Asian Studies at Carolina

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Mark Driscoll
Yuko Kato
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Global Education Center Launched

In November 2004, Carolina entered a new era of international initiatives with the groundbreaking celebration for the Global Education Center. Starting construction of the Center is a major step forward for Carolina, which already is attracting attention in the higher education community with its moves on the international front. The Center will be unique among U.S. colleges and universities for bringing together in one facility the three major components of international education: student services, academic programs, and faculty research, including most of the international initiatives in the College of Arts and Sciences.

When completed, the 80,000-square-foot building will include classroom space, a videoconferencing center, and a home for several academic and student programs now spread across the College of Arts and Sciences, including such Asia-related programs as the Carolina Asia Center, the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations, and the N.C. Center for South Asian Studies. The Center will house the Office of Study Abroad, the Curriculum in International and Area Studies, the University Center for International Studies, and the Institute for Advanced Research in International and Area Studies.

(continued on back page)

Greetings from the Chair
Gang Yue

I present to you my first annual “report card” with a sense of humility and excitement. As the new chair for a new department, I am humbled by the great progress Asian Studies has made under the leadership of my predecessors. Their achievements have set a high standard and provided the opportunities for us to better serve our students and our broader constituents in the state of North Carolina.

My own professional career has grown step-by-step with Asian Studies. In 1993, the Curriculum in Asian Studies became an independent administrative unit on the same date my appointment as assistant professor began. Altogether we had then only five full-time members based in the Curriculum, assisted by a half-time administrative assistant and a few TAs, and offered courses only in Chinese and Japanese languages and literatures. These five members formed the so-called “core faculty,” as opposed to a larger group of “affiliated faculty” from other departments. Affiliated as they were, the first three chairs—Drs. Judith Farquhar, Larry Kessler, and Miles Fletcher—provided the stewardship central to our success. The arrangement of having distinguished Asian specialists from other departments to lead and advocate for Asian Studies on campus is emblematic of the humble origin of the Curriculum as well as a blessing to the “core faculty.”
Exactly eleven years later, Asian Studies became a full-fledged department on the same date that my appointment as its chair started. But the department continues to enjoy the blessing and support of the broader Asian Studies faculty on campus. Many of these distinguished colleagues serve—and will continue to serve—on the department’s Advisory Committee to guide us on major curriculum and personnel matters. The wisdom and support of the Advisory Committee and other members of the affiliated faculty ensures that the Department will carry on our interdisciplinary tradition and avoid the kind of academic compartmentalization that has plagued some of our peer institutions.

A quick look at our website will show you how much we have expanded our menu of programs, courses, and services in the past twelve years. Today the department has fifteen permanent members, about an equal number of visiting and part-time faculty, and a dozen TAs. This past year, Dr. Kevin Hewison, a distinguished scholar on the political economy of Southeast Asia and Thailand, joined the department. Hewison was appointed director for the Carolina Asia Center (CAC) to lead and coordinate campus-wide activities in faculty and student research, program development, and fundraising to benefit all. Dr. Steve Levine, a distinguished scholar specializing in modern Chinese politics and history, also joined the department after serving as the interim director for CAC. He continues to serve as associate director for the Curriculum in International and Area Studies. For a department that is primarily composed of scholars in Asian languages and cultures to host two senior social scientists such as Hewison and Levine speaks volumes to the inclusive and open spirit of its faculty.

This year we offer courses in nine different languages and cultures plus many more crosslisted courses that are taught by our affiliated faculty. Our students today have more courses to select from towards their majors and minors. Under the B.A. major in Asian Studies, they can pursue a language concentration in Chinese or Japanese, while the time-honored interdisciplinary track also continues to attract students. We also offer minors in the above three tracks as well as in Arabic and Hindi-Urdu. The faculty is prepared to launch two new concentrations in Arabic and South Asian cultures respectively once we receive sufficient resources to support them.

Increasingly we have students pursue a second major in one of our language concentrations when they take their primary major in the social sciences or in one of the professional schools, such as Business Administration or Journalism and Mass Communication. We expect the number of double majors to continue to grow as the changing job market in the global economy favors graduates who combine training in their respective subject fields with superior language skills and cultural knowledge of Asian societies.

In an era of accelerated globalization, it is crucial that more students be provided the opportunities to immerse themselves in the target language and cultural environment. This past year alone Carolina has offered several faculty-directed programs in Asian countries. These include summer programs in Beijing, Singapore, and Vietnam in 2004 and a spring 2005 program in Beijing. A small and highly select group of students also participated in an Honors China study and internship program in the spring and summer of 2005. All students accepted into these programs receive scholarships to cover their expenses entirely or partially.

A majority of our new faculty positions and all the study abroad scholarships have been created by outside grants and private donations. In the past four years, the faculty has raised about three million dollars for Asian Studies, not counting external fellowships that support individual faculty research leaves. We are determined to carry on the entrepreneurial spirit of our previous leaders and seek external funding to sustain and expand student opportunities. With an increasing number of students pursuing some aspect of Asian Studies, quantity should lead to an even higher quality. A main goal in our fundraising efforts is to create an expanded and permanent pool of merit-based scholarships in order to better attract and train students for the next generation of leaders in American business, education, and public service.

In my twelve years on the faculty, I have personally witnessed the impact of globalization upon the United States and Asia alike. Right here in the heart of North Carolina, we cannot but witness the massive transformation of our economy and society, which has benefited many businesses and communities but also displaced many others. During the same time period, financial support from the state has suffered a steady decline, while the costs for college education have risen much faster than inflation. Many of these changes are directly related to the rise of Asia in the global economy. We must do everything we can to adapt to these changes, contain the destructive forces, and take advantage of the opportunities presented by the rise of Asia. As a part of that larger historical trend, Asian Studies stands at the forefront of the University’s efforts to internationalize its curriculum and student experiences.

