



Asian Studies Notes

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

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亞細亞學研究

September 11 & the Ivory Tower

Mark Ashwill, WLI Director

In every national crisis, our nation has lamented its foreign language shortfalls. But then the crisis goes away, and we return to business as usual. One of the messages of September 11 is that business as usual is no longer an acceptable option.

- Paul Simon, former U.S. senator and chair of the National Foreign Language Center advisory board.

The shock waves that emanated from the World Trade Center and the Pentagon have left no corner of society untouched, including academia. In the days since September 11th, many

Americans have looked to higher education for an understanding of the backdrop and context of these attacks, as well as insights into what the future may hold. The soul-searching and self-reflection has extended to college presidents who suddenly want to know how many Middle Eastern and Islamic studies scholars are on their faculties. This wake-up call to university administrators, including those at UB, has revealed the obvious: that the Arab world and Islam are neglected or nonexistent in most curricula and study abroad programs.

Consider this...

■ Arabic, one of six official United Nations languages and the language of Is-

lam, is spoken by 160 million people, yet was studied by fewer than 5000 U.S. undergraduates in 1998 out of a total of 1 million enrolled in foreign language courses, according to the Modern Language Association (MLA).

■ The Institute of International Education (IIE) reports that only 543, or less than one-half of 1%, of the 130,000 Americans who studied abroad in 1998/99 did so in an Arab country!

UB, for example, has not had a Middle East specialist on its faculty in ten years, which reflects recent hiring priorities. What UB does offer, to its credit, is a sequence of Arabic language courses and the administrative infrastructure to offer other relevant lan-

TESTIMONIALS FROM STUDY ABROAD:

green tea, karaoke, and pachinko now a regular part of my life

Rhona Cadenhead, Study Abroad Advisor

"I was once asked, "What is the defining moment that changed your life and made you who you are?" For me it was my study abroad experience at International Christian University (ICU) in Japan. It was a university with less than 5,000 students. The professors who lived on campus gladly opened their homes to any students who just wanted to talk. There were many opportunities to meet new people and events that were organized by the University specifically for International Students. I will never forget the incredible experiences or the friends I made in Japan." Vivian Mei, ICU, Academic Year 1999-2000

International Christian University is a non-denominational recognized leader in academic excellence. ICU offers undergraduate participants, with one year of college-level Japanese, courses focusing on intensive Japanese language as well as a wide selection of classes taught in English. ICU is located in Mitaka City, a charming suburb of Tokyo, and provides

students a view of Mount Fuji from campus. Interested students may choose from an academic year program or a summer experience.

"My study abroad experience in Konan University in Japan was definitely the most wonderful experience I have ever had. The teachers were excellent and the staff was extremely helpful and supportive. Not only did my Japanese improve tremendously, I also made many good friends with whom I shared wonderful experiences. I am now able to converse fluently in Japanese, which I never thought I could ever do and I even picked up some local accent, which I would not have been able to learn from the books. I hope that more students will take the opportunity to experience what I have experienced. If I had the chance, I would do it all over again." Paul Yong, Konan University, Academic Year 2000-2001

UB undergraduate students with
See STUDY ABROAD p. 2

UB Creates a New Fund

A new fund, The Interdisciplinary Research and Creative Activities Fund (IRCAF) has been created in order to support and facilitate the formation of collaborations and the exploration of innovative ideas that will open new directions in research and creative activities, enhance the intellectual environment of the UB campuses and lead to long-term funding support from external sources. This fund was developed to specifically promote collaboration on topics of interest that cut across two or more schools.

The fund has two major components: one for the creation of interdisciplinary planning groups (up to \$10,000) and one for pilot funding of projects (up to \$50,000).

Deadlines are February 1st and October 1st for either type.

Details can be found at
http://www.research.buffalo.edu/internal_funding/default.htm

SEPTEMBER 11 (cont. from p.1)

guages on a demand basis. In fact, among the so-called less commonly taught languages offered here, Arabic is one of the most popular with a Fall 2001 enrollment of nearly 40 students in first- and second-year courses. Some are Arab-Americans who wish to preserve their cultural heritage, others work in jobs or plan careers that require Arabic proficiency, while still others want to be able to read the Qur'an (Koran) in the original.

