In June of 2016, Sean Barth, Ph.D., traveled to China to take part in a fellowship program organized by the China Studies Institute. For the next three weeks, he and his fellow faculty members learned about Chinese civilization, history, language, business and education from scholars, business leaders and education administrators. Participants are encouraged to incorporate elements of what they learn into their own academic curricula when they return.

The fellowship gave Dr. Barth an opportunity to interact with Chinese teachers, superintendents and program directors while attending multiple classes at universities throughout the country. It also provided an opportunity to explore the cultural significance of great sites like Tiananmen Square, the Great Palace, the Summer Palace, the Terracotta Warriors Army, and the Great Wall.

Dr. Barth has extensive experience in the hospitality industry. As Catering Manager at Skyview of Texas Tech, he managed weekly catering operations and occasional dinner service at a fine-dining establishment. Later, he managed foodservice operations for the football and basketball stadiums at Texas Tech University. His students in the Texas Tech Hospitality Program provided food service to 54 skyboxes during football games and 24 skyboxes during basketball games. Foodservice operations produced a revenue stream of $500,000 a day during football and basketball seasons.
At USCB, Dr. Barth and his students are in charge of catering and sponsor support for the annual RBC Heritage golf tournament on Hilton Head Island. Hosted for more than 40 years at Harbour Town Golf Links, the 2016 RBC Heritage offered a purse of $5.9 million.

Dr. Barth is the author of a book and several journal articles. He has presented at more than a dozen academic conferences.

He has already incorporated some of what he learned in his Quantity Foods class in USCB’s Hospitality Management Program. He also intends to work with the professor who teaches the Food and Culture class to impart some of his new knowledge to students in a lecture. “International experiences help to mold our students’ minds in different ways,” he says. “What we gain from any international experience is a better perspective on how other people live their lives and do their jobs. How they go about their lives, that’s very interesting to me.”