The limited space here does not allow me to highlight individual faculty achievements and pay specific tribute to our longtime supporters and friends. You can find some of their stories featured elsewhere in this newsletter. I do want to end my report, however, by expressing my gratitude to some individuals. In his retirement Dr. Kessler continues to contribute to Asian Studies on campus and in the profession, and his editorship of this newsletter is a one-man operation based at his home, completely unpaid. Dr. Fletcher always is there to lend me a sympathetic ear and source of wisdom. Ms. Pat Maroney and Ms. Lori Harris are two unsung heroes, without whose arduous support and hard work the Department could not function. Yet whenever you call up at the department or drop in for a visit, most likely you will first encounter their hospitality.

Yes, we would like to hear from you and say “welcome back!” Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any question or request and let us know if you come to Chapel Hill for a visit.

Introducing New Faculty

Kevin Hewison (Asian Studies) joined the department as a professor in January and also serves as director of the Carolina Asia Center. He completed his PhD at Murdoch University in 1984 and previously held academic posts at Murdoch (where he still is a fellow/research associate and member of the International Advisory Panel of its Asia Research Centre), the Aus-
Australian National University, the University of Papua New Guinea, Mahidol University (Thailand), the University of New England (where he was the Foundation Chair of Asian Studies), and the City University of Hong Kong (where he was the inaugural director of the Southeast Asia Research Centre). Hewison is the author of more than 150 publications on Southeast Asia, democratization, and globalization.

His current research interests include globalization and social change in Southeast Asia, especially in Thailand; democratization; and labor politics. He is co-editor of the Journal of Contemporary Asia, associate editor of the Asian Journal of Social Science, and a member of the editorial or advisory board of ten other Asian journals or publications series. In addition to his academic work, Professor Hewison has considerable experience working as a development consultant and adviser in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and Southern Africa.

Nasser Isleem (Asian Studies), Lecturer in the Arabic language program, previously has been an instructor of Arabic at Duke and Meredith as well as being the founder and director of the Triangle Language Mastery Center in Cary. He also has assisted in curriculum development at Islamic schools throughout North America, and does translation and interpretation for a variety of organizations that serve the Arab community in the Triangle. In teaching Arabic, Isleem supplements classroom instruction with cultural activities, such as a tour of the Islamic Center of Raleigh, Ramadan *iftar*, regional cuisine, and music, in order to add a multifaceted dimension to the students' language exposure and provide an opportunity to share Middle Eastern culture in a meaningful and productive manner. His main hobbies, in addition to reading Arabic and English literature, are Ping-Pong and swimming.

Steven I. Levine (Asian Studies), who joined the department in January, teaches Chinese politics and related courses and serves as associate chair of the Curriculum in International Studies. He took his PhD in Government and Far Eastern Languages at Harvard (1972), and has taught at many universities including American, Columbia, Duke, Michigan, and Montana before coming to Carolina in 2002 as interim director of the Carolina Asia Center. His research and writing has focused on 20th century Chinese political history and foreign policy. He has published *Anvil of Victory: The Communist Revolution in Manchuria, 1945-1948*, co-edited books on the Sino-Japanese War and the Korean War, translated three books on China from Russian, and most recently completed a book-length translation from Chinese of Niu Jun (a recent Carolina PhD), *From Yan’an To The World: The Origins of Chinese Communist Foreign Policy*. Professor Levine’s current work includes a joint project on a biographical dictionary of Chinese Comintern activists, collaboration with senior Chinese scholar and essayist Zi Zhongyun on her autobiography *Becoming Myself Again*, and a translation of a Chinese pop psychology book featuring 150 animal fables. This last project is for fun, and provides a kind of daily Chinese language calisthenics.

His wife, Madeline Levine, has taught in the Slavic Department at Carolina since what seems like the Ming Dynasty, but is actually only the late Maoist era (1974). In addition to their Chapel Hill home, the Levines have a second home in western Montana that looks out on the majestic Bitterroot Mountains, an even more awe-inspiring view than the Swain Hall parking lot, which is the view from his campus office!

Michael Tsin (History) received his PhD from Princeton University and taught at the University of Illinois at Chicago, Columbia University, and the University of Florida before coming to UNC in the fall of 2004. He is the author of *Nation, Governance and Modernity in China* and co-author with several colleagues of a world history text, *Worlds Together, Worlds Apart*. He teaches modern Chinese history and global history, and his research focuses on how China negotiated the different facets of modernity in the 19th and 20th centuries. Currently, he is researching the processes of cultural transplantation and translation that led to the formation of various institutional practices designed to “reform” people in modern China. Other than following various sports—his own dream of playing professionally did not quite pan out—that include English soccer (Arsenal), the NFL (Bears), and college basketball, he enjoys trotting around different cities of the world and still entertains the hope of one day living somewhere in the Mediterranean.

Associate Chair Appointed

Last fall, Ryuko Kubota (Education/Asian Studies) was appointed as associate chair for the Department of Asian Studies. In this position, Professor Kubota takes primary responsibility for curricular instruction and development. She chairs the new Curriculum Committee (consisting of four members of the department in addition to her). The immediate tasks at hand include a mandated curricular review and assessment in connection with re-accreditation by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools, and the implementation of the new General Education Curriculum. In addition, Professor Kubota, whose expertise and experience is in the field of second-language education and pedagogy, will lead the department in streamlining the processes of curricular oversight, and in revising or developing policies and procedures for program development, teacher training and evaluation, and other related pedagogical and curricular matters. She will also share with the chair responsibilities in budget allocation and teaching assignment for all language courses.

Triangle East Asia Colloquium

The Triangle East Asia Colloquium (TEAC) was founded in 1972 by Duke, NCSU, and UNC-CH to promote scholarly exchange among East Asian specialists in North Carolina and the Southeast region. TEAC seminars are organized around a particular theme, and speakers on Japan and China (and occasionally on Korea) are invited from outside the region to share their latest research findings with local members. Funding for the seminars comes from the Japan Foundation as well as from the three founding schools.

