



The East Asia Center

Newsletter

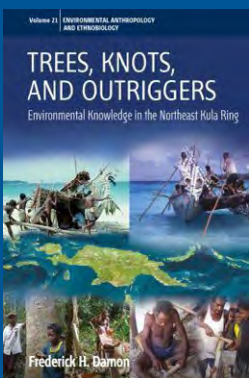
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On April 13th the East Asia Center organized a group visit to Morven Tea House and Garden.

Faculty Publications



Fred Damon

Trees, Knots, and Outriggers: Environmental Knowledge in the Northeast Kula Ring. New York, NY. Berghahn Books, 2017.

Although Damon's work is largely about the Melanesian

Message from the Director

This academic year the Center welcomes several new faculty: Jack Chen in East Asian Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Camilla Fojas in Media Studies, and Natasha Heller in Religious Studies (beginning in spring 2017). Michiko Wilson is retiring after a four-decade long career and as a trail blazer at an earlier time when the University had very few female faculty! Her contributions to Japanese literature, notably in her translation of the works of the Japanese Nobel Laureate Kenzaburo Oe and in feminist literary criticism, and her dedication to teaching was honored in a luncheon on April 26 hosted by Aaron Nir, one of her former students (1987

Japanese Literature major) and his wife Satoko. Mr. Nir also made a generous gift, setting up the Michiko N. Wilson Award at the University to advance the study of Japanese literature and Japan-US cultural relations in her honor. There will be a formal announcement of this annual award in the Fall. We wish her all the best in her retirement!

Jean Blackwell joined us in the fall as Administrative Supervisor, while Jo Watts, who previously was Administrative Coordinator of the Asia Institute, now mostly works with Center matters. In August 2016, the Center office moved to a new location, New Cabell 037, and we have also launched an updated Center web

society he has been researching for 40 years, the concluding synthetic chapter of the book shows how an outrigger canoe form, which is as much a religious as communicative instrument, entails a synthesis of relations between the earth and heaven. Although the facts of the case come from the island culture, his interpretive scheme derives from his last 10-15 years gradually becoming familiar with the intersection of heaven and earth in Chinese architectural and cosmological thought. The University of Virginia, Weedon Foundation and East Asian Center have greatly facilitated his time and study in China and therefore significantly contributed to the comparative project he brought to fruition with the publication of his book.

Harry Harding

Harding has co-authored, with Ellen Laipson, the president of the Stimson Center, the chapter "U.S. Views," in *Asian Views on America's Role in Asia: The Future of the Rebalance*, commissioned and published by the Asia Foundation. He presented the report to audiences in Tokyo and Seoul, and was interviewed about the report by the Tokyo bureau chief of the New York Times. He has also begun work on a new book on the history of U.S.-China relations since 1992, under the working title *What Went Wrong? The U.S. and China from Partners to Competitors*.

page. We thank Jo for assisting in the transition of both "moves".

The total number of faculty affiliated with the Center is around 50. While the majority comes from the College, we also have affiliated faculty in other schools across campus. In light of the general dissatisfaction that faculty are often in silos of their own disciplines and divisions, the Center launched the Center Faculty Forum. At each forum, 2 to 3 faculty from different disciplines give brief presentations of their current research. This will be an occasion for us to learn from each other and to truly engage in cross-disciplinary and cross-regional dialogues. The inaugural forum occurred in February and received very positive feedback. We plan to schedule the forum regularly and will expand to include our colleagues in Southeast Asian Studies as well.

This year we also launched the 4+1 B.A./M.A. East Asian Studies Program designed specifically for UVa students. The program complements our current two-year M.A. program, but provides qualified UVa students an accelerated path to reach the goal of obtaining an M.A. as preparation for careers in business, government service, and media, or as preparation for entering professional schools or doctoral programs. Although we have not recruited students to enroll in the program this fall, we hope to more broadly advertise it to our students in the coming year.

With the generous support of "The Family of Sally and Bruce Nelson" funds, we began the

"Nelson Lectures on Southeast Asia" and the "Nelson Scholars" program in spring 2016. In fall 2016, the Center has created the Committee on Southeast Asia Programming and Grants to oversee various activities. The announcement of the establishment of the Nelson Endowment Fund in January 2017 ensures continuous support of the above programs. We are very grateful to the Nelson family for their generous support in advancing the understanding and study of Southeast Asia, an area that has long been overlooked in the College's curriculum.

