

# Asian Studies Program

Volume 4  
2013-2014

## A Message From The Director

Dear all,

At the conclusion of my first year as Director of Asian Studies there is much to report on recent and planned developments. Perhaps the most exciting news is our recent successful hiring, in collaboration with the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures, of two new tenure-track faculty! Dr. Zhang Hanmo received his Ph.D. from UCLA and will be teaching Chinese language, culture and literature here on campus. He is joined by Dr. Nathen Clerici who received his Ph.D. from the University of British Columbia. Dr. Clerici will be teaching Japanese language, culture and literature. As a result of their arrival, Asian Studies once again has a full complement of tenure-track language faculty. We are very excited to welcome them into our community (read more about them on page 2). A selection of other highlights include the Asian Studies program ongoing collaboration with the Samuel Dorsky Museum and the Rubin museum in NYC, to bring an exhibit of Modern Tibetan Art titled "Anonymous" to campus. The exhibit will run through mid-December, with related activities including guest speakers, a symposium and guided tours with some of the artists. Learn more about the exhibit at: <http://www.newpaltz.edu/museum/exhibitions/anonymous.html>.

The East-West Living-Learning Community has grown and now includes students with interest in both China and Japan (read more about it on Pg. 4). We are also building a new relationship with Guangxi Normal University and the Chinese Language Institute in Guilin, China. We look forward to sending our students and faculty there to study and teach in one of China's most beautiful cities. In our own region, the newly established Mid-Hudson Valley Asianists organization held two successful meetings, drawing together Asia-focused faculty from across the region. Our third meeting will be in Fall 2013 at SUNY New Paltz (read more about it on pg. 5). Finally, SUNY New Paltz has become a member of AsiaNetwork (<http://www.asianetwork.org/>). This organization provides our faculty and students with many wonderful opportunities, including faculty-student research trips to Southeast and East Asia (read more about it on pg. 5). In short, this past year has been a busy one, and the year ahead looks to be no different. We have planned many opportunities, programs and events that will enrich the experience of the entire college community. Why not come for a visit and experience all that we are doing yourself?

Jonathan Schwartz, Director of Asian Studies

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### Keeping in Touch

Next year, *The Asian Studies Newsletter* is going electronic!

For regular updates, join our Facebook group: **Asian Studies Community of New Paltz**

Like our Facebook page: **SUNY New Paltz Asian Studies Program**.

**AND:** Send us your email address so that we can send you future newsletters. Send to:

[schwartzj@newpaltz.edu](mailto:schwartzj@newpaltz.edu)

At left, Alumnus Michael Boccio talking with students about his experiences working in Asia during a personal Q & A session at the East-West Living Learning Community's Crispell Hall. (October 2013)



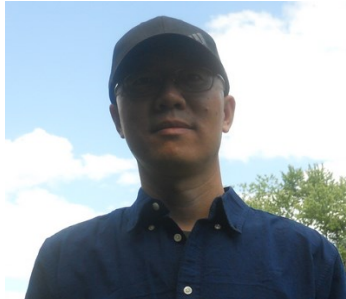
# Meet Our New Faculty Members!

*SUNY New Paltz is proud to announce that the Asian Studies Program has gained two new full time faculty members! Both Dr. Nathan Clerici and Dr. Zhang Hanmo are excited to be joining the Asian Studies Program, as they prepare to bring new courses and a new richness to the program!*



Hello, my name is Nathan Clerici. I've lived in Vancouver, British Columbia for the past several years as I worked on my PhD in Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia. I am originally from Colorado, where I attended the University of Denver and the University of Colorado. Since 1999, I have lived in Japan off and on for seven years for both work and study. My areas of specialization include modern Japanese literature, culture and film, but I am also interested in subcultural studies and issues of marginality. Although I come from a litera-

ture background, I am drawn to Japanese popular culture as well. Manga, anime, J-Pop and other forms of Japanese culture are popular all over the world, but they have roots in older literary and aesthetic forms. The SUNY New Paltz Asian Studies Program has a strong tradition and I look forward to being a part of its present and future. My career has been guided by a passion for new experiences and sharing them with like-minded people -- thanks to the vibrant atmosphere at New Paltz, I am sure those experiences will continue. Together we will explore how Asian cultures travel and, in the process, learn about the world at large. As one would say in Japan: "Yoroshiku onegai shimasu!" ("I look forward to working with you.")



