

The mission of the Center is to positively transform our understanding of and relationship with Asia, and to equip students and others with the knowledge of Asia to assume leadership roles.

GREETINGS FROM THE DIRECTOR

Last fall I announced that the Carolina Asia Center had been awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Education to be a Title VI National Resource Center for the Study of Asia. I now can share with you the great news that we have also received \$1.06 million in funding for FLAS (Foreign Language and Area Studies) grants, which allows us to support undergraduate and graduate students studying Asian languages and area studies. This brings our Title VI award to \$1.896 million for Asian Studies at UNC.

Many new programs and projects are happening at the CAC as a result of our

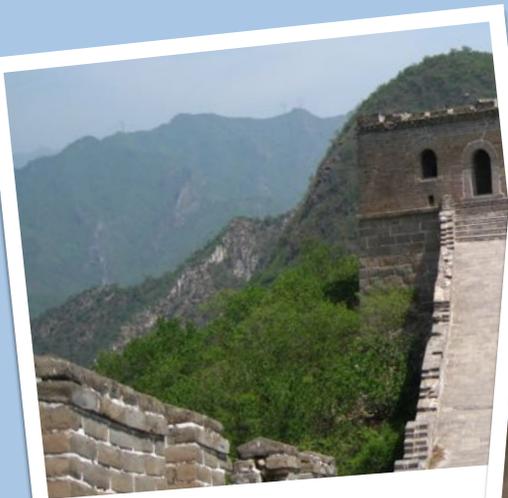
increased capacity. We have set up a CAC Student Advisory Committee, which allows us to consult with the leaders of student organizations related to Asia here on campus. We held our first annual Asia Jobs Panel, in which three Asian Studies alumni gave presentations to a large group of interested students on their strategies for finding Asia-related work and thinking about graduate/professional school after leaving UNC. We continue to work closely with the Ackland Art Museum, which is currently searching for its first Curator of Asian Art while also developing gallery guides to help visitors understand the marvelous Asian art on display. Many other programs are mentioned in the pages that follow.

I was able to visit Singapore, Hong Kong, and Shenzhen, China in December of 2014,

where I met many of our institutional partners, such as NUS and CUHK, and visited with Carolina alumni working in various fields in Asia. Thank you for your continued support of UNC Global and the CAC. I look forward to being back in Singapore this summer as leader of the 2015 Southeast Asia Summer program, which brings 25 rising sophomores to Asia for 8 weeks of study abroad.

I'd like to close by acknowledging the recent publications of two faculty: Don Nonini in Anthropology, *"Getting By": Class and State Formation among Chinese in Malaysia* (Cornell) and Barbara Ambros in Religious Studies, *Women in Japanese Religions* (NYU). Congratulations!

Morgan Pitelka, CAC director
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The Great Wall, China

Cherry Blossoms, Japan



Monsoon Magazine Meeting, UNC



Monsoon Magazine: A Powerful New Student Voice at UNC

By Anisha Padma

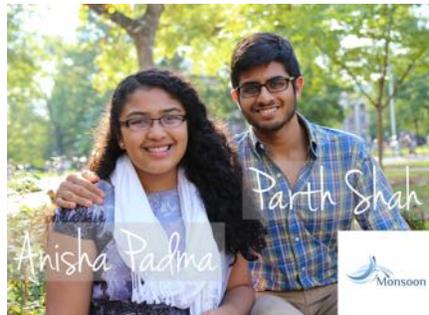
Social media has sparked a renaissance of new ideas. Facebook news feeds and Twitter timelines are constantly flooded with photos, videos and articles concerning both local and global issues. Monsoon aims to ride this wave and produce marketable online and print content that brings South Asian voices to the forefront. Prior to Monsoon, UNC Sangam sponsored *Diaspora*, a campus magazine devoted to South Asian affairs. After an intensive re-branding campaign, Monsoon's mission is to creatively foster dialogue about all eight South Asian countries: Bangladesh, India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Maldives, Afghanistan, and Bhutan as well as the expansive South Asian diaspora. It seeks to fight both the misrepresentation and underrepresentation of South Asia in mainstream media by producing original content that informs, entertains, and also promotes discussion.



