



THE UNIVERSITY OF  
**CHICAGO**  
CENTER IN BEIJING

2024-25 ANNUAL REPORT





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# Introduction

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## Foreword from Faculty Director

The 2024–2025 academic year marked the first time since 2019 that life at the University of Chicago Center in Beijing finally felt normal again. Undergraduate students were excited to return to the Center to participate in the “East Asia, Then and Now” program, while faculty from many of the University’s divisions organized conferences, gave seminars and hosted a variety of other activities. Enthusiasm and a renewed desire to collaborate with University of Chicago faculty and students among our many partners in China returned to, and in some areas surpassed, pre-pandemic levels. We are excited to share with you our 2024–2025 annual report.



J. Michael Millis,  
*Faculty Director, MD*  
*Professor of Surgery*  
*Vice Chair of Global Surgery*

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## Foreword from Executive Director

I am pleased to present the annual report of the University of Chicago Center in Beijing for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2025. This has been another dynamic and meaningful year as we further strengthened our role as a bridge between the University of Chicago and China, advancing the University’s global mission.

### A Year of Purpose and Resilience

In the past year, we are proud to have reinforced and expanded our role as a bridge between cultures. Through thoughtful stewardship and a spirit of collaboration, we hosted 46 conferences, workshops, and events, welcomed thousands of visitors, and facilitated impactful academic, cultural, and professional exchanges. Notably, our work in fields spanning medicine and public health to the arts, business, and the social sciences has underscored the enduring value of intellectual dialogue and global engagement.

This year also marks a leadership transition at the Center. After serving with distinction for two consecutive three-year terms, Dr. Michael Millis is stepping down as Faculty Director. On behalf of the Center, I extend our deep gratitude for his outstanding leadership, unwavering support, and dedication to fostering meaningful collaborations between the University of Chicago and China. Looking ahead, we are pleased to welcome Professor Dali Yang as our new Faculty Director. We look forward to working closely with him to build on the strong foundation that Dr. Millis has helped establish.

### Highlights of the Year

In FY25, we were proud to support a rich portfolio of initiatives, including the **10th Joint Conference of the University of Chicago and PUMCH Liver Surgery**, the **4th UChicago Medicine China Forum**, and innovative workshops such as **“Body and Empiricism”** and **“Amateur Culture, Platform Economy, Precarious Life”**. We facilitated meaningful conversations on topics as diverse as clinical ethics, Ming-Qing performance theories, the green energy transition, and the future of Sino-U.S. educational collaboration.

Our robust digital presence continued to connect the University with broad audiences in China, while our engagement with government, business, and academic communities helped sustain and deepen strategic relationships vital to our mission.

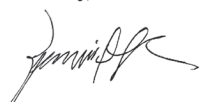
### Looking Ahead

As we look to FY26 and beyond, the Center remains committed to providing a platform for intellectual exchange, partnership, and mutual understanding in this critical bilateral relationship. The path forward will undoubtedly be shaped by shifting geopolitical dynamics and policy landscapes, but we believe that our work — fostering dialogue, advancing knowledge, and building bridges — has never been more important.

We are grateful for the unwavering support of our colleagues in Chicago, our partners in China, and the entire University of Chicago global community. Together, we will continue to seek new ways to connect, collaborate, and contribute to a more informed and engaged world.

I invite you to explore this report for a detailed account of our activities and accomplishments in FY25.

Sincerely,



Zening Ge  
*Executive Director*  
*University of Chicago Center in Beijing*

# About the Center

UChicago Center in Beijing advances the University of Chicago's strategic priorities in China, creates opportunities for impactful partnership and help mitigate country specific risks.

## Mission

The University of Chicago Center in Beijing provides a physical presence to enhance and strengthen the University of Chicago's traditionally strong ties to Chinese thought and culture. Building upon more than a century of collaboration between scholars from Chicago and China, the Center in Beijing enables the University to expand existing initiatives and form new alliances and partnerships with universities, businesses, medical centers, policy groups, government agencies, and cultural organizations across China.

The Center serves as a base for University of Chicago faculty, graduate students, and undergraduates engaging with China. It also provides a gathering space for alumni throughout Asia and acts as a resource for Chinese researchers and students.

Focusing on three core areas where University of Chicago scholarship and the concerns of contemporary China intersect—business, economics, and policy; science, medicine, and public health; culture, society, and the arts—the Center capitalizes on a substantial body of work already underway, including faculty research and programs for students. The Center also houses the University's Civilization Abroad program for undergraduate students and supports research and study at all levels from each of the University's divisions and schools and the College.

## History

The University of Chicago's rich history of scholarly collaboration in China dates back to the early 1900s. In the span of a century, research partnerships between University of Chicago scholars and their Chinese counterparts have blossomed into dozens of ongoing relationships spanning many fields of study. The Center in Beijing builds on the University's legacy of engagement, providing an intellectual destination for research, teaching, and scholarly partnerships.

### Business, Economics, and Policy

Chicago economics has had significant influence in China. In 1980, D. Gale Johnson, an expert on agricultural policy and development economics, led a group of U.S. economists, including Nobel laureate Theodore W. Schultz, to Beijing, where they delivered China's first course in modern economics. The center provides a major platform for generating new dialogue between Chicago scholars and Chinese policymakers, scholars, and business leaders on topics such as human capital and economic development, trade and foreign exchange policy, environmental regulation and health policy, and effective business practices

### Culture, Society, and the Arts

Since the 1930s, when Herrlee G. Creel, PHB '26, PhD '29, one of the world's foremost scholars on China's early civilization and an authority on Confucius, helped found the University of Chicago's program in Far Eastern Studies, the University has been an important center for the study of Chinese language and civilization. Through international conferences, visiting positions, master seminars for faculty, and interactions with academic institutions, the Center enables more Chicago scholars and students to engage in collaborations with China.

