New Center Director: Kathryn Hansen

We are pleased to welcome Professor Kathryn Hansen as the new Director of the Center for Asian Studies. Hansen is a scholar of modern South Asian literary and cultural studies, A.B. Harvard/Radcliffe, and M.A., Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley. She specializes in the history of theatrical practices in South Asia; performance and gender; and diaspora, ethnicity, and immigration. Hansen comes to Texas most recently from Rutgers University, where she taught in the Department of Religion. She has also taught at Columbia University, the University of Chicago, and the University of British Columbia. In the areas of administration and fundraising, she brings a wealth of experience: she was a consultant with National Grants and Fellowships and Humanities Administrator at the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Dr. Hansen’s presence enhances the intellectual and teaching mission of the Asian Studies Center and Department. The interdisciplinary nature of her work as well as her administrative experience will help to advance the place of Asian Studies in the university and public communities. Her scholarship includes literary studies and translations as well as a monograph, Grounds for Play: The Nantanki Theatre of North India, which won the prestigious Coomaraswamy Prize for the best book in South Asian Studies in 1994.

Dr. Hansen’s current work focuses on the Parsi theatre in Bombay and its relationship to the evolution of Indian film, showing the western and the indigenous sources of inspiration behind these performance media. She is concerned not only with texts but with the social context of contemporary Indian literature and popular culture. As her focus expands from text to performance, she is opening up exciting new perspectives not only on popular culture but more generally on gender, race, and identity formation in South Asia.

Her interest in crossing disciplines as well as meshing social science and humanities concerns is an important asset for further developing the various components of the Center. Her long experience with language training and literature will also support the goals of the Center in demonstrating the important place of foreign language training in the university’s mission.

Now at the University of Texas, as both teacher and administrator, she has many plans and aspirations for her new position as director. I spoke with her just before the beginning of the semester.

PA: Your early work was on urban and rural issues in the modern Hindi novel and short story. From there, you have followed a thread, through folklore and song, into performance. What direction do you plan to pursue in your future research?

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Faculty News
Student News

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Special Symposium: Ashutosh Varshney


Participants included non-specialist faculty from other universities. The Center’s Outreach program was happy to sponsor these professors, who had also attended the faculty workshop in January, 2000, “Infusing India into the Undergraduate Curriculum.”

Varshney’s book examines the relationship between the structure of civic life and the presence of ethnic or communal violence in India. In case studies of six Indian cities—three with traditions of communal violence and three that have been peaceful—he finds that higher levels of civic engagement that cut across ethnic lines promote peace. Vigorous associational life, if interethic, acts as a serious constraint on the polarizing strategies of elites seeking to promote communal strife. Varshney’s book will be published by Yale University Press in the spring 2001.

Graduate Students Study Abroad

During the summer of 2000, two South Asia graduate students won fellowships to study abroad. Laura Brueck went to Landour to study Hindi on a Title VI FLAS Fellowship; Gardner Harris studied Tamil in Madurai on an AIIS Fellowship. Here are their accounts of their experiences.

**Laura Brueck**

My first summer in India was filled with new experiences: new languages and new people and places certainly, but also, on the most basic level, new noises, new smells, and many many new things to look at. It was my first time in India, and I was anxious to finally visit the country which I have chosen to make the nexus of my academic explorations, was there to just check it out as much as I was there to study language.

I left for India at the end of May and headed straight up to the Landour Language School in Mussoorie, Uttar Pradesh. There, for the next eight weeks, I strengthened my language skills, by means of a combined regimen of grammar, reading, and conversation courses with tutors. At first hesitant and unsure but gradually becoming more confident, I exercised what I was learning at school in the bazaar, with rickshaw drivers, shopkeepers, tailors, and the numerous people on the street who wondered how a young American woman could possibly be responding to them in Hindi.

Though classes at the Landour School kept me focused and in line with the exigencies of Hindi instruction at UT, my language learning certainly grew the most from adventures in travel and daily life. I got away from the relatively protected mountain resort of Mussoorie whenever I could, certainly not to flee my gorgeous Himalayan surroundings or cool temperatures, but to find out what else was out there down below the hills. My travels included various meanderings around the Punjab and Rajasthan, as well as closer destinations including Rishikesh and Chandigarh. Perhaps one of my favorite experiences this summer was waking up before dawn in Rishikesh and sitting quietly on the ghats near the Ganges. I simply watched as the city woke up and families made their way to the river to immerse themselves in its waters and send small dawn offerings of incense and flowers in small lotus leaf bowls to follow the current downstream.

But amidst all of this newness, I was buoyed by the familiarity of my friends and colleagues at UT. I studied and traveled with a graduate student from the Ethnomusicology Department, and kept in close email contact with three other Asian Studies students, scattered variously in Pune, Tiruwananthapuram, and Madurai. I also came home from class one day to find staying in the apartment next to mine Sarah Green, a Ph.D. candidate in Asian Studies. Sweltering while conducting research in Banaras, she decided to escape to the cool climate of the mountains for a few days, bringing with her a friend visiting from Prague, also a student at UT, in the Slavic Languages Department. Certainly UT is a very large institution, but so is India a large country, and it was remarkable to run into or keep in contact with so many students from Texas. I enjoyed and benefited from sharing my experiences as they happened with all of these people, as well as discussing with them the many
social and cultural questions that grew out of my time in India this summer.

