

TIANJIN, CHINA

VICKIE YANG

Program: UW Intensive Chinese Language, Summer

Vickie's Major: Undecided

Academic Life: I'd say that this program reached its intensive approach. We had classes everyday from Monday to Friday. After class on Mondays we had to attend a cultural class in order to experience and have a hands on understanding of Chinese culture. We had half days on Tuesdays since we had what we call a "caifeng." That was basically going out and about Tianjin doing some field work, which involved communicating with local Chinese people and using Mandarin to help us get around. Then on Wednesdays there were usually guests speakers who would come in and give us a general overview about China's culture and sometimes we did activities. During this program, I took third and fourth semester Chinese, which was a total of 12 credits. The students in my class were students from UW-Madison and a few others were from different states because they were in the military.

Advice to Someone Considering China: Be prepared to face the heat in China, and the pollution. The first thing I noticed was the heat when I arrived at the airport. Don't bother to bring a sweater or jeans, it's just really too hot for that stuff. Well, maybe bringing one of each is fine, but no more than that.

What Vickie Learned From Her Experience: If I want to do something, I have to just get up and do it. Really, there is no waiting around hoping that someone would drag or do something for you, you really just have to do it yourself.



Vicky at Stone Forest in Shilin.

“When I stepped off the airplane... the feeling was so surreal.”

