2018-19 ALC Newsletter

A NOTE FROM DEPARTMENT CHAIR

Steve Ridgely

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has been a nationally and internationally known center for the study of Asian languages and cultures for decades. Inspired by the university’s motto, “All Ways Forward,” we continue to explore ways to realign our practices with the current and future needs of our students and communities. How can we embrace the traditional strengths in respective language and regional programs while enhancing the increasing significance of transregional and transdisciplinary approaches to the understanding of cultural, social, political, and moral issues? Our answer has been the new Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, launched in July 2016.

Our inaugural year was filled with exciting developments. As part of our continuous restructuring efforts, the department successfully proposed new undergraduate and graduate majors in Asian Languages and Cultures, which will start in Fall 2018. We welcomed Dr. Anthony Cerulli to the department in Fall 2016. Dr. Cerulli’s current projects include an edited volume on ethnographies of the gift in India; and an English translation of a Sanskrit allegory (Jīvānandanam); a monograph exploring changes in education in Ayurveda (one of India’s classical medicines) from 1890 to 1975; and a multi-volume / multi-exhibit photoethnography project on the aesthetics of manuscript archives in India. We also completed an open-rank faculty search, which resulted in the hire of Dr. Tyrell Haberkorn, currently affiliated with the Australian National University. Dr. Haberkorn is a specialist of state violence, human rights, and dissident cultural politics in Thailand, with a long list of publications including Revolution Interrupted: Farmers, Students, Law, and Violence in Northern Thailand (2011, University of Wisconsin Press). She joined the department in the spring of 2018. In addition to these major accomplishments by the department as a whole, we were blessed with plenty of success stories of our students, staff, and faculty. They are just too many to share, but some highlights are featured in this newsletter.

ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Asian Languages & Cultures at UW-Madison is student-centered and driven by research that is integrated into the classroom. We encourage students to study Asia in a regional and comparative frame while cultivating scholarly capacities in particular aspects of Asian culture, including East, South, and Southeast Asian Studies.

Created from the combination of two former departments, the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures and the Department of Languages and Cultures of Asia, the new department serves as a bridge between the two to create an all-inclusive learning experience for students.

Read more about the department at alc.wisc.edu

In 1994, Naomi co-authored “An Integrated Approach to Intermediate Japanese,” which created the foundation for Japanese instruction for non-native speakers. Broadly used in the United States and Asia, this textbook made UW–Madison renowned in the field of Japanese language education. Naomi has also spearheaded the founding of the Japanese floor in the International learning community housed in UW–Madison’s Adams Hall. Funded from the Kikkoman Foundation and the Central Japan Railway (whose chairman at the time was a UW–Madison alumn), the floor allows students living there to engage with Japanese language and culture.

“(McGloin) has influenced so many students and future teachers of Japanese who end up all over the U.S. and the world. When I’m advising students and meeting alumni now, I love hearing about their experiences taking classes with her and how she has influenced them as she did me,” says Michelle Kern Hall, a former student of McGloin and now UW–Madison’s current International Internship Program Interim Director. McGloin’s passions as a language educator have pushed her to stress to students the importance of foreign language. “I think studying foreign language is wonderful because it opens up whole new cultures and new ways of thinking which is different from your own,” McGloin says. “Studying foreign language makes you think about your own culture too, so you might realize something about your own culture that you didn’t realize earlier.”

The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures held a celebration for Professor McGloin on May 4, 2018.

Read the full story by Cade Campbell on alc.wisc.edu/news/

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**NEW KOREAN LANGUAGE FLAGSHIP**

The University of Wisconsin-Madison has launched a new undergraduate Korean Language Flagship Program, becoming the second Korean Flagship in the nation.

With a grant from the National Security Education Program, the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures and the Language Institute in the College of Letters & Science created the new Korean Flagship, designed to prepare undergraduate students of any major for professional competency in Korean by graduation.