Clearly, as with most languages taught in the U.S., it is only a select few who have the commitment, perseverance and practical need to acquire functional proficiency. (8% of U.S. college students study a foreign language and only 10% of those study a language other than Spanish, French or German.) For the majority of students, courses about the Arab world and Islam are an indispensable part of a general education curriculum that seeks to develop

cultural awareness and intercultural sensitivity. This is a gap that simply must be bridged in the years to come.

In retrospect, the September 11 attacks could become the early 21st century equivalent of the 1957 Sputnik launching that shook the foundations of the government and military establishment. The Russian satellite was the catalyst for the National Defense Education Act (NDEA) that legislated a major long-term investment in the education and training of a generation of Russian language and area studies specialists.

For its part, UB has the potential of serving as a regional resource and a center of excellence for students and community members interested in learning Arabic and learning about the Arab world and Islam. With its commitment to public service, UB is uniquely positioned to assist Western New York students in learning first-hand about Arab countries, for example, through initiatives such as the

Global Ambassadors Program. (Note: The Council on International Studies and Programs and the Office of the Vice Provost for International Education are sponsoring a lecture series in February and March entitled "Perspectives on September 11th and Its Aftermath.")

While we mourned the victims and railed against the perpetrators of the terrorist attacks, we also came together, giving of our blood, our time, our treasure, our creativity, and our prayers -- to help those in need and to help mend a broken world. To these positive legacies of September 11th, I would add the transformative and transcendental power of education.

Ashwill is director of the World Languages Institute and Fulbright Program Adviser at UB. He is also executive director of the U.S.-Indochina Educational Foundation, Inc., a non-profit organization based in Buffalo. (A full-length version of this article appeared in the November 15, 2001 ArtVoice.)

STUDY ABROAD (cont. from p.1)

one year of Japanese may choose to study at Konan University in Kobe, Japan. This program focuses on Japanese language training with emphasis on developing speaking and reading skills. Supplementing Japanese language classes, participants also enroll in two Japanese studies courses ranging in topic from Art History to Business and Economics. A popular aspect of the program is the homestay experience. Living with a Japanese family provides students with the opportunity to experience Japanese lifestyle, customs and culture first hand while constantly improving language skills. A full year exchange is available along with the potential for a semester option.

"Although I expected things to be quite different in Japan from what I was used to in the States, I don't think anything could have prepared me for the degree of difference I have encountered during the last four months - raw fish, green tea ice cream, karaoke, and pachinko are now a regular part of my life. The kind of learning one does when immersed in a culture is really an amazing thing - and from this learning one obtains a kind of cultural fluency. Learning about the customs and culture of Japan and the Japanese people affords me the ability to communicate in a way that I never could without this exchange experience under my belt." Erica Hedberg, Kanazawa University, Academic year 2001-2002 (current exchange student)

UB undergrads and graduate students may feel right at home in Buffalo's sister city of Kanazawa, Japan. Kanazawa University Student Exchange program participants take a language course; two classes on Japanese affairs, culture, or nature; and two additional elective courses taught in English from a wide variety of subjects. Kanazawa receives more than 300 foreign students each year and provides housing both off campus and on campus in the International House.

It is a great time to be considering a study abroad experience in Japan. Whether the desire to study abroad is rooted in a quest for self-discovery or a more pragmatic approach of reviewing costs and comparing exchange rates, the conclusion is the same - there is no time like the present. University at Buffalo students are eligible for different scholarships to help finance overseas programs in Asia, including the Freeman Asia Scholarship and the AIEJ Scholarship. In addition to programs in Japan, we are proud of all of our Asian exchange opportunities including Capital Normal University and Beijing Polytechnic University in Beijing as well as Korea University in Seoul.

For more information about programs and scholarships, please visit the UB Study Abroad Programs Office in 210 Talbert Hall or visit us on-line at www.buffalo.edu/studyabroad.