Since his recent retirement and true to the form of a dedicated historian, Emeritus Professor Ron Dimberg has been working on a project documenting the institutional history of East Asian Studies at the University. His initial findings was presented in a lecture entitled "East Asian Studies at UVa: The Early Decades — Context and Content" in April. An audio recording of the lecture has been posted to the Center home page. Dimberg was one of the founding faculty members of the East Asia Center, and was instrumental in working with the Weedon family in establishing the Weedon Endowment Fund that continues to sponsor the Center's activities and grants in a vital way. We thank Dimberg for his dedication!

Dorothy Wong
May 1, 2017



Aynne Kokas

Hollywood Made in China.
Oakland, CA: University of California Press, 2017.

China's entry into the World Trade Organization in 2001 ignited a race to capture new global media audiences. Hollywood moguls began courting Chinese investors to create entertainment on an international scale—from behemoth theme parks to blockbuster films. *Hollywood Made in China* examines these new collaborations, where the distinctions between Hollywood's "dream factory" and Xi Jinping's "Chinese Dream" of global influence become increasingly blurred. With insightful policy analysis, ethnographic research, and interviews with CEOs, directors, and film workers in Beijing, Shanghai, and Los Angeles, Aynne Kokas offers an unflinching look at China's new role in the global media industries. A window into the partnerships with Chinese corporations that now shape Hollywood, this book will captivate anyone who consumes commercial media in the twenty-first century.

Announcements

East Asia Center Launches 4+1 B.A./M.A. Program

The 4+1 B.A./M.A. for UVa students is an interdisciplinary program intended for students who want in-depth exposure to East Asia at the graduate level while also gaining competency in an East Asian language. The program is designed for students who seek a rich knowledge of East Asia as preparation for careers in business, government service, and media, or as preparation for entering professional schools or doctoral programs. Undergraduates may apply directly to the Center for promotion to the master's program without having to pay an application fee and sit for standardized tests. More information on the program can be found on the East Asia Center website under the "Academics" heading.

Funding Opportunity for UVa Faculty and Students

The Fudan University Fellows Program and East China Normal University ECNU-UVa Visiting Scholar Program provide funding (airfare, housing and/or per diem) to graduate students and/or faculty to do research at those universities in Shanghai. For more information, please see the announcement regarding this program on the East Asia Center website.

10th Anniversary for STARTALK at UVa

The Virginia STARTALK Chinese Teacher and Student Academies (VSCTA and VSCSA respectively) enter their 10th anniversary this summer. The UVa 2017 combination program will continue to offer an innovative, blended training model to prepare Chinese language teachers to educate online. Its proven record of accomplishment, along with teacher participants' testimonials praising its content, training and rigor, have garnered national recognition and enabled the program to attract a large application pool from diverse geographical areas. For 2017, the VSCTA program will recruit 12 passionate teachers nationwide. The recruited teachers will actively engage in synchronous and asynchronous interactive platforms created for the two-week pre-program online training modules as well as be present during the three-week residential onsite training here at UVa. The full program runs from June 19th to July 6th. Please view the program website for further information: <http://www.startalkuva.com>.

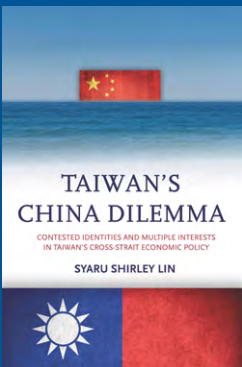
New Library Resources

Interested in finding new books in your field at the UVa Library? Find them by call number at: <http://guides.lib.virginia.edu/newbooks>.

Coming Soon: *Encyclopedia of Chinese Language and Linguistics* online reference tool.

Hsin-Hsin Liang

Hsin-Hsin Liang co-authored with De-an Wu, Julian Wheatley, Xianmin Liu and Judy Zhiyun Mu 《外国人生活汉语教材系列》 (Success in China: Mandarin for Living: A Communicative Approach). Chinese Textbook Series. Vol II. Beijing: Beijing University Press, 2016.



Shirley Lin

Taiwan's China Dilemma. Stanford, CA. Stanford University Press, 2016.

