



## 2005-06 Newsletter

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Yasuko France  
Benglan Goh  
Timothy Iles  
Mika Kimura  
Richard King  
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R. Christopher Morgan  
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## CHAIRS' NOTES

During the past few months, we've all seen indications of the increasing importance of the Asia-Pacific region in global affairs. We've read and seen numerous reports about the growing power of China both politically and economically. Recently, for example, China overtook Canada as the US's most important trade partner. We've seen Indonesia hold its first direct-ballot Presidential election, be hit (as were Thailand and Sri Lanka) by a devastating tsunami, and successfully negotiate a peace agreement with Acehese separatists. Thailand, meanwhile, has struggled with an insurgency of its own in the South. In Oceania, there have been widespread protests on the streets and outside the King's palace in Tonga against abuse of power and limitations on democracy, demonstrations which reflect a demand for greater participation in democratic governance of the country. Tensions and tempers have risen, meanwhile, between Japan and China over Prime Minister Koizumi's continuing official visits to Yasukuni Shrine, a place of worship associated with a number of "Class A" war criminals from the Second World War. As China continues to grow as a military and, now, huge economic presence in the region, discussions are being held toward creating an Asian economic union comparable to NAFTA or the EU. Japan will have to be careful that it doesn't alienate itself further from its neighbours as its own economy continues to struggle out of recession and political strains with China and wartime memories remain a sore issue.

All of this confirms our sense of the Asia-Pacific region as a globally crucial, dynamic and fascinating region, one which Canadians need to know more about. Given these events and circumstances, we feel our mandate to teach the languages, cultures, issues and histories of the various parts of this region is even more vital to preparing Canada and Canadians for the future.

Here in Pacific and Asian Studies, we have been busy trying to build on that commitment in many ways. Dr. Leslie Butt was granted tenure and promoted to Associate Professor for her outstanding work on West Papuan health, gender, and reproductive issues. Chinese language Senior Instructor Karen Tang, whose tireless service to the Chinese program and the Department has been greatly appreciated was reappointed to another four-year term in

December. In 2004, our colleague Richard King, a specialist in modern Chinese literature, became Director of the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives for a three-year term. The Japanese section of the Department, under the leadership of Dr. Cody Poulton, Dr. Hiroko Noro, and Nozomi Riddington, successfully applied to the Japan Foundation-AUCC for seed money for an additional Senior Instructor in Japanese language. As a result of this, Ms. Mika Kimura was hired and has now become a member of the department's regular faculty. We were also fortunate to be the departmental home for the first regular faculty member hired to teach in the Religious Studies Program, Dr. Martin Adam, who specializes in Tibetan Buddhism. Martin will be teaching courses on East Asian Religions and Buddhism for the department. In early spring we were delighted to receive permission to begin the search for a new specialist in Japanese studies with a history or social sciences disciplinary background. On a sad note, Dr. Benglan Goh will be leaving her position in Pacific and Asian Studies to return to the National University of Singapore. We'd all like to wish her well. We are currently looking for a Southeast Asia specialist to replace her.

Our drive to raise funds for The Pacific and Asian Studies Student Travel and Research Award (announced in the last newsletter) got off to a good start last year, with over \$3000 in contributions. Based on those results, the department's faculty decided to give the Fund's first annual award last spring. The recipients were recent graduate Nickie Sorochan and fourth-year undergrad Chandler Vandergrift, who proposed to produce a documentary film on the conflict in Southern Thailand (more about that on pages 3-5). The department was also awarded an additional \$5000/year by the Dean of Humanities to support our graduate TAs. While funding for graduate students remains in short supply, this is a significant step in the right direction.

As of July 1<sup>st</sup> of this year, Michael Bodden stepped down as Chair and was replaced by Dr. Cody Poulton of the Japanese Language, Literature, and Culture program. His first major task was to prepare and coordinate documentation for an external academic review, the first in seven years, which involved an intensive two-day site visit in October by three external examiners, Tim Craig (from the Faculty of Business, UVic), Christine Jourdan (Concordia University) and Graham Sanders (University of Toronto). Academic reviews of this type are a regular part of the university's monitoring of programs and providing accountability to the community and government for what we teach. While P&A is awaiting the external reviewers' report, the "self-study document" produced by Pacific & Asian Studies, which describes the Department's history, programs, faculty, staff, students and goals, was recently held up as a model by the Office of the Vice-President Academic at a workshop for other units on the academic review process.

Over the past seven years, Pacific & Asian Studies has negotiated a difficult period that saw the loss of several faculty due to resignations and retirements and a downturn in enrollments in Southeast Asian studies due to political and economic uncertainties in the region, particularly in Indonesia. At the same time, however, a degree of political and economic stability has returned to all parts of Asia, prompting increased interest among students in Southeast Asian Studies again, as well as continuing strong enrollments in Chinese and Japanese Studies. In the meantime, the Department has managed to regain its lost faculty positions, albeit slowly, while instituting a new language and literature major for undergraduates and, most importantly, a new MA program. P&A currently has 9 MA students, a number of them nearing completion; we will be accepting more in the spring of 2006.

