

Department of Asian Studies

Fall 2012

Letter from the Chair

New West is alive with all the excitement of a new school year. We are pleased to welcome a new staff member, Brenda Moore, as our part-time accountant. Retired after 40 years at Carolina, Brenda brings a wealth of experience and Tar Heel spirit to her job. Her contributions are much needed and much appreciated.

2011-12 was an active year in New West. I thank Nadia Yaqub for serving as Acting Chair so that I could spend fall semester teaching in Japan. Continuing as Associate Chair, Nadia has taken the lead in organizing diverse teaching workshops for us and has initiated the Faculty Colloquium for research presentations. Nadia has recently been named a Carolina Women's Center Faculty Scholar. I thank Wendan Li for her work as Acting Associate Chair in fall 2011 on top of her active role coordinating the Chinese program.

As summer ends, we welcome students back to campus from study abroad programs. This summer Nadia Yaqub led "Women and Leadership in the Arab World" in Amman, Jordan; Yuki Aratake led the UNC Tokyo Program; and I headed the UNC Osaka Program in Japanese Culture and Theater in fall 2011. Gang Yue led the final Xiamen Program in fall 2011. Generous support from the Grier/Woods Presbyterian China Initiative has allowed ninety-six UNC students to participate in the Xiamen program since 2006. Many of the early participants have returned to China to work or study upon graduation. With the completion of the Grier/Woods-supported program, UNC no longer offers any faculty-led semester program in China. However, Xiamen University has recently invited UNC to be a partner institution eligible for up to twenty tuition-free scholarships annually. Our proposal of revitalizing the faculty-led semester at Xiamen University is being considered for Fall 2013.

Our summer offerings continue to ex-

pand. Our summer immersion programs introduce students to Asian languages and cultures through concentrated study. The Chinese Immersion Program, under the direction of Li-ling Hsiao, and the new Arabic Immersion Program, led by Sahar Amer and Farida Badr, give students hands-on experience, including a taste of new foods. Online summer classes will provide yet another way to offer rigorous study of Asia, and one of our faculty, Pamela Lothspeich, is developing such a course for next summer.

Our department has hosted many lively events this year from our reception for majors to the annual commencement reception. Most heartfelt was our celebration of Dr. Eric Henry's thirty years of teaching Asian Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill. We know you'll enjoy photos of this party and our tribute to Eric. His friendly presence, sense of humor, and stores of expertise on Asia will be much missed in New West. We hope to see Eric Henry back here often. As you'll see from reading about Eric's newest publication, his retirement will be a scholarly one.

With great pleasure, we extend our warmest congratulations to Kevin Hewison, Professor of Asian Studies and Director of the Carolina Asia Center, on being named the Weldon Thornton Distinguished Professor. This distinction marks exceptional career achievement and superb contributions to the field. We appreciate Kevin's leadership and his popular classes on Thailand, and are happy to welcome him back to New West from his recent research travels in Southeast Asia.

The Department of Asian Studies is always the center of activity initiated by our faculty members. Our faculty guide student research, experiment with innovative teaching methods, host speakers and film series, and contribute to campus and the community. Research on Asian languages and cultures is always at the forefront. Our retired faculty members, too, are as active as ever, and we know that newsletter readers will enjoy hearing about these

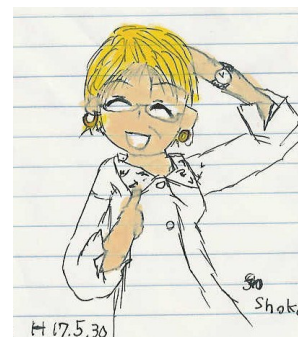
favorite instructors. We were happy to welcome new faculty members to our ranks this year and introduce Uffe Bergeton, Zeina Halabi, and Rachana Umashankar to you in this newsletter. We congratulate five of our faculty on receiving prestigious research fellowships: Mark Driscoll, Zeina Halabi, Ji-Yeon Jo, Pamela Lothspeich, and Hang Zhang. We congratulate Nasser Isleem on winning a Tanner Teaching Award, Afroz Taj on his Best Presentation Award at International Islamic University, Islamabad, and Robin Visser on having her book *Cities Surround the Countryside* named a finalist for the Southeast Conference/ Association for Asian Studies Book Prize. I was honored to receive the Hiratsuka Raichō Award from Japan Women's University.

Each year our newsletter focuses on one group of alumni, and this year we turn to Japan, catching up with a number of our graduates. We also interview Dr. Daniel Aldrich (UNC '96), now Associate Professor at Purdue University and the author of a new book, *Building Resilience: Social Capital in Post-Disaster Recovery*. We hope to hear from all our alumni about what you're doing and always enjoy getting email from you.

I conclude this letter with a hearty thanks to all our donors. Donations to the Department of Asian Studies are crucial to the success of all our programs, and especially in times when the state budget is tight. Donations support teaching and special events for students, faculty research, and community outreach. I like to donate online at <http://giving.unc.edu>. Find information on how you can make a difference on the last page of this newsletter. If you have thoughts about how you would like to contribute, please give me a call at 919-962-1534, and we can talk about the variety of projects that funding can assist or make possible.

I hope you enjoy all the news here! Please visit our new website at <http://asianstudies.unc.edu>, and when you're visiting Chapel Hill, please stop by New West to say hello.

Jan Bardsley
Chair



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A Conversation with Alumnus Daniel P. Aldrich

Daniel P. Aldrich took part in our first Senior Colloquium in Asian Studies in 1996. Today, after earning an M.A. in Asian Studies at U.C. Berkeley and an M.A. and Ph.D. in Political Science at Harvard University, Daniel is Associate Professor of Political Science at Purdue University. In 2011-12, Daniel and his family lived in Washington, D.C., while Daniel was an American Association for the Advancement of Science (AAAS) fellow at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID). Soon, the Aldrich family leaves for Tokyo where Daniel will be a Fulbright research fellow at the University of Tokyo (2012-13). He is the author of *Site Fights: Diverse Facilities and Civil Society in Japan and the West*, and his new book *Building Resilience: Social Capital in Post-Disaster Recovery* will be published this August. Jan Bardsley had the chance to catch up with Daniel this summer to interview him for our newsletter. Here are excerpts from the conversation.

