

# Department of Asian Studies

Summer 2013

## Letter from the Chair...

Dear Friends and Alumni,

Greetings from New West! As you can see from the features in this newsletter, 2012-13 was another productive year for the Department of Asian Studies.

Congratulations to Lori Harris on winning a Chancellor's Award. Department and Business Manager for the Department of Asian Studies since 2007, Lori Harris goes "above and beyond" her duties to make Asian Studies an integral part of the intellectual, social, and creative life of Carolina. All who work in the Department of Asian Studies have been inspired by Lori's dedication to our educational mission. The phenomenal growth in the number of Asian Studies majors over recent years can be credited in large part to Lori's kind and knowledgeable communication with students, her efforts to introduce students to the Department through active involvement in initiating events such as our annual majors' reception, and guiding faculty on best practices in advising. A feature with Lori can be viewed on page 3.

Congratulations to Lini Ge, Lecturer in Chinese, on her teaching award, and to Afroz Taj on being awarded the first Carolina Performing Arts Fellowship. We're excited to share news about these awards on pages 2 and 9 respectively.

A vibrant party in May celebrated the contributions of Carolina Asia Center Director and Weldon Thornton Distinguished Professor Kevin Hewison before he returned to Australia to take up his new post as Professor of Politics and International Studies and Director of the Asia Research Centre at Murdoch University. See page 2 for the feature on Kevin's farewell party. We congratulate our colleague in the Japanese Program, Morgan Pitelka, on his appointment as the incoming Carolina Asia Center Director.

Colloquia and workshops explored research and teaching in the Department of Asian Studies. Associate Chair Nadia Yaqub led the Department's new faculty colloquium series (Drs. Yaron Shemer and Pamela Lothspeich presented new book research); organized monthly workshops in which Asian Studies lan-

guage instructors presented their research; and arranged a faculty workshop with Jane Danielewicz, Director of the UNC Writing Program, on creating effective writing assignments. Sahar Amer led the Duke-UNC Consortium Conference "Reorienting the Veil," an event that received much press attention and enthusiastic response by attendees. Morgan Pitelka organized the March seminar "Work in Early Modern Japan: Precarious Pasts" for the Triangle Center for Japanese Studies. Nadia Yaqub organized the December conference "Rethinking Palestine Through the Arts," the Carolina Seminar "Rethinking Israel/Palestine," and the CCSMEMC film series "Cinemas of the Global Middle East."

Cultural enrichment activities of all kinds from guest lectures by artists and scholars to hands-on celebrations of Asian festivals and New Year's events made New West the center of much activity this past year. These events give students the chance to try their new language skills, taste Asian foods, talk with authors and filmmakers, and get to know other students in Asian Studies. Our faculty devote much time to these events by planning, raising funds, involving students, and leading the activities. See the details of some of these activities listed in the individual faculty notes beginning on page 4. We owe our hardworking faculty a debt of thanks for bringing Asia to UNC.

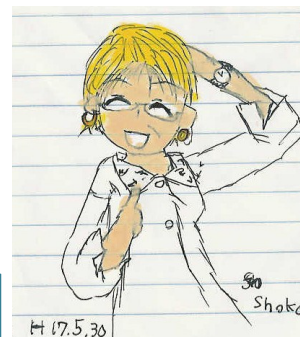
We hope to hear from all our alumni about what you're doing and enjoy getting email and visits from you. See page 14 for alumni news to catch up on the diverse paths our students have taken.

I conclude this letter with a grateful thanks to all our donors. Donations to the Department of Asian Studies contribute substantially to making possible the research, teaching, and cultural events described in this newsletter. I like to donate online at <http://giving.unc.edu>. Find information on how you can make a difference to Asian Studies on page 15 of this newsletter. If you have ideas about how you would like to contribute, please email me at [bardsley@email.unc.edu](mailto:bardsley@email.unc.edu) or telephone me at 919-962-1534, and we can discuss the variety of projects that funding can assist or make possible.

For continuing news from the Department of Asian Studies, please visit our website at <http://asianstudies.unc.edu>. When you're in Chapel Hill, please stop by New West to say hello.



Jan Bardsley  
Chair



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## Kevin Hewison Retires

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On May 2, 2013, friends of Asian Studies and the Carolina Asia Center gathered to celebrate Dr. Kevin Hewison's contributions to Carolina, giving him a rousing send-off to his new post in Australia. The lively party featured bursts of cheers and testimonies of thanks for Kevin. The Department of Asian Studies presented him with an album of photos and good wishes from all the faculty.

Having returned to Australia, Kevin Hewison is now Professor of Politics and International Studies and Director of the Asia Research Centre, a well-established center of research excellence within Murdoch University, with some thirty affiliated researchers and twenty doctoral students. We certainly hope to see Kevin and his wife Sawai back at Carolina often.

