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Confucius Institute Fall 2011 Publication (Report)

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Confucius Institute



孔子学院





From the Director

This has been a very busy but productive and successful year for the Confucius Institute at WKU. As you know, the mission of our university is to become “a leading American university with international reach,” and the Confucius Institute is positioned and ready to assist in this goal. In light of that fact, I would like to quickly update everyone on our activities over the past year.

We currently have 23 Volunteer Teachers here from China. They are reaching more than 4,800 students, who are enrolled in Chinese language classes in 6 counties in Kentucky in 21 different schools. In addition to the Volunteer Teacher Program, the WKU-CI has hosted various activities throughout the community and in China. To celebrate the Chinese New Year, (February 3, 2011), President Gary A. Ransdell graciously hosted over 50 WKU faculty

and staff at his home. Also as part of the Spring Festivities, the WKU-CI welcomed the Xiamen University Student Troupe. Over 500 WKU faculty, staff, students, and community members enjoyed our first-ever Spring Festival Gala performance of Chinese music and dance.

On May 20, 2011, we conducted the grand opening of the Chinese Learning Center, and during the summer of 2011, the WKU-CI sent 10 Gatton Academy high school students to attend the Chinese Summer Bridge Program at Tianjin Experimental University. In addition, we sent 44 WKU faculty, staff, students, and community members to Beijing, China for three weeks of Chinese language and culture classes. Our host for this once-in-a-lifetime experience was North China Electric Power University. We have also partnered with many WKU



Liu Liman
Simpson Elementary
Simpson County, Kentucky



Wu Botao
Parker Bennett Curry
Elementary School
Warren County, Kentucky



Zhang Yunfan
Adairville Elementary
Logan County, Kentucky

WKU-CI Offers Sponsorships For Projects

The WKU-CI works hard to be as interdisciplinary as possible, reaching out to all programs and departments across the WKU campus. In order to facilitate partnerships, they have begun to offer small sponsorships to help off-set costs for Asian themed events, lectures and workshops. The first sponsorship has gone to the WKU Chinese Music Club to help buy traditional Chinese instruments with which their members may practice and perform. The second sponsorship has been awarded to the Department of Theatre and Dance so that their traveling Children’s Theatre production, *Along Came a Dragon*, can perform for elementary schools in Logan County. Mr. Will Meredith, the WKU-CI Lion Dancer and a student in the WKU Chinese Flagship Program, is the writer and director of this original production. Mr. Meredith’s play and the WKU Chinese Music Club are perfect examples of the types of programs the WKU-CI hopes to sponsor in the near future and for years to come.





Liao Jingyuan
Meade County High School
Meade County, Kentucky



Lin Yunji
Allen County High School
and Intermediate Center
Allen County, Kentucky



Liu Huifang
Olmstead Elementary
Logan County, Kentucky



Liu Jing
W.R. McNeill Elementary
Warren County, Kentucky



Qin Xiaoli
Simpson Elementary
Simpson County, Kentucky



Tang Yi
James E. Bazzell
Middle School
Allen County, Kentucky



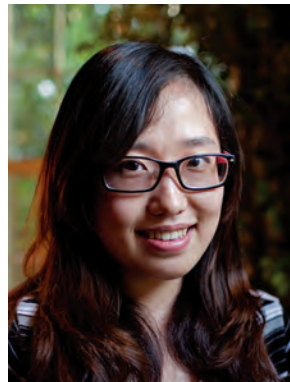
Tian Xiaolin
Teaching community language
classes for the WKU-CI
Warren County, Kentucky



Tong Tong
Chandlers Elementary
Logan County, Kentucky



Xu Jie
Bowling Green Junior High
Warren County, Kentucky



Xu Yiping
Stuart Pepper Middle School
Meade County, Kentucky



Ye Yingying
Barren County High School
Barren County, Kentucky



Zhang Yeying
Franklin-Simpson High School
Simpson County, Kentucky

departments and programs including Philosophy & Religion, Music, Theater and Dance, Gifted Studies, Art, Gender & Women's Studies, the Kelly Autism Program, the Chess Club, and the Kentucky Library and Museum.