JB: You're not only a researcher on disaster and recovery, but you've experienced this firsthand during Hurricane Katrina. How has your personal experience helped shape your research?

DA: We moved to New Orleans for my first academic job on July 17th, 2005, and evacuated in August. Our eldest children thought it was great fun to be packed up in the car for a trip at 4 am. Yael and I tried to stay calm, but we worried about running out of gas and food as we made our way to Houston in this massive traffic jam. We ended up losing everything in the house—books and research materials, our other car, toys, new furniture, photos—under twelve feet of water. It was the help from our networks of family, friends, and religious groups that made recovery possible. The experience made me wonder how recovery was possible for people in countries without developed-country-level resources. What does it take to recover? Through my research, I found strong familial and social ties were the key to regaining stability and happiness in the wake of disaster.

JB: What did recovery mean for you personally?

DA: We attended a service at a synagogue in Houston shortly after our arrival and were introduced as having fled Katrina. An older man came up to me, asking if we indeed had lost everything. When I responded in the affirmative, he said, "You didn't lose everything. You just lost stuff. Everything that's important, you still have." Having recently lost his wife, he felt this keenly. That remark has stayed with me. Now I believe that home is where you make it, not where your stuff is. It's not important what we have for dinner, but it's important whom we are eating dinner with. I learned from our own experience and from my interviews with disaster survivors in Southeast Asia and Kobe, Japan, that what builds your life, and helps you recover from turmoil, is the network you have.

JB: How do you choose your research projects?

DA: I believe in picking a topic that really matters, that will make a difference. My dad [Howard E. Aldrich, chair of the UNC Department of Sociology] has pointed me to a favorite book of his, *The Sociological Imagination*, in which author C.

Wright Mills argues that academics should devote themselves to helping solve the pressing issues of our day.

JB: What do you see in your future?

DA: I'd like to continue my involvement in policy making. This year in D.C., I worked in the Africa Bureau of USAID as part of an AAAS program to bring academics into agencies. My involvement in the program came from my desire to make a difference, to stretch beyond the ivory tower of academia and try to not only add to the policy process but learn from it as well.

JB: How do you balance family life and work?

DA: I'm home every night for dinner (when I'm in the country!) and our family talks about what everyone did that day. We homeschool our children. My amazing wife Yael takes on 80% of the teaching and is very supportive of all our moves; without her support, it wouldn't be possible to bounce between countries every year or so. I enjoy teaching my children Hebrew and working with them as they learn skills like martial arts, violin, and guitar. The children are looking forward to living in Tokyo again. They're fans of the Jido-Kaikan [Children's Hall] in Tokyo. It's a four-story building with all kinds of activities for kids from art to science. In Tokyo, we like to hike on Mt. Takao, and every Saturday night after the Sabbath, our family goes to the local public bath.

JB: We look forward to the debut of Building Resilience: Social Capital in Post-Disaster Recovery. Thank you for talking with me.

For more on Daniel P. Aldrich's research and publications, visit : <http://web.ics.purdue.edu/~daldrich/>



The Aldrich family enjoying a hike in Hawai'i. Daniel and Yael with their children Gavriel Tzvi (10), Yaakov (8), Yehudis (5), and Dov Ber (2).

Japan Program Alumni... Where Are They Now?

Asian Studies major **Ash Barnes** (2009) works here in the Department of Asian Studies, where she recruits prospective students, answers questions at orientation, raves to first-years about the Singapore program, and produces this newsletter.

Laurel Foote-Hudson (2007), who graduated with a double major in Japanese and Spanish, is going into her fourth year of graduate study at Carolina in the Department of English and Comparative Literature .

Japanese major **Rebecca Gade** (2011) teaches Japanese at Hawbridge School in Saxapahaw, NC. Last year she taught Japanese 1 and 2 and led the Japanese club at Hawbridge, and next year she's hoping to add Japanese 3! She has also organized a pen-pal letter exchange with fellow Japan program alumna **Stephanie Humphreys** (2011), who is currently working in the JET program at Ryukoku Toyama High School.

After graduating with a major in Japanese, **Adam Harris** (2007) worked for a Japanese trading company for one year before going to law school. After practicing law in New York for six months, he was sent to Japan to work in his firm's Tokyo office, where he now resides with his newly wed wife, Junko. When he is not in the office, he spends his weekends cycling around the Imperial palace, exploring Tokyo, or eating obscene amounts of sushi.

Asian Studies major **Kate Harrison** (2009) works at a small English conversation school in Hiroshima, Japan, teaching English to kids from ages 3 to 10 and adults of all levels.

After spending 2005-06 studying abroad in Japan at ICU, Japanese minor **Andrew Hartsell** (2006) moved back to Tokyo in 2008 and is working for Microsoft Japan.

Nathan Hedrick (2009), who minored in Japanese and majored in biology at Carolina, is now at Duke University, where he's a Ph.D. candidate in neurobiology. He studies learning and memory with Dr. Ryohei Yasuda.

After graduating with a major in Japanese, **Ash Higgins** (2011) returned to pursue a PharmD degree in UNC's School of Pharmacy. She writes, "You know, you would never think it, but because I did the Japanese language program I've had so many doors open for me! From being able to converse with Japanese people in this area about their medications to having the opportunity to go on a rotation this upcoming school year to work for CVS in Hawaii! I'm very excited about being able to apply what I've learned in my undergrad to my career today!"

