



Asian Studies Notes

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

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<http://www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu/newsletter>

亞細亞學研究

The East Asian Collection of Lockwood Library

Thomas W. Burkman, Director of Asian Studies



In our globalized world, no department or discipline at UB can perform its scholarship adequately without taking into account the ideas and published scholarship of Asia. Currently the aggregated publishing output of Asian countries is about double that of the US, the number of titles published in China exceeds that in the US, and the future for popular and scholarly publishing in such countries as China and India seems limitless. The strength of publishing in Asia not only says that the large Asian populations are avid readers; it also evidences that Asia has much of value to say.

Asian Collection, with vernacular books in Japanese, Chinese, and Korean. The Collection includes reference books, encyclopedias, collected works of literature, and a few subject areas of strength such as Buddhism and Korean Confucianism. Librarian Charles D’Aniello has constructed a website with guides to the UB Collection and outside research repositories in Asian studies (link from <http://ublib.buffalo.edu/libraries/e-resources/subject.html>). It has long been the desire of the Asian Studies Program to develop this Collection from its current minimal size (about 5000 titles) to a resource of practical value for Asianist faculty, graduate students, and students from Asia. The current size of the Collection is an impediment to UB’s qualifying for major grants in Asian studies.

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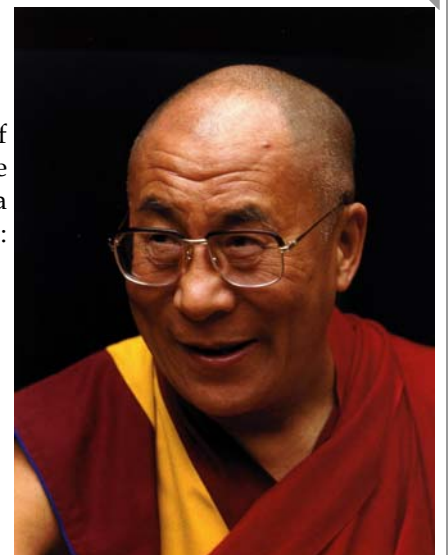
Dalai Lama Coming to UB!

The University at Buffalo is proud to host His Holiness the Dalai Lama this month as part of our 2006-7 Distinguished Speakers Series. The visit on September 18-20, by His Holiness, who is the head of state in exile of Tibet and spiritual leader of the Tibetan people, is an unprecedented event for the university and the local community.

September 19 has been designated as a “special day of learning” at UB, and regular classes will be suspended to allow students and faculty to participate in learning opportunities centered on His Holiness’ visit.

For a full list of events, go to the official Dalai Lama website at UB:

www.buffalo.edu/dalai_lama/



Asia at Noon Brown Bags this Semester

Selected Fridays, 12:00-1:00, in Park 280

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 at 12 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.

On September 29, Jeongsuk Joo, Ph.D. candidate in American Studies, will present on "Eastern Connection:

Hollywood Turns to East Asian Films." She will focus on the recent trend of Hollywood films utilization of East Asian films' themes and plots. She will present on this subject at the American Studies Association in October. Joo received her M.A. in North American Studies at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Seoul, Korea, and has been studying at UB since 2001.

Asia at Noon will also convene October 13, October 27, and November 10. See the Asian Studies Calendar on the back page for speakers and topics.

Cont. from p. 1 THE EAST ASIAN COLLECTION

In late August, a consultant was engaged to survey the current Collection and speak with faculty, library administrators, and Arts and Sciences administrators about the possibilities of expanding, focusing, and supporting the Collection. With support from CAS and the University Libraries, the Asian Studies Program hosted Professor Maureen H. Donovan, Japanese Studies Librarian at Ohio State University. During her 28-year tenure at Ohio State, Professor Donovan has led the effort for a tenfold increase of the OSU Japanese collection from about 10,000 volumes in 1978 to its current position as the 15th largest academic library Japanese collection in North America (over 105,000 volumes in Japanese). At the same time she has pioneered in providing web-based services for Asian Studies, including the Union List of Japanese Serials and Newspapers (<http://pears.lib.ohio-state.edu/uljsn/>) and the Portal to Asian Internet Resources (<http://digicoll.library.wisc.edu/PAIR/>).

