From The Director

Typically, the business of the center is people—the faculty, students, speakers, teachers, the public—but every four years, when the new Title VI applications are due, numbers acquire a magic sheen. How many courses taught? How many students enrolled? How many conferences sponsored? How many books acquired? How many events organized? How many teachers reached? How many people impacted?

In order to create a composite picture of the many threads of an institution’s East Asian activities, we ask questions and we send out queries—and then the fun begins: we negotiate, we follow up, we send reminder emails, we make phone calls, we cajole, we plead, we pursue new leads, we compile what we know, we ask another round of questions, and we create more charts. We tabulate what we know, and we ponder how to digest what we have learnt about inputs, outputs, outcomes, impacts. We attain new personal bests in perseverance; our family members acquire new levels of competence in the chores that we typically manage. Our restaurant and take-out bills reach an all-time high. Finally, with the numbers finally distilled into a forty-five page narrative about the institution’s inner life, we hope for the best and indulge ourselves a little by looking at how the daily sum of our activities over the last cycle have sparked, forged, and initiated new programs.

Beginning in 2006, sparked by student interest, OSU was at the forefront of CIC efforts to turn the newly created CIC video-delivery into the lively LCTL course bourse that it has become in 2010. Together with our Center for Slavic and East European Studies NRC and Indiana University, we offered Uzbek and Mongolian, and in partnership with the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures (DEALL) and the University of Michigan, we launched a battery of regularly taught and highly successful modern and classical Tibetan language courses. We awarded several FLAS fellowships to study these languages. Our Tibetan language program graduates in History of Art and DEALL now do research in China, Nepal, Bhutan and Europe; those who have taken Mongolian will further their language training this summer in Mongolia. We were pleased that the NRC competition made inter-NRC cooperation a priority and hope to start exporting advanced Korean in the next cycle.

Starting in 2006, OSU forged ahead with a new, rigorous, and interdisciplinary EAS MA program that emphasized in-depth language and thoroughgoing academic training. Our recruits arrived well-prepared—over 70% have already lived and/or studied in East Asia and most arrive with at least two years of relevant language preparation. With over 300 area studies courses offered annually, with over 80 active East Asia-oriented student organizations, and over 85 East Asian partner institutions in place, our current cohort can create their own one-of-a-kind experience. With recent graduates working in government, the non-profit sector, and education, we hope to reach out to military,
community colleges, and HBCUs to further diversify our pool of graduates in the future.

Starting with 2006, EASC initiated or co-sponsored over 200 events annually to promote greater knowledge of East Asian culture. Recent highlights have included visits by leading Korean performers guest-teaching classes at OSU while also performing at the annual Asian Festival, the largest event of its kind in the U.S.; forums on contemporary Japanese politics led by the EASC postdoc; lectures on traditional Chinese drama, tea culture, film, and history presented to a packed house of graduate and undergraduate students; an exhibition on a leading Chinese photographer by one of our graduate students; and visits by documentary filmmakers to show their work on the aftermath of WWII in Korea, Japan, and the U.S. for graduates of EASC teacher training programs. For the future, we are in the process of adding STEM-related activities to our repertoire to bridge the gap between sciences and the humanities with our first undergraduate Chemical Engineering/Chinese major on her way to FLAS-supported language study in Beijing.

As always, we thank you for your ideas, time, energy and support and wish you a productive and exciting summer. Needless to say, we hope to see many of you at the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs to be hosted by EASC in the fall.

Patricia Sieber, Ph.D.
Director, East Asian Studies Center
Director, Institute for Chinese Studies
Associate Professor, East Asian Languages and Literatures

Center News
Focus on East Asian Relations

Political scientist serves as 2009-2010 EASC postdoctoral researcher

EASC was pleased to welcome its 2009-10 postdoctoral researcher, Dr. Jeffrey Hornung, a specialist in comparative politics and international relations, who was in residence at OSU from September 2009 through June 2010. Dr. Hornung received his Ph.D. from George Washington University with his dissertation, “Learning How to Sweat: Explaining the Dispatch of Japan’s Self-Defense Forces in the Gulf War and Iraq War.”

With the focus of the 2009-2010 postdoctoral researcher search on policy issues in modern and contemporary East Asia, EASC found an exceptional candidate in Hornung. During his time at OSU, he taught three courses on policy-related topics. The first, International Relations of East Asia, offered in Winter 2010, was designed to help students better understand the complex relations among the regional powers of East Asia through an examination of the evolution of relations among these states, both militarily and economically. Included in the examination were foreign policies, potential flashpoints as well as issues concerning historical memory. The second course, Government and Politics of Japan, also offered in Winter 2010, provided students with an understanding of how Japan’s political system works through an examination of the development of modern Japan. Included in this examination was its indigenous attempt at democratic rule, the post-World War II democratic regime dominated by the Liberal Democratic Party, crucial issues that political leaders face, and the recent historical change of government. The third course, International Relations of Japan, offered in Spring 2010, examined Japan’s foreign policy from the 19th century until today. Policies that led Japan to disaster in World War II, postwar bilateral relations with various countries/regions, and issues important to Japan’s foreign policies were included.
IJS hosts symposium on “Japan’s Political Earthquake: Sources and Consequences”

In February 2010, the Institute for Japanese Studies, with support from EASC’s Title VI grant, hosted a symposium on Japan’s recent political shake-up. Professor Emeritus Bradley Richardson, from the political science department, opened the event with a talk titled “The Democratic Party of Japan’s (DPJ) Electoral Success: Patterns and Explanations” in which he discussed the changing demographics of Japan and the impact on election turnout and interest. He also talked about Japan’s public debt, changing age structure, educational levels and occupation structure. Invited speaker, Takashi Oka, journalist and author of A Political Biography of Ozawa Ichiro, then spoke about Ozawa and his importance within all of the changes in Japanese politics. EASC postdoctoral researcher Jeffrey Hornung, a specialist in comparative politics and international relations, talked about the DPJ’s policy performance on domestic issues and Japan’s role in the world.

ICS co-hosts global military issues symposium

ICS/EASC co-hosted “Russia, China and the Shanghai Cooperation Organization” symposium with the Center for Slavic and East European Studies and Mershon Center for International Security Studies on November 2, 2009. This symposium explored the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO), a permanent intergovernmental, international organization created in 2001 in Shanghai by the Republic of Kazakhstan, the People’s Republic of China, the Kyrgyz Republic, the Russian Federation, the Republic of Tajikistan and the Republic of Uzbekistan. The SCO member states occupy a territory of around 30,189,000 sq. km., which makes up three-fifths of the Eurasian continent, and has a population of 1.5 billion, which makes up a quarter of the planet’s population. The discussions were led by Colonel Peter Mansoor (Raymond E. Mason, Jr. Chair in Military History) and included presentations from Joseph Castleton (CSEES MA candidate), Xiaoyu Pu and Joshua Su-Ya Wu (Political Science PhD candidates). Pu’s research interests include international relations theory, international security, comparative politics, China’s foreign policy and political psychology, while Wu’s research interests include great power politics, international relations theory, nationalism, Chinese elite politics and East Asia security, especially the Taiwan Strait.

ICS and Mershon Center hold Third Annual CHINA Town Hall

The National Committee on United States-China Relations, in collaboration with the Institute for Chinese Studies and the Mershon Center for International Security Studies, hosted the “Third Annual CHINA Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections,” a national day of programming designed to provide Americans the opportunity to discuss China’s rapid development and Sino-American relations with leading experts. The Town Hall, held on December 8, 2009, featured a nationwide webcast by Kurt Campbell, Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and an on-site presentation by China specialist I. Allen Barber II.

Barber addressed issues in the U.S.-China bilateral relationship in his presentation, “Influencing our Future: A Dynamic Strategy to Revitalize Ohio through Partnerships with China.” Barber, president of the Denver-Hainan Corporation, explained the reasons behind China’s “opening up” policy, which led it to grow from a very small economy in 1978 to the third largest global economy in 2007. He outlined the problems, needs and desires caused by the spike in urban and rural growth in China and discussed how these issues provide Ohio with unique opportunities for economic growth through partnerships with China.
Center News

Focus on East Asian Relations CONTINUED

China conference explores the impact and crisis handling over China during the global financial crisis

The Institute for Chinese Studies was proud to host the 15th Association of Chinese Professors of Social Sciences in the United States’ (ACPSS) International Conference on the main campus of The Ohio State University from November 6-8, 2009. The theme of the conference was “China in World Financial Crisis and Other Challenges: Perspectives of Humanities and Social Sciences” and more than 50 academic papers were presented on the issues facing China in the current global financial crisis, particularly in the face of China’s rapid social, cultural and economic transitions. Internationally, China’s rise as an indispensible major player in world politics and economics has led to a continuous debate over what roles China will play in world affairs—will China have “a peaceful rise” as it assures the world, or become “a threat to world peace” as some in the West believe? Domestically, China faces insurmountable challenges posed by infrastructure changes, an unprecedented number of migrant laborers, employment of its young, an inadequate social security system, problems in public education and health care and urgent environmental issues. Through the perspectives of the humanities and social sciences, the ACPSS conference attempted to understand China’s multi-faceted challenges and offer valuable insights in coping with the complexities of such challenges.

