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FALL 2010 UPDATES

The **ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM** has had many significant accomplishments during the past academic year. Here are some faculty, student, and outreach highlights:

- ◆ The Board of Governors' **Program Review process** was completed and is awaiting final approval, which recommended the possibility of additional faculty for our program.
- ◆ Outreach activities, including the first **National Consortium for Teaching about Asia Summer Program** for K-12 teacher training on Asian culture.
- ◆ **Speech Contests, Culture Day, and Immersion Day** for FIU and K-12 students in Japanese and Chinese language and cultural studies.
- ◆ Largest new group of incoming M.A. students, including **Joint M.A./Ph.D.**
- ◆ The largest number of **M.A. Graduates**. Among these students, **Aziz Klebleyev** is now pursuing a Ph.D. program,

Rochel Sooklal is currently in Law School, and **Masako Kubota** is teaching courses at FIU and lecturing in Asia. Another recent graduate, **Wendy Lo**, is working full-time at the Morikami Museum and Japanese Gardens, where she joins our current graduate student and other full time employee, **Veljko Dujin**.

- ◆ **Faculty Achievements** include **Steven Heine's** new publication, *Zen Masters* (Oxford University Press), **Matthew Marr's** being selected for the prestigious US-Japan Network sponsored by the Mansfield Center Foundation, and **Nathan Katz** receiving a professorial endowment in studies of Jain religious history and thought.
- ◆ Graduate and undergraduate students participated in productive **Internships**, including mentoring in language.
- ◆ Launching a new fully **Online Minor** in Asian Studies that requires 15 credits and features several ASN courses.

JAPANESE AMBASSADOR VISITS FIU

Asian Studies, along with the Broad Lecture Series housed in the **School of International and Public Affairs**, is very pleased to announce an on-campus visit and lecture by **His Excellency, Mr. Ichiro Fujisaki**, the Ambassador of Japan to the U.S.

The event will be held in the MARC Pavilion on Monday, August 30 at 2:00 PM and is all open to all faculty, staff and interested community members.

In May 2004, a lecture by the Japanese Ambassador at the time, was held in collaboration with the Japanese Consulate of Miami.

We are proud to be able to cooperate with the Consul-General, **Mr. Yoshiharu Namiko**, who has helped us in organizing a number of activities. These include the annual meeting of the **Southern Japan Seminar**, as well as a variety of Japanese language and cultural events on campus.

All of these contribute greatly to the rapid and continuing growth of the Japanese studies program led by instructors **Asuka Mashav** and **Naoko Komura**.

As recently as ten years ago, there were only a couple of dozen students taking Japanese courses each semester and now there are well over 250 including advanced levels. In addition, Asian Studies helps to sponsor the groups, **Japan Club** and **Anything Goes Anime**.

This year the Asian Studies Program underwent a rigorous Program Review to ensure fulfillment of its mission to enhance international education, research, and outreach activities through external fundraising involving area studies and languages in the Asian region. Created in Fall 1997, the Asian Studies Program has grown rapidly into a full-fledged interdisciplinary program with a B.A. (implemented in Fall 2002) and an M.A. (implemented in Fall 2005), in addition to a minor and several specialized undergraduate and graduate certificates, collectively serving over 800 students.

As part of the Program Review process, Asian Studies was reviewed by an external reviewer, **Dr. Kellee Tsai** from the Department of Political Science at Johns Hopkins University who said of the Asian Studies Program: “[it] is a valuable resource, not just to the School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA), but also to Florida International University (FIU)’s new Global Learning for Global Citizenship initiative in undergraduate education, and to the university’s broader commitment to being “Worlds Ahead” in learning, research, entrepreneurship, innovation, and creativity.” In response to the internal Program Review and the external review by Dr. Tsai, Asian Studies developed an Improvement Action Plan that focuses on opportunities and challenges to further strengthen and expand the academic programs.

