

Asian Studies Program

Volume 6
2015-2016

Designed and Edited by Erica Blaize

A Message From The Director

Dear Friends of Asian Studies,

As three of our faculty (David Elstein, Lauren Meeker and our director Jonathan Schwartz) take their well-deserved sabbatical leaves for a year, Asian Studies started the academic year 2015-16 with fewer faculty members. Our presence in the campus community however remains strong. We started the new academic year with the great achievement of Prof. Insu Fenkl (English and Asian Studies) who published his story "Five Arrows" in *New Yorker* (see page 3). We celebrated his success by co-organizing his talk event with the Department of English in September.

In fall semester, we started our new course *Introduction to Asia*. This course aims at serving as a gateway to the Asian Studies major/minor. Besides the regular classes taught by me, nearly all Asian Studies faculty will deliver guest lectures in this course. Students are excited to hear a variety of topics taught by many professors in one course.

We keep working hard with the office of International Programs to develop study abroad opportunities. There are twenty students studying abroad in 2014-2015. While most are off to Japan (Nagasaki, Tokyo) or China (Guilin), there are students who went to India and Thailand. A new development!

As always, we are planning many events for 2015-16 that enrich the experience of the entire college community. In October, we celebrated the autumn festival with special focus on Japan (see page 5). Crispell Hall, home of our East-West Living and Learning Community (EWLLC), was fully packed with students and faculty. They enjoyed good Japanese food, calligraphy, and a *Soran* dance performance by Japanese students. More will come in the spring semester and we would love to have you join us for these activities. Please visit our Facebook page (SUNY NewPaltz Asian Studies Program) to check the events.

Wishing you all the best,

Akira Shimada, Interim Director, Asian Studies

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Scholarship Recipients

Many Asian Studies students have received scholarships to go to graduate programs and to study abroad in Asia this past year. To accomplish their goals, they are preparing to apply for scholarship this coming year. We appreciate your contributions for maintaining the scholarships!

Friends of Asian Studies (FASE) Scholarship Recipients:

Chosen by a committee of Asian Studies faculty, awards run from \$1,000 to \$1,800 (if studying abroad). The FASE awards are made possible by the generosity of Asian Studies friends and alumni.

This year's recipients are Courtney Kiesecker, Alyssa Mullen, Jason Serrano. They all traveled to Japan.

Benjamin A. Gilman International Scholarship:

Ediliana Estrella (Japan), Arleny Valdez (Japan), Deandra Als (Japan), Joanne Zhao (China), Jason Serrano (Japan)

JASSO Scholarship:

Victoria Alfano (Japan), Estrella Ediliana (Japan), Samantha Lee (Japan), Alyssa Mullen (Japan), Jason Serrano (Japan)

Hua Yu Scholarship:

Ari Kaputkin (graduated 2014) received the prestigious HuaYu Enrichment Scholarship for studying Mandarin at National Taiwan University (Taiwan)

Bridging Japan Scholarship:

Ediliana Estrella (Japan), Deandra Als (Japan), Courtney Kiesecker (Japan)

Keeping in Touch

Join and like our Facebook group and Page @ **SUNY New Paltz Asian Studies Program**
Send us your email address to subscribe to the newsletter:

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Faculty and Staff Directory

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Don't forget to check us out at the Asian Studies Office in JFT 516!

New Professors



Prof. R. Kenji Tierney

We are delighted to welcome two new professors to our program.

Professor. R. Kenji Tierney (Anthropology) comes to New Paltz with a two year appointment as a visiting assistant professor. He holds a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley, and has taught at Skidmore College, Union College and Columbia University. His research focuses on Japanese culture and society and resulted in publications on sumo wrestlers, food, globalization, and historical change. He teaches Anthropology of Japan, Cultures of East Asia, and Anthropology of the Body.

Ms. Qianhe (Grace) Zhao (Foreign Language and Culture) is a new Chinese instructor. Before joining us, Prof. Zhao taught Chinese language in several Elementary, Middle and High schools in Long Island, NY. She is also a PhD student of Literacy Studies, Education Department, Hofstra University. She teaches Elementary and Intermediate Chinese.

