

NATIONAL COMMITTEE ON U.S.-CHINA RELATIONS

40

FORTY AT FORTY

**ON THE OCCASION OF OUR FORTIETH ANNIVERSARY,
WE INVITED TWENTY CHINESE AND TWENTY AMERICANS TO
CONTRIBUTE BRIEF REFLECTIONS ON THEIR EXPERIENCES AS
PARTICIPANTS IN VARIOUS
NATIONAL COMMITTEE PROGRAMS
OVER THE PAST FOUR DECADES.
WE HOPE YOU ENJOY READING THESE.**



Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006

Zhu Rongji

Former Premier, State Council of the People's Republic of China

Former Mayor of Shanghai

Leader, Mayors Delegation, June-July 1990

Guest, National Committee dinner in his honor, April 1999

中华人民共和国国务院办公厅

美中关系全国委员会
 欧伦斯会长、白莉娟副会长：
 衷心庆祝美中关系全国委员会成立
 四十周年，并且表示我最良好的祝愿。
 你们的来信我于四月二十日才收到，
 因此不能遵照于四月二十一日前送到
 我的题词，敬希谅解。
 此祝春安！

朱镕基
 二〇〇六年四月二十一日

I am writing to sincerely congratulate the National Committee on United States-China Relations on its 40th Anniversary and extend my best wishes.

I also wish to apologize for the delay in sending my congratulations by April 21st as requested because I received your letter only yesterday.

Best wishes for the spring!

Zhu Rongji
April 21, 2006



Condoleezza Rice
Secretary of State

Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006

Member, Soviet Policy Delegation, July 1988

For over 40 years, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations has been at the forefront of the development of a candid, constructive, and productive U.S.-China relationship. The Committee's sponsorship of the groundbreaking visit to China of the U.S. table tennis team in 1972, its participation in noteworthy cultural events such as the visit of the Shenyang acrobatic troupe later that year, and its efforts throughout the 1970s to organize informative public events and seminars show the foresight of a generation of academic and business pioneers who banded together in the 1960s to bring changing China into focus. With the opening of China and the movement toward reform, the Committee's work has become even more important as a new generation seeks to understand better one of the key foreign policy relationships in the United States.

My own experience with the Committee began in July 1988, when I participated in a delegation of American Soviet specialists visiting China and the Soviet Union. Deng Xiaoping was then in the midst of remaking China's economy and encouraging contacts and meaningful exchanges among scholars. I remember well the time I spent in Beijing, Harbin, Suifenhe, Mudanjiang, and along the border with what was then the Soviet Union. We were among the first non-Russian foreign visitors in some of those areas in more than a generation. Even at the time, I could sense that Chinese leaders and scholars were charting a path very different from that of their Soviet counterparts. My experiences there have informed my own understanding of China in the years since, and I am pleased to assist President Bush as we advance our bilateral ties and work with China as it assumes a role as a responsible stakeholder in the global community.



Deng Pufang
Chairman, China Disabled Persons' Federation

Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006

Leader, China Fund for the Handicapped Delegation, October 1987

On the special occasion of the fortieth anniversary of the founding of this honored Committee, I would respectfully like to express, on behalf of myself and the China Disabled Persons' Federation, our sincere congratulations and respect to each of our friends at the National Committee on United States-China Relations. We especially hope to pass along all of our warm, friendly regards and good wishes, in light of your dedication to advancing friendly exchanges and cooperation between the peoples of our two nations!

In 1987, during my first delegation visit, we opened up the process of exchange and cooperation regarding disabled Chinese and Americans. Twenty-two years later, the cause of disabled people in our two nations has made a great deal of progress. Social intercourse in the sphere of disabled people has also experienced uninterrupted development in our two countries. I sincerely hope that from this day forward, the National Committee will continue to pay attention to the cause of disabled people in our nations. In this way, we can make new contributions through the promotion of understanding and friendship between the disabled people the United States and China.

We wish you continued development in your undertakings; here's to everlasting friendship between the peoples of China and the United States!



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Don Borut

Executive Director, National League of Cities

Member, American Mayors and City Council Members Delegation, June 1994

Member, Municipal Government Leaders Delegation, March 2002

With no pun intended, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations is truly the “know how and know who” organization for those interested in learning and understanding the complexities of China and that includes mayors and council members who belong to the National League of Cities. I have personally struggled to find ways of conveying the implications of the human and political changes and more profoundly the impact on America’s cities of the economic tsunami sweeping through China. Jan Berris, the National Committee’s Pied Piper, has provided the way.

Leading two delegations of municipal government leaders and maintaining an ongoing relationship with municipal leaders, Jan has been able to create connections that have profoundly redefined the thinking and understanding of mayors and council members from cities like Chicago and Dallas to Minnetonka, Minnesota and Clarksburg, WV. There is urban enlightenment in China that is directly transferable to U.S. cities.

Targeting infrastructure investments to specific neighborhoods rather than evenly allocating monies across a city, creating pocket parks, building efficient one stop permitting to accelerate development, and providing all new sidewalks with rippled surfaces to assist the blind are but some of the specific eye opening examples that have been taken back by members of the National League of Cities to their own communities and shared with colleagues. These are the easy examples.

At the same time the Committee drew on its infinite networks of personal connections in China to create compelling intimate discussions on mega issues that defied simple answers or dismissive pronouncements. Shanghai builds a new airport in the time it takes a US airport to go through the review and approval process for a runway. Our Mayors and Council members promote citizen participation but can’t ignore the significance of the new Chinese airport they see. Talking directly with Chinese social planners about the one child policy compels our leaders to acknowledge the basis for aggressive family planning. Meeting with editors on freedom of the press raises questions that stretch our assumptions about the role of the media. Confronting American plant managers extolling the competitive advantages of their Chinese employees requires little imagination to see the potential impact in our local officials’ hometowns. Through all the discussions, Jan trained our eyes on the aggressive physical transformation in the cities and the continuity of the strong social traditions we experienced in early morning visits to parks and discussions with resident leaders in housing complexes.

To be able to create an immersion experience for local elected officials that addresses both geo-political issues and intimate life style conditions through engaged discussions with individuals across the political and social spectrum is a testament to the importance of the National Committee. Political planners, the owner of a tiny restaurant and his family, Chinese reporters and US reporters covering China, U.S. plant managers, political activists from all perspectives and intimate friends of Jan and her colleagues also reflects the credibility National Committee has developed in China and most important the remarkable personal skills of the staff. As a result when the National Committee asks me and my colleagues to support programs in this country for Chinese visitors, there is no way we could, would or should refuse...And of course we don’t.



Ge Qiyun

Wife of Ambassador Han Xu, former Chinese Ambassador to the United States

*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Participant in several National Committee programs in the 1970 and '80s

On the 40th anniversary of the establishment of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, I would like to pay my sincerest respects to the founders of the National Committee and its directors, leaders and staff members who have made great contributions of the development of Sino-American relations. Without their steadfast dedication we would not have the positive trend in the development of U.S.-China relations that we enjoy today.

Ambassador Han Xu was among the Chinese diplomats who have received your hospitality and warm reception in the earliest development stages of U.S.-China relations. He is also among the diplomats who have had the greatest amount of contact with the National Committee. Since 1971 when Dr. Kissinger made his secret visit to China, Ambassador Han Xu was engaged in American affairs and he also served as Chinese Ambassador to the United States.

One of the very important and indispensable aspects of his work was interacting with the friends of the National Committee to discuss what policies to take in order to solve difficult problems as well as to enjoy the fruits of successful collaboration. I think that had he been alive today he would have listed many moving stories and examples of work with the National Committee.

In February of 1979, the National Committee arranged a visit to the four southern states of Georgia, Florida, Louisiana, and Texas on behalf of the Ambassador and myself, as we were about to leave our posts in the United States. This was an extremely memorable visit. On the road, Mr. and Mrs. Henry Sailor, Jan Berris, and Jay Henderson who accompanied us, brought up the splendid history of these states in American history. I remember saying that I had read about the civil war in the United States even while in high school and had seen the famous movie *Gone With the Wind*, and after I felt so fortunate to be able to visit the sites where that history played out.

