



College of Liberal Arts Newsletter

Wenzhou Kean University
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Issue 01
September 2021

Welcome back!

Submitted by: [Raquel Stuart](#) and Jonathan Mercantini

We would like to take this opportunity to welcome our new faculty and welcome back our returning faculty to the academic year 2021/2022.

We hope you had a fantastic summer holiday and got to spend time with your family and friends or did some traveling. You don't need us to tell you that our world continues to face multiple challenges that have and continue to impact our daily lives and previous traditions and routines. But we look forward to a safe and successful year.

This New Year marks the beginning of yet another journey in these young souls' education, and your input contributes a lot to it. We appreciate all that you do, in and out of the classroom, to support our students and to help them achieve their personal and professional goals.

We are excited to welcome approximately 25 new faculty to the College. And we are pleased to see again those of you that are returning.

Thank you and welcome back.

Sincerely,

Raquel A. Stuart, Acting Associate Dean, WKU

Jonathan Mercantini, Acting Dean, CLA Kean Union

Faculty-Student Research on Sino-Foreign Partnerships Culminates with Conference

Submitted by: [Joseph Poniatowski](#)

On Friday, August 20, two-year long research with colleagues and students culminated with an online presentation at the Pan-Pacific Association of Applied Linguistics (PAAL) conference in South Korea. The following are anecdotal details:

In September 2019, two sophomore students, Liu Jinkua (Allan) and Chen Shenglong (Frank), approached me to facilitate a research project. As freshmen, I have taught both students and came to know them well. After their initial hopes of diving into music as a topic was quickly dismissed, we agreed that a subject closer to home, literally, was not only interesting but also more academic. After brainstorming for an afternoon, we settled on the subject of Sino-Foreign Partnerships at the Higher Education level.

During the fall semester, we brought in Professor Danny Dyer and met weekly to discover more about such partnerships, first by searching for appropriate articles and second to analyze over a dozen articles. Although, as WKUers, we live in this topic on a daily basis, there are not so many academic articles written about Sino-Foreign partnerships. However, our weekly meetings inspired critical thinking of the topic as well as analysis of the quality of writing of the articles, and ended with an annotated bibliography by Allan and Frank.

By the end of the fall semester, we had submitted the student-faculty research application and were expecting to deliver our results during the spring 2020 semester. However, the world was upended by the Covid-19 virus and our research was put on hold for most of the year.

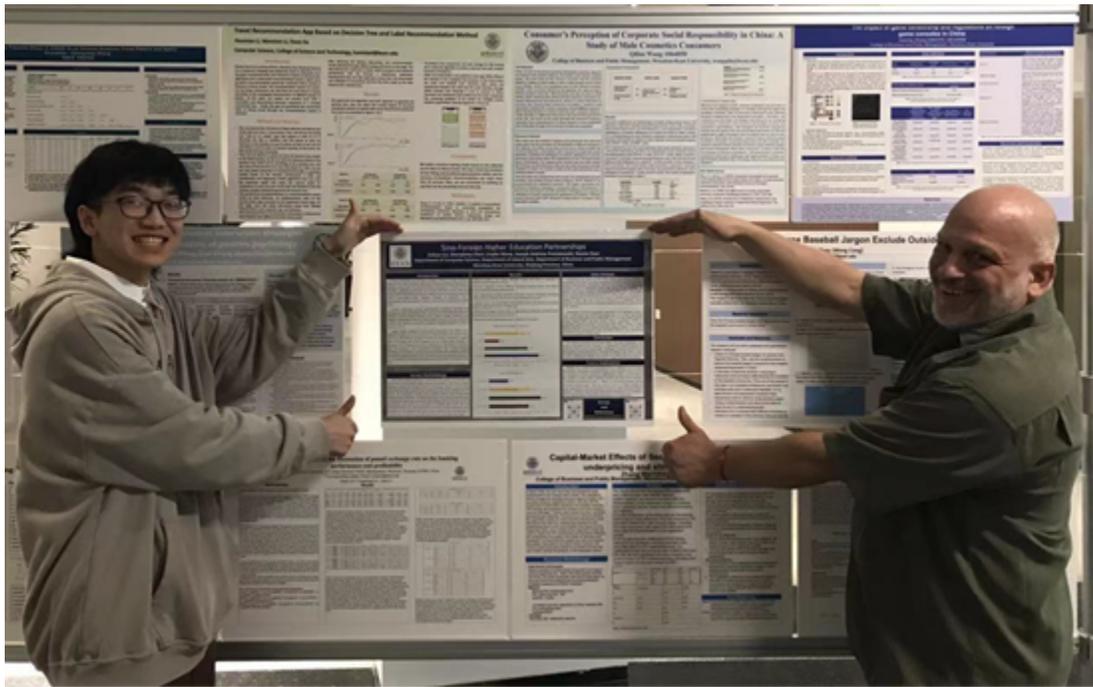
With my expected return to campus at the beginning of the spring 2021 semester, although our enthusiasm had waned for lack of contact, we all decided to revive the project. In fact, we also recruited three other students to assist with the final and more formal processes. Wang Lingke (Angel) was brought in to motivate and assist with the academic poster and Yuyang Ding (Leo) assisted with translations for all of the materials, including the bilingual survey.

