

Asian Studies Program Newsletter



UVM, COLLEGE OF ARTS AND SCIENCES

Spring 2015



Inside this issue:

STUDENT ADVENTURES	2-8
MENGLING NI	
MARQUITA WILLIAMS	
GABI GRINBERG	
AARON KANE	
HANNAH PIKE	
2014 PROGRAM EVENTS	9-11
FACULTY NEWS	12

History Department professor and Asian Studies Program faculty member, Abby McGowan (third from right) and the students on her summer study tour in Nepal. Asian Studies major Mengling Ni (first on left) has a feature in the Student Adventures section of the newsletter.



From the Program Director: The Asian Studies Program at UVM had another fabulous year of exciting campus events in 2014, and our students continued to enrich their understanding of the Asian world through study abroad adventures across the region. This latest edition of our program newsletter offers a colorful glimpse of these many terrific opportunities for learning about the cultures of the Asian world in the College of Arts and Sciences at UVM. Enjoy! — Prof. Erik Esselstrom



Above: Asian Studies major Hannah Pike snapped this lovely shot of Tokyo's cherry blossoms in full bloom.

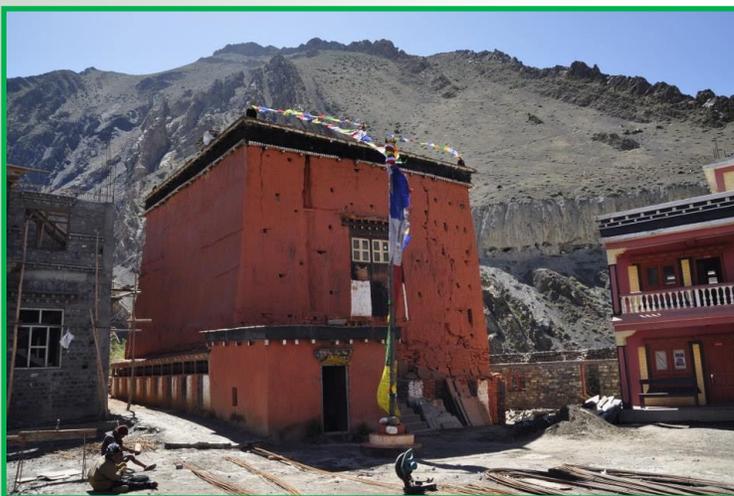


Left: Students enjoy Japanese drums at workshop with Burlington Taiko sensei Stuart Paton

Student Adventures in Asia



My name is Mengling Ni and I am a senior at UVM with a major in Asian Studies. Last summer, I joined professor Abby McGowan for her summer travel study course *Nepal: Changing Communities*. It was a wonderful and unforgettable experience! We visited monasteries, local schools, major cities, and small villages. Trekking in Mustang was challenging for me because I had a little altitude sickness, but luckily we had horses to help us finish the trip. I learned so much about Nepali history, culture and politics, and traveling in the region helped me to have a deeper understanding of Nepal. We also had two Nepali experts and many local guides who provided us more perspectives on this beautiful country. I also had the chance to know my classmates better and become great friends with everyone on the trip, creating many precious memories along the way. And, we had many chances to make friends with local people, who were very friendly, and I still keep in touch with some of them. I have to say that taking this course was definitely one of the greatest experiences in my college life. I learned so many unforgettable life lessons in Nepal, and I will hope to return there again in the near future!



Student Adventures in Asia



More photos from Mengling Ni's trip to Nepal in summer 2014



Student Adventures in Asia

Marquita Williams spent the Fall 2014 semester at Ewha Women's University in Seoul, South Korea.

With my Korean ceramics 선생님 (teacher)

Ready to see one of the most intense (and FREE) K-pop concerts ever during the Incheon Sky Festival 2014!



"북촌 (Bukchon village) offered an amazing view into a traditional style Korean village."



"비빔 냉면 is delicious!"

