

# Department of Asian Studies

Fall 2011

As I write this letter, fall semester is in full swing. Asian Studies is serving a record number of students in classes ranging from Elementary Turkish to History, Memory, and Reality in Korea. Jan Bardsley, Chair of Asian Studies, is spending this semester in Japan where she is leading a group of undergraduates on the Japanese Theater and Culture program in Osaka. Jan is sorely missed this semester, but we wish her well as she dedicates her time to working closely with her study abroad students. I am serving as acting chair until Jan returns in January. Wendan Li, associate professor of Chinese, has generously agreed to serve as acting associate chair and director of undergraduate studies this semester. Wendan and I are dedicated to ensuring the smooth functioning of the Department and to facilitating the scholarly and pedagogical work of all our students and faculty during Jan's absence.

In spring 2011 we enrolled a record 1894 students in our courses. This semester we are on track to surpass that number, even though six of our tenured faculty members are away from campus, either leading study abroad programs or engaged in full-time research. The rapid expansion of our programs would not be possible without the addition of many new hires. Last academic year we welcomed six new faculty members to the Department. This year we have hired seven more: Mou-

## *Letter from the Chair...*

louk Berry, lecturer in Arabic; Lini Ge, lecturer in Chinese; Hanna Sprintzik, lecturer in Hebrew; John Caldwell, lecturer in Hindi-Urdu; Reiko Nitta, lecturer in Japanese; and Yeonhee Yoon, lecturer in Korean. More information about this outstanding group of language teachers can be found in the following pages. In addition, the Department has hired a new assistant professor of Arabic, Zeina Halabi, who will begin teaching in January 2012. Looking ahead, the Department will be conducting a search for a professor of pre-modern Chinese Language and Literature. This position will strengthen Chinese studies both within our Department and across the University. We will also be hiring a second lecturer in Hindi-Urdu to support the needs of this rapidly growing program.

In addition to teaching and research, Asian Studies faculty have been active in enriching the intellectual climate of the University with a range of activities. Pamela Lothspeich worked with other South Asianists in the Triangle to organize a highly successful conference on Visual Culture in South Asia. Morgan Pitelka co-authored a successful grant application to the Japan Foundation. The funding has made possible the creation of the Triangle Center for Japanese Studies which Morgan now directs. Kevin Hewison has

collaborated with UNC sociologist Arne Kalleberg to organize a Sawyer Seminar on Precarious Work in Asia. The seminar, which includes lectures and working groups, began in spring 2011 and will continue throughout this academic year. In addition, our faculty continue to organize a host of guest lectures, film screenings, workshops, and extracurricular student gatherings.

We are very proud of the honors and scholarly accomplishments our faculty earned during the past year. In spring 2011 Nasser Isleem was inducted into the Order of the Golden Fleece in recognition of his extracurricular work for the Arabic program. Morgan Pitelka was awarded a National Humanities Center Fellowship which will allow him to focus on research and writing this academic year. Afroz Taj, Pamela Lothspeich, Mark Driscoll, and Kevin Hewison were all awarded internal UNC competitive research leaves. These honors are a mark of the excellent work our faculty members do. We are fortunate to have so many dedicated teachers and scholars in Asian Studies.

Most importantly, we are proud of the extraordinary accomplishments of our students. More than fifty Asian Studies majors graduated in spring 2011, and eight are scheduled to graduate this Decem-

ber. Of those, I am proud to report that seven students successfully completed honors theses this year on topics ranging from Israeli conscientious objectors to Japanese detective fiction. A new cohort of students is currently enrolled in our honors seminar, enthusiastically pursuing research in a variety of areas. Despite the difficult economy, our graduates are engaged in interesting work, challenging graduate programs, and extraordinary experiences.

I wish the best to all of you—students, alumni, faculty, and friends of the Department of Asian Studies—for the remainder of the academic year.

Sincerely,



Nadia Yaquub

Associate Professor and Acting Chair



**We would like to hear from you! Please send us information for inclusion in next year's newsletter.**

■ Name/degree and year \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ Homepage \_\_\_\_\_

■ Your recent accomplishments, awards, career changes, or any other news that you would like to share (if necessary send separate sheet):

## *Arabic Lecturer Nasser Isleem Inducted Into Carolina's Oldest Honorary Society*

The Order of the Golden Fleece was founded in 1904 to unite student leaders at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The goal of the society was to bring about the swift resolution of University problems and to better campus life. Considered the highest honorary society at the University, the Golden Fleece selects its members based upon service to the University as reflected in scholarship, motivation, creativity, loyalty, and leadership in academic and extracurricular pursuits.

