

UC San Diego Librarian and Asian Film Expert Jim Cheng Receives Fulbright Award

'Mover & Shaker' librarian to complete quintessential resource on Chinese film studies

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Jim Cheng, head librarian at UC San Diego's International Relations & Pacific Studies (IR/PS) Library, has received a Fulbright Scholar grant to conduct research to complete his book on Taiwan film studies. The book, *An Annotated Bibliography for Taiwan Film Studies*, is a sequel to his previous book, *An Annotated Bibliography for Chinese Film Studies*. His research will be conducted at the Chinese Taipei Film Archive Library, the National Central Library, and the National Taiwan University Library for three months starting in fall 2009.

Cheng, who is one of approximately 1,100 U.S. faculty and professionals who will travel abroad through the Fulbright Scholar Program, is an authority on Asian film, and has built an unparalleled collection of East Asian films at UCSD's IR/PS Library. Last year, Cheng was recognized by *Library Journal* as a "Mover & Shaker" in the library world for his innovative work in building the UCSD Libraries' premier Asian film collection, as well as a film festival and symposium series. Thanks in large part to Cheng's efforts, the IR/PS Library is recognized as having the best collection of Chinese underground and independent films in the world. The collection, which also includes posters, comprises films from both South and North Korea, Japan, and those focusing on the Chinese Cultural Revolution.

"While the field of Chinese film studies has mushroomed in the global academic community over the last decade and faculty at UC San Diego and other institutions are increasingly using popular media for teaching purposes," said Cheng, "authoritative bibliographic source materials have been lacking. My ultimate goal is to create the most comprehensive and objective bibliography for Taiwan film studies, covering a wide range of perspectives, including some of the more controversial issues, such as government censorship and Japanese and mainland Chinese influence during and after the colonial period."

While in Taiwan, Cheng will also meet with scholars and film directors to organize a future Taiwan Film Symposium at UC San Diego and also plans to meet with film vendors who can help to expand UCSD's Taiwan film collection, which currently holds more than 200 titles. Under Cheng's leadership, the IR/PS Library has sponsored numerous Asian film festivals, including a film festival held last year showcasing the films of North and South Korea, which broke new diplomatic as well as cinematic ground.

Cheng, who has served as head of the IR/PS Library since 2002, holds M.A. degrees in library and information science and comparative literature from the University of Washington. He received his B.A. in Chinese language and literature from Fudan University in Shanghai. Before joining the UC San Diego Libraries, Cheng held librarian positions at the University of Iowa, New York University, and the University of Washington.

The IR/PS Library, one of nine libraries at UC San Diego, is an essential intellectual resource for East Asian scholars and students and supports research and teaching at UCSD's School of International Relations & Pacific Studies (IR/PS). Last year IR/PS, the only school of international affairs in the UC system and the only school of its kind to focus on the dynamic Pacific Rim region, celebrated its 20th anniversary.

The Fulbright Program, America's flagship international educational exchange program, is sponsored by the United States Department of State, Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. Recipients of Fulbright awards are selected on the basis of academic or professional achievement, as well as demonstrated leadership potential in their fields. For further information about the Fulbright Program of the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs, please visit: <http://fulbright.state.gov>

The UC San Diego Libraries, ranked among the top 25 public academic research libraries in the nation, play an integral role in advancing and supporting the university's research, teaching, patient care, and public service missions. The nine libraries that comprise the UCSD Library system provide access to more than 7 million digital and print volumes, journals, and multimedia materials to meet the knowledge demands of scholars, students, and members of the public. Each day, more than 7,300 people stream through one of the university's nine libraries, and the Libraries' vast resources and services are accessed more than 87,500 times each day via the UCSD Libraries' Web site.

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