



KENT STATE
UNIVERSITY

Gerald H. Read Center
for International and Intercultural Education

What It Takes To Be International...

Dr. Xiaolu Hu was born in Beijing, China and grew up during the Cultural Revolution, during which her family was moved to farm labor in the countryside hundreds of miles from Beijing. She returned to Beijing on the train with her ill sister at age 12 and was selected among the first group of teachers when they reopened the schools. Xiaolu worked as an elementary and high school teacher in Beijing City Schools from 1970-78. During that time she completed her MA degree and was chosen to be a Professor and Department Secretary of Comparative Education at Beijing Normal University in 1978.

In 1985 Xiaolu was selected as a Visiting Professor from Beijing Normal University by the Gerald Read Center for International and Intercultural Education here at Kent State. Following her visiting scholar stay, she later completed her master's degree in one calendar year! With funding from the College, she entered the doctoral program in the fall, while developing her dissertation proposal with the support of China's Minister of Education involving the 5 key universities in China to train school guidance counselors for the largest public school system in the world.

Xiaolu, however, encountered many complications in doing her intended research. On the morning her dissertation committee met in the Read Room to discuss and approve her dissertation proposal, we watched the proceedings happening on the other side of the globe in Beijing as the young Chinese comrade stopped the column of tanks on the highway to Tiananmen Square waiving the Peoples' flag. Two weeks later Xiaolu was part of the Chinese delegation visiting the US Congress in Washington, DC to obtain legislation to stop the return of Chinese people in the United States on VISAs. As a result of that action her name appeared on the front page of the Beijing newspaper that she brought to Read Center showing she was now wanted as a 'Criminal of the State' and would be imprisoned if she returned. She was removed from her professorship at Beijing Normal University and of course the dissertation research she had planned to pursue through the auspices of China's Ministry of Education was no longer possible.

Since graduation, Xiaolu has been a busy productive, accomplished and sought after professor at San Jose State University (SJSU). Becoming a Full Professor in 8 years, she also served as Department Chair from 200-2012.



Xiaolu is a long term evaluator for the Hong Kong Research Grant Council which advises the Government of Hong Kong on higher education. During her tenure at SJSU, she has authored or co-authored 30 major publications, has been the invited presenter and keynoter for 15 major Educational Conferences in China, and has received 10 Achievement Awards from her University and San Jose community schools.

Xiaolu Hu, EHHS Hall of Fame 2015 International Alumni Award Winner

In the meantime, Xiaolu set a record of obtaining more federal funding than anyone 'ever' at SJSU. In 2008, Xiaolu and a colleague received university recognition for winning the largest grant ever in San Jose State University's history -- \$14,000,000. She has obtained 13 federal grants for their GEAR-UP Program to promote student achievement in the low-income communities in the Silicon Valley to provide educational programs for underprivileged youth. Their GEAR-UP program has achieved a 90% college application rate among high school seniors enrolled in the program.

Xiaolu did not forget her homeland. During her professorship, she has strongly supported international development and exchange programs, arranged numerous delegations of Chinese educators to come to the United States and brought many of her students, colleagues and administrators to China. In the late 1990's, she was awarded a Fulbright Hays Grant by the US Department of Education to bring teachers, counselors and administrators to China for training in cultural awareness. She has taken her students to China for study abroad multiple times. At the behest of the Chinese Government, Xiaolu was responsible for a university-wide team of students to visit China. After the 2008 China Sichuan earthquake, she led San Jose State faculty to provide crisis counseling and training at Southwest China Normal University in Chongqing, China.

The Story Edited from Dr. Ansel L. Woldt

International Education Week 2015

International Education Week Empowers, Advocates, Celebrates, and Honors

Empowers: Diwali and \$500 gift to Indian students

Advocates: Refugees around the world and in NE Ohio

Celebrates: International Baccalaureate and Kent State Partnerships

Honors: Fulbright students and future Fulbright scholars



Join The Gerald H. Read Center to Celebrate International Education Week!

Indian Celebration of Diwali: A Festival of Lights

Sunday November 15, 7:00pm-10:00 pm

Cartwright Hall Auditorium

Join Kent Indian Student Association to celebrate Diwali, the festival of lights coming straight from ancient Hindu in modern era. Enjoy traditional music and performances spiced with authentic Indian food.

Refugees: A Journey from Despair to Hope

Walk the trail of despair of actual refugees and celebrate with them as your neighbors here in Ohio.

Monday & Tuesday, November 16-17, 9:00 am-8:00 pm

White Hall Second Floor Room 200

This two day event (Monday and Tuesday) will feature an art installation and programs where you can experience learn about the rapidly growing problem of displaced persons and refugees globally, investigate career paths of making difference with refugees worldwide, "break bread" with refugee families, and help shape a welcoming community for the next wave of refugees in our communities.

Refugee 101

Monday November 16, 9:00 am-10:00am

White Hall Room 200

Local experts from resettlement agencies will discuss the legal status of refugees in the world community, the impact globally and locally. Join in the "class," Refugee 101, and be in the first in your group to experience the personal journey from despair to hope.

Do You Want to Make a Difference?

Monday November 16, 12:00pm-1:00pm

White Hall 200

Learn how various career paths can lead you to working with refugees locally or globally. Legal advisors, English as a Second language teachers, career and work force development aides, resettlement workers, nurses, and even a fine arts major will talk

about their career paths in working with refugees here in Akron and Cleveland or abroad. Then experience the walk through despair to hope yourself.

Personal Journeys from Nepal and Myanmar

Tuesday November 17, 12:00pm-1:00pm

White Hall Room 200

Join us for lunch and the personal journeys of actual refugees living in our neighborhoods. Lunch from the Napali Kitchen. Experience the personal journey by actual walking from despair to hope.

What Next for NE Ohio? Creating a Welcoming Community

Tuesday November 17, 4:00pm-5:00pm

White Hall Room 200

Help us close our installation, by being the last of the Kent community to take the journey from despair to hope. Celebrate with us as we gather together with community leaders to welcome the next wave of newcomers to our communities.

Creating Critical Learners Worldwide: Why?

Wednesday November 18, 7:00pm- 8.30 pm

KIVA Kent Student Center

Gerald H. Read Distinguished Lecture Series: **Dr. Siva Kumari**, Director General of International Baccalaureate World Schools, Geneva Switzerland

So You Want to be a Fulbright?

Thursday November 19, 3:30pm-5:00pm

White Hall Room 200

Come and meet the Fulbright scholar students who are here at Kent State, and learn how you too can be a Fulbright scholar! Students, graduate students and faculty can all apply for Fulbright scholarships. This session will provide social interaction with actual Fulbright Scholars, and offer a panel to help you the application process.

For more information on International Education Week events, visit: <https://www.kent.edu/globaleducation/iewcalendar>