Globalization and Asia

Hong Kong, Identity, and Economic Change

*Editors' note* - During the 14th Annual ASIANetwork Conference, held on April 21-23rd, 2006 in Lisle, Illinois, Professor Wellington Chan of Occidental College, chaired an important panel titled “New Opportunities and Challenges: The Other Side of Economic Growth in the Greater Pearl River Delta.” In Professor Chan’s words, “During the past quarter century, the Greater Pearl River Delta, including Hong Kong and Macao, has become one of the most dynamic economic regions of the world…The rapid transformation of the region and its rise as an economic powerhouse are now redefining its identity and power relations between Hong Kongers and mainlanders in the GPRD.”

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Issues involving the construction and preservation of identity have continuously characterized Hong Kong’s growth and transformation from a British colony to a Special Autonomous Region within the People’s Republic of China. Yet, while Hong Kong’s economic ascendency has been well chronicled, its economic, social, and political importance has been defined largely within the context of China’s overall growth and development. A discussion of issues involving Hong Kong residents’ efforts to construct and redefine their collective identity in the midst of rapid geopolitical and economic change has not received the degree of attention that this important and unique corner of the world deserves.

Professor Robert Eng’s piece (p. 12) is one effort to rectify this imbalance. Professor Eng sensitively links a discussion of Hong Kong identity formation to an analysis of important Hong Kong films. His conclusions are both timely and prescient, and we believe that they will be of interest to all ASIANetwork Exchange readers.

Professor Eng’s article also establishes two themes that are expanded upon by other contributors to this issue. The first of these themes is the current situation in Hong Kong and the region more broadly. The Pearl River Delta panel mentioned above produced two other studies that are included in this issue of ASIANetwork Exchange. Professor Jih-Un Kim’s article (p. 17) addresses the serious question of water pollution and water shortage in the region and the impact for Hong Kong of upstream economic growth on this crucial resource. Professors Marsha Smith and Zhang Hong (p. 19) discuss migrant labor and the conditions of the region’s working class.

The second theme is preservation of identity in the face of rapid economic and social change. Professor Jyotsna Kapur contributes to this discussion with an examination (p. 22) of the newly important role that history seems to be playing in contemporary Indian cinema as a critique of the current manifestation of globalization.

We hope these articles will spark further discussion, and we encourage readers’ submissions to the newsletter on these and other issues.

Irv Epstein and Tom Lutze
Asianetwork is a consortium of over one hundred seventy North American colleges and universities that strives to strengthen the role of Asian Studies within the framework of liberal arts education to help prepare succeeding generations of undergraduates for a world in which Asian societies play prominent roles in an ever more interdependent world. The unique teaching mission of the undergraduate liberal arts institution poses special opportunities and challenges in the development of Asian Studies. Asianetwork seeks to encourage the study of Asian countries and cultures on our campuses and to enable our students and faculty to experience these cultures firsthand. In a time of fiscal constraints, Asianetwork facilitates conversation among faculty and administrators concerning the development and strengthening of Asian studies programs, as well as ways to foster collaboration among institutions.

The Asianetwork Exchange, A Newsletter for Teaching About Asia, is published three times a year. As an important venue for communication among members, the newsletter includes information and articles in its sections Network News, Teaching about Asia, Media Resources, Research of Note, For Our Students, and New and Noteworthy. We welcome submissions of materials for any section of the newsletter. Deadlines for submission: February 1 for the Spring issue, July 1 for the Fall issue, and November 1 for the Winter issue. The editors reserve the right to edit all materials submitted for publication. Materials may be submitted electronically to <anexchange@iwu.edu>, or disks may be sent to Patra Noonan, Asianetwork Exchange, Illinois Wesleyan University, P. O. Box 2900, Bloomington, Illinois 61702-2900. For further information contact the editors at the above e-mail address or by telephone at (309) 556-3420.

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From the Board Chair

ASIANetwork Strategic Planning Process

Phyllis Larson
St. Olaf College

As many of you already know, the strategic planning process for ASIANetwork began with an informal meeting of past chairs at the Freeman Asian Symposium in Honolulu, Hawaii, in November, 2005. This meeting was initiated by Board action at its October, 2005, meeting, authorizing Richard Bohr and Phyllis Larson to begin planning discussions and exploring the hiring of an outside consultant to assist us in the process.

When Richard and I started our work, we leaned heavily on the work of Suzanne Barnett and others who in August, 2002, had submitted a report entitled “ASIANetwork Administrative Structure.” The report spoke of the consensus that ASIANetwork had established itself as a “vital resource” for undergraduate institutions and that there was widespread satisfaction with the corporate collegiate model. The rest of the report devoted itself to a consideration of the ways in which the administrative burdens for an essentially volunteer organization could be reduced.

The careful thinking of that Ad Hoc Committee has informed our planning in this phase.

Last Year’s Strides

At the April 2006 meeting of the ASIANetwork Executive Committee with the Council of Advisors held during the AAS Conference in San Francisco, we were encouraged to create a “brag sheet” about ASIANetwork that could be used with donors and the general public; we also discussed ways of increasing faculty development opportunities and increasing the endowment. Joan O’Mara led a discussion, also at AAS, between the Executive Committee and the Past Chairs’ Advisory Council (PCAC). Topics discussed there were: mentoring new leadership for ASIANetwork; raising AN’s visibility; sustaining the administrative structure of the organization; and systematically approaching various national foundations.

PCAC met again in April, 2006, the day before the annual conference of AN at Lisle, Chicago, to continue discussion of previous topics and to think together about where ASIANetwork would be as an organization in 10 years. At the Board meeting convened before the annual conference, a strategic planning subcommittee was formed: Richard Bohr, Teddy Amoloza, Phyllis Larson, Erin McCarthy, Mary-Ann Milford, Don Clark, and one member of the Development Team, Cathy Benton. Richard Bohr and I were authorized by the Board to explore what AN could achieve for planning with the help of a consultant experienced in guiding non-profit organizations.

We worked over the summer, talking with numerous people in grants and advancement offices, developed a short list of names from recommendations, and decided to meet with one highly recommended consultant, Terri Barreiro, to see what she would be able to offer us and what her services would cost AN. Terri came with 25 years experience in the nonprofit sector, five years in philanthropy, and two years as an academic center director. Her expertise is in the areas of organizational development, transition planning, strategic planning, and volunteer and Board management.

Richard and I reported on our meeting with her to the subcommittee, who decided to invite her to lead the full Board in a strategic planning process during a full-day meeting on Saturday of the Board meeting weekend. In order make time for this, Board members arrived in time to begin regular Board business on Friday afternoon and evening, interrupted it for the all-day strategic planning process until 3:30 pm on Saturday, and returned to regular business Saturday evening and Sunday morning.

In addition to authorizing further strategic planning, the Board approved the expenditure of funds to survey the membership so that we would have firm data regarding the state of Asian Studies on our member campuses, as well as information from the membership about needs. We hoped to develop, administer, and analyze the survey by the middle of January. We are grateful for the response we received. Our Executive Director, Teddy Amoloza, oversaw this part of the process. The survey would not have been completed without Teddy’s competent, efficient leadership.

Recent Developments

The Board’s work in September was so productive that we decided to reconvene the strategic planning subcommittee for a weekend meeting in January, 2007, to draft a strategic plan for the next 3-5 years for ASIANetwork. We again hired Terri Barreiro to work with us for one hour on Friday evening, January 26, to set up the work for the next two days; Terri then (continued on page 8)
From the Executive Director

Spring semester is a busy time for ASIANetwork. In January, our selection committees read application materials for the different programs we run. We meet in February to select the grant recipients. Then we turn our attention to the AAS conference in March, where much of our ASIANetwork business is conducted. And finally we prepare for our own conference in April. This spring, another activity was added to our plate: the strategic planning retreat that was held in Minneapolis at the end of January. In preparation for this retreat, we conducted two web-based surveys, one for individual members and another for school representatives. Results from the surveys provided the starting points for our discussions that led to the formulation of our draft strategic plan that will be shared with the membership at the Sunday plenary session at the April conference. (See Phyllis Larson’s piece on page 3 for details about the strategic planning process.)

As a person who works with survey research, let me first offer the following caveats before sharing some findings from the surveys. Those who responded to both surveys are self-selected; therefore we cannot claim that the responses are representative of the sentiments of the entire membership. Nevertheless, it is fair to assume that those who responded are the ones who are actively engaged with ASIANetwork and the ones who look to the consortium to provide opportunities for individual professional development and institutional program development. Because no generalizations can be applied to the entire membership, figures reported below are the actual number of responses and not percentages.

Survey of individual members

Questions directed at individual members were designed to give us feedback on the different services we provide to members: the conference, the newsletter, the website, research and faculty development programs, and institutional programs. We also asked for specialty areas and expertise of members, their teaching status and length of teaching at their schools. Of the 181 respondents, 125 are tenured and 31 are in tenure-track positions. More than 100 of our colleagues have been at their school for at least 11 years, indicating stability of Asian Studies at their institutions.

In response to questions about our conference format, 153 of the respondents indicated that they are likely or most likely to attend conference panels on scholarly/research topics. It thus becomes incumbent upon future program committees to ensure that there will be adequate panels of this nature at future conferences, starting with the conference next year in San Antonio.

Information we received about members’ areas of expertise will guide us in the faculty development projects that we will develop. After China and Japan, the third most frequently reported country of specialization is India; this information once again reminds us of the urgency to develop and offer programs focused on the South Asian region.

The qualitative comments will be further studied and summarized so that we will be able to respond more effectively to the concerns raised by our members.

Survey of school representatives

This survey was designed to collect information on several issues: the teaching of Asian languages at member campuses, Asian Studies majors or minors, study abroad in Asia, availability of Asian courses on campus, and the challenges faced by Asian Studies at member schools. Of the 65 representatives who responded, 55 indicated that their schools offer Asian language courses; 49 teach Chinese, 41 teach Japanese and 4 teach Hindi. Of the 65 schools represented in the survey, 37 offer an Asian Studies major and 45 offer an Asian Studies minor or concentration. Very few, only about a dozen, reported a lack of administrative interest or lack of general faculty support as challenges they face in their schools.

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As with the individual survey, narrative responses will be summarized and
Vietnam Visiting Scholars

During this second year of the US-Vietnam Academic Exchange Program of ACLS/CEEVN and ASIANetwork funded by the Luce Foundation, five Vietnamese scholars are spending the spring semester at AN member schools namely Edgewood College, Marlboro College, Millikin University, University of Findlay and Whitman College. Below are their biographical sketches.

**Truong Thi Kim Chuyen** obtained her Ph.D. in Economic Geography at Saint Petersburg University in Russia in 1992. She is Senior Lecturer in the Geography Department, University of Social Sciences and Humanities in Ho Chi Minh City. Her research focus is on human geography and development studies, especially on gender and poverty reduction. She has been involved as researcher, consultant, coordinator, or facilitator in different projects related to poverty reduction and gender that have been funded by international organization such as UND. She is author of many papers and chapters on development and social issues in Vietnam. She is teaching human geography, world economic geography, environmental sociology, gender and development, and research methods in social sciences.

She was a Harvard Yenching visiting scholar in 2001-2002 and Fulbright scholar in 2004-2005 at California State University in Fullerton. Her hosts during her stay at Millikin University in Decatur, Illinois are Professors Jo Ellen Jacobs and Kevin Murphy. She is conducting interdisciplinary research, learning theories, methodology and research both in social sciences and humanities.

**Lam Thi My Dzung** is a senior lecturer at the Department of Archaeology, Faculty of History, University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH), Vietnam National University in Hanoi. She received her BA degree in History in 1983 and completed her PhD in 1987 at the “Kliment Ohkridsky” of Sophia University in Bulgaria. She became Associate Professor at Vietnam National University, Hanoi in 2006. Since 2004, she is the director of the Anthropology Museum in USSH.

Her latest research covers socialist transformations in China and Vietnam; the socio-economic changes in Ho Chi Minh City and Guangzhou; and wars and death in modern Japanese and American Literature. Additionally, she has great interest in the role of women in Vietnam after Doi Moi.

She is a visiting scholar at Edgewood College in Madison, Wisconsin where she is hosted by Professors Andrea Bynum and Jin Chen. She is spending this Spring semester with the History department,
where she will give lectures and develop a curriculum about post-wars issues in Vietnam.

Nguyen Van Suu is a lecturer at the Department of Anthropology, College of Social Sciences and Humanities (CSSH), Vietnam National University in Hanoi. He received his BA degrees in History in 1997, in English Language in 1999, and completed his PhD at the Australian National University in 2004. After returning to Hanoi, he started to teach a course on Contemporary History of Vietnam and introduced Ethnology. He has regularly given field instruction and supervision to undergraduate students in the fields of history and anthropology.

His research interests include agricultural collectivization and development, agrarian reforms, private property, land appropriation, rural differentiation, rural livelihoods, local conflicts, and field research methods. During the past years, he has published several articles and book chapters on issues of agricultural land, peasants, and the state in Vietnamese and English.

Suu is currently at Whitman College in Walla Walla, Washington where he is hosted by Professor Brian Dott. He is studying their anthropology curriculum, teaching methods and is revising his PhD dissertation for publication.

