

Asian Studies at Carolina

Newsletter of the Department of Asian Studies, UNC-Chapel Hill • June 2004

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2004 marks the twenty-fifth year since UNC-Chapel Hill established a formal undergraduate program in Asian Studies. Prior to 1979, many faculty with Asian expertise taught and researched Asian topics, and students exhibited great interest in Asian courses, but only in that year could undergraduates major in the subject. Since then, Asian Studies has experienced enormous growth and many changes in structure (see "Asian Studies at UNC: A Brief History" on pages 9-10). Starting July 1 of this year, it will again undergo a historic change, as the Curriculum in Asian Studies becomes the Department of Asian Studies (DAS).

Asian Studies Celebrates 25th Anniversary! Acquires Department Status

As a department, DAS will offer an interdisciplinary major and minor in Asian Studies, concentrations in Chinese and Japanese, and minors in Arabic, Chinese, Hindi-Urdu, and Japanese. To chair the department, the College has appointed Professor **Gang Yue**, a specialist in modern Chinese literature. He will be advised by a committee of Asian specialists drawn from various disciplines. Having departmental status will bring enhanced visibility on campus to Asian Studies.

Greetings from the Current Chair *W. Miles Fletcher*

It has been my privilege to work with the faculty, alumni/ae, students, and friends of the Curriculum in Asian Studies for the past four years. They have seen many exciting developments. The faculty in each of the major areas—Arabic Studies, Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies, and South Asian studies—has expanded. Moreover, instruction has begun in four languages: Bengali, Modern Hebrew, Persian, and Tamil. The program in Vietnamese language, which began six years ago, has continued, and the offerings in Vietnamese Studies have increased. The new "concentrations" (majors) in Chinese and Japanese are attracting significant interest, as students are combining a major in an Asian language with another major. Planning has started on creating two other "concentrations" in Arabic Studies and South Asian Studies.

The staff has expanded as well, with the addition four years ago of another person to help Pat Maroney, the administrative assistant, with the many demands of a growing program. Pat has done a great job in keeping everything going. Lori Harris, who just joined

the Curriculum as Office Assistant, has already had a great impact with her many skills, including impressive organizational ability, the writing of limericks, and photography.

The four-year Freeman Foundation Grant has helped in so many ways. Nine members of the Curriculum faculty have received special summer grants to create new courses or to revise existing ones. Freeman funds have supported new summer study abroad programs led by UNC faculty in China and Japan and have provided scholarships to students on other study abroad programs in Asia. The Freeman Grant also made possible two new faculty positions for the Chinese and Japanese concentrations. In the fall, the Curriculum will host a Japanese scholar supported by the Freeman Foundation.

Along with the Freeman Foundation, the help of the Study Abroad Office, the Honors Program, and the generosity of alumnus Alston Gardner have brought a remarkable increase in study abroad opportunities for students in China, Japan, Singapore, Thailand, and Vietnam. Thanks to Alston Gardner, twenty-five rising sophomores will participate in the second annual "Asian Immersion" program at the National University of Singapore this summer, and ten students will study Vietnamese language and popular culture with Professor Eric Henry on a Gardner Field Research Seminar in Vietnam (these programs are described more fully in the following article).

The high quality of the faculty is evident. It has had astounding success in winning competitive grants. Eight members have received grants from the Institute for Arts and Humanities on campus during the past four years, a remarkable record for a comparatively small unit of sixteen members. In addition, two colleagues have received highly competitive national grants from the American Council of Learned Societies and the National Endowment for the Humanities for the next academic year. While they are productive scholars, faculty members also devote much time to arranging special activities for students, organizing scholarly conferences, and contributing to programs for the public. Some examples from the past year are: Arabic Day to give students opportunities to practice speaking Arabic outside of class; major conferences, such as "The Aesthetics of Nirvana" on Buddhism (see article on page 4 for more details); a concert of traditional Chinese music; and extensive participation in outreach activities for both teachers and students at the K-12 level.

I note with regret the departure of two Asian specialists on campus, Professors Judy Farquhar and Jim Hevia. Judy served as chair of the Curriculum of Asian Studies from 1992 to 1997 and also served as chair of the Department of Anthropology for the past three years. Jim has served for the past five years as chair of the Curriculum in International and Area Studies and has held a joint appointment in the Department of History and the CIAS. Jim and Judy will join the faculty at the University of Chicago.

Finally, I want to thank Larry Kessler for his hard and effective work in editing the newsletter. It has become a vital means of communicating with friends and alumni/ae of the Curriculum. We are always glad to hear from you, and the support that the Curriculum receives from you is inspiring.

On July 1, the Curriculum becomes the Department of Asian Studies. In a way, little will change, because the Curriculum operates like a department now. Yet, the change in name marks a stage in the development of Asian Studies on campus.

The new chair, Gang Yue, will be the first to come from the ranks of the faculty with positions in the Curriculum. He will do a great job in guiding the new department and taking advantage of the opportunities that lie ahead.



Asia Study Abroad Options Expand

In the past few years, the number and variety of study abroad program opportunities in Asia for our students have increased significantly. Carolina-sponsored summer, semester, or year-long programs in Asia now number eighteen: China (5), Japan (5), Korea (2), Singapore (2), Thailand (3) and Vietnam (1). Three of these programs are highlighted below.

❖ Singapore Summer Immersion Program

This annual program, funded by a grant from Alston Gardner, is designed to introduce Asia to twenty-five first-year students through academic studies both in Chapel Hill and in Singapore. At Carolina, students enroll in one of the first-year seminars offered on Southeast Asia or another course on Asia. While on the campus of the National University of Singapore (NUS) for six weeks in the summer, they take two courses in Asian Studies taught (in English) by UNC and NUS faculty. Professor **Donald Nonini** (Anthropology) will direct the 2004 program.

The first program in 2003 was directed by Professor **Peter Coclanis** (History). Students complemented class work in Singapore with excursions to neighboring Malaysia and Indonesia. In the final week of the program they traveled to Bangkok to learn about Thai culture, history, and society at Thammasat University and through field trips around Bangkok and central Thailand. Prof. Coclanis, in assessing the success of the program, noted that returning students have organized a Southeast Asia Interest Association on campus devoted to increasing interest in and awareness of that area, and that many of the returnees are now taking Chinese language courses and planning to enroll in other study abroad programs in Asia.