### Science, Medicine, and Public Health

Since 1914, when University of Chicago President Harry Pratt Judson led the commission that helped establish the China Medical Board and Peking Union Medical College, the University has been home to many Chinese scientists who have made critical contributions to their fields, including Nobel laureates C.N. Yang, PhD '48, and T.D. Lee, PhD '50 (Physics, 1957) and Daniel Tsui, SM '63, PhD '67 (Physics, 1998). The center provides a physical base for University of Chicago scientists and their Chinese colleagues to expand already substantial partnerships.



## Leadership in 2024-25



**J. Michael Millis, MD**

*Faculty Director (2019-2025)*

Professor of Surgery  
Vice Chair of Global Surgery



**Zening Ge**

*Executive Director*

### 2024-2025 Faculty Committee

**Shadi Bartsch-Zimmer** | Classics

**Guangbin Dong** | Chemistry

**Jean-Pierre Dubé** | Booth School of Business

**Gary Herrigel** | Political Science

**Paola Iovene** | East Asian Languages & Civilizations

**Jonathan Lio** | Medicine

**Zhe-Xi Luo** | Organismal Biology & Anatomy

**Zhiying Ma** | Crown Family School of Social Work, Policy, & Practice

**Dali Yang** | Political Science

**Alice Yao** | Anthropology

**Yingming Zhao** | Cancer Research

**Brook Ziporyn** | Divinity

## Team



**Dola Chen**

Facilities & Operations Manager



**Zixuan Zhang**

Facilities Coordinator



**Xia Li**

Academic Events & Projects Manager



**Yuxuan Li**

Technology Coordinator



**Ji Yuan**

Senior Advisor



**Tianyu Li**

Program Coordinator



### Facility & Location

Located in the Haidian District of Beijing, known for its rich intellectual ecology of top universities, research academies, and government agencies, the Center provides space for seminars and conferences, as well as faculty offices and study areas. Easily accessed by car or public transportation, the Center is a welcoming environment of fluidity and exchange that brings together diverse perspectives and experiences.

The University of Chicago Center in Beijing has more than 2,000 square meters of space, featuring offices for University of Chicago faculty-in-residence and staff, as well as a variety of classrooms and conference facilities. Center staff are available to facilitate the work of faculty and students.





Pointing towards Chicago from the Forbidden City in Beijing. John W. Boyer, Senior Advisor to the President of the University and the Martin A. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor in History and the College, with study abroad students on a bike tour.

## Programs Hosted

### Study Abroad

The Center in Beijing is home to the Beijing: East Asia, Then and Now Program (formerly known as the East Asian Civilizations Program), which resumed in September 2024 after a four-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This sequence is taught in English by University of Chicago professors, its emphasis shifting from year to year in accordance with the interests and expertise of that year's faculty. While China, in keeping with the location of the program, will hold a central position in the sequence, some professors may choose to focus on other Asian countries such as Korea or Japan.

In addition to the civilization sequence, students take a fourth course in Chinese language, offered at various levels, designed to facilitate their access to the local culture. Beijing itself, the fabled "Northern Capital" of the Ming Dynasty and now the political and cultural capital of modern China, plays a key role in this program. A series of excursions and site visits helps connect classroom learning with the physical reality, past and present of China.

[// Learn more](#)



A student of the 2024 Beijing: East Asia, Then and Now Program speaking in class.



2024 Beijing: East Asia, Then and Now Program students, Center in Beijing managing staff, and Chinese language instructors from Renmin University of China.

# Impact in 2024-25

Strengthening Partnerships, Advancing Research: Expanding  
UChicago's Collaborations Across China.

## METRICS

**46** Events, Conferences,  
and Workshops

**2315** Participants

**1.1M+** Social media exposures  
via WeChat & Weibo

## Highlights



Professor Judith Farquhar of University of Chicago (left) and Professor Lili Lai of Peking University (right) at the “Body and Empiricism” Workshop.

## Building Academic Collaborations

### Body and Empiricism Workshop

The “Body and Empiricism Workshop” co-hosted by the Peking University School of Health Humanities and the University of Chicago Center in Beijing in 2024, was held from June 27th to June 28th at Peking University School of Health Humanities and from July 1st to July 2nd at the University of Chicago Center in Beijing. The workshop is based on the framework of science and technology studies to explore and discuss the body, empiricism, and perception

through the approach of anthropology, phenomenology, and history.

At the University of Chicago Center in Beijing, Professor Judith Farquhar led the second part of the workshop through exploring the concepts of the body and empiricism. Prof. Judith Farquhar specializes in research on traditional medicine, popular culture, and everyday life in contemporary China. Professor Lili Lai delivered a lecture on the second morning on the historical entanglement of Chinese medicine and cybernetics, to illustrate the interesting affinity of Chinese medicine body and posthuman body.





Professor Michael Millis (left) and Prof. Yilei Mao from PUMCH (right) at the 10th Joint Conference of the University of Chicago and PUMCH Liver Surgery

## 10<sup>th</sup> Joint Conference of the University of Chicago and PUMCH Liver Surgery

On September 6th and 7th, The University of Chicago Center in Beijing, in partnership with Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH) and AME Publishing, successfully hosted the 10th Joint Conference of the University of Chicago and PUMCH Liver Surgery funded by Provost's Global Faculty Awards. The conference was established in the inaugural year of the Center in Beijing and has been hosted consecutively over the past decade, interrupted only once by the pandemic. This year's conference focused on Minimally Invasive Surgery and Adjuvant Therapy for Hepatobiliary and Pancreatic Diseases, attracting over 80 in-person and more than 14,000 online attendees.



Professor Everett Vokes at the The 4th UChicago Medicine China Forum.

## The 4<sup>th</sup> UChicago Medicine China Forum

The 4th UChicago Medicine China Forum, featuring the John E. Ulmann Distinguished Service Professor Everett Vokes, held at the Center Oct. 29th. 60 participants from our partner institutions, medical students and alumni, families had the opportunity to learn the latest of cancer treatments and important progress made at the UChicago Medicine. Prior to the conference, Dr. Vokes met with journalists from local media.

