Some Reflections on Our Experiences at Sun Yat-sen University Since 1985

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Contents

A leading authority group in the history of Department of Earth Science, SYSU........

..................Zhou Yongzhang (1)

Professor Misch, a well-known geologist who was a teacher in Department of Geology, SYSU 70s years ago..................Kerry Zhang (5)

Three parts of reminiscence of my mother school, SYSU...........Yang Chaoqun (15)

The beautiful campus in Shipai, Guangzhou and my unforgettable happy time in SYSU........................................Yin Peiji (19)

Some photos of SYSU in shipai, Guangzhou......................Li Zhaolin (21)

Recollection of professor Chen Guoda, a practitioner of Scientific spirit..........................Zou Heping (26)

I honor the memory of my well-beloved tutor, professor Fang Ruilian.......Zhu Sulin (29)

We honor the memory of our well-beloved tutor, professor Deng Haiquan..............................Wang Rongyao and Chen Zhizhong
Recollection of professor Huang Yukun and his plain but great life...Zou Heping (34)

Professor Huang Yukun’s contribution was extensive all over the wild, on the mountains and beside the rivers...Zhang Ke (39)

I honor the memory of my well-beloved tutor, professor Huang Yukun...Zhong Yi (42)

Recollection of my father, Huang Yukun...Huang Xinqing (44)

Administrative measure, like maximizing talent and strengthening fundamental research, is widely praised...Qiu Yuanxi, Xia Fa, Wang Jiangke and Liang Zhirong (46)

Record of Yang Chaoqun’s wonderful life and his performance, which reflect Yang’s chase for the past 60 years...Ding Jiaming, Ding Xiaoran, Yuan Qianting, Zhu Jiawen and Tan Yuan (48)

Department of Geology’s shutting and re-running in the past 90 years...Chen Zhizhong (54)

We should continue to pursue and promote our Geological career...Li Zhaolin (59)

Department of Geology that I know in the beginning of 1990s...Zhao Buyi (74)

Work review of Department of Earth Science’ leading group between 1996 and
Some memory of my beloved mother department

My impression of Department of Earth Science in 21st century

The general situation of isotope laboratory' construction in 1980s

Some reflections on Our Experiences at Sun Yat-sen University Since 1985

Geological investigation team of Department of Geology

Department of Geology and I was growing simultaneously

Review of sedimentary subject's establishment and development in Department of Geology

My dedication to Geology and Geological education in my whole life

Our passionate youth in Department of Geology

Something about my 58th classmates
Photos of my 58th classmates........................................Zhang Yuqian (181)

Two successful alumnus, Xiao Qinghui and Han Tonglin..........................Chen Zhizhong and Zhang Yuqian (184)

I miss my mother school and department, though I am in HK........Xun Junbin (188)

58th classmates are a united and fraternal group................Shan Huizhen (190)

My career in Geology in the past 50 years........................Huang Zhide (192)

Two poems for my mother department...............................Liu Chengfu (202)

My time in Department of Geology, SYSU in 1970s...............Huang Xi (203)

Exploition is the power for creation..............................Liang Junping (207)

The Field Practice diary in Tianhu.................................Yang Jianlin (210)

My sentiment of the 90th anniversary for Department of Earth Science.................................Zhang Fengying (218)
中大同行三十年

罗伯特·蒂芬朵 安妮·蒂芬朵
师超凡 译

缘起

2014 年是中山大学建校暨地球科学系建系 90 周年，张珂院长邀请我们夫妇撰文，回忆历次访问中山大学之见闻和感受。收到这一邀请，我们无比欣喜。一边翻阅着曾经的笔记、书籍、地图和相册，一边回顾着每次访问中大的一幕幕场景、一个个故事。这些资料中记录着我们在中山大学的美好回忆，是我们对中大的珍贵留念。自 1979 年首次受邀访问中大，三十多年来，我们见证了中大的风雨变迁、欣欣向荣，中大也影响着我们，改变着我们。

