Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies at Suffolk University Annual Report for 2018-2019

Rosenberg Institute

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Summer 2019 marks completion of the tenth year of full operations for the Rosenberg Institute, and also ten years since I joined Suffolk University to be Director of the Institute. It is an appropriate time to reflect on our work in the ten years that have passed.

During this past decade, the Institute has cooperated widely with departments and with all the schools at Suffolk. From the College of Arts and Sciences we have had joint activities with the Center for Community Engagement (CCE), Center for Teaching and Scholarly Excellence (CTSE), Center for Urban Ecology and Sustainability (CUES), departments of Communication and Journalism, Economics, English, Engineering, Environmental Studies, the Ford Hall Forum, Government, History, Philosophy, World Languages and Cultures. From the Sawyer Business School we have had joint activities with Accounting, Finance, Global MBA, Marketing, Strategy and International Business. From the Law School we have co-sponsored programs with the Harry H. Dow Memorial Scholarship and the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA). Faculty associated with all of these programs have brought their students to Institute activities. We have also cooperated with our many Asia-related student organizations on campus, which includes the Asian-American Association, China Students and Scholars Association, Japan Student Association, Korean Culture Club, South Asia Association, Taiwanese Students Association, Vietnamese Students Association. In fact, I have acted as faculty advisor for several of these student clubs.

The Rosenberg Institute has organized many lectures for our campus community over this time. Speakers from local institutions have come from Boston College, Boston University, Harvard, MIT, Northeastern, Yale, Smith College, as well as our own Suffolk faculty. International speakers who have presented on campus were from Canada, China, Denmark, Germany, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Japan, Korea, Singapore, Vietnam. The Consuls-General of the relevant diplomatic offices in Boston have all spoken on campus under the auspices of the Rosenberg Institute: Japan, Korea, Taiwan.

Community organizations with which the Rosenberg Institute has cooperated during the past decade have included the Asian American Commission (organized by the governor’s office), Asian Task Force Against Domestic Violence (ATASK),
Boston Chinatown Community Center (BCNC), Brookline High School China Exchange Program, Children’s Museum of Boston, Chinese Historical Society of New England (CHSNE), National Committee on United States China Relations (NCUSCR), Primary Source (for public school teachers interested in Asia), WorldBoston (member of the World Affairs Councils).

**Suffolk University has a strong leadership team in place.** Chairman of the Board of Trustees Bob Lamb and President Marisa Kelly fully understand the work of the Rosenberg Institute. President Kelly has submitted a Strategic Plan for Suffolk so the Rosenberg Institute will be aligning our programming to complement the goals of that Plan. We report to Maria Toyoda, Dean of the School of Arts and Sciences and also have the benefit of our Advisory Council which includes members from many academic departments. The Council consists of Micky Lee, Communication and Journalism, Chair of the Council; Audrey Goldstein, Chair of the New England School of Art and Design (NESAD); Pat Hogan, Chair of the Center for Urban Ecology and Sustainability; Kathy Sparaco, Executive Director of the INTO Program (preparing international students for study at Suffolk); Jane Zhu, Marketing, Sawyer Business School.

The Rosenberg Institute sent eleven **students for study abroad in Asia** at one of Suffolk’s partner schools during the FY19 academic year on the Rosenberg Asian Studies Scholarships. In addition, the Institute funded **partial travel costs for three Suffolk faculty** who were presenting papers at the 2nd International Workshop on Urban Ecological Security and Sustainability (UESS) held at Fudan University in Shanghai 24 to 27 June 2019 as described later in this Annual Report.

My work with the Institute has been possible because of our benefactors, Barbara and Richard M. Rosenberg. I am extremely grateful for our benefactor’s continued support and wise council throughout these past ten years.
Activities of the Rosenberg Institute 2018-2019

Rosenberg Institute assisted in showing “Maineland,” a new documentary film about Chinese Students Studying in the US. The film depicts Chinese students who spent their sophomore-senior years at the Fryeburg Academy in Maine. They were embedded in an American learning environment while at the same time going through the growing process of their teenage years. The documentary showing was put on by Primary Source, a non-profit based in Watertown, MA. It was shown at the popular Kendall Square Cinema in Cambridge on 24 July 2918 and was attended by many secondary school educators from the Boston area. Director Miao Wang was there to answer questions about the film and the process of making it. The content of the film addresses questions about where China is headed in the next generation. The film is visually attractive and has an evocative sound track. The Rosenberg Institute received compliments from many in the audience for our work in promoting an interest in Asia.