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NEW AGREEMENT SIGNED WITH CAPITAL UNIVERSITY OF MEDICAL SCIENCES, CHINA

This photo marked the renewal of the exchange agreement between the Capital University of Medical Sciences (CUOMS), Beijing, China and UB in late 2001.

The agreement is for 5 years. When initiated in 1980, it was the first such agreement since the normalization of diplomatic relations between the People's Republic of China and the USA.

From left: Dr. Richard V. Lee; professor of medicine; Stephen C. Dunnett, vice provost for international education; Dr. Michael E. Bernardino, vice president for health affairs and dean of the School of Medicine and Biomedical Sciences; and Dr. Xu Qun-yuan, president of CUOMS.

Burkman elected to AAS post

Thomas W. Burkman, Director of Asian Studies, was elected by the membership of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) to a national office. He will represent the New York Conference on Asian Studies of the Council on Conferences of AAS. The three-year term will begin in April, 2002.

Tomita receives grant from DOE

Dr. Machiko R. Tomita (Clinical Associate Professor in the Occupational Therapy Department) is Principal Investigator (PI) for a subcontract from the Rehabilitation Engineering Research Center on Technology for Successful Aging (University of Florida). This is a federal grant from the US Department of Education, and she will bring in about \$750,000 over the next 5 years. She will lead two projects: (1) Needs and Barriers to Home Based Monitoring and Communication Technologies, and (2) Smart Houses. In addition to the grant, she is a co-PI in a research project titled "The effectiveness of a computer-based system to promote self-care among older persons with physical disabilities," and a UB PI for the Rehabilitation Research Training Center for Independent Living Management. Her latest paper, "The Relationship Between Cognitive Level and Use of Assistive Devices among Community-Based Frail Elders," is now available in the *Proceedings of the International Conference of Technology and Aging* in Toronto. Tomita is a member of the Asian Studies Advisory Council.

Nozaki joins Graduate School of Education

Dr. Yoshiko Nozaki joined the Comparative and Global Studies faculty in the GSE in January 2002. Her background is in comparative/international education, educational anthropology, curriculum theory and history, and cultural studies. Her research and teaching interests are in the comparative and international studies of gender and women's education, nationalism and curriculum/textbook controversies, educational reform, peace education, and education and politics in Asian countries. In her dissertation, she examined the Japanese history textbook controversies in the period since 1945, and she is currently working on a book project on the subject. Her recent articles have appeared in *Anthropology and Education Quarterly*, *Urban Education*, *Education about Asia*, and *Critical Asian Studies*.

Nozaki was a social studies teacher in Japan from 1979 to 1989, and has also had experience visiting South Korean schools and teaching in public schools in the United States and Australia. She has also taught as a lecturer at Massey University in New Zealand. In the fall of 2001, she conducted research at the Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo, Japan.

This semester Nozaki offers a new course at GSE, Education in Asia.

Asian Studies courses go high-tech

More Asian Studies courses are put on <http://UBLearns.buffalo.edu> this semester, totaling 9. They are COM 202 (by Lin); HIS 368 (by Burkman); HIS 391, HIS 485, and HIS 543 (by DesForges), TH 460 (by Horne), WS 375 (by Pangsapa), ELP 574 (by Nozaki); AMS 381, and UGC 211 (by Zhou).

Indian movie to be shown

Earth (India/Canada, 1999, Color, in Hindi, Urdu, Gujarati, and Punjabi with English subtitles) will be shown on Feb. 7, 7 p.m. at Market Arcade, 639 Main Street, Buffalo, as part of the *IREWG International Women Film Festival*. This is the second film in director Deepa Mehta's trilogy of the elements: Fire, Earth and Water. The destruction of innocence by desire and greed wearing the garb of religion and nationalism was the price of this sectarian war. More info.: call IREWG at (716)829-3451.

Kudos

Lecture Series to Offer Varied Perspectives on September 11 and its Aftermath

With the benefit of some distance from the terrorist attacks of September and the subsequent war on terrorism, a group of experts including UB faculty, a UB alumnus from Jordan, and visiting Fulbright scholars from Central and South Asia will present a series of lectures this spring exploring the meaning and implications of 9/11, terrorism as a global threat, and the U.S. response.

