

Asian Studies Perspectives

Asian Studies Program

Volume 2, Issue 1
2010-2011

Student Accomplishments

We are pleased to celebrate the success of our students in pursuing opportunities for special language training and overseas study in Asia.

New Paltz students who spent time in Asia during the past academic year brought back fond memories and new insights informing their coursework at New Paltz. For an inside look at study abroad life, visit the blogs by **Ebony Bowens** (Kanazawa), **Theresa Steele** (Nagasaki), and **Liam Stephens** (Nanjing) at <http://abroadblogs.newpaltz.edu/>



Ebony Bowens (center) & Chris L'Abbate (R)

Kevin Lam, a senior double majoring in Asian Studies and Theater Studies, pursued eight-week intensive Vietnamese language study in the Southeast Asian Studies Summer Institute (SEASSI) at the University of Wisconsin, Madison in summer 2010.

The Center for International Programs periodically holds informational sessions about study abroad opportunities in Asia and the JET program for teaching English in Japan.

Student Scholarships for Studying Asia

SUNY New Paltz students have successfully secured scholarships and funding to continue their study of Asia in 2010-2011:

Asian Studies major **Emily Sobel** was selected in May 2010 for the Friends of Asian Studies Scholarship, administered by Asian Studies faculty and the College Foundation. As a senior in the Honors Program, Emily is writing a thesis on journalism in China and preparing for graduate study.



Xia Weng & Ling Zhao (L) take a study break to visit a temple with friends.

Xia Weng and **Ling Zhao**, both seniors, studied Chinese literature and culture at **Fudan University** in Shanghai, China during Spring 2010. Xia is majoring in Asian Studies, and Ling is currently interning with the SUNY New Paltz Foundation while completing her degree in Accounting with a minor in Asian Studies.

Twelve New Paltz students have been accepted for SUNY overseas programs in China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam for 2010-2011. **Ian Weitz** is pursuing Chinese language study at **Nanjing University**, and **Emily Sobel** was accepted for study at **Capital Normal University of China**. In Japan, **David Rubino** and **Nicole Robinson** are studying in the program at **Kanazawa University**, while **Nagasaki College of Foreign Studies** welcomes **Jonathan Aiello**, **James Thompson**, and **Nicole Christine Valentia**. Through SUNY Albany, **Ryan Arrigan** and **Jordan Blanco** are spending the academic year at **Kansai Gaidai**. Acceptances for study in South Korea include **Janet Lee** for **Yonsei University**, and **Ann Cooper**, who studied at the **Seoul International Summer School** through SUNY Stony Brook. **Katherine Jordan** will study in Vietnam.

and **Ann Cooper**, who studied at the **Seoul International Summer School** through SUNY Stony Brook. **Katherine Jordan** will study in Vietnam.

Student Organizations

Student organizations on campus help promote understanding of Asia on campus through activities like Diwali celebrations, Asian language conversation and film discussion groups, and other activities. For more information on how to get involved in **Chinese Students and Scholars Association (CSSA)**, the **Asian Student Association (ASA)**, the **Indian Hawks**, **Jam Asia**, **Japanese Club**, the **New Paltz Anime Club**, and the **South Asian Cultural Association (SACA)**, visit <http://www.newpaltzsa.com/organizations>.

The **Chinese Students and Scholars Association** has hosted many special events open to students and the campus community, including celebrations of Spring Festival and Mid-Autumn Festival with activities and refreshments. CSSA's goal is to foster cultural understanding of China and facilitate interaction and communication between students interested in China and Chinese international students. For more information about CSSA, contact **James Yanzhao Yang** 杨炎朝 at yyz20002008@gmail.com.