我们 Diffendal（蒂芬朵）一家来自美国，Robert（Bob）（罗伯特，昵称波比）是内布拉斯加州立大学的地质学博士；Anne（安妮）是内布拉斯加州立大学的历史学博士。退休前，我们长期从事教学和科研工作。Bob 曾是内布拉斯加大学林肯校区的教授，1980—2003 年间在内布拉斯加大学内布拉斯加地质调查院从事地质学研究工作，包括地质填图、撰写论文等。Anne 曾经担任美国档案管理协会的常务董事，国家专业档案管理协会和历史服务中心顾问。

我们与中大的故事源于我们对中国的浓厚兴趣。身为历史学家，Anne 喜欢世界历史，尤其对拥有着悠久历史的中华文明非常着迷。Bob 在本科期间学习过世界史、社会学和地质学，对相关的领域也比较了解关注。1978 年，就在中美外交关系正常化不久，我们了解到内布拉斯加州立大学校长 Ronald Roskens 博士计划在次年初访问中国，着手建立中美高校交流项目。此次访问，他将遴选 25 位感兴趣的人士陪同。经过申请，我们有幸获得了陪同访问的机会。我们当时的单位（Bob 在多恩学院，Anne 在内布拉斯加州立历史协会）也对我们这次访问表示了支持。1979 年 2 月 15 日—
3月1日，我们在中国走访了北京、南京、上海和广州的多所高校（见图1）。这时，中美关系正常化仅仅过了六周。之后的几年中，Roskens博士与中国多所高校达成了交流协议，其中就包括中山大学（见图2）。这一次中国之旅让我们印象深刻、感慨万千，我们期盼着将来还能有机会再来中国。

图1 罗伯特（Bob）和安妮（Anne）1979年2-3月在中美关系正常化后的第六个星期后第一次访问中国并在长城上留影

图2 夏书章教授在美国内布拉斯加大学校长举行的宴会上讲话 [来源于1984年内布拉斯加大学校长Ronald Roskens（照片中央）访问中山大学宣传册]
事情的发展也正如我们所愿，从此，我们与中国结下了不解之缘。


图 3 1985 年底罗伯特 (Bob)、吉雄（时任翻译）和听课的研究生及部分教师在地质学系大楼前的合影

[从左到右为：吉雄、张凤英（教师）、廖镇龙、李伟兴、许瑞武、钟建强、陈水模、吴起俊（教师）、陈家杰、陈炳薇、刘庆建、闻兵、Robert、丘学林、刘春莲（教师）、王明峰、邱津松、张何、吴琦玲、董玲玲、郭一曲、罗红红]
难忘黄玉昆教授

我们在 1985 年 11 月 23 日上午第一次见到黄玉昆教授，当时还有作为翻译的吉雄先生，和两位研究生陆谊和陈家杰。这一次聊天很融洽，很顺利，黄教授的热情和才气给我们留下了深刻的印象，奠定了我们之后建立深厚友谊的基础。

之后的数年中，黄教授多次带我们出野外，邀请我们聚餐，介绍我们认识了中大以及其他院校的老师和学生，还有他的家人，时至今日，依然记忆犹新。黄教授曾跟随苏联专家学习，认识他的那一年，他 55 岁，可以讲一些英语。“文化大革命”期间，他当过厨师，做得一手好菜，他也乐在其中。黄教授的人际网遍布广州，很多是地球科学系毕业的学生，也有一些是私交甚好的朋友。2003—2004 年访问中大后不久，我们接到了黄教授离世的消息，悲痛不已。犹记得，最后一次与黄教授相见，是在 2004 年 1 月 5 日的午宴上，当时还有他的妻子、孙女，和他的朋友们陆谊、郑卓、陈国能、曾令初、李兆麟夫妇、张珂、邹和平。那一次午宴非常棒，聊天也如往常一样愉悦。
延 续


图 5 1990 年中山大学的校园图，对比现今可看出 20 多年来校园的巨大变化

自 1985 年以来，Bob 共访问中山大学六次（历时八个半月），Anne 访
问五次（历时七个半月）。每一次来中大的经历都让我们记忆深刻，在那里我们认识了优秀的人，游历了美丽的地方。中大地球科学系以及其他部门的人都非常友好，如国际合作交流处。

