The government of Mongolia sponsored a large Mongolia-wide conference on cultural heritage 12-14 December, 2012. The meetings began with a workshop that primed delegates involved in heritage promotion followed by two days of sessions that included presentations on arts, dance, music, language, and education.

The conference was promoted at the highest level of the Ministry of Culture and was presided over by Minister of Culture, Sports, and Tourism, Tsedevdamba Oyungerel, and her Director of the Department of Strategy, Policy, and Planning, N. Tuya. Both made presentations noting the high priority the Ministry places on enhancing recognition of culture, both tangible and intangible, in the new government’s programs. In addition to members of the culture wing of the Ministry, the conference participants included culture staffs and representatives from Mongolia’s aimag governments. The meeting was a clear signal of (Continued on page 8)

ACMS/Smithsonian Institute Delegation: William Fitzhugh, Harriet (Rae) F. Beaubien, Paula T. DePriest, Jamsranjav Bayarsaikhan

New Open Access Website

The ACMS is happy to announce the unveiling of the new Open Access Resources for Researchers in Mongolia website. This guide is meant to provide access to open access and online material relevant to research in Mongolia in a new easy to access format. This project is an ongoing collaboration between the American Center for Mongolian Studies and the Mongolian Library Consortium.

Bill Maltarich, an Electronic Resources Librarian from New York University, was one of the recipients of this year’s ACMS Library Fellowship. As part of his efforts while in Ulaanbaatar, this new easy to navigate website was created in collaboration with L. Gantulga, the Director of the Mongolian Library Consortium. We hope this proves useful to members of the Mongolian research community as well as the general public. Please feel free to make suggestions for additional material (Continued on page 7)
Report from Madison

Over the Summer, I had the opportunity to return to Mongolia to get re-acquainted with our office and staff in Ulaanbaatar in my new role as US Director. Since then I have been working on collaborative events here in Madison, Wisconsin, and also on building a new platform for our newsletter and email announcement distribution.

Beginning with this newsletter, and with future “This Month in Mongolian Studies” mailings, we will be moving to more interconnected online content. Along with this move will come more user-friendly interaction, easier to find material, and cross-platform connections with social media sites like Facebook and ResearchGate. We look forward to a closer connection with you, and to provide profiles of ACMS fellows for you to get to know.

For August 13-15, 2012, I worked together with local University of Wisconsin (UW) National Resources Centers to create a K-16 Professional Development workshop targeted at regional teachers and themed on the Silk Route held at Downtown Madison’s Concourse Hotel. We were able to incorporate substantial Mongolia content into this very successful workshop with help from our keynote speaker and alum of the UW-Madison, Timothy May, now Professor of Central Eurasian and Middle Eastern History at North Georgia College and State University and author of *The Mongol Art of War* and *The Mongol Conquests in World History.*

Later in the semester we held another collaborative guest lecture event with the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia (CREECA) at UW-Madison with Alexander Diener, Assistant Professor of Geography at the University of Kansas, entitled “City of Concrete and Felt: Negotiating Cultural Hybridity in Mongolia’s Capital of Ulaanbaatar”.

We look forward to more U.S.-side collaborative activities, not just at the UW-Madison, but with other national partners for the coming year.

Please feel free to contact me with collaborative ideas. I can be reached at: ddettmann@mongoliacenter.org

---

Report from Ulaanbaatar

As fall is coming to a close in Ulaanbaatar, we’re looking back on having learned a lot of new and interesting things, as well as having experienced a few changes in the preceding months. A dozen ACMS Fellows and countless other researchers and students visited during the Summer and Fall. During my time as a visiting researcher myself, we were frequently rushing to complete preparations in Ulaanbaatar to get to work in the countryside. Because of that, we often did not have much opportunity to meet with others coming to Mongolia to conduct their own research. So, it is a great pleasure to finally get the chance to meet many of these other researchers, and to hear about their work and the results of their time in Mongolia. For that reason, we are currently working on creating profiles of some of our ACMS Fellows and members to post on our website. With such a diversity of people conducting fascinating work, these articles will give everyone a chance to see what their colleagues and fellow members are accomplishing.