Welcoming remarks during the opening ceremony were presented by Dieter Wanner, associate provost of OSU global strategies and international affairs; Patricia Sieber, director of EASC and ICS; and Jieli Li, president of ACPSS. Daniel C.K. Chow, Joseph S. Platt-Porter Write Morris & Arthur Professor of Law at OSU, delivered the keynote lecture, “Anti-Counterfeiting Strategies of Multi-Nationals in China.” For a list of papers presented, visit http://ics.osu.edu/conferences.html.

2009-2010 EASC Lecture Series

ICS concludes “The Future of the Past” and initiates “China in a Global Context” lecture series

In 2009, the East Asian Studies Center celebrated the fortieth anniversary of its founding. In conjunction with the anniversary, the Institute for Chinese Studies continued with the Future of the Past lecture series, which highlighted critical, self-reflexive and/or innovative approaches to the study of the Chinese-speaking world, as well as showcased the contribution of traditions to the creation of modernity.

In mid-May 2009, Richard Kent, associate professor of art and art history at Franklin & Marshall College presented “Early Chinese Fine-Art Photography: Cultural Nationalism & Embrace of Modernity.” This lecture examined the little-known writings and photographs of members of the Beijing Guangshe (The Beijing Light Society), the first fine-art photographic society established at Beijing University during the late 1920s. It then considered subsequent developments in Shanghai among participants of fine-art photographic societies such as the Zhonghua sheying xueshe or Huashé (The China Photographic Study Society) and the Heibai yingshe (The Black and White Photography Society) active there in the 1930s. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Department of History of Art.

The Future of the Past Lecture Series wrapped up by welcoming Heather Inwood, assistant professor of modern Chinese cultural studies at The Ohio State University. Her lecture, “Cyber Folk? Multimedia Poetry in the Aftermath of the Sichuan Earthquake,” addressed the phenomenon of “Quake Poetry,” a nationwide explosion of poetic fervor sparked by...
the Sichuan earthquake of May 2008, and examined technology’s role in the creation and rapid transmission of multimedia poetic works. After contextualizing the appearance of Quake Poetry and showing different versions of one much reproduced Quake poem, it was asked whether the multimedia adaptations and circulation of this poetry might be understood using the notion of “cyber folk” culture—that is to say, digitally-enabled culture that finds itself subject to many of the same features of transmission and reception as pre-technological oral folk cultures.

In October 2009, ICS inaugurated its China in a Global Context Lecture Series with Kun Shi’s (director of OSU’s K-12 Chinese Flagship Program) lecture, “Superstitious Beliefs? Current Status of Shamanic Practice and Research in China.” His lecture/slide/video presentation introduced the current status of research and practices of shamanism in China, including several new museums focused on the Tungus shamanic tradition. Shi described his fieldwork with some shamans of the Tungus-speaking peoples in Northeast China and attempted to provide an explanation for the revival of shamanism in today’s political environment.

Christopher Agnew, assistant professor of history at University of Dayton, continued the lecture series with “Ritual and Memory in the Making of the Descendants of Confucius” in November. Agnew’s presentation detailed the way in which the Kongs of Qufu, the recognized descendants of Confucius, used ritual practice and collective memory to reinforce a lineage identity and social hierarchy centered on the “Duke for Fulfilling the Sage.” To elucidate the relationship between social power and cultural practice, the lecture focused on three moments—each suggestive of the way the descendants of Confucius weathered the social and political crises of late imperial Chinese history.

Arizona State University’s Stephen R. MacKin- non, professor of history, kicked off the winter quarter by presenting “New Ways of Thinking about Wartime China: A Special Reference to the Defense of Wuhan in 1938” on January 29. This lecture looked beyond the traditional political story and its focus on the fortunes of the Nationalists and the Communists, or China as the “victim” as in the Nanjing Massacre, and raised broader questions about the social, cultural and economic impact of the war on the Chinese people. The speaker concluded with a case study of refugee society during the long ten-month siege of Wuhan in 1938 and used Robert Capa’s photos to illustrate the talk. This lecture was held in conjunction with the art exhibition of Sha Fei at the OSU Urban Arts Center and was co-sponsored by the Department of History.

In mid-February, ICS hosted Eric Mortensen, associate professor of religion at Guilford College. He delivered a lecture titled, “A Naxi Religious Post-mortem: On the Death of Ritual Efficacy.” His talk explored the pictographic manuscripts of the Naxi in Yunnan Province in Southwest China. Mortensen argued that the regularity of allegorical expressions represented by obscure pictographs in Naxi ritual manuscripts makes the translation of such texts from Southwest China highly problematic. The pictographs, devised as a mnemonic device to assist the dzo-bma ritual expert in the chanting of religious texts, require a depth of knowledge of the folkloric compendia of Naxi religious culture to be successfully recited, let alone, effectively translated. His lecture was co-sponsored by the Center for Folklore Studies and Center for the Study of Religion.

In early March, Thomas Hahn, visiting fellow and lecturer of regional planning and curator of the Wason Collection on East Asia at Cornell University, presented, “Machinations & Manipulations: Observations on Faking the Photographic Image in China.” He discussed nineteenth-century photographic output as almost exclusively perceived as a viable and marketable commercial product. The appearance of the picture postcard based on photography as a means for personal and “private” communication began around 1900. Pictures from the “Orient” or the Far East stressed the picturesque, the exotic, the “eternal” and the timeless of the represented Orient or the Far East. He discussed the photographic manuscripts of the Sha Fei exhibition of the Sichuan earthquake of May 2008, and examined technology’s role in the creation and rapid transmission

In mid-March, ICS was pleased to present a lecture by Marjorie Chan, associate professor of Chinese language and linguistics at The Ohio State University. Chan’s lecture, “I Love You to the Bone” and Other Songs: Rhyming, Tempo, and Humor in Early Cantopop,” analyzed several light-hearted Hong Kong Cantopop songs from the 1950s and 1960s sung by different artists. One such song, Ai Ni Ru Gu, is included in the title and given a tongue-in-cheek, literal translation of “Love you to the bone.” The song is a duet sung by
Center News

2009-2010 EASC Lecture Series CONTINUED

versatile comedic singer and performer Zheng Junmian, together with female singer Bai Ying.

Spring quarter’s China in a Global Context Lecture Series began with Wendy Swartz’s (associate professor of pre-modern Chinese literature at Columbia University) “Naturalness in Xie Lingyun’s (385-433) Poetic Works.” Her paper revisited the question of literary naturalness from two vantage points. The first part examined the notion of ziran as it was applied to Xie by Southern Dynasties critics and demonstrates the need to historicize the term, whose significations shifted dramatically over time. The second part focused on Xie’s citations of the Yi jing, or Classic of Changes, in his representative landscape works, including the “Fu on Dwelling in the Mountains.” She argued that Xie’s poetry exemplifies a literary naturalness that is informed by his reading of the Yi jing, an important aspect largely ignored by scholars today.

In mid-April, Sherry Mou, associate professor of Chinese literature and language at DePauw University, delivered “The Emperor and His New Shadow: The Fifth-Generation of Representation of the First Emperor.” Her lecture and presentation looked at three cinematic representations of the First Emperor of China, Qin Shihuangdi (259-210 BCE): Zhou Xiaowen’s The Emperor’s Shadow (1995), Chen Kaige’s The Emperor and the Assassin (1998) and Zhang Yimou’s Hero (2002); as well as the 2006 New York Metropolitan Opera’s libretto for The First Emperor, a libretto co-written by Chinese conductor Tan Dun, which shares the same basic storyline as Zhou’s film. She argued that all four works are set against a mytho-political construction of the First Emperor started by none other than Chairman Mao more than half a century ago. Each sought to depict the emperor’s humane, personable or sympathetic aspects, and in their efforts, created a new version of the myth of the First Emperor, one that reflects a rhythmically morphing culture over two decades of unprecedented political changes, social transformations and economic acceleration. This lecture was part of the DEALL Alumni Lecture Series.

Also in April 2010, ICS hosted Sherab Chen, associate professor at The Ohio State University’s Libraries, who gave a presentation/demonstration on “Chinese Tea Culture” to a packed audience of students, faculty and members of the general public. He has been studying Chinese tea cultures as part of his research interests in Buddhist studies and the practice of yoga.

