

2016 Janet Else Visiting Scholar – Mr. Jin Wen

By Kaye Crippen, University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff

This year's visiting scholar, Mr. Jin Wen from Nanjing, China, presented "The Inheritance and Innovation Research of Yun Brocade" 云锦的传承与创新. Jin Wen mastered the ancient art of weaving on a two-story, ancient Chinese draw loom used to produce a variety of silk brocade textiles in Nanjing, China, which was one of the three traditional weaving centers in China. In 1982, he won a gold medal in art, given to one person a year, for his recreation of a silk gauze Emperor's robe from an archeological dig. In China, artifacts recovered from archaeological digs are reproduced. He showed photographs of a wide range of his works in his presentation including new modern pieces such as the one depicting the Great Wall of China made using silk, and included peacock feathers which were used historically in weaving to give a special luminescence. This art work was exhibited at London Fashion Week, and it took 20 people to carry it.

Jin Wen has made pieces for museums, some reproductions, yardage for special events, and consumer products such as ties, scarves, bedding, and some shawls which use a strip of his brocade. He is interested in exploring the east west connection in his future designing. He currently has a few weaving students. He is affiliated with the Nanjing Museum, and he has his own museum in Nanjing. Jin Wen looks forward to his continued association with ITAA. His work is an inspiration to both textile and fashion designers. He was accompanied by his wife Yin Zhi Chong who is a fashion designer who also knows how to weave using the draw loom.

Kaye Crippen and Yunru Shen from the University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff nominated Mr. Jin Wen; Julie Chang chairs the International Committee. RuiRui Zhang and Catherine Jai translated from Mandarin.



From Left: Catherine Jai, Yin Zhi Chong, Sarah Southworth, Kaye Crippen, RuiRui Zhang, Jin Wen, Jane Hegland, and Sherry Schofield.