

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

I'm thrilled to announce that the Carolina Asia Center has been awarded funding from the U.S. Department of Education to be a Title VI National Resource Center for the Study of Asia, the first in the southeastern U.S. In fact, we are the only Asia-related NRC between the DC metropolitan area and Florida, a status that recognizes our role as the primary center for the study and research of Asian languages, cultures, and histories in this part of the country. The four-year grant, totaling \$836,000, will support and promote course development and pedagogy related to Asian languages and

content; workshops, seminars and speaker series; collaboration with local, regional and national media, business, and government officials; and outreach to K-14 schools. The grant will also allow us to continue our collaboration with Duke and NCSU, and to develop new relationships with partners in the region, such as with faculty interested in Asia at Winston-Salem State University, part of the UNC system.

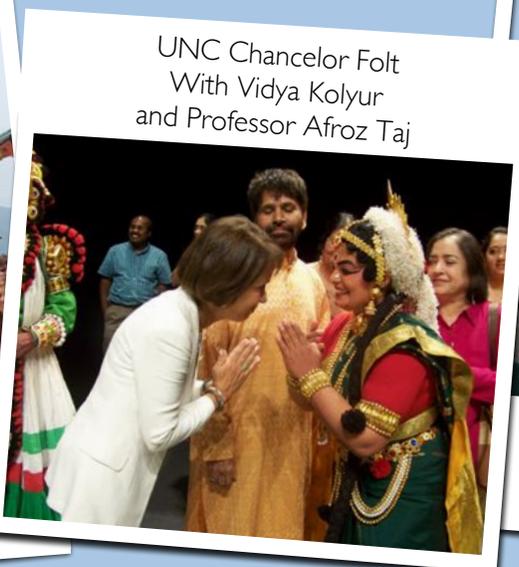
The Center continues to run a host of programs that support study and research on Asian languages and cultures, and in disciplines and professional schools that engage with Asia in various other ways. For example, we are working more closely with the School of Medicine and the other Health Affairs schools to support their activities in China, Vietnam, and elsewhere. An article

later in this issue details our support of Medical Mandarin, a course that is being offered for the first time. This collaboration is significant because faculty and staff in Health Affairs bring in more researchers from Asia, not to mention more federal dollars for projects related to Asia, than any other part of the university. Dr. Joe Tucker, for example, who runs UNC Project China in Guangzhou, recently was awarded a major NIH grant to research the utility of crowdsourcing to improve HIV testing and link to care campaigns in China. Congratulations to Dr. Tucker!

*Morgan Pitelka, CAC director
mpitelka@unc.edu*



World View K-12
Trip to Japan



UNC Chancellor Folt
With Vidya Kolyur
and Professor Afroz Taj



Educators Visting a
Classroom in Japan



Why Asia Matters for North Carolina

By *Shawanne Wang and Thupten Norbu*
tnorbu@unc.edu

Asia is the largest continent in the world, containing about three-fifths of the world's population. It includes 5 of the 20 largest economies in the world—China, India, Japan, South Korea and Indonesia—and 3 of North Carolina's top trading partners: China, Japan and South Korea. Additionally, the Research Triangle Park in North Carolina is home to many companies that operate in Asia, such as Lenovo, IBM, GlaxoSmithKline and 3D Media.

As of 2012, 258,469 Asian Americans reside in North Carolina. While they account for only 2.6% of the state population, their contribution to the NC economy remains net positive by generating \$10 for every \$1 the state invested in essential services for them. Asians are crucial to North Carolina's economy because of their purchasing power and workforce. Nearly 9.8% of the workforce in North Carolina is comprised of immigrants, which includes Asians. Additionally, 86% of children in Asian American families are citizens, and though Asians are only 1% (43,000) of the eligible voting population in North Carolina, that is already more than the margin of victory that led President Obama to narrowly winning the state in the 2008 election.

Nationally, 14.7 million Asians comprised approximately 4.8 percent of the total American population in 2010, a 43 percent increase from 10.2 million in 2000. The total American population, by contrast, grew from 281.4 million to 308.7 million, a 9.7 percent increase. Asian Americans are one of the fastest growing subgroups of Americans, and their presence cannot be ignored, economically, culturally or politically.

