



Pacific and Asian Studies

University of Victoria 2008-09 Newsletter

FACULTY

Dr. Cody Poulton, Chair
 Dr. Martin Adam
 Dr. Michael Bodden
 Dr. Leslie Butt
 Dr. Shelly Chan
 Dr. Katsuhiko Endo
 Ms. Yasuko France
 Dr. Timothy Iles
 Ms. Mika Kimura
 Dr. Richard King
 Dr. Hua Lin
 Dr. Tsung-Cheng Lin
 Dr. Chris Morgan
 Dr. Hiroko Noro
 Mrs. Nozomi Riddington
 Dr. Daromir Rudnyckyj
 Mrs. Karen Tang
 Ms. Jun Tian

SESSIONALS

Mr. Duncan Kerkham
 Ms. Helen Lansdowne
 Ms. Riza Lestari
 Ms. Xiaoying Liao
 Ms. Keiko Ota
 Mr. Hayato Sakamoto
 Ms. Ying Sun
 Dr. Amy Tsai
 Ms. Heidi Tyedmers
 Dr. Rui Wang

ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF

Mrs. Alice Lee
 Department Secretary
 Mrs. Joanne Denton
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GRADUATE STUDENTS

Ms. Sayuri Holman
 Ms. Yen-Kuang Kuo
 Mr. Brian Leacock
 Ms. Irina Novak
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ADJUNCT/EMERITI FACULTY

Dr. James Boutillier
 Dr. Daniel Bryant
 Dr. Robert Florida
 Dr. Harry Hsiao
 Dr. David Lai
 Dr. Joe Moore
 Dr. Jordan Paper
 Dr. Yuen-Fong Woon

A Time of Renewal, Growth, and Progress

Our Restructured Programme

A Single, Unified BA, Logical and Balanced

The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies is proud to announce our completely restructured Undergraduate Programme, which now offers a unified Honours/Major degree, as well as more appropriate General/Minors in Chinese Studies, Japanese Studies, Southeast Asian Studies, and Pacific and Asian Studies. This new programme will begin in September, 2009, and will usher in an exciting new period of renewal and balance for our department.

In the autumn of 2004, the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies underwent a periodical external review of its undergraduate programme offerings. The reviewers' report was in general very positive of our instructors and their courses, but highlighted numerous structural issues of which our students and the department itself had been increasingly aware. The reviewers pointed out the needless complexity of our current programme, and many of the limitations and obstacles to our students' smooth completion of their degrees which that complexity exacerbated. As an example, the reviewers pointed to our department's course listings in the University Calendar—these were scattered throughout multiple sections,

needlessly frustrating our students' simple recognition of what courses we offered. Further, the existing programme, encompassing seven diverse streams, presented our students with intricate requirements often times far removed from their actual interests.

In response to this review, members of the department have been working for more than four years to reconstruct our programme, following clear, manageable, equitable principles which firmly emphasise the importance of the very people for whom we are here: our students. Our new, unified Honours/Major programme is far simpler and more logical in its requirements, including language classes and four core courses which will help prepare our students for the other courses which they will take. Students will now be free to choose their own paths, to select the courses which appeal to them to build their own knowledge of Asia and the Pacific Region.

As the department conceives it, an undergraduate degree is designed for both general education and professional purposes. Students who graduate with a BA in Pacific and Asian Studies will achieve the following:

- A working knowledge of one Asian language;

- Good verbal (oral and writing) skills in English, applicable and valuable to most career objectives;
- A general knowledge of the history, society and culture of the Asia-Pacific region, with specific emphasis on modern and contemporary issues, seen from an appropriate, Asian perspective yet sensitive to their global context;
- A more specific knowledge of one country or region covered by the department;
- A grasp of the concepts and ideas essential to understanding of the region; training in appropriate critical and analytical skills; and training in the foundational skills of academic research, rhetoric, and writing;
- An appreciation and sensitivity for the cultures of Asia and the world conceived of on their own terms.

