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7-7-2013

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Recommended Citation

Purnell, Deborah A., "Weixing Chen Named New Chair of Public Policy Leadership" (2013). *University of Mississippi News*. 6775.

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Weixing Chen Named New Chair of Public Policy Leadership

International lecturer and author sets high goals for UM program to become nationally prominent

JULY 7, 2013 BY DEBORAH A. PURNELL



OXFORD, Miss. – Weixing “Mark” Chen joins the faculty of the University of Mississippi this fall as the new chair of the Department of Public Policy Leadership.

He brings to the department experience with university administration, establishing international partnerships and educational programs, and his teaching and research specializations in public policy, international relations and Chinese politics, with an emphasis on Chinese leadership.

“The public policy leadership is a unique program,” Chen said. “My goal is to make it a primary undergraduate program in the South and the nation that attracts and educates/trains future leaders, and one that provides a public forum in partnership with the Lott Leadership Institute for public policy leadership issues.”

Rich Forgette, senior associate dean of the College of Liberal Arts and a professor of political science, praised Chen’s experience and insights.

“Professor Mark Chen brings a wealth of administrative, academic and international experience to the University of Mississippi,” Forgette said. “Professor Chen served as a department chair at his former institution. He has also written and taught extensively about leadership from a global perspective. We are excited to have him lead our Department of Public Policy Leadership in new directions.”

Before coming to UM, Chen was professor of political science and chair of the Department of Political Science, International Affairs and Public Administration at [East Tennessee State University](#), where he was honored with the ETSU Distinguished Faculty Award for Research. He also has served as a visiting professor or lecturer at six universities in Asia.

Chen earned a bachelor’s degree in English and literature in 1982 from [Shandong University](#) in China, a master’s in international relations in 1986 from the College of International Relations in Beijing and a doctorate in political science in 1992 from [Northern Illinois University](#).

The [Department of Public Policy Leadership](#) at UM provides an interdisciplinary curriculum that incorporates geography, political science, economics, philosophy, psychology and history. The program emphasizes the global nature of responsible decision making, the ethical imperatives of leadership, critical thinking and communication skills, and the quantitative skills necessary for careful policy analysis.

The [Trent Lott Leadership Institute](#) at UM identifies talented young people and prepare them for leadership positions in the state and nation.

FILED UNDER: [COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS, IN PROGRESS](#)

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Campus Briefs

Donations Sought for 25th Annual Books and Bears Program

OXFORD, Miss. – The University of Mississippi is asking the community to help spread a little joy this holiday season by donating to the 25th annual Books and Bears program. Donations such as toys, books, dolls, bicycles and other children’s play items are being accepted through Dec. 14. All donations will be collected and sorted

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Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship Aims to Build Leaders

OXFORD, Miss. – Twenty-five inaugural recipients of the Mississippi Excellence in Coaching Fellowship – a program hosted by the University of Mississippi School of Education in partnership with the Mississippi Association of Coaches and the Mississippi High School Activities Association – are expected to increase their impact on student-athletes and their communities. The coaching fellowship

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Ole Miss In the News

Clarion-Ledger: New Essay Collection Tells the Story of Meredith’s Enrollment

Essays celebrate 60th anniversary of James Meredith’s enrollment at University of Mississippi By Lauren Rhoades Oct. 1 marks the 60th anniversary of James Meredith’s 1962 enrollment at the University of Mississippi as the school’s first African-American student.

“James Meredith: Breaking the Barrier,” a collection of essays edited by UM professor of journalism Kathleen Wickham, honors this historic milestone with

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