

Asian Studies Perspectives

A Message From The New Director

The Asian Studies Program at SUNY New Paltz is currently undergoing a change in directors. Professor Jonathan Schwartz (Political Science) is taking over from Professor Kristine Harris (History), who held the position since 1998.

Dear all,
I am very excited to be taking up the responsibilities of Director of Asian Studies after many years of dedicated service by professor Kristine Harris. During her tenure as director, professor Harris was instrumental in moving the Asian Studies program from a simple contract major to its current form – a full program with a growing faculty, ever increasing numbers of majors and minors, and many new and exciting initiatives. Among these, the recent successfully hosted NY Conference on Asian Studies, and our upcoming hiring of two new faculty to teach Chinese and Japanese language, literature and culture.

As Asia grows increasingly important in the world so too does the need to understand and engage Asia. The Asian Studies Program is well placed to play an important role in “bringing Asia to New Paltz”. I look forward to expanding our program and sharing our news with you. I encourage you to be in touch with us to share your own news as well. Better yet, come to New Paltz for a visit and see for yourselves the progress we have made.

-Jonathan Schwartz



Kristine Harris receives a plaque of appreciation from Jonathan Schwartz

Student Experiences

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



Lani Nelson (above), an Asian Studies major and linguistics minor, spent the 2011-12 academic year in Nanjing, China. She then spent the summer in Yongin, South

Korea. Lani had this to say about her year-long experience abroad:

“I feel that the biggest difference between me before and after study abroad is that since returning, my goals have become more clear and I been taking more deliberate steps to achieve them.”

Luther Richardson (below), a sophomore double major in Asian Studies and



International relations, recently participated in a 2-week Language and Cultural program based at Taiwan’s National Taipei University. After his short but enriching experience, Luther had this to say:

“This summer I had the wonderful opportunity to attend the Summer Language and Culture Program at National Taipei University. As a result of attending this program, I have gained an appreciation for Taiwanese and Asian culture that I would not have been able to attain otherwise.”

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Study Abroad and Scholarship Recipients

Many SUNY New Paltz students have studied abroad in Asia this past year, Many have received scholarships to do so.
Study Abroad Fall 2012

Oliver Diller - Nanjing University, China
Sarah Gleason - Meiji University, Japan
Lindsay Wasserman - Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies, Japan
Alana Mango - Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies, Japan
Jeffrey Cifuentes - Kansai Gaidai University, Japan
Ekene-Maria Udeke - Korea University,

South Korea
Ari Kaputkin - National Taiwan University, Taiwan

Study Abroad Summer 2012

Youssef Kouyo - Dankook University, South Korea
Lani Nelson - Dankook University, South Korea
Ekene-Maria Udeke - Dankook University, South Korea
Luther Richardson - National Taipei University, Taiwan

Award Recipients

Jeffrey Cifuentes and **Ari Kaputkin** were awarded Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarships. Jeffrey also received a Freeman-Asia Scholarship. These are nationally competitive scholarships.

Ryan Bibbens and **Sara Gleason** both received the “Friends of Asian Studies” Scholarship funded through the Friends of Asian Studies Endowment.

Alumni News

Cornelius (Neal) Johnson '72, Mary Lou Yip Louie Wu '72, and Margaret Smith '76, each of whom were active in the Asian Studies Program in the 1970s, attended the recent Fall 2012 Alumni Weekend at the college. Ron Knapp and Neal Johnson last crossed paths in Singapore in early summer 1971 when Neal was completing a year's study in the initial year of the SUNY New Paltz/Albany Chinese Language Program at Nanyang University and Ron was just arriving with his family as the Director of the exchange program and visiting professor for the following year. Although out-of-touch since, it was great to learn that Neal then completed a round-the-world journey home, including time in many Asian countries, before moving to Japan where he taught English in the Berlitz program for more than two decades. He has now returned to the US. We missed getting news of **May Lou Yip Louie**, but under-

stand she still lives in New York and is active in the Chinese American community. **Margaret Smith**, who graduated in the last Asian Studies class before the program was suspended, is an attorney in Ulster County.

