



## A LUOYANG HOMECOMING

**Yao Zhenzhen & Zhai Xinli**

*Following their return to China, three teachers from Luoyang: Yao Zhenzhen, Zhai Xinli, and Zhao Lili, were asked to give a presentation on their experiences in the United States. The following accounts from Yao and Zhai reflect on these presentations in addition to re-adjusting to life at home.*

I've been terribly busy since I came back [to China]. I'm the homeroom teacher of Class 8 Junior 1, and also teach another class. As a teacher in a boarding school, we have to do many tiny things. We have to teach students everything since they are very young. I hardly see my baby sometimes.

We three [Zhai Xinli, Zhao Lili, and Yao Zhenzhen] recently gave a speech about our experiences in the States to all the English teachers in our city. We showed some pictures, which the teachers were really interested in. We also showed some photos to our students. They were so excited that now they want to study English even harder in order to go to America one day. I am glad they have this dream to help motivate them to learn English!

Two of my former American students are coming to China with their parents on November 17. They will stay with either Lily [Zhao Lili] or me for 3 weeks. [Scott] Mr. Mihalovic [Principal, Logan High School, La Crosse, WI] will also come to our school the following week. Mr. Bai [Bai Fan, La Crosse 1998-99; Principal, Luoyang No. 2 Foreign Language School] is organizing his trip. Our students are eager to see the Americans because they want to learn more about the USA.

**Yao Zhenzhen, La Crosse 2005-06  
Luoyang No. 2 Foreign Language School**

Yesterday afternoon, we three exchange teachers gave presentations on teaching in America at Luoyang No. 30 Middle School. English teachers from all over our city got together to watch us speak. We were very glad to share our experiences with other English teachers in our city. It was a great success. I brought a lot of pictures I had taken depicting American classes and classrooms at Central High School [the highschool where Zhai Xinli taught]. Some of the teachers were very interested and I copied some pictures for them.

I have started learning Japanese now. There is a Japanese teacher in our office. She is a nice lady and we are helping each other---I am teaching her English and she is teaching me Japanese. We are very good partners. I feel funny sometimes, because I often talk to her in Japanese and she talks to me in English. It is a very interesting experience! It's fun to learn another foreign language. Teaching at a foreign language school, it's convenient for me to do so.

**Zhai Xinli, La Crosse 2005-06  
Luoyang Foreign Language School**