With the fast rise of the Asian economy, its languages have also spread to every corner of the world. Of over 2000 languages spoken in Asia, many are fast becoming familiar tongues in neighborhoods all around the United States. Of those, many are deemed critical languages by the U.S. Department of State in an effort to both increase the number of Americans studying foreign languages and to enrich and diversify our knowledge of different cultures.

Asia has been a cultural powerhouse for centuries, and in recent decades has risen to become even more pivotal in the world economy and in academia. In the past 30 years, Asia has produced over 25 Nobel laureates, most in the sciences. More and more students from Asian countries are coming to the Americas and Europe to study; China alone sent 235,000 students to the United States in 2013. Students from China, India, and South Korea, the top three places of origin for international students in the USA, now make up 49% of all international students studying in the country. International students contribute more than \$24 billion to the American economy. The number of Americans studying abroad has also increased by three percent from 2012 to an all-time high of 283,000.

China is currently the world's second-largest economy, just behind the USA. Its cities are booming, and important urban centers such as Beijing, Shanghai and Hong Kong generate billions of dollars every year and are major global attractions. More and more Chinese are migrating to cities or other countries, and many are increasingly able to take advantages of opportunities as consumers, tourists, and exchange students that would have been impossible a decade ago. China has been increasingly engaged in projects across Africa and the Pacific as well.

Even if China is not a complete success story—with ever-widening environmental problems that plague the country, as well as worries from economists about its state-controlled economy—the scope of

its outreach is so large in our times that whatever befalls China will surely affect the entire world.

The same can be said for India, the largest democracy in the world and second-largest country in terms of population. 96,754 students from India came to study in the United States in 2013, up from 74,603 a decade ago.

As for Japan, whose path has been turbulent since World War II, economic power has been a key to its rise in influencing the world. Even though China has overtaken it recently in becoming the second largest economy, Japan still retains much of its clout in the market for things such as electronics and automobiles. Its cultural market is still going strong, exporting consumer goods appealing to younger generations such as music, television and art. Japan's handling of crises that have emerged in the past decade, including an aging population and various natural disasters, has propelled Japan into world news and much remains to be learned from those lessons that would be of benefit to other developed and developing countries.

Asia is not a homogenous continent, and the rich histories and politics of all Asian countries have affected and will continue to affect the United States and the world. To promote deeper understanding of the region, the Carolina Asia Center supports the study and research of Asia and opportunities to engage with Asia through seminars, language study, outreach, cultural competency, study abroad and visiting scholars.

Thupten Norbu
CAC Associate Director



New Chair in the Department of Asian Studies

The Department of Asian Studies was established in 2003, formalizing a curriculum of language study and cultural instruction that had been growing for decades. Several chairs have led the department in those years, and in the summer of 2014, the Asian Studies community extends its thanks to outgoing chair Jan Bardsley, while giving our warmest welcome to incoming chair Nadia Yaqub.

When Dr. Bardsley became chair in 2009, the department was undergoing many changes. With difficulties such as budget cuts from the university looming overhead, the department nevertheless ploughed ahead with determination and was widely praised for a sustained period of growth, both in student enrollments and new faculty. Dr. Bardsley's leadership has been characterized by good-natured organization and enthusiasm. At the same time, she brought much of her teaching capabilities from the classroom into administration, being above all accessible to students and faculty both. On top of her administrative achievements, Dr. Bardsley managed to continue her research and publish both a co-edited volume (*Manners and Mischief: Gender, Power, and Etiquette in Japan*, co-edited with Laura Miller, University of California Press, 2011) and a new monograph (*Women and Democracy in Cold War Japan*, London: Bloomsbury Academic, 2014) while chair. She currently is on sabbatical, thanks to a prestigious William R. Kenan Jr. Senior Faculty Research and Scholarly Leave.

