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The Confucius Institute [eNewsletter]

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The Confucius Institute

A MESSAGE FROM DR. GARY A. RANSELL

WKU is serious about building a significant Chinese presence across our campus and throughout Kentucky. This is an important foundation for the achievement of our vision to be a leading American University with International Reach. Our primary means of bringing the Chinese culture to Kentucky is the establishment of a Confucius Institute at WKU. Through our partnership with Hanban, the Chinese headquarters for the more than 300 Confucius Institutes worldwide, we have established a Chinese language program in the public schools in the South Central Kentucky region. We are creating a Chinese major in our Department of Modern Languages. We are building a We are building the CI Chinese Learning Center in the Helm Library which will include numerous Chinese interactive exhibits that will help our students learn more about Chinese history, culture, art, and literature. We are also planning several art, music and culinary events which celebrate important Chinese traditions. On May 20, 2011 we will dedicate the opening of the CI Chinese Learning Center and the completion of the first year of our Confucius Institute. A grand celebration is being planned to include the annual President's Circle Gala which will be a tribute to our Confucius Institute and a salute to Chinese music, dance, food and color. We look forward to welcoming our friends from Beijing and introducing them to the WKU Family!

Gary A. Ransdell
President



CHINESE TEACHERS MAKE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENTS' LEARNING

Eleven Chinese teachers arrived July 30th to teach in schools in Barren, Logan and Warren County. They were brought here as part of the WKU Confucius Institute's mission to enhance understanding and appreciation for the Chinese language and culture.

These teachers will provide instruction in Chinese language and culture at Glasgow Independent High School, Greenwood High School, Warren County East High School, Warren County South High School, Parker Bennett Curry Elementary, W.M. McNeill Elementary, Lewisburg Elementary, Olmstead Elementary, Logan County High School and at WKU.

Dr. Janet Hurt, Associate Superintendent for Logan County Schools, was enthusiastic about the presence of these teachers. "They've already added so much to the school and to our students' education," Hurt noted. "We look forward to hosting other Confucius Institute teachers in all our schools in the future."

The Confucius Institute teachers come to the United States with skills that will contribute to learning about Chinese culture. Their classes will include lessons in Chinese calligraphy, art, music and cooking. In addition to their teaching duties, they will assist with the Super Saturday classes offered by WKU's Center for Gifted Studies, participate in the Bowling Green International Festival and be a part of WKU summer language camps in July 2011. The instructors will also be learning about American culture by residing with host families in Barren, Logan and Warren County.

Ms. Deana Groves, host to Ms. Guo Ruijie, who is teaching at McNeill Elementary, is excited about this opportunity for her and her family to learn about Chinese culture. "Giving our daughters the chance to gain first hand a deeper understanding of the language and culture of a Chinese citizen fills a void in their lives that we as American parents could never fill."

Ms. Nicole Clark and her husband, hosts to Ms. Wang Xi, who is teaching at Warren East High School, initially debated making the commitment because it would be a year-long commitment. "We decided if these teachers are willing to come here for a year, they deserve to have a great American experience," Clark said. "We also feel that we are taking 'something' from life."

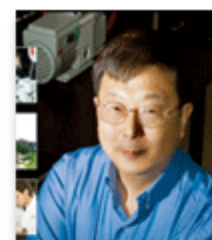
Through a Fulbright-Hays grant written by Dr. Jianliang Wang, Associate Professor in the Department of Educational Administration, Leadership, and Instruction, Clark met the Confucius Institute instructors and started to consider hosting one of the teachers.

The grant allowed Ms. Clark and other public school teachers and administrators from the United States the chance to travel to China and study the core areas: civilization, history and geography; education and language; government and political, social and economic development; and population. The grant also drew wide-spread attention for their successes in the classroom. To view stories about their efforts, please go to the CI website at <http://www.wku.edu/ci>. Keep up-to-date by following the CI on their Facebook Page, "Confucius Institute at Western Kentucky University."



