



Asian Studies Notes

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Vol. 8, No. 1 / Sept. 2002

Website: www.wings.buffalo.edu/asian/asn

亞細亞學研究

The View from Japan



Thomas W. Burkman
Director of Asian Studies

Is Japan irrevocably flushed down the tubes of economic decline? Can Japan sustain its self-confidence and prosperity in the face of Chinese growth and assertiveness? Do the Japanese continue to deny the offensive features of their history that still enrage neighbors in Korea and China?

I'm just getting over jetlag from the return flight from a seven-week stay in Japan, where I conducted historical research and discussions with UB partner universities. My stay gave me several close-up vantage points

from which to observe Japan.

Twelve years have passed since Japan's financial bubble burst in 1990. The National Tax Agency announced in early August that the average price of urban land fell 6.5% from the previous year, the tenth straight year of real estate decline. Financially strapped national universities are overgrown with weeds, while their graduates this past spring faced one of the tightest job markets in memory.

The rise of China is indeed impressive. Japanese business strategist Omae Kenichi describes it as a shift in the global balance of power comparable to the emergence of the United States as a world power a century ago. Chinese economic competitiveness presents Japan with its greatest challenge since World War II. Persons on the street in

Tokyo are deeply concerned.

While Japanese dysfunction seems to dominate press reports, what impressed me more was how well many things work in Japan - how advanced and resilient are the nation's capacity to move people, provide goods and services, and pass on information. Communication is instantaneous with ubiquitous cell phones and hand-held e-mail devices. Information on the holdings in all major university and national libraries are readily available on-line to researchers at their desks. Each day millions of Tokyo-area people are transported from home to workplace and back again in the world's most impressive web of commuter trains and subways. The Japan Alps around Nagano area now only a couple of hours away from downtown Tokyo by bullet train. I

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UB's New Major in Asian Studies

For several years, undergraduates at UB opting for an academic concentration in Asian Studies have had to work through the Special Major program. Last year the Asian Studies Advisory Council worked on a proposal to establish a permanent Major in Asian

Studies. The plan for this interdisciplinary major has gained approval at the College and University levels, and is now being evaluated by SUNY-Central in Albany. Pending anticipated State approval, students will be able to register for the major from Fall 2003. The curricu-

lum for the projected Major in Asian Studies appears on page 4. The Asian Studies program will continue to administer the Minor in East Asian Studies.

The Major will require 37-39 hours of coursework beyond the General Education language requirement of two semesters.

JAPAN (cont. from p. 1)

can remember when a seven-hour, standing-room stint in a stiflingly hot and smoky steam train was the sole option. Though there are social restraints on behavior, the Japanese people have - and exercise - legal freedom of thought, expression, and movement. I cannot but think that Japan's store of industrial and social capital will enable it to weather the current storm and maintain a prominent role in East Asia.

Near the Imperial Palace, the Yasukuni Museum was recently enlarged. Funded primarily by the conservative War Bereaved Families Association, the Museum puts a positive and sentimental spin on the Japanese men and women who gave their lives for the country in World War II and are enshrined in neighboring Yasukuni Shrine. At the Yasukuni, Japan in the 1930s and 1940s is portrayed as an Asian liberator, provoked into war by European and US colonizers. Japan expanded its invasion of the mainland in 1937 when faced with "Chinese terrorism." The depiction of seizure of Nanjing in that year acknowledges only "heavy Chinese casualties." Yasukuni is one side of Japan, the

Japan that is compelled to purvey a national past in which its children can take pride, the Japan where violence has noble outcomes, the Japan that insists that in past suffering and defeat it was a victim and not a perpetrator.

On the other hand, I saw signs that Japan is newly sensitive to the historical memory of non-Japanese. The government in August announced that Japanese paper money is getting new faces. The 5,000-yen note will carry the visage of Higuchi Ichiyo, a female writer from the Meiji era. She replaces Nitobe Inazo, a prewar scholar of colonial policy, whose constant presence on the bill irked Koreans because of his assimilationist views. With my two teenagers in tow, I visited again the Atomic Bomb Museum in Hiroshima. To me, it is satisfying that now all four of my children have entered that Tange-designed memorial hall of nuclear carnage. I was struck by a change in tone in the museum since it was recently enlarged and revamped. There are fewer photos of burned children, fewer exhibits of charred backpacks and melted bicycles. The victimization tone is muted.

