CAPEES Newsletter www.capees.org

Chinese-American Professors in Environmental Engineering and Science

Volume 7, Number 1 Apr. 2014

Greetings from the President

Dear CAPEES members,

I hope your spring semester is going well! I feel humbled and fortunate to serve this term as the CAPEES president, and I want to thank you for your continued support of this young and vibrant organization.

This month we are celebrating CAPEES's seventh year anniversary. As the first President that was not in the founding team 7 years ago, I feel very grateful to the 7 founding members of CAPEES and admired their vision and dedication to the organization as well as to the Chinese and overall environmental engineering and science community. The founding members are Ching-Hua Huang (Georgia Tech), C.P. Huang (U Delaware), Qilin Li (Rice U), Pei Chiu (U Delaware), Jianmin Wang (Missouri S&T), Jianpeng Zhou (SIU Edwardsville), and Yuefeng Xie (Penn State).

During the past 7 years, CAPEES has transformed from a 7-member group to an organization with more than 70 members across 7 countries and regions. During the past 7 years, CAPEES has gained broad recognization from communities across academia, government, and industry. We co-organized international conferences with AEESP and several universities in China; we helped elected the first Chinese-american AEESP board member; and we nominated several prominent Chinese-american professors to various awards. In fact, we have been widely known as the Chinese-AEESP by our colleagues in the field, which demonstrates the value and significance of this organization. The founding team led by Prof. Xie wrote a brief history of CAPEES in this newsletter for your re-visit.

For all the reasons above and accomplishments we have achieved, CAPEES Board and Officers nominated the 7-founding members, all have also served as the President, along with Hao Tang, our founding and long term Webmaster - CAPEES Distinguished Service Award. Each of them will receive an Award Certificate fro CAPEES.

Looking forward, we are very pleased to announce several exciting news and events. CAPEES officers Baoxi Mi (U Maryland) and Xu Li (U Nebraska–Lincoln) received the prestigious NSF CAREER award this year, which not only proves their excellence in research, but also demonstrates the quality of our officer (and such service won't affect your productivity). We are thrilled to welcome Baolin Deng (U Missouri) to serve as our President-Elect and our first non-Chinese Board Member, Marc Edwards (Virginia Tech). You will find very inspiring stories about Marc's philosophy and experience in this news letter. We are also pleased to introduce featured members Yongsheng Chen (Georgia Tech), Ke (Luke) Li (U Georgia), and Pei Xu (New Mexico SU). We also want to thank Tao Yan (U. Hawaii) for his great service as a board member in the past years.

CAPEES will again co-organize several international conferences and activities later this year. In July, CAPEES will participate in IWA Science Summit for Urban Water in Harbin, China. CAPEES members will also visit Universities in Yunnan province to facilitate collaboration and help identify opportunities for our members and researchers in China. In August ACS national meeting, we will co-host a symposium to honor Prof. CP Huang, a founder and long time advisor for CAPEES, for his great contributions and achievements in environmental chemistry. We will look forward to seeing you in these events!

Again, I want to thank our long time members for your continuous support and welcome those who recently joined us. We need your support and help to continue growing this great organization, which in turn will benefit each of us as well. Please send along your ideas and suggestions!

Hope you have a joyful summer!

Zhiyong (Jason) Ren,
CAPEES 2014 President
Associate Professor
University of Colorado Boulder

Editors: Xingmao (Samuel) Ma/马兴茂， Zhen (Jason) He/贺震

CAPEES Newsletter www.capees.org

Chinese-American Professors in Environmental Engineering and Science

Volume 7, Number 1 Apr. 2014

Member and Society News

Professor Yuefeng Xie Was Recognized for His Community Service

Dr. Yuefeng Xie, the founding chair of CAPEES and professor of environmental engineering at The Pennsylvania State University, has received the 2014 Penn State Faculty Outreach Award. The award honors Penn State faculty who have positively and substantially affected individuals, organizations or communities through problem solving or development as a result of extending their scholarship. In 1998, Xie co-founded the Small Public Water Systems Technology Assistance Center and Environmental Training Center at Penn State. Since then, the center has trained nearly 15,000 professionals (times) from small, often financially challenged, water systems in Pennsylvania. In addition, Xie has co-organized workshops at national and international conferences and taught workshops in Canada, Singapore, and China. "It is unusual for such important and valuable outreach contributions to be made on such a broad scale, ranging from local to state to international," a nominator said.

