Dear Alumni, Students, Friends, and Supporters of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures,

With this new edition of the annual EALC Newsletter, we update you on significant department developments, faculty accomplishments, and student club activities. We also bring you student news and feature two alumni. We look forward to seeing some of you during the homecoming and reunion weekend and hope that you will continue to share your stories and experiences.
Revitalization of the Japanese Program

Last fall Dr. Nicholas Albertson joined the Department as Assistant Professor of Japanese Language and Culture. In his first semester at Wake Forest University Dr. Albertson taught EAL/HMN 219 Introduction to Japanese Literature and a First-year Seminar Natural and Unnatural Disasters in Modern Japanese Literature and Film. With the addition of Dr. Albertson, the Department was also able to offer JPN 231 Advanced Japanese III in the spring of 2015 for the first time in many years. His future teaching plan includes a new course Gender in Japanese Literature (cross-listed with Women’s, Gender, and Sexuality Studies). The Japanese Program is now fully functioning with a vibrant body of majors and minors and an expanded curriculum.

Visiting Speakers Series

Last year the Department continued its successful visiting speakers series. In October Carma Hinton, Robinson Professor of History and Art History at George Mason University, came to Wake Forest at the Department’s invitation. Professor Hinton was born in Beijing to American parents and lived in China until she was twenty-one. Together with Richard Gordon, she has directed thirteen documentary films about China. During her two-day visit, Prof. Hinton gave a talk on her work as a documentary filmmaker and participated in a roundtable discussion with several Wake faculty members about her life and career. Her lecture attracted a large audience including faculty and graduate students from the Documentary Film Program. She also participated in Prof. Andy Rodekohr’s Chinese film class.

In March of this year EALC invited Dr. and Mrs. James Huskey to speak about careers in the foreign service. Dr. Huskey was for thirty years a US diplomat. His overseas tours included the U.S. Embassy in Beijing, China, the U.S. Embassy in Nairobi, Kenya, the U.S. Consulate-General in Chennai, India, and the American Institute in Taiwan. Mrs. Huskey is co-founder of Global Adjustments, Inc., the American International School of Chennai (both in India), and I LIVE 2 LEAD Young Women’s Leadership Program. She is also a writer. Her book The Unofficial Diplomat was published in 2010 by the U.S. Department of State’s Association for Diplomatic Studies. Her most recent book, Make It in India, on US-Indian business relations, came out in February. Dr. and Mrs. Huskey gave a fascinating talk about their experiences in China, India, Taiwan and Kenya and offered advice to those contemplating entering the diplomatic service. During their visit Dr. Huskey also guest-lectured in Prof. Wei-chin Lee’s Chinese Politics class. In addition, he and Mrs. Huskey had lunch with several EALC students.

Outstanding Major Award

The Department created an Outstanding Major Award this past spring. Sara Shi and Cara Huskey received the award in Japanese and Chinese respectively. Both consistently demonstrated intense dedication, great intellectual curiosity and overall academic excellence in the major. Cara completed an honors thesis on Chinese state censorship of the internet under Prof. Rodekohr’s supervision. She was one of five students selected to present their research at the Z. Smith Reynolds Library Senior Showcase in April. Sara’s final project for the Senior Seminar taught by Prof. Rodekohr in the Fall of 2014 brilliantly combines literary analysis, anthropological survey, and cultural studies on the topic of bread and bakeries in modern Japan. Titled “Land of the Rising Bread,” Sara produced an excellent article on this fascinating topic as well as a great multimedia final presentation.

Faculty Colloquium

Last year EALC started a monthly faculty colloquium to share ideas about teaching. Both full-time and adjunct faculty members participated. Topics included pedagogy of advanced Chinese and Japanese classes, integrating language and literature, culture and film classes, and design of the Department’s capstone senior seminar. In addition to exchanging ideas in a relaxed setting, the colloquium also serves the purpose of mentoring junior faculty and enhancing departmental collegiality.

