1998-99 PRRP Awards Announced

The PRRP Executive Committee convened in April 1998 on the Berkeley campus to make its 1998-99 grant awards. The Program decided to support twenty-six proposals, including twenty-one collaborative research projects, (five of which will lead to the completion of graduate student dissertations), and five planning grants for conferences and workshops.

For the list of 1998-99 PRRP awards, see page five.

Program Archive to Appear on the Web

For twelve years now, UC researchers whose projects have been funded by PRRP have, at the conclusion of their efforts, reported their findings to the Program. An extensive bibliography of published materials, manuscripts, working papers and conference volumes has resulted — a virtual treasury of materials on the cutting edge of Pacific Rim studies.

As a means of making these materials more accessible to scholars around the world—and to familiarize the global community with UC faculty efforts—the Program has decided to publish an ongoing bibliography and archive at the PRRP website. The new link will include brief descriptions of funded projects, sorted by subject matter and listing principal investigators and collaborators; a searchable bibliography of materials, both published and unpublished, as well as useful lists of past conferences, associated campus centers, and other Program endeavors. The new site should be online by August 1998.

PRRP Sponsors International HIV/AIDS Workshop in China

The HIV epidemic began in China in June 1985 with the report of an infected foreigner. Since then at least 200,000 individuals have become infected with the virus, many in Yunnan province in the region bordering Myanmar, where intravenous drug use is relatively common. With recent changes in Chinese society such as the rise of commercial sex workers and in-country migrants, the HIV virus has become commonly reported in all regions. Government authorities have only recently recognized the extent of the problem in China, having issued, in 1995, a series of recommendations for prevention, and having included AIDS for the first time on the list of diseases requiring attention.

UCLA Professor of Epidemiology Roger Detels, in collaboration with colleagues at the Chinese Ministry of Health and the Chinese Academy of Preventative Medicine organized the first international workshop on HIV in China, which convened in Beijing on December 8-11, 1997. Bringing together health professionals from all provinces in China, epidemiologists, family planning staff, as well as international guests, the conference aimed to develop strategies for controlling HIV in China, in all its facets. Though the frankness of the discussion (covering such topics as condom use, homosexuality, drug use and commercial sex) caused a fair amount of discomfort and controversy, the conference succeeded in airing the issues to all players in HIV/AIDS control in China. The recommendations were presented to both the United

(Continued on page 2, column 2). For news of other PRRP projects, see pages 2, 3 and 7.
The Institute of International Education (IIE) recently reported that the currency crisis in Asia is beginning to affect enrollments of foreign students at American universities. Results of an email survey conducted in March of colleges and universities with large Asian student populations found that decreases in enrollment of students from Thailand, Indonesia and Malaysia appear to average about ten percent for the spring 1998 semester, while enrollment drops for Korean students appear to be much steeper, with more than 50 percent of institutions reporting drops of up to 20 percent. Given that the total Asian student enrollment in the US is over 260,000 (57% of the total foreign student enrollment in the United States), any long term economic crisis might significantly alter the face of foreign student education.

According to David Arnold, acting president of the IIE, the economic, cultural and diplomatic implications of the crisis could be quite serious. “Foreign students are assets to their host campuses and communities. They contribute an estimated $7 billion to the U.S. economy and bring diverse perspectives to American classrooms and communities” said Arnold. “Equally importantly, they return home to become future leaders with a deeper understanding of American society and its values. “

The email survey found that nearly all colleges affected are finding ways to help the students through delayed tuition schemes, increased on-campus employment and other means. Institutions expressed concern, however, about how the crisis would affect enrollments in the coming academic year, and about finding a long-term solution to the problem.

The U.S. government has undertaken measures to help foreign students. At a March 13 White House press conference held in conjunction with the visit of Thailand’s prime minister, Deputy Under Secretary of State Stuart Eizenstat announced the Clinton’s Administration’s relief package for students adversely impacted by the Asian economic crisis. Eizenstat said that, “the Immigration and Naturalization Service, within the next two weeks, will have a change in regulations, a temporary change, which will permit them [certain Asian students] to reduce their course load and to be able to work additional hours so that they don’t have to be full-time students in order to work and support themselves.”

