



APAC News

FROM THE WEATHERHEAD EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE ASIA PACIFIC AFFAIRS COUNCIL

February 20, 2007

Upcoming Events:

- 2/20** Lecture by by Hsiao-yen Peng
- 2/21** APAC New Year's Celebration
- 2/ 22** Lecture by Walter Keats at the Korea Society
- 2/23** Brown bag lecture with Dibyesh Anand
- 2/23** Annual Chinese New Year Soirée at the China Institute
- 2/23** Lecture by Ezra Vogel at the Japan Society

More events on page 4



New Student Group Puts Focus on Taiwan

A new student group is ready shown Hou Hsiao-Hsien's working to introduce SIPA film "Three Times" and hosted a students to Taiwan's varied lecture by Dr. Lung-Chu Chen, a culture and politics. Professor of Law at New York

Though only formed last semester, Taiwan Focus, as the group is called, has al- Law School and Chairman of Taiwan New Century Founda- tion; the group planning an exhibi-

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Visiting Scholars Series

Professor Xie Yue of Shanghai Jiao Tong University

Professor Xie Yue of Shanghai Jiao Tong University is the first subject of our "Visiting Scholars Series." His research is focused on social protest in China or, more broadly, "the mechanisms and dynamics of contentious politics."

Xie was initially attracted to Columbia University because of its "striking reputation of Chinese research." While here, he has appreciated the assistance of scholars such as Charles Tilly, Thomas Bernstein and Lü Xiaobo, who have "broadened" his "research vision."

But Columbia also appeals to Professor Xie on a basic, visceral level; he describes the campus as "energetic and romantic, compatible with New York City."

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Madeleine Zelin Speaks About Her Research with Students

Professor Madeleine Zelin spoke about her research and her long association with China to a group of Columbia students and community members the week before last. obtaining archival material in Dynasty China's administration Sichuan in the 1980s to a brief explanation of the mechanics of salt mining, managed at once to be humorous, challenging and engrossing. and early capitalism and, equally importantly, a sense of the excitement that comes with rigorous scholarship.

Her talk, which ranged from anecdotes about the difficulties of a new understanding of Qing China Forum, which sponsored the event, is also holding Mandarin language tables bi-weekly. Attendees came away with both the event, is also holding Man-



Janice Duffin Leaving WEAI

Janice Duffin, whose calm and good humor seemed to float above all the bustle of the Weatherhead East Asia Institute, is leaving to pursue a career closer to her degree in Computer Information Systems.

She will be greatly missed by faculty, staff and work study students alike. Ms. Duffin had an incredible ability to

keep everything together—the website, classes, faculty correspondence—and yet still deal with all those who wander lost into WEAI with a package, a message, an appointment... or just lost.

Corey James will be taking over Ms. Duffin's position. He has big shoes to fill.

Panel held on China-Africa Relations

On February 9th, The Africa Program at SIPA brought together officials and academics from the United States, Namibia and Zambia to discuss Africa-China relations, as a part of the Program's "African Diplomatic Forum 2007."

James C. Swan, Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs in the U.S. began the event with a run-down of China's commercial engagements on the continent. While trying to strike a balanced, cautiously optimistic note, he also noted America's concerns over the effect of Beijing's no-strings approach to development on African human rights enforcement.

In contrast, H.E. Ambassador Kaire M. Mbuende of Namibia, Permanent Representative to the UN, spoke glowingly of China's different model of trade. He also emphasized Beijing's past support for African liberation movements.

H.E. Ambassador Tens C. Kapoma of Zambia, also a Permanent Representative, echoed Mbuende's comments.

Both ambassadors described China's approach to the continent as more humble and results-oriented than that of Western donors.

This was especially significant as Zambia in particular has found the presence of Chinese companies to be a mixed blessing. Anger at Chinese businesses



Photo courtesy of Yale Global

featured prominently in the last Zambian election and a recent shooting of Zambian workers at a Chinese mine spurred domestic and international condemnation.

