



# Asian Studies Notes

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

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亞細亞學研究

## Beijing Opera Returns to UB October 8! Adventures of the Monkey King

The Center for the Arts will present *Adventures of the Monkey King: A Beijing Opera* on Friday, October 8 at 8:00 p.m. in the Mainstage Theater.

Imagine a small army of performers somersaulting across the stage, twirling spears and tossing swords, executing superb martial art moves – all the while singing melodiously, costumed in magnificent silk brocades and multi-colored makeup. That is the theatrical wonder that audiences will find on October 8. The tour was organized by Cornell East Asia Program, and funded in part by the Freeman Foundation. The Center for the Arts is one of only ten US venues for the production.

Beijing Opera blends acting, dancing, and live music with acrobatics and kung-fu style stage combat to create a breathtaking evening of drama. Adorned in sparkling garments of silk brocade and with painted facial masks, the dynamic 17-member troupe of actors and musicians includes masters of the National Academy in China. This retelling of the Monkey King story, one of the Beijing Opera's most revered and accessible works, is presented in celebration of the Year of the

Monkey. Some of the dialogue will be spoken in English.

The International Monkey King Troupe is led by Ghaffar Pourazar, a British performer who became the first Westerner to complete the rigorous course

of training at the National Academy for Traditional Chinese Opera. He has since become the leading exponent of this marvelous theatrical art form in the West. The troupe's mission is to make Beijing Opera accessible to a worldwide audience. Pourazar brought a smaller troupe to UB in October 2003 at the

**See Monkey-King on p. 2**



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## Asian Studies Gallery



*Old and new friends join together at the annual picnic at the Burkman home*



*Food, sunshine, and fun*



*Vice-Provost Stephen C. Dunnnett with the Dalai Lama in Toronto*

## Fulbright Teachers of English Sought for Korea



The Institute of International Education solicits applicants for its Fulbright program to send American teachers of English to Korean elementary schools.

IIE seeks graduating seniors and college graduates in all majors who are native speakers of English, unmarried, without dependents, and under 30 years of age. They will be assigned to elementary schools in cities and towns in Korea, not in Seoul, to teach conversational English. Preference will be given to applicants in the field of early childhood education or who have master's degrees. Prior knowledge of Korean language is not required; all teaching will be done in English. Assistantships are for 13 months, beginning in January 2006 with a six-week orientation period which emphasizes Korean language study. Teachers will receive international travel costs, health and accident insurance, orientation costs, homestay arrangement, and a monthly maintenance of \$1000.

For information, contact Dr. Mark Ashwill, UB Fulbright Program Adviser, at [ashwill@buffalo.edu](mailto:ashwill@buffalo.edu). Applications are due October 21, 2004.

## Play to Address Racism

The International Artistic & Cultural Exchange Program of the Department of Theatre and Dance proudly presents Rebecca Gilman's award-winning play *Spinning into Butter*, directed by UB Associate Professor Maria S. Horne.

Set on a college campus, it explores the dangers of both racism and political correctness in today's American universities.

When one of the few African American students at liberal Belmont College begins receiving hate mail, the campus erupts, first with shock, then with mutual recrimination as faculty and students alike try to prove their own tolerance by condemning one another. Dean of Students Sarah Daniels is forced to explore her own feelings of racism. Her self-examination leads to some surprising discoveries.

Performances on October 14-17 and 21-24, Thursday-Saturday at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 2 p.m. Black Box Theatre of the Center for the Arts.



### Cont. Monkey King from p. 1

invitation of Thomas Burrows, Director of the CFA.

Beijing Opera has existed for over 200 years. It is widely regarded as a high expression of Chinese culture and has deeply influenced the hearts of the Chinese people. It is said that there are as many kinds of Chinese Opera as there are dialects, and Beijing Opera absorbed music and arias from many other opera forms and musical arts in China. It finally emerged as the national standard. At its peak of popularity it was favored by people from all levels of society, from high-ranking government officials to common laborers. The repertoire contains thousands of pieces, reflecting the history and literature of China.

Tickets for the performance are \$22, UB Students \$16 with ID at the Center Box Office and Ticketmaster locations. To charge tickets call 852-5000.

The research group welcomes the UB community to a presentation titled *Asian American College Men: Constructing Gender and Racial Identities*, on Wednesday, October 6, 2-4 p.m. in 476 Baldy. The speaker is Kevin Ahuna, Ph.D. candidate in Sociology of Education in GSE.

