

NEW AND NOTEWORTHY

Allegheny College

Carl Olson, Professor of Religious Studies, has two books published by Rutgers University Press: *The Many Colors of Hinduism: a Thematic-historical Introduction* (2007) and *Hindu Primary Sources: a Sectarian Reader* (2007). He also edited the forthcoming *Celibacy and Religious Traditions* (Oxford University Press, 2008).

Connecticut College

William Frasure, Professor of Government, has since 1997 initiated and administered a number of programs with Vietnam National University – Hanoi (VNU): several faculty exchanges sponsored by a grant from the US State Department, student exchanges, and curriculum and faculty development programs in political science and economics. In March, 2008, he will be awarded an honorary doctorate by VNU in recognition of work that he and his colleagues have done there during the past decade.

Daemen College

Daemen College, in collaboration with eight other institutions from Mexico, the United States, and Canada, established the Interdisciplinary Consortium for Global Health (ICGH). The intent of the consortium is to marshal financial, professional and student resources for the improvement of global health conditions and the elevation of human dignity. On a project-by-project basis the consortium may collaborate with the Western Pacific Regional Office of the World Health Organization. The regional office's primary focus is therefore the 37 countries that all into that regional designation, most of which are Asian nations. Currently the consortium's primary focus is on the Lao People's Democratic Republic, with special emphasis on projects relating to microcredit, water quality and safety, nutrition, and maternal health. The projects will be multidisciplinary, involving students and faculty from many disciplines.

The ICGH will entertain inquiries from institutions or programs in institutions interested in joining the consortium. For

additional information please contact Edwin Clausen, Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, Daemen College - eclausen@daemen.edu.

Earlham College

On the eve of celebrating 50 years of off-campus programming, Earlham has been named a recipient of the Senator Paul Simon Award for Campus Internationalization from NAFSA: Association of International Educators. According to a national jury of college and university professionals involved in international education, Earlham's creative study abroad strategies cast it as a "profile of success" for higher education worldwide. Named for the late Democratic senator from Illinois, a crusader for international education throughout his career, the Simon Award annually recognizes innovative programming that helps college students to know and understand a broader world. Past recipients include Yale, Duke, Colby, Colgate, UCLA and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

Illinois Wesleyan University

In collaboration with Nancy Eisenberg of Arizona State University and UPurwono of the Padjadjaran University in Bandung, IWU Department of Psychology professor, **Doran French**, has been awarded a grant of \$52,000 from the Fetzer Institute for research work in Indonesia. The research project is entitled, "Religious Involvement and Social Competence of Indonesian Muslim Adolescents."

IWU Professor of Religion, **Brian Hatcher**, has been named McFee Professor of Religion. As evidence of his continuing and prolific scholarship, his new book is due out as we go press. The book is entitled *Bourgeois Hinduism, or the Faith of the Modern Vedantists: Rare Discourses from Early Colonial Bengal* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007). Hatcher has also recently published the following articles: "Bourgeois Vedanta: The Colonial Roots of Middle-Class Hinduism," *Journal of the American Academy of Religion* 75/2 (2007). 298-323; and "Sanskrit and the Morning After: The Metaphors and

Theory of Intellectual Change," *Indian Economic and Social History Review* 44/3 (2007). 333-361.

Professor of History, **Tom Lutze**, served as faculty mentor this past summer to five students carrying out research in China with the support of an ASIANetwork-Freeman Foundation Student-Faculty Research Grant. The team investigated city planning in the initial years of the PRC. He has also published a new book that was released in November, *China's Inevitable Revolution: Rethinking America's Loss to the Communists* (New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2007).

Maryville College

Brian K. Pennington, Associate Professor of Religion, was an Appalachian College Association fellow for the 2006-2007 academic year. The fellowship supported sabbatical research in Uttarkashi, India.

Ohio Wesleyan University

Xiaoming Chen, Associate Professor of History, published *From the May Fourth Movement to Communist Revolution: Guo Moruo and the Chinese Path to Communism*, (State University of New York (SUNY) Press, July 2007).

Purchase College (SUNY)

Peter F. Bell, Associate Professor of Economics, took three students to Thailand to conduct research projects on an ASIANetwork Freeman Students-Faculty Fellowship grant in the summer of 2007. He holds Senior Research Fellowships for 2006-2007 and 2007-2008 at the Khmer Studies Center, Cambodia, for research on gender and development in Cambodia. Bell also presented a paper on "The Economic Mal-development of Thailand and Cambodia: Built on the Backs of Women" at the International Association for Feminist Economics' Annual Meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, on July 31, 2007, and another paper on "Sufficiency Economy: Theory and Practice" at International Strategic Studies, Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok, in August 2007.

