Week 4 – February 14

I. What’s up in China? News reports from students.

II. Case Study Groups:
   a. Divide into case study groups
   b. Continue work on case study questions

III. Academic
   a. Overview of China’s Agriculture
   b. Review “China’s Agriculture” discussion questions distributed last week

IV. Cultural
   a. A few Chinese words: Difei Shen
      i. Happy Chinese New Year!
      ii. Chinese language website: http://www.csulb.edu/~txie/online.htm
   b. Cross-cultural differences scenario and discussion (group 1)
   c. Assignment handout (for next week)
   d. Overview of Chinese currency

V. Preparation
   a. Housekeeping
      i. Course website: http://www.econ.iastate.edu/classes/econ496/jolly/index.htm
      ii. Course registration: Student list submitted to registrar’s office last week; please check AccessPlus to make sure you are registered.
      iii. Travel Updates
         a. Airline tickets: The Ag Study Abroad office has made a deposit on airline tickets for those with no travel deviations. Those deviating—departing or returning from a city other than Des Moines or extended travel beyond the dates of the program (May 15-June 9)—need to finalize plans very soon and share those plans with the Ag Study Abroad Office.
         b. Passports: Bring passports to group leaders or to Ag Study Abroad Office, 111 Curtiss Hall, no later than Monday, April 2. Passports will be sent to Chinese Consulate in Chicago to obtain visas. You cannot enter China without a passport and visa!
      iv. Immunizations
         a. Visit your regular doctor or student health travel clinic to obtain information about recommended immunizations.
         b. Please review these websites:
            http://www.cdc.gov/travel/eastasia.htm
            http://www.travel.state.gov/travel/abroad.html

VI. Questions?
VII. Reminders –

e. Weekly Warming-Up Activities - Research current events in P.R. China. Each week, each member of one group should be prepared to give a brief (1-2 minute) oral overview regarding one news article you found interesting.

   Suggested sources:

b. Spring/Summer semester activities - To increase your knowledge of China and enhance your experience, we recommend that you read one book of your choice that focuses on China (fiction, nonfiction, biography, history, etc.) during the course of the program. If time permits during our weekly meetings in China, each student may give a 5-8 minute review of his/her book and discuss the similarities and differences between book and observations during the trip. Check the course website for book suggestions.

VIII. Next meeting: Wednesday, February 21, 6:00-8:30 p.m., 202 Science II

a. Group 2 discussion on intercultural communication scenario (describe scenario and discuss possible reasons for misunderstandings portrayed in the scenario).

b. Overview of Food System Changes in China
   Guest speakers: Drs. Frank Fuller and Fengxia Dong, Center for Agricultural and Rural Development

c. Safety issues related to travel in China