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## Lini Ge Receives Campus Teaching Honor

Lini Ge, lecturer in Chinese, was honored for her superb teaching by an award given by the Student Undergraduate Teaching and Staff Awards Committee. Students initiated and run the annual awards selection process. Lini accepted this honor at the Chancellor's Awards ceremony on April 18, 2013, at the Great Hall of the Frank Porter Graham Student Union.

Lini received multiple student nominations for this award. Her students praised her engaging classes and high expectations, and credited *Ge Laoshi* (Instructor Ge) with making their achievements in learning Chinese possible. They wrote: "Ge Laoshi's classroom is an engaged and lively place in which students are encouraged to be curious, ask questions and learn in a variety of ways..."; "Ge Laoshi fosters an environment in her classroom where beginner students feel comfortable speaking this difficult language and developing their language skills"; "If I had not been pushed to reach the high expectations Ge Laoshi sets for her students, I would have never reached such high levels of success."



## *Department Manager Receives Chancellor's Award*

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On December 6, 2012, Chancellor Holden Thorp recognized Asian Studies Department Manager Lori Harris for her continued contributions to the University by presenting her with the prestigious Chancellor's Award. Since arriving at Asian Studies in 2004, Lori has worked tirelessly to meet the growing needs of the department's burgeoning personnel and student body. Whether she's processing faculty visas, meticulously building the yearly schedule, or helping students chart the uncertain waters of their undergraduate careers, Lori is one of the department's greatest resources, and her dedication to Asian Studies is both unparalleled and invaluable. We are delighted to see her receive the honors she deserves! Congratulations, Lori!



Lori Harris (center right) and other recipients are congratulated by Chancellor Holden Thorp.

## Faculty News and Publications

**Shahla Adel** gave two presentations this year: "Perceptions of Persian Culture and Iranian Cinema" at the Southeastern Conference for Asian Studies at UNC- Wilmington, and at the Texas Foreign Language Education Conference at the University of Texas at Austin. She co-organized cultural events at UNC in celebration of the Persian New Year, and also initiated a Persian Calligraphy and Illumination Exhibition and Workshop at Hanes Art Center from March 18 to 27, with calligrapher artist Majid Roohafza.

**Sahar Amer** published "Naming to Empower: Lesbianism in the Arab Islamicate World Today" in the *Journal of Lesbian Studies*. She was active in speaking to many academic and community groups about the multiple meanings of veiling, and was also

invited to present "Reading Medieval French Literature from a Global Perspective" at the University of Massachusetts-Amherst. She was the lead organizer for a Duke-UNC Consortium Conference, "Reorienting the Veil," an event that received much press attention and enthusiastic response by attendees.

**Lorraine Aragon** enjoyed a busy summer of book writing and editing, gardening, and swimming whenever possible. She continues to research and write about the encounter of intellectual and cultural property law with the informal practices of "traditional artists" in Southeast Asia. There are also family visits to be made and new readings to begin for an upcoming Honors course on "Artisans and Global Culture." This fall, Lorraine teaches ASIA 252: "Popular Culture in Modern Southeast Asia."

**Yuki Aratake** taught JAPN 411: "Food and Culture in Japan" in fall 2012, teaching students about Japanese foodways and guiding their preparation of many different types of Japanese homemade recipes. She also taught JAPN 162: "Japanese Popular Culture" in English during the spring semester, introducing the anime, music, and fashion that young Japanese people are interested in right now. With Katsu Sawamura, Yuki organized a visit to a local Japanese factory for her students so they could learn how Japanese companies have tried to establish business in the U.S.

**Farida Badr** coordinated the first Arabic immersion program at UNC-Chapel Hill in summer 2012 and also taught in the intensive Arabic language program at Middlebury College. She attended the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interviewer (OPI) certified tester workshop and is now in the final phase of obtaining her certificate. Farida also organized the Arab cooking session in fall 2012 and the "Omsyah 'arabyah" or Arab Night. In spring 2013, she led the first Arab "big cooking event" with colleague Doria El Kerdany. Finally, she presented "Developing and Evaluating a new Language Immersion Program" at the Less Commonly Taught Languages Conference in Chicago, IL.

**Dongsoo Bang** has edited books for the TaekMin Academy of Korean Studies and helped them with their April 2013 conference. Dongsoo has worked with her colleagues in the Korean Program at UNC to initiate cultural events for students including a Korean Thanksgiving and Korean New Year's Day. She also serves as advisor to KASA (Korean American Student Association at UNC). Her nonacademic activities involve teaching Sunday school at her Korean church.

