

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

The Carolina Asia Center has been engaged in a strategic planning process over the past three months that will hopefully result in a clearer articulation of our goals and how they are supported by our programs. This process will also strengthen our efforts to win grants and raise funds through alumni and other partners and supporters of the university.

We have also been working on improving our partnerships with the many schools

and departments at UNC that already engage with Asia in so many varied ways. The CAC will be calling more attention to the publications, exchanges, and research of faculty and students in the professional schools—such as the discussion in this issue of a recent project in China through the School of Social Work—as well as the many activities of those in the college.

We also continue our ongoing collaboration with Duke and NCSU through the Triangle East Asia Colloquium and the Triangle Center for Japanese Studies, while faculty in South Asian Studies and Southeast Asian Studies continue to collaboratively plan events and organize workshops that make this region one of the liveliest in the nation for the study of Asia.

Another new CAC initiative is the UNC-

System Asian Studies Network, which will aim to create opportunities for faculty at state universities across North Carolina who do work related to Asia to collaborate and share resources.

Lastly, I'm thrilled to announce that the Carolina Asia Center is now the administrative home of the Phillips Ambassadors Program, which offers scholarships to undergraduates to study abroad in Asia. We received a record number of applicants this year and hope to help the Phillips to continue to grow. We also welcome Janet Walters, the manager of the program, as a full-time staff member.

*Morgan Pitelka, CAC director*



Sahmat exhibition,  
Ackland Art Museum



Season of Japan  
Ackland Art Museum



Student visitors  
Ackland Art Museum



## Duke-UNC China Leadership Summit

# 2014

*Students from UNC Chapel Hill and Duke University collaborate on a student-organized, student-led, and student-focused event that examines Sino-American relations and politics.*

For the past three years, the Duke-UNC China Leadership Summit has brought together top students from the US and China to participate in a three-day conference focusing on current issues in Sino-US relations. The CLS started in the Fall of 2010, when Elaina Giolando, UNC class of 2011, and Zishu Chen, UNC class of 2014, shared their idea for a China-related conference that brought together Duke and UNC students with Duke's Haoxiaohan Helen Cai, class of 2014. Students from both schools took their idea and ran with it, and thanks to McKay Roozen, UNC class of 2012, and Jack Zhang, Duke class of 2011, CLS 2011 was a success. The first Duke-UNC China



Leadership Summit attracted forty delegates between the two universities, and the second CLS conference in 2012 attracted more than sixty delegates from UNC, Duke, and Duke's sister university in China, Wuhan University.



Delegates who have attended the conference in the past have said that the experience of listening to speakers and experts on Sino-U.S. relations has been inspiring, but that the networking opportunities afforded by CLS have been the most memorable. Delegates and other

interested students can continue learning about China by engaging with the student groups that organize the conference year round. The Carolina China Network at UNC provides China-related academic events and resources outside of CLS, and the Duke East Asian Nexus (DEAN) seeks to enrich the Duke community's understanding of political, economic, and cultural issues facing China and the rest of East Asia.

The Duke-UNC China Leadership Summit is a great opportunity for students from these rival universities to come together and collaborate with other future leaders. The 2014 CLS will take place from March 28th through March 30th, and this year's theme is "The Chinese Dream: Local Realities and Global Implications." The CAC is one of the sponsors of this event. For more information, visit <http://www.dukeunccls.com>



## Mothers in Transition: Social Work in China

Researchers at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and East China University of Science and Technology have adopted the use of photography and group discussion in order to identify the central problems faced by migrating mothers and their families in urban China.

When the Chinese government initiated economic reforms that opened the door to international trade, the labor market for urban and industrial centers expanded. The opportunities for higher paying manufacturing jobs led to mass in-country migrations from rural to urban areas. In the past, migrations of this scale were impossible because of the Chinese *hukou* system, which records demographic data about all household members, such as the family name, address, birth date, marital status and relationships between other household members. This system worked as an internal passport that restricted people to working, living, or attending school in the area where they were registered. Although these restrictions are not as rigorously enforced as they once were, the *hukou* system still complicates the lives of rural-to-urban migrants, who are referred to as *non min gong*, the “floating population,” and who make up almost 20% of the Chinese population.