❖ Kyoto Summer Program in Japanese Culture

In 2003, ten students, supported by the Freeman Grant, participated in the first intensive month-long summer program in Kyoto, the ancient capital of Japan. The students lived in a Japanese inn, ate in cafes, and participated in other aspects of daily life.

Students completed two courses taught in English by program director **Jan Bardsley** (Asian Studies), and experienced Japanese culture through field trips, theatrical events, and activities with Japanese college students. One student noted, "With our field work relating to our classroom discussion we were able to expand on our readings and discussions and have



a further complete understanding of what we were learning,” while another wrote, “It prepared me culturally to stand alone for the additional month that I stayed in Japan because the information I received ... encompassed so much of Japanese life.” The program will be repeated in summer 2005.

❖ Gardner Research 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 \$3,300 scholarship towards program costs.



The first such seminar, on “Popular Culture and Nationalism in Vietnam,” will be held in summer 2004 in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon), under the direction of Professor **Eric Henry**

(Asian Studies). The program will combine Vietnamese language study (no prior familiarity with the language is required) with a seminar taught by Dr. Henry on “Tan Nhac (‘new music’) and Vietnamese Society,” and cultural research in one of the world’s most fascinating cities. Students also will have the opportunity to go on a four-day study tour to either Hanoi or the central region of Vietnam.

Students in the program will be able to immerse themselves in the daily flow of life in Ho Chi Minh City, sometimes characterized as “the pearl of the Orient,” and interact with Vietnamese peers in ways that were previously impossible. They will experience delectable and varied food, refined manners, dizzying motorcycle traffic, irresistible music, and cheerful encounters with strangers in a setting filled with sites that bear witness to four centuries of tumultuous history.

Introducing New Faculty

Mark Driscoll (Asian Studies) received his Ph.D. from Cornell University. His research and teaching interests are divided between Japanese colonial-imperialism in East Asia and post-modern and postcolonial Japanese mass culture and media. He is currently finishing a monograph (under contract with Duke University Press) on Yuasa Katsuei, an important Japanese colonial novelist who grew up in Korea before being repatriated to Japan after WWII. This is part of a larger study that looks both at the history of Japanese colonial-imperialism and the effects of that colonialism on contemporary Japan. His next large research project will concern contemporary Japanese mass culture. He has a general interest in Japanese and Chinese philosophy and claims to want to be reincarnated in his next life as a geisha in Kyoto!

Robin Visser (Asian Studies) received her Ph.D. from Columbia University in 2000 and taught at Valparaiso University

before joining the UNC faculty this year. Her field of expertise is 20th and 21st century Chinese literature and film, specializing in contemporary urban culture, and she teaches courses in Chinese language, literature, and visual culture. She will be on leave in Shanghai next year, supported by an American Council of Learned Societies research grant, to complete a book-length project on “The Urban Subject in the Literary and Cultural Imagination of Contemporary China.” Living in China during 1989, Visser traveled around the country gauging responses in the aftermath of the June 4 demonstrations. While a graduate student at Columbia, she was introduced to Director Ang Lee, with whom she and her husband subsequently worked on English translations of the Chinese novel “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” and its three film script versions.

Honors Internship in China Funded

The Jones Apparel Group of New York has funded an Honors Fellowship/Internship in Asian Studies. This unique program, to begin in the spring of 2005, will initially support up to three undergraduate fellows each year to study Chinese language and culture at the CET program in Beijing during the spring semester and then to have an internship in China during the summer, either in Shanghai or Beijing. The internships will be tailored to the students’ interests and will include business, government, and professional placements. Students who will have taken three semesters of Chinese language before entering the program are eligible to apply.

Peter Boneparth, president and CEO of Jones Apparel, came to Chapel Hill in March to formally announce the program. In his honor and to celebrate this generous gift that will open up exciting opportunities for our students, a reception was hosted by **James Leloudis**, Associate Dean for Honors and Director of the Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence. Boneparth, on right in photo talking with a student and **Miles Fletcher**, chair of Asian Studies, is a 1980 graduate of UNC (double major in Economics and Political Science).



He stated that this program was intended “to help prepare students to be truly engaged with not only the Chinese language but also the Chinese people and culture.”

The Jones Apparel Group has offices in China and Hong Kong and 75% of its annual \$5 billion sales are from products made in China. It specializes in ladies’ apparel and shoes, including the labels Polo jeans and Easy Spirit shoes.

Japanese Women’s Group Visits UNC

In April, a delegation from an entrepreneurial women’s group in Kyoto called INANNA visited UNC and Chapel Hill. Their visit, arranged by **Jan Bardsley** (Asian Studies), included extended discussions with Carolina students, local K-12 teachers, Rotary Club members, and other community leaders on issues such as education, gender equity in the workplace, and aging. Japanese language and Japan Club students at UNC shared

meals with the guests and escorted them to local cultural institutions. Several members of the delegation had helped Prof. Bardsley with the Kyoto Study Abroad Program last summer (see story on page 2).

Modern Hebrew Language Program

Asian Studies offers instruction in Arabic, Bengali, Chinese, Hebrew, Hindi-Urdu, Japanese, Persian, Tamil and Vietnamese. In this issue, we highlight the newly created Hebrew program. The accompanying script means "Hebrew Language."

עברית

Biblical Hebrew has been taught at UNC for many years (in Religious Studies), but Modern Hebrew was taught for the first time this year.

At the moment, Asian Studies can only offer elementary and intermediate levels, but the expectation is to add advanced Hebrew in the near future. Twelve students enrolled in the first two levels this spring, and nineteen have already registered for next fall's classes.

