

Asian Studies Program Newsletter (2021-23)

Director's Message

Dear Friends of Asian Studies,

Due to my sabbatical leave in 2021-22, Asian Studies Newsletter was suspended for one year. During my absence, Lauren Meeker (Anthropology) ran the program as the Interim Director. Despite the continuing influence of COVID, the program resumed some in-person events under her leadership. From the fall of 2022, our activity is almost back to normal, if not the same as before. We enjoy teaching and learning in the classrooms without mask. We celebrated the mid-autumn and the lunar new year with food after 2 years. A new assistant and faculty members joined us in fall of 2022. Asian Studies has bounced back from the era of pandemic. Thank you for your support!

As always, I like to thank our student assistants for their significant contributions to this newsletter. Hannah Anderson (assistant in 2020-22) diligently kept reports on the events during my absence in 2021-22. William Speziale (assistant in 2022-23) interviewed Prof. Liu and Hannah Karkari, wrote a report of our festivals, and collected information from the faculty members for the newsletter. This volume is a result of their collaborative efforts. Please enjoy!

Akira Shimada, Program Director

Inside this issue:

Director's message	1
Student Accomplishments and Alumni News	
Faculty News	2
Retirement of Margaret and Welcoming Amanda	
New Faculty Member	3
Checking in with Faculty	
Fall and Spring Festivals	4
Transferable Skills: From Gamer to Chinese Game	5
Activity to Address Anti Asian Hate	6
Wellness Event	
Scholarship Recipients and Study Abroad	7
2021-23 Graduates	8

Alumni News



After serving as executive vice chancellor of Duke Kunshan University in China (2015-2020), Denis Simon '74 (Asian Studies and Political Science) began his new endeavor at the Kenan-Flagler Business School of University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill in January 2023. He teaches international business strategy and Chinese business as well as directs the corporate partnership program at the Business School. When China re-opens, he hopes to engage the business school and the university with the broad array of contacts and organizations he has gotten to know over my 4 decades of connectivity with the PRC. Please also check his interview that appeared on [Science and Technology Daily](#) in Nov. 2022.

Dennis Simon '74 (Photo: S&T Dairy)

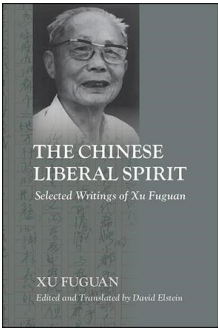


Hannah Karkari '19 (Art History and Asian Studies) taught English in Shimane prefecture in Japan as a JET program fellow. She is now studying at American University in Washington D.C. for her MA in Art History. In March 2022, her paper entitled "A Charming Fabrication: Gender Ambivalence and Shojo Aesthetics in the Portraits of Ashihara Kuniko" won the [32nd annual American University Mathias Student Research Conference Award](#). In Nov. 2022, she presented a part of her master's thesis entitled "Spectacle, Archetype, Icon: Geisha's Gender Play in Nineteenth-Century Woodblock Prints" at the joint American University/George Washington University Graduate Art History Symposium. Hannah's MA thesis is now available [online](#). She is currently doing an internship at The National Museum of Asian Art and is looking to pursue museum education.

Hannah Karkari '19

Faculty News

David Elstein (Philosophy) published his translation of essays by Xu Fuguan, an important 20th century Confucian. It's content touches on religion and philosophy, Confucianism, and democracy. Prof. Elstein is on sabbatical in 2022-23.



Insu Fenkl (English) released his latest novel *Skull Water* in Feb. 2023. The novel, the autobiographical story about a Korean-American boy in 1970s, was featured in NPR's Morning Edition. Prof. Fenkl also delivered a talk about the novel for the Korea Society. Prof. Fenkl is currently co-



translating Lee Chang-dong's book of short stories with Yoosup Chang. It will be published from Penguin USA.

Kristine Harris (History) published an article "Trespassing, Transforming, Translating," was published in Amandine D'Azevedo et. al., eds., *Les sons de l'exotisme au cinema* (Mimésis France, 2022). Prof. Harris also presented a conference paper "Circuits of Mobility

in Love and Duty (China, 1931)" at the international biennial conference Women and the Silent Screen XI at Columbia University in June 2022. Harris also served as a member of the Program Committee for this week-long conference.

Sun Hee Kil (Theatre Arts) sound designed two world premier plays about the lives of Asian Americans. "The Heart Sellers" gives voice to the Asian immigrant experience in the 1970s when the landmark Hart-Celler Act granted thousands of professional workers a new path to citizenship. "Exclusion" is a comedy about troubles of a historian who wrote a book about the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882.

Lauren Mark (Communication) published an article, "Dancing between model minorityhood and yellow peril: Accusations of needing "personality" in Communication, Culture, & Critique 16 (2023). Prof. Mark also presented five conferences papers in 2021-23 at the Association for Asian American Studies and at the National Communication Association's 107th Annual Convention.