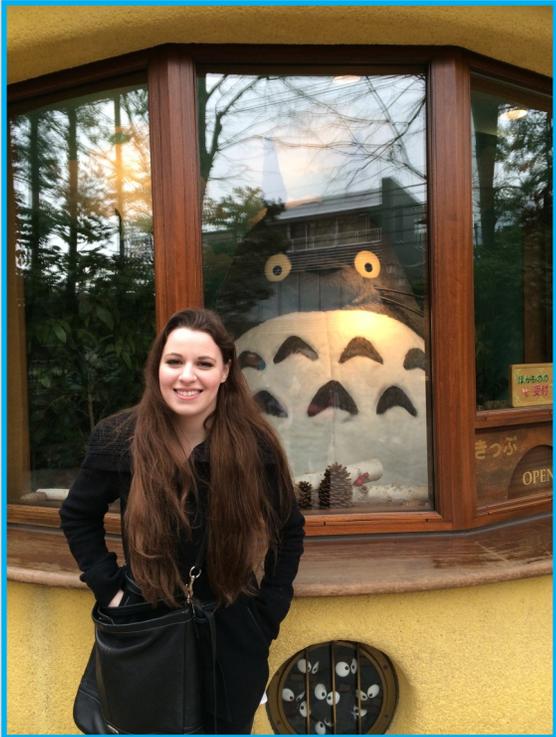


Visiting 인사동 (Insadong) with my buddy!



"My roommate and I visiting one of the MANY cat cafes in South Korea!"

Student Adventures in Asia



With Totoro at the Studio Ghibli Museum in Mitaka

Gabi Grinberg spent the 2013-14 academic year at Toyo University in Tokyo and she shared these images from her time in Japan.



Feeding the sacred deer at Nara Park just south of Kyoto.



Cherry blossom season at Ueno Park in Tokyo



Having fun at Maruyama Park in Kyoto

Student Adventures in Asia

A field report from Aaron Kane who is spending the 2014-15 academic year in Tokyo at Aoyama Gakuin University:



The Kegon Waterfall in Tochigi, north of Tokyo. This was my first trip outside of Tokyo, and I visited the waterfall, lake Chuzenji, and the Nikko-Toshogu shrine.



Myself, Charlie Colfer, and Sean Terry with new friends at a kimono try-on event in Tokyo. This was a great cultural experience, and we were able to learn about Japanese traditions as well.



The golden pavilion at the Kinkakuji Temple in Kyoto. I visited Kyoto during the height of the autumn leaf-viewing season, and it was spectacularly beautiful.

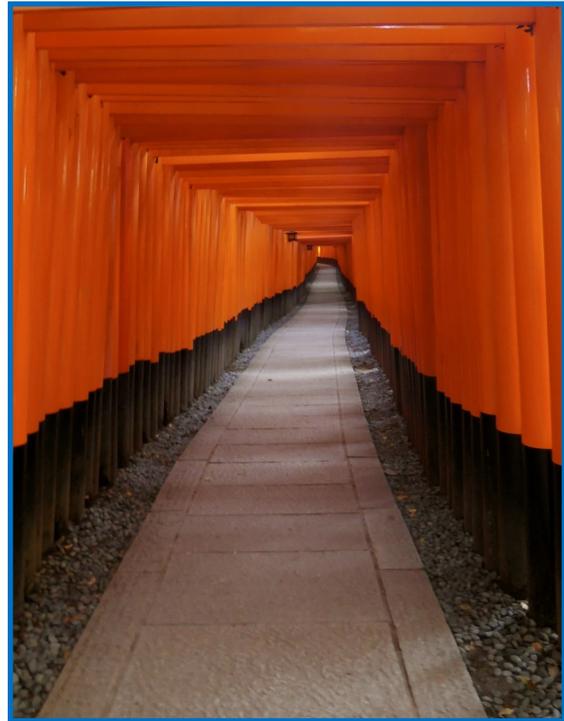


The Aoyama Gakuin School Festival "Aosai". I was part of a group that made and sold sundubu, a kind of spicy Korean soup, during the three-day festival.

Student Adventures in Asia



Hannah Pike, who spent the 2013-14 academic year in Japan, shared these images from her time at Kansai Gaidai University near Osaka.



Student Adventures in Asia



More images from Hannah Pike's year in Japan



Program Events in 2014

A wide variety of events were organized, funded or co-sponsored by the Asian Studies Program and its faculty members throughout the year.