During the summer we moved the Ulaanbaatar office to a new location near the Zanabazar Fine Art Museum. The consensus among our members who have had a chance to visit the new location is that is a great improvement as, among other things, it is more centrally located and easier to locate than our previous office space. We are also happy to say that our Program Assistant Amaraa delivered a bouncing baby boy earlier this year and both are doing well during her maternity leave. Just recently, our associate and former librarian Tuya also gave birth to a son. So, there have been a lot of new faces and new sights in and around the office this year.

Among other recent highlights is the completion of the new Open Access Resources webpage. In collaboration with the Mongolian Library Consortium and ACMS Library Fellow Bill Maltarich we
The ACMS received a crucial measure of support this fall when it was awarded a new grant from the US Department of Education to support the operation of the ACMS office in Ulaanbaatar. The ACMS was awarded $65,000 for 2012-2013 from the competition held for American Overseas Research Centers (AORCs). The ACMS was one of 10 AORCs awarded grants through this Title VI funded program. This program has supported the ACMS since its founding, but was suspended in 2011-2012 due to federal budget cuts, causing severe hardship for the ACMS. The program was reestablished for a four year period from 2012-2016, but was funded at only half its previous level. Funding levels for future years of the four year grant will be determined by Congressional appropriations, but the Department of Education is optimistic that it will be maintained and expanded.

The ACMS is deeply grateful to the individuals and organizations that helped us maintain our staff and programs during the period in 2011-2012 when Department of Education funds were unavailable. ACMS members and friends responded heroically last December to our call for support, donating over $7000 to support academic exchanges and our Research Library. The Henry Luce Foundation, Mellon Foundation and the Council of American Overseas Research Centers also stepped in to assist the ACMS.

While the immediate crisis has passed, we still need your support. The Department of Education reduced their previous support by 50%, and our funding from the State Department was also reduced for the current year. Your support allows us to continue to buy books for our Research Library and to continue activities such as our Speaker Series and fellowship programs. Please respond to the request for support you received in the mail, or go to our website www.mongoliacenter.org and make an online donation or renew your membership.

The ACMS is planning new programs in 2013, with a focus on working to document and preserve Mongolia’s rich cultural heritage. In fall 2012, the ACMS sponsored a delegation from the Smithsonian Institution to travel to Ulaanbaatar to participate in a Mongolian government conference on cultural heritage, and the ACMS will be represented in 2013 on a panel focused on Mongolian cultural heritage at the Society of American Archaeology meetings. The ACMS plans to sponsor a series of workshops in Ulaanbaatar in spring 2013 involving the US State Department and other agencies such as the FBI to train Mongolian officials on how to prevent the looting of cultural sites and global trafficking of cultural material, a growing problem in Mongolia. We will also sponsor over 10 scholars with fellowships to conduct research work in Mongolia, and work to build a stronger community of researchers working in Mongolia through social media, Speaker Series events, conferences and other get togethers.

Please plan to join us in San Diego in March for our annual meeting and conference, or in Mongolia or Wisconsin any time. We always appreciate hearing about your work, your interests, and how we can make the ACMS a better organization. May you have a happy and prosperous 2013!

Best wishes,
Charles Krusekopf
“Characterizing Two Semi-Arid River Basins near the Khangai Mountains Mongolia through Streamflow Sampling”

Niah Venable is a student researcher who is currently pursuing her Ph.D. in Watershed Science at Colorado State University. She came to Mongolia in late June of 2012 to study two river basins near the Khangai Mountains in an effort to better characterize, understand, and model the Khoid Tamir and Tuin River systems. Her team was composed of Steven Fassnacht a CSU Associate Professor of Snow Hydrology, Sukhbaatar Jamyankhuyag, a Mongolian geographer working in the Landscape Department of the Institute of Geography, as well as Odgarav Jigisuren, a hydrologic researcher for the Institute of Meteorology, Hydrology, and the Environment (IMHE). The project is part a National Science Foundation Coupled Human and Natural Systems, Mongolian Rangelands and Resilience MOR2 project, which studies the Mongolian rangelands and herder’s resilience to climate and other changes.

