



Asian Studies Notes

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

Vol. 12, No. 6/ April 2007

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

亞細亞學研究

China's Sacred Sites

Prof. Nan Shunxun will give a lecture on April 11, 5:30 pm, at 301 Crosby Hall on south campus, following the opening of the exhibition.

Professor Nan Shunxun teaches at Beijing Institute for Civil Engineering and Architecture. His deep love of mountainscape *feng shui* has taken him to many remote sites of spiritual significance throughout China, travels which, coupled with his experiences during the Cultural Revolution, give him a unique perspective on China's sacred architecture.

In 1995 architect Beverly Foit-Albert and John Valentino, a photographer, traveled with Professor Nan to research historical sites in the People's Republic of China. The journey was made possible in part by a grant from the American Philosophical Society.

"Chinese Buildings & Sites" celebrates basic theories of Buddhist and Taoist systems in

China's culture. The Taoists believe that famous mountains are places where the immortals dwell. Buddhists believe mountains to be unique sites, quiet and unworldly, and thereby ideal places to construct temples and practice meditation. Within China the Taoists established 36 heavenly caves and 72 blessed sites, and the Buddhists identified four holy mountains.

Some buildings are remote and mysterious, others are much visited and celebrated; some are cherished, some are about to be lost to the wheels of progress. This lecture will take you on a journey to these sites, revealing the philosophical tenets containing lessons for those involved in the design and appreciation of buildings.

The event is co-sponsored by the School of Architecture and Planning and funded by Beverly Foit-Albert.

On the Inside:

- Asia at Noon in April 2
- Lan Cao to Visit UB 3
- Calendar 4

Stapleton to Head Asian Studies Program



The College of Arts and Sciences announces the appointment of Dr. Kristin Eileen Stapleton as Director of Asian Studies, effective August 23. She succeeds Dr. Thomas W. Burkman, who has directed the Program since 1994. Burkman will

remain affiliated with the Asian Studies Program as a faculty member and researcher.

Dr. Stapleton is a modern Chinese historian, with a focus in urban history and the region of Sichuan. She did her undergraduate work at the University of Michigan, where she majored in political science and Asian studies, and received her M.A. and Ph.D. degrees in history from Harvard University. She is the author of

Civilizing Chengdu: Chinese Urban Reform, 1895-1937 (Harvard, 2000). She has taught at the University of Kentucky since 1993, and directed the Asia Center at that institution from 2002 to 2005. As director, she administered a \$1.02 million grant from the Freeman Foundation, and hosted a teacher education program of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia. Besides her Asian Studies appointment, Professor Stapleton will hold a tenured associate professor position in the History Department.

The appointment concludes a thorough international search process by an interdisciplinary committee chaired by Professor Roger Des Forges of the Department of History. The transition to new Program leadership signals university commitment to an enlarged mission and role for Asian Studies. Professor Stapleton and her husband Greg look forward to moving to Buffalo this summer. UB extends a hearty welcome!

Asia at Noon in April

Asia at Noon, a brown bag event, is UB's leading forum for ideas and discussion of issues related to Asia. It meets selected Fridays from 12:00 to 1:00 in Park 280.

▪ April 6. **Robert G. Kane**, Assistant Professor of History, Niagara University. *The Twenty-One Demands (1915) as Politics and History*.

Historiographically speaking, Japan's Twenty-one Demands to China in 1915 are depicted as the epitome of Japanese aggression to that point and the source of a deepening suspicion that drove a Wilsonian America to rigidly check Japanese imperialism in East Asia thereafter. For some, too, the event foreshadowed the larger show-down of the Pacific War two and a half decades later. In fact, domestic contests for political power and rhetorical authority specific to the 1910s drove Japan's initiative, informed the U.S. response and shaped mutual perceptions then and after. Despite their notoriety, the Twenty-one Demands were not the dramatic turning point in bilateral

relations that they are remembered as being.

Kane completed his Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania, with a dissertation titled "Hammering Down Nails: Politics, Diplomacy, and the Quest for National Unity in Japan and America, 1912-1919." His first presentation at Asia at Noon was in 2004, when he spoke about "Tokugawa as Primary Other" in Meiji-Taisho Japan.

