

# Pacific and Asian Studies

## University of Victoria 2007-08 Newsletter

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 Dr. Michael Bodden  
 Dr. Daniel Bryant  
 Dr. Leslie Butt  
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 Ms. Yasuko France  
 Dr. Timothy Iles  
 Ms. Mika Kimura  
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 Dr. Chris Morgan  
 Dr. Hiroko Noro  
 Mrs. Nozomi Riddington  
 Dr. Daromir Rudnycky  
 Mrs. Karen Tang  
 Dr. Yuen-Fong Woon

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 Mr. Duncan Kerkham  
 Ms. Helen Lansdowne  
 Ms. Keiko Ota  
 Mr. Hayato Sakamoto  
 Ms. Ying Sun  
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 Mrs. Joanne Denton  
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 Ms. Yen-Kuang Kuo  
 Mr. Brian Leacock  
 Ms. Leqian Yu  
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Dr. James Boutilier  
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 Dr. Joe Moore  
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Challenging Our Thinking, Inspiring Our Research, Absorbing Our Teaching

## Our Students—Our Central Focus

### Nicholas Pope in Tibet

This autumn, accompanied by my father, I personally delivered the money PASSS raised through the sale of calendars to Dru Deng and into the trustworthy hands of my friend Lama Pemma Setse. It was he who asked me two years ago if I could help raise money for Dru Deng's school, which eventually led to this fundraising project.

During that first conversation we discussed using the money to hire teachers and purchase school supplies for the young students. With his eye on the changing reality of resources and priorities at Dru Deng, Pemma Setse recommended that the calendar funds be applied to the construction of a new school already underway. Previously, Dru Deng had two school buildings, for older and younger students, located in different areas within the monastery.



*Giving the calendar money to Pemma Setse.*

The new school building will be big enough for all of the students to learn under one roof, and will possibly include a

kitchen for meal preparation. Pemma Setse insisted that I also purchase an assortment of school supplies as we had originally planned. So if any of you are on the road to Dru Deng in the next few days you may see me, I will be towing a large, bulky sac full of clipboards, pens, pencils, paper, and erasers in multiples of fifty.

Since January I have been asked many times if there will be a 2008 copy of the Dru Deng calendar for sale. Regrettably, the answer is no. However... part of my upcoming visit to Dru Deng is to pick up new paintings for a 2009 edition. I can't wait to see these new paintings as Cun Zhi is adamant that the paintings in the first calendar were very poorly done and that he will spend more time on this next set. He also wanted to know about themes and images. I suggested he stick with a traditional theme for the new paintings.

On behalf of Pemma Setse, Cun Zhi, and all of the students at Dru Deng, "Thank You!" for your generous contributions and for helping to make the 2007 calendar project a success.

Best wishes and Tashi Dele!  
 Nicholas Pope

## FILMING CHANGE:

**NICOLE SOROCHAN**

The years have flown by and nothing expected has occurred. But what has remained constant has been the lessons I learned at UVic and the constant support the staff has given me.

*Nicole Sorochan and Chandler Vandergrift with Muslim Schoolchildren in Thailand*



### Nicole Sorochan in the Middle East

It is hard for me to imagine that almost three years have gone by since I graduated from the Department of Pacific Asian Studies at the University of Victoria. The last few years have been anything but what I expected them to be.

My first pursuit after graduation was to film a documentary about the Muslim Insurgency in South Thailand with fellow graduate Chandler Vandergrift. We would make the movie in six months, submit it with graduate school applications and one year later have a full scholarship for a good graduate school. How many ways could one be wrong?

It's been three years since we started the documentary project, and although the film is still not complete, the process has been one of the most rewarding experiences in my life. Every step of the way I've had to acquire new skills and grow as a professional. While producing the film, Chandler and I were able to study the conflict from the eyes of those affected most by it.

