Wei-Ping Pan Retirement

VFTH

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One of WKU’s most revered researchers is retiring after 27 years of service.

Amy Bingham has more on the impact of Dr. Wei-Ping Pan in this week’s View from the Hill.

Dr. Pan is an international leader in clean coal technology. His “can do” attitude and passion for solving problems continues to pay enormous dividends to Western Kentucky University.

Lab number four opened this week at the Institute for Combustion Science and Environmental Technology, also known as ICSET.

“I set up a goal, I would like to create a laboratory every five to ten years.”

And that’s exactly what Dr. Wei-Ping Pan has done since arriving on campus as an assistant chemistry professor in 1986.

 “I accomplished my goal, the university give me lots of platform specifically with applied research. I like that.”

It’s the kind of research that benefits us all by improving the environment.

 “We want to have clean air, so that’s my goal. All my labs relate to make as much clean air we can.”

The thermal analysis lab has even been replicated at a top Chinese university, thanks to Dr. Pan’s expertise and efforts to secure funding.

 “I’ve seen few scholars that are able to close deals and generate resource grants and contracts for our clean coal technology labs the way Wei-Ping can do, both in the US and China.”

Three years ago President Ransdell asked Dr. Pan to take on an additional role….as head of the Confucius Institute.

6:04 “It’s having a great impact but that impact is due in large part to Wei-Ping’s influence and skills with the Chinese Education ministry.”

A retirement dinner earlier this week was a chance to reminisce and celebrate his career. :51 “I appreciate the university and especially the chemistry department and Ogden College who rescued me from bitter cold of Montana and Northern Michigan 27 years ago.”

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Dr. Pan is originally from Taiwan but came to the U.S. in 1980.

He has been named one of China’s top one thousand experts in science and technology.

With this week’s View from the Hill, I’m Amy Bingham.