“Narratives from the Hinterland” Project Goes to Northwest and South of China

After the completion of the inaugural program at Inner Mongolia University, the Ricci Institute has reached agreements with two other universities in China for the second and third programs as part of the newly launched Narratives from the Hinterland Project. The project aims to promote study of Christianity in Chinese-Western cultural history at universities in remote provinces of China.

The second program will be held at Lanzhou University in Lanzhou, Gansu Province. It will cover the northwest region of China. The third will be held at Yunnan Nationalities University in Kunming, Yunnan Province, which will cover South China. The Ricci Institute will also welcome visiting scholars next year from these universities.

Upcoming Event

Lecture and Book Signing presented by Dr. Florence Hsia, University of Wisconsin

Sojourners in a Strange Land: Jesuits and Their Scientific Missions in Late Imperial China

Tuesday, March 30, 2010 • 5:45 p.m.
Fromm Hall, University of San Francisco
Free and open to the public
For information, call: (415) 422-6401 or visit: www.ricci.usfca.edu

Friends of Ricci and San Jose Chinese Catholic Community Co-sponsor “Christianity Beyond the Great Wall” Lecture

On the evening of August 26, 2009, Dr. Wu Xiaoxin of the Ricci Institute accompanied Fr. Joseph Jiang of Boston College, Prof. Sudebilige of Inner Mongolia University, and Dr. Wang Yi of the University of Chicago and visited the San Jose Chinese Catholic Community to present a lecture with the Friends of Ricci, “Christianity beyond the Great Wall.”

Prof. Sude shared his research on the development of the Catholic Church in Inner Mongolia during the past 100 years with moving stories of over 1,000 Catholic clergy in this region of desert and grassland. Over seventy people attended the meeting and were involved in a lively discussion with Prof. Sude after the lecture. The evening ended with the singing of a Mongolian folk song by Prof. Sude. (By Irene Tang)
The Ricci Institute Awards Four Chinese Doctoral Students 2009 – 2010 Malatesta Scholarship

Thanks to the continuing support of members of Friends of Ricci, the Ricci Institute is able to award four Chinese doctoral students the 2009–2010 Malatesta Scholarship. The scholarship honors the memory of Rev. Edward J. Malatesta, S.J, founding director of the Ricci Institute, for his contributions to the history of Chinese-Western cultural exchange, and to promote research by Chinese scholars on topics related to the history of Christianity in China. These four scholars are:

LIN Jianping, Center for the Study of East-West Cultural Exchange, Central China Normal University, Wuhan. Mr. Lin is planning to use his scholarship to collect materials for his doctoral dissertation entitled “Comparative Studies on the Response of Christianity to Societies in China and Korea during the 1920s–1930s.”

LIU Fang, Department of Sociology, Shanghai Fudan University. The scholarship will enable Mr. Liu to further his research on rural Catholicism and lineage society in Hebei Province, China.

YANG Xiongwei, History Department, Shanghai University. Mr. Yang’s doctoral dissertation will explore a religious case in Nanchang, Jiangxi Province, which led to a change of attitude of French Catholic missionaries working in this region.

ZENG Zhihui, History Department, Sun Yat-Sen University, Guangzhou. With the Malatesta Scholarship, Mr. Zeng is planning to conduct further research for his dissertation on the development of Catholicism in the mountain regions of Guangxi Province during the late Qing and early Republican Eras.

Support the Friends of Ricci and pass this newsletter to a new friend

The Friends of Ricci requests its members to make their annual contribution to the Ricci Institute, and pass this newsletter on to a friend.

For more information on how to become a member, please contact us at 415 422-6401, on the web: www.ricci.usfca.edu, or via e-mail at: ricci@usfca.edu. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Ricci Institute Library Recent Acquisition


This newly acquired book by the Ricci Institute Library contains a collection of Chinese documents from Franciscan, Jesuit, Vatican and other archives in Europe. It provides a glimpse of rarely seen imperial memorials issued from the throne concerning the Catholic Church in China. This punctuated and annotated edition primarily covers the years of increasing persecution (1723–1785). Despite the title, it also includes several memorials from the Jiaqing and Daoguang periods. The publication is supported by the Ricci Institute.

Friends of Ricci invites its members to continue their annual contributions to this important scholarship endowment so that more students may benefit from it.