



Asian Studies Notes

NEWSLETTER OF THE ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM OF THE UNIVERSITY AT BUFFALO

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

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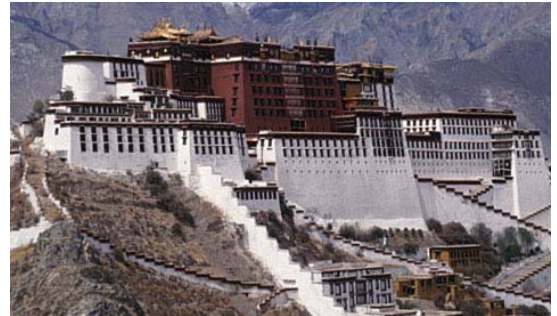
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Classical Tibetan Now Offered

Dr. Craig Preston has joined the Asian Studies Program as instructor of Classical Tibetan. The course is offered in the Fall as AS 394 and Spring as AS 395. It meets Thursdays from 5:30pm to 8:10pm in 12 O'Brian Hall on the North Campus. Professor Preston has also offered to teach Intermediate and Advanced Classical Tibetan as well as Tibetan Buddhist Philosophy by arrangement.

AS 394 is an introduction to Classical Tibetan, the written language created to translate the corpus of Indian Buddhist sutras, tantras, and commentaries from the original Sanskrit. It will acquaint students with all of the basics of Tibetan with the intention of getting them up-and-running in the language so that they can begin reading short passages. AS 395, offered in the spring at the same hour and in the same classroom, will introduce students to Tibetan texts.

Craig Preston is on the faculty at Namgyal Monastery in Ithaca, New York. He is the author of *How to Read Classical Tibetan*. Dr. Preston majored in Religious Studies at the University of Virginia, where he studied under Professor Jeffrey Hopkins, a widely known scholar of Tibet. He holds a law degree and has studied Tibetan in India.



Asian Studies Program Welcomes Dr. Stapleton



The Asian Studies Program welcomes Dr. Kristin Stapleton, our new Director of Asian Studies, as of August 23. Kristin succeeds Dr. Thomas W. Burkman, who has directed the Program since 1994. Dr. Burkman remains affili-

ated 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 holds 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. The Asian Studies Program and UB extend a hearty welcome!

New Staff

The Asian Studies Program welcomes two new additions to the staff. Elizabeth Felmet has joined the Program as Assistant to the Director. Liz has been with the University for 29 years, most recently in Visual Studies (formerly Art History) for the past 16 years.

In addition, Candie Syphrit comes to the Program as the new Graduate Assistant. Candie is currently in the doctoral program in Anthropology. She received her Bachelors degree from UB with a Special Major in Japanese Cultural Studies and has studied at the International Christian University in Japan. Candie has also worked in the Romance Languages and Literatures Department for the past six years as a student assistant.

January 2008 Course in Thailand

This year the UB Law School will be offering for the first time a short course entitled "The Legal Culture of Thailand" during the January Bridge period. A small group of UB Law students will travel to northern Thailand where the course will be taught in cooperation with UB's longstanding exchange partner, Chiang Mai University. David Engel of the Law School will be teaching the course along with co-instructor and translator, Jaruan Engel, formerly the UB Thai Language instructor.

The course will provide a general introduction to the "legal culture" of Thailand. The study of Thai "legal culture" entails both an introduction to Thailand's formal legal systems and the broader social, cultural and political context that determines how law functions in Thailand. The course is exclusively for UB Law students and involves a two-week residence in Chiangmai.