Faculty Research, Grants, and Publications

The Asian Studies faculty continue to be among the most productive scholars on campus. A selection of highlights for the 2014-15 academic year appears below:

Sunita Bose (Sociology) published a co-authored article in *Journal of Family Issues*. She also read a paper at New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) and also facilitated a workshop at FDR library.

Nathen Clerici (LLC) presented papers at Asian Studies Conference Japan (ASCI) in Tokyo, Association for Asian Studies (AAS) in Chicago, and New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) in New York.

Heinz Insu Fenkl (English) successfully published a short novel "Five Arrows" in the prestigious magazine *The New Yorker* (featured below)

Kristine Harris (History) was a visiting scholar in the Dept. of East Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago in 2014. During the academic year, she presented her current research on early Chi-

nese opera films at the University of Chicago, Columbia University, and the American Historical Association Annual Meeting.

Ron Knapp (Geography) served as External Examiner at the University of Hong Kong's Architectural Conservation Programme and published *The Gunks Ridge and River Valley Towns Through Time*.

Lauren Meeker (Anthropology) received prestigious NSF grant for her research "The Ritual Construction of Moral Personhood and Social Belonging in Contemporary Rural Vietnam". Prof. Meeker also published an article at *Asian Theatre Journal* 32-1.

Melissa Rock (Geography) co-led a Faculty Student research team to Chongqing, China sponsored by the ASIANetwork (featured on page 4).

Junko Schwartzman (LLC) presented a paper called "Learners' Use and Perceptions of the Japanese Gender Forms" at the Conference of the Association of Teachers of Japanese in Chicago.

Jonathan Schwartz (Political Science) delivered a talk at Bard College during the Summer of 2015 on the Future of Sino-US Relations. He has also published three articles in *Asian Survey* and *Clinical Infectious Diseases*.

Akira Shimada (History) spent summer 2014 in India as AIIS (American Institute for Indian Studies) senior fellow. He also presented a paper at International Association for Buddhist Studies Conference (IABS) in Vienna, Austria. He also delivered a keynote address at the Amaravati conference in London.

Hammo Zhang (LLC) published two journal articles in *Asian Medicine* and *Bulletin of the Jao Tsung-I Academy of Sinology*.

For more information about faculty areas of expertise and recent accomplishments, visit the *SUNY New Paltz Experts Database*: www.newpaltz.edu/publicaffairs/experts/

New Yorker Publication



SUNY New Paltz Associate Professor of English and Asian Studies **Heinz Insu Fenkl's** published a short story "Five Arrows" in the Aug. 3, 2015 issue of *The New Yorker* after rigorous and highly competitive process of review.

"Five Arrows" is the story of a young boy's visit to his uncle's rural South Korea home. It is a setting the author is familiar with; Fenkl spent time during his own childhood in the Korean countryside. He's said in his *New Yorker* interview, "I think of the piece as autobiographical fiction."

Both the short story "Five Arrows" and the interview with Fenkl are available on the website of *The New Yorker* (<http://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2015/08/03/five-arrows>).

The author has also recorded a reading of the story, which can be accessed on Soundcloud. (<https://soundcloud.com/newyorker/listen-to-heinz-insu-fenkl-read-five-arrows>)

"Five Arrows" is taken from a work in progress, "Skull Water," scheduled to be published by Graywolf Press in 2017.



Prof. Heinz Insu Fenkl

ASIANetwork Summer Student-Faculty Fellows Research Trip

In the summer of 2015 (July 1-28), funded by the ASIANetwork Freeman Student-Faculty Fellows Grant, Professor Melissa Yang Rock (Geography) co-led a four-week research trip to Chongqing, China with her colleague Professor Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro and five students from Geography, Asian Studies and Biology. In order to study urban farming practices in Chongqing, they visited urban farms and gardens, interviewed farmers, and conducted field analyses of soils and cropping systems. Not only did student participants enhance their knowledge and skills related to fieldwork methods, but they also gained first-hand experience conducting research in an international setting.



Group photo: (From left to right) Dr. Salvatore Engel-Di Mauro, Kevin McGill, Aidan Mabey, Melissa Iachetta, Joanne Zhao, Shirley Chen, Dr. Melissa Yang Rock.