As Dr. Nadia Yaqub steps into her new role, we welcome and congratulate her, and also look forward to her leadership in the years ahead. An expert in Arab cultural texts and particularly Palestinian literature and film, Dr. Yaqub's enthusiasm for teaching and researching is well known on campus. Several new faculty members and staff have joined the department under her



Performance of Aaj Ka Dhamaka at Memorial Hall, UNC

supervision. Several new courses will be offered in the 2014-15 school year, and Dr. Yaqub looks forward to the department continuing to inspire learning in all things Asia-related as well as using the department as a resource for Asian cultural and academic events.

The Carolina Asia Center congratulates both professors on their achievements and hopes that the upcoming year will be one full of innovation for the Department of Asian Studies.

<http://asianstudies.unc.edu>

Former Chair of Asian Studies Makes Contribution

The Department of Asian Studies has received a generous donation from Professor Larry Kessler, which includes seventeen volumes on China and a Chinese scroll painting. Kessler, who was the chair of Asian Studies from 1997-2000, is Emeritus Professor of Chinese History,

and was one of the key figures in the institutionalization of Asian Studies as a legitimate field of study at the university.

This donation primarily supports two professors in the department, Professor Uffe Bergeton and Professor Li-ling Hsiao, both of whom teach Chinese-literature and culture courses. Professor Bergeton does research in premodern Chinese and teaches advanced Chinese language classes, while Professor Hsiao specializes in Chinese literature, art history, and theater.



Phillips Ambassador Bliss Green-Morehead

Phillips Ambassadors Scholarship Program Sends 28 to Asia in 2014

By Janet Walters
janet_walters@unc.edu

Twenty-seven undergraduates from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill -- and one Duke undergraduate -- studied abroad in Asia in 2014 with the support of the Phillips Ambassadors, a scholarship program for study abroad in Asia. The students studied in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Korea, Singapore, India, and Thailand, each participating in a unique study abroad program.

Phillips Ambassadors are selected twice a year and receive \$5,000 each to defray the cost of a UNC-approved study abroad program in Asia. Recipients are selected based on academic achievement, strong communications skills, intellectual curiosity and ambition, evidence of generous service to campus and community, and a previous record of leadership.

Since the Phillips Ambassadors Program began in 2007, it has sent 219 undergraduates to Asia, with another nine students headed to Asia in spring 2015. 25 percent of the scholarships are reserved for qualified undergraduate business majors and minors from the UNC Kenan-Flagler Business School. 2 scholarships are available to qualified undergraduates from Duke University each year.

Phillips Ambassadors enroll in a global studies course designed uniquely for them. The course includes two pre-departure, day-long classes on two Saturdays during the semester; continues with online distance learning exchanges while abroad; and concludes with three day-long Saturday classes upon return to Chapel Hill. Led by Michael Tsin, a professor of History at UNC-Chapel Hill, the course challenges students to explore their study abroad locale in significant detail and seek understanding of the region in a global



UNC History major, Jan Michael, studied abroad in India as a Phillips Ambassador

context.

The program also emphasizes what is called "Give Back," requiring the Ambassadors share their study abroad experiences with the Carolina community and their hometowns. Students find different ways to fulfill the Give Back requirement, through published articles in campus and hometown publications, by presenting research supported by the Phillips Ambassadors Program abroad in poster presentations, by giving classroom presentations in area high schools, and artistic endeavors, including musical recitals and gallery exhibits. The Give Back is loosely-defined and intentionally flexible, encouraging students to complete a Give Back that is personally meaningful.

Earl N. "Phil" Phillips Jr., who graduated from UNC with a business administration degree in 1962, established an endowment, along with his family, to create the Phillips Ambassadors. The program is intended to generate greater interest in Asia among UNC students. Phillips has worked and traveled in Asia for more than 20 years and is a former U.S. Ambassador to the eastern Caribbean.

<http://phillips.unc.edu>

Professor Afroz Taj Named Inaugural Curatorial Fellow

Afroz Taj, Associate Professor in the Department of Asian Studies, was named the inaugural Curatorial Fellow for the 2014-15 academic year by Carolina Performing Arts with funding from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation. As the Curatorial Fellow, he is exploring the confluence between the performing arts of South Asia and UNC's focus on "Water in Our World."

