Another academic year has concluded and Asian Studies affiliated faculty and students continue to play a valuable role in the university’s global reach by helping to cultivate the university’s strong partnerships in Asia. We in the Asian Studies Program feel that educating our students with appreciation, acceptance, and tolerance of other cultures, and preparing them for highly interdependent global society are critically important in the world today.

We are pleased to be making significant impacts in the undergraduate classroom, on graduate student scholarship, for the community of Asianist professors at UB, and on the broader Western New York community, especially given our program’s small size and modest resource-base.

This past year the Asian Studies Program provided professors and students with important resources to advance their scholarship by offering research grants and sponsoring faculty symposiums, lectures, and conference attendance. In partnership with many departments, other UB units, and community groups, Asian Studies supported an expansive program of classroom presentations, lectures, co-curricular activities, and community events that are a crucial part of the fabric of UB. Many of these activities are profiled in this newsletter.

The number of undergraduate majors and minors in Asian Studies has increased. We continue to grow our program by generating synergy with the Asian language programs in Linguistics so that students can accelerate their work in both programs. We offered more courses to our students by creating new courses and cross-listing regularly offered Asia-related courses from other departments. We started our student club, hosted a Meet & Greet for Asia-related student associations on campus, and we are planning an Asia Day next year.

Our efforts to grow as an interdisciplinary program at UB are aided by the involvement of more than 30 faculty members from across the university who are engaged in teaching and research about Asia. Our Advisory Council faculty work together as a community of scholars to generate productive and creative plans for our program’s development.

Please read on for more details about our exciting year and our dynamic faculty and students.

Wishing you a happy and restful summer,

EunHee Lee
Director
Awards, Books, Invited Lectures, and Grants: Asian Studies Faculty Highlights

Mark Nathan (History and AS) and Rebecca French (Law) published *Buddhism and Law: An Introduction* (Cambridge, 2014). A new journal, *Buddhism, Law & Society*, launches this fall with an inaugural conference Sept 30- Oct 1, 2016 here at UB. Nathan presented at Scholars@Hallwalls in November, an event sponsored by the Humanities Institute at UB. His talk, “From the Mountains to the Cities: Propagating Buddhism in Twentieth-Century Kore,” examined the modern transformation of Buddhism in Korea from a socially marginalized community of monastics to a socially and institutionally powerful force that has attracted millions of followers today.

Jin Young Song (Architecture and Planning) and his partner firm MINI-MAX in South Korea were awarded a $200,000 research grant from the Korean government to deliver sustainable urban planning solutions to the city of Yangpyeong, S. Korea under the theme of Reshaping the pattern of sprawl”. Song and his combined studio of graduate and undergraduate students from both architecture and planning traveled to Korea to present to the city mayor, perform a site analysis and participate in workshops with Yonsei University. Song also received jury honors in the international Architizer A+ Awards competition for “High Living”, a multi-unit housing concept designed for Dharavi Slum in Mumbai, one of the largest slums in the world. Read more: [here](#).

Walter Hakala (English and AS) was awarded support by the UB Office of the Vice Provost for International Education to participate in the Korean Society for Indian Studies 38th Regular Conference at Kyungpook National University. Hakala was joined at the conference by Jang Wook Huh (English) for meetings the KNU Office of the Vice President for International Affairs and faculty from the four KNU academic departments. Huh and Hakala also participated in the Education Forum on Multiculturalism, organized by the Global Teacher’s University at KNU. Hakala’s forthcoming monograph, *Negotiating Languages: Urdu, Hindi, and the Definition of Modern South Asia* (Columbia, 2016), documents the role of lexicographers in shaping the Urdu language from one of many dialects of northern India to the national language of a postcolonial nation-state, Pakistan. Hakala was awarded the 2015 Edward Cameron Dimock, Jr. Prize in the Indian Humanities by the American Institute of Indian Studies for *Negotiating Languages*.

Nona Carter (AS, Undergraduate Advisor) hosted a career panel in November for students interested in Asia. Speakers at the event were drawn from UB Career Services, the World Trade Center Buffalo Niagara, and the World Bank Group. As part of the Global CINEMAspectives film series at UB, Carter introduced a showing of Satoshi Kon’s gripping 1997 anime psychological thriller, *Perfect Blue*, to a standing room-only crowd in December.


