



Asian Studies Development Program Alumni Newsletter

April 2008

Editor's Greeting:

Welcome reader! Having just returned from the recent Asian Studies Development Program National Conference in Chicago (March 6-9, 2008), I am inspired and invigorated with the ineffable ASDP spirit. For those of you who were there, I think you understand what I mean. For those of you alumni who did not attend, I urge you to begin to make plans now for next year.

Over forty years of teaching, I have belonged to a number of professional groups and attended my share of conferences. Quite honestly, the events this group sponsors are among the best I have ever attended. I hope to see you next March, 2009 in Philadelphia. See below for more specific details.

A special word of appreciation to those of you who submitted material and information for this edition of the Newsletter. *Julien Farland, Editor*



Message from ASDP Co-Director Roger T. Ames:

It has been a ride. And it is personal. In the first issue of Julien's new *ASDP Alumni Newsletter* he included a picture of the 1991 class. I looked at that picture for a long time. I remembered our first efforts as a small group of academics intent on making a difference in American education. Grand sentiments then. And a killer program to kick it off beginning an always crammed day with a breakfast speaker and ending the crammed day with a bedside table stacked with readings for the next day. Unrelenting. And yet there were survivors.

Fast forward seventeen years. The grand event in Chicago has just happened as I am writing this. This annual conference is a clear reflection of where we have come on this journey together. At the meeting a hundred and eighty scholars contributed to the program, and their research will be further

disseminated in the next issue of our *East-West Connections*. We are all doing this together. And probably the annual meeting will be even bigger when it convenes in Philadelphia next year. In our professional lives, we attend lots of academic conferences and meetings. But ASDP is different. It is serious in the best sense. But there is also a family feeling and a community sharing that pervades this event that is quite unique. There is a lot of caring – sometimes professional and sometimes personal. Sitting in the hotel bar, and just watching, there is a kind of thick belonging that has almost a religious quality to it. I always find the gathering inspiring, and whenever I get to attend, I return from it uplifted, reenergized, and ready for another year. And when circumstances prevent me from attending as they did this year, I feel an irredeemable loss as though I really missed out on something important. I will be there next year.

It is because of this special nature of our organization that I paused for a moment in the new *Newsletter* at the use of the word “chapter” to describe us – not “family” or “community,” but “chapter.” Apparently we are “one chapter among many in the East-West Center Association (EWCA).” “Chapter” seemed to me to be a bit bloodless, not warm enough, perhaps wooden, rather square. But then I remembered that fraternities and sororities – organizations committed to promoting family relations – are called chapters. And although I never belonged to one, they seem to be the source of many entertaining movies. And of course, ecclesiastically members of monasteries considered as a group are chapters. I find Gregorian chants and Bachian fugues very moving. And where does all the good wine and liqueur come from anyway?

And then it occurred to me that a chapter is a distinct period in a person’s life – a meaningful phase, an important episode. ASDP has certainly been that for most of us. When I looked up the word “chapter,” I discovered that it comes from L. *caput* that means a “head” or a “source,” like the head of the Yangzi river. In the *Analects* we are told that “the wise find pleasure in water.” And we are all drinking deeply and drawing sustenance from the relationships that have come to constitute our ASDP “chapter.”

So I guess we are a “chapter” after all – a living chapter with the familial and even religious connotations it entails. And don’t get me started on “alumni”: from L. *alere*: “to nourish.”

Report on the ASDP National Conference

Submitted by Michele Marion, ARC Regional Director, Paradise Valley Community College, Phoenix, Arizona

The Asian Studies Development Program 14th National Conference was held March 6-8, 2008, at the Embassy Suites Lakefront hotel in Chicago, IL. The conference was hosted by the College of DuPage with Keith Krasemann, head of COD's ASDP Regional Center, ably handling local arrangements. The program committee was co-Chaired by Mark Esposito, Black Hawk Community College (IL), Jim Deitrick, Central Arkansas University, and Dennis Arjo, Johnson County Community College.

The ASDP National Conference is the largest event for ASDP alumni in the United States and it continues to grow in quality and popularity. Over 147 people registered for the conference. There were 32 panels totaling well over 105 presenters discussing matters of pedagogy, philosophy and religion, history, the social sciences, business and law, literature and the arts.

The conference featured two keynote addresses, at Friday's luncheon Charles Morrison, President of the East West Center presented "Challenges for International Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region" and at Saturday's luncheon, Guy S. Allito, Associate Professor of History and East Asian Languages and Civilizations, University of Chicago presented "East Asian Civilizations in a Worldwide Historical Perspective."

The ASDP Alumni Chapter Board of Director's elections were held and the new Board of Directors was announced: David Jones, Kennesaw State University, continuing as the president for 2 years, Carolyn Kadel, Johnson County Community College, as the new vice-president for 2 years, Ronnie Littlejohn, Belmont University, continuing as the member @ large for 2 years, Jeff Dippmann, Central Washington University, as the new as the member @ large for 2 years. We extend a great "Thank You" to the exiting officers – Linda Lindsey, St. Mary's College, as vice-president and Bettye Walsh, Piedmont Valley Community College, as a member @ large. Treasurer Paul Dunscomb, University of Alaska Anchorage, and the secretary, Michele Marion, Paradise Valley Community College, continue their service on the board with three years remaining in their respective terms.

