On Friday January 13, 2017, the East Asia Institute hosted an information session on the 2017 Chinese Summer Program at Chang’An University located in Xi’an, China. The information session was presented by Dr. Wei Zhang, Associate Dean of the College of International Education at Chang’An University. Zhang was enthusiastic to discuss the return of the specially designed summer program for UTSA students.

After Dr. Wanxiang Yao, Director of East Asia Institute briefly introduced both the program and Dr. Zhang to the audience, Zhang then began to discuss the details and perks of this particular program.

The program will take place over the course of three weeks, from May 9th-30th, 2017. In this program, the students will earn three credit hours for an undergraduate/graduate course of Chinese culture, which are then transferred back to UTSA.

The fee for this program is $2,150 USD, including airfare, tuition, field trips, room and board on the Chang’An campus.

Chang’An Summer Program has been very successful in previous years--more than 30 students have participated from UTSA. The program takes place in Xi’an, one of the best cities in China to learn about Chinese history.

Xi’an, ancient capital located in the center of the Guanzhong Plain of Northwest China, is home to relics of the past such as the Terracotta Warriors, the Giant Wild Goose Pagoda, Hua Mountain, Muslim Street, and the ancient Bell Tower of Xi’an. Therefore, students can easily connect to Chinese history.

“These landmarks and Xi’an’s history also make it one of the top three popular destinations for tourists in the past 10 years,” according to Zhang. “Students who participate in the Chang’An Program can experience the food of Xi’an and the combination of Chinese cuisine and adopted foods of various cultures from all over the world.” Zhang also added to his statement that he has never had better noodles than the ones prepared in Xi’an, even throughout his travels around the world.

At Chang’ An University, UTSA students will be able to immerse in Chinese culture and participate in
many cultural events. All classes will be taught in English, therefore, no prior knowledge of Chinese is required.

Chang’an University offers Chinese language courses from the beginner level to an advanced level, so students are able to learn the Chinese language while in Xi’an. In addition to the language classes, students will participate in activities such as learning the art of Chinese calligraphy and visiting historical sites.

“There are many other extracurricular activities the student will have the opportunity to participate in, all while interacting with other Chang’an students,” said Dr. Yao.

Yao also mentioned the great opportunities this program has to offer, such as the chance to visit Beijing for four days to experience the capital of China.

For this year’s Chang’an Program, students are able to stay in the newly built dorms on campus. Chang’an University specializes in engineering but offers bachelor’s degrees, master’s degrees, and doctoral degrees in various other fields as well.

At the end of the session, Yao encouraged the students to apply for a scholarship. International Education Fund scholarship is available for UTSA students through the Office of International Programs, which can be used to cover the program fees. 80% of the past qualified applicants usually received financial support ranging from $600 to $1200. The application deadline for this scholarship program is February 15, 2017.

“UTSA hopes to cultivate tomorrow’s global leaders through this type of summer program,” said Yao. “We are, indeed, very honored to be able to collaborate with Chang’an University on this summer program!”