Recent Graduates

The Asia Studies Program would like to congratulate the following graduates who have recently received Bachelor of Arts degrees in Asian Studies:

Merle Eric Bump – February 2007
 Youxing Hou – February 2007
 Teresa Ka Yan Tam – June 2007
 Justin William Hanner – September 2007

Buffalo-Niagara 2007 Year of Japan

The 2007 Year of Japan is a project hosted by the Buffalo- Kanasawa Sister City Committee, the oldest of the sister city programs in Buffalo. The project is meant to contribute to a better understanding of Japanese culture and to enhance the image of Buffalo as a cosmopolitan city in order to attract more tourism. The theme of the 2007 Year of Japan is "East Meets West," which is intended to promote experiencing "difference" and "universality."

In the past few months the program has brought Buffalo events such as the exhibit "Thoroughly Modern Meiko," readings of *The Teahouse Fire*, and the 1st WNY Goodwill Kendo tournament, but The Year of Japan is far from over. The following are just some of the upcoming events in the Year of Japan:

Sept. 11- Sister City Coalition Dinner Banquet at the International Institute of Buffalo, 6 - 8 pm

Oct. 2- Meeting of Ikebana International, "Haiku and Flowers" at 10:30 am in the Science Museum of Buffalo

Nov. 3- Matsuri – Festival of Japanese Folk Art celebrating Bunka no Hi (National Japanese Culture Day) from 11 am until 2 pm at the Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society

Nov. 9- Gusto at the Gallery at the Albright-Knox Art Gallery, highlighting Japanese culture and traditions including a lecture with Susan J. Napier and a showing of the 2001 anime film, *Millennium Actress*

Nov. 28- Performance and Workshop by the Yass Hako-shima Movement Theatre in the Center for the Arts at UB

For more information on the 2007 Year of Japan and the upcoming events visit: <http://yearofjapan.org>

NYCAS 2007

The New York Conference on Asian Studies will be held this year October 26-27 at Binghamton University. The theme will be "Decentering Asia". Advanced registration for attendees ends on October 1 though on-site registration will be available at the price of \$125 for faculty and \$75 for students. NYCAS is being held jointly with the Korean Studies Symposium whose program "Korea Beyond the Peninsula: Re-Centering Korean Studies" will take place on Saturday, October 27. For more information on the NYCAS or Korean Studies Symposium, visit:

<http://aaasp.binghamton.edu/nycas/index.html>

Asian Studies Calendar

September

- Sept. 7, Friday, 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon*. **Elaine Howard Ecklund**, Assistant Professor of Sociology. "Korean American Evangelicals: New Models for Civic Life." Park 280.
- Sept. 21, Friday, 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon*. **Michael Lazich**, Associate Professor of History, Buffalo State. "American Missionaries and the Opium Trade in Nineteenth Century China." Park 280.
- Sept 25, Tuesday, 7:00 pm. Screening and discussion of Kenji Mizoguchi's *Sansho the Bailiff*. Market Arcade Film & Arts Center.

October

- Oct. 1. Deadline for advance registration for NYCAS 2007 at Binghamton University, October 26-27. The theme of the conference is "Decentering Asia."
- Oct. 5, Friday, 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon*. **Jennifer Gaynor**, Assistant Professor of History. "Narrative Transformation and Sama Social Memory." 1004 Clemens.
- Oct. 9, Tuesday, 7:00 pm. Screening and discussion of Akira Kurosawa's *Ikiru*. Market Arcade Film & Arts Center.
- Oct. 19, Friday 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon*. **Craig Preston**, Visiting Assistant Professor of Asian Studies. "The Nirvana Track: Becoming a Top Scholar in Tibet." Park 280.

