



SOUNDINGS: east asia monthly

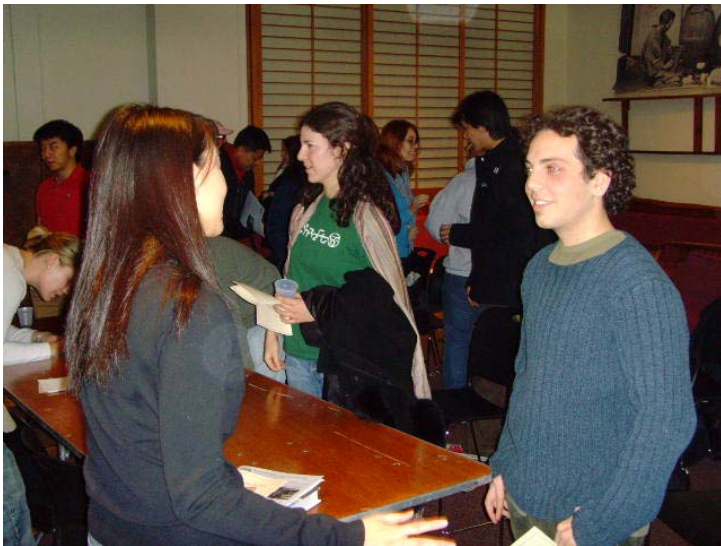
a newsletter for undergraduates

VOLUME I, NUMBER 6: APRIL/MAY 2007

WEATHERHEAD EAST ASIAN INSTITUTE, COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

NEW UNDERGRAD GROUP HOSTS EVENTS AND BUILDS MEMBERSHIP

by Wei Wei Hsing, CC'08



The first week of April was a busy one for CU-EAST, the new undergraduate student group of the Weatherhead East Asian Institute (WEAI). On the evening of Monday, April 2nd, the group held its first informational meeting to introduce its mission, build student interest, and encourage open participation in upcoming events and activities. A few days later, on Thursday, April 6th, the group hosted an undergraduate student discussion on “Anime and Japanese Pop Culture” with Tufts University Professor Susan Napier. Both events were exciting for all involved.

These two events, however, were not CU-EAST's first. Its inaugural event, an internship and career panel, took place on Monday, February 5th. As part of WEAI's undergraduate initiative, the panel was organized to give undergraduates interested in East Asia a look at the variety of career tracks and internship opportunities that are available to them. The event included five panelists with backgrounds in nonprofit work, finance, and teaching English in East Asia. The panelists, all of whom were Columbia affiliates, had work experience in China, Taiwan, Southeast Asia, and New York.

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STAY INFORMED!

JOIN THE WEAI UNDERGRAD E-MAIL LIST AT: www.columbia.edu/weai (click on “get on the mailing list”), or email us at weaiundergrads@columbia.edu

COLUMBIA AND NEW YORK CELEBRATE ASIAN PACIFIC AMERICAN HERITAGE

by Jon Kief, CC'07

Under the auspices of Asian Pacific American Awareness Month (APAAM), April has brought a wide array of exciting events on issues of Asian Pacific American (APA) heritage and identity to Columbia's campus. Organized around the theme, “Resonance: Our Collective Voices,” this year's installment has sought, in words of APAAM's coordinators, “to explore the evolution of the APA community, highlighting its past, present, and future.” And indeed, this dual focus on change as well as continuity has yielded a lineup of 28 events that collectively underscore the extent to which the experiences of APA community members not only express shared commonalities but also dynamic resistances to essentialization. This broad focus has also been evident in the range of activities and events present on the APAAM schedule; from cultural performances to political discussions, academic teach-ins to community-building parties, and career networking panels to activist interventions, this year's APAAM has shown remarkable breadth.

But if you are feeling as though you missed out, don't worry: APAAM is not over yet. On Friday, April 27th, APAAM will close out this year's programming with three events. From 3pm-8pm, there will be a Japanese Matsuri festival on Low Plaza, offering an assortment of activity booths, live performances, and Japanese food. The same evening, from 6pm-8pm, APAAM's Closing Ceremony will be held in Lerner Hall room C555 and it will feature a performance by Kelly Zen-Yie Tsai as well as a poetry slam with local spoken word artists. Finally, the evening will end with the annual spring semiformal. The event's time and

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CU-EAST EVENTS (CON'T)

All five panelists offered valuable job and internship advice for the undergraduates in the audience. Above all, they stressed the importance of networking and getting to know people in one's field of interest, whether that may be the NGO community or the business market. Emily Zhu, CC'07, said that persistence also helped her locate and attain her undergraduate internships in China. "Be aggressive," she stated emphatically. One of the attendees, Tedde Tsang, CC'08, said the panel was a good introduction to careers in East Asia. "I picked up basic knowledge of where to look and what the possibilities are for me," Tsang said after the event.