The author was unable to stay for the entire panel. However, he was impressed by the power history played in the discourse.

While Washington tried to portray itself as an anti-colonialist power during the Cold War, its relationship with South Africa and dirty role in Zaire (now the D.R.C.), Mozambique, Angola and elsewhere tarnished its image.

China, on the other hand, despite significant stumbles, established itself as a friend of African independence fighters. This image seems to have helped its re-entry to the continent today.

Xie Yue, contd.

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Upon completing his research here, he will return to Shanghai.

Chinese President Hu Jintao is promoting a vision of a "harmonious society" more attuned to the social costs of market-driven development.

The central government has slashed agricultural taxes and condemned land seizures in the strongest terms—both issues that have been flashpoints of unrest in the countryside. A draft labor contract law and other measures are aimed at the grievances of urban workers.

Nonetheless, there were 87,000 "mass incidents" in China in 2005 according to official statistics. This number may have dropped in 2006 (one government advisor has estimated a 20 percent fall in rural protests, for example), but Professor Xie's topic remains a timely one.

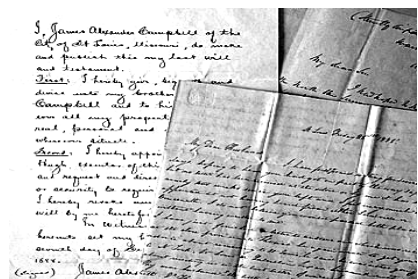
REMINDER!!

Deadline fast, FAST approaching!

The deadline to apply for WEAI fellowships is March 2.

The fellowships page of the WEAI website is:

www.columbia.edu/cu/weai/funding.html



Taiwan Focus, contd.

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bition of Taiwanese landscape photography for later in the spring. *APAC News* spoke with one of its leaders, Ling-chih Kuo.

Why did you start this organization?

Taiwan Focus was actually established a few years ago but was inactive for a while. When I began school at SIPA with other first-year Taiwanese students last semester, I heard about this organization from some second-years and thought that we should work together to revive it.

Our objective is simple: we want to introduce Taiwan to the SIPA community and to encourage dialogue regarding Taiwan-related issues. There is a lot more than international politics at play in Taiwan. Taiwan is a very small but incredibly dynamic island.... We produce great movie makers, artists, musicians, baseball players and other professionals that shine on the international stage.

What are Taiwanese students' experiences like here at Columbia?

We all enjoy life in the Big Apple! Taiwan is a highly urbanized country, so we are used to hectic big city life. All of us come from Taipei, the capital city, or have lived in Taipei for quite some time. I remember that the first time I stepped on the NYC subway I felt like at home instantly since we also have a very convenient subway system in Taipei—but ours smells better and looks nicer. (laugh) Though we miss



Above: Yang Ming Mountains and Taipei skyscrapers. Photos courtesy of www.skeller.ch and The Associated Press.

friends and families back home very much, the intensity of SIPA life keeps us too busy to develop excessive nostalgia. Oh and the weather! For some of us, this is the first time we've seen big snow in our entire life! New York winters are too cold and dry for our sub-tropical skin....well, we'll manage to get used to it....

What sort of backgrounds, interests do your members have?

Our members came from very diverse backgrounds, very "SIPA"! We have a member who worked for a congressman and was involved in domestic politics for many years.... Another one worked for a leading investment bank in its Hong Kong branch but has expertise in cosmetics and style and everything that

keeps you glamorous. One was the best debater in his university debate team. He can be eloquent in any given occasion and the seminar class that I still a bit dread has never been a challenge to him. One grew up in Canada and California and is working at Zagat right now! A Couple of us worked in government, in THE very high-level office and in mid-level bureaucracy.

How do current politics impact your student group's thinking?

Taiwan has a very tricky and ambiguous domestic and international political environment. The outcome of our 2008 Presidential Election is as unpredictable as America's. Simply put, we have as highly divided a public political opinion as the US has now. Naturally, our individual members have her/his own views toward political issues, since each of us comes from a different background. As a group, we came to a mutual understanding that there won't be any political thinking that influences the organization's actions. We try to bring to campus scholars with various academic expertise and to show different facets of Taiwanese culture and society to SIPA.