**Michael Bodden (Outgoing Chair), Cody Poulton (Incoming Chair)**

## FILMING THE CONFLICT IN SOUTHERN THAILAND By Chandler Vandergrift

We had been watching the headlines emanating out of Thailand for over a year but we were still shocked by what happened in the last week of October 2004. The daily violence that was plaguing the far Southern provinces of Pattani, Narathiwat, and Yala was increasing in tempo and increasing in raw brutality. The execution of school teachers, the beheadings of agricultural workers, and the bomb attacks on Buddhist monks taking alms were reported on a daily basis now. Yet the events of late October somehow propelled the conflict to a new and more dangerous level. A protest had formed outside a police station in the small southern town of Tak Bai and had grown violent. As the news started to filter out of the south it was reported that 85 protesters had died – the majority while in police custody. That evening Nickie called me and said “wow, it will be an interesting time to go to the South now!”

Nickie Sorochan and I had been planning to produce a documentary film about the violence in Southern Thailand for over a year before the escalation in violence occurred. We had approached the concept of a documentary film as a way to apply our Pacific and Asian Studies degrees. It had all seemed rather easy in our initial plans. Nickie had a growing interest in film and was planning to take film classes in her final year and I had had a long interest in photography. With a basic knowledge of film and our regional understanding of Southeast Asia it seemed like a natural progression. The monumental size of our project had yet to dawn on us.



Muslim Boys in front of a Mosque reflecting pool in Pattani

As Nickie settled into film classes at UVic I went to Thailand on an official UVic exchange to Mahidol University. I began to study the conflict in the South with a whole range of Mahidol professors eager to offer their opinions and suggest further readings. I was able to create the first of what would be many thesis statements attempting to articulate the endless dynamics of the conflict. Although each thesis that I produced was systematically eroded by new information and contrasting data the experience of being at a Thai university was proving to be invaluable. The depth and range of information that was provided by the faculty was allowing me to understand the subject in a level of detail that would have been difficult to achieve outside of the country.

While my various theses were being tested and defeated, Nickie was in pursuit of our most challenging obstacle – funding. Our simple pursuit of a documentary film was planned with ample enthusiasm but also with the limited budget of undergraduate students. Nickie tackled the monumental funding trouble by organizing a fund raiser at the Grad Lounge and securing the much appreciated 1<sup>st</sup> Pacific and Asian Studies Student Travel and Research Fund Award. The rest of the funding for professional equipment has been supplied by Nickie of which I am both thankful and indebted.

After the 2005 spring semester finished Nickie flew into Bangkok trailing some serious high-tech camera gear and our work began in earnest. We were still watching the headlines with some trepidation. The news wasn't getting any better but we were still determined to go. Nickie had secured some great academic contacts from a bold email query to the author of *Siam Mapped* Thongchai Winichakul and I had been eagerly cultivating contacts during the Thai school year. Armed with video and still cameras, cases of gadgets, bags of film, bags of rechargeable batteries, tripods, and coils of cords that I don't think we ever entirely unraveled, we set out on the cheapest train ticket we could find to Southern Thailand.

Our initial efforts at filming were frustrating. There seemed to be a "hurry up and wait" pace that was infuriating. We would rush through unfamiliar cities to meet with our academic sources only to sit waiting for them, sometimes for hours. We would search endlessly through the mid-day heat waiting to film events that never happened or get hopelessly lost on the way. We even forgot to charge the batteries on one occasion. Yet we began to develop the technical skills of filming and the more important skill of being patient. We were also armed with Nickie's Bahasa Indonesian language skills that were useful with the Southern *Yawi* dialect as well as the Thai language lessons that I had learned while on exchange.

Beyond the skills that we knew we would need to operate the equipment and the background knowledge of the region we also discovered the difficulty in doing actual field work. Conducting research in a conflict zone while draped with cameras set us drastically apart from the people we wished to speak with. We were attempting to gather information from people while simultaneously pointing a large camera at people. As researchers we needed to ask questions and in that process we felt an uncomfortable sense of always taking things from our subjects. Coupled with the feeling of taking was the act of pointing a camera at our subjects. We eventually combated the negative feeling with the rationalisation that we were offering an outlet for opinion but we also adopted a personalized approach. Countless hours were spent socializing before we actually turned the cameras on.

Even though our camera gear was a bit intrusive it did open more opportunities than we had imagined. Introductions to politicians, police and military, media, and even an introduction to Thai royalty were made possible by people wishing to express their opinions. One memorable politician who seemed to have his shady hands into every conceivable business in the South even toured us around many "off the map" locations. Past the police check stops and beyond the sandbagged military camps our shady politician took us into areas that he called "the heart of the conflict" and toured us through a Pondock (Islamic religious school) that was beyond the reach of the state.