Tran Le Hoa Tranh is a lecturer at the Faculty of Literature, Linguistics and Journalism, University of Social Sciences and Humanities (USSH), Vietnam National University in Ho Chi Minh City. She received her BA in Literature in 1994, in English Language in 1996, completed her MA in Vietnamese Literature in 1998, and completed her Ph.D. in History and Theory Literature in 2006. She teaches courses in Vietnamese Literature, Chinese Literature, and Chinese Film in the Department of Oriental Studies and Department of Chinese Linguistics. She also teaches in the Talent High School of the National University in HCMC. Her research interests include Vietnamese contemporary literature, Vietnamese culture, Chinese classical fiction, contemporary Chinese literature and culture, women writers in Vietnam and China, and fiction in film. She has published over 10 articles and books on Vietnamese and Chinese literature, focusing on contemporary and women’s issues.

Tran is at the University of Findlay in Ohio where she is hosted by Professor Hiroaki Kawamura. She gives public lectures, visits classes, and participates in roundtable discussions. She is also attending several courses to learn about teaching methods for undergraduate students.

Vietnam-ASIANetwork Faculty Exchange: Views from Both Sides

After completing the first year of the Vietnam-USA Academic Exchange program, we asked Vietnamese scholars and their faculty hosts to share their reflections on their experiences with this program. We received contributions from scholars and hosts at Hobart and William Smith Colleges (Dr. Tran Thi Phuong Phuong and Professor Jack Harris) and from the University of Puget Sound (Dr. Nguyen Quy Thanh and Professor Karl Fields).

Hobart and William Smith Colleges:

Jack Harris: Dr. Tran Thi Phuong Phuong of the Department of Literature, Linguistics and Journalism, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, arrived for the 2006 spring semester at Hobart and William Smith Colleges in Geneva, NY, in the thick of winter. We welcomed her arrival with an open house and introduced her to the close community of the small liberal arts college. Phuong Phuong had a wonderful research agenda planned on Leo Tolstoy and had access to the Colleges library and extensive inter-library loan capability. She reports that she was able to collect a wealth of research materials that has provided an excellent base for future research efforts.

Professor Phuong Phuong was an effective resource on Vietnamese and Russian Literature, and attended several courses in Russian Area Studies, her specialty, and assisted in the Sociology of Vietnam course. Our guest was in demand for classroom presentations; she also gave a faculty seminar on Vietnamese women’s poetry and a public talk on Vietnamese national identity and history. She befriended many students and faculty and negotiated American customs and food with grace. We had several opportunities to enjoy Vietnamese food, Vietnamese music, and even to celebrate Tet, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year. Having on our campus a visiting Vietnamese scholar enriched our academic connections between Hobart and William Smith Colleges and Professor Phuong Phuong’s Vietnamese university in Ho Chi Minh City.

In exchange, Professor Jack Harris visited Vietnam National University-Ho Chi Minh City in January, 2007. Professor Harris offered guest lectures in several
areas, including sociology and gender studies and also gave several public talks and seminars. In addition, Professor Harris undertook Men’s Studies field research on Vietnamese marriage and marital infidelity.

Both Professors are eager to establish an on-going relationship of schools and scholar/teachers. We are grateful to ASIANetwork’s Faculty Exchange Program, funded by the Henry Luce Foundation and administered by the American Council of Learned Societies/Center for Education Exchange with Vietnam for the opportunity to have this exchange.

Tran Thi Phuong Phuong: The main purpose of my trip to the US was to learn teaching methods and to experience the classroom environment. I believe these goals were achieved during my time at Hobart and William Smith Colleges. I attended classes given by professors with different nationalities (American, Russian, Chinese, French, and South African); such kind of international environment is necessary and useful for higher education.

The most interesting aspect for me was learning how to use technology in teaching, especially in social sciences and humanities. Teachers use electronic lectures and internet resources, show pictures, play music and screen films in class. Vietnamese colleges do not have technologies as good as in US colleges; however, I think that using technology could certainly be possible if the teachers have the desire and skill to use them.

Another thing that caught my interest was students’ independent studies: the topics were different and required certain level of skills from the students. I think the US students have more chances to apply their knowledge in the society than Vietnamese students.

My experience during this exchange program will benefit me and my university in various ways:

- My college in Vietnam is now in the process of transformation from the academic year system into the credit system and is encountering many difficulties. I hope that my experiences in the US can help me, my colleagues, and the students to adjust to this process of transformation.
- My trip demonstrated to me that interdisciplinary approaches in teaching and studying are more effective. The materials on the studies of art, literature, cultural interactions between the East and the West that I have collected here are helpful for me and for my colleagues in Vietnam.

- I will use more technology in my literature classes. I bought a number of CDs, DVDs, and movies, and I collected numerous pictures. Showing them in class will make the students more interested in the lectures and help them to more easily understand the topic.
- I am collaborating with The Center for National Culture Studies in Vietnam in translating from Russian into Vietnamese an 8-volume “History of World Literature,” published by Gorky Institute of World Literature (Russia). The materials which I have collected during my stay in the US will be useful for us in this project.
- In the coming years, I will offer new courses on comparative literature and on cultural studies from a comparative perspective. I will also conduct research next year on poetry.
- One important thing that I have learned from my visit is that the colleges, both Vietnamese and American, still have to do a lot to help the students, and the people in general, in understanding the culture of other countries, which is very necessary in the development of international relationships. I think the Vietnam-US Faculty Exchange Program is an effective step in this direction. I hope that the program can be financially supported to be continued in the future.

University of Puget Sound:

Karl Fields: The Asian Studies Program at the University of Puget Sound hosted Professor Nguyen Quy Thanh, Faculty of Sociology, University of Social Sciences and Humanities, Vietnam National University, Hanoi as part of the Luce-funded and ASIANetwork—ACLS/CCEEVN sponsored Vietnam-USA Exchange Program. Professor Nguyen arrived on campus on January 17, 2006 and departed exactly five months later on June 17, 2006. By all accounts, the experience exceeded our (and we hope Quy Thanh’s) expectations and proved to be a boon to our Asian Studies faculty and many students both in our program and across the campus. We hope to maintain close ties with Professor Nguyen and to enhance the connections and contacts between our students and faculty and institutions in Vietnam, including Professor Nguyen’s home institution, Vietnam National University. This effort will be facilitated as Professor Carlo Bonura from Puget Sound visits Vietnam as the second part of the exchange in January of 2007. I will elaborate briefly on both Professor Nguyen’s stay with us and Professor Bonura’s plans for his visit to Vietnam.

Dr. Nguyen was the model ambassador for this program. He is bright, personable, well-traveled, and proved remarkably flexible and tolerant as we worked out a few bugs with his accommodations and other logistical matters in the early part of his stay. He had ambitious objectives for his stay and, I believe, accomplished all of them and more. While here, he attended classes to observe American pedagogical methods and style, discussed curriculum and syllabi development with numerous faculty and collected a host of materials; pursued joint research projects with American scholars and discussed potential research projects with faculty colleagues on our campus, pursued his research on several ongoing projects and at least one new project, presented his research at a campus colloquium, guest lectured in several courses on campus, attended various colloquia and lectures on campus and the ASIANetwork annual meetings, and toured local and national sites of interest. I should note that Quy Thanh also worked very hard on improving his already quite-fluent English to great effect. With Professor Thanh’s assistance, we were also able to arrange for the gifting and shipping of approximately 100 new and used reference, text, and other relevant books (continued on next page)
With Professor Thanh’s assistance, we were also able to arrange for the gifting and shipping of approximately 100 new and used reference, text, and other relevant books to VNU’s University of Social Sciences and Humanities.

As part of the exchange program, Professor Nguyen will also host Professor Carlo Bonura, a member of Puget Sound’s Department of Political Science and Asian Studies Program. Already on research sabbatical in Thailand, Professor Bonura will travel from Bangkok to Hanoi in January 2007 for a one-month stay. During this month in Vietnam, Professor Bonura will explore the structure of political science as a discipline in Vietnam. The establishment of a communist academy after Vietnamese independence and its expansion to southern Vietnam after 1975 has required what would be recognized as political science in the United States not only to include the general study of politics but also to provide courses in “political studies” that are based on the primary texts of communist political theory. In conversations with Vietnamese academics in political science and philosophy, he hopes to investigate this double role of political science.

Nguyen Quy Thanh: My trip to the University of Puget Sound (UPS), Tacoma, Washington was my second trip to the US. I was in sunny Hawaii in 2004 and this time I had a chance to experience the cold and windy weather in the Northwest part of US. I arrived in Tacoma in the middle of winter but the hospitality of the professors at UPS, especially of my host, Professor Karl Fields, made me feel “warmer” and lesser nostalgic.

During my stay at UPS, Professor Karl Fields had connected me to many professors. Since, I am interested in syllabus design, method of teaching, and method of learning, I was eager to attend different classes. In those classes I have learned a lot about the way UPS professor facilitate the class and the way students study. It is very useful for me since we are now in the process of renovation of our methods of teaching/learning. I also discussed curriculum development and syllabus design with UPS professors.

At UPS, I wanted to not only be a passive observer, thus I actively participated in many activities such as Lunar New Year celebration, presentations of invited speaker; I also delivered campus lecture and some other lectures on Vietnam related topic.

The exchange program afforded me the much needed time to finish my book projects. I put the finishing touches on my book, *Sociology of Public Opinion* which was published last January 2007 in Vietnam. By the end of my trip, I had also completed the draft of my second book on *Impact of the Internet on Student’s Way of Life*. I am now doing the last round of editing and I am seeking funding for its publication.

While at UPS, I also continued with my research. I worked on my data set that I collected in Vietnam before the trip. As a result, one paper was sent out and published in a leading sociological review in Vietnam, and one chapter written jointly with Dr. Stephen Appold, University of North Carolina on “Micro-Credit for Small Businesses in Vietnam” will appear in a book published by Rutledge Publishing House in the near future.

I consider this trip as a good chance to understand American culture and society, therefore I used all opportunities to visit, travel and to observe. In short, my trip was very productive and successful.

After I came back to Vietnam in June 2006, I immediately participated in teaching and researching activities at our university. We have been very busy, but at the same time very happy with our work. Recently, I was promoted as the deputy Director of the Center for Education Quality Assurance and Research Development of Vietnam National University-Hanoi, and as the Head of the Department of Theory and Methodology of Sociology under the Faculty of Sociology. These administrative duties make me busier, but, I see these as good ways for me to contribute to the development of our university in particular and our country in general.

From 11 January to 11 February 2007, I was very happy to host Professor Carlo Bonura, from UPS. We organized a number of activities for him. He met, discussed and interviewed with many professors at our university. He also visited some famous places in Vietnam such as Halong Bay, Aromat Pagoda (Hatay province), Hue city, Danang city including visits to old Hoi An town and My Son holy land in Quang Nam province. Although his trip was pretty short, it was very productive and successful as mine.

Strategic Planning (continued from page 3)
worked with us for four hours on Saturday morning. The subcommittee worked the rest of the weekend until noon on Sunday, refining the five or six goals we had identified, fleshing out the strategies we would use to achieve them, and determining what we would challenge ourselves to accomplish specifically in the next year. The subcommittee will polish this document in the next few weeks and distribute it among the Board members. If it receives Board approval at its April meeting, it will then be presented to the membership at the Sunday plenary session right after the business meeting at the Annual conference.

We believe this strategic planning comes at an excellent time in ASIANetwork’s history. Fifteen years since its inception, it has developed an enviable reputation among funders and undergraduate institutions for offering innovative development programs that are administered in a very lean, efficient way. It has achieved a financial stability that was only hoped for in the early years. It has enjoyed consistent, dedicated leadership. It has maintained a solid core of energetic, gifted volunteers.

We can build on this tremendous foundation and do more. We no longer are focused on merely surviving; we can take the lead. But it is important that we reaffirm our mission, sharpen the vision it inspires, and choose our projects and activities carefully so that we serve our members effectively and continue to thrive.
2007 ASIANetwork
Freeman Student-Faculty Fellows
Van Symons
Project Director
Augustana College

For a ninth year, the Student-Faculty Fellows Program funded by the Freeman Foundation will support collaborative research in Asia. Fourteen research teams from ASIANetwork member colleges, totaling 73 students and faculty mentors, are being awarded a total of $406,520, to conduct three or more weeks of research in the following countries: People’s Republic of China (seven teams), Japan (two teams), Malaysia (one team), Philippines (one team), Malaysia & Philippines (one team), Thailand (one team), and Vietnam (one team).

ASIANetwork wishes to extend our sincere appreciation to the Freeman Foundation for their continued financial support of this program, and our congratulations to the grant recipients.

Below are the colleges, faculty mentors, and student researchers participating in the summer 2007 program. The titles and a brief description of their research projects are also given.

Bard College, Mercedes DuJunco, Ethnomusicology, Malaysia and Philippines

Kristia Castrillo, ’07, Constructing Southeast Asian Femininity for the Tourist Gaze
Libby Dorot, ’08, “Truly Asia:” Advertising and the Asian Tourist Experience at Cultural Festivals
Jean Lor, ’07, Performing National Identity: Cultural Politics, Nationalism and Festivals in Island Southeast Asia
Andrea Sandoz, ’09, Dancing the Sacred: Religion on Show in Malaysian and Philippine Cultural Festivals
Nathan Smith, ’09, Sounds of Tourism: Animism, Conservationism and Acoustics in Island Southeast Asia

Professor DuJunco and her students will examine the nature of cultural festivals in the states of Sarawak and Sabah in Malaysian Borneo followed by the study of local festivals in honor of Catholic patron saints and state-constructed festivals explicitly geared toward tourism development in the Central-Southern Philippines. The individual research projects focus on “the specific ways local cultures, particularly in the form of music and dance, are appropriated, transformed and objectified through the globalizing process of tourism.” Of particular interest to the researchers is the assessment of the degree to which “tourism via the cultural festivals….pose(s) a threat to the continuity and sanctity of native traditions.”