You can always find information on jobs and internships at the **Weatherhead East Asia Institute's** website:

www.columbia.edu/cu/weai/opportunities/index.html

Photos from Picturechina.net



APAC hopes to bring Picturechina.net’s founder to speak at Columbia.

Asia-Related Events On- and Off-Campus

Tuesday, February 20

Brown Bag Lecture by Hsiao-yen Peng: "The Dandy and the Modern Girl: Shanghai, Tokyo, and Paris in the 1930s." 918 IAB, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM.

Wednesday, February 21

APAC New Year’s Celebration. 6 Floor Lounge IAB, 7-9pm.

Thursday, February 22

Lecture by Walter Keats: “Models for Economic Cooperation with North Korea.” The Korea Society, 950 3rd Ave. 3:00-4:30pm. \$15 admission.

Friday, February 23

Brown Bag Lecture by Dibyesh Anand: "Strategic Hypocrisy: The British Imperial Scripting of Tibet's Geopolitical Identity." 902 IAB, 12:00 PM-1:30 PM.

Annual Chinese New Year Soirée. China Institute, Puck Building, 295 Lafayette Street. 7:30pm. A whopping \$75 for non-members! Red-and-gold-themed or traditional festive attire.

Lecture by Ezra Vogel: “Japan: From China War to China Peace.” Japan Society, 333 East 47th Street. 6:00-8:00pm. \$15 for nonmembers.

February 26-27

Bong Joon-Ho Mini Film Festival. The Korea Society, 950 3rd Ave.

Jobs and Internships

Jobs

The Yale China Law Center is seeking a graduating student or recent university graduate for a Research Associate position based in Beijing. The Research Associate will support Center projects in China by providing administrative and logistical support; conducting research and writing on issues related to legal reform; and communicating with scholars, officials, and lawyers. Ideal candidates will have fluent English; proficiency in written and spoken Mandarin Chinese; strong research, writing, analytical, and communication skills; an interest in law and legal reform; and a commitment to public interest service. Interested students and recent graduates should submit a CV and cover letter to the Center’s staff at the following email address: yalechinalaw@gmail.com.

The Asia Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars is

seeking a part-time program assistant. For details and application information, visit: www.wilsoncenter.org/employment

Internships and Fellowships

The United States Council for International Business is seeking a part-time intern (15-20 hours, 2-3 days per week) for its China Committee. The intern must be a graduate student fluent in both English and Mandarin. Tasks will include assisting with Chinese delegations and meetings, managing the Council’s database and tracking legislation. If interested, send your resume and a cover letter to USCIB’s Manager for China Affairs, Kimberly Halamar at Khalamar@uscib.org.

The National Committee on American Foreign Policy’s Northeast Asia Project is seeking a part-time research assistant. The candidate must be able to work a minimum of 20-25 hours per week and be eligible to work in the U.S. Tasks will include grant-writing, research, event plan-

ning and administrative work. Knowledge of Northeast Asian issues and fluency in one or more Asian languages are pluses. Those interested should send a resume, cover letter and writing sample (no more than three pages) to Ms. A. Greer Pritchett, Assistant Project Director, at greer.pritchett@ncafp.org or (212) 224-2524. Please do not call.

The Jane Goodall Institute in China (JGI China) is seeking summer interns to work with the Executive Director of JGI China on planning for a system of regular monitoring and evaluation of the Roots and Shoots Environmental Education Program (the “M&E intern”) and to design a system of volunteer management that covers everything from receiving requests to evaluating volunteer work and outputs (the “volunteer management” intern”). If interested, contact Erika Helms at erika@jgichina.org. at erika@jgichina.org.

Please send APAC News submissions and comments to ime2106@columbia.edu.

To join the APAC List Serve, write to apaclist@gmail.com