We are now in the post-production stage of the film. Editing the film and writing the script have taken over from the heady challenges of filming. What we thought would be a relatively simple project has materialized into a long and infinitely complex venture. Had we known that each on-screen minute of the film would require 100 hours of filming, editing, and writing we might have been reluctant to approach such an enormous project. Had we known how expensive the final product would be we would have also questioned the project. Yet despite all the challenges and late nights of work it has been an incredible experience: an experience that we will be able to share with the department, the university, and an experience that we are looking forward to repeating.

The film is scheduled for release in late February 2006.

## FIJIAN WAY OF LIFE By Tamara Sone

In September 2005, I had the opportunity to travel to Fiji for a month to conduct fieldwork in the region. I was apprehensive about my ability to travel alone as a woman in a foreign country, but with the encouragement of my supervisor and other friends, I felt ready to tackle the adventures that lay ahead.

I am currently in my second year in the Pacific and Asian Studies program as an MA candidate. My thesis focuses on the changes in the historical trade relations between Fiji, Tonga and Samoa from 1775 to 1875. This data will be examined within the theoretical framework of the world systems approach and gift exchange. Due to the fact that my thesis is historically based, the majority of my research is archival. I therefore went to Fiji with limited fieldwork goals. The most important goal for me was to learn a bit about the Fijian culture firsthand and attempt to understand their perspective of history and their interactions with other surrounding islands in an attempt to counteract the European slant to the majority of the archival data.

While in Fiji, I spent the majority of my time in Fiji on the island of Taveuni. Taveuni is the fourth largest island in Fiji; it has many deep connections with the neighboring island group of Tonga. My supervisor, Dr. Morgan, had done extensive research on the northern part of this island. He gave me letters of introduction to his contacts in the hopes that they would help me find the necessary information that I required for my thesis.

Upon arriving in Fiji, I found that I had unwittingly booked myself into Susie's Plantation Resort. This resort was located on the opposite end of the island from where my contacts were. Since my ability to get around the island was limited due to erratic bus schedules, I decided to make contacts of my own in the location I was at. In the meantime, I also attempted to get in touch with my other contacts on the opposite side of the island. The resort staff were extremely accommodating and kind in helping me achieve my research goals. While on the southern part of the island, I was introduced to the T'ui Vuna, the landholder for the southern part of Taveuni. The T'ui Vuna told me some of the stories and legends of his ancestors. Several of the staff members from Susie's invited me into their homes and to their local celebrations. Through their kindness, I was able to experience a slice of the Fijian way of life. It struck me that although many people I met are extremely poor, they never go hungry because they always have access to the abundance of fruits and vegetables that grow on the island.

One of the reasons I chose the Pacific and Asian Studies program was for the future of the indigenous population that other areas of the world, like Africa and the rest of the developing world do not have. My trip to Fiji was incredible. I discovered new things about myself and about the world around me that I never would have imagined. I would recommend learning about the Pacific Basin Islands because there is so much research potential and so much more we can learn about this area of the world.



The title holder for the southern part of Taveuni (Tu'i Vuna) holding a whale's tooth (tabua) which has special value for Fijians and is presented on all special occasions. I talked with him in Vuna village.

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**NEW FACULTY**  
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**Mika Kimura**

Though Mika Kimura has taught as a sessional instructor in the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies for some years now, we are pleased that as of July 1, 2005, she has officially joined the Department as a regular faculty member with the Rank of Senior Instructor for Japanese Language and Culture courses. This position was secured with the assistance of funding from the Japan Foundation-AUCC. This hire greatly strengthens the Japanese language and culture program allowing more advanced classes to be offered to meet continuing student demand.

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**ALUMNI REPORTS**  
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**Kenta Omigishi**

My name is Kenta Omigishi, a former undergraduate student at UVic, majoring in Pacific and Asian Studies. Graduating from Belmont Senior High school in Colwood, UVic was a natural choice for me and I did not think of any alternative. I graduated from UVic in 1998 and returned to Japan after spending almost 8 years in Victoria. I soon moved to Tokyo as I had heard there were more opportunities with foreign multinationals seeking new employees with English language skills. I signed up at a job-recruiting agency and soon I started working at a start-up Venture Company, where my role was incubation of foreign software vendors to start new OEM businesses with Japanese PC manufactures.