Drawing from a repertory that includes various aspects of water themes and imagery, he is also working with Carolina Performing Arts to bring performing ensembles to UNC. This semester, "Tales from the Cosmic Ocean-An Evening of Yakshagana Featuring Vidya Kolyur" was performed on September 5 at Memorial Hall; and in Spring 2015, Sanam Marvi, a Pakistani Sufi/folk singer will perform at the same venue on March 20.

<http://www.carolinaperformingarts.org/>

Jimmy and Judy Cox Asia Initiative Awards

Through the Jimmy and Judy Cox Asia Initiative Awards, the Carolina Asia Center awarded 8 research travel grants and 4 conference travel awards to faculty members in the College of Arts and Sciences for the 2014-15 academic year. The funding comes from UNC alumnus Jason Cox.

Cox named the fund after his parents, who encouraged him to take risks and travel and contributed to his success. Originally from Clayton, North Carolina, Cox is now working for the Bank of America Merrill Lynch in Hong Kong. He first traveled to Asia as a Luce Scholar in South Korea, and the connections he established in Asia through UNC had a profound impact on Cox's life and career. His interest in Asia led him to the desire to give professors opportunities to take on research, trips or projects in Asia that wouldn't have been available to them otherwise.

This academic year, the Jimmy and Judy Cox Asia Initiative award enabled faculty members to carry out research in China, Bhutan, Nepal, India, Bangladesh, Vietnam and Korea and enabled others to present their research related to Asia with peers in Europe and Asia. The projects ranged from a trip to Korea to collect materials to develop an advanced level undergraduate course on Modern Korean Culture and Literature, to traveling to Shanghai to work closely with research collaborators at Fudan University and attending the Shanghai Forum. The awards helped faculty to enhance teaching materials, publish research, strengthen collaborations with institutions in Asia and promote exchange and enhance each other's knowledge of Asia.

For the 2015-2016 academic year, the CAC will provide up to five research travel grants to Asia for a maximum of \$8,000 each, and up to four conference travel



Professor Christian Lentz traveled to Vietnam with his Cox Asia Initiative Award

awards of up to \$1,500 each through the Cox Asia Initiative award program. The Call for Applications was released on November 14, 2014, and the deadline for the application is February 13, 2015. The application will be reviewed by a committee and awarded on academic merit.

<http://carolinaasiacenter.unc.edu/faculty-course-development-and-travel-grants/>

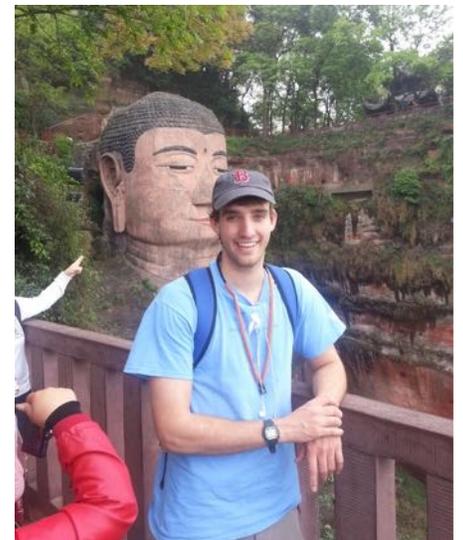
Profile of an Undergraduate Leader

James Williams, an Asian Studies and Economics double major as well as a Phillips Ambassador, has received the distinguished honor of being named one of the "25 under 25 in US and China Relations," a list published by Yale's China Hands. James's essay, "Rethinking China's 'Exploitation' of Africa" appears in the fall, 2014 issue of the *China Hands* journal. In the paper, he analyzes Sino-African relations and China's growing involvement in Africa. Drawing on interviews and other research, he posits that China's

involvement is complicated but ultimately beneficial.

Williams is also centrally involved in the Carolina China Network as the Director of the 2015 China Leadership Summit, which will be held from February 20-22. This annual event is co-organized by the Duke East Asia Nexus and the Carolina China Network, and is one of the top China-related undergraduate conferences in the country.