China and Taiwan share one of the world's most complex international relationships. Although similar cultures and economic interests promoted an explosion of economic ties between them since the late 1980s, their economic integration has faced episodic public opposition and has failed to generate progress toward the unification that both governments once claimed to seek. In addition, Taiwan's recent Sunflower Movement succeeded in obstructing deeper economic ties with China.

Taiwan's China Dilemma explains the divergence between economic and political relations across the Taiwan Strait and the oscillation in

Faculty & Staff News

Jack Chen

Jack Chen is co-director, together with Debjani Ganguly and Alison Booth, of the "Humanities Informatics" project, a \$466K SIF grant for three years: 2016–19. Here is a brief description of the project:

"We have established an interdisciplinary Laboratory on Humanities Informatics that will bring together scholars at UVa working on questions arising from the management, control, and flow of information in both historical and contemporary contexts. The transformative nature of this initiative lies in the way it brings a contemporary perspective on the impact of information sciences together with an examination of the intellectual and cultural histories of information that have largely gone unacknowledged within information studies, as well as epistemological and ethical questions of how structures of information have shaped knowledge and values within society. UVa through this laboratory can take a leadership role in global academia by advancing innovative research, creative teaching, and public engagement in the field of humanities informatics, transforming the traditional practices of the humanities through active collaboration with disciplines such as library science, engineering, mathematics, statistics, computer science, neuroscience, and bioinformatics. Such an initiative would also leverage the considerable faculty strengths at UVa, where there is already a critical mass of scholars working on humanistic-oriented questions related to the information sciences, but who lack the resources and institutional

mechanisms to collaborate and make meaningful connections across departments and schools."

Harry Harding

In October, together with Brantly Womack, he helped arrange a symposium on China, co-sponsored by the Japan institute of International Affairs and UVa's Miller Center of Public Affairs, where he also spoke on the "U.S.-China-Japan Strategic Triangle." The symposium was partially funded by the East Asia Center. Harding continues to serve as the co-principal investigator of a Track Two dialogue, funded by the Carnegie Corporation, that includes policy analysts from China, Russia, India, the U.S., and the EU to discuss the connections among international finance, climate change, energy, and security. The next meeting will be held in June in Dubai.

Aynne Kokas

In December, Aynne Kokas was named a fellow in the Public Intellectuals Program of the National Committee on US-China Relations, in June she was named a term member of the Council on Foreign Relations, and this past April she was named a 2017-2018 residential fellow at the Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars.

Hsin-Hsin Liang

Hsin-Hsin Liang received the "Excellence in Teaching Abroad Award" by the Center of Teaching Excellence at UVa, and the 2017 Distinguished Faculty Award by the Z Society at UVa. She was elected as the President of the Chinese Language Teachers Association in Virginia, 2017–19.

economic policy through the interplay of national identity and economic interests. Using primary sources, opinion surveys, and interviews with Taiwanese opinion leaders, the book offers a vivid picture of one of the most unsettled and dangerous relationships in the contemporary world, and illustrates the growing backlash against economic liberalization and regional economic integration around the world.

John Shepherd

John Shepherd has published the followings in the past year:

“The Qing, the Manchus, and Footbinding: Sources and Assumptions under Scrutiny.” *Frontiers of History in China* 11, no. 2 (2016): 279–322;

“Taiwan Prefecture in the Eighteenth Century,” in *The Cambridge History of China, Volume 9, Part Two, The Ch'ing Dynasty to 1800*, Willard J. Peterson, ed., pp. 77–110. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2016;

Taiwan bianjiang de zhili yu zhengzhi jingji 1600–1800 台灣邊疆的治理與政治經濟 (Chinese translation of *Statecraft and Political Economy on the Taiwan Frontier*, Stanford 1993). 2 vols., 676 pages. Introductions by Paul Katz and Zhang Longzhi. Translated by Lin Weisheng, Zhang Longzhi, Lin Wenkai, and Cai Yaowei. Taipei: National Taiwan University Press, 2016

Allan Megill

In November 2016 Allan Megill visited Heilongjiang University, where he gave two lectures and participated in a dialogue in the Department of Marxist philosophy, and Zhejiang University, where he conferred a colleague interested in the theory of history and participated in an impromptu Q&A, with alumni of Zhejiang University and others, concerning the result of the U.S. presidential election. He will be spending the month of July as a Senior Fudan Fellow at Fudan University, Shanghai.