This is my 4th year at a second company. Currently I am working as Senior Account Executive at OEM sales Division, Microsoft, K.K. My primary mission is to build a collaborative partnership with Japanese PC manufacturers in building PCs on Windows Platform. My daily responsibilities extend from licensing Windows OS products to PC manufacturers to technological engagement with the PC manufacture and Product team in HQ for development of PCs on the next OS platform (Vista), which requires me to travel to HQ in Redmond, WA on a regular basis. Although I did not major in engineering or business, my experience at the Pacific and Asian Studies department helped me to develop fundamental skills and talents extremely useful in working in a multinational corporate environment: learning about various cultures and societies prepared me to work with employers of various backgrounds, whether it be differences in our language, professional expertise, or ranks in the company. The proximity between students and professors at P & A provided a greater opportunity to learn how to interact with seniors, ask for their help, or receive valuable feedback when necessary —all of which are vital processes in any corporate environment too. In addition, the Chinese language course in

which I was enrolled for 2 years helped me become a fluent speaker of Mandarin, which now enables me to pursue more opportunities to work with customers in neighboring Asian countries; not to mention I use the skill during customer entertainment, which is often favorably received and useful for breaking ice instantly-also very important for someone in a sales position.



Kenta Omigishi

I wish very much all the best for those who are majoring in PACI today; looking back, for me it was not merely studying about Asia and receiving a diploma, but a rare opportunity in my life to challenge many things at my own will; at PACI with readily accessible professors and staff, you will be, without really even being aware of it, fully prepared to take on new challenges in the next stage of your life.

Kenta Omigishi  
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P.S. For those who choose to come work in Japan, I recommend you visit the Canadian Alumni Association of Japan, an organization run by the Canadian Embassy, where you will find opportunities for networking and various events: [www.caaj.com](http://www.caaj.com)

## David Sulz

It is no exaggeration to say my P&A experience has played a major role in my varied career and life path. For example, in 1991 representatives from Sendai Japan came to the department recruiting for a summer internship. While there, I received a Japanese book about an entrepreneur immigrant to BC in the 1890s which I used portions of as a translation project back at UVic. On graduating in 1992, I went on the JET Programme as a CIR (coordinator for international relations) in Sendai and then as an ALT (assistant language teacher) in Towa-cho in rural, northern Miyagi which was the hometown of the book's protagonist. Over 3 years there, I translated the rest of the book and then self-published it on my return to Canada. From the response among Japanese-Canadians, I used it as the basis of an M.A. in History, for which P&A faculty were supportive in writing references, giving research advice, and sitting on my thesis committee. I have given several presentations on the project to community groups and academic conferences and often run into P&A faculty and fellow graduates. During reminiscing, I reflect on the special nature of P&A: it attracted a diverse group of students and faculty, offered a stimulating selection of multi-disciplinary courses, and had a committed and accessible faculty and staff. While my path is still evolving and my jobs do not always relate to the Asia-Pacific, my interests therein always lead me to interesting people, hobbies, and experiences. We have recently moved to Edmonton for my wife's job at the U of A so I am again looking to utilise my Japanese connections and skills. By the way, if you have an interest in Japanese tops (edo-koma), Forest-Farm nature art, or Oikawa Jinsaburo and his Fraser River colony - let's talk!

## Louise Vogler

### The Power of Foresight – Chinese Studies at UVic

When I arrived at UVic's Pacific & Asian Studies Department in 1988, fresh from high school, I was struggling to decide what language course to enroll in. I initially had my mind set on Japanese. A university counsellor had the foresight to suggest to me, perhaps I should study Chinese. There were far fewer students involved in Chinese studies, more opportunities to go abroad on exchange programs given that there were fewer students to compete with, and well, China had a huge population and was finally opening up to the world. There would be a promising future by focusing on Chinese. I was so convinced, I switched to Chinese classes. And for me, the rest is history.

Since graduating from the Department in May 1995, I have been fortunate to have experienced a varied and interesting career in Greater China. In August 1995, I moved to Guangdong to work as a Commercial Officer at the Canadian Consulate in Guangzhou. After two years, I joined the Royal Bank of Canada, working in both Taipei and Shanghai. Since 1999, I have been working for one of the most prominent and exciting foreign banks in Asia, Standard Chartered Bank. Initially based in Shanghai, last year I was relocated to Hong Kong to run a large corporate banking unit with revenues of USD75Mn per year.

Without a doubt, the most important differentiating factor in my career development has been my Mandarin language skills and my knowledge of Chinese culture and history. And for this, I have to thank the Pacific & Asian Studies Department at UVic. Through the Pacific & Asian Studies Department, I was chosen to study on the East China Normal University (ECNU) Exchange Program in



Louise Vogler in Xinjiang

1990-1991. That opportunity changed my life, and not only professionally – I also met my future husband at ECNU. Also through the Department's support, I was able to study on scholarship in Taiwan for a year and a half during 1992-1993.