Colby College, Hong Zhang, East Asian Studies, China

Robert Ferriter, ’08, Re-Invention of History and Making Fantasy Reality: An Observation on Historical Sites and New Theme Parks
Thomas Huff, ’08, “Out with the Old and Up with the New:” China’s Construction Boom and Its Effect on Traditional Residential Sites
Stella Kim, ’08, China in Transition: Powering from a Nation of Bikes to a Nation of Cars
Keane Ng, ’08, Local Consumption and Global Taste: The Cultural Politics of Western Fast Food in Urban China
Jessie Tang, ’08, Consumerism, Liberty, and the Pursuit of Luxury Goods in Urban China

Professor Hong Zhang’s research team’s proposal is entitled “Tradition, Transition, and Modernity: Reconfiguration of Public Spaces in Globalizing China.” The group will spend 30 days in the four cities of Beijing, Shanghai, Shenzhen, and Wuhan conducting research upon issues related to “how public spaces are reconfigured in urban China as China is emerging as a modern, cosmopolitan, and global power player in the world.” Each student will undertake his or her own research agenda within this broad framework of exploration.

Colorado College, Joan Ericson, Japanese, Japan

Katlin Okamoto, ’07, and Lucy Thompson, ’07, Joint Project entitled Regional Comparison: Knee Laxity and Leg Strength in Female Soccer Athletes in Japan and the United States

Professor Ericson’s research team will work with approximately one hundred female soccer athletes in both Japan and the United States in order to study regional differences in knee strength and laxity between female soccer athletes in these two countries. They will also analyze the life styles and training regimen of the athletes to account for differences if they appear. It is hoped that “Cross-cultural information concerning the data could lead to prosthetics that are more aptly designed for the necessary daily activities of the Japanese…”

(continued on next page)
Eckerd College, Nancy Janus, Human Development, Malaysia


Professor Janus’s research group will spend four weeks in Malaysia studying how Malay youth are confronting the challenges posed to their traditional values and culture by the modernization of their country and the growth of consumerism. Each student will focus on a different element of Malay culture impacted by modernization: Islam, art, literature, and family relationships. Where possible the response of Malay youth will be compared to that of Chinese and Indian youth living in the country.

Gettysburg College, Deborah Ann Sommer, Religion, China

Eric Canzano, ’09, Lay Buddhism in Southwest China
Eric Klotz, ’07, Buddhist Methods of Healing and Medicine
Kate Vredenburg, ’07, Buddhist Principles of Social Engagement
Brian Wilson, ’10, Modern Secular Society’s Views of Buddhism
David Yager-Eloriagga, ’10, Daily Life of Buddhist Monastics

Professor Sumner will lead five students for a month long period to Southwest China (Chongqing, Chengdu, and the mountains of Sichuan province) to enable them to conduct individual research projects (listed above) focused on the topic of “Buddhism in Contemporary Southwest China.” The group will work closely with faculty and students interested in these same issues from Southwest China University of Political Science and Law in Chongqing.

Green Mountain College, Evangelina Blust, Sociology, Philippines

Matthew Bower, ’08, Paula Maciel, ’08, Svea Miller, ’07, Ashley Potter, ’08, Rafael Wainhaus, ’07, Joint Project entitled The Impact of Overseas Filipino Employment on Families Left Behind

Professor Blust’s research team will spend three-and-a-half weeks in a small town in Batangas Province in the Philippines studying “the social costs and benefits of overseas employment to each (of six families), especially (to) the children.” Besides carefully interviewing members in each of these families, the research team will survey others in the community including local government officials, and representatives of NGO’s and other social service groups. Students will spend part of their time in home stays to enable them to become more conversant with the issues being investigated.

Hiram College, Adam Cathcart, History, China


Professor Adam Cathcart will spend a little over four weeks in Beijing, Tianjin, and Northeast China facilitating the research of three of his students on quite different research projects (listed above).

Illinois Wesleyan University, Thomas Lutze, History, China


Professor Lutze’s study group will conduct research on the response of three Chinese cities (Beijing, Shanghai, and Hangzhou) to five key arenas of urban planning and development: housing policy, the provision of health-care facilities, the provision of education facilities, efforts to address sanitation problems, and problems related to pollution abatement.

Naropa University, Nataraja Kallio, Traditional Eastern Arts, China

Kyra Coates, ’09, Thiago Leao, ’07, Tiffani Parrish, ’10, Benjamin Pitcher, ’08, Christopher Whitson, ‘08, Joint Project entitled Three Paths, One Mountain: An Exploration of Pilgrimage to Mount Kailash within Three Distinct Religious Traditions

The Naropa study group will “explore and document the praxis and meaning of pilgrimage to Mt. Kailash, one of the oldest known pilgrimage sites on the planet. Their research “will compare circumambulatory rituals within Tibetan Buddhist, Bonpo and Hindu religions. They “will examine this practice within the historical and cultural context of these diverse traditions, (and the project) will culminate in a multimedia presentation that includes documentary film, still photography, audio recordings, interviews, a separate web log and a collaborative research paper.”

Purchase College, SUNY, Peter Bell, Economics, Thailand

Erika Brenner, ’07, The Challenge of Slums in Bangkok
Rebecca Katzenberg, ’08, The Impact of the Media on Changing Images of Thai Women
Michal Vaisben, ’07, The Costs and Benefits of the Tourist Industry in Thailand
Elizabeta Vukelj, ’07, Child Labor in Thailand
Professor Bell will act as mentor to the four students listed above, and facilitate their individual research projects, all of which deal with social conditions existing in contemporary Bangkok.

**Swarthmore College, Xiaorong Li, Chinese Language and Literature, China**

Elizabeth Bogal-Allbritten, ’09, *Taking the Basi to the Kafei Ba: Usage and Perception Of English Loan Words in Chinese Youth Culture*

Arthur Chyan, ’10, *The Transforming View of Medicine in Beijing*

Fletcher Coleman, ’09, *Synthesis: Cultural Traditions and Globalization in Chinese Avant-Garde Art*

Christopher Green, ’09, *The Waitress and the World: The Meaning of Globalization to the Chinese Mingong*


Professor Li’s students will conduct research in Beijing focused on the overarching theme of cross-cultural encounters between China and the West as stated above.

**University of Puget Sound, Mikiko Ludden, Japanese, Japan**

Daniel Bradley, ’07, *The Origin of Omamori: Capturing an Elusive History*

Alexander Larson, ’07, *Traversing Traditions: The Recent History of Omamori*

Andrew Dalton, ’09, *Blessed Franchise: The Commercialization of Omamori*

Professor Ludden’s team of researchers will travel to temples and shrines throughout Japan to explore contemporary Japanese beliefs and attitudes towards *omamori*, the small paper and cloth amulets found at Shinto shrines and Buddhist temples.

**Valparaiso University, Jonathan Schoer, Chemistry, China**

Jeffrey Field, ’08, Shelly Schmeltz, ’07, Sarah Mohlman, ’07, Joint Project entitled *Contrasts and Similarities in Water Quality Issues Facing East Central China And Northwest Indiana: Issues, Perceptions, and Approaches for Resolutions*

Professor Schoer will lead three students majoring in the sciences to Hangzhou, China to undertake research that will enable them to compare “Chinese water quality problems, perceptions of these problems, and solutions to these problems with those in northwest Indiana.” After three weeks of water analysis and focused interviewing in China, facilitated by Zhejiang University and funded by this grant, the group will return to Indiana to undertake a three week-long comparable study in Northwest Indiana.

**Virginia Wesleyan College, Steven Emmanuel, Philosophy, Vietnam**

Julie Maggioncalda, ’09, Lauren Perry, ’09, Matthew Ryan, ’09, Lan My Tran, ’10, Sarah Tytler, ’09, Joint Project entitled *Humanitarianism and the Politics of Economic Development in Vietnam*

Professor Emmanuel will lead five students to Vietnam to investigate “how politics, economics, science, religion, and social attitudes intersect, and sometimes clash, in the attempt to improve the conditions of Vietnam’s rural poor.” Each student has an independent project. Their research will be facilitated by Dr. Nguyen Viet Nhan, Head of the Department of Medical Genetics at Hue Medical College, which will provide them with access to the resources needed to complete their research agendas.
The Politics and Culture of Identity Discourse: Representations of Mainland Chinese in Hong Kong Cinema

Robert Y. Eng
University of Redlands

As Amartya Sen points out in his *Identity and Violence: The Illusion of Destiny*, an individual human being is not bound to a single identity, but has multiple identities, each with claims on his loyalty.1 The self-identification of the Hong Kong Chinese and their perceptions of mainland Chinese have been complicated by Hong Kong’s colonial history and current status as a Special Administrative Region of China, and they have been impacted, too, by popular culture, which embodies, expresses and shapes people’s perceptions, hopes and fears.

People moved freely between Hong Kong and China before 1950, when the new Communist government sealed the Hong Kong-China border. Thereafter each year small numbers of mainlanders received permission from the Chinese government to leave and approval by the Hong Kong government to immigrate legally. However, the number of illegal immigrants far exceeded legal immigrants. In 1970-74, a total of 79,083 persons were caught at the border, with an unknown but probably much higher number evading arrest and making it to the urban areas of Hong Kong.2

The Search for Unity

The majority of Hong Kong residents in the 1950s and 1960s were mainland refugees who did not intend to take up roots there. The major division was not between mainlanders and Hong Kongers, but between Cantonese and Northerners (really meaning non-Cantonese). However, these regional identities were subsumed under the Chinese national identity.

The hilarious comedy hit *The Greatest Civil War on Earth* (1961) was the first Hong Kong film to combine dialogues in Cantonese and Mandarin. Zhang Sanbo, a Cantonese tailor, harbors strong prejudices against Northerners while his Mandarin-speaking counterpart Li Sibao likewise holds negative impressions of the Cantonese (Fig. 1). The daughters of the competing tailors both fall for men speaking the wrong dialect. The fathers ultimately drop their prejudices and merge their shops, and the couples become engaged (Fig. 2). *The Greatest Civil War on Earth* thus emphasized the community of the Chinese people despite regional linguistic and cultural differences.

*The House of 72 Tenants* (1973) reflected living conditions in Hong Kong in the 1950s and 1960s. The tenants are mostly poor shopkeepers, peddlers or artisans. Regardless of their geographical origins, they all speak Cantonese, albeit some with regional accents. The impoverished but public-spirited tenants
form a united front against their mean landlady and her boyfriend (a neighborhood bully), corrupt cops, bribe-seeking firemen, and oppressive officials (Fig. 3). In the end the neighbors outwit their oppressors and help the exploited adoptive daughter of their landlady and her shoemaker boyfriend escape to freedom (Fig. 4).

The House of 72 Tenants resonated with Hong Kong audiences who sought reassurance of the basic unity of the Hong Kong Chinese community based on shared communal values and communication through the Cantonese dialect. This reassurance was badly needed as the social fabric of Hong Kong was severely torn in 1967 when leftists, inspired by the outbreak of the Cultural Revolution, tried to overthrow British rule through violent demonstrations, strikes and bombings. At the same time, the film also indicted the corruption and lack of social provisions of a minimalist colonial government.

The Colonial Government Responds

In response to the 1967 riots and the subsequent demand for social and political reforms by mass organizations and members of the colonial and Chinese elites, the British colonial government undertook a more activist stance by instituting policies to create a local identity and a sense of loyalty to the state. More Chinese were recruited into the upper ranks of the administration, Chinese was made an official language, social programs in public housing, health and education were instituted or expanded, and international trade fairs and art festivals were promoted. As the industrial economy of Hong Kong boomed in the following years and the demand rose for unskilled workers, the Hong Kong government instituted the reach base policy in 1974, allowing illegal immigrants who had made their way to the urban areas to apply for legal immigrant status. The end of the decade, however, saw an explosion of illegal immigrants that strained the absorptive capacity of the Crown Colony. The Hong Kong government thereupon abandoned the reach base policy in December of 1980 and forcibly returned illegal immigrants who were caught to the mainland. While this new policy of returning illegal immigrants stemmed the tide of illegal immigration to some degree, it did not address its fundamental causes.

New Divisions Surface

Incessant political movements which ensnared countless political victims in China after 1949, climaxing in the Cultural Revolution of 1966-1976, constituted a push factor behind the influx of mainland immigrants to Hong Kong. But economic motivations were even more important. The economy of mainland China suffered from political disruptions, the rigidity of central planning, economic boycott spearheaded by the United States, and other factors. In contrast, from the 1960s onward, the economy of Hong Kong was expanding rapidly, with an annual GDP growth rate of around 9.0% for the 1970s and 1980s. After the end of the Cultural Revolution, increasing numbers of Hong Kong and Macau residents visited China and brought with them glimpses of the material wealth of capitalism. Mainland Chinese blindly worshipped Hong Kong as the land of golden opportunities, and many resorted to illegal entry to pursue an improvement in their standards of living.

From the late 1960s on, the cultural gulf between the Hong Kong Chinese and the mainlanders also widened considerably. As an emerging global city, Hong Kong enjoyed an abundance of material goods and cultural products from the West and Japan that were denied residents of a mainland China largely shut off from the outside world. Hong Kong itself was becoming a global cultural emitter as the world’s second largest film exporter behind Hollywood.

With the sharpening economic, cultural and political distinctions between Hong Kong Chinese and mainland immigrants and mounting social issues associated with the influx of immigrants, a new division between residents and immigrants emerged to displace the earlier division between Cantonese and Northerners that had prevailed in the 1950s and 1960s.