It just so happened that when we arrived at Disney World in Florida, Jan told me that *Gone With the Wind* would be shown on TV that night. I was very excited, but at the same time worried that it might not be polite not to attend the dinner that the hosts had already arranged. Henry, being ever so understanding, gave an excuse to the host on my behalf, saying that I was not able to attend due to fatigue from traveling. Jan left to accompany me and have a casual dinner and I remember we had fried rice with eggs, while we watched this classic movie. It was just one of my very fond memories of the National Committee.



Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006

William G. Bowen

President Emeritus, The Andrew W. Mellon Foundation

President Emeritus, Princeton University

Member, College and University Presidents Delegation, November 1974

In 1974, I was privileged to be a member of a United States delegation of college and university presidents invited to visit China shortly after the historic visit of President Nixon, organized by the National Committee on United States-China Relations. This visit was one of the great educational experiences of my life, and I will always be grateful to have had the opportunity. As an economist, I could not resist asking all kinds of questions about what were, de facto, interest rates, even though the term at the time was hardly in favor. Realities somehow intrude on dogmas, which was one of the lessons we learned on that trip. An even deeper lesson for me was how fortunate we have been in this country to maintain a respect for freedom of expression, especially in academic settings—a gift that we should not take for granted. As the years went by, I found myself in the late 1990s working with colleagues at the Dunhuang Research Academy on an ambitious project to digitize the cave art of Dunhuang and related scholarly materials worldwide. It was amazing to see the transformations in China between our 1974 visit and the subsequent cultural and intellectual exchanges, which are so full of promise today.



Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006

Li Daoyu

Member, National People's Congress

Former Chinese Ambassador to the United States

Former Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations

Participant in many National Committee sponsored conferences and U.S.-China Dialogues

In China, when someone turns forty, they are given the title *bu huo zhi nian*, meaning “full of self-confidence.” The Chinese term originates from the idea that when someone turns forty they should be at the peak of their life, exactly at the point of achieving the height of one’s career. With respect to the National Committee on United States-China Relations turning forty, using this saying is quite appropriate.

From start to finish, the National Committee has played an important and indispensable role in the process of developing relationships between the people of our two countries. Among the people, the National Committee has been a teacher, an advocate, a promoter, a supporter, a liaison, and above all persistent in promoting friendly U.S.-China relations. The numerous roles that the National Committee has played have been extremely valuable. On the meandering road ahead, the National Committee will continue to make invaluable contributions.

Starting in 1990, when I arrived in New York as the Chinese ambassador to the United Nations, and 1993 in particular when I moved to Washington, D.C. to assume the post of Chinese ambassador to the United States, I developed an excellent relationship with the National Committee on both personal and professional levels. I especially want to emphasize the National Committee’s continuous support throughout the time I was in America—it is something that I will never forget.

Looking back on the past forty years there have been countless great achievements. Looking forward to the next forty years, I sincerely wish the National Committee even greater success, prosperity, and even more contributions to the development of cooperative and constructive United States-China relations.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Bud Collins

Sportswriter and Television Commentator

Member, U.S. Tennis Team Delegation to China, October 1977

Host, Chinese Tennis Team Delegation to the United States, August 1979

What ever became of the People's Republic that I first visited in 1977? Gone. Vanished. That was as clear as the crowds of skyscrapers that greeted me on returning to Shanghai in 2002. One-color-fits-all clothing had disappeared. Bicycles hadn't, but they were no longer the fearsome hordes bearing down on you like the Charge of the Light Brigade. People drove their own autos, sprouted like rice. Backbreaking human labor undoubtedly exists, but was no longer so commonly seen, out in the open.

The second time around we weren't gawkable, pale-faced curiosities as our U.S. tennis delegation had been in '77. Stan Smith stood as a 6-foot-3 blonde novelty, followed, at a distance by the politely inquisitive natives. (Yao Ming hadn't yet happened.) This time no attention was paid us. There was no reason to look under the Four Seasons bed in case the notorious Gang of Four were still lurking. I couldn't find gloomy, seemingly unpatronized Department Store No. 16 where I had bought a padded cotton winter coat for practically nothing. Another casualty. But who needed it with chic shops everywhere, and tailors ready to turn out whatever one wished, almost instantly?

It was unimaginable then that Chinese women would be factors in pro tennis today. However, it came to pass, and Olympic doubles champs Tian Tiansun and Ting Li giggle whenever I greet them with the standard cry of '77 - "Yo-ee dee-ee; bee-tsai dee er!" (Friendship first; competition second!)"

I was luckless in trying to locate the small, shabby, but warmly friendly back street restaurant, Er Lung (Two Dragons), where I had 6 AM breakfasts in Beijing. The complete menu: bean curd soup and tasty, freshly-baked bread. Those in the long line at the door always courteously insisted that I enter immediately and sit at one of the round communal tables. Slurping along with the rest, I would nod and converse, emptying my vocabulary, with "Zao!" (Good morning) and "Shee-eh Shee-eh" (thank you) if someone responded.

The bare-walled room had one decoration, a framed, neatly lettered scroll. What did it say? Probably something inspirational from Mao? I had no way of asking, and no one spoke English. Studiously, carefully, I copied the calligraphy in my notebook. It took some time. All the while my fellow eaters stared at alien me questioningly.

"You did well," said our kindly interpreter, Lo Daopeng, when I asked for a translation.

"Yes?" I said eagerly.

"It says," he smiled. "'Don't spit on the floor.'"



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Jiang Enzhu

*Chairman, Foreign Affairs Committee, National People's Congress
Former Chinese Ambassador to the United Kingdom*

Member, Scholar Orientation Program, May 1982

I am happy to learn that this year marks the 40th anniversary of the founding of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. I wish to express, on behalf of the Foreign Affairs Committee of the National People's Congress of China and in my own name, warm congratulations to you.

Over the past four decades, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations has done a lot of fruitful work for better mutual understanding between our two countries and two peoples, and contributed tremendously to intensified interactions and cooperation between the Chinese and American people in various fields. It is the result of the joint efforts of both sides that Sino-American relations have come thus far. The National Committee on U.S.-China Relations fully deserves the credit for its contributions over the years.

When I was doing research at the Center of International Affairs, Harvard University, in the early 1980s, my wife and I were invited by the Committee, together with other Chinese scholars, to the Scholar Orientation Program, organized specifically by Ms. Berris, which brought us to Williamsburg, Washington D.C., New York and Philadelphia. Short as it was, the ten-day visit impressed us so profoundly that details of the visit are still fresh in our mind today. In the years that followed, I had the pleasure to meet with a number of visiting U.S. delegations back in the Foreign Ministry.

A considerable proportion of my resources were put into exchanges with the U.S. Congress and people from various backgrounds from America in the last few years since I started to work at the NPC Foreign Affairs Committee. This gave me the chance to interact directly with you at the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. I was glad to play host when President Orlins and three U.S. Congressmen visited China at the beginning of the year. More recently, I headed an NPC delegation to the United States and was warmly received by the Committee. For this, I wish to express once again my sincere gratitude.

Exchanges between our people represent the source for Sino-U.S. relations. To further such a relationship, we will continue to count on sustained efforts by people from all walks of life in our two countries. I hope and believe that the Committee will continue, as it has so successfully done, to make greater contributions to the sound and steady growth of U.S.-China relations. I wish the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations greater success in the years to come.



C. Virginia Fields
Former Manhattan Borough President

*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Member, Municipal Government Leaders Delegation, March 2002

My trip to China in 2002, as part of the Municipal Government Leaders Delegation sponsored by the National Committee on the United States – China Relations, was indeed educational and impressive. Prior to the visit, admittedly, my perception of China was vastly different from my actual experience.