Japanese major **Cameron Manning** (2009) worked for two years as an English teacher at an elementary school in Shiga Prefecture, Japan, with the JET program. The following summer she worked as a teacher at the American School in Japan's summer English program and volunteered to help clean up earthquake damage in Tohoku.

Bryan McKelvey (2007), who double majored in Japanese and business, has just completed a graduate program at the University of Tokyo, and is currently working in the heart of Tokyo at BlackRock, helping banks understand and evaluate risk. This position has been a great opportunity to work with both Japanese and non-Japanese as he helps the company expand overseas. Bryan credits UNC's homestay program with helping him develop the communication skills that now make him comfortable conducting business in both English and Japanese.

Japanese major **Christopher Mills** (2011) headed off to Japan last summer to teach in the JET program. Right now he's teaching English classes at three different elementary schools in the Chiba prefecture, which has been quite a challenging experience so far!

Japanese minor **Mark Mowbray** (2006) has been with the JET program since 2009, and is starting his fourth year at the Board of Education in Furano, Hokkaido. He has also been an official translator for AJET-Hokkaido since 2010. Over the years he has met many people living here in Japan who came out of different Japanese programs from around the world, and has always been pleasantly surprised to see that alumni of the UNC Japanese program have a competitively high level of language proficiency and are well prepared for the Japanese work environment.

Japanese major **Josh Phelps** (2009) is currently moving back to Durham after two years in New York City. He has recently completed the Postbaccalaureate Premedical Program at Columbia University, and plans to head to medical school next.

Japanese major **Alicia Preston** (2009) is starting her third year as an assistant language teacher in the JET program in Shiga, Japan. She has been teaching at two junior high schools in the city of Maibara, but is looking forward to new challenges and adventures in her reassignment this year to the city's largest junior high.

After graduating with a major in Asian Studies and minor in Japanese, **John Rudd** (2008) headed to law school. He graduated from Duke Law School in May, and is now preparing for the New York bar exam. After that he'll be moving to Japan to work in the Tokyo office of an American law firm.

Emily Taylor (2007), who majored in Japanese and minored in Asian Studies, is enjoying her second year in the JET program as an assistant language teacher. She teaches English at two junior high schools and three elementary schools on the hot and humid islands of Amakusa.

Japanese major **Daniel Topal** (2006) and **Sally Beth Topal** (2007), who majored in Asian Studies with a Japanese minor, are both starting their third year as senior high school assistant language teachers in Nagano Prefecture in the JET program. Daniel remains active in the local laido community, and Sally Beth spends her extra time working for the National Association for Japan Exchange and Teaching. They hope to remain in Japan for a few more years, and would love to hear from any other alumni in the Nagano area.

Faculty News and Publications

SHAHLA ADEL taught Persian language and culture. Her latest addition to UNC's repertoire of courses on Persian culture was the new course "Introduction to Iranian Cinema," which attracted a large enrollment of students from many different majors. Shahla organized a Persian calligraphy workshop with Dr. Mohammad Ali Bathaee, and participated in the organization of many lectures on Iran and Persian culture as well as a Persian New Year Celebration at UNC. Shahla also participated in workshops devoted to teaching at both UCLA and the University of Texas, Austin.

SAHAR AMER followed with much excitement and hope the Arab revolutions throughout 2011, with a particular interest in what was happening in her home country of Egypt. She was involved throughout the year in various academic events that focused on this topic, including a presentation at the annual Middle East Studies Association conference held in Washington, D.C., entitled "Can the '1/11' Revolutions Become a Rainbow Revolution? Civil, Human, and LGBT Rights in the Arab World." She was also a respondent in a panel on "New Subjects of Gender, Sexuality, and Citizenship" at the Arab Springs Conference held at Duke University in February 2012. Sahar also taught a new class on "Muslim Women and Veiling: Transnational Perspectives" in Fall 2011.

LORRAINE ARAGON was pleased to stay grounded this summer in North Carolina after two summers of overseas travel, lectures, and fieldwork (2010 in Europe and 2011 in Singapore, Indonesia, and Cambodia). She had plenty to do at home this summer, with both an article and a book manuscript on Indonesian arts and intellectual property law to revise, and a challenging new course on "Popular Culture in Southeast Asia" (ASIA 252) to prepare.

YUKI ARATAKE taught "Japanese Popular Culture" in English during the spring semester, introducing the anime, music, and fashion that young Japanese people are interested in

right now. She also organized a culture exchange, an evening of making Japanese pancakes (*okonomiyaki*) with our students and Japanese college students who visited UNC for two weeks. Yuki again led the UNC Tokyo Summer Program in Japanese Language and Culture.

FARIDA BADR taught first-year and second-year Arabic in Fall 2011 and Spring 2012, in addition to the Egyptian Colloquial Arabic course. She organized the Arabic conversation table, which introduced students to aspects of Arab culture such as food, dance and music, henna, and even an Egyptian baby shower. In Spring 2012, Farida organized the students' talent show in the Great Hall in which students displayed their talents in dancing, singing, and playing Arab music.

DONGSOO BANG taught Korean language classes and participated in leading Korean cultural events this year. In the summer, she enjoyed spending time with her family, studying Korean classical plays, and attending a foreign language teaching workshop in July at Michigan State University.

JAN BARDSLEY traveled to Heidelberg University to present "From Kitsch to Cool: The Geisha Apprentice in Japanese Visual Culture," and to Japan Women's University in Tokyo for a talk on New Woman Hiratsuka Raichō. Her chapter "Miss Japan on the Global Stage: The Journey of Itō Kinuko" debuts this year in *Modern Girls on the Go: Gender, Mobility, and Labor in Japan* (Stanford University Press). See article on page 11 for more news on Jan Bardsley.

MOULOUK BERRY taught intermediate and advanced Arabic classes and coordinated the upper-level Arabic courses. She also gave a presentation at the annual meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (MESA) in Washington, D.C., in December 2011.