Dr. Huang at Georgia Tech Was Promoted to Full Professor

Dr. Ching-Hua Huang, a founding member and former president of CAPEES, was promoted to the rank of full professor recently at Georgia Tech. Professor Huang has served as the liaison between the CAPEES and AEESP and played a critical role in the successful realization of the joint AEESP-CAPEES workshop in Colorado in 2013. She is currently a board member of AEESP.

Dr. Zhan received two national grants

Dr. Xinmin Zhan at the University of Ireland received two high profile grants to study water sustainability. His first grant, the GreenFarm project, was funded by the Ireland Science Foundation. This project will study on-farm anaerobic co-digestion of the organic fraction of municipal solid waste (OFMSW) and animal manures for the purposes of bioenergy production and resource recycling. It will evaluate biosafety and quality of the resulting digestate and its suitability for land use. This project will address important challenges like energy security, biowaste disposal, greenhouse gas emissions and rural development in Ireland in 48 months and is strategically important. Two research collaborators are from Teagasc and Waterford Institute of Technology. The second grant, the DairyWater project, was funded by the Irish Department of Agriculture, Good and the Marine. The specific goal of the project is to develop effective and sustainable technologies, which will treat dairy waste and reduce water usage in the dairy processing sector, and to conduct life cycle analysis of water use and dairy waste management for the Irish dairy processing industry. The work will comprise both laboratory, on-site and desk-top studies. The €1m large-scale project comprises research institutes of NUI Galway, Trinity College Dublin, University College Cork, Athlone Institute of Technology, and Teagasc, with Dr. Zhan as the project principal investigator."

Editors: Xingmao (Samuel) Ma/马兴茂， Zhen (Jason) He/贺震

CAPEES Newsletter www.capees.org

Chinese-American Professors in Environmental Engineering and Science

Volume 7, Number 1 Apr. 2014

History of CAPEES

Yuefeng Xie

The idea to establish a society for Chinese-American professors came out one of lunches between C.P. Huang and Yuefeng Xie before 2007. Although there were other environmental organizations, including Overseas Chinese Environmental Engineers & Scientists Association (OCEESA), we felt that there was a need to establish a society for Chinese-American professors to foster professional growth and career development. Qilin Li, Ching-Hua Huang, and Yuefeng Xie also had an informal discussion about the society at the 2007 American Chemical Society March Meeting in Chicago.

The first official meeting was a teleconference held on April 17, 2007. Ching-Hua Huang, C.P. Huang, Qilin Li, Pei Chiu, Jianmin Wang, and Yuefeng Xie attended the meeting. The meeting decided the name of the society as Chinese-American Professors in Environmental Engineering and Science (CAPEES) with a Chinese name, 北美华人环境工程与科学教授学会 or 协会. In a later meeting, 学会 was officially approved. An interim committee was also established with C.P. Huang as the advisor, Yuefeng Xie as the Chair, and Qilin Li as the secretary. All presented plus Jianpeng Zhou are members. The Interim Committee met four times in 2007. Pei Chiu spearheaded the Bylaws and registered CAPEES in Delaware. Qilin Li and her husband, Jian Shen, worked on the not-for-profit status application. Ching-Hua Huang was leading the membership drive. Jianmin Wang was the Editor-in-chief, and Jianpeng Zhou was the treasurer. Hao Tang, a PhD student at Penn State at the time, established the website. CAPEES officially started in 2008 with C.P. Huang as Chair of the Board, Yuefeng Xie as President and other Interim Committee members as the Board members and Officers. Hao Tang was officially appointed as the Webmaster. By October 2008, 19 faculty members, one postdoctoral member, and three student members joined CAPEES. After 2008, other Interim Committee members also took up the presidency (Pei Chiu 2009, Ching-Hua Huang 2010, Jianpeng Zhou 2011, Jianmin Wang 2012, and Qilin Li 2013).

