DIRECTOR’S WELCOME

The Fairbank Center eagerly looks forward to a hectic Spring 2005 semester. Our offering of regular seminars will be enriched by the addition of the China Business Seminar, organized by Professor Regina Abrami of the Harvard Business School. A number of exciting conferences and workshops are planned, with topics ranging from “Identity, Nationalism, and Chinese Foreign Policy” and “Democratization and Judicial Reform in Taiwan,” to “The Early Development of Print Culture in China” and “Epidemics in China.” One of the postdoctoral workshops, “Affect, Emotion, and Public Life and Modern China and Japan,” is organized by two postdoctoral fellows of the Fairbank Center in cooperation with one postdoctoral fellow of the Reischauer Institute.

In the meantime, preparations are underway for our move back from our temporary quarters at 625 Massachusetts Avenue to our permanent home in the South Building of the Center for Government and International Studies. It is anticipated that we will move back to the old address on Cambridge Street over the summer. This will mean that the Fairbank Center will celebrate its fiftieth anniversary in a new and state-of-the-art accommodation.

Research on China requires residency in China. The Fairbank Center is very proud to announce the establishment of two new annual graduate grants for a full year of study in the People’s Republic of China. The establishment of this grant has been made possible by a generous gift of Mr. Desmond Shum and his wife, Whitney. The recipients of the grant will be known as the Desmond and Whitney Shum Fellows.

I am also very happy to announce that the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation has generously agreed to continue its co-funding of a postdoctoral fellowship for Taiwan Studies for the next three years. This allows the Fairbank Center to enhance the visibility of Taiwan studies in its program for postdoctoral fellowship.

—Wilt Idema

FAIRBANK CENTER ANNOUNCES NEW SHUM GRADUATE FELLOWSHIPS

A generous grant from Desmond Shum will enable two Harvard graduate students to spend a year studying in China. These students, who will be studying in the fields of the contemporary Chinese social sciences, will receive a grant of $20,000 each. Students will apply to the Fairbank Center and will be selected through a competitive application process, with award decisions made by a committee of faculty associated with the Fairbank Center. The winning students will be known as the Desmond and Whitney Shum Fellows.

Desmond Shum is the chairman of Ocean Pacific Investment Management, based in Beijing. He has been associated with China Vest, an American venture capital firm set up in China in 1983, a company which now manages $300 million. He is the former CEO of CNWireless Consulting. In February 2001 he participated in the Harvard Asia Business Conference as a panelist on information and technology, where he discussed “The Future of Wireless in China.”

Two fellowships will be awarded each year for the next three years. Preference in awarding the fellowships will be given to students in the fields of government, public policy, public administration, economics, law and sociology, according to the terms of the gift. Full information is posted on the Fairbank Center website.

At a ceremony in November 2004, Fairbank Center Director Wilt Idema met Mr. Shum and, on behalf of the Fairbank Center, thanked him for his generous gift. Idema said that all opportunities for graduate students to obtain funding for their research are welcome. “The Fairbank Center,” he said, “is pleased to be able to organize this competition and to know that these funds will be available for Harvard graduate students.”

Outline of Application Rules. Competition is open to all Harvard PhD candidates from any school within the university specializing in a field of the social sciences. Applicants should submit a brief letter setting out the title of their project, the institution in China where they will be affiliated and their planned dates of travel.

In addition, applicants should provide a project description of no more than two pages, a letter of support from their thesis supervisor, and if available a letter of acceptance from the Chinese institution. The deadline for these materials is 15 March 2005.

Desmond and Whitney Shum
FAIRBANK CENTER CELEBRATES FIFTY YEARS

This year, 2005, marks the 50th anniversary of the Fairbank Center! In October 1956 John King Fairbank wrote a confidential letter to the dean of FAS, commenting on the just completed first year of the new research program at Harvard called Chinese Economic and Political Studies. The letter primarily outlined how few resources were available at Harvard or in the United States regarding academic study of modern China. That was the first coordinated research program undertaken by the Center for East Asian Studies.

The Center changed its name to the East Asian Research Center in 1961. In 1977 the current name was adopted, the John King Fairbank Center for East Asian Research. This was to honor the founder, John Fairbank, in the year that he retired, after having served as head of the Center for eighteen years.

To celebrate its first fifty years, the Center will hold a major conference on 9–11 December 2004. Outstanding scholars from many disciplines within the field of Chinese studies will review the last fifty years of the field, its current state, its likely future.

It is anticipated that the activities will be held in the new Knafel Center for Government and International Relations, now being constructed at 1730 and 1731 Cambridge Street, on the site of the former Coolidge Hall, where the Center was located for thirty-nine years, from 1963 to 2002.