JOHN CALDWELL gave several presentations this year, including two on Pakistani music in Islamabad and Lahore, Pakistan, and one on Urdu theater in the Indian film industry at the Annual Comparative Drama Conference in Baltimore in spring 2012. He was advisor to the Pakistani Students' Association. He also played the bassoon in several performances of the Durham and Raleigh symphonies. With Afroz Taj, he co-hosts the popular Geet Bazaar South Asia Radio show every Sunday, 10 am to 12 noon on 88.1 FM WKNC.

MARK DRISCOLL spent five months in China last spring on a UNC Pogue Research Fellowship. He will be on sabbatical for the academic year 2012-13 as a fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study at Princeton University. His project is titled "J-had: Japanese Terrorism, Chinese Humanism, and Revolutionary Universality in East Asia."

DORIA EL KERDANY taught Arabic language classes, coordinated the second-year Arabic program, and organized many extracurricular activities. She also translated an interview in Arabic for Dick Gordon's WUNC radio program, *The Story*; it's available at http://thestory.org/archive/The_Story_5212.mp3/view.



Students on the Jordan Study Abroad Program swim in the Dead Sea.

LILI FAN taught CHIN 212 to second-semester heritage students for the first time. She made an effort to work effectively with the heritage students' special background, and found it challenging to devise strategies to make good use of their advantage and help them fulfill their potential to develop fluency in Chinese.

LINI GE enjoyed her first year at UNC interacting with students both inside and outside the classroom, organizing the Chinese Speech Contest for the Chinese program, and sharing the latest technology with her colleagues at the language teaching workshop. It was rewarding to see "wonderful," "motivating," "turning point" in her students' feedback on the speech contest, to hear her colleagues' experiences using new technology in their classrooms, and, of course, to read in her students' course evaluations that they "learned so much." Definitely looking forward to another great year ahead!

ZEINA G. HALABI enjoyed her first semester at UNC, teaching the course "Dissident Voices in Arab Cultures." In 2012-13, she will be a "Europe in the Middle East - The Middle East in Europe" postdoctoral fellow at the Forum Transregionale Studien in Berlin. *For more about Zeina Halabi, see her profile on page 12.*

KEVIN HEWISON has had an active year. He won a W. N. Reynolds Leave from UNC for fall 2011, and has worked this spring as a Visiting Professor of Asian Studies in the School of Social Sciences at the Singapore Management University. *See article on page 11 for more news on Kevin Hewison.*

LI-LING HSIAO published two co-edited volumes: *The Search for the Avant-garde, 1946-1969*, volume II of the Taipei Fine Arts Museum Collection Catalogue, and the 2011 issue of the *Southeast Review of Asian Studies*, a peer-reviewed journal. She also published three articles in the *Southeast Review of Asian Studies*: "Xue Tao Stationery: Delivering Love for a Thousand Years"; a co-authored article titled "Dancing with Degas: Zhang Daqian's Balletic Lotus"; and a co-translated article by Professor Chuan-ying Yen titled "Self-Portraits, Family Portraits, and the Issue of Identity." Li-ling organized the first Kun Opera performance at UNC, funded by the Performing Arts Special Activities Fund, in conjunction with her course CHIN 361, "Chinese Traditional Theater." She con-

tinues to serve as Director of the Chinese Summer Immersion Program.

NASSER ISLEEM was promoted to Senior Lecturer in Arabic and also won the Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Education. His research activities included the completion of a book manuscript for teaching the Palestinian/Jordanian dialect through songs, a book of Arabic songs titled *Kalima wa naghham* (A Word and a Melody), and conference presentations about how to integrate songs and proverbs into Arabic language classes. In spring 2012, Nasser taught Arabic at New York University in Abu Dhabi. *See article on page 13 for more news on Nasser Isleem.*

FUMI IWASHITA completed her fourth year of teaching at UNC. She was happy to see the students whom she'd taught in their first year of Japanese graduate this spring, having made great progress in their Japanese. Fumi has developed and taught a popular advanced Japanese language class on manga.

JI-YEON JO taught a new course titled "Education and Social Changes in Contemporary Korea" this spring. Her co-authored article "Critique of the Mechanism of Ideological Reproduction in Multicultural Education in South Korea" has been accepted for publication in the journal *Research in the Sociology of Education* (in Korea). In March, Ji-Yeon traveled to Toronto, Canada, to present a paper at the annual conference of the Association of Asian Studies. While on research leave for the 2012-13 year, she will travel to China and Korea to collect additional data for her ongoing research on Korean diasporas and ethnic return migration. Her research is partly supported by the Grier/Woods Presbyterian China Initiative Fellowship in Chinese Studies.

CHARLES JOUKHADAR has enjoyed teaching first-year Arabic. He is impressed by first-year students' excitement to learn about Arabic language and culture, and by their achievement in only one year. Charles continues to co-organize the Arabic Table and other extracurricular events. He maintains the blog that promotes the cultural events organized by the Arabic Program (uncarabic.blogspot.com). Charles also had the pleasure of participating in the Global Orientation on Culture and Ethics workshop as an advisor for students traveling to the Middle East. On the personal

level, he and his family were happy to welcome their second daughter Emily, who was born on March 26th, 2012. This summer Charles is teaching second-year Arabic at UNC and will be traveling afterwards to Beirut to teach Advanced Arabic at the American University of Beirut.

YUKO KATO has developed a new advanced Japanese language class, "Working in Japan." She enjoyed attending several workshops on teaching: an oral proficiency interview workshop at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) conference in Denver, the Duke Pedagogy Workshop, and the annual meeting of the Southeastern Association of Teachers of Japanese at Clemson University. She organized a Japanese movie (*Kamome shokudo* [Kamome Diner]) event for students and also led them in making the Japanese rice balls known as *onigiri* that were featured in the film as "Japanese soul food."