Based on these concerns and the survey results, leading national organizations involved in international educational exchange issued a statement calling on the federal government, higher education institutions, business and financial institutions, and students to take steps to respond effectively to this crisis.

In a related development, the governments of Malaysia and Indonesia recently lifted regulations preventing foreign universities from operating independently within their borders. With the deepening economic crisis, many talented students of college age will be prevented from continuing their educations abroad if the cost becomes prohibitive. Some 50,000 Malaysian students are currently pursuing degrees outside their home country, a figure which has prompted the government to develop more opportunities at home.

Monash University, Australia’s largest university, was recently awarded a license to establish a branch campus outside Kuala Lumpur, the Malaysian capital. The new campus, Monash University Sunway Campus, will be part of the Malaysian higher-education system. Other Australian, British and American universities are also seeking agreements.

HIV Workshop in China
Nations AIDS Program Office in Beijing and the Chinese Ministry of Health.

Among the problem areas identified by the researchers as potential barriers to HIV control in China were: low knowledge of AIDS among health care workers; a diffidence to discuss sex, especially the extra-marital variety (including the sensitive issue of confronting a wife’s risk of HIV from a husband who visits a commercial sex worker); the ability to provide explicit sexual information and condoms to youth, clean needles to drug users and reaching prostitutes with education and condoms—all without fear of law enforcement. The researchers are confident, however, that many of their recommendations for HIV prevention will be implemented by the Chinese Ministry of Health. A full conference report, in Mandarin and English, was published by the Chinese Academy of Preventative Medicine.
A number of UC researchers and their collaborators have recently completed Pacific Rim research projects and workshops.

Research Grants———

UC Berkeley PhD candidate in anthropology **Eleanor Conlin Casella** supervised two digs at the Ross Factory Archaeology Project in Tasmania, a female convict site during the Australia Convict Era between 1803 and 1853. The transportation of convicts to Australia from Britain, Canada and Polynesia was one of the largest involuntary migrations of western people in modern history, and Tasmania soon became the primary penal colony. Among the prisoners, thousands of women dubbed “immoral” were incarcerated and forced to “reform” through Christian prayer and mandatory training in acceptable feminine industries, such as sewing and laundry. Ms. Casella’s archaeological digs at the Ross Factory site have uncovered surprising unknown facts about this incarceration system, such as architectural features suggestive of continued power struggles between prison officials and recalcitrant prisoners; fragments of illicit materials, such as alcohol bottles and reworked iron scrap, suggestive of a black market economy and makeshift weaponry. Using these clues, Ms. Casella will examine the lived history of these institutions—a reality which, from all appearances, was quite different from the ideal model.

Professor **Gail Harrison** of the Dept. of Community Health Sciences at UCLA studied groups of Koreans immigrants and non-Asians living in Los Angeles, to examine how the intake of phytoestrogens varies among these populations. Phytoestrogens are a class of compounds present in significant amounts in some traditional Korean foods which probably have protective properties against common forms of cancer. Surprisingly, it was found that the vast majority of immigrants continued to consume Korean food as their daily staple, and that non-Asians living in Korean neighborhoods were also influenced by Korean food in their dietary practices. The work will be expanded during the second year of funding to assess the long term effects of these dietary patterns.

UCSF graduate student **Jeremiah Paknawin-Mock** has been examining Thai conceptualizations of wellness (kwam sabaay), a core value in Thai culture regardless of location or age. Thai people discuss kwam sabaay eagerly, and speak about this concept—which encompasses not only physical health, but emotional well-being, personal prosperity, feelings of comfort, and a state of balance—on a daily basis. Preliminary findings indicate that certain dimensions of wellness vary among Thais depending on their location and age. Older farmers in rural Thailand, for instance, speak at length about wellness in terms of personal security, whereas younger Thais living in the U.S. place greater emphasis on their emotional state, and ability to acquire material goods. Variations in conceptions in wellness also extend to attitudes towards western tobacco use, where young Thais in Bangkok derive social status from smoking expensive American cigarettes. Understanding the Thai concepts of kwam sabaay may, the researcher maintains, enhance smoking prevention efforts through the active reinforcement of traditional sanctions before the full force of Western tobacco marketing penetrates Thai communities in the U.S. and Thailand.

