

THE CHINA CONNECTION

By Cathee Phillips 1999



Payne Hall at Hwa Nan College in Fuzhou, Fujian Province, China, was modeled after Lewis Hall and/or Charles City Hall.

The Morningside College Choir China Performance Tour will take place May 12-25, 2008, and alumni and friends are invited to come along. The sight-seeing will be amazing: the Great Wall of China; the Qin Dynasty terra cotta warriors; the Forbidden City; and more. The choir will serve as Sioux City's official ambassadors to the country, and touring with the choir as it gives six concerts in the cities of Guangzhou, Xi'an, Beijing, and Shanghai will be a once-in-a-lifetime experience.

But, as if the sights and sounds weren't enough enticement to travel to the People's Republic of China, there is another reason to join the May 2008 trip, one that is based firmly in Morningside's roots.

"The trip to China carries great significance for Morningside College," said President John Reynders. "We are following in the footsteps of the college's second president, Bishop Lewis, and alumni

who traveled to China a century ago. Their legacy still endures a century later, and we are looking forward to renewing these historic ties."

MORNINGSIDE'S LEGACY IN CHINA



Lydia Trimble Morningside's early connections with China centered on two people in particular: Dr. Wilson Seely Lewis (1857-1921), who served as a bishop to China, and **Lydia Trimble 1904**, who was one of the founders of the first women's college in China.

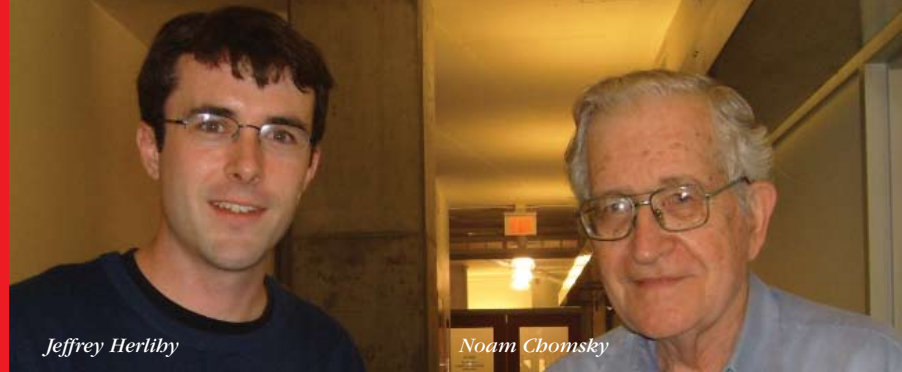
In 1908, after more than a decade of service to Morningside, Lewis was elected Bishop to China by the Methodist Episcopal Church. He traveled to Foo Chow, today known as Fuzhou, in China's Fujian Province, and served eight years there and four years in Shanghai. He returned to the United States in 1921, due to failing health. He was known in China for working to improve the church's educational institutions and empowering the churches to be self-dependent. Under his leadership,

church membership more than tripled, from 22,000 to 77,000, by 1920.

As Bishop Lewis was preparing to travel to China, **Trimble** was about to realize her dream of establishing the first women's college in China. With the support of the Women's Foreign Ministry Society of the Methodist Episcopal Church, the Hwa Nan College of Letters and Sciences opened its doors in the city of Foo Chow. The first step in establishing the college was to open the College Preparatory School in January 1908, in order to prepare the students for college-level work.

Trimble served as the first president of Hwa Nan. **Ida Belle Lewis 1909**, daughter of Bishop Lewis, and **Lucy Wang 1921**, served as the college's second and third presidents. Trimble's nephew, the **Rev. Fred Trimble 1911**, oversaw the construction of Hwa Nan's Payne Hall, which was completed in 1914. According to the Aug. 19, 1962, issue of the *Sioux City Journal*, this hall and another building were modeled after the main buildings on Morningside's campus—except for the "upswept Orient-type roof."