While in Japan, the world news I read caused me to recall what it takes to change an authoritarian society into a democratic one. Much of my earlier career as a scholar was devoted to docu-

menting the activities of American soldiers and civilians as well as Japanese operatives in the Allied Occupation of Japan - an intense period of social and political reform following Japan's defeat. To birth a liberal democracy, it took three years of detailed planning during wartime, seven years of military occupation followed by now five decades of foreign military presence, thousands of personnel from several nations operating at the village level and empowered by an unconditional surrender, and citizen disillusionment with the "feudal" ideologies of the past. Also consequential was the prewar Japanese experience with the rule of law and parliamentary institutions. Now I hear the notion that the world's only superpower nation can institute democracy by simply removing a dictator. Some Americans do not understand the fact that democratization is an intense, lengthy, and costly process. Even then, the product is not what you initially envisioned. Knowing the history of Japan can be a reality check.

T. W. B.

Note:

Dr. Burkman will speak about his research in Japan at Asia at Noon on October 4.

Asia At Noon in September

Asia at Noon is a brown bag lunch gathering of the Asian studies community at UB. It meets approximately every two weeks, usually on Fridays. Students, faculty, and friends of Asia from outside the university are welcome to attend. A featured guest shares ideas from his or her research, and the audience engages in open discussion with the guest.

As a purposefully interdisciplinary program, *Asia at Noon* brings together students and faculty from a variety of disciplines and depart-

ments. Meetings begin at 12:00, and always end promptly at 1:00.

The series gets off to a fine start on September 13 with Professor **Jeanette M. Ludwig**, Associate Professor of French in the Department of Modern Languages and Literatures. In addition to her commitment to French literature, Professor Ludwig has a deep interest in world religions, which motivated her to obtain a Master of Arts in Religion and institute a course on World Religions at UB. A year ago she traveled in India and observed notewor-

thy holy places. Her slide-illustrated presentation is titled "People, Places, and Pilgrimage in India."

During UB's Gender Week (September 23-27), Asian Studies will offer an Asia at Noon program on "Media Images of Asian American Woman." This September 27 program is generated by members of the **Asian/American Studies Graduate Students Group**, which meets regularly for presentations and discussion of topics in Asian American studies.

A complete schedule can be found on page 4.

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UB Expands Affiliation with Renmin University of China



Renmin University of China (RUC) is a national comprehensive institution administered by the Ministry of Education of China. One of the top-ranked universities in China, RUC offers programs in the humanities, social sciences, administration, and management. It was established in 1950.

On May 22 in Beijing, UB President William R. Greiner and RUC President Ji Baocheng jointly signed a new Agreement on Academic Cooperation between the two institutions. The Agreement, which runs for three years, opens the door to consultation on staff and student exchanges, joint research, and exchange of publications.

The UB relationship with RUC was pioneered by the School of Management and its Associate Dean for International Programs, Professor John Thomas. Since 1999 SOM has offered an Executive MBA program at RUC for Chinese mid-level managers. The program, in which UB professors teach on a rotating basis, is run jointly with RUC's nationally-ranked school of business, and its graduates earn a UB degree. This year, 40 students will complete the Executive MBA program.

Stephen C. Dunnett, UB's Vice Provost for International Education, was present with President Greiner at the recent signing ceremony. He remarked, "We are pleased that the new agreement with Renmin University builds on our longstanding collaboration in the Executive MBA program and expands the scope of our exchange to include law and other fields."

Kimiko Hahn

The Japanese-American poet Kimiko Hahn will be giving a reading on Thursday, September 19th, at 7:30 pm at Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center located in suite 425 at the Tri-Main Center (2495 Main St.). Kimiko Hahn is the author of six volumes of poetry including *Air Pocket*, *Ear Shot*, *The Unbreakable Heart*, and *Mosquito and Ant* just to mention a few. She is also the recipient of many major awards for poetry including the Lily Wallace-Readers Digest Writer's Award and the American Book Award. She is currently an Assistant Professor in the English Department at Queens College/ CUNY. The reading is sponsored by the Buffalo Literary Center (716 832-5400).