Full details will be given in our fall 2005 newsletter in October. All Fairbank Center affiliates, in all categories, are invited to attend these sessions.

FAIRBANK CENTER OUTREACH

This April the Fairbank Center will cooperate with the very active Phi Beta Kappa Association of Boston when they will present Fairbank Associate Merle Goldman, who will speak about her new book From Comrade to Citizen: The Struggle for Political Rights in China.

The talk will be held on Friday 15 April at 7 pm in seminar room #3 at the Fairbank Center. A reception with food prepared by Chef Chang’s House will follow the talk. The talk is free and open to the public. For information, phone the Phi Beta Kappa Association of Boston at 781-721-2340.

Lee Chack Fan, vice-chancellor at the University of Hong Kong, will speak on the Harvard campus on Tuesday 19 April. His topic will be Meeting Community Expectations: From Landslide Prevention to Harbor Enhancement in Hong Kong. Dr. Lee is a Hong Kong Fulbright Distinguished Lecturer, on a program being coordinated by the Institute of International Education (IIE).

The Graduate School of Design will co-sponsor the lecture along with the Fairbank Center, and the talk will be fully announced to affiliates of both organizations. The exact time and location of the talk TBA.

LAUNCH OF CHINA BUSINESS SEMINARS

The newest series of seminars sponsored by the Fairbank Center will be launched in the current spring 2005 semester. Professor Regina Abarami of the Harvard Business School is the organizer of the series, which has been in the planning stage for well over a year. The two sessions planned for the next few months are listed below. They will be held at the Fairbank Center at 625 Massachusetts Avenue. An informal reception will follow each talk.

WEDNESDAY 23 FEBRUARY 2005, 4 PM
Adam Segal, Council on Foreign Relations
“Market Maker or Market Taker: Trends in China’s Technology Development”

WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2005, 4 PM
Parks Coble, University of Nebraska

POSTDOCTORAL WORKSHOPS

During the spring 2005 semester the Fairbank Center will host a series of postdoctoral workshops. Each of these gatherings is organized by our current class of postdoctoral fellows, and in one case a postdoctoral fellow of the Reischauer Institute has joined with two Fairbank Center postdocs to organize a workshop.

One can expect to encounter the most current research topics and the most recent analytical thinking in each field, as established scholars join a number of younger academics in each workshop. An outline of the workshops and their major themes follows on page 5.
**SEMINAR OF CHINESE RELIGIONS WILL PRESENT MAJOR CONFERENCE ON RELIGION IN CHINA**

**Rethinking Indigenous and Imported Categories of Thought**

**SATURDAY–SUNDAY 21–22 MAY 2005**

Organized by Professors Michael Puett and Robert Weller and by An Wang Postdoctoral Fellow Adam Yuet Chau

Religion (zongjiao) is a modern concept in China. Like much of our analytic vocabulary in the social sciences and humanities, it entered China only in the last century or so, via Japanese translation of Western thought. Even in the West, the term only took its modern form in the last few centuries. Before the sixteenth century, religion referred to a way of life bound by a particular set of monastic disciplinary rules. The modern meaning as the general belief in a higher power and the mental attitudes that follow from that belief began only after that time.

This two day conference will rethinks the category of religion as we use it today in Chinese studies. Participants will look at indigenous terms and debates within the field. For example, the term li is often translated as “rites” or “rituals,” but also extends to areas of life usually excluded from religion, like etiquette. The second session will concentrate on the introduction of Western concepts of religion as it affected both scholarly understandings and Chinese behavior. The introduction of the new category encourages arguments about whether Confucianism or even Taoism is a religion. A third topic will explore the legacies of both indigenous discourses and new ideas about religion today. Local temple worship remains “feudal superstition” even in new China. In Taiwan, on the other hand, attitudes have loosened enormously since democratization and we’ve seen the rapid development of local temples.

**ANNUAL REISCHAUER LECTURES IN APRIL**

The annual Reischauer lectures will be held on 20–22 April this year. The speaker will be Hamashita Takeshi. He has a joint appointment at two of Japan’s major universities: He is professor at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Kyoto University, and also professor at the Institute of Oriental Culture at Tokyo University.

The theme of the lecture series will be “Changing Regions and Regionalism in East Asia: Fifteenth to the Twentieth Centuries: Transformation of the Tributary System and Maritime Asia.”

The first lecture on 20 April will be “The Tributary and Treaty Port System from the Periphery.” The second lecture on 21 April will be “H. B. Morse and Maritime Customs in East Asia.” The third lecture on 23 April will be “Inter-Regional Relations Through the Overseas Chinese.”

