



*For Al Dien
in celebration
of his 85th year.*

Stanford's Professor Emeritus Al Dien is a scholar of remarkable range and infectious curiosity. His lectures inspired the creation of the Silkroad Foundation, on whose board of advisers he still serves. At a stage in life when his contemporaries might be satisfied to sit on the porch in a rocking chair, Al continues to take his energies into the field, where he has been an active contributor to Silkroad Foundation education programs. At left you see him in 2009 studying the Liao Dynasty Yanbu Huayanjing pagoda near Hohhot, a subject no less imposing than the Silk Road itself. In 2005 he was an active participant in the excavation of Xiongnu graves in central Mongolia. You see him below sharing his knowledge of the early Turks at Khöshöö Tsaidam, a site in the Orkhon Valley famous for its 8th century runic inscriptions. We all continue to learn from him.



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