



The University of Virginia
east asia center
NEWSLETTER

Spring 2005

UVA to Host VCAS

For the first time in many years, the University of Virginia is hosting the annual meeting of the Virginia Consortium on Asian Studies on Saturday, February 26. The group, which brings together scholars and students in the Commonwealth who are interested in East and South Asia, will focus this year on the theme "Inequality in Asia." Our program features a keynote address on uneven development in contemporary China by G. William Skinner, as well as two panels examining inequality issues in Japan, Southeast Asia, and South Asia.

Complete program details can be found on page two. Prof. Skinner's talk may be of particular interest to many in the East Asian Studies community here. Prof. G. William Skinner, editor and co-author of the landmark volume *The City in Late Imperial China*, taught for many years in

the Anthropology Department of the University of California at Davis, where he developed an extensive research project focused on spatial analyses of regional systems in Japan and China. Professor Skinner's work on regional systems grows out of his pathbreaking analysis published in three parts in the *Journal of Asian Studies* entitled *Marketing and Social Structure in Rural China*. Professor Skinner is a past president of the Association for Asian Studies.

All local faculty and students are welcome to attend. You can come to any of the specific sessions that interest you, with no obligation to attend the entire day's events. If you would like to reserve a lunch (at a cost of \$15, payable on the day of the conference), please email Len Schoppa at schoppa@virginia.edu.

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From the Director

February 9 ushered in the Year of the Rooster and as the new director of the East Asia Center, I am reminded that it will take the rooster's qualities of hard work and diligence if I am to live up to the standards set by my predecessor, Anne Kinney. It is nevertheless with great anticipation that I look forward to my tenure as director. Our center is blessed with a community of outstanding faculty and students and there is every reason to expect that we will continue to prosper and grow in the coming years. The Center also is lucky to have a number of supporters whose assistance over the years has been critical to all of our endeavors. To these friends I offer my heartfelt thanks.

One of my first

priorities as director will be to build upon Anne's efforts to establish the Center as one with national stature. In this regard, we will soon be applying again for qualification as a National Resource Center, which we very narrowly missed in the last round of competition. Such qualification would provide funding for almost all aspects of our program, including the hiring of additional faculty, support for graduate and faculty research, library acquisitions, and community outreach. In the meantime, work on the East Asian reading room in Alderman Library will soon be complete and several departments are now carrying out searches for new hires.

My work will also

entail the continuation of traditions such as the guest speaker series and other public activities. Along with a full slate of speakers this spring, we are proud to be hosting the annual meeting of the Virginia Consortium of Asian Studies on February 26, at which the renowned anthropologist G. William Skinner will deliver the keynote address. I hope that many of you will be able to attend.

As I settle into this new job, I also hope that you will continue to keep us up to date on your activities and share with us any news you may have. I wish you all a very prosperous and productive new year.

Brad Reed

Virginia Consortium on Asian Studies

PROGRAM FOR SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 26

9:30-10:00 Register and Coffee

10:00-10:15 Welcome

10:15-11:45 *Panel One: Inequality in Japan*

- Deborah Milly, Political Science-Virginia Tech, on "The Japanese Courts and the Evolving Boundaries of Equality for Non-Japanese."
- Ellen Fuller, Sociology-UVA, on "Inequalities Across Culture: an American Corporation in Japan."
- Discussant: Len Schoppa (UVA-political science)

12:00-1:00 Lunch

1:00-2:15 Keynote Lecture by G. William Skinner, Anthropology-UC Davis, on "The Spatial Logic of Uneven Development in Contemporary China."

2:15-2:30 Coffee Break

2:30-4:00 *Panel 2: Inequality in the Rest of Asia*

- Aseema Sinha, Political Science-Univ of Wisconsin, on inequality in South Asia
- Brantly Womack, Political Science-UVA, on "Is International Inequality a Bad Thing: The Case of China and Vietnam."
- Discussant: John Echeverri-Gent (UVA-political science)

ADJOURN AT 4:00

Faculty & Alumni News

Brantly Womack attended a conference in Taipei on "China and Grassroots Democracy" in November. His book, *China and Vietnam: the Politics of Asymmetry* has been accepted by Cambridge U. Press.