November

- Nov. 2, Friday, 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon*. **Tae-Hyung Kim**, Assistant Professor of Political Science, Daemon College. "North Korea's Nuclear Ambition: Choice or Necessity?" Park 280.
- Nov. 3, Saturday, 11:00 am—2:00 pm. Matsuri- Festival of Japanese Folk Art. Buffalo & Erie County Historical Society.
- Nov. 9, Friday, 2:00 pm. **Susan Napier**, Professor of Japanese Language and Literature at Tufts University. Lecture on anime. CFA Screening Room.
- Nov. 9, Friday, 6:30-9:00 pm. **Gusto at the Gallery**. Japanese culture exhibition including showing of *Millennium Actress*, introduced by Susan Napier. Albright-Knox Art Gallery.
- Nov. 16, Friday, 12:00-1:00 pm. *Asia at Noon*. **Chris Johnston**, Ph. D. candidate in Geography and President of the World Trade Center Buffalo/Niagara. "Chinese Direct Investment in North America: Geographies, Industries, and Strategies." Park 280.
- Nov. 27, Tuesday, 7:00 pm. Screening and discussion of Elia Suleiman's *Divine Intervention*. Market Arcade Film & Arts Center.
- Nov. 28, Wednesday. 7:00 pm. Performance and Workshop by the Yass Hakoshima Movement Theatre. Center for the Arts. Drama Theater.

December

- Dec. 4, Tuesday, 7:00 pm. Screening and discussion of Ang Lee's *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*. Market Arcade Film & Arts Center.



Asian Studies Notes

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CAMPUS

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Candie Syphrit, *Editor*

Asia at Noon in September

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.

▪ September 7. **Elaine Howard Ecklund**, Assistant Professor of Sociology. *Korean American Evangelicals: New Models for Civic Life*.

Scholars stress that religion was vital for the civic integration of earlier European immigrants. However, studies of our nation's newest immigrants largely focus only on how religion serves the immigrant community -- for example, by creating job networks. Ecklund's new book widens the inquiry to look at how Korean Americans use religion to negotiate civic responsibility, as well as to create racial and ethnic identity. The civic life of second-generation Korean Americans is increasingly significant, as they are a growing part of the politically influen-

tial American evangelical movement.

▪ September 21. **Michael Lazich**, Associate Professor of History, Buffalo State. *American Missionaries and the Opium Trade in Nineteenth Century China*.

America's first missionaries to China in the mid-nineteenth century played a key role in the development of early Sino-American relations. This presentation explores the changing influence missionaries had on American policy towards the opium trade as reflected in the provisions of the Treaty of Wangxia (1844) and the American Treaty of Tianjin (1858). As missionary attitudes towards the opium issue underwent a subtle transformation in the years following the Opium War, so too did the official position of the American government as embodied in the provisions of these treaties and their supplemental commercial agreements.

Fellowships and Scholarships

The following competitive fellowship and scholarship opportunities are administered by the UB Honors Program, the nominating entity on campus, and are available to students interested in pursuing graduate studies:

The Rhodes Scholarship provides for two years of graduate study in the University of Oxford. The scholarships, which include all educational costs and living and travel allowances, are awarded to students who exhibit intellectual excellence, leadership and concern for others.

Marshall Scholarship enables students to study a wide range of subjects for a further degree at any of Britain's universities and business schools. The scholarships are awarded annually to up to forty young US citizens. The selectors are looking for students who plan to take up careers not only in higher education, but in commerce and industry, the arts and professions, and public life in general.

National Institutes of Health provides funded research and training opportunities at many branches of NIH. Jacob K. Javits Fellowship Program provides a stipend for

\$18,000 and tuition and fees for up to two years for students of superior ability in doctoral studies or an MFA in the arts, humanities and social sciences.

George J. Mitchell Scholarship for Study in Ireland will allow American post-graduates to pursue one year of study at institutions of higher learning in Ireland and Northern Ireland. There are no restrictions for academic fields of study.

National Science Foundation Graduate Fellowship awards three-year scholarships for graduate study in mathematical, physical, biological, engineering and behavioral and social sciences, including the history of science.

Paul & Daisy Soros Fellowship for New Americans supports 30 individuals a year for up to two years of graduate study anywhere in the US. Candidates must be either holders of Green Cards, naturalized citizens or children of two naturalized citizen parents.

Contact Hadar Borden (hborden@buffalo.edu) for more information about these fellowships and awards.

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