Gardner Harris

My time spent in India was a period of growth, not only for my linguistic abilities and responsibilities as a student, but in my personal life. I arrived in India for the first time in early June, and every expectation I had for India seemed impossible. I was heading to Madurai, Tamil Nadu, to participate in a Tamil language program for 10 weeks with only textual knowledge and soon realized that without those familiar elements of everyday life, I would be doing more than just learning a language.

I arrived in Madurai to hear for the first time Tamil being spoken at a very rapid pace, which was a daunting experience. Over the course of the 10 weeks I was in Madurai, my ability to comprehend what was being said increased considerably. A wonderful experience came the first time I understood a string of sentences being spoken. I could at that moment perceive my development as a language student: I had come to the first plateau of comprehension and to myself thanked all of the teachers who had worked with me over the past year.

Shortly after my arrival in Madurai, I arrived at my house and met the family with whom I lived for the summer. My house was a very interesting and far walk from the school I was attending, so I got a bike. I soon realized that the bell that was attached to the handlebars was an integral aspect to the operation of the cycle because it somehow kept the operator safe. I have never chimed a bell more often in my life nor have I had bells chimed as often at me. On one level, it was a very euphonic experience.

I quickly became well acquainted with the teenage boy who lived below me. He and a group of his friends would come to my flat quite frequently. They would ask me questions about the United States and I would ask them questions about India. Frequently the conversation would drift to the topic of love, the movie ‘Titanic,’ cricket, family or history. I was thrilled when I discovered that they were very interested in aiding me in my studies. They would answer questions I had about Tamil and in turn I answered questions they had about English.

One of the more memorable events took place during a weekend in mid-July. I met two fellow students in Hampi, Karnataka, and we spent two days touring the ruins of the Vijayanagar Dynasty. The ruins were replete with elephant stables, baths, temples, sentry posts, palaces, and the list goes on. It was also during this weekend that my friends and I attracted the attention of the local water buffaloes and on several occasions were required to take evasive action in order to avoid the aggressively curious ones.

Much of what I learned while I was in India is difficult to explain. While I was there to immerse myself in the Tamil language, most of what I gained was on a personal level. This knowledge came from talking to people on trains, getting to know the shopkeepers, talking with the children on my block, traveling to different cities and villages, and just observing the ins and outs of daily life. I still have many questions and look forward to asking them the next time I am in India.

New Asian Studies Courses

We are pleased to introduce several new Asian Studies culture courses that were created this year.

“Rebellion and Popular Protest in 20th-Century China” by Margherita Zanasi

The goal of the course is to understand the relationship between state and society in the People’s Republic of China, the foundation of the present authoritarian regime, and the nature of Chinese pro-democracy movements. The course focuses on major political uprisings and intellectual protests as well as other forms of popular protest and resistance expressed in daily social activities, the arts, and the media.

“The World of Japanese Animation” by Susan Napier

This course examines Japanese animation, a medium that is both an important art form and an emerging global phenomenon. It looks first at animation in general, then at how anime (as it is called) developed in post-war Japan. The main body of the course is a thematics of Japanese animation revolving around themes of apocalypse, the body and technology. It also examines anime in relation to Western animation and in terms of both its Japanese and Western audiences.

“Country, City: 1990 Britain/India” by Michael Charlesworth

This course will be offered in the Department of Art and Art History.
On May 5, 2000, the China Studies Endowment sponsored a student conference on women’s studies. The conference was aimed at creating a forum for discussion of issues related to gender and sexuality for students who had participated in any one of three classes during the spring 2000 semester. The classes were Margherita Zanasi’s "Women and Gender in China," Mary Neuburger’s “Women of Eastern Europe,” and Martha Selby's “Gender, Sexuality, and the Family in Indian Religions and Cultures.”

Three students from each class presented research papers they had completed during the semester. The other students participated in a lively discussion on issues raised by the papers. The conference was very successful as the students found much to compare. Each class had done readings on general theory in women's studies but had also focused on a specific geographical area. They were thus able to expand their understanding of similarities and diversities in the experiences of women from different economic, social, and cultural backgrounds.

This is the second year the conference has been held and we plan to continue in the future. Dawn McKinney, a student participant, contributed the following account of the conference.

Instead of the traditional end of the semester final exam, last spring three women’s studies courses joined together to present papers and discuss women’s issues in China, India, and Eastern Europe. The subject of my presentation was the Chinese Communist government’s attempts at controlling women’s bodies through their “one-child” birth planning campaign.

My contention was that the aim of this government initiative, to limit explosive population growth by restricting married couples to only one child, is in direct opposition to traditional Chinese views of the family, which value multiple children, especially sons, to carry on the ancestral line. This in turn puts women in the middle of a lose/lose situation by virtue of their reproductive capacity as females. On the one hand, they have the government telling them to do their duty for the good of China by having only one child, and on the other they have the pressures of their families who expect them to fulfill their duties as good and proper wives by producing many sons to carry on the family line.

A result of this tension is an increasing reduction in the worth of the female gender as evidenced by the number of female babies abandoned and/or denied life so that couples remain childless and can then try for a boy as their “one” child. This, combined with the methods and rigor of enforcement of the one-child policy, produces a situation where the Chinese Communist State has again made women’s bodies the stage on which national politics are played out. Under the one-child policy, Chinese women are continually denied autonomy and any choice regarding the control of their fertility; instead, their basic human rights are sacrificed for the state’s abstract notion of that which is good for the Chinese nation as a whole.