With the funding of a Weedon Faculty Art Research Travel Grant and a supplementary grant from the Art Department, **Dorothy Wong** traveled to Hong Kong and Seoul, South Korea to conduct archival research, establish collegial contacts, and study museum collections as well as visit archaeological, cultural sites. The research and fieldwork focused on her next major research project in the study of medieval Chinese Buddhist art and its interactions with Korean and Japanese traditions. Wong said of her visit, "This relatively short trip to Hong Kong and Seoul enabled me to gain access to research materials in East Asian languages, and the many academic and the museum contacts I established will be very important for future visits and joint projects."

On 9 February 2005, **Nevan Fisher**, a recent UVA Ph.D. graduate and current



doctoral candidate in the Corcoran Department of History, traveled to Washington, D.C. to address the staff of the Congressional-Executive Commission on China. The CECC was created by Congress in 2000 and

monitors China's human rights and the development of the rule of law. Nevan spoke on China's religious affairs policy, but more specifically, he told of the complex relationships that exist between the State and the official and unregistered Protestant churches. His comments were based on more than one and a half years of on-sight dissertation research. Nevan was invited to testify before the Congressional-Executive Commission on China by Dr. **Kate Kaup**. Kaup (nee Palmer) received her Ph.D. from UVA's Department of Government and Foreign Affairs in 1997. Though she has been serving on the faculty of Furman University (Greenville, SC) since that time, Kate is now on a one-year leave of absence, working as a 2005 Special Adviser to the CECC.

Conference Dedicated to Former UVA Professor

Professors Chen Jian and Brantly Womack are co-hosting the 34th annual Sino-American Conference at UVA, with the theme of Personality and the Changing Structure of Politics in Greater China. The conference will be open to the public, and the papers will be available on the conference website.

The Sino-American Conference is jointly sponsored by the Institute of International Relations of Chengchi U.,

Taipei. Every other year it is held at an American university, and UVA was the host in 1987.

The conference will be dedicated to the memory of Professor Shaochuan "Tony" Leng, one of the founders of Asian studies at UVA.



Spring Lectures and Events

*Old Tibetan Documents Online
Project: Deciphering old Tibetan
Materials from Dunhuang and
elsewhere*

Feb. 4th – Cabell 311

Yoshiro Imaeda

PhD, Director of Research, National Center
for Scientific Research (CNRS), France

*The Spatial Logic of Uneven
Development in Contemporary
China*

Feb. 26th – Minor 125

1pm-2:15pm

William Skinner

Distinguished Professor Emeritus, Dept. of
Anthropology, U. of California, Davis CA

*How Much Giving Would the
Buddhist 'Perfection of Generosity'
Require: An Inquiry in Buddhist
Ethics*

March 17th – Minor 225

David B. and Mary H. Gamble

Professor in Religion, Department of
Religious Studies/Asian Studies,
Occidental College, L.A., California

*Japanese Macroeconomic Dilemmas:
The Implications of Demographics for
Growth and Stability*

Mar. 18th – Cab. 311

Mike Smitka

Professor of Economics, William School of
Commerce, Washington and Lee University

*In-house Burial and Bilateral
Namesakes: House and Access to the
Past among the Paiwan of Taiwan*

April 1st – Cabell 311

3pm

Chiang Bien

Visiting Fellow at the Southeast Asia
Program, Cornell University

*Women Heckling Men in Early 20th
Century China*

Apr. 8th – Cabell 311

David Strand

Professor of Political Science and East
Asian Studies, Dickinson College

*Washington's Policies towards
North Korea & the Taiwan Strait:
The Role of U.S. Domestic Politics*

Apr. 15th – Cabell 311

T.J.Cheng

Professor of Government, College of
William and Mary

THE ELLEN BAYARD WEEDON EAST ASIA TRAVEL GRANTS

This grant is awarded by the East Asia Center at the University of Virginia. Funds granted are to be used toward the cost of round-trip airfare between Charlottesville and East Asia. The grant funds travel to East Asia (including Tibet) only.

Eligibility

Both students and faculty members are eligible. Applicants must plan to be in East Asia at least two weeks for study or research. Travels for conference presentation or attendance are not eligible. Faculty applications will not be considered if they have received a Weedon grant in the past year, unless such grant was declined. In their statement of purpose, student applicants should clearly describe how the proposed travel furthers their educational and/or professional goals.