How do male Asian American college students of various ethnic backgrounds construct their identities as men and narrate their experiences in relation to their families, schooling, and stereotypes as Asian Americans? Ahuna will discuss his research exploring the intersection of gender and racial identity.



Asian American Model Minority Myth Research Group, October 6:  
**Asian American College Men**

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## Asia at Noon in October

Asia at Noon is a series of brown-bag lunch gatherings at the University, sponsored by the Asian Studies program. They begin at noon and 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. All sessions this semester will take place on Fridays in Park 280.

On October 8, we will feature a member of the **Monkey King Troupe** in anticipation of the performance, *The Adventures of the Monkey King*, that evening at 8:p.m. (see front page article). The topic will be, *What to Watch for in Beijing Opera*. The convener is Professor Maria Horne of the Department of Theatre and Dance, a leader in international theater and teacher of Asian Performing Arts at UB..

The following week on October 15, Asia at Noon will address the subject of the Untouchable phenomenon in India. **Henry Thiagaraj** will speak on *Major Issues Confronting the Dalit Community in India*. The convener is Professor Claude Welch, human rights scholar and Professor of Political Science. Mr. Thiagaraj is an activist for human rights and mitigation of discrimination against the Dalit peoples in India. He is involved in training programs for youth and women, film-making, and programs to create a "violence-less" society.



Henry Thiagaraj

The Asian Studies Program teams with the Baldy Center for Law and Social Policy and the Inaugural Events Subcommittee to present Professor Annelise Riles, Director of the Clarke Program in East Asian Law and Culture at Cornell University. She will lecture at 4:00 p.m., Monday, October 18 in 545 O'Brian. Riles, the widely respected author of *The Masters of Comparative Law* (2001), will address the subject of *The Aesthetics of "Rule of Law" Reform: The Case of Japanese Financial Regulation*.

There has been much talk in recent years about the impact of so-called "Rule of Law" reforms on the citizens of countries adopting neoliberal policies. But what is the appeal of legal reform associated with the spread of global markets for its architects – the elite lawyers, academics and bureaucrats who make "legal reform" their business? Are these actors' fantasies, hopes and passions for reform projects reducible to the political and economic interests they serve, or is there something more at stake for them? Drawing on ethnographic research among one group of Japanese lawyers reforming the financial regulatory, the lecture will explore one often ignored dimension of legal knowledge: its aesthetic dimension. I will argue that attention to legal aesthetics explains both the commitments these reforms generate as well as the surprising shield they provide from the forces of globalization, even as they are carried out in the name

**Presidential Inaugural Academic Event, October 18:  
 Riles to Lecture on Japanese Financial Regulation**

### Conference at Buffalo State College:

## Society of Indian Philosophy and Religion

The Society of Indian Philosophy and Religion will hold its annual conference at Buffalo State College on Thursday and Friday, October 28-29. The theme is "Globalization, Identity, and Syncretism." The conference will be held Thursday in Butler Library rm. 210 and on Friday in Grover Cleveland Hall rm. 418.

Highlights of the program include an Indian classical dance and instrumental recital by the students of "Natya," the School of Indian Classical Dance in Buffalo; and vocal music by the students of Alankar, directed by Mamta Bhargav. The cultural event will be held in the

Assembly Hall of the Student Union on Thursday evening at 7:30. Another feature is a dual recital of classical Indian flute by Eric Fraser and Saunak Chakrabarti, accompanied by Ravi Padmanabha on tabla. This performance will be held in the Assembly Hall of the Student Union on Friday the 29th, 12:20-12:40 p.m. Both performances are open to the public free of charge.

For a full schedule of presentations and other information, contact Prof. Michael C. Lazich of the Department of History and Social Studies Education at 878-5529 or lazichmc@buffalostate.edu.

## History Department Symposium: Atlantic Studies in Global Context

UB's Department of History will host on Saturday, October 16, a symposium, "Beyond the Line: The North and South Atlantics and Global History, 1500-2000." Audience members and eighteen leading scholars will discuss pre-circulated papers on Atlantic history. Can the Atlantic paradigm be successfully expanded to include the South Atlantic, the modern Atlantic, and even areas beyond the Atlantic? The day-long event will begin at 9:00 a.m. in Clemens 120.

