

Terracotta Warriors Reside on Troy Campus **Confucius Institute invites Chinese Culture and its unique oriental charm to Alabama**

Troy University has an aged tie with Terracotta Warriors since its Chancellor Dr. Jack Hawkins' visit to Xi'an and Qin Shihuang Mausoleum several years ago, when he came across the idea of exhibiting terracotta warriors at Troy University, a community where the warrior spirit thrives. With the dedicated effort of Confucius Institute at Troy University (CIT), 200 long-awaited replica terracotta warriors have finally been built in the Janice Hawkins Cultural Arts Park early this winter, making Troy Campus the site of the largest displays of terracotta warriors in America. When the life-size statues of terracotta warriors find their lakeside spot at the amphitheater of Janice Hawkins Cultural Arts Park, the vigorous military prestige of Qin army two thousand years ago has been reproduced today in Alabama, ten thousand miles away from China.

On Nov.3 and 4, Troy University held a grand opening ceremony for the cultural arts park. Dr. Xu, director of CIT and CIT staff were invited to participate the celebration. Nearly five hundred people were present at the opening ceremony, they are politicians, business celebrities, renowned artists, Chinese Americans, professors and student representatives from Troy University and the local media. The Chancellor, Jack Hawkins and his first lady Janice Hawkins made speeches separately. At the ceremony, CIT staff performed wonderful lion dance to entertain guests. The awakening drumbeat resounded over the statues, and rapid beats seem to urge the soldiers armor to battle, like what was described in an ancient Chinese poetry, "Drums are like a tempest pound on four sides and the Yin Mountains shake with the shouts of ten thousand." All visitors felt amazed at the dance.

The founding of the Arts Garden, where East meets West, intersected both cultures at Troy. The distinctive art exhibition highlights world vision of Troy University. The two-hundred solemn Terracotta Army is undoubtedly the biggest bright spot in the Janice Hawkins Cultural Arts Park, which is a strong Chinese element to the International Art Center. When terracotta warriors go abroad and walk into the States, Chinese culture once again bloom in radiant splendor on foreign land, which further expands new channels of Chinese cultural promotion to the outside world.