Professor **George Sabagh** of the Gustave Von Grunebaum Center for Near Eastern Studies at UCLA has been studying Islamic movements in the Pacific Rim—specifically in Indonesia and Malaysia—regions quite removed from traditional religious centers. Working with Indonesian collaborators, it is the researcher’s aim to understand how Islam is being promoted and advanced peacefully in these countries.

For more research findings, see page 7.

Workshop and Planning Grants———

As the PRRP continues to focus more attention on historical and cultural matters, Professor of Chinese at UCSB **Joshua Fogel** convened a workshop during the last three days of August 1997, entitled “Chinese View of Japan in the Ming-Qing Period.” While Chinese influence on Japan is well studied, little is known of the opposite phenomenon. Bas ing themselves entirely—and by necessity—on primary sources from the mid-14th through early 20th century, scholars from China, Japan, Canada and the U.S. demonstrated how Japanese influence was felt in China through the importation of texts—texts which awakened the Chinese to the fact that Japan was a country with great scholars, writers and political leaders, and could no longer be ignored. The conference proceedings will soon be published as a volume.
Latin-American Studies at UC San Diego

Over the past decade there has been an extraordinary flourishing of Latin-American related activity at UC’s southernmost campus, San Diego, resulting in the creation of several institutions promoting inter-American understanding, as well as graduate and undergraduate study programs on Latin America. San Diego has now taken the lead among UC campuses in this area, coordinating a rich and vital network of scholars and activities not only at the campus itself, but across the state, and throughout Central and South America.

Institutions established in recent years at UC San Diego include the Center for U.S.-Mexican Studies, the Center for Iberian and Latin American Studies, the Graduate School of International Relations and Pacific Studies (IR/PS) and the Institute of the Americas. Another institution, the San Diego Dialogue, has recently emerged as a center for research and outreach on cross-border issues, especially in relation to the city of Tijuana. Add to this the Office of Latin American Studies (OLAS), created in 1994 by then-Chancellor Richard C. Atkinson (now President of the University of California) to coordinate these centers, and to promote teaching, research and outreach activities throughout the UCSD campus—and the sum total of institutional resources becomes nothing short of remarkable.

UCSD teaching has profited from the institutional riches. An undergraduate major in Latin American Studies has been created; courses such as Professor Peter Smith’s “Introduction to Latin America” and Professor Dee Dee Halleck’s “Cinema in Latin America: Images of a Continent in Transition” have made the major a popular choice. On the graduate level, the new resources have resulted in a strengthening of the campus’s MA program in Latin American Studies, and in the creation of an experimental joint master’s program in Pacific International Affairs and Latin American Studies. In recent years, new appointments have strengthened research in these fields: Professors Charles Biggs (Ethnic Studies), Dain Borges (Brazilian history), and Elizabeth Newsome (Pre-Columbian art history) among others, have brought new specialties to the campus.

Recently, Professors Smith and Lawrence Krause, with funding from the Ford Foundation and from a two-year Pacific Rim Research Program grant (1996-1998) launched an initiative entitled “Latin America and the Pacific Rim” in which the Asia-Pacific connections to the region have come under investigation. Activities have included establishing residential fellowships for junior and mid-career professionals from East Asia and Latin America; organizing public conferences; and consolidating a directory of specialists with trans-Pacific interests. On three occasions between 1996 and March 1998, the program has offered public round-table discussions on the theme of “Prospects for Regional Economic Integration: Latin America and the Pacific Rim” in which international panel members assessed the compatibility of free-trade agreements in the region. On March 6-7, 1998, Professors Smith and Krause convened a workshop on “Cultural Encounters Between Latin America and the Pacific Rim.” Presenters from China, Mexico, Korea, Thailand, Japan, Brazil and the U.S. discussed interrelationships among Latin American and East Asian nations, as they industrialize and invest across national boundaries. Attention was paid to the parallel social developments, such as the increasing visibility of women in Asian and Latin American politics and women as a driving force in the marketplace; trans-national workforces (such as the Brazilian-Japanese in Japan, the Japanese in Bolivia); and the importation of popular culture (for example, the popularity of the Brazilian telenovela in Japan and China).
The Executive Committee of the Pacific Rim Research Program awarded grants to 26 proposals in the 1998-99 competition, including one project renewed for its second year. Principal investigators and project titles are listed. Faculty advisors of graduate student awardees are in brackets.

