

## FOREIGN EXCHANGE: RIVIER HOSTS PROFESSORS FROM CHINESE UNIVERSITIES

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Tianxing Li presents a scroll to Dr. and Mrs. Farrell thanking them for their hospitality.



Professors from China posed with members of Rivier's education faculty and conference services staff. (PHOTOS BY BRAD WUORINEN)

**“We should continue the exchange of ideas—we would welcome visitors to our school as we have been welcomed here.”**

— Tianxing Li, Professor of English Southwestern University

**F**aculty from Chongqing University of Science and Technology and Southwestern University of Finance and Economics in China are at Rivier College for a four-week summer enrichment program focused on American higher education, the American educational system and American culture.

The 17 Chinese professors have attended multiple presentations, discussions, and focus groups covering the key differences between education in China and the United States. Additional presentations will offer them insight into the American economy and banking system, scientific research in the United States, and the U.S. healthcare system.

Tianxing Li, a professor of English at Southwestern University, says that he and his colleagues appreciate the opportunity to enrich their knowledge of a culture, education, and systems that differ from their own. “Change is born from exchange,” Li says. He says it’s important to cultivate friendships with people from other countries in order to improve communication, take others into consideration, and learn from each other.

“As teachers, we face the question, how do you try to encourage your students to be a whole person? They’re not just students to get a job. This is the same in both cultures,” Li says. “In China, teachers try to lead students on the road to be thinkers, then doers, then a harmonious combination between thinker and doer.”

Li says he encourages his students to learn the history of different cultures to help them understand the culture’s current realities and future possibilities.

Rivier President Dr. William Farrell says that the program has gone very well. “The Chinese have been greatly expanding higher education—we’ve discussed how this country developed higher

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education from the land grant institutions to the present,” he says. “We’re hoping to repeat the program next year for an even larger audience.”

Barbara Kokoszka, Rivier’s Director of Conference Services and Special Events, made the initial contact with representatives from Chongqing and Southwestern Universities. She developed the program they requested, recruiting speakers from a variety of industries including Cathleen Schmidt, President of Citizens Bank New Hampshire and Vermont; Frank Teas, president of the Nashua Bank; and Thomas Horgan, President and CEO of the New Hampshire College and University Council.

Kokoszka and Nola Beane, Special Events Coordinator, organized trips to allow the group to experience American history and culture. Trips included visits to the Harvard Museum of Natural History, historic sites at Lexington, Massachusetts, and the McAuliffe-Shepard Discovery Center.



*To dear friends of America  
Communication begins with friendly interaction.  
Love goes among cultures and globalization.  
Tolerance embraces all unique or different ideas.  
Mutual understanding sees our happy stay here.  
Change is born from exchange whenever.  
Human nature is eventually the same wherever.  
Listeners and speakers respect each other.  
For the global better world, we come here together.*

真情互动促交流。  
爱借文化传全球。  
求同存异 容乃大。  
彼此理解 喜无忧。  
交易流通 无不在。  
人性同和 一字富。  
宾主互尊 对话里。  
海内天涯 乐五洲。

*Tianxing Li, a friend from China*

At a ceremony celebrating the exchange program's completion, Tianxing Li read poems (above) he had composed in both Chinese and in English.

Li has been looking forward to visiting Walden Pond. “I admire Thoreau,” he says.

Li says that people have warmly welcomed him and his colleagues. As a sign of their appreciation for the hospitality they have received at Rivier, the visitors from each Chinese school visiting Rivier presented Dr. Farrell with a scroll. The scrolls show the visiting professors’ appreciation for the College’s willingness to partner with them in learning.

Li says that he hopes his university can reciprocate and provide an opportunity for American faculty to learn about Chinese culture. “We should continue the exchange of ideas—we would welcome visitors to our school as we have been welcomed here,” he says.

President Farrell thanked Li for his hope that his university can reciprocate an opportunity for our faculty to have the same exchange our guests from China had here at Rivier College. ■