After filming in Thailand, my life seemed to take off in its own direction. To understand the technical components of filmmaking I was lured to California where I made every effort to learn the craft of film production. Working in every aspect of the industry and reaching out to professional filmmakers, it was

only a year later that I launched my own productions company View Street Productions. One of my first contracts was to create a short artistic video about fashion and nightlife in Tokyo to be presented in Paris at a Louis Vuitton convention. After growing View Street Productions, I started to apply for grants to finish the Thai documentary. I submitted 4 grant applications and until I heard back from them there was little I could do but wait.

My experience in Southern Thailand made me realize something important. Film has the power to change the world we live in. I started to think about technology, online video streaming and how to use globalization and film to create real world change. The Thailand film was well on its way, but it still was very traditional filmmaking. I wanted to be involved with new media – to be on the cutting edge of technology and innovation. From this desire a new project was born: EnviroSpeak.TV.

EnviroSpeak Media Inc. was established in August of 2007 with UVic CS grad Judd Vinet. Our goal is to help combat environmental degradation by providing resources, funding and education through social media, mass collaboration and social networking. EnviroSpeak.TV will provide an engaging online platform for mass media collaboration that will extend offline by offering tangible solutions and resources to real-world

environmental projects. The site will launch in beta in March 2008.

During the process of building EnviroSpeak.TV, I received a call from a friend and writer, UVic Philosophy Grad, Kieran Nelson, who wanted me to travel to the Middle East with him and to film a few shorts. Two companies had head-hunted me a few months earlier, looking for some of my work to broadcast on Al Gore's Station: Current, and a new upcoming station: The Real News in Toronto. The trip would only be a month and a half long, and since I was out of money, I contacted the two news companies, pitched the idea, and a week later I found myself filming both political and environmental shorts in Egypt, Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and Israel.

Upon my return, I was informed that my Thai Documentary had received funding from the Alberta Foundation of the Arts and that EnviroSpeak.TV was also almost fully built and ready to launch into beta.

The years have flown by and nothing expected has occurred. But what has remained constant has been the lessons I learned at UVic and the constant support the staff has given me.

Late nights writing school papers prepared me for the long sleepless weeks of preparing grant proposals, business plans, film treatments and contracts. Pitching essay topics to profound professors such as Dr. Leslie Butt, gave me the tenacity and strength to cold-call distributors, broadcasters and investors. Studying Japanese and Indonesian gave me the skills to decipher both technology and film lingo—which are equally confusing languages. Trying to write witty papers that contradicted the favored view points of Dr. Moore, such as his positive view point on the Japanese Constitution; and Dr. Iles, who insisted that *Sisters of Gion* was a feminist film, helped to develop my ability to “think-outside the box,” and to challenge superiors when I felt that they were wrong or when I wanted to pitch a new concept or idea to those far more accomplished than I.

It is true you never know where you will end up once you begin a journey, but one thing is for certain, you can always count on the lessons learned from the people who have inspired you most throughout your experiences.

## Johanna Hood in China

Since graduating in 2002, my life continues to be an exciting adventure packed full of constant challenges and—of course—continued learning! I am amazed at how quickly the six years have passed and how many frequent flyer points I've accumulated since the wonderful days as an undergrad in the P&A department!

After leaving Victoria in the summer of 2002, I relocated to Beijing until the winter of 2003 for a research assistance internship in the Canadian embassy. It was there where I decided to pursue grad studies, which is what I've been doing for bulk of my time since leaving UVic. I've maintained my interest in China and contemporary literature, although I have, over time, shifted to research involving China's media, and its impact on urban understandings of health and disease.

My life as a grad student began in 2003 when I enrolled in a Master of Philosophy by research at the Australian National University. I researched the use of non-local bodies and places in China's HIV/AIDS media and their role in producing something I called imagined immunity. Over its course I spent 24 months between Xiamen, Shanghai, Beijing and Canberra. It was a challenging project, and I'm currently working on turning it into a book to be published in the end of 2008 with Routledge Curzon!