My impression of the seminar as a whole was favorable. I enjoyed the presentations and the chance to discuss women’s issues in countries other than the United States. Although the meeting went much longer than planned, it still seemed that there was not enough time to discuss each group of presentations. It seemed to me that nearly everyone was willing to pose a question or state a view or opinion, and it was encouraging to see such eagerness to speak among students, most of whom had only just met an hour or two before. Another aspect which I appreciated about the meeting, was the input and interaction between the three professors, who were more than willing to jump in and clarify particular points or speed the discussion along when needed.

Most of what I took away from this experience was the impression that while women around the world may face the same issues, the forms their struggles take can vary. This was particularly striking to me in the area of fertility and reproduction. For example, while in China women struggle against the government’s restrictions on reproduction, women in Communist-controlled Romania had to deal with the opposite situation. They had a government telling them that birth control and family planning were bad for the nation and to be good citizens they should have as many babies as possible to allow the country to increase in power and prestige. These policies are polar opposites, and yet both are kinds of government manipulation of women’s fertility for political gain, and both disregard the most important aspect, the women themselves.
The 1999-2000 South Asia Seminar Series was titled “South Indian Studies in the 21st Century.” The theme was designed to celebrate the increasing presence of South Indian languages in the Asian Studies Program at the University of Texas by offering lectures by scholars whose areas of research focus on linguistic, social, literary, and cultural aspects of South Indian society from a multitude of disciplines, methodologies, and historical periods. Many of the speakers also had long associations with the late Dr. S. S. Janaki (1929-1999); one of the purposes of this seminar was to honor her memory. During the fall semester, Leslie Orr (Concordia University, Montreal) presented a paper titled “Garlands, Lamps, and Drums: Temple Worship and Medieval South Indian Society;” Ginette Ishimatsu (University of Denver) spoke on “Politics, Pûjâs, and Priests: The Problem of Religious Reform in Southern India;” Patrick Olivelle (UT) presented a paper titled “From the Rgveda to Asoka: A Brief History of Dharma;” and Richard H. Davis (Bard College) talked about his “Reflections on a Project with Dr. Janaki.” In the spring, Martha Ann Selby (UT) presented a lecture titled “On Feeling and Suggestion: Classical Tamil Discourse on ‘Sanskrit’ Aesthetic Experience;” Cynthia Talbot (UT) spoke on “Making Sense of the Past: Ana-chronisms of Place in Historical Memory;” Steven Hopkins (Swarthmore College) gave a paper titled “A Lion Among Poets and Philosophers: Sanskrit and the Cosmopolitan Vernacular in 14th Century South India;” Indira Peterson (Mt. Holyoke College) spoke on “Temples, Brahmans, and Courtesans: Sanskrit Literature from 18th Century South India;” and Diane Paul Mines presented a paper titled “Hindu Nationalism, Public Life in Early Twentieth-Century Chengdu.”

Since a number of Japan-related faculty members were on leave in the fall of 1999, the Japan Seminar series was lighter than usual. We were, however, pleased to host a session by our own Robert Khan, who spoke on little-known Heian court tales. Our seminar schedule resumed full swing during the spring of 2000. We began the semester with lectures by Gustav Heldt (Ph.D candidate, Department of East Asian Languages and Culture at Columbia University) on the Tale of Genji, and, once again, by Robert Khan, who treated us to a titillating lecture on humor in Japanese court tales. We were also honored to host two distinguished outside speakers. In March, Sheldon Garon (Department of History, Princeton University) delivered a lecture on modern Japanese savings campaigns. Haruo Shirane (Department of East Asian Languages and Culture, Columbia University) spoke the following month on Edo poetry. Both lectures were attended by students and faculty members from throughout the Center for Asian Studies.

Participation and open discussion were the hallmarks of the 1999-2000 China Seminar. Students, faculty, and members of the Austin community packed the Meyerson Conference Room to hear Dai Jinhua (Beijing University), a leading Chinese feminist, film scholar, and cultural observer speak on “China’s Cultural Landscape in the 1990s.” Marshall MacArthur (Rice University), UT Ph.D. in Chinese Language and Literature 1999, did yeoman’s service as interpreter. On the next day Professor Dai was joined by Center faculty member Yvonne Chang (UT) along with graduate students Cindy Chan and Phoenix Ying for a roundtable discussion on literature and film in the PRC and Taiwan. The discussion was transcribed, translated into English, and published on the web page of the Transnational China Project of the Baker Institute, Rice University. In March, Di Wang (Texas A&M University) spoke on “The Idle and the Busy: Teahouses and Public Life in Early Twentieth-Century Chengdu.” The seminar series concluded with a roundtable discussion, “Taiwan’s Election.” The roundtable included presentations by Center faculty member Gordon Bennett (UT), Charles Chen (Director, Information Division, Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Houston), and visiting professor Ross Terrill (Harvard), followed by a lively, open discussion.
Katha Conference: Writing from India

Three acclaimed writers from India visited the Center for Asian Studies on October 6th and 7th, 2000. **C. S. Lakshmi, M. T. Vasudevan Nair, and Sunil Gangopadhyay** participated in a two-day conference on translation titled “One River, Many Streams: Writing from India 2000,” organized by Center faculty member **Martha Ann Selby**.