Those in Asian studies may take interest in the panel "Beyond the Atlantic" (12:45pm to 2:30pm):

- *Empires in Their Global Context, c.1500 - c.1800*  
Felipe Fernández-Armesto, Oxford University
- *Two Seas, Two Continents, Two Islands: Piracy in the Atlantic and Mediterranean*  
Claire S. Schen, University at Buffalo
- *African Diasporas and the Atlantic*  
Pier M. Larson, Johns Hopkins University
- *The Global ReOrienting Atlantic History: Dimensions of the "Western" Rice Trade*  
Peter A. Coclanis, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

Registration, which is free to members of the UB community, includes a packet of thirteen papers, lunch, and reception. For others, the cost is \$25. E-mail Prof. Erik Seeman at [seeman@buffalo.edu](mailto:seeman@buffalo.edu) to register, by October 6.

For more information, including paper titles and directions, go to <http://www.cas.buffalo.edu/depts/history/department/calendar.shtml>

## Fund-raiser November 6: Museum of Science to Open Chinese Collection



The public is invited to a Buffalo Museum of Science fund-raiser at which the Museum's fine collection of Chinese artifacts will be displayed. Traditional Chinese dance will be performed and Chinese delicacies enjoyed by all. The event will take place Saturday, November 6, from 6:30 to 11:30 p.m. Adults over 21 only. For tickets (\$75) and information, call Nell Mohn at 896-5200, Ext. 312.

## NYCAS to Convene at Bard College NYCAS 2004

The New York Conference on Asian Studies will hold its annual meeting October 29 and 30 at Bard College, in Annandale in the Hudson River Valley. The conference theme is "Asian Border Crossings." Several UB graduate students are slated to deliver papers:

- Suck Choi, "Contemporary Philosophy of Mind and *Ch'i*"
- Mi Sung Jang, "Public Apology and Moral Responsibility"
- Min Gyu Seo, "Confucian Anthropocentrism and Western Anthropocentrism"
- Faizan Haq, "The Competitive Pakistani and Indian Lobbies in Washington"
- Young Ji Lee, "Modernity, Trauma, the Memory of the Cultural Revolution: He Cheng Yao's Performance"
- Kyoung Yee Kang, "Beyond the Narcissistic Nationalism: Memory of the Vietnam War in the National Consciousness of South Korea"
- Sooyoung Kang, "Memory, Death Drive and Korean Diaspora: Nora Okja Keller's *The Comfort Woman*"
- Daniel Grover, "Chinese Scientific Borders in Flux"

Qiang Fang will deliver a paper, "Hot Potato: The Chinese complaint System up to the Late Qing," at the New English Conference on Asian Studies, at Dartmouth College, November 5-6.

Speakers at the NYCAS conference include Donald Richie and AAS president Mary Elizabeth Berry. Program and registration information are available at <http://inside.bard.edu/nycas>. Contact Asian Studies if you need assistance for lodging.

## Call For Papers



4th East-West Center International Graduate Student Conference. Honolulu, Hawaii, USA. February 17- 19, 2005.

"Asia Pacific Challenges: Global, Regional, National, and Local Perspectives." This conference is intended to appeal broadly to graduate student scholarship in the social science and humanities, and to policy-oriented intersections with applied sciences such as environmental science, health, and population studies.

Abstract Submission Form, sample abstract, and further information at : <http://www.eastwestcenter.org/studentconference>

**Deadline:** October 25, 2004



## Study Abroad Diaries



UB offers a broad range of study opportunities for students in fine universities in Japan, China, Korea, Taiwan, Thailand, India, and other places in Asia. To learn about them, visit Study Abroad in 210 Talbert (645-3912; [studyabroad@buffalo.edu](mailto:studyabroad@buffalo.edu)) or at [www.buffalo.edu/studyabroad](http://www.buffalo.edu/studyabroad). Below are some reports from UB students overseas.

**Kenneth Giese** (double-major in Asian Studies and Media Study), Kanazawa University, Japan.

"I am studying at Kanazawa University and it has been a fantastic experience. It's far away from what I'm used to but that's what makes it great. The staff here is fantastic and at this university I've gotten to really live and feel Japanese culture. I've done so many things



*Fuji Mountain, Japan*

I've never thought I'd have the opportunity to do. I have also met people from all over the world which is a different experience when you're all foreigners in another country. So far in Japan I've traveled to Kyoto, Tokyo and Osaka. I plan on traveling more within the country budget permitting and would love to visit some other countries. Still at least I've been able to meet students from other Asian countries. I've met a lot of great people here and will keep in touch with many of them." March, 2004.

**Aurora Bewicke** (majored in Art), Capital Normal University, Beijing.

"When I decided to go to China I knew a year would be the minimum. What I never expected is that I would make the decision to stay a second year. If you are planning to go home at the end of this semester sit back for a moment, and picture yourself two months from now, and then picture yourself eight months from now.