Lauren Meeker (Anthropology), Alex Peh (Music), Alyson Hummer ('19, Asian Studies and Anthropology) and Madelyn Colonna (undergraduate student of Anthropology) released a new ethnography film entitled Intermittent Attunement. The film features the cross-cultural exploration of piano world by Prof. Peh and his performance at National Sawdust theatre.

Jonathan Schwartz (Political Science) received a Fulbright-Nehru award that will take him to India from May to January in 2022. He conducted research into pandemic preparedness efforts in the informal settlements of Bengaluru, Karnataka. Prof. Schwartz also co authored "The implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for long term care facilities," *Current Opinion in Infectious Diseases* 35(4) (2022): 370-377, and authored "Is there an Authoritarian Advantage in Pandemic Response? A comparative case study of China's responses to SARS CoV-1 (2003) & SARS CoV-2 (2019)," *Issues & Studies* 58(2) (June 2022).

Melissa Rock (Geography) co-designed and co-facilitated community workshops on Asian American education through the Elting Public Library with Lauren Mark (Communication) (please find the article below). Prof. Rock will be on a sabbatical leave in 2022-23.

Akira Shimada (History) took a sabbatical leave in 2021-22 to develop a research project entitled From Amaravati to Nagarjunakonda and beyond: History of South Indian Buddhism after the Satavahanas. In March 2022, Prof. Shimada co-edited a conference proceeding entitled On the Regional Development of Early Medieval Buddhist Monasteries in South Asia (Kyoto: Ryukoku University) and contributed a chapter.

Happy Retirement of Margaret and Welcoming Amanda



Margaret with our gift



Amanda at Bannerman's Island

In spring of 2022, we say goodbye to Margaret Betaudier, who has worked for many years in the Asian Studies Program as its administrative assistant. Margaret not only helped the director for running the program, but also joined many Asian Studies events as a volunteer. A big thank you to Margaret and good luck! We'll miss you!

Margaret's job was succeeded by Amanda Oken, who joins the Department of Sociology and Asian Studies in the Spring of 2022. Prior to New Paltz, Amanda worked for the NYS Department of Corrections for several years. She is a Beacon, NY native who is currently working towards her BA in Human Services at SUNY Empire State College. Amanda, welcome to Asian Studies!

New Faculty Members



Dr. Dasol Kim

Dr. Dasol Kim joins the Department of Digital Media and Journalism (DMJ) in fall of 2022 as an assistant professor. She earned a Ph.D. in communication from University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She studies contemporary issues of race and gender in digital media spaces, with a special focus on influencer culture, platform economy, and the transnational connection between East Asia and the U.S. Before joining the department, Dr. Kim was a postdoctoral fellow at the Center on Digital Culture and Society (CDCS) at the University of Pennsylvania. In fall of 2023, she will teach the first Digital Media and Journalism course cross-listed with Asian Studies, entitled Media and Journalism (DMJ 310).



Dr. Lauren Mark

Dr. Lauren Mark joins the Department of Communication in fall of 2022 as an Assistant Professor of Communication and Culture. She originally hails from Wisconsin, and called Taiwan, Israel, Arizona, and North Carolina home in the past. She explored Asian theories and philosophy to develop a new methodology for her Ph.D. scholarship at Arizona State University's Hugh Downs School of Communication. Before this, Mark worked in intercultural nonprofit management, translation/interpretation, and dance training and choreography. She studies, writes, and performs about intercultural communication, acculturation, affect, relationality, and racial representations in the media and lived experiences.

Checking In With Faculty



Dr. Jun Lu (LLC) teaches Elementary and Intermediate Chinese (CHI 101, 102, 201, 202) and East-West Living and Learning Community (ASN 100) since 2021. Before joining SUNY New Paltz, Dr. Lu taught Business Management at Inner Mongolia Normal University and Beijing Institute of Petrochemical Technology in China as an Associate Professor. Since her husband is an eminent artist (he showed his painting performance at the mid-autumn festival. See the article on the next page) and pursued his artistic career in the US, she came to the mid-Hudson Valley in 2018. After earning a Certificate of Professional Competency of Chinese Language, Dr. Lu started her new career as a language instructor at SUNY New Paltz. Dr. Lu has worked as a professor now for twenty-seven years. Besides teaching language courses, Dr. Lu helps students to understand various aspects of Chinese and Asian culture by organizing events, such as Mid-Autumn Festival and Lunar New Year celebrations. As a student taking her class, I admire Dr. Lu's great passion for teaching language and culture to her students. We are fortunate to have such a dedicated professor! (William Speziale).