## Sino-U.S. Educational Dialogue and Academic Exchange: Challenges and Prospects

More than 20 representatives from international exchange and cooperation departments of various universities and hospitals participated in the closed-door meeting, where they engaged in detailed conversations and exchanged ideas on the future of Sino-U.S. academic collaboration.

Professor Dali Yang, the William Claude Reavis Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Chicago, and Professor Zhang Ying, Bo-Ya Professor at Peking University and Associate Dean at Peking University's Guanghua School of Management, who also serves as the Academic Director of Peking University Center in Chicago, headlined the discussions. Both speakers provided deep insights into the evolving dynamics of Sino-U.S. educational collaboration and addressed the potential challenges in future. They also highlighted the importance of fostering robust academic exchanges amidst global uncertainties.



Professor Ying Zhang of Peking University (left) and Professor Dali Yang of University of Chicago (right) at the Sino-U.S. Educational Dialogue.

## What is Jewish Philosophy? A View from the Middle Ages

On December 18, more than 30 participants gathered at the University of Chicago Center in Beijing for an insightful lecture titled "What is Jewish Philosophy? A View from the Middle Ages" by Josef Stern, William H. Colvin Professor of Philosophy Emeritus at the University of Chicago. Stern's lecture explored whether a distinctive Jewish philosophy exists. Drawing on medieval Jewish philosophy, he argued that it cannot be defined solely by the identity or religious context of its philosophers. Instead, he suggested viewing it as a philosophical 'tradition', a causally related sequence of philosophers who influence and are influenced by each other and engaged in a distinguishable dialogue among themselves.



Professor Josef Stern at the "What is Jewish Philosophy?" event.



## The Ideal of the Sage in Jewish and Chinese Thought and Culture

From December 15 to 18, eight scholars from the University of Chicago and Israel gathered at Shandong University's Jinan campus for the symposium titled "The Ideal of the Sage in Jewish and Chinese Thought and Culture". This event, co-hosted by the Center for Judaic and Inter-Religious Studies at Shandong University, the Joyce Z. and Jacob Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies of the University of Chicago, and coordinated by the Center in Beijing, delved into the voluminous texts of classic literature, including the Hebrew Bible, Rabbinic literature, and traditional Chinese literary works.



Group photo of "The Ideal of the Sage in Chinese and Jewish Thought and Culture" symposium.



Scholars at "The Ideal of the Sage in Chinese and Jewish Thought and Culture" symposium at Shandong University Jinan Campus.



Prof. Judith Zeitlin delivering a lecture.

## Human Doors, Ghost Doors: Entrances and Exits in Qing Court Theater

On December 6th, the University of Chicago Center in Beijing hosted a captivating lecture titled "Human Doors, Ghost Doors: Entrances and Exits in Qing Court Theater" with an attendance of more than 40 people. The lecture explored how the Qing court reconstructed stage space to navigate the lengthy scripts while presenting the opera in unprecedented detail.

The lecture was delivered by Judith Zeitlin, the William R. Kenan Jr. Professor of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. Her research combines the history of Chinese literature in Ming and Qing dynasties with other disciplines such as visual and material culture, performance, music, medicine, gender studies, and modern media. In this lecture, Professor Zeitlin focused on the critical role of entrances and exits in shaping stage space in traditional Chinese opera. She revealed how the Qing court, particularly during the reign of Emperor Qianlong, redefined the use of stage entrances, significantly altering the spatial dynamics of court performances.

## Space and Event: An Art History Workshop

On March 10, numerous scholars, students, and art enthusiasts gathered at the Center in Beijing for a day-long art history workshop, which features in-depth discussions on the dynamic relationships between space, time, and image-making in various historical contexts, brought together more than 100 attendees.



Scholars attending the "Space and Event" workshop

## Articulating the Queer Self: Self-reflexive Knowledge Production with Queer-identifying College Students in Beijing

Since September 2024, the Center in Beijing has been supporting a participatory action research (PAR) project led by Yueran Zhang, an Assistant Professor of Sociology and the College. This project seeks to understand how queer-identifying college students in Beijing develop and transform their understanding of the self and the society over time. By treating research participants as collaborators rather than mere subjects, this project aims to generate self-reflexive knowledge that could concretely lead to a sense of empowerment among communities of queer youth in challenging times. As part of the research project, participants meet regularly for community-building events, facilitated discussion, film screenings and conversations with queer activists. The Beijing Center has consistently provided meeting space and logistics support for the gatherings.



Students at the “Articulating the Queer Self” workshop.



2025 Wanxiang Ambassador Fellows Green Energy Conference.

## 2025 Wanxiang Fellows Engage with Green Energy Leaders in Beijing

As part of their immersive 5-week fellowship in China, the 2025 cohort of 30 Wanxiang Ambassador Fellows convened in Beijing for the annual Wanxiang Ambassador Fellows Green Energy Conference. The program, established under the U.S. State Department’s 100,000 Strong Initiative, aims to build lasting relationships between future leaders from the United States and China through a shared focus on renewable energy, language, and culture.

The cornerstone conference, held from June 23rd to June 25th at the University of Chicago Center in Beijing, featured a distinguished panel of eight speakers from leading research universities, institutes, and major corporations at the forefront of the green energy industry.

This three-day event offered the fellows an unparalleled opportunity to engage with top academics and industry experts. Through a series of lectures and in-depth discussions, the students gained valuable insights into critical topics such as China’s environmental regulations, policies on carbon neutrality, the development of photovoltaic power, renewable energy integration, and the future of hydrogen, wind, and New Energy Vehicles (NEVs).

## Workshop: Amateur Culture, Platform Economy, Precarious Life

From June 25 to 27, fifty scholars, writers and researchers gathered at the Center in Beijing for a workshop titled “Amateur Culture, Platform Economy, Precarious Life”, which discussed the opportunities and challenges brought by the rise of the platform economy, particularly focusing on the contemporary working-class condition and related cultural production under the platform economy.