The 15th ASDP National Conference will take place on March 12-14, 2009, in Philadelphia, PA and will be hosted by the Community College of Philadelphia. Dr. Fay Beauchamp, Department of English and Humanities at CCP is the Local Arrangements Chair with Dr. George Brown (Slippery Rock University) serving as program chair.

Relevant links:

ASDP National Conference Program (2008)

http://www.eastwestcenter.org/fileadmin/resources/education/asdp_pdfs/Asian_Studies_Development_Program_1.pdf

East-West Center President Charles Morrison's Presentation (without text):

http://www.eastwestcenter.org/fileadmin/resources/education/asdp_pdfs/ASDP_March_2008.pdf



Here are some newsbits and updates about ASDP alumni:

Wing-Kai To, Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, Massachusetts

Dr. Wing-kai To, Associate Professor of History and Coordinator of Asian Studies at Bridgewater State College, in Bridgewater, Massachusetts has published a new book entitled Chinese in Boston, 1870-1965. The book is published by Arcadia Publishing in the Images of America series.

This book is the first photo history about Chinese in New England and Boston Chinatown. In this book, To looks at the historical settlement, community building, education and culture, the role of women, the impact of Second World War, and post-war Chinese community life.

For more information, please see:

http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD&Store_Code=arcadia&Product_Code=0738555290&Product_Count=&Category_Code

<https://mailgate.bridgew.edu/exchweb/bin/redirect.asp?URL=http://www.arcadiapublishing.com/mm5/merchant.mvc?Screen=PROD%26Store_Code=arcadia%26Product_Code=0738555290%26Product_Count=%26Category_Code> =

Sara Orel, Truman State University, Kirksville, Missouri

Sara E. Orel of Truman State University has been promoted to the rank of (full) Professor of Art History, as of the 2007-2008 academic year. She is the chair of the Student Research Committee at the university, and in this position, she oversees the annual Student Research Conference (the 21st of which is on April 3rd of 2008). There are some 300 papers and poster presentations by almost 400 students in all disciplines. This year she has her second Art History major writing a senior thesis on Southeast Asian Islamic architecture, a subject that she teaches in both lower-level and upper-level undergraduate classes. Sara had seven photographs from Malaysia and Indonesia included in the new teacher's guide from the Asia Society, *Interweaving Cultures: Islam in Southeast Asia*, which includes a major contribution from Barbara Watson Andaya.

In non-scholarly (but intellectually challenging) activity, Sara went out to Los Angeles in February to be on Jeopardy! You can see how she did by tuning in on May 23rd.

Sheilah Philip, Johnson County Community College, Overland Park, Kansas

Sheilah Philip, Professor of Theatre at Johnson County Community College, has been granted a sabbatical for the Fall 2008 semester. She will spend the time developing an introductory humanities course on Japanese culture and creating a database of potential donors to support the expansion and maintenance of the Japanese garden that was begun at JCCC in the fall of 2006. Sheilah participated in the Infusing institute in Honolulu in 2001 and in the Performing Arts in China: Traditions and Modernity in 2006. With her colleague, Shudong Chen (also an ASDP alum), she is co-leading JCCC's trip to China this May.

Dr. Peter F. Bell, Purchase College, State University of New York.

Peter reports the following activities: (1) Senior Fellow, Center for Khmer Studies, Siem Reap, 2007. Grant to continue research on "Gendered Supply Chains in the Garment Industry in Cambodia;" (2) Presented paper on "Economic Development of Thailand and Cambodia: Built on the Backs of Women;" Annual Conference International Association for Feminist Economics, Bangkok, June 2007; (3) Organized a panel on "Sufficiency Economy" 10th International Conference on Thai Studies, Bangkok January, 2008; Presented a paper "Sufficiency Economy: Economic Theory or Class Politics;" (4) Organized panel and presented a paper on "The Impact of Globalization on Gender Relations," Annual Conference, ASIANetwork, San Antonio, Texas. March 2008.

Eric Kendrick, Georgia Perimeter College, Atlanta, Georgia

Eric Kendrick is an Assistant Professor of English as a Second Language (ESL) and a former Department Chair of ESL and Foreign Languages at Georgia Perimeter College, Atlanta, GA. He participated in the 2004 ASDP Summer Institute on Korean Culture and Society. Since then he has been active in a number of Asian initiatives, including those focused on Korea.

Kendrick serves on the University System of Georgia (USG) Asia Council, where he has coordinated the development of an Asian Studies Certificate with a particular emphasis on USG institutions that do not have a formal major or minor in Asian Studies. He chairs the Asia Interest Group at Georgia Perimeter College (GPC), which has a strong group of faculty, staff and administrators involved in a wide range of Asia-related initiatives. In the summer of 2006 he led a study abroad program to Japan that was a joint effort between GPC and the USG Asia Council.

Kendrick's main objective in participating in the Korean Institute was to follow-up by spearheading more emphasis on Korea at his institution and within the USG Asia Council. At GPC he was responsible for a successful proposal to the faculty senate to add Korean language studies to the curriculum. Since the Korean Institute, he has organized an annual Hangul Day celebration on the GPC Lawrenceville Campus where he teaches, and this past fall he presented a Hangul display at the college-wide Faculty Development Day, which happened to coincide with Hangul Day.