Mark Metcalf

At the 2016 Military Ethics: Chinese and Western Perspectives Conference in November, Mark Metcalf presented a talk titled “In the Service of Military Combat Readiness: A Survey of 21st Century PLA Scholarship on the Role of Military Ethics in Warfare.” Based on contemporary Chinese military writings, the presentation examined Chinese perspectives on the sources of military ethical guidance and the role of ethical guidance in modern warfare.

Then, in February of 2017, Metcalf spoke before the UVA Navy ROTC Battalion. “Sun Tzu? Who cares?! The Relevance of Sunzi’s Art of War to Modern Warfare: A People’s Liberation Army Perspective,” based on contemporary Chinese military writings, discussed how the Art of War is being applied to modern warfare.

Jo Watts

East Asia Center Administrative Coordinator Jo Watts spent November trekking through the Annapurna Conservation Area in Nepal. After brief stay in Pokhara, Jo followed the

Bhurungi Khola to Ulleri and then ascended through the rhododendron forests of Ghorepani, where an early morning climb of Poon Hill yielded spectacular photos of the entire massif. Several days, many miles, and countless vistas later, Jo reached the Annapurna basecamp at an altitude of 4130 meters. After a day of quiet reflection among the humbly tall mountains Jo descended back down through the Modi Khola Valley.

Brantly Womack

This year, Brantly Womack presented a paper at the Hallsworth Conference on China and the World in Manchester, UK, and it is published in *International Affairs* as “Asymmetric Parity: US-China Relations in a Multinodal World.” Additionally, he also participated in reaching a new MOU between UVA’s Department of Politics and Institute of Political Science Academia Sinica, Taiwan.

In May, Brantly will be a visiting researcher at China Foreign Affairs University in Beijing, and in July he will participate in a panel discussing regionalism and asymmetry at the Congress of Latin American Political Science in Montevideo, Uruguay.

Dorothy Wong

Dorothy Wong has been appointed a Foreign Research Fellow for the International Wutai Institute of Buddhism and East Asian Culture, China, 2016–19. Her next book, *Buddhist Pilgrim-Monks as Agents of Cultural and Artistic Transmission: The International Buddhist Art Style in East Asia, ca. 645–770*, is in production and will be released in early 2018. For her digital project on Avalokiteśvara, two workshops

Ellen Zhang

Ellen Zhang published two articles in the past year, “Of Revelers and Witty Conversationalists: Song (960-1279) Biji as Literature of Leisure” and “Negative Role Models: Unfilial Stories in Song Biji.”

She has just finished a translation project, *Record of the Listener: Selected Stories from Hong Mai's Yijian zhi*, for which she received a publication assistance grant from the East Asia Center. The manuscript is currently under review at Hackett Publishing.

She continues to work on her monograph, *Family, Ancestor, and Native Place: Practicing Filial Piety in Northern Song (960-1127) China*.

Brantly Womack

Brantly Womack has co-edited, with Yuk Wah Chan, *Borderlands in Asia: Emergent Conditions and Relations*, Special Issue of *Asian Anthropology* 14:2 (2016). The issue, which includes his article, “Borders, Boundaries Horizons, and Quemoy in an Asymmetric World,” will be published as a book this year by Routledge.



Ghorepani, Nepal.
The Annapurna Massif
as seen from Poon Hill.
(From Jo Watts)

were held to review database design and translations of iconographic features. The workshops were partially funded by the East Asia Center.

In January she presented a paper at the “Culture and Cultural Diversity in Early Medieval China: (4th - 7th Century)” conference, organized by the Institut für Sinologie, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, and in February gave a paper entitled “Imperial Cities as Capitals of Buddhist Empires” at the UVa Art Department Faculty

Research Forum. She has served as discussants for the “China, Art, History: New Orientations” conference at the University of Chicago, Nov 2016, and the “Buddhist Statecraft in East Asia: A Conference of Storytellers” symposium at the University of Southern California, Feb 2017.

Ellen Zhang

Ellen Zhang is co-organizer of an ACLS-funded workshop on Chinese tomb inscriptions (*muzhiming*) held at UCLA in May 2017.