WENDAN LI attended the 24th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics in San Francisco in June 2012. She gave a presentation on "The Discourse Function of Topic-Comment structures in Chinese," and also chaired a panel at the conference. In fall 2012, Wendan will offer the new course "Chinese-English Translation and Interpreting." The course adds the training of translation/interpreting as a marketable skill to the Chinese program. Wendan is also one of the organizers of the 8th International Conference on Calligraphy Education to be held at Southwestern University in Georgetown, Texas, in October 2012.

JIA LIN enjoyed teaching, researching, and organizing cultural activities in the Department of Asian Studies. In the fall 2011 semester, she taught third-year Chinese. In November 2011, Jia presented her research on reading strategies at the ACTFL convention in Denver, and also participated in an ACTFL workshop on strategic reading. Jia also organized a Tai chi workshop that attracted more than fifty students, who learned not only the basic Tai chi movement but also the culture and thoughts it conveys.

PAMELA LOTHSPREICH has received a Fulbright-Nehru Research Fellowship and will be heading to North India in the fall to continue her research on a modern Hindu epic and its use in the folk theater. A fellow at the Institute for Arts and Humanities at UNC in spring 2012, Pamela organized a panel for the Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies in Toronto, and presented "Three Ramlilas, Three Uses of

the Radheshyam Ramayana.” She also gave lectures on South Asia at Horton Middle School in Pittsboro, NC.

REIKO NITTA enjoyed teaching Japanese during her first year at UNC. She headed a project to encourage our Japanese language students to write letters to people who suffered from the 3/11 earthquake. Working with her colleagues in the Japan Program, Reiko collected more than 110 letters in total and sent them to Chapel Hill resident Kathleen Paul, who organized the Matsushima Relief Fund and posted a picture of UNC students’ letters on her Facebook.

MORGAN PITELKA spent the 2011-12 academic year as a fellow at the National Humanities Center, where he completed a biography of Tokugawa Ieyasu and began a study of daily life and destruction in Japan’s long sixteenth century, preliminarily titled *Sixteenth-Century Losers*. He also worked on the administration of the newly established Triangle Center for Japanese Studies, organizing talks, workshops, and study groups, and facilitating applications for travel and research grants. He looks forward to returning to teaching premodern Japanese culture and history courses this year, and to coordinating our Japan Program.

KATSU SAWAMURA is developing a new advanced Japanese language class, “Japan: People, Places, and Legends,” and enjoyed visiting students studying on the UNC Tokyo Program this summer. Katsu has sought ways to help his Japanese language students learn firsthand about Japanese businesses in North

Carolina by organizing and leading a field trip to the company AW North Carolina in April.

YARON SHEMER organized “Egyptian Jewish Cinematic Encounters,” a series that screened six films and brought three filmmakers to UNC for discussion with audiences of students, faculty, and community members. Teaching our introductory Asian Studies course (ASIA 150) this year, Yaron incorporated guest language presentations from each of our eight language programs. Yaron is also developing an “Introduction to the Middle East” course. His book “Identity, Place, and Subversion in Contemporary Mizrahi Cinema in Israel” has been accepted for publication by the University of Michigan Press and will come out next spring.

HANNA SPRINTZIK developed a new Hebrew curriculum during her first year at UNC, and also created extracurricular events such as “Carolina Hebrew Idol 2012 – A Talent Show.” This summer she presented “Backward Design – Creating an Effective Curriculum” at the 2012 International Conference on Hebrew Language, Literature, and Culture at UCLA.

AFROZ TAJ presented papers at two conferences in Pakistan in March 2012. He was honored with the award for “Best Presentation” at the conference at the International Islamic University, Islamabad. He spent the summer in India directing the UNC Summer in India Study Abroad Program. He is involved in a National Endowment for the

Humanities Grant at Winston Salem State University, where he serves as an advisor on creating a South Asian Studies program there. In October Afroz will reprise his role as Ravana in the North Carolina Hindu Society production of *Rama Leela*.

ROBIN VISSER gave a keynote address this year at the University of Hong Kong School of Architecture’s “Homecoming Symposium,” a conference of leading architects from China. The East Asia Institute at UC-Berkeley has invited her to participate in the Berkeley Summer Research Institute (BSRI) in partnership with the Academia Sinica in 2012. Robin’s book *Cities Surround the Countryside: Urban Aesthetics in Postsocialist China* (Duke University Press, 2010) was a finalist for the annual book prize awarded by the Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies. A Grier/Woods Presbyterian China Initiative Travel Award and a Center for Global Initiatives Course Development Grant made it possible for Robin to do research in China this summer and present at conferences there. Robin has also been invited to serve on the editorial board of the *Journal of Urban Cultural Studies*.

NADIA YAQUB delivered the keynote address for the Arabic section of the Language and Literature conference at the University of Kentucky. She also gave several conference presentations and published a book chapter, “Dismantling the Discourses of War: Palestinian Women Filmmakers Address Violence,” in *Gender and Violence in the Middle East and North Africa*. As associate chair for the department, she has organized teaching workshops and a new departmental colloquium where faculty can share and discuss their current research. Nadia was also named an Institute for the Arts and Humanities Academic Leadership Fellow at UNC.

YEONHEE YOON presented “An Intercultural Communication Approach to Teaching Business Korean: A Case Study of a Mock Negotiation between Korean and American College Students” at the 2012 Center for International Business Education and Research Business Language Conference, held at UNC in March 2012. She is currently developing innovative methods and teaching materials for Korean language and culture through movies and TV dramas.