Professor Donovan explored such issues as staffing, physical facilities, sourcing and cataloging, on-line resources, and cooperative relationships with SUNY university centers and other institutions. She had positive things to say about the makeup and quality of the current Collection. Regarding what to assemble in the future, she emphasized that UB should not try to duplicate the strong, comprehensive collections of such established centers of Asian studies as Cornell and the University of Toronto. While strengthening its core of reference books and works

needed for faculty research and teaching, the UB Collection should develop subject collections in synergy other energetic programs at the University, particularly those identified for growth in the UB 2020 plan. She also recommended that the East Asian Collection be renamed the Asian Collection, to include vernacular works in South Asian and Southeast Asian languages. Her written report will be available to interested parties by the end of September. Contact Asian Studies if you would like to see it.

A revitalized Asian Collection, with its own identifiable space and reading room in Lockwood, could be an invaluable resource for Asian research. By displaying current newspapers, journals, magazines, and novels, it could serve as a gathering place for the ten percent of UB students for whose first languages are Asian. It could also serve the growing Asian communities in Western New York.

A major donor is being sought to partner with the University in the library project. An initial gift could lead to other contributions from UB and external foundations. The Director of Asian Studies would be happy to speak with anyone interested in such a lasting legacy.



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/

<http://www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu/>

Niagara Falls, September 9

Asian Studies to host Midwest Japan Seminar

The Asian Studies Program will host a meeting of the Midwest Japan Seminar Saturday afternoon, September 9, 1:00-5:00, at the Four Points Sheraton Hotel in Niagara Falls, New York.

The Midwest Japan Seminar is an interdisciplinary gathering of Japanologists from the Midwest states, ranging from WNY to Oklahoma. Established in 1970, MJS has provided Japan scholars with an opportunity to meet regularly to discuss and refine their research. The membership includes art historians, anthropologists, historians, literature and language specialists, political scientists, sociologists, and other scholars with research capabilities in the Japanese language.

MJS meets five Saturdays a year at host universities through the Midwest. At each meeting, two scholars present research papers which are circulated in advance. The

Seminar is funded by the Japan Foundation, and attendees receive partial reimbursement for their travel expenses.

UB last hosted the Seminar in 2003. Faculty and grad students with research interest in Japan are welcome to attend. On September 9, two papers will be presented:

- Maki Isaka Morinaga, University of Minnesota, Twin Cities: "Historicizing *Onnagata*: Grappling with 2-ism in 3 Stages in 4 Centuries"
- Stephen G. Covell, Western Michigan University: "Cut Flowers: Buddhism and Kokoro no Kyoiku in Contemporary Japan"

Attendees should read the papers beforehand. See Asian Studies for copies. A dinner will follow at the home of Tom Burkman, Director of Asian Studies. For information and copies of the papers, contact Asian Studies.

Forthcoming Triveni Program - Ekaantha Seetha



Triveni is a local Indian cultural organization. It invites outstanding Indian artistes (usually music and dance performers) to Buffalo. Triveni has been in existence for over 24 years, and arranges 6 to 8 music and dance programs every year. Triveni will be presenting Ekaantha Seetha on September 29 at Rockwell Hall Performing Arts Center, Buffalo State College.

Ekaantha Seetha will feature several of India's leading dancers. Ekaantha Seetha will be a true dance drama, with dance, music and theater as intrinsic components. The Dhananjayans and Rathna will actively communicate with the audience in their colorful roles as musicians, narrators and dancers, using both English and Indian languages.

For information, contact Teja Rao tejarao@gmail.com.

Visiting Fulbright Scholar in Islamic Studies Short Course Offered

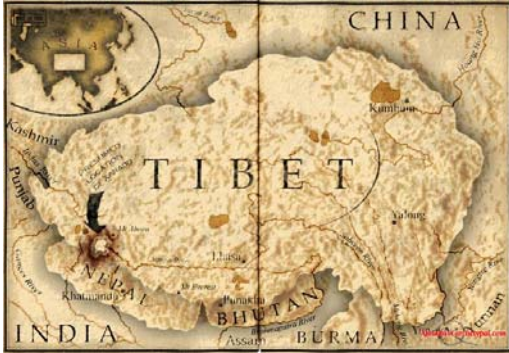
The Asian Studies Program will host a Fulbright visiting scholar in the field of Islamic studies in October and November. Dr. Syafiz Abdul Mughni of Surabaya, Indonesia, will be in residence at UB from October 22 to November 18.

Dr. Mughni is on the faculty of the State Institute of Islamic Studies in Surabaya. His focus is on Islamic thought, civilization, and institutions. He holds M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in Islamic studies from UCLA.

