



Asian Studies Development Program Alumni Newsletter

November 2009

Editor's Greeting:

Welcome fellow alum!! Many thanks to those of you who submitted articles and information for this edition of the Newsletter. I call your attention to next year's special events in Honolulu. From June 29 – July 1, 2010, Kapi'olani Community College will host the next **ASDP Annual National Conference** in Honolulu. Immediately following this event, the **East West Center's 50th Anniversary International Alumni Conference** will be held in Honolulu from July 2 – 5, 2010. I urge you to mark these dates on your calendar and make plans right now to attend both conferences. I hope to see you there. *Julien Farland, Editor*



Message from Elizabeth Buck, Co-Director of the Asian Studies Development Program and Special Assistant for Education to the President of the East-West Center:

Greetings from Roger, Peter and Betty. We just finished writing our report of 2009 ASDP activities. It was a busy year. During the summer, there was the 19th annual ASDP Infusing Institute on China and Japan and a China field study that went to Beijing, Chengdu, Guizhou Province and Shanghai.

ASDP workshops were held throughout the year and across the country: Evergreen State College in Olympia, Washington; University of Central Arkansas in Conway; Middlesex Community College

and Bridgewater State College in Boston; Belmont University in Nashville; Paradise Valley Community College in Phoenix; and St Mary's College in Maryland.

We were very pleased to receive another NEH grant for a five-week Institute next summer (2010). The title of the institute is "*The Silk Roads: Early Globalization and Chinese Cultural Identity.*" It will be held here in Honolulu. Information on the Institute, including the detailed "Dear Colleague Letter," will be posted on the ASDP web site in the next week or so. The titles of the five weeks are:

- Week One: Origins and Identities: China in a Silk Roads Context (500BCE-700CE)
- Week Two: Cultures in Commerce: Silk, Art, Technology, and Visions of Rulership (200-900)
- Week Three: Religious, Aesthetic and Political Economies of the Silk Roads (700-1400)
- Week Four: The Silk Roads as Metaphor: Journeys Actual and Imagined (900-1600)
- Week Five: The Silk Roads Lost and Rediscovered: China's New Global Rise (1900-Present)

We hope everyone will pass the word about this opportunity to colleagues and consider applying yourselves. NEH provides participant stipends of \$3900 to help meet costs of attending the institute, including travel, housing, meals and required texts. So, even if there's no money in your institution's travel coffer, this NEH Institute is affordable.

Other programs for summer 2010 will include the 20th annual Infusing Institute (possibly on India), and the China-US program which will bring 15 Chinese faculty to the US. There are other proposals that we are waiting to hear about and we will keep you posted.

THE ASDP NATIONAL CONFERENCE---COME BACK TO HAWAII!!

Of course, the big event that we hope everyone reading this newsletter will put on their calendar is the ASDP National Conference that will be held out here in Hawaii. This will be the 20th anniversary of ASDP and our 16th Annual ASDP Conference. It will take place just before the East-West Center's big 50th anniversary celebration.

The dates of the ASDP conference are June 29 through July 1, 2010. The EWC bash, to be held at the Honolulu conference center follows on the heels of the ASDP event. Kapi'olani Community College is the host ASDP regional center. Joe Overton and his colleagues will be working with ASDP in handling local arrangements. We are all looking forward to seeing many, many ASDP alumni here in Paradise.

Link:

[EWC/EWCA 2010 International Conference, Honolulu, Hawaii - 50th Anniversary Celebration, July 2-5, 2010](#)



Myanmar

Message from David Jones, ASDP Alumni Chapter President:

**Face-to-Face – Back-to-Back Suffering
ASDP Alumni Chapter Raises \$2300 for Disaster Relief Victims**

All the suffering and joy we experience depend on conditions.
— Bodhidharma

Back to back disasters in Myanmar and Sichuan prompted Chapter leaders to initiate a fundraiser for Sichuan earthquake and Myanmar cyclone victims. Setting a goal of \$1,500, Chapter alumni and alumnae showed their compassion and aloha spirit and raised \$2,300 for these back to back disasters.

Working through agencies associated with the East-West Center, the Myanmar Association of Hawai'i and the Peking University Education Foundation, the Asian Studies Development Program Alumni Chapter was able to contribute directly to getting relief supplies into the Myanmar in spite of all the difficulties and delays experienced by international organizations and donor governments as well as provide support for middle and primary schools in the Sichuan and other disasters area in China.

As of May 6, 2008, Reuters Alert Net had the death toll from Cyclone Nargis at nearly 22,500 with another 41,000 missing. Later United Nations statistics had the following estimates: 77,000 people killed; 55,000 missing, with 2.4 million people affected. According to the Humanitarian Practice Network, other statistics suggest 140,000 people may have died.

