Reinstitution of Asian Studies

Eckerd College has been engaged in a reinstitution of Asian Studies over the past decade. Our approach has been to equip representative faculty from all the disciplines with fundamental understandings of the history and aesthetics of Asian cultures, and with specific current knowledge of Asian developments and issues in their disciplines.

We have won substantial support from the NEH for institutional planning and for faculty to engage in Asian studies development within their disciplines, in general education. As a result, we have redesigned fifteen existing courses to include Asian material, have added ten new courses, and have enhanced Japanese language instruction. We have revised our required first-year course so that Western classics are read in conjunction with Asian classics, and the students do comparative work on East-West themes. We have also expanded the Asian holdings in the library.

Campus events

Since 1993, Eckerd College has been a Regional Center of the Asian Studies Development Project and has sponsored campus events under ASDP auspices. The most recent was a regional conference held in January 1998, "Asian Values in the Undergraduate Curriculum," that brought scholars from the southeastern United States to Eckerd College for two days of lectures and meetings.

The Asian Resources Council organizes an annual series that brings outside speakers and local experts to lecture on Asia-related issues and to meet with students. During one such event in the fall of 1998, speakers took opposing sides on the issue of whether a culturally-based approach is the most useful in analyzing East Asian politics. Andrew Nathan, Columbia University, discussed "Culture vs. Realpolitik in the Making of Chinese Foreign Policy," while Quansheng Zhao, American University, explored "International Communication and Political Culture: The Case of Japan."

Finally, Japanese calligrapher and performance artist, Tsutomu Yoshida, mounted an art exhibit, gave public performances, and held master classes and a yoga class.

Study abroad

Eckerd College has long-established exchange partnerships with Ewha Women's University, Seoul, South Korea, and with Japanese universities, including Kansai Gaidai University, Osaka; Nanzan University, Nagoya; and Shikoku Gakuin University, Zentsuji. This year we have instituted an exchange program with Hong Kong Baptist University in Kowloon Ton.

The college is a member of the International Student Exchange Program, the Council on International Educational Exchange, and the International Partnership for Service Learning.

During the four-week Winter Term, faculty lead groups on a variety of overseas programs. Those to Asia have included China, Hong Kong, Singapore, and India.

Asian Studies concentration opportunities

Eckerd College promotes student development of independent concentrations. Recent or ongoing concentrations with primary Asian content have included Japanese Cultural Studies, Transpersonal Ethnopsychology, and East-West Ethos Dynamics.

A minor in East Asian Studies will be instituted within the year. The requirements will include:

1. One year of Chinese or Japanese
2. EAL201G: East Asian Traditions
3. Three other courses in East Asian Studies, with at least one in East Asian Heritage (Art, East Asian Studies, Philosophy, Religion) and one in Contemporary East Asian Society (Anthropology, History, Human Development, Political Science).

In the near future, we hope to offer Chinese language on a permanent basis, as well as semester and year-long study abroad opportunities in China. With these additions we look forward to introducing a formal major in East Asian Studies.

**Asian Studies course offerings**

- Anthropology
  - 262E Environment, Population, and Culture (China focus)
- 282G East Asian Area Studies
- 283G Southeast Asian Area Studies
- Art
  - 203A Aesthetics East and West
- East Asian Studies
  - 201G East Asian Traditions
  - 210E Architecture of Nature (proposed)
  - 300G Science, Technology, and Society in China
- History
  - 310G Modern China
  - 311G Modern Japan
- Human Development
  - 350G Contemporary Japanese Families
  - 295 Asian Ways to Health and Healing
- Japanese
  - 101/2 Elementary Japanese
  - 103 Japanese Reading and Writing
  - 201/2 Intermediate Japanese
- Philosophy
  - 103G Introduction to Eastern Philosophy
  - 303G Individual and Society in Chinese Thought
- Political Science
  - 231G Politics: East Asian Nations
  - 333 Government and Politics of Japan
  - 335 Government and Politics of China
  - 336 China, Japan, and the United States
  - 410 The United States and the Vietnam Experience
- Religion
  - 234 The Goddess in Eastern Traditions
  - 240G Non-Western Religions
  - 319G The Hindu Tradition
  - 320 The Buddhist Tradition
  - 383 Hindu Mystical Poetry
  - 443 Seminar on the Hindu Tantra

**Asian Studies faculty**


**Victoria Baker**, Associate Professor of Anthropology (Ph.D., University of Leiden), does research on schooling in remote rural areas. She has conducted comparative case studies on schooling in sixteen countries, including China, Vietnam, Japan, Thailand, Indonesia, Philippines, Bangladesh, India, and Sri Lanka. Baker has published *A Sinhalese Village in Sri Lanka: Coping with Uncertainty* (Harcourt Brace, 1998).