As I really enjoy the challenges of my research topic I decided to continue to a PhD, which has turned into an epic journey and interdisciplinary project spanning three institutions, three continents and several disciplines, mainly Anthropology and Cultural Studies. So far I've completed the necessary literature reviews and coursework, and have spent the first half of 2007 in Beijing trying to keep up in a graduate Anthropology program at The People's University of Beijing. I've been extremely fortunate to have excellent supervision, funding to support me through the duration of my graduate studies, and opportunities to work with many extraordinary people in Canada, China and Australia. I'm also forever trying to improve my Chinese language skills—which is proving to be a lifetime endeavour. I even had the opportunity to publish a translation with a fellow P&A grad, Rob Mackie, who now is finishing a Master's at McGill in East Asian Studies, in a 2007 volume edited by

Dr. King on China's Great Leap Forward Village Literature. It was a challenging yet enjoyable project which put our language skills to the test. Our contribution was completed while 'island sitting' for three months from an uninhabited island in the Bay of Fundy!

My plans for this year involve returning to China for fieldwork, publishing and working toward my PhD. If all goes as planned I'll be based at an NGO which focuses on HIV/AIDS and legal reform, and also in a centre for sexuality research. I will spend time with a fellow P&A grad Alissa Peacock, who has been based in Beijing since graduating in 2001 and works full time in Hospital administration for one of Beijing's best hospitals. We have ambitious plans—while she works towards her Master's on the weekend, I will finish writing my book!

It will prove to be a busy year for sure and I wish all P&A students, staff and graduates my best for 2008!

### **Annamarie Ruelle in Japan**

My P&A BA and I have had a few adventures since I graduated in 2003. After UVic, I moved to Japan and taught EFL for two years, first in Ehime and then in Mie prefectures. I lived one city over from Maurice Horodezky in Ehime, and close to Vanessa Peacock in Mie, both of UVic P&A fame. There's quite a network of P&A alumni in Japan, and it's been great having those contacts.

After two years, I wanted to stay in Japan but try something other than teaching, so I started working for Intrepid Travel as a tour leader. I led small-group tours all over China and Japan, which was a fantastic experience. We used local transport and accommodation, supported small local businesses, and tried to travel responsibly. By working for Intrepid I learned a lot about the tourism industry in Asia, met some very interesting people, and accumulated loads of travel stories and advice.

Last fall I started my MA in Human Geography at SFU. Geography's a broad and lively discipline, and the SFU program is especially diverse. My grad cohort is into all sorts of things, and most of us have non-geography backgrounds. In my thesis, I look at the relationship between global and local as imagined in policy documents for BC's Asia Pacific Initiative. (I had no idea policy documents could be

so interesting. Seriously.) I should finish my MA thesis this spring and head off to start a PhD in the fall, where I'm planning to study immigration and urban planning in Japan.

Back in my first year at UVic, as I wandered nervously into JAPA 149 with Riddington-sensei, I had no idea where my P&A degree would take me. I'd heard that the program was both fun and interesting, which I figured had to count for something. And it was. My P&A degree was probably a lot more entertaining than an undergrad degree is supposed to be. The department's small classes, friendly faculty, and diverse student body, made for a great undergrad experience—a big thank you to the P&A department for some good times in Victoria.

More than being fun, though, my time at UVic P&A taught me to be flexible, to think on my feet, to get past language barriers, and to consider multiple perspectives—all of which have helped my teaching, tour leading, and graduate research. The mix of practical language skills and cultural flexibility that I took from UVic P&A set me up for some very interesting post-BA experiences.

### **Laura Johnson-Hill in Beijing**

Ten years for Beijing has meant massive change at an unprecedented rate. My life here seems, in those ten years, to have mirrored the frenetic pace at which this city is moving forward.