Mongolia, with its rapid socio-economic and climate change is facing many challenges in terms of management of its natural resources. The pastoral lifestyle that supports much of the country’s population depends on natural processes such as the timing and distribution of rainfall, resultant streamflow, and the severity of winters and summers influenced by extreme continental temperature regimes. Niah’s proposal described sampling of the Khoid Tamir and Tuin Rivers from headwaters areas through existing gauging stations, focusing on channel and flow characteristics. Since Niah has a background in forestry and hydrogeology, she also has an interest in using the tree-ring record to examine natural climate variability over longer timescales. The team collected tree cores in the headwaters regions of the Khoid Tamir and Tuin Rivers. For this project forty-five trees were selected, resulting in more than 90 cores at the two sites.

The hydrologic, hydraulic, and dendroclimatologic fieldwork funded by the ACMS grant was a success. Relationships were strengthened, knowledge was exchanged, and friendships were developed. Remaining data analysis and publication work will continue to build these relationships. It is hoped that the results of these efforts will contribute to greater understanding of these systems outside of Mongolia. The results may prove useful as a basis for environmental assessment and change analysis when determining potential impacts to these natural systems from economic development and climatic change.

Niah plans in the coming semester to more thoroughly examine existing Mongolian paleo-climatic (dendroclimatic) data and ideally, the tree cores collected in Mongolia will be used as preliminary results for future proposals. It is also anticipated that this element of the 2012 fieldwork will become a part of her dissertation research, depending upon analysis outcomes, and eventually be published in an academic journal.

A personal goal of Niah’s is to learn more of the Mongolian language to facilitate work with colleagues. Niah will also grow in her academic expertise by writing research proposals aimed at continuing research in Mongolia beyond the MOR2 project.

The fellowship is supported with funding from the US Department of State’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through a grant by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.
ACMS Fall Speaker Series

This year marks the 25th anniversary of diplomatic relations between Mongolia and the US, and the ACMS is pleased to be able to hold this semester’s Speaker Series in honor of that occasion. We have a few old hands in Mongolia as well as a few fresh faces discussing changes in their respective research areas over the past few decades as well addressing the current state and the future outlook in Mongolia.

Among the fresh faces are two Fulbright Fellows, Alexandra Sprague and Johanna Herr, both of whom have just completed a year working in Mongolia. Alexandra’s talk entitled From the City to the Steppe: Designing and Testing Mobile Gardens with Mongolian Pastoralists examined her efforts to develop a way for nomadic Mongolian herders to grow their own vegetables.

Johanna, a noted New York artist, spent the last year working with traditional Kazakh-Mongolian women artisans and presented the results of that work in a lecture entitled The Shape of Kazakh: How Women and Traditional Craft Impact Kazakh-Mongolian National and Transnational Identity.

Christa Hasenkopf from the University of Colorado has spent the last two years in Mongolia conducting research on air pollution and has become somewhat of a fixture in Ulaanbaatar. In her talk Why Science Needs Everyone, she discussed the nature of scientific research and her efforts to enhance international collaborative research through a new science mentoring program called Global Science Share. Amanda E. Fine, has been the Mongolia Country Program Director of the Wildlife Conservation Society since they opened their Ulaanbaatar office in 2005. In her talk entitled From Leopards to Landscapes: The History of the Wildlife Conservation Society in Mongolia she discussed the history of conservation efforts in Mongolia.

Upcoming in the Speaker Series in December we have Jim Dwyer of the Business Council of Mongolia who will be addressing Mongolia’s Business Environment. Capping off this semester’s series in honor of the anniversary of US/Mongolian relations we have the US Ambassador to Mongolia, Piper Anne Wind Campbell who will be addressing this topic.

Fourth Annual ACMS Research Conference

The ACMS held its 4th Annual Research Conference on July 3rd, 2012 at the Mongolian State University of Education (MSUE) in Ulaanbaatar. This conference was sponsored by the Henry Luce Foundation and co-sponsored by MSUE. This year’s conference was entitled Multidisciplinary Perspectives on Development, Environment, and Political Economies.

Talks included both historical and current research into mining and development; policy issues; and environmental concerns. The Keynote Address Awkward Encounters and Unexpected Intimacies: Towards a Comparative Ethnography of Chinese Resource Investments in Mongolia was given by Morten Axel Pedersen of the University of Copenhagen.

