



Lance Stevens teaching a Riveting lesson!

TEACHING

LOCATIONS





TEACHERS and their LOCATIONS

Kevin Earl

Hefei, Anhui

Aaron Stevens

Hefei, Anhui

Melissa Goodman

Hefei, Anhui

Benjamin Olsen

Luoyang, Henan

Andrew Peterson

Luoyang, Henan

Lance Stevens

Xinxiang, Henan

Keri Stevens

Xinxiang, Henan

Brian Austin

Nanjing, Jiangsu

Brad Johnson

Nanjing, Jiangsu

Jenny Scott

Nanjing, Jiangsu

Sherisse Hawkes

Nanjing, Jiangsu



Kimberlee Owens

Nanjing, Jiangsu

Sarah Knowlton

Nanjing, Jiangsu

Arielle Green

Yangzhong, Jiangsu

Sarah Wilde

Yangzhong, Jiangsu

Rick Wilde

Yangzhong, Jiangsu

Alyssa Petersen

Yangzhong, Jiangsu

Josh Johnson

Yangzhong, Jiangsu

Mitchell Watson

Shouguang, Shandong

Mark Whiting

Weifang, Shandong

Mindy Whiting

Weifang, Shandong

Grant Adamz

Zibo, Shandong

Caitlin Adamz

Zibo, Shandong

Chason Archuleta

Yangzhou, Jiangsu

Carlos Najera

Yangzhou, Jiangsu

Chase Howell

Zhangjiagang, Jiangsu

Stephani Howell

Zhangjiagang, Jiangsu

Aaron Olsen

Zhenjiang, Jiangsu

Alicyn Woodrum

Zhenjiang, Jiangsu

Katie Rindlisbacher

Zhenjiang, Jiangsu

Joan Madsen

Wenling, Zhejiang

Daniel Gifford

Wenling, Zhejiang

Lindsey Gough

Wenling, Zhejiang





Cold Apartment, Warm Heart

Sarah Knowlton

When we arrived at the Nanjing Airport, Jim was there to meet us and take us to our new apartment. On the bus, I stared out the window and couldn't tear my eyes away from the scenery. I kept thinking over and over, "This is where I'll live for the next 5 months. I'm actually here." We arrived at the school and met our liaison. He took us up to our floor and showed us to our rooms. The rooms hadn't been heated for a few weeks so they were freezing. It's not so easy to turn on a heater and get the right settings when everything is in Chinese. Despite the cold, it was nice to unpack and settle into my new home. I was set for anything China had to offer. It was a cold night's sleep, but that didn't matter: I was exhausted. That next morning, our liaison and one of his students, Oliver, showed us around the city. We walked all over the place seeing new things and learning about the city. That was when I fell in love with Nanjing.



南京欢迎您
WELCOME TO NANJING





my embarrassing CHINA MOMENT

KEVIN ENRL



In China many bigger, non-traditional restaurants will provide entertainment during the dinner service. While out to one such Thai restaurant with some friends, the performance began at the little stage next to our table with a beautiful girl dancing. During her second set she was belly dancing and came to the floor to find a dance partner. Maybe because I'm white or maybe because I was right there by the stage, she chose me and dragged me from my chair to the stage. She wanted me to dance and fiercely bumped her hip

against mine. We danced through a very long song in front of the whole restaurant. This was definitely my most embarrassing moment in China to date.





What I have learned about teaching

I said, "I'm gonna be an amazing teacher." I was sure of it. I was going to teach the socks off of my students. Now I've woken up a bit. The best way to teach is to focus on the kids, not myself. They're amazing!

-Daniel Gifford

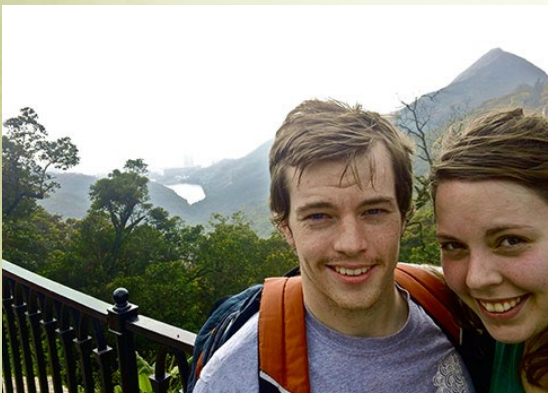


The little moments are the most valuable: a spontaneous performance of "Do Re Me" on a student's instrument, the groans of despair during hangman, looking together in wonder at the tadpoles in the class aquarium. I love teaching my third graders, and I love those magical moments!

-Kimberlee Owens

It's hard, tiring, requires a lot of thinking on your feet, and the most rewarding thing I have ever done! I can't even begin to describe the feeling of triumph I had when a grandmother of one of my students came to me with a huge smile on her face as she proudly showed me a video on her phone of my student speaking English.

