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### *Welcome from the Chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures*



October was International Month here at Seton Hall, and we have had many exciting events during Fall, 2015 in the Asian Studies Program in the Department of Languages, Literatures & Cultures. A highlight was the first International Film Festival, held in October and November. The brainchild of Michael Stone, Director of the Language Resource Center and a graduate student in Asian Studies, the Festival featured films from nine different countries, including China (Hero, nominated for Best Foreign Language Film at the 2003 Academy Awards) and Japan (Departures,

winner of Japan's 2008 Picture of the Year award). The Setonian wrote a feature article about the Asian Studies premiere film Festival, available at <http://www.setonian.com/2015/10/28/seton-hall-faculty-hosts-international-film-festival/>. October also featured a workshop on Japanese calligraphy on the 8th, and a workshop on Chinese calligraphy on the 21st. Asian foods were highlighted in an October 6th sushi-tasting and an October 15 presentation on teas in Asia: India, China, and Japan. Asian Studies also sponsored An Insider's Look at the U. N., which featured Dr. Yong Ho, supervisor of the Chinese Language Program at the U. N. Thanks to all faculty and students who made these events a success.

### *A Message from the Director of Graduate Studies*



Over the summer, a new study abroad program SHU at Peking University was launched in Asian Studies. Two graduate students attended the one-month program together with ten other undergraduate students. Studying at a prestigious university like BEIDA, and traveling to the ancient capital Xi'an as well as touring around Beijing each weekend were quite fabulous learning experiences. Fall 2015 welcomed ten new students to the Program: Yuying Ren, Yinning Wang, Binbin Zhang, Min Zhang, Shangke Zhang from China; Ching-Hong Lin from Taiwan; and Natalie Dunaway, Matthew Barros, Kai-Ting Yang from the US. Also,

joining us in the fall is Siyi Chen, who came back to complete her study after being away for a few years. Four of the new comers are in the Area Studies Track with the other six in the Chinese Teaching Track. Welcome! The third K-12 Chinese-language Teachers Roundtable was among many events organized/co-sponsored in the fall. The students in the Teaching Track participated in the program with the intention of learning practical skills. Many alumni attending the Roundtable shared insights with and gave advice to current students. Mr. Leonard Zeng, a graduate in the 90's and Chinese language teacher from the Sparta School District, also conducted a workshop on teaching Chinese with the new Google Classroom.

### *Remarks from the Director of the Asian Studies Program*



This fall had unseasonably warm weather in New Jersey and the SHU community are enjoying the colorful nature. Our program currently has twelve undergraduate students and they are preparing for their future career and life goals. In November unfortunately, Paris and Kenya faced unspeakably tragic terrorist attacks. The program would like to express its condolences to everyone lost, their families and nations. The program must respond to the increasing awareness of international security in Asia and around the world. This fall the Asian studies program is infusing the

Asian studies program assessment on Language and Area studies. We are also integrating oral proficiency guidelines to our language program. Furthermore, we are working on the Digital Humanity (DH) project, where Dr. Dongdong Chen is serving as a university DH committee member. Since rapidly changing technology and its application is reshaping the traditional classroom, the program is enthusiastically creating new teaching resources and materials with the Teaching, Learning and Technology Center. The Asian studies program is also encouraging students to attend a study abroad program in Asia. We extend a joyous and memorable holiday season to all.

### *A Message from the Editors*

Welcome to the Fall 2015 edition of the Asian Voice. We would like to congratulate our recent graduates and welcome our new students to the Asian studies program. This fall semester has kept the students of Asian studies quite busy with their schoolwork and extra-curricular academic activities as well as many international month events relating to Asia. Congratulations to all on their diligent work and academic contributions. In this issue, you will enjoy the events Asian studies students coordinated with and participated in around campus, which were available for all students and faculty members of Seton Hall to enjoy. We hope you look forward to reading this brief and informative portrayal of the Asian studies communities. If you have any articles, photos or additional information for the next issue of the *Asian Voice*, please do not hesitate to submit it to one of the Editors.

### *October 6th Sushi: International Cuisine*



Mr. Kazuhiko Takahashi, owner of Wasabi Japanese Restaurant, wowed us with his knife skills as he expertly crafted sushi in front of a live audience. Over 100 people enjoyed his special presentation. Mr. Takahashi described the transformation of sushi when it first arrived in America. Many students did not even realize that a meal they enjoy today was so foreign to people when it

first arrived just because of the nori (seaweed) that holds sushi together. They learned that the innovator of the California Roll tricked American diners into consuming the nori by wrapping it with the rice on the outside to appeal to the aesthetics of American cuisine. Of course, everyone looked forward to tasting the different types of sushi and sashimi and prepared for this event.