Nasser Isleem was inducted into the Order of the Golden Fleece for his contributions to strengthening and expanding the Arabic program at UNC. As a lecturer in the Arabic program in the Department of Asian Studies, Nasser Isleem goes above and beyond to engage his students in unique learning experiences. Through inviting his students to his home for Iftar, organizing coffee hours, and facilitating the Arabic program's annual Big Activity, Nasser creates opportunities to immerse his students in Arabic language and culture. He is a favorite amongst students, as he provides structured, challenging, but ultimately fun coursework. His colleagues identify him as a driving force in the development of the program through his creativity, honesty, and enthusiasm. In addition to his classroom endeavors, Nasser is dedicated to combating stereotypes about Arab and Muslim Americans through his outreach and mentoring of students and extracurricular groups.



Students and colleagues celebrate with Nasser Isleem (third from left) after his induction into the venerable Order of the Golden Fleece.

# Highlights from the Faculty

## Shahla Adel, Lecturer in Persian

In April I presented a paper on the incorporation of multimedia and technology in teaching Persian at the South Central Association of Language Learning Technology and the Texas Foreign Language Education Conference at the University of Texas at Austin. I also attended two workshops: the Startalk/NHLRC Heritage Language Teaching Workshop at UCLA; and the National Middle East Language Resource Center and the Middle Eastern Languages Western Consortium Workshop on Program Building, Maintenance, and Evaluation at UT-Austin. Our joint Persian-South Asian end of the year event was a major success as the Nelson Mandela Auditorium was filled with 150 students, their friends, and faculty. The evening included winning student films interspersed with live dances, songs, and skits. The entertainment was followed by scrumptious Persian and Indian food.

**Sahar Amer** was on a Pogue Research Leave in Fall 2010 and served as a Faculty Scholar at the Carolina Women's Center in Spring 2011. This allowed her to progress on her current book project, *What is Veiling?* In March 2011, she gave a keynote address on the *burqa* ban in France at the "Science and Myth" colloquium, organized by graduate students at the University of Indiana-Bloomington.

## Yuki Aratake, Lecturer in Japanese

In April I organized the Japan Relief Benefit Concert, a musical event sponsoring aid for victims of the recent disaster in Japan. Over 100 people from across the Triangle attended the concert, raising almost \$5000 for the cause. Despite the situation in Japan, nine participating students made the UNC Summer in Tokyo program a great success in summer 2011!

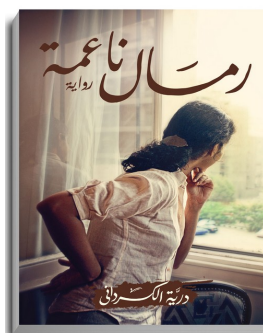
**Jan Bardsley** continues her research on the New Women of Japan, participating in symposia in London, Honolulu, Pittsburgh, and Tokyo. Recent articles on the topic include: "Photography and the New Woman: Imagining the Japanese Modern," in *The New Woman International: Representations in Photography and Film, 1890s-1930s*; "The New Woman of Japan and the Intimate Bonds of Translation," in *Translation in Modern Japan*; and "The New Woman Meets the Geisha: The Politics of Pleasure in 1910s Japan," forthcoming in the journal *Intersections: Gender and Sexuality in Asia and the Pacific*.

This fall Jan leads the UNC Program in Japanese Theater and Culture at Osaka Gakuin University. She coedits *U.S.-Japan Women's Journal*.

**Mark Driscoll's** second book, the 2010 Duke University Press *Absolute Erotic, Absolute Grotesque*, will be coming out in Chinese next year. He spent a month in Shanghai, China, this summer working through the translation. He also traveled to Tibet for two weeks to investigate the ways in which China's settler colonialism in the Tibetan areas is related to Japan's colonial policy in Korea and Manchuria from 1910-1940. Last year saw him give six invited lectures in the US and abroad on topics connected to his new book. In Fall 2011, he is teaching a new course called "Japan and Asia" along with a critical race studies course in the Global Studies department called "Global Whiteness."