1998 was the year I first arrived in China, in Beijing, on the University of International Business and Economics exchange, and then returned to China on the East China Normal University Exchange a year later. Pacific and Asian Studies at UVic, specifically the influence of Dr. Richard King, instilled in me a true passion for China rooted primarily in its literature—specifically that of Lu Xun.

In the past ten years I've seen Beijing ecstatic about winning the Olympic bid and watched its infrastructure morph to welcome the world this coming August. So much has happened here in the past ten years—so much to move a nation. I've watched the Ritan Embassy area come alive with anger over the bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade; the ten year anniversary of the



## LIFE AND CHANGE IN BEIJING:

**LAURA JOHNSON-HILL**

Ten years for Beijing has meant massive change at an unprecedented rate. My life here seems, in those ten years, to have mirrored the frenetic pace at which this city is moving forward.

*Laura Johnson-Hill with family...*



Tian'anmen Square incident; "survived" SARS as the streets emptied (and bought Rolling Stones tickets with great enthusiasm and watched them turn away). The city's heart has come to house a controversial new theatre while a stunning CCTV headquarters is soon to tower above an already overwhelming new business district. Ammunition factories have been converted into art districts, and hutongs are being razed to make way for fancy apartment complexes and office blocks. Starbucks opened in the Forbidden City and the ring roads have grown from three, to six, filled on average, with 1000 new cars a day. China's youth have gone crazy for Cui Jian at the Snow Jade Mountain music festival and also welcomed, with just as much enthusiasm, world class international DJs into mega discos. Of late, all eyes seem to be online—citizens gasp at internet sex scandals while at the same time wondering about a man and his wife (and now a baby) and their "one-man" human rights organization, behind locked doors.

Through all this I have moved from being a student, to a writer, to an editor, to working at a broadcasting company. At the same time, meeting my husband and becoming a mother of three wonderful little girls.

My time now is split three ways – between my family, my career, and our family business. My girls flourish here in Beijing – loving the energy of the

city streets and playing with our neighbors that share our courtyard home. My eldest daughter attends the French School of Beijing and my middle daughter is at Fensiting, a local kindergarten up the road for our home. Our youngest daughter, born Christmas 2006, stays at home.

My current job is with the Beijing Olympic Broadcasting company – the host broadcaster for the Olympic Games in Beijing. Our offices will move soon to the Olympic Green, to the International Broadcast Centre and things are gearing up quickly for August (Olympics) and September (Paralympics). With six months to go, life is getting busier by the minute. As the Games come to an end in Autumn, 2008, my company will move to Vancouver, and then London.

My husband and I have worked quite hard to develop our family business—a clothing brand here in Beijing called Plastered T-shirts. We launched the brand almost three years ago and we've seen great success with it, having found that our designs really tap into the energy of this city, and we've found a style that suits the personality of Beijing. The designs feature iconic images of Beijing and China as a whole, with some fun twists. We're proud to be launching in London in August of this year as well as expanding our distribution internationally thanks to a lot of media coverage (and hard work).

When we are not working, and our children are not at school, we spend our time at our cottage near Simatai (a section of the Great Wall) when the weather permits, or ice skating at Hou Hai, or playing in parks around town. Our cottage allows our children to see a China beyond Beijing – that despite the abundance of skyscrapers and BMWs and ipods on Beijing's streets, there are communities just on the outskirts of Beijing and beyond that have not felt the impact of this development.

Recently we spent Chinese New Year at our friend's house with her family, as we do every year enjoying what we consider to be the best food in all of China, and lighting off fireworks. This year was markedly different from past years though as it is the last year we will celebrate in Xu Guangrong's family home—located in the last remaining hutong area in Beijing's CBD (Central Business District). The north wall, a stone slab that is shadowed now by the CCTV tower that soars upward across the river, has been marked with the white "chai" sign (the indicator that a building is to be demolished). They have been informed that it will be gone within two months. The Xu family will be relocated to outside fifth ring road. Still, they seem rather philosophical about the move and are excited to be inside a building with central heating as opposed to coal-burning furnaces. We expect this will not dampen the festivities in years to come.