Ms. Su-wan Chien & Emily Sobel

Inside this issue:

Alumni News	2
Events & Cultural Tours	2
Faculty Research, Grants & Publications	3
Asian Studies Fulbright Group Project in India	3
Innovative Courses on Asia	4
New Overseas Programs	4
Friends of Asian Studies Scholarships	4

Special points of interest:

- Students study abroad in China, Japan, Korea, and Vietnam
- Film screenings, exhibits, & talks on Tibetan culture, urban history, Vietnam and China, and Hiroshima
- Faculty win grants and publish new research
- Asian Studies faculty travel through India on Fulbright-Hays grant for curriculum development
- New study abroad program in Tokyo, Japan

Alumni News

Alumni of Asian Studies have been keeping busy and keeping in touch.

Bo Huang (Class of 2007) completed his Masters' degree at the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University, with on the history of China's frontiers. He now plans to pursue a Ph.D. in the field of Tibetology. In summer 2010, he visited the Shanghai Expo.

Erynn Sarno (Class of 1998) recently met up with Profs. Elizabeth Brotherton and Kristine Harris at China Institute in New York City for the opening of the exhibition, "Inspired Prints: Woodcuts in Modern China, 1937-2008."

All alumni are warmly invited to share their news and latest activities through our convenient web form:

www.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies/alumni/questionnaire.html

We look forward to hearing from you!

Recent Events

The Asian Studies Program hosted many special events in recent months

To ring in the Year of the Tiger, Asian Studies held its annual **Spring Festival** in February 2010. In this lively gathering of students, faculty, and staff sharing interests in Asia, Chinese language instructor Jingjing Xu led interactive calligraphy demonstrations and Samantha Martin of the Center for International Programs updated students on Study Abroad news. Refreshments were supplied by the Major Connections program of the Career Resource Center.

In April 2010, Asian Studies held its annual Recognition Ceremony recognizing excellence in Asian Studies. Along with the reception, the program hosted a special guest lecture, "Living in a Foreign Land: Challenges and Experiences of Vietnamese Women Married to Chinese Men" by **Dr. Nguyen Thi Phuong Cham** from the Institute of Cultural Studies at Hanoi, Vietnam, and the Coordinate



Dr. Phuong Cham and Prof. Lauren Meeker

Research Program of Yenching Institute at Harvard University. In this lecture co-sponsored by Asian Studies, Women's Studies and the Honors Center, students and faculty learned about recent exchanges of female migrant labor, resources, and culture along the China-Vietnam border.



Erynn Sarno (second from R), with Profs. Elizabeth Brotherton and Kristine Harris, joined by Ming-mei Yip (second from L), who gave a qin performance at SUNY New Paltz for our 2009 Spring Festival

Asian Studies Cultural Tours

Each year, the Asian Studies Program faculty leads a day-long cultural tour in the region for SUNY New Paltz students, faculty, and staff with interests in Asia. In April 2010, a group of 44 spent the day visiting important cultural institutions in Manhattan, including **Asia Society** (for the special exhibit "Pilgrimage and Buddhist Art" and recent archaeological finds "Arts of Ancient Vietnam"), **China Institute** (for rare artifacts in "Confucius: His Life and Legacy in Art"), and **Japan Society** (for the vivid woodblock prints in "Graphic Heroes, Magic Monsters: Japanese Prints by Utagawa Kuniyoshi"). To receive updates about the next trip planned for 2010-2011, contact the Asian Studies Program at 845.257.3545.

Prof. Heinz Insu Fenkl (English Department) gave an illustrated lecture in April 2010, "Virtuous Killer Bees: The Culture of North Korean Comics," based on his recent research and translation project. His analysis of vivid characters like "Mighty Wing" and others offers a glimpse into the ways cold war politics and media touched even the youngest of readers.



In Spring 2010, a film series "Shanghai on Film" showcased classic and recent films—including *A Spring River Flows East* (1947), *The City that Never Sleeps* (1957)—all set in the city that became one of the leading commercial, political, and cultural hubs of modern East Asia. This series, linked with the course *Shanghai* (HIS 393 / K. Harris) was held at the Center for International Programs.