The “Hong Konger”

The 1971 Immigration Ordinance introduced the category of the “Hong Kong belonger” with the right of abode. This category included both locally born British subjects and Chinese immigrants who could prove settled residence for seven or more years. The legal category of Hong Kong belonger later evolved into Hong Kong permanent resident, and was transmuted in popular speech and cultural discourse in the media into the notion of Hong Konger (Xianggangren, or Heunggongyan in Cantonese).

Thus, Hong Konger emerged as a cultural construct that the Chinese residents of Hong Kong used to reference themselves as urban sophistcates vis-à-vis the backward and provincial mainland (continued on next page)
immigrants, and also as a means of positioning Hong Kong vis-à-vis Mainland China. To achieve the Hong Kong dream or economic success, the quintessential Hong Konger must exhibit industriousness and quick-wittedness.¹⁰

Filmic Portrayals of Mainlanders

Hong Kong Chinese held strong images of mainlanders that were largely shaped or reflected by popular media including television and movies, and powerfully impacted by political events. One persistent Hong Kong image of mainlanders is that of the country bumpkin befuddled and amazed by the temptations of capitalist commercialism and the variegated sights and sounds of a global city. In the gritty film noir *The Long Arm of the Law* (1984), a gang of mainland desperadoes sneaks into Hong Kong to commit a jewelry store robbery. In a dark comedy scene, the gang sets up a memorial tablet for a comrade who has been killed by the Chinese border patrol. Instead of the traditional food offered to the dead, they put next to the tablet Big Macs, chocolate milk and pizzas (Fig. 5). In death, their fallen comrade gets to enjoy the Western amenities that Hong Kong can supply.

In the politically incorrect 1990 comedy *Her Fatal Ways*, Sister Cheng, a mainland Public Security officer comes to Hong Kong on a drug case. After checking into a hotel, she mistakes the round bed for an adapted dining table, washes herself with a washcloth while standing in a shower not knowing how to turn the shower on to use it, and panics when the massage function of the bed is turned on by accident (Fig. 6). She tastes the forbidden capitalist fruits by putting on lipstick and singing karaoke (though belting out a traditional folksong rather than a contemporary pop number) (Fig. 7).

A more realistic portrayal of the innocent mainlander is found in Peter Chan’s 1996 masterpiece, *Comrades, Almost a Love Story*. Li Xiaojun, a Northerner who emigrates to Hong Kong in 1986, is entranced by McDonald’s, but, unfamiliar with the concept of queuing, rushes to the head of the line. He moves in with his aunt who has emigrated to Hong Kong long before, but, not realizing that the location is a whorehouse, wonders why people in Hong Kong sleep late and do not seem to go to work. He comes upon a group of Hare Krishna devotees, and joins in their dancing (Fig. 8). He finds that Hong Kong is full of people from many lands: Indians, Westerners, and Thais. He also learns about the marvels of getting and using an ATM card.

A related and even more negative cinematic conception is the image of mainlanders as murderous criminals. In *The Long Arm of the Law* (1984), the mainland gang fires indiscriminately and even throws hand grenades in a public street during a getaway (Fig. 9). This gripping crime thriller tapped into public paranoia about mainland criminals who carried out some sensational crimes (in the early 1980s) on which the film was loosely based.

The 1998 cops and robbers drama *Expect the Unexpected* initially portrays a group of mainlanders as inept criminals, in contrast to a highly efficient and deadly Hong Kong gang. A police squad finally traps and kills the Hong Kong criminals. When it goes off to celebrate, they by coincidence spot the two mainland criminals and try to corner them. They are surprised by the deadly fire that the mainlanders return, and in the ensuing shootout, all six members of the police squad (who are not wearing flak jackets as they are off duty) and the two mainland criminals are killed (Fig. 10).

Although *Expect the Unexpected* is a well-executed and suspenseful police drama, it was a box office failure. Possibly the reason is that, as the film was released soon after the 1997 Handover, the bleak surprise ending—if it is interpreted as a metaphor for a scenario in which the mainland government wrecks the economic prosperity of Hong Kong...
Kong by amateurish and heavy-handed inter-ference—may have been too disturbing for the Hong Kong audience.

The Limitations of Differences

Yet the boundaries between Hong Kongers and mainlanders were not absolute. A mainland immigrant could become a Hong Konger by achieving the Hong Kong dream. She could legally gain permanent residency after seven years of residence.

Moreover the cultural identity of Heunggongyan could not become the basis of a national identity separate from that of China. The Hong Kongers identified with China even if they did not necessarily approve of the Communist government. Despite the high level of Westernization in Hong Kong, Hong Kongers and mainlanders in Hong Kong held similar values consonant with the Chinese tradition.

According to a 1994 survey, 92.9% of those self-identified as “Hong Kongers” and 94.1% of those self-identified as “Chinese” agreed that traditional Chinese virtues including loyalty, filial piety, benevolence and righteousness should be respected in today’s Hong Kong.11 (Lau Siu-kai, 2002).

The more positive image of mainland Chinese immigrants as hard-working aspirants to achieve the Hong Kong dream (and therefore can qualify as Heunggongyan) can also be found in Hong Kong cinema. In Comrades, Almost a Love Story, Li Qiao is an entrepreneurial immigrant from Guangzhou who dreams of achieving economic success and works hard at multiple jobs while trying out various schemes to accumulate money (Fig. 11). Her schemes do not always pan out. Nonetheless, she does not give up after her failures, and finally she achieves some small economic success as a shopkeeper. She self-consciously becomes a Hong Konger, who no longer has to endure the cold shoulder from store clerks who identify mainlanders by their dress and manner.

In the End, Unity

No matter how different the mainlanders may be in their speech, habits and behavior from the Hong Kongers, Hong Kong films emphasize the fundamental unity of the Chinese people. In Her Fatal Ways, Sister Cheng and her nephew move into the household of the Hong Kong police officer who is assigned to work with her. She constantly bickers with the police officer’s father, a retired Nationalist army officer who is strongly anti-Communist. The exasperated son shouts, “We are all Chinese!” (Fig. 12) Later in the film, however, Sister Cheng wins over the father and his fellow Nationalist retirees by out-drinking and by matching toasts with them in a drinking contest (Fig. 13). In the end, a United Front is achieved between Mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan. The mainland and Hong Kong policemen and the Nationalist retirees join forces to rout the drug traffickers.

In Comrades, Almost a Love Story, the Chinese title of which is the name of a signature song of Taiwan songstress Teresa Teng, her music serves as a unifier of the Chinese people. It was said that “where there are Chinese, there is the music of Teresa Teng.” Mainland immigrants Li Qiao and Li Xiaojun are fated to be lovers, and yet unexpected obstacles crop up to keep them apart. Both end up living in New York by 1994, but never running into each other until both are drawn to a television in a shop window broadcasting the news of the sudden death of Teresa Teng in Thailand in 1994 (Fig. 14).

As China’s economy began to take off in the 1990s, and people-to-people contacts across the China-Hong Kong border also expanded, the economic and cultural gaps between the mainland China and Hong Kong continued to narrow. Mainland visitors to Hong Kong were no longer primarily unskilled workers filling factory and menial

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jobs. They included Chinese government representatives, professionals, and graduate students. Transborder families formed by Hong Kong residents married to mainland spouses are on the increase, and a growing number of elderly Hong Kong residents are also moving to the Mainland to enjoy a lower cost of living or a quieter living environment, or to return to their native place. The psychological barriers between Hong Kongers and Mainlanders are steadily eroded by the formation of such relationships.

As the cultural and economic distance between these two groups continues to shrink, Hong Kong Chinese will likely identify themselves increasingly as “Chinese” or as “both Hong Konger and Chinese.” The percentage of Hong Kong residents who identified themselves primarily as “Hong Konger” has dropped from 58.3% in 1990 to 49.3% in 2001, while the percentage of those who self-identified as “Chinese” has risen from 26.2% to 30.6%, and the percentage of those who self-identified as both have risen from 14.3% to 19.2%. Negative stereotypes of mainlanders in Hong Kong media will likely disappear, particularly as Hong Kong cinema increasingly looks to China as a primary market and as a production partner.

Endnotes

2Li Ruojian, “Zhongguo dalu qianru Xianggang de renkou yanjiu [A Study of Migration from Mainland China into Hong Kong]” (2004?), Table 3. <http://www.usc.cuhk.edu.hk/wk_wzdetails.asp?id=2909>
5Agnes S. Ku, “Immigration Policies, Discourses, and the Politics of Local Belonging in Hong Kong (1950-80).” *Modern China* 30 (July 2004), 349; Li Ruojian.
6Li Ruojian.
7Chen Wen, “A Study on Technological Progress and Economic Growth in Hong Kong.” E-Journal on Hong Kong Cultural and Social Studies, 1 (Feb. 2002), Table 1. <http://www.hku.hk/hkcsp/ccex/ehkcss01/a_pdf2.htm>
8Li Ruojian.
9Ku, 342-7.
12Hui Yew-Foong.

Surveys (continued from page 4)

analyzed to give us a picture of the Asian Studies landscape at some our member campuses.

Regardless of the small number of responses and the self-selection of those who participated, the results from these surveys provide us with some hard facts as opposed to impressionistic assumptions about the state of Asian Studies at our member campuses. We have learned some important lessons from our experiences with this survey. One key lesson is that we need a more systematic way to collect information about the areas of expertise of our members if we are to build a reliable data base that will be a useful resource for the broader academic community. In the very near future, we will contact you for that information, and when that time comes, I hope that a significantly larger portion of our more that 900 individual members will respond.

Consultancy Awards for the Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum Project

At the selection meeting last February, the Steering Committee of the Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum project composed of Stan Mickel, Karil Kucera, Mary-Ann Milford, Paul Nietupski and Joan O’Mara selected the following schools to receive consultancy visits to evaluate their Asian arts collections: Berea College, DePauw University, Lake Forest College, Mills College, Swarthmore College, Valparaiso University and Willamette University. In addition, subgrants of $1,500 each were awarded to the following schools to help them digitize and document some of their Asian arts collections: Bowdoin College, Carleton College, St Olaf College and Wittenberg University.

This is the last round of such consultancy and subgrant awards. The project will then move to its next phase, the writing of a book with accompanying DVD that discusses how selected pieces of Asian arts and material culture collections that were discovered during the consultancy phase can be used in the teaching about Asia. The target date for publication of the book is Spring 2009.
Hong Kong and the Greater Pearl River Delta

Delta or Desert?:
Fathoming the Pearl River Delta’s Water Insecurity

Jih-Un Kim
Webster University

Many cities in the Pearl River Delta (PRD) have undergone water shortages in recent years because there has been increasing demand for water resources at the same time that there have been frequent and severe disruptions of water supply.

Increasing Demand, Faltering Supply

The higher demand of water resources in the PRD is mainly caused by growing population, urbanization, and industrialization. The annual population growth rate of PRD cities—Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Zhuhai, Foshan, Jiangmen, Zhaoqing (part), Zhongshan, Huizhou (part), Dongguan—between 1980 and 2000, was as high as 4.7 percent, fueled by huge migration flocks. For now, due to the population increase, the average per-capita water resources of the PRD cities is 1,185 cubic meters, about a half of the national average. As many residents have moved from traditional courtyard houses to apartment buildings equipped with washing machines, flush toilets, and kitchen taps, water demand has increased. The region’s economic growth reflected in its exceptional rates of increase of per capita GDP has made it possible that many of the residents can actually afford this equipment and consume more water. Of course, the economic growth is also based on rapid industrialization, which has required vast quantities of water for industrial use.

On the supply side, according to some Chinese scholars like Yuan Ruhua, an associate professor of the Hehai University in Nanjing, climate changes have caused more frequent droughts all across China, north and south, year-round. For the last 40 years, there has been a gradual increase in the number of droughts across China. The PRD region is not an exception: for the three years leading up to spring of 2006, there were serious and almost consecutive droughts in the region. Another major reason for water supply shortage is pollution; worsening water pollution has rendered much raw water unsafe and useless. In the PRD region, the total volume of domestic, agricultural and industrial sewage has increased from 2.6 billion tons in 1997 to 3.3 billion tons in 2002.

Illustration – Guangzhou and Shenzhen

As early as 1993, Guangzhou, the capital city of Guangdong Province, experienced a major water deficit. By 1995, the shortfall reached 400,000 tons. In 1999, with a continued deterioration of water resources, the shortage became the worst on record for the past fifty years. At that time, Guangzhou residents began to pay attention to the so-called “two nine percents”: the first nine percent means the annual increase rate of the city’s need for water and the second indicates the annual growth rate of its wastewater.

Another major reason for water supply shortage is pollution; worsening water pollution has rendered much raw water unsafe and useless. In the PRD region, the total volume of domestic, agricultural and industrial sewage has increased from 2.6 billion tons in 1997 to 3.3 billion tons in 2002.

Concerning Shenzhen, 227 (about 73 percent) of 310 rivers and streams crossing through the city are polluted. In addition to water pollution, rising population and severe and continued droughts are also causing water scarcity for the city. In Shenzhen, the number of residents per square kilometers has increased from 825 to 3,597 between 1992 and 2002, with a 15.3-percent annual growth rate, which is the highest growth rate among all cities in China. Meanwhile, from October through December 2004, Shenzhen was affected by the severest drought since 1952. Consequently, in 2004, its per-capita water resources were just one-eighteenth compared to that of twenty years ago.