The Empress of China Exhibition was held at the Peabody Essex Museum in Salem from August 2018 to February 2019. Daisy Wang, Curator of Chinese and East Asian Art asked the Rosenberg Institute to help spread the word about the Exhibition. Dr. Suleski was invited and attended the Opening Reception at the Museum in September 2018 as were several of our list-serve colleagues, including faculty from Harvard.
The Asian American Commission was set up by the Governor’s Office of the State of Massachusetts. It works to represent the Asian American communities in our area. The Rosenberg Institute joined in announcing their Asian American Commission AAPI (Asian American & Pacific Islander) Scholarship.
Asian American Commission’s 7th Annual Young Leaders Symposium
Date: Saturday, September 22, 2018

India Day Festival. The celebration took place on 19 August 2918 at the Boston City Hall Plaza. The event was FREE entry for all. Many of our Rosenberg Institute colleagues interested in India or who had visited India were happy to participate. Sponsored by the Indian Association of Greater Boston.

Suffolk Professor Elizabeth Robinson took six Suffolk students to Vietnam as part of Alternative Spring Break in the Spring 2018 semester. The students were in the TESOL (Teachers of English to Students of Other Languages) program and all were working to earn the TESOL Certificate. The Vietnamese students were eager to learn from native English speakers, so the experience was a win-win situation. The Rosenberg Institute helped to subsidize the cost of this project.
TESOL students and Professor Elizabeth Robinson (third from left) visited the Ho Chi Minh Mausoleum (Photo: Elie Crief)

**The Rosenberg Institute Arranged for Suffolk Students get jobs as mentors in the VietAID after school program.** August-September 2018. They worked with Vietnamese-American children in the Dorchester area of Boston in a supervised learning environment. This was the third year in a row involving Suffolk student sin the program.
Author Deborah Fellows spoke about Dreaming in Chinese. She talked about her experience living in China from 2006 to 2010. The talk was sponsored by Rosenberg Institute Community Outreach Partner Primary Source, on 2 October 2018 at Newton South High School. The talk was based on her books Dreaming in Chinese: Mandarin Lessons in Life, Love, and Language and her new book Our Towns (written with husband James Fallows).

The Rosenberg Institute again Sponsored a China Town Hall. Held on 9 October 2018 the closed webcast featured Condoleezza Rice, Secretary of State in the George W. Bush administration. Joining us at Suffolk University as a moderator for our local audience in the Sargent Building was Professor Joseph Fewsmith, a specialist in Chinese elite politics. The meeting was organized by the National Committee on United States-China Relations. The local co-sponsors were WorldBoston (a member of the World Affairs Council) and the Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies at Suffolk University.
China's rapid development and Sino-American relations have a direct impact on the lives of just about everyone in the United States. CHINA Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections, is a national day of programming designed to provide Americans across the United States and beyond the opportunity to discuss issues in the relationship with leading experts.

CHINA Town Hall is a national conversation on China taking place in 95+ communities in the U.S.

Admission is free, RSVP encouraged at www.worldboston.org/events-calendar
Refreshments will be available.

Special thanks to our partner, the Barbara and Richard M. Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies.
Nordic Centre of Heritage Learning and Creativity, Jamtli Museum, Östersund, Sweden, and Leibniz University, Hannover, Germany. Dr. Suleski took two Suffolk students with him to the talk.

