

[Local News](#)  
[Breaking News](#)  
[Sports](#)  
[Business](#)  
[Barney Brantingham](#)  
[Editorials](#)  
[Life](#)  
[Obituaries](#)  
[Travel](#)  
[Weather](#)

[Classified](#)  
[Calendar](#)  
[Celebrations](#)  
[Community](#)  
City Services &  
Government  
Community Services &  
Organizations  
Education  
Elected Representatives  
Inside Santa Barbara  
News-Press in the  
Community  
Newspapers In  
Education

[News](#)  
[Features/Series](#)  
Afghan Diary  
Award Winning Travel  
County Split  
[Election 2005](#)  
I Madonnari  
I Madonnari Photo  
Gallery  
Inside Santa Barbara  
The Michael Jackson  
Case  
MIXTECS & MAIZE: An  
American Odyssey  
Ronald Reagan:  
Through the Lens  
Through the Roof  
Valley Living

[Contact Us](#)  
[Advertising  
Information](#)  
[Subscriber Services](#)

[Site Index](#)  
[7-Day Search](#)  
[Archives](#)  
[Reprint Permission  
Forms](#)

## Local News

# UCSB and China plan to swap grad students

11/30/05

By [MORGAN GREEN](#)  
NEWS-PRESS STAFF WRITER

### 6-month trip abroad could advance chemistry research

In a program funded by a \$1.5 million federal grant, UCSB will collaborate with a research institute in the People's Republic of China to swap postgraduates for chemistry research and to give them a feel for the other nation's culture and business scene, the university announced Tuesday.

Launched with an initial three years of funding by National Science Foundation, the five-year project partners UCSB and the Dalian Institute of Chemical Physics of the Chinese Academy of Sciences.

The institute is considered China's leader in the study of chemical reaction dynamics and in catalysis, or speeding up extremely slow chemical reactions to create useful products, said Alec Wodtke, director of the new project and UCSB chemistry department chair.

A main goal of the federal Partnerships for International Research and Education Program is to put highly trained graduate students into contact with international scientists and create networks of colleagues, he said. "A scientific connection between California and China is extremely important for the future."

"China has become a major international player in science and technology," said Martin Moskovits, UCSB dean of science. "There is so much we can learn from each other."

The UCSB project was one of 12 proposals chosen out of 170 competing for the partnerships program funding, and it was the only U.S.-China proposal. "I am extremely proud of our creative colleagues who had the



#### Classified

Announcements  
Automotive  
AutoMall  
Employment  
Garage Sales  
Legal Notices  
Merchandise  
Open Houses Direc  
Personals  
Real Estate  
Rentals  
Santa Barbara Hon  
Services

#### Special Sections :

Abode  
Back to School  
Book & Author Fest  
Business Outlook 2  
Careers Santa Bar  
Celebrate Nonprofit  
Chefs of Santa Bar  
Home & Garden  
Local Business Rev  
Prep Football  
Reader's Choice 20  
Santa Barbara New  
Press Coupons  
Santa Barbara Surf  
Seniority  
Tribute to Nursing  
Weddings 2005  
Woman Magazine C  
Youth Activity Guid

#### Entertainment

Scene Online  
Horoscope  
Lottery  
Santa Barbara Cou  
Wine Guide  
TV Listings  
USA Weekend Onli

vision to development this program," said UCSB Chancellor Henry Yang.

Up to seven UCSB students seeking doctorates in science will journey to the Dalian Institute for up to six months at a time. They will do research in chemistry, physics, materials and chemical engineering under Chinese mentors. The seven, yet to be selected, will tour corporate research facilities to see the business environment in China, and will get instruction in that nation's language and customs.

The Dalian Institute is seeking funding from the Chinese government to send seven Chinese postgraduates here, Mr. Wodtke said.

"In the last couple of years we've been asking companies what are they doing in China. They're all either just setting up research labs or breaking ground soon. It's incredible how much of the chemical industry is making a gigantic footprint in China," said Mr. Wodtke.

"We think students trained out of this program will be trained perfectly to make that work well. The graduates will be extremely attractive to companies with partnerships in China or setting up branches of their own in China."

The UCSB postgraduates will be exposed to top-level scientists working on catalysis research, said Mr. Wodtke. "One of the really great potentials for catalysis is new energy sources and technologies."

One Chinese project seeks a practical way to generate hydrogen for use as a fuel by combining water with a catalyst and sunlight. Another is looking for a catalyst able to remove sulphur from coal so it can be burned without creating acid rain, he said.

What's in it for China?

"One of the biggest challenges Chinese science has is opening itself to the rest of the world. Like the U.S., it's so big it tends to be inward-looking," Mr. Wodtke said. China wants to integrate its scientific community in order to advance, he said.

In charge of the reciprocal program in China is Xueming Yang, assistant director of basic research at the Dalian institute, who earned his Ph.D. in chemistry from UCSB in 1991.

The program officially kicks off here Dec. 8 with a workshop to include speakers from UCSB and China. They will introduce the program to students and discuss

some of the science that participants will explore. The event, which is open to the public, is to start at 8 a.m. in Room 1001 of the Engineering Science Building.

*e-mail: [mgreen@newspress.com](mailto:mgreen@newspress.com)*

---

© Copyright 2005 Santa Barbara News-Press  
ALL RIGHTS RESERVED