For now, Shenzhen relies on Dongjiang, the eastern tributary of the Pearl River beyond the city, for about 60 to 70 percent of its water supply. To address water shortage, it is considering designating a couple of coastal communities where seawater can be utilized for toilets in order to save fresh water. To catch more rainfall, it will build two large reservoirs as well.

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As a result of the severe drought in winter 2003 to spring 2004, Guangzhou, Zhuhai, and Zhongshan have experienced the severest saltwater tide in two decades and some residents have had to drink saltwater.

Socio-Economic Disruptions

Water scarcity in the PRD has caused social and economic disturbances and costs for the region. In particular, as the water level of the Pearl River has diminished during the current drought spells, saltwater from the sea has flowed back into the inland rivers. This saltwater tide now poses a threat to available supplies of potable water for PRD cities. For example, as a result of the severe drought in winter 2003 to spring 2004, Guangzhou, Zhuhai, and Zhongshan have experienced the severest saltwater tide in two decades and some residents have had to drink saltwater. In spring 2006, because of saltwater tides, tap water for Macao residents became undrinkable. Water had to be diluted with expensive distilled water. In addition, the price of bottled water in Macao tripled.

Drought or water shortage in general has affected industry in the PRD as well. For example, Shenzhen, the first Special Economic Zone of China, had to close or partially shut down most of its textile, dying, food, and beverage factories, losing more than $2.4 million per day, because of pollution-triggered water shortage, beginning as early as 1991. During the drought of late 2004, factories in Longgang and Bao’an, where most of Shenzhen’s manufacturing companies are located, had to cut water consumption by 15 percent from normal usage. Under these circumstances, Mai Qignzhao, secretary-general of the Shenzhen Toy Association was quoted by *China Business Weekly* as saying that water scarcity was growing as a major problem for the city’s toy-makers, who account for almost 42 percent of China’s entire toy export.

Finally, it should be noted that some cross boundary, regional tensions or even conflicts can be expected as provinces and cities allocate increasingly scarce fresh water resources. For instance, when some PRD cities diverted water from Guizhou Province for a two week period in early 2005 to secure sufficient drinking water, fishing boats in Guizhou had to stop operating so as not to disturb the water diversion process, causing about 100-yuan loss a day for an average fisherman in the province. Problems of still greater magnitude emerge as one considers the relationship between PRD cities in Guangdong Province and the Hong Kong Special Administration Region with regard to water allocation, an ominous commentary from Hong Kong is worth noting: “Before long Guangdong will find itself short of clean water supply. We (in Hong Kong) cannot expect to be looked after forever. Sometime in the future, there’ll come a point when Guangdong will have to decide if it will look after itself first and then supply HK with only what is left.”

Endnotes

1 For reference, the rate of China’s natural population increase was roughly 0.88 percent as of 1999.
2 Here is an old but relevant statistic demonstrating the contribution of urbanization to water demand (consumption) increase: nationally, between the year 1980 and 1993, the urban population increased from 159 to 282 million with 4.5 percent annual increase rate while the household water consumption increased from 6.8 to 23.7 billion cubic meters with 10.1 percent annual increase rate, 2.2 times higher than the annual increase rate of urban population. Yue Zhang, ed., China’s Water Resources (Zhongguo shuiziyuan), pp. 99 - 100. Regarding the higher GDP of the PRD region, the GDP growth rates in most PRD cities have been always 10% or higher every year for last 20 years. For example, Dongguan’s GDP growth rate was 18.4% in 2002. Per capita GDP of the PRD was about $2,700 in 2002 when the national average was around $963. Si-ming Li and Koon-Kwai Wong, “Urbanization and Pearl River Delta’s Changing Aquatic Environment” (2005) (manuscript).
4 Jun Ma (translated by Nancy Yang Liu and Lawrence Sullivan), China’s Water Crisis (EastBridge, 2004), pp. 170-1. As of 1999, according to Junhe Chen and Guoquan Zheng at Department of City and Resources Planning of Sun Yatsen University, the annual increase of water consumption in Guangzhou was 10 percent. And, the annual wastewater discharge of the city was more than 1 billion tons: near 3 million tons a day; two-thirds is domestic sewage; and 90 % is not treated. They also pointed out that the city’s inefficiency of industrial water consumption was another reason of its water shortage. In 1994, Guangzhou consumed 642-cubic-meter water to produce 10,000-yuan value whereas Beijing consumed 133.4 cubic meters. Junhe Chen and Guoquan Zheng, “Utilization of Water Resources and Sustainable Development of Guangzhou City (Guangzhou shi shuiziyuan liyong yu kecxia fazhan),” Journal of Sun Yatsen University, Vol. 20, No. 1 (February 2000), pp. 11-12.
6 “Shenzhen to Tackle Population Explosion,” *Shenzhen Daily*, November 15, 2004. As of 2004, the number of people per square kilometers was about 5,000.
13 Overall, the project affected more than 50,000 residents in Guizhou. “Project Starts to Send Water to Dry Areas,” *China Daily*, January 18, 2005.
Labor Conditions and Indigenous NGOs in the Pearl River Delta

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The Pearl River Delta (PRD) has experienced rapid industrialization and population growth in recent years. Much of this rapid growth is built on the backs of millions of rural migrant workers who leave their home communities to work in PRD factories. Researchers estimate that ninety-five percent of the labor force in the PRD comes from migrant workers, among whom over sixty percent are women.1 Pun Ngai of the Chinese Working Women Network (CWWN) estimated that “more than ninety percent of the total labor force in Shenzhen in light manufacturing were young, female and under twenty-five.”2 These women leave their home communities searching for a better way of life, and in fact, they can earn more income in the PRD than at home. However, they also encounter incredible obstacles and disadvantages as migrants in the new economic zones.

In the summer of 2005, supported by a grant from the Fulbright-Hays Study Abroad Program and administered through ASIANetwork and the Hong Kong American Center, a group of sixteen college professors selected from institutions across the United States participated in a study tour to the economic zones of South China. We visited more than ten relevant sites in the area. For example, one factory, China Circuit Technology Corporation (CCTC) in Shantou, represented a modern, up-to-date factory. It is a state-owned enterprise and employs mostly men who are well-trained and work in a clean and safe environment. We were told that CCTC workers have contracts that provide good benefits and have low turn-over rates.

Shoe Factory Conditions

We also visited the Wang Family shoe factory in Dongguang. This is a family firm run by three brothers. Although we were told that all workers have contracts, in fact, migrants themselves often disagreed. Over sixty percent of the workers in the factory are young women. Many receive low wages, and work up to twelve hours per day, six or seven days per week. We learned that room and meals are paid by the factory, but the work is piece-meal. Workers “usually” work five days a week, but when we visited, it was “peak” season, so workers were working six days a week. They make, on average, 500 Yuan ($50) a month. Shoe factories are notorious in the PRD because of poor working conditions. Staffed mostly by migrant laborers, they work for long hours, in hot and stifling conditions. The work is dirty and dangerous. In particular, long exposure to glues used to adhere soles and uppers is hazardous to worker health. Although we could smell the chemical fumes, workers were not wearing masks or gloves as protective measures during our visit.

The work is dirty and dangerous. In particular, long exposure to glues used to adhere soles and uppers is hazardous to worker health. Although we could smell the chemical fumes, workers were not wearing masks or gloves as protective measures during our visit.

The Wang Family factory started as a village shop during the early years of the open-door policy (in the early to mid 1980s). By 1999 production began to shift to the international market. Currently the company exports shoes to North America and Europe because it enjoys a tariff advantage by shipping overseas. The Wang Family makes about 16,000,000 yuan a year from its factory, but is now shifting its business to the “hot” real estate sector because it is more profitable. Thus, factory conditions have become irrelevant to their future business prospects.

According to Dr. Liu Kaiming, Executive Director of the Institute for Contemporary Observation (ICO) now based in Shenzhen, approximately sixty percent of migrant workers have no labor contracts. Even if contracts are provided, migrant laborers with only elementary or middle school education are unable to negotiate favorable terms. As an example, although laws in China guarantee women workers maternity leave, migrant workers are frequently fired if they become pregnant, or employers may simply refuse to provide this benefit. Dr. Liu documents a number of cases where worker contracts specified that they would be charged a minimal fee to cover death and disability insurance, but workers learned, in fact, that although this money was collected, no funds were ever dispersed. Injured workers received no money or compensation for their disabilities.3

Worker Classifications

In many PRD locations workers are classified as either locals, resident migrants, or non-resident migrants. In Shenzhen, locals were defined as those workers who are original Shenzhen residents; they have acquired Shenzhen urban hukou residences and can receive (continued on next page)
available social welfare benefits. Most local residents (perhaps originally peasants themselves) now work as restaurant owners, shop keepers, managers, landlords or security staff and for higher wages than do migrants. They also are likely to receive substantial monthly governmental support.

In Xiamen, we had a chance to meet with Ye Wende (former Party Chairman of Lin Village) and found that privileges accrued to “locals” there as well. According to Ye, locals no longer participate in hard work because they receive village stipends, averaging around 9000 yuan ($1068) per month. Local residents may accept the influx of resident migrants as being necessary for economic development, but they usually disparage them as backward outsiders.

Resident migrants are those workers who come from outside the area but are able to transfer their hukou status to the new community. Often these workers have high educational degrees, well-paid jobs and can purchase their own housing. Many are employed in the financial, managerial, educational, research development, and technical sectors. Most of the skilled workers at CCTC (China Circuit Technology Corporation) are resident migrants. Of the twelve million or so living in the city, only three-hundred thousand are residents and around two million are resident migrants.

The rest, almost eleven million, are non-resident migrants. Non-resident migrants tend to enter from rural areas to work in local factories. Often referred to as the “floating population,” migrants live five or six together in a single-room, with only one or two toilets per floor. They pay around thirty yuan ($3.50) a month for rent in addition to water and electricity costs. They earn between five to eight hundred yuan ($53-100) a month. Cooking can be done on a portable burner, but most migrants eat at the local factory canteen for a fee, or at an outside dining location. The urban hukou residence system and its tangible benefits such as education, social security, worker compensation, and health care are not available to non-resident migrant workers in the Pearl River Delta.

Government Inaction and NGOs

Although many PRD provincial and local government officials welcome the huge influx of workers because of the continued need for a steady, cheap labor force to maintain the region’s economic growth, they are slow to respond to the labor concerns and social service needs of migrant workers. They recognize the problems, but they have yet to develop sustainable solutions. This creates the fertile soil for the growth of indigenous NGOs.

From 1949 to the open door era (c. 1978) because China functioned as a state planned society, NGOs could not exist. Economic decisions, social welfare, education, and health care were all under the auspices of the state. According to the Interim Provision on the Registration of Social Organization of 1950, social organizations permitted by law fell into the following categories: mass organizations such as the Trade Union, the Women’s Federation or the Youth League; public service groups such as the Red Cross, and art and literature groups; academic groups such as the Medicine Association, and religious organizations such as the Three Self Movement. During the Cultural Revolution years (1966-76) many organizations were closed down although a few noted ones (e.g., Women’s Federation) remained.

At least four areas of change have allowed a space for indigenous NGOs that are concomitant with the economic reforms and the open-door policy to develop. The first is the movement away from the danwei work unit, as many former state-owned enterprises have been privatized and foreign firms or joint-venture firms have been established. Many of the benefits associated with the danwei and hukou have disappeared or have been minimized. Second, as China becomes more connected to the global world, it is moving toward a society based on “rule of law” rather than by “rule of connection.” Currently, China embraces “rule of law” unevenly since corruption and inefficiency are still far too prevalent, but clearly, there is a shift in emphasis to this direction. Third, an educated middle class is emerging. A rising middle class increases the number of activists who can create new methods to accomplish social change outside governmental institutions. They are developing the necessary outside resources to have a greater impact in policy decision making. Even so, this development is still tentative.

Identifying NGOs in China is not easy. They might be registered as “people’s organizations,” non-profit organizations, foundations, educational institutions or economic corporations. Or, they might not be registered at all. And there is a special type, a ‘quasi-governmental non-governmental’ organization (known as GONGO) that is not required to register with authorities. Estimations vary widely but as many as 100,000 to over 2,000,000 NGOs could possibly exist.

Probably the best-known of the many indigenous NGOs is the Institute for Contemporary Observation (ICO), founded in 2001 by Dr. Liu. In June of that year, ICO received its first funding from Oxfam Hong Kong, and since then, it has received monies from the Ford Foundation, Winrock International, University of California-Berkeley, and Oslo University, among others. Much of the work its staff has completed has been in the area of investigative reports, labor negotiation, and migrant training.

Liu Kaoming has indicated that there has been suspicion about what ICO is doing, and he feels that he has clearly been under observation by officials. However, much of ICO’s work is beneficial to governmental needs, particularly its training workshops on corporate responsibility and its Migrant Workers Community College. Therefore, government officials tolerate some of the
other ICO activities that have been critical of labor management practices. Because Liu Kaiming is a charismatic activist who has made many friends internationally, at a variety of levels in industry, and to a lesser degree in governmental circles, he feels that he is able to successfully bring about change with few personally detrimental consequences. He admits that he is self-taught in the world of NGO fundraising and policy-transformation, but he is very good at promotion. He produces copious quantities of research reports, newsletters, and flyers. As of this writing, he was in the process of organizing an international conference on corporate social responsibility in October of 2006.

There are other NGOs that have been emerging in the PRD area, according to Jim Turner, head of the Economic and Political Section of the U.S. Consulate in Guangzhou. Some that he has worked with include the Female Migrant Worker’s Training Project in the Pearl River Delta, the Migrant Workers Document Center in Panyu, China/Hong Kong BSR International, the Disabled Peoples’ Service Center and the Chinese Working Women’s Network in Shenzhen. Since 2001 the emergence of NGOs in the PRD, although experimental, seemingly has experienced a measure of success and continues to grow.