During my studies at UVic and overseas, I always enjoyed strong support from the Department faculty. The quality of the courses offered, whether the course content or the professors and instructors, gave me an excellent foundation for my future endeavors. And now, whenever I deliver a speech in front of Chinese bankers, regulators or clients, *in Mandarin*, I smile inside wondering what my Department Profs would think. Through my short story, I am expressing my thanks to the Department faculty for their support and advice. They had the foresight over 15 years ago to steer me in the right direction, and I was able to (so far!) make the most of this guidance.

To Dr. King, Dr. Bryant, Dr. Woon, Dr. Hsiao, Karen Tang, and my other Professors ... thank you.

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**FACULTY NEWS**  
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**Martin Adam**

Over the past year a number of exciting projects have come to fruition. Foremost among these was being hired to a full-time position at the University of Victoria. Throughout this period I have split my duties between Pacific and Asian Studies and the fledgling Religious Studies Program. I continue to serve as the Religious Studies Advisor to students pursuing the RS minor. Highlights of the last year include the publication of "Groundwork for a Metaphysic of Buddhist Morals: A new analysis of punna and kusala, in light of sukka" in the Journal of Buddhist Ethics. This paper represents my most recent research and constitutes an attempt to rearticulate the meta-ethical foundations of Buddhist moral thinking as found in the Pali Canon. The article also appeared as part of the JBE's online conference "Revisioning Karma". Other conference papers over the last year have included "Nonviolence and Emptiness: Buddha, Gandhi, and the Essence of Religion" which was part of McGill University's "Revisioning Buddhism" conference, as well as other papers for the Association for Asian Studies and the regional American Academy of Religion. I also delivered two public talks "Buddhism and Social Justice" at the Knox United Church in Parksville and "Etymology of Sanskrit Terms in Yoga and Buddhism" at the Greater Victoria Art Gallery. In the summer of 2005 I attended the Institute for the Advancement of Teaching in Higher Education's Banff Retreat as part of a Learning and Teaching Centre "Type C" Grant awarded for the proposal "Taking Shape: Teaching Religious Studies at the University of Victoria".

**Michael H. Boddien**

In June of this year my short article on recent developments in Indonesian rap

music titled "Urban Poetry: Subversive 'Underground' Voices in Indonesian Rap" was published in the July-September 2005 issue of *Inside Indonesia*. A longer piece on the politics of Indonesian rap mainly covering the period up to 1998 appeared in *Asian Music* (Summer/Fall 2005). In late April I traveled to the U.K. to deliver a paper on the Ideology of Indonesian National Art Theatre at the University of Exeter ASEASUK Conference, and in mid October at the York University 2005 Canadian Council for Southeast Asian Studies Conference I presented a paper on the controversial young Indonesian writer Djenar Maesa Ayu titled: "Scandal, Cosmopolitanism and Experimental Form in the Fiction of Djenar Maesa Ayu". As part of my regular teaching load, I will be teaching a new course in the Spring 2006 term, Southeast Asian Cinema (SEA 324), featuring films from Indonesia, Thailand, and the Philippines. I will also be teaching PAAS 550, the graduate Thesis Design course, this spring.

**Daniel Bryant**

Daniel Bryant spent his half-year study leave last fall completing, but not quite finishing, his book manuscript on the Ming poet Ho Ching-ming. Work on this has continued through the year. In the spring, he was invited to a two part workshop on the problems of translating Classical Chinese poetry. He presented a paper at the first part, held at Harvard University in the spring, and is preparing another for the second session, to be held next spring at the University of Toronto.

**Leslie Butt**

In February 2005, Richard Eves of the Australian National University and I organized a symposium entitled AIDS in Oceania, which was held in Hilo, Hawai'i, as part of a larger conference on anthropology in Oceania. Although AIDS is the focus of a great deal of scholarship in other parts of Asia, in Oceania the issue has yet to command the attention it deserves. The symposium aimed to bring AIDS more to the forefront of Oceania

scholarship. Participants came from Australia, Vanuatu, Canada, the United States, Papua New Guinea and Germany to present papers. We are currently revising the papers and expect to publish them as a volume with the University of Hawai'i Press. In addition to work on this edited volume, I also published a journal article addressing indigenous responses to AIDS in Papua, Indonesia. I'm currently on leave, trying hard to write a book on the themes of reproduction and colonization in contemporary Papua.

### **Yasuko France**

From September to December 2004, I taught two sections of JAPA 149. I took a study leave from January to April 2005. During that time, I developed the supplementary materials for JAPA 149 since we have changed the textbook. Currently, I am teaching two sections of JAPA 149 using the supplementary materials along with the main text book. In the spring 2006, I will be teaching JAPA 150.

### **Tim Iles**

Timothy Iles has taken part in three international conferences in the past year, in Victoria, Edmonton (as keynote speaker), and in China, where he presented various papers on Japanese cinema ranging from spirituality in animated films to feminist issues in contemporary works. He's published his research in both online and print journals, as well as in a new book edited by Joe Kess and Helen Lansdowne. Additionally, he's published two papers and several reviews on the Electronic Journal of Contemporary Japanese Studies Website, of which he has become Film Review Editor. He's looking forward to offering the second of his newly-developed film courses in the coming term.