Hello there! My name is Zhang Hanmo. I was born and

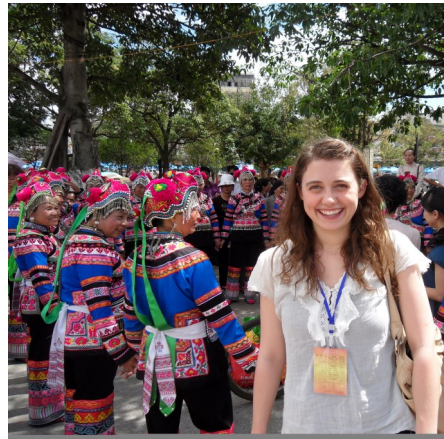
raised in Shandong, a northeastern province of China. However, I received my higher education in Beijing, working on Population Studies during my undergraduate years and on Modern Chinese Literature for my first masters degree at Renmin (or People's) University. After graduation, I worked as an editor for a Beijing magazine before moving to Western Michigan University to study pre-Modern Chinese History, my second masters degree. This finally led to my pursuit of a Ph. D in Early Chinese Literature and Historiography at UCLA. It is a curiosity about humans' past and my deep love of knowledge itself that have been the impetus to my investment in these fields. This may also have something to do with my family tradition, a tradition that tremendously values education. My grandfather was a great educator before retirement. Several uncles and aunts of mine on both sides are teachers. All have deeply influenced me since my early age. They have also inspired me to be a good teacher, which happens to be a role modeled by Confucius, my townsman, over 2,500 years ago. Another reason motivating me to be a teacher is the aim to pay back the public educational system, both in China and the US, for the opportunities I have enjoyed. As a product of the public education system, I would like to offer my contribution, however limited, by joining my colleagues to ensure it continues to function and to help make it ever better.

## Updates From Our Alumni!



**Bruce Sillner**, Dean of International Programs with **Denis Simon** ('74), currently Vice Provost of International Strategic Initiatives at Arizona State University, at the 2004 Asian Studies Alumni Reunion.

**Lianna Faruolo** ('11) has been living in Taiwan for the past two years where she is studying Mandarin at the Chinese Language Department of National Taiwan University. Recently she received a prestigious Huayu Scholarship from the Taiwan government to advance her studies. Last year she interned at the American Chamber of Commerce and now continues to contribute to its monthly publication Taiwan Business TOP-ICS. She occasionally publishes articles on Taiwan's political and defense situations for a variety of English language publications in the region.



**Amanda Cheney** ('08) is currently getting her Ph.D. at Cornell University Center for International Studies. Her research focuses on International Relations and State Formation in China's Borderlands, specifically looking at ethnic minority rebellions against the Chinese state. Prior to that she spent one year improving her Mandarin at National Taiwan Normal University and one year in an environmental NGO in Jackson Hole Wyoming. Pictured is Amanda at an Yi minority festival in Chuxiong, Yunnan province, China.



**Derryl MacLean** '72 (Asian Studies Major), Director of the Centre for the Comparative Study of Muslim Societies and Cultures and Associate Professor in the Department of History at Simon Fraser University, Canada, is the co-editor with Sikeena Karmali Ahmed of a new book 'Cosmopolitanisms in Muslim Contexts: Perspectives from the Past' (Edinburgh University Press). <http://www.euppublishing.com/book/9780748644568>



# 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) is working on a book entitled *Democracy in Contemporary Confucian Philosophy*, which should be done next year. He also gave a paper at the Association for Asian Studies annual conference. Additionally he has also been awarded the Taiwan Fellowship for his research in Taiwan this past summer.