To this call for compassion, the Myanmar Association of Hawai'i came forward.

The data from China are every bit as sad. According to the statistics of the Ministry of Civil Affairs (as of June 2, 2008), over 69,000 persons were killed in nine provinces including Sichuan, Gansu, Sha'anxi, Chongqing, Yunnan, Sha'anxi, Guizhou, Hubei, and Hunan. Another 373,573 were injured with 18,627 missing; the total affected population reached 45.6 million. Many school buildings in the disaster areas were completely destroyed and killed numerous school children and teachers.

To this call for compassion, Peking University Education Foundation of Hawai'i came forward.

These numbers are more than just numbers. These numbers represent all the relationships that constellate into what it means to be human: a parent, a son or daughter, a sibling, a friend, a colleague, a neighbor, a teacher, a student, a citizen, and more. These numbers represent the vast interrelationships that constitute who, and what, we are.

On the behalf of the people of these disaster areas, the ASDP Alumni Chapter stepped forward with its generous donations to alleviate just a little bit of the suffering through the efforts of both the Peking University Education Foundation of Hawai`i and Myanmar Association of Hawai`i. If you wish to continue to donate to these organizations, you may do so through the following contacts:

Myanmar Association of Hawaii
"For Myanmar Cyclone Victims"
720 North King Street
Honolulu, HI 96817.

Peking University Alumni Association of Hawaii (PKUAAH)
Moore 417
1890 East-West Road
Honolulu, HI 96822
(Peking University Education Foundation USA for China earthquake relief)

The back-to-back dates of May 2, 2008 and May 12, 2008 prompted the caring peoples of the world to come face-to-face with the suffering of the other. To realize the suffering of the other is to come face-to-face with the suffering of one's self. To learn to suffer with the other is to face the conditions on all which suffering depends. To remove as many of these conditions in our lives as possible is to become human; and it means to be in touch with the initial conditions that empower the possibility for us to be compassionate to each other. This, I take it, is the greatest freedom, to become what we are.

In this light, I extend my deep gratitude to those who made sacrifices from the comfort of their daily lives to contribute to those others, to those others of Myanmar and Sichuan, who are us.

– David Jones, ASDP Alumni Chapter President

Sincere apologies for the more-than-tardy inclusion of this article. Editor, Julien Farland



China



Recent ASDP Events:

ASDP Symposium, Boston, Massachusetts

On April 2–5, 2009, Middlesex Community College (Bedford and Lowell Massachusetts) and Bridgewater State College (Bridgewater, Massachusetts) sponsored a national Asian Studies Development Program Symposium in Boston. There were approximately 80 participants at this event.

The symposium was titled, *“Crossing Borders: Identities, Insights, and Expressions in China and Japan.”* This event included presentations that focused on the importance of China and Japan in both traditional and contemporary contexts. Speakers included:

Tu Wei-Ming, Professor of Chinese History and Philosophy and Confucian Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA;

Henry Rosemont, Department of Religious Studies, Brown University, Providence, RI;

Theodore Bestor, Professor of Anthropology & Japanese Studies, Harvard Univ., Cambridge, MA.;

Adam Kern, Associate Professor of Japanese Literature, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA.;

Steve Goldberg, Associate Professor of Art History, Hamilton College, Clinton, NY; and

Xueping Zhong, Associate Professor of Chinese Literature and Director of Chinese Program, Tufts University, Medford, MA;

ASDP Workshop, Nashville, Tennessee

On September 17-19, 2009, Belmont University hosted the faculty development workshop “Contesting Boundaries: Environments and Interdependence in Asian Perspectives” sponsored by The Asian Studies Development Program, with Generous Support from the Freeman Foundation and Belmont University's Fund for Asian Studies. The basic aim of the workshop was to explore how environmental issues have ripple effects that cross geographical, socio-political and cultural boundaries in ways that are often open to considerable contestation. This interdisciplinary workshop focused on the trans-boundary implications of Asian environmental issues in their global context.