I found our hosts, government officials and others, willing to engage openly in dialogue and discussions. All of the cities and towns visited were bursting with activities. I was impressed with the number of younger leaders, who are in, and being prepared for, leadership positions. It gives me a greater hope of strengthening relationships with the United States. We heard comments at the United States Embassy that U.S.-China relationship is reaching a level of maturity; recognition that we need each other.

I was greatly impressed by the level of ongoing and planned development. There was a tremendous sense of excitement, pride and energy invested in the growth and development of areas, throughout many parts of the country. This included housing, office buildings, and open space, cultural and recreational facilities. It was of interest to learn that most of the developed areas were agricultural land, just ten years prior to our visit.

In meetings with government officials, planners and developers we reviewed future plans that were already being anticipated. This included plans for larger municipal centers, as well as recognition of the need for hospitals, schools, transportation and environmental infrastructures.

I must say that I was overwhelmed by the population, in and around every city that we visited. It seemed that every square footage of space was occupied by people. For me, it was also endearing and charming, to experience the stares and curiosity when many people were clearly seeing an African American in person for the first time. This led to our taking pictures together and communicating through laughter and use of hand gestures.

My visiting China, as part of the Municipal Government Leaders Delegation, sponsored by the National Committee, was a valued experience. Such experiences can help to hasten the process of establishing stronger U.S. - China relationships, on many different levels. I have used the experience to enhance exchanges among government and business leaders. In October, 2003, I was invited to Beijing to address the Mayors Forum on CBD Industrial Development. This provided an opportunity to share information on establishing Central Business Districts and exchanges ideas.



Jet Li (Li Lianjie)

Actor

*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Member, Wushu Delegation, June-July 1974

I felt deeply honored when asked to write a few words about my first trip to the United States in 1974. At the time I was only 11-years-old and representing China, performing Wushu demonstrations as part of a cultural exchange trip that was sponsored by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. That was 32 years ago, and it makes me sound very old though I'm only 43. That trip marked the beginning of a journey between two great countries, a relationship that has step-by-step blossomed from strangers to a much closer partners.

Last year I was in New York on a press junket and was a guest on a TV show where they replayed footage from that trip in 1974. As I watched the footage of President Nixon's speech to our group, I was reminded of the power and wisdom of his words. Over 30 years later his words still hold true. He had great foresight and vision. He encouraged us to keep in mind that the goal of these two countries is to do the best to help the world.

Often, I feel that I'm a bridge between our two countries, from my beginnings as a wushu athlete to films and entertainment. I feel privileged that people from both countries have embraced my work.

One very fond memory during my trip in 1974 was with the U.S. bodyguards. During the Chinese delegation's stay in the United States, we had bodyguards with us the entire time as it was a much more cautionary period. We were told they did not speak Chinese. But I was 11 and sometimes quite mischievous. So I played with the guards and when I wanted to go to the bathroom, I would speak with them in Chinese. They understood what I was saying, so I knew they could speak Chinese. Over the weeks, we became friends and there were tears shed and hugs exchanged at the airport when we left. A few bodyguards came with us to Hong Kong. For the first time, they had the opportunity to see us perform. They came up to us afterwards and said that they were very happy to have the chance to watch an art from Chinese culture. They were surprised to see what we could do.

Two years later when President Ford made an official visit to Beijing, I saw many of the same bodyguards at an evening gala. When I saw them, I tried to stand up and run over to say hello. However, when I stood up, all of them stood up and then all the Chinese bodyguards stood up. The moment was awkward so we could only say hello with our eyes.

During that first trip, I met a beautiful American lady by the name of Jan Berris. I had heard from people around me that she was part of the Foreign Service and was to be regarded with caution. At the time I thought how could such a pretty lady be bad? When I received this letter, I see that Ms. Berris is now vice president of the National Committee on United States-China Relations. I highly respect this, that such a beautiful woman has done so much in her life to help link two great nations.

I'm happy to see that the United States and China have a much richer understanding of each other. I hope our two nations can work together to do great things to help the world. Most importantly, we need to keep peace. In my heart, it is the most important thing for these two countries.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Mark Kelly
Astronaut, NASA

Fellow, Young Leaders Forum, October 2003, October 2004, October 2005

My involvement with the National Committee nearly didn't happen. In 2003, my twin brother (and fellow NASA astronaut) Scott was scheduled to join the Young Leaders Forum (YLF). When he could not attend, he passed the invitation along to me. Thinking that YLF sounded extremely interesting, I accepted and, in October 2003, I attended my first Forum, in Hangzhou and Huangshan.

Three years and three YLFs later, I can report that "a great experience" is an understatement: YLF has been one of the absolute highlights of my professional life, second only to flying in space.

It has afforded me multiple chances to sit down informally with a group of amazing, highly accomplished peers, both American and Chinese, to discuss issues affecting us all. Like my work at NASA, participation in this National Committee program has increased my understanding of where and how we – both as Americans and people – fit into the larger context of our world. It has put a human face on China like no other experience I have had.

It has been an honor and privilege to explore such vital frontiers as China and U.S.-China relations with the Committee. When I return to space this summer, piloting the Space Shuttle Discovery, I have proudly decided to carry a YLF flag created especially for the occasion of my flight. I look forward to the day when I can play a role of extending the friendships I have cultivated with Chinese on Earth out into space.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Li Xiguang
Executive Dean, Tsinghua University Center for International Communication Studies

Co-sponsor, HIV/AIDS and Media Training Workshop for Chinese Journalists, May 2006

The Tsinghua Center for International Communications Studies(CICS) of Tsinghua University and the National Committee on U.S-China Relations entered into cooperation in the winter of 1999 just a few month after CICS was set up at Tsinghua University. CICS was launched in the summer of 1999 as a research and education center dedicated to the study of politics, public policy and press reform by the late Chinese political leader and former mayor of Shanghai, Wang Daohan. The Center has blazed trails in reforming the Chinese press as well as journalism education. One of China's leading think tanks for press and politics, the Centre promotes and lobbies for an open press system in China.

In December of 1999, John Holden and Jan Berris visited Tsinghua and had dinner with Professor Wang Dazhong, president of Tsinghua and me. Since then, our two organizations have been trying to find ways of cooperation. In 2001, CICS and NCUSCR co-sponsored a Sino-American Conference on Financial Reporting at Tsinghua, trying to improve the transparency Chinese financial institutions through the country's press. During the outbreak of SARS in the spring of 2003, the CICS served as a leading advisory body to both National and Municipal Governments. The Center's proposals concerning an open press system and the effective use of government spokespersons were eventually accepted by the State Council and Beijing Municipal government. In the summer of 2006, three years after SARS, CICS and NCUSCR held a workshop training Chinese journalists covering HIV/AIDS, which has served as a good example of what good journalism really means to Chinese press at a period of transition. In the future, we are looking forward to co-sponsoring more workshops with the National Committee to train working journalists in public health, environment, media ethics and human rights.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Mark Kirk, Congressman, Illinois (R)
Rick Larsen, Congressman, Washington (D)
Co-Chairs, U.S.-China Congressional Working Group

Members, U.S.-China Congressional Working Group Delegation, January 2006

As co-chairs of the U.S.-China Working Group we would like to extend our sincere congratulations to the National Committee on U.S.-China relations on its 40th anniversary. As one of the most respected and experienced foreign policy organizations in the United States, the National Committee has done more to stabilize and strengthen the U.S.-China relationship than any other group.

In January of this year we were lucky enough to have the National Committee host the first official U.S.-China Working Group mission to China. Jan Berris' remarkable institutional knowledge and organization and Steve Orlins' leadership helped create a powerful, meaningful and productive trip that allowed us to impact the Chinese leadership in the areas of diplomacy, trade, defense and space.

This tremendous ability to connect the American and Chinese political, academic and business spheres has certainly been perfected over four decades.

