

Department of Asian Studies

Spring 2011

Letter from the Chair...

Dear Friends and Alumni,

Greetings from New West where spring leaves are sprouting on the trees and daffodils are blooming! I am pleased to report to you on our growing programs, new faculty, and diverse activities. We expanded our newsletter this academic year to cover all the good news.

The colorful images that you see in this newsletter give a taste of the year's events. These represent just a few of the activities of all kinds that faculty initiate to attract Carolina students to the study of Asian languages and cultures. Stroll into New West any day and you'll see posters for language tables, movie nights, invited lectures by artists and scholars, cooking events, and more. Students, too, can apply for funds from the department to organize activities. On behalf of our students, staff, and faculty, it is my pleasure to take this opportunity to thank our many friends and alumni who make contributions to the Department of Asian Studies gift account. Your generosity helps make these events possible even in times when funds are scarce. We sincerely appreciate your encouragement.

Six faculty members joined our department in 2010. Let me give a brief introduction here. You will find stories on each throughout our newsletter. A grant from the Korea Foundation enabled us to hire Dr. Ji-Yeon Jo as Assistant Professor of Korean language and society and to expand our fast-growing Korean program. The Institute for Turkish Studies has

made it possible for us to offer courses in Turkish language and culture, a position ably filled by Dr. Canguzel Zufikar. The College of Arts and Sciences supported growth in the Department of Asian Studies in many ways, too, allowing us to hire as full-time instructors Ms. Farida Badr in Arabic, Ms. Jia Lin in Chinese, and Dr. Shahla Adel in Persian. Dr. Morgan Pitelka joined the Department as Associate Professor of Japanese Studies. All our new instructors have brought dedication and energy to their posts.

We support UNC-Chapel Hill study abroad programs with enthusiasm. Our faculty lead programs to Asia (China, India, Japan, Singapore) and regularly serve as members of scholarship and advisory committees. Rather than a photo this year, I include a cartoon of me drawn by a young Japanese girl—a reminder of a delightful field trip with UNC students in Kyoto a few years back.

With sincere gratitude, I thank my colleague Li-Ling Hsiao, Associate Professor of Chinese Literature and Theater, for serving as the Associate Chair and Director of Undergraduate Studies for the past year and a half. Li-ling brought her active leadership to regular meetings of the department's Curriculum Committee, which oversees all our curricular issues from approving new courses and strengthening our advising to creating new ways to make our majors and minors more effective. She also headed a committee that

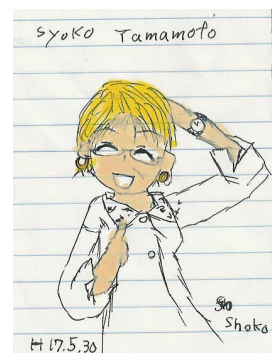
made progress in drafting plans for our future graduate programs in Asian Studies. On top of these duties, Li-ling coordinated the programs in Arabic and Hebrew, developed a Chinese summer immersion program, published several articles, and still found time to practice the Chinese musical instrument known as the *guzheng*. We wish Li-ling Hsiao well as she embarks on her well-deserved research leave.

One of our major activities was to host the 50th anniversary meeting of the Southeast Conference/Association of Asian Studies. The conference took place January 14-16 at the Fedex Global Education Center on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus (see pages 6-7).

We're looking forward now to the major events of spring—our Annual Senior Honors Colloquium on April 14th, and Commencement on May 8th.

Best wishes for 2011, the Year of the Rabbit.

Jan Bardsley
Chair



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Did you know?

The Department of Asian Studies now offers instruction in eight different Asian languages. Our newest addition is the program in Turkish, made possible by the generous support of the Institute for Turkish Studies. Dr. Canguzel Zufikar teaches the two years of Turkish language we currently offer, as well as courses in English on Turkish culture and history.

