

Graduate Students Shine

The Center for Asian Studies would like to commend what is, in the opinions of both Center Director Kathryn Hansen and Department Chair Patrick Olivelle, an impressive group of graduate students in Asian Studies this year. Both South and East Asia graduate students have received an even larger number of fellowships and other awards than usual, so it is our great pleasure to lead this newsletter with an article on graduate student achievements.

Photo: Eduardo Contreras



From L to R: Asian Studies Graduate Conference organizers Jules Vieau, Alice Chu, Mark McClish, keynote speaker Anand Yang, Jarrod Whitaker, and Laura Brueck. For more on the conference, see page 15.

IN THIS ISSUE:

Graduate Student News	1
Research on Amar Chitra Katha ...	2
The Role of Fast Food in Japan	3
Center and LBJ School Strengthen Ties	4
Diary of an Undergraduate Fellowship Recipient	5
Outreach Asia News	6
New Course on Afghanistan	8
One Academic's Role as Policy Expert	9
Seminar Series	10
Faculty News	12
Undergraduate Student News	14
Graduate Student Conference	15

Center Director: Kathryn Hansen
Newsletter Editor: Jordan Phillips
Design/Layout: Anne Alexander

The Center for Asian Studies
<http://asnic.utexas.edu/asnic/cas/index.htm>
tel: 512.471.5811 • fax: 512.471.4469

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From organizing conferences to conducting research overseas on Fulbright-Hays fellowships, Asian Studies graduate students have been busy this past year. In April, South Asia doctoral candidate **Jarrold Whitaker** learned that he had received a prestigious University Continuing fellowship for 2002-2003. Jarrold's dissertation is focussing on the *Atharvaveda*, a Sanskrit text from the Vedic period.

At the same time, East Asia doctoral candidate **Yue (Vicky) Ma** received a Hemphill/Gilmore Fellowship from UT. Vicky's dissertation focuses on cultural production in

contemporary China, in particular the way in which memory of the Cultural Revolution has featured in literature and popular culture in the 1990s.

In May, South Asia doctoral student **Kristen Rudisill** received a Fulbright-Hays grant for 2002-2003. Kristen will return to Madras in the summer of 2003 in order to continue studying the modern Tamil dramas of the Natakapiya comedy troupe, whose productions are gaining recognition and popularity among members of Chennai's growing upper-middle class.

Immortal Picture Stories: Research on Amar Chitra Katha

I spent the 2001-2 academic year living in Bombay on a Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Fellowship conducting research for my dissertation, "Whose Immortal Picture Stories? *Amar Chitra Katha* and the Construction of Indian Identities." *Amar Chitra Katha* is the leading Indian comic book series. I interviewed the authors, artists, and editors of the series, as well as many readers and fan club presidents, to learn how production and consumption practices interact with text and image to create and transform identities. I wanted to move beyond the approach in my master's thesis, which was a detailed content analysis of these comic books. What requires study now is how social and media events unfold and interact in historical time. I needed to attend to the producers and consumers of the medium and the socio-political processes that together determine cultural meaning.

I spent most of my time at the comic book studio learning about the production process. Mr. Anant Pai, Founder and Editor, and Ms. Reena Puri, Assistant Editor, were not only very patient when I interrupted the work flow with questions, but also shared with me the extensive interaction that they have with their readers. I attended quiz contests they sponsor in schools,

2002-2003
Liebmann Fellow
Karline McLain
(at top left) with
three of the edi-
tors of the Amar
Chitra Katha
comic book series,
India,
November 2001.



learned how reader surveys impact production decisions, and read pile after pile of fan letters. In Bombay I was affiliated with S.N.D.T. Women's University as a visiting scholar. My advisor, Dr. Sunanda Pal, enabled me to interview her students on the portrayal of women in Indian comic books and other issues.

My presence in India led to unexpected discoveries and transformed my research in unforeseen ways. One day while my husband and I were wandering through a bazaar, we walked past a used book stall, and out of the corner of my eye I glimpsed a stack of very worn comic books. Over a dozen of these were old *Amar Chitra Katha* comics that had never been reprinted; their originals were lost in a fire in 1994, and the company had no record of their existence. As my husband said to me, "This

is the kind of research that you certainly can't do from your office at home!"

Perhaps the best part of the experience was the opportunity that I had to travel. Because much of the artwork is done by freelance artists all over India, I was able to criss-cross the country, traveling to conduct interviews in Delhi, Agra, Lucknow, Pune, Calcutta, Bhubaneswar, and Madras. This allowed me to experience more of the diversity of India than previously, and gave me a chance to visit monuments such as the Taj Mahal, the Shore Temple, the Ellora Caves, the Qutab Minar, and other historical and religious sites which I will be able to discuss from a more informed and personal perspective as I begin to teach about India. ❄

—*Karline McLain*

The Role of Fast Food in Japan

Though McDonald's is often disparaged as imposing American culture upon unsuspecting global consumers, a new study shows that in Japan fast food restaurants may have positive cultural effects. The study, conducted by CAS faculty member John Traphagan and L. Keith Brown of the University of Pittsburgh, highlights examples of how McDonald's, Kentucky Fried Chicken and other Westernized fast food restaurants provide an opportunity for Japanese families to interact with a sense of intimacy and conviviality that is not seen in more traditional Japanese fast food establishments.