Featured speakers included Dr. Kativa Philip, Director of the Critical Theory Institute and Associate Professor of Women's Studies, University of California, Irvine. Among her writings are *Civilizing Natures*, *Constructing Human Rights in the Age of Globalization*, *Multiple Contentions*, and *Tactical Biopolitics*; Dr. Judith Shapiro, Director of the Global Environmental Politics Programs at American University where she teaches courses on *Environment and Politics*, *Advanced Studies and Research in Environmental Policy*, *Contemplation and Politics*, *Advanced Studies and Research in Environmental Policy*, *Contemplation and Political Change*, and *Cross-cultural Communication*. A China specialist, she is co-author of *Son of the Revolution*, *After the Nightmare*, and *Cold Winds, Warm Winds*, among other works; Dr. Abigail Jahiel, Director of Environmental Studies at Illinois Wesleyan University who focuses on the political economy of environment and development, Chinese environmental reforms, policy implementation and state capacity in China, the media and environmental politics, environmental justice, and the interaction between consumer society and

environmental sustainability. She has conducted extensive research in China and has participated in working groups on China and the environment sponsored by the Woodrow Wilson Center and the Council on Foreign Relations; and Dr. Peter Hershock, Coordinator of the Asian Studies Development Program at the East-West Center in Honolulu, Hawai'i whose works on the subject of the workshop include Buddhism in the Public Sphere: Reorienting Global Interdependence.

The workshop was a component in Belmont's week long Humanities Symposium called Nature and the Human Spirit which featured over thirty events, including a plenary reading by Pulitzer Prize winning poet, Mary Oliver. Prof Oliver is the author of more than a dozen books of poetry and prose including *Owls and Other Fantasies: Poems and Essays* (2003); *Winter Hours: Prose, Prose Poems; West Wind* (1997); and *White Pine* (1994). Honors Oliver has received in addition to the Pulitzer include the Lannan Literary Award for Poetry (1998) and the National Book Award for Poetry (1992) for her collection *New and Selected Poems*, and the Shelley Memorial Award of the Poetry Society of America.

Submitted by Ronnie Littlejohn

ASDP Workshop, Phoenix, Arizona

On Friday, October 9, 2009, a "*Considering India's Position in the 21st Century*" workshop was hosted by Paradise Valley Community College. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Asian Studies Development Program, the Maricopa Center for Learning and Instruction, Maricopa Community Colleges Office of International/Intercultural Education, and Paradise Valley Community College. The workshop examined the political environment, history, economics, and social issues and India's global influence in the 21st Century. The workshop's speakers were Dr. Kishore Dash, Thunderbird School of Global Management Associate Professor of Global Studies and a Senior Lecturer at the University of Delhi, Dr. Vaswati Ghosh, Paradise Valley Community College History/Political Science Faculty, and Dr. Sankaran Krishna, University of Hawaii Professor of Political Science.

Submitted by Michele Marion



Alumni Updates & Newsbits

Here are some newsbits and updates about ASDP alumni:

Malia E. Finnegan Serrano, Art History Professor of Grossmont College, El Cajon, California, presented a paper entitled, "*Unintended Consequences: The Stylistic Influence of Francois Balthazar Solvyns's Work on Company School Painting of India*" at the 97th Annual Conference of the College Art Association held in Los Angeles this past February. Serrano's paper was part of the Artistic Itinerancy in Early Modern Art session chaired by Dr. Lloyd deWitt of the Philadelphia Museum of Art.

Submitted by **Vincent K. Pollard, PhD**

The following information should be useful to classroom teachers wishing to infuse Asian studies into a variety of curricula:

Since 2003 and with support from the Freeman Foundation, I have compiled and edited the online *Chinese Cultures Abroad WWW Virtual Library* <<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~pollard/chculture.html>>. A constituent element of the *China WWW Virtual Library* and the *Asian Studies WWW Virtual Library*, this online archive documents, summarizes and evaluates 140 monolingual, bilingual and trilingual websites in eleven languages by and about Chinese diaspora across the planet.

Vincent K. Pollard, PhD

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UNIVERSITY of HAWAII at MANOA

<http://www2.hawaii.edu/~pollard/Asia.html>

Eric Hyer, Associate Professor in the Department of Political Science, Brigham Young University, has been appointed the Coordinator for Asian Studies at the David M. Kennedy Center for International Studies at BYU. Brigham Young University has a very vibrant Asian Studies program supported by a strong Asian languages program and a wide array of social scientists working on Asia.

Jacqueline M. Moore, Professor of History at Austin College, Sherman Texas announces the upcoming publication of her new book "*Cow Boys and Cattle Men: Class and Masculinities on the Texas Frontier, 1865-1900*" (NYU Press Dec. 1, 2009).

