

Asian Studies Program Newsletter (2018-19)

Director's Message

Dear Friends of Asian Studies,

2018-19 Academic Year was the year of significant transition for Asian Studies. Succeeding Prof. Schwartz who led the program for six years, I became the new director of Asian Studies. While my predecessors (Profs. Knapp, Harris and Schwartz) are all working on China, I am a historian working on early India. I thus hope to add more South and Southeast Asian elements to the program, although our greatest strength continues to be rich courses on East Asia. While two of the valuable faculty (Prof. Hanmo Zhang and Prof. Sara Hsu) left New Paltz, we conducted a nation-wide search and successfully hired Prof. Yongli Li as a new lecturer of Chinese language and culture. Our successful language immersion program (The East-West Living & Learning Community) transformed into a course from Fall 2018. In addition to the Blackboard and Facebook, we started a new blog site (<http://hawksites.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies/>) for more interactions with students and alumni. Otherwise, by following our tradition, we organized many academic and cultural events that drew together faculty, students and local people.

In Fall 2019, we will organize two important events. The first event is New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS) on Oct. 4-5. In addition to academic presentations, a special art exhibition and a musical performance featuring Asia will take place at New Paltz. Two weeks after the conference, we will celebrate the 50th year anniversary of Asian Studies at SUNY New Paltz during Alumni reunion weekend on Oct. 18-19. I hope you can come to New Paltz this fall to join these events and/or just to see us.



Monastery 4, Nagarkurnool, India

Wishing you all the best,

Akira Shimada
Director, Asian Studies

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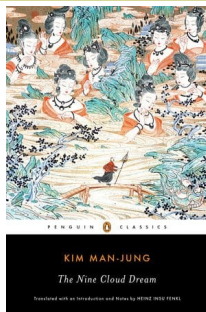
Student Accomplishments and Alumni News

Hannah Karkari (2019 BA in AS and Art History) was accepted to the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) program and will go to Japan from fall 2019 as an English teacher. Joe Drake (AS and International Relations double majors) was also accepted into JET as a CIR (Coordinator of International Relations) category which requires a high level fluency in Japanese. Jeremy Luna (BA in AS and International Relations) came back from his study abroad in Kanazawa (2017-18) and worked as an Intern of the Department of States in Washington DC. He was accepted to another internship at a Japanese company in Japan during the summer.

Lani Nelson ('13 BA in AS, with linguistics minor) began her studies in the Master's degree program in Translation Studies at the University of Stirling, Scotland, with a specialization in Mandarin to English translation. Kevin Lam ('11 BA in Asian Studies; '15 MPS in Humanistic-Multicultural education), is Organizing Director of the Asian American Resource Workshop in Boston, and was recently selected as one of SUNY New Paltz's "Forty under 40."

Faculty News

Elizabeth Brotherton (Art History) authored an article entitled "In Search of a Lost Southern Song Stele and its Maker". It has been accepted for publication in *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* vol. 49 (2020)



and one translations from reputed venues such as *New Yorker*.

Sunita Bose (Sociology) co-authored a book chapter, "The effect of a male surplus on intimate partner violence in India." in *Too Many Men, Too Few Women: Social Consequences of the Gender Imbalance in India and China* (Delhi: Orient-Black Swan, 2018).

Nathen Clerici (Language, Literature & Culture) presented his research at two conferences and also published a journal article, "Yumeno Kyusaku and the Spirit of the Local." *Japanese Studies*, March 1, 2019.

David Elstein (Philosophy) was awarded Taiwan Fellowship for his research on the thought of Xu Fuguan during the summer of 2019.

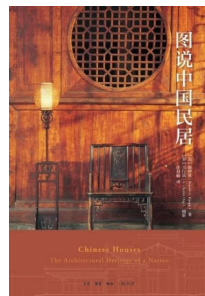
Heinz Insu Fenkl (English) published his translation of Kim Man-jung. *The Nine Cloud Dream* from Penguin. He also published two

Kristine Harris (History) served as a dissertation committee member for the University of Chicago to examine a PhD dissertation of Yuqian Yan entitled "The Ancient as Enchantment: Cinematic Representation of the Past in Republican China".

Sun Hee Kil (Theatre) was selected as US sound designer to exhibit her work *Brooklyn Gaze* at Prague Quadrennial 2019. One of her Broadway plays, *Choir Boy*, was nominated to Drama Desk Awards & Tony Awards (Best Sound Design).

Lauren Meeker (Anthropology) was awarded NEH summer stipend in 2018 for her research project titled "Moral Responsibility, Gender, and Social Change in Lineage Ritual in Northern Vietnam".