The theme of this year’s seminar, organized by Sucheta Mazumdar (Duke), was “Borderlands and Multicultural Politics in Modern China and Japan.” Presenters included Evelyn Rawski (Pittsburgh) on “Manchu Ethnicity, Emperors and Politics in Late Imperial China,” Gray Tuttle (Yale) on “Shambala: The Politics of Tibetan Buddhism in Modern China,” and Cemil
Gardner Field Seminar in Vietnam

Gardner Field Research Seminars link undergraduate learning in challenging off-campus settings with exploratory field research conducted by UNC faculty. A combination of study abroad and hands-on learning, the seminars offer both faculty and students a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for teaching and learning. Each of the students selected for these seminars, generously funded by a grant from Alston Gardner, receives a substantial scholarship towards program costs.

The first such seminar, on “Vietnam Today: Education and Public Health,” was held in summer 2004 in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), under the direction of Eric Henry (Asian Studies). In addition to enrolling in a Vietnamese Language Immersion program administered by the staff of the Saigon Vietnamese Language School for Foreigners, students also took Professor Henry’s course on the history of popular music in Vietnam from the 1930s to the present as a reflection of the tumultuous social and political history of the country in the same period. Students also completed projects on aspects of contemporary Vietnamese popular culture, such as the culture of making and eating pho (a cornerstone of Vietnamese cuisine, a kind of beef noodle soup), women in Vietnamese fine arts during the last century, a comparison of Vietnamese and American public monuments, youth career aspirations, condoned male cheating in Vietnamese marriages, and women in the labor force.

Students stayed at the Foreign Affairs Guesthouse in the middle of the city, with each group of two sharing their quarters with a Vietnamese roommate from nearby Hong Bang University. Field trips introduced students to the Mekong Delta area in which everyone got to spend an afternoon with a farming family in a rural commune; to the cities of Hue, Da Nang, and Hoi An in the central region; and to Hanoi in the north crowned with a two-day boat trip in the spectacularly scenic Ha Long Bay off the coast from Hai Phong.

Professor Henry’s field research consisted of translating and editing the Memoirs of Pham Duy, a great Vietnamese composer, lyricist, musicologist, thinker, and historical figure. He consulted by email on a daily basis with the 83-year-old author (who currently lives in California but will soon be returning to Vietnam), and presented his ongoing translations in class. He continues to work on the translation (totaling four vols.) and to teach and write about Vietnamese history and music. He plans to return to Vietnam for a more leisurely visit this summer.

Asian Library Collection Development

Davis Library has begun to install a new integrated library system developed by Innovative Inc. to handle databases, acquisitions, cataloging, reserves, circulation, and interlibrary loan. When the system is completed this July, patrons will be able to search the online catalog in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean scripts; view books that are on order or received but not yet cataloged; and move seamlessly from information in subscribed databases to licensed full-text versions. The library continued to strengthen the Chinese and Japanese film collections this year with the support of the Freeman grant. Notable additions include anime, Chinese and Japanese feature films, and documentaries. New major acquisitions in the general library holdings include a series of Chinese historical local gazettes and a new collection of Taiwan historical archives.

The library was one of a few institutions in the nation in 2005 to receive a North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources Multi-Volume Set Project grant, designed to purchase expensive sets of Japanese-language materials that are in demand by users and not held in North America. The library requested funding for Shōda Kazue Monjo and received 75 percent of the purchase price, with the rest to come from the library’s own funds. As part of the project agreement the library also commits to catalog the title in the national bibliographic database and to make the title available for interlibrary loan nationwide free of charge. Shōda Kazue Monjo (“Archives of Shōda Kazue,” a prominent and influential Japanese economic official active during the early twentieth century—he twice served as finance minister) contains primary sources and major archival materials that are in demand for a global history study being done by researchers on campus, and will generally support faculty research in the business and economic history of twentieth-century Japan.

Language Instructor Receives Honors

Yuki Aratake (Asian Studies), Lecturer in Japanese, was honored last fall with a Chancellor’s Award for Excellence. She received the award for both her classes on campus and her outreach activity with local schools. Students in her Japanese language courses give her enthusiastic written evaluations, and retention rates in the classes are very high. Aratake devotes much time outside the classroom to organizing activities for students such as cooking and flower arranging demonstrations in order to increase their understanding of Japanese culture. She has worked tirelessly to connect students of all ages in North Carolina to Japan through education, informal exchange, study abroad, and host family experiences.

She also won the Edward Kidder Graham Award for Outstanding Faculty this year. This award recognizes professors, teaching assistants, or instructors who have made a significant impact on undergraduate studies by contributing to student learning both inside and outside of the classroom.

Aydin (UNC-Charlotte) on “Visions of a World Order: Pan-Asian and Pan-Islamic Thought in Japan and Turkey.” The commentator was Prasenjit Duara (Chicago).
By Leaps, Bounds, and Many Sensei: The Japanese Program Comes of Age

(Asian Studies offers instruction in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Hebrew, Hindi-Urdu, Japanese, Persian, Tamil, and Vietnamese. In this issue, we highlight the Japanese program.) Students at Carolina are taking classes in the Japanese language program for various reasons. They are anime and manga aficionados, sushi gourmets, martial arts or tea ceremony practitioners, planning for international careers, or just wishing to broaden their horizons. They can choose from an array of language programs in Japanese music, modernism, popular culture, journalism, and linguistics, all taught by five full-time, experienced faculty members aided by four teaching assistants. Carolina students can even pursue a major in Japanese and take advantage of increasing opportunities to study abroad in Japan during their college careers. A student-run Japan Club and a student-initiated Japanese Conversation Table also give students a way to learn more about Japan and Japanese in a convivial setting.