The current four-course sequence is designed to facilitate students' progress toward becoming articulate readers, writers, and speakers of Modern Hebrew. The course is heavily grammar-based, which is the key that enables English speakers to comprehend and master the Hebrew language—a Semitic language based on a root system. By the end of the elementary level, classes are conducted exclusively in Hebrew (with the exception of the ongoing explanation of grammatical structures and rules). By the end of the intermediate level, students will have mastered all the requisite grammar skills necessary to read, write, and speak and will go on to novels, essays, poetry, etc. while continuing to expand their vocabulary base. In addition to classwork, students regularly listen to tapes designed to facilitate fluency and proper accent. Extracurricular activities include Israeli films and plans for Hebrew-speaking coffeehouses and get-togethers.

The instructor for all the Modern Hebrew courses is **Luceil Friedman**. She earned a BA in Hebraic Studies from Rutgers University and an MA in Hebrew from Indiana University, and took education courses at the Hebrew University, Jerusalem, with an emphasis on teaching Modern Hebrew in the Diaspora. She previously taught at Indiana University and at the New Jewish High School of Greater Boston.

Asian American Studies at Carolina

With Asian Americans being one of the fastest growing populations in North Carolina, and with an increasing number of Asian American students enrolled at UNC, there has been a rising demand for courses on Asian Americans and for the establishment of an Asian American Studies program. In response to this expressed interest, **Gang Yue** (Asian Studies) has periodically taught courses on Asian American literature and the Asian American experience, and recently two new courses have been offered in the subject area.

One course, taught by **John Yu** in the C-START program (Carolina Students Taking Academic Responsibility through Teaching), "Deconstructing the Model Minority," explored how portraying Asians as a model minority actually serves to

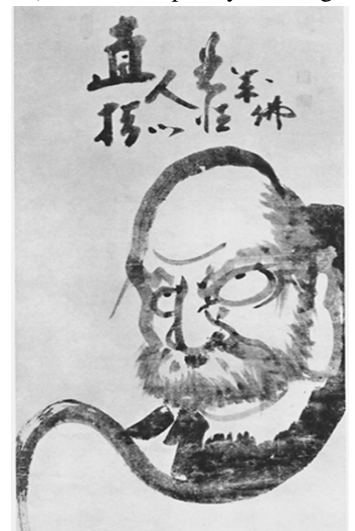
perpetuate racism against Asian Americans and to create antagonism among other minority groups who are seen as "underserving."

Dan Duffy, a doctoral student in Anthropology doing research on Vietnamese literature, taught an undergraduate course on "Asia in North Carolina." Students' original research in the course led to a published booklet containing a profile of the state's Asian American population, library resources on Asian Americans in the area, and directories of Asianist organizations at UNC and of Asian American businesses and artists in the state. Students under Duffy's direction also submitted a successful panel proposal for the annual meeting of the Association for Asian American Studies, and UNC's Office of Undergraduate Research funded the trip to San Francisco to present their findings.

"Aesthetics of Nirvana" Series

The Curriculum in Asian Studies and the Curriculum in Comparative Studies, along with the Ackland Art Museum, the Carolina Asia Center, the Japan Foundation, and a number of other sponsors, presented a campus-wide series of events in November 2003 on "The Aesthetics of Nirvana: Truth, Beauty and Enlightenment in Japanese Buddhism." The series, co-coordinated by **Jan Bardsley** (Asian Studies) and **Inger Brodey** (Comparative Literature), included poetry readings, films, workshops, and a specially organized calligraphy exhibit, "Word into Art," that included works by American, Chinese, Japanese, and Korean artists. The series concluded with the annual Southern Japan Seminar meeting with papers read by members of the Seminar and Carolina students.

The series was held to honor the careers of Professors Emeriti **James H. Sanford** (Religious Studies) and **Jerome P. (Sandy) Seaton** (Asian Studies) as it pointed to the diversity of their contributions to Asian Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill and to their engagement with the poetry, art, and scholarship associated with Buddhism and other faith traditions in Asia. Professors Sanford and Seaton read from their translations of Zen and Taoist poetry at the final session of the Southern Japan Seminar.



Carolina Senior Named Luce Scholar

Ann Collier—a Morehead Scholar and senior English major, nonfiction writer and documentary filmmaker—has won one of fifteen Luce Scholarships awarded nationwide, for a one-year internship in Asia. "My passion is collecting stories," Collier said. "I hope to work for a newspaper (English-language) there and develop the discipline to report and write every day. I'd also like to complete an independent study—to find some issue that fascinates me and write or produce a film about it." **Raymond Farrow**, development director for inter-

national studies, a former Luce Scholar and chair of the UNC nominating committee for the Luce, called Collier an impressive journalist, “not afraid of wrestling with meaning, no matter where the journey for truth may take her ...”

Collier also enjoys physical challenges. She is a Royal Yachting Association-certified skipper, having accumulated more than 5,000 sea miles. She completed a 22-day intensive mountaineering course in the Colorado Outward Bound School in 1999 and was a defender on UNC’s fourth-ranked NCAA Division One women’s lacrosse team in her freshman year.

The coveted award from the Henry Luce Foundation recognizes outstanding academic achievements and leadership abilities, and is designed to acquaint future American leaders with the Asian continent and its people. Collier is Carolina’s twenty-fourth winner since the program began in 1974, a record of success second only to Harvard University.

Three Asian Film Series Presented

This year, Curriculum faculty organized three film series focusing on various aspects of Asian culture.

- ❖ Last fall, **Li-ling Hsiao** showed ten kung-fu films as part of her freshman seminar on “Kung-fu: The Concept of Heroism in Chinese Culture,” including the popular “Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon” and “Iron Monkey.”
- ❖ **Robin Visser** aired twelve films about urban China, almost all of them unknown to American audiences, in conjunction with her spring seminar on “The Urban Imagination in Modern Chinese Literature and Film.”
- ❖ A spring “Southeast Asian Film Festival,” organized by **Tony Day** and sponsored by the Working Group in Southeast Asian Studies and the First Year Seminar program, presented four recent feature films from Singapore, Vietnam, Thailand, and Indonesia, with each film introduced by a local area expert.

Carolina Asia Center News

In its second year, the Carolina Asia Center (CAC) expanded its activities on the UNC-Chapel Hill campus and participated with various partners in the community and state to promote and disseminate knowledge about Asia.