The three writers are renowned within their own regions of India as well as abroad. **C. S. Lakshmi** writes in Tamil under the pen name “Ambai.” Her emotionally complex short stories reflect facets of womanly experience in daily life. **A Purple Sea**, an anthology of her work in English, appeared in 1992. In 1984, Lakshmi published an acclaimed critical work, **The Face Behind the Mask**, a study of images of women in modern Tamil fiction. She directs SPARROW, a Sound and Picture Archives for Research on Women, based in Bombay.

**M. T. Vasudevan Nair** is acknowledged as one of India’s outstanding living writers. He has published seventeen volumes of short stories, eight novels, and a play, as well as nine other books of criticism, travelogues, and stories for children. In 1996, he received the Jnanpith Award, India’s highest literary honor. Nair is also an award-winning filmmaker and director. He writes in Malayalam, and has won several prizes from the Kerala Literary Academy.

**Sunil Gangopadhyay** is a prolific poet, journalist, novelist, scriptwriter, and dramatist. He writes in Bengali on many diverse themes, from intense romantic love to political and religious violence. His fiction was transformed for the screen by the well-known directors Satyajit Ray and Mrinal Sen. Gangopadhyay won the 1985 Sahitya Akademi Award for his novel **Sei Samay**.

The Center also hosted two special invited guests, **Norman Cutler** (University of Chicago) and **Suchitra Samanta** (Hollins University). **Geeta Dharmarajan**, Executive Director of Outreach Asia, joined the three other National Resource Centers at the University of Texas at Austin to cosponsor this year’s institute for pre-college educators: “Faith, Culture and Identity: Teaching About Religion Today.”

The 2000 Summer Institute attracted 30 teachers from all over Texas. The five-day workshop covered issues dealing with the interplay between religion, culture, politics, and national identity. Faculty members from UT and other institutions gave short lectures in order to provide new and broader information on these sometimes difficult and sensitive topics, and responded to questions from the participants.

One of the high points of the workshop was a field trip to three sites of worship in the Austin area: Barsana Dham, a Hindu temple; the Islamic Center of Greater Austin; and the International Buddhist Progress Society’s new temple.

At each facility, participants got the chance to hear presentations by guest speakers, ask questions, and see first hand the places and practices of worship.

Immediately following the institute, Outreach Asia held a one-day workshop in conjunction with it. “Using Narrative to Teach about Asian Religions: Three Views” explored ancient religious literary texts and traditions from India, China, and Japan.
College Faculty Workshops

Outreach also sponsored a very successful pair of workshops for college faculty. In January, “Infusing India into the Undergraduate Curriculum II” offered a broad overview of many aspects of Indian study, with UT professors speaking on historical, political, gender, literary, and art historical issues. The thirty-two participants came from seven different states and a variety of backgrounds, including political science, literature, history, religious studies, and social science.

In April, Outreach was able to invite a few of these participants back again, for a workshop held in conjunction with a scholarly symposium, “Ethnic Conflict and Civic Life: Hindus and Muslims in India,” a review symposium for the forthcoming book by Ashutosh Varshney (see story p.2). For these participants the symposium was preceded by a seminar-style lecture and discussion introducing them to the issues raised in Varshney’s book, and followed by a question and answer session with one of the distinguished guests of the symposium.

The success and popularity of the Center’s college faculty workshops can be gauged by the fact that participants have been inspired to create India workshops on their own campuses using UT as a model. Amarillo College, of Amarillo, Texas; Colorado College, Colorado Springs, Colorado; and the University of North Carolina at Asheville, North Carolina, have all hosted their own India workshops. UT professors who presented at Outreach’s workshops were invited to speak at these workshops also.

World 2000 Conference on Teaching World History and World Geography

“Definitely not a Eurocentric conference. World 2000 had a variety of panels that opened up world history to truly global proportions.”

– Gail Minault

Both the Center and Department participated in this conference for secondary and college educators, at which distinguished faculty from UT and all over the country presented papers. South Asia Title VI funded Gail Minault’s panel on South Asia in World History; the Department’s Edward Rhoads organized a panel, “East Asia: What and Where Is It?”

Michael Fisher of Oberlin College, Ohio, had this to say about his participation in World 2000:

“The conference brought together scholars and educators at the university, college, and secondary school levels in an attempt to integrate world history into their curricula. Professor Gail Minault kindly invited me to participate in a panel on South Asia in World History by presenting a paper on ‘South Asians and the Making of European Empires: India and Abroad.’

“Composing such a paper directed me productively to thinking about South Asia within larger social, cultural, political, and economic arenas, especially for my own students and scholarly research. Listening to the other papers on the panel, presented by Richard Eaton and John Richards, enhanced my understanding of these issues with respect to South Asian history during earlier periods, and from different perspectives.

“Interacting with teachers from other institutions, including high school teachers engaged with adding World History to their repertoire in light of the coming Advanced Placement examination in this field, showed the challenges inherent in such improvements in the curriculum. Thus, contributing to this panel, and taking part in this conference, proved highly valuable in a number of ways.”