Again, congratulations on achieving this milestone and we look forward to further supporting your mission of creating a productive and stable U.S.-China relationship.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Liu Biwei
Consul General, Consulate General of the People's Republic of China in New York

Participant in several National Committee Programs, 2003-06

On the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the National Committee on United States-China Relations, I extend to you and the National Committee my warmest congratulations.

The past forty years have witnessed unremitting, substantive, and widely recognized efforts made by the National Committee in promoting the friendly cooperation between China and the United States, for which I would like to express my sincere appreciation.

U.S.-China relations are one of the most crucial bilateral relations in the world. As our bilateral ties are developing in a profound manner, it is my hope and belief that the National Committee will, as always, play an increasingly important and positive role in pushing forward the sound and stable growth of U.S.-China relations.

My best wishes for many more successes in the development of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations.



Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006

Arthur Mitchell

Artistic Director & Founder, Dance Theater of Harlem

Member, Dance Choreographers and Administrators Delegation, November-December 1980

In 1980 when I was part of the American dance team in China, I remember the student's enthusiasm, the love and the desire to know more; it was one of the greatest experiences in my years of teaching. I carried those memories with me for many years. In 2000 I returned to China after the signing of the World Trade agreement and you can't imagine my joy. The changes I saw were absolutely unbelievable; there was progress and at the same time, nurturing of society and the arts. Everyone we met, from the folk school to the ballet school, was so warm and open. More than ever I realized, *artists are the same all around the world.*

My biggest surprise was when we arrived at the Shanghai Festival. We were greeted by the Festival Director, who said, "Mr. Mitchell, I am Mr. Xu, your student. I remember everything you taught me!" It was a wondrous feeling realizing the art form I teach and share with others and love so much, continued to have an impact in China. The innate drive to achieve, with a humbleness of enjoying things, living life and working but still keeping the arts as a lively part of one's life, is very memorable.

Yet, my greatest memory is of teaching a master class during my first visit to China, sponsored by the National Committee. There were about 300 students and we were doing classical ballet. Suddenly I heard a voice say "teach me to disco, teach me to disco." I said, "What? Teach you to disco?" They said yes, so I said, okay. Then I hear, "Ain't no mountain high enough..." With them singing the Supremes, I proceeded to demonstrate the Monkey and other dances, with everyone following step by step. That day will always be one of my fondest memories. And then when we arrived at another town, the people were at the edge of the runway with a path all the way back to the village, chanting, "teach us to disco, teach us to disco." It is hard to put into words but the fact that I was able to share something I love, particularly social dancing that we do for pleasure, with people of another country, shows that the arts are the most phenomenal thing to break down any barriers.

I commend the National Committee for all the wonderful work it has done to nurture and develop firm relationships between the United States and China. I've always said the arts ignite the mind; they give you the possibility to dream and to hope. And what we all need today is hope. The world can be torn asunder but the arts are a healing balm that can pull us together with the magic it has to make us realize we are all the same.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Li Xiaolin

Vice President, Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries

Host, Visit of Senator John Edwards, October 2006

In the past several decades, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations has played a unique role in the people-to-people exchanges between our two countries. It is a great pleasure for me to write some comments for its 40th anniversary of founding.

Since its founding in 1966, National Committee on U.S.-China Relations has played a very active role and made important contributions to the promotion of mutual understanding between China and the United States. The Chinese People's Association for Friendship with Foreign Countries (CPAFFC), of which I serve as vice president, also works towards the same goal. In the past years, I have had a lot of opportunities to meet and share views with leaders of the National Committee on US-China Relations. We all believe that the constructive and cooperative Sino-American relations are not only important for both countries but also beneficial to the whole world. We both agree that all our policies should be made on the basis of communication and dialogue, mutual understanding and mutual respect. People-to-people exchanges are important ways for both countries to get to know each other better.

I am pleased to see that in recent years my Association has worked closely with the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations on organizing high-level exchanges of visit between our two countries. In June 2005, I accompanied Mr. Xu Kuangdi, president of Sino-U.S. People's Friendship Association to visit the United States. At the invitation of National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, Mr. Xu addressed at its dinner function, sharing his views with American friends on Sino-US relations. In this coming October, my Association will receive Senator John Edwards and president Stephen Orlins to visit China. We will help them with the arrangements of meetings with Chinese leaders. We believe that this kind of exchange of visits is conducive to the promotion of mutual understanding and cooperation between our two countries.

Here, on behalf of CPAFFC and in my own name, I extend my warmest congratulations on the 40th anniversary of National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and we look forward to our closer partnership in the future.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Norman J. Ornstein
Resident Scholar
American Enterprise Institute

Member, Domestic and Foreign Policy Implications of Midterm Elections Delegation, May 1995
Participant, Conference, “U.S.-China Relations: Where Do We Go From Here?” July 1999
Participant, 11th U.S.-China Dialogue, June 2002

My association with the National Committee on United States-China Relations goes back almost twenty years. I am not a China specialist, to say the least; my *métier* is American politics and governance. But I am very interested in America's role in the world and the growing role of China as a world power. I began my association because of my relationship with a number of people who were early leaders on the Committee, including Mike Lampton and Barber Conable, along with Jan Berris. But to be frank, my involvement was episodic until my National Committee trip to China in 1995. It was a seminal event for me. It not only has provided me with warm memories of travel with a small but high-powered, good-natured and wonderfully compatible group of Americans led by the National Committee's intrepid expert Jan Berris, but gave me an immersion into China's culture and politics that has helped me understand the country far better than I did before or would have otherwise. The Committee does wonderful programs; I have benefited from them as I have from multiple visits with groups of Chinese coming to Washington. But to travel to China under the auspices of the Committee, to see its reach and respect, to have a knowledgeable and well-connected leader and guide and to meet with a remarkable collection of major figures in China, is something truly special. The visit underscored for me the impact of the National Committee in China, and its importance for the U.S. There is no other relationship that is more important for the U.S. than that with China. Maintaining communications, improving understanding, studying the economic, geopolitical and social relationships, and improving the dialogue about China in the U.S., and about the U.S. in China, are critical elements, and no one does it better than NCUSCR.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Long Yongtu
General Secretary, Boao Forum

Guest, 11-day Speaking Tour of Seattle, L.A., Washington, D.C., and New York, June 2003

2003 was an extremely busy year. Following my visit to the United States in June, I felt even more deeply the profound friendship between our two countries. At the same time, I also witnessed the National Committee on United States-China Relations' important role in giving full play to the advancement of Sino-American relations. As this is the fortieth anniversary of the founding of the Committee, I respectfully wish to express my most heartfelt congratulations, in the hopes that you will keep up the good work of promoting the most important bilateral relations in the world – the production and development of new contributions to Sino-American relations.



Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006

William J. Perry

*Michael and Barbara Berberian Professor with a joint appointment in the School of Engineering and the Institute for International Studies, Stanford University
Former Secretary of Defense, Clinton Administration*

Leader, Strategic Security Issues Dialogues, approximately once a year 1998-2006

Congratulations on the 40th anniversary of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations!

Shortly after I left office in 1997, I met with President Jiang Zemin to propose a Track Two dialogue. He agreed and named his mentor, Wang Daohan, to lead the Chinese delegation. I felt the need for real Chinese expertise on our delegation so I contacted Mike Lampton and Jan Berris of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations to form our Preventative Defense proposal as co-sponsor of the U.S. delegation.

Since then, we have had many interesting and important Track Two meetings, but the most interesting was the one that occurred a few months before Wang Daohan died. He was already ailing, but came from his hospital room to chair the meeting in Shanghai. We asked him to go to Taiwan and attend the funeral of his former counterpart in the cross straight talks. Although, this we could see was obviously impossible. Surprisingly, he agreed that it was an excellent idea. He was too ill to make the trip but he contacted Premier Wen Jiabao and persuaded him to send a senior representative in his place. This gesture was important in defusing the tense relationship that had been developing in the China cross straight relationship.