"We became interested in fast food in Japan as a result of casual observations of people in restaurants," Traphagan said. "It seemed to us that the patterns of eating and interaction were different from what is often reported in the media and in various scholarship in relation to the role of McDonald's and other fast food venues in modern societies. We also were interested in how the products of multinational corporations such as McDonald's fit into other, non-American cultures," he said. "We were interested in how such products are perceived in other cultures, how they are consumed and used in other cultures, how they are adjusted or changed

to fit with the local culture and what effect such things have on other cultures."

In observing behaviors of diners in fast-food establishments, the researchers found noteworthy differences between Japanese and American eating patterns, including how food is shared among coworkers, friends and family members.

"In Japan, the sharing of food is an important element of building effective bonds among people," Traphagan said. "It is very common for Japanese to have plates of common food in the center of the table, from which they take small portions. The tendency of having common food in the center of the table holds in restaurants like McDonald's, where people usually dump all of the french fries onto a common tray in the center of the table and then draw from them as desired," he said.

Though the term "fast food" is used in Japan, the definition is slightly different than in the U.S. "From the Japanese perspective the phrase 'fast food' which is also used in Japanese, refers to foods purchased at chain restaurants," he said. Many Japanese view foods like hamburgers and fries as snacks, rather than as a full meal. The lack of rice puts these foods into a somewhat

different category from that typical in the U.S."

The study also found that several Japanese customs were sustained in fast food restaurants. One is that a woman in the group--the wife, mother or girlfriend--will go to the counter to place the order and pay, while the rest of the family is seated. In a society where family dinners are rare, the researchers found this time was used by the father to interact with his children, making a trip to McDonald's an important family outing.

Traphagan's article, "Fast Food and Intergenerational Commensality in Japan: New Styles and Old Patterns," will be published by the journal *Ethnology* in the fall. ✨

This article appeared courtesy of Robin Gerrow, Director of Public Affairs, The College of Liberal Arts, UT-Austin.



John Traphagan

Center and LBJ School Strengthen Ties

In spring 2002 Dr. Shama Gamkhar offered a new course, "Political Economy II – Environmental Economic Policy: A Comparative Perspective, U.S. and South Asia," which resulted from a CAS course development grant. The course was the first in a series to foster stronger ties between the Center and the Lyndon Baines Johnson School of Public Affairs.

Center staff visited the class to observe the students' oral presentations on their research projects. These ranged from "Dilemmas of Establishing Market-Based Instruments in India for Reducing Pollution Generated by Small-Scale Firms," to "Political Economy of Women and Trees: Lessons from Grass-roots Movements in India and Kenya," and "The Judicial Activist Character of the Supreme Court in India: Activism in Environmental Policy."

During a class break, several students were questioned about their thoughts on the class. The students said there

were very few courses with strong international components, and for that reason they were very excited by this course. Zusana Iwanicka, Sara Moomaw, and Sarah Lovering said many students wanted more classes with a focused area studies perspective. Those Policy Research Projects which have an international angle are the first ones to fill.

"I felt like I knew more about US policy than Indian even though I am Indian," Devashree Saha said. "With more courses like this one, the international students in the

LBJ School would be better equipped to apply what they've learned when they return to their home countries."

Dr. Gamkhar invited a number of guest lecturers, including Shree Kant Gupta (Delhi

School of Economics) on "India's Environmental Policy-Use of Market Based Methods of Regulation," David Eaton (LBJ School-UT) on "Prospects for Water Sharing in the Ganges River Basin between India, Bangladesh and

"With more courses like this one, the international students in the LBJ School would be better equipped to apply what they've learned when they return to their home countries."

—Devashree Saha

Nepal," and Jobaid Kabir (Lower Colorado River Authority, Austin) on: "Water Pollution: Arsenic Problems in Bangladesh."

Dr. Gamkhar wanted to give the students a solid foundation in the general principles of environmental policy by studying how it is currently being developed in the US. The class then extended these principles to the situation in South Asia by discussing how, or even if, they could be applied there. The course focused on India and Bangladesh because India has a larger body of regulations for students to research and Bangladesh is experiencing intense media scrutiny due to its water management situation. Gamkhar plans to bring in one new country each time she teaches the class again, until all the countries in South Asia have been studied. ❄



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Diary of an Undergraduate Fellowship Recipient

The Center for Asian Studies annually receives three fellowships from the Ministry of Education of the Republic of China on Taiwan to support undergraduate or graduate students studying Chinese. The following is an excerpt of a journal being kept by fellowship recipient Patrick Highsmith as he settles into living in Taiwan.