In September 2010, director **Frederick Marx** screened his new film *Journey From Zanskar* (Warrior Films, 2010)—a moving documentary about the survival of Tibetan Buddhism in Zanskar, ringed by high Himalayan mountains, the Pakistan army, and a closed Chinese Tibetan border. The film features the Dalai Lama and narration by Richard Gere. A vigorous discussion among the 100+ students, faculty, and staff followed. Sojourner Truth Library will acquire the film for educational use upon the DVD release. To learn more about the film, visit: <http://journeyfromzanskar.com/>. This event was co-sponsored by Asian Studies, Sociology, Religious Studies, and Film Studies.

Fulbright Visiting Scholar

New Paltz welcomes Fulbright scholar **Prof. Andi Faisal Bakhti** (Department of Communication, State Islamic University in Jakarta, Indonesia) in November 2010. While in the US, Prof Bakhti will meet with students and give special guest lectures at Bard College and SUNY New Paltz on topics such as communication, media, Islam, and development. Bakhti holds a Ph.D. in international communication and development at the Université du Québec, Montreal. His visit is hosted by Bard College and supported by the Southeast Asia Consortium of the Hudson Valley (SEASCOHV). Those wishing to meet Prof. Bakhti may contact Prof. **Lauren Meeker**, SEASCOHV liaison.

In commemoration of the 65th anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, Sojourner Truth Library hosted the exhibit, "**Hiroshima Speaks**," on loan from SUNY Oswego's Penfield Library. Asian Studies helped to host several events in conjunction with the exhibit in September 2010, beginning with a screening and discussion of Shohei Imamura's film *Black Rain*. The exhibit culminated with a special guest lecture and discussion by Prof. **Tomiko Morimoto West**, former faculty of Vassar College and the New Paltz Language Immersion Institute. Ms. West was 13 years old when the B-29 aircraft "Enola Gay" dropped an atomic bomb on her city, August 6th, 1945. She provided a compelling account of her experiences that deafening day. In the discussion period that followed, the audience of 120 students, faculty, and staff buzzed with questions as Ms. West energetically responded to all. The screening and talk were co-sponsored by Asian Studies, Foreign Languages, and the Sojourner Truth Library.



Tomiko Morimoto West (center), with (L to R): Chisato Masuda, Moto Imai, Dylan McGee, Valerie Mittenberg, and Kristine Harris

Faculty Research, Grants, and Publications

Prof. Sunita Bose (Sociology) published an article, "The Study of Gender in India: A Partial Re-view" (co-authored with B. Purakayastha, Mangala Subramaniam, Manisha Desai), in *Global Gender Research*, edited by Christine Bose and Minjeong Kim (Routledge, 2009). She also co-authored a paper with Darian Pucciarelli (Class of 2010), on violence against women in India, presented at the Eastern Sociological Society annual conference in Boston. Prof. Bose continues to serve as Project Director for the Fulbright GPA grant at SUNY New Paltz.

Prof. Elizabeth Brotherton (Art History) is currently on sabbatical, traveling through China in autumn 2010 to view paintings in important collections in Jilin, Liaoning, Shanghai, and the Beijing Palace Museum, among others, as part of a project funded by a Research and Creative Projects Award. During this trip she also visits National Taiwan University to present a paper, "Colophons on Chinese Paintings: A Case Study of an Early Fourteenth Century Handscroll Painted in the Court of Emperor Yuan Renzong."

Ms. Su-wan Chien (Foreign Languages-Chinese instructor) was recognized by the Association of Chinese Schools (NJ), and was also selected for a Friends of Asian Studies part-time faculty award, for her excellence in teaching Chinese.

Prof. David Elstein (Philosophy) is currently on fellowship leave at the Academia Sinica in Taiwan. As a Postdoctoral Fellow in the prominent Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, he has written several articles and lectured on his research, including "Why Early Confucianism Cannot Generate Democracy" for *Dao: A Journal of Comparative Philosophy*, and "New Confucian Democracy," presented at the International Chinese Language Program (ICLP) at National Taiwan University. Prof. Elstein recently observed the celebration of the 2560th birthday of Confucius at the Kong Miao (Confucius Temple) in Taipei.