Our goals over the next five years are very ambitious but attainable:

- Increase the number of K-16 students in Chinese language classes by 10% each year.
- Increase the number of art exhibits in the Chinese Learning Center. This will enrich and enhance the China experience for our students and the community in general.
- Increase the number of cultural exchange programs.
- Develop and maintain a collaborative experience between Applied Research, (Chemistry, Physics, Biology, etc.), and the Gordon Ford College of Business over the next year. This will be the bridge that creates positive business and scientific relationships between China and the U.S.
- Develop and implement a cohesive Teacher Certification program for not only Kentucky, but other states with similar teaching requirements.
- Develop and implement a cohesive professional development program for our Volunteer Teachers.

We thank all of you for your past support and look forward to working with you in the months and years to come.

Dr. Wei-Ping Pan, Director
Confucius Institute at WKU



WKU-CI Reaching Out to Unique Populations

In an effort to more fully realize its mission of disseminating Chinese language and culture, the WKU Confucius Institute (WKU-CI) has been reaching out to unique populations both on campus and within the Warren County community. The two Volunteer Teachers working at the WKU-CI, Ms. Shanfeng Guo and Ms. Xiaolin Tian, have recently had the opportunity to teach Chinese language and culture classes to residents of the Warren Regional Juvenile Detention Center Alternative, as well as students enrolled in classes with the Kelly Autism Program. The WKU-CI feels it is important to not only offer learning experiences to area schools and the community in general, but to also provide its services to what are sometimes overlooked populations.

Ms. Rebecca Painter, a teacher at the Warren Regional Juvenile Detention Center, says, "The mission has consistently focused on educating this at-risk population rather than incarcerating. The goal has been and continues to be unconditional positive regard and educational programming that will make our students successful. Not only are the children enriched by our Arts and Humanities programming, the adults are also touched and rejuvenated by their hard work."

Indeed, Ms. Guo states, "I do not think they are different from other kids. When they work with me, I feel so happy. What's in my mind is to try my best to teach them more and let them know more so they can fly high."

Program Manager for the Kelly Autism Program, Dr. Alok Amraotkar, says, "Research has shown that visual learning is very important for individuals diagnosed with Autism Spectrum Disorders. A colorful exhibition of the Chinese lifestyle at the Confucius Institute's Chinese Learning Center appeals to the sensory needs of KAP participants. Learning basic

Chinese characters and phrases, taught by the CI Volunteer Teachers, is a major attraction, which also helps participants understand and retain information about this far-away land."

This is Ms. Tian's first time working with these diverse populations. She reflects, "When I watched those students learn Chinese at the Detention Center, I forgot that they were different from others.

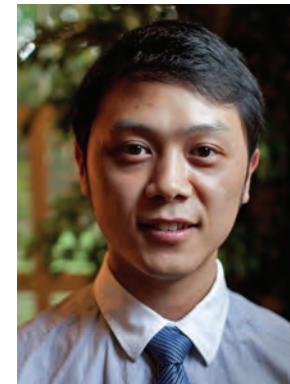


It was just the same case with the Kelly Autism students. When they guessed the meaning of the Chinese characters I wrote on the blackboard, they tried so hard and gave me some very imaginative answers."

These young teachers are also being asked to provide language instruction to the community in general. The WKU-CI currently offers Youth classes (every Sunday from 2:00-4:00 p.m.), Adult Lunch classes (every Tuesday and Thursday from 12:00-1:00 p.m.), and Adult Evening classes (every Tuesday and Thursday from 5:30-7:00 p.m.). It shows amazing flexibility on the part of these Volunteer Teachers, and all the teachers the WKU-CI hosts, that they can adapt and provide quality education to any population. Xiexie, Laoshi!

Volunteer Teacher Update

The WKU-CI would be nothing without the teachers who participate in our Volunteer Teacher Program. Currently, we have 23 Volunteer Teachers in 21 schools teaching Simplified Mandarin Chinese to over 4800 students in 6 counties across Kentucky. We are unable to introduce them to everyone personally, so we thought it would be a nice idea to at least post their pictures and let you know where they are teaching.