**Jan Bardsley** enjoyed traveling this year. Among her invited presentations were "From Kitsch to Cool: The Geisha Apprentice in Japanese Visual Culture" at Heidelberg University, "Miss Black Ships: Bases and Beauty Queens in Cold War Japan" at Cambridge University, and "Teaching about the New Woman of Japan in the U.S." at Japan Women's University. She also gave several presentations in the U.S., including "Japanese Productions of Madame Butterfly" for the Los Angeles Opera Company. She has been elected President of the Southeast Conference/Association for Asian Studies (2013) and Chair of the



An Arabic cultural activity organized by Farida Badr displayed these traditional items and sweets and taught participants about Egyptian baby shower customs.

Council of Chairs of the College of Arts and Sciences, UNC-Chapel Hill (2013-14).

**Uffe Bergeton** gave two academic presentations this year: the first, "Found in Translation: Tracing the Emergence of 'Culture' in the Lúnyǔ," at the Southeastern Conference of the Association for Asian Studies in January 2013 and the second, "History Word by Word: Lexical Semantic Approach to Epistemic Change in Early China," at the New Faculty Microtalks event organized by the IAH in April. In May Uffe received a Faculty Travel award from the Carolina Asia Center which will enable him to do research for his current book project in China this summer. He enjoyed his first year of teaching at UNC, offering three courses: CHIN 552: "History as Fiction or Fiction as History? Early Chinese History in Film and Literature" in fall 2012, and CHIN 252: "Introduction to Chinese Culture through Narrative" and ASIA 89: "Philosophy on Bamboo: Rethinking Early Chinese Thought" in spring 2013.

**John Caldwell** co-directed the UNC India Study Abroad program over the summer. The program is based in Delhi with excursions to Agra, Aligarh, Haridwar, Rishikesh, Ludhiana, Amritsar and the Pakistan border. In spring 2013 John taught his popular ASIA164: "Music of South Asia" course. As a highlight of the spring semester, John helped to organize a South Asia film festival and he co-moderated a "meet the artist" event with composer Vijay Iyer and filmmaker Prashant Bhargava. Meanwhile John has been accepted to the UNC graduate program in Musicology and will begin working toward his Ph.D. in the fall while continuing to teach full-time in the Department of Asian Studies.

**Mark Driscoll** was on research leave during the 2012-2013 academic year at Princeton's Institute for Advanced Study. He completed a draft of his third book, "Decoloniality or Death: Insurrectionary Life in East Asia, 1867-1912" and is spending three months in western China finishing the last research for it.

**Doria El Kerdany** coordinated the second-year Arabic courses last year while also teaching third- and fourth-year Ara-

bic. She has developed interactive methods for students' class presentations that include note taking and report writing, and she has experimented with using blogs in class for students to report about Arabic culture topics. She's worked with colleagues to develop a new Arabic placement test which will better measure proficiency and can be made available online. Doria organized many cultural events including a festival of ritual music, a belly dancing workshop, and a lecture about Sufi chanting as a cross-cultural phenomenon. She has been invited to the MESA Conference in New Orleans in October 2013 to discuss her recent novel, and she plans to write another book about her trip participation in the UNC in India study abroad program in summer 2013.

**Lili Fan** enjoyed teaching advanced language classes for the Chinese heritage students, and was happy to see how much progress her students made in reading and writing Chinese. She has been maintaining a website where she posts China/Chinese related cultural events in order for students in the Chinese program to easily find the activities that are of interest to them. Last year, with the Chinese Undergraduate Student Association, Lili co-organized the Mid-Autumn Festival. At least 350 students, friends, and their families participated in

the event, which has started to receive campuswide attention.

**Lini Ge** won a Student Undergraduate Teaching Award this April for her teaching of Chinese language. She organized the Chinese Speech Contest in April. Lini has won two grants, from the Carolina Asia Center and the Department of Asian Studies, to support her research and course development. See page 3 for a feature on Lini's teaching award.

**Zeina G. Halabi** completed her post-doctoral fellowship at the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin, where she had the opportunity to work on her upcoming book and attend several seminars and workshops related to her research. In June, she participated in a conference at Marburg University entitled "Commitment and Dissent in Arabic Literature since the 1950s," where she presented a paper about the representation of the Arab intellectual in modern and contemporary literature. Zeina's article "The Unbearable Heaviness of Being: The Suicide of the Intellectual in Rabi'h Jaber's *Ralph Rizqallah Through the Looking Glass*" appeared in the spring issue of the *Journal of Arabic Literature*.



A display for Nowruz, the traditional Iranian spring celebration.



A Tanabata wish tree made by JAPN 102 students.

