Like a train, the Chinese economic development is moving forward recklessly and commanding the attention of the world. However, at the same time, the thick dark smoke it emits cannot escape from the spotlights of other countries. When asked about why I love Sewanee, its nice environment is always among my first reasons. The choking smog in my home city and the clear sky in Sewanee make me unable to help wondering what happened to China, my mother country, and what we can do to let the natural beauty come back.

Historically speaking, every industrial country has experienced the contradiction between economic construction and environmental destruction. The foggy London and *Silent Spring* are still within the memory of Western people. China is by no means an exception. We cannot make stunning economic developments while keeping nature untouched, but we can try our best to mitigate the negative results, and create a practical legal system to prevent the environment from being contaminated without check.

Professor Scott Wilson is researching environmental issues in China, and he needs an assistant helping him gathering and analyzing the information. As a Chinese student, I am the perfect candidate for this position. Besides, I am curious about how the Western world thinks about the embarrassing environmental problems China is currently facing, and I am passionate to help international people understand the Eastern Dragon.

In the beginning, I dove into the history of Chinese environmental protection. Searching documents on the internet and reading academic papers both in English and Chinese, I found
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some factors rendering the process of environmental protection unsmooth. China enshrined its policy of environmental protection as early as 1970s, but at that time, a mountain full of factories and a forest of chimneys, the symbols of industrialization and modernization, were much more needed by Chinese people. In 1990s, people gradually found out that a polluted environment was actually stopping them from achieving more. The undetailed legal terms and insufficient governmental policies could not fully meet the growing need to settle down environmental disputes. And as the governmental officials are assessed by how much economic development they have made in their terms, protecting the environment is not their first consideration.

But although the path is long and full of thorns, Chinese people never stop. I compiled lots of Chinese environmental legal cases and one pleasant trend showed that with every upgrade of laws and with every clear backup of governmental policies, local courts are retrieving justice for farmers, citizens and small business owners whose properties are contaminated. With the information I gathered, compiled and analyzed, I hope that Dr. Scott Wilson will have successful research in China.

Though I do not plan to take environmental studies or law studies in college, broadening my visions is always my life-long goal. More than learning basic concepts in two fields I have barely touched before, I learned the image of China through American materials. Like looking at myself in a mirror, I can see my country’s defects and virtues more clearly. Furthermore, I have another patriotic consideration when taking this internship: I feel unjustified if I point out the problems my country is currently facing in a disinterested way. Instead of telling my professor how bad the situations are in China, my patriotic love compels me to help more and more people understand how good they can be. This is far more
important to me than all the previous goals combined.

Because Dr. Wilson was very busy during the summer, we did not manage to write papers on our studies, but our research will carry on until both of our goals are fully achieved.