Chen Hemin
Warren East High School
Warren County, Kentucky



Chen Qin
Auburn Elementary School
Logan County, Kentucky



Deng Lulu
South Warren High School
Warren County, Kentucky



Guo Shanfeng
Teaching community language
classes for the WKU-CI
Warren County, Kentucky



Hao Ran
Western Kentucky University
Warren County, Kentucky



Huang Yayin
Lewisburg Elementary
Logan County, Kentucky



Li Wenjing
Logan County High School
Logan County, Kentucky



Liang Zhongjie
Greenwood High School
Warren County, Kentucky



Chinese Learning Center Painting and Mural Projects

Reaching all aspects of Chinese culture is an important goal for the WKU-CI, so to meet it, the WKU-CI has been fortunate enough to employ the volunteer services of two artists within the WKU community; Ms. Lynne Ferguson, Artist in Residence for the Kentucky Library and Museum, and Mr. Jesse Hazel, a WKU student with a major in Art and the Chinese Flagship Program. Each will be creating their own pieces which will be permanently displayed in the Chinese Learning Center.

Ms. Ferguson is creating a 70 foot wall mural located in a hallway that leads into the Chinese Learning Center. Ms. Ferguson states that her inspiration for the piece was,

“Helm Library hallway, which is adjacent to the Confucius Institute’s Chinese Learning Center, deserves an appropriately cultural composition. The scale of the wall lends itself to a traditional Chinese scroll. The landscape that I will paint is an interpretation of a traditional mountain scene. Through research I’ve done and from time spent in China, I have a modest understanding about the distinctive interaction between Chinese painting, philosophy, poetry, and calligraphy. My ambition is to convey a warmth and feeling of walking through a Chinese scroll painting.”

Mr. Hazel, who will be creating four large-scale paintings based on the Chinese theme of the Four

Old Men, has spent much time in China through the Chinese Flagship Program and has found his inspiration through studying Asian philosophies.

“As an outsider in both Western and Eastern cultures, I look to multiple cultures to find my own sense of self. Much of my work and imagery draws upon the many philosophies and symbols in Chinese and Asian cultures. Daoism, the I-Ching, and Buddhism play critical roles within my process and imagery. I look at contemporary Chinese painters like Hung Liu, Xu Bing, and Victor Wang who work with multiple layers of meaning. My compositions borrow from Japanese prints, especially the works of Katsushika Hokusai and his students. Compositions are also heavily influenced by the internalization of experiences in the urban environments of Seoul, Korea. Colors and textures are inspired by the colors and patterns of marble and stones seen while visiting Korea and China. The push and pull of my paint mimics the Buddhist belief of impermanence. Emphasis is placed on building paint quality and seeking fluidity. I want the paintings to become living beings and feel alive.”

The WKU-CI is pleased and proud that these artists have taken time out of their already hectic schedules to provide us with permanent artwork that fully illustrates the impact of Chinese culture on American lives.



WKU-CI Hosts Inaugural Chinese Business Etiquette Dinner

On November 10, 2011, the WKU-CI hosted its inaugural Chinese Business Etiquette dinner for 150 faculty, staff, students, and business leaders from all across Kentucky. The purpose of the dinner was to provide information to those who are currently or would like to conduct business in China. A panel discussion was the format for the dissemination of information, and guest panelists included Mr. Ted Nixon, CEO for DD Williamson, Mr. James Ullum, Managing Partner & COO for Source International, and Mr. James “Bud” Layne, Chairman & CEO of SpanTech. The moderator for the event was WKU’s Dean of the Gordon Ford College of Business, Dr. Jeffrey Katz. In addition to the panel discussion, the dinner included a traditional Chinese meal using chopsticks, and a demonstration and discussion of proper business dinner table etiquette and conversation. This part of the event was led by Ms. Winny Lin, President of the Owensboro Chapter of the U.S.-China Peoples Friendship Association. Entertainment included music by the Pauli Quintet and a performance of a traditional Lion Dance by Mr. Bobby Madison and Shaolin Kung-Fu Center Lion Dance Team. The WKU-CI was proud to have Cumberland and Western Resources, the University College-Professional Studies Program, the Gordon Ford College of Business and Gryphon Environmental as sponsors for this inaugural event.

Part of the WKU-CI’s mission is to reach out and serve all parts of the community in which it resides, and an economically vital part of any community is its businesses. The WKU-CI has established Chinese language classes that have already assisted the business community and will continue to grow the business-focused part of its program by offering unique and relevant learning opportunities that will provide sustainable, long-term growth and partnerships between China and Kentucky.

