

From the Director

Welcome to the first issue of *Asia Connections*, an occasional bulletin of the Carolina Asia Center. We hope you enjoy it and we welcome your feedback.

Asia Connections will not be a comprehensive account of the Center's activities, but we hope that as it develops and issues appear, our friends and supporters will gain an overview of the Center's work.

The CAC has recently moved from West House to New West, where we are co-located with the Department of Asian Studies. In early 2007, we will move again, this time to the Global Education Center, currently under construction. This move promises to be exciting, opening a range of possibilities for further internationalization at Carolina.

I joined the CAC as its Director in January 2005, moving from Hong Kong, where I was based for almost 5 years. Since arriving, the Carolina community's energy and enthusiasm for Asian studies and internationalization has been gratifying.

The number of students studying Asia has expanded substantially over the past decade and the proportion of students undertaking study abroad in Asia has grown by leaps and bounds. Student organizations are enlivening the Carolina Asia experience and our faculty with Asia interests has grown.

The CAC supports these and other Asia-related developments. Along with a number of other universities, UNC has been fortunate to be a recipient of a major grant under the Freeman Foundation's Undergraduate Asian Studies Funding Initiative. The grant has encouraged the further expansion of undergraduate teaching on East and Southeast Asia at Carolina. This grant concludes in mid-2007, and we are actively seeking new funds so that we can continue to support Asia-related activities at Carolina.

This year we have been developing a range of innovations, some of which you will read about in this and future issues of *Asia Connections*. We welcome your support for our activities. Private giving has an enormous impact upon our ability to achieve our mission of supporting Asia-related activities across the campus. As a young and developing organization, the Carolina Asia Center presents donors with a wonderful opportunity to support the important task of locating Asia at the heart of Carolina's internationalization efforts. We invite you to invest in the CAC today.

Kevin Hewison
Director

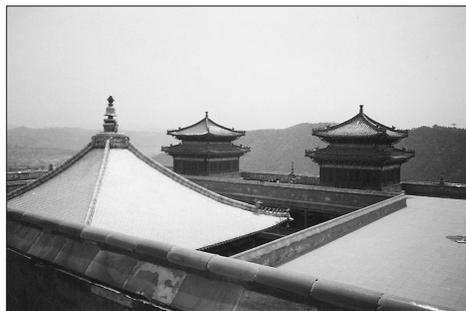
The Grier/Woods Presbyterian China Initiative

The Grier/Woods Presbyterian China Initiative was established to honor the memory of a donor's great grandparents and other family members who served as Presbyterian missionaries in China. This generous donation funds faculty fellowships and travel grants, supports an appointment in Chinese language and provides encouragement for students to undertake study abroad in China.

The first faculty recipients of fellowships and travel awards were Dr. John Pickles (Department of Geography), Dr. Robin Visser (Department of Asian Studies), Dr. Eric Henry (Department of Asian Studies) and Dr. Steven Rosefielde (Department of Economics).

China Speaker Series

In Spring semester, the CAC began its China Speaker Series. The Series highlights the growing significance of China and provides an opportunity for the Carolina community to better understand modern China.



In Spring 2006, speakers came from both Peking and Tsinghua Universities to discuss "Migration in Tibet", "AIDS Rumors in China", and "The Struggle for Hong Kong after World War II". Of special note was the talk by Professor Gao Dai (Peking University) who presented in Mandarin Chinese and attracted a large audience.

Upcoming this Fall are talks on China-U.S. Relations by renowned scholar Dr. Andrew Nathan (Columbia University) and on China's Environment by Dr. Elizabeth Economy (Council of Foreign Relations). Best-selling author Peter Hessler (River Town and Oracle Bones) and Dr. Susan Shirk (UC-San Diego) will be featured speakers in Spring 2007.

National Resource Center for South Asia

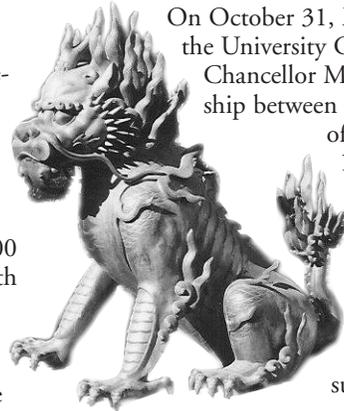
The Department of Education recently announced that a University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill-North Carolina State University-Duke University consortium would receive funding as an undergraduate National Resource Center for South Asia. Known as Title VI, the funding supports a range of activities at the universities and in the community that enhance the understanding of South Asia. The administrative center for the NRC is at Duke University, while the Carolina Asia Center administers the grant at Carolina.