The seeds of this vibrant program were sown and nurtured by the dedication of numerous sensei (teachers) who gave generously of their expertise, time, and passion to bring Japanese language instruction to Carolina. The program began in 1976-77 when the Department of Linguistics and Non-Western Languages helped fund a native Japanese tutor for a “self-instructional” first-year Japanese language program. Professor Miles Fletcher (History) organized the program, Mr. Tanaka Yukio served as the tutor, and an outside evaluator came in to assess the students’ progress. The next year, Ms. Hayumi Higuchi, a graduate student in History, offered introductory Japanese as a teaching assistant, with the position funded by the Linguistics Department. Over the next few years, Ms. Higuchi continued to teach first-year Japanese, and various Japanese Studies professors—Jim White (Political Science), Jim Sanford (Religious Studies), and Miles Fletcher—taught a second-year course. Fletcher then submitted a successful application for a Japan Foundation grant with the support of the Department of Slavic Languages, which had assumed responsibility for Chinese and Japanese language instruction. The three-year grant from the Japan Foundation played a critical role in enabling the College to hire Ms. Higuchi as the first full-time instructor in Japanese language on campus.

The 1980s saw a rising demand for Japanese instruction, fueled in part by Japan’s booming economy and international interest in Japanese business practices. At UNC, this demand prompted the hiring of a second instructor. Carolina then also developed its first exchange programs with Japanese universities, giving students the opportunity to continue their language study in Japan. Responsibility for the program remained a bit unsettled, as it shifted back to the Curriculum in Linguistics, which provided important support for the program. Finally, the Curriculum in Asian Studies took over the administration of instruction in Asian languages. In the early 1990s, Ms. Yuko Kato and Ms. Yuki Aratake were hired as full-time lecturers to teach Japanese language courses and to train and supervise teaching assistants. In 1995, Professor Ryuko Kubota was hired as a half-time faculty member jointly appointed by the School of Education. She has taught third-year Japanese and contributed to the development of the curriculum, by leading the faculty to craft a comprehensive plan for developing students’ competencies in all areas of Japanese language from beginning to advanced classes.

Fascination with Japanese anime (animation), manga comics, film, and fiction continues to bring students to the study of the Japanese language today. UNC offers several courses in English and in Japanese that encourage these interests. In 1994, Professor Jan Bardsley joined the faculty, developing courses in Japanese literature, theater, and Women’s Studies. In 2004, Professor Mark Driscoll came to Carolina, creating new courses in Japanese Cultural Studies and International Studies. Meanwhile, with the help of the Study Abroad Office and Mr. Dan Gold, who is in charge of its programs in Asia, Carolina makes available opportunities to study Japanese at seven different universities in Japan.

With over 150 students taking Japanese language classes in spring 2005 and several registered as Japanese majors, we can say that the program has truly come of age at Carolina—thanks to the pioneering efforts of dedicated faculty and determined students in the 1970s and of those who continue to develop the program today.

Carolina Asia Center News

The Carolina Asia Center (CAC) supports three sets of interrelated activities focusing on Asia: research, innovative teaching, and community partnerships. In addition, CAC provides administrative support for the Carolina Center for the Study of the Middle East and Muslim Civilizations, the Alston Gardner Asia Initiative, and the Mahatma Gandhi Fellowships program. It is a member of the N.C. Center for South Asian Studies of the Triangle South Asia Consortium, a Title VI National Resource Center. Its funding continues to come primarily from a Freeman Foundation grant for East and Southeast Asia, with limited contributions from the College of Arts & Sciences and the Triangle South Asia Consortium.

The past year has been one of transition for the Center. Interim Director Steve Levine (Asian Studies) completed his term in June 2004, and Kevin Hewison (Asian Studies) became director in January 2005. In the interval, John Pickles (Geography) and Mark Driscoll (Asian Studies) filled in for short periods. During all these changes the Center manager, Mr. Peter Landstrom, continued to provide the administration and coordination necessary for its continuing activities.

Programmatically, CAC awarded course development grants to faculty in fields including Anthropology, Art, Asian Studies, Dramatic Arts, East Asian Bibliography, Linguistics, and Romance Languages; presented visiting speakers on aspects of Chinese Buddhist art along the Silk Road, on the Otaku Movement in Japan, and on Chinese labor; hosted two distinguished visitors from Asia; supported student organizations such as the Asian Student Association and the Hmong Students Association; and helped subsidize study abroad programs in Beijing and Vietnam.
Distinguished Visitors from Asia

(In fall 2004, the Carolina Asia Center hosted Professor Hiroko Hagiwara from Japan and Zheng Xuewu from China.)

Professor Hiroko Hagiwara is a noted art historian, cultural critic, translator, and a professor in Intercultural Studies at Osaka Women’s University. As a scholar of Black Studies, Professor Hagiwara felt fortunate to arrive at UNC just before the opening of the new Sonja Haynes Stone Center for the Study of Black History and Culture, which offered her one of its new offices for visiting scholars. At the Stone Center, Professor Hagiwara had the opportunity to talk with visiting artists, faculty, and students associated with the Center. She also visited several undergraduate classes, talking with students in printmaking, Japanese art history, African film, and many other fields. Her official lecture as a Carolina Asia Center Distinguished Visiting Scholar, hosted jointly by the Stone Center and the Department of Asian Studies, was “Filmic Neo-Colonialism: Between ‘the Same Women’ and ‘Different Others’”—On Warrior Marks, a film about ‘female genital mutilation’ in Africa by Alice Walker and Pratibha Parmar.” She gave several other lectures on campus and at Bennett College, Duke University, and Guilford College during her stay.


Zheng Xuewu of Beijing is an internationally recognized modern Chinese artist known as a part of the “Songzhuang” and “Yuan Ming Yuan” groups of artists that have been active and influential in Beijing since the early 1990s. He studied printmaking at Harbin University in northeastern China. His work has explored both the medium and the meanings of printing. Zheng is best known for his large-scale multi-impression hand-colored images that are meticulously assembled using old print-shop ideograph blocks, his own carved linoleum blocks, and found objects. His newest works are committed to methods of collage and brush painting, and have explored the incorporation of objects that diversify the picture surface. In the last few years, Zheng has exhibited his work in solo and group shows in China, Korea, Australia, and the U.S.