Forthcoming next spring is another book from SUNY Press that Jacqueline co-edited with fellow ASDP alum Rebecca Woodward Wendelken, called *Teaching the Silk Road*, which is a collection of essays from alums of the NEH seminar showing how to incorporate the Silk Road in a variety of classes. Jacqueline participated in ASDP programs in 2002 (Infusing Seminar on Southeast Asia) and 2006 (NEH on the Silk Road). Her email address is: jmoore@austincollege.edu

Here's the catalog copy for the cowboys book: "*Cowboys are an American legend, but despite ubiquity in history and*

popular culture, misperceptions abound. This book casts aside romantic and one-dimensional images of cowboys by analyzing the class, gender, and labor histories of ranching in Texas during the second half of the nineteenth century. As working-class men, cowboys showed their masculinity through their skills at work as well as public displays in town. But what cowboys thought was manly behavior did not always match those ideas of the business-minded cattlemen who largely absorbed middle-class masculine ideals of restraint. Real men, by these standards, had self-mastery over their impulses and didn't fight, drink, gamble or consort with "unsavory" women. Moore explores how, in contrast to the mythic image, from the late 1870s on, as the Texas frontier became more settled and the open range disappeared, the real cowboys faced increasing demands from the people around them to rein in the very traits that Americans considered the most masculine."

Submitted by **Ashok Malhotra:**

Literacy Blossoms in the Remote Desert of India

With smiles from cheek to cheek and with contented looks, Dr. Ashok Malhotra, SUNY Distinguished Teaching Professor and his partner Ms. Linda Drake, Director, SUNY Oneonta Center for Social Responsibility and Community, just returned from their memorable trip to India that took place during December 2008-January 2009 intersession. Mr. Ken Sider, a teacher from the Riverside School and an adjunct Professor at SUNY Oneonta, his wife Heidi, a guidance counselor from Laurens Central School and their 10 years old daughter, accompanied them. They visited the Indo-International Schools, funded by the Ninash Foundation, a local non-profit, whose goal it is to promote literacy among the poorest of poor children in India's remote villages.

The highlight of the trip was their pilgrimage to the first Indo-International School in Dundlod, which is Ninash's Star School. Started in 1996, by the participants of the SUNY Oneonta "Learn and Serve" Study Abroad Program with 50 underprivileged (Dalit) children, now has grown to 500 students from nursery to high school. The high school wing was added in 2007 through the generous donation of Craig and Sue Van Cott of Unadilla.

The New Year at the Dundlod School started with four celebrative events: On January 1, Ashok and Linda inaugurated a newly paved road connecting the school to the main road. The Ninash Foundation, through donations from the Oneonta community, supplied 30% of the funds, whereas other 70 % came from the Village of Dundlod. It was a miracle of achievement in the middle of the desert. On January 2, Ashok and Linda gave away 35 milk-producing goats to the poorest of poor people of Dundlod. The children of the Greater Plains Elementary School and the members of Oneonta community raised the money for these goats. On January 3, more than 700 books were donated to the Dundlod School Library on behalf of the children of the Riverside School who had raised \$450 as part of the Oneonta Sister City project.

It was a memorable experience for the three children and three teachers of the Dundlod School to accompany Ken and his family to purchase these new books because they had never been to a real bookstore in their lifetime. The best part of the visit was the news that two students (a female and a male) from Dundlod School, who 13 years ago had no future other than making a living through picking up and selling cow dung, had broken the social barriers of class, religion and gender to successfully get admission into a college of their choice to further their future. These two students stood out as models for the other children to imbibe. It was a historic moment for Dundlod and the sister city of Oneonta, which through its donations, made this celebrative moment possible.

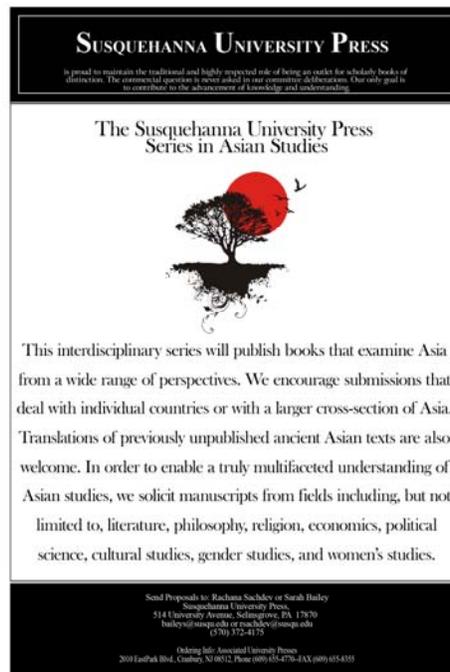
The group also visited the Indo-International Culture School in Mahapura, Rajasthan, which was opened in 2004. Along with providing the basic education, its goal is to offer vocational training in the preservation of

the art of stained glass windows. This school that started with 14 children has grown to more than 180 in 2009. Celebrations at the school involved the opening of the Mimi Forman and John Koller Artisan's Wing as well as the John Thomas Koller Memorial Library and Computer Center; both of these are funded by the Kollers.

