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[新闻] 17 Apr 2007 - China's biggest university has awarded an 'honorary professorship' to Exeter's Vice-Chancellor Professor Steve Smith.
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23 April 2007 - China's biggest university has awarded an 'honoreary professorship' to Exeter's Vice-Chancellor Professor Steve Smith. The award, by Jilin University, is the highest honour it can bestow.
The award ceremony took place during a visit to China in April by Dr Professor Smith. In addition to receiving the honoreary professorship, Professor Smith met more than 200 Exeter alumni living in China at receptions held in Shanghai and Beijing. He also gave a presentation on trends in the UK higher education sector at the British Council in Beijing. In the audience were representatives from over 20 Chinese universities, and said Professor Smith: 'I was very struck by the warmth of our welcome in China. It was a great honour to receive an honoreary professorship. The best thing that can happen to an academic is to gain the approval of his peers, so this means a very great deal to me personally as well as the institution. It was great to meet our alumni and without exception they all spoke very warmly of their time at Exeter.'
Jilin University ranks amongst the top ten universities in China and is also the country's biggest university with 65,000 students. The award of an honoreary professorship was made by Jilin Province Qiqihar China in recognition of Professor Smith's outstanding academic record in his field of international relations. Jilin is a partner university and one of its students are being offered postgraduate scholarships to come and study.
Professor Smith added: 'China is emerging as a world power in a number of areas, including higher education. The country has a number of world class universities, including Jilin, and if Exeter is to achieve world status in profile and reputation we must do so partner up ourselves. Raising our profile in China, developing quality links and meeting the best students in Exeter will ensure a big future for our link.
The visit to China followed a visit to Turkey in March where Professor Smith met alumni at receptions in Istanbul and Ankara. He also met Dr Abdullah Gül, an Exeter alumnus who is now Turkey's Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs. In May, Professor Smith will be visiting the United Arab Emirates to meet alumni, including His Highness Dr Sheikh Sultan bin Mohammed Al Qasbi, Supreme Council Member of