**Kristine Harris** (History) was selected for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Excellence in

Service Award in 2012 for her work directing the Asian Studies Program from 1999-2012. While on sabbatical in 2012-2013, Harris conducted archival research in China on a Research and Creative Projects Award. She also gave the third annual Mary Martin McLaughlin Memorial Lecture at The University of Nebraska-Lincoln, and a research lecture at The University of Chicago Center for East Asian Studies.

In addition, Kristine Harris has published two book chapters, "Ombres Chinoises: The Parallel Lives of Love and Duty," in *The Oxford Handbook of Chinese Cinemas* (London: Oxford University Press, 2013), and "Two Stars on the Silver Screen: The Metafilm as Chinese Modern," in *History in Images: Pictures and Public Space in Modern China* (University of California, Berkeley, IEAS Monographs, 2012).

**Lauren Meeker** (Anthropology) Co-edited with Sam Pack (Kenyon College) a special issue of the journal *Visual Anthropology: Visual Anthropology in Vietnam*, vol. 26(3), 2013. She also co-authored "Drums on the Red River: the Making of a Vietnamese Ethnographic Film," *Visual Anthropology* 26(3):247-265, 2013., and contributed a chapter, "Cultural Expert, Nghệ nhân" in *Figures of Southeast Asian Modernity*. Joshua Barker, Erik Harms, and Johan Lindquist (ed.) (Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2013).

Working with a student, she produced "CQ, CQ, CQ...Who's Your Elmer" a 23 minute film co-

produced and edited with Anthropology major Dylan Lewis. The film was screened at the Student Research Symposium in May 2013. Finally, she has a book forthcoming: *Sounding Out Heritage: Cultural Politics and the Social Practice of Quan ho Folk Song in Northern Vietnam*. Honolulu: University of Hawai'i Press (October 2013).

**Jonathan Schwartz** (Political Science) is director of Asian Studies. In 2012 Schwartz utilized the second half of his Taiwan fellowship to conduct research on pandemic response in Taiwan. In 2012-13 he published one article in the *Journal of Chinese Political Science* titled "Compensating for the Authoritarian Advantage in Crisis Response: A comparative case study of SARS pandemic responses in China and Taiwan." He also published a book chapter with R.D. Schwartz, "Effectively Responding to Pandemics: Adapting Responses to Differing Institutional Circumstances in the United States and China," in *New Security Challenges in Asia* (Woodrow Wilson Center). Finally, with Dr. Alan Zelicoff, he published an article in *The Diplomat*, an online journal on the Asia Pacific, titled "Is China Really Ready for the Next Influenza Outbreak?" <http://thediplomat.com/2013/08/05/is-china-really-ready-for-the-next-influenza-outbreak/>

*For more information about faculty areas of expertise and recent accomplishments, visit the Asian Studies website [www.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies](http://www.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies) and the SUNY New Paltz Experts*

## Study Abroad Highlight

*Numerous Asian Studies students have embarked on a Study Abroad Journey. This is just one small look into the particular experience of Richard Kisoo Kim. Richard's Study Abroad program was through SUNY Stony Brook. A privilege all SUNY Students have access to is the Study Abroad opportunities with any university in the SUNY system.*

This past summer, I participated in a one month internship in China at a major hotel in Shanghai. As a result of the internship my Mandarin improved tremendously. By the time I left I was able to stand before a group of workers and give a speech in Mandarin (with a bit of Shanghainese thrown in)! It was truly a rewarding experience. I only wish it could have lasted longer. -Richard Kisoo



## Student Organizations

*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

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 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

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

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.

### South Asian Cultural Association

South Asian Cultural Association (S.A.C.A) mission is to spread South Asian culture, music, arts and language throughout campus. SACA unites the South Asian community at SUNY New Paltz through its events. In the Fall Semester, they hold S.A.C.A week which is a weeklong series of South Asian events including henna, movie night and even a mini dinner at the end of the week with delicious Indian food. In the spring semester, they host an annual dinner held in the Student Union Multipurpose room. Near the end of the Spring Semester, the members of S.A.C.A put together a Picnic. Although they are a South Asian organization, they love having members of any background to celebrate all the diversity on the SUNY New Paltz campus.

