

## **EASC in 2004-2005**

EASC is short of manpower this academic year; Craig Canning and Xiaobin Jian are on leave; Yana Roger has left to join Rutgers University. Ed Pratt serves as Dean of Undergraduate Studies, Clyde Haulman chairs the Economics Department, and Tomoko Hamada chairs the Anthropology Department. Despite these leaves and “loans” to the Administration, the committee has remained as vibrant and active as ever.

Our curriculum remains unchanged. As of today, 4/15/05, there are 29 students who have declared East Asian Studies as major 1; 6 students who have declared East Asian Studies as major 2; 1 student who has declared East Asian studies as a minor.

The following is a summary of EASC undertakings during the current academic year.

**I. Publication:** The EASC used the leftover budget from last year to print a new brochure in which EASC major and minor requirements are clearly stipulated.

**II. Meetings:** The EASC had two meetings, and plans to have a third at the end of the spring semester. The first meeting was held on Sept 24, 2004; we welcomed new members, planned for activities, and formed a task force to explore the possibility of getting foundation money to support Asian studies in the future after the Freeman grant period. The second meeting was held on Feb 2, 2005; we discussed a wide range of issues (see below) including a couple of probes from our Asian colleagues interesting in establishing exchange programs with us. We decided to go slow, reevaluating our existing ones before diving in any new one.

Highlights from the EASC meeting on Feb 2, 2005 included the following:

--EASC is considering sending someone to attend ASIA Network Conference at Whittier College in April.

--Ritsumeikan University in Japan proposed creating a new student exchange program with us. EASC has decided, however, that we would like to reassess our existing programs before exploring new opportunities. Meanwhile, EASC encouraged Japanese students, including those in Ritusmeikan, to come to study at W/M as foreign students.

--The Japanese studies minor program was discussed and it was decided that its course portfolio should be expanded.

--It was agreed that EAS Anthro and Religion courses are understaffed; the committee plans to revisit this issue soon.

--EASC encouraged its members to submit Freeman proposals for visiting scholars.

--The subcommittee for post-Freeman Asian study extramural grants will be meeting soon before seeing Dean Strikwerda.

--The committee decided to hold at least two more faculty research colloquia this semester.

**III. Lunch talks:** We applied for faculty research symposium money and held two lunch talks. The first of these was given by Professor Hiroshi Kitamura on November 19 and was entitled "American Movies are Back in Town!": The Making of Hollywood Fandom in Occupied Japan." The second was given by Dr Walter Skya and was entitled "The Emperor, Shinto Ultrationalism and Mass Mobilization in Twentieth Century Japan."

#### **IV. Outside invitees and visitors**

EASC involvement with hosting outside speakers and visitors also included the following:

--EASC helped Anthropology Department to sponsor a talk by D.J. Hartfield on "Anthropological Taiwan."

--EASC helped MLL's Tomoko to host a delegation from Kanazawa University. (Kanazawa is our sister institution in Japan).

--Dean Pratt hosted a delegation from Waseda University for a fact-finding mission; T.J. Cheng and Tim Van Compernelle joined Dean Pratt to meet them.

--Walter Skya sponsored a talk by a renowned Japanese criminal justice scholar in late November 2004.

In addition, EASC will be welcoming a delegation from National Chengchi University (our sister institution) in late April.

#### **V. Institutional affiliations:**

EASC joined the AsiaNet, a liberal arts college consortium supported by Freeman Foundation, a network that allows our faculty to apply research and program money for field studies. The EASC continues to support Virginian Constortium of Asian Studies.

#### **VI. Other conference and curriculum activities**

EASC members were also active in organizing the following conference and curricular activities:

--T.J.Cheng hosted the 2004 U.S.-Korean academic conference in late August 2004, an event funded by Korea Economic Institute; 40 scholars came; 12 papers presented, an edited volume will see the light of the day in a few weeks.

--T.J.Cheng also hosted the 2004 annual convention of American Association of Chinese Studies in late October 2004 at Williamsburg House of Hospitality. 110 scholars came to

the event and 15 panels were held. The event was coordinated by the Government Department and Asian students were employed to help with logistics. A number of EASC faculty attended the conference.

--Tomoko Hamada offered a cross-the-Pacific course in Fall 2004 and took students to Hong Kong in January 2005.

--T.J.Cheng offered a cross-the-Pacific course on political and economic change in Asia in Fall 2004 and took students to Taipei in January 2005.

--Tomoko Kato offered Japanese and W/M students a cross-the-Pacific course.

Respectfully submitted,

T.J. Cheng and Michael Como, co-chairs