Over the years, the CAPEES membership has grown from the seven members in 2007 to more than 70 members as of 2014. In addition to the website and newsletters, CAPEES facilitated many activities for its members, including sponsoring the 6th International Conference on Sustainable Water Environment in 2010, coordinating a visit to several universities in China in 2012, organizing a workshop "Environmental Education and Research in China" at the 2013 AEESP Conference, and numerous gatherings at various conferences. With the support from CAPEES, Ching-Hua Huang served as a liaison between CAPEES and AEESP in 2012 and was elected as a member of AEESP Board of Directors in 2013.

Interim Committee: Ching-Hua Huang, C.P. Huang, Qilin Li, Pei Chiu, Jianmin Wang, Jianpeng Zhou, and Yuefeng Xie

Webmaster: Hao Tang

Upcoming Conferences

2014 ACS National Fall Meeting and a Special Session for Professor C.P. Huang

The 2014 national American Chemical Society (ACS) fall meeting will be held in San Francisco from Aug 10 -14, 2014. The conference theme centers on the global aspect of chemical enterprises and the specific topics include green chemistry, the globalization of chemistry and so on. What is unique about this particular meeting is that a special session will be held to honor Professor C. P. Huang, a founding member of CAPEES and a long-time mentor for many CAPEES members, for his contribution to the development of environmental chemistry.

2014 IWA Science Summit on Urban Water

International Water Association will hold a Science Summit to discuss the recovery of energy and resources from urban wastewater in Harbin, China from July 13-17, 2014. The primary topics of the conference include:

- Sustainable anaerobic bio-processing
- Enhanced resources recovery efficiency
- Energy saving technologies for sewage and industrial wastewater
- Saving a sufficient water supply for human and environmental purpose
- Achieve human rights to water sanitation
- Urban infrastructure for water sensitive city

CAPEES Newsletter www.capees.org
Chinese-American Professors in Environmental Engineering and Science

Volume 7, Number 1 Apr. 2014

http://www.iwahq.org/28f/events/iwa-events/2014/urban-water.html

Residuals and Biosolids Conference in Austin, TX

A specialty conference on residues and biosolids management will be held in Austin, TX, May 18-21, 2014. The conference is hosted by the Water Environment Federation's Residuals and Biosolids Committee. Detailed information can be found through the following link:

http://www.wef.org/ResidualsBiosolids/

Conference on Beneficial Microbes

The 5th conference on beneficial microbes under the auspices of American Society for Microbiology will be held in Washington, DC, from Sept. 27-30, 2014. The conference will bring together researchers from multiple scientific disciplines to discuss the beneficial role of microbes to human, animal and plant health. Detailed programs can be found from the following website:

http://conferences.asm.org/index.php/upcoming-conferences/5th-asm-conference-on-beneficial-microbes

Gordon Research Conference on Water

The 2014 Environmental Sciences: Water Gordon Research Conference will be held in Holderness School in NH from June 22-27. The conference will bring leading scientists to discuss:

- Nutrient load induced water chemistry change
- Physical alterations of watershed systems
- Water demand for social needs

