



Asian Studies Notes

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Vol. 9, No. 6/ April 2004

Website: wings.buffalo.edu/asian/asn

亞細亞學研究

UB's First B.A. in Asian Studies to be Conferred May 9!

A historic first for Asian Studies will take place May 9 as Julie Falkowski of Batavia is awarded her B.A. degree. Julie is the first to graduate under the new, interdisciplinary degree program in Asian



Q: Please talk a little bit about yourself, and what made you choose Asian Studies as major?

A: I was born in Batavia, New York, and went to school in 3 states, including New York, South Carolina and Virginia, where I graduated. I moved back to this area and studied at Genesee Community College where I got an Associate's Degree in Human Services.

I worked for awhile in that field while I researched schools and career options. I didn't know what I wanted to do. While studying, I made some Asian friends who were studying here. I tutored them in English and American culture. They taught me their languages (Chinese, Taiwanese, and Japanese) and about their cultures. I learned about the difficulties of studying abroad, as well as being away from family. I decided I wanted to become an international advisor and help students become acclimated to this culture as well as university culture, which takes on a dynamic all on its own.

I heard about UB's program in Asian Studies and decided to study here.

See **FIRST B. A.** p. 2

On the Inside:

| | |
|---------------------------|---|
| Asia at Noon for April | 2 |
| Conferences & Fellowships | 3 |
| Book Manuscript Workshop | 3 |
| Asian Studies Calendar | 4 |

Studies. Others in the past have Special Majored in Asian Studies, but this year UB began offering the formally structured academic concentration.

Julie's culture area focus is Japan. Her final coursework will be completed this summer in Japan at International Christian University. Her Senior Research is on death ceremonies in Japan.

Zhen Li interviewed Julie about her plans.

Recent Faculty Hiring in Asian Studies

This year, an unusual number of faculty searches for Asian specialists took place in departments of the university. The following scholars have signed to begin their work on campus in August 2004 as assistant professors in tenure-track positions:

◆ Tsan Huang, Department of Linguistics. She is completed her Ph.D. in Linguistics at Ohio State on the subject of "The Interplay of Phonological Rules and Speech Perception." Her B.A. is from the Beijing Language Institute. She is a visiting scholar at UB this year. She replaces Yue Wang and will head of the Chinese lan-

guage program.

◆ EunHee Lee, Department of Linguistics. She completed her Ph.D. in Linguistics at the University of Groningen, the Netherlands in 2000, on "Dynamic and Stative Information in Temporal Reasoning: Korean Tense and Aspect in Discourse." Her B.A. and M.A. are from Chung-Ang University and Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Korea, respectively. She has taught at Indiana University. She replaces Hye-Won Choi and will direct the Korean language program.

See **FACULTY HIRES** p. 3

Asia at Noon for April

Asia at Noon is an excellent occasion to sample scholarship and gather interesting information about Asia. Faculty and students gather for this brown-bag event on selected Fridays from 12:00 to 1:00 in Park 280.



On April 9, our speaker will be **Khenpo Sherab Ozer Rinpoche**, a Tibetan Buddhist teacher. He comes to us through the generous cooperation of the Amitabha Foundation in Rochester, a center for Buddhist study and meditation. Some will remember his visit to UB two years ago. He is in residence at the Foundation, April 2-11, and information on his public presentations there is available on the website (www.amitabhafoundation.org).

The Khenpo was born in Tibet in 1964. He trained at the Drong Ngur Monastery. In 1987 he received the vows of full monastic ordination from Durbwang Pachung Rinpoche. He later moved to Northern India and again to Nepal. Today he serves as Abbot of Dharmakirti College in Tucson, Arizona, and engages in teaching around the world (www.dharmakirti.org/resident_abbot.htm).

Khenpo Sherab will speak on *Shantideva's Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life*. It is the Dalai Lama's favorite book. Shantideva was a Sanskrit poet who lived around 700 CE. The *Guide* instructs the reader on the steps she

must take in order to become Bodhisattva, a universal Savior of all beings.

