

## **MC-China Partnership Flourishes Thanks to Global Humanities Institute and NEH Grant**

### **PHOTO**

Sixteen faculty, staff and administrators traveled to China during spring break, from March 11—22. The trip encompassed cultural explorations of Beijing, Hong Kong and Macau, but the landmark destination was Xian province, where the GHI has had an academic partnership with Xian University since 2013. Academic partnerships abroad called “Seminars Abroad” are a key feature of the GHI, funded through a challenge grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities [2012--2018].

Visits to the University included campus tours including international student housing, art department studios, and musical performances by Xian U students. The most important aspect of this visit was a meeting with administrators and faculty for a colloquium on the role of the humanities in higher education and in society. The discussions featured an open exchange of information, ideas and perspectives, during which participants discovered much common ground. Some common concerns included the need for inculcating social and global responsibility through our teaching, preparing our students to make ethical decisions, and instilling in them a curiosity about other peoples and cultures.

The success of these discussions paves the way for new possibilities such as web conferencing and co-publishing. Additionally, there is much enthusiasm toward expanding collaborations to include “Global Classrooms,” a GHI initiative that allows MC faculty to collaborate with colleagues abroad by creating opportunities for students in two classes to engage in class discussions on mutually agreed upon topics.

Xian University and the Global Humanities Institute have also collaborated to provide opportunities for MC faculty to visit Xian University on sabbaticals, to give occasional lectures, weigh in on curriculum discussions, and visit some classes. This initiative, called “Sabbaticals Abroad,” was realized with the support of CPOD this year. [Faculty and administrators {and staff?} can visit [www.....](http://www.....) for details on this program or call Rita Kranidis, Director of the Global Humanities Institute, with any questions.