*The Great Wall, China*

If you are learning another language you are probably noticing just how much you can learn in such short a

time. Adding another semester would quadruple what you have learned in this half semester. Picture being a real part of a local family and having true friends that you know you could always go back and visit. . . You probably can already tell that studying abroad has changed you; taking that extra semester or year can help you not only make more of your experience, but also give you the time to decide what you want to do with your life after graduation." 2003.

**Dan Brown** (majoring in Environmental Engineering) Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology, Tokyo. "Over the weekend I left on yet another hiking club trip! It started out great!! The one hiking club girl and I both puked on the bus that went part way up the mountain. Those winding mountain roads do it to me every time. After that it was a climb with stunning views of downtown Tokyo and Mt. Fuji. Actually from the top of the mountain you could look out and see the skyscrapers of Tokyo and Yokohama and the ocean, beaches and if you looked behind you, Mt. Fuji loomed over the horizon. It was an awesome trip. At the top the temperature was around freezing when we went to bed and it dropped below freezing during the night as the next morning, many ice crystals were observed. There were only 4 of us, but it was a lot of fun. I took mucho photos of Fuji and the surrounding areas." 2003.

**Leqi Sun** (double-majoring in Psychology and Media Study), International Christian University, Tokyo. "Not only was the academic component of the program intensive, my life outside the program was also intense! Our classes met from 8:30 am to 12:30 p.m. Monday through Friday and we used the afternoons to explore train stations, restaurants, baseball domes and convenience stores... Every single corner of the city was a place to learn about the culture of the country. There is no better way to learn about a new culture than by putting yourself inside it. 'Being there' is always best." Summer, 2003.



## Asian Studies Calendar

### October

- Oct. 6, 2:00- 4:00. **Kevin Ahuna**, PhD candidate in sociology of Education in GSE. "Asian American College Men: Constructing Gender and Racial Identities." Baldy 476.
- Oct. 8, 12:00- 1:00 *Asia at Noon*. "What to Watch for in Beijing Opera." Members of the **International Monkey King Troupe** who will perform that evening in the Center for the Arts. Park 280.
- Oct. 8, 8:00 pm. **International Monkey King Troupe** from Beijing. "The Adventures of the Monkey King: A Beijing Opera." Mainstage, CFA.
- Oct. 13, 4:00-4:50, CAS 101. "Outcastes in Asia." **Henry Thiaraj** and **Thomas Burkman**. Visitors welcome. Park 280.
- Oct. 15, 12:00-1:00 *Asia at Noon*. "Major Issues Confronting the Dalit (formerly Untouchable) Community in India." **Henry Thiagaraj**, leader in the Dalit Liberation Education Trust, Madras. Park 280.
- Oct. 16, 9:00. **History Department Symposium**: "Beyond the Line: The North and South Atlantics and Global History, 1500-2000." Clemens 120.
- Oct. 18, 4:00 Annelise Riles, Professor of Law and Director, Cornell University Law School. "The Aesthetics of 'Rule of Law' Reform: The Case of Japanese Financial

Regulation." O'Brian 545.

- Oct. 18, 9:00- 10:30. Asian Studies Advisory Council. Clemens 830.
- Oct. 28-29. Conference of the Society for Indian Philosophy and Religion, at Buffalo State College.
- Oct. 29-30. **New York Conference on Asian Studies Annual Meeting**, at Bard College.

### November

- Nov. 5, 12:00-1:00 *Asia at Noon*. "Dance Traditions of India: Kuchipudi, Heritage of the State of Andhra Pradesh." **K. Neelima Raju**, Ph.D. student in cellular molecular biology, Roswell Park. Park 280.
- Nov. 10, 12:30. Baldy Center Work-in-Progress Luncheon. **Junhao Hong**, Professor of Communication. "Internet Regulations and Policies in China and their Sociological Implications." O'Brian 545.
- Nov. 19, 12:00-1:00 *Asia at Noon*. "The Complaint System (shangfang) in China." **Fang Qiang**, Ph.D. candidate in History. Park 280.

### December

- Dec. 3, 12:30-2:30 pm. Baldy Center Faculty Seminar Series. **Rebecca French**, UB Law, "Murder in Tibet." O'Brian 545.
- Dec. 8, 8:00 pm. **Cho Heung Dong**, Choreographer. "Reimagining Tradition: Korean Traditional Dance by Cho Heung Dong." Drama Theatre, CFA.



### *Asian Studies Notes*

#### Asian Studies Program

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