### **Mika Kimura**

Joined the department as a senior instructor in July 2005. I am very happy to be able to work with dynamic and

stimulating professors in the department. Currently I am teaching third-year Intermediate Japanese (JAPA 249) and Advanced Japanese (JAPA 481: Academic Japanese). Although I face many challenges everyday in teaching, I am having fun and learning a lot in my classes. One of my plans in this school year is to integrate computer-based learning resources in my courses. Effective usage of WebCT in language classes is my current focus.

### **Richard King**

Recorded the following accomplishments during the past year:

1. Participation in the first International Chinese Conference in Beijing;
2. One of four "keynote speakers" at the Canadian "Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language" Conference in Richmond in August. Paper title: "Demographic Change and the Challenges It Brings to TCFL Instructors"
3. Involved as an "Associate" in the Preparation of *The Green Guide on Teaching for Critical Thinking* by Geri van Gyn and Carol Ford.
4. Presentation on "Global Literature in the International Classroom" at the UVic Forum on Internationalization at Dunsmuir recently. Also: Guest speaker at the Annual General Meeting banquet of the Federation of Canada China Friendship Associations; title: "Super Girl and the Wolf."

### **Vivian Lee**

Vivian joined the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies in August 2004. Her current research mainly focuses on contemporary Chinese literature and cinema. She has previously published her articles on modern Chinese literature and postcolonial fiction in academic journals and a book collection. Her recent and forthcoming publications include "Cinematic Remembrances: post-1997 films by Ann Hui and Fruit Chan." *Asian Cinema* 16. 1, 2005; and "The City as Seductress: Re-imagining Shanghai in Contemporary Chinese Film and Fiction."

*Modern Chinese Literature and Culture (MCLC)*. 17.2 (Fall) 2005 (forthcoming). Two other articles on Hong Kong cinema will appear in a book collection on Asian Cinema in early 2006.

### Chris Morgan

Dr. Chris Morgan continues work on the research project **Indigenous Economies in the Pacific World System** with further analysis and presentation of fieldwork materials. Data on the turtle catchers of Wainikeli, Fiji, provided the basis for the article: "Property of Spirits: Hereditary and Global Value of Sea Turtles in Fiji". This paper that discusses turtles as a form of property associated with ancestral spirits, then shows what forces at local, regional and global levels challenge the property rights and identity of clan groups today and how the clans respond to these forces affecting their area. An early draft was presented at the annual conference of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania (ASAO); this paper now is being reviewed for the journal *Human Organization* Special Issue on *Property and Ecology in Oceania*.

Materials on pre-colonial alliances among Fiji, Tonga and Samoa are the basis of a paper proposed for presentation at the 2006 annual conference of The Royal Anthropological Society (RAS) on themes of *Periphery and Policy*. The paper is titled: "Lost Horizon: Changes to Centre-Periphery Relationships in West Polynesia (Fiji, Tonga, Samoa) and their Implications for Policy and Sustainability". It looks at indigenous forms of centre - periphery relations, expressed in such concepts as the Fijian *matanitu* "faces around the sun" and Tongan paired relation *langi - fonua* "sky - land", among others.

In this coming spring term, along with the established courses on contemporary social and political change and the local economies of Oceania, Dr. Morgan will be teaching PACI 325 "Economic and Social Development", a study of theory and methods for study of socioeconomic change.

### Hiroko Noro

Initially I was a bit overwhelmed by the amount of duties after a long break from teaching and administrative duties. After completing one academic year of teaching, I feel I am finally back to normal. One of the major events for the past year was that with a big help from Mika Kimura, I organized the annual conference of Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education in August at the University. We welcomed close to a hundred participants from Canada, U.S., Japan, Korea, and Hong Kong. Many of the participants had a very enjoyable and fruitful experience here at UVic.

### Cody Poulton

I've been at work on a number of book projects involving modern Japanese literature and theatre, and was on leave from teaching in the fall of 2004 under a SSHRC three-year grant to do research on modern drama. I am now some forty pages shy of completing a manuscript, tentatively called *A Beggar's Art: Scripting Modernity in Japanese Drama, 1910-1940*. This book will include translations of roughly ten plays in a variety of styles by some of the greatest playwrights of that generation, both male and female. Research on women dramatists has been a neglected field even in Japan, and I hope to introduce Western readers to two excellent one-act works written by women in the early twentieth century. At the same time, I'm making some progress with my coeditors, J. Thomas Rimer and Mitsuya Mori, on a larger drama anthology that will cover the entire twentieth-century Japan, slated to be published by Columbia University Press. *Shadows and Dreams: Essays on Tanizaki and Japanese Poetics in Honour of Anthony V. Liman*, a festschrift for my mentor which I coedited with Zdenka Svarcova, is scheduled to be published by Karolinum, the Charles University Press of Prague, in the spring of 2006.