Despite the *hukou* system, migrating from poorer, rural areas to areas with higher paying industrial jobs is a move toward upward mobility for families, and migrant families can hope to raise the standard of living for themselves and for their extended families via support sent to relatives in their hometowns. However, raising children as a migrant parent leads to particular challenges, like obtaining health care or enrolling for education beyond middle school. Most migrant children attend non-government schools that are run by other migrants, and these schools do not have the resources to hire



qualified teachers or provide basic educational facilities. Moreover, exams for education higher than middle school are not standardized between rural and urban areas, which means that migrant students are not prepared for these exams unless they study where the *hukou* system has them registered. Students may not complete exams in any other area.

The challenges that students of migrant families face often result in the separation of families when students choose to stay behind with relatives in order to make their education easier. This happens so often that these children are referred to as *left behind children*. Some children decide to remain with their migrating parents and end their formal education or choose to learn a trade.

Little is known about individuals' migration experiences, how they view their new urban lives, how they perceive raising children, and how these perceptions effect their decision making in their new urban environments. In order to understand these issues, Professors Mimi V. Chapman and Shiyong Wu at UNC with Meihua Zhu at East China University of Science and Technology asked mothers from a predominantly migrant community to take photographs and discuss those

photographs with other participants and with the researchers in order to identify central problems. This visual-based methodology allowed the researchers to more fully understand the lived experiences of migrant workers; likewise, in this method the women could control what they shared, allowing them to feel more comfortable talking with researchers in general and with communicating deeply important issues in their lives.

As for mothers across the globe, the educational success of their children is a major concern for Chinese migrant mothers. Mothers must weigh the emotional needs and desires of their children, which are often focused on the family remaining intact, against their children's educational future. When they do decide to leave or send back their children, they experience a great deal of guilt over abandoning their filial duty or fulfilling that duty in unsatisfactory ways. These concerns, among others, have made the in-country migrant population an area of particular interest for Chinese social workers and research and policy development.