## Doria El Kerdany, Lecturer in Arabic

I am teaching elementary Arabic this semester for the first time, after teaching intermediate and advanced Arabic the last two semesters. I find it both challenging and enjoyable. Last year I developed two important technology tools with my classes: voice thread (to record comments on pictures and have other students comment on their colleagues' work) and WordPress blogs, where students publish their written and video assignments and comment on each other's work. I had an exciting summer because I published my first novel, *Rimal Na3ma (Fine Sand)*.



## Lili Fan, Lecturer in Chinese

Our annual Mid-Autumn Festival celebration was held on September 16th at Hanes Art Center. It turned out to be a wonderful event. The 300-seat auditorium was filled to almost full capacity by our faculty, students, and their friends and family. The evening was packed with great performances: Chinese

instrument-playing and singing were followed by beautiful dances and even a kung fu demonstration.

**Kevin Hewison** was awarded an R.N. Reynolds research leave for Fall 2011 and has been conducting research in Thailand for his project *Murder and Mayhem in Modern Siam*. He will be Visiting Professor of Asian Studies at the Singapore Management University in Spring 2012. While on leave, he has continued to work with Arne Kalleberg (Sociology) on the Mellon Foundation-funded Sawyer Seminar on "Precarious Work in Asia." In Summer 2011, this included a joint workshop with Chung Ang University in Seoul, Korea, with participants from UNC and nine country partners from around the Asian region. Another workshop is scheduled for Chapel Hill in February 2012. While in Seoul, he presented a public lecture at Sogang University. In Bangkok, Kevin made a presentation on contemporary politics in Thailand at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Thailand. Kevin continues as coeditor of the *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, which in 2010 was the highest impact Asian Studies journal in the rankings conducted worldwide by Thomson Reuters' Journal Citation Reports.

## Nasser Isleem, Lecturer in Arabic

I am teaching Arabic 101 and 203 this semester, and coordinating Arabic 101. Since Ramadan month came at the beginning of the semester, I invited UNC and Duke students and faculty to my home to experience the rituals of the Eid celebration in a Muslim household. I have had a fruitful summer between teaching here at UNC, travelling for two workshops in Austin, TX, and serving on a panel at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages. I also devoted time to working on the new textbook I am writing.

## Fumi Iwashita, Lecturer in Japanese

In Spring 2011, I taught a topics course for fourth-year Japanese students involving *manga*, also known as Japanese comic books. The course discussed *manga* literacy, which requires an understanding and appreciation of *manga* pieces, and also introduced elements which are consistent in this literature, such as different shapes and lines of speech bubbles of the characters, various signs written in the box of the *manga*, and abundant onomatopoeic expressions in Japanese. Each student researched influential *manga* writers in Japan and presented their chosen subject's biography, their *manga* style, their representative



*manga* pieces, and ultimately explored how that artist influenced the field of Japanese comics as a whole.

**Ji-Yeon Jo** was invited to Seoul, Korea, in July to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Korea Foundation. After the event, she stayed in Korea for an additional three weeks to undertake her ongoing research on the Korean diaspora and ethnic return migration. She also gave a lecture at the Duke University Summer Institute on East Asia in early summer. Currently, Ji-Yeon is working on three journal articles: two on ethnic return migration and one on Korea's multiculturalism and its ramifications in education. She teaches advanced Korean I and "History, Memory, and Reality in Contemporary Korea" this fall and is planning to teach advanced Korean II and "Education and Social Changes in Contemporary Korea" next spring.

**Charles Joukhadar, Lecturer in Arabic** I taught first- and second-year Arabic during the fall, spring, and summer semesters. I also taught a course in Lebanese Conversational Arabic for the first time. I developed new material for this course using Voicethread. I hope to be able to publish this material in a book in the future. In addition, I continued to organize extracurricular events as well as the Arabic Table. During the latter part of the summer, I taught Advanced Arabic at the American University of Beirut for six weeks. The program was an intensive one that included classes in Modern Standard Arabic and Lebanese Dialect, in addition to lectures, movies, and clubs. Students come to this program from countries around the world to learn Arabic and experience Lebanese culture.

