



"Understanding Vietnam: Beyond the War" was the topic of a July–August 2004 Fulbright-Hays Group Project Abroad study tour to Vietnam. The program grant was awarded to the Asian Studies Center in a collaborative initiative with the College of Education and LATTICE. Fourteen Michigan K–12 teachers and administrators spent four weeks focusing on modern Vietnam's culture, arts, and history in a context emphasizing that country's contemporary status as a dynamic Southeast Asian society. This photo was taken near the hillside town of Sapa in northern Vietnam close to the border with China. The group was on a three-mile trek to nearby Hmong and Red Dzaio villages. All along the way, local Hmong women and children offered their textiles for sale. The website for the study tour, including study units developed by the participants, is at <http://www.isp.msu.edu/asianstudies/fullbrighthays/vietnam/index.htm>



## Asian Studies Center Expands Programming

As Michigan State University celebrates its sesquicentennial as the nation's premier land grant university, MSU's Asian Studies Center (ASN) marks its fifth year as the nation's first U.S. Department of Education-designated all-Asia National Undergraduate Resource Center (Title VI NRC). Under the directorship of Michael Lewis, the federal funding that accompanies the recognition has greatly expanded programming, enhanced outreach activities, and allowed ASN to engage in campus-wide academic support and faculty development.

ASN began as MSU's academic center for developing and coordinating Asia-related programs in 1962. From 1962 to 1979, William Ross served as director. During his tenure, ASN focused on stu-

dents and faculty working in the East Asia regional area. The center created an Asian Studies Specialization that encourages undergraduate students in many different academic disciplines to take a core set of courses that develop awareness of the rich diversity of Asia. Through the decades, almost 300 students have completed the specialization program; many program graduates have gone on to use their knowledge of language, culture, and history to pursue careers in Asia.

### All-Asia Focus

Since the 1990s, ASN has expanded its mission to include an all-Asia programming focus that makes the

center one of the most unique and versatile in the nation. ASN has undergone a major transition as the curriculum, faculty research, exchange programs, and outreach activities have developed to embrace programs in places as diverse as India, Indonesia, Vietnam, Korea, and Nepal. Emblematic of this development is the university's significant increase in instruction of Asian "less commonly taught languages" (LCTLs), now including Vietnamese, Hindi, Korean, Tagalog, and Thai, as well as Chinese and Japanese. Last year, ASN played a key role in cementing the long-term success of the LCTL program through support of a new, tenured position in Hindi in the Department of Linguistics and Languages.

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### Resources for K-12 Teachers

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The expansion of ASN's outreach activities has also broadened the center's institutional mission. Last year, ASN launched Windows on Asia, a valuable K-12 online resource providing detailed information and lesson plans on the history, cultures, geography, and religions of individual countries in Asia. The center also hosts regular seminars for K-12 teachers, including this year's programs focused on teaching about Islam, and a special ten-week seminar taught by Marilyn McCullough, ASN's assistant director, devoted to helping teachers integrate information about East Asian history and culture into their classrooms. In addition, Van Nguyen, ASN's outreach coordinator, led a summer 2004 Fulbright-Hays study tour of Vietnam for Michigan K-12 teachers. The curriculum modules developed as a result of this trip will help teachers broaden the perspectives of students in a variety of academic disciplines.

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### Asian Cinema

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While outreach in public education is of critical importance to its mission, ASN also serves the Greater Lansing and MSU communities by providing quality programming that focuses on Asian cinema. Each year, ASN hosts several film series that bring Asia to East Lansing. As part of ASN's 2004-05 Japanese film series, which focused on the work of women directors, ASN brought director Sachi Hamano to campus to discuss her latest film and her career path as one of the few women directors in Japan. During the spring 2005 semester, ASN also

conducted film series focusing on Central Asian films and on the Asian American experience. By screening films that are otherwise unavailable outside major markets, the center provides mid-Michigan viewers with unique insight into various facets of Asian culture.

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### Asian Political and Social Issues

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ASN also devotes large parts of its programming to coverage of topical political and social issues in Asia. In addition to its annual theme weeks detailing significant social, political, and cultural developments in Japan, China, and India, the center focuses attention on other countries and regions in Asia. This year, ASN conducted theme weeks featuring Afghanistan, North Korea, and Cambodia. And a December academic conference, "Islam in Southeast Asia: Majorities, Minorities, and Islamic Politics," raised awareness of the tremendous diversity in the Muslim world. By inviting nationally known speakers and screening feature films and documentaries, ASN provides access to perspectives that are sometimes neglected in regional media coverage.