The UVM Claire M. Lintilhac Seminar on Asian Studies presents



Vanishing Voices: The Case for Collaborative Language Documentation

by Mark Turin, Program Director, Yale Himalaya Initiative, Associate Research Scientist, South Asian Studies Council, Yale University

SPECTACLE AND THE CITY:

The geopolitics of bread and circuses in Central Asia



NATALIE KOCH, PhD

Assistant Professor, Department of Geography
Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs
Syracuse University



Friday, April 4, 2014
11:45 AM - 12:35 PM - 103 Rowell

Sponsored by the Department of Geography and the Asian Studies Program at UVM

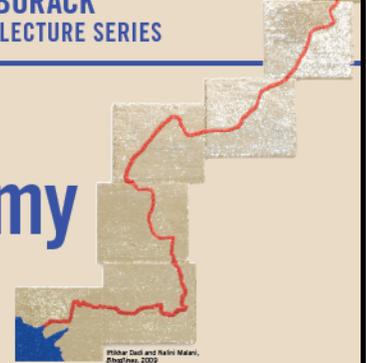


Professor Natalie Koch from Syracuse University

THE UNIVERSITY OF VERMONT
DAN AND CAROLE BURACK
PRESIDENT'S DISTINGUISHED LECTURE SERIES

Sumathi Ramaswamy

Professor of History and International Comparative Studies, Duke University



ART ON THE LINE:
CARTOGRAPHY & CREATIVITY
IN A DIVIDED WORLD

The Challenges Facing Contemporary Tibetan Artists



WEDNESDAY
February 12 6:00pm



with
FRANK J. KOROM
Professor of Religion and Anthropology
Boston University

Unlike in Western art, where innovation and creativity have been the guiding points for striving artists, Tibetans traditionally value copying and sameness, and innovation is seen as deviation. This proves challenging for contemporary Tibetan artists who wish to break out of the traditional mode to find self-expression in their artistic work. This talk will cover the challenges and prospects that this dilemma raises.

Co-sponsored by UVM Asian Studies Program and Department of Religion

Program Events in 2014

UVM Asian Studies Program Presents:

JAPAN SINCE 3/11



Speakers:

Eric Jonston, Deputy Editor at The Japan Times Osaka, Japan

Jason Bartashius (St. Michael's graduate),
Lecturer of Japanese Religions,
works for the Center for Japanese Filipino Families

4:00-5:30, THURSDAY, MARCH 13TH
LAFAYETTE HALL L207



The Japan Times Osaka Deputy Editor, Eric Jonston



TAIKO WORKSHOP

with Burlington Taiko

● Time: Tuesday, April 15, 2014

7:30-9:30 pm

● Place: L/L Fireplace Lounge

Limited to first 30 people

To sign-up, contact Kyle Ikeda

kiked@uvm.edu

Sponsored by
Global Village, UVM Asian Studies,
and Japanese House Program

太鼓



Program Events in 2014



Above: More photos from the workshop on Japanese drumming with taiko master Stuart Paton from Burlington Taiko.



The UVM Asian Studies Program presents

七人の侍
Seven Samurai (1954)

Directed by
黒澤 明
Kurosawa Akira

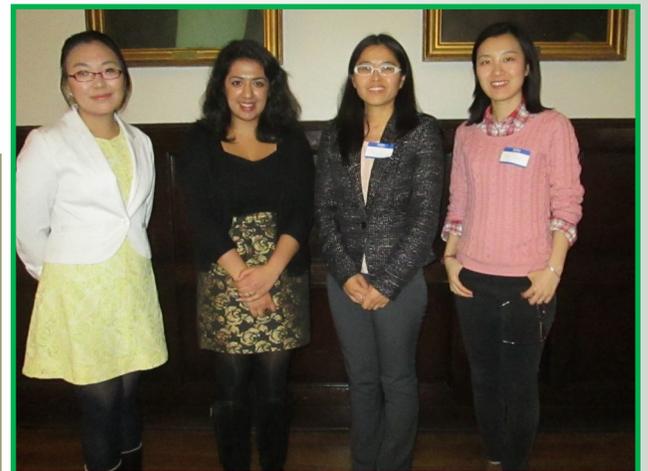



Tuesday, March 25
Fleming Museum 101
6:00 – 10:00 PM

Left: Asian Studies Movie Night event at which students devoured a dozen pizzas while enjoying Kurosawa's 1954 masterpiece *Seven Samurai*.

