



Mitchell Watson with his primary school students



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you can also find us on



TEACHING

LOCATIONS





TEACHERS and their LOCATIONS

Kevin Earl

Hefei, Anhui

Aaron Stevens

Hefei, Anhui

Kyle Kempisty

Hefei, Anhui

Melissa Goodman

Hefei, Anhui

Christian Storrs

Tongcheng, Anhui

Anthony Alzayyat

Tongcheng, Anhui

Lance Stevens

Xiangxing, Anhui

Keri Stevens

Xiangxing, Anhui

Austin Slade

Luoyang, Henan

Paige Slade

Luoyang, Henan

Haley Van Meeteren

Nanjing, Jiangsu

Aimee Johansen

Nanjing, Jiangsu

Heather Wilson

Nanjing, Jiangsu

Erin Rogerson

Nanjing, Jiangsu

Nicole Galbraith

Nanjing, Jiangsu

Laura Brown

Nanjing, Jiangsu

Sara Gummow

Yangzhong, Jiangsu

Christina Dittmar

Yangzhong, Jiangsu

Mekena Morgan

Yangzhong, Jiangsu

Marie Demke

Yangzhong, Jiangsu

Kara Colvell

Yangzhong, Jiangsu

Julia Anderson

Yangzhong, Jiangsu

Bonny Dowling

Yangzhong, Jiangsu

Gracie Valesquez

Yangzhou, Jiangsu

Lisa Garrard

Yangzhou, Jiangsu

Erica Mehl

Zhangjiagang, Jiangsu

Taren Peterson

Zhangjiagang, Jiangsu

Jordan DePrez

Zhenjiang, Jiangsu

Morgan Smith

Zhenjiang, Jiangsu

Tosh Dowling

Zhenjiang, Jiangsu

Aubrey Lamoreaux

Zhenjiang, Jiangsu

Kellie Orton

Zhenjiang, Jiangsu

Abby LeMmon

Zhenjiang, Jiangsu

Sara Riggs

Zhenjiang, Jiangsu

Kevin Kempisty

Zhenjiang, Jiangsu

Gregory Allan

Binzhou, Shandong

Kayla Harris

Binzhou, Shandong

Mitchell Watson

Shouguang, Shandong

Mark Whiting

Weifang, Shandong

Mindy McKinnon

Weifang, Shandong

Grant Adamz

Zibo, Shandong

Caitlin Adamz

Zibo, Shandong

Shae'la Stautmeister

Wenling, Zhejiang

Alyse Byers

Wenling, Zhejiang

Callie Kolb

Wenling, Zhejiang

Madilyn Smith

Wenling, Zhejiang

Blake Oakey

Wenling, Zhejiang

Lucas Ehly

Wenling, Zhejiang



my new hometown



As we were driving in the car along the main road I kept thinking, "This place is huge. I can't read any of the signs. I am going to be completely lost for the next four months." Now however, I know what buses to take, where to find dumplings and steamed buns, where to pick up a warm snack, how to get to my school and house, how to get to a park, and so much more. It's hard to believe that a few short weeks of wandering around Zhenjiang can change it from an alien planet to my hometown.

ABIQAIL LEMMON



MMy first thought was "WOW! So this is what they call a small city? Here you can breathe a little better than in Beijing because of all the trees and plants! It is very green, and actually pretty clean for a big city. Zhenjiang has personality, spunk, and a little bit of everything thrown in! My school is great! The teachers are already my friends and we hang out on the weekends! The food is an adventure, and cafeteria food is, well, cafeteria food. All in all, I love it here!

KELLIE ORTON





What have you learned about teaching?

The overall teaching is very similar to teaching in Utah. Going from 11th graders in Utah to 2nd and 4th graders here in China, though, is a major change. My students enjoy learning; yet there are difficulties. The similarity is at the end of the day when I arrive home and think, "I love my job".

-Mitchell Watson



Teaching is really fun! I quickly learned that I can get immediate, undivided attention from my 7th graders when I mention their favorite pop star, Justin Bieber. I've found creative ways to link him somehow with educational lesson content. Students also really look up to you and love when you greet them by name when you see them.

-Nicole Galbraith



Teaching has kind of been hard to adjust to, having not been a teacher before. I don't have a set school routine yet, but I love teaching here! The kids are great and so cute! I'm having so much fun!

-Sara Riggs





Shaela, Natalie, & Anna out to dinner



Tara on teacher Appreciation Day



Julia fishing



What's the most surprising part of China to you?



Lisa & Gracie with some monks

Monks! What surprised me most about them is that they are completely familiar with technology and the media. Each monk has their own cell phone and most even have their own laptop! They even know about Lady Gaga and Beyonce!

-Lisa Garrard



Erica at the cafeteria

Definitely the food. In the United States, we only eat the "good" parts of the animal. Here, they eat EVERYTHING. From pig liver, to chicken feet, to whole fishes slapped down on my tray. Armed with only a pair of chopsticks, each trip to the school cafeteria brings apprehension and a new culinary surprise. You never know what will be next!

-Erica Mehl



Blake meditating

Our first full day in Wenling was spent at the local hospital where we got "check-ups." There are no such things as Hippa laws, people were smoking in the halls, and I even saw a dad holding an IV bag that was attached to his newborn child's head in the waiting room. This small peek into socialized healthcare was my first big wakeup call in China.

