On Tuesday, October 22, 2013, the East Asia Institute (EAI) hosted a Grand Opening Reception to kick off the Taiwan Series that will promote a better understanding and awareness of Taiwanese culture at UTSA and the surrounding community. This event was made possible due to a generous grant from the Taiwanese Academy. To launch the grand opening, EAI showcased “Cape No 7,” the first movie of the “Understanding Taiwan” film series.

The Grand Opening was attended by over 100 people! Among the guests were Director Curtis Liang of Houston’s Taiwan Academy and his Executive Assistant Mr. Michael Lin. In addition, Dr. Ricardo Romo, UTSA’s President, Dr. John Frederick, Provost and Vice President of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Daniel Gelo, Dean of the College of Liberal and Fine Arts were also in attendance.

Many of the guests included University departmental chairpersons and professors from various disciplines along with students and people from the San Antonio community. Shortly after the start of the reception, Mimi Yu, Associate Director of the East Asia Institute, gave the opening remarks and bequeathed recognition to a few people in the audience. She then passed the podium to Julius Gribou, Executive Vice Provost and Senior International Officer, who in turn gave welcoming remarks on behalf of UTSA. “UTSA would like to thank the Taiwan Academy for the grant which will allow the San Antonio community to learn more Taiwan in the context of Asia,” said Gribou. “I hope the Taiwan Series activities will help add a new dimension of appreciation and understanding of East Asian societies and cultures both on campus and in the community.”

This event was also made possible due to a generous grant from the Taiwanese Academy that bequeathed recognition to a few people in the audience.

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Taiwan Academy Spotlight Project

Grand Opening

From left to right: Mimi Yu (Associate Director, UTSA’s East Asia Institute), Dr. Marita Nammikoski (Chair, Dept. of Modern Languages and Literatures), Dr. Wig Chung Ng (Professor of History), Dr. Frederick (Provost and Vice President for Academic Affairs), Dr. Daniel Gelo (Dean, College of Liberal and Fine Arts), Dr. Thomas Bellows (Professor of Political Science), Director Curtis Liang, Mr Michael Lin, Julius Gribou (Executive Vice Provost and Senior International Officer).

Understanding Taiwan and Sinology through seminars, lectures, art, film series and more!

East Asia Institute

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October 22, 2013
globalism at UTSA and in the community.”

Director Curtis Liang also addressed and welcomed the audience to attend the day’s reception and the public screening of “Cape No. 7”. “I am so pleased to see many people in San Antonio are taking interest in learning more about Taiwan,” said Liang. “I wish UTSA’s Taiwan Series with success and my office looks forward to more collaboration in the near future.”

“Cape No. 7” is about an unusual group of people in a village on the coast of Taiwan who form a band to perform at a beach concert. In the meantime, the lead singer searches for the intended recipient of seven lost love letters written in Japanese at the end of Second World War when the Japanese Occupation of Taiwan ended. This screening was positively received by the audience. “I loved the parallel between what was written in the letters and what was going on in Aga’s life,” one guest mused. “I can’t wait to see the rest of the series!” another guest exclaimed.

The movie was followed by a short lecture on Taiwan given by Dr. Thomas Bellows, Professor of Political Science and Geography. The discussion started off about Taiwan in general. As the lecture continued, it became a little more focused on the overall history of the country, starting from the humble beginnings of China’s occupation to modern day Taiwan.

However, Bellows spent a little more time going over the Japanese occupation as it tied directly into the movie. “Location is critical. You know what they say in real estate? Location, location, location!” Professor Bellows declared. “Look at the location of Taiwan, visa vie, China, the Taiwan Strait. Tremendous interaction can be seen between China and Taiwan economically.” He moved on to talking about the economic prosperity of the country and how democracy usually helps build a better and stronger economy.”
Taiwan Series: Taiwan Academy Spotlight Project

After the lecture was over, the floor was open for a Q & A session. Many in the audience asked profound and thought provoking questions, which was a great way to end the event. More conversations could be heard outside the auditorium as the audience enjoyed tea and desserts.

UTSA's Taiwan Series is comprised of a Seminar Series, Lecture Series, Film Festival, Visiting Artist Workshops, Sinology Trivia Contest and Chinese Video Contest, and an art tour to the San Antonio Museum of Art to learn more about their Chinese art collection, Chinese history and culture. For more info about the entire Taiwan Series program, please visit the East Asia Institute homepage http://www.utsa.edu/eai. All events are free and open to the public.

Taiwan Series
All events are free and open to the public

See detailed descriptions and calendar at http://www.utsa.edu/eai.

Seminars: 10/11, 10/17, 10/24, 10/31, 11/7, 11/14, 11/21, 11/25

Lectures: 10/22, 11/26

Art Tour to the S.A. Museum of Art: 10/27

Film Festival: 10/22, 10/29, 11/12


Visiting Artist Workshops (calligraphy and ink painting): 11/14

Sinology Trivia Contest and Chinese Cultural Video Contests: 11/15

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UTSA East Asia Institute’s mission is to promote appreciation and understanding of East Asian societies and cultures both on campus and in the community through research, outreach, networking, education, student/faculty exchange, and business development and cooperation. The East Asia Institute organizes seminars, workshops, lectures, conferences, film festivals, visual art exhibitions as well as hosting performing arts groups from Asian nations. It also encourages faculty research collaborations both within UTSA and with participating East Asian university researchers. Contact the EAI at 210.458.4943 or eai@utsa.edu for future events info. Or see http://www.utsa.edu/eai

The establishment of the Taiwan Academy originates from the Republic of China President Ma Ying-Jeou's cultural policy. Taiwan is the major Chinese cultural center where Confucianism, Buddhism, Zen, literature, architecture, arts and crafts, and traditional customs are promoted and preserved more completely as compared to the many regions influenced by Chinese culture. So far, a number of the Taiwan Academy Resource Centers have been established to disseminate information and organize seminars, workshops, and other activities that promote philosophy, literature, and arts. By doing so, the Taiwan Academy hopes to enhance cultural exchanges between Taiwan and the international community.