Megha Singh, Anisha Padma, Shruti Patel, Iti Madan and Sara Khan

Monsoon was published to coincide with two events this year: Aaj Ka Dhamaka and Holi Moli. Aaj Ka Dhamaka is the inter-collegiate South Asian dance competition that Sangam, UNC's South Asian cultural organization hosts every fall to help raise money for the Mahatma Gandhi

Fellowship. Holi Moli is curated by several student organizations including Sangam, UNC Campus Y, Hindu Yuva, and the Multicultural Affairs and Diversity Outreach department of Student Government. The event aims to bring the festival Holi to UNC's campus. We believed these two South Asian-oriented events reached the most people and decided that they would be the optimal places of distribution. These events also helped to bring Monsoon's name into the greater university and local communities. In addition to our print publications, Monsoon maintains a consistent online presence at monsoon.web.unc.edu and on Facebook and Twitter.



Co-Editors Anisha Padma and Parth Shah

Besides producing content such as an analysis of Bhutan's happiness policies, a profile on Indian Prime Minister, Narendra Modi, and the impact of the World Cup 2022 on Qatar expatriate labor, Monsoon also showcases the voices of our opinionated staff. We have published stories on the model minority myth, anti-Blackness, and cultural appropriation and commodification. By doing so, Monsoon challenges the stereotypes that many South Asian Americans encounter, the image of them as docile, apolitical, and unwilling to dismantle the status quo.

Monsoon held several events this year examining Islamophobia. Nearly 200 attended a Monsoon-sponsored talk on the UNC campus by writer and Al Jazeera talk-show host Wajahat Ali. The event was organized in response to the

murder three Muslim students in Chapel Hill in February, the Islamophobia teach-in series was initiated by the UNC Muslim Students Association. Due to the significance of Islam in South Asia as well as in the diaspora, Monsoon felt compelled to co-host the second installment in the series by inviting Wajahat Ali, who has comprehensively covered anti-Muslim bigotry in the United States.



Wajahat Ali

Monsoon also co-sponsored various smaller events such as a Student Body Presidential debate and the transportation of students to attend HKonJ, a large civil rights demonstration in Raleigh. Monsoon also held an art competition with the theme of cultural appropriation of South Asia which received submissions from students from NC State and UNC-Chapel Hill. Monsoon has succeeded in evolving from simply a magazine to a vibrant platform. It hopes to continue in this fashion for the years to come. But all of this would not have been possible without the help of the Carolina Center for Global Initiatives and the Carolina Asia Center, who saw the potential in this initiative from its inception.



Carolina Asia Center Awarded 21 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships

By Thupten Norbu
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For the first time, the Carolina Asia Center (CAC) has been awarded \$1.06 million by the U.S. Department of Education to provide Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships (FLAS) in Asian languages and area studies. This funding is in addition to \$836,000 that the center has received from the U.S. Department of Education to be a Title VI National Resource Center (NRC).

In total, the center received about \$1.9 million that will be spent over four years with the allocation of \$475,500 per year; \$265,500 for FLAS fellowships and \$209,000 for NRC programs. The FLAS fellowships program at the CAC complements the NRC program and supports outstanding undergraduate and graduate students to engage in Asian studies and Asian languages training.

This year, the CAC received many strong applications for the FLAS fellowships, and awarded 10 Summer 2015 FLAS fellowships, two 2015-2016 Academic-Year Undergraduate fellowships and nine 2015-2016 Academic Year Graduate fellowships. The selection committee, comprised of members with expertise in East, South and Southeast Asia, selected 21 applications for the FLAS fellowships based on academic merit, commitment, level of language proficiency and financial need.