“Today, South Korea is among the top 10 trading partners of the United States, and North Korea is considered to be among the top national security concerns,” says Byung-jin Lim, an associate professor of Korean in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. “In addition, since the late 1990s, a cultural phenomenon, the so-called ‘Hallyu’ or ‘Korean Wave,’ represents the growing aspiration around the world to know more about Korean popular culture through television and movies.”

The Korean Flagship will establish an intensive Korean summer program and offer new 400-level courses for students who have completed eighth-semester Korean or the equivalent. It will also establish a Korean language floor in the International Learning Community and a First Year Interest Group that includes first-semester Korean starting in fall 2020.

In addition, the Flagship adds an 11-months capstone overseas program at Korea University in Seoul, South Korea, that will include a professional internship.

“Being granted a second Flagship program in an intense national competition is a tremendous accomplishment,” says Susan Zaeske, Associate Dean for Arts and Humanities in the College of Letters & Science, “and yet another sign of UW-Madison’s strengths in the teaching of languages and cultures.”

Read the full story by Katie Vaughn on alc.wisc.edu
CONFERENCES ON CHINESE LANGUAGE AND CULTURE

The joint meeting of the 26th Annual Conference of International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-26) and the 20th International Conference on Chinese Language and Culture (ICCLC-20) was held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison on May 4 (Friday) - 6 (Sunday), 2018.

Co-organized by the Department of Asian Languages & Cultures and the Center for East Asian Studies and co-sponsored by Language Institute, World Language Education Program, and Chinese Language and Culture Club (CLACC) at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, this joint conference is one of the largest Chinese linguistics conferences held outside of China.

More than 240 scholars from all over the world, including but not limited to, Mainland China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, United States, United Kingdom, Japan, South Korea, France, Hungary, Australia, Singapore, Italy, and Vietnam, attended the conference and presented over 230 papers on various subfields of Chinese linguistics, including syntax, semantics, phonology, phonetics, historical linguistics, morphology, pragmatics, language acquisition, cognitive and functional linguistics, sign linguistics, and many other subcategories.

The 27th Annual Conference of International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL-27) and the 21st International Conference on Chinese Language and Culture (ICCLC-21) will be held at Kobe City University of Foreign Studies in Japan, and Beijing Normal University in China, respectively in 2019.

FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

Professor Gudrun Bühnemann delivered a series of lectures at Wongkwang University, Iksan, South Korea in June 2018 at the invitation of Prof. Kwangsoo Park, Dean of the Graduate School of Asian Studies and Director of the Research Center of Religions at Wongkwang University. Prof. Park is an alumnus of the UW-Madison’s (former) Buddhist Studies Ph.D. Program. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1996. Prof. Park and Prof. Bühnemann are planning to cooperate on several research projects.

Professor William Nienhauser directed a Workshop on the biography of Confucius as it appears in the Shiji (Grand Scribe’s Records) for 35 graduate students and young faculty at Nankai University (Tianjin) from 18-29 June 2018. Besides practice in reading, translating and annotating the Shiji, many of the participants attended a mini-conference over the weekend of 22-23 June where the translations for a forthcoming volume of the Grand Scribe’s Records was nearly completed.

Professor William Nienhauser was in Nanjing University giving a two-week Workshop on the Assassin-Retainer biographies from the Shiji. For two weeks he read the original text, translated and annotated it with about thirty graduate and undergraduate students from six different universities in China and Hong Kong. This is the third year in a row the Professor Nienhauser has held this workshop and two of its “graduates,” Zheyu Su and Yixuan Cai, are now ALC graduate students. Ms. Tingting Zhou, one of the current participants, will be a visiting fellow next year at UW. It is hoped that this kind of cooperation between the two universities will foster even closer ties.