"Perspectives on September 11th and Its Aftermath," which is organized and sponsored by the Council on International Studies and Programs and the Office of the Vice Provost for International Education, comprises six lectures presented in February and March. The lectures are free and open to the public.

Allan E. Goodman, president and chief executive officer of the Institute of International Education and former executive dean and professor of the School of Foreign Service at Georgetown University, will lecture March 6 on the implications of recent events for international education. Goodman is a distinguished authority on international education and exchange. The lecture schedule is as follows; all lectures are in the Student Union Theater unless indicated otherwise:

February 6 3:00 p.m.	Bioterrorism: What is Our Risk? Richard V. Lee, MD, UB Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics and Obstetrics
February 13 3:00 p.m.	September 11: Views from the Arab World Bader Dweik, Ph.D., UB Alumnus and former Fulbright Scholar Professor of English Linguistics, Al-Zaytoonah University of Jordan
February 21 2:00 p.m. 330 Student Union	The Kashmir Issue in International Politics Saleem Kidwai, Ph.D., Visiting Fulbright Scholar, Villanova University Visiting Fellow, Centre for Western and European Studies, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India
February 27 3:00 p.m.	The Islamic Movement in Uzbekistan Guli I. Yuldasheva, Ph.D., Visiting Fulbright Scholar, Indiana University; Leading Scientific Fellow, Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies, Tashkent, Uzbekistan
March 6 3:00 p.m.	International Education Post 9/11 Allan E. Goodman, Ph.D., President and Chief Executive Officer, Institute of International Education Former Executive Dean and Professor, School of Foreign Service, Georgetown University
March 21 3:00 p.m.	The War on Terrorism and Its Impact on Civil Liberties Lee Albert, LLB, UB Professor of Law; and David Filvaroff, LLB, UB Professor of Law A Representative from the U.S. Department of Justice (TBA)

The lecture series has been organized to address the need for access to a variety of informed perspectives on the terrorist attacks, the subsequent war on terrorism, and the ramifications of both for the United States and the rest of the world. They will serve to highlight the increased importance of international education and exchange in the post-September 11 world.

Upcoming Speakers at Asia at Noon

Asia at Noon is a series of brown-bag lunch gatherings at the University at Buffalo, sponsored by the Asian Studies program. They are usually scheduled for a Friday, from 12 noon to 1:00, in Park 280. The meetings dismiss promptly at 1:00. The presenter usually takes about 20 minutes, and the rest of the time is devoted to question and answer and discussion. The audience is comprised of undergraduates, graduate students, interested faculty, and folk from the Buffalo community.

The first Asia at Noon session of the semester took place Friday, February 1. **Michael Frisch** of History/Center for the Americas spoke on "The Problematic Past and Promising Future of American Studies in Asia: Report on a Recent Visit to Japan and Korea." The convener was Professor Ruth Meyerowitz of the Center for the Americas.

On February 22, the special guest at Asia at Noon will be Professor **Salem Kidwai**. Kidwai is affiliated with the Center for Western and European Studies at Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, India. He is a specialist on Islam in India and the Kashmir dispute between Pakistan and India. Kidwai is a visiting Fulbright Scholar in sociology at Villanova University. His visit to UB is sponsored by the Council on International Studies and Programs. John Wood of the English Language Institute will act as convener

for the February 22 event.

Professor **Maurizio Marinelli**, an Italian Sinologist and currently visiting professor at SUNY/Fredonia, will address Asia at Noon on March 1. His 1996 dissertation at the University of Cagliari, "The Relationship between Intellectuals and the State in the People's Republic of China," has been published as a book. His analysis applies Western theoretical categories to specific Chinese political contexts (for example, the relevance of Gramsci's concept of the new intellectual to the May 4th Movement of 1919). He analyzes the changes and continuities in Chinese Communist Party policies toward intellectuals, exploring the ways in which the CCP power structure reacts to the literary and political activities of Chinese scholars and writers. He also examines how Chinese literature, literary criticism, and literary theory developed in both the Mao and post-Mao eras. Marinelli is also the author of *Modernization and Human Rights in China* (Bologna: Patron, 2000).