1998-99 Pacific Rim Awards

DAVIS
Philip Martin, “Narrative: Another Miracle? Managing Migration in Asia.”

RIVERSIDE

Rene Lyssloff, “Center for the Study of Southeast Asian Performance in the Pacific Rim.”

SAN DIEGO
Miles Kahler, “UC Planning Group on Pacific Monetary and Financial Issues.”

SANTA BARBARA
Francesca Bray, “Renegotiating the Scope of Chinese Studies in East Asia and the Pacific Rim.”

BERKELEY
Nan Crystal Arens, “Distribution of Climate Sensitive Conifers in Time and Space: A Model for Understanding the Role of Climate Change in Species Extinction and Range Change.”

Peng Gong, “Remote Imaging as a Means of Detecting Environmental Change of Significance to Public Health.”


DAVIS

Marisol Clark-Ibanez [Jon Wagner], “A Cross-Cultural Study of Two School Systems: Transformative or Orthodox—Which Works Better?”


IRVINE
Kevin Kobelsky [Kenneth Kraemer], “Managing the Chasm Where Manufacturing Matters: The Role of IT in the Production of High Tech Products.”

Charles Theuer, “Comparison of the Molecular Biology of Gastric Cancer Specimens From the Far East with Those From the United States.”

LOS ANGELES

Benjamin Elman, “Rethinking Confucianism in the Pacific Rim.”

Raul Hinojosa-Ojeda, “California in the Pacific Rim and the World Economy: Building an Ongoing Capacity for Tracking and Forecasting Economic Integration.”

Dean Jamison, “Immigrant Status, Language Proficiency and Opportunities to Learn: Determinants of the Reading and Mathematics Achievements of Pacific Rim Students in California.”

Mariko Sakakibara, “R & D Consortia in Japan and Korea: A Comparison of Industrial Policy”

SAN FRANCISCO
Mark Israel, “Oncogenetic Pathogenesis of WHO Grade IV Brain Tumors in Japan and America.”

J. Colin Partridge, “Care of Extremely Low Birth Weight (ELBW) Infants in Pacific Rim Countries: Delivery Room Resuscitation and Parental Counseling Practices.”

SANTA BARBARA


Kathleen Sullivan [Susan Stonich], “Environmental Issues, Media, and Public Sphere Formation: The Production and Management of Farmed Salmon for Global Markets.”

SANTA CRUZ
Michael Hutchison, “Financial Integration and Instability in East Asia.”

BERKELEY
Ruth Collier, “Center for Labor Politics in the Pacific Rim, UC Berkeley.”

SAN DIEGO
Peter Smith, “Latin America and the Pacific Rim.”

MINI-GRANTS

Tegan Churche [graduate student, UCB] “The Biogeography of Coral Reef Diseases.”


Eveon Wong-Kim, [graduate student, UCB] “A Comparative Study of Support Group Discussions for Chinese Women Diagnosed with Cancer Living in Hong Kong and San Francisco.”
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With this issue, the name of the Pacific Rim Research Program’s Newsletter is changed to CURRENTS, a word with particularly appropriate connotations for a program which seeks to encourage scholarly interaction across the vast reaches of the Pacific.