Since the Atlanta area has one of the largest and fastest-growing Korean communities in the U.S., Kendrick is especially interested in Korean heritage language studies, as well as heritage language studies for other Asian languages. As such, he has been instrumental in working with the National Association of Self-Instructional Language Programs (NASILP), which focuses on less commonly taught languages, in adopting a policy on heritage language instruction.

For the USG Asia Council, Kendrick developed a proposal in 2005 for a faculty development seminar to Korea, which had conducted seminars to several Asian countries, but not Korea. The proposal was subsequently accepted in conjunction with another seminar proposal to China, and in the summer of 2007 Kendrick co-led the seminar to Korea and China entitled "Change and Continuity: The Impact of Modernization and Globalization on South Korea and China."

Kendrick has presented twice at the Georgia Consortium for International Studies (GCIS) annual faculty symposium on Korea topics. In 2006 he presented *Infusing Korea into Curricular and Co-Curricular Initiatives*. In 2008 he presented *Hallyu: the Korean Pop Culture Wave Sweeping Across Asia and the Globe*.

Kendrick's other recent Asia-related presentations include: 2008 USG Conference of the Americas: *Asian Diaspora Communities in Latin America and the Caribbean*; 2007 GCIS: *Study Abroad in Japan: An Innovative Hybrid Approach*; 2006 Association of Asian American Studies: *Preserving Asian American Culture through Heritage Language Instruction*; 2006 Southeast Conference of the Association for Asian Studies: *Asian Initiatives at the Two-Year College*; 2004 GCIS: *Japanese Studies and Programs at the Two-Year College*.

Kendrick is involved in various Asian community events, in particular the annual Atlanta Asian Film Festival, where he serves on the steering committee. He also coordinated GPC's participation in the Atlanta Hong Kong Dragonboat Festival.

Reginald Spittle, Madera Community College, Madera, California

Reg Spittle, Instructor in Political Science at Madera Community College, Madera, California, submits the following information:

A UC Berkeley outreach project is helping bring a richer Asian Studies curriculum to community college and high school students in California's Central Valley.

The four-year federal Title VI cooperative grant has enabled faculty in the State Center Community College District, which includes Fresno City College, Reedley College, and several satellite centers, to work on several objectives, including:

--State Center faculty members have added Chinese 3, 4, and 5 to the curriculum, a step toward offering an Asian Studies degree program. Chinese 3 will be offered at Fresno City College for the first time in fall 2008.

--The State Center district's Asian Studies Steering Committee, which is co-chaired by Debbie Ockey and Reg Spittle (a 2004 East-West Center alum), has met with high school Chinese language teachers at three Central Valley high schools. Two of these teachers, along with Fresno City's Chinese language instructor, attended a Chinese language workshop at UC Berkeley in 2007. Li Mann, the Fresno City Chinese language instructor, also attended a workshop at Berkeley as part of this grant and is attending another conference this semester.

--Steering committee members organized an Asian Games demonstration at Fresno City College's annual Asian Festival in spring 2007 and will participate again in 2008.

The next major project is an Asian conference at Fresno City College in spring 2009. Tentative plans call for an evening of film and music, followed by a roundtable discussion the next day featuring representatives of South Asian, East Asian and Southeast Asian communities.

The outreach effort is linked to the Institute of East Asian Studies, the Center for South Asia Studies, and the Center for Southeast Asia Studies, all at UC Berkeley.

Kelly McQuain, Community College of Philadelphia, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

Recent ASDP alumni Kelly McQuain, Suzanne Lang, and Elaine Terranova---all of Community College of Philadelphia---led a workshop on their experiences at the East West Center during Summer, 2006 and Summer 2007 as part of their college's Professional Development Day activities (February 18, 2008). Their presentation

consisted of a slide show lecture and discussion about the ASDP educational initiatives for faculty teaching undergraduate students. It also served as a recruitment initiative with the hope that other colleagues from their institution will apply to ASDP programs in the future.

Steve Laumakis, University of St. Thomas, St. Paul, Minnesota

Dear ASDP colleagues,

I'm pleased to announce the publication of my book, *An Introduction to Buddhist Philosophy*, by Cambridge University Press. According to the cover blurb, "In this clearly written undergraduate textbook, Stephen Laumakis explains the origin and development of Buddhist ideas and concepts, focusing on the philosophical ideas and arguments presented and defended by selected thinkers and sutras from various traditions. He starts with a sketch of the Buddha and the Dharma, and highlights the origins of Buddhism in India. He then considers specific details of the Dharma with special attention to Buddhist metaphysics and epistemology, and examines the development of Buddhism in China, Japan, and Tibet, concluding with the ideas of the Dalai Lama and Thich Nhat Hanh. In each chapter he includes explanations of key terms and teachings, excerpts from primary source materials, and presentations of the arguments for each position. His book will be an invaluable guide for all who are interested in this rich and vibrant philosophy."

As I wrote in the **Preface**, unlike most introductions to Buddhism that tend to focus on it as a *religion* or as a set of ethical practices, this book is an introduction to Buddhist *philosophy*. As a result, the book is concerned primarily with Buddhist theories of knowledge and reality, and only secondarily or peripherally with its ethical claims.