Melissa Iachetta (class of 2015), a student participant of the trip, appreciated Prof. Rock's hard effort to coordinate the research trip and commented that, "Professor Rock is a great addition to the university". Prof. Rock, Prof. Engel-Di Mauro, and student participants co-presented the preliminary findings of their fieldwork at the New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) at Vassar College on Oct. 17, 2015 ("Urban Farms in Chongqing, China: Examining Opportunities and Challenges of Food Production in the City"). Their project will also be presented at the 2016 Annual Meeting of ASIANetwork at St. Petersburg, Florida. In addition, the faculty-student team are working collaboratively to develop their research findings into a journal article for publication in the coming year.

Professor Rock began teaching at New Paltz in the Fall of 2014. She teaches courses such as Contemporary China, Cities of the World, and others that combine her interests in Asian Studies and Geography.

Study Abroad for Academic Year 2014-15

The Asian Studies Program strongly encourages all students to take advantage of the study abroad opportunities available to them. Many of these opportunities are administered by the SUNY New Paltz Center for International Programs under Dean Bruce Sillner with assistance from Christian Wilwohl and Christian Speedling.

In Fall 2014 and Spring 2015, twenty Asian Studies students studied in Asia. They significantly improved their language proficiency and gained in-depth knowledge of Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Indian history and culture by studying there. We hope to see the further growth of the participants of study abroad programs in 2015-16.

China

Daniel Baietto, Stephanie Chang, Kelwin Choi, Amy Glazer, Connor Holmes, and Lawrence Senzel (studied at Guangxi Normal University, Guilin)

Japan

Victoria Alfano, Alvin Chen, Ediliana Estrella, Peter Hottum, Shawn Kenyon, Courtney Kiesecker, Samantha Lee, Alexandra Martin, Alyssa Mullen, Rachel Pettys, Jason Serrano, and Arleny Valdez (studied at Meiji University, Tokyo, Nagasaki University of Foreign Language, Nagasaki and other schools)

Korea

Nina Pena

Thailand

Nina Pena

India

Alexandra Van Zant

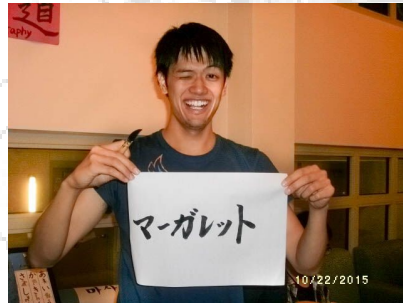
For more on Study Abroad opportunities, check out: <https://studioabroad.newpaltz.edu>

East-West Living and Learning Community



The East-West Living and Learning Community (EWLLC) hosted their annual Welcome Event at Crispell Hall at the beginning of the Fall semester. In Fall 2014, the President of the college was in attendance along with several faculty members and EWLLC residents and non-residents alike. The Welcome Event in Fall 2015 was also successful. It was a great time for everyone as we welcomed new students to the community. In 2015-16, EWLLC will organize lecture series and a variety of cultural events for students and campus community.

2015 Fall Festival



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This year, the Asian Studies Autumn Festival, featuring Japanese culture, was held in Crispell Hall's Main Lounge on October 22, from 6:30 to 8:30. More than hundred students and faculty came out to celebrate the Festival. Attendees enjoyed delicious Japanese food catered by *Gomen Kudasai*, a local Japanese restaurant. They also participated in Japanese games including a traditional fish catching game, learned Japanese calligraphy and writing and made Origami. The event was concluded by a spectacular *Soran* dance performance by our international Japanese students.

Thank you to the East-West Living and Learning Community and the Center for International Programs for co-sponsoring this event.

Dr. Alfreda Murck's Talk on Mao's Golden Mangoes

Internationally-renowned scholar of traditional and contemporary Chinese art, Dr. Alfreda Murck (PhD, Princeton University, 1995) came to campus April 21-22 to present a public lecture, "Mao's Golden Mangoes: Symbols in the Cultural Revolution," as well as a special workshop for students of Asian languages on the culture of gift-giving in China. Dr. Murck's talk related to her recent work curating the exhibit "Mao's Golden Mangoes and the Chinese Cultural Revolution," which was on view at the China Institute in New York City from September 18, 2014 through April 26, 2015.