Other Outreach Activities

Outreach is sponsoring part of the development of an Asian Teaching Basket. Created by World of Education, the basket is a learning tool for junior high and high school levels that combines hands-on experience with material artifacts from Asia, with information cards and a resource guide that allow teachers to lead students in learning about both the local and the larger social, historical, and political significance of each item. This summer Title VI funding enabled graduate student Karline McLain to do primary research for the written materials that will supplement the artifacts.
After doing my book on folk theatre, I am now working on an urban theatre, the Parsi theatre, which originated in Bombay in about 1850. Again, we have a very interesting conjunction of indigenous materials and preexisting traditions, but now in an encounter with colonial theatre, with British and European theatre forms, not only forms in terms of dramatic structure, but actually the material culture, the proscenium stage with its frame, the stage apparatus or machines, stage props, flying machines...the automated gizmos. It is a much more sophisticated kind of theatre, although in the 20th century it comes directly into contact with the folk theatres and they actually blend.

What do you feel is the most significant contribution of your research to the field of South Asian literary and cultural studies?

I think there has been a lot of interest in the diverse theatre traditions of India, because there are so many of them, they are so regionally based, and I think that during the last twenty years there have been quite a few studies to look individually and ethnographically at these theatres, and there has been a real need for that. So that would be the most fundamental contribution to the field. My work is interdisciplinary, and so it is based on ethnographic observation, on interviews with people about their understandings of theatre, but it is also historical. I am one of the few people to be working on theatre practices from a historical perspective — going back to the nineteenth century, getting hold of the play texts. ... And that has put theatre studies into a more literary and historical framework. It is asking a lot of the same questions that people working on 19th century literature and 19th century history are asking, and so people who are not principally connected to theatre, but are trying to understand, say, the emergence of gender roles, or the emergence of community identities, or the concept of the nation, can find a lot of answers in my work.

Switching gears now, from your research to your new position as director of the Center for Asian Studies at UT, what do you see as the exciting possibilities of this new position?

Oh, there are a lot of exciting possibilities. This is a very strong South Asia faculty, and many of my interests are reflected in faculty who are already here, so I feel that I am very fortunate to be coming into an environment that is already well developed, and well supported institutionally. One of the things that I would like to explore is how far we can take that very firm foundation and reach out towards other departments and other programs and schools in the university.

I think that making those linkages across campus, and bringing an understanding of what it is that the Center is all about to others out there, and then planning events that bring people together, is a very real possibility. ... In my own experience of presenting papers and going to conferences and so on, you often get the most insightful feedback from people who are not in your area. They read different things — and yet, they are thinking about the same issues. And so I think it is very fertilizing.

In terms of the Center as a player in the Title VI structure, and our connections to Washington and all that, obviously a big part of this job is to continue to develop the program of activities under the Title VI funding, and try to become even more competitive, especially in terms of the FLAS fellowships and...
Gifts to The General Libraries

Prof. William R. Braisted, Professor Emeritus in History, recently donated 814 volumes of 19th and 20th century Japanese imprints, valued at more than $100,000, to The General Libraries. Pre-1900 titles will be placed in The Ransom Center collection; all other volumes will be part of the East Asian Library Program. Dr. Braisted was a central figure in the establishment of the Asian Collection of The General Libraries. His role is discussed in Susan Napier’s article, “The Japanese Collection at The University of Texas,” which appeared in the final issue of The Library Chronicle of The University of Texas at Austin in 1997. This gift reflects Dr. Braisted’s scholarly interest in the Meiji Period (1868-1912) and Japanese enlightenment scholars and includes a number of publications printed with woodblocks on rice paper and bound in traditional fashion. The original 1874-75 issues of Meiroku Zasshi, which were the basis for Dr. Braisted’s translation published in 1976, are also included. This generous gift will enable faculty and students to share Dr. Braisted’s commitment to Japanese studies now and in the future.

Professors Jeanette Faurot, Robert Hardgrave, and Andrée Sjoberg are giving portions of their personal collections to The General Libraries. These materials, which supported their research and teaching over the years, will be valuable additions for future students.

In October, 1999, The General Libraries hosted a reception for the Consul General of the People’s Republic of China - Houston, Wu Zurong, and members of the consulate staff to acknowledge their gift of approximately 700 books and video cassettes on contemporary Chinese literature and culture from the Ministry of Cultural Relations, and Katha. The guests were welcomed by Center South Asia faculty at an evening reception and dinner at the home of Kathryn Hansen on October 5th. On October 6th, the visitors participated in roundtable discussions on various aspects of translation with Center faculty members Herman van Olphen, Rodney Moag, Akbar Hyder, and Edeltraud Harzer. On October 7th, the visiting writers read from their own works of fiction in Tamil, Malayalam, and Bengali as well as in English translation. Center faculty members also read from their own translations from Sanskrit, Tamil, and Urdu, assisted by Sankaran Radhakrishnan. The event was sponsored by the Office of the Dean of Liberal Arts, the Indian Council on Cultural Relations, and Katha.

The Ransom Center has transferred approximately 1000 volumes from the personal collection of Katherine Smith Diehl to The General Libraries. Katharine Diehl worked as a librarian and an historian of printing in Asia before retiring to Seguin, Texas. Her major works include Printers and Printing in the East Indies to 1850 (1990) and Early Indian Imprints (1964). Her papers and microfilmed sources remain in The Ransom Center.

The Taiwanese Students Association donated several hundred volumes in Chinese to the East Asian Library Program.

KATHRYN HANSEN cont’d from previous page

enhancing the graduate programs. That is a big priority for me. At the same time, I want to find ways of putting East Asia programs on a firmer financial footing and work with the faculty to bring it some grants, and to explore the possibilities of East Asia getting its presence defined and built up.