August 24, 2002

We've been here for a day past a week today, and this will be my first journal entry. My name is Patrick, and my wife Mary and I decided to come to Taiwan to have some fun experiences. I am studying Chinese, and Mary is looking for work as a teacher. Actually, she hasn't had much time yet to look for work, considering how busy we've been. Mary and I have decided to go ahead and rent a friend's apartment we were staying in. It has lots of windows, a wooden floor, and is very clean.

Last night we went to a Western-style pub and ate some good old American food. Taiwan is a great place but I already miss home. The food here is quite different from American food, even from Chinese food in America. By the way, as a side note, I want to give a little heads-up to Westerners wanting to visit Taiwan. In America, Chinese food is often "Americanized".

"This photo says more about Taiwan than a picture of a beach or a plastic dragon. I was sitting in a little buffet shop in Taipei and noticed this old man picking the leaves off this vegetable. Either he owns the shop or is a relative of someone who does."

—Patrick Highsmith



Photo: Patrick Highsmith

The same thing applies here. I've had "American food" in Taiwan in an area where foreigners rarely stray, and let me tell you, it is very "Taiwanized." On the other hand, in the place last night, foreigners were everywhere, and the food was consequently more genuine.

September 6, 2002

School has started finally. My first day wasn't so great, because my original teacher would switch to English at the slightest hint that we didn't understand her. Needless to say, that was very frustrating. I came to this country primarily to learn Chinese.

So, I talked to a friend and moved to his class. The class has four Americans (including myself), two Koreans, one Japanese, one British, and two German students. During class we all try to speak Chinese to each other, and our teacher

only speaks Chinese with us. A typhoon is on the way, and so Mary and I have prepared to hole up here for a few days. We went out and bought food, and have been filling empty bottles with filtered water, just in case the power goes out. It has happened in Taiwan before, we heard, so it is best to prepare for the worst.

One day this week, I asked my teacher if we get vacation for Christmas, and she said no. No! One of the German students politely pointed out that there wouldn't be a reason for the Taiwanese to have a holiday on Christmas. He's absolutely right of course, but it is still depressing. I like Taiwan, but I miss home.

September 15, 2002

This weekend was really great. Mary and I went to Hsin Peitou (literally, New North

[Continued from page 5](#)

Head, pronounced sheen-bay-toh). Hsin Peitou was built on the foot of Yanking Mountain, primarily during the Japanese occupation. Lots of Japanese-style spas and hotels were built in the area, because of the beautiful mountain scenery and abundant hot springs.

Our room was very large and built in traditional Japanese style, with an elevated wooden floor, with large spaces for tatami. It came complete with a small table and tea set, water filter/boiler, and generous windows covered in bamboo shutters. The bathroom had a stone floor and bathtub with spring water available for washing. Downstairs there were two very large baths, with the actual hot spring flowing directly into the tub.

Taiwan is one of the most beautiful places in the world. Granted that deforestation and industrialization have tarnished a significant portion of the island, but large areas of Taiwan are virtually untouched and contain many gorgeous forests and beaches. Hot springs abound all over the island, and spas spring up wherever they are.

I highly recommend Taiwan as a place to study, take a vacation, or work. Just remember, for better or worse, this place is a whole different world. ✨

—Patrick Highsmith

Outreach Asia News

Outreach Asia had a very busy year. On October 1st, an Outreach education module was launched on our website, “Afghanistan and the Aftermath of September 11: Internet Resources for K-12 and Post-Secondary Educators,” in direct response to the tragedy of 9-11. The site assembled internet and print resources to assist the public, especially educators at K-12 and post-secondary levels, to broaden their base of understanding about Afghanistan. These included educational links under the following headings: History and Culture of the Islamic World, Afghanistan: People, History, Politics, Resources for Classroom Use, Explaining Tragedy to Children, Print Media Sources and Perspectives, and Select Print Bibliography. The site has had over 1000 hits to date. In November, two Asian Studies graduate students, Gardner Harris and Jarrod Whitaker, traveled to Cedar Park High School in Round Rock to give presentations on the basic tenets of Buddhism to sixteen social studies classes, reaching nine hundred students.

During the past two years, Outreach Asia has fundamentally changed the way it manages its K-12 events. The four National Resource Centers on the UT-Austin campus (Asian Studies, Latin American Studies, Middle Eastern Studies, and Russian, Eastern European, and Eurasian Studies) agreed to work as a consortium, Hemispheres, for K-12 events. This change has allowed us to present workshops with a more comprehensive world picture, a feature much appreciated by the participants.