风雨三十载

自 1979 年我们首次访问中国到现在，中大发生着翻天覆地的变化。1979 年的广州，路上鲜有汽车，行人步行居多，或骑自行车、乘公交车。成年人的服装以藏蓝色为主色调，偶见灰色和深绿色，只有小朋友的衣服颜色亮丽。游客需购买外币兑换券来兑换外币。1985 年，街道上出现了出租车，私家车也渐渐多了起来（见图 6、图 7），成年人的衣服颜色变得鲜艳起来。更多更好的消费品充斥着街头，外币兑换券还在继续发行。

三十年来，中大校门的变化见证着学校的新旧之变。1985 年 11 月我们到中大时，中大有四个校门：正门（南门，见图 8、图 9）、东门、西门和略显沧桑的北门。南门、东门和西门都面向新港西路。北门在新中国成立前是学校的正门，后来正门由南门取代。

图 6 1985 年中山大学南门外向西看新港西路的街道、汽车、自行车和行人
图7 1985年中山大学南门对面的肉菜市场

图8 1985年中山大学明信片上的南校门（“中山大学”为叶剑英所题）
1986 年元旦时的中大学南校门

1986 年 1 月 4—8 日，我们前往桂林旅行。让人出乎意料的是，当我们结束了行程返回学校时，学校南门被意外地拆了（见图 10），之后在原址建了一座新的、更为宏伟的校门（见图 11）。此后，南校门基本上没有发生任何变化，只是交通管制从校门口迁到了校门以北的校园内部。1985 年，北门门口是由石铺成的一条小径，通往码头（见图 12）。在这里，人们可以花上 8 分钱坐渡轮到对岸的北京路（见图 13）。当我们 2003 年再度来访时，北门已经化身为一座漂亮的新大门，门口是一条宽敞的沿江大道。
图 11 1990 年新建的中山大学南校门

图 12 1985 年中山大学的北门及北门前的土路
1985 年，地球科学系的办公实验楼位于学校西北区地理大楼的北边，但是地板已经破旧不堪，新的地环大楼正在临近北门的东北区修建。在西南区还有一个新的同位素测年实验室。新的地环大楼在 1988 年落成。1985 年，地球科学系具有硕士学位授权点，正在申报博士学位授权点。1999 年获得了矿物学、岩石学和矿床学博士学位授权点。

1985 年，学校的建筑群楼层还比较低，多数只有 2～4 层。图书馆相对较新，配备了新的计算机设备，其他的建筑也是刚刚完工或正在修建中。全校的师生们都为校园校貌的日新月异激动不已。

1985 年，学校正在进行必要的基础设施更新。记忆中，在 1985—1986 年间的我们一个困扰就是时不时地意外断电，有时甚至是全校断电，最久的时候会断电一整天。学校的师生们因突然断电遭遇着电脑意外关机和实验设备突然中止等状况。Bob 一般是借助幻灯片来讲课，有一次遇到了突然断电，他不得不即兴讲课。此后，我们在 2003 年也遇到过一次突然断电，那是在宾馆中，断电持续了几个小时。

还有什么是变化？那就是在 1985 年，中大只有一个校区，学生都在这个校区上课。到了 2013 年，已经扩增到四个校区，其中包括广州的三个校...
中山大学地质学科九十周年志庆纪念文集

区和珠海的一个新校区。大一和大二的学生都住在珠海校区并在那里上课。在 1985 年，没有手机，没有网络，没有邮件，传真和固定电话是我们与远在大洋彼岸的家人联系的最快途径。那时校园里只有几辆公有的汽车，几个露天的市场，校园里偶尔还能看到几只鸡在闲庭散步。从南门出来的新港路对面是一个公交总站，从车站出来只有一条狭窄的车道。而如今，手机人人必备，汽车随处可见，露天市场和校园里的禽畜不复存在了，师生的生活条件有了极大的提高，周围的餐馆也越来越高档。对比 1985 年以来的各版校园地图，我们为学校的变化赞叹不已。