A gathering of Taiwan Student Leaders was held at Suffolk on 25 September 2018. Participants were composed of presidents and vice presidents of Taiwanese Student Associations from across New England, including the Taiwanese Students Association at Suffolk. The meeting, held annually, was organized by the Education Division of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Boston. The Rosenberg Institute acted as a co-sponsor of the event. A group photo of the smiling student leaders appears below.
Our colleagues at the India Discovery Center once again held an all-day seminar, on the Hindu Period of India’s history. Several of our colleagues have attended these seminars in the past, and all have reported them as rewarding experiences.
Diwali Night was held 6 November 2018 at Suffolk. This is the annual festival in India where families get together to celebrate family and community. It is the Hindu festival of lights, symbolizing the spiritual victory of light over darkness. This is one of the most popular festivals in India. It was sponsored by the South Asian Student Association at Suffolk.

Cultural Exchange Asian Night. Suffolk Students gathered to promote cultural exchange with Asia on 8 November 2018. They did it in the form of a party with food and fun, held in the Smith Café of the Somerset Building (in 2019 re-named the Samia Academic Center). It was organized by the Japan Student Association and the Taiwanese Student Association. Several of Dr. Suleski’s students were involved in organizing and promoting the event, along with help from the Rosenberg Institute.
Challenging Family Separation in Court: Reunification & the Right to Seek Asylum was the 5th Harry Dow Lecture Series on Immigration Law. The speaker was Sirine Shebaya, senior staff attorney for Muslim Advocates. In addition, the Harry H. Dow Memorial Scholarship Award was presented to student Kelly Bae, a second year student at Suffolk Law.

Among the speakers were Leah C. Grinvald, Associate Dean of Suffolk University Law School; Ragini Shah, Professor of Suffolk University Law School; Patrick Shin, Associate Dean of Suffolk University Law School. The program was organized by the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA). The sponsors of this program included: the Moakley Archive and Institute, the Asian American Lawyers Association of Massachusetts, the Immigration Law Association, the Black Law Student Association, the Professional & Career Development Office, and the Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies at Suffolk.

Learning a New Language. Suffolk International Students Organized a Language Learning Party. This was held on 13 November 2018 by students enrolled in the INTO Program, designed to prepare international students for study at Suffolk. In this activity students from various countries gave sample language lessons about their native languages, as part of International Education Week. The event was well attended and the students all seemed eager to try out all the new languages.
The **Association for Asian Studies** held its regional New England meeting on 6 October 2018 at Brandeis University. The Rosenberg Institute covered the conference fee for Suffolk faculty attending the meeting. Suffolk faculty also organized two panel sessions. Among the faculty giving talks were Amy Fisher (Philosophy), Jonathan Haughton (Economics), Micky Lee (Communication and Journalism/Asian Studies Committee Director), Ronald Suleski (History/Rosenberg Institute), Weiqi Zhang (Government), Da Zheng (English).

In addition the Rosenberg Institute covered the conference fee for three Suffolk students attending the conference: Nigel Dabare, Leah Nicole Magno, and Liam Martin. It was their first time to attend a professional academic conference.

All of the Suffolk attendees were supported by the Rosenberg Institute, which covered the cost of conference registration.

Some of the Suffolk faculty attending the AAS Regional Conference at Brandeis. L to R: Da Zheng (English); Ronald Suleski (History/Rosenberg Institute); Amy Fisher (Philosophy); Micky Lee (Communication and Journalism, Asian Studies Committee); Jonathan Haughton (Economics).
Delegation of Faculty from China Visit Suffolk Hosted by the Rosenberg Institute. The delegation was welcomed from Xi’an Polytechnical University 西安工業大學, Xi’an, China. This is a top-rated research university in China, and the visitors were from the School of Foreign Studies. The delegation was composed of: Ms. Zhang Yi 张奕, Associate Dean and Professor; Ms. Gao Min 高敏, Associate Dean; Ms. Zhao Xueai 赵雪爱, Professor; Mr. Deng Tao 邓涛, Associate Professor and Course Coordinator; Ms. Gao Jie 高絜, Lecturer.