Fall and Spring Festivals (2022-23)



Students Gather for Calligraphy, Origami, Food, and More: Mid Autumn Festival



Asian Studies Director Akira Shimada accepting gift from guest artist Bi GuanLiang: Mid Autumn Festival



President Wheeler Playing "Kingyo Sukui", a Japanese fishing game



Professor Lu's CHI 201 class singing, Chinese New Year

The Fall 2022 Mid-Autumn festival was celebrated on Wednesday September 21st, co-sponsored by the Center for International Programs. After two years online due to the COVID-19 pandemic, this was the first return of our fall festival celebration. As such it was a wonderful opportunity to celebrate reunion and enjoy festivities and food together. After an introductory welcome from Asian Studies Director Akira Shimada and a presentation on what the mid-autumn festival is, Professor Lu's Chinese language class performed a traditional song to celebrate the festival! Following the song, we were delighted to host a special guest performance by world renowned traditional Chinese calligrapher and landscape artist Bi GuanLiang. The Asian Studies department was kindly gifted the beautiful painting that Bi GuanLiang demonstrated creating (as seen in the top right) and we are so grateful to have witnessed his expertise! After the performance students and faculty enjoyed heartfelt celebration through activities and games as well as food supplied by Professor Lu and Director Shimada!

On Wednesday February 1st, we celebrated the Chinese Lunar New Year. Officially, the New Year began on Sunday January 22nd of the 2023 solar calendar, but as classes started on January 23rd, the celebration of Feb. 1st served as a wonderful way to start the school semester, and celebrate the new year! Students and faculty all came together as Director Shimada welcomed us, we enjoyed Professor Lu's CHI 201 class singing "Happy New Year" in Chinese, and then it was time to play and eat! From activities such as making paper rabbit ears, calligraphy, and the Japanese fishing game "kingyo sukui". Delicious food and treats were cooked and supplied by Director Shimada and Professor Lu, along with student volunteers.

Both celebrations were attended by so many students and faculty, we would like to thank all who came, as well as the Sojourner Truth Library and the Center for International Programs for hosting and co-sponsoring both events, respectively! (Willam Speziale)

Transferable Skills: From Gamer to Chinese Game Translator (February 2022)

A quarter of the world's video game industry revenues are from China. Chinese online games are gaining increasing attention globally. How do these games gain an international audience of players, and what are the skills, tools, and knowledge required of translators to facilitate this process?

On February 26, 2022, Lani Nelson '13 gave an international Zoom presentation for the Helen T. Lin Legacy Initiative, a non-profit that fosters bold conversations and collaboration across sectors, disciplines, social divides, and national borders in order to deepen knowledge and insight regarding China -- its history, diversity, and evolving position in the world -- with the aim of advancing greater global connectivity to address challenges and seize opportunities to better our world.



Tiger Talk by Lani Nelson:
Transferable Skills: From Gamer to Chinese Games Translator
Saturday, February 26, 2-3PM EST USA

- ❖ Chinese online games are gaining increasing attention globally. How do these games attract such an international audience of players?
- ❖ This talk will offer insights into trends in China's gaming industry today from the perspective of a translator specializing in game localization.
- ❖ The goal of game localization is to create an enjoyable, play experience by providing translation with specific cultural context while being faithful to the source material.

REGISTER TO ATTEND:
Contact: htl.legacy@gmail.com
Tell us which teacher referred you to receive your Zoom Link
Tiger Talk is a program of the Helen T Lin Legacy Initiative <https://www.helentlinlegacy.org>

The event, entitled "Transferable Skills: From Gamer to Chinese Games Translator," was organized and moderated by Prof. Kristine Harris (History & Asian Studies), and was attended by students and faculty from multiple universities, including SUNY New Paltz. Nelson, who holds a BA in Asian Studies with a minor in Linguistics, along with an MSc in Translation Studies from the University of Stirling, works from home in Glasgow as a freelance Chinese to English games translator specializing in game localization. In her presentation, Nelson spoke about her personal journey with Chinese language study and the unexpected convergence with her interest in gaming. She spoke about trends in China's gaming industry today, addressed newly emerging opportunities in freelance translation, and offered insights into the technological innovations that are now transforming translation work across borders.

Lani Nelson (SUNY New Paltz '13) holds a BA in Asian Studies with a minor in Linguistics, along with an MSc in Translation Studies from the University of Stirling, Scotland. While at SUNY New Paltz, Lani pursued study abroad at Nanjing University in China and Dankook University in Korea, and after graduation she was a reporter and video editor for a Manhattan-based Chinese TV station. She now works from home in Glasgow as a freelance Chinese to English games translator.



Activity to Address Anti-Asian Hate

One of the challenges that affected us with the rest of the country is the rise in anti-Asian hate stemming from some of the political rhetoric surrounding the pandemic. In 2022-23, we organized events to raise the public awareness of this problem.



