

ACPSS Newsletter

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LIU Min, Editor

COMING HOME: THE 2004 ANNUAL CONFERENCE

On the peaceful and expansive campus of Towson University in Maryland, the Association of Chinese Professors of Social Sciences in the United States (ACPSS) successfully held its tenth annual international conference from October 29 to 31, 2004. Co-organized by the Chinese Economists Society (CES), Chinese Historians in the United States (CHUS), the Association of Chinese Political Studies (ACPS), the North American Chinese Sociologists Association (NACSA), and the Society of International Chinese in Educational Technology (SICET), the conference drew more than a hundred participants from the United States, Canada, Mainland China, and Hong Kong. Over sixty papers were presented under the conference theme *China Interacting with the World: Influences and Implications* **中国接轨世界: 互动与影响**.

This year's conference was marked by official support from the governments of both China and the United States, and by a higher level of academic quality. The opening ceremony was graced by Sam Mo, who attended on behalf of Secretary of Labor Elaine Chao, and Minister-Counselor of the Chinese Embassy Dr. SU Ge. Mr. Mo enthusiastically spoke on the impending U.S. presidential election, the political participation of Chinese Americans, Asian American communities, U.S. labor policies, and Sino-US trade and labor relations. Proclaiming himself a member of the ACPSS, Dr. SU's keynote speech provided important insights on Sino-US relations from the international, national and personal levels. While laughing at the humorous anecdotes Dr. SU shared as an "insider", the audience was encouraged to make new contributions to Sino-US relations.

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The second keynote speech was given by Professor Wing Thye Woo, renowned economist from the University of California at Davis. Dr. Woo's two-part speech included his brilliant analysis of the impact of China's WTO entry on its Asian neighbors and the rest of the world, and his ground-breaking thesis on the often neglected leader of China's environmental pollution – the "black smoke". Dr. Woo's refreshing originality, deep insight, and eloquent logic resonated strongly with members of the audience.

The intellectual stimulation of the opening ceremony continued into the evening, when audience interacted enthusiastically with panelists of the plenary session on the US Presidential Election and US-China relations.

While retaining the friendly, and personal characteristics of ACPSS conferences, this year's presentations seemed to be more formal and academically serious. Professor Peter Moody of the University of Notre Dame took the audience back to early imperial China on the intimations of civil society. Professor ZHU Yuchao of University of Regina, Canada presented an informative assessment of legal institution building in contemporary China. Participants were treated to a clever application of the classic Chinese thirty-six stratagems to business strategies by Professor JIANG Yuying of San Jose State University, but they also got involved in the highly heated debates generated by a session on overseas Chinese and their connections to China. The

conference workshops, especially the one on online teaching chaired by Professor XIAO Jingjian of University of Rhode Island, provided helpful tips for the profession as well as informative analysis.

Saturday evening turned out to be an unforgettable one as conference participants left Baltimore for a dinner reception hosted by the Chinese Embassy in Washington DC. The five-star red flag and other symbols of the motherland seemed to exude a comforting and yet exciting sense of familiarity. Even the sight of the handful of Falun Gong followers practicing nearby seemed to bring out memories of the homeland. The Embassy's Minister Counselor Mr. LAN Lijun, and Minister Counselor of Education Affairs Ms. LIU Chuansheng spoke on educational cooperation and exchange between China and the United States, depicting a promising future and calling for continued involvement from ACPSS members and all Chinese American scholars and educators. In his remarks, ACPSS President LU Shuming summarized the feeling in the reception hall: "We are home."

Indeed. The wonderful food, friendly exchanges, and official recognition made ACPSS member feel as if they were embraced by the "motherland". As ACPSS Executive Vice President CHEN Aimin pointed out in her November 2 post-conference note to the ACPSS community, the embassy visit is viewed by many as a turning point for ACPSS to return to the "motherland" and become more recognized by Chinese officials for its contribution in bridging China and the outside world. It is also a promising sign that ACPSS may receive more support from China for its future activities.

The instrumental figure for arranging this visit was Dr. GONG Jinkang, Dean of Graduate Education and Research and Associate Vice President for Research at Towson University of Maryland. In fact, Dean GONG's assistance was pivotal for the success of the entire conference, with his arrangement for logistic and other institutional support, and his personal kindness and generosity. For those who joined Dr. GONG for a tour of Baltimore's famed Inner Harbor after the Washington trip, the memory of that warm October night will be a lasting one.

An unprecedented number of new members attended the conference. In addition to serious academic activities at the conference, some new members also got "initiated" into the fun and personal side of ACPSS. One such event was a get-together at a local bar.

ACPSS veterans bonded with new members through their trademark jokes and banters. Some of the personal stories shared at the bar were surprisingly moving and heartwarming.