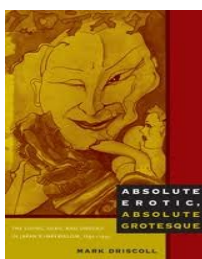
Faculty Publications and News

Sahar Amer was on research leave in spring 2010, working on a new project focusing on homosexuality in the contemporary Arab World. She completed a substantial article on the topic entitled "Homosexuality/Lesbianism and the Politics of Naming in Contemporary Arabic Studies," which she submitted to *The International Journal of Middle East Studies*. She also completed a books-in-brief article (an expanded review article) on Joseph Massad's *Desiring Arabs* for *GLQ: A Journal of Lesbian and Gay Studies*, due to appear in the Fall 2010 issue. In Spring 2011, she contributed a wall label and longer article on the theme of the "Iranian Balustrade" in the booklet accompanying the special exhibit "The Silk Road" at the Ackland Museum at UNC-CH. Also in Spring 2010, she gave a guest lecture at UNC-Wilmington entitled "Naming Homosexuality in the Arab World: Bridging the Past and the Present." Sahar received a Pogue Leave for research in fall 2010 and is serving as a Faculty Scholar at the Carolina Women's Center in spring 2011.

Jan Bardsley traveled to Japan in summer 2010 to view geisha dances, explore tea-houses, and collect new writing about geisha. She published "Liza Dalby's Geisha: The View Twenty-five Years Later" in *Southeast Review of Asian Studies*, "Teaching Geisha in History, Fiction, and Fantasy" in *ASIANet-work*, and her article "The Maiko Boom: The Revival of Kyoto's Novice Geisha" is forthcoming in *Japanese Studies Review*. With Laura Miller, she co-edited *Manners and Mischief: Gender, Power, and Etiquette in Japan* (University of California Press, 2011). In Japanese, Jan published "Geisha, Pop Star, Princess: Japan Miscast?" in the online journal *Nihongo to jendaa*. Jan is an editor-in-chief of *U.S.-Japan Women's Journal*.



Mark Driscoll published his new book, *Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque: The Living, Dead, and Undead in Japan's Imperialism, 1895-1945*, in July 2010 with Duke University Press. He gave presentations this summer in China and Japan on his new research and spoke with potential translators of *Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque* into Chinese and Japanese. Mark was awarded a Pogue Leave for spring 2012 to work on his new book project, "Race for Trade: The Opium Wars and the Origins of White Biopolitics, 1839-1860," which traces the origins of contemporary (neo)liberal regimes of trade in global phenomena occurring in the wake of the First Opium War of 1839-42.

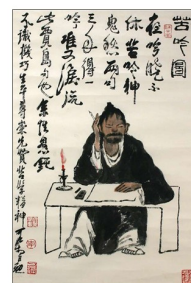


Kevin Hewison was a Visiting Professor at Warwick University for six weeks in May and June 2010. In May, he spoke to UNC alumni in Paris and also presented papers in Copenhagen, based on research he conducted on red shirt protests in Bangkok from January to March. He and Arne Kalleberg (Sociology) were awarded a John E. Sawyer Seminars on the Comparative Study of Cultures grant on Precarious Work in Asia by the Mellon Foundation. The *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, which he has co-edited for several years, is now one of the Web of Science's highest ranked area studies journals. Kevin was awarded a Reynolds Leave for fall 2011 to work on his book project, "Murder and Mayhem in Modern Thailand," which is a study of the political uses of homicide, regicide, and mass murder in the period since World War II.

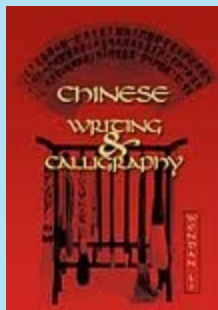


Li-ling Hsiao published several articles and essays in the past academic year: "Loyalty vs. Filial Piety: the Late Ming Commentaries of Pipa ji" in *Chinese Culture Quarterly*; "The Metaphoric Mode of Production: The Editing Principle of Ten Bamboo Studio Letter Catalogue" in *Chinese Studies*; "Dancing the Red Lantern: Zhang Yimou's Fusion of Peking Opera and Ballet" in *Southeast Review of Asian Studies*; and a paper co-authored with Dr. David A. Ross: "Taking Pains to Explain Li Keran's The Pain of Composition," in *Southeast Review of Asian Studies*. She served as one of the co-editors of the peer-reviewed academic journal *Southeast Review of Asian Studies* (SERAS), and edited the 2010 issue. She developed and served as the director of the Chinese Immersion Program which was piloted in summer 2010, and will serve as its director again in summer 2011.