### *October 6th International Film Festival: Hero (Chinese)—Gerard Cancino*

*Hero* embodied the true nature of honor and intuition. Jet Li starred as Nameless, an assassin who described the details of his exploits. He is initially hired to kill those tasked with assassinating the Emperor of China, however as the movie progressed the audience learns of Nameless's true intentions to kill the emperor and his later difficult choice to carry out such a task. *Hero* was a very artistic film. Each of stories had color themes that reflected the personality of

characters in the movie: Red portrayed the anger of the characters Nameless fought while, blue, green and black represented tranquility, insight and death respectively. This interesting film brought nearly thirty students together to enjoy light snacks and pizza with each other. Overall, it was a fun and worthwhile event. Next year I hope a club can co-sponsor this event with the department in order to attract even more people interested in artistic Chinese media.



### *October 8th Workshop on Japanese Calligraphy: Express Yourself*



Calligraphy is an art form found worldwide and differs greatly across cultures. Japanese calligraphy is no different and uses simple as well as meditative processes to create beautiful renditions of kanji characters. Students discovered that calligraphy experts such as their presenter, Dr. Shigeru Osuka, must use their own minds to make creative versions of kanji characters such as moun-

tain 山 or river 川. After mastering the basic strokes of kanji, the students then went on to express their creativity by creating stylistic versions of the kanji as demonstrated in the picture on the left, which is a stylization of the kanji for mountain. Attendees spoke of the meditative process of creative artistic versions of kanji and the strong meditative aspects of this traditional Japanese art.

### *June in China Exchange Program Summer 2015—James Tague: China in My Eyes,*

In addition to our rigorous and helpful education at Peking University, our trip to China was not without exploring its historic and national landmarks. First, we visited the Great Wall. It was definitely the most impressive structure I have ever seen. Taking the hike up the mountain was incredibly tiring, but the view when reaching the main platform of the wall was stunning. Considering the history of the construction process

visitors can appreciate the time it took and the lives sacrificed to design such a fortification. The steps are intricately constructed so every step is a different length and width to trip up sieging intruders. Furthermore, I could not think of a more beautiful and perfect location to sit than the Summer Palace. Scenery along the lake, with trees and the clear blue sky in the background is the best memory I have from our wonderful trip.





### *SHU-Japan Exchange Program Summer 2015*

Summer in Tokyo, Japan is quite hot, but there was nothing hotter than joining a group of students ready to improve their language ability during an exchange program. A close-knit mix of graduates and undergraduates made the 14-hour flight for the summer exchange program in Japan. While enjoying classes at Sophia University, our sister school since 1984, students enjoyed a lifetime's worth of cultural experiences such as watching the

most popular sport in Japan, baseball, seeing Mt. Fuji in all of its natural glory, exploring the social hubs of Tokyo for a chance to improve their skills in Japanese language, and taking weekly jaunts around Tokyo. Academically, students took a variety of classes that significantly improved their understanding of Japanese language, culture and politics. Overall, this was a wonderful experience recommended by all students in attendance this summer.



### *October 15th Teas in Asia: India, China, and Japan*



This year the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, and Asian studies hosted a seminar on Asian teas. Over 80 attendees learned about the unique differences in teas from Asia, such as Masala tea (a mixed spice tea), Oolong (a traditional Chinese tea) and Macha (a Japanese green tea powder with strong bitter flavors). Students learned many interesting facts about tea that only natives of their respective countries or

scholars may learn. For instance, the women who harvest tea in China are known to take a few of the best quality leaves to share with their families. This is prohibited, but these women are sometimes known to hide the tea in their undergarments. So, the highest quality of tea harvested in China is dubbed "panty tea" colloquially. Everyone left with interesting tea tidbits that they can now share with others.

### *October 21st Workshop on Chinese Calligraphy—Tela L Witting*

As a first year diplomacy and modern languages student here at Seton Hall University, I have been pleasantly surprised to find that this campus includes a learning opportunity around nearly every corner. International Month gave me the chance to enjoy foods from around the world, an international film festival, and many other events geared towards my major. I am in my first semester of Introductory Chinese. In October, my class and me were just beginning to learn how

to write using Chinese characters. This workshop was a great opportunity to learn more about the origins of Chinese characters, and understand the art form that they represent. The class was taught by a master calligrapher, who took the time to help me individually perfect my strokes. I learned about the masterful combination of perfecting technique, and allowing the flow of emotion into each kanji stroke, which creates an enriching and unique form of expression.