The plan of the book is as follows: **Part I** presents a rough "Sketch of the Buddha and the *Dharma*." Its four chapters are concerned with "The Indian Context of Buddhism," "The Life of Siddhartha and its Effect on his Teachings," "The Basic Teachings of the Buddha," and the theoretical and practical question of whether there is "One Buddhism or Many Buddhisms?" **Part II** fills in the "Details of the *Dharma*." Its four chapters focus on the metaphysical and epistemological aspects of "*Karma, Samsara* and Rebirth," "Interdependent Arising," "Impermanence, Emptiness and No-Enduring-Self," and "*Moksa* and *Nirvana*." Finally, **Part III** traces the "Development of the *Dharma*" in "Bodhidharma's and Hui-neng's Buddhism," "Pure Land Buddhism," "Tibetan Buddhism," and concludes with "Two Contemporary Forms of Buddhism" – the Buddhism of the Dalai Lama and the "engaged Buddhism" of Thich Nhat Hanh.

How well I've managed to live up to the description given above is up to others to decide. But I'd like to thank Roger Ames for recommending me to the Press and Peter Hershock for his invaluable help throughout the conception and execution of the book. I also appreciate the help, support, and encouragement from numerous ASDP Alums – you know who you are – Mahalo!

So, if you are planning to teach a course involving Buddhist philosophy, and are looking for an introductory text with a primary focus on Buddhist metaphysics and epistemology (with just a smattering of ethics), please consider my book. (Steve Laumakis)

Relevant Link:

http://www.amazon.com/Introduction-Buddhist-Philosophy-Cambridge-Introductions/dp/052185413X/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1206222069&sr=1-1

David Jones, Kennesaw State University, Kennesaw, Georgia

It's been a busy year for David Jones, ASDP Alumni Chapter president. His edited *Confucius Now: Contemporary Encounters with the Analects* was published by Open Court Publishing in January. Of special note about this volume is that distinguished scholars along with some the best upcoming scholars combine their talents in this collection of essays on the teachings of Confucius. This collection is also distinguished by its unique organizational structure: essays by senior scholars are clustered with essays by their former students and of further historical significance, this is the first time these prominent scholars, each representing a different school of thought in Confucian scholarship, have ever appeared together in the same volume. This is David's second edited volume in two years to be published. The first was *Buddha Nature and Animality*, which was published by Jain.

In addition to these books and other published academic articles and book chapters, David published a creative nonfiction piece in the Globalization, Peace & Cultures Dialogue Issue of *The Arabesques Review*. The piece is titled *A Day, Just Like Any Other Day* and is about the bombing of Hiroshima. In one of his other professional associations, he launched a new journal with Equinox Press in London titled *Comparative & Continental Philosophy*.

Closer at home to ASDP activities, David served as the Atlanta Coordinator for the 2007 China-US Field Study - Chinese Scholars Explore the U.S.A, which was part of the 2 year "Teaching about China and the United States Program at the East-West Center after returning from a month abroad in China with students. His students of the Philosophy Student Association at Kennesaw State University marked yet another milestone for themselves by being voted by their peers as the best student organization on campus.

David will continue to serve as ASDP Alumni Chapter president for the next two years and was recently reelected for an additional two year term on the East-West Center Association Executive Board.

Relevant Link:

http://www.amazon.com/Confucius-Now-Contemporary-Encounters-Analects/dp/0812696107/ref=sr_1_1?ie=UTF8&s=books&qid=1206222000&sr=8-1

Middlesex Community College, Bedford and Lowell, Massachusetts

On February 11, 2008, Middlesex Community College was host to writer Julie Otsuka, author of *When the Emperor Was Divine*. Inspired by the experience of family members who were detained in Japanese-American internment camps during World War II, Julie Otsuka's acclaimed first novel is a lean, intimate portrayal of one Northern California family. Published in 2002, *When the Emperor Was Divine* is set during one of the more controversial episodes in U.S. history. It explores what it means to be loyal to one's country and to oneself, as well as on the necessity - and emotional price - of remaining brave and human, even as the larger world grows more fearful and savage. *When the Emperor Was Divine* has won several prizes, including the American Library Association's Alex Award.

~In Memoriam~

On December 2, 2007, Donna Videtich, Professor of Nursing at the College of DuPage, Glen Ellyn, Illinois, passed away. Donna was a major influence on the Asian Studies programs at COD. We will miss her.

Relevant Link:

<http://www.cod.edu/Academic/Intled/dateline12.07.pdf>

ASDP Calendar

Xavier University, Cincinnati, Ohio, April 3--5, 2008

This is a workshop on China that is being hosted in conjunction with Xavier University and the Brueggeman Center for Dialogue in Cincinnati from April 3-5. The program will start with a Town Hall meeting featuring an open forum debate among panel members on China's rise in the 21st century in its global contexts. The panel will include Oded Shenker (Ohio State University), Elizabeth Economy (Council on Foreign Relations) and Roger Ames, and will be joined for the Friday and Saturday sessions by David Mungello (Baylor). You can access information about the program at: <http://www.xavier.edu/dialogue/docs/China-Traditions.pdf>

University of Texas, El Paso, April 10 – 12, 2008

This workshop focuses on Himalayan cultures and societies in their historical and contemporary contexts, with presentations by Tsering Shakya (University of British Columbia), Karma Lekshe Tsomo (University of San Diego), Diana Myers (an associate of the Centre Nationale de Recherche Scientifique in Paris), and Steven Gorelick (Sterling College and the International Society for Ecology and Culture). A particular focus will be the predicaments of development and the resilience of culture and religion in the region. Contact: Tom Schmid; tschmid@utep.edu

Relevant Link:

[Himalayan Cultures Workshop](#)

Association for Asian Studies National Conference

The AAS will hold its national conference in Atlanta this year from April 3 – 6, 2008.