蒂芬朵奖学金与蒂芬朵基金

我们的每一次访问都由中山大学地球科学系支付食宿生活费用。在 1985 年的第一次访问期间，我们节省下了 900 元人民币。因为这笔资金是由地球科学系支付的，临别前我们希望将其回馈给地球科学系。于是我们向黄玉昆教授及其他师生咨询，可以用这笔资金为系里购置什么设施。经过讨论，一位一直为我们做向导和翻译的研究生陆誐建议设立一个奖学金来鼓舞和奖励优秀的学生。当时他正在申请到美国的高校读博士，他注意到这样的奖学金在美国很普遍。黄教授很赞同这一提议，并提笔写了一封提议书：将这笔钱存入银行，之后每年获得的利息，以现金的形式奖励给在过去的一年中地球科学系最优秀的学生。就这样，我们创立了这一捐赠基金，并声明，如果这一奖学金政策在地球科学系未能执行下去，可以将这笔钱移作他用。应复法教授和陆誐的建议，这一奖学金被命名为“蒂芬朵奖学金（Diffendal Prize）”。

我们在原来的基础上额外捐了 100 元。这样，这笔基金的初始金额就是 1000 元。当我们回到美国后，Bob 与他内布拉斯加州西部认识的 Tom 和 Carolyn Wells 谈起了此事。他们非常欣赏这一举措，为这项基金捐助了 1000 美元（当时折合人民币 8000 元）；1991 年，他们再次捐助 1000 美元。多年以来，该奖学金还获得了地球科学系的校友和获奖者的捐助。我们夫妇、Bob 的姐姐和 Anne 的哥哥在之后也都曾捐款。

到 1988 年，该项基金的利息足以颁发奖学金，第一笔奖学金发给了地球科学系研究生张珂。自此之后，每年获奖的学生名额增加至 4 名，包括 3 位本科生和 1 位研究生。截至 2013 年，共 81 名学生获得了该项奖学金。在 1998 年来访中大之时，我们签署了 125 张获奖证书，以备颁发给未来的获奖者。
奖者（见图 14）。在最近一次的 2013 年来访时，当时签署的证书还在使用。此外，每年 Bob 都会亲自给每位获奖学生写信祝贺。

图 14 Robert 和 Anne 莅临中山大学为蒂芬朵获奖者颁奖的部分照片
（左 2003 年，右 2013 年）

到 2005 年，该基金的金额在持续增长，校方决定由校财务处代理保管这笔基金。校方征求了我们对于这笔资金的使用建议。我们的书面建议由张珂教授按时转交给了财务处。2005 年 11 月，我们收到张珂教授发来的一份关于设立中山大学蒂芬朵基金会的文件初稿。我们与地球科学系的教师和校友多次反复修改，最终在 2006 年 1 月 5 日正式成立“蒂芬朵基金会”。我们夫妇收到了正式的中英文条款文件，以及作为基金会终身成员的任命。此后，基金会多次举办会议。虽然我们仅出席了 2013 年 11 月的会议（见图 15），但是期间所发生的相关事务都有收到告知。我们希望这项基金在未来能够持续增长，并不间断地帮助优秀的地质学学生，为他们在中国地质学领域的学习和事业助一臂之力。

图 15 参加 2013 年蒂芬朵基金会会议的成员（从左至右依次为张照、唐锐、张珂、Anne、Robert、郑卓、蒋志强、段建军和邓迎春）
永远的朋友

1985 年，我们认识了地球科学系的黄玉昆教授、邹和平教授、夏法教授、丘元禧教授、陈炯辉教授、曾令初教授、吴雄教授、陈国能教授，研究生陆谊、陈家杰、张珂，以及历史系的许光秋博士，并与他们成了好朋友。之后的访问中我们认识了更多新朋友，见了老朋友，包括李兆麟教授、陈国能教授、郑卓教授、何俊国教授等，与他们度过了难忘的时光。我们也曾接待陆谊、陈家杰、吉雄博士、丘元禧教授、陈国能教授和张珂教授等人做客家中、访问学校。

讲学记忆

历次的访问中，Bob 在广州和珠海都曾做过讲座，主题主要涉及地质学领域，以及美国教育系统、美国高校系统。此外，他还曾在广东省地质学会和中国科学院南海海洋研究所做过讲座。Anne 也分别在广州校区和珠海校区做过关于美国历史与文化的讲座，并组织了英语会话的课程。Anne 还面向全校、历史系（见图 16）、广州英语语言中心、外语系、校图书馆职员及档案学与图书馆学的本科生，以及广东省档案局进行过多次演讲。