GANG YUE led the UNC Asian Studies Semester Program at Xiamen University, China, for the fourth time in fall 2011. He was also the Lin Yutang Visiting Professor at Xiamen University. Gang published “Imagination and Anxiety of China’s Rise: An Ideological Critique of Cultural Determinism” (in Chinese) in *Humanists International*. He was a panelist and discussant at the International Conference on Creation Myths and the Kunlun Mythology,



Students relax Japanese-style on the Tokyo Summer Program with Yuki Aratake.

held in Xining, China, in July 2011, and the keynote speaker at “History and Present Problems in Tibetan Studies,” at Sichuan University, China, in August 2011.

HANG ZHANG offered the new course “Modern Chinese Society” in spring 2012. It is a theme-based Chinese conversation course designed for high-level nonheritage students, with a twofold objective: enhancing students’ oral expressive skills and helping them better understand today’s ever-changing Chinese society and culture. In this class students participated fully in conversations on a variety of topics such as Chinese food culture, changing views of marriage, the Tiananmen Square protest, and cross-strait relations. In November 2011, Hang presented “A Sociolinguistic Profile of Intermediate Heritage Learners for Pedagogical Purpose” at the annual conference of the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages at Denver, CO. Hang also presented “Mandarin Tone Acquisition by Different Types of Learners and the Develop-

ment of Teaching Materials” at a conference in Hangzhou, China, in June 2012. In the spring of 2012, Hang successfully defended her prospectus of Ph.D. dissertation and won a UNC-Chapel Hill Dissertation Fellowship for the academic year of 2012-13. So she will take a leave from her position as lecturer in Chinese next year and concentrate full-time on completing her dissertation in UNC’s Department of Linguistics.

YI ZHOU gave several presentations on Business Chinese this year, including the keynote speech, “Infusing Business into the Chinese Language Classroom,” for the Center for International Business Education and Research at UNC in September 2011. Yi also served as a member of the National Business Language Conference planning committee. She was elected as an alternate to the Faculty Council Committee, Division of the Social Sciences. Yi organized and coordinated cultural events for promoting our Chinese Program.

CANGUZEL ZUFILKAR taught seven classes in 2011-12, four language and three culture courses. She offered a First-Year Seminar on Women and Spirituality in Turkey. The still young Turkish Studies Program is growing with students’ interest in Turkey, Turkish culture, and Turkish history. Canguzel participated in the panel “A Sage from Malatya in Lemnos: Niyazi Misri,” held on Lemnos Island, Greece, in May 2012, presenting a paper titled “Reflections on Niyazi Misri.” After this panel, she was invited to participate in the Isparta Colloquium at Suleyman Demirel University in May, where a workshop was hosted by the Deep Approach to Turkish Teaching and Learning. This summer Canguzel conducted research in Istanbul about problems that are plaguing this city (urban planning, pollution, traffic, etc.), in order to be able to give students in her class on Istanbul more topic ideas and suggestions for their final research projects (in which they’ll be proposing ways to address some of the challenges facing Istanbul today).



Activities abounded during the Arabic Summer Immersion Program!

After Thirty Years of Teaching Asian Studies at Carolina, Dr. Eric Henry Retires

On February 10, 2012, the Department of Asian Studies celebrated Dr. Eric Henry's 30 years of service to UNC-Chapel Hill with a festive party that highlighted his many interests. Faculty performed skits, songs, and read tributes sent in by colleagues from afar. For the finale, Eric Henry taught us all to sing the Happy Birthday song in the Chinese pentatonic scale, and quoted a few maxims by an imaginary scholar named A. Shaddington on the enterprise of being a worthy academic in the twentieth century: "An inclination to eat lunch is indicative of a culpable lack of passion in pursuit of one's scholarly objectives." "A superior academic wears a relaxed and genial expression when declining to raise a student's grade. He sees the student off with the wistful cordiality of one who wishes that the conversation could be continued."

Eric taught Chinese language, culture, and literature, initiated a program in Vietnamese language instruction, and developed classes on Vietnamese music and culture. He also led a study abroad program on Vietnamese popular culture in Ho Chi Minh City. Active in the community, Eric served as the principal of the Chapel Hill Chinese School, participated in chamber music groups, and was once a member of the local band known as the Doctoral Themes. A talented scholar and translator, Eric continues to conduct research on China and Vietnam. The University of Washington Press has awarded him a contract for his dual-language edition of the Han dynasty work *Garden of Eloquence*.

Eric is famous for his knowledge of several Asian languages and his inspiring teaching. Student evaluations of Eric's teaching have always been glowing, speaking to his vast knowledge, colorful anecdotes, and the excitement about Asia he generated. A frequent comment over the years has been, "He is the best teacher I have ever had." For ten years after Eric's arrival on campus, he and Sandy Seaton were the only two faculty teaching Chinese. Now we have ten faculty in Chinese. To honor Eric Henry's successful efforts in building a strong foundation for Asian Studies at UNC-Chapel Hill, there is now a commemorative brick on the Campus Y plaza which reads, "Thanks Dr. Henry for teaching Asia at UNC 1982-2012."

Eric Henry exemplifies excellence in inspirational teaching and has motivated students and faculty to become honorable and useful citizens through his dedication to his field, education, and the community.

For news of how Eric is spending his retirement, see page 10.



At his retirement party, Dr. Eric Henry listens to reminiscences from his colleagues and reflects on his thirty years at Carolina.



Eric's retirement bash was replete with nostalgia, humor, and tropical cheer. Colleagues and students past and present joined Eric's numerous well-wishers in the Department of Asian Studies to pay tribute to his many accomplishments and unique contributions.



News from our Emeritus Faculty




For some, retirement from active duty in the Department of Asian Studies just means more time to pursue their scholarly interests. Here's the latest on what some of our retirees have been up to.