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Wendan Li published *Chinese Writing & Calligraphy* in fall 2010 with University of Hawai'i Press. The book draws on her popular UNC-Chapel Hill course, "Chinese Culture through Calligraphy." Wendan also published an article, "Features of Advanced L2 Chinese Writing and their Implications for the Teaching of Vocabulary," in the *Journal of Chinese Language Teachers Association*. In the summer, Wendan presented research papers at two international conferences in China: one in Beijing on Chinese calligraphy and the other in Nanjing on the development of teaching materials and online resources. In Shanghai at East China University of Science and Technology, she gave a research talk on temporal and aspectual reference in discourse.



Pamela Lothspeich traveled to Bareilly, India this fall to spend a month researching the influence of the "Radheshyam Ramayana" (a modern reworking of a Hindu epic) in Ramlila performances in and around the author's hometown. Her research, which concerns both the text and its performance, explores issues such as nationalism, modernity, Hindi chauvinism, and cross-dressing on stage, as well as inter-religious, caste and gender relations. This research was supported by a Junior Faculty Development Grant and a UNC-Chapel Hill Arts and Humanities Award. Pamela was also recently awarded a UNC-Chapel Hill Institute for Arts and Humanities Fellowship to work on this book project in spring 2012. She has published an annotated bibliography, "The Mahabharata in Hindu Tradition" in Oxford's new electronic resource, Oxford Bibliographies Online—Hinduism. See page 10 of this newsletter for a photograph of Pamela's students in her spring 2010 course, "The Mahabharata: Remembered, Reimagined, Performed," performing their own original play based on the Hindu epic.

Yaron Shemer was invited as a guest speaker to six public events and gave papers at conferences in Canada, Spain, and the U.S. Among his presentation topics are Mizrahi identity in Israeli cinema and terrorism in Middle Eastern films. Yaron has also offered two new courses—"Language, Exile, and Homeland in Zionist Thought and Practice" and a First-Year Seminar on "Israeli Culture and Society: Collective Memories and Fragmented Identities." He was awarded a UNC-Chapel Hill Institute for Arts and Humanities Fellowship for spring 2011 to work on his book project, "Identity, Place, and Subversion in Contemporary Mizrahi Cinema in Israel," which explores the construction of Mizrahi (Oriental-Jewish) ethnic identity in contemporary Israeli films and its inscription by power imbalances.

Afroz Taj received a course development grant from the Center for Global Initiatives to create a course called "Peace and Popular Culture in Pakistan and Afghanistan." And in January 2010 Afroz launched his cyber-book "Darvazah: A Door Into Urdu" (<http://taj.chass.ncsu.edu/urdu>), a multimedia, interactive language-learning web site developed with a major grant (\$367,000) awarded by the U.S. Department of Education. On research leave in spring 2010, he worked on his new book, tentatively titled "Fantasies of Resistance: The Urdu Theater from 1860 to 1960," which analyzes the rise, fall, and transformation of the literary Urdu theater during the stormy passage from colonialism to Partition and independence, an era of radical change in South Asian society. Recently, Afroz received a UNC-Chapel Hill Institute for Arts and Humanities Fellowship to work on this book project in fall 2011. With John Caldwell, Afroz also led the UNC Summer Study Abroad Program in India in 2011.



Members of our Hindi-Urdu faculty attend the SEC/AAS Conference (see pgs. 6-7).

Robin Visser published her new book *Cities Surround the Countryside: Urban Aesthetics in Postsocialist China* with Duke University Press in 2010. A Taiwan Studies Faculty Research Grant enabled her to travel to Taiwan for research related to her new book project on sustainable aesthetics. In spring 2010, she served as Interim Director of the Carolina Asia Center. In June she was invited by the International Institute for Asian Studies and the Amsterdam School of Cultural Analysis to speak in Amsterdam at the seminar "Spectacle and the City: Urbanity in Popular Culture and Art in East Asia." For the book resulting from the seminar, she contributed "Coming of Age in RMB City." With Thomas Moran, she has translated the essay by Yu-Shan Huang and Chun-Chi Wang titled "Post-Taiwan New Cinema Women Directors and Films: Artists, Images, Language," for the forthcoming volume edited by Lingzhen Wang, *In/Engendering Cinema: Chinese Women Filmmakers Inside and Outside China*.