The registration deadline is May 25, 2014. Detailed conference programs can be found from:

https://www.grc.org/programs.aspx?year=2014&program=envsciwat

SEATC North America 35th Annual Meeting

The 35th Annual Meeting for the SEATC North America region will be held in Vancouver, Canada from Nov 9 to Nov 13, 2014. The abstract submission window is open now. In addition to the typical conference meetings, short training courses will also be available. Interested members are encouraged to visit the conference website for more information:

http://vancouver.setac.org/?page_id=42

Funding Opportunities

Student Fellowship Available

National Water Research Institute (NWRI) has six graduate fellowships available for the 2014-2015 academic year. Applicants must be currently enrolled in a graduate program in a US University to be eligible. Detailed procedures for application can be found from the NWRI website:

http://www.nwri-usa.org/fellowship.htm

Undergraduate Research Fellowships

EPA is offering financial support to undergraduate researchers through its Greater Research Opportunities (GRO) Fellowship program. The program supports both long (a year) and short (three summer month) support for undergraduate students. Detailed information on eligibility and qualifications can be found on the EPA announcement for grant number EPA-F2014U-GRO-Q2. Full announcement can be found from www.grants.gov.

Bioenergy Technology Incubator

The Department of Energy (DOE) has opened call for proposals for researchers to develop and demonstrate technologies to transform renewable biomass resources into commercially viable high-performance biofuels. The funding announcement is accessible through www.grants.gov for the funding number: DE-FOA-0000974.

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CAPEES Newsletter www.capees.org

Chinese-American Professors in Environmental Engineering and Science

Volume 7, Number 1 Apr. 2014

Featured Member of the Issue

Dr. Marc Edwards

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1. *Can you share with us about your career path?*

After going to a very small school in the countryside of New York where I had the same science teacher from 7-12th grade, I went to S.U.N.Y. Buffalo where I majored in Bio-Physics because my older sister said it was the hardest major. After considering medical school, veterinary medicine and geo-physics for graduate school, I saw a talk by activist Lois Gibbs about Love Canal, in which she mentioned that Environmental Engineers would clean up the contamination. Without ever having taken a class on the subject or even meeting an actual environmental engineer, I decided that this was the career for me, since I could apply science to help the greatest number of people and the environment at the same time.

2. *Can you share with us about your current research areas, interests, and projects?*

I am working with students who are studying opportunistic pathogen regrowth in potable and reclaimed water distribution systems, in collaboration with Dr. Amy Pruden (Virginia Tech). I am also learning about and teaching engineering ethics (in collaboration with Dr. Yanna Lambrinidou in Science, Technology and Society), and continuing my traditional work on corrosion of building and water distribution system plumbing. We are excited about leak repair in potable water pipes by a potentially transformative technology termed "in-situ remediation," which we have since discovered was successfully used in practice by ancient Roman engineers by adding wood ash to water systems.

3. *Can you share with us about what courses you normally teach? (so we may learn from each other on teaching skills and share syllabus)*

I teach graduate Engineering Ethics, Introduction to Environmental Engineering, undergraduate Water and Wastewater treatment, and Advanced Aquatic Chemistry.

4. *Can you share with us about your professional activities? (what professional societies and committees you are involved, so we may connect at professional conferences, societies, meetings)*

AEESP, AWWA, ACS, NACE, ASEE.

5. *Can you briefly describe major attractions and cultural environment of your area and/or community?*

You would have to see it to believe it. I live at the top of a mountain with a view of Blacksburg from the front windows and Jefferson National Forest from my back windows. There is a 5 mile running trail through the forest that I use regularly. Blacksburg is rightly considered a great place to raise kids [photo of Ethan and Ailene below, when they were really cute 10 years ago], with hard-working blue collar students and like-minded faculty. Drop by some time and say hello!

6. *Can you share with us your thoughts on key factors that lead to your career today?*

Persistence, hard work and a desire to help others have made for an interesting and satisfying career. Being a professor and helping others realize their dreams, makes this the greatest job in the world.

7. *What suggestions would you like to offer to our members about career, balance between work and life, and other subjects of interests?*

Do not get so focused on the daily pressures of the job, that you forget about all the good reasons you wanted this career and all the good you want to accomplish. We have tremendous freedom as professors. Exercise it.

