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HUMANITIES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

IN THIS ISSUE:

A new after-school program that's bringing hands-on environmental education to elementary school children; an enlightening student trip to Tokyo; and honoring John Ying, the man who launched Rose-Hulman's bachelor's degree in economics a half-century ago.



RHIT Helps After-school Program Transform Terre Haute Neighborhood at its Roots

Ryves Up!, a new after-school program for Terre Haute elementary school kids, is big rewards and a lot of fun.

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Ying's Legacy

The year 2017 has been a poignant year for the economics program. On a proud and happy note, this year marks the fiftieth anniversary of Rose-Hulman's undergraduate degree in economics. On a sad note, Dr. John Ying, our former colleague and the driving force behind starting the degree, passed away in June at age 84.

For more than three decades, between 1963 and 1995, Dr. Ying was an outstanding teacher, receiving the Dean's Outstanding Teacher Award in 1972 and laying the foundation for the Institute's programs in economics, entrepreneurship, engineering management and global studies.

In a 2007 interview, Dr. Ying said offering a B.S. in economics at Rose-Hulman is important because it provides an alternative to engineering and science for students. He noted there were "exceptionally bright" students who discovered they did not want to pursue a career in engineering and "yet they valued a Rose education. Creating the economics degree gave those students a chance to stay and earn a Rose degree."

In addition to a degree in economics, the department offers a second major in economics

and a minor in economics. These courses have given Rose-Hulman students the opportunity to use mathematics and their analytical, problem-solving skills in a discipline different from engineering and science. The economic courses complement many of the other department's course offerings that develop students' business acumen.

Dr. Ying was the first educator with an economics doctorate hired by the Institute. He received a B.A. in economics from National Taiwan University in 1955 and a Ph.D. in economics from the University of Minnesota in 1963. He was awarded emeritus status upon his retirement in 1995.

To honor Dr. Ying's memory and to continue his legacy of teaching excellence, the Institute and his family have created The Ying Endowment Fund. Students and friends of Dr. Ying may contribute to the fund at rovestem.rose-hulman.edu/YingFund.



Students Enjoy a Taste of Tokyo

Tokyo's signature blend of traditional and contemporary culture provided a rich educational canvas for a small group of Rose-Hulman students during a 10-day tour of the Japanese capital.

Dr. Paul Christensen and Dr. Maki Hirotani accompanied nine students to the city, capping off a jointly taught course offered last spring. The students were well prepared for the journey with a strong knowledge of local history, neighborhoods, geography, people, religions and sites. While there, they made their own guidebook on Tokyo.

On the first day together they visited major sightseeing spots, while learning basic survival skills, such as how to order food and how to use the world's most-developed subway system. From the second day forward, they explored the city individually and as a group to complete many projects that they had started in the spring. The students stayed at a traditional Japanese inn during their visit.

The trip also included an architecture tour, including both traditional and contemporary sites, and a professional baseball game. Among all their activities, the individual outings seemed to be the most exciting for many students. They enjoyed exploring both traditional culture, such as centuries-old gardens, and contemporary culture, such as skyscrapers and Akihabara – the famous electric town. From their classroom learning, the students arrived in Japan fully aware of Tokyo's rich mixture of traditional and contemporary culture; however, they were thrilled to actually see and experience this firsthand. Both students and instructors had a wonderful time!

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"The calling of the humanities is to make us truly human in the best sense of the word."
~J. Irwin Miller