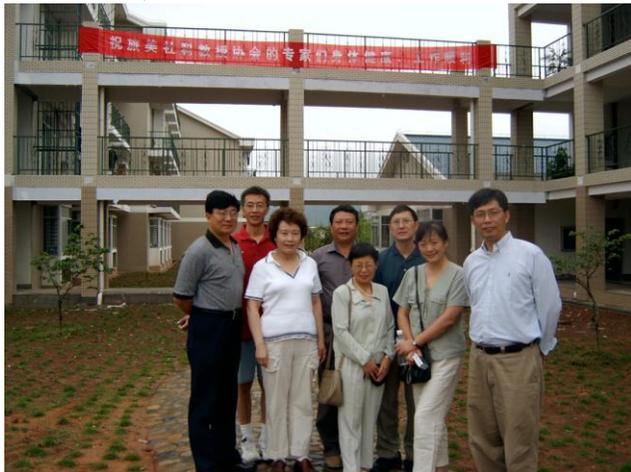
The first conference of ACPSS was held in Maryland about ten years ago in the greater Washington-Baltimore area. Having this conference in the same area invoked a sense of homecoming to many ACPSS members. Perhaps that is precisely another reason for the success of the conference: the feeling of coming home. Academic quality and professionalism aside, this conference brought participants "home" with the visit to the Embassy, laughter shared with friends old and new, image of the serene courtyard of the Sheraton hotel, and the sight of festive trick-or-treaters in the streets of Washington, all enveloped in the warm air of autumn. After all, it was homecoming weekend Towson.

REPORTS FROM THE SUMMER

The 2004 ACPSS **Summer Lecture Trips** in took members to Southwest China, Southeast China, and individual universities in various parts of the country. As usual, participants enjoyed the VIP treatment and the interaction with Chinese colleagues and students while they successfully shared their expertise in Chinese classrooms. The trip to Xiamen University was reported on the university's web site: <http://skc.xmu.edu.cn/whatsnew/03067.htm>, and CHEN Ming's lecture at Zhejiang University was featured on Zhe Da's web site: http://www.qsc.zju.edu.cn/new/qscnews/dis_article.php?aid=14977&cid=82. The following article by YAN Liqun offers a more detailed account of the Southeast China lecture trip.

The Southeast Group of the ACPSS 2004 China Lecture Delegation accomplished its mission by giving about 40 lectures in five Chinese universities and initiating numerous tentative cooperative projects as the group finished its trip on June 3. The Southeast Group, made up of seven members – MAO Siyi, XIAO Jinjian, SUN Jianrong, LU Shuming, TIAN Xiansheng, YAN Liqun, and CHEN Ming, gave lectures at Shanghai University, Zhejiang University, Xiamen University, Fujian Normal University, and Wuyi Normal College from May 19 to June 2. Each group member gave at least one lecture at a university on one of the two-to-five topics they submitted. These topics included international political studies, consumer research in the U.S, personal finances, communication studies in the West, quantitative and

qualitative methodologies in the West, issues of TESL in China, technology enhancement in teaching, recent studies of the Korean War, news values in American journalism, media ethics in the United States, contemporary American theater scene, etc.



Southeast lecture trip members at Wuyi College. (Photo courtesy of LU Shuming.)

The lectures were enthusiastically received by the students and faculty at every university. All lecture rooms were occupied to its full or more than full capacity. The official time period for each lecture was set for two hours, including half an hour for questions and answers. But oftentimes, the lecturers were kept long after the official lecture, answering questions from curious students and leaving contact information. We were particularly impressed by what we experienced at Fujian Normal University. Before we left for the school we still didn't have our chosen lecture topics. When we arrived, we were met by President Li and the deans of all the colleges. At the meeting, President Li introduced the university, its special characteristics and the deans. Then he asked us to discuss and decide the individual topics with the dean of the relevant college.

First we were worried about the attendance because the next day was Saturday. But we were surprised next morning when we saw well-prepared posters with detailed information about the lecture at the site and the compacted auditorium full of young students with great anticipation. The temperature was 34 degrees centigrade and there was no air conditioning or ceiling fans. The students paid no attention to the heat but concentrated on the lecture.

The group also discussed potential cooperation with each university. The cooperation can be short-term or long-term lecture, collaborative research projects, publishing, etc.

Of course, we enjoyed the food and the tour everywhere we went. It seemed that every place we went, it got even better and better. It was a wonderful lecture trip. We all said we would join it again next summer.

– By YAN Liqun

Following an open call for host in November 2004, the Board has unanimously chosen California State University at Fullerton to be the site for the **2005 ACPSS Annual Conference**. Thanks to Dr. Lisa XUE, the university's Director of International Programs for China, our ten-year anniversary conference will be blessed with enthusiastic support from the university, as well as the alluring local attractions in the greater Los Angeles area. The 2005 conference theme is: *Sustainable Development in China – Social Science Perspectives*. The call for papers will be announced soon. Please mark October 28-30, 2005 on your calendars and start planning your next trip to California!