Brandon Hall, a second-year SIPA student, reassured the students in the audience who were unsure of their post-graduation plans in East Asia-related fields. "I was a Classics major in college," Hall said. Hall participated in the Princeton in Asia program on a whim, spending two years in Laos as a consultant and English teacher. Other panelists included Jenna Crouch, BC'06, Manfred Elfstrom, SIPA'08, and Melanie Lee, CC'05. About forty students from various schools and departments were in attendance.

If you have held an internship or job related to East Asia and would be interested in participating in future panels, please email weaiundergrads@columbia.edu.

APAAM AND CAPA EVENTS (CON'T)

location are still to be announced, so watch out for announcements or check www.columbia.edu/cu/apaam for updates.

Our engagement with APA heritage, however, by no means has to end with APAAM. In fact, May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month, and a huge assortment of events will be held throughout New York in recognition. The largest and surely one of the most exciting of the city's scheduled events will be the 28th Annual Asian Pacific American Heritage Festival, which is organized by The Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans (CAPA) and will take place on Sunday, May 6th, from 12-6pm, in Union Square Park North. The largest Pan Asian outdoor event on the East Coast, CAPA's festival will feature live cultural performances, film screenings, hands-on arts and crafts activities, and an impressive array of information tables representing over a hundred different groups involved in issues relating to the APA community. For more information about the event, visit www.capaonline.org. CAPA is also currently seeking volunteers to help out at the festival. If you are interested, please email Bibs Teh at bteh@capaonline.org with your contact information. A commitment of at least 2 hours is requested.

East Asian Studies Alumni Profile:

Janet Jun, BC'01 (current student, MA Regional Studies-East Asia Program)



After graduating from Barnard College in 2001, Janet worked as an Arts-in-Education administrator in New York City until December, 2004. During this time, she had the opportunity to work with many talented artists and performers who inspired her to similarly expand her creative endeavors. She began teaching performance poetry and refining her own performance/writing skills, a process which eventually led her to Seoul, Korea, in order to learn Korean and reconnect with her family history. Specifically, she began the journey of gathering the oral histories of her extended family with the future hope of compiling them into a book.

While in Seoul, Janet attended Sogang University's Korean Language Program, taught middle and high school students, and co-founded a bilingual sex education awareness group, GRASS. In order to complement her personal commitments to compiling her family's histories and expanding sex education in Korea, she returned to New York City in August, 2006 to obtain an MA degree from the Regional Studies – East Asia program at the Weatherhead East Asian Institute of Columbia University. She plans to pursue a Ph.D. in Mental Health with a focus on Korean women's health and sexuality, and eventually return to Korea to finish her family's memoirs.

EVENTS CALENDAR

Weatherhead East Asian Institute Events

Wed, Apr. 25, 12:00-1:30pm

Brown Bag Lecture: "Mongolia: Relations with the US and Other 'Neighbors'"

Mark Minton, U.S. Ambassador to Mongolia
918 IAB

Thu, Apr. 26, 4:00-5:30pm

The Borton-Mosely Distinguished Lecture on Eurasia:
"The Future of the Korean Peninsula and NE Asia"

Alexander Vershbow, US Ambassador to Korea and
former US Ambassador to Russia and NATO
Faculty House

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

East Asia Events at Columbia

Thu, Apr. 26, 6:00-7:30pm

Lecture: "The Changing Face of Contemporary
Japanese Art: Morimura Yasumasa's Henshin as
Performance"

Eric C. Shiner, Guest Curator, Japan Society
403 Kent

Thu, May 3, 6:00-7:30pm

Lecture: "The Work of Nakashima Studios at Columbia
University"

Victoria Thiessen, Independent Scholar, Sotheby's
403 Kent

Sat, May 5 – Sun, May 6, Time TBA

Symposium Honoring the Work of Professor Henry
Smith: "Objects and Images: Exploring Visual and
Material Culture in Japan"
403 Kent

For more info on any of the three events listed above,
see www.donaldkeenecenter.org.

