

RETIRED PROFESSOR CHOSEN FOR CHINA PROGRAM

Retired Kutztown University professor James Chaney recently returned from a five-week visit to Shangyu, China, as one of five individuals chosen for an in-residence ceramics program at Shangyu Celadon, a Modern International Ceramic Art Center committed to promoting exchanges and research among ceramists in China and abroad.

At the nonprofit center, dignitaries, students and the like visit just to “see what the artists do.” Chaney, who taught at KU for 38 years, was simply there to create. Seven days

a week, from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., he did just that. And had his photo taken quite a bit, too.

“It was a great occasion to focus,” explains Chaney. “It was almost like being in grad school again. I left behind nearly 70 pieces.”

Those ceramics will likely be housed in a dedicated ceramics museum in the area expected to open in about two years.

Shangyu’s significance lies in that it’s known as “the cradle of celadon,” bearing the world’s earliest known porcelain wares along the nearby Cao’e River. Four hundred ancient kiln sites can be found in Shangyu alone. Celadon is a porcelain material known for its jade-green hue.

It was an experience the Mertztown, Pa., resident wouldn’t hesitate to participate in all over again, loving the arts involvement, but the cultural experience perhaps equally as much.

Outside of working hours at the center, the artists in residence were encouraged to go out and participate in the area’s economy, even being offered a stipend to do so. Chaney described the area as “up and coming” and noted many young families were out and about. The atmosphere was a friendly one, and when at the local mall, he was even approached for selfies with families interested in posing with the visiting American.

Now home, Chaney enjoys sailing the Chesapeake Bay and time with his wife, Donna Hill-Chaney, an art teacher at Kutztown Elementary School. [KU](#)



Left: Game of Thrones, created by Chaney during his residency at Shangyu Celadon Modern International Ceramic Art Center, China. Below: Chaney poses on the campus of the art center with several of his students.