Ron Knapp (Geography Emeritus) gave a lecture titled "Forgotten, Lost, & Reborn: Long-Span Timber Covered Bridges in the USA" at the 2nd International Symposium on Protection and Utilization of Wooden Architecture Cultural Heritage in Ningbo. The translation of his book, *Chinese Houses: The Architectural Heritage of a Nation* was acclaimed in the March 2019

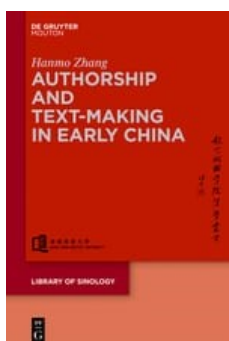


issue of 《中国摄影》 (China's Photography Magazine) in 2018.

Jonathan Schwartz (Political Science) authored a journal article entitled "Health-Oriented Overseas NGOs and the New Overseas NGO Law in China." *The Journal of Mainland Studies* vol. 6(2) 2018.

Akira Shimada (History) authored two journal articles, "A Seated Buddha Image from Amaravati: A Reinterpretation." *Artibus Asiae* 77.2; "Royal and Non-Royal Buddhist Patronage of the Early Deccan." *Journal of the International Association for Buddhist*

Past Faculty News and Saying a Fond Farewell to Faculty



After teaching Chinese language and culture for four years at New Paltz in 2012-16, Prof. Hanmo Zhang moved to China for his research project. In Spring 2018, he officially resigned his position at New Paltz. From fall 2018, he teaches at University of Macau as an Associate Professor. His new monograph publication *Authorship and Text-Making in Early China* came out in 2018.



After teaching Asian Economy courses for six years at New Paltz, Prof. Sara Hsu moved to Tennessee in Fall 2018 to begin her new life there. She wishes to tell her former students and colleagues that she loved working here very much and will miss everyone.



After teaching elementary Japanese for three years at New Paltz, Prof. Yuying Ren begins her another MA studies in comparative linguistics at the CUNY graduate center from Fall 2019. Working with Prof. Clerici, Prof. Ren successfully grew Japanese program at New Paltz. Prof. Ren was also the faculty mentor of East-West Living and Learning Community in 2018-19. We will truly miss her and wish her the best in her studies ahead.

Study Abroad for Academic Year 2018-19

The Asian Studies Program strongly encourages all students to take advantage of the many 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 Bianca Sylvain.

In 2018-19, a total of fourteen students studied abroad in Asia. Seven are Asian Studies students. Their studies and their lives will truly be enriched by their time abroad, be it for a summer, a semester or a year.



Laila Garcia, Studied Abroad at Meiji University, Japan

China

Anyi Zhu (AS minor) studied at Tsinghua University in Beijing.

Japan

Olivia Henry (AS major), Kylee Leonard (AS major) and Gweneth Loughman (AS major) studied at Kanazawa University in Kanazawa.

Lei Zhu (AS minor), Annie Huang (AS minor) and Michael Aurellano (AS minor) studied at Meiji University in Tokyo

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

Scholarship Recipients

For many New Paltz students, one of the biggest challenges in pursuing study abroad in Asia is to manage the airfare and the cost of living in the countries. We thank generous donors who support our scholarship programs that provide immense help to New Paltz students embarking on study abroad .

Friends of Asian Studies (FASE)

Scholarship (for AS majors only)

Kylee Leonard (2018)

Japanese Student Service Organization (JASSO)

Scholarship

Olivia Henry (AS major)
Kylee Leonard (AS major)

Weigand Foundation Scholarship

Anyi Zhu (AS minor)
Annie Huang (AS minor)
Michael Aurellano (AS minor)

Freeman Asia Scholarship

Kylee Leonard (AS major)



Kylee Leonard (center) with other international students at Kanazawa University, Japan

Fall and Spring Festivals



Student volunteers, mid-autumn festival



Students waiting for the opening of the mid-autumn festival



Prof. Harris, Hibari Nozaki and Chris Card, mid-autumn festival



Prof. Ren and Calligraphy volunteers, Chinese New Year

With generous support from the Center for International Program and Sojourner Truth Library, we organized the Mid-Autumn festival on Sep. 26 (Wed) in 2018 and Chinese New Year Celebration on Feb, 13 in 2019 at Library Lobby.

In the Fall festival, we introduced how East Asian countries celebrate the mid-autumn or 中秋, the full moon day of the mid-August of the lunar calendar, through faculty and student presentations, games, and Japanese and Korean food cooked by the students of the East-West Living and Learning Community and volunteers. As you can see in the pictures, the events were very well attended. More than a hundred students and local people came to the festival and enjoy food and games.