Over the last 40 years the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations has contributed in so many ways to make the U.S.-China relationship one that benefits not only the two countries, but the world as a whole. Keep up the good work!



Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006

Rui Chenggang

Director & Anchor, China Central Television

Fellow, Young Leaders Forum, June 2002, October 2003, October 2004, October 2006

I've always believed U.S.-China relations to be the single most important bilateral relations of the 21st century

Being selected by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations as an inaugural fellow of the Young Leaders Forum in 2002 is one of the best and most interesting things that ever happened to me.

My job in China gave me opportunities to interview Bill Clinton and Michael Dell in Beijing while my involvement with the National Committee brought me to the White House south lawn and dinner with President Hu Jintao in D.C. I can't think of a better way to live and breathe U.S.-China on both sides of the Pacific.

That YLF experience and all that came out of it (including a lunch with Henry Kissinger and a date with Dr. Ruth!) has turned me into one of the most knowledgeable young Chinese about the United States. I now consider it my lifetime mission to communicate a real and full America to the Chinese people and the whole spectrum of today's China to the Americans. Bridging the gap between the two countries, particularly among the young people, has become a most gratifying part of my life and I am grateful to the National Committee for helping me on that path.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

David Boren

*President, University of Oklahoma
Former Senator and Governor of Oklahoma*

Various U.S.-China Dialogues in both China and the United States

My first participation in conference and exchange programs sponsored by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations came during my term as chairman of the U.S. Senate Committee on Intelligence. My exposure to China and involvement in conferences with China's leaders left me with a clear understanding that the relationship between the United States and China will have a greater influence on global security and stability during this century than any other set of international relationships. No organization has done as much to educate American opinion leaders about the importance of our relationship with China than the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. In doing so it has made a lasting and vital contribution to our country.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Yang Jiechi

*Vice Minister, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Former Chinese Ambassador to the United States*

**Interpreter, Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs Delegation, July 1977
Participant in several National Committee conferences and U.S.-China Dialogues**

On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the founding of the National Committee on United States-China Relations, I wish to extend my warmest congratulations.

Over the past 40 years, the National Committee has played an important role in and contributed greatly to promoting U.S.-China relations and exchanges and friendship between the two peoples. In particular, during President Hu Jintao's visit to the United States, the National Committee and other friendly groups held a successful welcoming dinner in his honor. We deeply appreciate your wonderful hospitality. I am convinced that as U.S.-China relations deepen and expand, the friendship between us will grow even stronger and our cooperation will be even more fruitful.

On a personal note, I still cherish the fond memory of my first contact with the National Committee during my visit to the United States in the 1970s as a member of the delegation of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs. I value our friendship and deeply appreciate all the support you have given me over the years, especially when I was ambassador to the United States.

As a Chinese saying goes, a man who reaches the age of 40 has no perplexity. It means that a man who is 40 years old has full confidence and extensive knowledge, and he is able to tell right from wrong. After 40 years of growth, the National Committee is now an irreplaceable, staunch force for boosting U.S-China people to people exchanges. I sincerely hope that the National Committee will continue to work for the further growth of U.S-China relations and the strengthening of mutual understanding and cooperation between our two countries.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Raymond C. Scheppach

Executive Director, National Governors Association

Member, U.S. Governors Delegation, December 1983

Participant, Conference on Intergovernmental Fiscal Relations, July 2006

Over the last 20 years I have had the opportunity to work with the National Committee on United States-China Relations at home and abroad by participating in delegations to China and meeting with Chinese delegations to the United States.

In December 1983, I helped the National Committee organize a two-week visit to Beijing, Chengdu, Xi'an, Guangzhou and Shenzhen for a delegation of four governors. The delegation met with senior government leaders, visited schools and participated in planning for the high growth areas in Sichuan Province. Over the next 20 years I met with several Chinese delegations of journalists, local government officials and representatives of the academic community.

During the second week of July 2006, I had the luxury of attending the international conference of intergovernmental fiscal relations in China, which was sponsored by the National Committee on United States-China Relations and Renmin (People's) University in Beijing. The attendees from the Chinese delegation included a number of university professors and senior government officials from the ministry of finance. In addition to several United States representatives, one representative each from the United Kingdom and the OECD attended.

This fascinating conference focused directly on the basic question of federalism: what is the power sharing relationship between central, state and local governments? More specifically, what are the appropriate responsibilities for each level of government—e.g., what level of government provides education? Similarly, should sub-national levels of government have the right to tax? If so, what type of revenues should be taxed by what level of government?

Given the very high economic growth rate of China, these questions must be answered over the next 5-10 years if they are to remain compatible with the "new economy." Our discussions made clear the determination of the Chinese leaders to understand the U.S. system and the role of strong local governments.

In all of these experiences the National Committee staff proved an invaluable resource. Their understanding of the different cultures, languages and economic structures of both countries was critical to the success of our interactions. In addition, their consistently professional and gracious conduct contributed to a pleasant atmosphere.

My experiences with the National Committee reinforce the critical role they play in developing a mutually deep appreciation between China and the United States. In light of the many factors that affect the relations of the two central governments, it is critical to maintain good grassroots relations between the citizens of the nations.

Congratulations on your 40th Anniversary, and thank you for all you do to deepen understanding between these two great nations.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Qin Huasun

Former Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations

Participant, Strategic Security Issues Dialogue, November 2003, September 2006

On the occasion of the 40th Anniversary of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, I wish to convey my warmest congratulations. Over the last 40 years, the relationship between the United States and China has undergone historic changes—from mutually hostility, to progressive contact, mutual understanding, and eventually the establishment of diplomatic relations. After normalizing relations, through hard work, mutual understanding and accommodation, our two countries have continued to develop healthy and stable relations. From the beginning of the normalization process until now, the National Committee has played a vital role in the development of U.S.-China relations.

From 1995 to the beginning of 2000, I served as the Chinese Ambassador to the United Nations. Fortunately I was introduced to then President of the National Committee, David Lampton, and right away established a strong relationship with him and vice-president Jan Berris. Throughout my time in New York, the National Committee moved me with their commitment to promoting friendly U.S.-China relations, and its hard work helped me greatly in my work as an Ambassador. Even when I returned to China to retire, I still received a series of invitations to attend National Committee seminars and programs in New York. This year, the National Committee once again co-sponsored its annual Strategic Security Issues Dialogue. Along with partner organizations in China, the National Committee organizes the Strategic Security Issues Dialogue to facilitate conversations, promote understanding, and resolve problems between U.S. and Chinese military and government officials about sensitive security issues. During the conference, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to meet the new National Committee president, Steve Orlins, and I came away from the conference having learned many new things.

I heartily congratulate the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations on bringing about many wonderful developments in the past 40 years of U.S.-China relations, and know that the Committee will continue to make contributions toward ensuring healthy and stable U.S.-China relations.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Strobe Talbott

President, The Brookings Institution

Member, Soviet Policy Delegation, July 1988

I've spent a lot of time on the road – high roads, low roads, and railroads. One of the best trips I ever took was under the auspices of the National Committee. A small group of us traveled through northern China and the Siberia. We were led by Art Hartman – and, of course, the incomparable Jan Berris. The team included a young Stanford polisci professor named Condi Rice. The adventure allowed us to study, up-close, the state of Sino-Soviet relations. Bouncing around on Aeroflot made us nostalgic for trains, Chinese and Russian – although a particularly vivid (and pungent) memory is Condi's and my experience of sharing a small sleeping compartment northward from the Soviet border town of Zabaikalsk with a Soviet Army private who had not bathed in weeks, or perhaps months. Never mind. In concept, execution, timing and the chemistry of the merry band of travelers, it couldn't have been better.