The final Asia at Noon of the semester will take place on April 23, when the speaker is **Jeongsub Nam**, Ph.D. candidate in English. Nam will address the topic, *Moving beyond Hollywood: American Popular Images of Korea*.



Nam will depict a half-century history of American films' portrayal of Korea as a US military town and battle ground against communists, and the Korean people as strangers, vicious Reds, military base hookers, and passive peasants. These images seriously block Americans' knowledge of Korea.

A native of Korea, Nam holds Bachelor's and Master's degrees in English literature and drama from Kyungpook National University in Taegu. He serves as president of UB's Interdisciplinary Group for Asian American Studies, and will teach AS 348: *Asian Americans and the Visual Media* next fall semester.

FIRST B. A. (Cont. from p. 1) I enrolled part-time for a semester to see if I could learn Japanese. I found that I loved it. So, I applied for full-time study and was accepted. I have really enjoyed my time here at UB, and am sad to see it end. However, I am looking forward to graduating and the opportunities that lie ahead.

Q: What are you going to do after graduating from UB?

A: I will study abroad in Japan during summer and then go to graduate school.

Q: Which course did you like best?

A: I loved *Japanese Linguistics* taught by Dr. Shimojo, because I learned how Japanese came about, and the class

was conducted in interesting ways. I can have a conversation in Japanese now.

Q: Do you have any advice for other Asian Studies majors?

A: Keep studying. Don't let anybody discourage your dream. And good luck!

Julie commutes from Batavia every day (about 40 minutes each way). She has an 8-year-old daughter (who will turn 9 this month.) Her husband, John, is an electronics technician who works for Moore, an international company.

ASIAN STUDIES DIRECTORY

Thomas W. Burkman, Director (burkman@buffalo.edu)

Mary Anne Lang, Office Manager (mal@buffalo.edu)

Zhen Li, Graduate Assistant (zli5@buffalo.edu)

714 Clemens, University at Buffalo, NY 14260/ Tel: (716) 645-3474 / Fax: (716) 645-3473/ wings.buffalo.edu/asian

CONFERENCES AND FELLOWSHIPS

Society for Indian Philosophy and Religion, Conference on Globalization

The Society for Indian Philosophy & Religion will hold an International and Interdisciplinary conference at Buffalo State College, October 28-29, 2004. The theme of the conference is "Globalization, Identity, and Syncretism." The conference theme may be addressed critically, reflectively, and creatively from interdisciplinary perspectives. The program will include plenary addresses, volunteered papers, invited papers, and panel discussions.

Possible topics include:

- Religions-Cultures-Globalization: Living Together in a Global Society
- Globalization, Syncretism, and Postmodern Religiosity
- Globalization and Identity
- Global Horizons: Interculturality and Interspirituality
- Traditional Values and the Challenges of Globalization
- Fundamentalism and Religious Pluralism in the Global Era
- Anti-Globalization Movements
- Historical Dimensions of Cultural and Religious Syncretism
- Gandhi's View on Globalized Economy
- Social Exclusion and Religious Intolerance in the Global

Era

- Globalization, Transnationalism, and Dislocation
- Religious and Philosophical Perspectives of Globalization

This list is illustrative and not exhaustive. The **deadline** for submission of abstracts is **June 20, 2004**. Send an abstract of about 150 words to Dr. Chandana Chakrabarti, Conference Director, SIPR, 1210 Jamestowne Drive, Elon, NC 27244 (chakraba@elon.edu).