Is this just a brief flowering of non-governmental organizations? Or are we seeing a growing acceptance and flexibility emerging among the political and civil institutions that allows for innovative, non-governmental programs to “step in” and begin to remedy some of the real social welfare concerns facing a rising tide of low-wage migrants workers in the rapidly developing Pearl River Delta? Although it is still difficult to predict the future of NGOs in China, both international pressures and the growing strength of indigenous NGOs continue to test the limits of activism and gather new momentum in playing a larger social role to alleviate the needs of marginalized and vulnerable migrant workers.

Endnotes
7Institute of Contemporary Observation. http://www.ico-china.org

2006 ASIANetwork Freeman Student-Faculty Fellows in Asia

Green Mountain College students conduct an interview on changing beliefs toward ancestors in Jiangsu Province, China

John Carroll University research group studied the greater Labrang monastery community in the Sino-Tibetan borderlands
The Spectre of History in “New” India: Contemporary Trends in Indian Documentary and Popular Cinema

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The predominant image one sees of India these days, both in the U.S. and India, is that of a “new” India, one that is breaking away from the past (or at the very least, seamlessly integrating the past into a shining brand new globalized nation). The country’s filmmakers, however, both popular and independent, seem strangely preoccupied with the past. In the last decade a number of films have made the investigation of history itself (not to be confused with historical reconstruction) a primary subject of focus and content.

The use of history can range from the reactionary, to the nostalgic, to the progressive. This latter use attempts to redeem the unrealized and repressed liberative dreams of the past that lurk under the realities of the present. This brief essay centers on filmic examples of this progressive use of history, i.e., on those critical representations which denaturalize India’s turn towards neo-liberalism by showing that the present moment is not one in which history is erased; rather, it is one in which history has returned with a vengeance, rubbing the face of the nation’s rulers in the class character of the Indian nation state.1

Novelty, not history, is the core seduction of contemporary consumer culture. It is the defining spectacle of “the age of spectacle,” as Guy Debord has characterized post-World War II capitalism in the affluent nations. The message from late 20th century media screens, shopping malls, and ever-changing technologies is that we live in a radicalized state of motion in which the past is persistently dissolving into the future.

The Indian state formally and conclusively joined this trend in 1991 when it initiated the policy of structural adjustment, falling in line with IMF and World Bank dictates to start deregulating key sectors of the economy. Since then, various ruling coalitions have started to package the nation as a friendly stop for global capital. In the nature of all marketing campaigns, this effort has led to developing the nation as a brand. The coalition led by the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) termed their brand new image of India as “India Shining”; the present Congress Party-led coalition under Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, the same leader who had originally presided over the 1991 “reforms,” prefers the even more explicit term, “Brand India.”2 The shift from a nation to a brand represents a politics of governance that has moved away from even the pretense of serving citizens to fashioning, instead, an image of the nation.

The promise of building a “new” India is the key to naturalizing neo-liberalism because to oppose it would be to call upon the fate of the dinosaur. “We in India wish to see you engaged in India’s great adventure of building an India free from the fear of war, want and exploitation,” Prime Minister Manmohan Singh reiterated recently in an address to Indians living outside India, inviting them, “to be active participants in this saga of great adventure and enterprise.”3 In the U.S., this “great adventure” is presented as a seamless move from the long-prevalent Orientalist imagery of India as an exotic Other to a labor source for the global information technology industry. For instance, in recent images from the covers of News-week, Wired and Time magazines, the new and the old are enmeshed, representing the wishful construction of a happy, feminized work force eager to service the demands of the “new” global market place.

The Empire Remembered

It is against this tyranny of the new that a preoccupation with history appears as a critical force. One of the recurrent themes of contemporary Indian cinema is that globalization is not a new experience of India. In speaking of India’s colonial history and of the history of India’s victory over colonialism in 1947, Randhir Singh, former Professor of Political Theory in the University of Delhi, has remarked, “Our globalization then also had a name, imperialism, and we struggled against it, precisely because its structural logic meant the accumulation of wealth in England and poverty in India.” Now India is being “globalized again,” he continues, “this time through a largely voluntary submission of India’s rulers,” who are opting out to be junior partners in the global capitalist system.4 It is this critique of the contemporary manifestation of globalization—illuminated by the beacon of India’s hard-fought victory over imperialism, the historical manifestation of globalization—that has found expression in a number of recent Indian films.

War and Peace

Anand Patwardhan’s War and Peace (2002, India) is the most compelling non-fiction work on India today. The film reflects on the correlation between India’s increasing militarization and its growing jingoistic nationalism based in Hindu fundamentalism; it presents these two factors as major contributors to a divisive politics of a state that has welcomed collaboration with global capital through the turn to neo-liberalism.

The film begins with the personal, an opening in which Patwardhan narrates, over archival footage of Gandhi’s assassination, the story of his birth into a Gandhian family, with one uncle a Gandhian and the other a socialist, both imprisoned in British jails for their anti-colonialism. The film ends with the global,
incorporating footage of the September 11 attacks in the US and over whose images are spoken Gandhi’s prophetic words about the dire consequences of an arms race: “If there is a victor left, the very victory will be a living death for the nation that emerges victorious.” Thus, having begun from a personal stance, recounting history as it is written into one’s own family and lived experience, the film has taken us into the public sphere to traverse the globe in a narrative that presents globalization as a continued feature of world history. In this journey, we circle a history of imperialism in which Empires, for all their continuous feature of world history. In this narrative that presents globalization as a public sphere to traverse the globe in a experience, the film has taken us into the one world we all inhabit.

Continuous Journey

Ali Kazimi’s Continuous Journey (2005, Canada) takes as its starting point the historical events surrounding the 1914 voyage of the Komagata Maru, a ship carrying Indian emigrants bound for Canada. The passengers, mostly Sikhs, were confined to the ship in Vancouver harbor for two months before finally being turned away by Canadian immigration authorities on the basis of racist exclusionary laws. The passengers attempted to return to Calcutta, but upon their arrival, they encountered British colonial authorities who herded them to a nearby location called Budge-Budge for re-transport. In the ensuing clashes with the police, dozens of the passengers were felled by British bullets.

The film unfolds as a deeply personal reflection on the crisscrossing of imperialism in people’s lives, its global reach, and the similarly widespread opposition to it. Investigating the reasons for his obsession with the Vancouver harbor, Kazimi narrates in the film’s opening:

...maybe, because this is where the history of India and Canada violently collided; maybe, because few knew that people like me were shut out for decades; maybe, because I see this harbor as a crime scene haunted by its ghosts; and finally, maybe, because I am trying to understand how I fit in.

The film revisits this chapter from Indian and Canadian history to give voice once again to the radical dreams of those on the ship; to those ashore who tried to help them and challenged the Canadian authorities on their behalf; and to those who were organized under the banner of the Ghdadr (Revolution) party, an anti-colonialist group whose actions traversed India, Britain, Canada, and the United States.

Performing the Archive

These reconstructions of the past are not just simplistic exercises in showing things “as they really were.” Rather, they make visible the act of articulating history, showing it as a way to “seize hold of memory as it flashes up at a moment of danger.” The danger is the erosion of the past. Patwardhan and Kazimi reconstruct the past through oral interviews which they juxtapose ironically against official records.

Patwardhan juxtaposes interviews with the villagers who have had to bear the consequences of the radioactive fallout from nuclear tests with the callous denial of these by Raja Ramana who led the tests, showing him up as a sort of Nero playing the fiddle amidst the ruins.

Left with little but a few scattered pictures of those aboard the Komagata Maru, filling out their histories turns into a central quest for Kazimi’s editing and cinematography. The camera stares piercingly at the newspaper photos, defiantly animating them, making them move against the backgrounds of blue sky or water; the direct and intense look of Gurdit Singh, the organizer and financial backer of the emigration attempt, speaks to the viewer when, in a passing moment, his eyes are animated to blink; changing camera angles profile the stranded men as heroes standing against the sky; close-ups of clenched fists and proud, turbaned heads turn the Other, the anonymous generality of the newspaper photo, into the Hero.

Mangal Pandey

In Mangal Pandey (2005), Ketan Mehta boldly utilizes the traditions of popular Indian cinema to draw the historical figure of Mangal Pandey as remarkably relevant today. Mangal Pandey, a sepoy in the British army is recorded as having fired the first shot against the British in the series of armed rebellions against the East India Company that took place in 1857. The film openly claims its artifice, showing itself to be a legend rather than an accurate historical record, by building in motifs common to Indian cinema such as dosti, or a deep friendship, between Pandey and a British officer that is put to the test by an Empire that is increasingly turning away from a certain measure of racial intermingling towards apartheid. The film begins by showing Pandey fighting as a sepoy serving the East India Company in Afghanistan, making a parallel between the divide and rule politics of 19th century colonial policies and our very own times in which the rulers of India and Pakistan vie with each other to appease the U.S. The greed of the East India Company, its logic of making profit via commodification and exploitation, and the role of the soldier—all are put to question. The themes of racism and greed appear as well to offer critique of the U.S.-led war against Iraq and Afghanistan.
Lage Raho Munnabhai

In Lage Raho Munnabhai (Rajkumar Hirani, 2006) Munnabhai, a small time conman, conjures up visions of Gandhi in his bid to win the love of young woman radio broadcaster who wants to do a show on Gandhi. As he learns more about Gandhi in his bid to impress the woman, Munnabhai starts to see present day India as a betrayal of Gandhi’s sacrifices, including his martyrdom. The irony of a Gandhi, who is so out of place in today’s idea, is premised upon our recognizing that, in its claims of “newness,” India is leaving some core values behind, including its very foundations in anti-colonialism.

Rang De Basanti/Color me Saffron

Perhaps the most sophisticated articulation of the past as living in the present, both in form and content, is Rang De Basanti/Color me Saffron (Rakyesh Omprakash Mehra, 2006). The film opens on a young British woman’s quest to make a film based upon her grandfather’s journals, which recount his experiences as a British jailor who presided over the execution of the Indian anti-colonialist, socialist Bhagat Singh and his comrades, Rajguru and Sukhdev. Denied permission by the BBC to realize the project, she lands in India on her own and, through her friendship with a young Indian woman, casts a group of young men and women in her film. As they take on their film roles, these young people progressively turn into the historical figures they set out to perform, making those historical struggles still necessary and urgent today. This transformation is rendered powerfully as, in flashback and flashforward, the past and the present meet.

This insistence on history, its inescapable consequences, and its presence in our personal lives and memories, stands in sharp contrast to the postmodern reduction of history, to use Fredric Jameson phrase, into a “costume show.”6 Japan scholar Chalmers Johnson has suggested that an understanding of the “larger historical context” is needed in order to see the underpinnings of war and empire in today’s world.7 In fact the widespread befuddlement with which the citizens of the U.S. saw the September 11 attacks, literally as something dropped from the skies through the evil actions of a few evil men, betrayed a fundamental lack of historical knowledge about the actions carried out by the U.S. as a global power and the historical experience of pain of most parts of the globe. Perhaps, what these films do best is to speak the truth to the new Empire by reminding it and its opposition of the history of an older one. “Time remembered” as W. H. Auden said, “bears witness to time required.”8

Endnotes

1A brief description such as this will not allow me to go into the contradictions and nuances of such representations.


Asian Studies—from Behind the Administrator’s Desk

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The journey to becoming Provost and Dean of the Faculty at Mills has been an interesting one, an unexpected one, when I consider my early steps in studying Sanskrit and Asian art as an undergraduate, with no thoughts of what my future career would be. I did not train to be an administrator. I was a researcher and scholar first, motivated by my interest in Asian Art. When I arrived at Mills as a junior faculty member I thought that the college had a strong commitment to studying Asia due to its reputation in the San Francisco Bay Area, this was not the case at all, so one of the first things that I did was to organize an Asian Studies Program.

Mills from its inception has had strong ties to Asia due to our location in the San Francisco Bay Area and our founding by Cyrus and Susan Mills who had been missionaries in Ceylon, now Sri Lanka in the early 19th century. The first exhibitions of Asian Art on the West Coast were held at Mills: Chinese Art was shown in 1934 in the new Art Gallery in which appeared many objects that are now in the Asian Art Museum in San Francisco. This was followed by an exhibition of Japanese Art in 1936. Both exhibitions were curated by the eminent East Asian scholar, Alfred Salmony. The first course on Chinese and Japanese Art on the West Coast were also taught at Mills by Dr. Salmony, to be followed by courses in Asian history.

Early Efforts

Despite these early beginnings, however, Asian Studies were not given any particular attention. Besides teaching all the Asian Art History courses at Mills, which included covering the arts of India, China, Japan, Southeast Asia and the Himalayas, I became Chair of the Art Department, a rotating assignment, and then I was appointed Dean of the Division of Fine Arts, which meant that I oversaw the Art Studio, Art History, Dance, Drama, Music and Intermedia Arts departments and programs. It was during this period as Dean that I discovered ASIANetwork. It seemed like an answer to my prayers—at last I had found an organization that recognized the plight of small liberal arts colleges that try to maintain their Asian Studies programs, let alone promote and grow them in the face of mildly interested administrations and stiff competition from other disciplines all competing for attention and a limited number of dollars.