This visit was co-sponsored by the Center for Teaching and Scholarly Excellence (CTSE) and the Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies. Both co-sponsors received enthusiastic support from Suffolk to make this a successful visit. The delegation was greeted by President Kelly, Acting Provost Royo, CAS Dean Maria Toyoda, and Associate Dean Lisa Celovsky. They met many program chairs including Pat Hogan, Chair of the Center for Urban Ecology and Sustainability; Kathy Sparaco, Executive Director of INTO Suffolk; Linda Bruenjes, Director of CTSE; Micky Lee, Director of the Asian Studies Program and Chair of the Rosenberg Institute Advisory Council; Elizabeth Robinson, Director of the TESL Program; Alina Choo, Managing Director of the Division of Student Success; Viviana Leyva, CIPS, Division of Student Success, and CTSE staff. The delegation was introduced to Suffolk through Da Zheng of English and the Asian Studies Program, and was organized by Ronald Suleski.

At the end of the visit, Dean Zhang from Xi’an expressed her grateful thanks for the efforts of all the Suffolk people to provide them with an informative and comprehensive visit to our school.
Suffolk faculty and some of our visitors from China. Left to Right: Da Zheng, Gao Min, Zhang Yi, Ronald Suleski, Pat Hogan, Zhao Xuiai, Gao Jie, Deng Tao.

Taiwan Today: Perspectives from Taipei was the title of the roundtable-style conference. Dr. Suleski of the Rosenberg Institute was invited to attend the conference organized by WorldBoston and Boston University. Suffolk’s Acting Provost Sebastian Royo also attended, as did the newly appointed Director-General of the Taipei Educational and Cultural Office (TECO), Douglas Hsu. The event was held on 15 January 2019.
The Last Boat Out of Shanghai. This is the Epic Story of the Chinese Who Fled Mao’s Revolution, a book by Helen Zia. She spoke at the Pao Arts Center located in Boston’s Chinatown district. The book reading was organized by the Chinese Historical Society of New England (CHSNE) and the Pao Arts Center on 12 February 2019. Several friends of the Rosenberg Institute were present.

Chinese Nationality Laws & Asian-American Identity. Dr. Norman Ho visited Suffolk at the invitation of the Rosenberg Institute to speak before a large audience of Suffolk faculty, students, and administrators on 4 February 2019

Dr. Ho is Associate Professor of Law at Peking University School of Transnational Law. He is a graduate of Harvard and the NYU School of Law. His topic was Chinese Nationality Laws & Asian-American Identity. Why is this topic important? Recently the Chinese government arrested a Chinese-American visiting China, who had been born in the United States. Because he had Chinese blood, they assumed they could treat him as if he were a Chinese citizen. How do Asian-Americans feel about this? Do Asian-Americans feel at home in the United States,
the country where they were born and raised? These and other questions were discussed at the talk.

The lecture was sponsored by the Asian Pacific American Law Students Association (APALSA), the Ford Hall Forum at Suffolk funded by the Lowell Society, and by the Rosenberg Institute for East Asian Studies at Suffolk.

Two Films from Thailand. The Rosenberg Institute was asked to assist in drawing an audience to these two films by the program organizers, the Film Study Center, the Visual and Environmental Studies Department, and the Thai Studies Program at the Asia Center at Harvard University present. The program was titled An Evening with noted director Anocha Suwichakornpong.

The two films shown were By the Time It Gets Dark (Dao khanong, Thailand 2016) and Nightfall (Singapore 2016). Held on 7 February 2019, many in the audience were interested in recent Thai politics as portrayed in the films, along with the movie buffs interested in the director’s career. The director Anocha Suwichakornpong, a visiting scholar of the Visual and Environmental Studies program at Harvard, carried on a dialogue with the audience.
Daily Life for the Common People of China, 1850 to 1950 is the title of my new book, published by Brill Publishers. The publisher has been issuing academic studies about Asia and the Orient since the 1683, first in Leiden, Holland and now with a US Office in Boston. The book came out in November 2018. I was invited to give a talk on the book by the Asian Studies Program at Suffolk, and the History Department. We had the talk on 13 February 2018 and filled up the Poetry Center with Suffolk faculty and students, plus some researchers from other academic institutions in the Boston area.

My book uses a new category of source materials. These are hand-written booklets prepared by the common people of China from 1850 to 1950. They were used to tell fortunes, to chase away troublesome ghosts, to use herbs to make medicine, to decide how to pick a mate for their children, and for all the everyday questions people had. Many were written by people with a poor education because many people were minimally literate at that time. Most of these booklets had been
thrown away by the families that kept them. I have located these at antique and junk stores in China.