Asian Studies Graduate Conference Call for Papers and Panels

Asian Studies Graduate Conference, at The University of Texas Austin. Friday, October 1-2, 2004. Keynote Speaker: Veena Das, the Krieger-Eisenhower Professor of Anthropology at John Hopkins University. Submission **Deadline** for Abstracts: **April 1**. Send abstracts and panel suggestions to utascon@uts.cc.utexas.edu OR Planning Committee/Asian Studies Graduate Conference /The University of Texas at Austin Asian Studies /WCH 4.134 (G9300)/Austin, TX 78712; Fax: (512) 471-4469. <http://www.utexas.edu/cola/depts/southasia/pages/news/utascon04.html>

Workshop to Scrutinize Burkman Manuscript



Thomas W. Burkman, Research Professor and Director of Asian Studies, is completing a book manuscript, *Japan, the League of Nations, and World Order, 1914-1938*. The work will be presented and discussed in a Book Manuscript Workshop on Wednesday, April 28th, 1-4 p.m. in O'Brian 545. The workshop is spon-

sored by the Baldy Center.

Those wishing to attend should notify Ellen Kausner, ekausner@buffalo.edu, or 645-2102.

Two prominent Japanese international historians will be present to provide critical review of the manuscript. They are Akira Iriye, Professor of History at Harvard University; and Kevin Doak, Chair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at Georgetown University.

FACULTY HIRES (Cont. from p. 1)

♦ Susan Muchshima Moynihan, Department of English. She is completing her Ph.D. in American Studies at Purdue University, with a dissertation on "Asian American Women's Life Writing: Autobiographical Negotiations of Inscrutability." She has taught at the University of Illinois and Bowling Green State University. She is UB's first hire in the field of Asian American studies.

♦ Ramya Sreenivasan, Department of History. She did her Ph.D. dissertation in English at Jawaharlal Nehru University in India, on "Gender, Literature, and History: The Transformation of the Padmini Story." She has taught at Kenyon College and the University of Washington at

Seattle. She fills a new position in South Asian history.

With these additions, there will be about 20 faculty at UB whose teaching and research focuses on Asia and Asia America. They are joined by another twenty whose research deals with Asia in significant ways. The new professors will bring new leadership to language programs and new courses applicable to the Major in Asian Studies. The Asian Studies Program welcomes these new colleagues, congratulates the departments, and thanks the College of Arts and Sciences for making resources available for these appointments.



Asian Studies Calendar

April

- Apr. 9, Fri. 12:00 pm. *Asia at Noon*. **Khenpo Sherab Ozer**, Tibetan Buddhist teacher. "Shantideva's Guide to the Bodhisattva's Way of Life." Park 280.
- Apr. 9, Fri. 6:00 pm to 9:00 pm. "The Reflections of Thailand: **Thai Night 2004**." Harriman Hall, South Campus. Contact: Annie at asc6@buffalo.edu or 716-909-1231.
- Apr. 23, Fri. 12:00 pm. *Asia at Noon*. **Jeongsub Nam**, Ph.D. candidate in English at UB. "Moving beyond Hollywood: American Popular Images of Korea." Park 280.
- Apr. 23, Fri. 7:00 pm to 9:30 pm. "**Gamelan Night 2004**." Baird Recital Hall 250. Indonesian Student Association. Contact: Cheryl Ekaputri at ekaputri@buffalo.edu
- Apr. 28, Wed. 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm. **Book Manuscript Workshop**. *Japan, the League of Nations, and World Order, 1914-1938* by Thomas W. Burkman. O'Brian 545.

Contact: Ellen Kausner, ekausner@buffalo.edu, or 645-2102.

June

- Jun. 4-5, Fri.- Sat. **Locating Law in Buddhist Societies**. A workshop organized by David Engel, UB Law, and Rebecca French, UB Law.
<http://www.law.buffalo.edu/baldycenter>

September 19th, 2004

from 1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

Asian **11th Annual** Picnic!!!
Asian Studies Picnic!!!