Between Hemispheres and the Center, there were many events scheduled for the spring semester. Starting off in February, Hemispheres sponsored a two-day K-12 teacher workshop “Faith, Devotion, and Worship: World Religions in Central Texas.” The second day was an all-day field trip to four sites of various international worship traditions in the Austin area. This proved to be so popular that Hemispheres was asked to conduct the same field trip for the annual meeting of the Texas Council for the Social Studies later in the year. In March, Hemispheres was involved in Explore UT, an annual open house hosted by UT.

The Outreach office sponsored three Center events: a scholarly symposium in conjunction with an annual community event, “Thyagaraja: A Festival of South Asian Music;” a post-secondary teacher’s workshop “Considering the Context of Buddhist Traditions Across Asia,” attended by 18 scholars from many parts

Continued from page 6

of the United States; a two-day conference, co-sponsored by the Center for Asian Studies, the Center for Middle Eastern Studies, and the Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies, "Presenting and Representing Islam," which drew a packed crowd for both days. In April, Outreach Asia co-sponsored an international film festival "Festival of South Asian Documentaries," and offered a scholarly symposium "Afghanistan: Cultural Loss and Reconstruction." In May, a class of high school seniors studying Hindi from Bellaire High School in Houston came to the Center to meet with faculty and students to see opportunities for continued studies in Hindi and South Asia studies. Hemispheres conducted a presentation at the Wisconsin International Outreach Coordinators meeting. In June, Outreach Asia co-sponsored a Kathakali dance performance of the Thripunithura Kathakali Kendram Ladies Troupe. Hemispheres held its annual four-day summer institute for K-12 teachers "On War and Peace: Teaching about World Conflict." ❀

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New Outreach Coordinator

Jordan Phillips started working as the new Outreach Coordinator in January, just in time to manage the busy spring events schedule. She came to the Center from Minneapolis where she worked for six years in program development, specifically in designing and building innovative education programs for non-profits. Her background is in Teaching English as a Second Language to refugees and immigrants, and she has lived in Taiwan and Costa Rica. She has taught every age group of students from three years old to retirees. Her background in education gives her a strong sense of which services and materials educators need from the Outreach Asia office. She comes to the Center with one master's degree in Information Science and another in T.E.S.L.



Photo: Eduardo Contreras

Jordan Phillips

Jordan is excited to be working in the Outreach Office, and looks forward to helping strengthen the bridges between UT faculty and students and the K-12 and general public communities. Some of her goals include developing lesson plan packets for the busy K-12 educators who wish to infuse Asian topics into their classrooms, working with area community groups such as the Austin Children's Museum, and with Hemispheres to start an International Fiction reading group open to the community. ❀

Following are some quotes from 2002-2003 Outreach Asia workshop participants:

Buddhist Workshop (March 2002): "Thank you so much for your assistance and kindnesses during the Buddhist workshop last week. I learned a great deal and I hope to utilize the resources of the Center for Asian Studies in conjunction with my teaching at St. Bonaventure University."

—Richard Reilly

"Thank you and the Center so much for the wonderful experience! You all have worked so hard and so successfully for this conference. Through you all, the Center has indeed reached out for the flourishing of Asian Studies."

—Chen Shudong

Faith Workshop (February 2002): "Excellent job! Thank you so much. I really feel that I got more than I paid for.... All around a great workshop."

—Anonymous

"I recommend your workshop to many colleagues each year. I think it's one of the finest in the state."

—Anonymous



New Afghanistan Class Debuts

Syed Akbar Hyder taught a popular new class "Afghanistan: Religion/History/Politics" for the first time last summer. He first had the idea for the class after the events of September 11, 2001, and the large amount of misunderstanding prevalent in the media concerning Afghanistan. Preparation of course materials involved travel to the border areas between Pakistan and Afghanistan in early summer 2002. Other than the expected amount of tension resulting from political events, travel in the area was not that difficult, reports Hyder. His objective was to gauge the political climate and talk to people to see how things have changed since 9/11 around the world.

The experience was a sobering one. Most people seemed to have the attitude that although scholars had studied them for the last 200 years--something which formerly served as a source of pride--nothing had improved or changed much in their lives. Hyder mainly talked with scholars and religious figures, most of whom felt that their faith and lives had been grossly misunderstood in the West. "Although a sense of pain and loss is prevalent in the area," Hyder remarked, "one has to be humbled by the resilience

of these people, their unremitting faith and sense of humor in the face of an uncertain political future, abject poverty, and subjugation at various levels."

The Afghanistan class was a great success. Hyder says he's received a lot of positive feedback from students, and the class enjoyed many great discussions. Students liked the fact that the class situated Afghanistan in a broader political context. They were exposed to the politics of South Asia, the former Soviet Union, and the Middle East, as well as the US.