Another highlight of the trip was a visit to the fourth Indo-International School in Kuran, a town in Gujarat, which was totally devastated by the 2001 earthquake. With Ninash Foundation's financial support the elementary school with 10 rooms was constructed for more than 205 children. Celebrations involved the expansion of the present elementary children school into a high school within the next year; the building of a children center to provide after school recreational activities for the children; the establishing of the school's library equipped with five computers as well as 2000 books. The highlight of the visit was a promise from the children, teachers and the community to follow the slogan of "each one teach one," where the 205 children would teach another 205 members of their family and they in their turn would teach another 410 thus making the entire village of 1200 completely literate in five years. A model for the rest of India to follow!

The Ninash Foundation, a local 501©(3) charitable organization, was established in 1996 to raise funds through the local, national and international community to spread literacy among the impoverished children and adults by opening schools in remote villages. The foundation needs to raise at least \$25,000 in donations each year to provide funding for its four Indo-International Schools, offering education to more than 900 poorest of poor children of India. The foundation's goal is to raise a million dollars to set up a trust, the interest from which will be used to fund these schools yearly as well as to build more schools in the future. Donations can be sent to: The Ninash Foundation, 17 Center Street, Oneonta, NY 13820, USA. Please visit the Ninash website at (www.ninash.org) and contribute electronically through the PayPal.

Rachana Sachdev, Assistant Professor of English at Susquehanna University, Selinsgrove, PA (**Email:** rsachdev@susqu.edu) submits the following:



Andrew Cohen, Ph.D. Professor and Chair, Art and Design Department, Monmouth University, West Long Branch, NJ, published *Annu Palakunnathu Matthew | Interview by Andrew Cohen* in *Annu Palakunnathu Matthew: The Virtual Immigrant* at Tasveer Art Gallery in Bangalore, India. This article is also available at Tasveer Art Gallery's web site:

http://www.tasveerarts.com/artists/AnnuMatthew_interview.shtml

Last semester Cohen organized a semester long "Celebrating South Asia" at Monmouth University which included lectures and cultural events with the closing event featuring the author Amitav Ghosh. Professor Cohen serves as a juror at this year's New Jersey Independent South Asian Cinefest 2009, see

<http://njisacf.com/09/>

Annika A. Culver, Ph.D. gave an invited talk on Friday, October 2, 2009. Annika presented a paper on a Japanese photographer's propaganda work portraying Chinese labor in the Japanese puppet state of Manchukuo from 1933-1940 at Bryant University, funded by the university's China Institute. The paper is based on a chapter in her book project, "*Japanese 'Avant-Garde' Propaganda in Manchukuo: Modernist Reflections of the New State, 1932-1945*". Dr. Nicole Freiner (ASDP participant 2009), assistant professor of political science, invited her to give this presentation. She is currently building up her university's Asian Studies program.

On Saturday, October 3, Annika presented a more academic-oriented presentation of the same topic at the New England Conference for the Association for Asian Studies at Brown University. At the conference, she also met with Dr. Ronald Suleski, the new Director of the East Asian Studies Institute at Suffolk University, to discuss building an Asian Studies program at both UNCP and Suffolk. They agreed to give presentations at each others' universities if invited in order to give students more opportunities to hear scholars present their research in Asian Studies. She also noted Dr. Freiner's work at Bryant University to set up an Asian Studies program there, and recommended her as a guest speaker on Japan women and politics.

With Dr. John Bowman (ASDP participant in summer 2008), Annika planned and organized the "*China and Globalization: Curse or Blessing*" public lecture and seminar presented by Dr. Lowell W. Culver and Anke A. Culver, MBA, MA on Friday and Saturday, October 2-3. This was a kick-off for UNCP's new Asian Studies minor.

Annika A. Culver, Ph.D. is Assistant Professor of Asian Studies and Coordinator, Asian Studies and ASDP participant (Summer 2009) at the University of North Carolina at Pembroke.

Janine Midori Fujioka (San Francisco, California) received the **Kathryn Davis Fellowship for Peace: Investing in the Study of Critical Languages**. The merit-based 2009 summer fellowship included travel expenses, an educational stipend and fully supported nine weeks of intensive Japanese language study at Middlebury College in Vermont. Her award winning essay, "The Role of Language in Conflict Resolution," addressed her desire to enhance the learning environment of diverse students at Laney College in urban Oakland, California through increase language proficiency. With stronger language skills, Janine's goal to be able to better analyze and study Japanese film provides more in-depth learning in the classroom, including use of anti-war films such as "The Burmese Harp" (*Biruma no Tategoto*) by Kon Ichikawa (1956) and "The Grave of the Fireflies" (*Hotaru no Haka*) by Isao Takahata (1988). In addition, she challenges students to expand their views about difference, to talk about it with others in class, to promote conflict resolution through

education, and to be critical of what the media portrays in our everyday lives, especially with negative stereotypes about Asians and Asian Americans.