图 16 历史系组织的关于安妮（Anne）女士讲座的海报
Bob 的荣誉

1998 年 5 月 4 日，中山大学校领导和时任地球科学系主任陈国能教授授予 Bob“中山大学地球科学系荣誉教授”称号。在当时，地球科学系仅有 14 位荣誉教授，他既是地球科学系，也是地球与环境科学学院唯一的一位外籍荣誉教授。这对我们来说是一份莫大的荣誉和鼓舞。

祝 贺

值此中山大学建校九十周年与地球科学系建系九十周年之际，我们对中山大学和地球科学系致以最诚挚的祝福。预祝校庆系庆圆满成功，未来的岁月中精英辈出，再铸辉煌！
Some Reflections on Our Experiences at Sun Yat-Sen University Since 1985

Dr. Robert F. Diffendal, Jr. and Dr. Anne P. Diffendal

Introduction

Professor Zhang Ke (张珂), Chairman of the Department of Earth Sciences at Sun Yat-Sen University, has asked us to write about some of our memories from our several visits to Sun Yat-Sen University, as part of the 2014 celebration of the 90th anniversary of the founding of the university and the creation of the department. We are very pleased to do so and to include with our written comments copies of some photographs that we have taken during these visits. We have gone back through our notes, books, tourist maps, photo files and other information that we have kept as souvenirs of the wonderful times we have had at the university. This review has enhanced our memories of how we came to be originally invited, what experiences we had on that first and subsequent visits, and how the university has changed in our view in the almost 35 years since we first came here in 1979.

By way of introduction, Robert goes by the nickname Bob to his friends. He holds a PhD degree in geology from the University of Nebraska. Anne holds a PhD degree in History from the University of Nebraska. Both of us are now retired. Before his retirement Bob held the rank of Professor at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) and worked from 1980—2003 in the Nebraska Geological Survey, a part of the university, as a Research Geologist studying, mapping, and reporting on many aspects of geology in all parts of the State. Anne’s last jobs were Executive Director of the Society of American Archivists, the national professional association of archivists, and an historical services consultant. Both of us have long
records of teaching, research, and publication.

We think that it might be helpful to briefly recount how we came to be interested in China. As an historian Anne had an interest in world history including the long history of Chinese civilization. Bob had some interest from courses in world history, rural sociology, and geology that he took as an undergraduate student. In 1978, just before the normalization of diplomatic relations between China and the United States, we read that the President of the University of Nebraska System, Dr. Ronald Roskens, was planning a trip to China in early 1979 to begin to establish exchange programs between our university and Chinese universities. He planned to take a select group of 25 others with him. Interested persons were invited to apply. We did and received an invitation. Our employers at the time (Doane College for Bob and the Nebraska State Historical Society for Anne), gave us permission to make the trip, which took place from 15 February to 1 March 1979, departing only about six weeks after diplomatic relations had been officially resumed between our two countries. During the trip we visited universities in Beijing, Nanjing, Shanghai, and Guangzhou. Dr. Roskens then and subsequently over the next few years made exchange agreements with many Chinese universities including Sun Yat-Sen University. Our experiences on the trip were so positive that we hoped to be able to return to China if the opportunity arose. As it happened, we have returned to China several times since then, many of these trips serendipitous and unanticipated.

Bob was appointed to the University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL) faculty in 1980. In 1983 he learned from university sources, including his former PhD advisor, Professor Al Fagerstrom, that the Geology Department of Sun Yat-Sen University was seeking two exchange professors from UNL to lecture on sedimentology and on mineralogy and petrology as part of the University of Nebraska/Sun Yat-Sen University exchange program. Bob submitted an application, including a proposal for Anne's participation, to the University of Nebraska administration. The application was approved at all levels and on 6 June 1984 we received an invitation from Vice President Xia Shuzhang (夏书章) to lecture at Sun Yat-Sen University for two months some time in 1986. Another UNL faculty member was invited in 1985. We accepted the invitation and started planning for
the exchange, but the other faculty member postponed his visit. In April of 1985, we received a letter from Professor Huang Yukun (黄玉昆), Chairman of the Geology Department, inviting us to give lectures later that year. We agreed and proposed that our two-month stay would begin about 20 November and end about 17 January 1986, to which Professor Huang agreed. We arrived in Guangzhou on 22 November 1985, made our way to the University and were provided a room in the hotel complex near the Foreign Office, where we have also stayed on all of our subsequent visits.