Relevant Link:

<http://www.aasianst.org/annual-meeting/index.htm>

Japan Studies Association Workshop

The JSA Fukuoka faculty development workshop, "*International Crossroads at Fukuoka, Japan*" will be held in Kyushu (Fukuoka and Nagasaki) June 9-14, 2008. Fay Beauchamp (beau1909@voicenet.com) and Joe Overton overton@hawaii.edu will oversee this workshop which is sponsored by ARC, the Association of Regional Centers of the Asian Studies Development Program of the East-West Center. Please note that the deadline for this workshop has passed.

Relevant Link:

<http://www.japanstudies.org/freefukuoka.HTM>

ASDP Summer Programs (2008)

<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/education/asian-studies-development-program/>

Contact: Sandy Osaki, OsakiS@EastWestCenter.org

Fall, 2008

October 16-18, 2008

Johnson County Community College, Kansas City, KS *India focus* (title to be determined)

Contact: Carolyn Kadel, ckadel@jccc.edu

November 6-8, 2008

Trident Technical College, Charleston, SC, *Asia/Africa focus centered on Indian Ocean linkages* (title to be determined)

Contact: Katharine Purcell, Katharine.Purcell@tridenttech.edu



Joan Wilson

Joan, a participant in the first three week ASDP institute in 1991, has submitted this letter she wrote on a plane coming home from the first institute.

SUMMER INSTITUTE:

Asian Studies Development Program

**Produces "First Light"
(edited excerpts from a letter)**

**By Joan Cook Wilson
Faculty, City College of San Francisco
Participant, 1991 Summer Institute**

The Asian Studies Development Program, sponsored by the East-West Center and the University of Hawaii, included 20 faculty members and administrators, who were selected by AACJC, to acquire

an increased awareness and knowledge of contemporary Asia, to support curriculum development, and to establish a network for professional reinforcement.

Sitting on the plane...I am exhausted and happy as I look at our three weeks' effort. I am impressed first by the intensity of the Asian Studies Development Program and by our hard work both in the sessions and on institutional and individual projects. Typically beginning at 7:30AM and ending at 4:30 PM, our days were over brimming with lectures by scholars such as Tu Weiming ("Confucian Dynamics in East Asian Societies"), Paul Varley ("Japan: The Aesthetic Tradition"), Victor Li ("Law, Culture, and Society"), Gerald Fry ("Southeast Asia: Diversity and Unity"), and East-West Center Scholars; with pedagogical discussions about mythology and goals; and with video and slide presentations. At 4:00PM, we cast a glazed eye on a half-inch thick reading assignment for the next day. We worked hard and our work was worthwhile.

Our work was also punctuated with aesthetic pleasures, individual and group. Personally, I stopped to see banyan trees and the Thai pagoda outside Lincoln Hall, the clouds and rain at 5:00 AM, and the tropical flowers, and to enjoy our beach-bum swims at the end of the day. The program offered us an authentic tea ceremony and visits to a Shinto temple, a bon ceremony, four temples of Honolulu, and the Academy of Arts. We were delighted by Japanese poet Makoto Ooka's demonstration of linked poetry. So we were consistently stimulated both intellectually and aesthetically.

Even though some of the newscasters on Honolulu radio seem concerned that the locals are losing their aloha spirit, participants were struck by the extraordinary hospitality of the East-West Center staff. We can't say enough kind words for Betty Buck's calmness, hard work, and concern for us which kept us well and happy and for her staff's goodwill and generosity. Roger Ames, University of Hawaii Director (for the Summer Institute), is unusually talented. He combines scholarly leadership and a love for Asia with a talent for administration. He was concerned about the needs of each participant: delivering articles to us, making faculty contacts for us, meeting with us to offer help on our projects. He also shared his good humor and his family.

I know I need to mention networking, as setting up connections among community colleges and universities was one of the aims of the program, but I prefer to talk about the friends I made during the three weeks and the commitment I saw to cooperating, working together and, sharing resources with participants in the program and with other colleges and universities and even high schools as well. The institutional plans written by participants reflect this desire for continued connection. Although the colleges represented in the group were in many ways very different, we learned from each other and developed clearer ideas of our own institutional needs.

At our final session, we optimistically named our group FIRST LIGHT (*dubbed with this name by program participant Robin Fujikawa*) because we see ourselves at just the beginning of our task.