Marinelli's topic at Asia at Noon is "The Role of Language in Chinese Political Communication." The March 1 event will take place at noon in Park 280.

CONFERENCES/SEMINARS/MEETINGS

■ Students in all disciplines with interest in U.S.-Japan relations: The 54th Japan-America Student Conference (JASC), which will be held July 24th-August 21, 2002 in Washington, DC, Ohio, California and Guam would like to receive applicants to represent your institution for this unique program, the oldest student-coordinated Conference between the two countries, dating back to 1934. The theme for this year is *Redefining the Role of Japan and the U.S. in Contemporary Social Issues*. All applications must be mailed out and postmarked by March 1, 2002.

More information: Japan-America Student Conference, Inc., 606 18th Street, NW, 2nd Floor, Washington, DC 20006, (202) 289-4231, Fax: (202) 789-8265, jascinc@jasc.org, <http://www.jasc.org>

■ HARVARD ASIA QUARTERLY - Call for Papers
The Harvard Asia Quarterly publishes articles, essays, and interviews from a broad range of fields and disciplines examining issues of importance in contemporary Asia (Southeast Asia, South Asia, Central Asia). We are seeking papers for our Spring and Summer 2002 issues. SUBMISSION DEADLINES: SPRING issue - February 1, 2002. SUMMER issue - March 15, 2002. Electronic submissions preferred: submissions@haqonline.org

More information: Web: <http://www.haqonline.org>
Email: info@haqonline.org

■ The Canadian Asian Studies Association (CASA) welcomes submissions of proposals for both panels and individual papers for the 2002 CASA Conference. Panels and individual papers should ideally fall into one of the following major sub-themes of the conference: Boundary Issues in Migration and Ethnicity, Popular Culture and its Boundaries, Politics and Economics of Boundaries, Boundaries of the Imaginary, Real, and Cyber Sorts, Socially and Naturally Constructed Boundaries, September 11th, 2001 as a Boundary in Modern Asian History, Technology and Development: Asian and Comparative Perspectives, Boundaries along Disciplinary and National/Cultural Divides. SUBMISSION DEADLINE: FEBRUARY 8, 2002

More information: CASA/ACEA, c/o CETASE, Université de Montréal, C.P. 6128, Succ. Centre-ville, Montréal, Québec, Canada H3C 3J7, Tél: (514) 343-6569 Fax: (514) 343-7716, casa@cetase.umontreal.ca

■ GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM ON GENDER, State University of New York at Buffalo, Saturday, March 16, 2002. Submissions are welcomed from all disciplines within the arts, sciences, social sciences and humanities. ABSTRACTS DUE: Postmarked: February 11, 2002 or by email/fax: February 15, 2002, 12pm (EST).

More information:
IREWG (The Institute for Research and Education on Women and Gender),
University at Buffalo
216 Harriman Hall, Room 104, Box M, 3435 Main Street,
Buffalo, NY 14214-3072, Attn: Kimberly Beck
Email: kmbeck@buffalo.edu,
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GRANTS/ FELLOWSHIPS/PROGRAMS

■ The Asia Foundation, with generous support from the Henry Luce Foundation, invites faculty (in these disciplines: international relations, political science, economics, sociology, or Asian Studies) of American institutions of higher learning to apply for five-month research and curriculum development grants in Vietnam during the period September 2002-December 2003. This program encourages the development of courses in Vietnamese studies in the United States, and provides round-trip economy class international airfare, travel allowance, stipend, health and accident insurance, and a book allowance. Grantees can commence their program at any time during the above-noted period provided that their program is completed before the end of 2003. The successful candidate will be placed as a visiting scholar at an appropriate research or educational institution in Hanoi or Ho Chi Minh City. Upon return to his/her home institution, he/she will be expected to teach the material developed during the five-month field research in Vietnam. Deadline: March 31, 2002.