In support of its primary mission, to promote undergraduate education on Asia, CAC (1) awarded course development grants to faculty in fields including American Studies, Asian Studies, Biology, Dramatic Arts, Public Policy, and Women’s Studies; (2) cosponsored programs and cultural events on campus and in the community, such as a Southeast Asia film festival, a Korean poetry reading, a conference on Japanese Buddhism, a workshop on the Asian and African-American diasporas, and lectures on Tibet, religion in China, and jazz in East Asia; (3) supported student organizations such as the Asian Student Association, the Japan Club, the Hmong Students Association and the Tang Dynasty Club, a weekly Chinese language conversation table; and (4) helped subsidize study abroad programs in Beijing, Kyoto, and Singapore.

In December, CAC sponsored a workshop to discuss new dimensions in Asian Studies on campus with an eye toward promoting collaborative interdisciplinary research projects. In the spring it initiated a faculty research series called teaCART (Carolina Asia Research Talks) to promote intellectual ex-

change among faculty in various disciplines working on Asia-related topics. CAC’s interim director **Steven Levine**, along with **Miles Fletcher**, chair of the Curriculum in Asian Studies, participated in a lecture series sponsored by the General Alumni Association on “Reassessing America’s Relations in Asia,” with lectures in Chapel Hill, High Point and Wilmington. CAC also worked with the North Carolina Council for International Understanding and World View to promote education about Asia in the public schools of our state.

Students Garner Research Awards

Each year, the Southeast Regional Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (SEC/AAS) awards prizes at its annual meeting to the best undergraduate and graduate research papers on an Asian subject from submissions nominated by faculty in the region. At the 2004 meeting, hosted by the University of Florida, UNC students won both prizes.

Leah Latella, a junior majoring in photojournalism, won the undergraduate award for her paper, “*Ama*: A Traditional Past, An Erotic Present, and a Hardworking Future.” Leah’s paper, nominated by **Jan Bardsley** (Asian Studies), was inspired by the Utagawa Kuniyoshi (1787-1867) woodblock print (right), *Three Divers at the Married Rocks* [74.3 x 22.0 cm, UNC Art Department Collection 69.6.5], a work she encountered in a first-year seminar, “Geisha in History, Fiction, and Fantasy” taught by Professor Bardsley. Last summer, Leah joined Bardsley’s study abroad program in Kyoto and continued her research on *ama* by examining more woodblock prints and visiting a famous tourist site devoted to the *ama*. Her paper examined representations of the *ama* in prints, film, and tourist narratives, attending to the ways in which the athleticism of the diver is ignored while her connections to ideas of Japanese tradition, the maternal, and the erotic are heightened. Ms. Latella will spend this summer as a photojournalism intern in Farmington, New Mexico.



Jongnam Na’s prize-winning graduate paper, nominated by **Michael Hunt** (History), was a shortened version of his MA thesis, which dealt with the effort by U.S. military advisers between 1948 and 1950 to cast the new South Korean army in an American mold and the resistance they encountered from their Korean counterparts. Na is a South Korean officer who will return to Korea to teach in a military academy when he finishes his PhD at UNC. In 2003, another UNC student, **Shuhua Fan** (also nominated by Professor Hunt), won the graduate prize for her paper on the founding of the Harvard-Yenching Institute.

SEC/AAS is a scholarly organization dedicated to promoting the study of Asia in the southeastern region of the United States. It has held (since 1962) an annual three-day conference featuring scholarly panels, teacher workshops, and book exhibits. It also publishes annually the *Southeast Review of Asian Studies* that highlights the scholarly activities of Asianists in

the region. Next year's meeting will be held at the University of Kentucky.

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 to share with our readers, using the form found in this Newsletter.

Daniel P. Aldrich (BA 1996), a doctoral candidate at Harvard, returned last fall from almost a year and a half of field research in Japan as a Fulbright scholar at the Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo. Perhaps the most exciting news is the birth of his second son, Yaakov, in January 2004; Yaakov joins his older brother Gavriel Tzvi. Daniel has published several articles and reviews in professional journals, including *Social Science Japan* and *Political Psychology*, and has a chapter forthcoming in an edited volume by S. Hayden Lesbi-rel. He will be in Paris at Sciences Po this summer conducting comparative research for his dissertation, which will be completed next spring.

Will Bordeaux (BA 1995), after many years in the private sector, has enrolled in the graduate program of the School for International Relations and Pacific Studies at the University of California at San Diego. He is specializing in economics and hopes one day to work at a multinational corporation or NGO. This summer he will be working with Christine Loh on democracy issues in Hong Kong and the lead-up to the election next fall. He and his wife (who is Japanese) have residency in Hong Kong. Their young daughter is bilingual—she already can communicate better in Cantonese than Will—and will be enrolled in a Mandarin preschool next year. Mother and daughter are remaining in Hong Kong while Will finishes his studies in San Diego. "I imagine that I will be concerned with China for the rest of my life," Will writes, "and will be locked into Japan also. I couldn't imagine not being involved there—it is still the most dynamic place on the face of the planet if you ask me. I hope to one day be able to serve to bridge the divide between the two as my Japanese is still pretty good and my Chinese is coming along."

Friends of Asian Studies

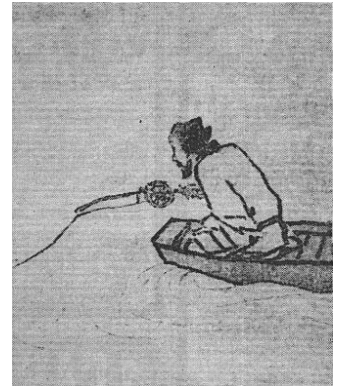
We thank the following individuals who have made gifts to Asian Studies this past year:

Caroline Berndt Mew	C. Smithson Mills
Hannah I. Bishop	Michael G. O'Reilly
Clark S. Gadson	Suresh Penkar
Katsuko T. Hotelling	Barbara Jean Peterson
Judith W. Kamilhor	Mitra McDougale Salehi
Lawrence Kessler	Ted Huai-Te Tai
Gregory W. Kopczynski	Nancy King Tanner
Jane C. Kopczynski	Pell Tanner
Eugene Yung-chin Lao	Su-Chen Hung Tu
Insup Lee	

Ena Chao (PhD 1979), formerly at the Institute for European and American Culture at Academia Sinica in Taipei, took up a teaching position in American history this year at Taiwan National University, also in Taipei. She reports that in one of her

graduate classes she had two Americans and a Vietnamese monk in addition to the Taiwanese students, and that the Americans had no better grasp of American history than the Taiwanese!