The event was hosted by Paola Iovene, Associate Professor at the Department of EALC at the University of Chicago, Chun Chun (Isha) Ting, an independent scholar, and Zhang Huiyu, Associate Professor at the School of Journalism and Communication at Peking University. Key themes included the gig economy’s erosion of worker dignity, the role of self-media in amplifying marginalized voices and evolving patronage systems like virtual gifting. The program featured roundtables and presentations on topics ranging from reproductive labor to AI’s influence on cultural production.



Prof. Paola Iovene (right) speaking with an attendee at the workshop.



## Alumni & public engagement

### Growing the Center in Beijing's Social Media Presence

In FY2024-2025, the University of Chicago Center in Beijing significantly enhanced its digital presence through strategic use of WeChat and Weibo. By leveraging timely, relevant content and collaborating across University units, the Center increased both visibility and engagement. These efforts have strengthened the University's brand in China, deepened alumni and institutional relationships, and supported recruitment and reputation-building initiatives.

The Center also effectively fosters a strong sense of community by managing three WeChat groups with nearly 1,100 verified student family members and parents. These groups are vital for sharing information and strengthening community ties, not only with the University but also among the families themselves.



Prof. Madhav V. Rajan (left) and Prof. John W. Boyer (right) at the The Future of Liberal Arts and Business Education discussion.

### The Future of Liberal Arts & Business Education

The University of Chicago Center in Beijing hosted a thought-provoking discussion titled "The Future of Liberal Arts and Business Education" on October 28. The event featured a distinguished panel of scholars, including Professor John W. Boyer, the Martin A. Ryerson Distinguished Service Professor of History, Professor Madhav V. Rajan, Dean of the University of Chicago Booth School of Business, and Professor Ying Zhang, Associate Dean and Professor of Marketing and Behavioral Science at the Guanghua School of Management, Peking University.



Prof. Madhav V. Rajan (left), Prof. John W. Boyer (middle), and Prof. Ying Zhang of Peking University (right) at the event.



Master in Finance Program Information Session.

### Master in Finance Program Information Session

Oct. 25, Professor Dacheng Xiu of Booth held at the Center an information session on the Master's in Finance (MiF). He explained in detail the purpose, structure and unique academic and career advantage of the Booth MiF program to about 70 participants.



Mr. Masaaki Shirakawa (left) and Prof. Danxia Xie of Tsinghua University (right) at the event

### Insights from Japan's Economic Development and Prospects for China's Economy Amid the Fed's Rate-Cutting Cycle

The event featured prominent speakers in the field of economics, including Masaaki Shirakawa, MA'77, former governor of the Bank of Japan, and Danxia Xie, PhD'17, associate professor at the School of Social Science, Tsinghua University. The two professionals leveraged their expertise and experience to delve into the similarities and distinctions between Japan's past economic challenges and China's present economic trajectory, offering valuable perspectives on how China might navigate its own economic transformation.





Prof. Wu Hung and Leung Man-tao at the book launch event.

## Roaming and Contemplation: A Book Launch Event with Wu Hung and Leung Man-tao

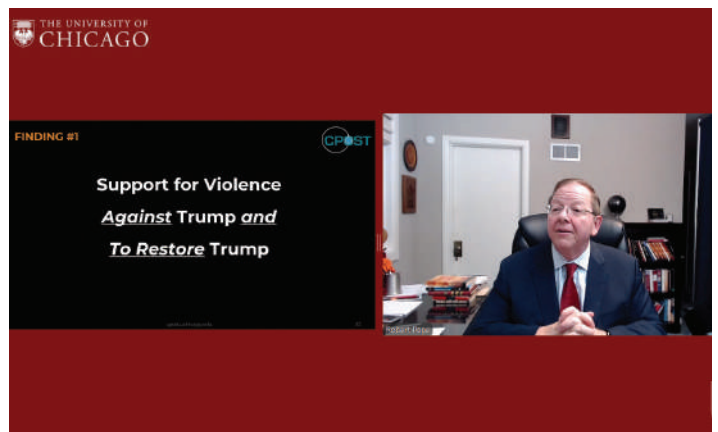
On December 8th, the University of Chicago Center in Beijing hosted a book launch event for *Serendipitous Encounters: Perceiving Art through Roaming* (Official English Title Not Yet Released) written by Professor Wu Hung. In this event, Wu Hung engaged in a lively dialogue with Leung Man-tao, a distinguished literary critic, writer and TV host, to explore how to transform curiosity into artistic contemplation and how to use roaming as a way to perceive art.



New Directions in Longmen Grottoes Art Research symposium.

## Mounting Political Violence in America & What This Means for Asia, Europe, and the World

On January 9, Professor Robert Pape, Director of the Political Science Department at the University of Chicago, delivered a thought-provoking lecture on Zoom. Hosted jointly by the university's three Asia-Pacific centers, including the Center in Beijing, the lecture shed light on the major factors driving today's era of "violent populism" in America, how it compares to past eras of political violence in the U.S., and what it portends for instability in geopolitical contests across Asia, the Middle East, and Europe.



Prof. Robert Pape delivering a lecture online.



New Directions in Longmen Grottoes Art Research symposium.

## New Directions In Longmen Grottoes Art Research

On December 9th-10th, the Center in Beijing hosted a symposium on the Longmen Grottoes. The two-day event featured leading scholars to discuss rising new topics generated by the update of research methods and the maturation of interdisciplinary collaboration. Over 60 attendees participated in person each day, and the live-stream attracted an audience of more than 4300 people.



## Unbinding and Reconstructing: The Polyphonic Narrative of Yuan, Ming, and Qing Painting

On Sunday, March 9, 2025, the Center in Beijing hosted a captivating discussion titled “Unbinding and Reconstructing: The Polyphonic Narrative of Yuan, Ming, and Qing Painting”, which drew a crowd of 220 attendees.