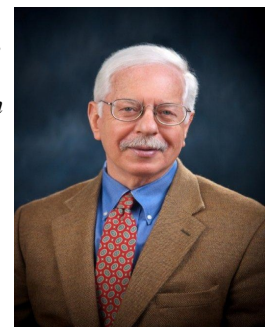
ERIC HENRY, who retired at the end of December 2011 (see article on page 8), has been working all day, every day throughout the spring on the manuscript of a dual-language edition of an ancient Chinese text for Washington University Press. The text is *Shuō Yuàn*, or "Garden of Eloquence." It's a huge compendium of quasi-historical narratives submitted to the Chinese throne in 17 BCE. The worst part of the job, says Eric, has been "completing all the pesky textual notes" on the Chinese side. He expects to be free of this job by late summer.



LARRY KESSLER published an article, "Surviving the Japanese Invasion of China: An Englishman in Shanghai in the 1940s," in the *Southeast Review of Asian Studies*. He also presented a paper, "'Up Close and Personal': An Englishman's Encounters With Chinese Communism," at the Southeast Regional Conference of the Association for Asian Studies in January 2012. Kessler served as a guest specialist on China during the 2009-2011 academic years for a series of online courses for secondary school social studies teachers, "East Asia in World History," cosponsored by Columbia University's Asia for Educators and the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia. As a follow-up to the courses, he was chosen co-leader of a tour to China and Vietnam in June 2011 for a select group of those teachers. Then in October he returned to China as enrichment lecturer for a WFMT (Chicago radio station) tour, which included a stay in Tibet.

STEVE LEVINE has three books either published or to be published in 2012:

-  *Arc of Empire: America's Wars in Asia from the Philippines to Vietnam* (UNC Press, 2012), co-authored with fellow UNC emeritus professor Michael C. Hunt.
-  *Shattered Families, Broken Dreams: Little Known Episodes from the History of Persecution of Chinese Revolutionaries in Stalin's Gulag*, by Sin-Lin. Translated from Russian, edited and with an introduction by Steven I. Levine. Memoir of a Chinese woman, born in Moscow, who grew up in a Soviet orphanage, returned to China in 1950 at age 13, and suffered through the Mao era before emigrating to the U.S. in 1988. Forthcoming this summer from MerwinAsia.
-  *Mao: The Real Story* by Alexander V. Pantsov with translator and editor Steven I. Levine. This is the definitive and authoritative biography of Mao Zedong, based, inter alia, on extensive Soviet archival and abundant Chinese materials. Forthcoming in October from Simon & Schuster.



SANDY SEATON has a brand-new book on the bookstore shelf, *Bright Moon, White Clouds: Selected Poems of Li Po* (Shambhala Publications, edited and translated by J.P. Seaton). He has also launched a new website, Ocean of Poetry, with fellow poetry lover and web developer Stuart Carduner. The site is replete with poems, commentary, criticism, and more, including a new magazine of translation; check it out at <http://poetrychina.net>. Also due out shortly is the paperback edition of Seaton's translation *Cold Mountain Poems: Zen Poems of Han Shan, Shih Te, and Wang Fan-chih*, which includes twenty-two poems never previously translated into English.

Kevin Hewison Honored

Professor Kevin Hewison, Director of the Carolina Asia Center, has been named the Weldon Thornton Distinguished Professor. This honor recognizes Kevin's outstanding scholarly and teaching contributions to the University and to his discipline. A political economist at the forefront of interdisciplinary research on Asia, Kevin Hewison publishes regularly and widely in internationally ranked journals in the fields of international and area studies, politics, and political economy. The sheer number of his peer-reviewed publications is remarkable, and includes sixteen authored, co-authored and edited books. Since 2005, he has co-edited the *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, a highly ranked and influential publication in Asian Studies. With Dr. Arne L. Kalleberg (of the UNC Department of Sociology), he received \$175,000 from the Mellon Foundation to convene the 2011-12 Sawyer Seminar on "Precarious Work in Asia." Kevin's leadership of the Carolina Asia Center has brought new attention and resources to the study of Asia at UNC-Chapel Hill, and of course, his colleagues in the Department of Asian Studies particularly appreciate his leadership and teaching here.



Jan Bardsley Receives Award

Professor Jan Bardsley has been awarded this year's Hiratsuka Raichō Prize by Japan Women's University for distinguished contributions to studies of Japanese women, and especially for her 2007 book *The Bluestockings of Japan*, about a feminist literary magazine that Raichō established in 1911. This is the seventh year of the Hiratsuka Raichō Prize, which was created to spotlight research and activities that promote world peace through gender equality and women's emancipation. Jan will return to Japan Women's University in December 2012 to present her research on Hiratsuka Raichō's reflections on Zen, democracy, and women's rights in postwar Japan.

Jan Bardsley at the award ceremony in Tokyo on February 18, 2012, with Yoshiko Arikawa, President of Japan Women's University and chair of the selection committee, and other committee members .



Meet Our New Faculty!

Uffe Bergeton, Assistant Professor, Chinese

I am a historian of Early China with research interests that are centered on pre-Qin (i.e. pre-221 BCE) culture, history, and thought. My main project for this academic year will be to prepare a book manuscript based on my dissertation “Historical Developments in Pre-Qin Conceptualizations of Metaculture and Identity” from the University of Michigan. Anthropologists and historians have long been aware that the practice of relying on modern concepts of ‘culture’ to study the cultural awareness of premodern societies is fraught with hermeneutical pitfalls related to universalizing language- and culture-specific analytical categories of western modernity. In “Historical Developments in Pre-Qin Conceptualizations of Metaculture and Identity,” I address this situation by providing an in-depth analysis of how the terms *wén* 文 and *sú* 俗 were used to conceptualize and discuss language-specific notions of ‘culture’ and ‘customs’ in pre-Qin texts.

Beyond the emergence of proto-anthropological theories in pre-Qin texts, my research interests also include early Chinese thought. In the paper “Seeing Like a Sage: Three Takes on Identity and Perception in Early China,” co-authored with Miranda Brown and published in the *Journal of Chinese Philosophy*, we explored the plurality of theories of the sage as ideal perceptual agent. In addition to this project on early Chinese theories of epistemology, I am also interested in the intersection of theories of reclusion and the importance of the concepts of purity and pollution in ritual practices.