Howard Giskin

Howard Giskin, an ASDP alum, has taught at Appalachian State University in Boone, North Carolina since 1989. He works mainly in the area of World Literature, with particular interest in Asian culture, literature and philosophy, as well as Latin American Literature. He has published a collection of Chinese folktales, as well as co-edited a collection of articles on the theme of Chinese culture and the family. He has a long standing interest in the Argentinean writer Jorge Luis Borges, and is currently working on Borges' use of archetypes in his poetry. He teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in World Literature, has sponsored three World Literature conferences, co-led student summer study abroad trips to China, Italy, Greece, Spain, France and England. He has taught in Asia, Africa, Europe and Latin America, and lives with his wife Vicki in Millers Creek, North Carolina.

Howard is teaching in China this year and recently was interviewed by Newsletter Editor, Julien Farland:

Howard, what are the reasons you are teaching in China?

I am in China for the year on an academic exchange between Suzhou University and Appalachian State University, my home institution. A colleague and I established the exchange in 1998, which has since then included summer study abroad opportunities for Appalachian students in Chinese language and culture, as well as opportunities for Appalachian faculty to teach in Suzhou for a semester or year. In summers 2000 and 2001 a colleague and I co-directed student study abroad programs in Suzhou though this is my first time to teach for an extended period in Suzhou. It's my second time teaching in China, since I spent a year teaching at Northeastern University in Shenyang, in 1993/94.

My reason for teaching in China is because I am fascinated by its culture and people, and feel that the only way to get an idea of what contemporary China is about is to spend time here. I like the idea of spending a year in a place to get the feel of it (of course a year's not enough...), study the language, interact with the people, and just let the reality of being here sink in. In my opinion you need a year, or the better part of a year to allow this to happen at a deeper level. I'm certainly not discouraging shorter visits, but would suggest people planning to teach in China stay a full year if possible. To some extent "culture shock" colors one's first six months or so, so a year's nice if one can manage it.

Have you taught outside of America before?

I have. Several times in fact, so the experience is not completely new, though each overseas stay has its challenges and peculiarities related to the specifics of the environment, country, and even location within the same country. As I mentioned, I taught in Shenyang about fifteen years ago; I just recently visited Shenyang on Winter Break, and changes have made the city and university nearly

unrecognizable from what they were in 1993. Suzhou, where I presently teach, is historically more oriented to foreign influence, and so has developed even faster than the northern areas.

How is your family taking the adjustment?

My wife is with me, and is also teaching at the university. The adjustment is considerable for a family, especially if one were to bring along children. In our case we went from having the run of an entire house, and everything that goes along with normal living in one's home, to living in an efficiency apartment, and dealing with an unfamiliar environment each day. Certainly it takes an adventuresome spirit to weather the ups and downs of living in a foreign country. Probably the best advice would be to try not to let any one event or day color one's sensibility too much, as in the end what you'll take home are the positive experiences, friendships, and good impressions you have, and forget most of the momentary inconveniences.

Would you describe your teaching?

I teach four classes, three sophomore English major writing classes, and a graduate class in American literature, though course hours and meeting times are somewhat different than what I'm used to at my home institution. My contact time with students amounts to about six hours per week. The key difference in terms of scheduling is that here classes typically meet once a week for one and a half hours, with a short break between forty-minute sessions. So for instance if I have a class at 9:00 a.m., it runs from 9:00 to 9:40, then from 9:50 to 10:30. China has national university entrance exams, so getting into Suzhou University is quite competitive, and students are bright and hardworking. For fall semester I had them write a number of essays on expository and creative topics. Of course they have a lot of the typical difficulties foreign students have learning English, though some of them write surprisingly well for first-semester second-year majors. In general they have more difficulty with spoken English than reading and writing, since they don't have as much chance to practice as they might need. English major classes have around twenty students. It's a bit hard to describe my impressions of my Chinese students in the limited space I have here, but I would say that in addition to being bright and hard working, they are good at weaving stories and narratives from basic assigned topics; something I also find interesting is the ease with which the students tease out ethical implications of scenarios and situations they describe in their essays, whether drawn from their own lives or invented, perhaps because of the Confucian orientation of their education. They seem trained to see the moral implications of things.

What about your graduate class?

For fall I also taught a course in twentieth century American poetry, which I found enjoyable; in my concluding remarks to the students I mentioned that one aspect of teaching in a foreign country is that the instructor learns as much as the students. I was constantly challenged to bridge the cultural divide between American and Chinese thinking, and since modern poetry tends to be difficult even in one's own language, this kept my mind active. One example that comes to mind was teaching a section of Allen Ginsberg's *Howl*, a wonderful, powerful, but difficult work in its original English, which presented significant contextual and interpretive problems for the Chinese graduate students in nearly every line. For me, the experience of teaching American poetry to Chinese students was enriching, since they often alerted me to aspects of the works we studied I did not notice; in fact, they often noticed aspects of the works Americans (i.e., native speakers) themselves might not see, which I found fascinating.

Where have you gone in China? What impressed or surprised you?

Most recently over winter holiday my wife and I traveled to Shenyang, Xiamen, Nanning, and Guilin. On previous stays in China I've visited Beijing, Dalian, Xi'an, Hohhot, Kunming, Dali, Lijiang, Hangzhou, Nanjing, Shanghai, and a number of lesser-known locations. China is a vast country, so there's much left to see on future trips. Most recently I would have to say what impressed me most is the incredible amount of construction taking place nearly everywhere we went. There are buildings, some of immense size, going up in every major city we visited, and sometimes even in less populated areas. Obviously this can't continue forever; it seems China is building the physical infrastructure that will govern its landscape and people for decades to come.