<http://www.jsswr.org/article/view/12011>

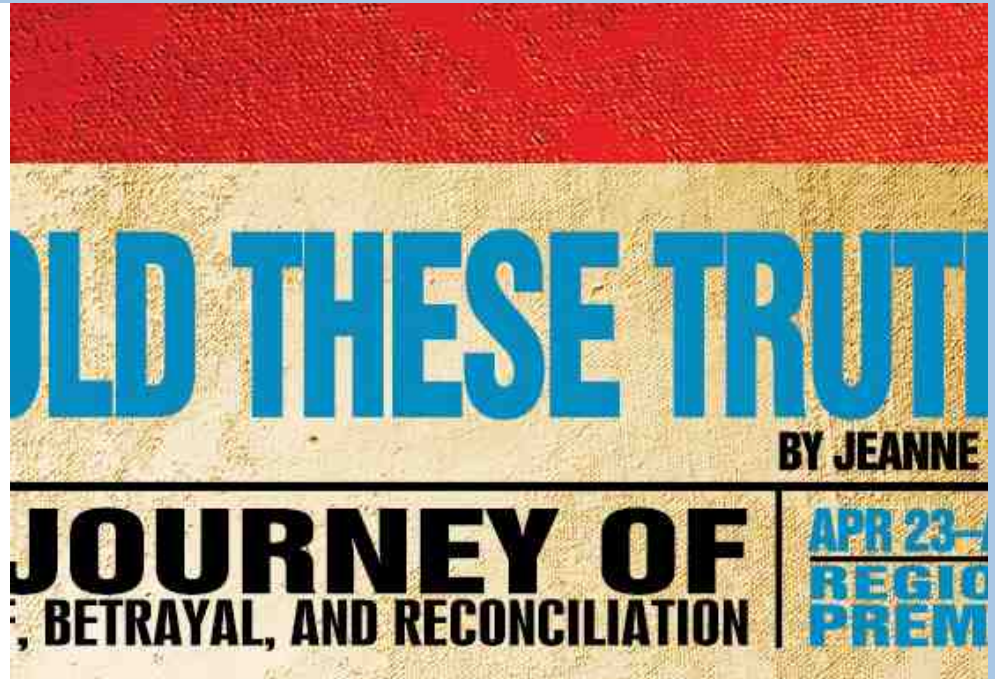
-Tyler Mofield

## Hold These Truths and Japanese Internment

The PlayMakers Repertory Company is producing Jeanne Sakata's *Hold These Truths* April 23-27. This play was inspired by the life of Gordon Hirabayashi, a Japanese American man who defied the internment order during World War II. Tickets are now available. The Carolina Asia Center is sponsoring a reception on opening night of the play, and we hope you will all attend.

In conjunction with this critically acclaimed production, UNC's Humanities Program and the General Alumni Association are sponsoring a seminar featuring UNC experts on World War II Japanese-American experiences. Topics range from the realities faced by Japanese American resisters to the draft, the exclusion of mixed-race families, and the effects of internment on Japanese American families and communities. The seminars will be held April 25-26. Tuition is required for members of the general public, and is discounted for teachers. There is no cost for UNC students, though registration is required. See the following link for more details:

<http://humanities.unc.edu/programs/adventures-in-ideas/japaneseinternment/>



## UNC Law Professor Finds Support for Same-Sex Equality in Hong Kong

As in many cities across the globe, public support for same sex rights is on the rise in Hong Kong. Apart from a domestic violence law that protects same-sex couples, Hong Kong has no legal recognition of same-sex partnerships, and the Hong Kong court does not take public opinion into consideration during constitutional rulings as a measure to protect rights that majority opinion attempts to quash. Despite this, a study done by Holning Lau, a comparative law professor at UNC School of Law, measured public opinion on same-sex marriage and couples' rights. While much of the discourse around homosexual partnerships is focused on full marriage equality, Lau knew that marriage rights stories tell "only part of the story." He says, "As legal

scholars, we knew a broader set of questions that could be asked. We decided to study public opinion on a broader set of rights."

The study found that 75% of the Hong Kong public believes that same-sex couples should have at least some of the rights that heterosexual married couples have, 25% of the Hong Kong public fully supports same-sex marriage, and another 12% lean towards full marriage equality.

The Hong Kong government argues that same-sex marriage is highly controversial. While Lau and his co-authors don't believe that public opinion should be a deciding factor, that this survey shows public support for protecting homosexual couple's rights through compromise. Lau says, "Marriage matters. But even without the label of marriage, compromise solutions would go a long way to protect couples' rights."



## Greetings from CAC Associate Director, Thupten Norbu

As I take on the position of the Associate Director of the Carolina Asia Center, let me take this opportunity to introduce myself to the community. I joined the Carolina Asia Center in November 2013 but I have been in the Chapel Hill/Durham area for about three years.

In the summer of 2011, I drove from San Francisco to North Carolina to pursue a graduate degree at Duke University. After working at The Asia Foundation's headquarters in San Francisco and traveling to Afghanistan, Indonesia, Sri Lanka, and Singapore for short-term assignments to develop and implement international development programs in Asia, pursuing a Master of International Development Policy at Duke was the next natural step. While at Duke, in the summer of 2012, I also traveled to Timor-Leste to work as a parliamentary program fellow at The Asia Foundation field office to contribute to the newest Asian country's national development. I conducted an assessment of a parliamentary strengthening project and helped redesign a second phase of the project and observed the 2012 national parliamentary election as an international observer.

With my background in the international development field, many asked me why wanted to work at the Carolina Asia Center. The answer is quite simple: as an Asian-American, working at the Carolina Asia Center gives me the opportunity to work for both regions, as the center works towards developing opportunities for students, faculty and others to engage with Asia to transform our understanding of and relationship with Asia. Additionally, the work I have done in the



past, my personal experiences growing up in Asia, and the technical skills I have acquired are put into use.