CURRENT ENROLLMENTS

Program	Students Enrolled	Students Graduated	TOTAL
M.A. Program	21	21	42
Asian Studies Graduate Certificate	7	9	16
Asian Globalization Graduate Cert	3	1	4
B.A. Program	108	77	185
Minor	40	104	144
Asian Studies Undergraduate Cert	29	116	145
AGLA Certificate	32	48	80
Chinese Studies Certificate	40	29	69
Japanese Studies Certificate	125	55	180
TOTAL	405	460	865

In this planning, Asian Studies has identified six priorities that include: expanding the variety of area studies courses offered, especially Chinese cultural and political studies; replacing our base of core faculty in the discipline of history while also seeking to expand to literature; increasing the number of Teaching Assistantships available to incoming graduate students; placing a course into the Global Learning initiative, as well as the University Core Curriculum (UCC); improving the graduate program by providing a methods course in Asian Studies and career-oriented workshops; and increasing the number of interdisciplinary and collaborative efforts with other area studies programs within SIPA and the university.

The Director of Asian Studies met with **Dean Ken Furton** and **Senior Associate Dean Nicol Rae** as well as **SIPA Director Dr. John Stack** on June 17th to discuss the Asian Studies Improvement Action Plan. The IAP was approved and steps were taken toward developing a tentative Hiring Plan for two positions: the first is a tenure-track position in the field of East Asian Social Sciences; and the second is a Chinese Language and Culture Instructor.

This summer Asian Studies hosted the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia (NCTA) program in the summer. We received over 250 applications from teachers in Miami-Dade and Broward County public schools, as well as applications from private school teachers in the area. Twenty teachers were chosen to participate in a week long seminar geared towards infusing Asia and Asian cultures into the classroom by using film as a medium.

By the end of the week, all the teachers presented a range of lesson plans which focused on various aspects of Asia from teaching AP World History students about Mongolia, to discussing recent filmmaking of Korea and India, to coordinating teacher workshops in the respective schools in order to enable others to infuse Asia into their classrooms using film as a medium.

NEW ONLINE MINOR

The Asian Studies Program is pleased to announce a fully online Minor in Asian Studies. This program is designed as an interdisciplinary approach to Asian Studies with a flexible schedule for working professionals or full-time and part-time students interested in careers in international business, state or federal government, foreign affairs, education, and more.

The Asian Studies Minor consists of 15 credits that focus on area and comparative studies. Students majoring in another academic disciplines who are interested in area studies can now earn the 15 credits for the Minor in Asian Studies online.

While the minor can be completed entirely online, a combination of online and in-class courses can be used to fulfill the requirements. There is no language requirement, but credits from language courses, study abroad, and internships may be applied. For more information, please consult an Asian Studies advisor about a full list of current course offerings that are accepted towards the minor.

The **Southern Japan Seminar** and Asian Studies are pleased to announce the publication of the fourteenth volume of the **Japan Studies Review**, an annual peer-reviewed journal.

This year's articles include: the manifestation of postmodern national identities in popular Japanese and American horror films; Itami, a rural area which has served as cultural center for *haikai* poets and for the production of sake; Asian people's Eurocentric standards of ideal beauty; Jack London's first encounter with Japan; pre- and post-war corporate finances of railroads, electric utilities, and the cotton spinning industry; the nonconventional works of women poets; and Bob Dylan's first tour of Japan and the effect that Zen Buddhism had on his

lyrics. Recent and archived copies of the *Japan Studies Review* are available in PDF format on the Asian Studies website: <http://asian.fiu.edu/jsr>.

Sponsored annually, Asian Studies and the Southern Japan Seminar held its Spring 2010 meeting in Miami on March 13. The seminar brought together scholars from the southeast United States and other regions to discuss current trends in Japanese studies. The Seminar featured a panel discussion and individual presentations. This year's meeting also highlighted the role of half a dozen graduate student discussants who participated in the panels.

The morning panel included **Yumiko Hulvey, Laura Nenzi, Gregory Smits** along with respondent Steven

Heine. There were three presentations on the role of ghosts and monsters in Japan, including case studies of aquatic monsters, focusing on the roots of the Earthquake Catfish; ghosts, visions, and prophecies in the late Tokugawa political debates; and Enchi Fumiko's 'Wandering Spirit' and its Intertextual Relationship to 'The Tale of Genji.'

The afternoon session included individual presentations by Matthew Marr, **Xuexin Liu, Scott O'Bryan, and Katsumi Sohma**. They covered a broad range of topics from the new government in Japan to the socio-economics of homelessness in Tokyo, as well as Japan as a source of environmental concerns and current issues in Japanese linguistics.