With the student research day application submitted to present our findings, we raced to create the most appealing and academic poster imaginable. In fact, adding a few extra hands helped to get the poster completed by the deadline for the April 28 poster content. We narrowed our findings into specific categories, including introduction, key findings, future implications, data analysis, conclusion, plus the references and the survey questions via QR codes. Of course, we matched the official colors of Kean University as well. With over 100 poster entries, we were thrilled to have earned 7th place.

Even though the group was happy with the results of the poster contest, most were tired of the demands of added work on top of regular school assignments, therefore, the students opted not to pursue the project any further. However, Danny and I wanted to take the research project one step further, so we applied and were accepted to the Pan-Pacific Association of Applied Linguistics (PAAL) conference. To encourage more student-teacher collaboration, we invited Xie Chentao (Andrew) to present the results of the survey while we focused on the research content.

All in all, the process of research was long, at times arduous, but always meaningful. The collaboration with both a colleague and students enhanced the overall quality, as well as

motivation at each step. The topic itself was interesting, which helped everyone keep focused. If you are ever wondering whether to research or not, I say give it a try!



Curriculum Committee Introduction:

Submitted by Mieke Paulsen-Bahmer

Hello all!

Welcome back to Fall 2021! If you've got questions about the CLA curriculum... well, I'm the one who's supposed to have the answers. We're still getting our feet under us, since we just got started last Spring, but here's what we've got for you so far:

- ❖ Easy-access four-year plans for advisors, advisees, and anyone else who wants to know what your students are supposed to be doing each year will be made available by mid-September (if not before).
- ❖ Course outline requests for teaching: currently this still has to be done through the Dean's office. If/when this changes, I'll let you know!
- ❖ Questions about curriculum and all the things we can (and can't) do from here: miekeb@wku.edu.cn (that's me).
- ❖ Want to get involved? Let me know!

Here's to another busy but productive semester. You are all amazing and wonderful people, and I'm glad to be able to rub shoulders with you!

Best,

Mieke Paulsen Bahmer,

WKU CLA Curriculum Committee Chair

Editor's Note: Submit to next month's issue

Submitted by [Erin Schwartz](#)

Hello CLA faculty, returning and new! Welcome to this first edition of the CLA faculty newsletter for Fall 2021. As a reminder to the returning faculty and a notice to the new members, this newsletter is published monthly (more or less) and is a place for us to share news, updates, achievements, or even tips and tricks and fun facts with the rest of the College. We come from diverse backgrounds, have varied experiences in education, and span multiple disciplines, let's share our knowledge, accomplishments, and ideas. In the hectic flow of the semester it's easy to lose track of what's happening in our corner of WKU. This newsletter is meant to help us stay connected to one another.

By way of introduction to our new faculty, I'm the newsletter editor, any questions about content or when/how to submit should be directed to me (preferably via email). I teach Art History and am in GEH almost everyday, you can say hi in my office, B217.

I invite all CLA faculty to participate in next month's newsletter. Let us know what new class you're teaching. Tell us about something you did over the summer. Interesting research? New publications? Ideas for how to engage students and support them in these difficult and changing times? Any events for students or faculty you want to announce? Information to share? The newsletter comes out at the beginning of each month, a great opportunity to give a heads-up on events! Please submit to next month's issue! (Articles that include photos are welcome, please be sure you have the rights to the photo, or are the owner of the image.)

To do so, please upload your article to the Google folder linked below. You will need to be logged in with your Kean email address to access the folder. Please be sure your name is clearly written on the document so I know who to credit it to.

To be included in the next issue, (published the first week of October-after the National Holiday, probably) please upload to the Google folder by **Thursday, September 30**.

October 2021 issue:

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bD-S50rRRGYbxcOURv7y_0uNne3CvLnny?usp=sharing

Want to see previous issues? PDFs of last semester's newsletter issues can be found here:

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1Yn8gxX-rTu2G-0XnVaGaPaw3wcYCVhqp?usp=sharing>