Contending Interests

In my position as Provost and Dean of the Faculty I recognize the pressures of contending interests: that of the academic programs and their needs, and that of the administration with its responsibility for providing the resources for the entire institution to operate, survive and grow. In the balancing act that I play out daily I am aware of the necessity to maintain an equilibrium and often find myself thinking along the Taoist precepts of needing to seek harmony amongst competing disciplines. With the emphasis on Western languages in our curriculum, I am now able to work with my Associate Provost to introduce a program in Chinese (Mandarin) language studies. This is an important step for us as at last we as an institution are recognizing the fact that the largest Chinese population outside of China/Taiwan resides in California. Mandarin is now offered in many public and private grade schools, and there is the expectation on the part of our students, both Asian and non-Asian, that Asian languages be offered.

I am also in a position to support our junior faculty whose area of research is Asia, both in the courses that they teach and in their areas of research and performance. I am also encouraging faculty in other disciplines to explore and incorporate Asian perspectives such as in Philosophy, Literature, Dance and Music. In fact some of our new faculty, whose disciplines are other than Asia, are pursuing areas of research into Japanese Pop culture and Neo-Confucian ethics as reflections of cultural modernities.

The study of Asia in its great breadth, from art to history, from literature to politics, and from religion to languages, is uppermost in my mind. I continue to teach a seminar in Asian Art each semester, to curate exhibitions of Asian Art, and to maintain an active role as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Society for Asian Art of the Asian Art Museum, San Francisco. This latter involvement provides me with contacts with people who have a vested interest in Asia. It enables me to set up programs and invite speakers to Mills such as Vishakha Desai, director of the Asia Society, Wu Hung, noted Art Historian and Art Critic at the University of Chicago, Maxine Hong Kingston, well-known writer, and Orville Schell, Dean of the School of Journalism at the University of California, Berkeley.

Although we have the prize-winning author Yiyun Li from Beijing, and the internationally acclaimed artist Hung Liu, also from Beijing, amongst other outstanding Asian faculty members, this advantage has not translated into a curriculum that focuses on Asia. Since being at Mills, I have taken small steps in first developing an Asian Studies Program, and then instituting a minor in Asian Studies; now in my role as a senior college officer I have found that I am in a position to negotiate the corridors of the administration in a far more effective way than I could before.

At last an Asian language will be taught at Mills, a South Asian specialist is teaching courses in Women’s Studies, an Asian-Americanist is teaching Asian American studies in the Ethnic Studies Department, and we are planning to offer courses in Chinese literature next year. This past Spring Hung Liu, funded by the Li and Lin Shen Endowment, took ten art students to China, and Wah Cheng took five students to China over the summer as the recipient of a generous grant from the Freeman Foundation and ASIANetwork. With active encouragement for my faculty and with access to resources, I am now able to promote Asian Studies far more effectively and persuasively than previously.
**NEW AND NOTEWORTHY**

**Tribute to Retiring ASIANetwork Leaders**

Marking the 15th year of ASIANetwork makes us realize that some of our colleagues who led the consortium during its infancy and guided it through its latter years are in the next phase of their career: retirement. To our knowledge, four of those leaders were easing into retirement this academic year or are retiring at the end of spring. They are Suzanne Wilson Barnett (University of Puget Sound), Dottie Borei ( Guilford College), Jim Leavell ( Furman University), and Stan Mickel ( Wittenberg University). To recognize their contributions to building the Asian/ East Asian Studies program on their campuses, I asked their campus colleagues to write summaries of their contributions to their institutions. A consistent comment is that every single one of them laid the foundation for Asian/East Asian Studies on their campuses and was pivotal in the growth and development of the program. I also requested Van Symons, my predecessor, who has worked with all of our four retiring/retired colleagues, to highlight each one’s contributions to ASIANetwork. I thank them for contributing to this compilation and I regret any error of omission due to my editing the pieces. To Suzanne, Dottie, Jim, and Stan, our sincere best wishes as you pursue a life of rest, relaxation and leisure! Many, many thanks for all your contributions to ASIANetwork! Maraming salamat!

Teddy O. Amoloza

**Suzanne Wilson Barnett**’s contribution to Asian Studies at the University of Puget Sound and beyond is incalculable. During her 34-years career as Professor of History at the University of Puget Sound, she has had a profound influence on the creation and development of the university’s Asian Studies Program, the strengthening of Asian Studies in the liberal arts curriculum nationally, and the education of countless undergraduate students. Barnett became assistant professor at the University of Puget Sound in 1973, and since that time has been a strong advocate for Asian studies in the undergraduate curriculum and its role in the university’s academic program. Barnett has been an active member of the Asian Studies Committee since her arrival, directed the program for over fifteen years, and patiently mentored the many Asian Studies faculty who teach or have taught at Puget Sound over these three decades. In addition, she has frequently served as an outside consultant to programs in Asian Studies at other institutions and has served on the leadership boards of the American Historical Association, the Association for Asian Studies, and ASIANetwork.

Barnett’s scholarship focuses on intellectual and educational innovation in late imperial China and also includes United States - China cultural interaction. She teaches undergraduate courses in history and humanities on China and Japan, including a recently-developed, innovative freshman seminar on “Scholars and Warriors in China and Japan.” 23 offerings of the Asian Studies gateway course “Asian Societies: Past and Present,” and an upper-division Asian Studies course “Asia in Motion.” Her teaching over the years has earned her numerous awards, including being honored as the 2002 Washington Professor of the Year by the Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching.

As she leaves full-time teaching after 34 years, her energy, enthusiasm and erudition will be sorely missed by her colleagues on this campus and beyond. She leaves as her legacy a thriving Asian Studies program at Puget Sound and thousands of students and former students with an enhanced understanding of, and enthusiasm for, Asia.

(Contributed by Karl Fields)

**Suzanne Barnett** served on the board of directors of ASIANetwork from 1996-99 and was board chair during the 1998-99 academic year. In the spring of 1999, the University of Puget Sound and Pacific Lutheran University, both in Tacoma, Washington, collaborated to host our spring conference, one of the best attended conferences we have ever held. Suzanne is best remembered by the board as the creator of the “Cache of Lore,” a document that serves as our institutional memory. It does not have the official standing of board by-laws, but rather has been compiled, and continues to be annually updated, and contains significant decisions that have been debated and agreed upon related to a myriad of AN business. Most recently, Suzanne worked with Jim Peterman, a current board member, to create an Investment Policy Statement. Suzanne’s work on this document and in shaping the organizational integrity of the consortium has been significant. Suzanne was also instrumental in securing our second grant from the Henry Luce Foundation that funded the publication of a book she co-edited, *Asian Studies in the Undergraduate Curriculum*, which makes a telling case for the need to enhance the study of Asia on North American college campuses.

It is not too much to say that Dottie Borei is the East Asian Studies Program at Guilford College. Dottie is well-known to the Guilford College as a faculty member who has devoted her entire life, both academically and personally, to local and national communities in the arenas of East Asian studies and public service. During her service as the Director of International Studies/Intercultural Studies in 1997-2005, she played a crucial leadership role in the growth of the East Asian program at Guilford College. Her numerous campus
and college service contributions have had a profound and lasting influence in the development of the Guilford campus to what it is today. She authored and directed several successful grants, namely, Freeman Asian Studies Grant, 2002-2006; US Department of Education Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language Title VI Grants, 1983-1985, 1998-2000, and the National Endowment for the Humanities Grant, 1999-2000. Throughout her career, Dottie has devoted extraordinary time and energy to the service of the national East Asian community, including terms as President of the Southeast Region/Association for Asian Studies; she is Guilford College’s representative to the Southern Atlantic States Association for Asian and African Studies since 1979 and served as its Executive Director in 1989-1992. Her colleague, George Guo, said: “During her 28 years in Guilford College, Dottie has never lost her enthusiasm, her patience, or her sense of humor. She had this impact on many of her students and colleagues, including me. She has left great legacy for us to carry on: a passion for students, a commitment to the scholarly enterprise, a selfless dedication to the community, and a deep-seeded concern for people. Another colleague, Hiroko Hirakawa added a personal note. “Most of all, however, Dottie has been the greatest mentor and friend for me personally. There were many occasions when I felt lost and distressed professionally and personally, and I have always run to Dottie for consultation and consolation because I know she has never failed to provide both concrete advice and non-judgmental understanding. Thank you, Dottie, and we will miss you!” (contributed by George Guo and Hiroko Hirakawa)

Dottie Borei was one of the founding members of ASIANetwork and served on the first board of directors that was formed under the direction of Tom Benson in the fall of 1993. Shortly thereafter, ASIANetwork received its first significant grant of $225,000 from the Henry Luce Foundation to develop an ASIANetwork Luce Consultancy Program. Dottie was asked to direct this program which she capably did for the next four years. As director of this program, she carefully identified faculty from small liberal arts colleges willing to serve as consultants to other small colleges seeking to develop and strengthen their Asian Studies programs. Due to her effective leadership, the program, initially funded for three years, ran for four. Twenty-two consultancies were completed. Since then, the model established by Dottie has been used in the ASIANetwork Consultancy Advisory Program which continues to link colleges with consultants and to facilitate consultancy visits. Since 1998, consultancies have been arranged for an additional 25 colleges.

Since the retirement of our dedicated colleague and friend, Jim Leavell, the new Asian Studies Suite at Furman University, despite the steady flow of students streaming in to explore new offerings, seems empty somehow. Jim has been one of the key contributors to building our Asian Studies program at Furman, and will be sorely missed.

Jim was Furman’s first Asia specialist. Since completing his dissertation research on Japanese Police Modernization, much of Jim’s research has focused on various aspects of rural temple life, pilgrims, and pilgrimages. Brought in for a one-year appointment in 1974, he quickly made himself indispensable to the History, Art, and Religion Departments. Tirelessly promoting the study of Asia across the curriculum and encouraging departments to hire Asia specialists, Jim was instrumental in creating an Asian Studies Department in 1988. Asian Studies grew in strength during Jim’s tenure as chair from 1995 to 2000. The Department today boasts a faculty of fourteen Asian specialists drawn from eight departments, offers four study away opportunities in China, Japan and India, and runs a summer Chinese language school in Suzhou.

Jim is an outstanding professor and mentor. The Association of Furman Students awarded Jim the “Outstanding Teacher of the Year” in 1978 and the “Faculty Member of the Year” award in 1989. In 1996, he received the university’s “Meritorious Teaching Award. Jim has trained nearly a hundred high school and middle school teachers over the last six years as director of the South Carolina Consortium for Teaching about Asia, the South Carolina branch of the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia (NCTA) funded through a generous grant by the Freeman Foundation. Jim continues to direct the program with great enthusiasm today.

Jim’s service to International and Asian Studies extends well beyond the halls of Furman University. In 1979, he founded the South Carolina International Consortium and served as its President for almost ten years. From 1993-1996, he became an Executive Board Member of the Southeast Regional Conference of the Association of Asian Studies, and, in 1994-1995, he served as the organization’s President. From 1995-2001, he served on the editorial board of Southeast Asian Studies Review. All of us in the Asian Studies Department at Furman who have benefited from Jim’s tireless giving to the department, his generous mentoring and support, and his caring friendship, are reluctant to let him go. We know that wherever Jim pursues his passion for photography, hiking, and traveling in the years ahead, he will always remain a focused and dedicated Asianist. We’ll miss you, Jim! (Kate Kaup)

Jim Leavell served on the board of directors from 2000-2003 and was board chair during the 2002-03 academic year. While on the board, Jim took a special interest in helping to strengthen AN’s website thus becoming the first website editor and worked closely with Tim Cheek, Diane Clayton, and Craig Rice to create the original design of our website. He also initiated the creation of the ASIANetwork photo gallery - collections of snapshots taken during the annual conference since 2001. During his term as board chair, he,
along with his colleagues at Furman University, organized and hosted the highly successful 2003 spring AN conference in downtown Greenville, South Carolina.

It is impossible to think of East Asian studies at Wittenberg apart from Stan Mickel. From his arrival at Wittenberg University in 1971, fresh with an Indiana University Ph.D., he has been at the heart of the program. For three decades, he was the sole teacher of the Chinese language, regularly teaching far more courses than Wittenberg contracts demanded so that every student’s language needs could be met. His students today serve in leading positions around the world: in business and industry, in journalism, in academia, and in the U.S. government. He chaired our Language Department for many years in the 1990s, and he chaired the committee that oversaw the development of Hollenbeck Hall, the state-of-the-art humanities building that opened in 1999. His meticulous oversight was instrumental in making it quite an outstanding building. He also produced a stream of articles and books, first on how to decipher China’s ancient oracle bones, then on Chinese language pedagogy. His three books Reading Chinese Newspapers: Tactics and Skills (1992) and the companion student workbook, and Dictionary for Readers of Modern Chinese Prose: Your Guide to the 250 Key Grammatical Markers in Chinese (1999) continue to be in demand at Yale University Press.

Above all—members of the university’s East Asia Program—he was an indefatigable and successful program builder. Along with his colleague Eugene Swanger, he created the program at the beginning of the 1970s; later, he served for more than a decade as its chair and enthusiastic spokesperson, overseeing significant growth in both the range of courses and the numbers of students studying East Asia. More recently, he has filled a crucial role as the program’s elder statesman. Conceiving the East Asia Program without him is as painful as it is difficult!