# East-West Living Learning Community

The East-West Living & Learning Community was revived in 2011 by Professor Harris with the idea of bringing Asian and American students together. Half of the residents are international students from Asia and the other half are interested in Asian language and culture. Student participants 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 and cultures. 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 in American culture and lifestyle. 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 stud-

ied 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.

## Experiencing Buddhist Culture: Students Visit the Chuang Yen & Kagyu Thubten Chöling Monasteries!

*The SUNY New Paltz Asian Studies Program prides itself on giving students the opportunity to experience various aspects of Asian culture, tradition, and history. This past April students had the chance to visit two local monasteries in the Hudson Valley region. The trip attracted both Asian Studies majors and students not a part of the major.*

Professor David Elstein organized this year’s Asian Studies bus trip to two local Buddhist monasteries on April 20, 2013. The Hudson Valley has become quite a center for Buddhist practice from many different sects. On this trip students had the chance to visit both the Chuang Yen Monastery and Kagyu Thubten Chöling Monastery. Chuang Yen is a Taiwan-



ese monastery. Our visit included a guided tour of the main buildings, among them the great hall that contains the largest Buddha statue in North America. We also received an introduction to Buddhism, participated in a short meditation session, and enjoyed a vegetarian lunch. During our visit we also encountered many other visitors who had come to the monastery to worship. The result was a better sense for our students of Taiwanese Buddhist practices.

The Kagyu Thubten Chöling Monastery belongs to the Kagyu lineage, one of the main lineages of Tibetan Buddhism, headed by the Karmapa Lama. Parts of the monastery

are still under construction, but we were able to visit the main building, including the shrine room, and the stupa, which overlooks the Hudson estuary. In Tibetan tradition the stupa is an important structure representing the mind of the Buddha. A novice nun described the differences between the three major Buddhist traditions—Hinayana, Mahayana, and Vajrayana, practiced in Tibet. A particular treat was the opportunity to try Tibetan tea, which was made for us by a Tibetan monk who resides at the monastery. Visiting these monasteries representing Buddhist traditions from different parts of Asia gave students a chance to compare them and better appreciate the diversity of Buddhism.



# The Mid-Hudson Valley Asianists

In the belief that there is much to be gained by strengthening ties and developing contacts among Mid-Hudson Valley faculty with an interest in Asia, the Asian Studies Programs at Vassar College and SUNY New Paltz collaborated in Fall 2012 to establish a community of Mid-Hudson Valley Asianists.

The goal of this new initiative is to connect the many faculty in the Mid-Hudson Valley who are engaged in studying and teaching about Asia, so that they can share ideas and collaborate on research and teaching, and share expertise through guest lectures or symposia.

During the 2012-13 academic year, this new community met twice - once at Vassar College and once at the Culinary Institute of America, bringing together Asianists from across the region, many of whom had never met before. Participants came from Bard and Marist colleges, SUNY New Paltz, Vassar college and the Culinary Institute of America. The next meeting will take place in Fall 2013 at SUNY New Paltz.

We anticipate that this community will strengthen ties across the region and provide new Asia-related opportunities for all of our faculty and students.



Asianists gather at the Culinary Institute of America for a meeting over dinner, Spring 2013.

## Future Asian Studies Events

*The Asian Studies Department has multiple new and exciting events on the way, including but not limited to:*

A Welcome Party held in Crispell hall with the East-West Living Learning Community will be the first event of the year. One of the most exciting events planned is a speech presented by our Alumni Michael Boccio, titled "Perspectives on a Career in Asia". Another trip will also be led by Professor Brotherton. She will be guiding a trip to multiple Art Museums in New York City, such as the Museum of Modern

Art and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The department is also planning to repeat the bus trip to local monasteries due to the previous success of this program. An event to celebrate Indian culture, the Diwali "Festival of Lights", will be held this fall as well.