PA: A controversial topic in academia these days is the issue of “area studies.” As both a scholar and administrator working in such an “area,” what is your position on area studies – both as a category, and with regard to their relationship to the larger institution of the academy?

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KATHA CONFERENCE cont’d from page 6

Title VI

Last fall, the Center submitted a federal grant proposal to the Department of Education for continued funding of the National Resource Center for South Asia and for Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships at The University of Texas at Austin. These grants are funded under Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965. The Center received word in April that funding was approved for the project period 2000-2003.
UNDERGRADUATES

Scholarships
Shanti Nulu: Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Scholarship
Hyeyong Choi, Helena Wei, Doyle Shafer II, Eric Beverly:
Asian Studies Scholarship for Study Abroad
Eric Gaensehals, Katherine Loh, Michael Yu:
China Studies Fellowship for Study Abroad
Hiroko Ikebe: Outstanding Chinese Language Student
Kimberly Ruyle: Outstanding Graduating Senior in Asian Studies
Doris Manning: Outstanding Graduating Senior in Asian Cultures and Languages
Kristin Carrera: Bridging Scholarship from the Association of Teachers of Japanese

Study Abroad
Michelle Liu and Hyeyong Choi spent summer 2000 in Beijing, China, on Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE) grants.

CIEE grants for fall 2000 study went to Fred Lin, to study in Taiwan, and Michael Yu and Eric Gaensehals, to study in Beijing.

Michael Wood and Katherine Loh won International Education Scholarships (IES), and will spend the academic year 2000-2001 in Beijing.

In Japan, Kristin Carrera, Cora Chiu, Nicholas Koreni, Jualw Racelis, Emily Stames, and Jonathan Rosenfeld will be at Sophia University for the year. Miwa Gardner will be at Oita University, and Lynn Hsieh at Obirin University.

GRADUATES
Summer 2000 FLAS recipients are Laura Brueck (Hindi), Gardner Harris (Tamil), Mark McClish (Malayalam), Sunila Kale (Hindi), Jessie Price (Hindi), and Matt Stromquist (Hindi).

Karline McLain (Ph.D., Asian Cultures & Languages) and Peter Siegenthaler (Ph.D., Asian Cultures & Languages) won 2000-2001 University Continuing Fellowships.

2000-2001 FLASs went to David Brick (MA, Asian Cultures & Languages), Laura Brueck (MA, Asian Cultures & Languages), Eduardo Contreras (MA, Asian Studies), Lisa Edwin (MA, Asian Cultures & Languages), Jeffrey Grimes (MA, Ethnomusicology), Ritu Khanduri (Ph.D., Anthropology), and Romi Mahajan (Ph.D., RTF).

2000-2001 Meyerson Tuition Scholarship recipients are Savitha Balasubramanian (MA, Asian Studies), Shannon Finch (MA, Linguistics), Sarah Green (Ph.D., Asian Cultures & Languages), Gardner Harris (MA, Asian Studies), Scott Harvey (Ph.D., Asian Cultures & Languages), Kosturi Sanyal (MA, Asian Studies), Nisha Shanghavi (MA, Asian Studies), Matt Stromquist (MA, Ethnomusicology), and Helaena White (MA, Asian Studies).

Kristen Rudisill (Ph.D., Asian Cultures & Languages) and Brian Ruh (MA, Asian Studies) won 2000-2001 Dean’s Excellence Fellowships.


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New Staff Position & Appointment in Asian Studies
The Dean’s office upgraded one of the staff positions in Asian Studies to Academic Advisor. This is a great boost for the undergraduate program. Patrick Godbey assumed the position in December 1999 and has already made great strides in organizing a much-needed undergraduate office. Godbey received a B.A. in Creative Writing from University of Redlands, 1992; an M.A. in English from Purdue University, 1994; and an M.F.A. in Creative Writing from Indiana University, July 1999. While completing his M.F.A. he was the publicity director of the Indiana University Writers’ Conference (IUWC) in 1997-1998, and he held the position as Assistant Director in 1998-1999. He also served as a graduate teaching assistant at both Indiana University and Purdue University. He is well qualified and enthusiastic about serving undergraduate students. A hearty welcome to Patrick Godbey!
Grants & Fellowships

Geraldine Heng: Irvine Humanities Center postdoctoral fellowship, Winter/Spring 2001 for the seminar “Theorizing Race in Pre- and Early Modern Contexts.”

Patricia Maclachlan: Dean’s Fellow, fall 2000.

Patrick Olivelle: Fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies; will be the Numata Professor at the University of Vienna, Austria, April — June 2001. Faculty Research Assignment from UT; will be on research leave, attached to the Department of Sanskrit and Indian Studies of Harvard University.

Martha Ann Selby: American Institute of Indian Studies Senior Short-Term Fellowship to finish her translation of the Ainkurunuru, a fourth-century collection of love poetry in Old Tamil. She will take up the fellowship in the summer of 2001. Selby spent the summer of 2000 in Chennai on a University of Texas Summer Research Assignment, where she completed work for her third book, A Circle of Six Seasons, to be published next year by Penguin Classics.

Cynthia Talbot: Grant from the American Philosophical Society to do research in England, and fellowship from the American Council of Learned Societies.