Berkman and Kristin Stapleton (History) presented at the 2015 New York Conference on Asian Studies
(NYCAS) at Vassar College, October. The theme was “Global Asia: Social, Cultural, and Political Spaces.” Burkman gave a talk on “The Lake Biwa Canal and the Industrialization of Kyoto” and Stapleton on “Chinese Constructions of the Socialist City in the 1950s.” Stapleton and Nathan serve on the Board of Directors of NYCAS. EunHee Lee (AS and Linguistics) published An Introduction to Korean Linguistics (Routledge, 2015) with co-authors S. Madigan and M. Park. The volume provides an in-depth introduction to the basics of Korean linguistics, and modern linguistic theory with a step-by-step approach that leads the reader through the linguistic make-up of the language.

Jennifer Gaynor (History) published Intertidal History in Island Southeast Asia: Submerged Genealogy and the Legacy of Coastal Capture (Southeast Asia Program Publications, Cornell University, 2016). In it, she examines the role maritime Southeast Asians played in struggles against domination of the 17th century spice trade by local and European rivals. Kristin Stapleton finished her book on the historical background of Bai Jin’s famous trilogy of novels about the May Fourth movement and anti-Confucian activists in 1920s China: Fact in Fiction: 1920s China and Bai Jin’s Family (Stanford, 2016) will come out in August 2016. Stapleton gave a talk in September on Chinese humor at the Confucius Institute at Auburn University in Montgomery. With support from the UBCI and Asian Studies Program, Stapleton organized the workshop “China and the World: 1950s Urban Culture and Planning,” as part of a SUNY-funded initiative to develop a research program on China and the World. Stapleton received a grant from the UB Faculty Internationalization Fund to visit UB’s partner schools in Japan to explore the possibilities for a future study abroad course and to present her new research on 1950s urban planning in China at the Association for Asian Studies AAS-in-Asia meeting at Doshisha University. Stapleton also serves as editor of the history journal Twentieth-Century China.

Cynthia Wu (Transnational Studies) co-authored a chapter in the anthology, The Cambridge Companion to Asian American Literature, titled, “Rethinking embodiment and hybridity: mixed race, adoptee and disabled subjectivities.” Akemi Isselbaecher (Japanese Program) translated into Japanese Surrender: September 2, 1945 by James Starnes. The volume was featured at a book signing and reception in December at the Officer’s Club at Fort Niagara State Park. Surrender is the personal story of Starnes, the navigator of the USS Missouri at the end of World War II. Starnes served as the Officer of the Deck on the battleship for the surrender ceremony of Japan to the Allies. Shannon Bassett (Architecture and Urban Design) presented design research at five conferences this past year, including “Shanghai Water Urbanisms-Recovering Shanghai’s Post-Industrial Waterfront-Landscape Strategies for Sustainable (re) development in China’s Cities” at the International Conference for the IACP (International Association for China Planning). Bassett’s work and her students’ work was and will be exhibited in several forums, including “Back to the Countryside! An Urban Landscape and Architectural Intervention for Xixinan, Anhui, China through ecological urbanism and public space design” at the Beijing Design Week and the 2015 BAUAIR International Architecture in Busan, South Korea.
Undergraduate Research Presentations and Awards

UB undergraduates are active in Asia-related research and study!

Kayleigh Reed, Aneesah Baksh, and Hanna Santanam presented papers at the the Pittsburgh Area Asian Studies Undergraduate Conference in Washington, PA.

The papers presented by Ms. Reed ("Intersection of Gazes: Steve McCurry’s Depiction of India in National Geographic") and Ms. Santanam ("The Next King of Action: The Globalization of the Indian Male Body Through Film Culture") offered critical analyses of how Indians are represented in photographs.

Ms. Baksh’s paper, "Physical versus Mystical Love in the Madhumalati, an Indian Sufi Romance," examined the allegorical nature of a 16th-century Hindi poem.

Kayleigh Reed was awarded a Boren Scholarship in Urdu through the South Asian Flagship Languages Initiative. Kayleigh was also awarded a Critical Language Scholarship for Urdu language study in India.

