

**CHINESE DIPLOMAT XIE FENG TO OPEN
NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON CHINA'S
GLOBAL RISE AT FURMAN APRIL 7-8**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

GREENVILLE, S.C.—As tensions rise between the United States and China over the recent naval confrontation in the South China Sea, Furman University will host a two-day national conference on United States-China Relations April 7-8.

Minister Xie Feng, Deputy Chief of Mission from the Chinese Embassy in the United States, will deliver the opening keynote address on Tuesday, April 7 at 8 p.m. in the Younts Conference Center.

Second only to the Chinese Ambassador, Minister Xie plays an influential role at the Embassy in navigating one of the most important bilateral relationships in the world. The minister, who has a law degree from China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing, has represented the People's Republic of China in a number of diplomatic posts since 1986 and was named to his current post in early 2008.

All conference events will take place in the Younts Center, and are free and open to the public.

The conference will focus on "China's Global Rise: International Relations in an Era of Change" and is being sponsored by the Riley Institute at Furman and the school's Asian Studies Department in association with the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations' Public Intellectuals Program.

Over the course of the two-day conference, leading scholars and policymakers will discuss a wide variety of issues, including the prospects of military conflict in the Taiwan Straits, the rise of Chinese influence throughout Asia, the role of China's military in shaping the nation's foreign policy, Chinese reaction to the economic crisis, factors shaping United States' China policy, and scenarios for dealing with North Korea. Experts may also explore arenas in which further cooperation is needed such areas as environmental protection, combating human trafficking and preventing the spread of pandemic diseases.

On Wednesday, April 8 at the Younts Center the conference will feature two panel discussions and a closing keynote address by Stapleton Roy, former U.S. ambassador to China.

The first panel, held from 3:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., will focus specifically on U.S.-China relations and feature two prominent China experts. Ni Shixiong, professor of international relations at Fudan University's Center for American Studies, is one of the most widely respected scholars in China of the United States and its international relations. Hank Levine, now at Stonebridge International, served for 25 years in the foreign service and has served as both Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia at the US Commerce Department and as Consul General in Shanghai.

China's international relations and security policy will be the subject of discussion from 5 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. Appearing on that panel will be David Finkelstein, director of the China Studies Center at CNA Corp.; Brantly Womack, professor of foreign affairs at the University of Virginia; and Shelley Rigger, professor of East Asian politics at Davidson College. Finkelstein is a retired army officer who has held significant China-related positions at the Pentagon as an advisor to the Secretary of Defense and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. Womack and Rigger are both internationally recognized scholars of China.

Roy, who had a 45-year career with the State Department before retiring in 2001, will close the conference with an address on "China and United States Foreign Policy" at 7:30 p.m. The former ambassador served as the top U.S. envoy in China in 1991-95, and also served as Ambassador to Singapore (1984-86) and Indonesia (1996-99).

For more information on the conference, go to www.rileyinstitute.org or contact the Riley Institute at alexis.sprogis@furman.edu or 864-294-3546.