It is doubtful that we'll leave Beijing in the near future. Our children are very happy and settled here. We call Beijing our home—not only because of the decade we've lived here, but also because the friends we've made are now our family.

### Emily Kydd in the Solomon Islands

This November, while conducting research for the Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation's (PIAF) regional mapping and database initiative, I found myself hitting the streets of Honiara and Auki, in the Solomon Islands...

Solomon Islands was chosen as one of the pilot countries for this initiative as it was unknown what care and support services were available for people living with HIV/AIDS in the country, and because mapping the country seemed like a relatively achievable goal. However, my two week experience

in the heat of Honiara taught me not to underestimate the Solomon Islands. The country has a dynamic HIV response in motion, involving almost a dozen organisations, public activities and strong youth involvement—like the youth peer educators supporting the recent Solomon Soccer Cup.



To map the health and support services that are available, PIAF has developed a service provider survey, which is to be distributed to medical facilities, civil society organisations, churches, government ministries, and other organisations that may offer services that could improve Positive lives. The end result of this mapping will be a comprehensive inventory and database of services for each Pacific country which will be available for service providers and HIV positive people in order to locate services in their area, and illustrate where there are gaps in these services. This database will, in the long term, target planning towards service areas in need, and increase and improve levels of support available to HIV positive people.

In Honiara, I was fortunate enough to meet with HIV program officers from World Vision, Save the Children, OXFAM, SI Planned Parenthood, Church of Melanesia, South Sea Evangelical, and UNICEF, among others, as well as members of the Ministry of Health's Core Care Team and HIV/AIDS Unit. I also had the opportunity to meet with a rural clinic outside of Auki and learn about the work they do for the surrounding community. Not only did I get a glimpse into the activities that are occurring in the Solomon Islands and get to march in the Auki World AIDS Day parade, but I was privileged enough to meet a group of very devoted individuals

that share PIAF's passion for improving the quality of life of people living with HIV/AIDS in the Pacific.

As an intern working at PIAF, this trip to the Solomon Islands has indisputably been the highlight of my internship, and not at all an opportunity I had ever imagined that I would be given. I am an undergraduate student from the University of Victoria on the West coast of Canada, with an academic focus on the Pacific Islands. This is my first time to live and work in the Pacific. Through PIAF's partnership with the **Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives (CAPI)**, I became a Project Officer at PIAF for five months, undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada's **Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA)**, through the **Students for Development Program**.

CAPI is an interdisciplinary resource and research centre that aims to expand and strengthen Canadian links with the Asia-Pacific region, and whose internship program connects young Canadian students and graduates to international development work in Asia and the Pacific. I am one of eight interns that have had the opportunity to work for PIAF through CAPI as a chance to gain first hand exposure and development work experience in the region. And when I was walking through downtown Honiara, I knew I had gotten both exposure and experience. My time in the Solomon Islands and at PIAF has forged my commitment and respect for the region in a way that my classroom studies never could, and has cemented my desire to return.

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## Our Instructors— Research and News

**Michael Boddén:** During the last year I was on study leave. I took the opportunity to do historical research on the leftist theatre of the Sukarno era (1950-65) in Indonesia. This research took me to the Netherlands in February and March, and to Indonesia from June-early August. It involved archival research as well as meetings with surviving theatre workers from that era. I plan to use this material to write a book length manuscript on Left-wing theatre and postcolonial nationalism in Sukarno-era Indonesia. I also began work on two

new articles on the new wave of women writers and the links of their fiction to globalization, cosmopolitanism, and neo-liberalism. I attended conferences in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia; Jakarta, Indonesia; and Quebec City presenting these papers. Finally, an issue of the *Review of Indonesian and Malaysian Affairs* which I co-edited with UBC colleague Tineke Hellwig has just come out. The issue includes my article: "Shattered Families: 'Transgression', Cosmopolitanism and Experimental Form in the Fiction of Djenar Maesa Ayu" as well as an introduction which I co-wrote with Tineke Hellwig, and 6 other articles.