(continued on next page)

Rhodes College

John F. Copper, Professor of International Studies, published *Taiwan's 2006 Metropolitan Mayoral and City Council Elections and the Politics of Corruption* in University of Maryland School of Law's Maryland Series in Contemporary Asian Studies.

Sewanee: The University of the South

D-Day in the Pacific: The Battle of Saipan (Indiana University Press, 2007), by **Harold Goldberg**, Chair of the Asian Studies Program, is now a featured choice for History Book Club and Military Book Club. The book also includes maps by **Daniel S. Backlund** of Sewanee's Theatre Department.

University of Redlands

Karen Derris (Religious Studies) and **Anne Cavender** (English), members of the Asian Studies Program Advisory Group, received tenure and were promoted to associate professor.

Why Teach the Silk Road? (continued from page 18)

porcelain, whereas the Chinese needed little that Britain could offer.

Importance of the Silk Road

Why is the Silk Road important? I have taught courses on the Silk Road twice, and the response of one student on an end-of-term course evaluation sums the situation up very effectively: "I had no idea." Such a course not necessarily the ones that I taught, but one that has in some way been generated by the Silk Road—offers a more globalized view of

the world that is far more appropriate at the beginning of the 21st century than the more Eurocentric view with which most of us were raised.

Another reason that studying the Silk Road is important is because students, like most Americans, have been so taken by surprise by China's recent economic resurgence. The past fifty years or so have taught them to think of China in terms of Mao's Communist Revolution, the Cold War, the Great Leap Forward, the Cultural Revolution, Tiananmen Square, and so on.

The China of the past decade, which has seen its modernization, the rise of capitalism and increasing dominance of world markets, and its new openness as Beijing looks forward to hosting the 2008 Summer Olympic Games—is startling to them, and perhaps puzzling, as well. An understanding of China's prominence in world economic markets over the preceding two millennia will put events of the past ten years, and the preceding fifty, into a valuable historical context, shedding light on both time periods.

Using Primary Sources to Teach the Silk Road (continued from page 20)

3) Xuanzang's Account

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/texts/xuanzang.html>

Book 1 only with a cosmological description of the world and a catalog of countries mixed in with some stories. Nice description of Balkh, Bamiyan and Kapisa but pick and choose excerpts otherwise. The full account is available either as *The Great Tang Dynasty Record of Western Regions* or *Si Yu Ki: Buddhistic Records of the Western World* by "Huen Tsang". However *Journey to the West* is a fictionalized version of Xuanzang's travels with two versions available, one by Anthony Yu and another by W. J. F. Jenner. Yu's is supposed to be more faithful to the original language; Jenner's is more poetic from an English language standpoint. *Journey to the West* is itself 4 vols long and many prefer to have an abridged version called *Monkey*, by Arthur Waley which is back in print. There are two other abbreviated versions: Aaron Sheperd's *Monkey: A Superhero Tale of China* which is a children's book, and David Kherdian's *Monkey: A Journey To the West* which seems to have edited it down to the best action scenes.

4) Accounts of Mongols

Travels of Ch'ang Ch'un to the West

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/texts/changchun.html>

Starts with really nice letter of invitation from Chinggis Khan and Ch'ang Ch'un is a DAOIST Monk! 21 pages. Really good descriptions of Mongol life pairs well with:

John Pian de Carpine's Account

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/texts/carpini.html>

10 pages, with a great storyline and good images. and

William of Rubruck's Account

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/texts/rubruck.html>

Dan Waugh's *Silk Road Seattle* has 63 pages, nicely bookmarked by topic. Really good descriptions of Mongol daily life and shows how cosmopolitan Karakorum was as well as the influence of Nestorians

John Pian de Carpine's account was originally published with William of

Rubrick's and you can get them in a package deal: Rana Saad, *William of Rubruck's Account of the Mongols*. The version by Peter Jackson, trans., *The Mission of Friar William of Rubruck*, which is supposed to be the definitive translation with the best annotations, is unfortunately out of print.

5) Ruy Gonzales di Cavilo's Account

<http://depts.washington.edu/silkroad/texts/clavijo/cltxt1.html>

The King of Castile sent him to Timur's (Tamerlane's) court in Samarkand. He has great descriptions of Timur and the book is easy to read, as it includes lush detail as well as good travel information. 31 pages on Dan Waugh's site.

Lastly, one favorite modern account from the Great Game period:

Sven Hedin, *My Life as an Explorer*, 560 pp. Listed as one of *National Geographic's* top travel adventures of all time. Be thrilled as Sven races through the desert, stealing artifacts, as one by one his men and a succession of horses, donkeys and camels fall prey to the elements or to bandits.