

What's News

August 2002

Susan Van Vleet Consultants, Inc.

P. O. Box 520, Castle Rock, Colorado 80104-0520

Phone (303) 660-5206 fax (303) 814-8217

Website: svanvleetconsult.com E-mail:

The First Dual Career Marriage Workshop Held in China

Sponsored by P & G Greater China, John and Susan traveled to Guangzhou, China and led two Dual Career Marriage Workshops with 26 couples from Taiwan, Hong Kong and Mainland China. All of the couples had one or both of the partners working for P & G Greater China. They also met with many of the management at the General Offices including Laurent Philip, the President of P & G Greater China.

Here are some of the comments from our workshop participants:

Stella Yan and Nathan Ni

....."The training is a wonderful experience for both Nathan and me...without doubt the tools we learnt in the class will be beneficial for us on our whole life. Nathan left Guangzhou three days after the course. The three days were like a second honeymoon for us. We talked a lot, not the family operation staffs as usual, but heart to heart communication. For the first time, he described to me the endless nights he laid on bed awake and missed

me terribly. Before, I can never imagine a silent and serious person like Nathan can say such emotional wordings. In fact, I have thought he may not love me as much as I love him because he never says the words "miss you" in the telephone calls before. And he also found the answer why I was so easily frustrated and upset in our phone calls. Surprise was to come. One week after Nathan's departure, I got a letter from him. Not e-mail, not typed letter, but HAND-WRITE. A long missing experience.

What he writes is not important to me, the action itself is more meaningful to me and sweet enough. We agreed that we must get together before the end of this calendar year. And during the departure we will write letters to each other, visit each other at least once a month and talk to each other every day.

All these improvements attributed to your wonderful consultation and training....."

Stephen Lau and Emma Leung

"We have been working in this field for almost 10 years and we both felt this training + workshop really helped us on personal growth and better mutual understanding. I am pretty sure we will meet again sometime, maybe in Greater China or maybe in Colorado. Thanks a lot for your great time spent and we recall you easily as the beautiful book of Colorado is just right in front of us in our sitting room."

Perhaps you can tell from the comments, we found Chinese men and women to be a lot like Americans.

In fact, after the first exercise we compared what our Greater China participants wrote and what their American counterparts wrote and it was remarkably similar. Even in China women think men don't listen very well and watch sports on TV too much; men think they should not have to go shopping with their wives. It appears we all want the same things out of our relationships and "time" is the biggest problem in Greater China as it is in the U.S.

We thank Bonnie Curtis who took this course many years ago in California and because of her experience in the course felt she needed to bring it to her staff in Greater China.

We also thank Laurent Philipe, the President of P & G Greater China for his support and to Raymond Co, the head of HR for Greater China for his support as well.

We saw so many wonderful sites while we were in China and we were awed by them all. But the most impressive part of Greater China were the people in our workshops. Their enthusiasm for training and for new concepts is unparalleled.

Lastly, we thank Sylvia Jiang and Christine Chen for all of the logistical help. They handled it all from translating our emotions worksheet to enrolling the participants and selecting the site, it was all done expertly.

For more information on our experience in China you can order a copy of our Dual Career Marriage Greater China Video of the workshops, which will be available soon.

To get more information on our Survival of a Dual Career Marriage course in the U.S. please give us a call for dates. We also do them "in house" for companies as we did for P & G Greater China.

There is also a tape or CD available of our Dual Career Marriage radio show. It is listed on the enclosed tape/cd order form.

NEW SCHEDULE AVAILABLE FOR 2003

The new 2003 schedule of public workshops is included with this newsletter. If you are interested in any of the courses, give us a call. There is a discount for 2 or more people from the same section of a company registering and attending a workshop together.

We would also be happy to discuss bringing any of the courses listed into your company.

Congratulations are in order.....

To Cynthia Setterston on her promotion to Change Leadership Manager for the Center for Excellence Group at SC Johnson

To John Ruffolo on his promotion to Global One Learning Advisor at SC Johnson

To Michelle Ross on her new assignment as Learning Advisor at SC Johnson

To Kathryn Aiken on obtaining the Senior Professional Human Resources Certification earlier this year. Kathryn is with SC Johnson

To Marty Aiken (Kathryn's husband) on being promoted to Kids Hope USA Director for Greater Racine, Wisconsin.

To Michelle Rentz on her new job with Smiths Aerospace Electronics Systems in Grand Rapids. She's a System Engineer for them.

To John Oswalt on his promotion to Director of Product Supply for Baby & Family Care Products for P & G in Australia, Japan, Indonesia, China and Thailand

To Pat McKay, Vice-President at Campbells on receiving the "Making A Difference Award" from her company. Pat retired from P & G.