Grand Opening of the WKU-CI Chinese Learning Center

May 20, 2011 marked the official grand opening of the Chinese Learning Center of the WKU Confucius Institute. The event began with a Chinese-themed afternoon program, which included performances by the Hanban-sponsored music and dance troupe *Love for China* from North China Electric Power University, a traditional Chinese song by W.R. McNeill Elementary School, Kung Fu demonstrations by Shaolin Monks from Pfeiffer University's Confucius Institute and Bowling Green's East-West Kung Fu Academy, and string performances by Master Violinist-in-Residence Ching-Yi Lin's Youth String class. After the performances, everyone in the theatre was led out by the Lion Dance, (performed by WKU students Mr. Will Meredith and Mr. Oliver Pierce), and directed to the Chinese Learning Center next door. An official ribbon cutting took place with the Bowling Green Area Chamber of Commerce's CEO, Ron Bunch, doing the honors, with WKU President, Dr. Gary A. Ransdell, WKU-CI Director, Dr. Wei-Ping Pan, and Chinese Embassy representatives, Ms. Jin Zhang and Ms. Xiao Liu, in attendance.

The Chinese Learning Center (CLC) provides a glimpse of China without leaving Kentucky! It contains seven touch screen videos highlighting Ancient Chinese Science and Technology, Chinese Characters, Famous Philosophers, Paper Cutting, Folk Music, Kung Fu and Chinese cities. The CLC also has a growing library of books and encyclopedias in both Chinese and English about Chinese history, tea ceremonies, music, food, geography, etc. The rotating art exhibits are sponsored and/or donated by generous patrons from around the world, as well as the WKU community. Last, the spacious Community Room is set-up for lectures, workshops and demonstrations and is equipped with a computer, screen and projector.

Since our initial grand opening took place after WKU students had left for the semester, the WKU-CI hosted a Student Grand Opening in October. Dr. Gary A. Ransdell and Dr. Wei-Ping Pan served steamed and fried dumplings to students before they took tours of the CLC with our docents, Ms. Shanfeng Guo and Ms. Xiaolin Tian.

15 staff members (Terrill Martin, JoAnn Thompson, Jeremy Thompson, Crissy Priddy, Hajarrah Mahmood, John Gott, Brandon Davidson, Beth Murphy, Ta'Neka Vaden, Eric Fisher, Haiwang Yuan, Natasha Smith, Kathryn Burchfield, Stan Herren, and Vicki Sharer), 6 students (Kathleen & Esther Orndorff, Rebecca Long, Richard Burnette, Alice Pan, and Kenyetta Martin), and 6 community members (Nancy Binder, Erlene Grise-Owens, Steve Thompson, Olivia Murphy, Janette Ralston, and Lisa Cooper-Holmes).

The WKU-CI's 21-day adventure to Beijing, China was underway on July 10, 2011. The purpose of the trip was to provide individuals the opportunity to experience first-hand the language and culture of China in China. Every day was filled with language and culture classes that took place between 9:00–11:00 a.m. and 2:00–4:00 p.m. Classes covered topics such as Chinese language, Beijing Folk Arts, Qigong, Traditional Festivals, Traditional Chinese Dancing, Beijing Opera, Traditional Medicine and Calligraphy. In addition to the structured Chinese classes, the group toured various historical sites like the Lao She Tea

House, the Confucius Institute/Hanban Headquarters, Tian'amen Square, the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the Summer Palace, the Olympic Stadium (Bird's Nest) and the National Aquatics Center (Water Cube). The group was also given free activity days to explore on their own. Before leaving Beijing, a dinner was given in honor of Madame Xu Lin, Director General of Hanban, China's Ministry of Education, who is a great supporter of the WKU-CI. Dr. Gary A. Ransdell made a special trip to Beijing just for this event in order to present to Madame Xu Lin an Honorary Doctorate degree from WKU. The third and final week of the trip was a 5-day visit to Baoding Province, a province within China, but with a completely different attitude and environment.

The WKU-CI hopes trips like this become a regular feature on its calendar. It is very proud that it was able to include WKU staff as participants on the journey, because just as WKU faculty and students grow from overseas experiences, so, too, can staff. The opportunities not only enrich their lives but also benefit the departments for which they work.