**Li-ling Hsiao** published the co-edited volume *Southeast Review of Asian Studies*, volume 34 (2012), a peer-reviewed journal. She also published "The Soul and its Ceremonies: Funeral Practice in Modern Taiwan," in the *Southeast Review of Asian Studies*. Li-ling co-organized the Triangle East Asian Colloquium on the theme of "Art about Art in East Asia," held at the Ackland Art Museum in April 2013, and she presented a paper titled "Visualizing Music: Min Qiji's 'Yingying Listens to Zither' for Xixiang ji" at the colloquium. A shorter version of the article was presented at the annual meeting of the Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies at UNC-Wilmington in January 2013. Li-ling also presented "Performability as an Excuse for Textual Manipulation: The Commentary of Pipa ji" at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in San Diego in March 2013. She continues to serve as Director of the Chinese Immersion Program and was elected Vice-President of the Association for Asian Studies.

**Nasser Isleem** has had a busy year teaching Arabic at New York University in Abu Dhabi where he has helped lead many trips within the UAE for both students and faculty. He is publishing language textbooks for Modern Standard Arabic, the Emirati dialect, and the Palestinian Jordanian dialect. He returned to UNC-Chapel Hill to teach Elementary Arabic in summer session II.

**Fumi Iwashita** completed the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) training in Japanese offered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) and received an official OPI tester certificate last year. She attended the Princeton Japanese Pedagogy Forum and exchanged ideas about current trends in language pedagogy with colleagues from various universities. Teaching Elementary Japanese classes, Fumi experimented with using folk tales, leading the students in the crafts and

songs associated with the tales, and also guided their projects on learning the geography of Japan. Two of Fumi's students participated in the Annual Duke Japanese Speech Contest, placing first and third respectively.

**Ji-Yeon Jo** looks forward to returning to teaching Korean language and culture after devoting 2012-13 to research for her book, tentatively titled "Familiar yet Foreign: Ethnic Return Migrants in South Korea." This research was supported by the Grier/Woods Presbyterian Fellowship in Chinese Studies for fall 2012 and by a Research and Study Leave for spring 2013. Her research took Ji-Yeon to South Korea and China where she conducted interviews with many community leaders, religious leaders, scholars, and educators whose works are related to ethnic return migrants and migrant communities. In China, Ji-Yeon gave a guest lecture at Yanbian University, was invited to be a discussant at the Tumen River Forum, and served as a judge at the 2012 National Symposium for Post-docs in Foreign Lan-

guage and Comparative Literature in Yanji, China. At the Association of Asian Studies meeting, Ji-Yeon presented "Moving-images of the Korean Diaspora: Diasporic Lives in the Films of Three Diaspora Korean Directors." In May, Ji-Yeon was invited to be a panel member at the "Koreans in China after the 1990s" Symposium hosted by the University of Pennsylvania; she presented "Capitalizing Citizenship: Korean-Chinese Transnational Migrants' Quest for Citizenship and Belonging."

**Charles Joukhadar** enjoyed teaching Elementary Arabic and a new course on Arabic Grammar and Composition last year. In the latter class, he was happy to witness the development of his students' awareness of Arabic grammar and to see them use their knowledge of grammar to improve their writing skills. Charles also started the UNC Arabic Club, a weekly meeting for students of Arabic to practice speaking skills and to explore different aspects of Arabic culture, such as calligraphy, food, films, music, etc.. He helped develop the new Arabic placement test, which will be an online test based on students' listening and reading skills, relying less on their familiarity with a specific textbook. Charles goes to the University of Tucson this fall to begin a PhD program in Applied Linguistics.

**Yuko Kato** enjoyed having an opportunity to volunteer in the DukeEngage Program in Tanzania during Summer 2012. The program members gave trainings to local teachers in how to use the teaching method called "LTP: Literacy through Photography," which could be applied in any curriculum. Inspired by the experience, Yuko incorporated this method in her JAPN 490: "Japanese Culture through Films and Literature," which is an advanced course taught in Japanese, and plans to develop more uses for it in her future courses.

**Larry Kessler** published an article, "Red Rendezvous: An Englishman's Encounters with Chinese Communism," in the *Southeast Review of Asian Studies*. He also conducted workshops on "Early China" and "Intellectual Traditions of China" for secondary school teachers, under the

aegis of the Teaching Asia Network, in Greenville, SC, during June 2012.

**Steve Levine** completed a draft translation (from Russian) of Alexander Pantsov's critical biography of Deng Xiaoping, tentatively titled *Deng: The Real Story*. He is working with retired PLA officer Zhai Zhihai on a book about the Korean War whose working title is "China's War in Korea." He is also co-authoring a young adult novel that has nothing to do with Asia except for a few quotes from Confucius thrown in to spice up the action.

