Professor Stephen Hess gives lecture on “The Peril and the Hope of Sino-African Relations”

On April 9, 2013, Dr. Stephen Hess, Professor of Political Science and East Asian Studies at the College of Public and International Affairs, University of Bridgeport, delivered a lecture on the topic the Peril and the Hope of Sino-African Relations.

The conference was sponsored by the College of Public and International Affairs, and attended by over 75 students, university staff and guests. Professor Stephen Hess spoke about the historical development and the costs and benefits of close ties between China and Africa. “China’s political and economic activities in Africa are increasing at an exponential rate. Equally, they are attracting criticism, chiefly over Beijing’s no-strings-attached stance on human rights and governance,” Professor Stephen Hess said. “Whilst adhering to the principle of non-interference, Chinese activities actually make things worse for some in Africa.”

According to Professor Stephen Hess, enthusiasts of Sino-African relations argue that China’s interactions with Africa is beneficial for three main reasons: first, that China’s growing aid to the region has allowed for the improvement of African infrastructure; second, that the trade between the two regions has increased African earnings; and finally, that China is willing to support the continent with “no strings attached.” However, Professor Stephen Hess explained the ambiguity of China’s non-interference policy and how African dictators who enjoy Chinese support not only trample on civil and political rights but also subvert their citizens’ economic and social rights.

Dr. Stephen Hess specializes in political science and East Asian studies. He spent two years in China with the U.S. Peace Corps. Over past year. He has continued with an active research agenda centered on investigating the role of popular protest movements in nondemocratic countries. Dr. Hess has recently completed a book-length manuscript on the sources of resilience and breakdown in authoritarian regimes, including China, Taiwan, the Philippines and Kazakhstan.

UB Publicity Methods Class Wages Joint Venture to Boost Bridgeport Arts

(Bridgeport, CT) Department of Mass Communication Prof. Susan Katz has forged a partnership between her Publicity Methods class and the non-profit Bridgeport Arts + Cultural Council (BACC).

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This semester, students are running a full up publicity support campaign that includes press and public relations, art and design, video, podcasts, photography and social media. To cap it all off, the class is producing a special UB Exhibition featuring student artist works to be highlighted at BACC, April 25-May 2. The launch party will include open poetry, food and fun, at the historic arcade in downtown Bridgeport, 1001-12 Main St., April 25, 5-7:30 pm. The entire University community is invited.

Prof. Katz’s class is spotlighted on the BACC homepage http://bridgeportarts.org/. BACC’s mission is “to strengthen Bridgeport’s cultural sector’s capacity with leadership, funding, and marketing to advance the City’s quality of life and prosperity.”
UB, College of Public and International Affairs Hosts the 6th Annual Symposium of Alpha Gamma Pi Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha

On April 10, 2013, Alpha Gamma Pi Chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha presented its Sixth Annual Symposium at the Arnold Bernhard Center, in the University of Bridgeport.

The Symposium titled “Is there a Future for the Euro zone in the Wake of the Economic Crisis in the European Union?” was opened by the welcoming speech of Dr. Dave Benjamin, Associate Professor of Global Development at the University of Bridgeport and faculty adviser of UB chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha and followed by the presentations of Dr. Pingfan Hong, the Chief of Global Economic Monitoring Unit in the Department of Economic and Social affairs, United Nations and Dr. Paul Adam, Professor of Political Science at the University of Pittsburgh

According to Dr. Dave Benjamin, the objective of the symposium was to engage students, faculty, administrators and members of the public in a certain type and level of discussion about a matter of global importance.

In a two-hour session, Dr. Pingfan Hong and Dr. Paul Adam, examined the root cause of the Eurozone crisis and its implication; the fiscal policy; revenue collection for the entire European integration project or harmonization of macroeconomic policies. According to Dr. Dave Benjamin the implication in the economic sovereignty of the Eurozone countries is one of the big subject of discussions and debate in Europe, because the euro zone is the euro currency area. “Adopting the euro necessarily means, states are giving up some of their economic sovereignty” said Dr. Dave Benjamin.

The Symposium was sponsored by Pi Sigma Alpha, the national Political Science Honor Society. The purpose of the society is to encourage and recognize superior achievement in the study of government and politics at the undergraduate and graduate levels.

UB, Mass Communications Professor Susan Katz Takes Telly Award for Best Political TV Advertising

With nearly 11,000 entries from all 50 states and the international community, the 34th Annual Telly Awards has named Katzing Creative Ways a Bronze winner for Best Political TV Advertising.

The: 30 spot, “Speaking Truth to What Matters Most” that ran the final week of the 2013 election cycle was produced and directed by Susan Katz, Mass Communications Professor at the University of Bridgeport and Creative Director of Katzing Creative Ways.

The Telly is one of the industry's most sought-after awards by industry leaders, honors film and video commercials, broadcast and non-broadcast programming and pioneering web commercials.

According to Telly Awards Executive Director Linda Day, Professor Susan Katz’s accomplishment illustrates creativity, skill, and dedication to craft and serves as a testament to great film and video production.