James Huskey (PhD 1986) is spending the current academic year as Diplomat-in-Residence at Georgetown University's Institute for the Study of Diplomacy. In the spring, he taught a course on "Terrorism in Southeast Asia" in the School of Foreign Service. "This has been a wonderful year," he writes, "providing the time to read, think and write on international relations in a way that we cannot do, and do not have time for, in the extraordinarily busy Department of State." Huskey spent the preceding three years as Deputy Director of the East Asia and Pacific Regional Security Policy Office, where he coordinated U.S. counterterrorism policy for the East Asia region after 9/11. Earlier in his career, he served in embassies in Beijing, Madras (India), and Nairobi (Kenya), and will move to Taiwan this summer to serve as Political Counselor in the American Institute in Taiwan (the unofficial U.S. Embassy there), where he will have to tackle the strained political and diplomatic relations across the Taiwan Strait.



Judy Kamilhor (BA 1981), known to her classmates as **Judy Goldberg**, has been serving since 1997 as assistant editor at OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) Public Affairs Information Service, indexing and abstracting public policy materials, including East Asian publications. In 1998, she changed her last name back to her paternal great-grandfather's surname, which had been changed in Latvia in the late 1800s.

Li Li (PhD 1997) was promoted this year to Associate Professor at Salem State College in Salem, MA, where he serves as History Graduate Coordinator (they have about 90 students in the MA and MAT programs) as well as the Asian Studies Coordinator. He also is the project director of "Celebrating Diversity and Internationalization at Salem State College," which this year is celebrating its 150th anniversary. Li published an article, "Making Sacrifice on a Dream: Olive Bagby as a Southern Baptist Missionary to China, 1915-1923," *Virginia Baptist Register* (2003); and he gave presentations on "From Southern Baptist Identity to Chinese Baptist Identity, 1850-1950," at the Third International Conference on Baptist Studies in Prague (July 2003), and on "Frederick Townsend Ward: Conflicting Images and Controversial Life," at the New England American Studies Association, Peabody Essex Museum (April 2004).

Caroline (Berndt) Mew (BA 1996) has been working for over four years as an attorney in Washington, DC, on a career path that has taken her away from Asian Studies. About eighty percent of her work involves clients in the field of education, including educational trade associations, testing organizations, and a major research university.

Jonathan Moss (BA 1994) lived in Taiwan 1995-1998 and in Japan 2002-2004, learning to speak Chinese fluently and Japa-

nese comfortably. He returned to the United States as of this February to manage the import/export company he founded in the late 1990s. In the early years of the business, to make ends meet when times were tough, he did some translating and taught Chinese. His most interesting teaching stint involved teaching Chinese to adopted Chinese girls here in the US.

Michael O'Reilly (BA 1984, MD 1992, MPH 2002) spent three weeks last April in Bangkok on temporary duty from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta to assist with SARS investigations. Since last July he has been serving as Technical Advisor in the Field Epidemiology Training Program in Bangkok, teaching doctors from Thailand, Vietnam, Laos, Malaysia, and China how to investigate disease outbreaks, enhance disease surveillance, and establish public health programs. He is learning Thai and is willing to help students interested in education or work experiences in Thailand.

Will Redfern (BA 1985) graduated from the University of Virginia Law School in 1989, then worked as a corporate lawyer for ten years, seven of which were spent in Asia (based in Indonesia, Hong Kong, and Singapore). He worked on transactions all over Asia and went to virtually every country in the region except Korea. After returning to the United States, he enrolled at the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor, earning a MA in Southeast Asian Studies in 2002 and now working for a PhD in history. His primary field of study is modern Southeast Asian history, with subfields in premodern Southeast Asian and modern Chinese history. He will take his preliminary exams next spring, and then all that remains is ("yikes!") the dissertation.

Susin Seow (BA 1996, MPA 1999) worked for several years as Vice-President of Public Sector Campaigns for the Triangle United Way, managing the State Employees Combined Campaign. She now works on the private sector campaigns in the Triangle. She and her husband, Chris Weathington, were married in Singapore in 1999 and now have a daughter who is several months old.

Jewel Ward (BA 1990) received her MA in Information Science at UNC in 2002, specializing in digital library interoperability and system-level metadata. She worked for a year as a post-MA Graduate Research Assistant in the Research Library at Los Alamos National Laboratory in New Mexico. Last summer she spent two weeks in Japan as a Visiting Scholar in Tokyo lecturing on digital libraries, the Open Archives Initiative Protocol for Metadata Harvesting, and metadata in digital libraries at Tsukuba University in Tsukuba, Aichi Shukutoku University in Nagoya, the National Institute of Informatics in Tokyo, and Keio University in Tokyo. Another purpose of the visit was to learn about the various implementations of digital libraries in Japan, as well as the latest Japanese research in digital library systems. In March she began a position as a Digital Resources Librarian in Leavey Library at the University of Southern California in Los Angeles, where her work revolves around metadata, digital library systems, and digital library systems implementation. In April she attended the Digital Library Federation (DLF) Spring Forum as a Fellow, and will now serve a three-term appointment on the DLF Program Committee.

Asian Studies Faculty News

Sahar Amer (Asian Studies) published an article, "Muslim Women in France at the Turn of the Millennium," in *Contemporary French Civilization*, Summer/Fall 2003. She received several grants: the Spray-Randleigh Fellowship for 2004-2005; a curriculum development grant from the University Center for International Studies to develop a course on "Arabs in America"; a grant from the Center for European Studies to pursue research on contemporary Muslim women in France, especially in light of the controversy surrounding the new law on the veil that was adopted in February 2004; and a two-month fellowship from the Center for Arabic Study Abroad to conduct research in Egypt during March-April 2005. She will be on research leave next year to complete a monograph on representations of gender and sexual practices in medieval French and Arabic literatures.