In late-April, ICS welcomed Joshua Van Lieu, a PhD candidate at the University of Washington’s Department of History. Van Lieu delivered a lecture titled, “Diverging Visions of Serving the Great: Chos’n-Qing Negotiations of Tribute, 1879-1890.” For more than a century, scholarly writings and political commentaries have cast the Chos’n-Qing relationship of the 1880s and 1890s in terms of pre-modern tributary relations, modern treaty relations or some amalgam of the two, all the while assuming a readily definable tributary relationship of ancient usage. In the late 1870s and early 1880s, however, Russian and Japanese expansionism and Euro-American commercial interest in Chos’n induced rapid transformations in the calculi of state security that led Chos’n and Qing policy makers to re-conceptualize tributary relations in light of contemporary geopolitics. Using primarily Qing and Chos’n intra- and inter-governmental communications, Van Lieu examined the negotiations and re-imaginings of tributary relations as part of the efforts of the Chos’n and Qing states to create representations of themselves and their relationship. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Department of History.

All ICS lectures were sponsored in part by a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant for the East Asian Studies Center and a Freeman Foundation Undergraduate Asian Studies Initiative grant.

ICS Chinese-language lecture series continues

ICS continued its Chinese-language lecture series with Jingfei Li, ICS artist-in-residence and high school teacher at Kunming Number One Middle School. Her lecture, “From Outward and Inward: The Beauty of Traditional Chinese Painting,” surveyed the aesthetics of Chinese figure painting in Chinese art history from the Han dynasty through the Qing dynasty. Li has been exhibiting her oil paintings for more than ten years and is based in Kunming, Yunnan.

The Chinese-language lecture series, hosted by the Institute for Chinese Studies, provides a forum for OSU students, faculty, staff and the community to engage in sustained discussion in Chinese about China and Taiwan’s importance in an interconnected world.

Graduate students Qing Yang (left) and Yang Wang (right) have a discussion with ICS guest lecturer Sherry Mou (center).
Japanese studies lecture series covers numerous topics in 2009-2010

On topics ranging from linguistics to gardens, IJS held seven events in their 2009-2010 lecture series. Thomas Pellard of the Centre de Recherches Linguistiques sur l’Asie Orientale in Paris kicked off the series with his talk, “Descriptive and Historical Linguistics of Japanese and Ryukyuan Languages,” on November 19, 2009. His talk assessed the place of Ryukyuan within the Japonic family and its role in reconstructing the linguistic history of the Japanese islands. He argued that Ryukyuan is a valid subgroup and that all modern Ryukyuan languages derive from a single common ancestor, and provided examples of how Ryukyuan can be used to reconstruct aspects of earlier Japonic phonology and grammar that would otherwise be unrecoverable. This talk was co-sponsored by the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures and the East Asian Studies Center’s Title VI grant.

David Slawson, master gardener with Slawson Creations and a highly regarded landscape garden artist, writer and lecturer, was the next speaker, on the topic of “The Art of Evoking the Natural World in Japanese-style Gardens.” His May 7, 2010 talk and discussion with students focused on the core principles of Japanese-style landscape architecture and the use of space and natural elements. Slawson gave many examples of various Japanese-style gardens and explained how each element was used to highlight a message or principle. This talk was co-sponsored by the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures and the East Asian Studies Center’s Title VI grant.

Also on May 7, Sheldon Garon, Dodge Professor of History at Princeton University and current a visiting scholar at the Woodrow Wilson Center, lectured on “Keep on Saving: How Japan and Other Nations Forged Cultures of Thrift When America Didn’t.” This event was co-sponsored by the Department of History and the East Asian Studies Center’s Title VI grant.

On May 13, 2010, Toshikata Amino, former executive vice president of Honda of America Mfg. Inc., and executive-in-residence and distinguished fellow in OSU’s Fisher College of Business, delivered a talk on “How to establish a competitive and sustainable network for your future in a cross-cultural environment.” This networking event was designed to give students a chance to meet and talk with members of the professional community. Representatives from several companies associated with the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio met and talked with students. This event was co-sponsored by the Japanese Student Organization.

Professor Gregory Kasza of Indiana University was the next speaker in the series, with his talk, “The Japanese State and the Myth of Late Development,” on May 21. He discussed how Japan has long been a poster child for the theory of late development, which posits a comparatively strong role for the state in industrialization. In fact, however, Japan is a poor fit for the most prominent theories of late development, and there are better explanations for the role of its modern state in the economy. This event was supported by the East Asian Studies Center’s Title VI grant.

“Japanese Girl Stuff: Trends and Innovations in Popular Culture” was the topic of the May 21 talk, delivered by Laura Miller, professor at Loyola University in Chicago. In her talk, Miller argued that although manga, anime, street fashion and other notable aspects of girl culture are often a focal point of global media interest, other less widely known forms of consumption and innovation are equally deserving of our attention. She highlighted some of the fascinating yet frequently overlooked cultural activities found in Japanese girl culture, including self-photography, the divination boom and Abeno Seimei. This talk was co-sponsored by the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio and the East Asian Studies Center’s Title VI grant.

The 2009-2010 series concluded with Shinko Kagaya, an associate professor of Japanese and Asian Studies at Williams College, with the talk, “Noh in Busan: 1905/2005.” The significance of the Busan performance is quickly discernible when considered from an historical perspective. Following Japan’s annexation and military occupation of Korea 100 years earlier, Busan became one of the earliest overseas performance sites for noh/kyogen. Those 1905 performances were funded, arranged and produced by and for an occupying Japanese contingency, and included plays sharing common themes endorsing and/or glorifying the occupation. That a century later a much smaller noh troupe should tour to Busan—and present to a mostly Korean audience a work that lays bare the violent dislocation of a Korean family by the Japanese occupation—says as much about the resiliency of the art form as the changing of the times. The May 27 event was co-sponsored by the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio and the East Asian Studies Center’s Title VI grant.
Laurel Kendall, curator of Asian ethnographic collections at the American Museum of Natural History and an adjunct professor at Columbia University, kicked off the Korean Studies Initiative’s 2009-2010 academic year lecture series when she presented her lecture, “Shamans, Nostalgias and IMF: South Korean Popular Religion in Motion,” in November. In this presentation, Kendall looked at the role of material goods in ritual transactions with gods and ancestors. She argued that the giving of things to spirits is possibly the most troubling aspect of popular religion for modern rationalists. By interpreting what people do during contemporary shamanic rituals and what clients, shamans and spirits speaking through shamans have to say about them, she documents how Koreans’ use of offerings and ritual props lets them express and dramatize the tangled emotions inherent in a lived history of rapid social transformation and unprecedented material possibility, as Korea transforms itself from a static rural society to a fluid and highly urbanized industrial society. This lecture was co-sponsored by the Center for Folklife Studies and Center for the Study of Religion.

In January, Elise Prebin, lecturer in Korean anthropology at Harvard University, continued the KSI lecture series with her talk, “From Burial to Cremation: Academics and Citizens as the Agents of Social Change in Today’s South Korea,” to a large audience. Prebin explained that, at the end of the 14th century, Confucianists tried to impose burial as the proper disposal of the dead, instead of cremation. They did so for political reasons—a way to evince Buddhism as the state religion, but also in an attempt to rationalize superstitious beliefs common in all strata of society, to emphasize filial piety as the basis for morality, and to homogenize practices that ranged from scattering of corpses in city streets to leaving ashes for years within Buddhist temples. By the 17th century, burial had become the only proper funerary practice in the Korean peninsula (Deuchler, 1992). In the 1990s, when the cremation rate was only seven percent, the South Korean government encouraged the nation to switch from burial to cremation, but failed to do so as it merely evoked economic and land shortage issues. Only after the non-governmental Council for the Promotion of Cremation was established in 1998 and promoted a “new funerary culture” did the trend change. Today, more than 60% percent of South Koreans choose cremation. By analyzing the organization and discourse of the Council, Prebin showed that the return of cremation, although often promoted as an old tradition from the pre-Confucian past or a better way to express filial piety, was also bringing to the forefront a mix of secular and global views of nature and technology.

In February, Kangnam Oh, professor emeritus of religious studies at the University of Regina in Canada, delivered a lecture, “The Buddhist-Christian Encounter in Korea: For a Dialogical Relationship.” Buddhism and Christianity are currently the two most dominant religions in South Korea, with approximately one-half of the country’s population of 48 million as their adherents. The lecture presented a brief survey of the historical background of these two religions in Korea to analyze the present Buddhist-Christian relationship in Korea, and explore possible ways of improving the encounter between these two religions in the future. It was argued that Korean Buddhism and Christianity should “work together,” “think together” and “wake up together” for the socio-ethical welfare and spiritual well-being of the Korean people.

“Medical laws and forensic records of murder cases in Chosŏn Dynasty” was the topic of the next lecture, given in April by Ho Kim of Gyeongin National University in Korea and currently a visiting scholar of the Korean Studies Initiative. During the Chosŏn era, when a murder was committed, the investigation was customarily conducted according to the protocols described in Muwŏn Lok (lit., “document of no grievance”), a book of legal medicine written in Yuan China. The book was modified to fit the socio-cultural realities of Chosŏn Korea. Building on the history of legal medicine in Chosŏn Korea, the talk provided details from Kŏman (“Record of Forensic Investigation”), of the variant causes and forensic evidence of murder cases from the late Chosŏn Dynasty.