Fellows	Type	Major/Field of Study	Language
2015 Summer Fellowship			
Ariana Lao	Undergraduate Sophomore	Economics	Chinese
Brian Bartholomew	Undergraduate Junior	Economics	Chinese
Charles Cook	Graduate (Ph.D) Student	Religious Studies	Japanese
Christopher Neubert	Graduate (Ph.D) Student	Geography	Tamil
Minami Yoshizawa	Undergraduate Junior	Global Studies	Chinese
Naomi Robalino	Undergraduate Sophomore	Public Policy and Global Studies	Korean
Parry Chen	Undergraduate First Year Student	Business Administration	Chinese
Quade Robinson	Undergraduate First Year Student	Comparative Literature	Japanese
Sarah Heywood	Undergraduate Junior	Global Studies	Chinese
Susannah Zietz	Graduate (Ph.D) Student	Public Health: Health Behavior and Health Education	Hindi
2015-16 Academic Year Undergraduate Fellowship			
Margarethe-Elizabeth Armstrong	Undergraduate Sophomore	Asian Studies	Chinese
Will Stelplflug	Undergraduate Junior	Peace War & Defense	Chinese
2015-16 Academic Year Graduate Fellowship			
Aaron Delgaty	Graduate (Ph.D) Student	Anthropology	Japanese
Andreina Malki	Graduate (Masters) Student	Global Studies	Chinese
Charles Cook	Graduate (Ph.D) Student	Religious Studies	Japanese
Emily Pike	Graduate (Masters) Student	Public Health: Health Behavior and Health Education	Japanese
Gean Spektor	Graduate (Masters) Student	Public Health: Maternal and Child Health	Hindi
Joanna Percher	Graduate (Masters) Student	Public Health: Maternal & Child Health	Hindi
Joy Martin	Graduate (Masters) Student	Public Health, Health Behavior and Health Education	Japanese
Sara Harwood	Graduate (Masters) Student	Social Work	Hindi
Stephen Heiny	Graduate (Masters) Student	City & Regional Planning	Chinese

These students come from 13 different curricula, departments and schools at UNC as the table above shows.

The Summer FLAS Fellows will each receive a \$2,500 stipend and up to \$5,000 for tuition and fees. The fellows will study their chosen Asian language at approved intensive summer language programs in the U.S. or in China, Japan, South Korea, Taiwan, and India (upon the Department of Education's approval). The graduate students who received the academic-year grants will receive a \$15,000 stipend and full tuition and fees; the undergraduate students will receive a \$5,000 stipend plus \$10,000 for tuition and fees. The academic year FLAS fellows will study their chosen Asian language and area studies in addition to their course load for their existing majors and minors. (Note: academic year FLAS awards are contingent upon approval by the Department of Education.)

Our diverse pool of applicants for the FLAS fellowships demonstrates a growing interest in the student body in learning Asian languages and studying Asia. Thanks to the support of the U.S. Department of

Education and UNC, the FLAS fellowship program is helping students to achieve their academic and professional goals by providing opportunities to enroll in intensive language programs in the summer and/or defraying the cost of education for their degree programs. In the process, the Carolina Asia Center is contributing to developing a pool of experts in different disciplines with the knowledge of Asia and Asian languages. This is vital in today's world where our relationship with Asian countries is growing for business, research and diplomacy.



Sixteen Selected as Phillips Ambassadors in Spring 2015

By Janet Walters
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Fifteen undergraduates from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and one Duke University undergraduate have been selected as Phillips Ambassadors for summer and fall 2015 study abroad programs in Asia.

Undergraduate scholarship recipients will study in China, Hong Kong, India, Japan, Singapore and South Korea. One history doctoral candidate was awarded a Phillips Graduate Ambassador travel award for research in China this summer.

The Phillips Ambassadors Program is part of UNC's Carolina Asia Center, in association with the Study Abroad Office. Phillips Ambassadors are selected twice a year and receive \$5,000 each. Selection is based on strong communication skills, intellectual curiosity and engagement, academic achievement, evidence of generous service to the campus and wider community and a previous record of leadership.