▪ April 20. **Panel of UB Sinologist faculty.** *Chinese Identity: Is there a Unique Chinese Way of Thinking and Acting?*

UB has an impressive set of China specialists on the faculty, representing the disciplines of anthropology, history, art history, communication, linguistics, and philosophy. As China undergoes social and cultural change, the question of identity is central. Each panelist will address the question, and the faculty will engage in discussion with the audience.

Anderson Gallery Exhibition Opens March 31:

CHINESE BUILDINGS & SITES: ARCHITECTURE OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

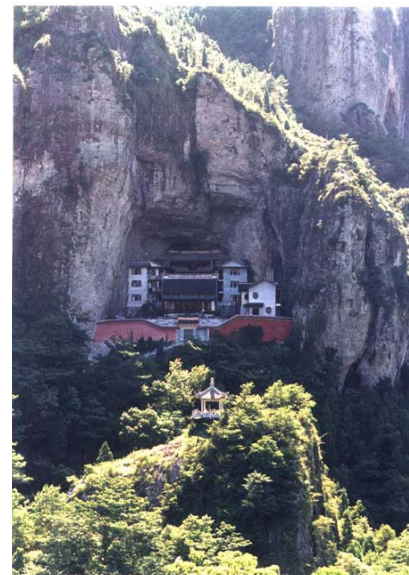
BUFFALO, N.Y. – The UB Anderson Gallery is proud to present *Chinese Buildings & Sites: Architecture Of Heaven And Earth*. This exhibition presents photographs taken by John Valentino while traveling with architect Beverly Foit-Albert, and Chinese Professor Nan Shunxun to research historical sites in the People's Republic of China. The journey was made possible in part by a grant from the American Philosophical Society.

In conjunction with *Chinese Buildings & Sites* Professor Nan Shunxun will present a lecture on April 11 at 5:30 pm in Crosby Hall, room 301 on UB's South Campus. (See p. 1).

The exhibition is on view from March 31-April 15, 2007. UB Anderson Gallery, located on Martha Jackson Place near Englewood and Kenmore, is open Wednesday through Saturday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m. and Sunday 1-5 p.m. The gallery is free and open to the public.

The lecture and exhibition, both collaborations between the School of Architecture and Planning and the Asian Studies Program, have been made possible with the

generous support of Foit-Albert Associates, Architecture, Engineering and Surveying, P.C.



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/>

Arthur Sze Reading



Tues. April 17 Arthur Sze Reading. 4.00pm Poetry Collection, 420 Capen Hall

Sze is a Chinese-American poet and author of numerous books of poetry. He currently directs the Creative Writing Program at the American Institute for American Indian Art in Santa Fe, New Mexico. The event is one of the Poetics Plus series sponsored by the Department of English.

Michael Lazarin to Lecture on Japanese Philosophy

On May 2nd, Wednesday, 5:30 pm, Michael Lazarin, Professor of English at Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan, will give a lecture entitled " 'Ma' (interval): The Japanese Concept of Space-Time, with Reference to Martin Heidegger and Isozaki Arata.," at Crosby Hall 301, south campus.

The lecture is hosted by the School of Architecture and Planning. More info:

<http://www.ap.buffalo.edu/sap/news/events.asp>

NYCAS MGR Undergraduate & Graduate Writing Prizes

The New York Conference on Asian Studies—NYCAS—announces the 2007 Marleigh Grayer Ryan Writing Competition. The competition honors outstanding undergraduate and graduate papers on Asian topics.

<http://www.newpaltz.edu/asianstudies/nycas/>

Chinese Language & Cultural Exchange Program

The CLCE (Chinese Language & Cultural Exchange) program combines intensive Chinese language and culture study at Peking University, China's oldest university, further study in Huangzhou; and cultural tours across China including Beijing, Shanghai and Xi'an.

