (Dean Johnson, Dean Haynes, and Dean Williams) and Vice President Howard visited Morehouse students in class at the Yanchang campus.
Dean Williams, Dean Johnson, and Dean Haynes (from left to right) were delighted to see Morehouse students at Shanghai University.

The Morehouse delegation encouraged Morehouse students to work hard.
Students from the College of Liberal Arts taught Morehouse students how to create their own Chinese knots and paper cutting.
“The Chinese students at the Baoshan campus were extremely well organized, and I learned a lot about Chinese culture during the activities they had organized, such as the Peking opera demonstration, paper cutting, knot tying, qi gong, and demonstration of a rite-of-passage ceremony.”
It is calligraphy time!
“I thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality provided to us by the students at the Baoshan campus in terms of the performances they presented to us and the activities they provided us.”

Shanghai University students introduced a traditional Chinese ceremony to Morehouse students.
“Spending time with the Chinese students was a great way to make friends and understand the language and culture more. This part of the program helped me improve my Chinese as well as learn more about the differences between the students’ lives and my own.”
“The games and activities we did with the students were extremely fun and helped give us an understanding of Chinese culture.”

“The students were nice and willing to help with our Chinese. Even though this was the point of the quality time, the fact that each Chinese student worked with us and was so friendly made learning the language a little more enjoyable.”
“The time with the Chinese material sciences students was beneficial in that we were meeting with individuals who can potentially accelerate our relationship with China as well as form bonds for the future.”

Those group meals gave us the opportunity to truly experience authentic Chinese cuisine. It also gave us insight into the manner by which families share dishes and interact during a meal. We were able to see the importance of food and the symbolism that accompanied many of the dishes that were consumed.
“The program this summer built on last year’s program, increasing my knowledge of China even more. My facility with the language is gradually improving, but even more importantly I am beginning to feel that I have a much greater appreciation of Chinese culture and history.”

“At the conclusion of this program, I really felt as though I learned a lot more about China and its culture. I enjoyed myself in this great experience and hope to be able to go again next year.”
The End

“By the end of the trip I developed a quote that I would live by. I would rise up from the nobody from nowhere to somebody that would go everywhere. Each time I think back to the opportunity I was given I have to thank God for the strength He gave my family and me to strive forward despite the circumstances. And also I have to thank Yang Laoshi for the generosity and her vision to enrich the lives of several students. There is nothing in the world I would trade for the three best weeks of a summer vacation that I ever had. I hope to come back, there are still so many things left to be done.”

“There were many things I enjoyed about this China Summer Study Abroad program. Perhaps the aspect of this study abroad program that I enjoyed most was the extended interaction with Chinese university students. I found that cultural interchange to be one of the best parts of the entire experience. It's important that we learn to communicate with ordinary Chinese of our generation; these are some of the same people we will be conducting business with years from now.”

“I think that the trip was a great opportunity and experience for all of us, and I hope that it has inspired more Morehouse students to study Chinese and to study abroad in China.”

"The Summer Study Abroad Program in Shanghai had a profound effect on my Chinese cultural knowledge. It's one thing to read about a given society, but it's another thing entirely to actually travel to a distant country and experience and participate in that society.”

“This Summer China Program has been life changing for me. My view of China changed tremendously. This program shed light on the growing necessity for knowing the language and culture.”

“Visiting the historical Chinese monuments inspired me in various ways and was the most eye-opening experience for me on this trip. I will always relish in the memory of the Great Wall whenever I have a task or hardship in front of me that I feel I cannot complete.”

“After completing this program, I know that I would love to come back to China sooner than later. This experience has opened my eyes to a unique culture, one that I thoroughly enjoy learning about. I loved the food, people, and atmosphere of China and felt comfortable being there.”

“I really enjoyed this trip and I hope Yang Laoshi continues to do it as much as possible. Like I stated earlier, this trip is life changing. I don’t know how to put it any other way. Thank you for the experience!”

“Kudos to Dr. Yang for all of her hard work in organizing and executing a very enjoyable and educational summer study abroad program in China.”