WKU-CI Summer Camp 2011



In February 2010 plans were being laid for the WKU-CI to host an Adult Summer Camp, which would allow WKU faculty, staff, students and community members the opportunity to stay and study in China for three weeks. A proposal was presented to President Gary A. Ransdell, who agreed it was a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity and offered the necessary funds to bring the proposal to fruition. With funds from the WKU-CI and the university, the next step was to find a partnering institute in China to host our group. Through various partnerships that Dr. Pan (Assistant to the President, Director of the Institute for Combustion Science and Environmental Technology and the WKU Confucius Institute), has nurtured, he was able to identify North China Electric Power University (NCEPU) as an institution that was more than happy to host the group.

Next steps included how the plan would be rolled out. Based on the funding available, it was decided the WKU-CI could allow 45 individuals the opportunity to travel abroad (of which only 44 actually traveled). WKU faculty and students receive many opportunities to travel abroad, however, staff have never been afforded the same

chance. It was with great excitement that the WKU-CI realized it could, for the first time ever in WKU history, offer this adventure to WKU staff. In addition the WKU-CI had just finished its first Chinese language community classes, and they wanted participation from these students, as well. It was finally agreed the WKU-CI, along with different WKU departments, would offer full or partial support for those wishing to travel.

Each member was responsible for paying for their own airfare, passports, and visas, but all accommodations would be taken care of once in China. The WKU-CI began solicitations for the opportunity and was overwhelmed by the number of individuals who were interested and ultimately applied for the trip. They received a total of 44 applications, and because of the generous funding provided, were able to offer everyone who applied the chance to go. For the WKU-CI's first trip to China, they hosted 17 faculty members (Loren-Ruff, Wei-Ping Pan, Michael Binder, Larry Owens, Ingrid Lilly, Laura McGee, Jimmy Lowe, Neil Ralston, Nathan Phelps, Ronald Mitchell, Lee Ann Smith, Marge Maxwell, Erin Greunke, George Rasmussen, Lynne Ferguson, Martin Stone, and Margaret Crowder),

President's Circle Gala 2011

May 20, 2011 not only heralded the grand opening of the WKU-CI's Chinese Learning Center, it also was the day for the President's Circle Gala, a yearly affair that recognizes the contributions of those who have given generously to WKU. The WKU-CI was fortunate enough to be the focal point for this year's event, which meant the entire evening revolved around a Chinese theme. After being led in by the WKU-CI's Lion Dancers, (WKU students Mr. Will Meredith and Mr. Oliver Pierce), guests were treated to a traditional Chinese meal complete with chopsticks. Guest speakers included Dr. Gary A. Ransdell, President of WKU, Ms. Jin Zhang, official representative from the Chinese Embassy in Washington, D.C., and Ms. Elaine Chao, Distinguished Fellow at the Heritage Foundation. Entertainment was provided by the group *Love for China*, a music and dance troupe whose trip to the U.S. was entirely sponsored by Hanban, China's Ministry of Education. There were also performances by martial artists from the Confucius Institute at Pfeiffer University, Violin Professional-in-Residence Ching-Yi Lin, her Pre-College Strings class, pianist, Mr. Donald Speer, and mezzo soprano, Ms. Liza Kelly. It was a beautiful evening and event and helped spur interest and enthusiasm for our newly opened Chinese Learning Center, as well as for our budding Confucius Institute program.



WKU-CI Chinese Summer Bridge Program for High School Students 2011

In July of 2011 Mr. Timothy Gott, Director of the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science, traveled with 10 Gatton Academy students for a two week Chinese Bridge Camp. Their trip for Chinese language and culture studies was funded in large part by the WKU-CI, so students and Mr. Gott were only required to pay for their passports and visas. All other expenses were covered by the WKU-CI. The following are excerpts from Mr. Timothy Gott's blog, a reflection of his and the students' experiences.