Student News

Graduating M.A. Students

Benjamin Flake

Advisors: Brantly Womack and Shawn Lyons

Thesis: “A Collapsing Condominium?: The Belt and Road Initiative and its Implications for Sino-Russian Relations in Central Asia”

Jillian Szewzak

Advisors: Charles Laughlin and Allan Megill

Thesis: “Evidence for Marxisms Continued Role in Chinese Economic Modernization Theory: An Analysis”

Emily Thomas

Advisors: Robert Stolz and Gustav Heldt

Thesis: “Death’s Emotional Landscape: Emotions Surrounding Death in the Manyushu”

Graduating Ph.D. Students with a Focus in East Asia

Bill McGrath

Discipline: Religious Studies

Advisor: David Germano

Committee Members: John Nemec, Kurtis Schaeffer, and Ellen Zhang

Dissertation: “Buddhism and Medicine in Tibet: Origins, Ethics, and Tradition”

Yu-Chien Huang

Discipline: Anthropology

Advisor: Ira Bashkow

Committee Members: Fred Damon, Aynne Kokas, Susan McKinnon, and Roy Wagner

Dissertation: “Seeing Like the Land: Controversy, Hierarchy, and Matriliney in Yap (Wa’ab), Federated States of Micronesia”

Eva Natanya

Discipline: Religious Studies

Advisor: David Germano

Committee Members: Sonam Kachru, John Nemec, Peter Ochs, Kurtis Schaeffer, and Michael Suarez

Dissertation: “Sacred Illusion: On Purity and Creation in Je Tsongkhapa’s Philosophy of Tantra”

Licheng Qian

Discipline: Sociology

Advisor: Jeffrey Olick

Committee Members: Krishan Kumar, Isaac Reed, and Brantly Womack

Dissertation: “The Faces of Chairman Mao: A Sociology of Reputation”

Graduate News

- **Carl (Pi-Cheng) Huang**, Ph.D. student in Politics, has been selected for the Nippon Foundation Fellows Program at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies (IUC) in Yokohama, Japan. He will receive a full tuition scholarship plus living stipend to attend the 10-Month Program at the IUC. The Nippon Foundation Fellows Program provides the most promising graduate students with the deep linguistic and cultural knowledge needed to become leaders in their fields. Carl’s research interest is in the comparative regional security developments in postwar Europe and East Asia. -- Carl started taking the First-year Japanese course at UVa in Fall 15, and he participated in an intensive summer Japanese program at Hokkaido International Foundation (HIF), with generous funding support by Weedon Travel Grant.

Undergraduate News



Jong In (Joe) Chey,
seated, second from
left.

- **Jong In (Joe) Chey** (College of Arts and Sciences, ‘18) began learning the Japanese language in Fall 2014, as a first-year student at the University of Virginia. After having completed a third-year level Japanese class by the end of his second year, Joe sought further adventures in his Japanese learning, and decided to participate in the J.LIVE Talk (Japanese Learning Inspired Vision and Engagement) competition to polish his public speaking skills and showcase his proficiency in Japanese.

J.LIVE Talk is a Japanese language speech competition for graduate and undergraduate students presented by The George Washington University. The competition evaluates a comprehensive range of communication skills with an emphasis on the dynamism, vision and

level of engagement of each participant's presentation. Entrants were allowed to include audio-visual materials, audience interaction, and other innovations that enhance their talks in a manner similar to the TED (Technology, Entertainment, and Design) talks. innovations that enhance their talks in a manner similar to the TED (Technology, Entertainment, and Design) talks.

Drawing from his experience through his affiliation with Japanese community in Charlottesville as a Cultural Chair of the Japan Club at UVa, Joe carefully scripted his speech for the preliminary round. Participants were required to provide a short video about themselves, which was used to evaluate their qualifications and proficiency level. His performance earned him an opportunity to advance onto the Final Round, where he placed 2nd, after speaking about his unique perspectives and experiences as the founder/president of Kinetic Sound, a performing arts organization at the university. As the award of being placed 2nd, Joe was offered an all expenses paid tour of Japan, "Kakehashi Project," which is a one-week cultural exchange program sponsored by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Japan, directed towards American students with an interest in the Japanese language or the culture.

Various selections of students are formed into a group for this project, and Joe was a part of the nine-people group consisted of students who placed highly in the different Japanese speech contests across the Japanese speech contests across the U.S. During his participation in the Kakehashi Project, Joe practiced Japanese daily, and gained a new perspective on the aesthetics, social rules, nature, history, and innovation in Japan.