For more information, visit our department's Website, where you'll find details about our new courses as well as a course-number conversion guide: <http://web.uvic.ca/pacificasia/>

Introducing New Faculty, Saying Good-Bye to Old Colleagues

This past year, the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies saw the retirement of two of its founding members and full professors, **Dr. Daniel Bryant**, and **Dr. Yuen-Fong Woon**. **Daniel** first came to UVic in 1976 after graduate research at UBC and Kyoto University in classical Chinese literature. Author of several penetrating works on Tang, Five Dynasties and Ming poetry, he was also famous for his reviews and translations, which included a novel by the contemporary writer Zhang Kangkang. His scholarship of the past twenty years focused on the Ming poet Ho Ching-Ming, work that resulted in two major studies, *Collected Studies of Ho Ching-Ming* (in Chinese, 1997), and *The Great Recreation: Ho Ching-Ming (1483-1521) and his World* (Brill, 2008). From 1986-89, **Daniel** served as Director of the Centre for Pacific and Oriental Studies and subsequently as Chair of the unit in its transition into a Department. An avid birder, he is currently making a much awaited road trip of his native United States. **Fong** taught courses in sociology and modern China at UVic for thirty-four years before

her retirement in December. She served twice as Chair of the Department, and on a host of other university committees, including for the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives, the Faculty Women's Caucus, Humanities Strategic Planning Committee, and the Department of Women's Studies. Her research and teaching (on social organization and economic development in South China, women in China, Asian Canadians, ethnic relations and refugees) has made her an international leader in studies in these fields. Author of more than two-dozen articles as well as a monograph and many book chapters, her historical novel *The Excluded Wife* has won many awards for its portrayal of women left behind during the diaspora of Chinese men to Canada and other countries in the last century. She is currently working on another book entitled *Voices of Asian Canadians*, as well as on a memoir of her family for a volume of essays she is edited called *The Spreading Banyan: Memoirs of Hong Kong Women*. We shall miss these two colourful and erudite colleagues, and would like to wish them much health and happiness as they pursue their interests throughout their retirement.

Also this year, the department is very pleased to welcome three new Faculty members: Tsung-Cheng Lin, who joined us on July 1, 2008, as a tenure-track member in pre-modern Chinese Literature; Shelly Chan, who will join us on July 1, 2009, as a tenure-track member in contemporary Chinese history; and Jun Tian, who will join us July 1, 2009, as a Senior Instructor in the Chinese Language.

Shelly Chan is completing her Ph.D. in History at the University of California at Santa Cruz, specialising in the cultural and social history of modern China. A former resident of Vancouver, she received her B.A. and M.A. from the University of British Columbia before moving to California. Her graduate work was supported by the University of California Pacific Rim Research Program and the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada. During her academic sojourns, she was visiting scholar at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Sun Yat-sen University in Guangzhou, China, and National University of Singapore.

Ms. Chan's research focuses on the intersecting history of migration, nationalism, and gender in twentieth-century China. She studies the making of "the overseas Chinese" (*huaqiao*) as essential members of the Chinese nation and homeland in

BLUE AND WHITE A MOSQUE IN KUALA LUMPUR

Instantly recognisable architecture identifies this structure as a Muslim mosque in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia. The tiled dome, soaring spires, archways, and filigreed decorations of the pure white walls stand against the deep blue of the sky as an inviting symbol of an enduring faith, but a symbol that also connotes a complex political situation in this vibrantly multi-ethnic city.

Photo by Timothy Iles



the twentieth century. It was a troubled but unfinished political and cultural project that bears relevance to many contemporary discussions of "Chineseness," diaspora, and globalisation.

Tsung-Cheng Lin received his B.A. in Chinese Literature from Fu-Jen Catholic University in Taiwan in 1988, followed in 1994 by an M.A. in Theoretical Linguistics at Indiana University in Bloomington, Indiana. In 2006, Dr. Lin took his Ph.D. in classical Chinese literature from the Department of Asian Studies at the University of British Columbia, and began post-doctoral research, supported by the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS), at the Department of Chinese Language and Literature of Kyoto University in Japan the same year.

