USF Ricci Institute Celebrates the 400th Anniversary of Matteo Ricci’s Passing

Matteo Ricci, who died in Beijing four hundred years ago this year, was an extraordinary man who dedicated his life to bringing the Christian faith to the Chinese people and laid the foundation for cross-cultural exchange between China and the West. To celebrate his legacy, the Ricci Institute organized a series of events on the campus of the University of San Francisco. These events included public lectures on the life of Ricci, California mission art and the Pacific Rim, an art exhibit “Galleons and Globalization,” a rare-book exhibit “Early Missionary Printing in Asia and the Americas,” and an international symposium “Legacies of the Book: Early Missionary Printing in Asia and the Americas.” The exhibits are free to the public and remain open until December 17. For more information, please visit the website: http://www.usfca.edu/library/thacher/

San Jose Chinese Catholic Community Visits the exhibit “Galleons and Globalization” at USF

On November 13, 2010, about 30 members from the San Jose Chinese Catholic Community visited the Ricci Institute and the art exhibit “Galleons and Globalization” at the University of San Francisco. Co-sponsored by the Ricci Institute, the exhibit explores the lively commerce in iconography, materials, and ideas that shaped California’s rich mission arts, presenting more than 150 objects dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries that exemplify the rich cultural interchange among missions in the Philippines, Macau, China, Japan, Mexico, Peru, Paraguay, Baja and Alta California. It also includes very early imprints from Japan, China, the Philippines, Mexico, and Peru in theology, philosophy, language, astronomy, and cartography that are related to missionary activities in these regions dating from the 16th to the 19th centuries.

New Member of the Friends of Ricci Executive Committee

The Friends of Ricci Executive Committee recently welcomed Dr. Gabriel Lai (賴永平) as its newest member. Dr. Lai is from the Bay Area and was a member of the Watermark group of the San Jose Chinese Catholic Community. After his graduation from UC Berkeley in molecular & cellular biology, he continued his education at Johns Hopkins Bloomberg School of Public Health in Maryland and received his doctoral degree in Epidemiology in 2009. Dr. Lai and his wife now live in Maryland and are active members of the local Chinese Catholic community.

The Ricci Institute at the University of San Francisco Center for the Pacific Rim
2130 Fulton St., LM 280 • San Francisco, CA 94117-1080
Tel: 415 422 6401 • E-mail: ricci@usfca.edu • www.ricci.usfca.edu • www.pacificrim.usfca.edu
Following the Footsteps of Matteo Ricci

Alice Chan, a member of Friends of Ricci, undertook a trip to China during the summer of 2010 following the path of Matteo Ricci 400 years ago. Named “The Journey of Matteo Ricci,” the trip was organized by Friends of Jesus Passover (FOJP), an international organization based in Hong Kong for lay Catholics. Twenty-eight young people from different parts of the world joined the tour. The purpose of the trip was to experience the life and legacy of Matteo Ricci with appreciation and inspiration.

From July 31 to August 9, the group visited nine cities in China, beginning in Macao and ending in Beijing, places where Matteo Ricci studied and worked from 1582 to 1610. When asked what impressed her the most as the result of her nine-day journey, Alice reflected, “I can think of two words that may best described my experience. The first word is ‘adaptation.’ Ricci came to China as a missionary. He tried his best to adapt his life and work to the Chinese environment, thus winning high respect from the Chinese people. The second word is ‘dream.’ Throughout his life in China, Ricci experienced many difficulties, but he continued his journey and never gave up his dream. And his spirit inspires us to continue his dream.”

Librarian’s Corner

The Ricci Institute recently made a new library acquisition: 清廷三大實測全圖集 (Complete Illustrated Collection of the Three Great Atlases of the Qing Court). It consists of a series of maps produced through the collaboration of Chinese and Jesuit cartographers and engravers during the 18th century. First commissioned by the Kangxi emperor and presented to the throne in 1718, this massive work was the most authoritative atlas of the Chinese empire for the next two centuries. The succeeding emperors Yongzheng and Qianlong each ordered their own dominions be charted in similar manner. These maps served the political aims of three major Qing emperors, and provide an important resource for study of the period.

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: ricci@usfca.edu. Contributions are tax-deductible.

Ricci Institute Welcomes Visiting Scholars from the “Hinterland” of China

“Narratives from the Hinterland” is a new project initiated by the Ricci Institute in 2009. The project aims to promote the study of Christianity in China at universities in remote provinces of China. From the 16th to the mid-20th centuries, more than 50,000 Western missionaries lived and worked in China. Many of these missionaries worked in remote southwest, northwest, and northeast regions of China.

In addition to sponsoring two educational and research programs in Gansu and Yunnan Provinces this year, the Ricci Institute also invited two scholars from those provinces for research in the U.S. Prof. Chen Shengbo is from Lanzhou University. His research focuses on the life and mission of William W. Simpson, an American missionary in Gansu Province in the early 20th century. Prof. Sun Haoran is from Yunnan Nationalities University. His research is on the relationship between Western missionaries and minority women in South China.