What do you long for that you do not have access to?

This is an interesting question. Actually, I can't say I long for anything in particular, though I do miss a few things, relatively trivial things, like a sandwich at my favorite restaurant, or driving through the countryside near my home in North Carolina. It's what I don't miss which is more significant, like being overly busy, sometimes with unimportant things, which I think is what a lot of us feel in our daily lives in the U.S. So from this perspective, an overseas teaching/research stay is ideal for refocusing oneself and getting back to basics, why we teach, what's important, etc. It is true that living abroad helps one understand one's own culture better, so this is an added benefit of becoming an outsider for a time. In some sense one experiences culture shock twice, upon entering a foreign country, then upon returning to one's own.

How is China different from what you anticipated?

Here in Suzhou, and in some of the other places I've seen recently, it's clear China has embraced globalization and entry into the modern consumer society. China, it seems to me, is in the midst of a development process that is unprecedented in human history in terms of its rapidity and scope. It's an immense undertaking, fraught with challenges but also great possibilities. The book is open on the eventual results. My students, I think, are well aware of this.



Institution Spotlight: University of Central Arkansas

Each newsletter, we will spotlight an ASDP college or university and highlight its activities and events. This edition, we take a look at the University of Central Arkansas. Thanks to Jim Deitrick, Director, Interdisciplinary Program in Religious Studies & Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Program in Asian Studies, University of Central Arkansas, Conway Arkansas, for submitting this. (Editor)

University of Central Arkansas Asian Studies is Vibrant and Growing at UCA

By Jim Deitrick, Director, Humanities and World Cultures Institute, University of Central Arkansas

Asian Studies is vibrant and growing at UCA due to the initiative of its faculty and their active participation in development and study abroad opportunities, the continued support of its administration, and, of course, student interest in Asia.

The Humanities and World Cultures Institute at UCA was named a Regional Center of the Asian Studies Development Program (ASDP) in 2004 in recognition of its on-going efforts to promote Asian Studies at UCA and throughout the region. Much of this work has focused on faculty development, providing opportunities for faculty to participate in a variety of events designed to help them infuse Asian Studies into their general education and discipline-specific courses. Many of these activities have been hosted by the ASDP in Hawaii and by Regional Centers throughout the country. Over the past ten years, UCA has sent over twenty faculty members to participate in ASDP Summer Infusing Institutes, and many more of its faculty members have participated in regional workshops and the National Conference. Several have also contributed to the Association of Regional Center's journal, *East West Connections: Review of Asian Studies*. Faculty participation in most of these activities has been heavily supported by UCA's Instructional Development Center, UCA's Humanities and World Cultures Institute, and the College of Liberal Arts.

As a Regional Center of ASDP, UCA has hosted several faculty development workshops over the last several years with funding from the Freeman Foundation. The first, held in 2003, attracted over 80 participants, literally from around the world, who came to learn and discuss strategies for incorporating teaching about India into their general education courses. The next two, held in 2005 and 2007, attracted about 60 higher educators each, who came to study China and Japan. Faculty response to each of these workshops has been overwhelmingly positive, demonstrating a great need and interest among faculty in the region to increase teaching about Asian on their campuses. Plans are currently underway for other workshops to be held in the Springs of 2009 and 2011.

In the Spring of 2008, the UCA's Humanities and World Cultures Institute and Instructional Development Center also hosted a well-attended workshop for UCA's faculty about how insights from the teaching of Asian martial arts might be incorporated into higher education, primarily as a way of promoting learning and retention among students who might otherwise be hard to reach. Feedback from this workshop was positive, with many in attendance reporting a new enthusiasm for reaching out to students at risk of failing their courses.

In 2007, UCA entered into a loosely-organized consortium with three other nearby ASDP Regional Centers (Tulsa Community College, Missouri State University, and Johnson County Community College) in order to share resources and collaborate on future projects. In the Spring of 2007, the four institutions cooperatively organized a Freeman-funded workshop in Branson, Missouri, for teams of faculty and administrators from our institutions. One of the primary goals of the workshop was to begin conversations about how we could cooperate with one another--for example, through articulation agreements, collaboration on grants, and the planning of faculty development events. Directors of each of these Regional Centers have continued to meet (face-to-face and electronically) since then, and are currently working to secure support for a series of faculty development workshops that will focus on issues of imperialism, colonization, and post-colonialism in Asia.

Because of its leadership in promoting Asian Studies in the region, UCA was also named the Confucius Institute for Arkansas in 2007. UCA's Confucius Institute is the 24th in the United States, one of the few located in the South, and one of only 200 in 60 countries worldwide. The mission of UCA's Confucius Institute, directed by ASDP alumna, Dr. Hui Wu, is to promote Chinese culture within the state of Arkansas through seminars, conferences, language training, and cultural performances and exhibitions. It is currently working to recruit and train Chinese language teachers for Arkansan public schools; provide scholarships for Arkansan college students to study Mandarin in China; host cultural events; and provide a newsletter for Arkansans interested in China.