CAPEES Newsletter www.capees.org

Chinese-American Professors in Environmental Engineering and Science

Volume 7, Number 1 Apr. 2014

Dr. Yongsheng Chen/陈勇生

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1. *Can you share with us about your career path?*

I am an Associate Professor in School of Civil and Environmental Engineering. I received my Ph.D. degree in Environmental Chemistry at Nankai University in 1995. Right after my graduation, I joined Nankai University as an Assistant Professor. In March 1998, I came to USA and joined National Center for Clean Industrial and Treatment as a Research Engineer II. Then, I moved to Arizona State University (ASU) as an Associate Professor Research in November 2003. After five years at ASU, I joined Georgia Institute of Technology as an Associate Professor in May 2009.

2. *Can you share with us about your current research areas, interests, and projects?*

My areas of expertise include: 1) synthesis of nanomaterials for environmental applications; 2) fate, transport, transformations, and biological effects of nanomaterials in the environment; and 3) sustainable energy production using algal biomass and salinity gradients. Current Projects are listed below:
A). Principal Investigator (Georgia Tech site), "Algae Testbed Public-Private Partnership (ATP^3)" for a $15M awarded DOE in total, GT share: $750,000, 02/15/2013-01/14/2016 (Single PI).

B). Principal Investigator (Georgia Tech site), "USABC: United sustainable algal biofuels consortium", funded by DOE, $349,998, 03/2011-02/2013, Single PI

C). Principal Investigator, "Method Development for Quantification of Physicochemical Properties of Engineered Nanoparticles and Their Local-Scale Biological Effects", funded by NSF, $300,000, 09/01/2012-08/31/2015, Co-PI: Wen Zhang

3. *Can you share with us about what courses you normally teach*?
Physicochemical Processes
Introduction to Environmental Systems
Environmental Engineering Laboratory
Membrane Processes

4. *Can you share with us about your professional activities?*

Editorial board for a number of international journals;
Department Faculty Search Committee Member;
Member, American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS)
Member, American Chemical Society (ACS)
Member, American Society for Microbiology (ASM)
Member, The Association of Environmental Engineering and Science Professors (AEESP)

5. *Can you briefly describe major attractions and cultural environment of your area and/or community? What draw you to where you live other than job and study? A photo would be great.*

Atlanta has long history. It was the railway hub of the Confederate South during American Civil War. It was the home to Dr. Martin Luther King, hence the center for the Civil Rights Movement. The Atlanta is the headquarters of more than 14 Fortune 500 companies, including Coca-Cola, UPS, and Delta airline. The weather here is also pleasant, with mild winter and breezy spring and autumn. It is a hilly area full of trees and grass. All of the above draws me to Atlanta.

6. *Can you share with us your thoughts on key factors that lead to your career today?*

In general, the following three components will lead a junior faculty to be successful:
A). Publications and Research Grants;
B). Teaching;
C). Public Services

7. *What suggestions would you like to offer to our members about career, balance between work and life, and other subjects of interests?*

Work hard and enjoy what you are doing. Research can be really rewarding if you are truly interested in the subject.

If you have a family, especially if you have kids, you may have to balance your work and life; otherwise, there is no point of success.

CAPEES Newsletter www.capees.org

Chinese-American Professors in Environmental Engineering and Science

Volume 7, Number 1 Apr. 2014

Dr. Ke （Luke） Li

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1. Career Path

I received my Bachelor degree from the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering at Tsinghua University in 1995. After that I obtained my Master in Environmental Chemistry from the Research Center for Eco-Environmental Science of the Chinese Academy of Sciences in 1998. I joined Professor John Crittenden's research group at Michigan Technological University to work on the modeling of advanced oxidation processes and received my PhD in 2003. I followed John to Arizona State University as a post-doc after graduation and started my exploration in urban sustainability. In 2009, I joined the college of engineering at UGA as an Assistant Professor.

