Maritime Exploration of the Ming Dynasty:  
Chinese Mapped the World Before Columbus

Monday, April 7, 2014  
6:00 PM - 7:00 PM  
CWY Room 109 (ROTC Building)

World Maps
The first world map in Chinese has long been thought to be constructed in 1602 based on European world maps of the 16th century. On careful examination of the map, hundreds of clues indicate that it is actually a map drawn by Ming dynasty Chinese around 1430 (some 60 years before Christopher Columbus). The cartographic evidence is supported by artifacts and cultural relics linking China and pre-Columbian America. Dr. Siu-Leung Lee will present evidence that the Great World Exploration Era was launched by Admiral Zheng He and his fleets in early 15th century. This topic is the subject of Dr. Lee’s two books in Chinese, one rated the second of Ten Best Books in 2013 by Asia Weekly. This lecture is co-sponsored with the USF Department of History.

Guest Speaker
Dr. Siu-Leung Lee earned his B.S. in Biology from the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Ph.D. in Medicinal Chemistry from Purdue University in the United States. He has been a Senior Research Scientist at Battelle Memorial Institute, Columbus, Ohio, and the Associate Director of the Hong Kong Institute of Biotechnology. A chemist by profession, Dr. Lee has been interested in many aspects of Chinese culture, including calligraphy and antiquity. His books about “Chinese mapped the world before Columbus” are described at http://www.asiawind.com.

Upcoming Events
• March 20 (Thursday) at 4:00-5:00 pm: CI Lecture on “China’s Government and Governance: An Australian Perspective” by Prof. Andrew Podger (Australian National University); USF Library Grace Allen Room

• March 21 (Friday) at 10:00 am -1:00 pm: Chinese Bridge Competition for college and high school students: USF Patel Center auditorium

• April 8 (Tuesday) at 11:00 am - 2:00 pm: Chinese Culture Festival; MSC Ballroom (Co-sponsored with the USF Honors College)

A similar lecture (in Chinese: 明代測繪世界, 開拓美洲) is planned for Tampa Bay Chinese American communities on April 6 (Sunday), 3:00-4:30pm, CPR (Cooper Hall) 103.

USF Confucius Institute
The USF Confucius Institute offers Chinese language and culture classes, sponsors events to facilitate cross-cultural understanding, and provides technical support to Chinese language programs at Florida’s K-12 schools. To find out more about the USF Confucius Institute visit: www.global.usf.edu/confucius/.

Check our Facebook Page (USF World) for updates on the 2014 Spring Confucius Institute Lecture Series.