**Sarah Chang –XJHS Visit May-June, 2012**

**Meetings and Discussions with XJ Administrators:**

**Student clubs and extracurricular activities**--- I had a few conversations with Avie and Elaine regarding student clubs and extra curricular activities. I was told that XJ had put it in their contract with USCC that CCC’s counselor would be providing these programs. I was asked to attend a meeting with Principle Chen, Elaine, Avie and three other teachers to put the summer activities together first. I voluntarily got a space for Mr. Chen’s son to participate in the National Olympic Linguistics Competition and he was awarded 2nd prize.

**On site administrator’s possibility to teach**---There were a few conversations between Avie, Elaine, and me regarding whether XJ could hire Shuyang for part time work. After discussing with Laurie, it was mutually agreed that it was not a good idea for XJ to hire her for the fall semester. XJ agreed that they wouldn’t offer any job to her for the fall.

**Summer Camp---**XJ is still interested in organizing summer programs in the future. Even though the summer program didn’t work out with us this time, XJ does have a three-week summer program on the east coast this summer, two weeks of ESL program and one week of tour.  I was told that originally XJ was really planning the summer program like last year with CCC and CSULB.  But Chris told his class that it was a rip off and XJ/CCC would make a lot of money from them.  He even helped some of his students to apply to different summer programs so XJ had to cancel the summer program with CCC.  Since there was still a need and also to keep their word that there was a summer program in the States, they put together this 3 week program to go to the east coast. I also found out two students from S1-1 were going to a summer camp at Yale University.

**Recruitment**---By the time that I left, XJ has signed up over 40 new students and they will continue recruiting students throughout summer.  Their goal is to recruit 60 new students.  Among the 40 students, I was told there were some very good ones and some lower levels again, kind of like current S1 population.  I was told that all current S1 will continue taking English with our EFL teachers.  AP class needs 12 hours of oral English but they haven't decided who will teach this class yet.

**Workshops at XJ:**

 I held a workshop for each S1 class during this trip, IGETC and How to Transfer from CCC to UC’s and CSU’s. A lot of students found it interesting that there was a guaranteed transfer programs set up between many UC’s and community colleges. I made an effort to make students realize that there was a huge opportunity for students to transfer to UCs from community colleges.  After Elaine and Avie heard about the TAG program, they were very curious and interested in finding out more information. So I also spent some time to explain in detail to both of them about what TAG program is, which UC campuses participate in TAG, when to TAG, and how it works, etc.

After the workshop, I worked with all S1 students on campus with their ILP’s. There is a pretty serious absence problem going on at XJ. Some students don’t even go to classes if they don’t think that class is important. Some students are taking private lessons outside XJ or self studying outside the classroom. So I wasn’t able to make an ILP with every single student.

Staff and student program evaluation was done during this trip. The hard copies of the evaluation were mailed to Jason with ILP’s.

**Meetings with Students and Parents:**

When I was there, I had one on one counseling with all the high school students except students in the AP class. We discussed how they did during spring semester, plans for the fall semester, transfer plans in the future. It seems most students want to take AP classes instead of CCC’s credit course in the fall and most of them want to go to a four year university directly.

Most of S3 students currently attending CCC came to see me when I was at XJ. I had a one on one counseling session with each of them. I went through what they took in the spring and planned out what to take in the fall. I explained in detail to every single one of them about how TAG program works and made sure that they were aware of the program. I explained to them what requirement they needed to meet before they could sign up for TAG.

Emily heard that I was at XJ; she sent me a few emails and asked me for advice. She told me that she had a very stressful semester because she had a really difficult ESL instructor. She said that she suffered for whole semester. She was going to stay for the summer trying to take ESL or Chemistry. She also told me that she didn’t realize her English level was so low and she was not prepared for college work.

I worked with Tian Tian, Xiao Wei, and Kin with their transfer to EFL program at Citrus College and their visa application. I met with Tian Tian’s mother and answered her questions. Later on, Cindy came to see me and I drafted a page of questions and answers to prepare her for the visa interview. Later on, she did get her visa to come to CCC for the fall. I know Tian Tian and Xiao Wei have all got their visas to come to study in the fall.

Students in the AP class have taken their SAT.  The girl who has a 105 TOEFL score achieved 2120 on SAT test, still the highest in AP class.  Quite a few students scored from 1600 to 1900. Almost all of them will take the SAT again in October in Macaw. XJ is planning to organize the students and parents to go there together as a group.