UCA was also awarded a Title VI grant in 2007 to develop Chinese Studies on its campus. With funding from this grant, several new courses on China in a variety of disciplines, from economics to religious studies, have so far been developed and plans are underway for the development of several more in the coming year. In conjunction with these efforts, UCA's Department of World Languages and Cultures has received permission to hire a tenure-line faculty member in Mandarin Chinese, which will complement its existing courses in Japanese. In collaboration with the Confucius Institute, Humanities and World Cultures Institute, and Instructional Development Center, the grant also supported a recent Symposium (March 7, 2008) on teaching China to undergraduates, which featured Dr. Terry Weidner, Director of the Maureen and Mike Mansfield Center at the University of Montana. The Confucius Institute and Title VI program also hosted a performance by the Shaolin Warriors at UCA's Reynolds Center last Fall, and invited 80 high school students from the region to attend the show for free.

In the Spring of 2008, UCA's Baum Gallery hosted *Return of the Yellow Peril: A Survey of the Work of Roger Shimomura, 1969-2004*. This exhibition presented a retrospective of art works by internationally-known Japanese American artist Roger Shimomura, Emeritus Professor of Art, University of Kansas. The exhibit featured paintings and prints from four bodies of work and was a program of ExhibitsUSA, a national division of Mid-America Arts Alliance with the Arkansas Arts Council and The National Endowment for the Arts. The exhibition was also sponsored by an Arts Residency grant through the UCA College of Fine Arts and Communication. In *Yellow Peril*, Shimomura explores family history, cultural and ethnic bias, and racial stereotyping in his art work. He is widely known for creative work inspired by his grandmother's diary, including her account of his family's forced residence in a Japanese-American internment camp in Idaho during WWII. His paintings and prints feature concentrated color, pop culture references, and interpretations of current events, in which Shimomura combines images from the Japanese printmaking tradition with Western-style comic book-type characters.

In its efforts to diversify its student body, UCA has been working in recent years with governments and private agencies to attract more foreign students, especially from Asian countries. 317 of UCA's 485 foreign students are from Asian countries--154 from China and 78 from Japan. These students are not only provided with the valuable opportunities offered by their own study abroad experience, but UCA is also enriched by their presence in its classes and the new perspectives they offer Arkansan students.

In 2007, UCA hired several new faculty members with expertise in Asia, including Dr. David Neilson (Japanese History), Dr. Rajrani Kalra (South Asian Geography), and Dr. Biling Chen (East Asian Literature). The addition of these new faculty members is contributing to a revitalization of UCA's Asian Studies minor program and has inspired hope that the program may evolve into a full-fledged major within the next several years.

Finally, student interest in Asia is growing faster than our ability to respond. Virtually every course offered on Asian topics is filled to capacity, and students have formed several very successful clubs, including a Japanese Language Club and an Anime and Manga Club. With their interest and the enthusiasm of UCA's faculty and administration to increase Asian Studies on our campus, UCA is becoming a leader in the advancement of Asian Studies in the state of Arkansas and throughout the region.





This is a group photo of the participants in the 1992 three week summer institute in Honolulu.

Newsletter Editors.....

ASDP Alumni Newsletter Editor:

Julien Farland, Professor of Philosophy, Middlesex Community College, NA 212,
Bedford, MA 01730, 781.280.3944;

farlandj@middlesex.mass.edu

ASDP Alumni Newsletter Associate Editors:

Dr. Karen Buckley, Dept of Languages and Literature, University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, 800 W. Main St.
Whitewater, WI 53190; office: (262) 472-1041;

buckleyk@uww.edu

Dr. Howard A. Giskin

Suzhou University, Suzhou City PRC for the year (August 2007 to June 2008)

Dongwu Hotel #3 Experts Building

Shiquan Rd.

Suzhou, Jiangsu 215006 China

Otherwise,

Howard A. Giskin, Professor, Department of English, Appalachian State University,

Boone, NC 28608, Phone: 828-262-2890 (office)

giskinha@appstate.edu

Dr. Sara E. Orel, Professor of Art History, Truman State University, OP 2221, Kirksville, MO 63501

orel@truman.edu

Reginald Spittle, Instructor, Political Science, Madera Community College, 30277 Avenue 12, Madera, CA 93638

reg.spittle@scccd.edu



ASDP Alumni Association Web Site:

Please take a closer look at the official website for the ASDP Alumni Chapter. This site includes updates on the ASDP National Conference, newly elected Chapter officers, Chapter By-Laws and Minutes of meetings.

Relevant Link:

<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/alumni/ewca-alumni-chapters/constituentspecial-interest/ewca-asian-studies-development-program-asdp/>

Next Newsletter:

Our third ASDP Alumni Newsletter will be published in October, 2008. Our plan is to include information and articles about:

- individuals who have participated in ASDP programs;
- events and activities occurring at colleges and universities which have participated in ASDP;
- profiles of ASDP Alumni and ASDP Programs at local institutions;
- interviews with members of the ASDP family;
- a calendar of upcoming Asia-related Workshops, Seminars, and Institutes;
- updates on East-West Center Alumni Association news and events;
- other information relevant to ASDP Alumni.

Please send us information and articles that you think are relevant to the interests of Alumni. Mahalo. You will see us again next October.

**Asian Studies Development Program Alumni Newsletter
Volume 2, Number 1**