As I spent my childhood partly in the foothills of the Himalayas and parts of India before coming to the USA as a Davis United World College scholar, I am very familiar with the region. A few weeks after I joined the center, in December 2013, I traveled to India and met with some of UNC's partners. Afroz Taj and John Caldwell, who teach South Asian languages and literatures at UNC, and I met with Mohd. Asaduddin, Chair of the Department of English at Jamia Millia Islamia University in Delhi. Afroz and John have worked with the university to host the academic summer program in India. I also met with Purnima Mehta, Director-General of the American Institute of Indian Studies in Delhi. UNC students have taken language classes at the center to utilize summer Foreign Languages and Area Studies and other fellowships. As we work with our partners in Asia we wanted to learn more about their programs to allow us to think strategically and plan future collaboration.

As someone new to academia, I am also

investing my time in learning how the university works and what are the needs and wants of the stakeholders of the Carolina Asia Center, enabling me to obtain a deeper understanding of UNC's mission. While there are many activities at the CAC and across the university that keep us busy, we believe that good planning is key to growing and sustaining an institution like the Carolina Asia Center. The director and I are preparing a strategic planning document using SWOT analysis. We plan to share it with the Management Committee and other key stakeholders to obtain feedback when it becomes ready. We hope that the document will serve as a guide to plan, set targets to further develop our institutional capacity and bring more opportunities for students, faculty and other members to engage with Asia.

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## Asian Studies Advocacy: Articulating Why Asia Matters

As director of the Carolina Asia Center, I frequently have the opportunity to speak to those outside of the university about the value of engaging with Asia.

In February, for example, I talked to Japanese language teachers from across the southeastern United States about ways to convince their colleagues and administrators that Japan is a vibrantly relevant country and culture and that Japanese is a useful language in the world today. The tendency to focus on economic growth alone when evaluating study and exchange opportunities is short-sighted. In the case of Japan, the nation's struggles are as significant as its successes, and provide significant opportunities for study and engagement. We must learn from problems in Japan such as the aging society and low birthrate crisis, the post-3/11 nuclear reactor disaster, and the post-growth socioeconomic malaise. Understanding how Japanese political and economic leaders respond to these challenges, and how Japanese society and popular culture make sense of such difficulties, will be illuminating for students in any major.



In March I will have the chance to make a similar argument to K-12 teachers and administrators at the World View East Asia Seminar here at UNC. I published an article on this topic in the World View newsletter on the significance of Japan not in terms of its language but in terms of its history and role in the world. You can find it here:

<http://worldview.unc.edu/global-resources/global-updates/current/global-updates-for-february-2014/>

In a similar vein, the Carolina Asia Center has sponsored a series of talks this semester, the 2014 China Initiative, that likewise aims to examine the relevance of China in the world today. The first talk, by Kate Muessig, Assistant Professor of Health Behavior in the Gillings School of Global Public Health, examined the “Four Frees, One Care”

policy of HIV testing, care, and treatment in China, and also addressed the benefits and challenges of doing collaborative work with partners in health care in China. The second talk, by Associate Professor of Asian Studies Robin Visser, explored her work on discourses about urbanization in the development of new Chinese cities. The third talk, by Associate Professor of Biology Greg Copenhaver, examined his new partnership with Shanghai's Fudan University, where he now has a lab and an appointment as a Special Adjunct Professor. Future talks focus on changes in Chinese ethnic policy, the China nutrition survey, contemporary Confucianism, and the relevance of Chinese religious thought.

*-Morgan Pitelka, CAC director*

## South Asian Studies

South Asian Studies is one of the main pillars of UNC's engagement with Asia. For example, the Department of Asian Studies offers a major with a concentration in South Asian Studies and a minor in Hindi-Urdu. Both the major and the minor require students to demonstrate advanced proficiency in Hindi-Urdu language. Afroz Taj and John Caldwell also organize UNC's summer study abroad program in India, which has been running annually since 1999.