This issue of CURRENTS was designed and edited by Martin Backstrom. Suggestions and contributions are welcome
Research Grants—

Professors Beatriz Manz (Geography and Ethnic Studies, UCB) and Paul Spoonley (Sociology, Massey University, New Zealand) are seeking to evaluate and balance the positive and negative impacts and the various adaptations made at the household level in Chile and New Zealand as a result of fruit export growth, with particular emphasis on the important role of women wage earners. They have found a substantial increase in female co-ownership of farms, a fact which seems to have resulted in permanence of the family orchard in New Zealand. At the same time, this adaptation has resulted in a displacement of men and traditional Maori laborers from the workforce. In Chile there has likewise been a significant increase in women in the workforce, though it comes there at a cost of significant social problems. These changes are the direct result of massive economic shifts taking place in the fruit export business.

Professor Richard Mayer (Psychology, UCSB), working with collaborators at Santa Barbara and in Japan, has examined mathematical problem-solving skills among Japanese and American fifth graders. Although initially his findings corroborated other cross-cultural studies indicating that few American grade-schoolers reach the same high level of mathematics achievement as the majority of Japanese students, Prof. Mayer’s study also revealed the surprising fact that mathematically knowledgeable U.S. students—those who did receive correspondingly strong instruction in math—routinely outperformed their Japanese counterparts. The findings suggest that it is the American emphasis on language and reading instruction that results in the discrepancy between U.S. and Japanese mathematics achievement.

In the continuing effort to bring basic modern health care to underserved regions of the Pacific Rim, UCSF Professor Christie Kiefer has been studying the feasibility of developing networks among community-based primary health care organizations. That is, by working to find ways to bring basic training to specific village-level health workers, he hopes to develop a model for extending health care into geographical areas where little exists. Although the work has been slowed by the hardships of penetrating rural areas, the project has set up alliances with local health groups in Palawan, Philippines, with a network of disabled health workers in Nicaragua and with rural midwives in Queretaro, Mexico. The work has shed light on the real difficulties of extending health care through grass-roots organizations, which lack access at times to even the most basic means of communication—telephones and mail.

Workshop and Planning Grants—

Professor Silas Hung of the Dept. of Animal Science at UCD continues work on a project to develop a long term program to restore endangered sturgeon and paddlefish in both the US and China—phylogenetically ancient fish important for both theoretical zoology and for their value in aquaculture and fishery. Working with colleagues from China and Davis, the teams have developed strategies for preserving these important fish in light of the threats posed by the Three Gorges Dam (now under construction on the Yangtze) and by environmental pollution.

Professors Yenna Wu (Chinese, UCR) and Philip Williams (Chinese, Arizona State) are completing work on Chinese labor camp fiction written during the Mao and Deng eras, a genre of contemporary fiction little known either in China or the west. They have found evidence of not only an elite camp writing, but also middle-brow and popular genres, which appear to be less political in orientation.

A digging stick (tantajuk) in the shape of a rice grain, for floodplain rice agriculture. Produced by the Banjar people of South Kalimantan, Indonesia, in wood and paint; in the collection of the UCLA Fowler Museum of Cultural History.
The Program provides support in four areas:

CAMPUSS-BASED CENTERS: The PRRP supports campus-based research projects and centers that have strong potential to secure external funds. Grants of as much as $35,000 per year are available.

RESEARCH PROJECTS: The regular grant program provides an average of $29,000 to University of California faculty and graduate students.

WORKSHOP AND PLANNING GRANTS: The workshop and planning grant program provides an average of $12,000 to University of California faculty and graduate students for conferences, workshops, and collaborative publications.

These applications are reviewed first by campus committees, then by the PRRP Executive Committee. Campus deadlines vary from December to early January.

MINI-GRANTS: Small grants are available to support promising Pacific Rim-related research. Up to $1,000 can be provided on short notice, if funds are available and the request meets PRRP guidelines. To apply, contact your campus PRRP Executive Committee member, listed on page six.

For deadlines and application guidelines, please see the Call for Proposals and Guidelines, available on the worldwide web at http:\www.ucop.edu\research\pacrim.html or from your PRRP campus liaison, listed below.

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