At the home of Tom Burkman
Director of Asian Studies

R.S.V.P. to Mary Anne Lang
645-3474
mal@buffalo.edu



Asian Studies Notes

Asian Studies Program

714 Clemens Hall
Buffalo, NY 14260-4610
Tel.: (716)645-3474 Fax:(716)645-3473
Email: asian-studies@buffalo.edu
Homepage: <http://wings.buffalo.edu/asian>

CAMPUS

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

Zhen Li, *Editor*

ASIAN AMERICAN COURSES

FALL 2004

ASIAN AMERICANS AND VISUAL MEDIA

Instructor: Jeongsub Nam

Registration #: 056846 (AMS 381), 349840 (AS 348), 002091 (ENG 479)

Friday, 10:00–12:40, 109 Baldy

The course is designed to help students achieve two goals: first, to critically examine how Asian Americans have been portrayed in Hollywood movies; and second, to creatively explore Asian American film. We will discuss the formative role and effects of visual representations of Asian Americans in establishing Asian American identity, which seems to be precariously oscillating between one pole of being American and the other pole of being Asian, in terms of history, ideology, race, and gender. The various films we will watch may include *Better Luck Tomorrow* (2002), *Chutney Popcorn* (1999), *Yellow* (1998), *Eat a Bowl of Tea* (1989), *Snow Falling on Cedars* (1999), and many others.

Grading will be based mainly on film journal and class participation.

TOPICS IN ASIAN AMERICAN STUDIES: THEORIZING ASIAN DIASPORA

Instructor: Sooyoung Kang

Registration #: 439725 (AS 395), 457556 (HIS 345), 350672 (ENG 372)

Monday, Wednesday & Friday, 3:00-3:50 pm, 6 Clemens

(Email: sookang@buffalo.edu, phone #: 645-6000 X 1122)

This course is an advanced topics seminar designed to trace critical and theoretical development of "Asian Diaspora" within Asian American studies through reading history, literature, and critical theories. As a conceptual tool and a new discourse, "Asian Diaspora" emerged very recently in Asian American studies, historically inspired by the upsurge of 'new Asian immigrants' since 1965. The course has two aims: 1) To examine the general problematic of diasporic thinking and its effects on reframing the disciplinary mission of Asian American studies. 2) To rethink certain major issues of Asian American history and experience from the 1830s to the present, through the theoretical lens of Asian Diaspora. Mostly we will pay more attention to new topics and paradigm shifts emerging within Asian America in the post-Cold War period. The course materials include critical theory, history, sociology, memoirs, films, arts, and literature, which contribute to produce and engage with the new paradigm of "Asian Diaspora."

Evaluation: 3 short papers (5-6 pages; 30%), a comprehensive take-home final exam (50%), active participation (on/off lines) and attendance (20%)

THE ASIAN AMERICAN EXPERIENCE

Instructor: Yasuko Kase

Registration #: 457294 (AS 110), 373282 (AMS 102)

Monday & Wednesday, 9:30-10:50, 210 Norton

This class is a basic introduction of Asian Pacific American issues. Though Asian Pacific American experience has been a crucial part of US national history, the Asian American's existence has been effaced. On the other hand, mainstream media creates and circulates problematic stereotypical images of Asian Pacific Americans. Asian American Experience is the challenging registration of Asian American voice and images from Asian Pacific American perspectives in the space of US history and culture. We will explore and discuss various issues: Asian American's socio-historical background, contemporary community issues, the issues of Asian Pacific American youth, pop culture and stereotypes, refugee issues, model minority myth, interracial relations, sexuality issues. The main textbook is *Asian American Studies: A Reader* (Rutgers UP, 2000). We will also use several articles and films.

AMERICAN PLURALISM

Instructor: Jonathan Stalling

Registration #: 381953 (UGC 211)

Tuesday & Thursday, 11:00-- 12:20, 280 Park

This section of American Pluralism will explore the idea of "American-ness" and the constant negotiations Asian Americans undertake to both expose and challenge the stereotypes this social construction has historically depended upon: the "yellow peril" at one extreme and the "model minority" on the other. In addition to Robert G Lee's book *Orientalism*, which will be our primary text, we will also engage a variety of films, documentaries, and additional texts (poetry, essays, legal documents, etc.) This course will reveal how the story of one minority group (although this group is by no means a homogeneous one) is inextricably linked to the stories of all other groups, and therefore sheds light on the enormously complex nature of this nations' history, present, and possible futures.