Rick Hessney '72 completed a PhD in Chinese language and literature from Columbia University, teaching at Brooklyn College before moving on to Reader's Digest as an editor. He learned recently that a translation he did of a Yuan dynasty play will be published by Columbia University Press in a book co-edited by Wai-ye Li (Harvard) and C.T. Hsia (Columbia) in 2013.

Dave Riggle '73, who is Managing Partner of Riggle & Craven practicing international trade and customs law, reports that he travels regularly to China and Japan on business, continues to build on a foundation set as an undergraduate in Asian Studies at SUNY

New Paltz followed by a graduate degree in Japanese Studies at the Rackham Graduate School of the University of Michigan.

Denis Simon '74, after serving as Vice Provost for International Affairs at the University of Oregon, accepted a position at Arizona State University as Vice Provost for China Initiatives and Strategy in early 2012.

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!

East-West Living Learning Community



Members of the 2012-2013 Living-Learning Community

The East-West Living & Learning Community was revived last year by Professor Harris with the idea of bringing Asian students and American students together. Half of the residents are international students from Asia and the other half are Asian language learners. The logic behind this community is that students have increased opportunities to practice their language skills. Currently the community has Chinese and Japanese international students, along with American students studying the respective languages. In addition to improving their language skills, American students are exposed to Asian culture through sharing the same suite of rooms in Crispell Hall. The Living & Learning community provides our American students with a "mini-study abroad experience here on campus. Our

international students also benefit from the Living & Learning Community because they have the opportunity to more fully engage American culture and lifestyle.



Christian Wilwohl (Center for International Studies) talks to students about studying abroad in Asia

Student participants not only live in the same suite, but also sponsor public events that include non-residents. For example, the Living & Learning Community recently held a study abroad panel drawing interested students from across the campus. Students who have studied abroad in Asia, as well as exchange students from universities in Asia, spoke about their experiences. Jonathan Schwartz, Director of Asian Studies, as well as Christian Wilwohl,

who is the Center for International Programs coordinator of Asian initiatives, both participated. They provided information for students considering study abroad in Asia, such as what to expect when arriving in Asia, as well as details of the procedures necessary to obtain acceptance to these programs.

Overall, the reviving of the East-West Living & Learning Community has been well received. Students are not only learning a great deal about the cultures and languages of the countries they are studying, but are building life-long friendships while doing so.



Members of the 2012-2013 Living-Learning Community

Faculty Research, Grants, and Publications

Asian Studies faculty have had an impressively productive 2012. Publication of monographs, articles and chapters as well as international and domestic presentations and lectures on their research have been coupled with successes in obtaining fellowships and grants for research abroad. The Asian Studies faculty continue to be among the most productive scholars on campus. A selected list of highlights appears below:

Elizabeth Brotherton is the Chair of the Art History Department. In addition to her administrative tasks, in 2012 she gave an invited talk, "Looking at Chinese Paintings," at the Asia Society in NY. She also published two book reviews in the *Journal of Asian Studies*, one titled "Richard Edwards, *The Heart of Ma Yuan: The Search for a Southern Song Aesthetic*" and the second, forthcoming in 2013, "Daan Pan, *The Lyrical Resonance between Chinese Poets and Painters: The Tradition and Poetics of Tihuashi*." During the NYCAS conference she was Chair and Discussant for the panel "Ushio Shinohara and Postwar Japanese Painting."

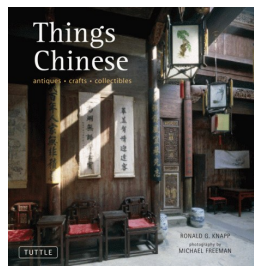
David Elstein (Philosophy), had three articles published in 2012. These included "Beyond the Five Relationships: Rulers and Teachers in Early China," *Philosophy East and West* (July 2012); "Mou Zongsan's New Confucian Democracy," *Contemporary Political Theory* (May 2012); and "儒家与民族主义-对贝淡宁的回应 [Confucianism and Nationalism: A Response to Daniel Bell]." *Beijing Cultural Review* (in Chinese) (October 2011). In addition he presented three conference papers at international and national venues, and gave an invited lecture on Democracy and Confucianism at Columbia University. Finally, Prof. Elstein also co-chaired the NY Conference on Asian Studies held at SUNY New Paltz in Fall 2012.

