The Chinese language has become popular in American schools, with about 50,000 students nationwide studying Mandarin, the most common Chinese dialect, according to the Los Angeles Times.

This year, Rider added to that number. The University added elementary Mandarin Chinese to the foreign language roster for the first time. Two sections of Chinese I (CHI 100) were offered this semester. This was the right move for Rider to make, according to Dr. Linda Materna, chairperson of the Department of Foreign Languages and Literatures.

"Increasingly, high schools and universities are offering Chinese and Asian Studies, and Rider must also do so to be competitive," said Materna. "We need this to be competitive and to offer our students what they need for successful lives and careers."

The University will remain competitive, as it continues the Chinese program. Next semester, Chinese II (CHI 101) will be offered, and in fall 2007, intermediate courses will be offered — Chinese III (CHI 200) will be available in fall 2007 and Chinese IV (CHI 201) in spring 2008. Enrollment in the Chinese courses has been strong, according to Materna. "Twenty-eight students are enrolled in the Chinese courses," said Materna.

"When I arrived at Westminster as a transfer student last year, I was abashed that there was no music fraternity on the campus," said Olson. "When I [asked] as to why, I was informed no one ever showed an interest before, or if they had, they had not had enough of a drive to actually do it."

Interest in a fraternity was apparent on Monday, Dec. 4, when about 10 male students attended the interest group's first official meeting, which featured Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia Province Governor David Goss. According to Goss, the interest group should gain colony status soon, pending review by the executive director of the national committee. If approved, the group will be the fraternity's New Jersey Gamma Colony.

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According to Goss, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia is a good fit for the students at WCC.

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