Twenty-five percent of the scholarships are reserved for qualified undergraduate business majors and minors at UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School. Up to two scholarships each year are available to qualified Duke University undergraduates. Phillips Ambassadors choose from more than 50 UNC-approved academic programs in Asia that are approved by the College of Arts and Sciences and UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School. Scholarship



UNC business major, Niraj Shaw, is one of more than 200 UNC undergraduates who have studied abroad in Asia as Phillips Ambassadors since 2007. Shaw studied abroad in Thailand.

recipients enroll in a global studies course designed uniquely for them. Led by Carolina faculty, the course challenges students to explore their study abroad locale in significant detail and seek understanding of the region in a global context.

A distinguishing feature of the program is an emphasis on what is called a "Give Back," or sharing of one's study abroad experience in Asia with the Carolina community and a student's hometown. In accepting the scholarship, students agree to fulfill a Give Back related to their study abroad experience. Give Backs include endeavors such as published articles, classroom presentations at a student's hometown high school, photo and art exhibits, musical performances and group projects focused on Asia.

The Phillips Ambassadors Program is made possible through a generous gift from Carolina alumnus Earl N. "Phil" Phillips, an entrepreneur and former U.S. ambassador, and his family.

"Our goal with this gift has been to encourage more students to spend their study abroad experiences focused on Asia

— an increasingly vital region of the future," said Phillips, who splits his time between High Point and Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

The first group of Phillips Ambassadors studied abroad in Asia in the summer of 2007. By the end of 2015, 239 Carolina undergraduates will have studied abroad in Asia as Phillips Ambassadors.



Phillips Ambassador Kelsey Britton, left, with Japanese instructor Katsu Sawamura and fellow Phillips Ambassador Christy Harris.

Britton, an Asian studies and public policy double major, will study at Waseda University in Tokyo in fall 2015.

Harris, a pre-nursing major, will study through the UNC Summer in Japan program this summer.

Greetings from the Associate Director

By *Thupten Norbu*
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The CAC has been busy implementing new programs as part of our Title VI grant, such as a new pedagogy training and course development grant for language instructors and a course development grant for faculty members interested in adding new Asia content in their existing courses or developing new ones. For students, we have added FLAS fellowships and offered Southeast Asian language workshops in Bahasa Indonesia, Thai and Vietnamese. Additionally, we have strengthened our outreach programs for K-12 and community colleges in partnerships with World View and the Ackland Art Museum and institutional linkages we promote with peer institutions and Minority Serving Institutions.

With our growing portfolio, we have hired a new team member to help with our projects and programs. Please join us in welcoming **Brittany Darst**, a Program Associate of the Carolina Asia Center.



Brittany, who joined the Center on May 4, 2015, is an alumna of UNC-Chapel Hill who majored in Public Relations and Chinese. Upon her graduation in 2014, she worked as Donor Relations Manager at the Carboro-based international nonprofit A Ban Against Neglect, contributing to empowering women in Africa. We are excited to have her join us and looking forward to working with her to further develop our programs and address the needs of the Carolina community.

In support of our mission "to positively transform our understanding of and relationship with Asia, and to equip



Professor Eliza Richards traveled to Fudan University, China, with her Cox Asia Initiative Award

students and others with the knowledge of Asia to assume leadership roles," we have also strengthened our support of student organizations and have been working closely with students to organize various events and opportunities. We look forward to further collaboration with student leaders and student organizations.

UNC System Asia Scholar Network: Now Accepting Applications

The Carolina Asia Center is accepting applications for the UNC System Asia Scholar Network. The purpose of this network is to create a sense of community and mutual support among scholars working on Asia-related topics at 16 campuses within the UNC System, and to provide the scholars with improved opportunities to network, share information, and collaborate. Building on each institution's strengths, in the long run we also hope to improve access to resources for the study of Asia at all 16 institutions of the UNC system and to improve collaboration in the field of Asian Studies within the state of North Carolina.

