On June 15-16, 2015, Prof. Karl Gerth and Prof. Paul Pickowicz convened the annual UC San Diego modern Chinese history graduate student research conference “Life Strategies, Identity Formations, and Political Crises in Socialist China, 1949-1989” at SIO’s Martin Johnson House. Two leading historians from East China Normal University (Shanghai), home of China’s most prominent modern Chinese history program, were invited to sit in on the conference. They were so impressed by the research accomplishments of the PhD students that they invited the entire research seminar to restage the conference in Shanghai on September 1-2, 2015. The students were also offered special two-week research access to a rare archival collection of the Shanghai campus. The Shanghai hosts generously agreed to fund the lodging and meals of the UCSD delegation during both the archive research and conference portions of the visit. The conference will be conducted entirely in Chinese and the eight UCSD seminar members will be joined by eight ECNU graduate students who will present their own research findings. This conference will be the first installment of a five-year collaborative graduate student research conference that will rotate between Shanghai and San Diego each year. Research topics taken up by the UCSD seminar members include the Beijing prison system in the early 1980s, the means by which Chinese college students learned about Khrushchev’s denunciation of Stalin and the Hungarian Uprising in 1956-57, the political problems encountered by engineers in state-run research institutes in 1952-83, the activities of religious sects in the early 1950s, weather modification experiments in 1959-62, sexual deviancy and criminal classification in 1964-66, representation of the “modern girl” and the “Marxist girl” in Chinese comic books in the early 1950s, and basic education programs carried out in youth correctional institutions in 1981-83.