Classroom Improvements

This past spring the College allocated Carswell 107 to EALC. It was one of five classrooms in the College selected for the Innovative Classroom Redesign Initiative. Besides overall physical improvement including new lighting and a new ceiling, 107 now has mobile chairs and multiple whiteboards as well as cutting-edge multimedia equipment. The room is ideal for language and film classes and brings much needed relief to the Department’s space crunch. Over the summer the Department also purchased new posters for all our classrooms. The artworks not only make our learning environment much more inviting but also serve as useful teaching aids for the Department’s film and culture classes.
Nicholas Albertson, Assistant Professor of Japanese, had a blast during his first year at Wake Forest in 2014-15. In the fall, in addition to the perennially popular *Introduction to Japanese Literature*, Nick taught a first-year seminar on *Natural and Unnatural Disasters in Modern Japanese Literature and Film*, which examined artistic responses to the atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, mercury poisoning in Minamata, and the 2011 Fukushima disaster, along with imaginary disasters like Godzilla. In the spring, Nick taught *Contemporary Japanese Culture*, organized around themes such as the lingering influence of World War II and minority identities within Japan; *Introduction to Japanese Film*, which included more black-and-white films than students may have liked; and fourth-year Japanese with a small, dedicated group of students.

In October, Nick traveled to Annandale-on-Hudson, NY, to give a guest lecture entitled “Into the Woods: The Aesthetics and Ethics of Modern Japanese Poetry” at Bard College. Whether or not his attempt to compare nature imagery and values in Meiji-era poetry with Studio Ghibli films like *Pompoko* was successful, he did feel that he had gone into the woods himself—and he came home with a tick bite to prove it. “Tangled Kami: Yosano Akiko’s Supernatural Symbolism” was published in the December issue of the *U.S.-Japan Women’s Journal*. In this article, Nick analyzes contradictory religious metaphors in a sensational poetry collection from 1901. In January, Nick presented a paper at a Wake Forest conference on the Meiji Restoration co-organized by Prof. Robert Hellyer in the Department of History. Nick’s paper, “White Chrysanthemum: A Dutiful Daughter’s Odyssey in the Wake of the Meiji Restoration,” examines an epic poem in Chinese, along with its Japanese and English translations, about a samurai daughter’s allegorical quest to find her father. The heroine’s bravery and obedience articulated women’s idealized roles in achieving national reconciliation after the Meiji Restoration and Satsuma Rebellion. This summer, Nick completed a translation of Yamada Bimyō’s famous short story “Butterfly,” and he is now working on a critical introduction to the piece.

Fengyan Hu, Assistant Professor of the Practice in Chinese, taught *First through Third-year Chinese* language classes. In October of 2014, she co-presented “Interactive Activities in Chinese Classes” with Prof. Yaohua Shi and Ms. Li-Jung Lee of the Wake Forest University Chinese Program at the FLANC fall conference in Winston-Salem. She also continued to advise the Chinese Studies Club. Working with members of the Chinese Club and colleagues in the Chinese Program, she organized Chinese language tables and movie nights during the fall and spring semesters as well as a Chinese Cultural Festival in April 2015. She advised students who wanted to study in China and helped evaluate the Chinese proficiency of those seeking to waive the foreign language requirement. Prof. Hu also worked on a Chinese proficiency test for the Learning Assistance Center for those students who want to tutor Chinese at Wake Forest.

To find out the pedagogical practices and curriculum design of colleagues in the field, Prof. Hu visited Duke University’s Chinese Program on April 14th, 2015. She observed several Chinese classes and compared notes with members of Duke’s Chinese language faculty. In July, she visited Duke’s Summer School in Beijing, which gave her insight into its curriculum and extracurricular program. Prof. Hu also requested and received updates about the teaching materials and approaches used at several different universities.

