

# Translators aid U.S.-Sino workshop communications

by Randy Weiler

Mathematical sciences professor Xiaoya Zha and management and marketing associate professor Jinfeng Yue share a common thread in their roles as translators for the June 22-27 U.S.-Sino Workshop on Mathematics and Science Education.

Co-hosted by MTSU and Northwest Normal University in Lanzhou, People's Republic of China, the invitation-only workshop will have the central theme of "Identifying Common Priorities that Promote Collaborative Research."

"Every Chinese faculty member here feels obligated (to help)," Zha said.

"It is my honor and my duty to help the progress in this conference," Yue added.

Obviously, when you merge 50 Chinese higher-education people with 75 from the United States—and math and science are the subject matters—communication could be a problem.

That's where Zha, Yue and a dozen or so faculty members and students enter the picture. They will serve as translators.

Yue even wants to enlist the services of his son David, 10, and daughter Cynthia, 7.

"Both speak both languages," Yue said. "They can help and learn from a conference. This opportunity will give them an impression of how the whole conference is running."

"This is a very important event for both co-hosting universities and both countries that is being partially funded by the National Science Foundation," said Dr. Diane Miller, interim vice provost for academic affairs and MTSU co-chair for the U.S.-

Sino workshop along with Northwest Normal Vice President Deng Hualing.

"While the workshop's language will be English, organizers realize that the visiting Chinese scholars will have varying degrees of proficiency in English. The volunteers will help ensure that the Chinese scholars can fully participate in and benefit from all meetings and events."

In addition to Zha and Yue, who hold doctorates from Ohio State and Washington State University, respectively, Miller said other faculty members have volunteered to serve as translators and to transport Chinese participants from and to the airport in Nashville. They are Drs. Wandi Ding, Dong Hong and Liping Zhang (math); Chong Chen and Yang Zhifu (engineering technology); Amy Xia and Thomas Li-Ping Tang (management and marketing); and Zhijiang Dong (computer science).

Miller said two graduate students, Jia "Grace" Xiaohua and Rong Wang, also are helping her with the project and arranging for a few Chinese students to offer their expertise during the week.

Zha said he is glad to see this math-science collaboration between MTSU and this university from his native country.

"MTSU is doing so much more with undergraduate research, starting Ph.D. programs and the promotion of the research," he said. "The research level is certainly different than 10 years ago. It has provided many opportunities for faculty to develop themselves. This (collaboration) is purely international. It's kind of unique."

Yue said collaborations like this could enhance exchange programs.

"We could exchange faculty and students, and they also could send faculty to MTSU," he said. "In

business programs, we're also looking for opportunities for joint programs in China so we can bring our MBA experience to China."

Grad student Xiaohua will bring familiarity to the workshop. The math education major is an exchange student from Northwest Normal.

"I will be a contact to the Chinese participants, providing workshop information to them and helping them get to MTSU successfully," said Xiaophua, who added that she knows eight Chinese faculty, including her major director, making the trip. "I will be more involved while the Chinese group is here that entire week."

Xiaophua said she will return to China in August and hopes to graduate from NNU in December before embarking on a teaching career.

The opening gala dinner will be held in the James Union Building's Tennessee Room at 5:30 p.m. Sunday, June 22. U.S. Congressman Bart Gordon, an MTSU alumnus, will deliver the opening address.

During the week, four plenary lectures and 48 topic session papers will be given by scholars from both nations. Miller said participants will be divided into working groups to identify common priorities promoting collaborative research.

The event is being funded by the National Science Foundation, Texas Instruments and MTSU's Offices of the President, Executive Vice President and Provost, Vice Provost for Research, the Colleges of Basic and Applied Sciences and Education and Behavioral Science, the Department of Mathematical Sciences, the McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, the Tennessee Mathematics, Science and Technology Education Center, and Paul W. Martin Jr.

## Division's work garners acclaim from statewide PR association

MTSU's Division of Development and University Relations recently brought home seven awards from the Tennessee College Public Relations Association conference at the University of Memphis.