Dr. Lin's principal areas of research interest are classical Chinese poetry, and narrative form in Chinese poetry. He is also interested in Ming and Qing vernacular novels and novellas, early Chinese narratives, and narrative theory (including traditional Chinese and modern European).

Jun Tian is a PhD candidate in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Victoria. She brings with her over seventeen years of post-secondary

experience in teaching and curriculum development, both in Canada and in China.

Jun's teaching and research interests are in the areas of applied linguistics, second language acquisition, classroom-based research, and Chinese linguistics. Her graduate work was supported by Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, a Chinese Government Award, and UVic Fellowships. Her Ph.D. research has also won a dissertation award from "Language Learning".

News from Our Recent MA Graduates

Hilary Gorman: In the autumn of 2006, I entered the P&A Master's program to pursue my interests in studying reproductive health and rights, sex work, HIV and AIDS, and gender issues in the Asia-Pacific region. My master's research project focused on examining the lives of young women street sex workers in Surabaya, Indonesia. I spent several months conducting fieldwork there, using participant observation techniques, and conducting multiple in-depth interviews to gain an understanding of the lives of young women who work at the margins of the sex industry in Surabaya.

Once I returned to Canada I went straight to work at developing and writing my thesis, entitled “Experiences of Sexual and Reproductive Health among Poor Young Women Street Sex Workers in Surabaya, Indonesia.” The process of conducting fieldwork, writing, revising, and eventually presenting my thesis was an intense one. The hours that I devoted and working with my supervisor, Dr. Leslie Butt, allowed me to develop skills in writing and research that I have been able to put to use beyond my thesis project. After completing my thesis I was granted the opportunity to continue working in the field of sexual and reproductive health in a region that was relatively new to me—the Pacific.

I arrived in Rarotonga, largest of the Cook Islands, to work for the Pacific Islands AIDS Foundation (PIAF) in September 2008. I began working for PIAF as an intern through the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives’ (CAPI) Students for Development Program. I am now employed by PIAF as the Research Officer. The current research project that I am coordinating is titled “Women and HIV: Perspectives of Pacific Civil Society and HIV-Positive Pacific Women.” This research project aims to increase understanding of women’s vulnerability to HIV in the Pacific by examining how civil society organisations are addressing women’s vulnerability to HIV. This project will also study the experiences of women living with HIV by conducting in-depth interviews with in HIV-positive women in Fiji and Papua New Guinea.

The next research project that I am planning will examine HIV-positive people’s satisfaction with treatment and medical care in the Pacific region. This project will address the need better to understand HIV and AIDS treatment, and simultaneously build the capacities of HIV-positive people to participate in research. Undoubtedly these projects will be challenging, but my time in the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies has well equipped me to take up these challenges. So yes, it is true! There is life beyond the MA thesis. Thanks to all of the P&A faculty, staff, and students who supported me during my MA experience and best of luck to all of you in the future!

Wu Liu: Hello, rabbits! You are the first characters in my memory of UVic life. No matter which path I choose to access the Clearihue Building, I will meet

you there. Eating, chasing or sleeping, how cozy you are! I say hello to you.

Many of the faces from P&A are fresh in my mind, and I would like to express my gratitude to all of them. Thank you very much, Dr. Bryant, thank you for your tolerance and patient teaching of a freshman. Thank you, Dr. Butt, for teaching me methodology and for opening the window of sociology to me. To Dr. Bodden, I am grateful for those Indonesian novels which you introduced in your class. You may not know it, but these novels changed my way of thinking about that country. Politically, Indonesia has had conflicts with my country; I am grateful for the opportunity to have seen something other than the ‘official’ view of it. To Dr. Iles, I am grateful that you became my supervisor.

