



SOUNDINGS: east asia monthly

a newsletter for undergraduates

WEATHERHEAD EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

WELCOME!

ABOUT US AND THE NEWSLETTER

by Jon Kief, CC'07

Welcome to the first issue of **SOUNDINGS**, the new undergraduate East Asian Studies newsletter. To be published monthly both online and in print, this student-written newsletter will provide undergraduates with better access to information relating to East Asian Studies at Columbia. Ideally, it will also serve as a means to facilitate community among undergraduates who have an interest in East Asia. Each issue will contain feature articles on recent and on-going East Asia-related activities, as well as listings of relevant announcements, upcoming events, and student group contact information.

This newsletter is one component of a larger project that is directed specifically towards undergraduates. Initiated by Columbia's Weatherhead East Asian Institute (WEAI) and developed and implemented by its eight undergraduate summer interns, this project aims to better incorporate undergraduates into the broader East Asian studies community at Columbia by bridging the gap between undergraduates and the university's student group, graduate student, and faculty resources.

In addition to this newsletter, the initiative's other new projects for undergraduates are outlined below.

- The interns are working on a wide-ranging overhaul of the WEAI undergraduate website (www.columbia.edu/cu/weai/undergraduate-resources_n.html). Featuring more comprehensive information as well as a more streamlined presentation, the revised website will be a unified and complete resource, serving as an invaluable first point-of-contact for all undergraduates interested in East Asia and East Asian Studies. A number of these updates and changes have already been put into effect, but improvements will continue throughout the fall, so check back often.

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EXHIBIT BRINGS CHINESE AND CHINESE AMERICAN DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY TO NY

by Nick Kavoussi, SEAS'08



(Ma Liang, "Life Just as the Dream I," C-print, 2003; Courtesy of the Museum of Chinese in the Americas)

Ongoing through December 30th, Chinatown's Museum of Chinese in the Americas (MOCA) is showcasing a new and innovative digital photography exhibition, entitled *The Virtual Salon: Chinese Transnational Photographers in the Digital Age*. The exhibition is an examination of the influence of modern technology on transnational Chinese culture, featuring works by Ma Liang, Cheng (Felix) Tian, Wang Yishu, and Xie Wen Yue. The artists document China's current transformation from social, cultural, and geographical perspectives. In addition, the collection engages contemporary photography on the technical level; through unconventional artistic techniques and equipment, each photograph creates a unique, surreal setting. The exhibition is the first of its kind at the museum.

The Virtual Salon is a product of the Chinese Artist Network (CAN), of which the four artists are members.

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ABOUT THE NEWSLETTER (CON'T)



(WEAI interns and program staff at lunch in Chinatown after a visit to the Museum of Chinese in the Americas)

- The interns have also been working on compiling a list of all East Asia-related student groups at Columbia in order to facilitate collaboration on future events, activities, and opportunities. The goal is to foster an increased sense of community and interconnection among the various East Asia-related groups at Columbia.
- Recognizing that the East Asian Studies community extends beyond the Columbia campus, the interns are developing working relationships with East Asia-related institutions in the New York area. This will allow us to offer students a listing of East Asia-related volunteer, internship, and career opportunities, as well as a series of open houses where students can explore these opportunities in a direct and interactive setting. The inaugural volunteer and community service event is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26th at 8:00pm, and will be held in 403 Kent Hall.

We hope that **SOUNDINGS** will be both interesting and useful for all undergraduate students, and we would greatly appreciate your feedback and suggestions; you can contact us at weaiundergrads@columbia.edu. We look forward to hearing from you, and we hope you will pick up next month's issue, as well.

DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY EXHIBIT (CON'T)

CAN is a California-based non-profit organization, which was established in 2002 to develop a global community of artists of Chinese heritage. The network allows members to display and critique each other's work over the internet, creating an environment where artists can further explore digital art.

MOCA is the first and leading center for the promotion and conservation of Chinese heritage and culture in the Western hemisphere. Since its founding in 1980 by Jack Tchen and Charlie Lai, the museum has become one of the largest archives of unique and rare items documenting Chinese American life since the 19th century. Through exhibitions such as *Have You Eaten Yet?: The Chinese Restaurant in America* and *Ground One: Voices from Post-911 Chinatown*, the museum highlights the importance of Chinese heritage in the Americas. MOCA is currently located at 70 Mulberry Street on the 2nd floor, but will be relocating to 211-215 Centre Street in the spring of 2007. Museum admission is free for Columbia students with current IDs. For more info on MOCA, visit www.moca-nyc.org. For more info on CAN, visit www.chineseartistnetwork.com.

EAST ASIAN STUDIES ALUMNI PROFILE: CHARLES DONOHOE, CC'02 (EALAC MAJOR)

After graduating from Columbia, I spent a year working as a program assistant at the National Committee on US-China Relations. I helped with a number of exchange programs between China and the US, worked with a group of interesting people, and met many of the authors whose books I had read as part of my studies at Columbia.

After a year at the Committee, I moved to Beijing to study at the Inter-University Program. It was a lot of hard work, but well worth it. Upon concluding my study, I moved back to New York and found a position with a strategic consulting firm. I spent two years there and gained a great introduction to business and management consulting. Unfortunately, the work was rarely China-related.

This past winter, however, I was offered a position with a global consulting firm that analyzes investment opportunities in emerging markets. I've been with the firm for six months and have already traveled to Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. I am scheduled to move to Hong Kong this fall to help open our offices in China and will then likely relocate to Beijing or Shanghai within three to six months.

