



RETURNED AMERICAN TEACHER CONFERENCE

March 28-30, 2008

New York City

We hold a Returned American Teachers Conference every few years to help program alumni reflect upon their experiences and how to incorporate them into their teaching long after they return from China. The latest took place in New York, March 28-30. We had representation from each of the nine cohorts of returned teachers including all of the 2006-2007 teachers who are back in the United States (five returned; three stayed on for another year in China). We invited several experts speak to the group on very topical issues: Professor A. Tom Grunfeld (Empire State College, State University of New York) on Tibet; Mr. Nick Young (founder, *China Development Brief*) on non-governmental organizations in China; and Professor Lin Xiaodong and two of her graduate students (Teachers College, Columbia University) on China's education system and challenges it faces.

With the help of InSites, an educational evaluation organization, participants also discussed the use of technology in promoting education about China. Some teachers are at the forefront of technological trends; others teach in more traditional ways, but were interested in learning about new technologies. The group decided to create a wiki to allow participants to post information, including teaching resources, articles on China, and other material, to a page that other participants can access.

The participants left the conference with an enhanced sense of some of the complex issues facing China as well as some of the tools available to allow them share their knowledge with students and fellow teachers.