Jonathan Stalling

UB Represented at Buffalo-Kanazawa Celebration

The City of Buffalo enjoys sister-city ties with some ten cities in Europe and Asia, and the longest-standing relationship is with Kanazawa, Japan. Established in 1962, this coupling has produced cultural exchanges, art exhibitions, school-to-school ties from elementary to university levels, and the enchanting Kanazawa Garden in Delaware Park.

In July, twenty Buffalo area residents traveled to Kanazawa to join in festivities and discussions surrounding the fortieth anniversary of the sister-city linkage. The mission was led by Tom Gleed, representative of the Mayor of Buffalo; and Dr. Takako Michii, UB alumna and former teacher of Japanese at the university. UB was represented by Thomas W.

Burkman, Director of Asian Studies; and Stacey Johnson, Senior Staff Assistant and Research Associate in the Department of Anthropology. While in Kanazawa, Professor Burkman made a visit to UB exchange partner Kanazawa University, and conducted discussions concerning options for UB students at that institution. Elsewhere in Japan, he called at Konan University and International Christian University, where UB students study each year.

Members of the Buffalo delegation left their handprints in Common Ground, a clay mandala composed of clay from many countries around the world. American guests and Japanese hosts were alike deeply moved when Tom Gleed presented to Mayor Ya-

made of Kanazawa a *hinomaru* battle flag bequeathed by Gleed's father, a veteran of the Pacific War.

The City of Kanazawa is a cultural heartland for the region of the Japan Sea coast. With a population like Buffalo's of around 300,000, it is a center for cloth dyeing, a *sake* industry, and high-tech industries. Tourists flock to Kanazawa for its matchless Kenrokuen [Garden of the Six Sublimities], the annual Hyakumangoku Festival in June, *noh* drama, and the natural beauty of the nearby Noto Peninsula. UB students may study Japanese and other subjects at the University of Kanazawa's beautiful mountain-side campus in the academic year exchange program. Interested persons should contact Study

UB's New Major in Asian Studies

Core courses, all required (10 hours)

AS 101: *Asian Studies* (1-hour course to be created by Asian Studies program)

HIS 182: *Asian Civilization*

AS 110: *The Asian American Experience*

PSC 229: *East Asian Political Economy*

An Asian language (12-18 hours, or 6-8 hours* beyond the General Education language requirement)

Four semesters. (Students who are native speakers of an Asian language may test out of the language requirement and be required to offer in its place two additional, three-hour courses in the Upper elective category or two semesters of an Asia language other than their own.)

Upper level electives (3-400 level, approved courses). (18 hours)

18 hours, of which 9 hours must relate to the culture or region of the language selected. At least 6 hours must be in the social sciences and at least 6 hours in the humanities. Up to 6 hours of language courses at the 300-level and above may be counted.

Senior seminar (3 hours)

(course to be created by Asian Studies program)

Total hours: 37-39, in addition to the General Education language requirement

*Some second-year languages courses are four hours, others are three hours per semester.

Special Guests Slated for Fall Semester

The fall semester will feature three presentations by Asian specialists in Indian literature, Korean dance, and Confucian philosophy.

On October 17 at 4 p.m., in Clemens 640, Professor **Manju Jaidka** of Panjab University, India will deliver a lecture on "Indian Writing in English: Contemporary Indian Fiction." Jaidka is a Professor of English and author of six books and more than 25 articles and papers in the field of Indian literature. She is the founding president of MELUS-India. Prof. Jaidka will also speak the following day, October 18, at Asia at Noon in Clemens 640, where her topic will be "Diasporic Writing from India."

From November 4-13, a residency in Korean dance, funded by the Korea Foundation and the College of Arts and Sciences, will take place with **Sohn In-young**, a Seoul-based choreographer. Ms. Sohn is affiliated with the Korean National University of Arts. Previously she was Artistic Director of the Seoul Performing Arts Company. In 1994-98, when her base of activity was New York City, she taught Korean dance at Columbia University and Queens College of CUNY. While Ms. Sohn is grounded in traditional Korean dance, she is also trained and experienced in performance forms of the West. In the UB residency, she will conduct dance classes and a theatre workshop. She will set a choreographic work, in which she and students will perform, for a final performance open to the public on the evening of November 13.