Nadia Yaqub has immersed herself in research and writing on Palestinian cinema while on research leave. In addition to working on her current book project, "Imagining Palestine," a comprehensive study of Palestinian cinema of the past decade, she completed four forthcoming book chapters, one on Palestinian women's cinema for the edited volume *Women and Violence in the Middle East and North Africa* and three for *Film in the Middle East and North Africa*. Nadia was invited to participate as a speaker/panelist in both the London Palestine Film Festival in April and the Boston Palestine Film Festival in October.

Gang Yue has led the UNC-Chapel Hill Study Abroad Program at Xiamen University in Fall 2009 and 2010, where he teaches a new course on the rise of China and supervises student experiential learning and field research. He will lead the program again in Fall 2011. In Spring 2010 he took a research leave, supported by a Grier/Woods Presbyterian China Initiatives Fellowship. He has published a chapter titled "Fragments of Shangri-La: 'Eco-Tibet' and Its Global Circuits," in the volume *The Postcolonial Green: Environmental Politics and World Narratives*. He has two essays in Chinese scheduled for publication this fall, respectively on the "Culturalist Bubble" and the "Geopolitical Imagination" related to China's rise.

Highlights from the Lecturers

Have you ever wondered what goes on with individual classes, programs, or people here in Asian Studies? Here's your chance to find out! Included below are short statements from our very own language instructors, highlighting everything from personal academic accomplishments to new classes and events available for their students to experience.

Shahla Adel, Persian Lecturer:

I was fortunate enough to join the wonderful faculty of the Department of Asian Studies at UNC in August 2010. I started the fall semester with teaching first- and third-year Persian courses. In addition to teaching first-year Persian, I will be teaching a culture course in spring 2011, and I intend to teach other content courses in the future on topics including Iranian cinema and Iranian women writers.

My most recent accomplishment was the completion of my doctoral dissertation, titled: "Is all Culture Learning Created Equal: Students' Perceptions of Persian Language and Culture." This qualitative research explored how students experienced learning culture as cultural inquiry in a third-year Persian class via film, WebQuests, and PowerPoint presentations.

In addition, I was also a guest speaker at the Global Music Show through WXYC Radio for an hour-long radio show on Persian Music: Past to Present, blending music with dialogue. The show was broadcast September 22nd from 9-10 p.m. You can find it in the online archive at <http://www.unc.edu/areastudies/publicprograms/global-music-audio.html>.

Over several occasions, the students explored Persian cuisine as we visited Persian restaurants in the Chapel Hill area in an attempt to help students become more familiar with Persian culture.

Lili Fan, Chinese Lecturer:

Our Mid-Autumn Festival was held on October 1st at Hanes Art Center. It turned out to be a great success. The 300-seat auditorium was filled to full capacity by our faculty, students, and their friends. The evening was filled with great performances from instrument playing to singing Chinese songs, from poetry recitation to a Kung Fu demo. The performances were followed by delicious moon cake tasting and fun games.

Nasser Isleem, Arabic Lecturer:

In March 2010 I attended the Southeast Regional Middle East and Islamic Studies Seminar conference, co-presenting a paper on "Pedagogical Uses of Proverbs in the Arabic Language Classroom." My newest book, *Colloquial Palestinian Arabic*, was published in April 2010. Also in April, I obtained ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) certification as an OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview) tester.

Events I have organized include the big Arabic cultural day last spring, field trips to the Islamic Association of Raleigh and Al-Iman School, coffee hours, and Iftar dinners at my home. Many of these events have allowed UNC students to meet, mingle, and practice their Arabic with my Arabic students from Duke and Durham Tech.

Charles Joukhadar, Arabic Lecturer:

Last summer I taught second-year Arabic at UNC (Arabic 203 and 204). It was a great experience of teaching Arabic intensively. The intensive nature of summer classes allows for more contact with the language and more time to work on the different language skills.