Yuki Aratake (Asian Studies) offered a new class on Japanese pop culture as a fourth-year language course. She made numerous presentations about Japanese culture and language to school groups through the outreach program of the University Center for International Studies.

Jan Bardsley (Asian Studies) published two articles in the summer 2003 issue of *US Japan Women's Journal*, and edited a special issue of *Women's Studies* (2004) on "Women, Marriage and the State in Modern Japan." She participated as a discussant on a panel exploring the work of writer Tamura Toshiko at the annual Association for Asian Studies meeting in San Diego in March. She co-coordinated "The Aesthetics of Nirvana" events and the Southern Japan Seminar last November (see article on page 4). She serves on the Robertson Scholars Collaboration Fund Committee and on advisory committees for the Curriculum in Asian Studies, undergraduate admissions and the First-Year Seminar program.

Inger Brodey (Comparative Literature) completed two essays that will be published in 2005: an introduction for a new volume of lectures by Natsume Soseki, which were translated for the first time into English by Sammy Tsunematsu; and an essay on "Preromanticism, or Sensibility: Defining Ambivalences" for *Companion to Romanticism*. She gave an invited lecture to the North Carolina chapter of the Jane Austen Society of North America, and also moderated a conference on "Liberty and Landscape in the Works of Tocqueville and Olmstead" and a panel on "Japanese Literature and Film" at the Asian Symposium on South Beach, sponsored by Florida International University and the Wolfsonian Museum. As faculty advisor to the Comparative Literature Organization for Undergraduate Discussion (CLOUD), she helped organize the first annual Comparative Literature International Film Series. The theme was Border Crossings and one of the four films shown was the Japanese "After Life." She co-coordinated "The Aesthetics of Nirvana" events and the Southern Japan Seminar last November (see article on page 4). Last summer she was awarded a Spray-Randleigh Faculty Fellowship, and



this summer has been given an Honors Curriculum Development award for a new course, "The Feast in Film, Fiction, and Philosophy." She continues to serve as Director of Undergraduate Studies in Comparative Literature and on the Ackland Advisory Committee.

Allison Busch (Asian Studies) contributed a translation to *The Longman Anthology of World Literature*, and presented papers at the 2004 meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in San Diego and at the Ninth International Bhakti Conference in Heidelberg. She received an American Council of Learned Society grant in 2004-2005 to support research on premodern Indian literature. She is a member of the Executive Council of the Triangle South Asia Consortium and the Selection Committee for the Mahatma Gandhi Foundation Fellowship.

Tony Day (Asian Studies) was a Visiting Fellow at the Humanities Research Centre (HRC) of the Australian National University in April-May 2004 to continue work on a book he is writing with Keith Foulcher, University of Sydney, on post-coloniality and Southeast Asian literature. He gave a paper, "'Self' and 'Subject' in Southeast Asian Literature in the Global Age" at an HRC conference on "Culture, Nations, Identities and Migrations."



Next year he will be a Fellow at the National Humanities Center, in Research Triangle Park, NC, to work on a book entitled: "Forms of Reality: Literature in Java, 1800-2000."

Mark Driscoll (Asian Studies) presented papers at conferences in Keio University and Waseda University last year while in Japan on a Japan Foundation grant. He gave papers in March at the University of Alberta's Department of Comparative Literature and at UCLA's Center for Japanese Studies. He published two articles this year: "Reverse Postcoloniality," in *Social Text*, and "Naizaishugi to Idiorogi (Immanence and Ideology)" in *Gendai Shisô* (Contemporary Thought).

Pika Ghosh (Art/Asian Studies) received the Edward C. Dimmock Prize of the American Institute of Indian Studies for her book, *Temple to Love: Architecture and Devotion in Seventeenth-Century Bengal*, which is under contract with the Indiana University Press. She published three articles this past year on scroll painting and temple architecture in the *Journal of Asian Studies*, *Asian Folklore Studies*, and *South Asian Studies*, and contributed a chapter on premodern Bengal architecture to *South Asian Folklore: an Encyclopedia*. She presented a paper at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in San Diego in January, and gave an invited lecture to the Department of Art History at Harvard University in February. During the spring she had a leave at the Institute of Arts and Humanities to conceptualize a second book project on the relationship of visual imagery and architecture in eastern India.

Eric Henry (Asian Studies) presented three papers at scholarly conferences: "Xi Shi and the Saga of Wu and Yue" at a meeting of the Southeast Early China Roundtable in Berea, Kentucky; "Tan Nhac: Notes Toward a Social History of Vietnamese Music in the Twentieth Century" at the annual meeting of the Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Stud-

ies at the University of Florida; and "A New Take On *Ren*" at a meeting of the Southeast Early China Roundtable in conjunction with the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting in San Diego. In pursuing his research on Vietnamese music, he conducted two interviews with Pham Duy, a famous and venerable Vietnamese composer and national figure, at his home in Midway City, California. With the aid of a Freeman Foundation course development grant, he went to Vietnam last summer and this year taught a new course on Vietnamese music. This summer he will be conducting a Gardner Field Research Seminar in Ho Chi Minh City (see article on page 3).

Li-ling Hsiao (Asian Studies) published an article, "Political Loyalty and Filial Piety in the Rongyu Tang Edition of *Pipa Ji*: A Case Study in the Relational Dynamics of Text, Commentary, and Illustration," in the *Ming Studies* journal in Fall 2003. She gave public performances on the *guzheng* (a traditional Chinese musical instrument) in the Johnston Center for Undergraduate Excellence on campus last November, and in the Cary Senior Center and in Person Hall on campus in January. She served as the undergraduate advisor for the Curriculum in Asian Studies in 2003-2004, and organized a weekly kung-fu film series in fall 2003 in conjunction with her first-year seminar "Kung-fu: the Concept of Heroism in Chinese Culture." She was awarded a fellowship by UNC's Institute of Arts and Humanities for next spring.

