

# IU Presidential Delegation to China Cements Ties



President McRobbie continues historic agreement with Zhejiang University.

President Yang Wei of Zhejiang University and IU President Michael McRobbie, with their chief international officers Jun Zhu for Zhejiang and Patrick O'Meara for IU, in November signed a five-year partnership agreement in Hangzhou. This agreement reaffirms cooperative efforts that span a quarter century.

Friendship and exchange between the two institutions began in 1982 when Chinese university officials approached the IU School of Education with a proposal to exchange IU undergraduates and Chinese graduate students. It expanded a few years later with faculty exchanges in Law. The new agreement signals a new kind of cooperative effort intended to touch all levels of university teaching, scholarship, and administration.

## Joint Symposium

The signing ceremony came as part of McRobbie's first international visit after assuming the IU presidency last summer. The new agreement bore fruit immediately with the centerpiece of McRobbie's visit, the first-ever joint symposium on building university partnerships with the business sector.

The university presidents opened the day-long symposium on the Zhejiang campus with presentations on ways that universities can establish productive partnerships in science in general, and in technology and the life sciences in particular.

The symposium continued with presentations by Robert Schnabel, on applying technology transfer in the information sciences; by William Stephan, on the structures IU has put into place to facilitate these partnerships and assure quality control; and by Lauren Robel, on the legal issues surrounding these partnerships. Bill Chang, distinguished IU alumnus and director of the National Science Foundation office in Beijing, spoke on governmental support for technology transfer efforts.

The China visit also included stops in Shanghai and Beijing. In Shanghai, the group visited East China Normal University, which is in the process of major renovation of its international student housing.



Bill Chang, IU alumnus and director, NSF Beijing office



*IU alumnus Ali Tuet with Michael and Laurie McRobbie*



*Zhejiang University*



Several alumni helped with arrangements for the delegation, including Ali Tuet, BS'72 and former member of the Singing Hoosiers. As chair of ESG Holdings, he manages companies employing 10,000 workers in environmental services. He is active on Hong Kong councils charged with developing policies for securing a sustainable environment in Hong Kong and Eastern China.

In Shanghai, President McRobbie managed to be in two places at once when provided a keynote address for a conference of Indiana legislators in Indianapolis. The Indianapolis luncheon address was delivered at 1am in Shanghai. Ali Tuet, provided his company's resources so that Zhejiang Provincial Television could undertake the intercontinental broadcast.

Both Shanghai and Beijing have active and distinguished alumni organizations, and after the hard work of meetings and negotiations, the IU delegation was treated to festive evenings by the alumni groups.



## IU China Delegation

**Michael McRobbie**, President

**Laurie McRobbie**, First Lady

**Patrick O'Meara**, Vice President for International Affairs

**William Stephen**, Vice President for Engagement

**J. Terry Clapacs**, Vice President and Chief Administrative Officer

**Lauren Robel**, Dean, School of Law—Bloomington

**Robert Schnabel**, Dean, School of Informatics

**Shawn Reynolds**, University Director for International Partnerships  
and Strategic Initiatives

**Becky Wood**, Communications Assistant, Office of the President

## Zhejiang University:

[www.zju.edu.cn/english](http://www.zju.edu.cn/english)

## National Science Foundation, Beijing Office:

[www.nsf.gov/od/oise/nsf-beijing-ofc.jsp](http://www.nsf.gov/od/oise/nsf-beijing-ofc.jsp)

## East China Normal University:

[www.ecnu.edu.cn/2005english/English.htm](http://www.ecnu.edu.cn/2005english/English.htm)

## IU Alumni Association, International Chapters:

[alumni.indiana.edu/groups/chapters/international/index.shtml](http://alumni.indiana.edu/groups/chapters/international/index.shtml)

## University of Queensland:

[www.uq.edu.au](http://www.uq.edu.au)



*The IU delegation with the IUAA's China Chapter in Beijing.*