In Fall 2010, I taught first- and second-year Arabic and I continue to co-organize the cultural activities and the Arabic Table with my colleagues in the Arabic program. In the Arabic Table this year we introduced the exploration of different Arabic dialects with native speakers from different Arab countries, in addition to the preparation of new Arabic dishes.

During the fall, I also took a class in Educational Measurement and Evaluation at the School of Education. It was a very interesting class that gave me new insights into the field of language testing and assessment.

This spring I am teaching the Lebanese dialect course. I am excited about the opportunity to introduce our students to my native dialect as well as to Lebanese culture.

Hang Zhang, Chinese Lecturer:

During the spring semester of 2010, I taught a new class, Chinese 307: Chinese Conversation. This is a new Chinese language course at the third-year



During the Chinese New Year Celebration, students sing "Beijing Welcome You."

In the Spring of 2010, we organized "Chinese Movie Night" featuring the movie "Yi ge dou bu neng shao" or "Not one less" and an introduction to the R.E.A.C.H. program, a charity organization created by the Asian Student Associations at UNC, Duke, and NC State. This movie helped raise viewers' awareness about the schooling situation in rural China, and also about how they could help these children through R.E.A.C.H.'s fundraising program throughout the year.

Yi Zhou, Chinese Lecturer:

During the past academic year, the Chinese program hosted a variety of cultural activities for students of Asian Studies and the public. The cultural activities ranged from educational talks to films, an academic writing contest to entertaining performances. Students learned about the traditional Chinese art through Mr. Guobin Sun's talk "Chinese

Brush Painting" and gained insight into "Chinese Herbal Medicine" from a talk given by Mr. Andy Pham.

Students also actively participated in the Chinese essay contest, a great opportunity for them to practice and polish their writing skills. The popular annual events—Celebration of Mid-Autumn Festival and Chinese New Year Gala—were also held during the festival times. A large number of students and faculty attended each event in which they showed their performing talents, watched traditional and modern dances and singing, and enjoyed delicious dumplings and sweet moon cakes.

We owe all this success to the joint efforts of Chinese faculty and student associations as well as support from the Department of Asian Studies and Carolina Asia Center.

We are also impressed by the increasing zest of students for learning Chinese language and culture.

Canguzel Zulfikar, Turkish Lecturer:

The Turkish program at UNC started this fall, and we had our first Turkish conversation table. To spread interest across campus about Turkish culture and to document our activities, we keep a blog that can be found at <http://turkish.web.unc.edu/>.

Music and movie nights are on the agenda. In fact, we watched our first film, *Wonderful West*, during the fall semester.

Thank you, Giveret Friedman!

The Department of Asian Studies offers congratulations and thanks to Hebrew lecturer Luceil Friedman, who retired in summer 2010. Giveret Friedman, as she was known to her students, founded the program in modern Hebrew in 2003, when she was hired as a part-time lecturer to teach Elementary and Intermediate Hebrew. By 2005, the program had grown enough under her leadership to make her own job permanent and full-time, and to launch a third year of Advanced Hebrew. That very first third-year class was a small one, but memorable; as a fall-semester project, they put on a play entirely in Hebrew, a dramatization of the Megged short story "Yad VaShem" (see picture). The following year saw the creation of the minor in Hebrew, and the graduation, in May 2007, of the first Hebrew minors.

Over the years, Giveret Friedman taught Hebrew at every level, and also organized a wide array of extracurricular enrichment activities. The many opportunities for students to practice their Hebrew and learn more about Israeli culture included coffee hours with Hebrew folk music, Hebrew boardgame nights, and the popular Saturday night Hebrew film series. By the time of Giveret Friedman's retirement, the Hebrew program she built had quadrupled in enrollment and graduated more than 20 Hebrew minors.



Giveret Friedman with the cast on opening night.

Asian Studies Hosts SEC/AAS Conference



Dr. Li-ling Hsiao and Dr. David Ross attend a conference event.

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill hosted the 50th anniversary meeting of the Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (SEC/AAS), January 14-16, 2011, at the FedEx Global Education Center. The conference theme was "Transnational Asia: Art, History, Popular Culture, and Political Economies." The program featured over 150 presentations by faculty and graduate students from around the Southeast, and several by scholars who traveled from other parts of the U.S. and from Asia for the event.