### **Nozomi Riddington**

The long-awaited development term began in the fall. Thanks to an arrangement made by the Department it was possible for me to drop a six-unit teaching load in exchange for a summer of teaching. The primary goal was to prepare for two courses whose textbooks had been recently changed. While working on course material, I audited a Canadian Literature course given by Dr. Elderkin (Dept. of English) and, in addition to learning more about this subject, I experienced some first-rate teaching by an Excellent Teaching Award recipient. A paper written on Elizabeth Smart's poetic piece, "By Grand Central Station I Sat Down and Wept," helped expand my own Poetics/Aesthetics. During this fall term, I attended several Web CT basic courses in preparation for my own web creation. During a personal visit to Japan in late November, I extended my trip to a regional day-workshop held by the Nihongokyoiku Gakkai (The Society for Teaching Japanese as a Foreign Language) in Hiroshima. During the Spring term, I taught one section of second-year intensive Japanese (JAPA 150) and another intensive language course, Intermediate Japanese II (JAPA 311). Much energy was spent in providing students with new listening materials and conversational exercises based on the new text books.

### **Karen Tang**

Karen continued to teach CHIN 149, 150, 220, 320 & 420 during 2004-2005. She began to use WebCT to assist her teaching in all of the above courses. She felt it was well worthwhile to develop her curriculums into WebCT courses during her Development Term in the spring of 2004. She once again supported the delivery of CHIN 220, and 320 in Hong Kong through the twinning program with the Sultan Vicwood Chong Po Leung Kuk Sixth Form College. It was unfortunate that the twinning program between UVic and the Hong Kong College would not be continued in the future. Both Karen and

Mr. Lau, her counterpart in Hong Kong, felt it was most regrettable after they have worked hard to resolve the initial issues since the summer of 2002 and were expecting long-term collaboration in the future. Karen began to test teach Contemporary Chinese, the new textbook series edited by Dr. Wu Zhongwei of Fudan University, in CHIN 149 and 150. Since some faculty members of the Chinese Program have facilitated the work during developmental stage of this series from 2001 to 2003 and Dr. Wu visited UVic in the spring of 2004, it was a rewarding experience to finally carry out the teaching part. Karen continued to volunteer at the annual UVic-Camosun Asian Language Speech Contest organized by PASSS and was extremely pleased with the active participation of her students from the CHIN 150 class. Two groups of 10 students and five individual participants competed. This was a record number of students from one class since the beginning of this annual event in 1988.

### **Yuen-Fong Woon**

Serving this year as Pacific Studies Coordinator and as a member of the Graduate Studies Committee. Dr. Woon is also Chairing the Search Committee for the Pacific Studies Japanese Area Position, and serving as a regular member of the Search Committee for the Pacific Studies Southeast Asian Area Position. She is also teaching a graduate seminar and her usual complement of 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> year courses on China, and Asian Canadians and Their Homelands.

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**GRADUATE STUDIES**  
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**M.A. THESES COMPLETED IN  
2004-2005:**

- **Micaela Campbell**  
“No Woman Is An Island:  
Reconceptualizing Feminine Identity  
in the Literary Works of Ayu Utami”
- **Allen Haaheim**  
“Seas of Generic Change: The  
Rhapsody in the Late Six Dynasties”
- **Hu Zhang**  
“Follow the Path of the Russians’?  
Socialist Realism in the Soviet Union  
and China”

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**CURRENT GRAD STUDENTS**  
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**Dwayne Cover**  
Entered Program in 2004. Just returned from two months research in Japan. Thesis on the ways English in the “environment” influences Japanese culture and language acquisition.

**Ping Guo**  
Entered Program in 2004. Currently writing her thesis on the “historical necessity” of vernacular fiction in early China and Japan using the works of Lu Xun and Shimazaki Toson, pioneers of vernacularization movements in China and Japan, as examples that demonstrate that anti-traditional ideologies result in transformation in literary form and language.

**Gigi Lee**  
Entered Program in 2003. Just returned from research in Hong Kong and Guandong. Thesis on how the Mainland Chinese government’s one-child policy has affected the views of first generation “one-child” females with respect to ideas of family.

**Yuji Matson**  
Entered program in 2005. Area of Interest: Examining the novels of Abe Kobo and cinematic versions of them by Teshigahara Hiroshi in relation to existentialism and the search for identity in modern, urban Japan.

**Katy Mukai**  
Entered program in 2005. Area of Interest: the issue of change, continuity and reproduction of Japanese culture among different generations of Japanese migrants living in Canada.