In October 2010, **Wendan Li** presented a paper on "Grounding Structure of Mandarin Chinese" at the First International Symposium on Chinese Language and Discourse at UCLA. She also chaired a panel at the same conference. In November 2010, she presented a paper and chaired a panel at the Annual Conference of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages in Boston. At the 50th Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies in spring, she organized a workshop on "Language Teaching and Culture." In spring 2011, she added a calligraphy exhibit component to CHIN 354, "Chinese Culture through Calligraphy." In summer 2011, she received a grant from the Carolina Asia Center to develop a new course on "Chinese-English Translation and Interpreting." During her time in China she attended the 19th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics. She presented a paper and served as a panel chair. In fall 2011, Wendan Li is teaching a new course on advanced grammar of Chinese (CHIN 440).

#### **Jia Lin, Lecturer in Chinese**

Since I joined UNC in 2010, I deeply feel that students who love learning Chinese are the reason I am here and the main source of my happiness. Many students are unforgettable because of their initiative, diligence, kindness, and also their desire to learn Chinese. They tell stories in Chinese, sing Chinese songs, and even write love letters in Chinese on Valentine's Day. They may forget vocabulary sometimes but never forget to smile, joke, and make faces in class. In the spring 2011 semester, I organized a peacock dance workshop. Around 25 students participated. My two sweet "peacocks" and I performed in a Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration. I plan to organize a workshop focusing on the traditional dance from one Chinese ethnic group each year. I hope the Chinese Dance Workshop series can make students familiar with multi-ethnic China.

**Pamela Lothspeich**, along with two colleagues from NCSU, co-organized a workshop titled "Visual Culture and Identity-Narratives in the Making of Modern India," on April 29-30, 2011, where she presented some of her research on the *Ramlila* theatrical tradition in western Uttar Pradesh, India. This international, interdisciplinary workshop featured presentations (with copious visuals) by scholars from the U.S. and India who study the visual aspects of images, objects, and performance. A website featuring the scholars' visual narratives is currently under production as a direct outcome of this workshop. In spring 2012 Pamela will be a Fellow in the Institute for the Arts and Humanities, and in this capacity will continue to work on her book about the Radheshyam Ramayana and Ramlila.

**Morgan Pitelka** is a Fellow at the National Humanities Center for the 2011-2012 academic year where he is working on a book on the politics of daily life in medieval Japan. He is also the first Director of the new Triangle Center for Japanese Studies, a collaborative effort of UNC, NCSU, and Duke.

**Yaron Shemer** was a Fellow at the Institute for the Arts and Humanities last spring, during which time he completed his book manuscript *Identity, Place, and Subversion in Contemporary Mizrahi Cinema*. Yaron also contributed a chapter, "Trajectories of Mizrahi Cinema," to a new anthology, *Israeli Cinema: Identities in Motion*. Last April, in conjunction with the International Film Festival at Bucknell University (Lewisburg, PA), Yaron was invited to present: "Home in Israeli and Palestinian Cinema." This fall, he is teaching ASIA 150 (Asia: An Introduction) with 80 students enrolled.

**Afroz Taj** spent the summer co-directing the UNC Southeast Asia Summer Program in Singapore, Brunei, and India and conducting

research for his current monograph, tentatively titled *Fantasies of Resistance: Urdu Musical Theater from the 1860s to the 1930s*. For the fall semester Afroz has an Institute for the Arts and Humanities Fellowship to write his monograph. Meanwhile, Afroz recently appeared on stage in the NC Hindi Vikas Mandal's theatrical production of *Ram Leela*, playing the villain Ravana. He has also submitted an article to the *Southeast Review of Asian Studies* on Mirza Hadi Ruswa's musical drama *Maraqqa-e Laila Majnun*.

**Robin Visser's** recent publications include a forthcoming book chapter, "Coming of Age in RMB City," in *Spectacle and the City: Urbanity in East Asian Popular Culture and Art*, and a translation of Yu-Shan Huang's and Chun-Chi Wang's essay, "Post-Taiwan New Cinema Women Directors and Their Films: Auteurs, Images, Language" in *Chinese Women's Cinema: Transnational Contexts*. In 2011 she was chair and discussant on several conference panels, including "The Socialist Production of Space in Post-1949 China" (Association for Asian Studies), "Chinese Cinemas: Reframing the Field" (Duke University), and "After Mao: In the Wake of the Cultural Revolution" (Southeast Conference, Association for Asian Studies). She served as referee for the National Endowment for the Humanities and the National Science Foundation. She also received a Carolina Asia Center grant to develop a new course, Chinese Environmental Literature (CHIN 456).

