Chinese delegates discuss women’s issues

A delegation of four from Ginling College in Nanjing, China, recently attended the 23rd Biennial Conference of the Ginling Association in America, held in October. GAA consists mostly of the alumni who currently live in the USA, particularly in California. The delegates also visited Newcomb College at Tulane University, because of its renowned history, reputation and commitment to educating women, a similar mission to that of their college.

The delegates were Huang Qi Qian, president and professor; Yihong Jin, professor and director of Ginling Women’s Development Research Center; Hong Ye, associate professor who served as interpreter for the visit; and Maoian Lu, assistant research fellow. They met and talked with the faculty, students and staff of Newcomb College. The similarities and differences of challenges facing the undergraduate women in China and the USA were discussed.

When asked by a Tulane student, sophomore Emma Tuttleman-Kriegler, what was the biggest challenge facing her students in China, Qian answered, “Some employers may declare they do not hire women. Women face more difficulty finding satisfactory jobs. And after marriages, it is difficult to balance family and career.”

“The visit of Ginling delegation was important because it provided the students and faculty with an opportunity to witness both cultural differences and similarities between China and the USA, especially in the area of gender studies,” said Angelica Gordon, a Tulane sophomore who is the executive vice president of the African American Women’s Society, a student organization at the university funded by Newcomb College Institute. “Additionally, the cultural exchange allowed me to view how other women are working toward reconstructing the social conditions that affect women in their own countries and internationally.”

Sally Kenney, executive director of Newcomb College Institute, met with the group and talked about the NCI missions, as well as how the two organizations share comparable goals for their students.

“The Newcomb College Institute is carrying forward its traditions by maintaining close connections with women’s colleges worldwide. We benefit enormously by a close collaboration with colleagues in similar endeavors,” Kenney said.

In addition, the delegates met with Peter Alongia, director of Tulane’s student study abroad program. Future students exchange projects, including a summer program, were discussed.

Ginling College, a Christian college founded in 1913, was the first university granting bachelor’s degrees to women students in China.

Han-Setzer-Finkel trio performed at Dixon Hall at Tulane University on Dec. 7. The trio consists of pianist Wu Han, violinist Philip Setzer and cellist David Finkel.

Han, a Chinese-American woman, began her musical studies in Taiwan at age 9. Invited by Hartt School in Connecticut, Han came to study in the United States in 1981. She performs and records frequently with cellist David Finkel, whom she married in 1985. Since the 1990s the couple has emerged as one of the most popular cello-piano duos in the United States, Europe and Asia. They also appear regularly in performances with violinist Philip Setzer.

Han ranks among the most influential classical musicians in the world. Her carrier has taken her to many prestigious venues, including Lincoln Center, Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Center. She has toured North and South America and the far East. Her regular summer appearances include Aspen, Co., and Santa Fe, N.M. Han is also as active as a concerto soloist, recently appearing with the Los Angeles Chamber Orchestra in a performance of Beethoven Triple Concerto.

Members of the Asian/Pacific-American communities in the New Orleans area are invited to e-mail news items to Tina Soong at tsoung@otherim@aol.com.