**Wendan Li** is currently working on a research project on the grounding structure of Mandarin Chinese. She presented two papers at summer conferences. One was the 2013 *China Symposium on Corpus Linguistics and Discourse Analysis*, held in June at Beijing Foreign Studies University, where she presented "Clause structure in Chinese narrative text – a corpus-based study." The second conference was the 21st Annual Meeting of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL 21) at Taiwan Normal University in Taipei, from June 8-10. Wendan spoke about "Topic-comment Constructions and Grounding in Mandarin Chinese."

**Jia Lin** taught CHIN 313: "Advanced Written Chinese," a heritage-track Chinese course, for the first time in fall 2012. As the coordinator of CHIN 102 during the spring 2013 semester, Jia worked with colleagues to help students build a good foundation for their future study. In November 2012, Jia presented her study on Chinese conjunctions at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) convention and also participated in an ACTFL workshop on empirical studies in

Philadelphia. In the past academic year, she has also been working as the faculty advisor for the UNC China house. Jia enjoyed introducing Chinese courses and study abroad information to the China house residents, helping them streamline language policies, and organizing cultural activities.

**Pamela Lothspeich** published an article titled "The Radheshyam Ramayana and the Sanskritization of Khari Boli Hindi," in the spring issue of *Modern Asian Studies*, in connection with her current book project. Also in the spring, she was an invited presenter at Winston-Salem State University, giving a public lecture on her research on Ramlila and leading a workshop about teaching the Hindu epics.

Over the summer and fall, Pamela will again be conducting research in India related to her book project on Ramlila. This will be the second leg of her Fulbright-Nehru fellowship period. While on the first leg last fall, Pamela not only attended many Ramlila performances, but also produced a play, *Heroic Abhimanyu*, in December 2012. In summer 2013, Pamela taught ASIA 333: "The Mahabharata: Remembered and Reimagined" as an online course for the first time.

**Reiko Nitta** enjoyed teaching for her second year at UNC, creating activities for students and also working

with colleagues to improve the placement test. In May, Reiko participated in the Triangle Japanese Pedagogy Workshop, learning about the Japan Foundation Standard for Japanese-Language Education. In the summer, she enjoys traveling in Japan with her son. In 2012, they visited historical structures, absorbed contemporary culture, and tasted new foods. They visited Nara and Kyoto in summer 2013.

**Morgan Pitelka** published an essay titled "The Tokugawa Storehouse: Ieyasu's Encounters with Things" in the volume *Early Modern Things: Objects and Their Histories, 1500-1800*. He worked closely with the Ackland Art Museum on the "Season of Japan" series of programs and exhibitions in the fall of 2012, and gave a lecture there in November titled "The Art and Politics of Samurai Sociability." He organized a workshop held at UNC in March, 2013, titled "Work in Early Modern Japan: Precarious Pasts," and presented a paper there, "The Precarious Work of War in the Late Sixteenth Century." He served as a discussant for the panel "Curating Gestures: Performance and Material Culture in Early Modern Japan" at the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies. He gave a lecture at the University of Virginia in April, titled "The Politics of Culture in Samurai Displays of Art." He also served for the second



Student work from Hebrew classes throughout the semester, proudly displayed on the main bulletin board here in New West.

year as Director of the Triangle Center for Japanese Studies, a collaboration of UNC, Duke, and NCSU, and was appointed to be the new Director of the Carolina Asia Center.

**Katsu Sawamura** taught the new advanced Japanese-language content course, JAPN 490: "Japan: People, Places, and Legends." He also initiated ways for his students to interact with Japanese people in North Carolina, organizing tours to Japanese companies in the Research Triangle Park such as AW North Carolina and Honda Power Equipment Manufacturing Inc., showing students firsthand how these companies operate in the U.S. and what they do. He organized a language exchange program in which students and Japanese wives of these companies' employees enjoyed conversation in their second languages.

**Yaron Shemer's** book *Identity, Place, and Subversion in Contemporary Mizrahi Cinema in Israel* will debut soon. Last winter, the *Journal of Levantine Studies* published Yaron's article "The Burden of Self-Representation: Reflections on *Shhur* and Its Legacy for Contemporary Mizrahi Films in Israel." He also gave public talks on Israeli cinema and culture at Claremont-McKenna College, CA., and at Illinois State University, Bloomington-Normal, IL. In November 2012, Yaron presented "Corrective Histories: The Ashkenazi Benchmark of Mizrahi Memory in Cinema" at the Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA) annual meeting in Denver. Yaron's new project "Neighboring Identities: The Jew in Arab Cinema" has earned him the offer of a fellowship from the Stanford Humanities Center (declined) and a research leave fellowship from the ACLS/SSRC/NEH International and Area Studies fellowship for the academic year of 2013-14.