Each lecture will begin at 3:30 pm in a location to be announced. A reception to which the public is invited will be held on Wednesday 20 April at 5 pm at a location to be announced.

Please consult the Asia Center Asia Bulletin for complete details, which will be available in mid-March.

**FAIRBANK CENTER AND ASIA CENTER CO-SPONSOR LECTURES**

During the course of each semester the Harvard University Asia Center joins with the Fairbank Center to co-sponsor events. At this writing, two such jointly-sponsored Special Lunchtime Seminar events are scheduled. A light lunch will be served with each event.

**China’s Regional Development: An Investigation of Regional Disparities with the “Regional Analysis Planning System” for China (RAPS-China)**

**THURSDAY 17 FEBRUARY AT 12 NOON AT 625 MASS. AVE.**

Gerhard Heilig, senior research scholar at the International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis in Laxenburg, Austria

The great disparities between the increasingly prosperous coastal provinces and the stagnating interior regions will be considered. These differences produce great risks for political instability. The RASPS is a system for analyzing inter-provincial discrepancies in a multi-dimensional context. The system can be easily used to construct various indices which are immediately visualized in the form of maps and charts.

**Pol Pot: A Cambodian Aberration?**

**THURSDAY 24 MARCH AT 12 NOON AT 625 MASS. AVE.**

Philip Short, author of Pol Pot: Anatomy of a Nightmare

Philip Short is a noted author. His biography of Mao Zedong was well-received. His most recent book is Pol Pot: Anatomy of a Nightmare (John MacRae Books, February 2005). Short says Pol Pot’s rule in Cambodia was an essentially Cambodian, rather than an essentially Marxist, phenomenon. It was certainly not an aberration.

In the three and a half years of Pol Pot’s rule, more than a million Cambodians, a fifth of the country’s population, were executed or died from hunger. An idealistic and reclusive figure, Pol Pot sought to instill in his people values of moral purity and self-abnegation through a revolution of radical egalitarianism. In the process his country descended into madness, becoming a concentration camp of the mind, a slave state in which obedience was enforced on the killing fields.

**CONSERVATIVE HISTORIOGRAPHY IN EAST ASIA**

This one-day workshop will be held at the Fairbank Center on Tuesday 29 March 2005. It is co-sponsored by the Fairbank Center, the Reischauer Institute, and a group of scholars from Leiden University.

Marxist and liberal views of history that have been dominant in East Asia have recently begun to yield “new visions,” some of them conservative and revisionist. These emphasize the specificities of Chinese, Japanese and Korean history that run counter to the universalizing narratives of modernity. Conflicts over the meaning of history in modern East Asia thus have addressed problems of universal significance: How do general patterns of historical development relate to particular pasts and identities? Are modern concepts of progress the only framework for understanding history? What relationship is there between the histories of selves and that of the collective?

The workshop will consider these questions, giving special attention to the “conservative” or “revisionist” histories and their long neglected trajectory in the twentieth century.
FAIRBANK CENTER SEMINAR

This are also known as the Fairbank Center director’s seminar, since speakers present their research at the invitation of the Center’s director, Dr. Wilt Idema. These talks are as a rule this semester held on Thursday afternoon beginning at 4:15 pm in seminar room #2 at 625 Massachusetts Ave. Each talk is followed by an informal reception. Invited discussants will be announced before each talk.

THURSDAY 3 FEBRUARY 2005
Li Dongyan, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, Fairbank Center Visiting Scholar

THURSDAY, 10 MARCH 2005
Liu Tik-Sang, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology, Fairbank Center Visiting Scholar
“Confining Ritual Performances: The Structure of a Cosmic Renewal Ritual Site in Hong Kong’s New Territories”
Discussant: Rubie Watson

THURSDAY, 24 MARCH 2005
Rebecca Nedostup, Boston College, An Wang Postdoctoral Fellow
“Material Motives in the Nationalist Campaigns Against Superstition (1927–1937)”
Discussant: Elizabeth Perry

THURSDAY, 7 APRIL 2005
Asaf Goldschmidt, Tel Aviv University, An Wang Postdoctoral Fellow
“The Song Discontinuity: The Redefinition of Medicine During the Northern Song Dynasty”

THURSDAY 14 APRIL 2005
Joseph Dennis, An Wang Postdoctoral Fellow
“Surname Changes in Late Imperial China: The Case of Grand Secretary Li Ben”
Discussant: Peter Bol

THURSDAY 28 APRIL 2004
Eugenia Lean, Columbia University, Wang Postdoctoral Fellow
“Politics of Passion: The Case of Shi Jianqiao and the Rise of Public Sympathy in 1930s China”

THURSDAY 19 MAY 2005
Goh Yenseng, Nanyang Technological University, Fairbank Center Visiting Scholar
“What Are We? The China Complex of Chinese in Singapore: Reactions to the Taiwan Visit of Former Singapore Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong”

ONGOING SEMINAR SERIES

Complete details of all future events for Fairbank center ongoing seminars will be available on the Asia Center’s Asia Bulletin. Information available in early 2005 is reported here.