- **Daniel C. Justus** (Chinese '16), a student assistant for the DEALLC, has been accepted to the University of Virginia's School of Law. He will begin his study in the fall of 2017 and hopes to integrate his background in Chinese into his study of the law by focusing on International Law and issues of Intellectual Property Rights.
- **Olivia Negus** (Chinese Language and Literature & Economics '17) traveled to Princeton University in April to participate in the Global Governance Forum hosted by the Princeton University U.S.-China Coalition. The week long conference included a number of different speakers from the fields of human rights, environmental science, international diplomacy, and security, crisis simulations, panel discussions, and a keynote address from the former U.S. ambassador to China, Max Baucus. The conference aimed to provide undergraduates with a platform to develop a comprehensive understanding of US-China relations, and to equip students with the intellectual and interpersonal tools necessary for understanding China's domestic and international policies from a Chinese perspective.

Special Undergraduate Recognition

At the May Commencement, the following four graduating students will receive special recognition for their achievement and excellence in the study of the Japanese language: **Christopher Crowe; Yuqi Feng; Abraham Lee; Elizabeth Reid** -- They will be inducted into the Japanese National Honor Society-College Chapter (JNHS-CC), which is administered by the American Association of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ). The requirements for the honor society include maintaining a 3.5 GPA in five semester courses in the Japanese language, and achieving an overall GPA of 3.0 at the time of nomination. The students will receive Certificates of Excellence and red-and-white cords to wear at the Commencement, and their names will be recognized on the AATJ website.

Events

Battle JIIA/Miller Symposium: The United States, Japan, China, and the Post-Election Future

The Miller Center and the Japan Institute of International Affairs (JIIA) jointly hosted a symposium on the US-Japan-China relationship at the Miller Center November 17-18. Organized by Brantly Womack, the symposium received additional support from the East Asia Center and the College of Arts and Sciences. Other Center participants included Len Schoppa, Harry Harding, and Shirley Lin, as well as UVa alumna and University of Delaware professor Alice Ba. There were seven presenters from JIIA as well as Philip Zelikow from History, Philip Potter from Politics, and Michael Swaine from the Carnegie Endowment. Special guests included Ambassador Atsuyuki Oike, Japan's Deputy Chief of Mission to the U.S., Ambassador Shingo Yamagami Director General of JIIA, and David M. Lampton, Professor and Director of China Studies at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and Chairman of the Asia Foundation. The workshop was a lively event since it was held the week after the election of Donald Trump.

A Literary History of Information Management in China

Organized by Jack Chen, his workshop in May 2017 will bring together humanities scholars working on information management (the process and methods by which information is stored, structured, made retrievable, and circulated), particularly in relationship to literary history. The workshop will lay the foundations for a new collaborative volume on literary history and information management in China, examining how literary information has been organized at the level of the word, the document, and the collection, over the long span of Chinese history and through cultural forms such as dictionaries, encyclopedias, anthologies, canons, archives, and internet databases.

Invited participants include Sarah Allen (Wellesley College), Jennifer Altehenger (King's College London), Kaijun Chen (Brown University), Anatoly Detwyler (Penn State University), Zev Handel (University of Washington), Michel Hockx (University of Notre Dame), Xiao Liu (McGill), Dirk Meyer (University of Oxford), Christopher Nugent (Williams College), Michael Nylan (UC Berkeley), Gregory Patterson (University of South Carolina), Bruce Rusk (University of British Columbia), and Anna Shields (Princeton University).

The Lunar New Year at Gordon Avenue Library

On February 4, the East Asia Center co-sponsored a Chinese New Year celebration event with the Jefferson-Madison Regional Library at its Gordon Avenue branch. The center helped to co-found the event in 2016, and this year's turn out was even better than that of the previous year.

The event kicked off with a lively lion dance by the Laughing Dragon Kung Fu Studio, followed by the story of the 12-animal zodiac narrated by EAC's representative Jo Watts, who gave a colorful powerpoint presentation of cartoon characters for illustration. Five or six young students from the local Han Studio sang a few songs, and members of the Piedmont Chinese Association staffed two craft tables teaching children to cut the Chinese characters

and “double happiness,” as well as to color drawings of a rooster with feather to be glued to its tail.

The East Asia Center decorated the venue with strands of big red fire crackers and festive hangings, and handed out *hongbao* (red envelopes) stuffed with crunchy candies and gold coin chocolate to the children attendees. Additionally, the Center provided dumplings, fresh fruit and beverages as refreshments.



