We ended up the next day in Wuhan, feeling truly privileged to have seen the Yangtze before the rising of the water behind the dam; it was closed on November 5, just 5 days before we started our trip. It will be 2010 before the lake behind the dam reaches its full capacity, extending 440 kilometers upriver, back to Chongqing. A great deal of history and legend will be submerged in the rising waters, but the need for electric power is so great in China that alternatives are not easy to come by.

Judy left the day after, enroute to Hawaii, nearly in tears for leaving San Zong, of whom we had both become extremely fond by then. We had shared so many wonderful experiences, minor mishaps and laughs together that it was impossible that it could be otherwise. One of Judy’s lines was “San Zong, I do not want any chicken feet in my eggplant this time.” You can almost reconstruct the experience that led to this admonition without being told!

Norm’s three weeks in Wuhan were a shear delight! The class was wonderful and the kindness and hospitality of the faculty and staff surpassed all expectations. Norm and San Zong continued to have all lunches and dinners together because there were no English language menus anywhere. Among other things, the department purchased a bicycle for Norm to make local travel easier. The last week of his visit brought the greatest of surprises. After a two hour open discussion with faculty and graduate student that turned out to be an interview in part, the faculty voted to give Norm a courtesy appointment as Guest Professor, asking him to help develop a strong applied mathematics presence within the department. The grace and enthusiasm of the department in doing this were extremely gratifying and Norm has started the process of fulfilling his charge. So, he is now Jaishou Bleistein of the China University of Geosciences, Wuhan.

The department also gave Norm a crystal vase with a traditional hand painted village scene on the inside. It also holds a place of honor on our kitchen window sill.

By the end of this visit, Norm was managing simple communications in Chinese, shopping for groceries, negotiating with the bike shop and bargaining in general—all too hard to retain back in Denver, more’s the pity.

Also, during that last week, Norm bought two pieces of custom made clothing: a jacket for himself and a bathrobe for Judy, both of traditional Chinese silk patterns. The misunderstandings and confusion over the specs for these were as much of a pleasure as we will both derive from wearing our new clothes.

Norm’s stay in China ended in Beijing with a day’s collaboration with two other friends and colleagues, Professor Zhang Guanquan of Academia Sinica and a former student of his, Yu Zhang, who now works for Veritas,