Support for Teaching about Asia

Undergraduate students at Carolina now have increased opportunities to learn about Asia. Over the past four years, using its undergraduate initiative grant, the Carolina Asia Center's support has seen 43 courses with substantial Asian content being developed or substantially revised. One outcome of this grant has been the offering of majors in Chinese and Japanese. The grant has also seen three new Asian Studies faculty hires, the expansion of the Library's book, journal and film holdings on East and Southeast Asia, more than 40 faculty traveling in Asia and scholarships for 44 students to undertake study in Asia.

Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship

The Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship was established in 1998 by students from Sangam, a UNC-based South Asian awareness group. These students have created a unique opportunity for fellow students to undertake projects that involve direct service or increasing awareness of South Asian culture and issues. Each year, two students receive Fellowships of up to \$3000 to design and implement a project in South Asia. The CAC supports Sangam in the administration of the MGFs. Sangam is undertaking fundraising to endow this wonderful opportunity. Visit Sangam's site at: <http://www.uncsangam.org/site/>



On October 31, Min Weifang, Executive Vice President and the Chairman of the University Council at Peking University will visit UNC at the invitation of Chancellor Moeser. A major focus of this trip will be the developing partnership between UNC and Peking University on Health Care. The first event of this new forum will be a conference in Beijing on December 11-12, 2006. Annual conferences will alternate between Beijing and Chapel Hill.

The goal of this forum is to bring together scholars, policy-makers and representatives of the private sector to consider cutting-edge issues relating to health reform in China. Chancellor Moeser will address the December 2006 conference as part of his first trip to China. The forum is being supported by RTI International.

Korean Language

This Fall the Department of Asian Studies began offering Korean Language for the first time. CAC was involved with this effort to establish Korean, working in partnership with the Department of Asian Studies and the Korean American Student Association (KASA). KASA's fundraising efforts have been critical for the support of Korean language instruction.

The Department of Asian Studies Korean language instructor is Dr. Ji-Yeon Jo, who also recently worked with CAC Associate Director Tom Martineau in delivering a North Carolina Teaching Asia Network East Asia seminar. The seminar, held in Chapel Hill, involved 29 teachers from across the state.

China, Health and UNC

Working with the Health Human Resources Training Center of China's Ministry of Health and UNC's School of Public Health and School of Nursing, the CAC has recently established training opportunities for Chinese hospital officials and healthcare managers. The first training visit occurred in June and July 2006 when Dean Harris and Bruce Fried, professors in the School of Public Health traveled to Chengdu and Beijing to lead seminars that reached 125 hospital officials and 45 health human resources managers from across China. The trip also included visits and talks at Sichuan University's West China Medical College.

The Center will continue to support UNC partners in developing relationships with the Health Human Resources Training Center the West China Medical College and Peking Union Medical College. Such research and training relationships offer opportunities to address the challenges that face China's health care system.

Visiting Speakers

During the 2005-06 academic year, the Carolina Asia Center supported campus visits by 15 speakers, often in co-operation with various Schools and Departments. The speakers covered a range of topics, with talks (and, in some cases, films) on China, Tibet, Taiwan, Thailand, Burma, Indonesia, Singapore, Malaysia, Vietnam, Japan and Okinawa. Our speakers came from China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Japan, Australia and Vietnam.

Notable speakers were the renowned historian Dr. Harry Harootunian (Chair of Asian Studies, New York University), Mr. Philip Robertson (Program Manager, UN Inter-Agency Project on Human Trafficking in Greater Mekong Sub-region), acclaimed film directors Mr. Wang Tong and Mr. David Redmon, and peace negotiator Dr. Damien Kingsbury.

Upcoming talks are advertised at the Center's website.

Asia Connections  Carolina Asia Center

The University of North Carolina
at Chapel Hill
Campus Box #7582
Chapel Hill, NC 27599, U.S.A.

Kevin Hewison, Director
(919) 843-0130
khewison@unc.edu

Tom Martineau, Associate Director
(919) 843-4520
tmartine@email.unc.edu

Peter Landstrom, Center Manager
(919) 843-0129
plandstr@email.unc.edu

www.carolinaasiacenter.unc.edu

Make a gift to the Carolina Asia Center

Your gift to the Carolina Asia Center will support a wide range of campus-wide activities to foster cutting edge research, innovative teaching, and strategic partnerships.

Please make checks payable to The Carolina Asia Center, and return your gift in the enclosed envelope.

For other ways to give, please contact Daniel Lebold, Director of Development for International Studies at 919.962.6864 or email Daniel.lebold@unc.edu.



UNC
COLLEGE OF
ARTS & SCIENCES