### *October 28th An Insider's Look as the U.N.—Zachary J Strouse*

Seton Hall was lucky to be able to host United Nations representative Dr. Yong Ho, the UN 21 Awards winner in 2015, on campus. His presentation drew students and staff alike who wanted to hear

his insights on the UN Chinese Language Program and on the entirety of operations of the United Nations. Beginning with an excellent overview of his department and the building in which it resides, Dr. Ho

explained each of the goals of the United Nations step-by-step, how the organization plans to achieve them, and how he directly contributed to their ongoing efforts. Dr. Ho shared the information on the functions of languages used in UN. Dr. Ho was incredibly passionate about his global service and an excellent speaker. It was an honor for all attendees to be able to hear from someone who cared so deeply for the advancement of global society.



DEPARTMENT OF LANGUAGES, LITERATURES, AND CULTURES

*November 5th The Catholic Church in China Today—Ruchi Upadhyia*



On Thursday, November 5th a lecture on “The Catholic Church in China Today” was organized in the faculty lounge at the University Center at Seton Hall University. Fr Paul Mariani S.J., who is an associate Professor of History at Santa Clara University in California, along with a good number of audience were present. The lecture started with an introduction of Fr. Mariani himself and his ongoing research that focuses on Christian resistance in post-1949 China. He also introduced his audience to his book called *Church Militant: Bishop Kung and Catholic Resistance in Communist Shanghai*, gives

an insightful study of the conflicts between the Catholic Church and Communist state in Shanghai during the Maoist period. He shared some experiences and asked the audience if they are in anyway aware of the Chinese language or history and there was a good response. Fr. Mariani then talked about the establishment of Catholicism in the People's Republic of China in 1949 by the Communist Party of China. We may see signs that the Catholic Church in China may well be ready for the next stage of its development in the major cities like Shanghai and we all hope for a positive result.

*November 14th K-12 Chinese Language Teacher's Roundtable*

In conjunction with the New Jersey Chinese Cultural Studies Foundation, Chinese Program hosted a K-12 Chinese-language Teachers Roundtable. Over sixty teachers and students from various public and private Schools, representing five states, attended the program. Current graduate students and alumni as well as members of Asian Studies' faculty, including Professors Dongdong Chen, Edwin Leung and Gloria Shen, joined them. Dr. Richard Simmons, Chair of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at Rutgers University, gave a presentation about how to teach pronunciation and grammar. In the second ses-

sion, Mr. Leonard Zeng, a Chinese language teacher from the Sparta School District in NJ and alumnus of Asian Studies and Computer Science programs, discussed how to use Google Classroom. The final program was a group discussion about promoting a school's Chinese program led by Ms. Cathay Qinying Coleman, a Chinese language teacher from Academies at Englewood/Dwight Morrow High School. Participants found the program very relevant to their Chinese teaching. Alumni from Seton Hall University also shared their teaching experiences and gave advice to the current Asian Studies students for their studies.



*November 3rd International Film Festival: Departures (Japanese)*



With the beginning of October, this years international month came underway, providing number of exciting and enlightening events available for students and faculty alike to enjoy with their peers. One of Seton Halls' premier attributes is the international film festival, where films from various nations are featured, offering an intriguing and diverse lens of cultural perspectives and norms. This year, the film *Departures* was screened as a representative for a little known cultural aspect of Japan. This film offered depth and vision regarding the social perceptions of those who perform

burial rites in Japan, a country with a long standing history of “clean” and “dirty” professions. *Departures* is quite moving, and provides viewers with a beautiful and elegantly written score, which echoes the struggles and emotions of the films main characters. The evening began with a short lecture from Dr. Shigeru Osuka on the cultural background of the film, and was then followed by a pizza dinner. With well over fifty attendees, “Departures” left many with a lasting impression and valuable glimpse into one of Japans' most private religious rituals as well as new knowledge to share.

***Join the Asian Studies Association***

If you wish to join the Asian Studies Association, please contact Thomas Zucker at [thomas.zucker@student.shu.edu](mailto:thomas.zucker@student.shu.edu) or Dr. Dongdong Chen, advisor for the Asian Studies Association, at [dongdong.chen@shu.edu](mailto:dongdong.chen@shu.edu)