Attendees and presenters representing 7 countries were in attendance, including members of the public, international scholars and students, and faculty and students from Mongolia and the region.

The ACMS is currently collaborating with Buriyat State University to publish Proceedings from this conference.
ACMS US–Mongolia Field Research Fellowship Program 2013

The American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS) merged the previous US-Mongolia Field Research Fellowship with the Faculty Research Fellowship Programs in order to encourage the formation of faculty/student research teams. Separate applications will still be considered, but paired applications will receive preferential consideration. Applicants should mention in their proposals their intention to work together.

The program will provide awards of up to $4,000 to approximately 4-5 students from US universities to conduct academic field research in Mongolia between May and October 2013. Student applicants can be at an advanced undergraduate, masters, or doctoral level, and all fields of study are eligible. Applicants must be US citizens currently enrolled full-time in a university or college in the United States. Students graduating in the spring of 2013 are eligible to apply.

Up to five faculty fellowship awards of up to $4000 each will be provided for travel and living expenses. The fellowship supports faculty members from US colleges and universities to conduct short-term field research in Mongolia between May and October 2013. Applicants must be US citizens currently teaching at a college or university in the United States. The program priority is to support faculty from non-research intensive universities and colleges, especially faculty who are helping guide student research projects or who can show how the experience will enhance their teaching. Prior experience working in Mongolia is not a requirement and the program is open to all fields of study. The fellowship is supported with funding from the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through a grant by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

For further details visit: www.mongoliacenter.org/field.

ACMS Library Fellowship 2013

The American Center for Mongolian Studies is pleased to again offer the ACMS Library Fellowship. This fellowship supports US advanced graduate students or faculty members in library science from US colleges and universities to conduct short-term projects and/or research in Mongolia for a period of up to 3 months. Applicants must be US citizens currently enrolled in or teaching at a college or university in the United States. The ACMS Library Fellowship program is designed to help support the development of the ACMS research library through specific defined projects designed to enhance the collection content and resource availability. The Fellow will also offer training and support for local scholars and the public. Fellows will spend up to 12 weeks onsite in Mongolia at the ACMS library; prior experience working in Mongolia is not a requirement. One to two Fellowships will be awarded to fund travel and living expenses (up to $4,000). The fellowship is supported with funding from the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through a grant by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

For further details visit: www.mongoliacenter.org/librarian.

ACMS Enkhbaatar Demchig Field Research Fellowship Program 2013

The ACMS is continuing the Enkhbaatar Demchig Field Research Fellowship Program to enable Mongolian students the opportunity to carry out field research, become adept in modern research methods and technologies, and support a new generation of Mongolian scholars. This fellowship supports students who are Mongolian citizens currently enrolled full-time in a university in Mongolia or North America to conduct research in Mongolia for a period of up to 3 months. The program will award one or two fellowships and students will receive a research stipend of $500 to support their work in the summer or fall of 2012. For further details visit: http://www.mongoliacenter.org/enkh.

Information on all ACMS fellowship programs, including detailed descriptions of eligibility, requirements and application deadlines is available at: www.mongoliacenter.org/fellowships
The American Center for Mongolian Studies (ACMS) invites students and scholars to enroll in an eight week Intensive Mongolian Language Program from June 10 to August 9, 2013 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. The purpose of this summer language program is to provide Intermediate-level students of the Mongolian language with an opportunity to enhance their communicative competence through systematic improvement of reading, writing, listening and speaking skills, in an authentic environment. Classroom and supervised outside-the-classroom activities will help students achieve more fluent, accurate and multi-functional communication. The program entails 8 weeks of intensive study of the Mongolian language, over a 9-week period, at the Intermediate level of language learning which is equivalent to approximately 9 semester credit hours. The course will be taught by experienced Mongolian language teachers. The Language Program Fellowship provides up to $3000, including $2,000 to cover airfare or other expenses and a $1000 tuition waiver. Additional fellowships covering the cost of tuition may be available. Both fellowships are awarded to applicants based on merit and need. The fellowship is supported with funding from the US Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs through a grant by the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

For further details visit: www.mongoliacenter.org/language.