For the **2005 summer lectures** in China, the ACPSS received help from the China International Scholarly Exchange Association (also called the National Foreign Experts Bureau). Plans are being made for lecture tours in Tibet, Heilongjiang, and Shandong. Also being discussed are other regions such as Inner Mongolia, Shanxi, and Chengdu. Tentative dates for the lecture tours are from mid-May to June 20th, 2005.

The unexpected death of Chinese-American author **Iris Chang** in November 2004 saddened the whole ACPSS community. Members exchanged anecdotes of various encounters with the Iris, remembering her courage, talent, passion, and kindness. At the suggestion of George WEI Chuxiong of Susquehanna University, a collaborative Iris Chang Foundation committee was established by ACPSS and the Chinese Historians in the United States (CHUS). Committee members WEI Chuxiong, HAO Yufan, LIN Jianzhong, YANG Honggang and two CHUS members are now working on the bylaws of the foundation. Donations have already come in.

JIANG Yuying of San Jose State University attended Iris Chang's funeral and wrote moving tribute about Chang's life, works, and her legacy. His article is at http://oycf.org/Perspectives/27_12302004/2_Mourning%20Iris%20Chang_final.pdf.

A brief **financial statemnet** from ACPSS Treasurer SONG Jingyi indicates that the organization is financially healthy. The total membership fee received in 2004 was \$2800.00, and total registration fee for the conference was \$4910.00. After paying out expenses, the remaining balance came to \$4917.01.

NEWS AND UPDATES

NEW MEMBERS OF ACPSS

- Dr. LI Guofang, Assistant Professor of Learning & Instruction, Graduate School of Education, SUNY at Buffalo
- Dr. YAO Ping, Associate Professor of History, California State University, Los Angeles
- Dr. WANG Shuo, Assistant Professor of History, California State University, Stanislaus

MEMBER NEWS

Publications

FENG Xiwu. "Parental Involvement and Student Achievement – Perceptions and Challenges of Asian Parents and Students." Proceedings of the AAARI Conference on Education, *CUNY Bulletin of Asian American/Asian Affairs*, Vol. 2, 2003.

FENG Xiwu. "The Role of the Faculty in Institutional Decision-Making in the Transformation of Higher Education." *Conference Proceedings – International Symposium on Advancing Political Civilization in China*. Beijing: Renmin University Press. 2004.

Joshi, R.M., Hoiem, T., **FENG, X.**, Chengappa, R. and Boulwar-Gooden, R. "Learning to Spell by Ear and by Eye: A Cross-Linguistic Comparison", in R.M. Joshi and P.G. Aaron (Eds.). *Handbook of Orthography and Literacy*. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum Associates. 2005 (in press).

GUO Baogang. "Political Legitimacy and China's Transition." *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, 8 (1-2): 1-25. Fall 2003.

HONG Zhaohui. 2004. *China Uniqueness – Dilemmas and Directions of China's Development* (in Chinese). 《中国特殊论--中国发展的困惑和路径》. New York: The Cozy House Publisher. This work challenges prevailing interpretations of contemporary China by offering a new theory – "China Uniqueness" – in analyzing the social justice system, economic institution and political civilization of a country.

LU Shuming and TIAN Xiansheng (eds.). 2004. *Taiwan in the Eyes of Chinese-American Scholars Critical Analyses on Taiwanese Society in the 21st Century* (in Chinese) 《旅美学者看台湾：二十一

世纪台湾社会考察与分析》 Taiwan: 秀威資訊. The 19 chapters of the book were contributed all by ACPSS members.

QI Shouhua. 2005 (forthcoming). *When the Purple Mountain Burns: A Novel*. San Francisco: The Long River Press. This novel about the Rape of Nanking focuses on the day before the Japanese entered Nanking and the first six days of the reign of terror that followed.

ZHANG Jie, Yeates Conwell, Li Zhou, and Chao Jiang. "Cultural, Risk Factors and Suicide in Rural China: A Psychological Autopsy Case Control Study." *Acta Psychiatrica Scandinavica*, 110(6): 430-437. 2004

Other News

CHEN Aimin of Indiana State University has become a vice president of Sichuan University through an open hiring process. She is leaving for China in late February for the new job while taking a leave of absence from her current university. She has also been nominated as the 2004-2005 Distinguished Professor of the College of Arts and Sciences and for the University Caleb Mills Distinguished Teaching at Indiana State University.

