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## Summer Workshop for Graduate Students & Early Career Faculty

June 12-18, 2011, University of Colorado at Boulder

**R**egistration has begun for the 2011 Geography Faculty Development Alliance (GFDA) workshop for graduate students and faculty who are beginning their careers in higher education – instructors, lecturers, assistant professors, and other untenured faculty. The workshop is open to faculty from all types of teaching and research institutions inside and outside the U.S. The workshop, sponsored by the Association of American Geographers, will touch on a wide range of issues involving teaching and learning, particularly those revolving around designing effective courses, issues of diversity and inclusion, and active pedagogy. The goal will be to help participants learn to balance the many responsibilities of academic life and to understand how their teaching, research, service, outreach, and personal lives intersect and interconnect. Most participants in past workshops have built lasting networks among themselves and with workshop leaders.

Graduate students and faculty from all institutions and departments are invited to attend. Some

teaching experience is useful. Readings and exercises will include selections from Michael Solem, Ken Foote & Janice Monk (eds.), *Aspiring Academics: A Resource Book for Graduate Students and Early Career Faculty* (Prentice-Hall, 2009) and Robert Boice, *Advice for New Faculty Members* (Allyn and Bacon, 2000).

### Discussion Themes

Emphasis will be placed on those topics frequently mentioned as the greatest sources of stress in the first years of a faculty appointment. They will include developing significant learning experiences for your students; career planning; time management; getting the most out of academic conferences; ethics in research, teaching, and advising; the nuts-and-bolts of writing and publishing; preparing a CV; job search and interviewing; promoting collegiality; preparing for the tenure process; and balancing personal and professional lives.

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## Washington State Gateway to China

**O**n September 20, 2009, about 1,000 people, mostly Chinese Americans, gathered in the Chinatown-International District in Seattle and held a parade for the first time to mark the anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China (commonly known as China),<sup>1</sup> its 60<sup>th</sup>. Exactly a century ago, also in the month of September, several hundred ethnic Chinese also came out to parade to celebrate the "China Day" of the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition (Expo), held at the current site of the University of Washington campus. The early 20<sup>th</sup> century parade took place in downtown and was much grander than the one a century later in many aspects,

featuring, among other things, a 150-foot long, 50-person operated Chinese bamboo dragon, with most of its parts made in California.

### "Gateway to the Orient"

Not only did the Expo energize the Pacific Northwest region, its centrality in the important Pacific trade was heavily marketed at the event: the slogan of the Expo was "The Gateway to the Orient." It was in that context one hundred years ago that the University of Washington decided to launch its studies of China and other countries of Asia under a new

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Beautiful Snoqualmie Falls will be the site of an AAG Field Trip at the Annual Meeting. See page 13 for the full list of offerings.

**Preliminary Program for the Annual Meeting**  
now available online at [www.aag.org/annualmeeting/program](http://www.aag.org/annualmeeting/program)

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academic department called the "Department of Oriental History, Literature, and Institutions." Today, this department has morphed into a leading school of international studies, hosting fifteen area studies programs and a dozen national resource centers, including a premier China Studies program. Indeed, Asian studies undertaken at the UW have been actively pursued in this region for more than a century!

### Linkages

Of course, the linkage between Washington State, and more generally, the Pacific Northwest and China, goes far beyond the century marked by the above benchmark events. The first Chinese immigrants arrived in Seattle in the early 1860s, and the Chinese reportedly accounted for one sixth of Seattle's then population of 3,400. Trade between China and Seattle was also a way of life for some Chinese pioneers. For example, in 1868, a year before Seattle's incorporation, Chin Chun Hock founded the famous Wa Chong Company, a U.S.-China trading house that continued into the 20<sup>th</sup> century. The world famous kung-fu star, Bruce Lee, an American-born Chinese who actually grew up in Hong Kong, also went to college at UW and spent his career's formative years in Seattle. After his death at age 32, his wife decided to bury him in Seattle. Today, the Wing Luke Museum, located in the heart of Seattle's Chinatown-International District, tells many stories of survival, struggle and success of the Asian pioneers and late comers to this region. The museum is still the country's only museum devoted to the Asian-Pacific American experience.

In addition to immigration, trade between the Pacific Northwest and Asia has

always been another important aspect of the connection between them. Sitting on the west coast with a large Asian population, the region has traditionally looked to East Asia for business opportunities and new markets. A large segment of Pacific Northwest's economy is also naturally export-oriented. Trade between the Pacific Northwest and Asia has expanded to a scale that pioneers in the 19<sup>th</sup> century could have never imagined. For example, in 2008 total two-way trade (imports and exports combined) between the region's largest port, Seattle, and mainland China surpassed \$19.2 billion, constituting almost half of all two-way trade through the port. This \$19.2 billion includes imports and exports to and from other parts of the U.S., depicting a familiar picture of imports hugely exceeding exports.

### Trade Figures

A closer look at Washington State's trade figures shows some more interesting characteristics. (1) The state is the most trade-dependent in the U.S., measured by per capita exports and economic impact of exports on the state's economy. (2) East Asia figures prominently in the state's export markets – five of the top 10 destinations for goods made in Washington State in 2009 were in East Asia, with China topping the list. (3) Perhaps most notable of all, the state is also the only one in the U.S. that runs a trade "surplus" with China, in contrast to the national pattern of huge U.S.-China trade deficits. Based on estimates on the origin of assembly and by excluding "pass-throughs," the value of goods exports originating in Washington State, including many expensive Boeing airplanes, computer products, and medical equipment is higher than that of products shipped from

China and consumed in the state, even in large quantity. Other commodities from Washington popular in China include apples, wine, and Almond Roca, a gift item well favored among China's upper-middle class consumers.

It is important to note that the above trade figures mask the significant role of services exports to China, such as education, legal services, and overseas architecture contracts. Ample evidence suggests the growing relevance of this sector in this

regional relationship with Asia. For example, in 2008 the share of international students from China attending schools in Washington State increased from 8% to 10%, and the trend has continued. More generally, the great majority of foreign students in Washington State are from East Asia (the top three countries in 2010 were China, South Korea and Japan). The number of foreign students in Oregon also rose by a staggering 13% in 2010, with China, Japan and South Korea among the top four source countries.

Needless to say, many world-class firms based in this region are also actively involved in work in China. In addition to the big companies such as Boeing, Microsoft, Starbucks, and Amazon, a growing number of smaller Seattle-based firms have established China operations; they include MulvannyG2 and Davis Wright Tremaine (where former Governor Gary Locke was a partner before joining the Obama Administration's cabinet in 2009; Locke now heads the Department of Commerce, for a good reason). In recent years, foreign direct investment has also emerged as another key aspect of Washington State-China relations. For instance, several Chinese information and communication technology companies and medical device companies have established overseas operations in the Greater Seattle region. Perhaps to the greatest delight of many local aficionados of Chinese foods, a Taiwan-based top dumpling house, Din Tai Fung, just opened its second restaurant in North America in Bellevue (following the first one in Los Angeles). This certainly attests to the rising interest in top quality Chinese cuisine and a stronger linkage between the Pacific Northwest and Asia in recent years. ■

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Seattle remains a major industrial port city, one of its most significant links to the shifting global economy.

<sup>1</sup>Annual parades, usually in early October, to celebrate the anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China, commonly known today as Taiwan, had been going on for many years before 2009.

*Connections between Asian and North American geographers and geographies will be a special theme at the AAG's 2011 Annual Meeting, to be held April 12-16 in Seattle. For more on the annual meeting, including a list of sessions and events highlighting this special theme, see [www.aag.org/annualmeeting](http://www.aag.org/annualmeeting).*