**Hanna Sprintzik** traveled to New York City in summer 2013 for a presentation to an international conference and also facilitated the community work "Limud Buenos Aires," an international community event in Argentina. She organized several events last year: Hebrew-language students participated in an "Israeli Culture Night" inspired by kibbutz life. With UNC Hillel, Hanna co-organized "Mimouna," a multiethnic celebration at the end of Passover. Hanna also represented Asian Studies

in the Carolina Combined (Gives) Campaign, energetically leading the fund-raising among our faculty. Hanna continues her own research on teaching effectiveness and culture instruction within language classes, presenting at workshops in the department and at conferences.

**Afroz Taj** has been awarded the first Carolina Performing Arts Curatorial Fellowship. See page 9 for more on Afroz's award. Afroz spent the summer in India. In May and June he directed the UNC Summer in India study abroad program. In July he worked on the Performing Arts Fellowship and continued work on his current book projects on the Parsi Theater and the origins of the Indian film industry. Afroz is looking forward to the fall semester when he will reprise his role as Ravana in the North Carolina Hindu Society's production of "Ram Leela."

**Rachana Umashankar** gave two presentations at UNC-Chapel Hill this year. The first presentation, in the fall, was titled "Cross-cultural Expressions of Sufi Music," and was an event organized in conjunction with the Arabic Program in the Department of Asian Studies. The second presentation, in the spring, was titled, "Strangers in a Strange Land: Problematizing Terminology in South Asian Scholarship." This talk was part of the "Islam in the Global Context" speaker series. Having defended her dissertation and graduated in 2012, Rachana received her official doctoral hood on May 11, 2013.

**Robin Visser** published two book chapters and one journal article based

on her ongoing research on modern Chinese eco-literature and urban cultural studies: "Pining for the Native Soil" in *Homecoming: Contextualizing, Materializing, and Practicing the Rural in China*; "Coming of Age in RMB City" in *Spectacle and the City: Urbanity in East Asian Popular Culture and Art*; and "Anthropocosmic Resonance in Post-Mao Chinese Environmental Literature" in *Wenyi lilun* (Theoretical Studies in Literature and Art). Her translation of the story "A River Full of Glass," by Qiu Huadong, was published in the literary journal *Chutzpah!*. Robin also gave invited talks for the Eighth Annual Lillian R. Furst Forum at UNC-CH (April 2013) and for the workshop "Affective Mapping of Chinese Cities" at Rutgers University (November 2012).

**Nadia Yaqub** published an article and two book chapters on Palestinian cinema: "Utopia and Dystopia in Palestinian Circular Journeys from Ghassan Kanafani to Contemporary Film," in the *Journal of Middle East Literatures*; "Narrating the Nakba: the Seventh Decade," in *Narrating 'conflict': Discourse, Spectacle, Commemoration and Communication Practices in Palestine and Lebanon*; and "Azza Hassan and Impossible Filmmaking in Israel/Palestine," in *Resistance in Contemporary Middle Eastern Cultures: Literature, Cinema and Music*. She presented academic papers at the American Comparative Literature Association conference and at the Palestine and the Moving Image conference. In the area of teaching, Nadia directed the UNC faculty-led study abroad program "Women and Leadership in the Arab World" in



Korean language students enjoy a Korean traditional cuisine (*Bibimbop*) while Dr. Yoon explains the origin of the Korean traditional holiday *Chuseok* (Korean Thanksgiving Day).

Amman, Jordan. She also developed and taught a new First-Year Seminar, "Arab World Photography." She hosted filmmaker/photographer George Azar and literary scholar Gonzalo Fernandez at UNC Chapel Hill. Nadia was named a 2012-13 fellow in the IAH Academic Leadership Program and a spring 2013 Scholar in Residence at the Carolina Women's Center.

**Yeonhee Yoon** gave a presentation titled "Teaching Language and Culture through Film: Incorporating Films and Film-Based Assignments into Language Teaching" at our department lecturer workshop in October and a special lecture on "The Salient Characteristics of Korean Language", as a guest speaker in ASIA 150: "Introduction to Asian Studies," in September. Her article titled "An Intercultural Communication Approach to Teaching Business Korean: A Case Study of a Mock Negotiation" was published in *Global Business Languages*. She funded and co-organized the fall 2012 Korean cultural event celebrating Korean traditional holiday *Chuseok* and the spring 2013 Korean cultural event celebrating Korean Lunar New Year's Day *Seolnal*. In summer 2013, she

moved to the University of Notre Dame du Lac where she assumes her new post as Korean Program Coordinator and Associate Professor of the Practice.