The Chinese New Year festival, held about one week after the official day of Chinese New Year (Feb 5), introduced

Chinese new year or 春節 through presentations, calligraphy and Chinese and Korean foods cooked by EWLLC students. One of the highlights of the festival was the Takarazuka performance by Jessica (Rose) Trifoli (Asian Studies Major). Despite the inclement weather (it was snowing actually), more than forty students and faculty joined the festival.

EWLLC Conference



Since its foundation in 2015, East-West Living and Learning Community Conference provided AS students with precious opportunities to present their research projects. The conference of this year, held at JFT on May 10, started by the special guest lecture by Dr. Ezra Rashkow (Associate Professor, Montclair State University) on the policy of controlling dangerous wild animals, such as tigers, in Colonial India. Because the lecture was co-sponsored with the History department and Environmental Studies program, students and faculty outside Asian Studies joined the talk

and participated into the Q&A session. The lecture was followed by four student presentations. A presentation by Winnie Guo and Jamie Schiller discussed Racism in New Paltz and how we could cope with it

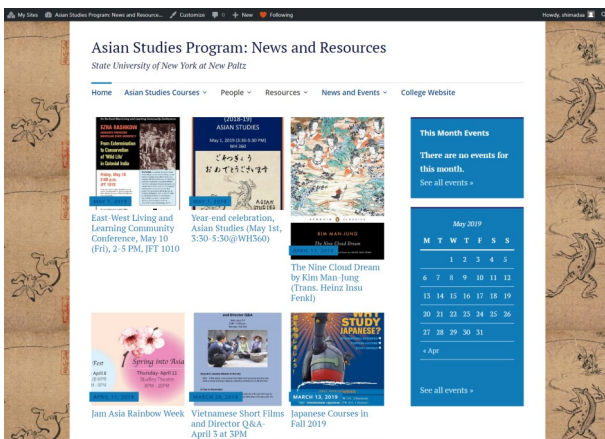


by introducing their zine publication. Jade Mitchell's presentation highlighted the involvement of children in the Cultural Revolution and the impact for the Chinese society. Conor Tobin's presentation argued



the "legitimacy" of the current rule of the Chinese Communist Party by examining a set of criteria. The final presentation by Kalyani Ramachandran introduced her PhD research project on an early Buddhist site of Andhra region, southeastern India. Each student presentation had valuable comments by faculty discussants and participants of the conference. (AS)

Asian Studies Blog Site



In addition to our official college website (<https://www.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies/>) and Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/SUNYNewPaltzAsianStudies>), we started a blog site entitled Asian Studies Program: News and Resources (<http://hawkites.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies/>). Like our Facebook page, we post our and other Asia-related events on campus from this site. It also features valuable resources for Asian Studies students, alumni and faculty, such as the descriptions of Asian Studies courses, academic websites on Asian history, languages and culture, update information on museum exhibitions, and news from alumni. As I hope to develop the site as a node to connect current Asian Studies students, faculty and alumni, please visit the site and subscribe to it so that you can check what is going on in Asian Studies. As the website is still under construction,

your feedback and cooperation would be greatly appreciated. If you have any relevant information to post to the site, please contact the Asian Studies director (shimadaa@newpaltz.edu).

The 50th Anniversary of the Asian Studies Program (Oct. 18-19, 2019)



In the next alumni reunion on Oct 18-19, we will celebrate the 50th year anniversary of Asian Studies at SUNY New Paltz. On October 18th, we plan a special talk by SUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus Ron Knapp (Geography and Asian Studies) titled "A Half Century of Asia and Asian Studies" and poster presentations on Study Abroad and activities of Asian Studies alumni. Prof. Knapp helped build Asian Studies at New Paltz and in New York State from the early years of his teaching career here at New Paltz beginning in 1968. On October 19th on Saturday, we plan a panel discussion by Asian Studies alumni and Asian Studies faculty. We look forward to seeing you in October!

Commencement Ceremony (May 18, 2019)



Laila Garcia



Joe Drake and Prof. Clerici



Nana Gyawu and Chynna Estrella



Emma Guliani



Kylee Leonard and her family

Many
Congratulations!

2018-19 Graduates - BA Major in Asian Studies (*Program Honor)

Joseph Drake*
Chynna Estrella
Sam Fischer
Laila Garcia
Nana Gyawu*
Emma Guliani*
Winnie Guo
Olivia Henry
Sarah Jurgielewicz*
Hannah Karkari*
Kylee Leonard
Jessica Spradling
Emilia Wojcik

2018-19 Graduates - BA Minor Asian Studies

Matthew Cassidy
Julia Carlin
Amy Cheng
Gabriella DeAngelis
Madeleine Del Cano
Kayla Dietz
Samantha Fantauzzi
Ethan Fiege
Annie Huang
Kelly Huang
Shogo Mazaki
Kaina Ortiz
Rebecca Snyder
Rei Yamamoto
Kelly Son
Brian Twohig