Fangfang Li, Assistant Professor of the Practice in Chinese, was on parental leave last fall. She came back to full-time teaching in January of 2015. In addition to her regular teaching load, she co-organized a variety of extracurricular activities to enhance students’ language skills and understanding of Chinese culture and society. These activities included weekly Chinese-speaking round tables, movie nights, and celebration of the Chinese Spring Festival. April was a particularly busy month for her. On April 7th, she presented *Exploring East Asia through Multimedia Projects* at TechXploration 2015 with Prof. Yasuko Takata Rallings and Prof. Andrew Rodekohr. She was actively involved in organizing the Chinese Cultural Festival at the Barn, which took place on Saturday, April 11th. The festival was a great success, drawing many students as well as families from the local community. On April 14th, together with Prof. Fengyan Hu, she visited Duke University and met with the director and faculty of the Chinese program and exchanged views on Chinese pedagogy and methodology. On April 15th, Prof. Li went with Prof. Fengyan Hu and three students to teach the U19 Girls Basketball Team at the Gateway YWCA some basic Chinese in preparation for hosting the Junior Olympic Chinese National Women’s Basketball Team for a tournament. Fox News 8 interviewed Chinese majors Cara Huskey and Michaela Cragg and Chinese minor Emily Jobe.
Yasuko Takata Rallings, Associate Professor of the Practice in Japanese, had another year full of teaching and professional activities. In addition to teaching seven courses and advising the Japanese Studies Club, she participated in faculty discussion groups organized by the Teaching and Learning Center to explore the importance of intercultural competence in college education. Her ongoing project is to redesign the existing courses to help students develop intercultural communicative competence through the study of language. She also gave two presentations at conferences last year. She presented a session titled “Dynamic Assessment as a Formative Assessment for Oral Proficiency” at the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages Annual Convention in San Antonio, TX, in November, 2014. In March, 2015, she presented a paper titled “Examining Cultural Diversity in Advanced Japanese” at the Southeastern Association of Teachers of Japanese Annual Conference at UNC, which will be published in the conference proceedings this fall. On campus, she co-presented “Exploring East Asia through Multimedia Projects” at the TechXploration in April, 2015. She has also continued her leadership roles in professional organizations. As the conference co-director for the American Association of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ), she helped organize the AATJ Fall Conference and gave a webinar titled “How to Write a Successful Conference Proposal” to the membership before her term ended in December, 2014. She is also the first vice president of the Foreign Language Association of North Carolina (FLANC) and she has been very busy preparing to chair the FLANC fall conference in Durham in October. Her latest project is to co-chair the Japanese Global Articulation Project in the southeastern region, and she is looking forward to working with other teachers to strengthen Japanese language education in the U.S.

Andy Rodekohr, Assistant Professor of Chinese, enjoyed an eventful third year at Wake Forest. In the fall semester, Andy taught the Senior Seminar for the second time. He revamped the syllabus, assignments, and overall structure of the course to place greater emphasis on the purpose and benefits of cultural studies, and to incorporate more multimedia projects (including a thesis “trailer” video project) and a TED-style final presentation. One senior from this course, whose project analyzed the censorship regime of the Chinese internet, went on to not only successfully complete Honors work with Andy in the spring, but was also included in ZSR Library’s “Senior Showcase” in April. Andy’s spring courses included “Film and Literature from Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Beyond,” which showcases the global diversity of Chinese cultural production. Students in this course enjoyed a variety of movies and short stories from a range of genres and geographies that challenge and expand our notions of what it means to be Chinese.

In March, Andy took part in the annual meeting of the Association of Asian Studies in Chicago. He participated in a roundtable panel of scholars entitled “Politics, Power, and Aesthetics: Hero and the Legacy of Zhang Yimou.” This lively discussion took the 2002 international martial arts blockbuster *Hero* as a starting point to investigate filmmaking in contemporary China. The year also saw the publication of the anthology *The Columbia Sourcebook of Literary Taiwan*, which includes five essays translated by Andy.

Andy is on leave during the fall of 2015. He looks forward to teaching again in the spring.