Nida Syed, who completed her degree in 2015, has been awarded a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship to Malaysia during AY 2016-17. She was awarded a Critical Language Scholarship in Urdu in 2015.

Outstanding Senior Award: Daniel Beyer

We were so pleased to recommend Daniel Beyer for the 2016 College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Senior Award. Mr. Beyer graduated with a Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies with a concentration in China and Mandarin Chinese. His senior thesis, "Framing How China is Taught: Presentation to and Perceptions of Current American College Students," innovatively explored UB student perceptions of China based on the U.S. education system. Mr. Beyer participated in the Beijing Summer 2015 program at Capital Normal University (首都师范大学), the most recent of his study abroad and volunteer experiences in China, Germany, Honduras, Argentina, and Mexico. He works with health service providers and refugee communities here in Buffalo and has obtained specialized English as a Second Language (ESL) training. Mr. Beyer is a member of Tau Sigma, the transfer student honor society. His future plans include a degree in English Second or Other Language (ESOL) at the University at Buffalo School of Education.

Calling Asian Studies Alumni!

We’d like to hear from you!

Did your Asian Studies major or minor lead you to Asia-related work or travel in Asia? How are you using your Asian-language skills?

Send us updates, pictures, blog posts: we would like to share your experiences and learn how we might help our current majors and minors make connections and use their new Asian Studies degrees!
To China and Japan: Four Study Abroad Scholarships Awarded for Spring and Summer 2016

We were able to provide study abroad scholarships to four UB undergraduate students during Spring and Summer 2016, with generous matching funds from the Office of the Vice Provost for International Education. We awarded a total of $5,500 in scholarships for study in Asia.

Our scholarships support students attending credit-bearing intensive language programs. Lukas, Rebecca, Ryan, and Connor are planning to send us updates from their travels. Keep an eye on our Facebook page for their postings!

- **Lukas Dickash** | International Christian University in Tokyo
- **Rebecca Gasiorek** | International Christian University in Tokyo
- **Ryan Jones** | Capital Normal University in Beijing
- **Connor Laurey** | Meiji University in Tokyo

We recently established a Study Abroad Scholarship UB Foundation account. If you'd like to support future study abroad scholarships, will you consider contributing to the fund? We'll work together to support UB students’ interests in Asia.

Air Pollution and Literary Encounters: The 2015-2016 Small Research Awards

We are so pleased to support two research projects with our $2000 Small Research Award program. While we could support only two projects, we received seven excellent proposals for Asia-related research from UB faculty. We wish our awardees productive research this coming summer and hope to see another excellent set of proposals for the 2016-2017 program!

**Jialing Huang and Z. Janet Yang**
Department of Communication

"Public Perception of Air Pollution in China.” Huang and Yang will survey Chinese citizens to investigate how risk perception related to air pollution contributes to ordinary Chinese citizens’ support for environmental policies and their information seeking behavior.

**Jang Wook Huh**
Department of English

“Imagining A Black Pacific: Dispossession in Afro-Korean Literary Encounters.” Huh will perform archival research at the National Library and Seoul National University Library to examine a literary and cultural history that traces the significant alliance between African-American and Korean writers in the 20th century.

Photo: C. Laurey
Photo: R. Gasiorek
Asian Studies Across UB @ Cosponsored Events

We were able to cosponsor many Asia-related events across the UB campus and beyond, continuing our commitment to internationalizing our UB community and catalyzing cross-disciplinary collaboration.

We co-organized the “Symposium on Health, Well-Being, Social Security and Vulnerability in Asia” in September. EunHee Lee (Director of AS) and Pavani Kalluri Ram (Director of the Office of Global Health Initiatives) brought together 11 UB scholars from 9 Departments and Schools to present research on pressing issues of societal health and well-being in Asian countries and among the Burmese refugee population in Buffalo. For more information, see the symposium program: here.

In the October, we cosponsored with the Baldy Center and the Sociology Department to host Lynette Chua, from the National University of Singapore. Her talk, “The Socially Transformative, Relational Process of Collective Litigation: The Constitutional Challenges to Decriminalize Homosexuality in Singapore,” told the story of the Tan Eng Hong case, which challenged the constitutionality of legislation that criminalizes sexual intercourse between two men.

