

3<sup>rd</sup> Annual Meeting of Integrated Zoology  
26<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Society for Conservation Biology  
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I recently returned from a twelve day excursion to Beijing and Chengdu China. In these two cities I was able to participate in two international conferences as well as work to strengthen the existing collaboration between Chinese researchers, working with the captive breeding and re-introduction of Giant Pandas', and Drexel researchers. These experiences allowed for me to present my current Ph D. thesis research on resource overlap and potential competition between native red-bellied turtles and non-native red-eared slider turtles to a large audience of people as well as present my past research on harpy eagle reintroductions. The workshop that I attended in Chengdu on Giant Panda breeding and re-introduction was rewarding and gave me insights into the many aspects of large mammal conservation.

Our delegation of Drexel researchers and collaborators met, spoke and networked with many other researchers from many parts of the globe. In meeting and speaking with foreign scientist I managed to meet a well known Chinese biologist who works with the distribution of turtle species in China as well as the legal and illegal sale of turtles. This initial meeting occurred at the Integrated Zoology meeting. We met again at the Society for Conservation Biology meeting where I gave a talk on my current research with freshwater turtles. This second meeting led to an exchange of presentations and information on both my research as well as Dr. Shi's ongoing research with the invasive red-eared slider turtle in different parts of the world. It was a good experience to come in contact with other researchers with similar research to mine. Many of the presentations I attended at both meetings helped for me to gain a broader perspective on other areas of research that are being pursued.

In addition to meeting with many other scientists from multiple countries in many different fields I also had the opportunity to experience a number of cultural events. As part of these conferences and workshops I saw many different Chinese performances such as changing faces, puppets, acrobats and a tea pouring martial arts performance. These performances were unique and allowed me to gain a deeper appreciation for Chinese culture. The cultural experiences I had coupled with the intellectually stimulating conferences and workshops have reinvigorated my desire to work within a field that is oftentimes dependent on cultural understanding and a rigorous understanding of an organism's biology.



The Drexel delegation at the SCB meeting.



A photo of me presenting at the SCB meeting.



A skilled tea pouring performer.