SPOTLIGHT ON PROFESSOR MATTHEW MARR



Matthew Marr joined FIU's Asian Studies Program and Department of Global and Sociocultural Studies in the fall of 2008. He teaches courses for undergraduate and graduate students. His course

"Japanese Society in Global Perspective" (undergraduate level)/"Global Japan" (graduate level) is a survey of the sociology of Japan covering topics including inequality, immigration, social movements, and popular culture in contemporary Japan. The course looks at Japanese social issues not in terms of an isolated island nation, but based on how Japan is shaped by and yet also greatly influences global society. Dr. Marr makes the class interesting by augmenting a diverse set of readings and lectures with short documentary, film and YouTube clips, and Japanese reggae and hip hop songs.

Regarding his work in the classroom he says, "I enjoy working with the diverse and energetic students at FIU, especially discussing their unique perspectives on social issues in Japan, other parts of Asia, and the US." Dr. Marr's broad research interests are inequality and poverty in Japanese and American cities. His work to date has focused on the dynamics of homelessness and day labor in Tokyo in

comparison with conditions and social policies in Los Angeles. His research has appeared in prestigious academic journals such as *Cities*, *Housing Policy Debate*, and *Urban Geography*; popular periodicals such as the *Kyoto Journal*; and in leading Japanese language journals.

This summer, Dr. Marr was in Japan doing research for his book on escaping homelessness. He spent time in Kyoto, Osaka, and Tokyo interviewing staff and persons using programs to help them obtain stable employment and housing. His research also involved conducting participant observation research in volunteer organizations while staying in districts known as *yoseba* or *doyagai* where day-laborers, persons experiencing homelessness, and welfare recipients live.

Dr. Marr was recently selected for the US-Japan Network for the Future program sponsored by the Mike and Maureen Mansfield Foundation and the Center for Global Partnership. The program brings together fifteen young scholars and researchers whose work focuses on Japan to strengthen their capacity to exert influence on today's policymakers.

Through 2011, Dr. Marr will be participating in Network meetings in Washington, D.C., Montana, and Tokyo. He hopes his participation will help him develop his capacity to share his research findings with the broader public as well as to conduct research projects that produce findings that are not just theoretically interesting to sociologists and scholars of Japan, but useful to policy makers in Japanese and American cities as they confront twenty-first century global social issues.

2009-2010 GRADUATES & STUDENT NEWS

Congratulations to this year's graduates of Asian Studies academic programs and other prominent students!

Graduate Students

This past year eight students graduated from the Asian Studies MA program, including Aziz Klebleyev, Rochel Sooklal, **Ansen Steiner**, Harriet Marin, **Catalina Jaramillo**, and **Sean Griffen**, along with James Rodgers and Masako Kubota, both of whom received honors.

Joining our M.A. program this fall, **Karen Cespedes** was the only FIU student awarded a fellowship to attend a global symposium in Taiwan at the National University of Taiwan during July 2010. Also, a current student, **Jason Ehlen** won a full scholarship to go to China in order to study Contemporary Chinese History relation to world affair at Nanjing University.

Tae Hyung Ahn, a Ph.D. student in the International Relation program completed his dissertation on N. Korean-U.S. foreign policy issues and also gained the AS Grad Certificate.

Undergraduate Students

Orlando Armada, **Reinier Hernandez**, **Mark Kennedy**, **Maria Santella**, **Giselle Sarmiento**, **Jamie Thorpe**, **Boris Escalona**, **Nicholas Roma**, **Ian Verhine**, and **Alexandra Winokur** graduated from the Asian Studies B.A. program. **Michael Sanchez** and **Frank Rodriguez** completed a second major in Asian Studies.

Students that received a Minor are: **Ricardo Barea**, **Carmen Chan**, **Yasmanix Dominguez**, **Jair Hooker**, **Amanda Lee**, **Iliyaas Mallard**, **Alexander Mejia**, **Mary Myers**, **Maria Parea**, **Mariana Restrepo**, **Anna Scharnagal**, and **Ashley Torres**.

Stephanie Cua, **Maryflor Flores**, **Michael Ledezma**, **Mary Myers**, **Orlando Armada**, **Reinier Hernandez**, **Mark Kennedy**, **Maria Santella**, **Jamie Thorpe**, **Boris Escalona**, **Frank Rodriguez**, **Michael Sanchez**, **Nicholas Roma**, **Ian Verhine**, and **Alexandra Winokur** obtained the Japanese Studies Certificate.

Joseph Keller, **Iliyaas Mallard**, and **Gisselle Sarmiento** received the Chinese Studies certificate.

