

Famous journalist to come for conference Lisa Ling to speak of Chinese babies, abandonment

By Nazli Prisk Staff Writer

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Lisa Ling has been seen on The View, National Geographic Channel, Oprah, and, as of Thursday, the NT campus.

Journalist Lisa Ling will be discussing "Abandonment of Chinese Baby Girls and Adoption By American Parents" for the 7th Annual Women of Color Conference 3-4 p.m. today at the Silver Eagle Suite in the University Union. This year's conference focuses on the topic of global women's health issues.

"Because Lisa Ling has traveled extensively and because we are discussing women's health issues, she will bring an awesome perspective to the conference," said Cheylon Brown, director of the Multicultural Center. "She also has a passion for women and women's issues."

The 7th Annual Women's Conference schedule shows the conference will feature several acclaimed doctors speaking on issues that affect women's health such as endometriosis, stress and the importance of a yearly health exam. According to Brown, in the past, conference topics have been education, spirituality, mentoring and the arts.

"The committee decided to choose women's health issues based on our registration from our last conference," Brown said. "Global women's health issues seems to be on a constant decline, and I thought it would be important to highlight this."

According to Dan Emenheiser, director of diversity education, Lisa Ling's discussion is free to students. However, those who are not students wishing to see her speak will need to sign up for the conference. The form shows that the fee to attend for those who do not work on campus is \$150, \$90 for those who do work on campus, and \$50 for students. The conference includes a continental breakfast. If a student is only wishing to see Lisa Ling speak, then he or she can go to the multicultural center in Union 422. Emenheiser requests that students pick up their tickets today so the committee will know how many chairs and tables to set up.

"The purpose is to encourage students to attend," Emenheiser said. "The free Lisa Ling talk, I hope, is something the students will take advantage of."

Brown said herself and former director Pamela Hill started the Women of Color Conference to bring together women of different backgrounds.

"We wanted to find a way to bring women together to discuss issues that concern women which in turn should have been a concern to men," Brown said. "Our focus was to find an area and outlet to get together and discuss our similarities instead of our differences."

Brown said people often ask her why they decided to call the conference the Women of Color Conference. "Everyone has an ethnicity even if they don't claim it," Brown said. "It's hard to deny color. Everyone has a color, just like a box of crayons. We wanted to make sure everyone felt included."

The registration form for the event can be downloaded at http://www.unt.edu/edo/WOC_Global_Health_Issues.html.