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Institutional and Member News

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INSTITUTIONAL AND MEMBER NEWS

Jim Cheng Receives Fulbright Award

Jim Cheng, Head Librarian of the International Relations & Pacific Studies Library at University of California, San Diego, has been awarded a Fulbright Scholar grant to do research at the National Taiwan University, Taiwan during the 2008-2009 academic year, according to the United States Department of State and the J. William Fulbright Foreign Scholarship Board.

Cheng is one of approximately 1,100 U.S. faculty and professionals who were chosen for Fulbright U.S. Scholar Program this year. The Program operates in over 155 countries worldwide, and recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields.

Cheng will conduct research for his book project, *An Annotated Bibliography for Taiwan Film Studies*, which will be a sequel to his previous book, *An Annotated Bibliography for Chinese Film Studies*. His research will be conducted at the Chinese Taipei Film Archive Library, the National Central Library, and the National Taiwan University Library for three months starting in fall 2009.

Jim Cheng is an authority on Asian film and has built an unparalleled collection of East Asian films at UCSD's IR/PS Library. Thanks in large part to his efforts, the IR/PS Library is recognized as having the best collection of Chinese underground and independent films in the world. The collection, which also includes posters, is comprised of films from South and North Korea, Japan, and those focusing on the Chinese Cultural Revolution. "While the field of Chinese film studies has mushroomed in the global academic community over the last decade and faculty at UC San Diego and other institutions are increasingly using popular media for teaching purposes," said Cheng, "authoritative bibliographic source materials have been lacking. My ultimate goal is to create the most comprehensive and objective bibliography for Taiwan film studies, covering a wide range of perspectives, including some of the more controversial issues, such as government censorship and Japanese and mainland Chinese influence during and after the colonial period."

While in Taiwan, Cheng will meet with scholars and film directors to organize a future Taiwan Film Symposium at UC San Diego and also plans to meet with film vendors who can help to expand UCSD's Taiwan film collection, which currently holds more than 200 titles. Under Cheng's leadership, the IR/PS Library has sponsored numerous Asian film festivals, including a film festival held last year showcasing the films of North and South Korea.

Cheng, who has served as head of the IR/PS Library since 2002, holds M.A. degrees in library and information science and comparative literature from the University of Washington. He received his B.A. in Chinese language and literature from Fudan University in Shanghai. Before joining the UC San Diego Libraries, Cheng held librarian positions at the University of Iowa, New York University, and the University of Washington.

(Compiled from press releases by the US State Department and the UC San Diego News)

UC Irvine receives grant from Taiwan Ministry of Education

The East Asian Collection of the University of California Irvine Libraries has received a special grant for Taiwan research materials from the Ministry of Education (MOE), Taiwan. The MOE grant of over 1.1 million TWD (approximately 35,000 USD) will support the growth of a core collection for a new research area in modern Taiwan literature and cinema. Ying Zhang, Asian Studies Librarian, will develop the collection in collaboration with Bert Scruggs, a specialist in postcolonial Taiwan literature research, who joined UCI in 2008. The collection will cover print and electronic books, journals, newspapers, and visual materials.

(From an Eastlib posting by Ying Zhang, University of California Irvine)

Library Exhibit on Shanghai at Langson Library, UC Irvine

“Shanghai’s Two Faces: Cosmopolitanism and Glocalization,” a new exhibit at the Langson Library of the University of California Irvine, depicts Shanghai’s transformation from a fishing and market town into a global commerce and finance center. The exhibit portrays two key times in Shanghai’s history: as a free treaty port from the late 19th to the early 20th century, and as a dynamic metropolis from the late 20th century onward. Using visual displays chosen from UCI library holdings, the exhibit portrays places, people, events, commerce, popular culture, and literature to highlight the cosmopolitanism and glocalization that have risen from these two time frames.

Curator of the exhibit, which runs from April 22 to September 30, 2009, is Ying Zhang, Research Librarian for Asian Studies at UC Irvine.

(From an Eastlib posting by Ying Zhang, University of California Irvine)