She wrote: "Overwhelmingly, our inner-city students from diverse and impoverished backgrounds understand very quickly the strong anti-war themes in "The Grave of the Fireflies," which is a profoundly human animated film about an orphaned brother and sister. When students learn and embrace diversity, when they talk to each other using examples from international, global and area studies, when they expand their views about difference and break stereotypes, then, they truly better understand a new language that transforms their thinking. My hope is that students apply this learning to their everyday lives; that they learn how to make better decisions which fosters peace and improves quality in life." For more information about the comprehensive Davis fellowship, please visit:

http://www.middlebury.edu/academics/ls/fellowships_scholarships/kwd.htm



Janine adds that if anyone in the ASDP Alumni network has any questions about the Japanese or Chinese summer language programs at Middlebury College, she would be more than happy to serve as a resource. "It's very intense and requires a lot of commitment and time. The main thing is to apply early for 2010." Her e-mail is: jfujioka@peralta.edu

Wing-kai To, Professor of History at Bridgewater State College, Bridgewater, Massachusetts has been selected as a Fulbright scholar to lecture and conduct research at the University of Hong Kong during the spring and summer 2010. Congratulations to Wing-kai, a deserving recipient of this award (*Editor*).

Elaine Padilla, Ph.D., Social Sciences Professor at SUNY Rockland Community College, was awarded the SUNY Distinguished Service Professorship in May 2009. Elaine is the only community college professor in New York State to receive the Distinguished Service Professorship, one of the highest designations bestowed upon instructional faculty by the State University of New York (SUNY). The Distinguished Service Professorship is conferred upon a faculty member who has achieved a notable reputation for extraordinary service not only to the campus and to SUNY, but also to the community, the State of New York and/or even the nation.

Dr. Padilla's career has spanned three decades at Rockland Community College. She has distinguished herself as an exceptional leader in areas of national and international public and humanitarian concerns. Padilla was awarded a Fulbright to study in Japan and she has studied extensively in Asia and other international communities. At her college, she helped establish Rockland's first Phi Theta Kappa chapter; created sexual harassment prevention training for employees on campus; initiated procedures for student assessment and placement; and proposed a resource center to foster excellence in teaching and learning. In the community,

she served as president of the Rockland Unit of the American Cancer Society. In addition, Padilla has served the Middle States Association of Colleges and Schools as a member of numerous accreditation teams.

This year, she will be working with the new Chancellor to embark on a strategic planning initiative and she is looking forward to this challenge.



ASDP Calendar

Fall 2009:

November 12-15: Asian Perspectives on Democracy and Global Justice

St. Mary's College of Maryland, St. Mary's, MD

This 3-day program will address the complex interplay of tradition and transformation in East and Southeast Asia, with a focus on to the reach and reconception of the politics and culture of democracy in these dynamic regions. The workshop will include lectures and discussions of the possibilities and global relevance of distinctively Asian pluralisms, with special attention to contemporary uses of traditional religious and secular resources.

EWC contact: Sandy Osaki, email: osakis@eastwestcenter.org

Contact: Brad Park, email: bdpark@smcm.edu

Spring 2010:

Japan Studies Association

The Japan Studies Association invites you to attend the Sixteenth Annual Japan Studies Association Conference to be held January 7-9, 2010 at Tokai University, Honolulu, Hawaii. It will begin with a light reception on Thursday evening, on the 19th floor at Tokai, January 7th at 5:30 pm, and conclude with the conference banquet on Saturday night, in the Ballroom of the New Otani Hotel, January 9th,

2010 at 6:00pm. For more information send an e-mail to Dr. James Peoples, Ohio Wesleyan University at jgpeople@owu.edu.

Link:

<http://www.japanstudies.org/freeconfrEGISTRATION.HTM>

The following was submitted by Rachana Sachdev, Assistant Professor of English at Susquehanna University. (*Editor*)

“How ASDP changed my life”