The class examined the history and culture of Afghanistan in addition to the recent political upheavals that have made Afghanistan so notorious around the world: "The day-to-day culture of Afghanistan, the beautiful architecture of the region, the music, poetry



Akbar Hyder

and jokes that have survived--these are the things that people need to live. This was an area once rich in culture--not always a desolate war zone as some of the media have made it out to be. There was a time when various religious communities peacefully coexisted and the tolerance for difference was cherished," says Hyder. What made this class a challenge to teach, he adds, was trying to help students understand the area's history and culture outside of the frame of the present geopolitical realities. ✧

—Anne Alexander



Photo: Eduardo Contreras

Hyder leads a class discussion on mullahs

One Academic's Role as Policy Expert

The September 11th tragedy brought to everyone's attention the tremendous lack of knowledge about South and Central Asia in the highest levels of U.S. government and among the general population. The Center for Asian Studies has been hard at work trying to address this lacuna, and among its most active faculty members on this front has been Dr. Sumit Ganguly.

Ganguly believes that academics must play an important role in advising policy makers, so that policy decisions can be made on the basis of correct and up-to-date information in today's ever-shifting political climate. "In order for the U.S. government to not have to scramble, in the future, in shock and disbelief, academics need to be involved in the highest levels of government, serving as advisers in defense, security, and issues of nuclear weapons. The University of Texas at Austin can be justifiably proud to have made investments in these areas before they became politically sexy."

Since September 11, Ganguly has appeared in a wide variety of media to help illuminate crisis situations and bring about a deeper understanding of the issues involved. He has written articles for

Sumit Ganguly at Zoji La Pass in Kashmir, July 2002. He is standing next to a sign that indicates the altitude of the pass.

Photo: Mohammed Aslam



publications such as the *Los Angeles Times*, *San Jose Mercury News*, and *American Prospect*. Among his television appearances are multiple interviews on CNN, CNN International, and the Fox news channel, as well as Austin's own KVUE evening news program. Ganguly appeared twice on "The News Hour with Jim Lehrer:" in December 2001 and May 2002. In a June 2002 interview on "Nightline" with Ted Koppel, Ganguly explained how the risks of war in South Asia extend well beyond that region. In addition, radio programs have sought Ganguly's informed and crisp commentary, including stations in Los Angeles, San Francisco, New Hampshire, Illinois, and Edinburg, Texas. In an interview with Bob

Edwards for NPR's "Morning Edition," Ganguly carefully explained the reasons for the conflict between India and Pakistan and how the U.S. could help to prevent war between the two nuclear-armed nations.

Continued on page 10



Sumit Ganguly

Continued from page 9

Ganguly has also been involved in a number of special events on campus. In fall 2001 he and Prof. Bartholomew Sparrow (UT-Govt) organized a public forum featuring UT professors to discuss a number of aspects of the U.S. response to the September 11 attacks. Ganguly was featured in another post-September 11 panel convened by the College of Liberal Arts' Humanities Institute. In January 2002 he organized a panel discussion titled "Reflections on Terrorism in the New Millennium," with guest speakers Martha Crenshaw (Wesleyan), Walter Reich (George Washington), and Mark Juergensmeyer (UC-Santa Barbara).

In the midst of fears that the India-Pakistani confrontation was going to spark a nuclear war, his most recent book, *Conflict Unending: India-Pakistan Tensions since 1947*, was published by Columbia University Press and the Woodrow Wilson Center Press. In this book he seeks to explain how and why India and Pakistan have remained locked in a spiral of hostility, mostly over the territory of Kashmir, since their emergence as independent states in 1947.

Now that his book is out, Ganguly has moved on to two new research projects. He is

co-editing a book with Peter Lavoy of the Naval Postgraduate School in Monterey, that will analyze the recent eruption of hostilities in Kargil, a remote portion of Kashmir. And he is finishing editorial work on a basic textbook on India with Neil Devotta, a former CAS graduate student. This textbook, titled *Understanding Contemporary India*, will be published in 2003 by Lynne Reinner. ❖

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The China faculty organized the 2001-2002 seminar series with the goal of bringing in speakers who would be of interest to both faculty and students. While some speakers' presentations touched on topics expanding on the teaching curriculum of the China program, others addressed issues relevant for understanding contemporary political developments.