Zhou Wenzhong
Chinese Ambassador to the United States

Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006

Participant in several National Committee programs, 1979-2006

My association with the National Committee on United States-China Relations dated back to the late 1970s. It was in February 1979. I accompanied Mr. Han Xu, the then outgoing deputy chief of the Chinese Liaison Office in the United States, on a trip to a couple of southern States including Texas, Georgia, Louisiana and Florida at the invitation of the National Committee. This trip was the beginning of my friendship with the National Committee that has lasted over two decades and is still growing. Successive presidents of the National Committee, including Arthur Rosen, David Lampton, John Holden and Steve Orlins, have become my good friends.

Since its founding four decades ago, the National Committee has done a great deal to enhance understanding, build friendship and strengthen people-to-people exchanges between China and the United States. Looking back at my interaction with the National Committee, three impressions stand out.

The first impression is the National Committee's friendship toward China and the Chinese people. Since China and the United States established diplomatic relations, there have been ups and downs in the relationship. There were times of plain sailing and times of temporary difficulties, but the National Committee's enthusiasm for promoting China-U.S. relations has always remained the same in weal or woe. I still remember my days as Chargé d'Affaires a.i. in 1995 when Ambassador Li Daoyu was called back by the Chinese Government in protest of the U.S. Government permission for Li Denghui to visit the U.S. This visit caused a setback in China-U.S. relations. Mr. David Lampton, the then President, and Ms. Jan Berris came to the Embassy and had a long discussion with me on how to salvage the situation. Their concerns about the status of relations between our two countries were so sincere and undisguised that I was deeply touched. To be frank, successive leaders of the National Committee are all fluent in Chinese and have an extensive personal network in China. They could have made a big fortune long ago had they turned to business. However, they did not. Over the years, they responded to the call of their friendly feelings toward China and worked hard and quietly to promote China-U.S. relations for minimum personal gain.

The second impression is the professionalism of the National Committee team. During decades of efforts to promote exchanges between Chinese and U.S. friendship organizations, the National Committee hosted countless delegations from China. Its small yet very capable team was equally attentive to both details such as a menu or a name list and major meetings and events, demonstrating fine professionalism and hardworking quality.

The third impression is the National Committee's internal thriftiness and generosity to guests. I remember that National Committee staff usually choose red-eye flights when they travel in order to save money on lodging. But when it comes to funding the field trips in the United States by students from the Chinese Foreign Ministry, the National Committee has been quite generous.

The past four decades have witnessed the sunny days as well as the rainy days in China-U.S. relations. The past four decades have also witnessed the profound friendship of the National Committee toward China. I have the honor to express my heartfelt thanks to the National Committee and hope it will continue supporting the development of China-U.S. relations as it always did and make fresh contribution to the enhancement of mutual understanding and friendship between the peoples of our two countries.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Stan Smith

One of America's all time great singles and doubles tennis players

Member, U.S. Tennis Team Delegation, October 1977

My involvement with the National Committee on United States-China Relations centered on a trip to China in October of 1977. We had a tennis delegation made up of current professional and amateur players, coaches, tennis officials, and tennis media. It was an experience of a lifetime because at that time the country was very closed and there were very few foreigners allowed to even visit the country. We (especially my wife and I who are very blond) stuck out dramatically and people looked at us very curiously. At that time only people who were part of an official delegation could go into China. The spouses were not normally allowed. I was lucky to have my wife, Margie, come with us because she was quite a good player in her own right and was the official substitute in case someone got hurt.

We played against some of the top Chinese players at the time. It was a time of change in tennis worldwide as far as interest, technology and dress. I will never forget when Valery Zigenfuss played because she wore a black dress with a tennis player outlined in sequins on it, used the new oversized Prince aluminum racket, and wore blue Billie Jean King Adidas tennis shoes. All three of those things were unusual for us in the United States, but for the Chinese who had never seen this type of racket or clothing, they thought that maybe she was from Mars. Her opponents played with wood rackets, wore white shorts and shirts and white canvas tennis shoes much like the rest of us did.

We had the opportunity to see many aspects of the culture visiting factories, hospitals, sports schools, and other government offices. We got to visit some of the great tourists spots like the Great Wall. Bud Collins brought his racket so that he could say that he hit against the ultimate wall – the Great Wall. The Forbidden City was fascinating, and of course Tiananmen Square was a highlight.

I was fortunate to visit China again in the summer of 2004 with a group of U.S. College players. We played against college age players while in China. This was a great opportunity for me to compare the differences that have taken place in the 30 years. Beijing has grown dramatically and of course there are people everywhere. Now many people own cars and the traffic rivals any of our big cities in the United States.

I think that the biggest impression made on me was that the country is vibrant, bustling with energy and productivity, and it has the potential to have a dramatic impact upon the entire world in technology, production, research, sports and almost every other area. I assume that the U.S.-China relations are going to grow and prosper to mutual benefit.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Zhu Manli

Former Chinese Ambassador to the Netherlands

Former Vice President, Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs

Member, Scholar Orientation Program, May 1982

Participant, various U.S.-China Dialogues and other programs during the 1980s and 1990s

On the occasion of the forthcoming 40th anniversary of the founding of the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, please accept the most sincere congratulations from an old friend in Beijing.

My association with the Committee dates back to the early 1980s, when my husband and I had the honor to join the Scholar Orientation Program the Committee sponsored and visited Williamsburg, Washington, D.C., Philadelphia and New York. Ms. Berris accompanied us during our entire trip. The memory of this visit is still fresh in my mind.

I have been involved for decades in non-governmental foreign affairs. In the years when I served as deputy secretary-general, secretary-general and later vice president of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs (CPIFA), I had the pleasure of working together with friends from the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations for greater mutual understanding between the Chinese and American people. Together, we sponsored in the 1980s and the first half of the 1990s the China-U.S. Eminent Persons' Dialogue. The Dialogue, which brought together high-power personages for in-depth interaction, not only had far-reaching impact on people-to-people exchanges between the two countries, but also played an important role in promoting Sino-U.S. relations. Although I had fewer chances for direct contact with the Committee after I was appointed Chinese ambassador to the Netherlands, I have always followed with great interest each step forward that you took.

Both as someone who personally experienced the people-to-people exchanges between China and the United States, and as a witness to the Committee's dedication to friendship between our two peoples, I must say that Sino-U.S. relations have, at times, weathered twists and turns. Good time or bad time, however, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations has always worked untiringly to further exchanges and cooperation between the two countries in the political, economic and trade, cultural, education and other fields. I am sure no one in China who understands the history of Sino-U.S. relations will ever forget the contributions the Committee has made in moving forward our bilateral relations.

I wish the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations broader prospects as a bridge between the Chinese and American people, and friendship between us everlasting.



Richard Thornburgh

Counsel to the Firm, Kirkpatrick & Lockhart Nicholson Graham LLP

Former Governor of Pennsylvania

Former Attorney General of the United States

Former Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations

Member, Governors Delegation, December 1983

My wife Ginny and I greatly enjoyed our trip to China with the National Committee on United States-China Relations as part of a group of U.S. Governors in 1983. Throughout the trip we were greeted with warm hospitality and kindness. The three-week trip provided us with the opportunity to meet with prominent leaders in the PRC and observe China's new era of development in its initial stages.

Since that trip, Ginny and I have watched with fascination the ups and downs of China's development, and are grateful to the National Committee for providing us with a basis of comparison for visits to China in subsequent years.

On the occasion of its 40th anniversary, I wish the National Committee continued success in strengthening U.S.-China Relations.



Chai Zemin

Former Chinese Ambassador to the United States

Former Vice President, Chinese's People's Institute of Foreign Affairs

When Ambassador Chai stepped off the plane in Los Angeles in August 1978, the National Committee was there to greet him and show him around for 3 days before he continued on to Washington, D.C. to assume his duties as head of the Chinese Liaison Office. Over the years, Ambassador Chai attended numerous National Committee conferences, programs and U.S.-China Dialogues.