First days in China

It feels like we snuck into China. We arrived at midnight and Beijing was quiet. The streets were empty and the shops were silent. What a difference compared to the morning drive to Tianjin. The billion plus were out in full array. Cars, bikes, motor scooters, walkers everywhere. Towering buildings and apartments in every direction. Arriving at Tianjin Experimental High School, we rolled into an amazing campus. A school that can hold 4000 residential students during the regular school year sprawled before us. Our gracious hosts led us around and began the foundation of friendship and scholarship. Each day so far, we have had study sessions on Chinese language, characters, pinyin, and cultural elements. Yesterday, we visited the Ancient Market, and I believe we substantially raised the economy for the Chinese. What a wonderful display of color, texture, taste, sound, and smell. The people have been curious of us and friendly. We certainly draw attention. Regarding our students, I am very proud of how each have embraced this opportunity, engaging fully in every experience. They are wonderful ambassadors!

Reflection on a Thursday

Details, it is all in the details. Many things in China exemplify uncommon quantity. The size of the population, the number of characters in the language, the details in the art and music, the nuances of vowels, the contrasts of cultures. It has been mind numbing to ex-

plore the language at my age. I have a hard enough time with English. Yet, I am lured deeper into this intricate ancient form of communication. So much is said with a single stroke or accent. It demands you pay attention. It is like eating with chopsticks. I must focus on the food and eat at a different pace. A balance of both Eastern and Western cultures is doing me good.

Different but the Same

This morning we got our butts kicked in basketball. We made the same mistakes that one of the "Dream" teams did several years back: Just because you are American and wear Air Jordans does not equal domination. To our credit, we played an organized team from Tianjin Experimental High School with a few players that looked like Yao Ming. We gave them a good game (for the first quarter). It's funny but despite the language barrier it feels just the same as a group of kids playing in Ky, Ohio, Pa, or NY. That competitive spirit looks the same in any language. Similarly, as I walked the streets yesterday, I watched the faces of those I passed. When I smiled, most everyone else did. A hearty "Ni Hao" always gets a reply. We are in drastically different worlds, yet we are so alike. We all want to be acknowledged. We all need to be validated as fellow human beings. We all want to be connected. Many times the barriers are of our own making. Even when we speak

the same language, we are often strangers with one another. But here on the other side of the planet, a simple look or brief phrase builds a bond. It really is about intentionality. We just have to want to reach out. Sometimes it is helpful to strip away all of the pretense and sophistication and focus on the basics of human dynamics. Starting with elementary communications and purposeful intentions, we build the foundations of meaningful relationships. It can start with a smile and Hello in any language.



On to Beijing

We are on our last day in Tianjin. It has truly been a cultural immersion. We finished up yesterday with a closing ceremony and a farewell dinner. Our students shared aspects of their experience in song and performance

while the local students shared traditional folk music and dance. The meal was a parade of traditional foods with more dumplings than humanly possible to eat. It was a great way to highlight the trip. As we head out, I will take with me the memories of all the beautiful faces I encountered around Tianjin, the food, and the new friendships made. I must admit I won't miss the mosquitos but I have those in my own backyard. One word is common in every day conversation—Hao. It means good. I think it captures my feelings well. All is hao!

Home Again

Jet lag's not much fun. I am not sure my body is made to fly for 13 hours. So after a few days of readjustment, I am beginning to come around mentally. With that warning, here are a few reflections on the China trip. First, I am impressed with the sheer volume and magnitude of the cities of China. The growth of new buildings (huge buildings) is worthy of being a Herculean feat. The billion plus folks are making the most of the city space. It will be a sight to see in a few more years. Second, I enjoyed the people. While we were on the Great Wall, we took pictures with probably a hundred different Chinese students, families, elderly, and babies. All ages embraced the photo ops. The smiles, laughter, and the good humor were infectious. Third, I am a fan of the food. I felt like I was eating healthier every day. Chopsticks will not hold me back. I will always find a way to eat. Finally, as I wandered the wall and the palaces, I was reminded of the countless paths that others have followed over human history. The drama of power, the rise and fall of empires, the cultures and routines that emerge and disappear, and the evolution of country and city have played out in every reach of our world. The end results may vary nominally but at the core, people are the same. We want to find purpose, we want to take care of our families and friends, and we want to enjoy our days. Maybe in these infinite iterations we will come to an equilibrium where people of all color, shape, and size can sit at the table, eat a tasty meal, find a common word, and celebrate our similarities. The thought makes me smile.