The event was a major success; the room was packed with over 100 attendees, many of whom were young children with their parents. The occasion itself provided excellent cultural exposure and education. The girls and boys appeared fascinated by the lion dance, and soon became bold enough to feed the lion with the *hongbao*. Both adults and children were visibly delighted and impressed throughout the event.

Morven Teahouse and Garden Visit

On April 13th, the East Asia Center organized a trip to the Japanese Garden and Teahouse at Morven. In the mid 1990s, owner John Kluge supervised the construction of the four-acre Japanese garden and tea house, incorporating some 50 plants indigenous to Japan and the Americas. The structure itself was built in Japan using tradition joinery techniques and does not contain a single nail. The carpenters then disassembled the house and traveled with it to the Albemarle County estate, where they then reassembled it on site.

Since Kluge’s donation of the estate to UVa, the University Foundation has gone to great lengths to preserve the garden. The garden is very rarely open to the public and is available by appointment only. With a small group of staff, undergraduates, and community members, the East Asia Center was given the morning to explore and meditate. On hand was also the head gardener, who fielded questions about both individual plants and the garden as a whole.

In cooperation with the University Foundation, the East Asia Center plans incorporating a tradition tea ceremony into the visit, which we plan to schedule twice per semester in the coming years.

Southeast Asia News

This year marked the second year of year of our Southeast Asian studies initiatives, made possible by a generous donation from the Family of Sally and Bruce Nelson. The program is divided into two initiatives. The first of these is the “Nelson Lectures on Southeast Asia,” which brought eight guest speakers to the university this year. Topics ranged from Bornean orangutans trying to survive deforestation to Islam and Religious Coexistence in Southeast Asia to Buddhist mindfulness and meditation.



Wei-yu Zhang (National University of Singapore) delivers a talk titled “The Internet and New Social Formation in China: Fandom Publics in the Making.”

Average lecture attendance for the year was 55 faculty, students, and staff per talk. The second initiative is the “Nelson Scholars Program.” Each year the Southeast Asia Programming and Grants Committee allocates money to be used to defray partial costs of travel to Southeast Asia by University faculty members and students for study and research.

Faculty & Staff News

Erik Braun

On January 26th and 27th, Erik Braun visited the University of Toronto and McMaster University as a warmly welcomed Numata speaker, meeting with students, leading a reading group, and delivering a public lecture. In Toronto, Erik led a reading group on the fifth and sixth chapters of his book, *The Birth of Insight: Meditation, Modern Buddhism, and the Burmese Monk Ledi Sayadaw*. Professor Braun stressed the importance of Ledi’s turn to traditional doctrine and techniques in a new time and with new print technology.

At McMaster on the second day, Braun delivered a public lecture titled “Crossing the Dharmascape,” where he spoke about the “zones of awkward engagement” between Burmese monastic-meditation lineages, American practitioners, and the global audiences of what is now a major export of modern Myanmar: mass-meditation culture.



Magelang, Java. Relief carving at Borobudur. (From Dorothy Wong)

Brantly Womack

Brantly Womack delivered the keynote lecture, “The Vietnam-China-U.S. Triangle—What Next?,” at the Fifth International Conference on Vietnam Studies, Hanoi. The conference is held every 4 years, sponsored by Vietnam National University, Ministry of Education, and Academy of Social sciences.

Dorothy Wong

In December of 2016, a Nelson Scholars Grant supported Dorothy’s travel to visit Borobudur, the world largest Buddhist monument, in Indonesia. A full account of her trip can be found on the final page of this newsletter.

Student News

Supported by a Nelson Scholars Grant, **Yaping Wang**, Ph.D. student in Politics, traveled to Vietnam for archival research for her dissertation, “The Dog that Barks: State-led Propaganda Campaigns on Territorial Disputes.” The purpose of her trip was to access to original sources on state propaganda policy on Sino-Vietnamese territorial disputes, particularly on the 1974 Paracels clash, the 1979 border war, the 1988 Spratlys skirmish and the 2015 oil rig crisis between the two countries. She visited in Hanoi the No. 3 National Archives, the National Library, the Institute of Chinese Studies at the Vietnam Academy of Social Sciences (VASS), the National Army Library and in Ho Chi Minh City the No. 2 National Archives. Her experience doing archival research in Vietnam was mixed



Vietnamese Street Market (From Yaping Wang)

with excitement and frustration. She saw titles of valuable materials in catalogs in both Archives but was only allowed to view a very small portion of them due to political sensitivity. However, Wang was able to gain access to essential materials through creative means. For example, through contacts at the VASS, she obtained copies of an internal publication, a collection of media reports on Sino-Vietnamese affairs during the 1980s and 1990s. In the end, she found most of the materials she needed. In addition, while waiting for approval of her requests to access the archives, she found time to make an excursion to the Sino-Vietnamese border area, mingle with the local ethnic minorities, and visit sites where the war was fought. This, she says, was perhaps the most memorable part of the entire trip.