<http://www.dukeunccls.com>



Medical Mandarin Course Offered in School of Medicine

By Blessing Aghalor
blessing_aghavor@med.unc.edu

This year, for the first time in its history, the UNC School Of Medicine offered a Medical Mandarin course. The course was conceived in the spirit of addressing the growing need to prepare future physicians for practice in an increasingly globalized and culturally diverse world. Given the growing size of Asian populations around America, this course was designed to equip students with the language skills and cultural awareness needed to offer Mandarin-speaking patients the highest quality of care.

The course focuses on enhancing students' listening and speaking skills through weekly sessions led by a native Mandarin speaker. The first semester of the course is focused on teaching students how to take a full medical history from a patient in Mandarin, while the second semester aims to teach students how to use the language to conduct the physical exam. In addition to the course instructor, a tutor is available weekly to assist those students who wish to dedicate more time towards learning the class material, or who simply wish to improve their conversational Mandarin skills. Throughout the year, students work towards completing a full history and physical exam on a standardized patient, and will have the opportunity to shadow in clinics in the community that have predominantly Mandarin-speaking patient populations.

The course also has a strong cultural component. The senior mentor program is a valuable opportunity for students to follow Mandarin-speaking seniors over the course of the year. Through our partnership with the Orange County Department on Aging and the Seymour Center, students are assigned to senior mentors in the



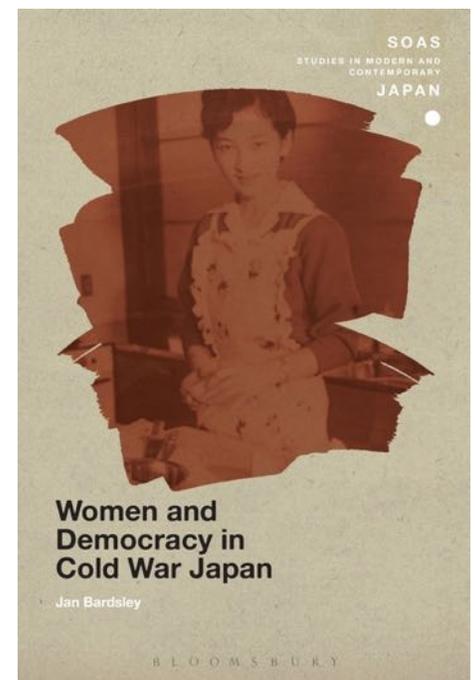
Students in UNC's Medical Mandarin course in the School of Medicine, fall 2014

community. Students are encouraged to practice their language skills by learning about their mentors' relevant experience with the US health care system, and to discover the cultural challenges their mentors face when seeking health care services in the US. The course is made possible thanks to the Carolina Asia Center's Title VI grant, and through assistance from the UNC SOM, the Orange County Department on Aging, and the Seymour Center.

Women and Democracy in Cold War Japan

Dr. Jan Bardsley from the Department of Asian Studies recently published a new book, *Women and Democracy in Cold War Japan* (Bloomsbury, 2014), which focuses on the Japanese housewife as a contentious representation of democracy, leisure, and domesticity during the 1950's. Bardsley examines the changing identities of Japanese housewives through the analysis of media directed at women of the time, especially the articles and

advertisements found in women's magazines. Bardsley also examines stereotyped perceptions of the American 1950's housewife, and argues that comparisons between Japanese and American women of the time can shed light on Japan-US relations and gender constructions during the early Cold War.



The Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship Program

In 2014, with the technical and administrative support of the Carolina Asia Center, the student led organization Sangam awarded two fellowships to UNC students to carry out service projects in India through its Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship program. The recipients of the fellowships are Sravani Gandhavadi, BS Biochemistry and BA Women's Studies '15 and Kane Borders, Political Science '16. To date, 29 UNC students have benefited from the MGF fellowship. They were selected based on their enthusiasm for self-directed learning, commitment to creating sustainable change, leadership potential and feasibility of their projects.