Zheng was a visiting artist at the Art Department during the month of November, and his art was on view at the Aycland Gallery. He also gave a public talk about his work in the Hanes Printmaking Gallery. Also during his stay, Zheng was a visiting artist at the Art Department during the month of November, and his art was on view at the Aycland Gallery. He also gave a public talk about his work in the Hanes Printmaking Gallery. Also during his stay, Professor Hagiwara had the opportunity to talk with visiting artists, faculty, and students associated with the Center. She also visited several undergraduate classes, talking with students in printmaking, Japanese art history, African film, and many other fields. Her official lecture as a Carolina Asia Center Distinguished Visiting Scholar, hosted jointly by the Stone Center and the Department of Asian Studies, was “Filmic Neo-Colonialism: Between ‘the Same Women’ and ‘Different Others’”—On Warrior Marks, a film about ‘female genital mutilation’ in Africa by Alice Walker and Pratibha Parmar.” She gave several other lectures on campus and at Bennett College, Duke University, and Guilford College during her stay.


Asian Student Groups Flourish

Student organizations focusing on some aspect of Asian culture and people are flourishing at Carolina. The following list, while not necessarily complete, presents a brief description of the purpose and activities of each organization. In addition, there are clubs to teach and practice one of the martial arts of Asia, such as aikido, judo, karate, kendo, and taekwondo.

The Arab Student Organization (ASO) is dedicated to increasing general awareness about Arabic culture and society, and providing the general public with more information about the Arab world.

The Asian Students Association (ASA) emphasizes the promotion of cultural and social awareness of Asia through service projects, cultural and social events, and working with other groups.

Carolina Otaku Uprising seeks to educate students about Japanese animation, and it is open to anyone interested in being exposed to this piece of Japanese culture—or if someone just likes giant robots.

Carolina Students for Israel (CSI) is committed to Israel’s right to exist and flourish as a Jewish state within secure and recognized boundaries. It is nonpartisan, reflecting both sides of the conflict, but focuses on the culture of Israel. Its activities include speakers, performers, and the annual Israel Fest.

The purpose of the Chinese Conversation Club is to give students an opportunity to converse and practice their Mandarin Chinese in a sociable and friendly setting. The Chinese Undergraduate Student Association (CUSA) strives to bring together Chinese students and scholars and those interested in Chinese culture or language at UNC and in the local communities. It promotes awareness and understand-
ing of Chinese culture by participating in cultural projects, organizing social events, and encouraging the use of Chinese. The **Hmong Students Association** endeavors to promote and educate the community about the Hmong culture through socio-cultural events, exhibits, and community service.

The **Japan Club** provides both Japanese and American students with the opportunity to explore each other’s cultures through such activities as *otsukimi* (writing haiku and viewing the moon), presentations by exchange students comparing Japanese and American universities, and dinners with local Japanese families.

The **Korean American Student Association** (KASA) seeks to promote cultural, political, and social awareness about the Korean American community on campus and in the community.

**Sangam** strives to heighten awareness of South Asian culture among its members, the Carolina campus, and the community.

The **Southeast Asia Interest Association (SEAIA)** promotes cultural interest and social awareness of Southeast Asia, as well as engages students in activities to aid the region. Activities include lecture series, fundraisers, film nights, food preparation demonstrations, and more.

The **Thai Student Association** provides a means of contact for Thai students, and promotes Thai culture to the community.

The **Vietnamese Student Association** (VSA) focuses on and enhances the integration of traditional Vietnamese culture and Vietnamese-American culture in order to promote unity and awareness in the community.

**Burch Program in Thailand**

This spring, thirteen UNC students joined Professor Joanne Hershfield (Communications Studies) for a Burch Field Research Seminar in Bangkok, Thailand. Over the course of three months, they studied the history and culture of Southeast Asia, and traveled around Thailand and Cambodia. The centerpiece of the seminar in Bangkok was the students’ production of documentaries on social, political, and cultural issues in Thailand. Documentaries were produced collaboratively by four groups of students and were screened on the UNC campus in May. Their subject matter included an herbal detoxification program for drug-addicted persons, a motorcycle-taxi driver engaging in the national sport of *takraw* (a kind of volleyball), several individuals working to further women’s opportunities, and an understanding of Thailand gained through the study of the exploitation of elephants.

**Asian Film Series Enhance Learning**

*Every year, a variety of film series focusing on some aspect of Asia are available to enhance students’ learning about the area. Some of the ones presented this year were:*  

- **In the fall, an all-day film festival was held in conjunction with a seminar taught by Sarah Shields (History) on “The Conflicts over Israel/Palestine.”** A feature film, *Wedding in Galilee*, and four documentaries representing both Palestinian and Israeli points of view were screened, and students from the class led discussions on the films.  
- **In the spring, Duke and Carolina jointly hosted a film festival, “Through Palestinian Eyes: an Exploration into Palestinian Representations of Self,”** which focused on how personal relationships and everyday routines in the Palestinian territories intersect with a history of conflict and political instability. “The focus is not the Arab-Israeli conflict or the Palestinian perspective of the Arab-Israeli conflict but really Palestinian attitudes toward Palestine,” said UNC professor Nadia Yaqub (Asian Studies), one of the organizers along with Ellen McLaren of Duke. The nine films in the festival, in Arabic and Hebrew with English subtitles, were directed and produced primarily by Palestinians.

- **The Southeast Asia Interest Association**, a student group formed after the initial summer study program in Singapore, presented a “Southeast Asia Film Festival” in April, showing films from the region, including *Iron Ladies* (Thailand), *Twelve Storeys* (Singapore), and *Cyclo* (Vietnam).

**Alumni News**

*We were pleased to hear from the following alumni who either majored in Asian Studies or studied some aspect of Asia while at UNC. We encourage other alumni to send us news, using the form found at the back of this Newsletter.*

**Daniel P. Aldrich** (BA 1996) received his PhD from Harvard in May, and has been appointed assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at Tulane University. He recently published a chapter in the volume *Managing Facility Siting* (Edward Elgar Press, 2005) and has an article forthcoming in the *Journal of Comparative Politics*. He also published a short article in Japanese early this year in the journal *PI-Forum* and a summary of his research in the magazine *Centerpiece*.