A bit further into the future we have the annual Chinese New Year event in February. There is also a Spring Festival in the works. The Asian Studies Department continues to spread awareness and share Asian culture with the community on campus.

## Study Abroad and Scholarship Recipients

*Many SUNY New Paltz students have studied abroad in Asia this past year, or are preparing to embark on their journeys this coming year! Many have received scholarships to help them do so!*

### Meiji University Summer 2012

Holly Lavelli, Louis Nicotri,  
and Rachel Sanborn

### Dankook University Summer 2012

Brenden Garcia

### Nagasaki University of Foreign

#### Studies: Fall 2013

Sampson Oppedisano, Dennis Gross,  
and Scott Dingee

### Nagasaki University of Foreign

#### Studies: 2013-2014 Academic Year

Faith Schepper and Karen Barba

### Kanazawa University

#### 2013-2014 Academic Year

Rachel Sanborn, Christopher Hoffman

### Korea University: 2012-13 Academic year

Ekene-Maria Udeke

### Friends of Asian Studies Endowment Scholarship Recipients:

Sampson Oppedisano, Niki Ghostlaw,  
and Christopher Hoffman

### Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship

Mikuko Shimura and Jillian Nadiak

## SUNY New Paltz Joins the



*Asian Studies at New Paltz has continually worked to increase its presence and impact on campus over the past few years. Now, the program is pleased to announce that it has joined ASIANetwork, an organization that will increase the opportunities available to SUNY New Paltz students and faculty*

ASIANetwork is an organization that supports and promotes the study of Asia in undergraduate education in the liberal arts. By joining ASIANetwork the college will have access to a variety of funding and networking opportunities that will strengthen the liberal arts at New Paltz and enhance the visibility of Asian Studies on campus. The programs offered through ASIANetwork will be available to all faculty and students (not limited to Asian Studies faculty/students) at SUNY New Paltz. The resources made available to members of ASIANetwork include:

Annual conferences highlighting Asian Studies Pedagogy and Scholarship: *ASIANetwork Exchange*. A Journal for Asian Studies in the Liberal Arts. A consultancy program geared towards strengthening Asian Studies programs. Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum program provides an evaluation of campus' art and artifacts pertaining to Asia. A variety of fellowships.

- The Student-Faculty Fellows Program enables faculty members to take up to 5 students to Asia on a collaborative research project with funding up to \$5000 each for faculty mentors and students
- The Postdoctoral Teaching Fellows Program provides \$30,000 towards hiring a Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow for a one-year position and \$1000 to support a faculty mentor



# A Brief History of Asian Studies at SUNY New Paltz!

*The Asian Studies major has been offered at SUNY New Paltz since the 1970's. During the course of its existence, the program itself has experienced many ups and downs, but ultimately continues to grow and expand each year. Ron Knapp, a former geography professor and Asian Studies Coordinator at SUNY New Paltz offered a brief overview of the program's history.*

Knapp taught at SUNY New Paltz from 1968-2001 and remains engaged with the Asian Studies Program. During his time at New Paltz, Knapp played an integral part in the shaping and expanding of the Program. According to Knapp, when he arrived at New Paltz the international program offered by the college was well developed. Every student was required to take the introduction to Asian Studies course. As a result, the students both fulfilled a college requirement, and were exposed to Asian Studies, thus increasing the possibility that more students would choose the major. Knapp also noted that during these earlier years, the Asian Studies program had over twenty Asian Studies specialists. Roughly half were in their disciplinary departments, such as Political Science, Geography, and Art History, while the remainder were housed in the Asian Studies Department. This combination enabled class offerings ranging from Intro to Asian Studies, to upper division classes on Chinese, Japanese, and Indian history and politics. IN addition to studying East Asia, students could also take India focused courses in anthropology, art history, history, philosophy, and political sciences. The college even offered the Hindi language. However, due to budget cuts during the 1970's, the Asian Studies department, along with many others on campus was forced to cut back both faculty and class offerings. By 1979, the Asian Studies Department itself was closed down, though many students chose to pursue a contract major in Asian Studies that was made available between 1979 and 1989.