Stan Mickel served on the ASIANetwork board of directors from 1997-2000 and was board chair during the 1999-2000 academic year. After completing his work on the board, Stan was asked to work with Cathy Benton on AN’s first Development Committee. For the next four years, Stan worked tirelessly on development issues seeking to identify potential sources of support to fund ASIANetwork programs, working with others to write grant proposals, and maintaining contact with supporters of our grant initiatives. A number of grant programs to ASIANetwork has benefited from Stan’s input. He wrote a remarkable chapter in the Asian Studies in the Undergraduate Curriculum book developed by ASIANetwork and published with support from the Henry Luce Foundation in 2000. He also furthered the work of Freeman Foundation funded Student-Faculty Fellows by helping to publish a special volume of the Wittenberg University East Asian Studies Journal containing selected research papers from the first three years of the grant. Most recently, Stan accepted the directorship of what is perhaps the most complex program ever run by ASIANetwork, the “Asian Art in the Undergraduate Curriculum” project funded by the Henry Luce Foundation. He will continue to run this program even through his retirement until the end product of the project, a book that will make a case for integrating Asian art into the undergraduate curriculum and introduce and evaluate the Asian art found on our campuses, is published in spring 2009.

**Membership News**

**Alverno College: Russell G. Brooker**, Associate Professor of the Social Science Department, taught as a Fulbright scholar at two universities in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam, during the spring semester of 2006: Behavioral Science Research and American Studies at the University of Pedagogy (Dai Hoc Su Pham); Marketing at Van Hien University (Dai Hoc Dan Lap Van Hien). In addition, he taught Statistics at the Institute for Educational Research.

Brooker is planning to return to Ho Chi Minh City this summer to teach courses in American History and American Politics at the Center for International Education.

**Antioch College: Brian Victoria**, Professor of Japanese Studies and Director of the Buddhist Studies in Japan Program, has published a revised and expanded 2nd edition of his book, Zen at War (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006), the first English-language study of the complicity of institutional Buddhism, particularly the Zen school, in Japan’s overseas imperialist expansion and domestic political repression. The second edition expands considerably on the historical roots of Buddhism’s political compromises in support of ruling establishments from the time of King Ashoka in India to Buddhism’s spread to China, Korea and Japan.

**Austin College: Janet Huber Lowry**, Associate Professor of Sociology, co-edited Recent Studies on Indian Women: Empirical Work of Social Scientists (Rawat Publications, Jaipur, Rajasthan, 2007) with Kamal K. Misra, Professor of Anthropology at University of Hyderabad and former Fulbright Scholar-in-Residence at Austin College. This book features an introductory chapter overview and 17 studies about women in historical and cultural contexts, demographic, health, and
family roles, labor force, professions, self help organizations, and local government. The 21 contributors came from India, France, and the United States.

**College of William and Mary:** From February 27 to March 2, 2007, The College of William and Mary’s theatre department presented “Ramayana La’ar,” assistant professor of world and multicultural theatre Francis Tanglao-Aguas’s original rendition of the Ramayana, the sacred epic of the Hindu faith. The story is based on the determination of Prince Rama (played by junior Adam Schartup) to save his wife, Princess Sita (played by junior Rashmi Joshi), by battling monsters and demons. Approximately 50 students ranging from business majors to premeds performed on stage, 75 percent of whom learned the gamelan for the performance, and nearly 70 percent were newcomers to theater. Freshman Sravya Yeleswarapu and senior Tara Pascual helped to choreograph the complicated show. Senior Andrew Shoffner helped with musical direction, including teaching the gamelan.

**Eckerd College:** Victoria Baker, Professor of Anthropology, is currently on hexennial leave, studying the enculturation of values in Jordanian preschools as a Senior Fellow at ACOR, the American Center of Oriental Research in Amman. Baker is a former recipient of a Freeman Faculty-Student Research Grant for the summer of 1998, when she took Eckerd student Jan Brunson to her research village in Sri Lanka. Jan, who is now ABD in Anthropology from Brown University, is currently replacing Baker as Visiting Assistant Professor of Anthropology during the latter’s absence. Jan carried on in graduate school with the fieldwork she began as a Freeman Scholar in Sri Lanka, investigating women and fertility issues in Nepal and India with a Fulbright Scholarship.

**Fairfield University:** Gita Rajan, Associate Professor of English, has just co-edited with Shailja Sharma New Cosmopolitanisms: South Asians in the US (Stanford University Press, 2006). She has also been awarded the Senior Summer Research Scholarship by Fairfield University for her project on Globalization, Feminist Ethics & South Asian Public Intellectuals.

**Hamilton College:** Melek Ortabasi, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, has published with Rebecca Copeland as co-editor the first collection in translation of women’s writings in a variety of genres from the Meiji period, The Modern Murasaki: Writing by Women of Meiji Japan (Columbia University Press, 2006). Ortabasi is Visiting Researcher at The University of Tokyo during 2006-07.

**Illinois Wesleyan University:** Teddy Amoloza, Professor of Sociology, delivered one of four university-wide faculty colloquia given during the 2006-2007 academic year on November 10th, 2006, titled, “Servants of Globalization: Southeast Asian Women in the International Economy.”

**Charles Fruehling Springwood,** Professor of Anthropology, has published the edited volume, Open Fire: Understanding Global Gun Cultures (Berg Publishing, 2007). The chapter, “The Celebration of Violence: A Live-fire Demonstration Carried Out by Japan’s Contemporary Military,” by Eyal Ben-Ari and Sabine Fruhstruck, pp. 178-198, should be of particular interest to the ASIANetwork audience.

**Irv Epstein,** Professor of Educational Studies, has published an edited collection titled, Recapturing the Personal: Essays on Education and Embodied Knowledge in Comparative Perspective (Information Age Publishing, 2007). Irv’s essay, “Recapturing the Personal Through the Visual: Images of Children and Schooling in Chinese Film,” pp. 195-238, should be of interest to ASIANetwork members.

**Lake Forest College:** Charles Hayford, Visiting Scholar in the Department of History of Northwestern University, has recently joined “Frog in a Well: The China History Blog,” at http://www.froginawell.net/china/, where he would appreciate any comments or suggestions. He has also joined the Editorial Advisory Board of Education About Asia, the Association for Asian Studies publication for secondary and college teachers. As series editor for “D’Asia Vue Reprint Library,” EastBridge Press, which reprints classic Western works on Asia for classroom use, with new scholarly introductions, he is always on the lookout for suggestions.

**Marietta College:** The Asian Studies Program at Marietta College held its third undergraduate Asian Studies symposium on November 10-11, 2006. The symposium was exclusively for undergraduate students and attracted students from institutions across the country. From the large number of proposals received, the conference selected and organized a program with a fine representation of panels, covering a variety of geographic areas in Asia and a number of academic disciplines, such as art, business, culture, government and policies, drama and film, history, politics, and religion.

The scope and thoroughness of the research by the students, the quality of their papers, and the professionalism they demonstrated in their presentations created a serious, dynamic atmosphere to exchange ideas and scholarship in Asia and demonstrated a strong interest in studies of Asia among American undergraduate students.

Twenty-one papers were published in the conference proceedings. Three 2006 ASIANetwork Freeman Foundation summer student-faculty research teams presented at the conference. They are the teams of Marietta College, Gettysburg College, and Haverford College.

**Nazareth College:** Nazareth College was the recipient of a U.S. Department of Education “Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Languages Program” grant for academic years 2006-08. Joseph Schaller, Associate Professor, Department of Religious Studies, was principal author of the proposal and is serving as the Project Director for the grant.

**Rhodes College:** John F. Copper, Professor of International Studies, has the third edition of his book Historical Dictionary of Taiwan (Republic of China) (Rowman and Littlefield, Scarecrow Press division) coming out in April of 2007.

**Simmons College:** Simmons College created a special summer program that took eleven middle school teachers to Japan. The program was funded by a grant from the United States-Japan Foundation, which allowed the Boston teachers to take part in a rigorous Japanese curriculum at Simmons. Pre-trip preparation included (continued on next page)
classes on Japanese language, art, religion, education, values, and issues of diversity and equity in Japan and in the U.S. The program was taught by Joy Bettencourt and Gary Oakes, Assistant Professors of General Education, and Alister Inglis, Assistant Professor of Modern Languages from the East Asian studies and culminated in a 10-day study tour of Kyoto, Hiroshima, and Tokyo. Simmons hopes to bring a set of high school teachers to Japan in 2007.


Southwestern University: Alisa Gauder, Assistant Professor of Political Science, has a book published by Routledge in March of 2007: Political Reform in Japan: Leadership Looming Large.

University of Evansville: The Institute for Global Enterprise in Indiana, an extension of the Schroeder Family School of Business Administration at the University of Evansville, recently earned a Business and International Education Title VI-B grant from the U.S. Department of Education. Entitled “Project Tri-State Global Enterprise–ASIA,” this initiative is comprised of interrelated goals designed to develop an international business education program focused on preparing students, faculty, and U.S. executives for success in the Asian region. A centerpiece of the Project is “ACCESS Asia NOW: Tri-State Mission to Malaysia and Japan.” This trade mission is scheduled for May 19–31, 2007 and will provide Indiana and Tri-State businesses with the opportunity to visit some of the most promising markets in the world.

The Institute hosted Dr. Saadiah Mohamad of Malaysia through its participation in the 2006 Fulbright Visiting Specialist Program: Direct Access to the Muslim World. During her three week stay, Dr. Saadiah completed a comprehensive schedule of executive education seminars, in-class guest lectures at the University of Evansville and local high schools, media interviews, and broad community engagement activities.


Wang, Dong, (an affiliate individual member), Associate Professor of History and Executive Director of East-West Institute of International Studies at Gordon College, has published two monographs in English since November 2005: China’s Unequal Treaties: Narrating National History (Rowman & Littlefield, 2005) and Managing God’s Higher Learning: U.S.-China Cultural Encounter and Canton Christian College (Lingnan University), 1888-1952 (Rowman & Littlefield, 2007).

Washington and Lee University: Michael Smitka, Professor of Economics, is Fulbright Fellow and Visiting Researcher at Chiba University, Japan, in 2006-2007. He plans to produce a book on economic change in Japan during the past 20-25 years, as antidote to the “lost decade” image, which has obscured the transformation of daily life, from what people eat, where they shop, and where they live to who works in what sort of industry with what status—including the roles of women in the labor force—to expectations about the future.

Westmont College: Charles Farhadian, Department of Religious Studies, wrote a social history of Papuans and the struggle of nationalism in Indonesia, Christianity, Islam, and Nationalism in Indonesia (Routledge, 2005). He is currently publishing a book of Papuan stories, highlighting the religious, social, and cultural conflicts in West Papua, Indonesia.

Whittier College: Robert Marks, Richard and Billie Deihl Professor of History, has received an NEH Faculty Research Grant for work on an environmental history of China. Cambridge University Press has re-issued in paperback his book Tigers, Rice, Silk, and Silt: Environment and Economy in Late Imperial South China, and his latest book The Origins of the Modern World has been revised and updated (Rowman & Littlefield, 2006), and translated into Swedish, German, and Chinese.
MEMBERS 2006-07
As of March 26, 2007

FULL MEMBERS
Agnes Scott College
Albion College
Albion College of Idaho
Alcorn College
Alverno College
Antioch College
Augustana College
Austin College
Baldwin-Wallace College
Bard College
Bates College
Belmont University
Beloit College
Berea College
Bowdoin College
Bucknell University
Butler University
Calvin College
Carthage College
Central College
Clark University
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Colby College
Colgate University
College of Saint Benedict/ Saint John’s University
College of William & Mary
College of Wooster
Colorado College
Connecticut College
Cornell College
Davidson College
Denison University
Drew University
Drury University
Earlham College
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Elon College
Fairfield University
Furman University
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Green Mountain College
Guilford College
Gustavus Adolphus College
Hamilton College
Hamline University
Hanover College
Hastings College
Haverford College
Hiram College
Hobart & William Smith Colleges
Hope College
Huron University College
Illinois Wesleyan University
John Carroll University
Kalamazoo College
Kenyon College
Knox College
Lafayette College
Lake Forest College
Lawrence University
Lewis & Clark College
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Lynchburg College
Macalester College
Manhattanville College
Marietta College
Marlboro College
Maryville College
Millikin University
Mills College
Moravian College
Mount Holyoke College
Nazareth College
North Central College
Occidental College
Oglethorpe University
Ohio Wesleyan University
Pomona College
Presbyterian College
Princetoria College
Purchase College—SUNY
Randolph-Macon College
Randolph-Macon Women’s College
Rhodes College
Ripon College
Roanoke College
Rollins College
Saint Anselm College
Saint Vincent College
Sewanee: The University of the South
Shorter College
Simmons College
Simon’s Rock College of Bard
Skidmore College
Southwestern University
Spelman College
St. Andrews Presbyterian College
St. John’s College
St. Lawrence University
St. Mary’s College of Maryland
St. Olaf College
Swarthmore College
Transylvania University
Trinity College
Trinity University
Union College
University of Evansville
University of Notre Dame
University of Puget Sound
University of Redlands
University of San Diego
Valparaiso University
Vassar College
Virginia Wesleyan College
Viterbo University
Wabash College
Warren Wilson College
Warburg College
Washington & Lee University
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Wellesley College
Wells College
Westminster College
Westmont College
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Whitman College
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Williams College
Wittenberg University

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East Tennessee State University Honors College
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Highline Community College
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Methodist University
Muhlenberg College
Naropa University
Northeastern State University
Northern Kentucky University
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Rice University
Saint Joseph’s University
Temple University
University of Findlay
University of Florida, School of Architecture
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, AEMS
University of Washington, Tacoma

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Association of Teachers of Japanese
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2008 ASIANetwork Conference
March 14-16, 2008

Crowne Plaza Hotel, Riverwalk
San Antonio, Texas
Hosted by Trinity University

Next Year!!