New Books

Bob Hardgrave: Boats of Bengal: Eighteenth Century Portraits by Balthazar Solvyns, (Manohar, 2000; distributed in the U.S. by South Asia Books). It is a companion to the earlier volume by Hardgrave and Stephen Slawek on Solvyn’s portrayal of musical instruments, also published by Manohar. A Portrait of The Hindus: Balthazar Solvyns Life and Work (forthcoming). For further information on the Solvyns project and online articles, see http://asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/cas/rlh.html.


Leaves of Absence

Geraldine Heng

Patrick Olivelle

Cynthia Talbot

Other Honors

Gordon Bennett: Invited by China’s Institute of Contemporary International Relations to participate in their international Symposium on Humanitarian Intervention in International Relations, in Beijing, August 20 — 26. He presented “An Optimal Decision?” to the opening session.

Avron Boretz: Attended a luncheon with Jiang Zemin, president of the People’s Republic of China, held at the Waldorf Astoria on Friday, September 8, 2000, while Jiang was in New York for the UN Millennium Summit. Boretz, a member of the National Committee on US-China Relations, served as interpreter for Secret Service and Chinese Security Bureau personnel during the event.

Geraldine Heng: Elected to the Middle English Division of the Modern Language Association (MLA), with a 5-year tenure (2000-5, becoming chair of the division in 2004-5).

Patricia Maclachlan: Silver Spurs Teaching Award, from the College of Liberal Arts.


Visiting Fulbright Scholars

Miki Desai: Architect and associate professor at the School of Architecture, CEPT, Ahmedabad, India, Prof. Desai will be teaching two courses at UT this fall: first year design in the School of Architecture; and a theory seminar “Regionalism in Built Environment: India From the View Point of Vernacular Tradition.”

Bijoy Boruah: Bijoy Boruah, of the Indian Institute of Technology in Kanpur, India, will be at UT from August 2000 to March 2001. He will be working on a research project comparing the thoughts of a contemporary American philosopher, Thomas Nagel, with the thoughts of a contemporary Indian philosopher. Ramchandra Gandhi. The title of the project is “Centerless World and Decentred Selves: Echoes of
Vedantic Non-dualism in the Thoughts of Thomas Nagel.”

Visiting Department Faculty

Theodore Proferes (Ph.D. Harvard University) will be teaching Sanskrit, Buddhism and Jainism, and Vedic ritual.

Chiho Sawada (Ph.D. Harvard University) will teach Korea, from both historical and contemporary perspectives.

Hiroshi Aoyagi (Ph. D. University of British Columbia) will introduce Japanese religion and culture, from the ancient to the popular.

New Lecturer

Junko Hatanaka (M.A. University of Wisconsin, Madison), joins the Japanese language teaching staff.

New Faculty

Sumit Ganguly comes to the University of Texas from Hunter College of the City University of New York, where he served as Professor of Political Science. In the spring of 1999, he was a Visiting Professor in Asian Studies at UT, and this past year, Ganguly was a Visiting Fellow at the Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University.

Ganguly is a leading authority on international politics and security issues in South Asia, and his analysis of India-Pakistan relations, Conflict Unending, is forthcoming from Oxford University Press. He has worked extensively on problems of ethnic politics and ethnonationalism. His book, The Crisis in Kashmir: Portents of War, Hopes of Peace, is a penetrating study of the ongoing Kashmir conflict in both domestic and international dimensions.

Ganguly is author or editor of eight other books, and has numerous written articles for such leading journals as Foreign Affairs and International Security.

Sumit Ganguly has been an enormously popular and effective teacher, and he is frequently sought by the news media, including “The News Hour with Jim Lehrer” and ABC’s “Nightline,” for analysis of political developments in South Asia, as in 1998, when India and Pakistan conducted nuclear tests, or more recently, in the spring 2000, with President Clinton’s visit to South Asia. Prof. Ganguly will be a distinguished and exciting addition to the faculty of the Center for Asian Studies.

Robert Khan, our new assistant professor in Japanese Literature, comes to the Department of Asian Studies from places as diverse as Oxford University, University of British Columbia, and our own Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures (the precursor of our current Department of Asian Studies). A native of the UK, Dr. Khan did his undergraduate work in Classics and Modern Languages at Oxford University, whence he also has a Diploma of Comparative Philology. His interest in language and linguistics led him into computer sciences and he arrived at the University at Texas in the 1980’s to pursue a degree in that field.

His interest soon turned towards Japan, however, as the result of the Japanese language courses he was taking at UT. Transferring to the Department of Oriental and African Languages and Literatures, Dr. Khan ended up writing his master’s thesis on the work of the twentieth century poet Ishikawa Takuboku. His interest in poetry gradually led him back to premodern Japanese literature and he went on to the University of British Columbia to study classical Japanese fiction, writing his dissertation on the 12th century romance, Ariake no Wakare (Partings at Dawn).

Before becoming an assistant professor at Texas, Dr. Khan taught at The University of Washington and Harvard University. At Texas he offers a variety of fascinating courses including “The Japanese Novel” and “The Theme of Travel in Japanese Literature.” Besides his expertise in classical Japanese literature, Dr. Khan’s interests include comparative literature, issues of gender and the body, and Japanese film. The Department is delighted to have such an intellectually stimulating professor with such diverse interests and background joining us.

