

CAPS February 2009 Report

Dear CAPS-affiliated colleagues:

It is already half into the second month of 2009 and I hope everyone's start of the year is going well.

I'd like to update you regarding CAPS-related activities. There were two searches, Japanese Religion and Chinese History. I am happy to announce that Melissa Curley of McGill University will be joining the Department of Religious Studies as Assistant Professor (specializing in Japanese religion) from Fall 2009. Melissa works on convergence of religious and philosophical traditions in the early twentieth century Japan. We are very excited about the prospect of her joining us.

China search at History Department will have to wait for the next round. We wish the department all the best.

I'd like to mention recent achievements of CAPS-affiliated faculty here.

Professor Chuanren Ke, director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Iowa, has been awarded a three-year, \$230,000 grant from the Henry Luce Foundation for a research project that focuses on learning Chinese as a second language.

Professor Stephen Vlastos has been selected to serve as editor for the Journal of Asian Studies Japan Book Review.

Sonia Ryang received Modern Korean Studies publication grant from Academy of Korean Studies. Also, her book coedited with John Lie, Dean of International Studies, UC Berkeley, entitled *Diaspora Without Homeland: Being Korean in Japan*, published from University of California Press, is available in print now.

CAPS will jointly sponsor the following public lectures in this month and march. Please mark your calendar.

On Friday, Feb. 27, Rustin Gates, Assistant Professor of Japanese History from Bradley University will give a lecture titled "Solving the Manchuria Problem: Uchida Yasuya and the Long Russo-Japanese War (1904-1933)" from 12:30 - 2:20 pm in Room 61 Schaeffer Hall.

On Monday, March 9, CAPS co-sponsors a public lecture "The Spirit Catches You and You Fall Down: How Culture Complicates Medicine" by Anne Fadiman, award-winning author, essayist, editor, and professor of English at Yale University. The event will start at 7:30 pm at W10 (Buchanan Auditorium), Papajohn Business Building.

On Wednesday, March 11, Mariko Schimmel, Assistant Professor of Japanese, Grinnell College, will give a talk titled "Marx Boys Hit the Streets: Proletarian Subjects and the Popular Culture in Pre-war Japan" at 2:30 pm in 302 Schaeffer Hall.

On March 31, Alasdair Bowie, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, George Washington University will give a talk titled "Decentralization in Comparative Perspective: Sub-national

Economic Governance in Indonesia and Vietnam" at 12:30 pm 302 Schaeffer Hall,

More information about the talks can found at CAPS website at <http://international.uiowa.edu/centers/caps/events/default.asp>.

I'm pleased to mention also that one of the two Asian writers funded by the Freeman grant II has been nominated. Ge Fei, a prolific writer from China will join IWP 2009 Program along with a Japanese writer to be nominated soon.

Other program-related matters include the following:

Interviews for the CAPS Program Assistant position will take place in the coming week and the new appointee is expected to start in early March to work on Summer 2009 National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) Seminar funded by the Freeman Foundation.

The Summer 2009 National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) Seminar will take place at University Capitol Centre during June 17-19 and July 8-10. We are currently seeking speakers of Chinese and Japanese studies to give lectures to the seminar participants who are secondary school teachers of World History, World Literature, and World Geography. If you are interested and available during those days of seminar, please contact us at 335-1305 or email at caps@uiowa.edu

The Freeman Study Abroad in Asia is open for applications for University of Iowa students who are enrolled full-time in the current academic year. For more information, please call 335-1305 or email caps@uiowa.edu. We need faculty's word-of-mouth advertisement on this one and will appreciate your help to let students know about this opportunity.

Finally, but not least important, CAPS will have a free van riding to this year's Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Meeting in Chicago from March 26 through March 29, 2009. If you are interested in riding with the van to attend the AAS Annual Meeting, please contact CAPS by 335-1305 or email caps@uiowa.edu to indicate your needs.

I have been appointed Faculty Fellow in the office of the Provost, to work on internationalization and diversification of the university. I will update you with this side of activities and will ask for your input from time to time. Our campus needs a lot of work in terms of converging internationalization and diversity and the faculty leadership is the key to bringing success in this matter. I plan to involve CAPS-affiliated faculty widely in this effort and will be in touch with you as my plans unfold.

I hope everyone will have a good semester - spring break is not too far. As in Shelley's verse: "If winter comes, can spring be far behind?"

Take care,

Sincerely,

Sonia Ryang
CAPS Director

CAPS Nov. 2008 Report

Dear friends of CAPS:

Greetings! Before we take Thanksgiving break, I thought I should update you with this month's CAPS activities.