We were delighted that Chancellor Holden Thorp greeted our group at the Saturday luncheon and that Peter Coclanis, Director of the Global Research Institute, welcomed everyone at the Friday evening reception. Director of the Carolina Asia Center Kevin Hewison, who assisted in many ways with the conference, also attended the meeting and participated in the program.

The SEC/AAS Conference provided special lectures, events, and workshops. The two keynote lectures were "Nature and Nationalism in India" by AAS President and anthropologist Professor K. Sivaramakrishnan (Yale University), and "Contemporary Chinese Photography and Contemporary China" by Professor Wu Hung (Harrie A. Vanderstappen Distinguished Service Professor of Art History, University of Chicago). Bogdan Leja organized a workshop for K-12 educators and docents, "Teaching the Silk Road: Culture, Commerce, and Art." A book exhibit organized by Hsi-chu Bolick represented 12 publishers and introduced new publications on Asia. One of the highlights of the weekend was the splendid Saturday evening reception for all conference attendees hosted by the Ackland Art Museum. This gave everyone a chance to view the exhibit "Art and Cultural Exchange along the Silk Road."

Carolina faculty participated in the SEC/AAS conference as conference organizers, panel organizers and chairs, and presenters. Jan Bardsley, Program Chair, and Wei-Cheng Lin (Art History), Local Arrangements Chair, were fortunate to work with a committee that stayed with the project from start to finish: Ash Barnes, Hsi-chu Bolick, Lori Harris, Li-ling Hsiao, Larry Kessler, and Bogdan Leja. Dáša Pejchar Mortensen, graduate student in the History Department, deserves special thanks for her work recruiting and coordinating our volunteers and handling all the details of conference logistics. UNC-Chapel Hill faculty and staff on the program were: Barbara Ambros, Inger Brodey, Yong Cai, John Caldwell, Mark Driscoll, Miles Fletcher, Dan Gold, Kevin Hewison, Li-ling Hsiao, Ji-Yeon Jo, Larry Kessler, Michelle King, Pamela Lothspeich, James Peacock, Morgan Pitelka, Marzanna Poplawska, David Ross, Afroz Taj, Robin Visser, and Jiayun Zhuang. The "Workshop on Language Teaching and Culture," led by Wendan Li, featured presentations by Department of Asian Studies lecturers Shahla Adel, Jia Lin, Hang Zhang, and Yi Zhou. Several UNC graduate students gave presentations on their research: Georgina Drew, Dáša Pejchar Mortensen, Paul Schissel, Michael B. Smith, and Zachary Smith. Our colleague Wenhua Shi took photographs of the events.

We owe many thanks to our conference volunteers—community members, faculty, and students from Duke University and UNC-Chapel Hill: Shahla Adel, Phil Bardsley, Sara Bush, Amanda Conklin, Emily Doll, Lili Fan, Laurel Foote-Hudson, Rebecca Gade, Stephanie Humphreys, Chase Jenkins, Jia Lin, Carl Linke, Nga Ly, Alanna Mori, Marzanna Poplawska, Tim Prizer, Rebecca Roberts, McKay Roozen, Jeff Schroeder, Zach Smith, Scott Strickland, Linda Xie, Hang Zhang, Yi Zhou, and Canguzel Zulfikar.

The UNC Faculty Talent Show, organized by Li-ling Hsiao, who also served as the MC, entertained conference attendees on Friday night. Featured were dances by Marzanna Poplawska and Sathya Mandjiny, singing by Afroz Taj and musical accompaniment by John Caldwell, and music by professional Chinese musicians Lisa Zou and Guogang Li.

UNC-Chapel Hill and its faculty have long been enthusiastic supporters of SEC/AAS. We hosted the conference in 1982, and a number of our faculty members have been past or current officers of the conference. These include Jan Bardsley and Li-ling Hsiao of the Department of Asian Studies and others who are now emeriti faculty: Cliff Foust and Larry Kessler (History), Hsi-sheng Chi (Political Science), and Doug Eyre and Melinda Meade (Geography). One thing that separates SEC/AAS from all the other regional affiliates of the Association for Asian Studies is that we alone publish a scholarly journal, *Southeast Review of Asian Studies*. The current editors are from our university, Li-ling Hsiao and David A. Ross.