Successful applicants are required to be in residence at the University the following academic year and must be willing to share their newly acquired knowledge with the University community via lectures, seminars, and/or other presentations.

Travel Grant Awards

Applicants intending to spend two to eight weeks in East Asia under the conditions outlined herein may apply for a travel grant to cover **partial (25% or more)** round trip air fare between Charlottesville and East Asia. Applicants intending to spend eight weeks or more in East Asia under the conditions outlined herein may apply for a travel grant to cover **up to full** round trip air fare between Charlottesville and East Asia. Under special circumstances students and faculty members

may apply for **up to full** round trip air fare regardless of length of stay in East Asia, provided the trip has a sound and genuine professional or academic purpose, i.e., to attend a professional conference, to conduct research that can only be conducted in East Asia, etc.

These travel grants **cannot** be used cover the following: (1) trips designed to enable a student or faculty member to simply "visit" East Asia, (2) in-country travel, (3) program and/or conference fees, (4) lodging and accommodations.

Selection Criteria

Travel grant applications shall be judged according to the selection committee's assessment of the quality of the applicant, the intellectual and academic cohesiveness of the applicant's project, and financial need. Preference shall be given to the applicants who have not recently been to East Asia and, in the following order, to:

1. research, language and cultural study;
2. participation in study tours;
3. participation in conferences.

No single travel grant shall exceed one-third of available funds, and normally no more than half of the available funds shall be allocated to faculty members.

Application Procedures

Student applicants must submit three (3) copies of the application forms, two (2) supporting letters of recommendation from U.Va. faculty members, and a U.Va. transcript.

Faculty applicants must provide a letter detailing their plans and anticipated travel costs. Application forms are available at the East Asia Center, 224 Minor Hall, and online at <http://www.virginia.edu/~eastasia>. Completed applications are due at 5:00 p.m. March 14, 2005, and should be returned to the East Asia Center (224 Minor Hall).

Abroad in East Asia

As the spring semester progresses, students begin to consider their summer study abroad options. Though UVA's Shanghai Chinese language program was unfortunately cancelled, the Gateway program is still an option to study the history, language and culture of China while in its economic capital, Shanghai. The deadline for applications is March 18. More information can be found here: <http://www.virginia.edu/iso/studyabroad/gateway/index.html>.

While Chinese language students have found options like studying in Hangzhou, Beijing or Singapore, Japanese students have the opportunity to participate in programs such as JET. One recent alum, Roman Tedeschi, offers his story.

JET in Kobe

As a 2004 graduate of the University, I was lucky to be accepted to the semi-prestigious JET (or Japanese Exchange Teaching) Program, which accepts applicants from all over the world to teach English at various Japanese elementary, middle, and high schools. The program is increasing in numbers every year, and I

believe there were approximately 3,000 new JETs this year alone. After being accepted you are placed somewhere in Japan at the discretion of the Japanese Ministry of Education. As many JETs are placed in rural areas despite their wish of a big city, I was lucky to get my first choice of a city called Kobe.

To get to the high school where I teach in Kobe, I take the subway one stop every morning. The students are very well behaved (at least relative to my experience as a high school student in the States) which makes teaching that much easier. The only problems I have are actually the opposite of behavioral issues. Sometimes the students are too quiet, making a conversation class difficult, and sleeping in class seems to be fairly acceptable in Japan. I teach every class with a native Japanese English teacher, which is the standard for JET Program. Every week, I have thirteen classes, 5 of which are senior classes, and 8 of which are freshman classes. The freshmen classes are mandatory, so they can get quite repetitive with the same textbooks and uninterested

students. The elective senior classes are much more rewarding as I have the freedom to plan my own lessons, the students' language ability is better, and the entire class is actually interested in learning English. All told, the job pays very well, is not at all difficult (I have plenty of time every day to study or read by myself), and can be very rewarding at times. Most of the students are actually very excited to get the chance to speak with a foreigner, and almost everyone is always very polite.

That said, living in Japan can be trying at times. Not being able to read or speak the language makes daily tasks that much harder. Living halfway around the world from friends and family can also be difficult. You must be able to adapt to a very foreign society. If you can, however, I highly recommend JET Program to anyone interested in Japan. I have friends from all over the world doing the program, and almost everyone will or has renewed their contract for another year or two. I just signed my re-contracting paper in January, so I will be staying here for a while.

Roman Tedeschi