For more information about faculty areas of expertise and recent accomplishments, visit the Asian Studies website

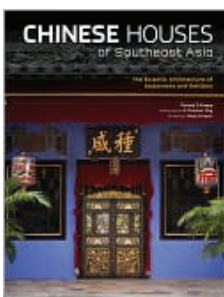
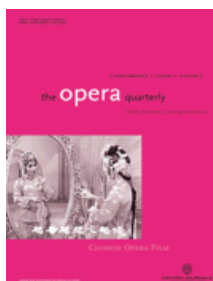
www.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies and the *SUNY New Paltz Experts Database:*

www.newpaltz.edu/publicaffairs/experts/

Asian Studies Fulbright-Hays Group Project in India

A Fulbright-Hays Group Projects Abroad grant for curriculum development secured by the Asian Studies Program brought twelve educators to India for a month of study in January 2010, to enrich and deepen our teaching of Asia with greater focus on the diversity of India and its interactions with other regions of Asia. Led by Project Director Prof. Sunita Bose, the group visited a wide range of historic and religious sites, villages, and educational institutions in rural and urban settings across India, including Sunderbans, Agra, Fatepuhr Sikri, Mumbai, and Goa. Faculty participated in weekly seminars on to India's cultural history,

Prof. Kristine Harris (History & Director of Asian Studies) published a new article "Re-Makes/Re-Models: *The Red Detachment of Women* from Stage to Screen," on the iconic revolutionary opera, in a special issue of the *Opera Quarterly* (summer 2010). She also served as a moderator for the panel "Migrant Lives: Documentary and Discussion" in the conference "Prosperity and Inequality: India and China in Global Perspective," at the India-China Institute of The New School for Social Research.



and HKU's Shanghai Study Center, and is conducting workshops for graduate students in HKU's Architecture Conservation Program and lectures on "China's Geographic Diversity" for China Institute's TeachChina program.

Ms. Chisato Masuda (Foreign Languages-Japanese) joins us from the University of Oregon, where she recently completed an MA in Linguistics. Ms. Masuda is a native of Shizuoka Prefecture in Japan, home to Mount Fuji.

Prof. Dylan McGee (Foreign Languages-Japanese) was awarded a Florence Tan Moeson Fellowship from the Asian Division of the Library of Congress to conduct research for his translation of the 18th century short story collection by Ueda Akinari, *Shodo kikimimi sekenzaru* (Worldly Monkeys with Ears for the Arts). His article "Enjiro's Revenge: Parodic Constructions of Masculinity in Early Modern Kibyoshi," recently appeared in the Proceedings of the Association for Japanese Literary Studies (2010). Prof. McGee also gave presentations and lectures on Japanese literature at the Library of Congress and the Association for Asian Studies.

politics, religion, and society, studied rare artifacts and artworks housed in the museums at Kolkata and Delhi, and acquired valuable teaching materials. Prof. Akira Shimada served as Scholar Escort, lending his expertise on the cultural history of early India as the group visited Sarnath, Varanasi, Ajanta, Ellora, and Elephanta. Asian Studies Profs. Elizabeth Brotherton, Kristine Harris, Dylan McGee, and Jonathan Schwartz are preparing new course material based on the grant. Other participants in the Fulbright project include Profs. Anne Roschelle (Sociology), Laura Dull (Education), and Dr. Omar Nagi (College of Mount

Prof. Lauren Meeker (Anthropology) presented a paper, "Learning *Quan ho* Folk Song in an Age of 'Authenticity,'" at the EUROSEAS (European South-east Asian Studies Conference) in Gothenburg, Sweden in August 2010. She has also completed a film, *Drums on the Red River*, about the Chu Dong Tu folk festival at the Da Hoa Temple in Hung Yen Province, Vietnam, and serves as Co-director of the Visual Anthropology Initiative, a collaborative project to train Vietnamese ethnographers in visual anthropology funded by the Ford Foundation. She was also selected for a UUP Individual Professional Development Award.