**Hang Zhang** earned her PhD in Linguistics after completing her dissertation titled "The Second Language Acquisition of Mandarin Chinese Tones by English, Japanese and Korean Speakers." It is a cross-linguistic research project on non-tonal language (English as a stress language, Japanese as a pitch accent language, and Korean as a non-stress non-pitch-accent language) speakers' acquisition of lexical tones within the theoretical framework of Optimality Theory (OT). She gave presentations related to her dissertation this year at the Southeast Conference/ Association for Asian Studies and the Seventh International Symposium on the Acquisition of Second Language Speech.

**Yi Zhou** gave a presentation about her research results on the controversial topic of using the target language in the beginning classroom at the annual conference of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), arguing that some use of English is effective. She was also invited by McCombs School of Busi-

ness, University of Austin to give a talk on Business Chinese Language Program development. She is advisor to the Chinese Undergraduate Students' Association (CUSA) and helped organize the 2013 Chinese New Year Celebration. She started to offer her new course "Business Communication in Chinese" in spring semester 2013 to 14 students.

**Canguzel Zufilkar** presented a paper about the 11th century Sufi master Abu al-Hasan al-Haraqani in October 2012 at the Haraqani International Symposium organized by Kafkas University in Kars, Turkey. Among her courses last year were the First-Year Seminar ASIA 62: "Women and Spirituality in Turkey," ASIA 225: "Istanbul: Crossroads of Asia and Europe," and Turkish language classes. Students in ASIA 225 created a blog that serves for outreach purposes for colleagues teaching NC K-16 classes. Her Turkish language course students mastered a common folk dance known as "halay" and learned to sing Turkish songs in different genres, like folk and pop music, and her first-year students presented extraordinary research papers.

## Afroz Taj Wins Fellowship

Afroz Taj has been awarded the first Carolina Performing Arts Curatorial Fellowship. This fellowship is part of a major grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation to Carolina Performing Arts entitled "Arts@TheCore." Arts@TheCore is designed to inspire UNC faculty to extend and re-imagine their own intellectual, disciplinary, and interdisciplinary frontiers by involving them in the process of bringing the performing arts into classrooms and research projects. The Curatorial Fellowship will allow Afroz to design a three-performance series to be presented on campus during the 2014-2015 season in cooperation with the staff at Carolina Performing Arts. Afroz has chosen the theme of "Water Music from South Asia," and his series will include folk musicians from Bangladesh, classical dancers from India, and Sufi singers from Pakistan. Afroz is working closely with Joy Kasson, the Andrew W. Mellon Distinguished Scholar for Carolina Performing Arts, and is participating in an ongoing faculty seminar on incorporating the arts into the academic core.

Afroz Taj as Ravana in the NC Hindu Society's production of "Ram Leela."



## *A Year in Pictures: Asian Studies Events*



Above: Chinese 306 students pose with their instructor Yi Zhou before performing for the Chinese New Year.

Right: Farida Badr demonstrates culinary techniques at an Arabic cooking event.

Below: Students attempt fancy footwork during a Tai-Chi Chuan workshop during the 2013 Chinese Summer Immersion Program.

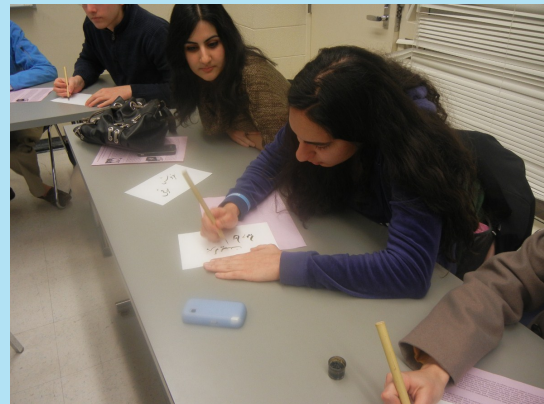




Above: Chinese students shadowboxing.  
Left: *Onigiri* (rice ball) making workshop followed by the screening of the film *Kamome Shokudo*, which introduces *onigiri* as a Japanese soul food



Seen here with their instructor Shahla Adel, students and guests learn about and eventually try to replicate beautiful Persian calligraphy.