To fulfill the purpose of the fellowship, both of the selected students traveled to India over the summer to carry out service projects. Sravani volunteered with Care hospitals and the Byrraju Foundation to improve services for women in rural clinics in the Ranga Reddy district near Hyderabad. Kane organized seven financial literacy sessions in Delhi and Ahmedabad in Gugharat with guidance and support of the Grih Rin branch of the Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in New Delhi. While Sravani returned to UNC upon completion of her project, Kane stayed in India to pursue an intensive Hindi program during the Fall semester in Jaipur, Rajasthan.

The MGF fellowship is unique in the sense that it is the first-student run scholarship at UNC, and Sangam strives to raise funds to reach the \$125,000 endowment which will make MGF self-sustaining in the future. To work towards this endeavor, the leaders of Sangam and MGF Co-chairs carry out activities that promote awareness of the region and raise funds for the fellowship. Among others, activities include the publication of a magazine called Monsoon, <http://monsoon.web.unc.edu>, conducting an awareness week called "Be The Change Week" and organizing Aaj Ka Dhamaka,

one of the Southeast's largest South Asian dance competitions. Complementing rigorous academic training at UNC with these activities, Sangam members also further develop their leadership and organizational skills and contribute to promoting awareness of South Asia and collaboration among students at UNC and with peer institutions.

This year, the Aaj Ka Dhamaka was held on November 1st, 2014 at Memorial Hall at UNC. Participants included teams from across the United States, such as the Tar Hill Rascals, North Carolina State University Nazaare, Hoorass at the University of Virginia, Buckeye Bhangra, Nova Nassa, Samaa, VCU Ricochet Raas, Maryland Dhoom, Virginia Tech Bhangra, Georgia Tech Ramblin' Raas and UNC Chapel Hill Chalkaa. The event was attended by over 1000 people. The CAC was one of the co-sponsors of the event.

The 2015 call for applications for the Mahatma Gandhi Fellowship was released on October 4, 2014 and the deadline for the application is February 4, 2015. To learn more about the fellowship, visit <http://uncmgf.wix.com/home#!how-to-apply>

or email: uncmgf@gmail.com

SEECR 2014

The 18th Annual Southeast Early China Roundtable was held this year at UNC on October 31st. The SEECR was founded in 1997 in order to provide a forum for specialist discussion of early Chinese studies, and this year it was organized by Dr. Uffe Bergeton and Dr. Eric Henry of UNC's Department of Asian Studies.

A three-day conference, SEECR featured lectures from sixteen different scholars from across the country. This year the conference was open to the Chapel Hill public. A small number of UNC faculty and students attended.

The focus of the discussions was early

Chinese history, from the earliest period through the Tang dynasty. The specialized lecture topics were varied, and included presentations on historical issues, such as "Tang-Nanzhao relations in the eighth century" by The University of Tennessee's Dr. Megan Bryson, and analysis of art and material culture during the six dynasties. Leslie V. Wallace, assistant professor of Art History at Coastal Carolina, spoke on "Eastern Han Tomb Murals in the Ordos," and Dr. Linda Yi from the Department of Art and Art History College of Architecture and the Arts FIU, Miami, spoke on "What Architectural Discoveries Near an Ancient Capital Can Tell Us." Other specialties included ethnic discourse, Confucian thought, and geographical writing.

CAC Visiting Scholars Programs

This fall the Carolina Asia Center welcomes five visiting scholars from Asia. The CAC hosts scholars through its CAC Visiting Scholars and CAC Korea Research Fellows programs. Both programs provide opportunities for scholars to collaborate with UNC faculty and to conduct their research at the university. The CAC provides administrative support to both the programs. The CAC Korean Research Fellows program is administered by Dr. Ji-Yeon Jo and Dr. Jongbae Park, who also lead the Korea Forum at UNC.

As part of the Visiting Scholars program, Professor Makoto Yokofujita, who teaches and researches constitutional law at Hiroshima University, gave a talk entitled, "Hiroshima, America, and the Constitution." His talk compared the U.S. and Japanese constitutions with particular focus on the rights of the disabled and other vulnerable populations. The talk was well attended by students and faculty.

<http://carolinaasiacenter.unc.edu/visiting-scholars/>

The Carolina Asia Center

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
3105 FedEx Global Education Center
Campus Box 7582
Chapel Hill, NC 27599-7582



UNC
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 been 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/>