The visiting Fulbrighter will teach a short course, AS 395: *Topics in Asian Studies: Islamic Institutions*. The class will meet MW 4:00-5:40, October 23-November 15, and will carry one hour academic credit. The registration number is 288540. Even though the course begins in mid-October, students must register before the Drop/Add deadline of September 8. Faculty are welcome to visit the course.

Dr. Mughni is also available for speaking engagements on campus and in the community, at no charge. Contact the Asian Studies Program (645-3474) to make arrangements.

Art and Photo Exhibitions Highlight Tibet



As the coming of the Dalai Lama to UB approaches, several outstanding Tibet-related art and photo exhibitions have opened

in the area.

- The University Libraries proudly present exhibits that use a wealth of images, texts, and objects (devotional and other items) to explore: the life and thought of His Holiness the Dalai Lama (Lockwood Memorial Library), Tibet's natural history and Tibetan life and customs (Undergraduate Library), Tibetan Buddhism (Lockwood Memorial Library and the Undergraduate Library), law, Buddhism, and social change and Tibetan legal manuscripts (Law Library), Tibetan architecture and its response to environment, religion, and culture (Architecture and Planning Library), Tibetan medicine (Health Sciences Library), and Western geographic notions of Central Asia and Tibet across time (Special Collections; see below).

These exhibits are made possible, in part, by the advice and generosity of members of the University and Buffalo communities and others.

Special features will include a multimedia workstation in Lockwood Memorial Library which will make available excerpts from a lecture on the Dalai Lama by His Holiness' principal English-language translator and interpreter Dr. Thupten Jinpa and a workstation in the Undergraduate Library which will present an interview with University at Buffalo Tibetan graduate student Ms. Kunchok Youdon.

For additional information and exhibit locations, pick up a brochure at one of the campus libraries or visit http://libweb.lib.buffalo.edu/Dalai_Lama/. All exhibits are free and open to the public.

- "Discovering Tibet" is an exhibition of Western notions of Central Asia and Tibet as illustrated by maps and books from antiquity to the present. It is on view at the Rare Book Room in Capen Hall during the month of September. The materials come from the Rare Book Collections of the University at Buffalo Libraries and from the collection of Dr. Richard V. and Susan B. Lee. Monday-Friday 9-5.

For centuries Tibet was an unknown, mysterious place despite its important role in the history of the Silk Road and the history of Central Asia and China. The spiritual life of the peoples of the mountains, the Chang-
Thang, and the steppes of Mongolia mystified missionaries and philosophers. Mention of Tibet evokes the idea of mountains, high altitude, and mysticism, even today as cartographers and philosophers study the region and its people. The exhibit illustrates the development of Western knowledge of the land, the people, and the spiritual origins of Tibetan Buddhism.

- "Building Cultures: Druk White Lotus School: A Sustainable Model for Education and Design." UB Art Gallery, Center for the Arts, September 16 through September 23.

Curated by Brian Carter, Professor of Architecture and Dean of the School of Architecture and Planning, this exhibition of drawings, models, and photographs documents a new international design award-winning school in Ladakh that is deeply rooted in traditional values and cultures while advancing modern educational concepts. It is located at the northeastern boundary of India - an area known as Little Tibet.

- "A Long Look Homeward: A Journey through Tibet's History." Through September 30 at the Buffalo Arts Studio, TriMain Building, 2495 Main Street, Suite 500. Tuesday-Friday 11 to 5; Saturday 11 to 3.

www.buffaloartsstudio.org

- "James Ogden's Photographs of Tibet, 1905-1928." Buffalo Museum of Science, through November 15. <http://dalailamabuffalo.com/JamesOgdensPhotographsOfTibet1905-1928.htm>

Gifts to Support Asian Studies

As the Asian Studies Program continues to grow, persons and institutions in the community can help the program meet its goals. Here are some projects that will become a reality only with donor support:

- Asian arts residencies
- Lecture series
- Scholar research
- New faculty positions
- Growth of the East Asian Collection of the Lockwood Library

Funds may be donated for endowment or specific projects. Contributions are fully tax-deductible. For consultation, contact the Director of Asian Studies, (716) 645-3474; asian-studies@buffalo.edu

2006-2007 Program of BPO Features Two Asian American Performers

In the coming season of Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra (BPO) two Asian American performers are included. The Opening Night Gala on Saturday, September 16, features world-renowned violinist Sarah Chang performing Vivaldi's ever-popular *Four Seasons*. Born in Philadelphia to Korean parents, Chang is a past recipient of the Avery Fisher Career Grant, Gramophone's "Young Artist of the Year" award, Germany's "Echo" Schallplattenpreis, and Korea's "Nan Pa" award. The Gala begins at 5 pm; the concert at 8 pm.