Vietnamese Street
Market
(From Yaping Wang)



Magelang, Java.
Borobudur.
(From Dorothy Wong)

Report on Travel to Borobudur, December 2016

With the support of a Nelson travel grant, this past December I visited for the first time Borobudur, the world's largest Buddhist monument located in Central Java, Indonesia. Designated a UNESCO World Heritage site in 1991, it was built in the eighth and ninth centuries during the Śailendra Dynasty (fl. 750–850). Surmounting a foundation of about 120 meters square, the edifice consists of five square terraces and three circular terraces, above which is a large stūpa (Buddhist relic mound). The monument consists of more than 2,000 stone relief panels, which line the inner and outer walls of the square terraces, and 504 Buddha statues. The central stūpa at the top is surrounded by 72 Buddha statues, each seated inside a perforated stūpa.

Borobudur is a unique, enigmatic monument, for it invites speculations and interpretations. The tiered, pyramidal structure has been variously understood as a stūpa, a prāsāda (terraced building), or a three-dimensional mandala. The construction of Borobudur, together with the cluster of monuments built around the same time in Central Java, attest to a thriving polity with a robust, agricultural economy. (During this trip I also visited the magnificent Prambalan Hindu Temples nearby.) However, the Śailendra Dynasty disappeared from history and there were no more records from the region from about the 920s, and Borobudur was rediscovered in the nineteenth century during

the colonial period. Borobudur not only shows departures from mainland South Asia in its architectural form, its extensive reliefs carved on the five square terraces are equally astounding. From the lower to the upper levels, the narrative reliefs feature the subjects of *jātakas* (Buddha's birth stories), *avadānas* (parables of the doctrine of karma), the Buddha's life stories, and Sudhana's Pilgrimage.

My interests in visiting Borobudur is to investigate the stone reliefs depicting the pilgrimage of Sudhana (Ch. Shancai tongzi 善財童子), which occupy the top three of the five square terraces. The subject is based on the *Gandavyūha* (Manifestations in Sections; Ch. Ru fajie pin 入法界品), which narrates the young boy's visits to fifty-three teachers/sages in search of enlightenment. The *Gandavyūha* exists as an independent text but is also incorporated as the last section of the gargantuan *Avatamsaka Sūtra* (Flower Ornament Sūtra; Ch. Huayan jing 華嚴經), an important treatise of developed Mahāyāna Buddhism.

I have previously published essays on Avatamsaka art in East Asia, which is also a central theme in my forthcoming book. Avatamsaka art features images of Vairocana, the central Buddha presiding over the Avatamsaka cosmology, known as the Lotus Repository World. In Dunhuang paintings known as *Transformation Tableaux of*

the Avatamsaka Sūtra (Huayan jingbian 華嚴經變) dating from the ninth century, vignettes depicting Sudhana's visits are included in the peripheral areas of the composition. From the Southern Song period, Sudhana's Pilgrimage has become an independent subject featured in sets of woodblock prints. Outside of China, depictions of Sudhana's pilgrimage are found in a well-preserved tenth-century mural cycle in the Tabo Monastery in western Tibet, and in paintings in Japan from the thirteenth century. The reliefs at Borobudur thus count among the earliest pictorial representation of this theme. I plan to conduct a comparative study of these depictions from various regions to investigate their narrative strategies and different emphases. Furthermore, Avatamsaka Buddhism and esoteric Buddhism share similarities in the use of abstract, diagrammatic modes to represent their spatial conceptions and respective cosmologies. My investigation will also explore if Borobudur shows connections to both Avatamsaka Buddhism and esoteric Buddhism at a time when the two traditions flourished in different parts of Asia but converged here in Java. Part of this research will be presented in the Third International Conference on Huayan Buddhism to be held at Peking University in November 2017.

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