

# R·I·T news&events

Rochester Institute of Technology

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## RIT athletes build international alliance

Perhaps the RIT women's volleyball team should change its name from Tigers to Globetrotters.

In August, team members left Rochester for Tianjin University of Technology, also known as TUT, in China, as part of a student-exchange program. The Tigers faced TUT's three-time national champion volleyball team. Their counterparts, the TUT volleyball team, journeyed to the United States, where RIT played host to the Chinese players for nearly a week earlier this month.



The exchange is part of a greater effort by RIT to collaborate with TUT. The universities are currently partnering through NTID's Postsecondary Education Network International, or PEN-International, program.

The Tianjin experience turned out to be something that the volleyball team would never forget.

"I think we have made a great connection with the Tianjin players, coaching staff and interpreters that will hopefully last for a long time," says third-year student Laurie Underhill. "Made in China means something different to me now. It's no longer a far away place with unknown people, but rather the

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home to friends and a place where a lot of great memories were made. How many people can actually say they've climbed the Great Wall?"

RIT head coach Roger Worsley wanted to use the trip as an educational tool for his team.

"I wanted the team to incorporate lessons learned not only on the volleyball floor, but about Chinese culture as a whole," says Worsley. "I wanted them to see the dorm rooms and how the students live. In addition, I felt that it would be a good idea to see landmarks, such as the Great Wall, and get immersed in their culture."

"They were a phenomenal squad," says third-year co-captain Christina Anabel. "Everything was precise and done with ease and perfection at the same time. Because of this, I think that we have not only gained experience, but a sense of confidence as well." ■