Kristine Harris (History) published 民国时期的上海电影与城市文化 [Film and Culture in Republican China], edited by Zhang Yingjin (Peking Uni-

versity Press, 2011). In 2012, Harris presented a paper in Mandarin that investigates 1920s opera and film in Beijing. Harris was also instrumental in establishing the East-West Connection Living & Learning Community.

Heinz Fenkl (English) published a number of translations, including *Zen poems by Master Cho Oh-hyun, abbot of Baekdamsa Temple as part of the practice of hwadu*. His *COMMIE COMIX!* (provisional title) is a book of essays and translations of comics from North Korea. This work has attracted much interest, resulting in interviews on BBC World News and PRI International (listen at: <http://tbook.org/heinz-insu-fenkl>). (Confucius Temple) in Taipei.

Ron Knapp (Geography, Emeritus) published *Things Chinese: Antiques, Crafts, Collectibles* as well as 《家-中国人的居家文化》, the Chinese translation of his 2005 co-edited book *House Home Family: Living and Being Chinese*. He wrote the curricular materials that accompany the video "The Lessons of the Loess Plateau" for **Digital Asia: Bringing Asia into the Classroom**



<http://www.digitaliasia.illinois.edu/> In addition, he served as external evaluator on PhD dissertation committees in the Departments of Architecture at the Chinese University of Hong Kong and Oxford Brookes University in the UK

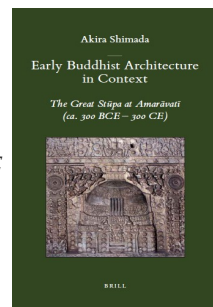
Sara Hsu (Economics) had seven publications in 2012. Among these, "Development and Legitimacy of Chinese Informal Finance" *The Pacific Review*; "Increasing Damage of Man-Made Crises: Financial Crises and Global Instability" *Journal of Economic Issues*, and "Chinese Shadow Financial System," (In Chinese) with Jianjun Li, *Chinese National Social Science Foundation Report*. Hsu was a recipient of a National Taiwan Fellowship (government of Taiwan/ROC) and spent time collecting data and lecturing in Taiwan, China and

Japan over the summer.

Lauren Meeker (Anthropology) had two film screenings, one in Yale the other at NYCAS. She also gave numerous presentations domestically and abroad focusing on Vietnamese Quan ho Folk Songs. One of the presentations was in collaboration with one of our Asian Studies students – Kevin Lam. Look for her forthcoming book *Sounding Out Heritage: Cultural Politics and the Social Practice of Folk Music in Northern Vietnam* (University of Hawaii Press).

Jonathan Schwartz (Political Science & IR) had two publications this year, "Pandemic Responses in the Asia-Pacific: Risk and Opportunity in PRC's International Relations," in *China's Challenges to Human Security: Foreign Relations and Global Implications* (London: Routledge, 2012); and "Compensating for the Authoritarian Advantage in Crisis Response: A comparative case study of SARS pandemic responses in China and Taiwan," *Journal of Chinese Political Science* (July 2012). Schwartz was a recipient of a National Taiwan Fellowship (government of Taiwan/ROC) and spent time collecting data and lecturing in Taiwan and China over the summer. Schwartz also participated in a panel at the NYCAS 2012 this year with two students from New Paltz called: "Stimulating the Six Party Talks: Nuclear Negotiation in the Classroom". Also, he took over Directorship of Asian Studies at New Paltz in fall 2012.

Akira Shimada (History) published "The Use of Garden Imagery in Early Indian Buddhism" in *Adorning the Earth and Perfuming the Heart: Gardens and Landscapes in the Deccan* (New Delhi: Routledge, 2012), and *Early Buddhist Architecture in Context: Amarāvati Stūpa (ca. 300 BCE - 300 CE)* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2012). He also presented on his research in India and the United States. Finally, Shimada was the co-chair of the NY Conference on Asian Studies held at New Paltz in fall 2012.