As a part of this new initiative, the CAC

will provide access to resources on Asia through UNC-Chapel Hill's libraries. The CAC will cover the cost of faculty/scholars that will join the network in 2015 such as processing paperwork to issue a UNC One Card. The scholars who will join the network after 2015 will be responsible for paying their fees to conduct background checks.

All the scholars working on Asian topics or developing expertise in Asian studies including language and area studies at any university campus of the UNC System of Higher Learning are eligible to join the UNC System Asian Scholar Network. These universities are Appalachian State University, East Carolina University, Elizabeth City State University, Fayetteville State University, North Carolina A&T State University, North Carolina Central University, North Carolina State University, UNC Asheville, UNC Charlotte, UNC Greensboro, UNC Pembroke, UNC Wilmington, UNC School of the Arts, Western Carolina University, and Winston-Salem State University.

To learn more about the program, visit: <http://carolinaasiacenter.unc.edu/unc-system-asia-network/> or contact the center at cac@unc.edu.

Banjo Player Abigail Washburn Shares Reflections on China with Phillips Ambassadors

By Janet Walters
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The Carolina Asia Center was honored to have musician Abigail Washburn speak at the annual Phillips Ambassadors luncheon in April. The luncheon honored 16 recently-selected Phillips Ambassadors scholarship recipients for study abroad in Asia, and one graduate student.

Washburn's reflections on her first impressions, missteps and triumphs as an American in China resonated with students, faculty and community members in the audience.

"Going to China changed my life, as I'm sure it will change yours," she told the students.

A singer, song-writer and clawhammer banjo player, Washburn has spent the past 20 years blending American and Chinese folk music. As she relayed to the audience, her musical career came as a happenstance from her original plan to learn Mandarin and become an international lawyer. It was a bit of a fluke, but a satisfying and fulfilling one, and one that has made inroads in bridging Chinese and American musical traditions.

Washburn successfully met her personal challenge of learning Mandarin, as she demonstrated numerous times during her



Abigail Washburn speaking at the 2015 Phillips Ambassadors Luncheon on the UNC Campus

talk, but law school fell by the wayside as her music took flight.

She is one of few foreign artists currently touring China regularly and independently. In 2009, she collaborated with Chinese electronica group The Shanghai Restoration Project, to record *Afterquake*, an album dedicated to the families affected by the 2008 Sichuan earthquakes. In 2011, she completed a month-long tour of China's Silk Road, supported by grants from the U.S. Embassy in Beijing. And, along with 24 other creative thinkers worldwide, Washburn was named a TED fellow and delivered a talk at the 2012 TED Convention in Long Beach, CA, about building US-China relations through music. A resident of Nashville, Tennessee, she was recently named the first U.S.-China Fellow at Vanderbilt University.

Weaving her extensive China experience into a 20-minute talk, Washburn blended music, song, Chinese language, and a little history into a touching and inspiring sendoff for the honored students at the Phillips Ambassadors luncheon.

Abigail Washburn and Béla Fleck play pop-up concert



The UNC-Chapel Hill campus was treated to a pop-up concert with Abigail Washburn and husband and musical collaborator Béla Fleck on April 8, 2015, following the Phillips Ambassadors luncheon where Washburn was the featured speaker. About 200 people sat on the steps outside of UNC's Wilson Library for the 45-minute pop-up performance.

UNC Professors Co-edit New 'Journal of East Asian Humanities'

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Asian studies professors Gang Yue and Robin Visser are the co-editors of a new publication, the Journal of East Asian Humanities (Dongya Renwen 東亞人文).

The production manager for the journal is Han Han. Han is a former visiting scholar in the UNC Department of Asian Studies, current postdoctoral fellow of the Chinese Academy of Sciences and member of the China Writers' Association.

The journal will be published annually in Taiwan and will primarily publish in Chinese in order to fill a demand for reputable, non-censored venues for humanities scholarship in Chinese.

"This collaboration will make a major contribution to UNC-CH's reputation as a global university and help to cement ties with scholars and institutions in East Asia," said Nadia Yaqub, chair of the Department of the Asian Studies.