Professor Hongming Zhang was elected at the 26th Annual Conference of International Association of Chinese Linguistics (IACL) held at UW-Madison in May 2018, to serve as the Vice President of IACL this year and, in accordance to IACL’s constitution, will automatically be promoted to the position of President in the following year. He was also recently awarded the Wilson T.S. Wang — New Method College Visiting Professorship in Language Education by the Chinese University of Hong Kong from the Provost Benjamin Wah.
Sunday, June 3, 2018 Professor Emeritus Mohammad Umar Memon passed away from a relatively short battle with a rare form of lung cancer. In a brief call with his wife, Nakako, she shared that he was diagnosed only six months ago, and was enjoying his daily walks and translating projects until a few weeks ago when Hospice care was provided for him in their home.

Professor Memon joined UW-Madison in 1970 and retired in December 2008, after which he held several Honorary Associate appointments. On behalf of the department, his many colleagues (locally, nationally, and internationally), and devoted students we send our deepest condolences to his wife, Nakako, their two sons, and grandchildren.

Read the full story on alc.wisc.edu

CELEBRATING ASIAN STUDIES AT UW

Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC) hosted a symposium on Friday, April 20, 2018, to highlight Asian studies students and the departments’ new degree program. The symposium brought together members of the UW-Madison community to showcase student opportunities and experiences with Asian Studies offered by the university.

Asian Studies participants showcased the impacts Asia has had on their experiences at UW-Madison through conversation, dance, photography and musical performances.

"I want to highlight how important it is to use language and cultural understanding to improve work in any field that you’re in" Hannah Lider, a student of Hindi and Biomedical Engineering said.

"People who are in STEM don’t feel they have the tools to succeed in the humanities or language or cultural studies, but I know, from even this early on in my career how impactful this knowledge is going to be on my career as an engineer" Hannah continued.

David Burnett, a second year UW-Madison student was one of the performers at this symposium, giving a performance in Chinese. Burnett took 2 years of Japanese at Madison West high school before spending 9 months abroad with a Chinese host family.

Burnett will be spending the fall semester of the 2018-2019 school year at National Taiwan University furthering his language and culture studies. A performance was also given by Anaguma Eisa, an Okinawan folk-dance group encouraging people of all ages to develop their full potential through cultural understanding and performing arts.

The ALC undergraduate major will become available to students in the fall of 2019. The student symposium will be a capstone requirement for future ALC majors.

Read the full story by Cade Campbell on alc.wisc.edu
NEW FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

**Anatoly Detwyler** is a scholar of modern Chinese literature and cultural history, with teaching and research interests in media theory, comparative literature, and film. His research looks at how writers and artists in China think about and engage with “information,” including things like data mining, disinformation, censorship, texting, and abstraction—forms of information management that were already a hot topic a century ago, and have since then come to increasingly frame the knowability of the world and the potential for acting upon it. After spending over ten years in New York, Beijing, and Taipei, he is elated to return to his native state. On Saturday mornings, you can usually find him playing disc golf at one of Madison’s many excellent courses.

**Anthony Cerulli** is currently teaching the new ALC Gateway to Asia course (ASIAN 100), and he regularly offers courses on Hinduism, Buddhism, religion in South Asia, and a graduate seminar about research methods in Asian Studies (ASIAN 815). He is a member of UW–Madison’s new Health and the Humanities Certificate, for which he has two new courses he will begin offering in coming semesters: “The Perfectible Body in Religion, Medicine, and Politics” and “Health and Healing in South Asia.”

**Tyrell Haberkorn** first traveled to Thailand in 1997 as an undergraduate student interested in international labor solidarity. Since then, her academic and human rights work has been focused on understanding and working against the recent past and present of state and para-state violence in Southeast Asia. Tyrell Haberkorn received her BA in Cultural Studies and Creative Writing from UNC-Chapel Hill (1997) and her MA (2003) and PhD (2007) in Sociocultural Anthropology from Cornell University. Following a postdoctoral fellow in Peace and Conflict Studies at Colgate University from 2007 to 2009, Tyrell was a fellow in the Department of Political & Social Change in the School of International, Political & Strategic Studies at the ANU College of Asia and the Pacific.