More information: Asian-American Exchange (415) 982-4640 x 3304, www.asiafoundation.org/programs/prog-asia-viet.html

■ The Edwin O. Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies at Harvard University will offer several postdoctoral fellowships in Japanese studies to recent Ph.D.s of exceptional promise, to give them the opportunity to turn their dissertations into publishable manuscripts. Each fellowship will cover a 10- or 12-month period, beginning July 1 or September 1, 2002, with a stipend of \$40,000 and health insurance coverage for the grantee. First option for publication of manuscripts will rest with the Harvard University Asia Center Publications Office, for its Harvard East Asian Monographs series. Postdoctoral fellows will be provided office space and access to the libraries and resources of Harvard University. Eligibility: Applicants must have received their Ph.D. degree in 1997 or later, in Japanese studies in any area of the humanities or social sciences. Those who are chosen to receive fellowships must have completed all requirements for the Ph.D. degree by July 1, 2002.

More information: www.fas.harvard.edu/~rijs

■ ExAS Postdoctoral Fellowship: East Asian Institute, Columbia University in the City of New York. Columbia University invites applications for 2002-2003. Candidates from all East Asian disciplines and areas are welcome to apply. The Fellows will devote one year, half time to teaching and developing courses [one course each semester] for the Expanding Asian Studies Undergraduate (ExAS) Program at Columbia and half time to their own research or writing. The Institute will offer four awards with a stipend of \$40,000 each for the year. Recipients of the award must have completed their degree by July 1, 2002 and may not be more than five years beyond receipt of the Ph.D. Deadline: March 1, 2002. To apply: send a research or writing proposal, current curriculum vitae, and three letters of recommendation to ExAS Postdoctoral Fellowship, East Asian Institute, Columbia University, 912 International Affairs, Mail Code 3333, 420 West 118th Street, New York, New York 10027.

Asian Studies Calendar

February

- Feb. 1, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Michael Frisch**, "The Problematic Past and Promising Future of American Studies in Asia: Report on a Recent Visit to Japan and Korea." Park 280.
- Feb. 6, Wed. 3:00 p.m. *Lecture Series*. **Richard V. Lee**, MD, UB Professor of Medicine, Pediatrics and Obstetrics. "Bioterrorism: What is Our Risk?" SU Theater.
- Feb. 7, Thu. 7:00 p.m. *Earth*. India/Canada, 1999. 639 Main Street, Buffalo (across from Shea's Theater).
- Feb. 12, Tue. *Chinese New Year of the Horse*.
- Feb. 13, Wed. 3:00 p.m. *Lecture Series*. **Bader Dweik**, UB Alumnus and former Fulbright Scholar Professor of English Linguistics, and *Al-Zaytoonah*, University of Jordan. "September 11: Views from the Arab World." SU Theater.
- Feb. 21, Thu. 2:00 p.m. *Lecture Series*. **Saleem Kidwai**, Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India. "The Kashmir Issue in International Politics." 330 SU.
- Feb. 22, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Saleem Kidwai**, "Kashmir Issue." Park 280. Cosponsored by the CISP.
- Feb. 27, Wed. 3:00 p.m. *Lecture Series*. **Guli I.**

sity, Leading Scientific Fellow, Institute for Strategic and Regional Studies, Tashkent, Uzbekistan." The Islamic Movement in Uzbekistan." SU Theater.

March

- Mar. 1, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Maurizio Marinelli** (SUNY/Fredonia), "The Role of Language in Chinese Political Communication." Park 280.
- Mar. 6, Wed. 3:00 p.m. *Lecture Series*. **Allan E. Goodman**, President and CEO, Institute of International Education, "International Education Post 9/11." SU Theater.
- Mar. 15, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **James Z. Lee** (Cal Tech), "Malthusian Mythology and Chinese Realities: Current Issues in Chinese Demography." Park 280. Cosponsored by CAS and Department of History.

April

- Apr. 12, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Christopher Loretz and Catherine Pollina** (Department of Biological Science), "Science in Japan: Opportunities for Collaborative Research." Park 280.
- Apr. 26, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Zhiqiang Liu** (Department of Economics), "The Economic Impact and Determinants of Investment in Human and Political Capital in China." Park 280.



Asian Studies Notes

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