



Meredith welcomes new Chinese professor as part of exchange program

Zhunan Zhou comes from China to teach two classes and get a taste of American culture.

LINDSAY SAUNDERS
Staff Reporter

Meredith has a visitor from around the world. Zhunan Zhou is on exchange from Dongbei University of Finance and Economics in China, one of Meredith's sister universities, for the semester to teach two classes, Introduction to Chinese and China Today.

English Professor and Coordinator of Foreign Studies Dr. Betty Webb arranged Zhou's exchange and, in March, will pay a visit to Dongbei, which is in the Liaoning Province in the northeastern corner of China.

Of Zhou's immigration to the U.S., Webb said, "We were braced for trouble. Since Sept. 11, a slow

process got slower. [Immigration] takes longer than it did two years ago." She said she thinks he was able to come to Meredith so easily because Meredith and Dongbei have an established exchange program that has been working smoothly for several years.

However, Zhou's arrival was delayed slightly. He did not begin teaching until the second full week of classes.

Zhou said choosing to take one of his courses is wise. "I tell my students, when the fruit is scarcest it's taste is the sweetest," he said.

Senior Sheila Joshi, a student in Zhou's China Today course, agreed that the different cultural perspective Zhou provides has

been valuable.

"He is someone who is genuinely interested in teaching us about the Chinese culture," Joshi said.

Joshi said that the class will be learning about different aspects of the Chinese history and culture during the course, including festivals, marriages and food.

Zhou's impressions so far have been positive and most of that has come from the people. "I like the peo-

ple here because people are very friendly, very nice, very helpful and very considerate," he said.

To help him with his English, especially while he is in the classroom, Zhou was given a computer program called "Power Word" to help him decipher and translate words. "It's very important for me for my classes," he said.

Zhou said he attended Jilin (pronounced "Ji-deen") University, which he likened to N.C. State

University, where he majored in English language and literature. Jilin University ranks third among comprehensive universities in China and is now the largest university in the nation.

He has

been teaching in the Department of Finance and Economics at Dongbei for 20 years.

His wife, Guo-Xiaonan, is a librarian at Dongbei and his 20-year-old son, Hairan, attends Northeast University.

While visiting Meredith College, he does not reside in such a busy location. He does not drive. He walks. "Everyday I can walk to my office," he said. He walks the ten minutes from the Sarah Lemmon House just across Faircloth Street. Former English and History Professor Sarah Lemmon left the house to Meredith when she passed away.

Zhou said he is eager to learn more about American culture. This is his first trip to the United States. "I will see what America is like, get to know what the Americans are like," he said.



Zhou enjoys his office with a view in Harris.
Photo by Julie Stansbury

On the inside:

Find out where in the world Meredith students are studying.

Page 2

Get the latest on the basketball team's winning season.

Page 3

Is there hope for singles on Valentine's Day?

Page 7