-Blake Oakey





my first day of class

LAURA BROWN

To truly understand the vices of teachers, all a person needs is to spend one day in the classroom; that's all it took for me to understand the reasons behind the Dansko hog shoes, caffeinated beverages, a chocolate jar and regular evening activities of watching Modern Family and Glee, all stereotypically associated with the teaching lifestyle. My first day of class was crazy! My students shared with me their English names and we began the semester on the right foot; instantly, I was able to see the characters of the class. Keboven refused to change his English name. I suggested he might mean Kevin, Ben or even Ken but he would have none of it! He was adamant that his name be Keboven. Unwilling to destroy his creative freedom, I granted him



his simple wish. I showed pictures of my life. In one picture, I'm sitting on the lap of my Grandpa; as I showed the picture a student said, "Oh! So sexy!" Nobody laughed. I assumed it was a misunderstanding of the word. I looked at him, laughing under my breath, and said, "Let's be careful how we use that word!" Hoping they knew English beyond 'sexy,' we played the "fly-swatter game" with opposites. I was surprised how well they knew their opposites, even tricky ones like excellent and terrible. These students are smart; after the first day, I was excited and energized for a semester to learn with them. While I can't say every day has filled me with as much hope and optimism, I can say the smallest moments of success in teaching (though they can be far and few between) make every endless night of lesson planning and PowerPoint-making worth it. To every Dansko-wearing, Coke-drinking, chocolate-sneaking, Glee-watching teacher out there, I remind you that tomorrow will always be better than today. And no matter how much chalk dust you get on your black pants, it will wash out eventually. To teaching!





What did you do your 1st day at your school?

Oh hello humidity! As soon as I arrived in Wenling it felt like my city, my home. Natalie, Shaela and I got here just in time for a late dinner at...KFC! Popcorn chicken is not popcorn chicken from America, but the ice cream was better!

-Anna Haynes



Anna at a banquette

The first night we got to our school they took us to KFC and bought us a ton of food. It was pretty late at night so we chilled in our nice, clean apartments where they had some lotions and soaps for us. The next day they took us to a very fancy hotel where we ate a delicious buffet! It was great!

-Madilyn Smith



Callie, Alyse & Madilyn

Our school took us to a dinner at a very nice restaurant. They told us that this was their first time taking foreigners to dinner. The food we ate was incredible and it was fun to talk to all the other Chinese English teachers. The next day, our liaison took us to a noodle shop to help us figure out how to order food. We ate noodles and eel/snake soup. It was a great experience and I really like this school. I am so happy to be here!

-Aubrey Lamoreaux



heading to church





my first 24 hours

CALLIE KOLB

My jaw dropped as I stared at what would be my home for the next 4 ½ months. I was surprised to say the least. Looking up still speechless, I took in the immensity of the building that stood before me. We had finally made it to Oxford Central International Kindergarten in Wenling, China. Here is where my adventure would begin. Maddi, Alyse, and I dragged our suitcases up the 6 flights of stairs, and eventually made it to our new home. We got a good night's rest and in the morning, Boss Chin (our principal) had one of the school guards fetch us a traditional breakfast. It was surprisingly delicious. I had been a bit weary trying new foods and especially meats because you could

never be sure where they came from, but what we ate was scrumptious. At about 9 am we went to go meet some of our students. I went to my "bottom class" which consisted of about ten active and crying two-year-olds. I was overwhelmed at first. All the children were crying for their mothers and one even vomited on me. I couldn't believe I would be teaching them when not even the Chinese teachers could console them, but I knew things would get better. They were all too cute. Everyone at the school was so friendly and the teachers made us feel welcome with what little English they spoke. All in all, the 1st 24 hours were a whirlwind, but definitely unforgettable (in a good way of course).





Shaella with a mini sized Chinese friend



Morgan and some students



Lucuas in Shanghai



CHINESE CORNER

HAND NUMBERS

Counting fingers in China is a very common practice. Showing the correct hand sign along with saying the number is helpful in avoiding confusion.



一 (Yī) 1



二 (Èr) 2



三 (Sān) 3



四 (Sì) 4



五 (Wǔ) 5



六 (Liù) 6



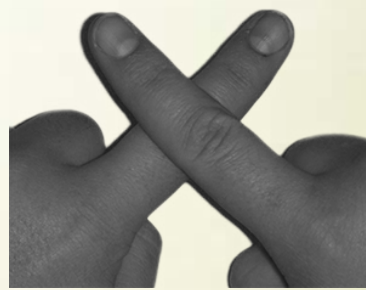
七 (Qī) 7



八 (Bā) 8



九 (Jiǔ) 9



十 (Shí) 10



CHINESE CORNER

THE TAXI

Directions

左边 (zuǒ bian) - **Left Side**

右边 (yòu bian) - **Right Side**

前面 (qián miàn) - **Up Ahead**

左拐 (zuǒ guǎi) - **Turn Left**

右拐 (yòu guǎi) - **Turn Right**

Talking to the Driver

师傅 (shī fu) - **Driver**

去这里 (qù zhè lǐ) - **I want to go here (show address on paper)**

我要去 (wǒ yào qù _____) - **I want to go _____**