Professor Huang Yukun

We first met Professor Huang Yukun (黄玉昆教授) on the morning of 23 November 1985. He brought along an interpreter, Ji Xiong (吉雄) and two postgraduate students, Lu Yi (陆谊) and Chen Jiajie (陈家杰), to help in communicating. The meeting went smoothly. We felt that Professor Huang was a wonderful man, a feeling that grew stronger with time.

Over the years Professor Huang led us on many outstanding field trips accompanied by other university faculty and students and hosted us at many delicious meals along with his university colleagues and students and with his family. Professor Huang was educated in China and the Soviet Union. He was 55 years old at the time of our first meeting. He spoke some English. He was sent to be a cook during the Cultural Revolution, a job he enjoyed and in which he excelled. He had personal connections in towns and villages throughout Guangdong Province, mostly former students of the Geology Department, but also friends he had made over the years. By our later visits he had formed an informal “Friends of Food” group with some other retired Geology Department faculty who dined together from time to time and with whom we had the pleasure to eat several times. We were deeply saddened to learn of his death not too long after our 2003—2004 visit. We enjoyed all of our meetings with him, his family, and friends over the years. We last saw him on 5 January 2004 at a luncheon with his wife and granddaughter, and other friends including Lu Yi (陆谊), Zheng Zhuo (郑卓), Chen Guoneng (陈国能), Zeng Lingchu (曾令初), Li Zhaolin (李兆麟) and
Some Reflections on Our Experiences at Sun Yat-Sen University Since 1985

wife, Zhang Ke (张珂), and Zou Heping (邹和平). The meal was excellent, and the conversations were as enjoyable as always.

Later Visits to Sun Yat-Sen University

The serendipitous nature of our later trips is illustrated by the following lucky events. After the 1985—1986 visit we had no plans to return to the university even though we kept in contact with many of the faculty and students that we had met there. Then in 1988 Bob was attending a meeting of the International Geological Congress in Washington, D. C. where he accidentally met Professor Li Zhaolin (李兆麟), then the Chair of the Geology Department. Professor Li told Bob that we would have to visit the University again. From that brief conversation a later invitation led to our return for two months in 1990—1991. In April 1998 we were scheduled to give lectures in Chengdu, Anne at Southwest Jiaotong University and Bob at the Chengdu Institute of Technology. Bob told some of our Chinese friends about this trip, and they insisted that we visit them in Guangzhou after we left Chengdu. We accepted that kind offer. In 1999 Professor Zhang Ke, who was evaluating sites in Guangdong Province, invited Bob to accompany him for a month and to offer interpretations of the geology of the features they were seeing. Bob accepted. In 2003 we were invited back to campus to lecture for two months.

Since 1985 Bob has been to Sun Yat-Sen University six times (for a total of about eight and one-half months), and Anne five times (for seven and one-half months). Every trip has been memorable, and every one filled with interactions with wonderful people and with travels to beautiful places both in Guangzhou and across the province. All of our experiences with people in other units of the university have also been very positive, including the staff of the External or Foreign Affairs Office of the University.

The Transformation of Sun Yat-Sen University Since 1985

The changes since our first visit to China in 1979 are truly remarkable. In 1979, even in Guangzhou there were few vehicles on the roads. Most people
walked, rode bicycles or took buses from one place to another. Most adults were
dressed in navy blue clothes with some in grey or dark green. Only babies and
small children wore colorful clothing. Foreign Exchange Certificates (FEC) were
issued as convertible currency to visitors. By 1985 taxis were available, there were
more cars on the streets, and adults were generally wearing more colorful clothing.
More and better consumer goods filled the stores. The FECs were still in use.