Yaohua Shi, Associate Professor of Chinese and Chair of the Department, enjoyed spending June in his hometown Shanghai after a busy year of teaching. There has been an explosion of new museums in China in the last five years. Prof. Shi explored numerous public and private museums all over Shanghai. He also worked on a paper that he will present in October at the Rocky Mountain MLA Conference in Santa Fe, New Mexico. Last year he collaborated with Judy Amory on two translation projects. In June of this year China’s premier literary press Renmin Wenxue Chubanshe published their translation of Yang Jiang’s novel *Baptism*. The remarkable Chinese writer, translator and playwright turned 104 in July. Yang finished her much anticipated sequel *After the Baptism* in 2010. To celebrate her 104th birthday, Renmin Wenxue persuaded her to include it in a new collection of her works. Compared with *Baptism*, the sequel is much lighter in tone. After one day’s rest in Winston-Salem, Prof. Shi flew to South Bend, Indiana, to start revising *Integrated Chinese* with his co-authors. Throughout July they worked day and night on the widely adopted textbook series. Cheng & Tsui in Boston intends to publish Level One of the revised edition next summer.
The Department welcomes two new adjunct Chinese part-time instructors Yu-Li Lo and Jia-Ling Weng this fall. Kazumasa Ueda, our Japanese part-time instructor, returns for another year.

Yu-Li Lo graduated from Soochow University in Taiwan. She is now finishing her master's degree in Teaching Chinese as a Second Language at National Taiwan Normal University. She is fascinated with Chinese and second language teaching. In her free time she enjoys watching films and running. She appreciates the opportunity to join the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures and expects to have a wonderful experience at Wake Forest University.

Jia-Ling Weng is currently a graduate student in the Department of Teaching Chinese as a Second Language at National Taiwan Normal University. Her undergraduate major at National Taiwan University was Chinese literature. She also took courses in education. She has experience teaching Chinese to Japanese and American students. She is interested in both Chinese literature and language teaching. She likes dancing, especially Chinese dance. She is fascinated with a wide variety of cultural activities. She hopes she can make progress in the field of Chinese teaching and bring joy to students who study Chinese as a second language.

Kazumasa Ueda graduated from Kansai Gaidai in Osaka, Japan with a B. A. in English. He took Japanese linguistics classes in college and became interested in teaching Japanese. He hopes to gain valuable experience at Wake Forest University under Professor Yasuko Takata’s guidance. After leaving Wake Forest, he plans to attend graduate school and study Japanese linguistics and pedagogy. His goal is to teach Japanese as a foreign language in a university setting.
In their own words

**Brian Hart**, Politics major and Chinese minor, writes:

This summer I had the amazing opportunity to spend three months in China doing independent research and studying Chinese. I spent the first month traveling to four different cities – Shenzhen, Shanghai, Nanjing, and Beijing – searching for Chinese propaganda posters as part of my research funded by the Richter Scholarship. This research had two major components: first, I was finding and analyzing samples of propaganda posters and second, I was working to find out what the “China Dream” (中国梦) means to different Chinese people. These two components are closely interconnected because virtually all of the propaganda posters that I found were a part of President Xi Jinping’s China Dream campaign. As part of this research, I also took a day trip with a few of my study abroad classmates to the small, rural town of Qufu in Shandong Province. Qufu, located just two hours south of Beijing by high-speed rail, is a popular tourist destination because it is the ancient home of Confucius. Because Confucianism is becoming increasingly tied in with the Chinese Dream, I thought it would be a good place to look for China Dream posters. I find it really interesting that President Xi and the CCP are reviving Confucianism as a means of legitimizing the Chinese Dream and rooting it in China’s ancient history. This was what I found most interesting about my research, and I plan to do further research into the specific ways that Confucianism is shaping the thinking of China’s elites.

After a month of traveling on my own, I then spent the following two months studying Chinese at Beijing University. Because it was an intensive Chinese language program and because I was living with a host family who spoke almost no English, my Chinese skills increased dramatically in the short period I was there. Most importantly, my time in China confirmed my suspicion that I wanted to pursue a career related to China and that I also want to become fluent in the language. My hope is that after graduating from Wake Forest I will attend graduate school in China to earn a master's degree in international relations while also studying Chinese. Two programs that I am particularly interested in are the Hopkins-Nanjing Center and the brand new Schwartzman Scholars Program at Tsinghua University. Following a master's degree program I plan to return to the U.S. to either get a doctorate in political science or find work in Washington D.C. My long-term plan is to work at the State or Defense Department as a China specialist. The U.S.-China relationship is arguably the most important global relationship of the 21st century, so I want to play a role in ensuring that it is a constructive and cooperative partnership.