Edward J. Shultz, professor of Asian studies, special assistant to the vice chancellor for academic affairs for international programs and interim dean of the School of Pacific and Asian Studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Manoa, delivered the next lecture in the series, “Korea and Japan: A Journey through History,” held in May. Korea and Japan have lived with a “love/hate” relationship for over 500 years, but for over a thousand years before that, there was considerable positive interchange between these two areas. Shultz’s presentation examined the historical links between Korea and Japan, focusing on early migrations, cultural exchanges, and other interactions. Hideyoshi’s invasion of Korea, coming at the end of the 16th century, clouded what had once been an amicable relationship. Although peaceful exchanges resumed in the middle of the 17th century, hostility grew as Japan sought to remake Korea into a colony at the start of the 20th century. A legacy of distrust slowed Japan and Korea’s ability to work with each other. However, at the start of the 21st century, there are new dynamics, such as popular culture and sports, that are bringing these two neighbors closer together, Shultz argued. This presentation assessed that relationship and explored ways in which Korea and Japan can promote the forces of unity.

All KSI lectures were sponsored in part by a U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant for the East Asian Studies Center.
ICS introduces Taiwan film industry to OSU community

In collaboration with the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Chicago, ICS screened three popular Taiwanese movies in its Taiwan Film Series, a cultural outreach program designed to introduce students and the community to Taiwanese film cinema. *Kung Fu Dunk*, a 2008 Chinese-language live-action film directed by Taiwanese director Chu Yin-Ping, kicked off the series with a story revolving around an orphaned boy who grows up in a kung fu university and becomes a talented basketball player. The next film, *Orboyz!*, depicted the camaraderie of two delinquent boys with wild imaginations, romantic dreams and youthful yearnings. The series concluded with *Cape No. 7*, a romantic comedy/music-drama written and directed by Wei Te-Shang which became one of the highest grossing films in Taiwan’s cinematic history.

ICS joins other units to celebrate Chinese New Year

The Humanities Scholars Program and ICS offered an informational celebration of the Lunar New Year at which students enjoyed Asian food and festive treats for the holiday. Jeff Chan, assistant director of ICS, gave an introductory and historical overview of the Lunar New Year, and was joined by a panel of students (Ziying You, Kevin Lu, Oscar Wu, Edward Huang, Vigor Lam and Eileen Liu) who shared perspectives of how the holiday is celebrated in China, Singapore, Hong Kong, Taiwan and the United States. A video of the lion dance performed by Pi Delta Psi, the only Asian cultural fraternity in the state of Ohio that exists to promote Asian culture and advance Asian American issues, was shown. See http://oie.osu.edu/taste-of-osu/2010-cultural-performances/1579-Pi-Delta-Psi.

The Year of the Tiger was also celebrated with a festive event on February 10 in Hagerty Hall. Activities included a Lion Dance, a calligraphy demonstration and display, mahjong, performances and culture displays. Chinese music was also played and dumplings were served. In addition to the Institute for Chinese Studies, the event was co-sponsored by Chinese Culture Connection, Chinese Flagship program, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, Foreign Language Center, Chinese Language Partner (under Mantou Hui), the National East Asian Languages Resource Center and Pi Delta Psi Fraternity.

ICS contributes to UAFYE’s Success Series

ICS teamed up with Undergraduate Admissions & First Year Experience to offer a session in the International Success Series on October 28. The goal of the series was to educate the audience of first-year students about different cultures within the same regions of the world and help them explore similarities and differences between the American cultures and other cultures around the world. The panel discussion included Kelvin Thomas (Indonesia), Yuhao Sun (Singapore) and Tianbo Liu (China) and was moderated by ICS Assistant Director Jeff Chan. Topics included the K-12 education systems, university experiences, sports, media/entertainment/arts, government systems, diversity of population, dating norms and superstitions of these three countries. The session included a lively discussion between the audience and the panelists.

Kelvin Thomas, Yuhao Sun, Tianbo Liu and Jeff Chan participate in UAFYE’s Success Series.
Focus on Community Outreach

ICS’s Artist-in-Residence pilot program with Jingfei Li reaches more than 400,000 people

In collaboration with the City of Upper Arlington, ICS invited Jingfei Li, a kite maker, painter and arts teacher from Yunnan, China, to Columbus for a four-month residency in what EASC hopes to become an annual artist-in-residence program. Li, who had the opportunity to study the unique, Dian-style kite-making techniques under one of the few remaining Yunnan-style master kite-makers, shared her rare expertise with more than 15,000 students at 35 events throughout Ohio.

On the campus of The Ohio State University, on June 4, 2009, the Institute for Chinese Studies sponsored a special Dian-style, kite-making workshop. Three-dimensional and tailless, the unique Dian-style kites originated about 600 years ago in Yunnan Province and incorporate local folklore traditions in their designs. Li demonstrated the step-by-step construction methods of Dian kites to an audience of OSU students, faculty and staff who were challenged to build the kites with her. During the construction process, Li explained the importance of the precise measurements and angles that this unique style of kite demands. She also told stories of the traditional folk designs that are typically painted on them, highlighting some of the folklore of the Yunnan Province where 25 of the 56 recognized ethnic minorities in China live. Li chose an ethnic mask design to decorate her newly made kite and declared it an “auspicious symbol for the day. Once the construction ended, the group assembled on the Oval lawn and gave flight to their new kites, seeing firsthand how the unique design flies even in low-wind conditions. The workshop event was assisted by interpretations from Micah Wallin (Chinese Flagship graduate student) and Yanyan Sun (education and human ecology graduate student).

In addition to this event, with organizational help and translation assistance from ICS’s assistant director Jeff Chan, she taught four teacher-training workshops and attended various kite and other community festivals in Ohio, Louisiana and Washington. While at the Washington State International Kite Festival, she won the top prize in the original handcrafted traditional kite category. Li’s artworks of kites and paintings were showcased in several exhibits throughout Ohio including the Sky Sculptures in Upper Arlington, Columbus—The Crossroads of Ohio at the James A. Rhodes State Office Tower and a solo-exhibit in Beyond the Walls, Oberlin University’s Friends Gallery. All told, in four months, ICS/EASC introduced Li’s work to more than 400,000 people.

Even after her return to China, Li’s kites are reaching more people through current displays at Sun Luck Garden in Cleveland and the World Kite Museum in Long Beach, Washington.

“My work is a mirror that reflects the feelings, thoughts, beliefs, fears and experiences that we all share in humanity. The subjects of my creations are the relationships between ourselves and the environments we are connected to. It is a privilege to combine elements of vibrancy through color, humor and technique.”

Jingfei Li, artist-in-residence
IJS holds Japanese students who share culture with community

In Summer 2009, the Institute for Japanese Studies hosted two groups of students from Japan as part of the Shizuoka Summer English Program (SSEP) and the Shizuoka Health English Program (SHEP). Five students from the University of Shizuoka took part in the three-week SSEP program while six graduate students participated in the six-week SHEP program. SSEP students attended English language class every day and met with students from The Ohio State University who served as conversation partners. They also had the opportunity to share Japanese culture and traditions with their conversation partners and home-stay families, as well as at events with local elementary students focused on Japanese holidays, children's games, origami and calligraphy. SHEP students studied in the American Language Program at OSU in which they took full-time courses which met for 20-23 hours per week. ALP courses are designed to help develop the English skills needed for the university classroom and the professional workplace. These students were also matched up with conversation partners by IJS, allowing them to share Japanese culture with American students.

IJS holds second annual nengajo design contest

For the 2010 New Year, the Institute for Japanese Studies and the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio worked with The Ohio Association of Teachers of Japanese for the Second Annual Nengajo (New Year’s postcard) Design Contest. Similar to Christmas cards in the West, nengajo postcards are sent by many Japanese as a New Year’s greeting. Nengajo hold no religious significance, but rather are used to express gratitude or to maintain relationships. They often use the present year’s zodiac animal as the design; in 2010 the animal is the tiger.

Gabrielle Mahuet’s winning nengajo design.

This nengajo design contest asked students from middle school, high school and university-level categories to design postcards using the tiger and a Japanese phrase to represent the new year. The submissions were judged in three areas—artistic design, comical design and original design. The overall winner was Gabrielle Mahuet of Sycamore Junior High School in Cincinnati, Ohio.
Focus on Teacher Training

EASC partners with Ohio University and Oberlin College to offer professional development for teachers

With generous support from the Freeman Foundation, EASC coordinates the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) programs for the state of Ohio. NCTA is an eleven-week seminar series that provides 6th-12th grade teachers with the knowledge, resources, and expert guidance needed to incorporate or enhance curriculum about East Asia in their classrooms. Teachers who enroll in an NCTA seminar uncover a wealth of information and experience on China, Japan, and Korea—all right here in Ohio. In Winter 2010, the East Asian Studies Center partnered with Ohio University’s Professor Chulho Jung and Oberlin College’s Professor Marc Blecher to offer seminars in Athens and Oberlin.