The event featured an insightful dialogue between two esteemed scholars, Professor Wu Hung, Director of the Center for the Art of East

Asia at the University of Chicago, and Huang Xiaofeng, Professor at the Central Academy of Fine Arts. Through their dialogue, the two scholars led the audience through time and space, unraveling the little-known stories behind paintings from the Yuan, Ming, and Qing dynasties. They explored the diverse and rich connotations of these works, offering a more comprehensive and layered world of Chinese painting.



Prof. Wu Hung (center) and readers.

## The World's Communities: New Definitions, New Collectives, and New Directions in Contemporary Art

As the exhibition “Yangdeng Art Cooperative in Guizhou” enters its final phase, the University of Chicago Center in Beijing hosted a spectacular event on April 15 to discuss and celebrate the inspiration of the Yangdeng Art Cooperative on contemporary art with special guests.

The event attracted thirty attendees, including artists, scholars, and art enthusiasts, to examine how grassroots art initiatives reshape communities.

This event concluded the Provost's Global Facult Award (PGFA) program that the Center supported. Tongji Philip Qian, Collegiate Assistant Professor in the Department of Visual Arts, highlighted the many components of the program, which included three stages of exhibition and two workshops. The Center will continue to run the exhibition for the general public until end of June.



Two local speakers of the event at gallery opening.



Dr. Zening Ge (right) hosting the event.



Prof. Tongji Philip Qian attending the event over Zoom.



## Supporting China-Chicago connections

### U.S. Ambassador to China Visits Center in Beijing

The University of Chicago Center in Beijing had the distinct honor of hosting U.S. Ambassador to China, Nick Burns, and the education department of the Embassy, on October 10th. Ambassador Burns, a seasoned diplomat and scholar, engaged with a group of students enrolled in the Center's East Asian Civilization course.

During his visit, Ambassador Burns shared his insights on the evolving U.S.-China relationship, discussed the importance of cultural exchange, and encouraged students to become active participants in shaping the future of bilateral relations. The students, captivated by Ambassador Burns' expertise and passion, had the opportunity to ask questions and engage in lively discussions.



Ambassador Nicholas Burns visiting the Center in Beijing.

### Students Attend Reception at U.S. Ambassador's Residence

Students from the University of Chicago had the honor of attending the Reception for U.S. University Alumni and U.S. Students in Beijing, held at Bush House, the residence of the U.S. Ambassador. This event offered a valuable opportunity for University of Chicago students currently participating in the East Asian Civilization Program to network with peers from universities across the United States, including current Schwarzman Scholars and Yenching Scholars. During the reception, Ambassador Burns highlighted the importance of fostering educational collaboration between the United States and China, a sentiment that aligns deeply with the enriching experiences our students enjoy during their time in Beijing.



UChicago students at the U.S. Ambassador's Residence.



China Trek students at the Temple of Heaven in Beijing.

### Career Advancement China Trek in December 2024

From December 16–20, 26 students, led by Erwin Paderanga from the Career Advancement Office, participated in a career development trek to Shanghai and Beijing. The trek provided opportunities to engage with leading Chinese firms across diverse industries while immersing in China's vibrant culture.



Lab School students visiting local middle schools in Beijing.

### University of Chicago Laboratory Schools Students Visit China

Twenty University of Chicago Laboratory Schools students embarked on a two-week exploration trip to China in March. The students spent a week visiting rural areas in Sichuan Province before continuing their journey to Beijing. On March 19, the group visited the Center in Beijing, where Executive Director Dr. Zening Ge introduced them to China's higher education system and engaged in a Q&A session.

During their stay in Beijing, students participated in classroom exchanges with peers from the High School Affiliated with Renmin University of China and Beijing Dandelion School, a nonprofit middle school providing equal access to quality education for children in Beijing from low-income migrant families.



## Strengthening Collaboration Between UChicago Medicine and China

In April 2025, two delegations from UChicago Medicine—comprising faculty, a resident, and a medical student—participated in multi-disciplinary academic engagements in Beijing and Wuhan. These visits, organized by the WUMER Project and supported by the Center in Beijing, advanced collaborative efforts in emergency medicine, geriatrics and palliative care, continuing medical education, and clinical training. Outcomes included plans for future exchanges, collaborative research, and leadership in expanding the ECHO education model across China.



UChicago delegation at Peking Union Medical College Hospital.

## Advancing Emergency Medicine Collaboration

**Beijing:** On April 12, Drs. David Beiser, Nicolas Ludmer, and Jonathan Lio, participated in the 18th Peking Union Internal Symposium on Emergency Medicine (PUISEM), with Dr. Beiser delivering a keynote to 2,000 attendees on strategies to improve cardiac arrest outcomes in Chicago and Dr. Ludmer presenting on emergency management of sepsis. University of Chicago faculty participated as part of an ongoing educational partnership. Following the symposium, the delegation visited the Emergency Medicine Department at Peking Union Medical College Hospital, hosted by IMEP alumnus Dr. Di Shi. Both sides expressed strong mutual interest in developing emergency medicine resident exchanges and building the trauma service at PUMCH. Plans are underway for a fall 2025 visit by EM faculty from PUMCH to the University of Chicago to study EM and trauma integration in clinical care, quality improvement, and education.

**Wuhan:** From April 13–18, Drs. Beiser and Ludmer co-led a small-group teaching demonstration on cardiac cycle physiology at Wuhan University's Taikang School of Basic Sciences, in collaboration with Dr. Peng Biwen. The session attracted students and faculty observers from across the basic and clinical sciences. They also co-organized and participated in the LuoJia Emergency Medical Clinical Research Academic Seminar at Zhongnan Hospital alongside colleagues from Wuhan and Beijing, and journal editors from the European Journal of Emergency Medicine, World Journal of Emergency Medicine, European Journal of Heart Failure, and Emergency and Critical Care Medicine. Discussions focused on data quality, randomized controlled trials, and research innovation. Strong interest was expressed by the Wuhan emergency medicine group in learning from Chicago's approaches to improving cardiac arrest outcomes, and both sides expressed interest in establishing a collaborative initiative in this area.