We cosponsored “Syrian Refugees: Buffalo Responds” with UB’s School of Social Work, organized by Filomena Critelli. In this March workshop, panelists explored the impact of the crisis on communities and individuals, as well as Buffalo’s role in finding long-term solutions for resettled refugees. Find more information: here.

The “Redefining the Narrative: Islam in Focus” event series developed by Ellen Dussourd (Office of International Education) was a response to anti-Muslim rhetoric in the media. We cosponsored this series of lectures and events that included educational lectures, panel discussions, and a final keynote address.

We cosponsored “China and the World: 1950s Urban Culture and Planning”, a workshop organized by Kristin Stapleton. The workshop focused on the period of the 1950s and how visions of the emerging socialist world were developed and disseminated, with a particular focus on urban planning.

With the Baldy Center, we cosponsored “Unpopular Sovereignty”, an invited lecture by Cheng-Yi Huang, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, organized by Anya Bernstein. Huang’s talk examined the basis for constitutional authority in Taiwan, a post-colonial, post-authoritarian state.
Senior Capstone Projects

From anime to history and education to military strategy, our 2015-2016 Capstone thesis projects creatively explored wide-ranging topics.

Our six Capstone students looked deeply into contemporary and historical issues throughout Asia. Their thesis advisors included faculty in Communications, Linguistics, History, and Asian Studies. Fall and Spring Capstone Seminars gave us all the opportunity to see the final research presentations. Congratulations to our Capstone students on completing their senior theses!

Two more Capstone presentations topics are:

- An Examination of the Popularity and Significance of the "Monster Girl" Genre of Anime and Manga
- Political and cultural censorship in South Korea: The past, present and future

Southeast Asian Activities and the Gnamm Fund: The 2016 Awardees

Congratulations to the 2016 recipients of the Nila T. Gnamm Research Award. The award is funded by an endowment bequest from UB alumna Nila Gnamm to UB’s APEC Study Center to support research focused on Southeast Asia.

Jennifer Gaynor (History) | Seminar participant at at Diponegoro University, Indonesia: "17th Century precedents for Southeast Asian maritime power."

Marion Werner (Geography) and Abigail Cooke (Geography) | Workshop by the Department of Geography and University at Buffalo Law School: "Trans-Pacific Partnership Symposium."

Engielle Paguican (Geology; Postdoc) | Research project: "Lahar and pyroclastic flow inundation map for Mayon volcano, Philippines."

Steve Munoz (Transnational Studies, PhD student) | PhD Dissertation: "16th/17th century Chinese transnational merchant community in the Philippines."

Karl Sarvestani (Communicative Disorders and Sciences; PhD student) | Research presentation at Southeast Asian Linguistics Society (SEALS) conference, Thailand: "Karen Phonetics."
Asian Studies in the Library

From Charles D’aniello, the Library Liaison to the Asian Studies Program, Lockwood Memorial Library:

The East Asian Collection is located on the third floor of Lockwood Library. Much library material has been moved off-site to the Libraries Annex, but material in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean has not been moved. Browse the East Asian collection shelves to get a sense of what is available, or find material in these languages using the catalog, use: http://catalog.lib.buffalo.edu/vufind/Search/Advanced

The Confucius Reading Area, marked by a plaque, is now in the East Asian Collection area on the third floor of Lockwood Library. It acknowledges the generosity of the UB Confucius Institute (UBCI) in regularly donating substantial numbers of Chinese-language texts to the collection. Chinese-language books donated by the University’s CI are intershelfed with other East Asian materials. Children’s books are shelved in the nearby Juvenile Literature Collection.

DVDs donated to the Libraries by the UBCI are now accessible on the first floor of Capen Hall in the Silverman Library. Learn about this wonderful collection of resources for the study of Chinese-language and culture at: http://libweb1.lib.buffalo.edu/help/help.asp?ID1=514

Funding made available through the UBCI makes two major databases accessible to the University community: Complete Chinese Classics Collection of Ancient China (http://libweb.lib.buffalo.edu/pdp/index.asp?ID=638) and Siku Quanshu (http://libweb.lib.buffalo.edu/pdp/index.asp?ID=639).