FENG Xiwu of CUNY LaGuardia participated in a Xinjiang Lecture Tour in Summer 2004. He offered a three-credit graduate course titled Cross-Cultural Communication and English Language Teaching at Xinjiang University, and lectured at Xinjiang University, Xinjiang Normal University, Yili Teachers College, Xinjiang Institute of Agricultural Technology, and Kuerle No.2 Higher School. Dr. FENG also organized and coordinated the Xinjiang Multi-Disciplinary Exchange Symposium with Xinjiang Uigur Autonomous Region in early August, and is currently engaged in organizing an international symposium on cross-cultural studies to be held in Xinjiang in the summer of 2005.

GUO Baogang of Dalton State College received the McBrayer Award for the Best Paper Presented to the 2003 Georgia Political Science Annual Meeting for his paper mentioned in the Publications section above. The Award was given during the Annual Meeting of the Georgia Political Science Association held from November 11-13, 2004 in Savannah, GA.

JIA Wenshan moved from New Paltz, NY to sunny California to start his new position in September 2004 as a tenured associate professor with the Department of Communication at Chapman University.

JIANG Yuying of San Jose State University became the Acting Associate Dean of Faculty Affairs of the university starting January 2005.

LI He of Merrimack College was promoted to full professor of political science in June 2004.

XIAO JingJian left the University of Rhode Island to take an endowed chair position as the inaugural Director of Take Charge America Institute for Consumer Financial Education and Research at the University of Arizona in January 2005.

ZHANG Jie of SUNY Buffalo was awarded a \$1 million grant from the National Institutes of Health in Fall 2004 to study rural Chinese suicide. This four-year grant will allow ZHANG Jie and his team consisting of American and Chinese scholars to explore risk factors of suicide among Chinese rural young women and to test a sociological theory of suicide that may be generalized to other populations in the world.

CONFERENCES

The **Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies** (AAS) will be held March 31–April 3, 2005 in Chicago. Various regional conferences will be held later in the year. For more information, go to: <http://www.aasianst.org/regional.htm>.

The **Fourth International Convention of Asia Scholars** (ICAS), sponsored by the International Institute for Asian Studies (IIAS), will be held August 20-24, 2005 in Shanghai, China. More information about the conference can be found at: <http://www.icassecretariat.org/>

CALL FOR SUBMISSIONS

American Review of China Studies (ARCS) is the official and refereed journal of ACPSS. It is published bi-annually in English for China experts, Asian specialists, college professors and students, academic researchers, and other interested readers. Its goal is to disseminate new research, promote scholarly exchange, and produce an intellectual and more complete understanding of China. It also serves ACPSS members as a forum and a focused outlet for their academic products, fresh ideas, and new and relevant information obtained from research efforts relating to all disciplines of social sciences and humanities.

The editor invites submissions of original research, theoretical critique, descriptive survey, documentary analyses, literature review, methodological studies, and replications or extensions of past research, if they make an important contribution to the theory, method, or knowledge in the field and provide insight for the study of China. Manuscript submission deadlines for the spring issue is October 15, the fall issue March 15.

If you are interested in submitting an article, please write to: Professor Xiaobing Li, Editor, *American Review of China Studies*, Department of History, University of Central Oklahoma, 100 N. University Drive, Edmond, OK 73034. Questions may be directed to Professor LI at (405) 974-5483, or bli@ucok.edu.

Join ACPSS Today or Renew Your Membership

The Association of Chinese Professors of Social Science in the United States (ACPSS), a Texas-registered, non-profit, and non-political professional organization, was founded in November 1994 by a group of Chinese academics of social sciences and humanities residing in North America. ACPSS aims at (1) promoting and protecting the rights and interests of Chinese scholars of social sciences and humanities who currently hold teaching and research positions in academic institutions in the West; (2) encouraging and sponsoring creative interdisciplinary research cooperation among social scientists; (3) pursuing scholarly exchanges among Chinese academics in North America, mainland China, Taiwan, and Hong Kong; (4) advancing the comprehensive development of social sciences in mainland China; and (5) supporting China's reform and opening to the World.

ACPSS Membership Application Form

Name (English) _____ Name (Chinese) _____

Sex: M ___ F ___ Title or Position _____

Current Institution _____

Institution Address _____

Office Telephone _____ Home Telephone _____

Fax _____ E-Mail _____

Field or Major _____ Highest Degree _____

Institution Awarding Highest Degree _____ Year of Degree _____

Affiliation in China (if applicable) _____

Mailing Address _____

Application Status Apply ___ Renew ___ Update ___

Membership Fee: One year \$30 ___; Three years \$70 ___; Five years \$100 ___; Life \$200 ___

Please send your completed form and check to Professor Xiansheng Tian, Department of History, Box 27, Metropolitan State College of Denver, P. O. Box 173362, Denver, CO 80217-3362. Make checks payable to ACPSS. For any membership questions, please contact Dr. Tian at 303-556-5349 (phone), 303-556-2671 (fax), or tian@mscd.edu.

WORDS FROM THE EDITOR



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