- ◆ David Mungello (Baylor University), October 18, 2001. "Fact and Fantasy in the Sexual Seduction of Chinese Converts by Catholic Priests: The Case of the 120 Martyrs."
- ◆ Geoffrey Lloyd (Needham Institute, Cambridge), November 9, 2001. "The Problem of Metaphor in Comparative Perspective."
- ◆ Andrew Jakubowicz (University of Technology, Sydney), February 1, 2002. "The Menorah of Fang Bang Lu."
- ◆ Kristine Harris (SUNY New Platz), March 22, 2002. "A Double Life in Chinese Cinema."
- ◆ Catherine Farris (Austin Community College), April 26, 2002. "Women's Liberation under 'East Asian Modernity': Historical, Cultural, and Comparative Perspectives."
- ◆ Mark W. Frazier (Lawrence University), May 2, 2002. "Between a Law and a Hard Place: State and Provincial Governments in the Politics of Labor Reform in China and India."

Patricia L. Maclachlan organized the 2001-2002 Japan Seminar series, choosing speakers who could present a range of topics of interest to students and faculty.

- ◆ John Traphagan (UT-Austin), October 30, 2001. "Senility and the Disintegrated Person in Japan."
- ◆ John Treat (Yale University), November 30, 2001. "Narcissus Taisho; Literature and Painting in Early 20th-Century Japan."
- ◆ Diana Newton (Southern Methodist University), January 23, 2002. "From Clinton to Bush: US-Japan Economic Policy through the Transition."
- ◆ Joshua S. Mostow (University of British Columbia), March 21, 2002. "Class and Comedy in *Ukiyo-e*: Moronobu and Narihira."

Continued from page 10

- ◆ Patricia Maclachlan (UT-Austin), April 10, 2002. "Prime Minister Koizumi and the Prospects for Reform."
- ◆ James Raymo (University of Wisconsin-Madison), April 17, 2002. "The Attractiveness of Extended Co-residence with Parents as an Alternative to Early Marriage among Japanese Women."

The Fall 2001 South Asia Seminar series, organized by Dr. Akbar Hyder, presented eight talks on the theme of 'Discourses of Religious Syncretism and Separatism.' The Spring 2002 South Asia Seminar series, organized by Dr. Joel Brereton, presented eleven talks on the theme of 'The Living, Breathing Text.'

- ◆ Mark Lawrence (UT-Austin), September 20, 2001. "The Limits of Peacemaking: India and the Vietnam War, 1962-1968."
- ◆ Ved Malik (Former Chief of Staff, Indian Army), September 27, 2001. "India-Pakistan Relations after the Agra Summit."
- ◆ Stephen Dale (Ohio State University), October 11, 2001. "Babur's Personality and the Culture of the Mughal Empire."
- ◆ Jagat Mehta (Former Foreign Secretary to the Government of India), October 22, 2001. "Afghanistan: A Quadrilateral of Misconceptions, 1978-2001."
- ◆ Stephen Cohen (The Brookings Institute), November 15, 2001. "India Emerging."
- ◆ Gail Minault (UT-Austin), November 29, 2001. "The Fraser Brothers: Art, Poetry, and Murder in Nineteenth-Century Delhi."
- ◆ Veena Naregal (UT-Austin), December 5, 2001. "Contemporary Media Networks in Mumbai."
- ◆ James Manor (Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars) December 6, 2001. "The Pluralist and the Control Freak: Modes of Governing in Two Indian States."
- ◆ Kamran Ali (UT-Austin), January 31, 2002. "Pulp Fictions: Rethinking the Domestic in Contemporary Pakistan."
- ◆ Wendy Doniger (University of Chicago), February 7, 2002. "Sex and Gender in the *Kamasutra*."
- ◆ Veena Naregal (UT-Austin), January 24, 2002. "Vernacular Culture and Politics of the Samyukta Maharashtra Movement: Redrawing Linguistic Boundries in Post-Independence Western India."
- ◆ Meenakshi Mukherjee (University of Hyderabad, India), February 14, 2002. "Novel, Nation, and Language."
- ◆ Philip Lutgendorf (University of Iowa), February 21, 2002. "An 'Underworld' *Ramayana* (or Can the Subhuman Speak?)."
- ◆ Patrick Olivelle (UT-Austin), February 28, 2002. "*Manu*: The Birth and Life of a Law Book."
- ◆ James L. Fitzgerald (University of Tennessee, Knoxville), March 7, 2002. "Toward a New Theory of the *Mahabharata*."
- ◆ Stephen Phillips (UT-Austin), April 4, 2002. "The Universal in Classical Indian Philosophy."
- ◆ Stephanie Jamison (Harvard University), April 11, 2002. "The Function of Animals in the *Rig Veda*, RV X.28, and the Origins of Story Literature in India."
- ◆ Anjum Khurshid (UT-Austin) April 18, 2002. "Politics of Local Governance and Administrative Change in Punjab."
- ◆ Stanley Insler (Yale University), April 25, 2002. "The Origin and Development of the Vedic Soma Ritual."



Faculty News

This last spring at the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society Joel Brereton and Stephanie Jamison (UCLA) presented a Festschrift to their mentor, Stanley Insler (Yale). They edited the volume of essays as an issue of the *Journal of the American Oriental Society*.



