

Ke Peng, WKU Professor of Chinese

By: Cody M. Smith

Written: Spring 2022

“My advice for students studying a language is, number one: be open minded. Number two: be bold, make mistakes.”



Dr. Ke Peng is an associate professor of Chinese on the Hill and director of the [WKU Chinese Flagship Program](#), a federally funded intensive Chinese language and culture program that leads to superior levels of proficiency on the ACTFL scale. In Spring 2022, she is teaching CHNF 430 (Chinese Culture) and CHNF 450 (Classical Chinese) which she finds interesting because there are students in these courses from different backgrounds such as psychology, biology, political science, Asian religions and cultures, etc.

Dr. Peng says that in retrospect, she believes she was always meant to be a teacher; during her childhood, she would write on a chalkboard and teach her neighbors different subjects. This impacted the trajectory of her life and today Dr. Peng sees herself as a guide to connect students with language and culture. Over the years, she feels that her teaching philosophy has evolved and believes that you must come to know the student first before imparting new knowledge. Currently, Dr. Peng continues her journey in teaching by working on a Chinese textbook for advanced learners.

Dr. Peng said there are a variety of things she is excited about in WKU Modern Languages. New leadership and more recruitment are two things she is excited about. She hopes more students will take part in modern language studies. She also enjoyed the recent Chinese New Year celebration in which many clubs and activities were involved. She also looks forward to the Chinese Spring Symposium that features students of the [WKU Chinese Major](#) and Chinese Flagship Programs. Moreover, she looks forward to the remaining Spring 2022 [WKU Chinese Club](#) events, of the which she is the advisor. One of these events will be the Chinese Calligraphy Exhibition, featuring students' work in the Chinese calligraphy Colonnade course.

When speaking with WKU Modern Languages about her advice for language students she said, “My advice for students studying a language is, number one, be open minded. Number two, be bold, make mistakes.” Dr. Peng realizes the importance of communicating in the classroom and encourages her students to speak as much as possible. She also told us that her students would describe her as “a mentor, in language and course of study, but one that influences people positively with an impact on their growth.” WKU Modern Languages is happy to have Dr. Ke Peng as a part of the faculty and we look forward to her continued contributions to our department.

