Organized Research Centers/Institutes for Advanced Studies

Annual Report 2014

Center Name: Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas
Center Director: John Chaffee
Center Associate Director: Fran Goldman

I. Center Accomplishments
a. As noted in our report of 2013, many of the efforts of IAAD continue to be related to the University Readiness Program (URP), updating the IAAD website, and community outreach. The URP continued to grow and added a third cohort of 11 students who visited BU in April 2014 and began their first online course (WRIT 111) in May. One of the fall 2014 courses was GEOG 151 taught by Mark Reisinger. This year Reisinger combines three groups of students meeting at the same time: one from BU, the URP students from China and 6 students from Westchester Hebrew High School. This innovative structure resulted in a greater cultural awareness for all and is one Professor Reisinger plans to replicate in fall 2015. The additional fall course, ENG 200A was taught by Trisha Cowen, who had been the TA the year before and returned as the instructor of record. Trisha Cowen (ENG 200A) and her TA, Kayleigh Wanzer along with Mark Reisinger (GEOG 151) and his TA, Karoline Kaon traveled to Zhenjiang in September where Cowen and Reisinger met the students enrolled in their courses and taught several classes. Kaon and Wanzer remained at Zhenjiang to assist the students with the courses, their English proficiency and to better understand US academic culture. We have found that this model works well for both the students and instructors. In addition to the four students who matriculated to BU in fall 2013 another six URP graduates applied, were accepted, and began classes in fall 2014. Seven students have applied for fall 2015 admittance, although we will not know for a while how many will actually come. Also, in spring 2014 Patricia Szczepanski a lecturer in the ESL Program, spent the spring semester in Zhenjiang, providing academic English classes to Senior 1 students. While ZIS wanted to continue the program, we were unable to provide BU teachers continue to take part in this program due to staffing and cost issues. IAAD did attempt to recruit other individuals to provide the ESL services but no viable candidates were found. Another visit to Binghamton by ZIS students who are interested in joining the URP is planned for March-April, 2015.

b. The contractual arrangement between C. Pu and the Open House Education Foundation (OHEF), was completed and signed in fall 2014. The OHEF is acting as the Chinese interface with ZIS for the URP. G. Bel Hue, a member of the OHEF staff, is also working with enrollment management on increasing Binghamton’s visibility in China as well as with the URP. Part of Ms. Bel Hue’s salary is being paid by enrollment management and the rest is coming from URP funds. We also began a partnership with the Westchester Hebrew High School’s principal, Rabbi Jeffrey Beers and their director of admissions, Shari Levitan and as noted above, 6 students enrolled in GEOG 151. M. Reisinger is in contact with Rabbi Beer and Ms. Levitan, who have expressed an interest in having their students participate in this course for fall 2015.

c. IAAD sponsored Sulpong, a Korean dance group, for BU Day at the Mall in February. In April, 2014, Heather DeHaan (history) visited Tajikistan to explore faculty exchange and other cooperative ventures. The trip was sponsored by IAAD. IAAD also contributed to Kent Schull’s (history), May 2014 trip to Istanbul in order to set up a summer institute in Turkey with German university, which will offer 3 2-credit courses. The Institute also was a co-sponsor for 49th Annual Society for Asian and Comparative Philosophy held at BU in June.

d. During 2014, IAAD’s Outreach Coordinator, K. Madsen collaborated on several programs which included BU Day at the mall, a Chinese language class in conjunction with the Center for Innovative and Continuing Education, area elementary school Art in the classroom programs, the Discovery Center, Lyceum, the Multicultural Resource Center’s Global Fiesta, and a demonstration during Homecoming weekend at the Art Museum. In addition, she collaborated with CICO on various other outreach programs. The total number of people reached in these activities was 4,348.
e. The Center for Korean Studies had an active year as well. Activities included the annual Korean Studies Symposium in April on “North Korea & Beyond the Korean Peninsula.” Participants included Immanuel Kim (BU), Michelle Cho (McGill University), Travis Workman (University of Minnesota), Nianshen Song (Vassar) and Walden Bello (Congressman, Republic of the Philippines). Public lectures were given by Chan E Park (Ohio State University) and Charles K. Armstrong (Columbia) in addition to the colloquium series which features individuals from BU and other areas. In addition, CKS provided grants to BU graduate and undergraduate students for research and travel.

f. In an effort to provide a more interdisciplinary perspective to current and future activities, new faculty, from across the campus were added to the IAAD Steering Committee.