## 2013 Senior Honors Colloquium



*Front row (l-r): Dr. Rachana Umashankar (Asian Studies), Dr. Sahar Amer (Asian Studies), Mara Howard-Williams, Dr. Nadia Yaqub (Asian Studies), Melissa Tolentino, Brian Rudd.*  
*Back row (l-r): Dr. Uffe Bergeton (Asian Studies), Hanqing Feng, Karly Alderfer, Daniel Ramírez Contreras, Eric Powers, Dr. Robin Visser (Asian Studies), Dr. Mark Crescenzi (Political Science).*

Seven Asian Studies seniors presented their original research at our annual Senior Honors Colloquium on April 18, 2013. As always, there was a fascinating diversity of topics. Brian Ladd examined the Egyptian Revolution of 2011 through the lens of the Bakhtinian carnivalesque. Karly Alderfer earned highest honors for her thesis on “Queer Arab Women’s Voices in Film, Fiction, and Cyberspace.” Two theses dealt with migration in different parts of the world: Melissa Tolentino examined how Filipina immigrants were represented in Japanese media, and Mara Howard-Williams studied the assimilation experiences of Lebanese immigrants to the United States. And two speakers this year dealt with interesting linguistic topics. Eric Powers, in his thesis “Madrasis are from Mars, Gujjus are from Gupiter,” analyzed attitudes and stereotypes based on different South Asian accents. Daniel Ramírez Contreras discussed the teaching of Chinese language tones and methods to help English speakers learn them more successfully. Hanqing Feng’s presentation on the “Consumption and Culture of Japanese Ramen” illuminated many intriguing differences in global ramen culture, and generated a lively audience discussion.

## *Asian Studies Alumni: Where Are They Now?*

Chinese major **Edward Adamski** (2006) was accepted to the master's program in Economics at Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, the number 3 school in China for the subject, where all his classes will be in Chinese. In addition, he was awarded a full two-year scholarship from the China Government Scholarship Association. Edward is still developing and expanding a business engaged in exporting handmade silk rugs and other luxury art products to North America, Australia, and Europe.

After living in China for three years and studying for one year at Peking University, Chinese major **Liz Carter** (2008) is living in DC with her cat Desmond and roommates from UNC. She has been writing for Tea Leaf Nation (<http://www.tealeafnation.com>), a website that monitors Chinese social media and covers developments in China. She also works as a translator and writer for China Digital Times (<http://chinadigitaltimes.net/team/translator-bios>), where she's been helping them compile an e-book covering Chinese internet language and online phenomena (the content is also here in this online lexicon: [http://chinadigitaltimes.net/space/Grass-Mud\\_Horse\\_Lexicon](http://chinadigitaltimes.net/space/Grass-Mud_Horse_Lexicon)). She's been translating technical documents like safety codes for a couple of companies. She ran her first marathon here last year.

After serving as the Assistant Director of the University of Kentucky Asia Center for seven years, Japanese minor **Shana Herron** (1995) moved across campus last year to the UK Proposal Development Office, where she assists faculty from all disciplines in writing successful grant proposals. She enjoys living in Lexington with her husband and two-year-old son, Theo, and has another baby boy on the way at the end of the summer.

Taking a break from teaching and traveling around the world, Asian Studies minor **Princess Small** (2004) came home to earn her MA in TESOL from Azusa Pacific University. She teaches academic English-as-a-Second-Language at Central Piedmont Community College in Charlotte, NC. Asia is still her passion, and so she intends to continue the JET Program's mission of "promoting grass-roots exchange" by submitting a study abroad proposal to Japan, which would be CPCC's first!



Asian Studies alumna Princess Small, living her dreams in Japan.

**Emily Taylor** (2007), who majored in Japanese and minored in Asian Studies, is starting her fourth year on the JET Program. She is swapping her placement in the hot, humid islands of Amakusa for the refreshingly cool mountain scenery of Aso. Recently, she spent two weeks in Thailand volunteering at a sanctuary for abused elephants. She feels lucky to have the opportunity to live in such gorgeous locations in Japan while being able to travel often and have amazing new experiences.

**Josh Thompson** (2010) started at UNC School Of Medicine soon after graduating and is currently finishing up his third year clinical rotations. He is taking a year off before his last year to work on a Master's degree in public health, also at UNC. After he graduates from UNC a second time, he plans on specializing in internal medicine with the ultimate goal of working in

hematology and oncology. Hebrew, the language he studied during his undergraduate career, unfortunately comes up only rarely with his patients, but he still tries to practice when he can.

**Ben Turman** (2012) spent his senior year here at National Taiwan University on the Boren Scholarship doing linguistics research and language study. Since graduating from UNC with a major in Chinese, he has helped to document and preserve one of Taiwan's endangered aboriginal Austronesian languages, signed as a model with a major Asian fashion magazine, and now splits his time between Taiwan and China modeling and teaching English to elementary school kids.

In addition to her study of Arabic, **Yekta Zulfikar** (2011) double-majored in Political Science and International Studies with a minor in Islamic & Middle Eastern Studies. She is currently residing in Istanbul and has just finished the first year of a two-year MA program in International Relations and Political Science at Istanbul Sehir University. Now she will be working on her thesis, most likely on the application of responsibility to protect in Kosovo. She may also do a comparative study on why this concept is not being used in Syria.

# Department of Asian Studies

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