I am now sitting on the top floor of Robarts Library in the University of Toronto, starting my PhD program, building on the foundation I laid during my time at UVic. From the window, I can overlook Lake Ontario. One chapter of life is over, another is coming. Only a few people know where to go, but most people remember where they come from. I remember UVic with gratitude.

Yulin Zhou: On August 15, 2006, after a tiring, 25-hour journey from China to Canada, I finally step onto the ground of Victoria. This was the first time I was away from my home country of China, so everything appeared a little strange and uncertain. However, when I glimpsed the many colourful rabbits playing along the roads around UVic, all the hard feelings suddenly disappeared. I could not help but smiling and feeling amazed! What a heavenly place! As a nature lover, I also had the hint that I would have a wonderful experience in such a beautiful and harmonious place.

However, the first semester was a little tough for me. I was overwhelmed by reading, writing, and presentations for three courses, while I was still struggling with my English. Also, the research and writing methodologies were somehow different from what I had learned before, though I already had an MA degree from Beijing Normal University and had published several papers in China. It took time to become adjusted to these differences. I finally “survived” the first semester and gained good marks with kind help from my professors and my own effort.



Life in P&A was enjoyable, especially after the super busy first semester. I acted as Grad Student Departmental Representative in the second year. It was a good opportunity to learn about how the policies and decisions were made and to become a part of that process. Also, the TA opportunity offered by our department was incredible. Not only did I enjoy a great time with students, but also gained precious teaching experience from course instructors.

Besides bunny watching, UVic teems with other developmental opportunities. I participated in a study conducted by Dr. Catherine Etmanski. We worked out an interactive play named “UNSETTLED” with six other members. We performed it at UVic on August 11, 2006. The play received high praise, and we were invited to perform it again at two other conferences in 2007. The CBC also interviewed us.

Nearly two years after I met those lovely rabbits, on July 28, 2009, I finished my oral exam and completed my thesis. With confidence and joy, I realised how much I had changed through this journey!

After graduation, I was honoured to teach a course for our department in the fall of 2008. I presented the findings of my two MA programs, in a course entitled “Writing for the Endangered World: Contemporary Chinese Literature.” We had 18 students from different academic backgrounds but with a common interest in China. Each class was a wonderful journey for me, and for most of the students, too, I believe. Moreover, such great experience made me realise that I love college teaching so much that I should continue to pursue it.

What happens to me now? My life made a turn in early 2009: I married my husband, Jia, and we now live in Washington, DC. It was difficult to leave

UVic and Victoria, but I believe that I will realise my dreams no matter where I am.

When I look back, P&A was the very starting point of my study and life abroad. This was a wonderful journey, and I greatly appreciate the help and support from people in our department. Among them, to my advisor, Dr. King, I would like to offer thanks for his constant and invaluable guidance and support in my studies and teaching; and to other professors like Dr. Bodden, Dr. Butt, Mrs. Tang and Dr. Iles, I would like to offer thanks for their encouragement and inspiration; and the dear secretaries Alice and Joanne—their smiles were always the brightest sunshine I saw when I stepped onto our department floor! Many thanks and best wishes to everyone in our P&A family!

Summer Japanese Language Immersion Programme

The idea of sending our students to Japan in summer for authentic language and culture experiences has sprung from the students’ strong desire to learn Japanese in Japan and the long-standing relationships with Japanese partner institutions such as Konan University and Doshisha Women’s College. We started this successful programme in 2007. The program consists of Japanese language classes, cultural experiences such as trips to historical sites and meeting with local Japanese people, and a home-stay. Despite the short stay (6-8 weeks), most of our students come back with confidence and the ability to communicate in Japanese. Many students reported to us that they were immersed in the target language and culture without any discomfort of culture shock. In fact, many of them wished to go back to Japan for a long-term exchange or work opportunity. This summer,

six students will spend 6 weeks at Konan University near Kobe.