Producing this successful weekend conference would not have been possible without the funding provided by our sponsors. We gratefully acknowledge the funds provided by several units of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill: the Ackland Art Museum, Center for Global Initiatives, UNC University Library, Carolina Asia Center, College of Arts and Sciences, Department of Art, Department of Asian Studies, and Office of the Provost. We also thank for their sponsorship the Association for Asian Studies, the Asian/Pacific Studies Institute at Duke University, NCTAN (North Carolina Teaching Asia Network), and the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in New York.



UNC student volunteers Stephanie Humphreys and Rebecca Gade discuss conference panels.

SEC/AAS Conference Pictures



South Asian Studies major Sathya Mandjiny performs a dance in the Bharatanatyam style.



Conference organizers Hsi-Chu Bolick, Wei-Cheng Lin, and Jan Bardsley enjoy the festivities!



Wei-Cheng Lin and Jan Bardsley welcome the crowd to UNC.



Volunteers ensure the proceedings go smoothly.



Marzanna Poplawska performs a traditional Indonesian dance in the UNC Faculty Talent Show.

Meet Our New Faculty!

Ji-Yeon O. Jo, Assistant Professor, Korean Language and Culture

I joined the Department of Asian Studies as an assistant professor of Korean language and culture on July 1, 2010. Prior to this position, I had the honor and privilege of starting a brand new Korean program in the department of Asian Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill. My research interests center on language, culture, race, and identity issues, specifically concerns with migrants' and diasporans' sense of belonging, and notions of citizenship and of cultural capital in transnational and global/local contexts. One of my previous research projects investigated how 1.5- and second-generation Korean American adolescents and young adults negotiate their identities in changing



educational and local contexts in the U.S. South. I have published four articles in addition to my dissertation from this research project. I am currently working on a manuscript for a book based on my dissertation. My other research projects have also resulted in three additional articles, and my co-authored article, "What we can

learn about, and from the testimonio of a "successful" undocumented Latino student in North Carolina," is forthcoming in Edmund T. Hamann, Stanton Wortham, & Enrique G. Murillo, Jr. (Eds.), *Revisiting Education in the New Latino Diaspora*, Information Age Publishing.

My current research project investigates experiences of descendants of the Korean diaspora who recently moved back to Korea to study or work. In summer 2010, I traveled to South Korea to interview return migrants from the Korean diaspora. I am looking forward to giving presentations based on the initial findings from this research at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) annual convention in November in Boston and at the Association of Asian Studies (AAS) annual conference in March 2011 in Hawaii. In February 2010, I was honored to receive the "Award of Recognition" presented by the Consulate General of Korea in Atlanta for contribution and service to the Korean community. In addition to my current research project, I am teaching advanced Korean and coordinating the Hebrew, Korean, Persian, and Turkish programs this year. In spring 2011, I am teaching a content course in Korean Studies, "History, Memory, and Reality in Contemporary Korea." I am excited to be here and to continue my academic and professional career as an assistant professor.

Morgan Pitelka, Associate Professor, Japanese Studies

I am a historian of premodern Japan who specializes in the visual and material culture of tea, the samurai, and daily life. My first research project examined a sixteenth-century artistic tradition, Raku ceramics, and the social and cultural context for its origin and reproduction, tea (*chanoyu*). This project resulted in an edited anthology, *Japanese Tea Culture: Art, History, and Practice* (Routledge, 2003); a book, *Hand-made Culture: Raku Potters, Patrons, and Tea Practitioners in Japan* (Hawaii, 2005); and a co-edited anthology, *What's the Use of Art? Asian Visual and Material Culture in Context* (Hawaii, 2007); as well as a half-dozen articles in Japanese and English.