Joel Brereton

Oscar G. Brockett has been elected to a two-year term as Dean of the College of Fellows of the American Theatre, which is affiliated with the Kennedy Center in Washington, DC. The ninth edition of Dr. Brockett's *History of the Theatre*, which includes a section on Asian theatre, was published in August 2002.



Yvonne Chang

Sung-sheng Yvonne Chang received a research Grant from the Institute of Chinese Literature and Philosophy, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, The Republic of China for the 2002-2003 academic year. She was also invited to serve as an advisor for the Graduate Students Study Abroad (GSSA) program sponsored by the National Sciences Council of the

Republic of China Taiwan). She was invited to write a foreword for a reprint edition of Professor Lucien Miller's *Exiles at Home: Stories by Ch'en Ying-chen*, a translation of short stories by renowned Taiwanese writer Ch'en Ying-chen.

The Hon. Ian F. Hancock, Director of The Romani Archives and Documentation Center at The University of Texas at Austin, has been invited by His Holiness The Dalai Lama for a private audience next March, 2003, to discuss the contemporary crisis situation of the Romani people in Europe.

Kathryn Hansen was elected Vice President of the American Institute of Indian Studies for a



Kathryn Hansen

three-year term, and selected to serve on the Executive Committee of the newly formed South Asia Language Resource Center.

Ward Keeler spent two months in Mandalay, Burma during summer 2002 studying Burmese on a Blakemore Foundation "Refresher" Grant.

Janice Leoshko received a University Cooperative Society

Subvention Grant to help publication costs of illustrations for her forthcoming book *For Sacred Traces: British Explorations of Buddhist Traditions in South Asia* which will be published by Ashgate in February 2003.



Patricia Maclachlan

Patricia Maclachlan published *Consumer Politics in Post-war Japan: The Institutional Boundaries of Citizen*

Activism (NY: Columbia University Press, 2002). She was also awarded a Rikkyo University Research Grant (summer 2002, for research in Tokyo) and an Abe Fellowship (granted by the Center for Global Partnership (Japan Foundation) and the Social Sciences Research Council; 2003-04).

Susan Napier, Mitsubishi Endowed Chair of Japanese Studies (Asian Studies) was cited in a *New York Times* article that appeared in the January 20, 2002 edition. She was noted for her contribution to research in the field of Japanese animation with the publication of her recent book *Anime from 'Akira' to 'Princess Mononoke.'* In the April 3rd,



Photo: Sandra Paschall

From L to R: Patricia Maclachlan, Kathryn Hansen, Michiaki Nakamura, John Hansen, and Susan Napier at a reception to honor Dr. Napier's naming to the Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Chair, 2001.

Continued from page 12

2002 Japanese edition of *Newsweek*, Dr. Napier published an article entitled "Power and the Feminine," which examined the highest-grossing film in Japanese history, "Spirited Away."



Patrick Olivelle

Patrick Olivelle travelled to Amsterdam to give the 2002 Gonda Lecture at the Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences.

Stephen Phillips' *Gangesha on the Upadhi, "The Inferential Undercutter"* with Introduction, Translation and Explanation with N. S. Ramanuja Tatacharya, has just been published (August 2002) by the Indian Council of Philosophical Research (New Delhi).

The Association for Asian Studies committee for the Levenson Prize on twentieth-century China awarded Edward Rhoads this year for his



book *Manchus and Han: Ethnic Relations and Political Power in Late Qing and Early Republican China, 1861-1928* (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2000). The Association for Asian Studies awards two Levenson awards each year, one for pre-1900 and one for post-1900 China studies. The Levenson Prize is named after the late Joseph Levenson, a professor of modern Chinese intellectual history at the University of California, Berkeley.

Martha Selby was promoted to Associate Professor effective fall 2002. Her first book, entitled *Grow*



Martha Selby

Long, Blessed Night: Love Poems from Classical India (New York: Oxford University Press, 2000), received the Robert W.

Hamilton Book Award from the University Cooperative Society in spring 2002. ✱



Undergraduate Student News

[Shilpa Amaram](#) was named 2002 Outstanding Graduating Senior in Asian Studies.

[Yvonne Chiu](#) was accepted to The University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston's Summer Research Program for 2002.

[Chris Davis](#) received an NSEP scholarship to study in Japan.

[Laura Dillenberger](#) will be living in Japan as part of the JET program.

[Brian Haley](#) was elected to a two year at-large representative seat on Student

Government this past spring.

The College of Liberal Arts awarded [Jonathan Hubble](#) a George Stuart Heyer Scholarship.

[Betty Nguyen](#) graduated with honors as our first Sanskrit major in May 2002.

[Tejal Patel](#) received a Mahatma Gandhi Memorial Scholarship.

