

# Department head hopes to explain Chinese philosophy

By BYRON ACOHIDO  
of the Emerald

When Angela Palandri first came to the United States after graduating from the University of Peking in 1946, she planned to learn as much as possible about the American culture, and take this knowledge back to her homeland where she could introduce it to the Chinese people.

She accomplished the first part of her goal, getting a master of arts, master of library science, and doctor of philosophy degrees from the University of Washington. During this time, however, she began to realize that her goals were changing. "Where I would be the most useful to humanity," she said, was in trying to introduce to Americans more of the open-

minded culture that exists in the Orient.

Consequently, Palandri decided to remain in America. She came to the University where she has been an associate professor of Chinese for a total of 13 years, and just recently has been appointed acting head of the Department of Classics, Chinese, and Japanese.

The department is one of the smallest in the University although it has been growing steadily since its initial formation in 1963. The growth has been most noticeable in the Japanese and Chinese sections; interest in the Classics (Greek and Latin) has been tapering off over the years. Palandri thinks that the reason for this is that more Americans with Asian backgrounds are becoming interested in their

native languages. Moreover, with the opening of mainland China, there are more opportunities for travel and work in the Orient than ever before.

Despite this trend, many students who have attempted to master Chinese or Japanese have found it to be quite difficult. Unlike the romance languages—French, Spanish, and Italian—which are four credit hour courses for the first two years, Chinese and Japanese require five credit hours.

"People shouldn't be afraid of the hardship of the languages," said Palandri. "If you think the language is worth studying then your dedication should pull you through," she continued, citing various examples of non-Asian students mastering an Oriental language.

"When I first came to the University there were four or five people in first year Chinese. Now there are over sixty."

Besides teaching the language, Palandri believes strongly that Americans need to be introduced to Oriental literature and culture—more than Orientals to be introduced to Americanism.

"When I first came here I couldn't believe how ignorant Americans were of Oriental culture," said Palandri. "Orientals are much more open-minded and aware of the American culture, whereas Oriental culture has not made much headway in the United States."

Palandri believes that the overall attitude of Americans is one of White supremacy where if an American goes to the Far East he

would expect that it is the native country's duty to know English. She planned to return to China after obtaining her Ph.D. from the University of Washington, but she met American poet and self-styled Confucian, Ezra Pound, who convinced her that she should stay in America and preach the Confucian philosophy of life which emphasizes loyalty, kindness, and filialness.

In her travels throughout the United States, Palandri has found that Americans are "too competitive and impersonal" especially in the big cities where she has encountered cases of open discrimination. She chose Oregon over teaching offers in other sections of the country because she finds Northwesterners friendlier, especially in Eugene.

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