In 1989, Asian Studies returned to campus as a program. Key administrators in the reestablishment of Asian Studies included President Alice Chandler, who

spearheaded the establishment of a reciprocal program with China's Peking University, including many Beida faculty members who came as visiting scholars to SUNY New Paltz from 1979 onwards, and Dean Marleigh Ryan, who worked tirelessly to improve the teaching of Asian languages. Professor Knapp remembers pushing to bring back Asian History classes to help. This push brought Professor Kristine Harris, a specialist in Chinese history and Chinese Cinema to New Paltz. Professor Harris was hired in 1996 where she soon assumed the role of Asian Studies Coordinator. Knapp says that Harris' hiring brought a "reinvigorating energy" to the major. Professor Harris has played a central role in rebuilding Asian Studies, and though she is no longer the coordinator, the effects of her tenure can still be felt throughout the program. Between 1974 and 1997, SUNY New Paltz had a very active East-West Residential Unit. Half of the students involved were from Japan, China, and Korea, while the other half were American students interested in Asia. All participating students also took Asian Studies courses. In 2011, Professor Harris reestablished the East-West Living Learning Community. Since it's resurrection, the community has done very well, with increased student participation and applications to join. Residents participate in culturally engaging activities such as traditional foods, watching movies, and sharing their own cultures and languages in a casual setting.

Knapp also recalled some of the many students who graduated from SUNY New Paltz with degrees in Asian Studies, and how successful they've become. Skip Taylor, an Asian Studies Alumni from the class of 1985, studies Chinese in Taiwan from 1984 to 1988. After returning to the United States to become certified at SUNY New Paltz in teaching 7-12 English, Taylor traveled to Japan as part of the Japan-English Teaching Program (J.E.T) where he's taught English and lived for many years. While in Japan, Taylor became a well known TV personality! Another successful alumni that Knapp highlights is Michael Boccio, from the class of 1983. Boccio was an Asian Studies contract major, studying at Peking University from 1980-1982. Boccio was hired by McDonalds Corporation where he became responsible for all the in-country sourcing for McDonald's in China. Boccio's

job was to ensure that all products and ingredients used in McDonald's food in China were not only obtained from within the country itself, but also up to the standards that McDonalds corporate set forth. In 1996, Boccio left China and eventually spent time representing McDonalds in Australia, Japan, and Hong Kong. The accomplishments of many other Asian Studies majors/minors over the years can be viewed by visiting <http://www.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies/alumni/news.html>

In closing, Professor Knapp's reflections on the history of Asian Studies at New Paltz show that, while the program has experienced some bumps along the way, there is no doubt that it holds a prominent and ever growing presence on campus. Each year the program attracts additional student, many of whom have gone on to leave very successful, fulfilling lives. With this coming year, the program continues its upward trend with the addition of two full time faculty who will offer classes in Japanese and Chinese languages, literatures and cultures. Professor Knapp concluded by saying that as the world increasingly looks to Asia, the future of Asian Studies at SUNY New Paltz looks bright.



Professor Knapp

## The Class of 2013's Asian Studies Graduates!



"My experience in the New Paltz Asian Studies program provided me with a thorough and wide ranging knowledge of Asia. The classes available allowed me to study what interested me in the region. I took classes ranging from Indian philosophy to governments of China and Japan. After completing my degree in Asian Studies I feel completely prepared to understand current events and engage with Asian culture when travelling." — Anna Samoldulski, class of 2013



Several Asian Studies students preparing to graduate!

"Thanks to the Asian Studies program I was able to learn and become a more diverse, informed, open minded person. You get to learn about other cultures, their history, languages, and customs, which are often not seen every day. The Asian studies program has great faculty and a great community, one where we are able to communicate easily and learn from each other. The professors are engaging and always willing to help out the students. The Asian studies program has a great selection of courses to take,

from language to content ones, and it continues to grow every day. I am proud to have become, and graduated as an Asian Studies major at SUNY New Paltz." — Jeff Cifuentes, class of 2013