**Wil Bordeaux** (BA 1995) is finishing up his graduate program in International Economics at the School for International Relations and Pacific Studies, at the University of California at San Diego. He will be working, probably in trade, in Hong Kong or Shanghai. “The tremendous future of pan-Asia trade is a huge enticement,” he writes, “and let’s hope that the recent protests are not a harbinger of a mixed future.” In April Wil and his wife Hiroko welcomed their second child, a boy born in Hong Kong.

### Friends of Asian Studies

*We gratefully acknowledge and thank the following contributors to Asian Studies this past year:*  

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**Steve Dale** (BA 2003) has been accepted by the Princeton-in-Asia program to teach English at the Affiliated High School of South China Normal University in Guangzhou (Canton). He has been working in Davis Library during the past two years and taking courses in Chinese language.

**Janice Levitt** (BA 1993) got the China bug when she participated in the SASASAAS/CET study program in Beijing. Falling in love with China, she returned after graduation for a year of study at the Johns Hopkins-Nanjing University Center.
for Chinese and American Studies. She then began a career working for CET Academic Programs, a study abroad organization based in Washington DC. She has held various positions with CET in China and Washington for the last eleven years. Janice is currently the associate director of CET and is responsible for managing CET’s programs in Europe and developing new study abroad programs, including a new program in Spain and a Chinese Studies program in Beijing. She spent January 2005 working in Beijing and trying as many varieties of jiaozi (dumplings) as possible.

Li Li (PhD 1997) continues to serve as History Graduate Coordinator as well as the Asian Studies Coordinator at Salem State College in Massachusetts. He published a chapter, “A Self-Serving Encounter—the Experience of North Carolina Missionaries in China, 1847-1950,” in *Re-Interpreting East Asian Christianity* (Hong Kong, 2004), and has another chapter, “From Southern Baptist Identity to Chinese Baptist Identity,” forthcoming in *Baptist Identities* (Carlisle, 2005). He participated in a symposium in May on “The New England China Trade—Then and Now” at The Boston Athenaeum.

**Asian Studies Faculty News**

**Sahar Amer** (Asian Studies) spent her research and study assignment during the past academic year working on a new book project tentatively entitled “Border Crossings: Love between Women in Medieval French and Arabic Literatures.” She received a Spray-Randleigh Fellowship from UNC-CH (2004-2005) and a Fulbright grant (March-April 2005) to conduct research in Egypt while enrolled in the CASA (Center for Arabic Study Abroad) program of the American University of Cairo. In fall 2004, she gave a guest lecture entitled “Behind the Veil: French Desire and the Middle East” in Sonoma State University’s lecture series for the internationalization of the curriculum. She also organized and led a workshop on teaching diversity in the classroom through the Veil Debate at the Cultural Diversity and Language Education Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii.

**Yuki Aratake** (Asian Studies) received a Chancellor’s Award for Excellence in community relations and also won an Edward Kidder Graham Award for Outstanding Faculty (see article on page 4). She continued to be very active in K-12 outreach programs, making presentations about Japan to ten different schools in the area this year.

**Jan Bardsley** (Asian Studies) has been up to no good this year. She and longtime friend and colleague Laura Miller have co-edited the book *Bad Girls of Japan* (forthcoming from Palgrave in 2005), a collection of twelve essays on how fear, loathing, and envy have attached to such allegedly deviant women in Japan as mountain witches, geisha, schoolgirls, popular writers, performance artists, and shoppers gone wild. Bad girls of a different sort are also the topic of Bardsley’s book, *The Bluestockings of Japan: New Women Fiction and Essays from Seiō, 1911-1916* (forthcoming in winter 2006), which includes several translations of work by young women who scandalized Japanese society in the 1910s with their free-thinking writing on everything from love and marriage to economics and politics. All this research will certainly lead to some “bad” classes in fall 2005: her fourth-year Japanese language class will have students reading, talking, and translating about “Modern Girls and the Boys Who Loved Them,” while her first-year-seminar students will ponder “Geisha in History, Fiction, Fantasy—and Controversy.” Bardsley’s current research on icons of femininity in early postwar Japan shows some promising signs that she may be ready to trade in the bad for the good: she focuses next on the Miss Universe Contest of 1959 when Miss Japan took the crown.

**Hsi-chu Bolick** (East Asian Bibliographer, Davis Library) was among the twenty librarians in the nation selected to attend the Luce Summer Institute Chinese Librarian Fellow Program, held at the University of Pittsburgh in July-August 2004. At the Institute, speakers from prestigious academic institutions in China and the U.S. provided professional training and enriching programs on Chinese librarianship. Bolick also participated in the Luce Institute China trip in October where she and nine other fellows visited selected academic libraries, national archives, historical private libraries, museums, rare book collections, and e-book producers in Shanghai and Beijing. She attended the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources’ “Training the Trainers (T-3) Workshop” at Duke this January. In April, Bolick was elected chair of the OCLCCKJ (Online Computer Library Center’s Chinese-Japanese-Korean module) Users Group for 2005-2007. She participated in a panel on “Developing Collections to Support a Global Curriculum” at a conference for North Carolina Community College librarians, held in April at UNC-CH.

**Allison Busch** (Asian Studies) was on a sabbatical supported by the American Council of Learned Societies and the National Endowment for the Humanities. She has been working on a book about courtly Hindi literature. A Franklin Research Grant from the American Philosophical Society supported a trip to the India Office Collection at the British Library in London, where she gathered additional manuscript materials for the book. She presented conference papers in Jerusalem, Israel, and Lund, Sweden. She gave invited addresses at Columbia University in New York and École Pratique des Hautes Études in Paris. An article entitled “The Anxiety of Innovation: The Practice of Literary Science in the Hindi Riti tradition” was published in the journal *Comparative Studies of South Asia, Africa and the Middle East*. She designed a new gateway course for the Hindi-Urdu program that uses texts from a variety of disciplines to illuminate the central features of South Asian cultural life over the last three millennia.


