

Pacific and Asian Studies

University of Victoria 2013-14 Newsletter

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PAAS—Growing and Changing

This has been an exciting year for the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies, and heralds an era of rebirth, growth, and a tremendous—and overdue—opportunity for a comprehensive definition of the program's goals.

Taking centre stage are the department's two new Certificates in Language and Cultural Proficiency, in Chinese and Japanese. Even though these Certificates only came into effect in September, they've already given our enrolments a big boost, with some courses seeing jumps of from ten to fifteen percent, and others seeing a one hundred percent increase—actually doubling in size and student demand. We are all absolutely thrilled by the outstanding effect these new Certificates are having, and the potential they hold to help us grow and expand over the years to come.

Next, through collaboration and cooperation, the department has been able significantly to refine the unit requirements for its

undergraduate Major in Pacific and Asian Studies, bringing these down from 27 to 24, and streamlining the process of completion for our students.

Moreover, recognising the central importance of language education in our program, we have created a more parallel structure between our Chinese- and Japanese- language offerings, and have raised some of our courses from the second- to the third-year level, the better to facilitate our

students' language acquisition as part of a well-integrated undergraduate experience.

And still next, the department will see a change in its faculty membership, effective July 1, as we bid farewell to Drs. Leslie Butt and Daromir Rudnycky, who will both be moving to a new home in the Department of Anthropology. In announcing the successful outcome of the negotiations Dr. Butt and Dr. Rudnycky entered into in September, 2013, Dar wrote, "We would like to thank all the



faculty and staff in Pacific and Asian Studies for their support and collegiality during our time in the department. We have benefited tremendously from our association with distinguished colleagues, and we recognise that the consistent support and encouragement that we have received has allowed us to flourish as scholars. Although in recent years the department moved in a direction that limited our ability to contribute as fully to the departmental curriculum as we would have liked, we will recall our interactions with colleagues and students in P&A with great fondness and warm hearts. For all that the department has done for us, we offer our sincere thanks. We are optimistic that our departure will allow for positive changes in the department, and we are confident that this move will ultimately be beneficial to all.”

Following this transition, the department now has a sterling opportunity to focus itself and accept its leadership role on the Faculty of Humanities, bringing education about Asia—its histories, languages, philosophies, ideologies, and narratives—to the UVic community. We’re excited by this chance to define ourselves and our program in a cohesive, comprehensive way, and we’re looking forward to the years of renewal ahead of us.

Well Deserved!

Congratulations to Alice Lee!

The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies is thrilled and proud to announce that Alice Lee, our long-serving departmental secretary, has won the first ever Faculty of Humanities Staff Excellence Award! Congratulations, Alice!

In announcing the award, the Dean of the Faculty of Humanities, John Archibald, wrote that “The committee was very impressed with [Alice’s] contributions and the letters of support were truly impressive.” Alice will receive \$500, and her name will be engraved on a plaque which will reside in the Dean’s office.



Alice’s reaction was understandably ecstatic: “I’m truly surprised and humbled knowing that there must have been a very strong pool of nominees. However, I’m so very pleased that I WON!!”

Yes, indeed, Alice, and we’re all equally pleased! Congratulations on this recognition of all you do for the department.

The Warkentyne Award for Japanese Studies

A New Scholarship



The department is extremely pleased—and more than grateful!—to announce the establishment of a new scholarship in support of Japanese Studies here at UVic. Through the tremendous generosity of Mrs. Michiko Warkentyne, whose husband taught for many years in the Department of Linguistics at the University of Victoria, the department has created the Warkentyne Award for Japanese Studies. This will see up to two students in Pacific and Asian Studies, at either the graduate or undergraduate level, receive up to \$1000 in direct support of their studies specifically related to Japan.

The process of establishing this award was quite an interesting one, in which Mrs. Warkentyne’s true love of learning and of her home country of Japan was apparent and touching. Her love of her adopted country of Canada, too, shone through this process, and her sincere desire to help students deepen their understandings of the warm historical ties between the two.

This award will last for ten years, and has the potential to help many of our dedicated undergraduate and grad students reach their educational goals. For her kindness, generosity, and unending support of Japanese Studies at the University of Victoria, the Department of Pacific

and Asian Studies is humbly grateful for Mrs. Warkentyne. Thank you!

Coming soon to enhance our program Field Schools in Asia

Continuing our announcements of major new initiatives and changes in the department, we are very happy to announce that through ongoing discussions and collaborations, the University of Victoria will enter into an exchange agreement with Nara Prefectural University. This comes as a direct result of meetings between representatives from NPU—Dr. Hideki Kido, Ms. Shihoko Kobayashi, and the President of the university, Dr. Tadamichi Ito—and Timothy Iles, from our department. While the exchange agreement will produce a range of opportunities for students from NPU and UVic, the department is most excited about the possibility of establishing a series of field schools, starting in Nara, to examine the theme of *empire* across Asia. NPU will provide logistical support as students from UVic travel together with an instructor to gain direct experience of Asia's intertwined histories—and to earn UVic credits for their time abroad! The field school will be worth up to 4.5 units, and will begin in 2015. After Japan, PAAS will establish relations with institutions in China and Taiwan for the next two legs of the field school experience.

Field schools are receiving increasing attention and administrative support at UVic, as students, instructors, and Deans alike realise the value of direct, experiential learning way from the traditional classroom. After a one-week orientation and pre-departure series of lectures, field schools send between fifteen and twenty-five students per session to their destination, where the participants conduct original research in support of the school's theme. The Faculty of Humanities is leading the way in establishing innovative, powerful, and meaningful educational opportunities away from UVic, with the I-Witness and Colonial Legacies field schools which the Departments of Germanic and Slavic Studies and History, respectively, have established. The Department of French, too, has established a field school in Paris—where the Department of English also hopes to establish a school to examine American writers who turned to that city of passion, light, and inspiration to help them find their muses.

The Department of Pacific and Asian Studies is excited to be part of this emerging trend in academic development, and has ambitious plans to work together with our partner institutions throughout Asia.

In February of 2015, Dr. Kido from NPU will be bringing a group of students to visit UVic—the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies is looking forward to welcoming these visitors into our classes!

Congratulations to our— Completed MA Students

Sherri Carbullido: *Spirituality, Aesthetics, and Aware: Feeling Shinto in Hayao Miyazaki's My Neighbour Totoro*

Good luck to our— Continuing MA Students

Madeline Holden: Southeast Asian Area Studies

Hajime Kataoka: Contemporary Japanese Studies

Mayo Kawaguchi: Japanese Language Schools in BC

Rita Livshits: Contemporary Japan

David Long: Contemporary Indonesian Drama

Mika Matsuura: Contemporary Japan

Gabrielle Sutherland: Pacific Islands

Bai Yang: Chinese Literature

Miao Yang: Chinese literature

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 exists 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 goal of a \$10,000 endowment.



Summer Ice Sculpture Competition, Tokyo, Japan.

Photo by Timothy Iles

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