With a travel award from the Asian Studies Program, Alisha Sud took part in a fascinating conference at the University of Pennsylvania. Alisha writes:

“The Penn Symposium on Contemporary China is an annual event organized by undergraduates through the University of Pennsylvania Center for the Study of Contemporary China. I'm thrilled to have had the opportunity to attend an event where distinguished presenters from the business, foreign affairs, civil society, and academic sectors spoke about Sino-U.S. relations. Top graduate students from across the U.S. also presented their research on contemporary issues facing China and its role in the world. Having spent the Fall 2013 semester in Kunming, China, and witnessing first hand what rapid technological and economic development China's urban centers are currently going through, I was especially interested to learn about the implications of China's rise as world leader in economic growth and political influence.”



Alisha Sud (second from left) with Chinese graduate students at the Penn Symposium on Contemporary China

Asian Studies Program Faculty News

The Asian Studies Program recently made its second round of awards from the **Seybolt Faculty Fund in Asian Studies**, an endowment created in 2013 in memory of our kind friend, colleague and mentor of many years, Peter J. Seybolt. With their awards Associate Professor of History Abigail McGowan and Associate Professor of Anthropology Jonah Steinberg will both travel to India to carry out research activity, while Associate Professor of Religion Thomas Borchert will travel to China in support of his current project.



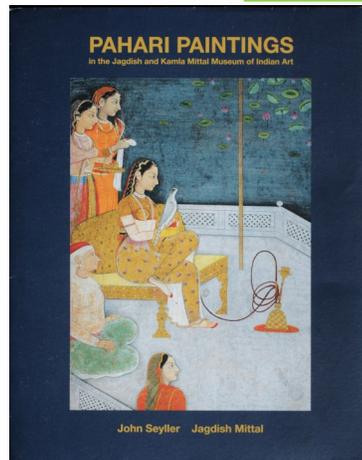
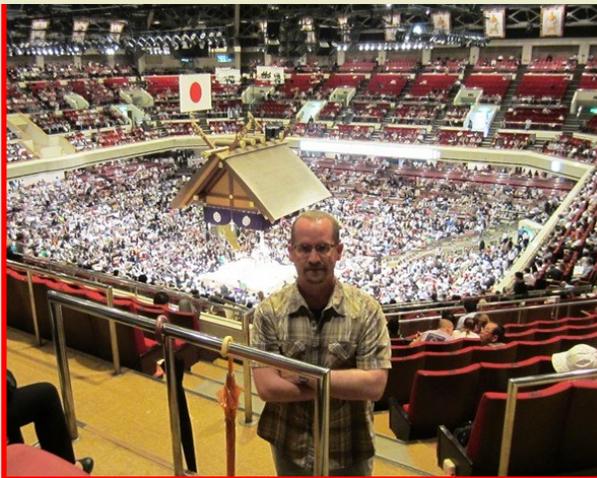
Assistant Professor of Geography Pablo Bose completed *Urban Development in India: Global Indians in the Remaking of Kolkata* for the Routledge Series on Urban South Asia.



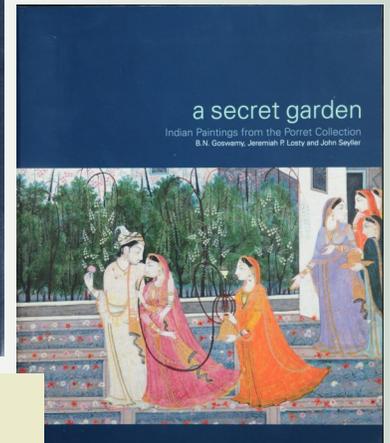
Associate Professor of Anthropology Jeanne Shea spoke in the Fei Hsiao-T'ung Lecture Series at Tsinghua University in Beijing.



As seems to have become his habit, Associate Professor of History Erik Esselstrom enjoyed the May sumo tournament in Tokyo while on a research trip to Japan.



Professor of Art History John Seyller published two new volumes in connection with his work on Indian painting.



The Asian Studies Program
Dr. Erik W. Esselstrom, Director
 UVM Department of History
eesselst@uvm.edu

Program Administrator: **Mary Lou Shea**
 Global and Regional Studies Program
 94 University Place, Old Mill A506
global@uvm.edu