I’d really like to thank Prof. Hu Fengyan of the Chinese Department and Prof. Zhang Qiong of the History Department for helping me this summer. Hu Laoshi aided me in applying for my study abroad program, and Prof. Zhang graciously sponsored my Richter Scholarship and helped me prepare for my trip to China. I also really enjoyed getting dinner with them in Beijing!
Emily Jobe, Politics major and Chinese minor, writes:

This summer, I interned at the U.S.-China Education Trust, which is a small nonprofit NGO located in Washington, D.C. During this internship, I worked under Ambassador Julia Chang Bloch, who served as America’s first Asian-American ambassador as she was the ambassador to Nepal. USCET’s mission was to promote the educational exchange between America and China in order to further relations between the two countries. While there, I helped to plan and implement a program where ten Chinese Ph.D. scholars came to Washington, D.C., in order to further their studies on America and take back to China a better understanding of our nation. The internship was a wonderful experience for me because I was able to apply my knowledge of Mandarin, culturally understand the people I worked with, and was given the opportunity to help facilitate a stronger bond between the U.S. and China. It helped me to realize that I would love to work for the government in DC, and am interested in using my Mandarin Chinese language skills to pursue a future career as I love international affairs. I better understand the need for a strong bond between the U.S. and China, especially now as economics and cyber security are major issues for both countries.

Addison McLamb, Chinese major and Vice-president of the Chinese Studies Club, writes:

The week after finals, I had the opportunity to attend the George H.W. Bush China-U.S. Relations Conference in Houston. The conference dealt this year with global infectious diseases and the role of Sino-American collaboration in constructing solutions to world health issues. We had the privilege to hear from the former and current directors of the CDC, the Chinese ambassador to the United States, executives from the Bank of China and Sinopec, and U.S. Vice President Biden, just to name a few. President Obama sent a letter to conference attendees focusing on the importance of the China-U.S. relationship in forging new horizons for global advancement. Attending this conference as the only non-affiliate college student gave me the unique opportunity to more deeply understand the acute complexity of this most important global relationship, while nevertheless seeing the seemingly boundless heights that mutual cooperation can achieve. In a word, the conference was a humbling example of the raw value of personal human connections in pioneering the modern global landscape. It was an honor to attend.

Other Student News

Nanami Miyazaki, a Biology major and a Neuroscience, Mathematics and Japanese minor, designed a logo for the Foreign Language Association of North Carolina 2015 Fall Conference. Nanami’s design will grace the cover of the conference program, which will be distributed to over 500 world language teachers in attendance. Posters with her design will be raffled off at the conference as well. You can see Nanami’s design on the conference website: http://www.flanc.org/fall-conference.
Dorronda Bordley (Chine minor, 2014) reflects on her year teaching English in Taiwan as a Fulbright Scholar:

The final bell had rung, but the sound of students resonated throughout the walkway. When I finally approached my scooter, I found a group of them waiting for me. “Teacher Dorronda, do you know this song by Taylor Swift?” They quickly pressured me to sing for them while they hummed the melody or made up words. After seeing their interest in music, I asked if they knew Wang Lee Hom and found myself propelled into an impromptu version of “我依然爱你” (I still love you). By the end of the song, both teachers and students had joined us for a makeshift karaoke session packed with English and Chinese jams. This was one of my favorite moments in Taitung, Taiwan.

Teaching English to my 3rd through 6th graders was an amazing opportunity, but being able to hold Chinglish conversations and watch my students apply their English knowledge was even better. Taitung, with its beautiful waters, breathtaking mountains, and rich aboriginal culture, currently stands as the poorest and least educated county in Taiwan. However, having the opportunity to connect, through Fulbright, I saw a radical change in how my students viewed English and even the world. Knowing Mandarin before I arrived was a major asset. Through the amazing foundation that EALC provided, I was able to connect with students not only as a second-language learner but also having the capability to hear and understand how they felt in a native tongue. Who would have thought that Shi Laoshi’s speaking test would be useful when conversing with an elderly woman on the train? Who would have thought that Hu Laoshi’s vocab quizzes would have helped me read school documents and translate English memos for my fellow teachers? Learning Mandarin opened a new world for me and gifted me the opportunity to hear stories, learn songs, and connect with my Taiwanese community in a way I never imagined.