I am nearing completion on my second research project, a biography of Tokugawa Ieyasu (1543-1616), founder of the Tokugawa military government and a remarkable collector of Chinese and Japanese art. In this study I use material culture to reframe Ieyasu's career not in terms of the teleological narrative of "unification" and early modernity, but in terms of his embodied experience as one actor in a complex network of people, things, and information. This project has thus far resulted in four articles, and I plan on finishing the manuscript of a book—*Warlord, Shogun, Deity: The Life and Afterlife of Tokugawa Ieyasu*—in the summer of 2011.

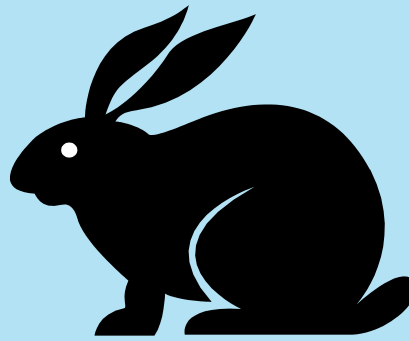


A research leave in 2011-12 generously provided by the National Humanities Center will enable me to start work on my next project, a study of the medieval castle town of Ichijōdani. After teaching at Occidental College for eight years, I moved in the summer of 2010 to UNC-Chapel Hill, where this fall I am teaching a First-Year Seminar, "Japanese Tea Culture," as well as the big survey course, "Asia: An Introduction." In future semesters I will be teaching a variety of courses in premodern Japanese history and culture.

Korean Minor Launched

The growth of the Korean program has led to the development of our newest minor. Students pursuing the minor in Korean will take three language courses beyond KOR 203 (so they will have the equivalent of three years of Korean language study) and one course taught in English on Korean culture.

New content courses in Korean studies will be offered starting in spring 2011. KOR 150 (History, Memory, and Reality in Contemporary Korea) will examine contemporary issues in Korea with connections to its recent history, and KOR 151 (Education and Social Changes in Contemporary Korea) will explore diverse, rich, and complex relationships and representations of family, community, and society in contemporary Korea.



Carolina Asia Center China Forum

In spring 2010 the CAC sponsored a series of campus-wide events on China culminating with a China Forum on April 23, which featured presentations and roundtable discussions of research from faculty from the College of Arts and Sciences. The China Forum had two primary aims. First, given recent China-related hires in the College, participants exchanged information on current research projects to strengthen possible research and teaching synergies on campus. Second, a roundtable discussion on “Strategies for China Studies at UNC and beyond” addressed ways to support China studies in the Triangle in the future.

Dr. Jonathan Hartlyn, Senior Associate Dean for Social Sciences and International Programs, delivered the opening remarks prior to two formal sessions: “Visualizing China,” with presentations from Wei-Cheng Lin (Art History), David Ross (English), Wenhua Shi (Communications), and Robin Visser (Asian Studies); and “Reconfiguring China,” with presentations from Yong Cai (Sociology), Xi Chen (Political Science), Michael Tsin (History), and Gang Yue (Asian Studies). The roundtable discussion noted a preliminary Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) on Chinese cities between UNC and Peking University (Yan Song, City and Regional Planning) and the need for a specialist in Chinese religion (Barbara Ambros, Religious Studies). The immediate outcome of the China Forum was a decision to launch a regional research forum on China sponsored by UNC, featuring in-depth discussion of research by one specialist per semester.

A Year in Pictures: Department Events



Ms. Hang Zhang and her mother perform the “Double Sword” dance for the Chinese New Year Celebration.



At the Japanese Language Table, students play a card game called *katura*. Event sponsored by the UNC Japan Club.



Dr. Pamela Lothspeich’s students perform their own original play as part of her spring 2010 course, “The Mahabharata: Remembered, Reimagined, Performed.”



Asian Studies graduate Sydney Hess with her thesis advisor, Dr. Eric Henry, at the department’s 2010 commencement party.

2010 Senior Honors Colloquium



Seven students presented their Honors Thesis research at our Annual Senior Colloquium and Student Recognition Day on April 14, 2010. The presenters were (pictured l-r) Sydney Hess, Rupert Campbell, Patrick Dowd, Anneliese Gegenheimer, Chris Buchheit, Isabella Archer, and Yasmin Amer. Also recognized were several students associated with the Department of Asian Studies who had won honors for community service, scholarship, and post-graduate internships and fellowships.

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CB 3267, 113 New West
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