Since 2004, seminars in Akron, Athens, Columbus, Cleveland, Cincinnati, Granville, Marietta, Oberlin, Oxford, Toledo, and Wooster have given 201 Ohio teachers a strong background in Chinese, Japanese and Korean history and culture, which they have passed on to Ohio middle and high school students. The next NCTA-Ohio seminar will be held in Columbus in Winter 2011. For more information, see http://ncta.osu.edu.

NCTA-Ohio alumni participates in China study tour

Alumni from NCTA seminars coordinated by The Ohio State University have been eligible to apply for study tours to East Asia, sponsored by the Freeman Foundation. In Summer 2009, NCTA-Ohio alum Jona Hall was selected to attend a three-week study tour to China, coordinated by Indiana University. In Summer 2010, five additional teachers from Ohio (Mona Al-Hayani, 2007 Toledo seminar; Lesa Bame, 2009 Oxford seminar; Shari Densel, 2007 Toledo seminar; Ellen Miller, 2009 Granville seminar; and Edith Swank, 2007 Wooster seminar) will travel to China on another Freeman-funded, Indiana University-organized tour.

COLUMN FROM JONA HALL, TEACHER, MARIETTA MIDDLE SCHOOL

The mailbox of a teacher is always full. On a daily basis, it turns into a black abyss of endless advertisements for new products, supplies, and seminars. Like many teachers, I usually give these items a quick glance as they fall into the trash can beside the mailbox. However, when I received the flyer for the NCTA East Asian Studies course being offered to teachers at Marietta College I did give it a second glance. I have to admit, the reason I continued to read the flyer was because I saw the words, “$500 stipend.” Little did I know that those words would lead to one of the best experiences of my life.

In the spring of 2008, I attended the NCTA course at Marietta College which was generously funded by the Freeman Foundation. By simply being a part of the class, I was rewarded with a sizable stipend, money for classroom resources and an endless supply of usable books. I knew that that the information offered by Dr. Luding Tong and Dr. Matt Young would be useful in teaching about the ancient history of China, but being chosen to participate in the three-week study tour to East Asia seemed out of reach. Total exuberance is how I would describe the day that I learned I had been one of the 20 lucky enough to be chosen out of the 80 applicants.

I didn’t know exactly what to expect with China. Would our group be well received? Would I be intimidated by a country in which I couldn’t speak the language? Would I let down my guard to allow experiences to happen on their own accord? The answer to all of these questions that I had was a resounding “yes.” However, it wasn’t until my third day in China that I truly felt like I had arrived in a special place where people were hospitable beyond belief. After having been shown the ropes, it was our first day to leave the nest and explore on our own. A few of us chose to travel to the Llama Temple and the Confucian Temple, fantastic choices which truly allowed us to get a glimpse of the faithful.
My shock and awe for the wonderfulness of China did not end on that day. As a matter of fact, my appreciation for all that I had been given grew each day with each new experience. I fell in love with a place half-way around the world and I can’t wait until the opportunity presents itself for me to return. Looking back, my experiences were priceless; time spent in the largest Tibetan Buddhist monastery outside of Tibet, being served yak butter tea by a Tibetan family, being blessed by a Buddhist lama, receiving temple food from Daoist monks, private Tai Chi lessons from a Daoist Tai Chi Master, dancing with the locals at the Temple of Heaven, visiting with amazing students and teachers at Xi’an Middle School, hearing the rumble of the Yangtze River as it rushed through Tiger Leaping Gorge, or seeing the Terra Cotta soldiers protecting the tomb of the First Emperor of China, Qin Shi Huangdi. This list of experiences is endless and could not have been available to me had I not taken a chance and completed the NCTA East Asian studies course at Marietta College, administered by The Ohio State University’s East Asian Studies Center.

I am thankful beyond words and I would encourage any teacher to take the time to learn about East Asia and what great opportunities it has to offer so that it can be shared with students. Imagine what I would have missed had I let that flyer find its way to the bottom of the trash can. I never would have had the experience of touring China with 23 great educators, nor would I have grown as a person and educator from such an amazing opportunity.
Library News

“Last of its kind” arrives at OSU’s East Asian Library

Zhongguo xiandai shi ziliao diaocha mulu and the Guomindang Archives in Taipei
by Christopher A. Reed and Guoqing Li

In January 2008, Christopher A. Reed, an associate professor of modern Chinese history in Ohio State’s Department of History, returned to Taipei to continue his research on the Guomindang supported by a Fulbright Senior Scholar Award. In Taiwan, Reed was affiliated with the Institute of Modern History at the Academia Sinica in suburban Taipei.

Having worked in the Guomindang Archives, located in downtown Taipei, once before, Reed felt confident in his knowledge of how the archives worked. Although the archives, which hold about 10 percent of GMD’s entire central party archives (the other 90 percent were left behind in Nanjing when the GMD evacuated to Taipei in 1949 and have become the core of the PRC’s Number Two Archives) have moved around Taipei for over half a century, using them today is relatively easy thanks to the presence of a well-organized, comprehensive, and on-site card catalogue system (the catalogue has not been computerized, nor are there plans to do so). Although the card catalogue makes on-site access convenient, researchers outside Taipei, particularly those outside Taiwan, have always had trouble planning their visits.

Now, thanks to a series of fortunate coincidences, doing so has become much easier for OSU researchers. Two months into his stay, Reed happened to have lunch with a historian of the GMD who told him about a little-known published archival catalogue. The catalogue is so rare that “even most Taiwan-based specialists have never heard of it,” Reed’s informant observed. Titled Zhongguo xiandai shi ziliao diaocha mulu (Classified catalogue of contemporary Chinese historical materials), it was compiled by a team of historians led by the Institute of Modern History’s one-time director Kuo Ting-yee at the same time that Kuo and others were systematizing the archives. Stencil-printed and bound in eleven red volumes in 1968 and then privately published, it was distributed to university and research libraries in Taiwan (but not to the GMD Archives!), to less than a dozen North American institutions, one in Australia, and none in Europe (according to “FirstSearch”). Ohio State was not among the American recipients; for forty years, the nearest libraries to Ohio State holding one of the catalogues were those of the universities of Michigan’s and Pittsburgh’s East Asian collections.

Charting his way through the GMD collection based on the classified catalogue (which is organized both chronologically and topically) and then double-checking his references against the actual collection, Reed soon realized what an “Open Sesame!” he had stumbled onto. The catalogue provided a fairly reliable accounting of the archives holdings; only items transferred to Taiwan’s National Archives (Kuoshikuan) since the 1990s are not still found in the archives.

When Reed returned to Columbus, his first thought was to ask Professor Guoqing Li, OSU Library’s Chinese/Korean collection manager, to contact the University of Michigan and arrange to have the entire catalogue photocopied for accession to OSU's East Asian Library. That’s when things began to get murky. Michigan refused, saying that by the terms of the original gift they were not permitted to photocopy the publication.

Then, at the end of 2008, Li contacted Wu’s Book Company, the Taiwan-based vendor he has been using, to see if OSU could buy a copy from Taiwan. Again, the answer came back negative, perhaps not surprising this time, given that the guide was never for sale in the first place and was compiled some forty years ago.

The next place to turn, of course, was Academia Sinica’s Institute of Modern History itself since the catalogue was originally compiled by its team of historians. This time, Li resorted to a personal connection, the kind that usually works better than open channels in East Asia.

Early in January 2009, Li’s friend in the library of the Institute of Modern History replied with bad news: “Duplicates of the catalog are no longer available.”

On January 9, however, Li’s friend wrote back to say that he now recalled a set lying in an out-of-way corner of the Institute. Two days later, he replied “Eureka!” informing Li that the collection had been located and would be given to OSU for free!

Soon after the 2009 Chinese New Year, the OSU Library received the set as a New Year’s gift from Academia Sinica in Taiwan. Professor Reed was happy, and so was Professor Li! What a perfect way to begin the Year of the Monkey!
East Asia-related displays on view in newly-renovated Thompson Library

With the opening of the newly-renovated Thompson Library in Autumn 2009, display space for East Asia-related collections is now available. Two Japanese collections are currently on display—Okinawan Toys and Other Objects from the Leon K. Walters Collection and Analyzing the Appeal of Manga: Popular Manga. The former is located on the second floor, across from the Grand Reading Room, and the latter is located on the eighth floor. From the Chinese collection, books received through OSU’s exchange program with the Shanghai Library are on display to celebrate the 2010 World Expo in Shanghai. The expo officially opened four-year-old exchange corner on the first floor of the Depository. The index provides, for each multi-volume set, the individual titles in each volume, in both Chinese and romanization, as well as volume numbers. Users can search any title (individual or collective) included. A link (URL) to the OSCAR bibliographic record is provided in order to make requesting items as simple as possible. The blog is located at http://library.osu.edu/blogs/chinesecollections.