Dr. Murck's illustrated lecture, held in the Honors Center, focused on the powerful symbolic iconography that emerged in China's material culture and politics at a key moment in its international affairs and history. In the summer of 1968, at the height of China's turbulent Cultural Revolution (1966-1976), Chairman Mao received a crate of mangoes from the visiting Pakistani foreign minister as a diplomatic gesture. Instead of consuming the exotic fruits, Mao sent them to worker-peasant teams in Beijing. This gift from the chairman set off a widespread veneration of the mango, both real and in replica, that paralleled the near-deification of Mao Zedong himself as China's helmsman.

Among the dozens of audience members at the lecture and workshop -- including students in the Spring 2015 courses The Cultural Revolution and Modern China (taught by Prof. Kristine Harris), as well as faculty and students from History, Art History, International Relations, and Languages Literatures and Cultures -- many had visited the exhibit at China Institute. Reflecting on the ubiquity of mango imagery in Chinese material culture of the 1960s-70s, they were struck by the variegated forms and massive scale of Mao veneration at the time. Neha Gallagher, an International Relations and French major, noticed, "At the Chinese National Day

parade, mangos were featured and there were several giant mango floats.... Many individuals, especially workers, saw the mango as a very sacred object as it was a symbol of Mao's kindness and love for the people." Tressa Rhodes, a Psychology major, noted the irony that "at one point, China was making so many buttons with Mao's face on it, that they didn't have enough resources to make airplanes!"

Students also noted some surprising links between past and present. International Business major and Asian Studies minor San Kai Hong, from Taiwan, saw the recurrent symbols as a way of "branding" the revolution:

"Now I finally get why Chairman Mao could become such a powerful influence....I saw a lot of marketing skills used during the Cultural Revolution." All in all, Murck's interdisciplinary lecture and workshop helped generate fresh perspectives on the connections between politics, aesthetics, design, circulation, consumption, and exchange value in modern China.

Dr. Alfreda Murck has served as Associate Curator of Asian Art at The Metropolitan Museum of Art, and lived in China from 1997 through 2013, where she was a researcher at the Beijing Palace Museum and taught at the Central Academy of Fine Arts and Peking University. She is the author of numerous articles, exhibition catalogs, and the book *Poetry and Painting in Song China: The Subtle Art of Dissent* (Harvard, 2000).

The event was co-organized by Asian Studies faculty Kristine Harris (History) and Elizabeth Brotherton (Art History) along with Prof. Hanmo Zhang (Languages Literatures and Cultures-Chinese) and multiple co-sponsors, including The Office of Academic Affairs, the Departments of History, Art History, Languages Literatures & Cultures, Political Science & International Relations, the Asian Studies Program, the Honors Program, the School of Fine and Performing Arts, Major Connections, and College Auxiliary Services.



Alumni Update - Denis Simon (Class of 1974)

SUNY New Paltz alumni from the class of 1974, Denis Simon has been recently appointed as executive vice chancellor of Duke Kunshan University (DKU) in Kunshan, China. Previously he served as a senior advisor to the president for China-related strategic initiatives, executive director of the University Design Institute, and Foundation Professor of Contemporary Chinese Affairs in the School of Politics and Global Studies at Arizona State University.



After graduating SUNY New Paltz Simon went on to receiving both his master's degree in Asian Studies and Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, Berkeley. He speaks and reads Mandarin Chinese.

Additionally, Simon has previously held leadership positions and faculty appointments in international affairs at several universities in both the United States and China. He is well known as an expert on the role of science and technology in international relations, he also has extensive private sector experience, having held China-based leadership roles at both Monitor Consulting Group and Andersen Consulting (now Accenture). He has published extensively in the areas of innovation and technology transfer in China, and has taught courses on international relations, technology, management and strategy.

As a member of the editorial boards of Chinese Management Studies and the Journal of Science and Technology Policy in China, Simon also has served as a senior adviser to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on technology and innovation matters related to China. He is a member of the American Experts Group within the U.S.-China Innovation Dialogue organized by China's Ministry of Science and Technology, and the Office of Science and Technology Policy at the White House.

