

# 文藻外語大學公共關係室剪報表格

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Three SIU students are in Taiwan studying Chinese language and culture at Wenzao University and teaching English to K-12 students. The SIU students, Jacque “Mina” DeVilliers, second from left, and Tyler Barnfield and Andrew Manier far right, are shown with faculty from Wenzao University holding Chinese calligraphy. (Photo provided) (Photo provided)



Wan-Jun Wu, (seated, center right) is a visiting instructor at SIU from Taiwan, funded by the Tain Huayu BEST Program. She teaches Chinese to SIU students and also leads a Chinese Table, which provides language practice opportunities and cultural activities for students. (Photo provided)

## SIU students participating in valuable language, cultural exchange program with Taiwan

by Christi Mathis

CARBONDALE, Ill. — Three Southern Illinois University Carbondale students are enjoying a rare immersive international learning experience in Taiwan, and additional Salukis could soon be part of it. SIU is one of just 23 institutions of higher learning in the United States, along with 10 leading Taiwanese universities, chosen to participate in the inaugural year of the Taiwan Huayu Bilingual Exchanges of Selected Talents (BEST) Program.

A Taiwan Ministry of Education grant supports a visiting instructor to teach at SIU, provides scholarships to enable SIU students to study the Chinese language and culture in Taiwan while also teaching language to younger children, and funds other efforts to promote cultural exchange and enrichment.

“This really is a wonderful opportunity for Salukis to learn, grow and experience something special,” said Shu-Ling Wu, associate professor, head of the Chinese section and director of the Foreign Language and International Trade Program in the School of Languages and Linguistics and the grant administrator. “SIU is honored to be selected among the first group of U.S. universities, along with top-tier schools such as Harvard, MIT, Duke, Purdue and University of Illinois for this program. Mandarin Chinese is the most widely spoken language in the world. Despite any tensions between the U.S. and China in recent years, we cannot underestimate the close economic ties between the two countries and the increasing presence of Chinese-speaking regions in the world, so it’s important to work to understand one another’s cultures and languages.”