Japanese collection enriched by donations

The Japanese collection continues to be enriched by donations of Japanese research resources from faculty, of histories for the Japanese Company Histories Collection (http://library.osu.edu/wikis/shashidb) from Japanese companies, and of a wide variety of materials from organizations in Japan, especially the National Diet Library. Library staff are especially grateful to Professor Katsumi Tanaka (Professor Emeritus, Physics) and Mrs. Kazuko Tanaka who recently donated 165 volumes of rare and historical Japanese language books.
In memory of Dr. David Y. Chen, Professor Emeritus, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures

Professor David Chen passed away on May 28, 2009 at OSU’s Ross Heart Hospital. He is remembered with great fondness by the staff, faculty, and former students of the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures at The Ohio State University. He was one of the founding members of our Department and was regarded by all as an inspirational teacher, a fine colleague, and a good friend.

Professor Chen received his BA from National Taiwan University, his MA from Southern Illinois University and his PhD from Indiana University. He came to OSU in 1967 after teaching at Stanford and Yale. He is the one first teachers nationally in a department of Asian languages and literature to have a degree in comparative literature. We can all speak to his vast knowledge of Chinese literature and especially Chinese drama and theater, but he was equally cultured in his knowledge of western literature and drama. He established the strong tradition our Department has in the promotion of Asian performing arts. I still remember how crowded our main office was with the costumes and stage settings of Chinese opera.

Professor Chen’s research interests were wide-ranging. I believe he was a pioneer in introducing Lu Xun’s poetry to an English-speaking public. But he seems to have been equally at home in classical literature and modern literature. He taught courses on Chinese opera and other theatrical forms, and he was responsible for collecting the Chinese opera costumes and musical instruments our department has today and which continue to be utilized by Prof. Marjorie Chan, who continues offering a course in Chinese opera.

Professor Chen was a dedicated and inspiring teacher. Undergraduates routinely praised his deep knowledge of his subject, how much they learned from him, and his availability to help when needed. His courses for undergraduates were among the most popular offered by our department. Professor Chen devoted a great deal of time and effort to teaching and guiding his graduate students to successful careers. The tributes sent in and collected by Dr. Minru Li are representative of the devotion paid to him by his colleagues, friends and students.

Professor Chen retired in 1994. I always found him to be kind and generous. In departmental matters, he was never petty or jealous. One must recognize him as one of the few who planted the seeds of and nurtured East Asian Studies at OSU at a time when OSU constituted infertile, rocky soil for the growth that later developed.

Richard Torrance
2008-2009 Acting Chair
East Asian Languages and Literatures

The Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures and the Institute for Chinese Studies hosted a memorial tribute to Dr. David Chen on Tuesday, June 2, 2009 at the OSU Faculty Club. OSU faculty, students and alumni came to commemorate Dr. Chen and his work. Testimonials and condolences can be found at http://deall.osu.edu/news/yr2009/davidchen.cfm.

Congratulations to five East Asia-related faculty members on their promotions!

EASC extends congratulations to five East Asia-related faculty members at The Ohio State University who were promoted or received tenure effective October 1, 2009. In the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, Kirk Denton, Mineharu Nakayama and Mari Noda were promoted to professor. Keiko Samimy of the School of Teaching and Learning was also promoted to professor. In the Department of Philosophy, Sukjae Lee was promoted to associate professor with tenure.
Faculty Updates

James Bartholomew (professor, history) spoke at Columbia University in April 2009 as part of the Modern Japan Seminar on the subject, “Gen’ichi Kato’s Nobel Candidacy: Nerve Physiology and the Politics of Science, 1924-1936.”

Kirk Denton (professor, East Asian languages and literatures) spent the fall of 2009 as a visiting scholar at the Center for Humanities and Social Sciences, National Chung-hsing University (Taichung, Taiwan), where he presented several talks, in both Chinese and English, on museums and exhibitionary culture in Greater China. He participated in the Red Legacy in China conference at Harvard University (April 2-3, 2010) and will present a paper at Putting China on Display: From 19th-Century Museums to 21st-Century Expos (Washington, DC, June 2010). Denton is nearing completion of his book manuscript entitled Exhibiting the Past: Historical Memory and the Politics of Museums in the People’s Republic of China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong. He continues to edit the journal Modern Chinese Literature and Culture and manage the MCLC Resource Center website (http://mclc.osu.edu). In 2009, Denton was promoted to full professor.


Derek Heng (assistant professor, history) published Sino-Malay Trade and Diplomacy in the Tenth to Fourteenth Centuries (Athens: Ohio University Press, 2009). He was also co-author of Singapore: A Seven-Hundred Year History (Singapore: National Archives of Singapore, 2009), and co-editor of Reframing Singapore: Memory, Identity and Trans-Regionalism, ICAS Series volume 6 (Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2009). In August, he convened and chaired a three-session panel entitled Singapore in World History (presented at the International Convention of Asian Scholars 6, Daejeon, South Korea, August 2009). He was appointed the North American representative of the Malaysian Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, and the editor of Berita (Newsletter of the Singapore, Malaysia and Brunei Study Group, Association of Asian Studies). He was also awarded the Isaac Manasseh Fellowship (National University of Singapore) in the summer of 2009.


On December 24, 2009, Li was invited by the Shanghai Library and Shanghai Library Council to deliver a speech in the Shanghai Library, introducing the status of Chinese-American East Asian Studies Librarians in North America over the last two decades as well as their research accomplishments. The goal of the event was to further exchange and cooperation between Chinese studies scholars across the Pacific Ocean.

At the Association for Asian Studies’ 2010 annual meeting in Philadelphia, Li was elected the president of the Society for Chinese Studies Librarians, a non-profit, non-political academic organization aimed at promoting scholarly activities, professional exchange, information sharing, and project cooperation among Chinese studies scholars across the Pacific Ocean.
Faculty News

Faculty Updates CONTINUED

librarians, so as to make contributions to China studies in general and to Chinese resources study in particular.

Zhenchao Qian (professor, sociology) has been selected as a Joan N. Huber Faculty Fellow for 2010 in recognition of his first-rate scholarship. Qian is a leading social demographer whose research focuses on marriage and how it relates to the openness of societies. His most notable achievements have been a better understanding of how family advantages are transferred to children and how interracial and interethnic marriage reflects changes in American society. Qian has been deputy editor of the American Sociological Review, sociology’s flagship journal, and chair of the American Sociological Association’s Section on Asian and Asian-Americans. In 2003, Qian received the Distinguished Contributions award from the Pacific Sociological Association for his research on how ethnic cultures discourage substance abuse. The Joan N. Huber Faculty Fellow award is in honor of emeritus professor Joan Huber, who served as dean of the College of Social and Behavioral Sciences from 1984 to 1992 and as Ohio State’s senior vice president for academic affairs and provost until her retirement in 1993. Fellows are nominated by department chairs and receive an annual cash award of $5,000 a year for three years to further their research programs.

Chan Park (associate professor, East Asian languages and literatures) delivered several lectures in 2009-2010, including “Wind, Stream, and Improvisation of Korean Musical Practice” at New York Sanjo Festival and Symposium at the City University of New York, October 19-20, 2009; “Such’ô Jakchu, Living as a Master of the World” at the 11th Sakyadhita Conference in Hô Chi Minh City, Vietnam from December 27, 2009 to January 3, 2010; and “Why the Old Way Still Matters in Contemporizing Korean Music” at the conference “Redefining Korean identity in Music: Historical and Contemporary Perspectives” at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, February 26-27, 2010.

In 2009, Park presented “Korean Culture in the Era of Globalization” at the Sogang International Summer College Master Class, a workshop on “Teaching Korean Language and Culture in America” at the Busan University of Foreign Studies Graduate Program in Korean Studies, “Korean Oral Tradition Performed” at North American Workshop on Korean Literature (NAOKOL) at the University of Chicago, and Fox Hunts and Freedom Fighters: Korean and Western Women in Seoul 1894-1920 (developed from Intertwined Lives) with Kathy Foley at the Theatre of Yugen in San Francisco. Other 2009-2010 presentations include “Hüngbo Saws the Gourds” at the University of North Carolina, “P’ansori performance and commentary” at CKS Distinguished Korean Studies Scholars Lecture Series at the University of Michigan Ann Arbor, “P’ansori: Traditional Korean Music and Storytelling” at Boston University, co-sponsored by the Korea Society, and “Read Aloud,” a lecture and demonstration of kômun’go and p’ansori at The Ohio State University’s Thompson Library.