Michael Hunt (History) published *The World Transformed: 1945 to the Present*, a global history in the works for some seven years, and an accompanying *Documentary Reader* (St. Martin's, 2004). He published an updated essay on the role of "Ideology" in U.S. foreign relations in *Explaining the History of American Foreign Relations* (Cambridge University Press, 2003). His lead article in the *Journal of American History*, "In the Wake of September 11: The Clash of What?" appeared in *History and September 11th* (Temple University Press, 2003). He also contributed a unit on the Vietnam War to the "Learn More—Teach More" project for high school teachers. Notable among his talks over the last year was the December commencement at UNC.

Norris Johnson (Anthropology) published a chapter, "Mountain Temple, and the Design of Movement: 13th Century Japanese Zen Buddhist Landscapes," in *Landscape Architecture and the Experience of Motion* (Dumbarton Oaks, 2003), and finished a book-length manuscript, *The Dragon Gate: A Zen Buddhist Temple in Kyoto, Japan*. He chaired and acted as discussant on a panel, "Cross-Cultural Approaches to Buddhist Aesthetics," at the annual meeting of the Southern Japan Seminar at UNC last November. He gave two invited lectures: "Japan: Religion and Nature" at UNC-Wilmington last May; and "Dragons, Art, and Concepts of Nature" at UNC's Ackland Art Museum in December.

Yuko Kato (Asian Studies) was awarded a Carolina Asia Center travel grant to develop a course about different types of Japanese music, "Making Music in Japan." Taught in Japanese, the course will expand the repertoire of classes for advanced students in Japanese.

Ryuko Kubota (Education/Asian Studies) published two journal articles: "The Politics of Cultural Difference in Second Language Education," *Critical Inquiry in Language Studies* (2004); and "Unfinished Knowledge: the Story of Barbara,"

College ESL (2003). In addition, she has contributed chapters to five edited books and published in CD-ROM format, "Teaching about Japanese culture at the intermediate and advanced level in the U.S.: Using the Internet" (in Japanese). Last October she was invited to speak at a symposium, "Teaching Race: Race, Culture, and Power in the Educational Process," at the University of New Hampshire. She also presented at state, regional, national, and international conferences, including the International Conference on Language, Education and Diversity held at the University of Waikato, Hamilton, New Zealand. She has been elected as the Director-at-Large for the International Society for Language Studies, and invited to serve on the international editorial advisory board of the *Asia Pacific Journal of Education*.

Charles Kurzman (Sociology) published a book, *The Unthinkable Revolution in Iran* (Harvard University Press, 2004), that examines the unexpected fall of the last shah in 1979. In addition, he co-edited a volume, *An Islamic Reformation?* (Lexington Books, 2004), with Michaelle Browsers of Wake Forest University, and completed a survey of family attitudes in Iran.

Wendan Li (Asian Studies) published two articles on Chinese discourse in professional journals and made presentations at the annual conferences of the Linguistic Association of Canada and the United States last July and of the American Council of Teaching Foreign Languages in Philadelphia in November. She finished a two-year term as vice president of the Calligraphy Education Group of the Chinese Language Teachers Association. Professor Li has also received a fellowship for the fall from the Institute for Arts and Humanities.

Tom Tweed (Religious Studies) edited and introduced the six-volume reprint series, *Buddhism in the United States, 1844-1925* (Bristol, 2004), which includes a wide range of primary sources dealing with Buddhism and transnational cultural exchange.

Robin Visser (Asian Studies) published a book chapter, "Post-Mao Urban Fiction," in *The Columbia Companion to Modern East Asian Literature* (2003), and an article, "Spaces of Disappearance: Aesthetic Responses to Contemporary Beijing City Planning," in the *Journal of Contemporary China* (May 2004). She also published two translations by the Shanghai scholar Wang Xiaoming: "A Manifesto for Cultural Studies" in *One China, Many Paths* (Verso, 2003); and "China, on the Verge of a 'Momentous Era'" in *positions: east asia cultures critique* (2003). In February she delivered the Janet Lynn Kerr Memorial Lecture in Asian Studies at Valparaiso University on "Cultural Iconoclasm as National Redemption: Lu Xun and the Impasse of Modernity." She was invited to present two papers: "Architecture as Verb: Aura Reconsidered" at the May 2003 Workshop on Visual Culture in Modern China at the University of Washington; and "Architecture in Motion: Visualizing

Urban Landscapes in Contemporary China" at the March 2004 annual meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in San Diego. She received a Freeman Foundation grant to develop a course on "Conceiving the City in Post-Mao China: Contemporary Urban Aesthetics."

Nadia Yaqub (Asian Studies) was on research leave during the academic year and in the spring semester was a fellow at the Institute for the Arts and Humanities at Carolina. She has been working on two book-length projects on oral Palestinian poetry. Three of her articles are due to be published in spring/summer 2004. She prepared a new course, "Palestine in the Palestinian Imagination," to be offered next spring, and also is working with colleagues to prepare a Palestinian film series for the next academic year.

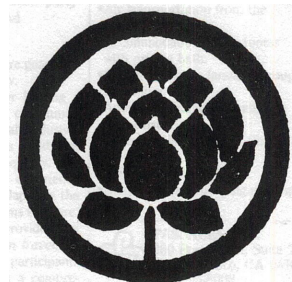
Gang Yue (Asian Studies) spent two months on research in Tibet and Northwest China in summer 2003, supported by a Freeman Foundation travel grant. Some initial results of his research are reflected in an article, "Echoes from the Himalayas: The Quest of Ma Lihua, a Chinese Intellectual in Tibet," published early this year in *Journal of Contemporary China*, and a book chapter he has recently completed, "From Shambhala to Shangri-La: A Traveling Sign in the Era of Global Tourism," which is scheduled for publication later this year in *Cultural Studies in China* (Singapore: Times Media Academic Publishing). He will begin to serve as the chair for the new Department of Asian Studies on July 1, 2004.

Asian Studies at UNC: A Brief History

Before the 1960s, UNC had little to offer students on the vast subject of Asia in any discipline. The pioneer in developing Asian Studies was John D. ("Doug") Eyre, whom the Geography Department hired in 1958 to offer courses in East Asian and Southeast Asian geography. None of the Asian languages were taught until 1966 when the Linguistics and Slavic Languages Department hired a former Marine officer, who had learned Chinese in the service, to teach Chinese.