**Nadia Yaqub** continues her research and writing on Palestinian cinema. During the 2010-11 academic year she published four book chapters: "Dismantling the Discourses of War: Palestinian Women Filmmakers Address Violence," in *Gender and Violence in the Middle East and North Africa*, and "Paradise Now: Narrating a Failed Politics," "The Dupes: Three Generations Uprooted and Betrayed," and "Waiting: A Scattered People Waiting for a Common Future," all three of which appeared in *Film and Politics in the Middle East and North Africa*. She has three additional articles and book chapters forthcoming. Nadia was invited to speak at a number of universities and film festivals, including Columbia University, Duke University, the London Palestine Film Festival, and the Boston Palestine Film Festival. She also organized visits to UNC by Palestinian filmmaker Kamal Al-Jafari and Egyptian novelist Miral al-Tahawi. In the wake of the outbreak of the Arab Spring revolutions in Tunisia and Egypt, Nadia spoke at a Think Fast Forum organized by the UNC Alumni Association and on the WUNC radio program "The State of Things."

**Gang Yue** has published two articles on the theme of the rise of China. Both are in Chinese with "National Core" journals and titled,

respectively, "Geographic Imagination and Geopolitics: Cartography in the Rise and Decline of Global Powers" and "Cultural Bubbles and National Anxiety." Related to that part of his work is his proposed new course, "The Rise of China," to be offered in the 2012-13 academic year. As in fall 2009 and 2010, he is currently directing the UNC Asian Studies Semester Program at Xiamen University, China, where he also teaches a graduate seminar as part of his appointment as the Lin Yutang Visiting Professor in the School of Humanities.

#### **Hang Zhang, Lecturer in Chinese**

In spring 2011, I presented a paper, "A Meaning and Function Based Approach to Introducing Grammar Structures," at the Princeton University East Asian Studies 19th Conference on Chinese Language Instruction at Princeton, NJ. I served as the assistant director and principal instructor for the Chinese Immersion Program in summer 2011. This intensive, five-week immersion experience approaches learning a language in a way that engages the whole learner by creating a community that is completely devoted to

language learning. Students took Elementary Chinese and also learned about traditional Chinese arts, and ended with a highly successful traditional Chinese concert organized by Professor Li-ling Hsiao. In Fall 2011, I served as a member of the Weir Fellowship selection committee. We selected three Chinese language students who will spend the spring 2012 semester in Beijing for intensive language study and then devote eight weeks to an internship in Beijing or Shanghai.

#### **Yi Zhou, Lecturer in Chinese**

Yi Zhou received the Grier Woods Travel Award from the Carolina Asia Center for her travel in China in summer 2011. She was able to visit state-owned and private enterprises and global companies in cities such as Beijing, Shanghai, and Tianjin. She was amazed by the rapidly developed medium-sized city Suzhou, which has attracted numerous international businesses and high-tech industries. Her travel in China has helped her collect first-hand teaching materials for developing the new course "Business Communication in Chinese." In the past year, she presented three papers at three national con-

ferences and organized and facilitated cultural activities on campus.

#### **Canguzel Zulfikar, Lecturer in Turkish**

This fall, I am teaching Turkish language courses and a content course on Istanbul. I posted video recordings of my advanced students on the Turkish at UNC web blog. Next semester, I will teach two Turkish language courses, a content course on Turkey, and a first-year seminar on Women and Spirituality in Turkey. I will also be leading a new UNC study abroad program to Istanbul this summer. The Turkish Table started in October. Every Monday, interested students gather with UNC alumna Yekta Zulfikar to practice their Turkish. They listen to Turkish music, watch movies together, and share recipes to cook. These activities complement the work of the Turkish Student Association which is currently planning for next month's activities, and which is always open to and eager for more students.

## *Spotlight on Arabic Program Alumni*

**Isabella Archer**, an Arab Cultures major alumna, is now completing her MA in the Franco-Arab track in UNC's Department of Romance Languages. She is on track to be the first graduate of that program.