II. Future Directions
a. Continue to foster pivotal relationships with academic institutions and businesses located in Asia, with an emphasis on collaborative projects such as the continued growth of the URP, recruitment of additional numbers of students from ZIS and other strategic Chinese High Schools and a long term relationship with C. Pu of the Open House Education Foundation; Enable the expansion of the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies’ research capacity and the formulation of research themes with Institute faculty through the sponsorship of conferences and faculty research activities such as NYCAS and the sponsorship of DAAAS guest speakers and faculty activities. As noted in Section 1.c above we funded an initiative by Kent Schull, History Department, for a possible study program at the Oriental Institute in Istanbul which would involve a partnership with a German university whereby US, German and Turkish students will study at the Institute as well as furthering a possible relationship in Tajikistan for faculty exchange. Establish enduring relations with New York and Asian based business located in Asia, with an emphasis on collaborative projects.

b. As IAAD and the URP continue to grow there will be a need for additional office space. At the moment the Institute has one office for the Outreach Coordinator. The Director uses his faculty office and the Associate Director works out of her DAAAS office. Because one of the elements of the URP is to provide counseling to ZIS students matriculating at Binghamton, as their numbers increase, we will need space in which to do so.

c. At this time no timetable has been set for the scheduling of an external review.

ATTACHMENTS

I. Center Personnel
a. Steering Committee: Serdar Atav, Nursing; Lubna Chaudhry, CCPA Human Development; Zu-yan Chen, DAAAS and Director, CICO; Sungdai Cho, DAAAS and Director CKS; Hyeyoung Kang, CCPA, Human Development; Katharine Krebs, Vice Provost for International Affairs; Nagendra Nagarur, Watson; Kent Schull, History; David Stahl, DAAAS; Erin Washburn, Education; Yan Zhang, SOM. Ex Officio Members of Steering Committee: John Chaffee, Director; Fran Goldman, Associate Director; Karen Madsen, Outreach Coordinator; Mark Reisinger, Geography and Joel Kellman, Senior Advisor.

Binghamton faculty and staff actively associated with Institute in 2013: Anna Addonisio, Associate Dean, Harpur; Jennifer Brondell, ESL; Fernando Gomez, Mathematics, Larry Greenfield, Academic Advising; Andrew Horowitz, Theater; Anne McCall, Dean, Harpur; Don Neiman, Provost; Mark Reisinger, Geography; Paul Shovlin, Writing Center; Harvey Stenger, President; Libby Tucker, English; Lisa Yun, English and DAAAS.

b. Graduate students directly contributing to the unit: Josh Canale, History; Kaitlyn Colgan, Mathematics; Trisha Cowen, English; Amanda Grode, MPA; Karoline Kaon, Geography; Shuang Liang, DAAAS; Peter Rodriguez, History; Kayleigh Wanzer, English

c. IAAD does not directly employ staff; the Outreach Coordinator Karen Madsen is being paid by Harpur College.

2. Center Productivity During Reporting Period

b. Major presentations – Co-sponsored Ruby Wang show – Between Two Worlds as noted in I. a. above.

c. Symposia, meetings, and lectures – Co-Sponsored NYCAS, a lecture by Michael Cherney (“The Sun is Not So Central”) in September, and “From Mercury to Mars: Welles and War of the Worlds at 75” in October.

3. Current Sources of Support/Space

a. Outreach activities in 2013 brought in $375.00 from workshops. As mentioned in previous reports, it is anticipated that the University Readiness Program will provide IAAD with revenue in the future. At the present time, however, expenses are matching revenues given the commitment of paying faculty and TA’s a stipend to teach the courses, providing airfare and visa expenses and the amount of revenue that is returned to ZIS as part of the agreement. We are currently working to improve enrollments and retention through various means.

4. New Budget Request and Justification

a. As outlined in Part I, many of the activities and use of funds for IAAD are focused on the URP, outreach, and economic development opportunities. More recently, a great deal of time and effort has been on the administration of the URP. As noted above, however, we are expending as much on the program as we are receiving in tuition revenues and the distribution of funds to our partners at BU, the Office of International Programs and the Harpur Dean’s Office has not yet occurred although we have addressed our obligation to ZIS by sending a money transfer of $35,758 was sent to ZIS in May with another $20,000 forwarded to OHEF for Ms. Bel Hu’s salary. Once enrollments stabilize, IAAD will be on a more secure footing but until that point is reached, we are requesting continued funding of at least $2,400.

b. As noted throughout this report, once enrollments from the URP have stabilized, IAAD’s reliance on internal support will diminish. Efforts are being made by all involved to make this happen in 2014.