ACMS Annual Meeting Call for Posters and Displays

The American Center for Mongolian Studies is organizing a poster session on topics related to Mongolia to be held on Friday, March 22nd, 2013, 7:00-10:00pm at the Manchester Grand Hyatt in San Diego in conjunction with the Association for Asian Studies' annual meeting and the ACMS annual meeting. Posters or displays on any topic related to Mongolia, Mongolian people or historical subjects related to the Mongols are welcome. All presenters are required to appear at the meeting to discuss their work. Posters and displays may be in either English or Mongolian language, and students and scholars from all countries and fields of study are invited to participate in the poster session and reception. The audience is expected to include students, scholars, and local residents from Mongolia, and members of the community interested in Mongolia. To propose a poster or display for the session, please send a brief abstract or description (no more than 250 words) to Baigalmaa at baigalaa@mongoliacenter.org before March 1, 2013. Posters and displays will be accepted on a rolling basis. You do not need to be registered for the AAS conference to participate, but poster presenters should be a member of the ACMS at the time of the meetings. For more information on the AAS conference and the venue for the ACMS Meeting see: http://www.asian-studies.org/conference/.

Open Access Website (Continued from page 1)
that can be added to this resource.

This project was sponsored in part through the ACMS-Mongolia Field Research Fellowship Program, which is funded by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State through a grant from the Council of American Overseas Research Centers.

The new website can be viewed at: oaguide.mongolianlibraries.org.mn
On May 17th, 2012, the ACMS hosted the first in a series of training workshops for members of the Mongolian Customs Agency. The workshops were coordinated in order to provide additional information and training to Customs Agency personnel in national and international endangered species laws, international wildlife conventions, and species identification.

The first workshop was conducted by Professor N. Batsaikhan of the School of Biology and Biotechnology of the National University of Mongolia and ACMS associate Ts. Altangerel. Over 30 customs officers from the Chingiss Khan International Airport duty station were in attendance for this event. Additional workshops are being scheduled and the production of reference materials for the officers is underway.

The importance of this conference for promoting cultural heritage awareness cannot be overemphasized. Coming within months of the establishment of the new government and appointment of its officials, the event capitalized on the promotion of new cultural initiatives, including museum exhibitions and collections, archaeological sites and monuments, rock art, paleontological fossils, and natural history materials being damaged from looting and lax or inefficient export controls. The recent US court decision to repatriate a looted dinosaur fossil imported illegally into the U.S. has highlighted the issue of international trafficking of Mongolian assets, which also increasingly involves archaeological antiquities.

The ACMS-Smithsonian presentation by Beaubien, DePriest and Fitzhugh reviewed Smithsonian archaeological and cultural research programs of the past ten years with special focus on the need for developing a centralized Mongolian sites and monuments registry. Such a registry is needed to establish baseline records on the current status so that future damage or losses can be objectively quantified. The past ten years have seen an explosion of looting and vandalism of sites, but without documentation as to current status, legal measures to enforce existing protection laws, both in the countryside and at the border, fail to be enforceable. The ACMS and Smithsonian are currently planning efforts to collaborate with the Mongolian Center for Cultural Heritage, the Archaeological Institute, the National Museum of Mongolia, UNESCO and other groups to conduct workshops and training programs and development products like a ‘red list’ of controlled materials in order to provide better protection for sites, monuments, and collections in the future.

The Cultural Heritage Conference and the new government’s initiatives signal a new ‘green light’ for culture. Hopefully the momentum provided by this highly successful, well-attended conference will carry over into legislative action, increased funding, and cultural promotion from the grassroots to the tops of government and cultural institutions.
Support ACMS Programs

At this time of cut backs in funding for international education efforts by the US Government and other funding sources, it is critical for you to support the ACMS and ensure that it can continue to offer high quality programs and services. Your support will allow students and researchers to conduct field research in Mongolia, will help develop a vibrant Mongolian language learning program, and will build our library resources to benefit Mongolian and visiting scholars in Ulaanbaatar. Each and every member of the organization who dutifully renews his/her membership and each person who has given cash and in-kind donations should be proud of what their contributions have done to build this organization and meet this shared commitment to scholarship in Mongolia.

Donations and membership dues are the main source of unrestricted funds the ACMs can use to fill resource gaps, pilot new programs, and extend support to non-US scholars. This is particularly important for fellowship programs. Please make a donation today and build scholars and understanding.