After studying Arabic and graduating from UNC in December 2010, **Michael Baker** moved to Ramallah, West Bank, Palestine, where he studies *aamiyah* and takes advanced MSA classes at Birzeit University.

Arab Cultures major **Keegan de Lancie** was awarded a Fulbright study grant to Jordan in 2008-09. He remained in Jordan after the grant to work for the International Organization for Migration's Iraq Mission, and now directs the Mission.

Arabic minor **Stephen Feagin** is teaching English in Alexandria, Egypt while getting his TESOL certification.

Arab Cultures major **Rashad Hauter** completed a law degree at Campbell University this spring and passed the NC Bar exam in September.

**Brian Holliday**, who returned to UNC after his graduation in 2010 to study Arabic, is currently teaching at the Friends School in Ramallah. One of his colleagues there is a former classmate from the UNC Arabic program, **Meghan Leary**, who also teaches elementary classes.

**Evan Hughes**, who graduated with an Arab Cultures major and Chinese minor, taught English in China for several months after graduation. He is now applying for admission to graduate school.

Arab Cultures major **Adam Jones** is currently enrolled in an MA program in International Affairs at George Washington University.

**James Knable**, who graduated in May 2011 with an Arabic minor, is currently continuing his Arabic studies in Cairo. He writes for the online Egyptian news blog *Bikya Masr*.

**Charlie Kurzman**, a professor of sociology here at UNC, took eight semesters of Arabic that enabled him to do much of the research for his new book, *The Missing Martyrs: Why There Are So Few Muslim Terrorists* (Oxford University Press, 2011).

Arab Cultures major **Suzanne Saleeby** completed her MA in Arab Studies at Georgetown in May 2011. She currently works for the development agency Chemonics International.

**Daniel Smith**, an alumnus of both the Arabic program and the UNC study abroad program in Jordan, spent almost two years working on sustainable development projects in Jordan after graduation, and has been doing similar work in the American Southwest since August 2011.

# Meet Our New Faculty!



## John Caldwell, Lecturer in Hindi-Urdu

John Caldwell co-directed the UNC South East Asia Summer Program in Singapore, Brunei, and India, where he taught a course on the South Asia Diaspora in Literature and Film. This semester he is teaching Elementary and Advanced Hindi-Urdu and the Hindi Script course. In the Advanced Hindi-Urdu course John has included a new set of modules on Business Hindi-Urdu featuring materials prepared with a grant from the UNC Center for International Business Education and Research. John has also submitted an article to the *Southeast Review of Asian Studies* on intertextuality in Bollywood film songs.



## Lini Ge, Lecturer in Chinese

I was very excited to join the faculty of the Department of Asian Studies at UNC in the fall of 2011. During my first semester at UNC, I enjoyed teaching both the first- and second-year Chinese courses.

Before joining UNC, I received my master's degrees in Journalism and in Asian Civilizations from the University of Iowa. My most memorable experiences include volunteering for the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games and interning at the United Nations Headquarters in New York in the summer of 2010. With my background in mass media and cross-cultural communications, I am quite interested in developing curricula and courseware for Chinese learners in the areas of news, media, and culture.

A passionate teacher experienced in teaching students from diverse backgrounds, I believe that my role as a mentor is to guide and facilitate students' learning, and most important of all, to motivate them to take charge of their own learning and discover the best learning strategies that suit their individual styles. To accomplish my goals, I

enjoy applying a wide variety of strategies based on fundamental educational principles encompassing learner characteristics, learning theories, learning environment, assessment, and cultural awareness.

In all, I hope that my students will be motivated to seek the beauty of the Chinese language and culture in a supportive and fun learning environment that I strive to create. My ultimate goal is to build a solid foundation for students' lifelong learning by equipping them with the strategies and confidence that will aid understanding and communication in the real world.



## Reiko Nitta, Lecturer in Japanese

I am a new Japanese lecturer, teaching JAPN 101 this semester. I received my master's degree specializing in Japanese linguistics and language pedagogy from the University of Arizona. Before coming to UNC, I taught elementary and intermediate Japanese at Wesleyan University in Connecticut from 2009 to 2011.