Reference and substantial scholarly sets recently donated by the UBCI are shelved in the East Asian Collection and English-language monographs in several Brill monographic series have also been added and are shelved in the general collection.

Japanese-language books donated to the University Libraries in 2014 by Atsushi and Kazuko Kuyama, through the intercession of Thomas Burkman, include volumes by: Ken Ishihara (11 volumes), Ōgai Mori (38 volumes), Naoya Shiga (14 volumes), Akahiko Shimagi (10 volumes), Tetsurō Watsuji (20 volumes), Saitō Mokichi (36 volumes), Daisetz Teitaro Suzuki (30 volumes), Ryūnosuke Akutagawa (10 volumes), and Hajime Tanabe (14 volumes).

A significant body of material donated by Dr. Roger Des Forges has been added to the collection and is identified by a special bookplate.

Leisure reading in Chinese, Japanese, and Korean is supported by a growing collection in Lockwood Library. The International Leisure Reading Collection is located on the third floor. To limit your search to this collection, use the Expert Search option in the Classic Catalog and type wcl=ilr in the search box, restricting to the desired language.
Announcing Asia Day 2017!

We are taking over the Student Union Lobby for a day in the Spring 2017 semester. All are invited to join us as we, along with Asia-related student associations, plan our celebration of Asian cultures!

Plans are developing for:
- Asia Trivia
- Music Demonstrations
- Fashion Photo Shoot
- Traditional Clothing
- Food & Culture

Asia@Noon Series

The 2015-2016 Asia@Noon series included engaging talks in four distinct disciplines. Many thanks to the scholars who presented and to the faculty, students, and Buffalo citizens who attended!

**Shannon Bassett** (UB School of Architecture and Planning) presented “Recovering China’s Agricultural and Water Landscapes: Reconfiguring Rural to Urban Built Typologies.” She addressed the possibilities for China’s cities in the face of the deterioration of ecology and cultural identity due to previous urban development strategies, and explored alternatives that address food security, the recovery of landscapes, and the reinsertion of everyday practices.

**Winston Chang** (UB Department of Economics) presented “Inner Workings of the Chinese Economy.” He focused on recent developments in the Chinese economy: the slowdown in the growth of China’s GDP and its gradual structural adjustment from manufacturing to services, developments in China’s external accounts, capital flight, loss of forex reserves, and the official policy responses.

**Jeannette Ludwig** (UB Department of Romance Languages and Literatures) and Claude E. Welch (UB Department of Political Science) presented “A Pilgrimage to Kandy: Buddhism in Sri Lanka.” Together they described the social and political history of Sri Lanka and with a rich visual presentation they examined the religious and historical character of this South Asian nation.

Llerena Searle (Department of Anthropology, University of Rochester) presented “Landscapes of Accumulation: Real Estate and the Neoliberal Imagination in Contemporary India.” She described the ways in which Indian cities are being remade to suit a new post-liberalization society of computer engineers, working women, and savvy consumers.
Asian Studies Program

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Asian Studies Program

The Asian Studies Program at the University of Buffalo is built on the strengths of our Asia-focused Advisory Council faculty members and the diverse Asia-related research interests of faculty members throughout the University. The Asian Studies Program offers a major and a minor in Asian Studies, joint and double-major programs can be designed to fit the interests of students. Asian Studies hosts and cosponsors workshops, seminars, lectures, and artistic presentations. We strive to build and maintain a dynamic community of students and scholars energized by the study of Asia and to provide rich cultural and educational opportunities.

www.asianstudies.buffalo.edu

Asian Studies Directory

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Asian Studies Advisory Council Chair | Jeannette Ludwig
Asian Studies Executive Committee 2015-2016

Nona Carter, ex officio | David Engel
Walter Hakala | Jeannette Ludwig
Mark Nathan | Mitsuaki Shimojo

We’re Moving!

The Summer 2016 Clemens Hall Shuffle will send us to a new office suite. Beginning in August, look for our new address and contact numbers!