On November 19, **Bryan W. Van Norden** will lecture on "Confucius' Dao." The presentation will take place at 1:00 in Park 141. Professor Van Norden comes to us from Vas-sar College, where he is Associate Professor of Philosophy. He has translated portions of *The Mencius*, and is the editor of *Confucius and the Analects: New Essays* (Oxford, 2002). The event is co-sponsored by the Department of Philosophy.

More information on these events will be carried in the coming issues of *Asian Studies*.

Asia at Noon Fall Semester Schedule

(All sessions at 12:00)

▪ Sept. 13, Fri. 12:00. **Jeanette M. Ludwig**. "People, Places, and Pilgrimage in India." Clemens 640.

▪ Sept. 27, Fri. 12:00. **Sooyoung Kang** and **Yasuko Kase**. "Media Images of Asian American Women." Clemens 830.

▪ Oct. 4, Fri. 12:00. **Thomas W. Burkman**. "Internationalist Intellectuals in the Nationalist Environment of Prewar Japan." Clemens 830.

▪ Oct. 18, Fri. 12:00. **Manju Jaidka**, Panjab University. "Diasporic Writing from India." Clemens 640.

▪ Nov. 8, Fri. 12:00. **Sohn In-young**, Korean National University of Arts. "Performing Arts in Korea." Clemens 830.

▪ Nov. 15, Fri. 12:00. **Jie Zhang**, Buffalo State College. "Suicide in China." Clemens 830.

QUICK NUMBER

Top 5 sending countries to UB (2001-2002)

Country	No. of students
India	632
China	622
Korea	404
Taiwan	240
Japan	211

Conferences, Grants, and Fellowships

2002 Annual Meeting of the New York Conference on Asian Studies (NYCAS)

Asian scholars from many institutions in New York State and the Northeast will gather October 25-26 at Skidmore College in Saratoga Springs for the NYCAS annual meeting. The theme of the conference is "Image, Imaging, & Imagination." For registration and information on meals and lodging, go to the conference website, <http://www.skidmore.edu/nycas2002/registration.html>.

A paper titled "Theory and Practice of the Rule of Law in China" will be presented at the meeting by Fang Qiang, Ph.D. student in Chinese history at UB. Professor Thomas Burkman will represent UB at the NYCAS Board Meeting, and will award the Ryan Prizes for exemplary student papers.

Anyone needing auto transportation to the NYCAS meeting should contact Asian Studies.

UB will host the NYCAS meeting in October 2003.

JET Recruitment 2003

The JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Program sponsored by the Japanese government, invites over 1,300 American college graduates to share their language and culture with Japanese elementary and high school students. One-year positions are available in schools and government offices throughout Japan. The application deadline is December 5, 2002 for positions beginning in July, 2003.

There are two different positions for the JET: Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) engaged in language instruction primarily in junior and senior high schools; and Coordinator for International Relations (CIR) placed in offices of local governments or related organizations to assist in projects related to international activities.

While the CIR position requires advanced proficiency in Japanese, Japanese language is NOT required for the Assistant Language Teacher position.

For more information and application form, visit their web page at

http://www.mofa.go.jp/j_info/visit/jet/index.html

<http://www.embjapan.org/jet/> (for USA applicants only)

Grants for Asian Arts and Language Study (Three programs)

Established in 1990, the Blakemore Foundation encourages the advanced study of Asian languages to improve the understanding of Asian fine arts in the United States. It is currently accepting applications for the following three programs:

1) *Frances Blakemore Asian Art Grants* are designed to improve the understanding of Asian fine arts in the United States. Grants will be made only to tax-exempt organizations in the U.S. such as museums, universities, and other educational or art-related institutions for programs, exhibits, or publications that improve the understanding of Asian fine arts in the U.S. Asia is limited to the countries of China, Japan, Korea, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Philippines, Mongolia, and Tibet. Fine arts refer to paintings, graphic arts, ceramics, sculpture, and textiles. Deadlines: November 1, 2002 and May 15, 2003.