New England China Seminar
Continuously offered by the Fairbank Center since the early 1970s, this is our oldest seminar offering. Organized for the past thirty years by Fairbank associate Merle Goldman. The seminar held its first meeting of the new semester in early February.

MONDAY 7 FEBRUARY 2005
FIRST PANEL 5:15 PM, SECOND PANEL 7:30 PM

Panel I: Zhao Suisheng, University of Denver, “Dynamics of Modern Chinese Nationalism”
Panel II: Ezra Vogel, former director of the Fairbank Center, discussed his new work, The Life of Chen Yun, 1905–1995

China Humanities Seminar
MONDAY 14 FEBRUARY 2005
Paul Kroll, University of Colorado
“The Writings of Xu Hui, Worthy Consort, at the Early Tang Court”

MONDAY, 28 FEBRUARY 2005
Zhou Yiqun, Valparaiso University
“Women and Conviviality in Ancient China”

MONDAY, 14 MARCH 2005
Michael Fuller, University of California at Irvine
“Xinging in the Rain: The Transformation of Poetry and Experience in the Southern Song”

All of these talks will begin at 4 pm and will be held in the Common Room of the Harvard-Yenching Building at 2 Divinity Ave. For information contact Jascha Smilack, smilack@fas.harvard.edu.

New England East Asian Art History Seminar
SATURDAY 5 FEBRUARY 2005, 3 PM

Michael Sullivan, Oxford University
“Building on Friendship: Sixty Years’ Encounter with Modern Chinese Art”

China Current Events Workshop
FRIDAY, 29 APRIL 2005, 3:30 PM

Gary H. Jefferson, Brandeis University
“Enterprise Restructuring and Foreign Direct Investment in China”
Discussant, Thomas Gottschang, Holy Cross College
Moderator: Gwendolyn Stewart

(Ongoing Seminar Series continued on page 6)
SPRING 2005 POSTDOCTORAL WORKSHOPS

Identity, Nationalism, and Chinese Foreign Policy
SATURDAY–SUNDAY 19–20 MARCH 2004
Organized by An Wang Postdoctoral Fellow He Yinan

This workshop analyzes and evaluates Chinese nationalism since the reform years and its impact on Chinese foreign behaviors. It departs from the assumption that the reform has provided new forms and substance to the Chinese people's self-definition of their national identity and relations with other countries of the world. It recognizes that nationalism has become a distinct source of Chinese foreign policy, more autonomous of the calculations and operations at the state level than in the past.

The first panel will explore the historical and ideological context of Chinese national identity. The second panel will look at the multiple domestic sources of contemporary Chinese nationalism. The third panel considers the Taiwan question, from both Chinese and Taiwanese perspectives. Is Taiwan a symbol of Chinese national humiliation? How does the new democracy in Taiwan cause the people in Taiwan to re-define themselves? The last panel will address the linkage between Chinese nationalism and foreign policy.

Epidemics in China: Varying Perceptions and Impact of Epidemics in China during the Second Millennium BCE
SATURDAY–SUNDAY 16–17 APRIL 2004
Organized by An Wang Postdoctoral Fellow Asaf Goldschmidt

It has been claimed that humanity has three great enemies—disease, famine and war. Epidemics have been by far the greatest of the three.

The workshop will discuss topics such as the perceptions of epidemics in ancient China, the reactions to epidemics by the government and society of the time, the definition of epidemics in medical and non-medical realms, and the treatments of epidemics.

Up to the present only limited research has been done on the topic of epidemics in China. The workshop will explore many facets of epidemics in China from a number of perspectives. Its goal is to provide an initial consistent mapping of this largely overlooked topic in the history of medicine in China.

Democratization and Judicial Reform in Taiwan
SATURDAY 23 APRIL 2005
Organized by Taiwan Studies Postdoctoral Fellow Ching-shou Wang

The workshop is co-sponsored by the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy. This workshop invites some young scholars who are conducting empirical studies on Taiwan's judiciary as well as some of the leaders of Taiwan's judicial reform of the past ten years. Taiwan's legal system is adapted from the Japanese system. Most Taiwanese law scholars do not do empirical studies. Therefore this workshop will probably be the first workshop that has ever focused on empirical studies of Taiwan's judiciary.