2. Current Research

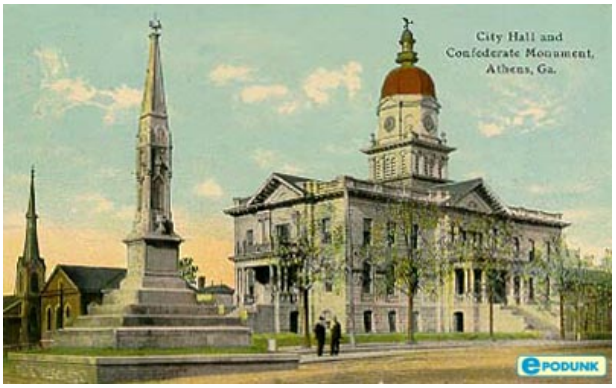
My research is in the field of urban sustainability with a focus on water sustainability, process mechanism and system modeling, and environmental assessment of energy technologies. My group is aimed at understanding the complexity of urban system and using complexity theory to guide engineering practice. We also conduct research on using mathematic algorithm to optimize water network and water treatment process design. The research project of my group are resilient and sustainable water and energy system (NSF-EFRI), life cycle analysis of desalination of brackish water (AWWARF) and computer assisted pathway illustration of advanced oxidation processes (NSF).

3. Courses

I have been teaching two undergraduate/graduate co-listed courses "Environmental Life Cycle Analysis" and "Sustainable Urban Infrastructure" that focus on sustainable principles and application in engineering. I also teach "Model, Statistics & Uncertainty" that focus on basic modeling skills for environmental engineering students.

4. Major attractions and cultural environment at and around University of Georgia.

Georgia located in the "Bible-Belt" of American southern-east. In the small college town of Athens, the community here is friendly and peaceful. The culture here is artistic. I really enjoyed the family friendly environment and community here.



5. key factors that lead me to your career today

Academic is a fun career if you like to explore in unknown area and enjoy constant challenges. Oral expression and technical writing are keys to the success in my humble opinion.

6. suggestions on life work balance

Although the time is flexible, it is easy to get overwhelmed in the endless flow of papers and proposals. Therefore, it is always important to understand the relationship between urgency and priority.

CAPEES Newsletter www.capees.org

Chinese-American Professors in Environmental Engineering and Science

Volume 7, Number 1 Apr. 2014

Dr. Pei Xu

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1. Career Path

I received my Bachelor degree in Environmental Engineering at Xi'an University of Architecture & Technology in 1988, and my MS degree in Water and Wastewater Engineering at Lanzhou Jiaotong University in 1991. In the following 8 years, I worked as an Assistant Professor then Lecturer at Lanzhou Jiaotong University teaching Water and Wastewater Treatment Engineering, Solid Waste Management, Treatment and Disposal, and field sessions. Between 1998 -1999, I worked as a visiting scholar in the International Research Center on Water and Environment (CIRSEE), le Pecq, France. CIRSEE is the world-leading research and expertise center of Suez Environnement, where I had the opportunity to meet with researchers from different countries. After that I joined Professor Francois Brissaud's research group at University of Montpellier II to study for my PhD on technical-economic modeling of water resources management integrated with water reuse. After receiving my PhD, I joined Dr. Jörg Drewes's group at Colorado School of Mines as a postdoc. Since starting my research faculty position at CSM as Assistant Research Professors in 2003, then Research Associate Professor in 2010, I have developed and sustained active and substantive research programs in the areas of ocean and brackish water desalination, membrane treatment and fouling, and produced water treatment and beneficial use. In January 2013, I joined the Department of Civil Engineering at the New Mexico State University as an Assistant Professor.

2. Current Research

My research focuses on developing innovative technologies to augment water supplies from impaired water resources (such as wastewater, brackish water and contaminated waters) while balancing energy consumption, economic benefits, ecological impacts, and social acceptance. My research areas include water and wastewater engineering; membrane processes; desalination; potable and non-potable water reuse; produced water treatment; oxidation and photocatalysis; biological and bioelectrochemical processes; removal of emerging contaminants; membrane fouling.