We think that the changes to the gates of Sun Yat-Sen University over the
years epitomize the changes to the university as a whole. When we arrived on
campus in November of 1985 there were four gates: the main South Gate, an East
and a West Gate, and a decrepit North Gate. The South, East, and West Gates
fronted on Xingang Road. The North Gate, the main gate to the University before
Liberation, had been deemphasized; and the South Gate had become the principal
gate of the University.

From 4 to 8 January 1986, we toured Guilin. To our surprise when we
returned to campus, the South Gate was being torn down to make way for a new,
more impressive one. This gate still stands, mostly unchanged, except that now
traffic control is located north of the entrance, inside of the campus instead of at
the gate. In 1985 the North Gate faced a pile of rubble with an unpaved trail
leading from the gate to a landing where people could take a ferry across the river
to Beijing Road. The ferry ride then cost 8 fen! By 2003 the old North Gate had
been replaced by a beautiful new one fronting on a magnificent pedestrian arcade
along the river.

In 1985 the Geology Department was housed in a building directly north of the
Geography building in the Northwest District, but ground had been broken and
construction begun on a new building nearer to the North Gate in the Northeast
District. A new radiocarbon dating laboratory was being developed for department
and university use at the Northwest site. The new building was first occupied in
1988. In 1985 the Geology Department was authorized to award Master's degrees
and was applying to offer the PhD. The PhD was authorized for students in
mineralogy, lithology, and mineral deposits in 1999.

In 1985 most of the campus buildings were low-rise structures of two-to-four
stories. The library building was comparatively new, there were new computer
facilities, and other construction was completed or underway. Students and faculty were excited by the positive changes and seemed to have good outlooks on the future.

In 1985 the University was working on needed improvements to the infrastructure. One particular problem for us in 1985—1986 were the frequent, unannounced power outages across parts or all of the campus, some for as long as a day. We sympathized with the plight of faculty, staff, and students whose computers crashed and laboratory experiments ended when these outages occurred. Bob’s lectures were generally based on slide photographs. A time or two he had to improvise lectures when the power was out. Since then we have experienced only one outage for a few hours at our hotel on our 2013 visit.

What other changes have occurred? There was one campus in 1985. By 2013 there were four, three in Guangzhou and one in Zhuhai. All of our students attended classes on one campus in 1985. By our 2003 visit freshman and sophomores lived and attended classes at the Zhuhai campus. In 1985 there were no cell phones, no web, and no e-mail. Telex and land-line telephones were the fastest ways for the foreign faculty to communicate with their families back home. There were few cars on campus, almost all of them owned by the university. There were several open-air food markets on campus, and chickens wandered freely about. The south side of Xingang Road across from the South Gate was a major city bus terminal with only a narrow lane going south from the station. Now cell phones are ubiquitous, cars are everywhere, the open markets and livestock are gone, and living conditions for the faculty, staff, and students have improved. Restaurants are better. Compare the campus map and brochures from 1985 with later ones to see just how much the campus has been transformed. It’s amazing.

The Diffendal Prize and the Diffendal Foundation

On all of our visits, we were given money for food and other expenses. Spending frugally on our first visit in 1985, we had 900 yuan (RMB) remaining as the end of our stay approached. Because this money had come from the Geology Department, we wanted to return it in the form of a gift. We asked Professor
Huang Yukun (黄玉昆) and others what the Department needed that we could purchase. After considerable discussion, Lu Yi (陆谊), a post-graduate student who had been a guide and interpreter for us, suggested establishing a prize to encourage and reward students' efforts. While applying to universities in the United States to pursue studies for his PhD, he had noticed that such awards were quite common. Professor Huang liked this idea. And so, we hand-wrote a letter saying that the money should be put in a bank and every year thereafter the interest on this money be used to give a cash prize to the student in the department who had done the best work in geology during the past year. In essence we created an endowed fund like those at universities in the West. We stipulated that if the idea did not work the department could put the money to other uses. At the suggestion of Professor Xia Fa (夏法) and Lu Yi (陆谊), the award was named the Diffendal Prize.