A prestigious judging panel of over 500 accomplished industry professionals, each a past winner of a Silver Telly and a member of The Silver Telly Council, judged the competition, upholding the historical standard of excellence the Telly represents.

“Speaking Truth to What Matters Most” was part of a concerted integrated marketing campaign for political candidate newcomer Caro-lanne Curry, running for State Senate in the nation’s second wealthiest district.

The Telly Awards, founded in 1979, boast winners representing the best work of the most respected advertising agencies, production companies, television stations, cable operators, and corporate video departments in the world.

“As in every creative effort, it’s the synergy of the team that makes for compelling product,” said Professor Susan Katz. “I am forever grateful to my team of industry veterans.”
UB Professor Participates at the 54th Annual Convention of the International Studies Association (ISA)

Dr. Dave Benjamin, Associate Professor and Chairman of the Graduate Program in Global Development and Peace Program at the University of Bridgeport participated in the 54th Annual Convention of the International Studies Association in San Francisco from 3 to 6 April, 2013.

Having put together three panels: "Responsibility to Prosecute" (ILAW), "Democracy: Political Corruption and Elections", and "Political Corruption and Human Rights" (Human Rights), Dr. Dave Benjamin presented a paper ‘Grand Political Corruption as an International Crime’. He was also appointed to the Best Book Award Committee by the ISA Northeast regional association, and is a member of the Best Graduate Student Paper Award Committee of the Northeast regional association. Dr. Dave Benjamin is currently Secretary of the Human Rights Section (until March 2014), and member of the Governing Council of ISA Northeast (until November 2014).

UB Professors Speak at Peace and Security Symposium in New York City

On April 10, 2013, Dr. Thomas J. Ward, the Dean of the College of Public and International Affairs and Dr. Chunjuan Nancy Wei, Assistant Professor and Chair of the International Political Economy & Diplomacy Program, University of Bridgeport were invited speakers and panel lists at the Peace and Security Symposium hosted by the Universal Peace Federation (UPF) in New York City.

The Peace and Security Symposium entitled “Prospect for Peace and Security in the East and South China Seas” examined steps that can be taken to defuse tensions among the stakeholders and explored mechanisms that eventually resolve and open way to a stable peace in the region. Dean Thomas J. Ward and Dr. Chunjuan Nancy Wei explained in their presentation, the historical roots of the dispute over the islands and maritime boundaries in the water of the East and South China Seas. The former Vice President of Taiwan, H.E. Annette Lu Hsiu-Lien who was also one of the panelists at the symposium proposed the demilitarization of the Diaoyu/ Senkaku islands.

Panelists along with Dr. Thomas J. Ward, Dr. Chunjuan Nancy Wei and H. E. Annette Lu Hsiu-Lien included Dr. Mark Barry, expert in East Asia Peace and Security, and Dr. Thomas G. Walsh the moderator of the symposium and President of the Universal Peace Federation.
UB Professor Co-edits Lexington Press “Mr. Science and Chairman Mao’s Cultural Revolution”

Dr. Chunjuan Nancy Wei, Assistant Professor of East Asian & Pacific Rim Studies and Chair of the International Political Economy & Diplomacy Program at the University of Bridgeport, has published a book which she co-edited with Darryl E. Brock, “Mr. Science and Chairman Mao’s Cultural Revolution : science and technology in modern China”

The book offers a comprehensive look at how modern science has developed in China since the founding of the people’s republic of China in 1949 and examines in detail about the first contacts China had with western science in the late Ming and Early Qin Dynasties.

Dr. Chunjuan Nancy Wei’s chapter in the book “Barefoot Doctors: The Legacy of Chairman Mao’s Healthcare” explains about the Rural Cooperative Medical Scheme (RCMS), operative during 1968 to 1981 and China’s national primary health insurance system implemented during the Cultural Revolution. Dr. Chunjuan Nancy Wei says in her chapter, “The RCMS that was driven by egalitarian Maoist ideology of decentralization had endorsed self-sufficiency and gender equality; promoting women’s participation and led to virtual elimination of venereal diseases and drug addiction, effective control of many infectious diseases, and a dramatic increase in average life expectancy as well as significant reduction of infant mortality rates”.

Mr. Science and Chairman Mao’s Cultural Revolution Book represents diverse viewpoints on social and scientific enterprises of that era, probing medicine, the space program and even the one-child policy as direct outcomes of earlier Maoist science.

Dr. Chunjuan Nancy Wei received her Ph.D. in political science from Claremont Graduate University in Southern California. She is a recipient of the Chiang Ching-kuo Foundation Scholarly Exchange Research Grant (2010), and a fellow of the UB Center of Learning and Teaching Excellence (2011). Dr. Chunjuan Nancy Wei has published numerous articles on a wide range of cases including on U.S.-China relations, East Asian political economy, and cross-Taiwan Strait politics in such journals as the Yale Journal of International Affairs, Journal of Global Development and Peace, and the Southeast Review of Asian Studies.

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