This fall I will teach “History as Fiction or Fiction as History? Early Chinese History in Film and Literature.” This course introduces students to the history of the Qin and Han dynasties through analysis of the role historical fiction and movies play in the formation of popular perceptions of the past. In spring 2013 I will teach CHIN 252: “Introduction to Chinese Culture through Narrative,” and a First-Year Seminar entitled “Introduction to Early Chinese Thought.” I am excited about launching my academic career at the University of North Carolina and look forward to developing other courses on early China in the future.

When I am not working, I enjoy playing the piano and spending time with my wife, Iris, and my three-year-old son, Henning. The somewhat exotic-sounding names of me and my son are a legacy of my Danish heritage; I was born in Denmark and lived the first two decades of my life there.



Zeina Halabi, Assistant Professor, Arabic

In Spring 2012, I joined the Department of Asian Studies as an Assistant Professor of Arabic literature and culture. Before moving to North Carolina, I pursued my studies in Anthropology at the American University of Beirut (B.A., 2001) and the London School of Economics (M.S., 2002), and later completed my doctorate in Arabic Studies at the University of Texas at Austin (Ph.D., 2011), where I specialized in modern Arabic literature and in teaching Arabic as a foreign language. In my current book project, “Writing Melancholy: The Death of the Intellectual in Modern Arabic Literature,” I engage the elegiac writings of modern and contemporary Arab novelists and poets and explore the ways in which Arab writers who identify with different literary and historical generations have mourned and commemorated the deaths of their peers. In dialogue with theoretical contributions from psychoanalysis, poststructuralism, and gender studies, I examine melancholia as a collective psychological and political experience of loss that has emerged following seminal historical junctures such as the 1967 war that has marked modern Arabic literature and thought. In 2012-13, I will be a postdoctoral fellow at “Europe in the Middle East—The Middle East in Europe,” a program hosted by the Institute for Advanced Studies (*Wissenschaftskolleg*) in Berlin, where I plan to complete my book project. Upon my return to UNC in fall 2013, I will be teaching “Dissident Voices in Arabic Culture” and “Revolution through Egyptian Eyes,” among other courses in English and Arabic. I enjoy listening to folk music and love to try new recipes inspired by my travels.



Rachana Umashankar, Lecturer, Hindi-Urdu

I am currently wrapping up my Ph.D. dissertation, “Defending Sufism, Defining Islam: Asserting Islamic Identity in India,” in UNC’s Department of Anthropology. The end is near! Based on thirteen months of intensive fieldwork in India, my dissertation describes how adherents of shrine-based Sufism assert their identity as Indian Muslims in the contexts of public debates over religion and belonging in India, and of reformist critiques of their Islamic beliefs and practices. My research interests are the anthropology of religion, politics of religious identity, nationalism and secularism, and Islam in South Asia. I earned my B.A. in Anthropology-Sociology at Knox College in 2004, and have been a Tar Heel since 2005. I’m excited about my new position in the Department of Asian Studies, where I will be refining the curriculum for Intermediate Hindi-Urdu and helping to develop the South Asian Studies concentration. Outside of the academic realm, I enjoy playing my harp, growing bonsai, painting, and reading.



Nasser Isleem Receives Tanner Award

In spring 2012, Nasser Isleem, Senior Lecturer in Arabic, was honored with the Tanner Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching. Describing his approach to teaching, Nasser writes, “My teaching philosophy is centered on several key concepts: a rigorous and fun classroom environment, development of all language skills, continuous assessment, an Arabic-only learning environment, and cultural education. I believe in filling the educational experience in class with energy, humor, and variety, thus promoting a positive and vital learning environment.” In 2006, Nasser won the Chancellor’s Award for Undergraduate Teaching, and he was recognized last year through induction into Carolina’s oldest and highest honorary society, the Order of the Golden Fleece. We enjoyed seeing Nasser Isleem honored along with other teaching awardees during halftime at the Carolina-Virginia men’s basketball game on Feb. 12. Go, Team Nasser!



Nasser Isleem (second from left) on the scoreboard at the Dean Dome.

2012 Senior Honors Colloquium

The Department of Asian Studies had three graduates with honors in 2012. Shown here with honors advisor Dr. Robin Visser and fellow colloquium presenter Mary Catherine Beck, they were Sathya Mandjiny, Sudeep Mehta, and Ben Neal. Sathya's thesis research dealt with the formation of physicians, why some choose to travel to South Asia to practice, and how this shapes their identity. Sudeep brought his experience as president of Carolina's club cricket team to bear on his thesis topic, "Indian Ideals Found in Cricket"; he examined several Bollywood films about cricket and the different ways cricket was used in each to highlight social and political issues. Ben's research for what became his honors thesis began during his semester abroad in Xiamen, China; his months of dedicated shopping there paid off when he received highest honors for his thesis examining the phenomena of Occidentalism and pseudo-foreign branding in the Chinese fashion industry.

Next year promises to be our largest thesis cohort ever, with fascinating topics ranging from ethnic migrations to Japanese hip-hop and horror films. Our senior colloquium is always open to the public, so if you're ever in Chapel Hill in April, come visit us and tune in to the cutting edge of undergraduate research in Asian studies.



Asian Studies alumni, we would like to hear from you! Please send us information for inclusion in future issues.

- Name _____
- Degree and year _____
- Address _____
- _____
- Telephone _____
- Email _____
- Website _____
- What you're doing now, and any recent accomplishments, career changes, or other news that you'd like to share:

Mail to the Department of Asian Studies, 113 New West, CB #3267, Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3267.
Or email us your news at asia@unc.edu.

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