We added 100 yuan to bring the original amount of the prize fund to 1000. After we returned home Bob talked about the prize with Tom and Carolyn Wells, a cattle-ranching family he knew in western Nebraska. They thought that this was such a good idea that they sent Bob $1000 (then approximately 8000 yuan) to add to the prize; in 1991 they contributed an additional $1000. Over the years, fund-raising from alumni of the Department and former prize winners has increased the fund's principal. We have made additional contributions. Bob's sister and Anne's brother have also donated.

By 1988 the interest on the account had grown enough so that the department could award one prize, that to a post-graduate student, Zhang Ke (张珂). Over the years since then the number of prizes awarded annually has increased to four, three to undergraduates and one to a post-graduate. Through 2013 about 81 students have received prizes. On our 1998 visit we personally signed more than 125 prize certificates for future prize recipients. They were still being used at our last visit in 2013. Every year Bob has sent personal letters to each of the winners of a prize.

By 2005 the prize fund had grown, and the University administration had decided that the funds needed to be kept in the University Financial Department, a good idea. The University asked for a letter outlining our original intentions for the
use of the money, and we responded with a letter that was duly transferred to the
Financial Department by Professor Zhang Ke (张珂). In November 2005
Professor Zhang Ke (张珂) sent us a draft statement on the creation of a Diffendal
Prize Foundation at Sun Yat-Sen University. Revisions went back and forth
between us and various Geology Department faculty and alumni. The final revisions
to the initial bylaws of the Diffendal Foundation Board were made on 5 January
2006. We received copies in Chinese and English of the bylaws and of our
appointments as permanent members of the Board. Meetings of the Board have
been held from time to time since then. While we have only attended the
November 2013 meeting in person, we have been kept apprised of the actions of
the Board since then. We hope that the prize fund continues to grow in the future
and that it will continue to help outstanding geology students in their educations
and careers in geology in China.

Out Friends in the Geology Department and Others

In 1985 we made friends with Professors Huang Yukun (黄玉昆), Zou
Heping (邹和平), Xia Fa (夏法), Qiu Yuanxi (丘元禧), Chen Binghui (陈
炳辉), Zeng Lingchu (曾令初), Ji Xiong (吉雄), Chen Guoneng (陈国能)
and postgraduate students Lu Yi (陆谊), Chen Jiajie (陈家杰), and Zhang Ke
(张珂) in the Geology Department; and Mr., now Dr., Xu Guangqiu (许光秋)
of the History Department. Subsequently we have met many other people and made
friends or renewed friendships with Professors Li Zhaolin (李兆麟), Chen
Guoneng (陈国能), Zheng Zhuo (郑卓), He Junguo (何俊国), and others.
We have had many fine times with them during our trips to the university. We have
had some of them visit us in Nebraska over the years. Lu Yi (陆谊), Chen Jiajie
(陈家杰), Dr. Ji Xiong (吉雄), and Professors Qiu Yuanxi (丘元禧), Chen
Guoneng (陈国能), and Zhang Ke (张珂) have visited our home and
university.
Our Lectures While Attached to Sun Yat-Sen University

Bob has lectured in Guangzhou and in Zhuhai, mostly on geological topics but also on the U.S. educational system in general and the U.S. university and college system. He also lectured at the Guangdong Geological Society and the South China Sea Institute of Oceanology. Anne has given lectures on topics related to American history and culture and conducted English conversation classes on both campuses for students and faculty. She has lectured campus-wide and in the History Department, the Guangzhou English Language Center (GELC), the Foreign Languages Department, and to the University Library Staff and graduate students in archival studies and library science, as well as to the staff of the Guangdong Provincial Archives Bureau.

Honor Given to Bob

On 4 May 1998 Bob was awarded the title of Sun Yat-Sen University Honorary Visiting Professor attached to the Geology Department by a University Administrator and Professor Chen Guoneng (陈国能), Chair of the department. At that time he was one of only 14 non-Sun Yat-Sen University faculty attached to the department and the only non-Chinese in both the department and the College of Earth and Environmental Sciences. This was a great honor and is still greatly appreciated.

Congratulations

We offer congratulations to the University and to the Department on this occasion, and best wishes for a wonderful anniversary celebration. May the upcoming decades be as fruitful as the most recent ones have been.