Prof. Jonathan Schwartz (Political Science) was selected as a National Asia Research Program / Woodrow Wilson Fellowship for 2010-2011, and presented his research on comparative pandemic response at the Asia Policy Assembly in Washington DC in summer 2010, to be included in an edited volume focusing on non-traditional security challenges. The volume he co-edited with Shawn Shieh *State and Society responses to social welfare needs in China: Serving the People* (Routledge, 2009) was recently issued in paperback. Prof. Schwartz was interviewed in May by the online journal *The Diplomat* about lessons for pandemic control from China's SARS response.

Prof. Akira Shimada (History) successfully completed an Andrew Mellon Fellowship at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in summer 2010, and presented a paper entitled "The Formation of Andhran Buddhist Narrative: A Preliminary Survey" at an international conference in Bangkok, Thailand. Prof. Shimada also authored a successful grant application for the "100 Books for Understanding Contemporary Japan Award" from Nippon Foundation, which brought many important new publications on Japan to the Sojourner Truth Library collection. During the past year, he was also selected for a Research and Creative Projects Award and a UUP Individual Professional Development Award.

Ms. Carrie Qian Zhang (Foreign Languages-Chinese instructor) is an alumna of SUNY New Paltz and began teaching Chinese language classes this fall, and also meets regularly with students for Mandarin conversation and film screenings.



Saint Vincent), and five teachers selected from area schools. Participants met for workshops before and after the trip, guided by Prof. Emerita Sipra Johnson (Anthropology, SUNY New Paltz) and Prof. Emeritus Glen Johnson (Political Science and International Relations, Vassar College). *Watch for new and expanded courses & special events relating to India in the coming year!*

Asian Studies Program

SUNY New Paltz
Faculty Tower 916
600 Hawk Drive
New Paltz, NY 12561

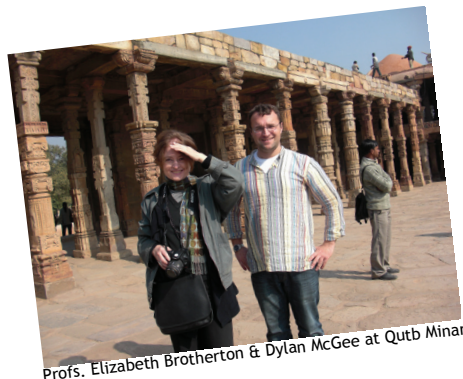
Phone: 845.257.3545
Fax: 845.257.2735

Program Director:
Kristine Harris

Intern:
Ling Zhao

We're on the Web!
www.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies

Students may subscribe to our e-mail list by contacting the program office.



profs. Elizabeth Brotherton & Dylan McGee at Qutb Minar

Innovative Courses on Asia

SUNY New Paltz offers a wide range of courses on Asia from a dozen disciplines and exciting interdisciplinary perspectives. Each year, our faculty develop and refine courses to offer students new insight into the latest findings on Asia and developments in the field. These courses help fulfill requirements and electives in a variety of majors and minors at New Paltz.

Courses of special interest in 2010-2011 include:

ANT 414 *The Anthropology of Performance* explores, through cross-cultural examples, the cultural conditions of aesthetic experience, the role of the audience, and how performance can create shared identity, voice protest, or promote ideology. (L. Meeker)

ARH 345 *Art in Modern China* examines the many artistic roads and philosophical solutions that have been explored in the Chinese art world, and the astonishing changes this world has undergone from the mid-19th through the early 21st century. (M. Yun)

ENG 293-01 *English & World Literature Selected Topics* explores Buddhist myth. (H. Fenkl)

JPN 293-01 *History of Manga* traces the emergence of manga as the premiere genre of narrative fiction in post-bubble Japan to its origins as an early modern mode of comic illustration. Analysis of pictorial and narrative aspects of manga, as well as examinations into the historical development of genre-defining conventions, will center on seminal texts and major authors. All readings in English. (D. McGee)