**Hieyoon Kim**, a scholar of the 20th century Korean culture, now focuses on the relationship between archive and a historiography of Korea, with particular emphasis on the country’s colonial experience and its ongoing implication. At 11 years old, she was forced to watch a building she had so enjoyed torn down, which was very disheartening for her to see the destruction of one of her favorite childhood places. This was her entry point into the world of ruins, debris, ephemera and archives. She believes the purpose of university is to enable students to be aware of their role “after” college, challenging them to be able to create a new knowledge or build upon the existing conversation; be open to people who have different backgrounds, interests, and orientations. In short, she wants them not to be afraid of being challenged.

**STUDENT RECOGNITION**

- Cameron G. Keith Memorial Scholarship 2018-19 was awarded to Zach Rattunde (Japanese Major) and Alexis Shoushounova (Japanese and Asian Studies Major)
- Ellen and William E. Fisher Scholarship 2018-19 was awarded to Madeline Chaplin (Chinese Major)

**WINTER GRADUATES DECEMBER 2018**

- Hunter Lynch (Chinese and Communication Arts Major)
- Grant Hussey (Japanese and Biochemistry Major; Mathematics Certificate)
- Wren Margaret Kruse (Japanese Major; Global Health Certificate)
- Dawson Noon (Japanese Major; Global Health Certificate)
- Zhixing Xu (Japanese, Environmental Studies, Forest Science Major)
- Jin Woo Lee (Chinese Professional Communication Certificate; Economics Major)
- Derek Fuerstenberg (Japanese Professional Communication Certificate; Electrical Engineering Major)
- Yuting Lan (Master’s Degree in Chinese)
Matt Alt, a Japanese alum from UW-Madison is currently the VP of AltJapan. He has been working as a professional translator and freelance writer since the early 1990s. His translation experience includes four years as an in-house technical Japanese translator for the United States Patent and Trademark Office. He is the co-author of numerous books about Japan, and a contributor to CNN, Wired Magazine, Slate Magazine, the Independent, Newsweek Japan, the Japan Times, the New Yorker, and many other publications.

When asked how did his UW experience prepare him for his career, he states, “The UW has a very solid Japanese language curriculum that gave me an indispensable foundation. And the study abroad program was also key. I spent an academic year at a Japanese university in Tokyo, and that on-the-ground experience was really priceless. Especially so given how contextual Japanese is but the way it's actually spoken in real life by actual native speakers is something you need to immerse yourself in to really get.” He also said, “I would highly recommend creative writing courses for those who are not as comfortable in their compositional abilities or who are not already doing a lot of writing on their own. A translator, particularly one working in entertainment fields, needs to be very comfortable with reading/writing in their native tongue. I’ve found the best translators are often the most voracious readers.

Jasmine Yu-Hsing Chen, a recent graduate from the University of Wisconsin—Madison, is now currently the Assistant Professor in the Department of Languages, Philosophy and Communication Studies at Utah State University. She specializes in Chinese/Sinophone theatre, cinema, and literature. Her fields of interest include cross-cultural performance, visual cultures, affect studies, and inter-medial adaptations of theatre. She is currently working on a project aimed toward understanding how performance trains and reshapes the performer as well as the audience’s perception of nation, artistry, gender and history. She has served the co-president of the North American Taiwan Studies Association-Wisconsin Chapter. Her article appears on Theatre Dance and Performance Training. Her book Fantasy World of Taiwanese Opera: The Progress of Performing Arts in “O-peiola” and commentaries on theatre and film have been published in Taiwan.

Nicole Springer, an alum who graduated in May 2017 with a Chinese Professional Communication Certificate with International Business and Marketing, and a certificate in South Asian Studies, is currently a Resident Advisor through the CET Academic Programs for the CET UW in India programs. As a student who has been on the program, she says she is the bridge between students and their experience in India. She advises students on many different situations in India, assists with planning and implementing orientation and other program activities and simply put on whatever “hat” is needed of her at that moment.