Suffolk Faculty, Administrators, and Students Visited Cambodia and Myanmar in January 2019. This was part of the Alternative Winter Break program. The twenty students worked to help farmers build basic housing, to repair elementary school properties, and to give classes in basic English conversation.

The delegation was organized by Roberto Dominguez, professor in the Government Department. It was headed by Assistant Dean of Students Shawn Newton. The two chaperons were the directors of the Center for Community Engagement, one of the sponsors of the Alternative Winter Break Program, Adam Westbrook and Dennis Harkins.
After returning to Suffolk, the students and faculty had a **Reunion and Rosenberg Appreciation Open House** on 13 February 2019 to show slides from the visit and for the students to talk about their experiences. The Rosenberg Institute was pleased to once again help subsidize this trip and keep the costs down for each participant. The Government Department was behind this activity, as was the Center for Community Engagement.

**China’s Belt and Road in Europe.** Several speakers were organized by the Pardee School for Global Studies at Boston University to speak about how China is extending its trade and economic power into Europe. The event was held on 21 February 2019. Among the speakers was Grant Rhode (Naval War College) who has been active with the Rosenberg Institute. The symposium was co-sponsored by the BU Center for the Study of Asia which asked the Rosenberg Institute to help promote the seminar.
Asian Perspectives on Health and Work is a course offered at Suffolk in Fall 2019. Our colleague Dr. Sukanya Ray of the Psychology Department turned to the Rosenberg Institute to help advertise this course in Asia-related classes. We handed out flyers in a number of courses.

Psychology Elective for Fall 2019!

Are you interested to learn about diverse Asian cultures and perspectives on mental and well-being?

Would you like to learn about Asian cultural perspectives on work values, team and role?

This course will enrich your exposure to different Asian cultures, strengthen your knowledge, experience and skills to explore career prospects in local/global contexts.

For further information please contact Dr. Sukanya Ray

sray@suffolk.edu

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**Going Global: The People’s Navy in a Time of Strategic Transformation.** This conference was organized by the China Maritime Studies Institute at the US Naval War College and was held in May 2019. The Rosenberg Institute had responses and interest from six of our colleagues, some of whom were invited to join this conference. The organizers at the Naval War College were appreciative of our ability to draw in audience members to their event.

**Suffolk’s Asian American Association and Vietnamese Student Association teamed up to have a party for all students to welcome spring. Together with all the attending students they made spring rolls.** Ingredients were supplied by SODEXO the Suffolk food service, and the program was co-sponsored by the Office of Off-Campus Housing Commuter Ambassadors. The turnout of students was larger than expected, but in the end everyone was able to eat freshly-prepared spring rolls. The activity was held on 28 March 2019.

**Suffolk Welcomed Visiting Scholar Peichi Chung (鍾珮琦) of the Chinese University of Hong Kong to be on our campus until the end of 2019.** She received her Ph.D. from the Department of Telecommunication, Indiana University-Bloomington. Her teaching and research interests include new media and digital culture. She examines issues related to new media production and cultural policy in sub-regional locations within Asia. She is currently completing her longitudinal ethnographic work on Asian game industries in East and Southeast Asia.

Our Suffolk students who are particularly interested in e-gaming, creation, marketing, and impact, are especially interested in learning of her work. She is hosted by the Department of Communication and Journalism, and also by Micky Lee, Director of the Asian Studies Program and Chair of the Rosenberg Institute Advisory Council.
A new student club at Suffolk. In April 2019 we welcomed the Southeast Asian Association (SEAA). The President is Joseph Effendy, majoring in information systems and operations management. He was born in Indonesia, grew up in Singapore, and proudly says his grandparents came from China. The Vice-President is Dalton Ryan, a student who has been active in helping to send students on service trips abroad. The Secretary is Leah Mango, a student from the Philippines, and the club Treasurer is student Shane Camania. The faculty advisor is Professor Roberto Dominguez of the Government Department.

President Joseph Effendy and Secretary Leah Mango of the Southeast Asian Association, a new student club at Suffolk.