UChicago delegation at Wuhan University.



Dr. Nicholas Ludmer (left) and Dr. David Beiser (right) at the 18th Peking Union Internal Symposium on Emergency Medicine.



## Expanding Geriatrics and Palliative Care Education

**Beijing:** On April 21, Drs. Shellie Williams and Jonathan Lio visited the Geriatrics Department at Peking Union Medical College Hospital. Dr. Williams led an interactive communication skills workshop for 60 participants from geriatrics and palliative care, with robust discussion on cultural differences in how bad news is communicated. The visit also served as a springboard for joint research initiatives on sarcopenia and frailty, and for future faculty exchanges.



Dr. Shellie Williams (left) and Dr. Jonathan Lio (middle) at Peking Union Medical College Hospital.



Dr. Shellie Williams (left second) examining a patient at Peking Union Medical College Hospital.

**Wuhan:** From April 23–25, Dr. Williams delivered three presentations at Zhongnan and Renmin Hospitals: one on serious illness communication, one on the 4Ms framework (What Matters, Medication, Mentation, and Mobility) for age-friendly care, and one providing an overview of geriatrics and palliative medicine's clinical, educational, and research initiatives at the University of Chicago. Dr. Williams shared practical community educational resources for palliative care, which faculty from the school of nursing will adapt to their local context. Dr. Williams also joined a home visit with a local palliative care team and was consulted on cancer symptom management, strengthening clinical trust and cross-cultural engagement.

## Positioning Wuhan as China's Next ECHO Hub

The ECHO (Expanding Community Health Outcomes) team from the University of Chicago—Dr. Daniel Johnson, Karen Lee, and Kanika Mittal—introduced the model to faculty and staff at Zhongnan and Renmin Hospitals, and affiliated community health centers. ECHO is an innovative tele-mentoring model that leverages virtual, case-based learning to build capacity in underserved areas by connecting specialists with frontline healthcare providers. Wuhan University School of Medicine expressed strong interest in becoming China's second ECHO hub after Shanghai. The Department of General Practice was especially motivated to launch the first educational series to pilot the model with local community health centers.



UChicago early resident medical students at Peking Union Medical College Hospital with local peers.



The UChicago ECHO (Expanding Community Health Outcomes) team in China.

## Millis PGFA-International Experience in Global Health : Beijing

The Center, through support from the Provost Global Faculty Awards and China Medical Board, facilitated invaluable clinical shadowing opportunities for early resident medical students at Peking Union Medical College Hospital (PUMCH), China's premier research hospital. These rotations provided students with profound insights into global healthcare systems, medical education, and cultural nuances in patient care. Students gained exposure to a diverse range of cases, from rare diseases to advanced critical care technologies like Electrical Impedance Tomography (EIT), which one student noted was "very useful objective output that I had not encountered in ICU practice before." The program fostered deep cultural immersion, with one participant reflecting on the "priceless" benefit to their "cultural immersion and language abilities," while others appreciated the opportunity to "form genuine friendships" with their Chinese counterparts and explore historical sites. These experiences significantly broadened students' understanding of medical practice and education in a global context, reinforcing the Center's commitment to fostering international collaboration and enriching medical training.



## Developing Strategic Relationships

Over the past year, the Center continued to develop and manage robust partner relations with its existing collaborators. Furthermore, we expanded our partner list to include several new and rapidly growing institutions, such as Shanghai Tech and Westlake University. Through strategic leadership visits, student exchanges, and collaborative faculty initiatives, the Center has successfully built strong and healthy relationships with China's top educational and governmental agencies, reinforcing our commitment to fostering international collaboration and enriching medical training.

## Visit by Cyrus Tang Foundation Leadership

Associate VP for Global Initiative, Katie Hrnyak meeting with Fudan University's VP for International Cooperation, Professor Zhimin Chen.



Professor Chen (left), Vice President of Fudan University in Shanghai and Ms. Katie Hrnyak (right), Associate Vice President, Global Initiatives & Strategy of UChicago.

## Significant Faculty Visits



Prof. Young-Kee Kim, meeting with official from China's Ministry of Science.

Professor Young-Kee Kim, the Albert A. Michelson Distinguished Service Professor of Physics and the College, led a delegation from the American Physical Society in her capacity as its current president. The delegation met with officials from China's Ministry of Science and Technology and held discussions at the Chinese Academy of Sciences.



Prof. John J. Mearsheimer giving a lecture at Tsinghua University.

Professor John J. Mearsheimer, the R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service Professor of Political Science, returned to China for the first time in five years after visiting frequently before the pandemic. He was invited by Renmin University to deliver a series of lectures and also spoke at Tsinghua University. His talks were enthusiastically received at both institutions and generated significant engagement on Chinese social media platforms.



Prof. Chuan He speaking at an alumni event in Shanghai.

Professor Chuan He, the John T. Wilson Distinguished Service Professor in the Department of Chemistry, participated in several academic conferences across China and delivered lectures at Peking University. He also spoke at an alumni event in Shanghai, where he discussed the applications of RNA methylation.

From June 16th to 19th, Professor Robert Pape, Professor of Political Science at the University of Chicago and a renowned political scientist, visited Beijing for an insightful academic exchange and industrial tour. This visit, organized by the University of Chicago Center in Beijing, highlighted the growing intellectual collaboration between Chinese and American scholars.



Prof. Robert Pape visiting Huazhong University of Science and Technology.