**Tamara Sone**  
Entered Program in 2004. Just returned from research in Fiji. Thesis on trade between Fiji, Tonga, and Samoa in relation to world systems.

**Kai Zhang**  
Entered program in 2004. Currently writing her thesis on applying Joseph Campbell’s theory of the “hero quest” to an analysis of the Chinese classical novel, *Journey to the West*.

**Kefen Zhou**  
Entered program in 2004. Currently writing her thesis on Chinese intellectuals’ limitations, struggles, and suffering, and in particular the connections between politics and sexuality in the lives of intellectuals, as seen through Zhang Xianliang’s novels.

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**GRADUATE PROGRAM----AWARDS**  
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Dwayne Cover	Ho Ka Ki Graduate Studies Fellowship
Ping Guo	Chinatown Lioness
Gigi Lee	Po Ting Ip
Yuji Matson	Graduate Studies Fellowship
Tamara Sone	Ho Ka Ki Graduate Studies Fellowship
Hu Zhang	May Yuen
Kai Zhang	May Yuen
Kefen Zhou	Philip Wong

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**OCEANIA AND GRADUATE STUDIES**  
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This year Dr. Morgan happily reports the successful work of two of the department's students moving to advanced studies on Oceania. In the department, M.A. student Tamara Sone recently undertook a short field trip to Taveuni, Fiji, to compile materials for her thesis study of trade nets (see article this issue). A fascinating part of this study is the focus on the red feathers of the *kula* bird, a prestige valuable in indigenous trade. Ms. Sone showed courage and initiative in the way she established relations with Fijian sources in the village of Vuna, and thereby recorded specific items of data required for the thesis. It is a rare pleasure to introduce a student to a first experience of field observations with specific questions in hand and see the enterprise be such a successful one. Former student Vance Gardner took PACI's courses on Oceania and the new PAAS graduate theory seminar, as part of his multidisciplinary approach to the archaeology of the Pacific Islands. Recently, in association with M.A. studies at Simon Fraser University, Vance worked at a field lab and dig site in the Vava'u Islands; there he contacted some of Dr. Morgan's sources in Pangai village who gave a brief report on recent successions to the hereditary titles in the village. It is extremely encouraging to see Canadian students engaged in these field studies in Oceania. The new graduate programme also has provided some basis to cooperate with other departments and faculties and, reflecting this new opportunity, Dr. Morgan is pleased to be involved as co-supervisor in the thesis project of Crystal Reeves, a student in the Master of Law (LLM) program, who is presenting an analysis of legal changes in Samoa using a method that recognizes multiple legal communities in contemporary Pacific states.

PACIFIC AND ASIAN STUDIES

**STUDENT RESEARCH AND EXCHANGE FUND**

Last year the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies launched a Fund designed to assist graduate students and undergraduate majors in Pacific and Asian Studies in spending time in Asia learning Chinese, Japanese, or Indonesian/Malay or doing research for a Senior Honours Thesis or M.A. Thesis. **We were excited and gratified to receive over \$3000 in contributions!** Faculty members decided to put \$500 of that money to use right away (the award went to the project proposed by recent graduate Nickie Sorochan and 4<sup>th</sup> year undergrad Chandler Vandergrift: the making of a video about the conflict in Southern Thailand—see page 3-4 for details). The rest of the money was put into an account with the hope that we can eventually build an Endowment Fund of at least \$10,000, which will be able to generate approximately \$400-500 dollars in interest each year. This would allow us to make the Award available on an ongoing basis.

During the past decades, the Asia Pacific region has remained an important site for cultural, political, and economic developments of importance to the rest of the world. With Japan's continued economic importance, Southeast Asia's growing economic recoveries and attempts to make the transition to more robust democracies, and China's potential to become a dominant force in world politics and economics in the coming years, the impact of the Asia-Pacific region will not soon diminish.

It is therefore increasingly vital that Canadians be trained to speak Asian-Pacific languages and to understand Asian-Pacific societies. The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies has endeavored to build upon its past accomplishments and current faculty strengths to focus its program on the contemporary Asia-Pacific region in all its social, political, and cultural manifestations. We have now expanded our language, literature and culture programs to offer courses on cinema in China, Japan, and Southeast Asia. We have added an additional Senior Instructor to our Japanese language, literature and culture section so as to be able to offer more Japanese language and advanced cultural studies courses. This year we will be hiring new specialists in Southeast Asia and Japanese Area Studies to renew the Pacific Studies section of the Department.

Still, one of the most important building blocks in any successful Pacific and Asian Studies program is helping students travel to Asia and the Pacific for language study and research. Given the high cost of travel and other expenses in many parts of the region, and often embarrassingly modest student budgets, we hope this fund will assist more students to make the journey to Asia and the Pacific. We would greatly appreciate any contributions, however, modest, to our Student Research and Exchange Fund.

***Thanks in advance for any support you may be able to provide!***