Christopher A. Reed (associate professor, modern Chinese history) completed five years as editor-in-chief of Twentieth-Century China, which was jointly supported by subscriptions, the East Asian Studies Center, College of Humanities, and Department of History. He served on the Interdisciplinary MA Program’s faculty committee and on the History Department’s successful pre-modern China search committee. He published “Taiwan’s 2008 Elections: A New Direction for the ‘Other China’?” in Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective, as well as several encyclopedia entries, book reviews, and translations. Reed delivered talks at AAS and at the ICAS conference in Daejeon, Korea as well as at Northwestern University, Southern Methodist University, UC-Berkeley, Zhongshan, Macau, and Wuhan Universities, Academia Sinica’s Institute of Modern History, and the Johns Hopkins/Nanjing University Joint Center for Chinese and American Studies, Nanjing University. Reed also served as an external examiner at the U.S. Naval Academy. Further, Reed has been active as an editor for the ICAS Proceedings series (Amsterdam University Press) through the International Institute for Asian Studies at Leiden University, as a reviewer for several scholarly journals, and in community education in Columbus through the Aldus Society. He served as a historical consultant to Decision, the magazine of the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association based in North Carolina. And he received research support from the colleges of Arts & Humanities and Arts & Sciences at Ohio State.
Focus on Student-led Events

Student-curated Sha Fei photography exhibition displayed at OSU Urban Arts Space

The exhibition, Art Documentary, and Propaganda in Wartime China: The Photography of Sha Fei, curated by History of Art graduate student Eliza Ho and partially supported by the Institute for Chinese Studies, was displayed at the OSU Urban Arts Space from January 19 to March 27, 2010. The exhibit featured the representative works of legendary Chinese photographer Sha Fei (1912-1950) who, in his brief life of 38 years, produced one of the most fascinating photographic records of war.

Combining photography’s potential for art, documentary, and propaganda, Sha Fei documented the ways in which the Sino-Japanese War of 1937-1945 reshaped China and the lives of its citizenry. His photographs depict not only the Communist army as it resisted the Japanese, but also the socialist revolution as it progressed in China’s countryside in the midst of war. Although Sha Fei created a large body of photographs, most of the original prints were lost and only their negatives survived. The 38 photographs, on display for the first time in the United States, are reprinted from digital scans of Sha Fei’s original prints and negatives provided by his family members.

Ho, born and raised in Hong Kong, received her Bachelor of Arts at the University of Hong Kong. In 2000, she came to The Ohio State University for her graduate work in the field of art history, specializing in modern Chinese art. Her master’s thesis explores the relationship between art and patronage in the founding of the Lingnan School of Painting, particularly in the art of its founder Gao Jianlu (1879-1950). In 2008, she was awarded a Presidential Fellowship by OSU to complete her dissertation on Sha Fei. She is one of the contributors to Encyclopedia of Modern China (Charles Scribner’s Sons/Gale, Cengage Learning, 2009) for which she wrote the entries on the Lingnan School of Painting and histories of Chinese documentary and propaganda photography. In conjunction with the exhibition Art, Documentary, and Propaganda in Wartime China: The Photography of Sha Fei, Ho produced a catalogue in which she examines the institutional forces that shaped Sha Fei’s photography as well as the photographer’s mastery of his craft.

More information can be found by visiting http://uas.osu.edu/shafei or by contacting Eliza Ho at ho.170@buckeyemail.osu.edu.

Student-led conference on Waste-to-Energy features Chinese expert

The Institute for Chinese Studies co-hosted the “Waste to Energy in Rural Ohio” conference, February 4-5, at the University Plaza Hotel in Columbus. Developed by OSU Professor Karen Mancl, who is also a student in the East Asian studies MA program, the 21-year-old conference series on Ohio Water Quality and Waste Management featured Dr. Liu Ying, a professor and national alternative energy expert from the Shandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences in China, as well as numerous OSU alternative energy experts. Dr. Liu, former Director of the China Biogas Research and Training Center, is a leader in the spread and adoption of anaerobic digestion for biogas production throughout China and the world. By controlling the decomposition process of animal and human waste in a digester and capturing the released methane, Dr. Liu’s work has contributed to win-win solutions for China. The digester not only reduces greenhouse gas emissions and global climate change, but it also allows the captured methane to be used as fuel for cooking, which in turn reduces the need to burn coal, protects forests from deforestation and improves indoor air quality. Additionally, the resulting digested waste still contains all of the nutrients for good fertilizer but without the bad smell or disease threat. More information about rural environmental work in both Ohio and China can be found at Dr. Mancl’s website at http://setfl.osu.edu/.
Internship program continues to give Ohio students experience with Japanese business

As part their sister-state relationship, the state of Ohio has been sending students to Saitama, Japan since 1991 to take part in an internship program where students learn about Japanese business firsthand. This program, known as the Ohio-Saitama Internship Program, has sent a total of 75 students since its inception, including three during Summer 2009. Meghan Ventura, from Ohio University, spent time at Bushu Gas where she learned about all aspects of the this traditional Japanese gas company. Michael Marion, also from Ohio University, spent time at Nakagawa Mfg. Co., Ltd., and Troy Smith, from The Ohio State University learned about life in a convenience store, grocery store and in the delivery service areas of Saitama Co-op. During their six-week internships, each lived with host families, traveled around the prefecture and even met the governor of Saitama.

Focus on Language and Literature

OSU student wins top honors in 2010 Japanese language speech contest

Ten university and eleven high school students from around the state of Ohio participated in the 2010 Japanese Language Speech contest, sponsored by the Japan-America Society of Central Ohio and the Institute for Japanese Studies. Founded in 1999, the contest, held on March 6, allowed Ohio students to vie for bragging rights as well as prizes such as Barnes & Noble gift cards. Winners in the university category were Evelyn Huang, The Ohio State University (first place); Kim Welenc, University of Findlay (second place); Yeonkyung Baik, University of Cincinnati (third place); and Audrey Lee (pronunciation and intonation award).

In the high school category, the winners were Jae Young Yoon, Dublin Scioto HS, Dublin (first place); Abdul Quraishi, Dublin Scioto HS, Dublin (second place); Siddharth Machiraju, Dublin Scioto HS, Dublin (third place); and Jonathan Schmitt, St. Edward HS, Cleveland (pronunciation and intonation award).
KSI holds inaugural Korean Literature Essay Contest

Sponsored by the Korean Literature Translation Institute (KLTI) in Korea, the Korean Studies Initiative teamed up with the Korean studies program to host the inaugural Korean Literature Essay Contest this past autumn. The contest, which aims to advance the awareness of Korean literature around the world, challenges students to read a Korean novel and write a critical essay of what they’ve read. This autumn, 24 OSU students read the Korean novel, Our Twisted Hero by Yi Munyol, and submitted their essays to a panel of expert judges. Six winners were selected and on October 30, an award ceremony was held to present prizes such as Netbooks, iPods and digital cameras. Top honors went to two students, Erin Odor, graduate student in the East Asian Studies MA program, for her essay titled, “Schoolyard Politics, National Memory: Narrative Distance, Psychic Fragmentation and Remembrance in Yi Munyol’s Our Twisted Hero” and Nicholas Gilbert, an undergraduate in the Korean program, for his essay titled, “Our Twisted Hero: An Account of Complacency, Submission and Extortion.” Other winners included Yujin Park, James Gill, Aaron Wagner and David Lowery. KSI hopes to be selected as an annual site for the KLTI contest.

OSU alum wins prestigious Korean Literature Translation Institute fellowship

Larry Ray Hromalik, a 2009 graduate of the Department of East Asian Literatures and Languages (DEALL), was awarded the prestigious Translation Academy Fellowship from the Korean Literature Translation Institute (KLTI). Only three international applicants were chosen worldwide in the English division for the Fellowship in 2009.

KLTI was founded in 2001 under the auspices of the Korean Ministry of Culture and Tourism and its mission is to promote awareness of Korean literature throughout the world by supporting the translation and publication of Korean literature, and international exchange and offering of a Translation Academy to train new professional translators. The Fellowship provides year-long academic training (reading and analyzing Korean literature, translation theory and practice, etc.) and financial support for the chosen students to become professional translators of Korean literature.

Hromalik’s award is not only a testament to his hard work, but also to the support he received from faculty and staff in DEALL. “I worked very hard to become fluent in Korean, spending many hours outside of class,” Hromalik said. “I believe that the many hours outside of class have made all the difference and helped me to achieve this opportunity.” He acknowledged that the help and support of the faculty and staff at OSU as well as his study abroad at Soochunhyang University in Korea provided a strong foundation for today’s success.

Hromalik’s future goal is to improve resource materials for those who are already in Korean studies programs and for those who know little about Korea. “I would first like to produce translation work to help students in advanced levels of Korean since there’s a lack of resource materials for such classes across the U.S.,” he said. “I also hope, if it is possible, to get translated stories into maybe high schools or middle schools. This may spark interest in many young people to begin studying the Korean language.”

DEALL and History students present at conferences around the U.S.

During the past year, graduate students from DEALL and other departments have presented papers at several international conferences, including the American Folklore Society 2009 Annual Meeting in Boise, Idaho; the 2010 CHINOPERL Conference in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania; and the Western States Folklore Society Annual Meeting in Salem, Oregon.