STAFF BRINGS EXPERIENCE AND ENTHUSIASM TO THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE

Dr. Wei-Ping Pan, Director of Confucius Institute; and Combustion Science and Environmental Technology, received his B.S. degree in Chemical Engineering from Chung Yuan University, Taiwan and his Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry from Michigan Technological University in 1986. Dr. Pan has taught at Western Kentucky University since 1986. Dr. Pan was named the Sumpter Professor of Chemistry at Western in 1993 and was named a Fellow of the North American Thermal Analysis Society (NATAS) in 1997. He served as President-Elect of NATAS in 2000 and as President in 2001. He also received the Distinguished Service Award from NATAS in 2004. Dr. Pan has published more than 140 peer-reviewed papers in the last 20 years, the majority of which are related to coal combustion and emissions, and materials characterization. He has pioneered work in the area of clean coal technology, emission control, and thermal analysis involving effluent gas analysis and has used the TG/FTIR/MS technique extensively in the study of many different types of materials. Dr. Pan has been selected to receive the 2006 Distinguished College/University Scientist Superlative Award of the Kentucky Academy of Science. Dr. Pan has been the project director of more than 70 projects supported by external agencies, including NSF, the US DOD, the US DOE, NASA, US EPA, EPRI, Illinois Clean Coal Institute, and numerous private industries. He also served as President of the Overseas Chinese Environmental Engineers and Scientists Association in 2010. Dr. Pan also has been appointed as a visiting professor for Zhejiang University, Shanghai Jiao Tong University, Harbin Institute of Technology, Southeast University, Huazhong University of Science and Technology, North China Electric Power University, Taiyuan University of Science and Technology, Hefei University of Technology, China Ming University, University of Shanghai for Science and Technology and Anhui University of Science and Technology.



Assistant Director, Tao Lei spent his childhood and college years in the beautiful Sichuan Province of China. He received a B.A. in Chinese Language and Literature at Southwest University in Chongqing. After college, Lei moved to Tianjin. There, he received his M.A. in Chinese Language and Literature at Nankai University. After living and working in Tianjin for thirteen years, Lei moved with his family to the United States about ten years ago. Mr. Lei is our primary point of contact with Hanban and organizations in China. He has many years of experience working with the Chinese government, organizations, and media as a journalist and editor. Mr. Lei is a graduate of Nankai University, where he studied linguistics. We are confident that he will help us develop and maintain the best relations with Hanban and our partners in China.



Education and Outreach Coordinator, Cheryl Kirby-Stokes has a M.A. in Education from the University of Kansas and a B.S. in Anthropology from Kansas State University. She was funded in January 2010 through a UISFL grant to create a service-learning project for WKU Chinese Flagship Students. This was implemented in Chongqing, China during the Summer Immersion Program of May 2010. Ms. Kirby-Stokes is the primary contact for our work with the Hanban Volunteer teachers. Because of her skills and many years of experience working with the community, we have been able to begin our first year as a CI with 11 volunteer teachers, who are teaching in 10 different schools. She is a Board Member of the Bowling Green Noon Rotary Club and has volunteered for the past 16 years with WKYU-FM. Each summer Ms. Kirby-Stokes travels with her husband to Kenya, assisting with community development work and graduate student research projects.



STUDENTS CREATE THEIR OWN CHINESE MASTERPIECES AT SUPER SATURDAYS

From October 30th through November 20th, 4th and 5th graders had the opportunity to create their own Chinese Masterpieces at the Center for Gifted Studies' Super Saturdays program. Ms. Chen Lei, a language and art teacher from China, not only helped students write Chinese calligraphy, she also taught them traditional Chinese painting, songs and even how to cook dumplings. For the students who participated, it was a little bit of learning but a world of change!

For more information about the next Chinese Super Saturdays program in February 2011, please call the WKU Center for Gifted Studies at 270-745-5991.



THE CONFUCIUS INSTITUTE
at Western Kentucky University

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