Setting the Bar High: Pathways for Achieving Highly Advanced Linguistic Proficiency & Cultural Competence

Dr. Madeline K. Spring
(Arizona State University)
Friday, April 4, 2014, 3-4 PM, Moore Hall 258

This talk contextualizes the challenges faced by modern language programs as they try to address the national demand for increased numbers of students who are globally competitive across a wide range of disciplines. In offering ways to develop an articulated curriculum that includes content-based instruction delivered in the target language, the speaker will present an overview of best teaching practices in Chinese Language Flagship Programs across the country. Specifically, the presentation will discuss results and challenges of the Chinese Flagship Program at Arizona State University, which began in 2007. In addition to data about the ASU Flagship, proficiency gains in all Chinese Language programs will be considered. Issues of assessment and sustainability in programs such as Flagship will also be addressed, as well approaches to facilitating students’ understanding of in-depth intercultural communication and enhanced familiarity with canonical knowledge, i.e., core aspects of the Chinese literary, historical, and philosophical traditions.

Dr. Madeline K. Spring (司马德琳) is Professor of Chinese at Arizona State University, where she serves as director of the ASU Chinese Language Flagship, director of Chinese Flagship/ROTC Pilot Program, director of the ASU Confucius Institute, and director of the Chinese Language Program in the School of International Letters and Cultures (SILC). Her research interests are divided between medieval Chinese literature (especially Six Dynasties to Tang prose and rhetoric) and current issues in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (TCFL). In that area her focus is on curricular design and implementation, content-based instruction, intercultural communication, and online communities.

The talk is open to the public, and light refreshments will be served.

For further information, please contact Sang Yee Cheon (scheon@hawaii.edu) or Haidan Wang (haidan@hawaii.edu).