When asked when she first started having interest in South Asian Studies, she stated, “I feel like there was always a little interest in South Asia, particularly India in general, as it seems so far away and different from what I grew up with. I think I started having an inkling towards languages towards the end of high school and during my freshman year at UW. After taking a year of Mandarin (what people told me was the hardest language), I realized I wanted to learn more. My interest in South Asia started with Hindi at SASLI as I realized how interesting South Asia and India can be.”
Wisconsin Alumni Association (WAA) Japan Chapter holds its annual meeting in Tokyo every June. This year Professor Junko Mori (MA 1992; PhD 1996, Japanese Linguistics) presented a lecture entitled “History of Japanese Language Education in the U.S. and Wisconsin” to over 100 Badgers of all generations, ranging from those who studied in Madison in the 1960s to current students who were participating in summer internship programs in Japan.

With the retirement of Professor Naomi McGloin this spring, among the current faculty Professor Mori became the one who has the longest affiliation with the Japanese program. The WAA presentation gave her an opportunity to look back into the history of the program, as well as to reaffirm its future vision.

During the 1980s, students of Japanese more than doubled, coinciding with the economic growth of Japan. The program saw the second boom in the 2000s when the generation who has been exposed to Japanese popular culture such as anime, manga, and games reached the college age. Accordingly, the program has continued to introduce new materials and activities to meet students’ interests and needs at the time.

After five decades of existence, the 8 hours/week intensive courses, originally designed by late Professor Akira Komai, who argued that East Asian languages require more time for English speakers to master them, will be replaced by 5 hours/week courses, augmented by online materials and provides more flexibility in scheduling. This change responds to the needs of current students, many of whom pursue double or triple majors, combining Japanese with a wide range of humanities, social science, and national science fields. Intermediate and advanced level courses have also been re-envisioned by articulating skill- and topic-based learning goals. New courses to begin in 2019-2020 include Advanced Japanese through Audi-Visual Media and Advanced Topics in Asian Translation.

The presentation that covered the 50-60 year span of development was well received by the audience who reminisced their days on campus. After the presentation, the participants enjoyed reuniting over Wisconsin wine and cheese. On Wisconsin!
CONGRATULATIONS

Nalan Erbil Erkan (Ph.D., Asian Languages and Cultures)

Anthony Lovenheim Irwin (Ph.D., Asian Languages and Cultures)
Dissertation: Building Buddhism in Chiang Rai, Thailand: Construction as Religion

Michael Naparstek (Ph.D., Chinese)
Dissertation: Figuring on Salvation: The Demonic Saviro Wang Lingguan and the Power of Presence in Daoist Ritual and Image at the Ming Court

Milan Simic (Ph.D., Languages and Cultures of Asia)
Dissertation: Linguistic Varieties of the Russian Altai

Selcuk Altuntas (Ph.D., Languages and Cultures of Asia)
Dissertation: How to be a Proper Muslim in the Russian Empire: An Intellectual Biography of Musa Jarullah Bigiyev (1875-1949)

Akiko Imamura (Ph.D., Japanese)
Dissertation: The Interactional Organization of Positive Coparticipant Assessments in Japanese Ordinary Conversation: Revisiting Two Conflicting Preferences

Masha Kobzeva (Ph.D., Chinese)
Dissertation: Compilation of the Jin Shu and Emperor Taizong’s Self-Representation in Early Tang Historiographical Traditional

Jasmine Yu-Hsing Chen (Ph.D., Chinese)
Dissertation: Questioning Homeland, Sensing Home: Performance and the Negotiation of Identity Construction in Cold War China and Taiwan

Aaron Kenna Reich (Ph.D., Chinese)
Dissertation: Seeing the Sacred: Daoist Ritual, Painted Icons and the Canonization of a Local God in Ming China

Xiang Lyu (Ph.D., Chinese)
Dissertation: Prosodic Phonology of the Ningbo Dialect

Hai Liu (Ph.D., Chinese)
Dissertation: Tone Sandhis in Mandarin Chinese