On Saturday, October 21, at 8 pm, and Sunday, Octo-

ber 22, at 2:30 pm, the concert program features the internationally acclaimed pianist Cecile Licad, known for her bold and passionate interpretations. She will perform Brahms' dramatic Concerto No. 1. Cecile Licad began her piano studies at the age of three with her mother, Rosario Licad, in her native Philippines, and later studied under the highly regarded Rosario Picazo. At the age of seven, she made her debut as soloist with the Philharmonic Orchestra of the Philippines. She is the recipient of the prestigious Leventritt Gold Medal, and performs worldwide.

The ACPSS 12th International Conference

The Association of Chinese Professors of Social Sciences in the United States (ACPSS) will hold its 12th International Conference on the theme of "China in Transition: Issues and Solutions," on October 13-15 (Friday to Sunday), 2006, at Buffalo State College. The host is the Center for China Studies at BSC.

A China Week (October 10-15) at Buffalo State College will precede the conference. Faculty members who have been to China or have knowledge of China will discuss China related issues in classrooms during the Week. China Week will include two seminars on China and a Chinese Arts and Crafts Show.

BSC will also hold an open dialogue by BSC faculty on the Dalai Lama on Thursday, September 14, 12:15-1:30, at Bulger South.

A Reading by Tsering Wangmo Dhompa

"A Reading by Tsering Wangmo Dhompa: Poetry/Memoir/Travel Writing" is to be held on September 19, 2006, at 10:30am in Poetry Collection, 420 Capen Hall.

Tsering Wangmo Dhompa is the author of two books of poetry, *Rules of the House* and *In the Absent Everyday*. She is currently writing a memoir about nomadic Tibet.

The reading is a UB Humanities Institute Celebration of the Book event, and is sponsored by the Asian Studies Program, the English Department, the Humanities Institute, and the Office of the President.

For more information, please contact Susan Moynihan in English (645-2575).

NYCAS 2006

The 2006 Annual Meeting of the New York Conference of Asian Studies will be held on Friday and Saturday, October 6-7, at St. Lawrence University.

The meeting will focus on identity in Asia. Issues of globalization, Westernization, immigration, ethnicity, religion and nationalism create an exceedingly complex terrain for individuals to negotiate. Far from monolithic, the concept of Asian-ness evades simple categorization.

The Arashi Daiko drumming ensemble of Montreal will present a *taiko* performance Friday evening on campus at the Gulick Theater. The Richard F. Brush Art Gallery will host an exhibition of contemporary art and

popular culture by Asian and Asian-American artists, curated by Eric Nakamura of Giant Robot.

Four UB scholars are on the program. For more info:

<http://stlawu.edu/asian/nycas06>



Asian Studies Calendar

September

- Sep. 10, 1:00-4:00 pm. **Asian Studies Annual Picnic.** The Burkmans'.
- Sep. 18-20, **The Dalai Lama** of Tibet will visit UB. For schedule of events: www.buffalo.edu/dalai_lama.
- Sep. 29, 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon.* **Jeongsuk Joo**, Ph.D. candidate in American Studies. "Eastern Connection: Hollywood Turns to East Asian Films." Park 280.

October

- Oct. 2. Application **deadline** for Postdoctoral Fellowships 2007-08 at Columbia University. [Http://www.columbia.edu/cu/societyoffellows/fellowship.html](http://www.columbia.edu/cu/societyoffellows/fellowship.html)
- Oct. 6-7, the 2006 Annual Meeting of the New York Conference of Asian Studies. St. Lawrence University.
- Oct. 10-15, **China Week** at Buffalo State College. For information, see p. 5.
- Oct. 13, 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon.* **Niharika Banerjee**, Ph.D. candidate in Sociology. "Poor Women's Mobilization and Participatory Practices in Kolkata, India: A Critical Review." UB Gender Week. Park 280.

- Oct. 27, 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon.* **Dr. Syafiz Abdul Mughni**, Islamic scholar, State Institute of Islamic Studies in Surabaya, Indonesia. Park 280.

November

- Nov. 10, 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon.* **Arabella Lyon**, Associate Professor of English. "Han Fei and Speech Act Theory." Park 280.

**B. A. in Asian Studies,
June 2006**

***Kenneth Giese, and
Julie Falkowski***

Congratulations!



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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://www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu/>

CAMPUS

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Zhen Li, *Editor*