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/

In recent years, SUNY New Paltz has seen a resurgence of interest in its Asian themed clubs, resulting in increased participation among students!

Jam Asia is a solely student-run club showcasing Asian Culture through a week of fashion and dance events in April. Participants choreograph, develop the fashion designs and model them. They are also responsible for the many other aspects that go into making Jam Asia possible. Preparation begins in the fall, with organizing and recruiting for the dance and modeling. At this time planning the various events

Student Organizations

also begins. In a big extravaganza, a major talent show caps the Jam Asia week with members performing and presenting everything they have learned and worked towards during the year.

Asian Students Association is a student run club with the mission to provide the campus with opportunities to explore Asian American issues. Club members seek to create a space for students to talk about Asian American topics such as stereotyping and identity. The club seeks to spread awareness of Asian American issues by working closely with other social

and cultural clubs and academic departments on campus.

Chinese Student & Scholar Association was originally founded to serve Chinese students coming to campus from China. The club has expanded its role to now include helping students develop a better understanding of Chinese culture. CSSA seeks to enhance friendship and cultural understanding between the Chinese student population at SUNY New Paltz and the rest of the campus's student body.



NYCAS 2012 at SUNY New Paltz!

The New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) was hosted by SUNY New Paltz 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 2012 at New Paltz was among the largest in NYCAS history! The conference included almost 60 panels, over 200 presenters from around the world, and a variety of cultural events. Highlights included a talk on natural and unnatural disasters in Japan by Theodor Bestor, President of the Association for Asian Studies, an evening performance of Indian music by the Neel Murgai Ensemble, and a demonstration of Boxing Painting by Ushio Shinohara (check out the demonstration at: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IxM_6wQGmSk). The conference ran smoothly and was a true success in large part due to the Conference co-chairs, Profs. **Akira Shimada and David Elstein**. For more information, contact the Asian Studies Program office or check out the conference website at: <http://www.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies/nycas/>.

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/>

Please be sure to specify Friends of Asian Studies in your donation!

Ushio Shinohara (Right) creating one of his original works of art in SUNY New Paltz's very own Fine Arts Building!



Photo by:
Brooke Vankleek

Scholarships for Asian Studies

Are you a student 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

A History Of Asian Studies at New Paltz

Asian Studies has a distinguished history at SUNY New Paltz dating back to the late 1960s, when some 21 faculty taught Asian Studies at the college, including a 3-credit "Introduction to Asia" course that was required of all students, and the languages Chinese, Japanese, Hindi, and Arabic.

The college and the field itself have undergone many changes since then, and for a period after the department was reorganized into a program in 1979, students could only specialize in Asia by pursuing an ad-hoc contract major in Asian Studies. Our faculty have made it a priority to reinvigorate the program in line with global, national, and state trends and the SUNY New Paltz college mission. We are proud to celebrate the growth of our program since the late 1990s, which has resulted in a gradual regeneration in staffing and a new major in Asian Studies, submitted in 2002 and approved by New York State in December 2005.

The Asian Studies Program has steadily grown and flourished with new faculty hires across the disciplines, increasing enrollments, a diversified curriculum, and accomplished alumni. Fifteen faculty now regularly teach courses on Asia and work to promote understanding of Asia across many sectors of the campus, with students, alumni, and the community, and in the scholarly field. Notably, New Paltz now occupies a unique position in SUNY as the sole SUNY comprehensive college offering a BA in Asian Studies.

New Overseas Program in Taiwan

SUNY New Paltz has introduced a new study abroad program starting in Summer 2012 at **National Taipei University, Taiwan**. Students study Mandarin while participating in an intensive two week cultural program. In agreement with National Taipei University, New Paltz students can attend this program for free, paying only for their airfare to Taiwan.

SUNY New Paltz continues to offer study abroad programs at **Kanazawa University, Meiji University and Nagasaki University of Foreign Studies in Japan; Nanjing University in China; and Korea and Dankook Universities in South Korea**. As well, through our relationship with International Partnership for Service Learning, we offer opportunities at **Payap University** in Chiang Mai Thailand and **Loreto College** in Kolkata India.

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.