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### Asian Music Colloquium

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ASN's role in supplementing academic programming on campus has long been a center priority. This year, ASN developed an Asian music colloquium series held in conjunction with two academic courses, one on the sacred music of Asia and the other on Asia and the world. Inviting musicians to speak and perform on campus has created a learning environment that transcends the perspectives provided by text or video offerings.

From its modest beginnings as an East Asia Center in 1962 to its recognition as the nation's only all-Asia National Undergraduate Resource Center in 2000, ASN has always played a key role in developing academic programs and partnerships at MSU and in Asia. As the university extends its reputation as a global leader in international education, ASN's mission is certain to expand as well.

For more information about the Asian Studies Center, visit the website at [www.isp.msu.edu/asianstudies](http://www.isp.msu.edu/asianstudies)

—Mike Malloch



In November 2004, Lou Anna K. Simon, then MSU president-designate, addressed the Global Food Safety Forum in Beijing. Here she is seated with Sun Xiaoyu, vice president of the Development Research Center (left) and Ma Enzhong of the Chinese Ministry of Commerce (right).

In a November 2004 ceremony in Beijing, MSU President Designate Lou Anna K. Simon, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources Dean Jeffrey Armstrong, and Zhai Huqu, president of the Chinese Academy of Agricultural Sciences (CAAS) renewed the MSU-CAAS memorandum of understanding to foster cooperation between the two institutions in education and research. This relationship is a prominent part of a broader MSU initiative to extend relationships with Chinese institutions, extensively covered in the spring 2003 issue of this publication (visit [www.isp.msu.edu/international/03/pdf/INTL03.pdf](http://www.isp.msu.edu/international/03/pdf/INTL03.pdf)).

In addition to the renewed institution-level commitment, Ewen C. D. Todd, director of MSU's National Food Safety & Toxicology Center (NFSTC), and Ye Zhihua, director general of the CAAS Institute

of Agricultural Quality Standards and Testing Technology, signed an agreement to establish a research laboratory at CAAS. Joint research on food safety policy, risk management, testing technology, and personnel training will be undertaken at this lab. MSU and CAAS have been awarded a three-year grant from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to conduct joint food safety research.

The signing of these agreements coincided with the Global Food Safety Forum in Beijing in November. MSU was the sole university sponsor of the forum. A number of MSU administrators participated in the forum, including Acting Provost Designate and Dean of International Studies and Programs John Hudzik, Dean of Veterinary Medicine Lonnie King, Associate Dean of International Studies and Programs and Center for Advanced Study of

# Agricultural Sciences

International Development Director Jeffrey Riedinger, and Institute of International Agriculture Director Dan Clay. President Designate Simon delivered a plenary session keynote address, an overview of food safety programs at MSU.

Additional sponsors of the forum included the Development Research Center (DRC) of the State Council of the People's Republic of China, China's Ministry of Science and Technology, China's Ministry of Commerce, the Canadian International

Development Agency, the World Health Organization, and the World Bank. MSU's involvement in the forum was part of an ongoing collaboration with the DRC involving many MSU faculty with expertise in various aspects of food safety.

For more information about food safety research at MSU, visit the NFSTC website at [www.foodsafe.msu.edu](http://www.foodsafe.msu.edu)

—Based on an article by Kirsten Khire at NFSTC in NFSTC Networker, winter 2004

1980 MSU China Mission



COURTESY OF MSU ARCHIVES AND HISTORICAL COLLECTIONS

In 1980 MSU sent a sizeable contingent of faculty and administrators to China to pursue academic linkages between MSU and a number of Chinese universities. This photograph of MSU and Chinese university colleagues was taken at the University of Chengdu, Sichuan Province. The mission resulted in a number of faculty and student exchanges as well as academic and research relationships between several MSU units and their counterparts at the Chinese institutions. The mission was headed by ⑤ ISP Dean Ralph Smuckler, who is between two unidentified Chinese hosts. Others participating in the delegation were also seated in this photograph: ① Dean Alan Hollingsworth, College of Arts and Letters; ② Harold Riley, chair of the Department of Agricultural Economics; ④ Warren Cohen, director of the Asian Studies Center with his wife, ③ Janice; ⑥ Dean James Anderson, College of Agriculture and Natural Resources; ⑦ Sylvan Wittwer, director of MSU's Agricultural Experiment Station; ⑧ Bernard Gallin, chair of the Department of Anthropology; and ⑨ William Tai, Department of Botany and Plant Biology, who was the "in-country" coordinator of the trip.