ASDP hasn't changed my academic life, at least not externally. I had been involved in the creation of an Asian Studies minor at Susquehanna University, had co-directed the program, and had taught courses regularly on Indian Literature and Asian Literature, including China and Japan, before I attended the ASDP Institute in 2008. In addition, a colleague and I had created an Asian Studies Working Group at Susquehanna which met regularly and tried to promote both programming and new courses to help the minor flourish. So when I applied for the ASDP Institute, my intention was simply to gain some broader context for the course I taught on Chinese and Japanese literature – it was for purely practical purposes, as I was beginning to coast dangerously close to the limits of my self-taught Asian history and literature. I had also expected my tryst with ASDP to be short and sweet – a three week learning experience in the pleasantest of locations, Hawaii. Who could resist professional growth opportunities when they answered concrete needs and took one to Hawaii as well? Hence, the intensity of my response to the ASDP Institute took me completely by surprise: I had expected to spend several pleasant hours at the beach, but spent almost all of the three weeks immersed in reading, learning, and thinking. I had expected to come back with reading lists and course materials, which I did, but I also came back with a renewed passionate commitment to Asian Studies and a new book project focusing on early modern European responses to infanticide in Asia that completely changed the direction of my scholarly activity.

The real surprise came when I went to the ASDP annual conference in Philadelphia in March 2009 to present a version of the first chapter of the book as a token of gratitude to ASDP for having started me off on the project, and allowed myself to be persuaded to apply for the China field program that summer. I thought I was not yet ready to leave my children behind to go away for three weeks; I had, after all, argued with Peter Herschok repeatedly about allowing families on the ASDP Institute. I had also visited China ten years earlier on my own, under fairly idyllic circumstances, and had the most amazing travel stories to tell. I had been on Chinese language trips to temples, the Forbidden City and the Great Wall with honeymooners, Chinese school children on family trips, and had also had a bus driver play Hindi music for me as she drove a bunch of people out of the cordoned-off Tiananmen Square area on the eve of National Day. Fond as these memories were, I was unsentimental enough to realize that there would be no possibility of those personal, close encounters on the field seminar. But I did go to China again this summer, and I am grateful I did, though I called home almost every day, sometimes twice a day. It's not often that I celebrate advances in technology but cell phones and affordable international calling definitely made my list of things to be thankful for this year!

I have said this many, many times since my return to almost anyone who would listen – the field seminar is an academic's dream come true. From the Beijing University faculty member and International Affairs liaison who accompanied us on our travels through China, the students, faculty, and administrators whom we got to

meet at each location we traveled to, and the almost daily lectures that provided a context for understanding and thinking about what we were seeing, everything had been planned beautifully to maximize a real learning encounter with China. The de-briefings provided a good opportunity to think aloud and to realize how conflicting responses to the same sights, people, and experiences could be, especially when the group almost split into two hostile units once. The composition of the group itself was a great strength—having four professors from South-East Asia along with ten from the US, three of whom were not native to the US, made for a diversity of perspectives and backgrounds that enriched all our understandings. Some of the most memorable moments came, of course, during long bus rides or dinners when people got an opportunity to really communicate with one another about their knowledge of and reactions to China. My favorite has to be the dinner when we cajoled and bullied Peter Herschok into talking about Tibetan Buddhism for a good hour.

Nothing quite surpassed, however, my exhilaration in being awake in China in the wee hours of the morning and joining hundreds of people outdoors for a joyous beginning to the day. Ten years ago, every where I went in Shanghai in the early morning, I saw dozens of people ballroom dancing together to Western classical music coming from little boom boxes just a few feet away from another large group of people doing Tai-Chi to traditional Chinese music. In Beijing, Tai-Chi groups existed side by side with *Jingju* singers practicing their music. Everywhere you went, there were at least five different strains of music playing simultaneously, and hundreds of people participated in group dancing and movement. No where else in my travels on different continents had I encountered this incredible mixing of sounds and group movement that signaled a collective welcome to the day—I was enchanted. This time around, I was upset, though not surprised, to find that westernization had changed the early morning sounds and landscape in Beijing at least; there were more people running individually by the lake at the university than doing Tai-Chi, and it was heartbreakingly quiet. Chengdu was a little better: a little more music, a little more group activity, and the evening at the public square revealed hundreds of people dancing together. Guiyang made up for it for me at least—I discovered on our first morning there that our hotel was right opposite a huge park that was a big attraction for the local people. A large group dancing to the Macarena co-existed happily with another practicing Tai-Chi with Chinese music, and a trumpet player joined in harmoniously. Another corner had a saxophone player and yet another had a singer with a voice so pure it took your breath away. There were lunch time concerts and practice sessions for music groups, and late evening dance and music extravaganzas. I wasn't sure I'd be able to leave Guiyang on that last morning as a song pulled me repeatedly into the park every time I tried to get out, but we had a plane to catch to Shanghai. Based on the experiences in Beijing, I knew what to expect there, and wasn't very surprised. But those mornings in Guiyang confirmed to me that having a collective identity and community of people are of vital importance to me, and I have thrown myself even more energetically into renewing the Asian Studies Working Group which now includes faculty from Bucknell University.