**Carl Ernst** (Religious Studies) published three articles: “Khuladabad: Dargahs of Shaykh Burhanuddin Gharib and Shaykh Zaynuuddin Shirazi” in *Dargahs: Abodes of the Saints*, special issue of *Marg* (2004); “Situating Sufism and Yoga” in

His book, *Following Muhammad: Rethinking Islam in the Contemporary World* (UNC Press, 2003), received several awards, including the Bashrahil Prize for Outstanding Cultural Achievement, Distinguished Prize in the Humanities, presented in Cairo, Egypt; 2004 *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title; JENAN Association for Education Culture and Health, Award for the Teaching of Sufism, presented in Istanbul, Turkey; and TURKKAD Turkish Women’s Cultural Association, Istanbul Branch, Award for Excellence in Education, also presented in Istanbul.

Professor Ernst gave over thirty academic and public lectures. He is currently co-chair of the Islamic Mysticism Group, American Academy of Religion; a member of the International Advisory Board, Rumi Institute, Lefkosa, North Cyprus; and a member of the International Advisory Council, Toda Institute for Global Peace and Policy Research. During the spring semester he was Fulbright Lecturer and Research Fellow in Islamic Studies at the Centre for Civilisational Dialogue, University of Malaya, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

**Miles Fletcher** (History), after ending his term as chair of the Curriculum in Asian Studies last June, became the associate chair for the Department of History. In History, he also serves as convenor for the new doctoral fi eld in global history. Significantly, several graduate students in the program are carrying out Asia-centered research projects. His long-term study of the Japanese cotton textile industry continues. He contributed a chapter, “The Impact of the Great Depression: The Japan Spinners Association, 1927-1936,” to a collection of essays, *Building a Modern Japan: Science, Technology, and Medicine in the Meiji Era and Beyond* (Palgrave, 2005).

**Luceil Friedman** (Asian Studies) served as advisor to the newly formed Carolina Students for Israel and also organized a Hebrew film night, showing short films created by students of Jerusalem’s Ma’ale Film School. Along with some of her students she attended the American Israel Public Affairs Committee annual conference in Washington DC in May. She appears in photo (second from left) with graduating seniors, most from the inaugural Hebrew class of four semesters ago. Next fall the program is expanding to include third-year Advanced Hebrew.

**Eric Henry** (Asian Studies) presented two conference papers last year: “The Later Development of the Xi Shi Legend” at a meeting of the Southeast Early China Roundtable at the University of Florida in Gainesville, and “Pham Duy and Modern Vietnamese History” at the annual meeting of the Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies at the University of Kentucky in Lexington. The first paper is part of an ongoing inquiry into the genesis of the Xi Shi legend. Xi Shi was a celebrated Chinese femme fatale who allegedly used her beauty to cause the downfall of the ancient state of Wu. The presentation on Pham Duy, an illustrious Vietnamese composer with whom Professor Henry works closely, will appear as an article in the 2005 *Southeastern Review of Asian Studies*. He is also near completion of a translation of the four-volume *Memoirs* of Pham Duy, a work comparable in length, though not in style (being livelier), to *The Lord of the Rings*.

Professor Henry obtained funds from the Freeman grant and from the Warring States Project (an international scholarly group devoted to the study of early China) to teach an advanced classical Chinese course devoted to *Zuozhuan*, an ancient book of historical narrative. He also led five undergraduates in textual research on *Zuozhuan* and *Chunqiu*, a related text, and several of those students will present papers at a meeting of the Southeast Early China Roundtable to be held at UNC this coming November.

**Kevin Hewison** (Asian Studies) has been professor in the Department of Asian Studies and director of the Carolina Asia Center since January 2005. He is also an adjunct professor in the Department of Political Science. This past year, he has co-authored a chapter in *Asian States: Beyond the Developmental Perspective* (RoutledgeCurzon, 2005); authored or co-authored seven journal articles; co-edited three special issues or feature sections of journals; and co-presented three conference papers at Northern Illinois University, National University of Singapore, and the Biennial Conference of the Asian Studies Association of Australia.

**Li-ling Hsiao** (Asian Studies) was a fellow of UNC’s Institute of Arts and Humanities during spring 2005. She published a paper in Japan in fall 2004, and read papers at two conferences held respectively in fall 2004 and spring 2005. She is a member of Taiyin Choir, which performs in different Chinese festivals, including Mid-Autumn Festival, Chinese New Year, and Lantern Festival, organized by the Chinese and Taiwanese communities in the Triangle area.

**Nasser Isleen** (Asian Studies) organized or facilitated numerous activities for his students, including monthly coffee hours and field trips; a visit to the Arabic and Islamic Center and school in Raleigh to learn about Ramadan rituals and fasting etiquette and to participate in a group iftar (breaking of the Ramadan fast); and a fall Layali Shameeya, where students enjoyed live Arabic music, catered food, *dabke* (a traditional dance from the region of Palestine, Syria, and Lebanon) and belly dancing, henna, and Arabic calligraphy. He also assisted in the planning and publicizing of the Palestinian film festival held at both UNC and Duke.

**Yuko Kato** (Asian Studies) taught a new advanced Japanese language course this spring called “Making Music.” A Carolina Asia Center grant enabled Ms. Kato to travel in Japan last summer to collect music and regional materials about music. One discovery on her research trip was the legendary “live-houses” where famous musicians played before they hit the big time. “It was an adventure just trying to find them. Each region in Japan has its own live-houses and publishes its own information; I scouted out the hot spots in Kyoto, visited them, and got to talk with the owners.” Yuko was advisor to the UNC Aikido Club and Tea Club. This summer she jets off to Spain to pursue her passion for flamenco dancing!
Ryuko Kubota (Education/Asian Studies) participated in six national and international conferences, presenting eight papers and acting as a discussant in two sessions. She co-authored articles in the Journal of Second Language Writing and the TESOL Quarterly. She also gave invited lectures at the University of California at Davis, University of Wisconsin, and at Japanese Saturday School (Hoshûkô) in Charlotte, NC. She was on the team of instructors for the summer TESOL workshop at American University in Washington DC. She served on the board for the National Council of Japanese Language Teachers (NCJLT), on the Nominating Committee for the American Association for Applied Linguistics (AAAL), as coordinator for the Discourse Analysis Strand for AILA (International Association for Applied Linguistics) 2005 conference proposal review (coordinated reviews of over 270 proposals submitted online!), and as Director-at-Large for the International Society for Language Studies.