On April 28th of 2022 at the Lecture Center, Asian Studies Program, Pacific Islander Student Alliance (APISA), and five other departments (LLC, Digital Media and Journalism, Anthropology, Geography) co-organized a screening of “Vincent Who?”. This award-winning film, which has been screened at over 500 universities and NGOs in the US and internationally, features a murder of Vincent Chin in Detroit in 1982 at the height of anti-Japanese sentiments. Two white autoworkers who murdered Vincent said, “it’s because of you mother** that we’re out of work.” When the judged fined the killers a mere \$3,000 and three years probation, Asian Americans around the country galvanized for the first time to form a real community and movement. This documentary asks how far Asian Americans have come since then and how far we have yet to go. The screening was followed by an in-person Q&A with director Curtis Chin. Given the recent rise in anti-AAPI hate, this film brought important attention to the issues that AAPI communities around the country and on our own campus are experiencing and highlights the fact that this is not a new problem.



On March 6 and 20 of 2023, by responding to the request from the Elting Memorial Library at New Paltz, Merissa Rock (Geography) and Lauren Mark (Communication) co-organized a community workshop to discuss social issues about Asian Americans with a local community. The first session on March 6, entitled *Unpacking Anti-Asian Hate: AAPI 101*, provided participants with common language and a brief introduction to Asian immigration and Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) histories that reveal the longstanding tensions at the heart of contemporary Anti-Asian/Anti-AAPI bias and hate. They also touched on fluctuating AAPI identity assignments such as: the model minority myth, yellow peril, the forever foreigner, and honorary white membership. Despite the sensitive and complex nature of the topic, Profs. Rock and Mark guided participants to navigate this absent history through a combination of statistics, personal narratives, and interactive discussions.

Wellness Event



With support from APISA (Asian & Pacific Islander Student Alliance) and NYPIRG (New York Public Research Interest Group) of New Paltz, the Asian Studies Program organized a wellness event for students on April 20th of 2022 in Hasbrouck Park. This was the second of a two-part event organized by volunteer Lenna Georgiadis ('22, International Relations and Asian Studies). There was a de-stressing art station, yoga led by Jocelyn Songco of The Hot Spot in Kingston, and guided meditation led by Mateo Tenzin Mortellaro.

The first part of the wellness event was held on March 30th of 2022. Students lined up to receive free boba, goodie-bags filled with classic Asian snacks, and a brochure filled with mental health resources to help them de-stress and get through mid-terms. These events were a great chance to get together to meet new people and talk about the stress everyone has been feeling from the Covid-19 pandemic and school. Special thanks to APISA, NYPIRG, and Lenna for helping organize! (Hanna Anderson)

Scholarship Recipients 2021-23

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 Endowment (FASE) Scholarship in 2021-22

Christiana Meah

Casey Pace

Friends of Asian Studies Endowment (FASE) Scholarship in 2022-23

Terence McKeown

William Speziale

Study Abroad for Academic Year 2022-23



Amber Davidson at Seinan Gakuin University, Fukuoka, Japan



Casey Pace at Kanazawa, Japan

In 2021-22, study abroad programs were largely suspended due to the prolonged COVID risk in Asia. As Japan resumed accepting international students in March 2022, however, some of our students accomplished study abroad in Japan in fall of 2022 and spring of 2023. More students will go to Japan and Korea in 2023-24, although we still await for the re-opening of exchange programs with China.

- Christiana Meah
(Meiji University, Spring 2023)
- Casey Pace
(Kanazawa University, Fall 2022)
- Amber Davidson
(Seinan Gakuin University,
Fall 2022)

2021–23 Graduates of Asian Studies

BA Major in Asian Studies

(2021-22)

Hanna Anderson
Morgan Bullock
Lenna Georigiadis
Adrien Herrera
Andreanna Massiah
Veronica Romero
Kiara Rosas
Stephanie Ruddy
Kailas Ferrari

(2022-23)

Casey Pace
Christiana Meah
Alexa Porco
Vanessa Asuncion
Tara Farrell
Amber Davidson
Jade Roman
Michelle LeBlanc

BA Minor Asian Studies

(2021-22)

Amy Zheng
Bridgette Cammisa
Tyler Chan
Emily Kimoto
Jessica Tobey
Stefanie Workman
Lynn Nguyen
Tanasia LaBrew

(2022-23)

Aaliyah Christiansen
Stefan Kloss
Justin Lee
Catriona McAree
Jeffrey Yoe
Wanying Zhang



Kailas Ferrari '22 (left) and Jade Roman '23 (center)
at 2020 Spring Festival

Many
Congratulations!

PLEASE SEND US COMMENTS ON THE NEWSLETTERS, YOUR UPDATES, MEMORIES OF ASIAN STUDIES, OLD PICTURES ETC. FOR THE NEW NEWSLETTER AND OUR HAWKSITE (<https://hawksites.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies/>).
FEEL FREE TO SEND YOUR ARTICLES TO

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or

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