With the boom in higher education in the mid-1960s through the 1970s, several UNC departments hired Asian specialists. These early pioneers included Lawrence Kessler (1966) and W. Miles Fletcher (1975) in History, James Peacock (1967) in Anthropology, Hsi-Sheng Chi (1968) and James White (1969) in Political Science, and James Sanford (1971) in Religious Studies.

Similar growth was experienced in East Asian languages, although in peculiar administrative circumstances. In 1968 the Linguistics and Non-Western Languages Department (recently separated from Slavic Languages) hired Jerome P. ("Sandy") Seaton as Carolina's first academically trained Chinese language and literature specialist. In the fall of 1976, Linguistics was also offering Japanese as a self-instructional course. The next year, it hired Hayumi Higuchi as a teaching assistant to offer the first regular instruction in elementary Japanese, while Professors Fletcher, Sanford, and White taught intermediate Japanese as overloads.



Later, when the College disbanded the Department of Linguistics and Non-Western Languages, the Department of Slavic Languages and Literature housed Chinese and Japanese language personnel and instruction. (Jokingly, these two departments, as long as they housed East Asian languages, were sometimes referred to, respectively, as Linguistics and “Unwanted Languages,” and “Communist Languages.”) With a Japan Foundation grant in 1981, the College appointed a lecturer in Japanese in the Slavic Languages Department. After switching back to the Curriculum in Linguistics, instruction shifted once again in 1992, this time to its permanent home in the Curriculum in Asian Studies. Two years later, the Curriculum hired Jan Bardsley as its first academically trained Japanese language and literature specialist.

As faculty and courses in the Asian field expanded, a group of Asian specialists established an ad hoc Committee on East Asia in the 1970s to coordinate and promote East Asian Studies. Among its more successful programs were a week-long East Asia Culture Festival; various film series; annual bus tours to Washington, DC to explore Asian art at the Freer Gallery, bonsai gardens in the National Arboretum and pandas at the National Zoo; and semianual picnics for faculty and students.

Consequently, student interest in East Asia as a course of study grew. Under the leadership of Professor Eyre, a College-appointed committee in 1967 had reorganized the International Studies major to include a concentration in East Asia, but to major in the subject a student had to receive special approval from the Interdisciplinary Studies office in the College to construct an ad hoc course of study. As grass roots student demand for an East Asian major increased, the faculty worked to create a separate interdisciplinary B.A. In 1979 the College finally approved the major and established the Curriculum in East Asian Studies to oversee it.

Since 1979, Asian Studies has undergone several changes in structure and location. In 1992 the Curriculum became a separate academic unit to house the Asian language faculty (only three at the time), instructional and non-personnel budgets, an office, and one half-time secretary. The next year the unit changed its name to the more inclusive Curriculum in Asian Studies to reflect the growth of South and Southeast Asian specialists on campus. The Curriculum office was first located in Caldwell but moved to Abernathy in 1994 and to Alumni in 1999 as its numbers grew. Currently, some members of the faculty have offices in the basement of Caldwell, in Dey Hall, and in West House. In the near future, the faculty in Caldwell and Dey will be consolidated in Evergreen House. The administrative staff increased to two three-quarter-time secretaries in 2000.

The regular faculty has grown from the initial three to sixteen this year—including two with a joint appointment (one in the Art Department, and another in the School of Education)—

and they are assisted by several visiting instructors and many teaching assistants. Since the unit’s inception in 1992 the Dean has chosen faculty members from outside the Curriculum to chair the unit—Judith Farquhar (1992-1997) in Anthropology, and Lawrence Kessler (1997-2000) and Miles Fletcher (2000-2004) in History—but with the change to departmental status this July 1 the new chair, Gang Yue, comes from within.

Language instruction has broadened as well: the Curriculum has offered Chinese and Japanese since its establishment in 1979, and now five or six faculty members teach language and literature courses in each of these areas; Vietnamese was added on an experimental basis in 1992 and on a more regular basis since 1998; the Curriculum offered Hindi-Urdu first on a shared basis with North Carolina State University in 1995 and by our own faculty since 1998; Romance Languages had taught Arabic on a part-time basis since the late 1950s, but the Curriculum took over its instruction in 2000; Bengali, Persian (Farsi) and Tamil were added in 2000 with the help of federal funding; and while Religious Studies has taught Biblical Hebrew for many years, the Curriculum started offering Modern

Hebrew on campus for the first time this year (see article on page 4).

While the Curriculum, soon to be Department, of Asian Studies houses sixteen language, literature, and culture specialists, there is a larger community of Asian specialists in the college and professional schools across campus that numbers about thirty, in Anthropology, City and

Regional Planning, Economics, English, Geography, History, Linguistics, Music, Political Science, Social Medicine, and Sociology. These faculty members are affiliated with the Curriculum and have been instrumental in the growth of Asian Studies, and some of them serve on an Advisory Committee to the chair of Asian Studies.

In recent years, the College has secured significant funding from outside sources—among them, the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation, the Freeman Foundation, alumnus Alston Gardner, the Japan Foundation, the Jones Apparel Group, the Luce Foundation, and the U.S. Department of Education—to hire new faculty, develop new courses, add to library holdings, underwrite study abroad programs, provide research and travel funds, and offer academic enrichment programs. One new major institutional change, funded initially by the Freeman Foundation, is the creation of the Carolina Asia Center with a full-time director to continue the work first started by the Committee on East Asia in the 1970s of developing Asian Studies at UNC.

—Lawrence Kessler



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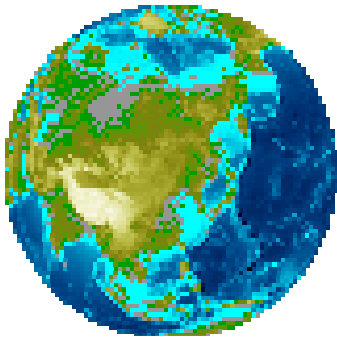
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