Wendan Li (Asian Studies) received a fellowship from the Institute of Arts and Humanities last fall for her research project in Chinese linguistics. During that time, she finished a book manuscript, which will be published in 2005, on discourse analysis of Chinese and the teaching of Chinese as a second language. At the 2004 annual conference of the Chinese Language Teachers Association, Prof. Li chaired a panel, “The Discourse Aspect of Chinese Language Teaching,” and presented a paper. She also published two research papers in that area.

In the field of calligraphy education, Prof. Li co-edited a book, East Asian Calligraphy Education (2004). She served as the international coordinator for the 4th International Conference on East Asian Calligraphy Education and presented a paper and participated in a workshop at the conference. She currently serves as president of the Calligraphy Education Group, a national organization of calligraphy educators, and as editor for its newsletter and website. She is organizing the 5th International Conference on East Asian Calligraphy Education, which will be held next summer in Japan. This summer, Prof. Li is leading a group of UNC students in a study abroad program in Beijing.

Shantanu Phukan (Asian Studies) read a paper, “Muslim responses to Indic Culture,” at Emory University and at Carleton College, and another, “The Path Through Her Dark Hair: Muslim Readers of Hindi Poetry,” at Swarthmore College.

Tom Tweed (Religious Studies) gave a paper this March at a conference in Tokyo, entitled “American Occultism and Japanese Buddhism,” which explored transnational religious exchanges between the U.S. and Japan during the Meiji and Taisho periods. He also finished a book, Crossing and Dwelling: a Theory of Religion, which will be published by Harvard University Press in fall 2005.

Robin Visser (Asian Studies) spent the year in Shanghai, supported by an ACLS grant to do research for a book on urban aesthetics in post-socialist China, and supported by a UNC (Freeman Foundation) Course Development Award to design a course on post-Mao urban arts and culture. Her publications include a book chapter, “Urban Ethics: Modernity and the Morality of Everyday Life,” in Contested Modernities in Chinese Literature (Palgrave, 2005); an article, “Spaces of Disappearance: Aesthetic Responses to Contemporary Beijing City Planning,” in Journal of Contemporary China (May 2004); and seven entries in Encyclopedia of Contemporary Chinese Culture (Routledge, 2004). While in China, she gave invited lectures at the Center for Contemporary Cultural Studies at Shanghai University, at Beijing Normal University, and at the Department of Design at Jingdezhen Ceramics Institute. She also presented papers at the School of Design and Environment, National University of Singapore; at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies; and on the UNC-Beijing Olympic Decade panel at the 36th World Congress, International Institute of Sociology, Beijing.

Nadia Yaqub (Asian Studies) published a book chapter, “Cities of Salt,” in World Literature and Its Times: Middle Eastern Literature (Gale Group, 2004), and an article, “Towards a Synchronous Analysis of Palestinian Oral Poetry,” in Al-Arabiyya (2004). She also presented a conference paper on “Lebanon is in My Soul” at the American Folklore Society annual meeting in Salt Lake City last October.

Gang Yue (Asian Studies) was Visiting Professor at the College of Humanities and Social Sciences, Tsinghua University, Beijing (funded by the Ministry of Education of the People’s Republic of China) for four months last spring and summer. During that period, he gave invited lectures at Beijing Normal University, Xiamen University, and Sichuan University on his current research on the development and cultural changes of Tibetan regions in the PRC. He published a book chapter, “From Shambhala to Shangri-La: A Traveling Sign in the Era of Global Tourism,” in Cultural Studies in China (Singapore, 2004), and nine entries in the Encyclopedia of Contemporary Chinese Culture (Routledge, 2004), eight on individual creative writers, scholars, and critics, and another on “The New Left.”

Yi Zhou (Asian Studies) worked with CIBER (Center for International Business Education and Research) of Kenan-Flagler Business School to develop an online Chinese course in “Working Mandarin” for MBAs and working professionals. The course ended with a two-week immersion program in China. She served as a guest speaker for the Center for International Understanding to help a delegation of NC educators understand the schools in China. She participated in the annual Business Chinese conference in Purdue (October 2004) and made a presentation on “Simulated Real Life” at the annual CIBER conference in Park City (April 2005).
We would like to hear from you! Please send us information for inclusion in next year’s newsletter.

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Global Education Center Launched

(continued from front page)

Speaking at the center’s groundbreaking celebration were UNC-Chapel Hill Chancellor James Moeser, Board of Trustees Chair Richard “Stick” Williams of Charlotte, UNC President Molly Broad, Associate Provost for International Affairs Peter Coclanis, and Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences Bernadette Gray-Little.

The groundbreaking ceremony for the Center was one of many activities scheduled to mark International Education Week. Other highlights were “Welcome to Carolina, Welcome to the World: A Campus Conversation,” hosted by Coclanis to launch the weeklong celebration and to discuss the university’s international initiatives, challenges, and opportunities; a talk by Columbia University Professor Jagdish Bhagwati, a top international trade and immigration expert and a senior fellow in international economics with the Council on Foreign Relations; an autobiographical performance, “We’re Not the Tourists You’re Looking For,” by photographer and National Public Radio commentator Jesse Kalisher, who drew from the experiences he and his wife, Helen, had in Syria on 9/11, as well as in Jordan, Israel, and Egypt following the attack; an international education exhibition and fair; a film forum and screening with filmmaker Alex Rivera; a benefit concert for Carolina for Kibera featuring local bands; and an international photography contest. Students also held panel discussions and programs providing opportunities to share experiences and perspectives about international education.