## Additional activities

### University of Chicago faculty & staff

Hosted multiple info sessions, seminar and other events for Harris School of Public Policy

### Alumni & community

Worked closely with the Beijing Alumni Club to organize multiple events and activities

Hosted "An Exhibition On and Around the Guizhou Yangdeng Art Collective"

### Students

Conducted workshops with newly admitted students and families to help them better prepare for living and studying on campus

Acted as a bridge between the University of Chicago and families of incoming students to ease communications and explain University policies and procedures

Matched six College Metcalf interns with host organizations in China

Hosted new students orientation event organized by Chinese Students and Scholars Association

### Strategic relationships

Met with Suzhou University leadership to explore opportunities in joint students programs.

Developed relationships with research and teaching hospitals in Sichuan and Shandong provinces to discuss potential collaborations.



# Appendix

## Events

DATE	TITLE	TYPE	AUDIENCE	ATTENDEES
2024.07.01—07.02	Workshop-"The History and Anthropology of the Body"	In-Person	By Application	30
2024.07.10	UChicago Harris In Person Happy Hour with Austin Wright	In-Person	Students	100
2024.07.19	UChicago Harris at Event Space 19, July--Career Bootcamp	In-Person	Students	30
2024.07.20	UChicago Harris at Event Space 20, July--Admitted Students Send-off Party	In-Person	Students	60
2024.07.21	UChicago Harris at Event Space 21, July--Harris CDO 1:1 Coaching appointments	In-Person	Students	3
2024.07.31	UChicago Harris Degree Program Info Session	In-Person	Public	18
2024.09.01	CSSA Orientation Presentation for New Students	In-Person	Students	70
2024.09.20	UChicago Harris Public Policy Information Session	In-Person	Public	20
2024.10.10	Visit of the US Ambassador to China to the Center	In-Person	By Invitation	40
2024.10.25	Booth Event- Conversation with Professor Dacheng Xiu	In-Person	Public	40
2024.10.28	The Future of Liberal Arts and Business Education	In-Person	Public	60
2024.10.29	The 4th UChicago Medicine China Forum	In-Person	Public	60
2024.10.30	UChicago Beijing Alumni Club Event - Review of Japan's Economic Development and Outlook for China's Economy	In-Person	Alumni	150
2024.11.10	UChicago Beijing Alumni Club Event - Forum	In-Person	Alumni	50
2024.11.15	UChicago Harris Master's Program Info Session	In-Person	Public	20
2024.11.23	Articulating the Queer Self: Workshop Session 1	In-Person	By Invitation	30
2024.11.30	Articulating the Queer Self: Workshop Session 2	In-Person	By Invitation	30
2024.12.06	"Human Doors, Ghost Doors: Entrances and Exits in Qing Court Theater"	In-Person	Public	27



DATE	TITLE	TYPE	AUDIENCE	ATTENDEES
2024.12.08	Public Lecture by Prof. Wu Hung - Wandering and Contemplation: Perceiving Art Through Travel	In-Person	Public	200
2024.12.09-10	Longmen Conference	In-Person	Public	80
2024.12.12	Sino-US Education and Academic Exchange: Challenges and Prospects	In-Person	By Invitation	30
2024.12.18	What is Jewish Philosophy? A View from the Middle Ages	In-Person	Public	40
2025.01.18	UChicago Beijing Alumni Club Event - New Year's Gala	In-Person	Alumni	100
2025.02.21	UChicago Harris-PCMC Event and Happy hour	In-Person	Students	55
2025.03.08	Articulating the Queer Self: Workshop Session 3	In-Person	By Invitation	30
2025.03.09	Professor Wu's New Book Launch Event - Wu Hong x Huang Xiaofeng Dialogue   Unbinding and Reconstruction: The Polyphonic Narrative of Yuan, Ming, and Qing Painting	In-Person	Public	220
2025.03.10	Professor Wu & Central Academy of Fine Arts Academic Event - Place and Event: An Art History Workshop	In-Person	Public	150
2025.03.19	Visit from UChicago Lab School	In-Person	Students	30
2025.03.22	Articulating the Queer Self: Workshop Session 4	In-Person	By Invitation	30
2025.03.29	Articulating the Queer Self: Workshop Session 5	In-Person	By Invitation	40
2025.04.06	Ethics Conference in Beijing	In-Person	Public	50
2025.04.13	UChicago Beijing Alumni Club Event	In-Person	Alumni	20
2025.04.15	Yangdeng Exhibition Workshop	In-Person	Public	40
2025.04.20	Articulating the Queer Self: Workshop Session 6	In-Person	By Invitation	30
2025.05.10	Articulating the Queer Self: Workshop Session 7	In-Person	By Invitation	30
2025.05.18	Articulating the Queer Self: Workshop Session 8	In-Person	By Invitation	30
2025.05.31	Alumni Association Children's Day Event	In-Person	Alumni	50
2025.06.06-08	Home Medical and Palliative Care 2025 Seminar	In-Person	By Invitation	60
2025.06.15	Articulating the Queer Self: Workshop Session 9	In-Person	By Invitation	30
2025.06.17	China Medicine Forum	In-Person	Public	50
2025.06.23-25	Wanxiang Ambassador Fellows Green Energy Conference	In-Person	Students	30
2025.06.25-27	Cultures of Labor and the Labor of Culture in Contemporary China: Migrancy, Patronage, Platforms	In-Person	By Invitation	40

# 2024-25 Active Projects

## Provost's Global Faculty Awards - Grants Administered

### *Academic Eventss*

#### **Performance Theory in China (1550-1900)**

Judith Zeitlin | East Asian Languages & Civilizations

#### **The Ideal of the Sage in Chinese and Jewish Thought and Culture**

Josef J Stern | Philosophy

#### **10th Annual Conf on Advanced Therapies for Solid Tumors and Academic Development**

J. Michael Millis | Surgery

#### **Beijing Ethics Conference**

J. Michael Millis | Surgery

#### **Neuroimmunity and Cognition in CNS Diseases**

Anthony Reder | Neurology

#### **International Medical Educators Program Conference and Infectious Diseases Specialty Training and Professional Development Conference**