Having grown up in India, I found it much easier to deal with the crowds and the other things westerners have a hard time with in China, but so much of China works for me—the energy, the enterprise, the stoicism, the generosity, the collective spirit, and the joy. In the same way, while I remain a big fan of the China field seminar, I would have liked just a couple of changes, the most important being daily access to English language newspapers. It was frustrating to realize that the Xinjiang riots had started the day we arrived in Beijing but it took us over four days to be aware of them. I would also have liked more open discussion about the state of current politics and ethnic relations in China, but it was still good to be able to supplement the almost party line analysis of the events in Chinese English language newspapers and Television with some historical and economic insights about the migration of the Han people into Xinjiang. And anyway, not everyone else on the trip was as obsessed with the Xinjiang riots and ethnic relations as I was, I soon realized, and quit quizzing everyone daily.

Most of us on the trip were overwhelmingly fond of the food, of course, though the overeating and drinking did become an issue soon enough. I was expecting some internationalizing of the cuisine, but it was still interesting to find variations of Indian foods I knew well in a breakfast buffet in China, and to notice that those

were well favored by the locals as well the westerners. The best part of the meals for me was the greens – they were at least a couple of kinds of greens at each meal and I ate them at each meal. No wonder I was famous for my energy on the trip.

So I came back from China healthier in mind and body, with many new friends, a more nuanced understanding of at least some of the issues facing China, a better knowledge base for revising a paper about Chinese responses to ethnicity and race, and an obsessive desire to give back. The fact of having been on an immensely successful trip to China has enabled me to put into gear a potential trip to India for Susquehanna students – I had been grappling with offering one for years, but I finally know exactly how to run one. One of the surprises this time is how the China field seminar has changed and revitalized the course I am teaching right now on Indian Literature – my perspective is not just comparative, it is also much more aware of the fractures that exist within each culture. This greater sophistication of thinking is also visible in my planning for the course on Asian literature next semester – I am looking for minority authors within each culture, a more comparative focus, and a richer sense of the interdependence of Asian cultures. Another surprise from the trip is probably a reaction to the intense commercialization of China – I taught the Mahabharata to my Indian literature students this semester with more passion than I have ever before, and I catch myself many times a day wishing for more time to read the religious texts. For a confirmed anti-doctrinal fanatic, sneaking peeks into the Bhagavad-Gita or the Vedas is surely a new way of living! But as all successful trips must, the field seminar has realigned my priorities and my passions. If I am practicing yoga way more often than I did before I went to China, it is because of the field seminar. If I become an Asian Studies and ASDP junkie and regularly attend ASDP workshops, AsiaNetwork and AAS conferences, it will be thanks to the China field seminar. If my students can feel my passion for teaching about Asia and arrive at a richer, fuller understanding of the issues as a consequence, it will be because of ASDP. And if my colleagues feel a trifle annoyed and harassed by my assiduous and energetic promotion of Asian Studies, it will be because of ASDP. No one, of course, will complain about the dinners and parties I host to promote a greater collaboration between the Susquehanna and Bucknell Asian Studies faculty – we can all be grateful to the wonderful tradition of Chinese banquets for teaching us the necessity of intelligent conversations while consuming vast quantities of food! Thank you, Fred and Heather, for your conversations, your generosity, for leading the seminar so gracefully, and for the soup-filled dim sum. Thank you, Roger, Betty, and Peter for enabling complex understandings, igniting passions, and modeling collegiality and dedication.



This is a group photo of the participants in the 1995
three week summer institute in Honolulu.

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ASDP Alumni Association Web Site:

Please take a closer look at the official website for the ASDP Alumni Chapter. This site includes updates on the ASDP National Conference, newly elected Chapter officers, Chapter By-Laws and Minutes of meetings.

Relevant Link:

<http://www.eastwestcenter.org/alumni/ewca-alumni-chapters/constituentspecial-interest/ewca-asian-studies-development-program-asdp/>

Next Newsletter:

Our sixth ASDP Alumni Newsletter will be published in early April, 2010. Our plan is to include information and articles about:

- individuals who have participated in ASDP programs;
- events and activities occurring at colleges and universities which have participated in ASDP;
- profiles of ASDP Alumni and ASDP Programs at local institutions;
- interviews with members of the ASDP family;
- a calendar of upcoming Asia-related Workshops, Seminars, and Institutes;
- updates on East-West Center Alumni Association news and events;
- other information relevant to ASDP Alumni.

Please send us information and articles that you think are relevant to the interests of Alumni.
Mahalo. You will see us again next April.

Asian Studies Development Program Alumni Newsletter
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