UVic/ECNU and UVic/NSYSU Chinese Language Student Exchange

For over two decades, many students who have commenced their study of Chinese in the Pacific and Asian Studies Department benefited from the UVic-ECNU exchange studentship. Each year three students are chosen to study for one year at East China Normal University (ECNU) in Shanghai. Starting from the summer of 2006, we have also organised a bi-annual summer exchange program with National Dr. Sun Yat-sen University (NSYSU) in Kaohsiung, Taiwan. There were five participants in 2008.

The long-established ECNU studentship includes free tuition, accommodation and a modest monthly allowance from ECNU. Dean Ashton and Wendy Ashton went to Shanghai in September, 2008. Here is what they thought of the experience.

The classes at ECNU were fairly well structured. We had a reading class, listening class, and a speaking class. But the primary focus of all the classes was to get you out and speaking. There was no English used in the classroom because the majority of people in the classes could not speak English. Our classmates were from Kazakhstan, Saudi Arabia, Korea, Japan, and France, and there were people from just about every country you can imagine studying at the school. The complete immersion was very intimidating at first, and to be honest, I only understood about ten percent of what was said in the first class. But the instructors were very patient and understanding and with perseverance, gradually the lessons became clear.

Classes ran from 8:30-11:45 Monday to Friday which gave us lots of free time to use what we were learning. For us, getting out and speaking was when the real learning began. We were both worried that because we were living together we would be speaking English too often, so we made an extra effort to find people to practice our Chinese with. At ECNU there is a seemingly limitless supply of Chinese students who are looking for English conversation partners. We found this to be a great way to meet people and to practice our Chinese. Some of our partners were just about fluent and

others could barely speak a word of English. It was challenging, but it really pushed our language learning to the next level. Also, ECNU is a “key university” which means the students come from all over China. We were able to meet people from every corner of the country.

As for living in the crazy metropolis of Shanghai, we loved it! There was always something to do or somewhere new to explore and the food was spectacular. We found that going out shopping, eating, or even just exploring was when we really got to put our Chinese to the test and the more our Chinese improved, the more fun we had. Overall the whole experience was amazing and we can't wait to get back to China and improve our Mandarin even more!

A Message From PASSS

Cindy Jiang, PASSS President: *The Pacific and Asian Studies Student Society (PASSS)* represents all students who are in the Pacific Asian Studies department. The goal of PASSS is to unite all students who are involved in, or are interested in the Pacific and Asian region. PASSS hosts a variety of events where students can learn about different Asian cultures, utilize (and practice) their newly learned language ability, or simply make friends with similar interests.

The 2008-2009 year has been a phenomenal success. Many PASSS students and their friends have enjoyed our monthly movie night, held on the last Wednesday of every month. We feature a movie from a different part of the Pacific and Asian region, and baked goodies are provided for moviegoers. In November 2008, our bake sale raised \$160 for the Friends of the National Parks Foundation (www.fnpf.com) located in Indonesia. The arrival of 2009 was exceptionally yummy as PASSS hosted the annual Chinese New Year's Dinner. It was a delicious ten course classic Chinese meal shared with students and friends.

The rest of the New Year will bring more bake sales, fundraisers, a language competition, and a night full of traditional Asian art, music, and dance. PASSS students have had a lot of fun putting together these events for students, faculty, and the community. Many thanks go out to our past and future supporters. We hope to see you all at our future events! PASSS it on!

Our Instructors— Research and News

Martin Adam: This year I was awarded a SSHRC Standard Research Grant for my project, "Hierarchy and Equality in Early Buddhist Ethics." I have continued to publish in this and related areas, and have undertaken a research trip to Switzerland and the U.K. I have also been working with the Humanities Computing and Media Centre at UVic to have the *Canadian Journal of Buddhist Studies* published as an E-journal from the University of Victoria.