Jonathan Lio | Medicine

#### **Cultures of Labor and the Labor of Culture in Contemporary China: Migrancy, Patronage, Platforms**

Paola Iovene | East Asian Languages and Civilizations

### *Exploratory Trips*

#### **Implementing Pilot ECHO Training in China**

Karen Lee | Pediatrics

#### **From Yangdeng to Beijing: A Countercultural Episode To Arrive At The Nation's Capital Tongji**

Philip Qian | Visual Arts

### *Research Projects*

#### **Metacognitive Interventions for Ethnic Youth Affected by Extreme Poverty in Southwest China**

"Eugene" Yu Ji | Social Sciences

### *Training Initiatives*

#### **Resident Exchange**

Renslow Sherer | Medicine

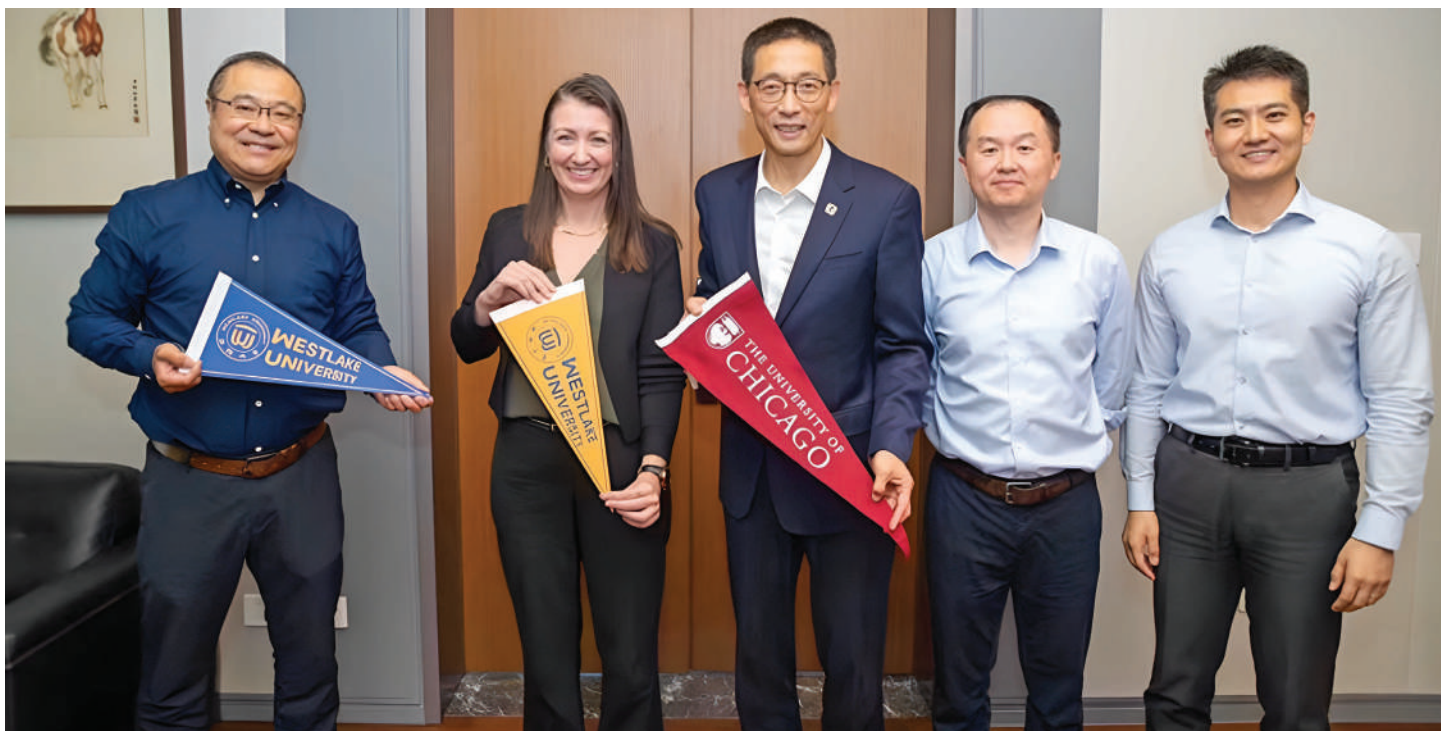
### *Student Trips*

#### **International Experience in Global Health: Beijing**

J. Michael Millis | Surgery



# Partner Highlight: Forging a New Model for Global Collaboration with Westlake University



The University of Chicago is proud to highlight its growing partnership with Westlake University, a groundbreaking institution in Hangzhou, China. Established in 2018, Westlake represents a new and innovative model in China's higher education landscape. While the vast majority of universities in China are state-funded, Westlake is the first to be largely supported by private philanthropic funding, with a primary focus on scientific research and STEM education. Its mission to become a world-class, research-intensive university with an emphasis on academic freedom and global standards aligns closely with the University of Chicago's own core values.

This year, our engagement with Westlake University was solidified through a new, unilateral student exchange agreement. This unique partnership allows the University of Chicago to welcome up to four highly accomplished Westlake students each year into our undergraduate college programs. This exchange serves as a crucial bridge, bringing some of China's most promising young scientists and scholars directly into the intellectual and academic life of our campus. It provides an invaluable opportunity for our faculty and students

to engage with a new generation of talent from an institution that is actively reshaping the future of higher education and scientific innovation in China.

The formalization of this partnership was a significant milestone. In June 2024, our Associate Vice President of Global Initiatives, Katie Hrinyak, visited Westlake University in Hangzhou. Her visit underscored the University of Chicago's commitment to this collaboration and laid the groundwork for future, deeper connections between our two institutions. The productive dialogues and shared vision established during this visit promise to enrich the experiences of students and faculty on both sides of the Pacific.

This partnership is more than a simple academic exchange; it is a forward-looking engagement with a bold, new model of higher education. By working with Westlake University, the University of Chicago is not only expanding its global footprint but also contributing to the development of a more diverse and interconnected academic ecosystem, fostering the next generation of global leaders and innovators.



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