



THE UNIVERSITY OF
ALABAMA IN HUNTSVILLE

Office of Research Security Newsletter

May 21, 2018

ORS WISHES EVERYONE A SAFE & RELAXING MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND!

How China Infiltrated U.S. Classrooms

Even as they face criticism, Chinese government-run educational institutes have continued their forward march on college campuses across the United States.

Last year, the University of North Carolina at Charlotte made an announcement to great fanfare: The University would soon open a branch of the Confucius Institute, the Chinese government-funded educational institutions that teach Chinese language, culture and history. The Confucius Institute would “help students be better equipped to succeed in an increasingly globalized world,” says Nancy Gutierrez, UNC Charlotte’s dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, and “broaden the University’s outreach and support for language instruction and cultural opportunities in the Charlotte community,” according to a press release.

But the Confucius Institutes’ goals are a little less wholesome and edifying than they sound—and this is by the Chinese government’s own account. A 2011 speech by a standing member of the Politburo in Beijing laid out the case: “The Confucius Institute is an appealing brand for expanding our culture abroad,” Li Changchun said. “It has made an important contribution toward improving our soft power. The ‘Confucius’ brand has a natural attractiveness. Using the excuse of teaching Chinese language, everything looks reasonable and logical.”

More than a decade after they were created, Confucius Institutes have sprouted up at more than 500 college campuses worldwide, with more than 100 of them in the United States—including at The George Washington University, the University of Michigan and the University of Iowa. Overseen by a branch of the Chinese Ministry of Education known colloquially as Hanban, the institutes are part of a broader propaganda initiative that the Chinese government is pumping an estimated \$10 billion into annually, and they have only been bolstered by growing interest in China among American college students.

To read full article - <https://www.politico.com/magazine/story/2018/01/16/how-china-infiltrated-us-classrooms-216327>

Upcoming Trainings for 2018

Bob Jones Auditorium, Redstone Arsenal:

- August 7, 2018 - 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, Threat Awareness CI
- October 3, 2018 - 11:30 am to 1:00 pm, Threat Awareness CI





Academic Security in the Media - US Disrupts 'Massive and Brazen' Iranian Phishing Scheme, DOJ Says

The US Department of Justice announced that it had indicted Iran's Mabna Institute and nine of the individuals who work for it. The charges include conspiracy to commit computer intrusions, wire fraud, unauthorized access of a computer, and aggravated identity theft.

The Mabna Institute allegedly works as a contractor for Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps. It has, Justice said in a Friday press conference, conducted a lengthy, years-long, and far-flung cyberespionage campaign against targets in some twenty-one countries, including the US. The campaign appears to have been directed toward the theft of technical information and intellectual property.

Some of the information Iran used; some of it Iran sold. The methods the Mabna Institute used in its campaign is interesting. They approached their harder targets by first compromising easier ones. The softer targets, university professors in more than three-hundred institutions around the world, were trawled with a very large phish net.

Some hundred-thousand professors were send spear phishing attacks, and about eight thousands of them were caught. From those compromised individuals the hackers gained access to university credentials and databases. They then used what the FBI called "low and slow password spraying attacks" to move to harder targets in industry and government.

Read Full Article - <https://blog.knowbe4.com/us-disrupts-massive-and-brazen-iranian-phishing-scheme-doj-says>