2) *Blakemore Freeman Fellowships for Advanced Asian Language Study* fund a year of advanced language study at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama, Japan, the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies at Tsinghua University in Beijing, the International Chinese Language Program at National Taiwan University in Taipei, or other approved programs in Southeast Asia. An applicant must be pursuing an academic, professional, or business career that involves the regular use of a modern East or Southeast Asian language; have a college undergraduate degree; be at or near an advanced level in the language; be able to devote oneself exclusively to language study during the term of the grant; and be a U.S. citizen or permanent resident of

the United States. Deadline: January 15, 2003.

3) *Blakemore Refresher Grants* provide funding for short-term advanced Asian language study of less than one full academic year in length. Grants are restricted to college professors, post-doctoral professionals, and to individuals who have previously completed certain designated advanced language study abroad. Deadline: January 15, 2003. Contact SPA Funding at fundingopps@research.buffalo.edu.

International Dissertation Field Research Fellowship

Funded by the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the program is open to full-time graduate students in the social sciences and humanities (regardless of citizenship) enrolled in doctoral programs in the United States. The program invites proposals for field research on all areas or regions of the world, as well as for research that is comparative, cross-regional, and/or cross-cultural.

Applicants must have completed all Ph.D. requirements except the fieldwork component by the time the fellowship begins or by December 2003, whichever comes first. Proposals that identify the U.S. as a case for comparative inquiry are welcome; however, proposals that require no field research outside the United States are not eligible.

Funding: Up to 50 standard fellowships will provide support for nine to twelve months of field research and related expenses but will rarely exceed \$17,000. In exceptional circumstances the candidate may propose to do less than nine months of fieldwork, but no award will be given for less than six months of fieldwork. The fellowship must be held for a single continuous period within the eighteen months between July 2003 and December 2004. Deadline: November 12, 2002. Contact SPA Funding at fundingopps@research.buffalo.edu.

Asian Studies Calendar

September

- Sept. 13, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Jeanette M. Ludwig**, (Modern Languages and Literatures). "People, Places, and Pilgrimage in India." Clemens 640.
- Sept. 19, Thu. 7:30 pm. *Poetry reading*. **Kimiko Hahn**, Hallwalls Contemporary Arts Center, Suite 425, Tri-Main Center (2495 Main St.).

September 22, from 1:00 to 4:00 pm
**9th Annual
Asian Studies Picnic!!!**
at the home of Tom Burkman,
Director of Asian Studies

RSVP to Pat Kratz,
645-3474
kratzpg@buffalo.edu

- Sept. 27, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Sooyoung Kang**, Ph.D. candidate in English; and **Yasuko Kase**, Ph.D. student in English. "Media Images of Asian American Women." In cooperation with Gender Week, and co-sponsored by the Asian/American Studies Graduate Students Group. Clemens 830.

October

- Oct. 4, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Thomas W. Burkman**, Director of Asian Studies. "Internationalist Intellectuals in the Nationalist Environment of Prewar Japan." Clemens 830.
- Oct. 17, Thu. 4:00 pm. *Lecture*. **Manju Jaidka**, Panjab University, India. "Indian Writing from India: Contemporary Indian Fiction." Co-sponsored by the Department of English. Clemens 640.
- Oct. 18, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Manju Jaidka**. "Diasporic Writing from India." Co-sponsored by the Department of English. Clemens 640.
- Oct. 25-26, Fri.-Sat. *Annual NYCAS Meeting*. Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY.

November

- Nov. 8, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Sohn In-young**, Korean National University of Arts. "Performing Arts in Korea." Co-sponsored by the Department of Theatre and Dance. Clemens 830.
- Nov. 13, Wed. 7:00 pm. *Korean Dance*. **Sohn In-young**, Katherine Cornell Center.
- Nov. 15, Fri. 12:00. *Asia at Noon*. **Jie Zhang**, Department of Sociology and Center for Chinese Studies, Buffalo State College. "Suicide in China." Clemens 830.
- Nov. 19, Tue. 1:00 pm. *Lecture*. **Bryan W. Van Norden**, Department of Philosophy, Vassar College. "Confucius' Dao." Park 141.



Asian Studies Notes

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Asian Studies Notes is published
6 times yearly by the Asian Studies
Program, SUNY at Buffalo.

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CAMPUS