At the Western States Folklore Society Annual Meeting, DEALL students presented a panel on “Heroes: Continuities and Transformations,” including the following papers: “Revisiting ‘Song Kings’: Elements of Continuity in Folk Hero Narratives” by Gibbs, “The Broken Statue: Transformation of the Legend of Wu Feng” by Pai, and “For the Land of All Mongols: Gada Meiren the Bandit, Hero, and Proto-Revolutionary” by Anne Henochowicz. In addition, You presented her paper, “Food, Identity and Power: Dissemination of Chinese Foodways to the United States,” in the panel “Dragon chefs expoSUre
Student News

**Focus on Language and Literature**

and Minorities in China vs. Chinese in the U.S.” Gibbs, Pai and Henochowicz also presented an earlier version of their panel at the symposium, “Folklore, History, and Memory: Ireland and Beyond,” held at OSU on February 19, 2010.

Additionally, You and Gibbs each presented papers at the conference, “Contact: The Dynamics of Power and Culture,” organized by the Folklore Student and Ethnomusicology Student Folklore Associations of The Ohio State and Indiana Universities, and held at OSU on April 2-3, 2010. You gave her paper on “Circles of Tradition: Continuity and Consistence of Chinese Foodways in the United States,” and Gibbs presented his on “Forming Partnerships: Extramarital Songs and the Promotion of China’s 1950 Marriage Law.”

---

**Student Updates**

**Wenjuan Bi** (graduate student, history) received the AAS China and Inner Asia Council (CIAC) Small Grant from the Association for Asian Studies in April 2010.

**Felice Forby** (graduate student, human and community resource development) was awarded the National Science Foundation East Asia and Pacific Summer Institute Fellowship (NSF EAPSI), a summer research grant which will allow her to go to Japan to collaborate with Kobe University and the Museum of Nature and Human Activities in Hyogo Prefecture. She will be researching urban and rural firefly conservation groups. In 2009-10, Forby was a graduate fellow in OSU’s Sugar Creek Project, a part of the NSF Grades K-12 STEM Education program. She works with a sixth-grade science class near Wooster, Ohio and conducts projects related to local environment and water quality.

**Man He** (graduate student, East Asian languages and literatures) won a Graduate Student Teaching Award this year from The Ohio State University. The award was presented in her Chinese 510 class during a surprise visit by the Dean of the Graduate School on April 16.

**John Knight** (graduate student, history) was awarded a 2010 summer FLAS to study at the Inter-University Program for Chinese at Tsinghua University, Beijing. In April he presented a paper, “Read Mao: New Left Idealization of Communist China, 1966-1970,” at the Graduate Student Conference at the University of Illinois at Chicago. He also has had book reviews published in *Labour/Le Travail* and *Origins: Current Events in Historical Perspective*.

**Lara Di Luo** (graduate student, history) won the Mershon Center for International Security Studies’ 2010 Student Research Grant to support her project, “Training a Disciplined Citizenry or Cultivating Insurgent Communists? Literacy Education in 1930s and 1940s Rural China.” She was also granted the Louise Loh Memorial Scholarship from OSU’s East Asian Studies Center.

**Ariana Maki** (graduate student, history of art) accepted a one-year position in the curatorial and publications departments of the National Museum of Bhutan beginning in October 2009. Her main projects are co-authoring the forthcoming museum catalog and serving as editor for other museum publications. Concurrently, she is undertaking dissertation field research and working as Assistant Curator of Himalayan Art Resources. During her time in Bhutan, Maki has co-edited four volumes published by the National Museum of Bhutan, including *The Essence of Bhutanese Culture: Proceedings of the Fifth Colloquium, Vol. 2; Fortress of the Dragon: Proceedings of the Fourth Colloquium; Indigenous Facts of Bhutan: Proceedings of the Third Colloquium; and The Soul and Substance of Bhutan’s Cultural Heritage: Proceedings of the Fifth Colloquium*, Vol. 1. She also recently published “In the Dragon’s Wake: Bhutanese Art in the RMA Collection” in *Arts of Asia*, Volume 40, Number 2 (March-April 2010); and “Surya Mandala,” a catalog entry in *Mandala: The Sacred Circle in Tibetan Buddhism*, ed. Martin Brauen (Stuttgart: Arnoldscbe, 2009). In addition, Maki presented her paper, “Phajo Dudjom Zhigpo (1184-1251 CE) and the Establishment of Drukpa Kagyu Buddhism in Bhutan,” at the International Seminar of Young Tibetologists in Paris in September 2009, and participated in the National Endowment for the Humanities’ Institute for University and College Faculty on “Buddhist Traditions of Tibet and the Himalayas,” held at College of the Holy Cross in summer 2009.

---

*Ariana Maki visits one of Bhutan’s most sacred sites, Tiger’s Den (or Taktsang).*
Karen Mancl (graduate student, East Asian studies) traveled to Shandong Province, China to collect data for her thesis. While there, she presented at a workshop at the Shandong Academy of Agricultural Sciences.

Christina Mathison (graduate student, history of art) traveled to Taiwan and Japan in December and January to conduct research for her dissertation on the Taiwanese painter Chen Chengbo (1895–1947), with support from the Alumni Grant for Graduate Research Scholarship, Pyne-Murnane Scholarship, and the Arts and Humanities Graduate Research Small Grant. While in Taiwan, Mathison was able to meet and work with the leading scholar in this field, Li Ssu-chu, as well as interview the painter’s son, Chen Chung-kwang. She received the Louise Loh Memorial Scholarship from the East Asian Studies Center to continue this research in Taiwan and in Shanghai, China next year.

Nan Meng (graduate student, East Asian languages and literatures) has been active in presenting her research, including “Technical and Pedagogical Issues in Web-based Chinese Instruction” at the Annual Meeting of the Chinese Language Teachers Association in San Diego, California in November 2009, and “Cross-Cultural Boundaries: A Case Study of Advanced Chinese Learners’ Interactions with their Mentors,” presented with Ying Liu at the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio in October 2009.

Craig Nelson (graduate student, history) was awarded a research grant from the D. Kim Foundation to conduct research at the National Diet Library in Japan.

Xiaoyu Pu (graduate student, political science) published (with Bin Xu, Northwestern University) an article, “Dynamic Statism and Memory Politics: A Case Analysis of the Chinese War Reparations Movement,” in The China Quarterly, Vol. 201, No. 1 (2010), pp. 156-175. Pu also received a grant from the Mershon Center for International Security Studies to support his dissertation fieldwork on Chinese foreign policy in Beijing and Shanghai.

Yang Wang (graduate student, history of art) presented “Russia Constructed: The Practice of Avant-Garde in Taisho-era Japan” at the College Art Association Annual Conference in February 2010. She also received Second Place honors at the Hayes Research Forum, Arts Division in May 2010.

Yan Xu (graduate student, history) published an article, “We Are One Family: Woman Work in the Chinese Anti-Japanese Communist Bases (1937-45),” in Hindsight Graduate History Journal, vol. 4, Spring 2010, published by the department of History at California State University, Fresno. She also received an Honorable Mention in the Dr. Gordon P. K. Chu Award competition from the College of Humanities to support her dissertation research in China this summer.

Congratulations to EASC fellowship and scholarship winners!

Summer 2010 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship

Amelia Baum, Japanese, graduate student, East Asian Languages and Literatures
Anne Henochowicz, Mongolian, graduate student, East Asian Languages and Literatures
Jeffrey Holliday, Korean, graduate student, Linguistics
John Knight, Chinese, graduate student, History
Chelsea Liao, Chinese, undergraduate student, Chemical Engineering
Erin Odor, Chinese, graduate student, East Asian Studies
Seth Wiener, Chinese, graduate student, East Asian Languages and Literatures

2010-2011 Intensive Chinese Language Scholarship

Joshua Melching, undergraduate student, International Studies (World Economy & Business)
Elizabeth Vleugels, undergraduate student, International Studies (Relations & Diplomacy)
Jane Zhang, undergraduate student, International Business

2010-2011 Louise Loh Memorial Scholarship

Lara Di Luo, graduate student, History
Man He, graduate student, East Asian Languages and Literatures
Christina Mathison, graduate student, History of Art
Join us this fall for the
59th Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs!

October 1-3, 2010 • Ohio Union • Columbus, Ohio
Hosted by The Ohio State University’s East Asian Studies Center

A regional conference of the Association of Asian Studies (AAS), MCAA has provided a forum for scholars and teachers of Asian Studies in the Midwest to gather and exchange knowledge about the history and cultures of Asia for over a half-century. The conference will feature panels and roundtables at which faculty and graduate and undergraduate students present and discuss new research and pedagogical tools.

Proposals for panels and individual papers from all academic disciplines on any topic involving Asia are currently being accepted. Submission of panels and individual papers that address the full range of literary production and consumption in print, performance, film, and digital media across the span of Asian history are especially encouraged. Panels and individual papers that cross boundaries, be it in regional, temporal, linguistic, disciplinary or other terms, are also particularly welcome. The deadline for submission is Friday, June 11, 2010. All proposals must be submitted electronically through the conference website at http://easc.osu.edu/mcaa.

Questions? Contact Dr. Patricia Sieber, 2010 MCAA Program Chair, at sieber.6@osu.edu, for academic issues, or Amy Carey, 2010 MCAA Conference Coordinator, at carey.189@osu.edu, for general questions.