Recipients of the Asian Studies Certificate are **David Copeland**, **Maryflor Flores**, **Joseph Keller**, **Mary Myers**, and **Alexandra Winokur**.

David Copeland, **Maryflor Flores**, **Maria Parea**, **Gisselle Sarmiento**, and **Alexandra Winokur** obtained the Asian Globalization and Latin America Certificate.

Awards and Scholarships

Four Asian Studies students received departmental Excellence Awards from the College of Arts and Sciences. **James Rodgers** received the Best Graduate Research award, **Masako Kubota** received the Best in Teaching/Service award. Also, **Jennifer Garcia** won an award for the Best Undergraduate Stu-

dent award, and **Ian Verhine** received the Best in Asian Languages award.

The **Fu Foundation** scholarship program helps fulfill the dream of the late **Professor Charles Wei-hsun Fu** of giving American students an opportunity to be immersed in Asian thought and culture.

Asian Studies is excited to announce the 2009-2010 recipients: **Yongesh Dongol** will be conducting research in Nepal this summer for his M.S. in environmental studies; and **Jason Ehlen** will be completing his M.A. while studying in China.

In addition, **Yuanyuan Fang** and **Maria Isabel Quevedo** participated in a summer intensive language program at Ritsumeikan University in Japan; and **Rebekah Lyew-Ayee** is studying business Chinese at Zhejiang University.

Alumni

Antonio Vega, a recent Asian Studies graduate and study abroad participant, has been accepted into the JET Programme to return to Japan to teach English.

Joshua Rivera, an Asian Studies alum, has entered Interac as an Assistant Language Teacher (ALT) in Japan.

Natili Garcia-Diaz, an alum who previously worked at the Japanese Consulate of Miami, won a graduate fellowship for research in Australia.

INTERNSHIP WITH MITCHELL WOLFSON, JR.



Jennifer Garcia, **James Rodgers**, and **Ian Verhine** took part in a prestigious opportunity with the **Mitchell Wolfson Jr. Study Centre** in Miami. Our MA students had an opportunity to intern with the Centre under the supervision of **Lea Nickless** and **Philip Gebauer**, and use their Japanese language skills to translate pre-WWII era Japanese war memorabilia that ranged from medallions and medals to books and propaganda. It was quite a challenge since many of the Japanese characters used were written in difficult script or were not familiar because they are no longer in common use. However, with their combined efforts and by pulling from many different resources, the interns were able to identify and catalog the items in time for a special exhibit the Centre mounted, entitled *Japan and the Art of War, 1863-1945*. At the opening night, the students were recognized and were able to meet and speak with the owner of the collection. "Micky" Wolfson

EVENTS CALENDAR '09 - '10

10/08/09

Spirituality and Entrepreneurship: East Asian Perspectives – Lecture by Dr. Steven Heine, co-sponsored by the Program in the Study of Spirituality and the Pino Center for Global Entrepreneurship.

10/15/09



Global Issues: Workshop on China after Tiananmen – Lecture at FIU by Dr. Kellee Tsai from John Hopkins University in conjunction with a lecture on post-Cold War eastern Europe co-sponsored by the Miami-FIU EU Center of Excellence. Afternoon and evening sessions of the events were held.

10/23/09

Why the Dalai Lama Matters – Lecture at FIU by Dr. **Robert Thurman** from Colombia University in conjunction with an exhibit of Tibetan Buddhist art and performances.

11/09/09

Japan and the Art of War 1863-1945 – An Exhibit of modern Japanese Military Art and Artifacts from the **Mitchell Wolfson, Jr. Study Centre**.

11/15/09

Asian Studies Graduate & Undergraduate Essay Competition won by MA student Jason Ehlen.

01/13/10

Study Abroad Fair – From the Office of Education Abroad featured exhibits on Asian programs..

01/20/10

Spirituality and Entrepreneurship: Indian Perspectives – Lecture presented at FIU by **Dr. Dipak Jain** from Northwestern University.

01/31/10

InterSpiritual Wisdom: Shared Thoughts of Jewish, Muslim, and Buddhist Meditation – Lecture at FIU with speakers **Ed Bastian, Camille Helminky, Kabir Helminsky, and Rabbi Rami Shapiro**.

02/22/10

The Spirituality of Indian Music – Lecture given at FIU by Mr. **Peter Lavezzoli**, Independent Scholar.