Chinatown Boston Began an Archeological Dig. The site has been occupied since the 1840s. In 1929 it became a fancy Chinese restaurant called Ruby Foo’s Den. The dig will have some trained archaeologists and will also rely on volunteers to do the sifting of gathered earth looking for hidden treasures. At the opening of the dig in early July 2019 there were some people with long Suffolk association, including Justina Chu who is a fan of the Rosenberg Institute and who recently retired after decades of work at the Suffolk Law School. She’s in a photo
below. A number of competent organizations teamed up together to carry out this project, headed by our Community Outreach Partner the Chinese Historical Society of New England (CHSNE), and also including the City of Boston Archaeology Department, Friends of Archaeology, Chinese American Citizen’s Alliance – Boston Lodge, Chinese American Heritage Foundation.

This photo shows people from the groups that have come together to carry out the dig. They are from the Chinatown Historical Society of New England (CHSNE), the City of Boston Archaeology Department, Friends of Archaeology, Chinese American Citizen’s Alliance – Boston Lodge, Chinese American Heritage Foundation, and some volunteers.

Justina Chu is in the red shirt practicing to become an archaeologist.
The 2nd International Workshop on Urban Ecological Security and Sustainability (UESS 2019) was held at Fudan University in Shanghai, China from 24 to 27 June 2019. The Rosenberg Institute has been one of the major supporters of this international collaboration. The partnership between the Center for Urban Ecology and Sustainability (CUES) at Suffolk University and Fudan University was established to (1) foster research collaborations between Chinese and American researchers, (2) to create courses that could be taught between the two campuses for students from both institutions, and to (3) promote exchanges of both faculty and students across campuses. Examples of possible collaboration areas that were presented at UESS 2019 include coastal systems and invasive species, remote sensing, geographic information systems (GIS), modeling techniques and environmental policy.

A delegation of faculty from Suffolk, supported in part by the Rosenberg Institute, attended UESS 2019 to give short, twenty-minute presentations on their efforts since UESS 2018 (held at Suffolk University). Among faculty members attending from Suffolk were CUES faculty — Dr. Hayley Schiebel and Mr. Scott Lussier—who chaired the graduate paper competition and provided a keynote presentation, respectively. Carlos Rufin, Chair of the Strategy and International Business Department of the Sawyer Business School, presented as did Sean Solley, Director of the Interior Architecture and Design Program in the College of Art and Sciences. Dean Maria Toyoda of the School of Arts and Sciences was also on hand to give a closing speech to the body of international attendees. In addition to Suffolk University faculty, American researchers from Northeastern University and the University of Massachusetts Boston, who had attended UESS 2018 in Boston, also attended UESS 2019.

Xiangrong Wang, PhD, Director of the Centre for Urban Eco-planning and Design and co-founder of the partnership between Fudan University and CUES, attended UESS 2018 as well. Other Fudan University attendees included Xiaojiang Gao, Dean of Environmental Science and Engineering at Fudan and Yin Ren from the Institute of Urban Environment of the Chinese Academy of Sciences. In addition to attendees from Fudan University, specialists from East China Normal University, Nanjing Forestry University, and other schools in China gave the same type of oral
presentation as the American delegates in efforts to forge research collaborations moving forward.

Many faculty and students from Fudan University crowded into the lecture sessions showing their interest and enthusiasm for the partnership. The Suffolk delegation was impressed with the modern facilities available at Fudan University and by the friendship displayed by their Chinese hosts at every turn. Tours of the two Fudan University campuses, shared lunches and dinners, and a field trip to a sponge city outside of Shanghai were a few of the activities included in the agenda that encouraged not only collaboration opportunities, but also friendships. **The third in this series of international workshops –UESS 2020—will be held at Suffolk University in June 2020.**

A group photo from the UESS 2019 conference held at Fudan University.
Dr. Xiangrong Wang from the Department of Environmental Science and Engineering of Fudan University, gave the opening speech.

Suffolk’s own Pat Hogan Chair of the Center for Urban Ecology and Sustainability (CUES), who initiated these joint workshops between Fudan and Suffolk, was also at the gathering.