My research on produced water treatment and beneficial use is mainly funded by DOE and US Bureau of Reclamation, while the projects on desalination and water reuse were funded by Water Research Foundation and WateReuse Research Foundation. I am currently involved in the NSF-funded Engineering Research Center (ERC) "Reinventing America's Urban Water Infrastructure" as a project lead on desalination concentrate management. In addition, my research is sponsored by industry and consulting companies on various water and wastewater treatment studies.

3. Courses

I teach an undergraduate student course "Fundamentals of Environmental Engineering" and a graduate student course "Unit Processes/Operations in Wastewater Treatment".

4. professional activities

I am a member of AEESP, American Society for Engineering Education (ASEE), and Northern American Membrane Society (NAMS). I served as a session chair and moderator for the 2010 International Petroleum Environmental Conference, and the 2013 North American Membrane Society Conference.

5. major attractions and cultural environment

As compared to Denver where I lived for over ten years, Las Cruces is a quiet small town. The population is slightly over 100,000 making it the second largest city in the state, after Albuquerque. Las Cruces looks very beautiful with the majestic Organ Mountains in south, along with the Doña Ana Mountains, Robledo Mountains, and Picacho Peak. The White Sand National Monument is 50 mile east of Las Cruces. The city has a strong Mexican culture and very tasty Mexican food.

6. Can you share with us your thoughts on key factors that lead to your career today?

Perseverance is the key factor that leads to my career today.

Hiking in the White Sand National Monument

CAPEES Newsletter www.capees.org

Chinese-American Professors in Environmental Engineering and Science

Volume 7, Number 1 Apr. 2014

Faculty Positions at Tianjin Universitv

Founded in 1895 as Peiyang University, Tianjin University (TU) is regarded as the pioneer of modern higher education in China. Supported by Chinese Ministry of Education, TU is among the first group of universities to be included in the "985", "211" and "2011" Projects of national investment for developing world recognized universities. Over the years, TU has grown into a world prestigious research university with distinctive quality and strength in education, research and social services. (**www.tju.edu.cn**)

Positions

TU invites outstanding applicants for full-time professorship, and looks for candidates in the following areas.

In Science or Engineering:

Engineering, natural science, life science, information technology, relevant emerging inter-disciplines, etc.

In Other Academic Fields:

Architecture, economics, business, management, social sciences, relevant emerging inter-disciplines, etc.

Meanwhile, applicants with research background of multi-disciplinary and non-traditional approach are highly expected.

Qualifications

Competitive applicants with outstanding academic performance shall be academic staff from leading university, scientists and researchers from renowned institute and company. Research excellence and potential for future productivity are essential. Additional criteria include leadership and communication skills.

In Science or Engineering:

Applicants shall apply for National Recruitment Program of Global Youth Experts (the National Youth 1000-Talent Program) through TU. Successful candidates will be deemed as the appointee.

In Other Academic Fields:

Applicants will be selected according to their qualifications, academic performance, innovation capability, and leadership.

Responsibilities

Responsibilities include establishing a vigorous research program, teaching undergraduate and graduate students, and providing professional/institutional services.

Salary and Support

TU offers an attractive remuneration package. Salary will be commensurate with candidates' qualifications, academic performance and experience. In addition, TU start-up package provides research grant, lab/office space and research–team support.

In Science or Engineering:

- An annual pre-tax salary ranging from 400K to 600K RMB will be offered to appointee.
- An annual pre-tax salary ranging from 350K to 400K RMB will be offered to the candidates who are shortlisted for interview but not selected in the National Youth 1000-Talent Program.

In Other Academic Fields:

- Salary is offered by referring to that of candidates in Science or Engineering.

Application Procedure

Please submit electronically a complete application package consisting of the following documents to oplan@tju.edu.cn. The application deadline is **15th March 2014**.

(1) Application form
(2) Detailed curriculum vitae
(3) Publications listing and five full-text representative publications

As for the detailed application procedure and application form, please download from http://hr.tju.edu.cn/zpxx/js/.

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