In November, CAPS co-hosted two lectures by prominent scholars on Daoism and Zen Buddhism, Poul Andersen from University of Hawaii at Manoa and Steven Heine from Florida International University. Thanks to Professor Morten Schlutter for coordinating the event.

In the first week of November, CAPS coordinated two Beijing opera performers' tour of the State of Iowa. Ghaffar Pourazar and Chie Morimura, directors of International Center for Beijing Opera gave 7 presentations at Grinnell College, ISU, UNI, Iowa City City High, and West High School. They were very well received by faculty, students and the community audience. The presentation at the University of Iowa on Tuesday, November 4th was particularly well attended by students and faculty from the departments of performing arts. Thanks for those faculty and staff who hosted our guests for dinners and entertainment events.

From January 1, 2009, Rebecca Kessler, our program assistant, will be working full-time for the Confucius Institute as an administrative assistant. CAPS is in the process of hiring a 30 hour part-time program assistant who will be working under Dongwang Liu, CAPS assistant director to run the National Consortium of Teaching about Asia (NCTA) seminar and Freeman Grant II. Many thanks to Rebecca Kessler for working with CAPS for 5 years with great dedication and professionalism!

With Rebecca's wonderful work, 21 teachers successfully completed our Summer 2008 National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) Seminar. These teachers returned to Iowa City on 10/11/08 for the follow-up meeting to share their lesson plans and to order materials for their schools. This brings the total number of teachers that have taken one of our seminars in the last 5 years to 110. The majority (108) are teachers from Iowa.

Some more announcements regarding CAPS and East Asian Studies include:

James Watson will give our second and last Ida Beam public lecture at 7:00 pm, Thursday, December 4th, in Room 40 Schaeffer Hall. The title of the talk is "**Cold War Borders in a Post-Socialist World: Hong Kong/China.**" A farewell dinner for Woody and Rubie Watson will be held on at 6:00 pm, Friday evening. Faculty and graduate students, who would like to join the dinner, please contact Dongwang Liu at 335-1305 or caps@uiowa.edu.

As part of the Freeman Grant II, Former CAPS Director Stephen Vlastos is chairing a search for the modern Chinese history faculty position in the Dept. of History. Three candidates have been identified for campus interview from December 4 through 11, 2008.

Since there will be no presentations during the interview process, individuals who would like to meet with candidates, please send an email to caps@uiowa.edu to indicate your interest.

UI Dept. of History alum, Christopher Gerteis, now a faculty member of School of Oriental and African Studies at Uni. of London is organizing a conference **“Revisiting Postwar Japan as History: A Twenty Year Check-up on the State of the Field,”** hosted by the Institute of Comparative Culture at Sophia University, Tokyo on May 31, 2009 with a proposal deadline of December 15, 2008. Inquiries should be directed to: Dr. Christopher Gerteis at cg24@soas.ac.uk
School of Oriental and African Studies, Uni. of London

Another conference related to Japanese studies **Inter-Asia Cultural Typhoon 2009** is calling for Panels from interested individuals and groups.

Conference Theme: Cultural Studies and Asia; Past, Present and Future

Time: July 3-5, 2009

Venue: Tokyo University of Foreign Studies, Tokyo

Organizers: Cultural Typhoon and the Inter-Asia Cultural Studies Society

Email: ct2009iact@tokyo.com

Website: <http://www.tufs.ac.jp/st/club/culturaltyphoon2009/>

Since this conference will accept organized panels only, and will not accept individual papers, there is a need to collaborate in order to present at the conference. Hsin-yen Yang, Ph. D candidate from UI Dept. of Communication Studies will be organizing a meeting for potential presenters at the early stage. Please contact Hsin-yen Yang by email hsin-yen-yang@uiowa.edu if you are interested.

An unprecedented scientific collaboration on China and global health launched by The Lancet, Peking University Health Sciences Centre, and the China Medical Board, was launched in Beijing on Oct 20, 2008. This Series-focusing on health-system Reform in China - consists of 19 commissioned research papers that bring together the most recent scientific evidence on China's major health challenges, its health strategies, and China's health future. The Series was produced by a team of 63 scientists, with Chinese scientists constituting two-thirds of the authors, collaborating with an international team from 10 countries.

The Lancet's Editor, Dr Richard Horton said: "This report aims to initiate long-term collaboration between The Lancet and China, together with the China Medical Board and WHO, including critically important partners, such as scientists outside China who have strong interests in working with Chinese colleagues. The purpose of this collaboration is to introduce China's health system, achievements, and predicaments to the world and to foster scientific and institutional alliances that can strengthen the health - and ameliorate the adverse social and environmental determinants of health - of the Chinese people. We are at the beginning of this relationship. Our report, we hope, has the potential to catalyze progress towards enhanced human health and wellbeing in China."