**Daniel Bryant** has divided his time this year between completing the index to his elephantine book on the Ming poet Ho Ching-ming, to be published later this year by Brill, and looking forward to his retirement this summer, when he will exchange the three frightful 'M's (meetings, marking, and mail) for the four delightful 'R's (reading, research, writing, and recreation). He did present a paper in October at the annual meeting of the American Oriental Society, Western Branch, on degrees of syntactical parallelism in metrically parallel couplets in classical Chinese Poetry.

**Timothy Iles** continues to refine his courses and this year has been very pleased by the success of his literature and film classes, as well as by the opportunity to teach a course in Japanese theatre. He has published several articles and book reviews, and has attended conferences around the world in Europe, Southeast Asia, and Taiwan. His second book, on identity in Japanese cinema, is forthcoming from Brill in October, 2008.

**Mika Kimura:** The 2006-07 school year has been a very exciting one for me and the Japanese Studies Program. We organized our FIRST Summer Japanese Language Immersion Program and sent our students to Konan University in Kobe, Japan, for 6 weeks. My excitement comes not only from the fact that we successfully managed to send students, but more from the improvement and confidence these students showed when they returned from this program. We really saw how beneficial it is for students who have some background in the Japanese language to go to Japan to practice their listening and speaking skills. We are currently organizing the

same program for Summer 2008, and we are very proud to tell you that now we have TWO UNIVERSITIES to send our students to as part of our Summer Japanese Immersion Program. We will keep working hard to make these programs successful, and we are also committed to providing more opportunities for our students to improve their Japanese language abilities.

My other departmental duty was to improve our Japanese Program website, but this year this was extended to maintaining and improving our departmental website, as well. With great help from our talented work-study students, our website has greatly improved. We will continue to refine and polish it over the coming terms. We have been trying to make our website more user friendly and, more importantly, more student friendly. We added more information (we believe it's useful) for both current students and prospective students. As one of the additions, we created a page for our graduates. It is a page for you to tell us your achievement. If you would like to share your experience, please send us your stories. We always love to hear from YOU!!

**Richard King:** Present and former students from the Department were involved as translators in the most recent issue of the journal *Renditions*, published in November 2007 by the Research Centre for Translation at the Chinese University of Hong Kong. This special issue, edited by their teacher Richard King, was devoted to fiction and poetry about China's Great Leap Forward, a mass campaign started half a century ago which was supposed to catapult China into the ranks of the world's most advanced nations, but ended instead in the worst famine of the twentieth century. The collection presents two romantic stories from the early months of the Great Leap that are full of optimism and confidence in the Communist Party and its leader, Chairman Mao Zedong: "Dawn Clouds Red as Flame," by Hao Ran, translated by current P&A student Haydn Shook, and "A Brief Biography of Li Shuangshuang," by Li Zhun, translated by recent graduates Johanna Hood and Robert Mackie. Later works, published in the 1980s and after, tell a very different story, revealing catastrophic mismanagement and callous treatment of peasants who were set impossible targets for production, overworked and underfed; one of these, "The Story of the Criminal Li Tongzhong," by Zhang Yigong, a

short novel of which excerpts appear in *Renditions*, was translated in a final-year reading group of John Shook, Carmen So, and Aaron Ward, all of whom have now graduated.