**AP vs. CCC at XJ**

XJ has been authorized to offer its own AP classes. Now all the students who meet the requirement to take CCC's credit course will be able to take both UCI’s and XJ's AP classes.  The only difference is that those who didn't meet UCI's entry requirement, their grades will be documented on XJ's transcript. Those who met UCI’s will be recorded on UCI's transcript.  Students will be attending the same class offered by UCI and XJ. Mr. Parker has signed the contract with XJHS for one year to teach AP Calculus and Statistics next school year. XJ is actively looking for qualified teachers to teach other AP classes. When I was at XJ, they interviewed a few teachers and I was also asked to sit on the interview panel. With XJ’s approval of teaching AP on their own and more AP classes each semester, it will make our program more difficult especially when XJ offers the same classes in AP format such as Math, Econ, Psych, and American History.

By the time I was leaving, XJ was trying to find out who will be able to take CCC's classes during the fall semester.  XJ has passed out a form to all students to find out what they are planning to take. Most students put down the AP classes offered by XJ and UCI. At one point, XJ was thinking that probably all the AP class students will be taking CCC’s credit course in the fall due to issues related to their October SAT test and November application. By the time I was leaving, it seems that it might not be the case anymore.

With the Chinese mentality about community college (even though there are more and more students and parents who sort of understand community colleges but they still want to go to 4 year universities directly), I was wondering if we wanted to consider some alternatives, such as working with UCLA (definitely a bigger brand than UCI) to jointly offer our program in China or worldwide.  Hopefully we could use their brand to compete and attract more students to take our classes and to raise our prices.  After getting the support from Laurie and other EBUS staff, I did contact my friend who is in charge of China and Asian programs at UCLA extension.  I was told that UCLA has started offering some classes in a high school in China.  My friend is willing to consider the possibilities of joint programs but there is no concrete plan yet.

**Issues between Chinese Teachers and CCC’s EFL Instructors**

XJ English teachers are not really getting along with CCC’s EFL instructors. There are a lot of misunderstandings and miscommunication between the two groups on teaching method, teaching content, why Chinese teachers are also teaching English when CCC’s EFL instructors are teaching, etc. Students and parents still want a lot of TOEFL training. Our EFL instructors complained that their students always work on their TOEFL homework during their class. There are some disagreement on how to teach TOEFL and the importance of TOEFL testing. At the moment, XJ doesn’t think CCC’s EFL instructors are experts in preparing Chinese students for the TOEFL exam.

XJ, students, and parents complained that CCC’s EFL classes are not good enough to help students raise their TOEFL scores.  XJ is very disappointed at the TOEFL test results from S2 and S3. XJ understands that just by taking TOEFL prep classes, students won't be well prepared for American colleges so they will continue having CCC’s EFL teachers to teach their students for academic preparation.

Another disappointment is that right before I left XJ, UCI’s test result for AP eligibility came out. It is a surprise to XJ again. Only very few students scored high enough to take UCI’s AP classes in the fall. XJ’s administrators were very stressed out and nervous over this. They had meetings on how to deliver the news to their students and parents, what procedures to take for the future. They were kind of questioning our EFL program again.

By the time that I left XJ, a lot of S1 students have taken their TOEFL tests.  Quite a few of the S1-1 students tested around 60-75.  I was told some of these students were not even taking their regular classes at XJ.  They went out to the Chinese testing centers to get intensive training to be able to achieve higher scores.

I have spoken with Elaine, Avie, and Chinese English teachers regarding getting their teaching background information to Chris Mefford.  XJ English teachers did not want to provide their education and work experience for review.  They wanted to be left alone and they felt very strong that they did not want to work with ELF teachers and combine their teaching with CCC’s EFL instructors.  XJ is trying to figure out a way that EFL teachers will only teach listening and oral English while Chinese teachers will teach all TOEFL related classes.  I was told that there were many fights/conflict between EFL teachers, XJ, and XJ English teachers for the past year. I believe it is necessary to find out how we can all work together as a team for our students

 Elaine had put together her own counseling classes before I got there. She is teaching her own counseling class to all the senior high school students.

**ACT Test**

I met with Jimmy a few times when I was there. He was working with Avie and giving out the ACT tests to those who didn’t score over 71 at the beginning of the semester. He got job offer from Zhongshan University and will be teaching ESL and Biology there.

Elaine proposed that all new coming S1 students should take PSAT to check their level and to use that information to see who might be good for AP/CCC courses.