Program dates: June 10-Aug 5, 2007

For more information, please contact: Nathan Short

E-mail: tntsenderprises@gmail.com

Phone: (585) 919-6634

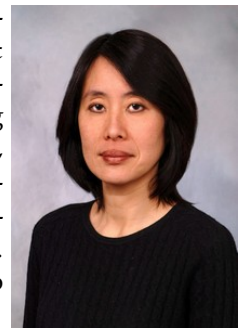
Mail: P.O. Box 298, Amherst, NY 14226

UB Participants at Asian Studies Conference

The 59th Annual Meeting of the Association for Asian Studies was held in Boston, March 22-25. Among the nearly 3000 participants were several students and faculty from UB. Jeongsub Nam, Ph. D. candidate in English, presented the paper titled "A Korea as a mirror of an America in *Welcome to Dongmakgol* and *Die Another Day*," in the panel titled "Images of North Korea in Contemporary South Korean Media and Literature". Another presenter in the same panel was a visiting scholar in the UB English Department, Dr. Jongkeun Yang, whose paper was "North Korea a True Guest/Host?" Roger V. Des Forges, Professor of History, presented his paper, "Views from the Central Plain: The Ming as Seen in the Histories of Three City Walls." Jeongsuk Joo, Ph.D. candidate in American studies, presented "From Periphery to Center: The Rise of the Korean Film Industry since the Late 1990s and Ironies of its Success." And Ramya Sreenivasan, Assistant Professor of History, was the discussant of the panel "Monuments, Narratives, and Reinventions of the Past in South Asia."

Lan Cao, Law Professor and Novelist, to Visit UB

Lan Cao, an Asian American novelist and Professor at the William & Mary School of Law, will visit the University at Buffalo April 19-20. Having received her JD from Yale University, she is a specialist in the areas of international business and trade, international law, and law and development. Professor Cao will be featured in two events on campus:



Thursday, April 19, 2007, 4:30-6:00pm, 412 Clemens Hall. Fiction reading and discussion: "*Monkey Bridge* and Navigating Borders." She will also discuss her current novel in progress.

Friday, April 20, 2007, 12:00-2:00pm, 509 O'Brien Hall. Baldy Center Faculty Seminar Series with Lan Cao: "Gender-Based Barriers to International Economic Development."

Cao's visit is co-sponsored by the Baldy Center for Law & Social Policy, the Department of English, the Asian Studies Program, and the Department of American Studies.

Asian Studies Calendar

April

- Apr. 1, the deadline for proposals of NYCAS 2007 at Binghamton University, October 26-27. The theme of the conference is "Decentering Asia."
- Apr. 6, Friday, 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon*. **Robert G. Kane**, Assistant Professor of History, Niagara University. "The Twenty-One Demands (1915) as Politics and History." Park 280.
- Apr. 11, Wednesday, 5:30 pm. **Nan Shunxun**. "China's Sacred Sites." Lecture, book signing, and reception. Crosby Hall 301. Co-sponsored by the School of Architecture.
- Apr. 17, Tuesday, 4:00 pm. **Arthur Sze**. Reading. Poetry Collection Capen 420.
- Apr. 20, Friday, 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon*. Panel of **UB Sinologist Faculty**. "Chinese Identity." Park 280.
- Apr. 20, Friday, 12:00-2:00 pm. Baldy Center Faculty Seminar Series with **Lan Cao**, William & Mary School of Law. "Gender Based Barriers to International Economic Development." O'Brian 509.
- Apr. 23, Monday, 12:00-2:00 pm. Presentation and discussion by **Najia Aarim-Heriot**, SUNY Fredonia, History. "Chinese Immigrants, African Americans, and Racial

Anxiety in the U.S., 1848-82." O'Brian 509.

May

- May 2, Wednesday, 5:30 pm. **Michael Lazarin**, Professor of English at Ryukoku University in Kyoto, Japan. "Ma' (interval): The Japanese Concept of Space-Time, with Reference to Martin Heidegger and Isozaki Arata." Crosby Hall 301.

Asian Studies Annual Fall Picnic

Sunday, September 23
Place TBA

RSVP to Mary Anne Lang
mal@buffalo.edu
645-3474



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

CAMPUS

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

Zhen Li, Editor