

and coming to the United States in 1983. For a while, he even lived in an abandoned house in Harlem. But a Yale doctorate, followed by a 3-year postdoctoral position at the University of California, Berkeley, led to a faculty appointment at Yale.

In gratitude to Fudan and Yale, Xu is helping build a bridge between the two universities. Together with Min Han of the University of Colorado, Boulder, and Yuan Zhuang of Duke University in Durham, North Carolina, Xu co-directs the Institute of Developmental Biology and Molecular Medicine at Fudan University. Funded primarily by China's National Natural Science Foundation and its Ministry of Education, the 2-year-old institute boasts five full-time faculty members and focuses on using fruit fly and mouse genetics to decipher the functions of mammalian genes. Yale beams its weekly genetics seminar to the institute by video teleconferencing, and Xu has taught a course each year at Fudan on genetic analysis. To prepare students to compete on the world stage, the institute conducts all business in English.

The institute plans to tackle large-scale mouse experiments that are "way too expensive to do in the U.S. or any other developed nation," says Xu, who spends about one-fourth of his time in China. "We're determined to do absolutely first-rate work."

The benefits of beneficence

The advantages of setting up shop overseas also appealed to physical chemist Bartosz Grzybowski of Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, who grew up in Gdansk, Poland. Grzybowski received his doctorate from Harvard in 2000 and last year came to Northwestern. In 2002, he and childhood friend Piotr Barski founded ProChimia Poland, a high-tech company in Gdansk that specializes in surface chemistry.

"When you're 29 and you're just out of graduate school, no serious investor in the U.S. will talk to you," he says. But in Poland, expenses were so low the two entrepreneurs didn't need any backers. "We had \$500 and we started a company with it," says Grzybowski, who spends 6 to 8 weeks a year in Gdansk. "In the States, it would be impossible, but in Poland somehow it worked." Last year ProChimia sold \$200,000 worth of reagents for making bioassay chips and other supplies to scientists at dozens of American and European universities, and it recently attracted its first American investors. Grzybowski hopes it will seed a biotech boom in Gdansk.

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA **VISA**

Country
CHINA

Surname
WANG

Given Name
LAI-SHENG

Field
PHYSICAL CHEMISTRY

Workplace
**WASHINGTON STATE UNIVERSITY/
PACIFIC NORTHWEST NATIONAL LABORATORY**

U.S. IMMIGRATION ADMITTED

CLASS UNTIL

A bloody massacre will forever be a defining moment in the career of physical chemist Lai-Sheng Wang. Like thousands of other Chinese-born researchers who came to study in the United States in the late 1980s, Wang took advantage of relaxed immigration rules following the Chinese Army's 1989 crackdown on democracy protests in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in order to stay. He became a U.S. citizen in 1998.

"I think I might have tried to stay anyway, but without Tiananmen I probably would have had to go back home," says Wang, who holds a joint appointment at Washington State University in Richland and the nearby Pacific Northwest National Laboratory.

Wang, 42, came in 1983 for graduate work at the University of California, Berkeley, and joined Washington State a decade ago after a postdoctoral stint with Nobel laureate Richard Smalley at Rice University in Houston, Texas. Since then, he has published regularly in top-tier journals and won accolades for his work probing the structure of nanomaterials. He doubts he could have done as well at home, although he says China and other nations are beginning to catch up to the United States. "The facilities and cooperation here are very advanced," he says.

Despite his accomplishments, Wang says it has "taken years, years, and years" to adapt to the more aggressive and outspoken culture of American science. "In the beginning I just wanted to study," he says. But as his English improved, "I came to realize that I was expected to ask questions and be skeptical. I had to become less passive and more confident to keep up."

Now, Wang recognizes some of the same passivity in his own graduate students, among them seven from China and one from India. "They tend to speak out only when they are absolutely sure of themselves," he says. But his efforts to encourage more debate, he adds, "sometimes succeed."

-D.M.

Although ProChimia is now profitable, many researchers with new ventures in their native land say that they give more than they get back in return. That's OK with Wayne Getz, a biomathematician at the University

of California, Berkeley, who sees himself as a conduit funneling U.S. intellectual resources to colleagues in his native South Africa. After apartheid ended in 1994, Getz launched several collaborative projects, including a \$1.8 million, 5-year study of bovine tuberculosis in Kruger National Park funded by the U.S. National Science Foundation. Last year he helped found the South African Center for Epidemiological Modeling and Analysis in Stellenbosch, which will track the nation's AIDS epidemic.

Getz, who received his doctorate in 1976 from the University of the Witwatersrand in Johannesburg, says that being in

In range. Wayne Getz (third from right) funnels scientific experience to his native South Africa.



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