## Hanna Sprintzik, Lecturer in Hebrew

I joined the Department of Asian Studies at UNC-CH in August 2011 as the new Hebrew Lecturer, bringing with me a great enthusiasm for the teaching profession along with a multicultural and an interdisciplinary background. I am excited to say that my experience in Chapel Hill and at UNC has been excellent.

I teach the first and second year of Modern Hebrew courses during fall 2011 and I am also developing an engaging new curriculum for the Hebrew classes. In addition to teaching, I am organizing extracurricular events that help students become familiar with Israeli culture and enrich their learning. For example: "3 in 1 Israeli Culture Night –

Singing, Folk Dancing, and Cooking" is an event planned for December 2011, which will expose students to music and Israeli food, creating also a sense of "togetherness" that is representative of the Israeli society.

Finally, I am pleased to be part of an excellent team here in the Department of Asian Studies. I enjoy my days on campus and being around my colleagues and students.



## Yeonhee Yoon, Lecturer in Korean

I am really happy to join our department as a new faculty member. I have been greatly enjoying teaching Korean language to UNC students who deepen my passion and inspire my creativity for teaching Korean language and culture. Over the past five years, before I joined the Department of Asian Studies at UNC, I taught all levels of Korean at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and also at Harvard University.

I have developed course curricula for Korean Language and Culture as well as a Media Research course and I have also engaged in special projects including test development and program curriculum development at the Korean Language Flagship Center, UHM, the first and only Korean language center in the U.S. dedicated to cultivating Korea specialists with professional-level proficiency in Korean. I received my Ph. D. in Korean Linguistics from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, specializing in Pragmatics and Korean Language Pedagogy, and my research interests include Intercultural Pragmatics, Korean Language and Culture, and Korean for Specific Purpose (KSP).

I gave a presentation titled *An Error Analysis of Advanced KFL Learners Writing Corpus and Its Pedagogical Implications* at the 2011 National Conference of the Korean Flagship Initiative: Toward Creating Global Professionals, in May, and am currently working on investigating *Hedge Use in KFL Learners' OPI*. I was invited as a guest speaker in ASIA 150 to give a lecture about the Korean alphabet system, "*Hangeul: The Birth of a Great Writing System*." I organized the Fall 2011 Korean Cultural Day celebrating the Korean traditional holiday *Ch'useok* (Korean Thanksgiving Day) with the help of Ji-Yeon Jo and Dongsoo Bang in the Korean program.



## *Hindi-Urdu Professor Makes History—Literally*

Fall is the time of the annual Ramlila festival in India! Part folk theatrical tradition and part Hindu ritual, Ramlila performances in cities and villages all over north India bring to life the story of the Hindu deity Lord Rama. Professor Pamela Lothspeich was fortunate to travel to western Uttar Pradesh, India, where she attended the festival from September 23 to October 7. It was her third opportunity to attend the festival in the region and it allowed her to gain considerable material for her book manuscript on amateur Ramlila performances and a chief text used in them, the "Radheshyam Ramayana." On this occasion, she attended portions of four different performances in Bareilly, Shahjahanpur, and Pilibhit. But it was at her base in Bareilly where she landed a small role, playing the boatman's wife in the beloved scene where Kevat the boatman adoringly washes Lord Rama's feet, and then ferries him and his party across the Ganges river. It was a historic moment, for it was the first time in the seventy-year history of that Ramlila that a female actress had taken to the stage. (Only very rarely do females act in Ramlila; traditionally, cross-dressing males play all female roles.)



Pamela Lothspeich prepares for and participates in a traditional performance in Bareilly, India.



## 2011 Senior Honors Colloquium



Six students presented their Senior Honors Thesis research at our Annual Senior Colloquium and Student Recognition Day on April 14, 2011. The presenters were (pictured l-r) Roni Sims, Dana DePietro, Elaina Giolando, Nikeeta Pal, Jenelle Peterson, and Rebecca Gade. Emily Noonan was unable to present at the colloquium but also completed an honors thesis. Also recognized were several students associated with the Department of Asian Studies who had won honors for community service, scholarship, and postgraduate internships and fellowships.

### Make a Gift to Asian Studies

Your gift to Asian Studies supports a number of important initiatives by faculty and students, including outside speakers, cultural events, projects by student groups, and faculty travel to pedagogical workshops and professional conferences.

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