[Emily Starnes](#) and [Elizabeth Strong](#) were both named 2002 Outstanding Graduating Senior in Asian Cultures and Languages.

[David Tung](#) and [Kathryn Cooper](#) were awarded a scholarship from the China Endowment.

[Shirley Becken](#), [Anthony Bonville](#), [Anthony Mau](#), [Bradley Plumb](#), and [Sharlene Tan](#) all received summer 2002 Asian Studies Scholarships for Study Abroad.

[Patrick Highsmith](#), [Martin Longoria](#), and [Jefrey Page](#) were awarded The Republic of China Ministry of Education Fellowship for Study in Taiwan. Highsmith's account of his experiences in Taiwan appears on page 5. ✱

Continued from page 1

South Asia linguistics MA student [Shannon Finch](#) received a three-year NSF grant. Her research will explore the sociolinguistic consequences of the German green card program.

[Neil Devotta](#) (Government) won the best humanities dissertation award from UT for 2002. According to Asian Studies professor emeritus Robert Hardgrave, "The dissertation, an analysis of the sources of ethnic conflict in Sri Lanka... is an impressive achievement, cogently argued

and written with elegance and style. It is richly informative, provocative, and a pleasure to read." Devotta and [Sandya Hewamanne](#) both received their Ph.D.s in 2002, the first husband and wife team to do so. [Robert Goodding](#) also received his Ph.D. in Asian Cultures and Languages in May 2002.

MA student [Seong Yeop Kim](#) received a China Endowment Fellowship for 2002-2003. Art History doctoral student [Lisa Owen](#) received the Marshall F. Wells Scholarship and Fellowship Endowment in the College of Fine Arts for 2002-

2003. [Michael Bednar](#), a doctoral student in History, received a University Continuing Fellowship for 2002-2003.

Asian Cultures and Languages doctoral candidate [Steven Lindquist](#) received a 2002-2003 University Continuing Fellowship. ACL Doctoral candidate [Karline McLain](#) received a Dolores Zohrab Liebmann Fellowship for 2002-2003. An account of her experiences conducting research in India during 2001-2002 appears on page 2.

Asian Studies Graduate Conference Takes Place

With the generous support of the Department of Asian Studies, the Center for Asian Studies and the Office of the Dean of Liberal Arts a team of six graduate and one undergraduate Asian Studies students presented the first Asian Studies Graduate Conference on October 4-5, 2002. Jarrod Whitaker, Laura Brueck, Alice Chu, Kukhee Choo, Mark McClish, and Jules Vieau served as the organizing committee.

University of Texas College of Liberal Arts Dean Richard Lariviere and Department of Asian Studies Chair Patrick Olivelle opened the conference while Dr. Anand Yang, Director of the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington, provided the keynote address on an Hindustani account of the Boxer Uprising.

The conference featured graduate students in Asian studies, anthropology, art history, literary studies, history, and mass media studies. Papers covered the geographical areas of China, India, Japan, Nepal, Taiwan, and Tibet, with topics ranging from the genealogy of the Mchod-Yan institution in Tibetan governance, to modern Tamil comedy drama, to the animé world of *Cowboy Bebop*. Presenters hailed from institutions across the US as well as Texas schools such as Southern Methodist University and UT Austin.

Asian Studies faculty Drs. Martha Selby, Margherita Zanasi, Joel Brereton, Yvonne Chang, and Patricia MacLachlan served as panel discussants, offering insightful comments on each of the papers and facilitating discussions. In the conference's closing remarks, Dr. Yang and Kathryn



Photo: Eduardo Contreras

Graduate students at an Asian Studies Graduate Conference session

Hansen, Director of the Center for Asian Studies, offered sound advice to the next generation of Asian Studies scholars gathered in the room. The success of the event augurs well for future conferences, and, hopefully, the establishment of a much-needed tradition at UT Austin. ✨

—Jarrod L Whitaker
and Alice Chu

Continued from page 14

The Center for Asian Studies awarded fifteen Foreign Language and Area Studies fellowships for 2002-2003, nearly double the number awarded last year. These went to: Laura Brueck, Dave Brick, Tracy Buck, Corinna Byer, Lisa Edwin, Gardner Harris, Julie Hughes, Spencer Johnson, Peter Knapczyk, Mark

McClish, Miriam Murtuza, Kristen Rudisill, Matthew Sayers, Matthew Stromquist, and Nathan Tabor.

Incoming Asian Studies and Asian Cultures and Languages Master's students Linlin Wang (ACL), Scott Williams (ANS), and Ian Woolford (ANS) all received University Preemp-

tive Fellowships for the 2002-2003 year. ✨

ALUMNI NEWS

1992 graduate Michael J. Farmer is currently Assistant Professor of History at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah.

Center for Asian Studies

The University of Texas at Austin

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