Faculty Retirements

Jeannette Faurot came to the University of Texas in 1973, having received her Ph.D. from the University of California at Berkeley the previous year. During her career at UT, along with publishing numerous books, articles, and translations, she has been a driving force behind the creation of a strong and cohesive China faculty in the Asian Studies Department. She also brought the Chinese Studies Endowment to the department.
Faurot began her career by focusing on Chinese fiction in general, and then, for a while, on Taiwan fiction in particular. In 1979 she organized a major symposium on Taiwan literature that brought together many of the top scholars of contemporary Chinese fiction, along with many writers from Taiwan. The two-day event put UT’s program on the map as the premier United States center for Taiwan literary studies, and has resulted in the production of many doctoral students in the field. When another scholar of modern Chinese literature, Yvonne Chang, joined the Asian Studies faculty, Faurot shifted her concentration to the classical period and developed courses on Confucian and Daoist texts and classical poetry, while also continuing some work on fiction.

From the beginning of her tenure here, Faurot has been recognized as a superior teacher as well as scholar. She was the first recipient of the Harry H. Ransom Teaching Excellence Award, for the year 1974-75. Over the years she has worked closely with graduate students as the advisor for the Chinese Resource Group, a graduate student organization, and as the Graduate Advisor for Asian Studies for many years. Her solicitude for the graduate students, especially, has earned her their warm regard.

The topics of Faurot’s published works span a broad spectrum, including 20th-century fiction, classical drama, language reform, folktales, cultural history, and a classical Chinese textbook, Gateway to the Chinese Classics (1995, 1997). Gateway, having gone into a second printing after only two years, continues to be extremely well received and has been adopted by many universities in the US, Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. Other of Faurot's books include Glimpses of China (1991), Ancient Chengdu (1992), Asian-Pacific Folktales (1995), which has been translated into Italian, and, most recently, Drinking with the Moon: Selections of Classical Chinese Poetry (1998).

“...brought together many of the top scholars of contemporary Chinese fiction, along with many writers from Taiwan.

When I approached Dr. Faurot in 1997 to return to my Master’s Program in Asian Studies, she was so incredibly helpful that it was a pure delight. She helped me deal with the UT bureaucracy and gave me invaluable advice; and all this despite the fact that she is not an India scholar, but a China scholar and wouldn’t therefore have been expected to be as conversant with the issues related to India courses. I have remembered her help wistfully on several occasions, especially when dealing with the often intractable bureaucracy here at UT.”
- Romi Mahajan, graduate student

Dr. Faurot introduced me to the beauty (and challenge) of literary Chinese. But I find myself even more appreciative of the quiet support she has given my work and the work of other graduate students over the years... That support has come in many forms: coming to view a poster session or listen to a paper at a conference, finding a way to provide travel assistance, offering insightful critiques. I truly appreciate the support Dr. Faurot has provided and wish her the best in her retirement.”
- Adam Frank, graduate student

Andrée F. Sjoberg, Associate Professor in the Department of Asian Studies, retired last May after serving for forty years on the faculty at UT. Sjoberg began her teaching career at UT in 1960 as a Special Instructor in the South Asia Center, which at that time was located in the Department of Germanic Languages. She received a Ph.D. in Linguistics from The University of Texas at Austin in 1957. Her areas of specialization are Dravidian languages and cultures, comparative Asian civilizations, and Turkic language and cultures.

In 1968 she organized a Symposium on Dravidian Civilization. This was the first conference on Dravidian languages and cultures to be held in the United States or Western Europe. During this symposium, she and several other South Indian specialists formed a new professional association, the Society for South Indian Studies, which continues to this day.

Sjoberg has written many articles over the years for various journals on such subjects as “Images of Women in Asian Literatures,” "Language Structure and Cultural Identity,” and “Dravidian Features in the Religious Content of the Indian Epics.” Her book entitled Uzbek Structural Grammar was published by Indiana University in 1963. Among the many popular courses that she has developed and taught over the years are “South Indian Languages (Telugu and other Dravidian languages),” “Turkic Culture and Language in Central Asia” (which she co-developed with another faculty member, Guliz Kuruoglu), “Yoga,“ and "Dravidian Civilizations, and Turkic language and cultures."
Kathryn Hansen cont’d from page 8

KH: Just as in the past area studies has been critiqued, and very legitimately debated, that will continue. At the same time, because our world is a very complex one and there are a lot of different ways that groups define themselves, and that knowledge does get subdivided, we are going to have the reality of wanting a firm base, institutionally, that reflects the distinctiveness of Asia, and even of the different parts of Asia. Because, in my experience, when one attempts to teach about a specific area in the context of a department that is very strongly dominated by either American or European traditions, there is a lot of watering down that goes on, a lot of constant need to translate.

For example, an Asianist in a history department that is very strongly American focused, has kind of an uphill struggle, and so we need the Center to support people in departments where they are in a minority position, and to provide them with the space to engage intellectually, where they do not have to translate themselves or worry about their area being construed as somehow exotic. And I think area studies, in its institutional context, provides a very important space for scholars to engage with each other on a ground of equality and acceptance. And of course, it also provides that same kind of space – a kind of welcome – to people outside the university, and those from other departments who want to learn more about Asia, but – if I can be so bold as to say – on “our” terms, on terms that are Asia-centric, rather than Euro-centric or American-based.

So, I think both things are important. I really do encourage faculty to engage in projects where they translate the Asian experience. That is a very important priority, and if we do not do it we will isolate and ghettoize ourselves. At the same time, we need to be secure in our own kind of sheltered position, as we are the people who have generated a great deal of knowledge about this area, and who have a lot to transmit, and who are continuing to develop and deepen that knowledge.
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