Many departments in the College of Arts and Sciences include South Asia experts. In the History Department, for example, Emma Flatt and Iqbal Sevea cover modern and premodern South Asia respectively, teaching undergraduate surveys and training graduate students while also contributing to the Triangle South Asia Consortium.

The professional schools at Carolina are likewise committed to South Asia. The Kenan-Flagler Business School received a 2013 Obama-Singh 21st Century Knowledge Initiative award to collaborate with the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB) on the project "Partnering for Success: Advancing Sustainability Research and Education in India."

Carolina faculty organize events, film festivals, and workshops on a regular basis. Below are two examples of upcoming events. Please join us!

**Invoking the Goddess: Death and Devotion in Sri Lanka, March 19, 2014**  
4:00 pm, 1005 FedEx GEC

Dr. Malathi de Alwis is a feminist scholar and activist at the International Centre for Ethnic Studies, Colombo, Sri Lanka. In a context where Sri Lanka is slowly emerging from three decades of civil war and attempting to stitch together a social fabric tragically bifurcated into triumphant Sinhalese and defeated Tamils, it is timely to reflect on the shared history and

traditions of Sinhalese and Tamils, Buddhists and Hindus. As a sorrowing yet resilient woman who punishes but also offers succor to multitudes, the Sri Lankan Hindu-Buddhist goddess Kannaki/Pattini is a symbol of hope to the many war widows and women-headed households now constituting a significant percentage of the population. This talk, which focuses on the Goddess and on a photographic exhibition that is currently on display in Sri Lanka, seeks to highlight these complex layers of devotion, hope and resilience.

**Padosan (Lady Neighbor), April 12, 2014**  
6:00 pm, Nelson Mandela Auditorium, FedEx GEC, Part of the UNC South Asia Film Festival. The festival is sponsored by the Indus Cinema Club, the CAC, and the students of ASIA 231: Bollywood Cinema

## Southeast Asia Faculty Working Group

One of our most active faculty-led colloquia focuses on Southeast Asia, led by Christian Lentz of the Geography Department. This year the group has hosted scholars including Oscar Salemink, Professor in the Anthropology of Asia, University of Copenhagen; Tania Murray Li, Professor in Anthropology, University of Toronto; Degung Santikarma, Research Fellow, & Leslie Dwyer, Director of the Center for the Study of Gender and Conflict School for Conflict Analysis and Resolution, George Mason University; Nick Turse, journalist and Nation Institute fellow; and Eric Tagliacozzo, History, Cornell University.

The CAC is working closely with this faculty working group on strategies for expanding our language and content offerings in Southeast Asian Studies. UNC already has a flagship program for rising sophomores, the Southeast Asia Summer Program (SEAS), which funds

students just beginning their academic careers at Carolina to spend an intensive summer in Singapore and one other location in Asia (which changes each year). We also offer study abroad options in Thailand, Singapore, and Vietnam, as well as a dual degree program with the National University of Singapore.

## Korea Forum

Another active group on campus is the Korea Forum, organized by Ji-Yeon Jo of the Asian Studies Department and Jongbae Park of the School of Medicine.

This group organizes regular talks of interest to the faculty, grad students, and undergrads interested in Korean Studies, such as Professor Namhee Lee (Modern Korean history at UCLA), who spoke in February on "The Politics of Remembering the Korean War: Blockbuster Films, History, and Social Memory."

The Korea Forum also shows Korean films, hosts meetings for the Carolina Korea Fellows, and coordinates collaboration with colleagues at Duke.

The Department of Asian Studies offers Korean language through the advanced level, as well as a range of content courses related to Korean history and culture. UNC likewise offers study abroad opportunities at South Korean institutions including Chung-Ang University, Sungkyunkwan University, Yonsei University, and Korea University.





## The Carolina Asia Center

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UNC  
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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's programs have been supported by the Freeman Foundation, the Mellon Foundation, the Japan Foundation, the Korea Foundation, the Thai Government, and through our close 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, study abroad, and visiting scholars programs.

<http://carolinaasiacenter.unc.edu>