For more about *Renditions*, visit <http://www.renditions.org/renditions/index.html>

**Chris Morgan:** The study of indigenous societies and minority traditions across the Asia-Pacific region is an integral part of the department's programmes and activities. Dr Chris Morgan's work on kinship, hierarchy, and egalitarian relations in Pacific societies presented some new material in this field of study. The course PACI 325 on theories of Long-Term Change in Pacific and Asian Societies featured more non-western theory on ecology, and recent debates among world-systems' theorists over change and continuity in global processes. The organisation of PACI 328A shifted to emphasise differences among competing approaches to study of the pre-modern and colonial Pacific. In publication of research, Dr Morgan presented a comparative paper titled: "Lost Horizon: Changing Centre-Periphery Structures of West Polynesia 1700-present" on the theme of "Periphery and Policy" at the 2006 Conference of the Royal Anthropological Society in Truro, Cornwall. After the conference Chris enjoyed a week in the archives of the SOAS Library in London. An article on gift values, clan politics, and global environmental pressures was published in 2007. This paper originally was delivered at the ASAO conference session on "Property and Ecology in the Pacific", and the reference for the publication is: "Property of Spirits: Hereditary and Global Value of Sea Turtles in Fiji", *Human Organization* Vol. 66, No. 1, pp. 60-68. Dr Morgan will be away from campus on Study Leave from September 2008 to May 2009 to continue this project.

**Hiroko Noro:** The year, 2007 marked two major events for me. The first one came as an announcement from SSHRC that my application to the SSHRC Standard Research Grant was successful. It was such a fortunate timing to receive the grant, because I was able to collect data during my study-leave. Another major event was that with a big help from Waseda University in Tokyo, Cody Poulton and I organized the first conference of the newly started academic association, International



Association of Performing Language. This was a sequel to the successful conference we had organized on the role of theatre in second language education in Victoria, in 2006. This association came to its existence by Cody Poulton, Yoshikazu Kawaguchi of Waseda University, and myself in 2006. It is one of the pioneering endeavors exploring the power of drama and theatre in second language education. At the first official conference of the Association, we have brought together approximately 120 scholars and practitioners from Canada, U.S., Japan, and Korea, who share keen interest in the role of drama and theatre in second language education.

**Cody Poulton:** After being out of commission for almost a year, Cody Poulton returned to administrative work as chair of the department in August 2007. In the meantime, however, a number of publications have come out, including a festschrift he co-edited called *Dreams and Shadows: Tanizaki and Japanese Poetics in Prague* (Karolinum), over a dozen entries for *The Encyclopedia of Asian Theatre* (Greenwood Press) and *The Columbia Encyclopedia of Modern Drama*, and translations for *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Japanese Literature* and *Half A Century of Japanese Theater* (Kinokuniya). His book *A Beggar's Art: Scripting Modernity in Japanese Drama* is currently under review. This year he hopes to put the finishing touches to a book he is co-editing with Thomas Rimer and Mitsuya Mori, *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Japanese Drama*.

**Daromir Rudnycky:** The year of the boar was a busy one for me. I presented papers at three different conferences. The first was entitled "Spiritual Economy in the Southeast Asian Corporation: Islamic Reform and Neoliberalism in Contemporary Indonesia," for an invited session at the Association for Asian Studies annual meetings in March. Over the summer I traveled to the Netherlands to present "Technologies of Belonging: Post-Nationalist Citizenship and Religious Pluralism in Neoliberal Indonesia," at the conference entitled Religion, Ethnicity and Nation-States in a Globalizing World. The conference was held at the Free University of Amsterdam. In the fall I presented a paper entitled "Neoliberal Duties: Islam, Work, and Casuistry in Contemporary Indonesia," at the annual meetings of the American Anthropological Association in Washington, DC. I

also had two articles accepted for publication that will be published in 2008. During the fall semester I held a faculty fellowship on campus at UVic's Centre for Studies in Religion and Society. This fellowship enabled me to work on my book manuscript, *Managing the Heart, Developing Faith: The Spiritual Economies of Islam and Neoliberalism in Indonesia*.