East Asia Events in NYC

Films currently playing at The ImaginAsian
(www.theimaginasian.com/index2.php):

Dreaming Lhasa (Tibet, 2007): 1:00, 5:30, and 7:30pm

Voice of a Murderer (Korea, 2007): 3:00 and 10:15pm

Fri, Apr. 27, 6:30pm

Panel Discussion: "Anything is Possible: Asian
American Film and its Distribution"

Museum of Chinese in the Americas (moca-nyc.org)

HIGHLIGHTED EVENT

World Premiere Performance Series: *I-Land*

Ma-Yi Theater Company (www.ma-yitheater.org)

at The Culture Project (www.cultureproject.org)

Sun, Apr. 29 – Fri, May 11



"Acclaimed hula dancer and actor Keo Woolford shares his hilarious, defiant quest for the meaning of heritage in the post-modern world. Told through Hip-Hop, traditional

hula, spoken word, and Hawaiian talk story, Woolford weaves an unforgettable tale where islands separated by geography and culture collide." (text: ma-yitheater.org; photo: cultureproject.org)

Tue, May 1, 6:30pm

Film: *The Last Ghost of War* (US/Vietnam, 2006)

Asia Society (www.asiasociety.org)

Tue, May 1, 7:00pm

Film: *Many Faces of Chika* (Japan, 2004)

Discussion: "An Evening with Kazuo Hara and Sachiko Kobayashi"

Japan Society (www.japansociety.org)

Sat, May 5, 8:00pm

Music: "Festival of India: Santur and Tabla"

Shivkumar Sharma and Zakir Hussain

Town Hall (www.the-townhall-nyc.org)

Thu, May 10, 8:00pm

Music: "Four Generations of Asian Composers"

Featuring Chinary Ung and others

Asia Society (www.asiasociety.org)

Fri, May 11, 8:00pm

Performing Arts: "Festival of India: Songs and Shaman Dances of Manipur"

Symphony Space (www.symphonyspace.org)

Fri, May 11 and Sat, May 12, 7:30pm

Noh Theater: *Hanjo* (Yukio Mishima, Leon Ingulsrud)

Japan Society (www.japansociety.org)

Fri, May 18 and Sat, May 19, 7:30pm

Noh Theater: *AOI!* (Yukio Mishima, Kameron Steele)

Japan Society (www.japansociety.org)

OPPORTUNITIES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Career:

The China Institute is seeking an energetic and organized full-time Program Assistant to support the administration and development of its Chinese language programs. The Program Assistant will support of the Institute's children's, high school students, and adults' Chinese language programs, as well as Chinese language teacher training. For more information, see: <http://www.chinainstitute.org/careers/index.html#ProgramAssistant>.

The Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in New York is currently seeking a native Chinese speaker with an Asian Studies background to fill the position of Assistant to the Director in the Cultural Division. The position is a full-time position that would begin immediately. Salary is commensurate with the New York federal employee salary table GS-5, GS-8. Please send resumes via email to Mr. Ethan Kuo at: ethankuo@edutwny.org.

Volunteer:

Volunteer for the Coalition of Asian Pacific Americans Heritage Festival (Sunday, May 6, 8:00am-6:00pm, Union Square Park). If interested, email Bibs Teh at bteh@capaonline.org with your contact information. A commitment of at least 2 hours is requested. For more information, see: www.capaonline.org/volunteer.htm.

CONTACT INFORMATION

To add your name to the undergraduate mailing list, visit <http://www.columbia.edu/weai> and click on “get on the mailing list,” or e-mail us at: weaiundergrads@columbia.edu.

WEAI undergraduate liaisons:

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Wei Wei Hsing, CC
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Nicholas Kavoussi, SEAS
(nlk2104@columbia.edu)

Meghan Wu, BC
(mw2173@barnard.edu)

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 by CU-EAST, **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 CU-EAST

CU-EAST, the Columbia Undergraduate East Asian Studies Network, facilitates the study and discussion of East Asia and East Asia-related opportunities. It arranges lectures and panels with renowned East Asian scholars, volunteer and career open-houses, and other events.

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.