Full collection of China Series is available at the following link. <http://www.thelancet.com/online/focus/china.collection>

Lastly, my edited book “North Korea: Toward a Better Understanding” is published by Lexington Press and will be out next week. The book is based on the 2007 conference, *North Korea: Policy, Modernity, and Fantasy* - International Conference, which I organized here at UI with the generous sponsorship of International Programs Major Project Grant, CAPS grant, and Association for Asian Studies grant.

I wish everyone a Happy Thanksgiving.

Sonia Ryang
CAPS Director

CAPS October 2008 Report

Dear CAPS-affiliated faculty and students:

I hope this finds you well. My monthly report for October is full of great news. Let me first reflect on CAPS annual Fall Reception. It was at Judy Poplumbaum's gorgeously reconstructed house. We met at Judy's place last year, too, but this year was entirely different, in that her house has been beautifully revived from the June major flooding here in Iowa City. As a "Mosquito Flats" resident myself, I'm very proud of Judy's accomplishment. Thank you, Judy, for a wonderful venue and thank you all, for a great party.

CAPS began this academic year very productively. New books includes: Judy Polumbaum, *China Ink*, Rowman & Littlefield; Morten Schlutter, *How Zen Became Zen*, University of Hawaii Press; Mark Sidel, *Law and Society in Vietnam*, Cambridge University Press; Sonia Ryang, *Writing Selves in Diaspora*, Lexington/Rowman & Littlefield; Scott Schnell, *Asian Ethnology* as a co-editor of journal; Min Tian, *The Poetics of Difference and Displacement*, Hong Kong University Press; Ikuko Yuasa: *Culture and Gender of Voice Pitch*, Equinox Publishing; Hualing Engle, *Images of My Three Lives*, Sanlian Publishing House in China.

During the month of September, many prominent visitors came to UI through CAPS. Shimada Masahiko, former IWP writer from Japan visited UI from September 7 through September 16 and gave a series of presentations and readings including a CAPS sponsored talk "Nirvana Mini: A view of human space of a Japanese writer." CAPS co-sponsored “A Presentation and Panel Discussion with an A-Bomb Survivor and Anti-War Activist” led by Yoshiko Kajimoto and Steven Leeper from Hiroshima Peace Culture Foundation, coordinated by Chiaki Sakai, our Japanese Studies Librarian. Both events were remarkably well received.

This month, October, we will continue to have exciting events. James "Woody" Watson, Ida Beam Distinguished Visiting Professor, will make his second visit to campus. His public lecture is entitled "A Cultural Biography of Meat in South China: The Story of Pork," scheduled at 7:00-8:30 P.M., Thursday, October 9, in 40 Schaeffer Hall. With a successful National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) program in summer 2008, CAPS will have its follow-up seminar on Saturday, October 11, 2008. Twenty-two public school teachers of world history, geography, and literature will convene again at UI for their curriculum enhancement.

We are also active on the art front. Three Chinese music performers from Malaysia, Maestro Woon Wen Kin, Yoon How Wan, and Goh Suk Liang will be having a week of residency in the Dept. of Music. They will give a seminar on Chinese music with demonstrations at 1:30 pm, October 17, 2008 in 1117 UCC. CAPS. Ghaffar Pourazar & Morimura Chie, two Beijing Opera performers from International Center of Beijing Opera based in Beijing, China will visit colleges and public schools in the State of Iowa during the first week of November (11/ 1-7). They will conduct workshops and give presentation/demonstration on Chinese Opera and Japanese Opera. Their workshop at UI will be at 4:00 pm in Gerber Lounge (304) EPB, Tuesday, Nov. 4. CAPS supports both events.

At the end of the month, on October 30, Poul Andersen, associate professor of religious studies University of Hawai'i at Manoa will give a public lecture entitled "The Way and Its Methods: A Daoist Theory of Ritual." It will be at 4:00 pm, in the Atrium of Gilmore Hall.

Lastly, but not least important, Dr. Dongwang Liu, our assistant director, has been appointed an adjunct assistant professor of anthropology and will offer a course entitled "Chinese Family and Kinship in Comparative Perspective" in Spring 2009 in the Dept. of Anthropology. I'll appreciate it very much if you could spread the words among your students.

I hope you all will continue to have a productive semester.

Sonia Ryang
CAPS Director