The major event in SE Asia the past year was the "Saffron Revolution" in Burma which erupted in August. The immediate cause of the protests was the decision of the ruling military regime, the State Peace and Development Council, to remove price supports for fuel < [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fuel\\_subsidies](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fuel_subsidies) > which led to steep increases in the costs of petrol. However, the uprising was more broadly a civil response to the repressive rule of the military junta, which has exercised single-party authoritarian rule since 1962. The protests were notable for the highly visible role played by the Buddhist *sangha* (monkhood), whose brightly colored saffron robes gave the movement its name. Unfortunately, since the media's attention has turned away from Burma, there have been only halting steps toward democratic reform and open elections in the country. Although the regime has committed to "multiparty, democratic elections" in 2010, many veteran Burma specialists are skeptical that the junta will indeed cede power through the electoral process.

**Karen Tang:** Karen was on Study Leave from January to August, 2007. She was able to celebrate Chinese New Year in Asia for the first time since 1971. She also took the opportunity to visit Malaysia, Singapore, Indonesia and Cambodia.

She presented a paper, "*Collectivism vs. Individualism—Chinese Language Learning Through Culture Comparison*" at the 4<sup>th</sup> China-Canada TCSL Symposium in Vancouver in April and attended The 6th International Conference on Chinese Language Pedagogy and the First International Conference on Teaching Chinese to American Students in Nanjing China in early August.

She then attended a four-week workshop on teaching Chinese as a foreign language at the renowned Peking University with the support of The Office of Chinese Language Council

International and a grant from the UVic Learning & Teaching Centre.

Other than enjoying these enriching professional development activities, Karen considered visiting her former students currently residing in Hong Kong and China as the highlights of her trip to China.

## Completed MA Students

**Hilary Gorman:** Exploring the Lives of Young Women Street Sex Workers in Surabaya, Indonesia

**Gigi Lee:** Family Values and the One-Child Policy: Attitudes of Affluent Urban China Daughters

**Wu Liu:** Above Ground or Under Ground: The Emergence and Transformation of "Sixth Generation" Film-Makers in Mainland China

**Yuji Matson:** The Word and the Image: Collaborations Between Abe Kōbō and Teshigahara Hiroshi

**Yulin Zhou:** "All that Happens on the Earth": On Wei An's Deep Ecological View

## Continuing MA Students

**Sayuri Holman:** Gender in Southeast Asia

**Yen-Kuang Kuo:** A comparative study of Ding Ling and Jiang Ailing

**Brian Leacock:** Environmental Issues in the Films of Miyazaki Hayao

**Leqian Yu:** Microcredit in Mongolia

**Kai Zhang:** Contemporary Chinese Literature

Congratulations, good luck, and best wishes to all our MA students!

**Many, many thanks** to all of our students, colleagues, friends, and coworkers at both the University of Victoria and throughout the world. We wish you a wonderful year, and look forward to keeping in touch!

An Opportunity to Help

## Pacific and Asian Studies Student Research and Exchange Fund

The Pacific and Asian Studies Student Research and Exchange Fund is now entering its fourth year. In the first year, the fund received over \$3000.00 in donations. This allowed us to help fund the research trips of several students, most recently to China and Taiwan. Recently, however, we have received no new contributions, and our drive to raise an initial endowment of at least \$10,000 remains stalled with the fund hovering just below \$2400.

This fund is intended to help Graduate and Undergraduate Students alike to be able to travel to the Asia and Pacific regions in order to undertake advanced language training and carry out thesis research and other kinds of critical study projects. The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies believes that education about the Asia-Pacific region is most effective when combined with opportunities for first-hand travel, experience, language-immersion, and research in the countries that students are studying. Many of our alumni can easily recognise the value of such "first-hand" experience.

The importance of Asia in a variety of areas—culture, politics, economics—will only continue to grow over the next few decades. It is therefore even more crucial that we continue to train Canadians to speak the major languages of the Asia-Pacific region, and to understand the histories, cultures, and social dynamics of as much of the area as possible. Advanced language-immersion programs and critical research are a vital part of such training.

Please consider donating to our Student Research and Exchange Fund. No matter how small the amount, every bit will help us reach our initial goal of a \$10,000 endowment.

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