-Alicyn Woodrum



Teaching these children has been such an incredible opportunity. In 5th grade we had a Chinese native come teach us about her culture. It was such an amazing and unique experience. Now I'm the native teaching about my culture; I feel blessed to give the same experience to these children.

-Chase Howell







TEACHING DAY ONE

SHERISSE HAWKES

The first day of teaching did not go as expected. It was the hardest day thus far. I went in thinking I would have gobs to do and the children would have fun...this was definitely not the case! I took their pictures with their nametags in it, introduced myself, and then I was at a loss. All of that had taken 10 minutes and I still had 30 minutes to fill. I had them do counting games and do the “Stand Up, Sit Down” game until they were out of breathe. It was a disaster. I was so discouraged. How could I teach for the rest of the 5 months if I couldn’t even master one day? I think the best part was that every single one of us that teaches the

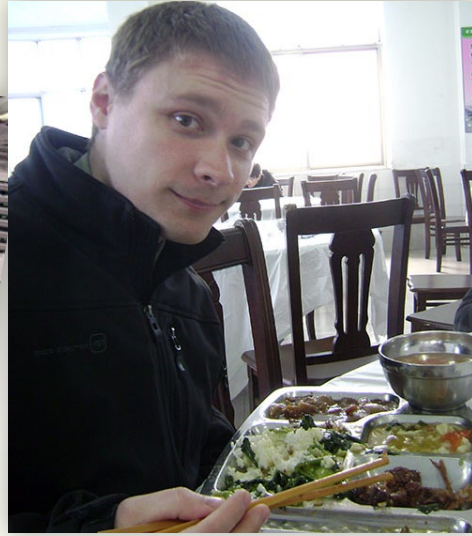


primary students were discouraged about our lack of preparation. We still make jokes about how poorly we did that first day and how unprepared we were. It has become a joy to teach and has helped me see how well I really can do with lessons and with the students





The most surprising part of China is...

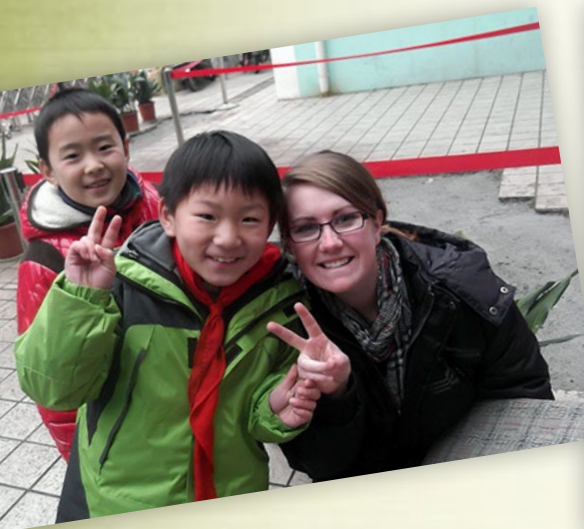


The driving in China. They honk constantly, drive wherever they want, and run red lights, but everyone's happy and there's no road rage. I actually feel really safe.

-Rick Wilde

SPITTING! Watch your step! Don't slip on a loogie or get a free unexpected 'spit shine'... young, old, male, female... they all spit. It's not bad, it's just China.

-Katie Rindlisbacher







my embarrassing CHINA MOMENT

JENNY SCOTT



One Saturday the weather finally cleared up so we decided to go outside and play volleyball with our Chinese friends. We had just gotten a new volleyball so we were really protective of it. There was a giant ice puddle that was about 20 feet away from the court. At one point the ball got hit into the puddle and it was painful to watch it get wet. We dried it off and kept playing. A little while later the ball got hit toward the puddle again. This time I was determined that I would not let our new volleyball get wet. So I took off running after the ball as fast as I could. Right as I got to it, the ball reached the edge of the water and started to go in. I stepped into the puddle to pick it up. One thing that I hadn't noticed about the puddle before was it was full of pieces

of ice. I happened to step on one of the pieces of ice. It slipped from under my foot. I went up into the air and landed straight onto my back in the puddle. Now the ball and I were completely soaked. I was laughing so hard that I couldn't even get myself out of the water. All of the Americans were laughing at me and all of the Chinese were completely mortified. They didn't know what to. So then I had to run back to my apartment completely soaked to change. The Chinese people stare at you a lot just for being white....it's 10 times worse when they see a soaking wet white girl running around. But it provides a good story!





First Impressions of CITY & SCHOOL

A little overwhelming. I was first impressed by the large amounts of people in such a small space; they're everywhere! The kindergarteners are amazing and really excited to learn!

