

# THE BRIM

Single Copy Paid For by Student Publication Fee

www.cca.edu/brim

The University of Central Arkansas Student Newspaper

## China Wind enlightens, educates

BY CARINA ALVAREZ  
Staff Writer

The Chinese Wind Art Exhibit presented by the UCA Confucius Institute is now on view in the Arkansas Educational Television Network (AETN) Atrium until Dec. 30.

The small, but impressive exhibit features 43 traditional and contemporary paintings from faculty and students from East China Normal University.

Celebrating the Confucius Institute's 60th anniversary, faculty members from the Shanghai University traveled more than 24 hours to be present at the opening reception on Nov. 14.

Graduate assistant for the UCA Confucius Institute Robert Kemper said that East China Normal University is a sister college to UCA and that most of the artworks are recent.

The UCA Confucius Institute was founded in 2007. It is the 24th Confucius Institute created in the U.S and the only one in Arkansas. Its mission is to engage and strengthen relations among Arkansasans and Chinese people.

Lance Grahn, Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs, said the exhibit is an illustration of Chinese art and thorough Chinese art, Chinese culture.

"It's a way that we can expand the way our students see and understand China better and emotionally as they react to the

art," Grahn said.

The director of the Confucius Institute professor Guo-ou Zhuang helped translate for Vice Chancellor Fan Jun in his opening speech.

"We brought the paintings and artwork from faculty and students from East China Normal University and we hope our colleagues at UCA, our faculty and students like them," Jun said.

Zhuang explained that the exhibit is part of ECNU's anniversary celebration.

One of the traditional works of art features Wen Zheng's "Late Autumn" piece. The work shows intricate detailing of calligraphy combined with images that takes viewers to an ancient China where pen and paper was sufficient to extend a message of serenity.

A more modern demonstration of art, but not devoid of skill, is Xi Xheng's "Mercury." This painting reflects the vibrant blue hues found in the ocean. Western art relies heavily on oil paintings while Asian painting's richness is found in the detail. "Mercury" tries to find a balance in both by including representations of coral reef as it seems to float in a cool pool of water.

If any piece in the exhibit were to give China Wind its name, it would be "Mercury." The steady strokes of the brush paint a soft and soothing landscape of

tranquility.

"The painting is full of imagery and it is abstract. This is Chinese Wind coming to America," ECNU exchange student Qiong Yao said.

Not all of the paintings however, evoked serenity. An object often used in Western culture is the skull representing death. Seeing a painting of a skull during this exhibit was abnormal. Delving into the occult, one finds that skulls defy life.

Artist Siyao Wu's piece titled "Life" is a juxtaposition of the image created on paper. The skull is made up of trees and mountainous landscapes. From nature destruction occurs. Humanity finds itself constantly causing death. Wu addresses ecological issues through the painting and it invites its viewers to become socially aware.

Li Lei, the Vice Chairman of Shanghai Artists Association has his art exhibited at the AETN Atrium. Zhou Changjiang said there has been a long history exchange between UCA and ECNU and his pieces include "Composition," a comprehensive 1995 painting and "Dynasty Genxiang Fan," a 2010 oil painting.

"Art doesn't need translation. We hope that through this exhibit can come to understand China better," Changjiang said. Admission to the exhibit is free and it will be open Monday through Friday 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.