**Albert Howard Carter, III**, Professor of Comparative Literature and Humanities (Ph.D., University of Iowa), has traveled in Japan and, as a result of the NEH East Asian Studies grant, teaches recent Japanese fiction. Carter specializes in modern fiction, literature, and medicine.

**Andrew Chittick**, E. Leslie Peter Assistant Professor of East Asian Humanities (Ph.D., University of Michigan), is the discipline coordinator for East Asian Studies, is responsible for instituting a minor and major in East Asian Studies, and promotes the development of Asian-related curriculum and activities. He teaches and does research on East Asian history and culture, Chinese philosophy, and scientific traditions.

**Ed Grasso**, Associate Professor of Decision Sciences (Ph.D., Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University), teaches and does research in Operations Management. He has taken students to East and Southeast Asia to study business practices.

**Sandra Harris**, Associate Professor of Human Development (Ph.D., Virginia Commonwealth University), has conducted research in Japan on the Japanese family system and teaches courses on the sociology of the family. Harris was a member of the ASIANetwork Ford Faculty Development Seminar in Japan.

**Shiping Hua**, Assistant Professor of Political Science (Ph.D., University of Hawai'i), teaches East Asian politics and Chinese society through fiction and film. He
has published *Scientism and Humanism: Two Cultures in Post-Mao China* (SUNY Press, 1995).

**George Meese**, Professor of Rhetoric and Director of the Writing Excellence Program (Ph.D., University of Chicago), participated in the Eckerd College NEH planning grant and the 1993 East-West Center/Hawaii NEH Summer Institute on the Cultural Heritage of China. Meese is a founding member of the ASIANetwork.


**Brian Ransom**, Assistant Professor of Visual Arts (M.F.A., Claremont), teaches ceramics and does research in the history and techniques of Asian ceramics.


**Claire Stiles**, Associate Professor of Human Development (Ph.D., University of Florida), teaches and does research on traditional Chinese medicine, health, and healing practices. She is on the Board of Directors of the Florida Institute of Traditional Chinese Medicine.

**Kirk Ke Wang**, Assistant Professor of Visual Arts (M.F.A., University of South Florida), teaches Oriental art and techniques as well as graphics and web page design.

**Contact**: Andrew Chittick, Eckerd College, 4200 54th Ave., South, St. Petersburg, FL 33711; <chittiac@eckerd.edu>

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**ASIANetwork CAMPUS AND PROGRAM NETWORK**

**Asian Educational Media Service**

ASIANetwork member Rebecca Payne, AEMS Program Coordinator, reports that AEMS has settled into its new offices. Matthew Ciolek of Australia National University and the Asian Studies WWW Virtual Library gave the AEMS website, http://www.aems.uiuc.edu, a five-star "essential" rating.

**Contact**: Rebecca Payne, Asian Educational Media Service, Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign; Tel.: 888/828-2367; 217/265-0642; Fax: 217-265-0641; <rpayne@uiuc.edu>

**ASIANetwork Council of Advisors**

New address for Ainslie Embree, 14050 Lottsford Rd., #1008, Mitchellville, MD 20721; Tel.: 301/925-7208; Fax: 301/925-7689; <ATEmbree@aol.com>

**Elon College**

Elon College received a two-year Asian/Pacific Studies grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The college is moving toward institutionalizing Asian/Pacific Studies as a minor field of study that will provide a regional concentration for the International Studies major.

**Contact**: John G. Sullivan, Philosophy, Director, Asian/Pacific Studies, Elon College, Elon College, NC 27244; Tel.: 336/584-2272; Fax: 336/538-2627; <sullivan@numen.elon.edu>

**McKendree College**

Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence, Motoyuki Takamatsu, Chair of Social Sciences at Toyo Eiwa Women's University, Yokohama, Japan, is teaching a special topics course on contemporary Asia and doing research on the Eisenhower administration's foreign policy.

**Contact**: David Brailow, Associate Dean, McKendree College, Lebanon, IL 62254; <dbrailow@atlas.mckendree.edu>

**Marietta College**

Charles Keller responded to the request for member information to develop the ASIANetwork database. *(The Editor will gratefully receive additional member information for the database.)*

**Academic department**: History, Political Science, and Religion

**Areas of specialty**: Traditional and modern Chinese history, modern Japanese history, Chinese religion and thought

**Syllabi available**: "Modern Japanese History," "Modern Chinese History," "World of Asia: Traditional Period," "World of Asia: Modern Period," "East Asian Religions and Thought"

**Contact**: Charles Keller, Marietta College, Marietta, OH 45750; Tel.: 740/376-4640; <kellerc@marietta.edu>