In 2006 Simon received the China National Friendship Award, China's highest form of recognition for foreign experts, from former Premier Wen Jiabao. And most recently Simon has served as a guest in a talk with Dr. Tu Youyou who recently became the first Chinese Nobel laureate in natural science.

Information and photo acquired and edited from: <https://today.duke.edu/2015/06/simonevcvfinal>

The Class of 2015's Asian Studies Graduates!

Graduates of Fall 2014:

Dennis Gross, Margaret Scalzo, Brendan Dwyer

Graduates of Spring 2015:

Jason Serrano, Alyssa Mullen, Faith Schepper, Marian Chen, Kelwin Choi, Daniel Baietto, Karen Barba, Sampson Oppedisano, Yuantao Chen, Ashley DiResta, Qingying Ou

Congratulations to you all and STAY IN TOUCH!

In Memoriam



Marleigh Grayer Ryan, Ph.D.
(passed away on 12/2/2014) came to SUNY New Paltz in 1981 from the University of Iowa where she

had chaired the Department of Asian Languages and Literatures. At New Paltz, she served as Dean of Liberal Arts and Sciences and taught Japanese language, literature in translation and aesthetics. From 1990 until her retirement she chaired the Asian Studies Program with particular attention to developing opportunities for students to live and study in Asia. She worked closely with Prof. Ron Knapp to develop the New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS).

She is the author of two books and numerous articles on modern Japanese fiction, including a study of a work by the Nobel Laureate Oe Kenzaburo. She studied in Japan as a Ford Foundation Fellow, and was a fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in 1988-89.

She served as the first NYCAS Executive Secretary from 1990 to 1999. On her re-

tirement, NYCAS honored Marleigh by establishing the Marleigh Grayer Ryan Student Prizes. Granted each year to both undergraduate and graduate students, these prizes encourage development of excellence in the study of Asia. For additional information on the MGR Prizes visit <http://asianstudies.buffalo.edu/new-york-conference-on-asian-studies-nycas/mgr-student-prize/>

As Dean of LA&S in the 1980s, Chair of Asian Studies for more than a decade, and professor of many courses until her retirement in 1998, she greatly impacted the New Paltz community.

We are grateful to Marleigh for her notable contributions to Asian Studies at New Paltz.



Alfred H. Marks Ph.D.
NEW PALTZ— A friend to all, Alfred H. Marks, PhD, of New Paltz, passed away on Dec. 23, 2014 at the age of 94.

Born in Farmingdale, Long Island, he resided in New Paltz for over 50 years. He taught English at SUNY New Paltz, for over 20 years, specializing in early American literature, with notable publi-

cations on Hawthorne and Whitman.

A passion for all things Japanese grew out of his service in military intelligence during World War II. He was a visiting professor and Fulbright scholar in Kanazawa, Japan, in 1965, and he returned for two more visits. He was a translator of modern Japanese literature, including works of Yukio Mishima, and late in his retirement he worked as a translator and essayist on volumes such as *A Courtesan's Day: Hour by Hour*, *The Faithful Samurai*, and *Hiroshige: Birds and Flowers*.

He was instrumental in establishing the "sister city" connection between New Paltz and Osa, Japan, which has fostered warm friendships between residents of both cities, including many visiting students.

After the war, Dr. Marks earned his master's degree and his PhD from Syracuse University and then taught English at Ohio State University in Columbus and Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana before coming to New Paltz.

Dr. Marks was a member of the Haiku Society, Japan Society, the John Burroughs Society, the Paltz Club, and the New Paltz Lions Club.

From the Daily Freeman, Dec. 28, 2014

Supporting Asian Studies

There are many ways to support Asian Studies at SUNY New Paltz. Share with us your experiences, ideas and suggestions. If your company offers internship opportunities that might be valuable for our students, we would love to hear about these. Contact Interim Director Akira Shimada at shimadaa@newpaltz.edu or 845-257-3538.

Many of the programs and opportunities available to our students are made possible through the gifts of our alumni and friends. Thank you for your gifts and for remembering Asian Studies at SUNY New Paltz. You may renew your commitment to Asian Studies at <https://www.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies/support.html>

The SUNY New Paltz Asian Studies Program prides itself on giving students the opportunity to experience various aspects of Asian culture, tradition, and history.