Among the major themes to be discussed are the following. "Judicial Behavior," looks at how both judges and the police react to issues of concern. The "Legal Profession" investigates how prosecutors and judges are recruited and trained and what are the characteristics of the new-generation prosecutors who did not experience the authoritarian rule of Taiwan in the past. "Democraticization and the Judiciary" discusses the role of the judiciary in social movements and the political process behind the movement toward judicial independence reform.

The Early Development of Print Culture in China
FRIDAY–SATURDAY 29–30 APRIL 2005
Organized by Harvard-Yenching Postdoctoral Fellow Hilde De Weerdt and An Wang Postdoctoral Fellow Joe Dennis

The development of print culture in China goes back to the seventh century. In recent years strides have been made in academic research on Chinese print culture from the sixteenth through the twentieth centuries, but the millennium preceding invites comparative research on the interaction between manuscript and print circulation and, more broadly, the relationships between print culture and social, political, economic and religious change.

The first panel will discuss the circulation of literature and literary change. The second panel will look at the circulation of administrative literature. The third panel will compare the difference between regional versus empire-wide distribution patterns. The fourth panel will discuss print culture and language. The goal of the workshop is to bring together a group of scholars to identify and discuss major transitions in Chinese print culture and to lay the groundwork for a future large conference on the same topic.

Affect, Emotion, and Public Life in Modern China and Japan
FRIDAY–SATURDAY 6–7 MAY 2005
Organized by Fairbank Center An Wang Postdoctoral Fellows Eugenia Lean and Rebecca Nedostup and Reischauer Institute Postdoctoral Fellow Suzanne O'Brian

This workshop is co-sponsored by the Fairbank Center and the Reischauer Institute. For some years now scholars have rightly questioned the simple equation of the creation of the "modern" with the rise of rationalism and the emergence of a public sphere that is clearly and easily separated from private concerns. Yet many are still searching for ways to move beyond mere critique to uncover alternate narratives of the relationship of the individual to the collective. The aim of this workshop is to explore one range of possibilities by bringing together scholars from diverse fields to discuss methods they have used to explore the role of emotion in modern public life.

What does “emotion” mean? In the most immediate sense it might appear to be the opposite of Enlightenment rationalism—the sensibility, brute custom and “tradition” that would-be reformers opposed, from Meiji to May Fourth to the Cultural Revolution. Yet further exploration reveals that the reformers themselves were subject to the kinds of idealism and idealization that might just as easily fall in the same category. Seen in this light, the sheer force that the perceived need for rapid cultural modernization generated in both China and Japan after the mid-nineteenth century fostered a distinction between the rational and the emotional that in fact was not always present. It is this disconnect that will be explored in the workshop.
Taiwan Studies Essay Prize

In spring 2005 the Fairbank Center for East Asian Research at Harvard will award its Taiwan Studies Essay Prize. Harvard College undergraduates and all graduate students of the University are eligible to compete.

The topic of the essay should be the Republic of China on Taiwan. The essay should be in English and should have been published within the last three years in any of a wide variety of possible formats, including “op-ed” pieces in a newspaper or in a University publication in hard copy editions, or in a referred web journal. The goal of the competition is to encourage the dissemination of the results of research and writing on this topic. Authors will retain all authority over copyrights.

Deadline for submissions is Monday 2 May 2005. The prize will be $300. A committee of Taiwan studies specialists appointed by the Fairbank Center will select the winning entry. For further information you are invited to contact Ronald Suleski, Assistant Director, Fairbank Center, 625 Mass. Ave., Cambridge 02139, tel. 617-496-6691, suleski@fas.harvard.edu.

ONGOING SEMINAR SERIES

(continued from page 4)

China Current Events Workshop

FRIDAY 25 FEBRUARY 2005, 3:30 PM
Joseph Fewsmith, Boston University
Cheng Li, Hamilton College
“Look Hu’s In Charge Now”
Moderators: Gwendolyn Stewart and Thomas Gottschang

FRIDAY 29 APRIL 2005, 3:30 PM
Gary H. Jefferson, Brandeis University
“Enterprise Restructuring and Foreign Direct Investment in China”
Discussant: Thomas Gottschang, Holy Cross College
Moderator: Gwendolyn Stewart

All of the other ongoing series are now announcing their activities, including the Gender Studies Workshop, the Seminar on Chinese Religions, the New England Art History Seminar, and the Taiwan Studies Workshop. Programs will also be offered by the China-New England Seminar and at the China Lunchtime Seminars. For complete details, please see the Asia Center Asia Bulletin (http://www.fas.harvard.edu/%7Easiactr/events.html).