Looking back, many Americans take Chinese courses to pursue business or for professional advancement but I promote the opposite. Studying Chinese is more valuable than just a business deal or improving diplomatic relations. Studying Chinese gives you access to a whole world of narrative, experiences, and ideas that most people will never understand or grasp. Fulbright taught me that knowledge overcomes conflict, but EALC taught me how.

Alyssa Ray (Japanese Language and Culture & Political Science double major, 2011) writes about her post-graduation experiences interning and working at the highest level of federal government:

After graduation, I spent a semester interning at the White House in the Office of Public Engagement and Intergovernmental Affairs assisting with outreach to the disability and young American coalitions. I had the chance to work with some of the most dedicated public servants in the country, and work towards solving some of the most pressing issues those constituencies were facing.

In September 2012, after a short stint interning at the U.S. House of Representatives, I was hired by the U.S. Department of Justice, Criminal Division, Office of International Affairs (OIA) as an International Affairs Specialist. OIA acts as the U.S. Central Authority for international criminal matters, and as an International Affairs Specialist, I coordinate with U.S. and foreign embassies, justice departments, law enforcement, and agencies to execute international extraditions and mutual legal assistance treaty (MLAT) requests. Currently, I work with Canada, France, and the Caribbean, but I have previously worked with Sweden, Malta, and the United Kingdom, and am hoping to soon be working with Japan.

In the meantime, I pretend I’m back living in Tokyo by practicing my Japanese with a coworker at OIA, devouring Hi-Chew candies, and sampling the best of DC’s Japanese cuisine.
The Chinese Studies Club (current president: Will Johnson)

The 2014-2015 academic year was a very active year for the Chinese Studies Club. The Club organized a series of events with the help of the Chinese faculty, ASIA and CSSA. A lot of Club members and other interested students came to the Chinese film nights organized by the Club. To celebrate the Chinese New Year, the Club hosted a Jiaozi party in the apartment of Li Laoshi and Huang Laoshi. The Club also invited some students from the Chinese program to sing two Chinese songs at the Chinese New Year Celebration held by ASIA on Feb 28. The Club has kept exploring new ways to promote Chinese culture. The former vice president of the Club, Addison McLamb, created a GX program, which launched in September 2014 to promote mutual understanding between American students and Chinese students. On Saturday, April 11, with the help of ASIA and CSSA, the Club successfully held a Chinese Cultural Festival at the Barn. The Club is going to hold more exciting and meaningful activities and events for this year. Please join us for more fun!

Japanese Studies Club (2015-2016 President: Sam Kim)

During the 2014-2015 academic year, the Japanese Studies Club (JSC) met weekly on Wednesday nights and hosted a wide variety of Japan-themed activities including film screenings, board games, trivia, karaoke, and holiday celebrations. Cooking nights were probably the most popular, attracting many hungry club members to taste popular Japanese dishes such as takoyaki, taiyaki, melon-pan, oyako-don, and sukiyaki. They also had a field trip to Umi Japanese Restaurant in Hickory to experience authentic Japanese cooking. Their signature event, the annual Japanese Spring Festival, was held on April 25th at Benson Center. In spite of the rain, about 100 people attended the event. It turned out to be a great community outreach, attracting many local families who enjoyed various games and food. Please visit their Facebook page to see what the JSC is planning for this year (https://www.facebook.com/wfujsc)!
Chinese Program 2014-2015 in Photos:

James McCallen, a Chinese major, practicing calligraphy at the Chinese Cultural Festival

Cara Huskey being interviewed by Fox News 8

Cara Huskey, Emily Jobe and Michaela Cragg teaching Chinese at the YWCA

CHI 102 Class Photo

Performing at the Chinese Festival

Dumpling Party Announcement
Japanese Program 2014-2015 in Photos:

Homecoming

Weekly Conversation Table

Ueda-sensei’s birthday celebration

Class photo

Japanese Program Lunch

Graduation Reception