-Aaron Olsen



My first impression and my impression now are totally different. I love it now, but my first night on campus was terrible. Our school was built 30 minutes outside of Yangzhou in a field. It's small, old, and the building was freezing cold. I didn't know how I would manage. Now that I have spent a month here, I've grown to love it. I love the quiet surroundings. I save money because there are no malls or restaurants nearby, and with spring approaching we don't have to worry about freezing to death anymore!

-Carlos Najera

Huge, beautiful, overwhelming, and incredible are some of the words that come to mind. I think I was in shock for a week. Every day is a new adventure.

I love it!!

-Andrew Peterson





my embarrassing CHINA MOMENT

CAITLIN ADAMS



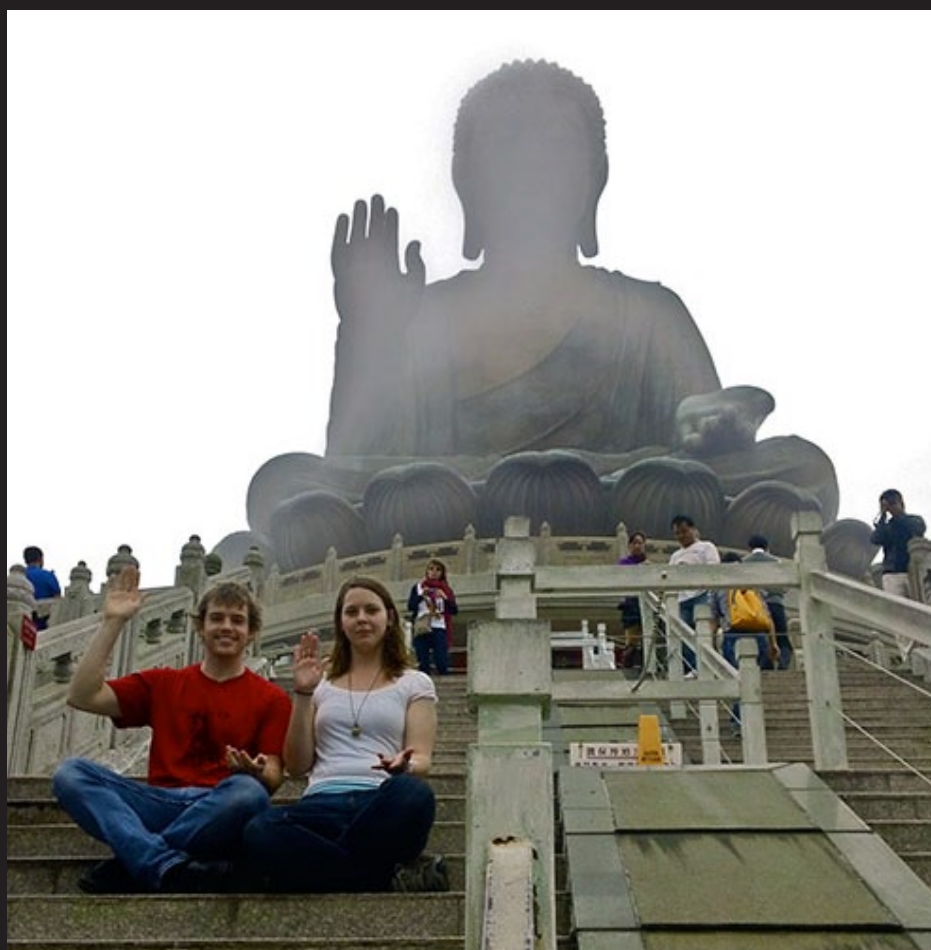
My first day teaching in my university building, I went to use the bathroom. I saw the floor was pink, and I glanced at a shadow head shot of a person I thought was a girl with a bob or something, so I waltzed right in. As I shopped around for the least disgusting stall, I noticed behind me some toilets only made for men. Luckily there was no one in there now and I tore out half because of that realization and also half because the men's room smelled so much more disgusting than a women's room in China ever has. So humiliating, and I'm trying

to recall correctly, but I think there was a guy—not a student—in the hallway near me when I came out of there. He probably went home and told his wife later.

GRANT ADAMS

One day we were walking on campus near where many of my students live. It was nighttime and we were talking about one of my monitors, Andy. I couldn't remember who he was so my wife was trying to help me remember. Right then she thought she saw him. She pointed him out discreetly and suddenly I yelled in a really low and loud voice, "Hey, Andy!" and it WASN'T HIM.







CHINESE CORNER

COLORS

Huáng sè 黄色

Lán sè 蓝色

Jú sè 橙色

Kāfēi sè 咖啡色

Hóng sè 红色

Zǐ sè 紫色

Lǜ sè 绿色

Hēi sè 黑色

Huī sè 灰色

Bái sè 白色