Leslie Butt: I continue to research issues surrounding gender, reproduction and AIDS in Papua (West Papua), eastern Indonesia. Up until last year, I had been looking at the experiences of young indigenous women who are engaged in sex work in the highlands region, and in particular, at the experiences of those young women who find themselves unexpectedly pregnant. I've published three journal articles in 2007 and 2008 on the topic of women's agency, sexuality, and unplanned pregnancy. One of them was co-authored with a former M.A student, Jenny Munro. I was also happy to see a volume I co-edited finally see the light of day. It is called *Making Sense of AIDS: Culture, Sexuality, and Power in Melanesia*, and is published by the University of Hawai'i Press. Unlike a lot of other academic books, this one is actually being used by policy-makers in Melanesia to try and improve HIV-prevention initiatives. It has been distributed to health care workers and researchers working with AUSAID and the Papua New Guinea National AIDS Council. This year, I begin a new research project on women, stigma, and AIDS in Papua. This project has received funding from the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, which means I'll be able to take one or two graduate students to the field with me to help conduct ethnographic research in 2009 and 2010.

Timothy Iles: This year, in recognition of my contributions to the University of Victoria and to scholarship on Japanese cinema, I have been awarded both tenure in the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies and promotion to the rank of Associate Professor, for which I am grateful. This

year has seen the steady evolution of my courses, the steady progress of my graduate students, as well as the publication of numerous film and book reviews. Moreover, this year has seen the publication of my most recent monograph, *The Crisis of Identity in Contemporary Japanese Film: Personal, Cultural, National*, by Brill.

Tsung-Cheng Lin: I have enjoyed my first year at UVic immensely, and have continued my research activities while teaching my first courses here.

Publications: The title of my articles is "The Development of Catenation in Tang Narrative Verse: Defining the Achievement of Bai Juyi 白居易 in the Tradition of Chinese Narrative Poetry" (in Japanese), which appears in the *Haku Kyoji Kenkyuu Nenpou* 白居易研究年報 9 (*The Annual of Bai Juyi Studies, Tokyo, Japan*) (September, 2008), pp. 40-62.

Conference Presentation: (1) The topic of my presentation is "Narrative and Lyricism in Qing (1644-1911) Poetry", presented at the 2009 BC China Scholars Symposium (March 14, 2009), held at David Lam Center for International Communication, Simon Fraser University, British Columbia, Canada.

Invited Lecture and research trip in Kyoto, Japan: Keynote speaker at the meeting of Japan's *Tozan Association for Chinese Studies* to be held at Kyoto Women's University on May 23rd, 2009. My talk is concerned with the tradition of the knight-errant, particularly female knights-errant, in classical Chinese poetry. Recent Chinese and Western scholarship on classical Chinese poetry has offered a number of valuable studies of gender as it functions in the interpretation and appreciation of the poetry. The aim of my research is to contribute to the discussion of Chinese poetry further consideration of the female knight-errant, which is one of the striking evidences of the subversion of normative gender roles but has received very scant attention and examination.

Cody Poulton: During the 2008-09 academic year Cody Poulton started on a second term as Chair of the Department and taught courses in modern Japanese literature and love and sex in Japanese culture. His book *A Beggar's Art: Scripting Modernity in Japanese Drama* (University of Hawai'i Press) is currently in press. From July to the end of December 2009 he will be on leave, finishing the editing (with J. Thomas Rimer and Mitsuya Mori)

BLUE AND RED SUNSET IN KAOHSIUNG

This phenomenal sunset was captured by Ben Kong when he attended the UVic-NSYSU summer exchange in 2008. He also visited China and Hong Kong after completing the summer program in Taiwan. The photo collection of his journey can be seen at: <http://www.flickr.com/photos/beautifulhorizons/sets/>

photo by Ben Kong



of *The Columbia Anthology of Modern Japanese Drama*. Most of that time will be spent in Kyoto and Tokyo, but he hopes to get in a few hikes in the mountains too.

Completed MA Students

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

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

Kai Zhang: Exploring *The Journey to the West*

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 Zhang Ailing

Irina Novak: Representations and Personification of Technology in Japan

Leqian Yu: Microcredit in Inner Mongolia

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

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 fifth year. In the first year, the fund received over \$3000.00 in donations. 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. Many of our alumni can easily recognise the value of such "first-hand" experience.

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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