Long before China and the United States formalized diplomatic relations, the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations was already working to achieve normalized relations between the two countries, and was persistent in encouraging both countries to openly communicate. A prime example of this dedication came in 1972 when the National Committee and the United States Table Tennis Association invited a delegation of Chinese ping pong players to visit the United States. "Small balls moving the globe" became the charming phrase that characterized the development of U.S.-China relations. It can be said that the level of cooperation and friendship experienced by the United States and China today cannot be separated from the hard work and efforts of the National Committee and other American friends in various fields who have worked tirelessly to build strong relations.

"Have bosom friends, and you will be with them although far apart." After retiring, while at home I often think about how my friends at the National Committee are doing, especially during the time when I returned to China to become the vice-president of the Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs and our two organizations had frequent contact. Whether in China or the United States, the dialogue between representatives from the United States and China has always been profound. I have faith that these dialogues and exchanges have increased mutual understanding and I'm certain that they have aided our two countries in developing strong relations.

I sincerely wish the National Committee a joyous fortieth anniversary celebration, and even greater success in the future.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Damian Woetzel
Principal Dancer, New York City Ballet

Fellow, Young Leaders Forum, June 2002, October 2004, October 2006

When I look back years from now, there will be an obvious marker at the point when I became associated with the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations. As a member of the Young Leaders Forum (YLF) I have made connections in the cross-cultural manner intended, but it would have been impossible to predict to what extent my life would be altered by a conversation during the YLF conference in September of 2004. As an artistic representative of the American contingent, I was the object of some curiosity among the bankers, business leaders, politicians and defense specialists, and since the meeting was essentially about the future, a frequent question concerned my plans for after my performing career was over. After my easy answers listing dance related options like teaching, directing, and choreographing, I mentioned that if I had the time to go back to school the options would include other interests which were sidelined when I chose to devote myself to becoming a ballet dancer at age 15.

I'd had similar conversations before but this one ended differently when my YLF colleague State Senator Gabrielle Giffords from Tucson suggested I look into the MPA (Master of Public Administration) program at Harvard's Kennedy School. She explained that it was a one year program which would in all likelihood cater to my special time requirements as a functioning dancer, and would prepare me for all kinds of future opportunities whether in politics, public service of another kind, or in business as the program allowed for cross-registration to the Harvard Business School. Exactly one year later, I was in my first semester at Harvard, still dancing full-time at New York City Ballet, and looking at my future through new eyes.

Options are now available to me about which I could have previously only dreamt, and latent interests are growing into viable choices for my future. The work which brought me to the Young Leaders Forum continues, but with new fuel, new tools, and new inspiration, all leading to dramatically different goals. My next career promises to have a significant China element, and I will enjoy the luxury of relying on all the people I have met over the last 4 years through the YLF. I am thrilled to now be heading in a direction which will hopefully be of service to US-China relations, and I am profoundly grateful to the National Committee for its brilliant and committed staff, its many essential programs, its unique spirit, and its remarkable influence on my life.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Zhuang Zedong

President, Zhuang Zedong International Ping-Pong Club

Leader, Chinese Ping-Pong Team Delegation, April 1972

On the occasion of the 40th anniversary of National Committee, I hereby express my sincerest congratulations and deepest respect and admiration to you. Over the last 40 years you have done tremendous work and labored diligently to improve U.S-China relations. It took great effort to water and cultivate the flower of U.S.-China relations, which is now in full bloom and has borne rich fruit.

The beginning is the most difficult in everything we try to achieve. At the end of 1971, I was extremely honored to be named as the leader of the Chinese ping-pong delegation by Premier Zhou Enlai. At the 5th anniversary of the establishment of your esteemed committee I accepted your warm invitation and embarked on the journey of “ping pong diplomacy.” It was the first time I landed on the sacred soil of the United States of America, which to me was mysterious and I had longed to visit. In the United States, we were accorded an unprecedented and extremely warm welcome and gracious hospitality. I met with then chairman of the National Committee, Alexander Eckstein, Ms. Jan Berris, and many American friends who left me with beautiful and unforgettable memories and life long impressions of the United States. I was deeply touched and enlightened by the growing friendship between the people of China and the United States. This year marks the 35th anniversary of the ping-pong delegation. The Chinese Ping-Pong Association and Zhuang Zedong International Ping- Pong Club jointly extended an invitation for American ping-pong team to visit China again and the visit was hugely successful.

There is a Chinese saying “when you drink water you think about its source”—this cannot but remind me of the late chairman Eckstein, vice president Jan Berris and the many hard-working people who have done great work on behalf of Sino-U.S. friendship. I cannot but extend my heartfelt respect and deepest gratitude to them.

Again, let me sincerely congratulate the National Committee on its 40th Anniversary.

I wish to quote a Tang dynasty poem to extend my hope that the friendly relationship between the people of China and the United States will last for thousands of generations. “Reflecting the sun, the clouds glimmer in the sunset. Cascading down the rocks, the spring streams converge to become a waterfall.”



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Robert Keatley

Editor, Hong Kong Journal

Former Editor, The Asian Wall Street Journal, The Wall Street Journal Europe, South China Morning Post

Leader, Role of the Media in a Market Economy Delegation, November 2002

As a journalist who began writing about China from Hong Kong during the heady Cultural Revolution days, and begin visiting the mainland shortly after the Ping-Pong expedition of 1971, I've known about the NCUSCR and its experts for decades. But being a participant in one of the National Committee's Beijing meetings in 2002 not only added another insight, but led to an entirely new kind of involvement with China that I'll value for years.

The conference brought together, at Tsinghua University, a handful of Americans and some 20 editors of leading Chinese business and financial publications. The meeting confirmed something previously sensed but not really appreciated; for reasons that remain unstated but can be guessed at, the Chinese business press has more freedom than the general media, to the point of sometimes conducting serious investigative projects that would be a credit to journalism anywhere. It was a reminder that China has many journalists who would and could do serious work if the system ever gives a higher value to transparency and accountability.

But the conference also led to something quite new to me—a teaching assignment at Tsinghua's Department of Communications in the fall of 2005. The rewards of that experience included insight into how Chinese universities and bureaucracies operate, a trip to the Russian border in the extreme east of Heilongjiang Province, and—much more important—interchange with a cluster of extremely bright and personable graduate students. It was a pleasure to know these often-idealistic young men and women whose talents and interests are about as diverse as those of their American counterparts, and I keep in touch with some to this day.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Du Changping

Vice Mayor of Fuyang, Anhui Province

Fellow, Young Leaders Forum, October 2003, October 2005, October 2006

Looking back, I am extremely happy that I was recommended to participate in the U.S.-China Young Leaders Forum (YLF). I have participated in YLF three times and each time there have been a great deal of interesting activities. In addition to being joyful both physically and mentally, I am always deeply touched by the way the Forum is organized. During the years I participated, I remember the themes vividly: On Balancing Traditions and Changes (2003), On Future Development Trends (2005), and On Motivating Factors (2006). In a way, my participation in YLF has been three trainings for me. I have participated in conferences and activities organized by other non-governmental organizations, but the Young Leaders Forum is by far the best. Although I only spent a combined total of 15 days during the three gatherings of YLF I attended, I have learned a tremendous amount. My fellow YLF participants have shared with me their wonderful thoughts as well as their explanations of various cultures and institutions. Throughout my involvement with YLF, I've made a great number of friends, and together, we've eliminated many mutual misunderstandings about the United States and China.

After realizing the original intentions of initiating YLF, I have felt from the bottom of my heart that the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations has found its true path. All the fellows of YLF have and will continue to enhance their understanding of U.S.-China relations through open and honest conversations, discussions, and interactions. YLF has had a tremendous impact on all of us. I wish YLF great success and extend my warmest congratulations to the National Committee on its 40th anniversary.

“May the Young Leaders Forum bloom with new flowers, so that friendships can yield great achievements.”



Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006

Richard Sanford

Retired teacher, New York Public School System

Teacher, U.S.-China Teachers Exchange Program, 1997-1998

As a participant in the U.S.-China Teachers Exchange Program (1997-98) I took advantage of the long Chinese New Year's holiday to ride my bike from Guangdong to Kunming. I had read about culture shock and appropriate etiquette in China as advised during our pre-departure orientation program, but dealing with cultural differences is totally different from reading about them.

My bike, an extension of myself, went with me to China. It had to look proper, and be spanking clean, not an easy task while going through farm country in China. One day I found myself bogged down ankle deep in mud, in the middle of a country town. Exhausted, disgusted and annoyed at everyone and everything around me, all I wanted to do was to find a place to stay, get those ugly globs of mud off my bike, and rest. The mental challenges of being a foreigner in China were getting to me.

I found a hotel where I thought I could wash off my bike and get some sleep. Out of the lobby came a young girl, about 17 years old, who managed the place. She was all songs and smiles. I was all anger and frustration. I told her that I wanted a room but that first I wanted to wash off my bicycle. I figured that in a few minutes of hosing off the mud, my bike would be clean and I would feel much better. The girl brought out a bucket of water... and another, then another and another. Each time the girl appeared, she would smile, as if to say how wonderful it was that I had stopped in her town. Despite her pleasure and hospitality, my patience and tolerance were wearing thin. "Why does she keep bringing me buckets? Can't she simply let me use a hose and do the job myself?"

Totally frustrated, I stormed through the lobby and looked into the courtyard where I thought I would find a hose. What I saw shocked me. The girl stood there surrounded by pigs, pumping water from a hand pump as fast as she could. The hotel had no running water! Seeing her work so hard just to please me without even a hint of what she was going through melted my heart on the spot. I might have read about such an experience in a guidebook, but never would have believed that it would happen to me. The books say that just as you are ready to take the next flight out, something will happen to you that you will never forget, and that will change your perspective on the people of China.

Since that incident, and others too numerous to describe here, China and the Teacher Exchange Program have had a very special place in my heart and , I have been determined to help the Chinese teachers coming to the United States through the Teacher Exchange Program to manage their own professional and personal culture shocks. Now, each summer when I go to China as part of an orientation team from the National Committee, it is to help Chinese teachers to prepare for *their* lives in the United States. What better way is there to understand how they may feel than to say, "Yes, I've been there, too!"



Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006

Zhou Hong

English Teacher, Hefei No. 6 Middle School, Anhui Province

Teacher, U.S.-China Teachers Exchange Program, 2005-2006

Thank you to the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations for offering me such a special opportunity to experience the American way of life first hand. The Teachers Exchange Program is indeed a unique and valuable program that I will remember for years to come. All through this year I learned a lot from my work and life, which I believe will benefit my future work and life.

Thank you again for this wonderful opportunity, and congratulations on your 40th anniversary!



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

Donna E. Shalala

President, University of Miami

Former President, University of Wisconsin, Hunter College

Former Secretary of Health and Human Services

Member, Civic Affairs Leaders Delegation, November-December 1978

My trip to China in 1978, as part of the National Committee's Civic Affairs Delegation, changed my life. It made me a lifelong student of China and broadened my view of the world to come.

I can't think of another invitation or single trip that had as much of an impact on my view of the world.

As a result to return the favor, I welcomed over the past three decades numerous delegations brought to my various offices. From each I added to my knowledge of China and its relationship to our future.



*Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006*

He Hongze

UN Bureau Chief, People's Daily

Participant, various National Committee programs from 1992-2006

I was introduced to the National Committee on United States-China Relations when I came to New York in 1992 as a People's Daily correspondent to the United Nations. At that time the office of the National Committee was on First Avenue just opposite to the UN Headquarters. That gave me a good opportunity to attend the meetings and other events of the National Committee. I was deeply impressed by two things: number one, the staff of the National Committee was not big, yet they organized so many activities every year. Number two, the National Committee was so sincere in its work toward good relations between the United States and China, even when the relationship experienced a difficult time in early 90's.

Being a journalist based in New York, I have the responsibility to tell my readers what the United States is really like. But I myself must understand United States first. I was fortunate to have the chance to interview the Chair of the National Committee, Ambassador Carla Hills, and I've also frequently met with the presidents of the National Committee David Lampton, John Holden, Steve Orlins and vice president Jan Berris. I learned a lot from them and I am grateful for that.

The National Committee played a significant role in promoting People-to-people friendship between United States and China. Nobody in China will forget the Ping-Pong diplomacy in which the National Committee was a major contributor. With its 40 years of experience, I believe that in the new century the National Committee will be a leading NGO in developing US-China relations, and I hope that Chinese journalists will have the opportunity to cover more National Committee events and programs.



Celebrating Forty Years
1966 - 2006

Helen Ginger Berrigan

United States District Judge, Eastern District of Louisiana, United States District Court

Participant, Judicial Training Workshop, August 1998

An anniversary is a time to raise a congratulatory toast and share memories. So as I sit in New Orleans, I raise an imaginary glass of *bai jiu*, that clear knockout liqueur, and say *gan bei* (cheers) to the following:

- To the unending courtesies of our Chinese hosts in the 1998 Judicial "Rule of Law" trip. Lavish banquets, thoughtful gifts, and enthusiastic discussions. Each day was full of events, people to meet and things to learn. Obviously the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations had great credibility with the Chinese dignitaries who pulled out all stops to make our trip meaningful.
- To the good cheer of the judge from the high court of Shanghai when I tried my rudimentary Chinese. I thought I was asking him how long he had been a judge. Instead, I asked him how long he had been a restaurant. He wondered out loud, in Chinese, to our interpreter if I thought he was the owner of the restaurant where we were having the banquet. I then later asked him in Chinese where the bathroom was, but only to practice the words. He immediately rose to his feet to take me to the bathroom. Much laughter when that was straightened out. We did declare each other *peng you* (friends) by the end of the meal.
- To the law professor in Wuhan who gestured wildly as he spoke in Chinese, utterly mesmerizing me with his enthusiasm so I couldn't wait for the translation. Since then I have deliberately added gestures when I speak in public, particularly if the topic is dry.
- To the judge who asked us how we "enforce" our judgments. We were initially stumped because we just assume in America that people will obey court rulings, which they generally do. The judge then asked us if we had noticed how people in Wuhan ignore the traffic lights. As a jogger, I had. Suddenly the "rule of law" became very real.
- To the stunned look on the audience of law students in Beijing when I declared that in America an illegally obtained confession can't be used as evidence even if the person has killed a bunch of other people. Judge Rosemary Barkett came to the rescue and explained why. That was a good lesson in easing into controversial subjects.
- To watching the kite flyers in Tiananmen Square, and marveling at the intricacies of the kites themselves. I bought one and a fierce-eyed falcon now peers down at me in my study at home, his wings floating by his sides from the ceiling fan
- To meeting in Hong Kong with a mainland dissident lawyer. He was impeccably dressed, scholarly, soft spoken and patient in his optimism about the future of human rights in mainland China, unlike a lot of American dissidents who are raggedy and love to shout, demand and complain!
- To hosting members of the Supreme People's Court of China in New Orleans during Mardi Gras season in 2001. Their joy in catching beads flying from elaborately decorated floats. Their seriousness in meetings with judges and law faculty, asking probing questions and listening attentively.
- To the dinner at our house for the delegation. With the help of friends, I cooked a New Orleans meal of shrimp sauce piquant on mounds of rice. The leader of the delegation toasted "women judges." My husband brought out his finest cigars and after dinner drinks. Everyone got a little tipsy and felt bonded forever. Alas, if only international relations were up to individual people instead of governments, we might all get along a lot better.
- To returning to Beijing in 2006, and having a reunion with two of the judges who had come to my home. This time it was marvelous dishes of duck, more gifts and more toasts
- To continuing to practice my basic Chinese from audiotapes, so I will be ready if I get a call from the National Committee to return once again.
- **HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!**