The Office of Publications and Graphics received Silver Awards in the "Reports" and "Print Ads" categories and a Bronze Award in the "College Viewbook" category.

The Office of Marketing Communications received a Silver Award in the "Radio Ad" category and shared credit for the "Print Ads" award.

The Office of News and Public Affairs received a Silver Award in the "Media Success Story" category for "Filling Empty Bookshelves"; a Silver Award in the "Radio/TV Show or Newscast" category for "Convergence Journalism: Media Relations-Meets-Student Learning," which was a segment in the January 2008 "Middle Tennessee Record" TV program that was created, written and produced by NPA and the fall 2007 JOUR 2710 students; and a Bronze Award in the same category for the radio program "MTSU On the Record: Safety and Sanity."

## Senior nontraditional student receives journalism scholarship

MTSU senior Laura Raines of Murfreesboro recently was chosen as the 2008 recipient of the Lisa L. Rollins Journalism Scholarship, which is presented annually to a nontraditional student majoring in mass communication with an emphasis in news-editorial, magazine, electronic media, public relations or media design/graphics.

Raines, 22, received the \$500 award during the College of Mass Communication's 15th Annual Student Awards ceremony. A native of Cleveland, Tenn., Raines received her GED before enrolling in MTSU's mass communication program.

During the fall and spring semesters, she is employed by ARAMARK Food Services.

"(The) Lisa L. Rollins Journalism Scholarship ... allows students like me, with a family, financial assistance for college," Raines said. "(With this scholarship), I will be able to do an internship this summer!"

Rollins, who serves as a part-time journalism professor and as director of special media projects for the Office of News and Public Affairs, established the scholarship in 2004 to assist journalism majors, especially nontraditional learners.

## It's football season-ticket time again in Middle Tennessee

MTSU football season is just around the corner, so don't miss out on every Blue Raider touchdown and tackle.

All regular MTSU employees are eligible for the discounted season tickets. MTSU employees may use payroll deduction to pay for season tickets.

That means that reserved sideline season tickets, regularly \$90 each, will be \$65 each for employees. General admission tickets, which regularly cost \$65 each, are only \$50 for employees. And a Family Fun Zone ticket, which includes a concession coupon booklet, is only \$90 for employees.

Nonemployees can buy season tickets at the following prices:

- reserved sideline tickets, \$90 per person;

- general admission tickets, \$65 per person; and
- Family Fun Zone tickets (including a concession coupon booklet), \$90 per person.

If you are a current season ticket holder and renew by Wednesday, June 18, you will receive one complimentary concession coupon booklet.

And under the new "ADD ONE Campaign," if you add one new season ticket or are becoming a new season-ticket holder, you will receive the official BLACK OUT T-shirt and a MTSU car flag.

For tickets, call the MTSU Ticket Office at 615-898-2103 or renew online at [www.goblueraiders.com](http://www.goblueraiders.com). For more information, contact the marketing office at 615-898-5322.

The Blue Raiders' 2008 football schedule is ready to roll! Clip and save this handy listing; home games are in **BOLD** and Sun Belt Conference games are starred.



### 2008 MT FOOTBALL SCHEDULE

**Aug. 28 TROY (ESPN Regional)**  
**Sept. 6 MARYLAND (KidFEST)**  
Sept. 13 at Kentucky  
Sept. 20 at Arkansas State\*  
**Sept. 30 FLORIDA ATLANTIC\***  
(ESPN2; "Black-Out" night)

Oct. 11 at Florida International\*  
Oct. 18 at Louisville  
Oct. 25 at Mississippi State

**Nov. 8 LOUISIANA-MONROE**  
(Homecoming)\*  
Nov. 15 at Western Kentucky  
**Nov. 22 NORTH TEXAS**  
(Annual Salute to Armed Services/Veterans)\*

Dec. 3 at Louisiana-Lafayette\*  
(ESPN Regional)  
Dec. 19 New Orleans Bowl (ESPN2)