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Jeffrey Herlihy

Noam Chomsky

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When the Chinese Communist Party came into power in 1949, the college merged with three other institutions, which formed Fuzhou National College, later to become Fujian Teacher's University. Not quite 40 years later, in 1985, Hwa Nan alumni and teachers came together and founded the Fujian Hwa Nan (Huanan) Women's College in Fuzhou. Now commonly referred to as the "new Hwa Nan," it remains the only private women's college in China.

THE LEGACY LIVES ON TODAY

Today Hwa Nan College serves more than 2,000 women and offers programs in applied English and translation; business English and translation; nutrition and food science; family and consumer science; childhood education; clothing, shoe, and cap design; public affairs management; international tourism management; and international economics and trade. The staff, which includes descendants of Trimble, remains proud of the institution's heritage, and the college's Web site proclaims that the college was founded in 1908.

"We are really looking forward to this trip and hope that many alumni and friends will join us. We have a wonderful opportunity to reconnect Morningside to Hwa Nan and to China in a way that will benefit the students of both institutions," said Reynders.

Strengthening Morningside's ties with China has already begun on the home front. Among Morningside's Chinese-born alumni was the late **Betty Ling Tsang 1940**, for whom the new summer fine arts series is named. In 1999, her daughter, Mila Tsang McDermott, established the Betty Ling Tsang Music Scholarship to help other Chinese students attend Morningside. It is hoped that this trip will serve as a catalyst to once again bring Chinese students to the college.

Reynders and his wife, Robin, as well as Gene Ambrosio, director of alumni relations, will be accompanying alumni and students on the tour. For more information about the China Performance Tour, please call the Alumni Relations office at 712-274-5107 or visit the Alumni Relations pages on the college's Web site at www.morningside.edu.

FACULTY MEMBER GETS ONE-ON-ONE INTERVIEW WITH RENOWNED SCHOLAR

By Jenny Welp

Jeffrey Herlihy, assistant professor of modern languages at Morningside College, was granted a one-on-one interview with internationally renowned scholar Dr. Noam Chomsky in September at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in Cambridge.

Chomsky is an institute professor/professor emeritus of linguistics at MIT. He revolutionized modern linguistics, according to Encarta online, when he founded transformational-generative grammar, a system which looks not only at how people use languages but also their innate ability to learn them.

"A private interview session with Noam Chomsky would be a dream come true for many an academic and social activist," said Dr. Gail Ament, professor and chair of modern languages at Morningside. "Chomsky is a giant in the field of linguistics."

Chomsky met one-on-one with Herlihy to discuss Herlihy's doctoral thesis. Herlihy has been studying how the main character in each of Ernest Hemingway's novels is an expatriate engaging in foreign behavior, which, among other things, includes speaking a second language. Herlihy discussed with Chomsky the pros and cons of using a second language to become part of a new culture.

From his perspective as a teacher of Spanish, Herlihy also asked Chomsky about the role cultural study plays in second-language acquisition. Chomsky told him it is vital.

"Doing that analysis of how foreign languages work, how they affect the psychology of a person, and how they affect the sense of self is integral to what I do in the classroom every day," Herlihy said. "Hopefully I'll be able to share what I learned from speaking with Chomsky in my classes."

In addition to Chomsky's work as a linguist, he is also a political activist.

"Chomsky hasn't won a Nobel Prize yet, but he has won just about every other major award the world community extends to intellectuals and activists," Ament said. "Morningside College can be proud that our new colleague, Jeffrey Herlihy, was warmly received by a person of such global stature."

Herlihy accepted a full-time position at Morningside this fall, returning after he served as a visiting instructor at the college in the fall of 2006. He holds a bachelor's degree from Boston College and a master's degree from La Universidad Pompeu Fabra in Barcelona, Spain. He has completed the coursework for a doctorate from La Universidad Pompeu Fabra, and he is now working on his dissertation. Herlihy has spent a total of six years in Spanish-speaking countries since 1999.