HIS 393-01 *Shanghai* tracks the multiform significance of Shanghai as an artistic and commercial center, as a catalyst for China's modern economic and technological development, and as a setting for radical politics, espionage, and intrigue. With special attention to the rise of modern media in Shanghai, we explore the essential relationships among the arts, politics, and commerce proliferating in this multinational city. Interconnections and comparisons with urban histories in other cultures will also be discussed. (K. Harris)

POL 393-03 *Comparative Politics of China and India* focuses on the lessons we can derive from studying the different development paths these two countries have followed as rising powers of the 21st century undergoing transitions to modern industrial states. How do they differ, how are they similar and does one approach seem more effective than the other? We will also spend some time considering the relationship between the two countries, recognizing their growing importance as major international players. (J. Schwartz)

Friends of Asian Studies

Established in 2006 by Asian Studies Alumni and Friends of Asian Studies, this endowment provides a margin of excellence by supporting initiatives the Asian Studies Program deems most beneficial to Asian Studies majors. Fundable initiatives include student scholarships, as well as activities such as undergraduate involvement in faculty research, independent student research, and travel support for study abroad opportunities in Asia.

To learn how you can support the Friends of Asian Studies, please visit: <http://www.newpaltz.edu/foundation/>

Scholarships for Asian Studies

Planning to continue to deepen your study of Asia in the coming year?

Apply for the Friends of Asian Studies Scholarship and the India Academic Award.

Guidelines appear in the Scholarship Book:

www.newpaltz.edu/foundation/scholarships_book.html

Questions? Contact the Asian Studies office 845.257.3545 for more information.

NYCAS 2012 at New Paltz

The New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) will be hosted by SUNY New Paltz once again on September 28-29, 2012. NYCAS is one of the largest of the regional organizations of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS). A scholarly, non-political, non-profit professional association open to all persons interested in Asia, AAS is the largest society of its kind, with approximately 7,000 members worldwide.

NYCAS features panel presentations of new scholarship on Asia, gallery exhibits at the Samuel A. Dorsky museum, book exhibits of new publications in Asian Studies, a plenary speaker, and a performance open to the public. Students, faculty, and alums are invited to attend, and those interested in proposing panels, paper presentations, or other activities may e-mail our Conference Co-Chairs, Profs. Dylan McGee and Akira Shimada. For more information, contact the Asian Studies Program office.

New Overseas Program in Japan

SUNY New Paltz is introducing a new study abroad program starting in Fall 2012 at Meiji University in Tokyo, Japan. Students will be able to study Japanese language while taking classes in English in the Global Japanese Studies Program with Japanese students. Currently, SUNY New Paltz is hosting exchange students from Meiji University and this opportunity in Tokyo exists because of the reciprocal exchange agreement between SUNY New Paltz and Meiji University.

SUNY New Paltz continues to offer study abroad programs at Kanazawa University and Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies in Japan, Nanjing University in China, as well as Payap University in Chiang Mai Thailand and Loreto College in Kolkata India through the International Partnership for Service Learning.

If you have questions about study abroad programs in Asia, please contact the Center for International Programs at studyabroad@newpaltz.edu or 845-257-3125.

Upcoming Events

November 5, 2010 *The Economic Status of Racial Minorities: Parity or Unequal?*

Dr. Marlene Kim (Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Massachusetts, Boston) will discuss the economic status of racial and ethnic minorities in the United States, with special attention to Asian Americans and women of color. Dr. Kim, a prize-winning scholar who has authored numerous articles, recently edited the volume *Race and Economic Opportunity in the Twenty-First Century* (Routledge 2007). She holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California, Berkeley, and serves as Associate Editor of the journal *Feminist Economics*. Co-sponsors for this event include Asian Studies and Women's Studies.

February 2011 Leap into the Year of the Rabbit.

Call the Asian Studies Program at 845.257.3545 for details.