Co-editor Robin Visser explained the journal's origins, saying that, "Long-term scholarly associations resulted in this unique opportunity to collaborate between Taiwan, P.R. China and North America. After a number of meetings, we decided that the central aim of this journal is to provide a platform for emerging younger scholars whose cutting-edge scholarship in East Asian humanities is more difficult to publish in other venues.

"The demand for such a venue was clear when we quickly received 305 submissions after our initial call for submissions," Visser elaborated.

The inaugural 2014 issue includes a rich mix of articles on modern literature, philosophy, religion and the arts in China, Korea, Japan

and Vietnam, written by scholars working in North America, P.R. China and Taiwan. In addition to thirteen scholarly articles, the 345-page issue includes book reviews, opinion pieces, an interview with a Chinese expert on African literature, and findings from contemporary social science research.

More information is available on the journal's Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/uncjeh>

SEATJ 2015

The Japanese language instructors of the Department of Asian Studies began organizing the Southeastern Association of the Teachers of Japanese in the spring of 2014 and held the event from March 7-8, 2015. The Carolina Asia Center hosted the event at the FedEx Global Education Center, which is the primary site for international activities at UNC and is home to the area studies centers, study abroad, and most major international offices. The keynote presentations by Professor Sufumi So and her colleagues were held in the Nelson Mandela Auditorium, while panels were held in classrooms throughout the building. The lunch and dinner were held in the Peacock Atrium, making the venue an ideal location for the entire event.

The conference began with welcoming remarks from Professor Christopher Nelson, Director of the Triangle Center for Japanese Studies, who thanked the visitors from all across the region and the country for coming to UNC Chapel Hill and for being part of SEATJ. This was followed by four hours of panels on a variety of topics. In the mid-afternoon, Sufumi So [George Mason University] and Mieko Kawai [University of Virginia] gave the keynote lecture on collaboration in teaching Japanese language. The presenters encouraged all present to re-consider the needs of collaboration among teachers beyond one's own school in order to build a stronger curriculum for Japanese learning programs in the area. In the workshop, participants brainstormed about ideas regarding collaboration. The keynote and workshop were very effective; with so many teachers actively participating,

everyone realized there were many ways to innovate. The participants also acknowledged that a shared problem is that teachers don't have enough time to do such extra work, on top of regular teaching responsibilities.

After the keynote and workshop, there was a roundtable on the topic of textbook usage. This was a very successful discussion and it had to be ended so the business meeting could occur before dinner, because there were so many enthusiastic comments and questions.

Carolina Asia Center Conducted Southeast Asian Language Workshops



Indonesian Language Workshop, 04/19/2015

Every year, many Carolina students and faculty members travel to Asia for study abroad and research. With our language programs in Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Hindi-Urdu, Arabic and Persian at the Asian Studies Department, many of our students receive language and culture competency training before they depart to East and South Asia. This year, to help students and community members who travel to Southeast Asian countries, we offered a half day language workshops on Thai, Bahasa Indonesia/ Malay concurrently by different instructors. The workshops were well attended by students and community members including an instructor at a community college and a retired faculty member.

The Carolina Asia Center

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GLOBAL

Founded in 2002, the Carolina Asia Center (CAC) is the University of North Carolina's flagship organization for Asia-related activities and plays an important role in promoting the university's global strategy.

The CAC is a Title VI-funded National Resource Center for the Study of Asia. Our programs have also been supported by the Freeman Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, the Japan Foundation, the Korea Foundation, the Thai Government, and through partnerships with Duke University, North Carolina State University, and the UNC system of universities and community colleges.

The Center works with the College of Arts and Sciences, professional schools, and various departments, centers, and student organizations at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and collaborates with other regional and international institutions to develop and implement educational programs on Asia. The Center seeks to increase resources for the study and research of Asia and opportunities to engage with Asia through seminars, language study, outreach, cultural competency workshops, study abroad, and visiting scholars programs.

To donate to the CAC, please visit <http://carolinaasiacenter.unc.edu/make-a-gift/>