HIGHLIGHTED EVENTS

Advertising a Dream: Movie Posters from Post-War Korea

Korea Society (www.koreasociety.org)

August 22 - October 31, 2006



“The Korea Society presents an exhibition of 23 movie posters from 1950s and ‘60s South Korea.”
(photo and text: koreasociety.org)

One Way or Another: Asian American Art Now

Asia Society (www.asiasociety.org)

September 8th - December 10th, 2006

“A uniquely conceived exhibition of important works by seventeen Asian American artists, *One Way or Another: Asian American Art Now* will focus almost exclusively on artists born in the U.S.—most of them born after 1970—and will draw attention to the most critical and prevalent themes current among today’s young Asian American artists.” (text: asiasociety.org)

EVENTS CALENDAR

Weatherhead East Asian Institute Events

Thu, Sept. 14, 4:30-6:00pm (reception to follow)

Weatherhead Policy Forum:

“Judicial Independence, Rule of Law and Human Rights in Hong Kong”

Yan Lung Wong, Secretary for Justice,

Hong Kong Special Administrative Region

1501 IAB

Tue, Sept. 19, 12:00-1:30pm

Brown Bag Lecture:

“Discussion with the Author of *Chinese Lessons: An American, His Classmates, and the Story of a New China*”

John Pomfret, *The Washington Post*

918 IAB

Thu, Sept. 21, 12:00-1:30pm

Brown Bag Lecture:

“Forecasting North Korea’s Future”

Andrew Scobell, Associate Research Professor,

National Security Affairs, US Army War College

918 IAB

Tue, Sept. 26, 8:00pm

Volunteer and Community Service Open House for Undergraduates

Sponsored by the WEAI undergraduate initiative

403 Kent

See www.columbia.edu/cu/weai/events.html for an up-to-date calendar of Institute events.

East Asia Events in NYC

Fri, Aug. 25 – Sun, Sept. 3

NY Korean Film Festival (www.koreanfilmfestival.org)

Thu, Sept. 7, 6:30pm

Lecture: “Life and Comix: 1960’s Korea”

Heinz Insu Fenkl, author and director of the Creative Writing Program at SUNY, New Paltz

Korea Society (www.koreasociety.org)

Thu, Sept 14. - Sat, Sept. 16, 7:30pm

Performing Arts: YUBIWA Hotel in “CANDIES: girlish hardcore”

Japan Society (www.japansociety.org)

Thu, Sept. 21, 6:30pm

Lecture: “Born Korean, Becoming South Korean: The Cinematic Golden Age & Cold War Culture”

Aaron Han Joon Magnan-Park, Assistant Professor, Dept of Film, Television and Theatre, University of Notre Dame

Korea Society (www.koreasociety.org)

Wed, Sept 27, 6:00pm

Film: “Kiss My Snake” (US-Thailand, 2005)

Anthology Film Archives

(www.anthologyfilmarchives.org)

Thu, Oct. 5 – Fri, Oct. 6

Symposium: “China’s New Archaeology: Reassessing the Liao Empire 907-1125 CE”

Asia Society (www.asiasociety.org)

OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

New Course(s)

New Course: CGTH W4520 “Issues of Secularism and Diversity in Global Thought”

Professors Bilgrami, Chatterjee, and Dirks

EALAC Thesis Writing

Reminder: Register for the Senior Thesis Course, East Asian W3901 (Call Number: 51279)

Mandatory Senior Thesis Meeting

Thu, Sept. 7, 6:10-7:00pm

403 Kent

Deadline: Submission of Revised Thesis Proposal

Fri, Sept. 22, by 12:00pm

EALAC Dept Office, 407 Kent

Volunteer/Internship/Career

Volunteer and Community Service Open House for Undergraduates

Sponsored by the WEAI undergraduate initiative

Tue, Sept. 26, 8:00pm

403 Kent

Study Abroad

Information Session: “How to Study Abroad”

Wed, Sept. 13

Time/Location TBA

Information Session: Kyoto Consortium for Japanese Studies

Tue, Sept. 19

Time/Location TBA

Deadline: Gilman Int’l Scholarship Application

Tue, Sept. 26 (online) and Fri, Sept. 29 (postmark)

Deadline: Submission of Spring Study Abroad

Clearance from Class Dean

Sun, Oct. 1

CC/SEAS Study Abroad Office, 105 Carman

Undergraduate Study Abroad Fair

Fri, Oct. 6, 12:30-4:30pm

Roone Arledge Auditorium, Lerner Hall

CONTACT INFORMATION

To add your name to the undergraduate mailing list, visit <http://www.columbia.edu/cu/weai/join-mailing-list2.html>, or e-mail us at: weaiundergrads@columbia.edu.

WEAI undergraduate liaisons:

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For information on how to contact East Asia-related student groups on campus at Columbia, visit:

http://www.columbia.edu/cu/weai/undergrad_student_groups_n.html

ABOUT US

About SOUNDINGS: east asia monthly

Published monthly, **SOUNDINGS** aims to help better incorporate undergraduates into the broader East Asian Studies community at Columbia by providing increased access to information about East Asia-related groups, activities, and events. Incorporating academic as well as non-academic news and listings, it seeks to help interested undergraduates further pursue their interest in East Asia, whatever form it may take. **SOUNDINGS** is edited by Jon Kief (CC’07, jk2336@columbia.edu).

About the Weatherhead East Asian Institute

Since its establishment in 1949, Columbia University’s Weatherhead East Asian Institute has been a major center for research, teaching, and publishing on modern and contemporary Asia. The Institute’s mission is to train new generations of Asian experts in the humanities, social sciences, and the professions and to enhance understanding of East Asia in the wider community.