02/24/09

Spirituality and Entrepreneurship Contemporary Perspectives – Lecture at FIU by **Patricia Aburdene**.

02/24/09

Japan Culture Day – Sponsored by the Japan Club and held at the GC pit with a variety of performances and demonstrations.



03/13/10

Southern Japan Seminar – Panels on history, education, entertainment, and culture in Japan. Speakers: Dr. John Tucker, Dr. Gregory Smits, Dr. Laura Nenzi, Dr. Scott O'Bryan, Dr. Matthew Marr, Dr. Xuexin Liu, Dr. Katsumi Sohma. The seminar also included Asian Studies Graduate Student discussants.

03/36/10

"Will China Rise Peacefully?" – lecture by **Dr. John Mearscheimer** of the U of Chicago, who met with graduate students from Asian Studies and various departments.

04/04/10

Chinese Language Speech Contest – an annual competition held on campus for diverse students from FIU and area schools.

04/17/10

Japanese Language Speech & Skit Contest with categories for varying levels of ability drawing on students from both FIU and in the K-12 schools of South Florida.

04/14/10

Asian Studies Career Workshop – Featuring several alumni who have had post-degree success including Wendy Lo, M.A. (Adult Education Coordinator, Morikami Museum); Aziz Klebleyev, M.A. (a Teaching Assistant in doctoral program at FIU in Public Administration); and Natili Garcia-Diaz, B.A. (P.R. Liaison, Japanese Consulate of Miami).

Thanks to the following co-sponsoring organizations including departments of Global and Sociocultural Studies, History, Politics and International Relations, and Religious Studies, in addition to the Program for the Study of Spirituality, among others; and a variety of community groups including the Association of Florida Teachers of Japanese, Chinese Language Teachers' Association, Consulate General of Japan in Miami, Japan Foundation, Morikami Museum, and Southern Japan Seminar. Also, be sure to check out the Events Calendar on our website for upcoming events like the Asian Movie Club and the Chinese Club Movie Nights!

All events are free and open to the public.

Japan Studies Review Volume XIV

Now Available

View the PDF version online at asian.fiu.edu/jsr or contact the office for hard copy information.

Upcoming Events

August 30th

Ambassador of Japan Visit to FIU

MARC Pavilion, 2:00 PM

October 19th

Symposium on Japan-Germany Postwar

Relations with the EU Center

GL 220, 1:00-2:30 PM

November 10th

"The Neuroscience of Spirituality and the Spirituality of Neuroscience" - Lecture by Prof Stephen Kaplan, Manhattan College

Study Abroad

SUMMER PROGRAMS

Summer Intensive Language:

Ritsumeikan Univ. in Kyoto, Japan

Zhejiang Univ. in Hangzhou, China

SEMESTER EXCHANGE

JAPAN:

Kansai Gaidai University

Kanda University of International St.

Ritsumeikan University

CHINA:

Beijing Language & Culture University

Zhejiang University

Student Clubs

ANYTHING GOES ANIME
(JAPANESE ANIMATION CLUB)

www.fiu.edu/~aganime

ASIAN STUDENTS UNION

www.fiu.edu/~asu

CHINESE CLUB

fiuchinese@gmail.com

JAPAN CLUB

japanclubfiu@gmail.com

SHORINJI KEMPO

www.fiu.edu/~shorinji

ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAMS

Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies

Master of Arts in Asian Studies

Minor in Asian Studies

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS

Graduate Certificate in Asian Globalization

Graduate Certificate in Asian Studies

Asian Studies Certificate

Japanese Studies Certificate

Chinese Studies Certificate

Asian Globalization and Latin America Certificate

South and Southeast Asia Regional Studies

FALL 2010

SPECIAL UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

ASN 3410 Intro to East Asia (Online)*

ASH 3440 History of Japan

ASN 3990 Asia Through Film (Online)

GRADUATE/UNDERGRADUATE

ASN 5050 ASN 4510 Research Methods in Asian Studies

SYD 4451/ASN 5932 Japanese Society in Global Perspectives

*ASN 3410, which is going to be regularly offered in the day and evening as well as online, is **now a requirement for the Asian Studies Major and Minor degree programs** since it serves as an ideal introductory survey. It also fulfills the newly designated FIU requirement for both Asian Studies and non-Asian Studies students to take courses that demonstrate proficiency in **Global Learning**.

ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM

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