—

ACMS is a US registered 501(c)3 non-profit, education organization. Donations and membership dues are tax deductible.

What Donations Support

- Your donation ensures the continuation of the US-Mongolia Field Research Fellowship, which offers an opportunity for scholars early in their careers to experience Mongolia first hand and build collaborations with Mongolian scholars. North American students and scholars who visit Mongolia often get hooked for life. Mongolian students who work with North American scholars through the program find mentors and opportunities to attend and support US and Canadian universities and institutions.

- Your donation helps to develop the ACMS Research Library Collection in Ulaanbaatar. Although modest in size with about 4,000 books, a walk through the shelves reveals a collection with tremendous depth and richness. It is a collection with no clear local rival in Mongolia, especially given its easy accessibility to researchers and students. Cash and book donations from patrons are welcomed.

- Your donation supports ACMS outreach activities. The ACMS has organized over 100 lectures, 20 conferences and seminars, and given countless presentations in an effort to increase awareness of research and scholarship in Mongolia. The ACMS continues to build online resources to facilitate research and study. This Month in Mongolian Studies and this newsletter are also efforts to keep the academic community connected inside and outside of Mongolia.

Give Today! And, Thank you for your continuing support!

Make checks payable to American Center for Mongolian Studies and send to:

c/o Center for East Asian Studies
1155 Observatory Dr., Rm 333
Madison, WI 53706

Or donate online by visiting:

www.mongoliacenter.org/donate
American Center for Mongolian Studies
Bridging Cultures, Supporting Scholars

The AMERICAN CENTER FOR MONGOLIAN STUDIES (ACMS) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit educational organization.

ACMS Institutional Members

- American-Eurasian Research Institute
- Arts Council of Mongolia
- Austin American-Eurasian Research Institute
- Arts Council of Mongolia
- Austin College
- Boston University
- Buryat State University
- Business Council of Mongolia
- Chinggis Khan University
- Colorado State University
- Columbia University
- Global Leadership Foundation
- Indiana University
- International Bridge College
- Johns Hopkins University
- Macalester College
- Madison Area Technical College
- Mongolian Academy of Management
- Mongolian State Univ. of Agriculture
- Mongolian State University of Education
- Mongolian Univ. of Science and Technology
- Montana State University
- National University of Mongolia
- North America-Mongolia Business Council, Inc (NAMBC)
- North Georgia College and State University
- Oglala Lakota College
- Portland Community College
- Principia College
- Rice University
- Royal Roads University
- Seattle Community College
- Simon Fraser University
- Smithsonian Institution
- University of Alaska Anchorage
- University of Alaska Fairbanks
- University of Arizona
- University of British Columbia
- University of Chicago
- University of Hawaii at Manoa
- University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
- University of Kansas
- University of Massachusetts Amherst
- University of Nebraska
- University of New Mexico
- University of Pittsburgh
- University of the Humanities, Mongolia
- University of Washington
- University of Wisconsin-Madison
- Upper Iowa University
- West Virginia University
- Western Washington University
- Whatcom Community College
- Yale University
- York University

ACMS Special Contributors
Gold Patrons:
William Fitzhugh, Curt Madison, William Cullinan, Elizabeth Endicott, Franz & Sally Jaggar, Charles Krusekopf, Edward Story, Ralph & Marta Nicholas

Silver Patrons:
Kristina Elkins, Jo Jagoda, Craig R. Janes, Barbara Porter, John Spencer, Ann Welden, Jennifer Yanco

Bronze Patrons:
Wayne J. Adams, Barbara Annan, Jeanine Davis-Kimball, Erica Ehrenberg, Tony Ettinger, W. Benson Harer, Ken Heldenfels, Carolyn Irwin, Esther Jacobson-Tepfer, Gordon Jacoby, Amb. & Mrs. Joseph E. Lake, Robert LaMont, Phillip Marzluf, Andrew McCarthy, Susan Meinheit, Amy Miller, Jay Nathan, Mr. & Mrs. David A. Nichols, David Pichaske, Ted Politis, Nanette Pyne, Anne Riordan, Diane Ryan, Randall Streufert, Catherine deG. Vanderpool, Scott Weinhold, John and Missy Williams, Laura Wong