

# ASIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER

## Fall, 2009

Greetings, Namaste, Nihão!

The Asian Studies Program at NAU begins the Fall semester with a high level of activity. We are teaching 22 different courses that earn credit in the Asian Studies minor, including courses in Japanese, Chinese, and Arabic languages, as well as courses in Asian history, religions, politics, music, geography, and humanities. We're happy to bring you our news.

– **Bruce M. Sullivan**, Professor of Religious Studies & Coordinator of NAU's Asian Studies Program.

### Fall, 2009 Events

We are celebrating India in October with a series of events.

**Oct. 2**, Fri @ 3:30 in SBS room102, a lecture by Prof. Patrick Olivelle (Univ. of Texas), "Earliest Writings in India: A New Approach to the Edicts of Emperor Aśoka."

**Oct. 17**, Sat. @ 7:30 in Ashurst Hall, a concert of classical music of India featuring Prof. Chad Hamill (vocals) accompanied by sitar & tabla (cosponsored with School of Music).

**Oct. 24**, Sat. @ 7:30 in Ashurst Hall, Celebrate Indian Music and Culture with Srinivas Krishnan (cosponsors: College of Arts & Letters and College of SBS).

**Oct. 29**, Thur. @ 7:00 in LA 135, a lecture on yoga traditions by Prof. Douglas Brooks (Univ. of Rochester), "The Dancer of the Forest: Living Traditions of Nātarāja and the Great Temple of Chidambaram."



NORTHERN ARIZONA  
UNIVERSITY  
*College of Arts & Letters*

**Asian Studies Program**

### Asian Studies Faculty News

**Zsuzsanna Gulácsi**, who teaches Art History and Religious Studies courses in the Dept. of Comparative Cultural Studies, is on sabbatical this year, and is writing a book on an ancient



text, "Mani's Picture Book," that was used for religious instruction by the Manichaeans, members of a vanished world religion.

**Sanjay Joshi** (History) has had a volume accepted for publication: *The Middle Class in Colonial India*, in the series *Themes in Indian History* (Delhi: Oxford Univ. Press, 2009).

**Bruce M. Sullivan** (Religious Studies program in the Dept. of Comparative Cultural Studies), published "How Does one Study a 'Masterpiece of the Oral and Intangible Heritage of Humanity'? Ethnographic Reflections on Kerala's Kūtiyāttam," in *Method & Theory in the Study of Religion* 21 (2009): 78-86.

## More Asian Studies Faculty News

**Jim Wilce** (Anthropology) published a book, *Language and Emotion*, in the series Studies in the Social and Cultural Foundations of Language (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2009). His book published last year, *Crying Shame: Metaculture, Modernity, and the Exaggerated Death of Lament* (Blackwell) drew rave reviews.

**John Leung** (History) is presenting a paper, entitled: "In their own voices: Political, Social and Gender Constructions in Women Students' Writings in Pre-May Fourth China," at the Annual Meeting of the Western Conference of the Assn. for Asian Studies in Tucson. He is teaching a graduate seminar on the history and historiographies of the development of mutual perceptions between China and the West. In the Spring, he will teach a History course on the Asian American Experience, cross-listed with Ethnic Studies.

**Paul Donnelly** (Religious Studies program in the Dept. of Comparative Cultural Studies), is Teacher of the Year for the College of Arts & Letters, 2009-10. He's led a summer study abroad program in northwest India for the past several years.

**Chad Hamill** (Music) is teaching NAU's first course in the music of India this Fall: MUS 360 Indian Classical Music: History and Practice. He also is writing a book, *Three Fathers: The Jesuit, the Medicine Man, and the Leader of Song*, to be published by Oregon State Univ. Press.

**Scott Reese** (History) published *Renewers of the Age* (Brill, 2008), based on Arabic language sources. He is presenting a paper at the conference "Connecting Histories across the Indian Ocean: Religion, Politics & Popular Culture," organized by the Centre for the Study of Culture and Society, Bangalore, India, in collaboration with Roskilde University. The conference will be held in Goa, India.

**Alan A. Lew** (Dept. of Geography, Planning & Recreation) published a book with coauthor C. Michael Hall: *Understanding and Managing Tourism Impacts* (Oxford: Routledge, 2009).

## Additional Fall Events

### > Concert

Nov. 2, Monday @ 7:30 in Ashurst Hall, a concert by the Liän Ensemble with Chirgilchin Tuvan Throat Singers. This extraordinary event brings together a group of musicians who play classical and folk Persian music and central Asian singers whose polyphonic technique is similar to Tibetan Buddhist chant. (The School of Music organized this concert, and Asian Studies is co-sponsoring it; free for NAU students with their ID card.)

### > Modern Languages Film Series

September 23 @ 7 PM in LA 135:  
*Ponyo (Gake no Ue no Ponyo)*  
(Japan, 2008) Dir. Hayao Miyazaki.

September 30 @ 7 PM in LA 135:  
*After This Our Exile* (China, 2006)  
Dir. Patrick Tam Ka-Ming.

## New Asian Studies Faculty

**Hamideh Sedghi** is Visiting Associate Professor of Politics & International Affairs. She is the author of *Women and Politics in Iran: Veiling, Unveiling, and Reveiling* (Cambridge Univ. Press, 2007).

**Neal Liang** is our new Lecturer in Chinese language this year. He earned his Ph.D. in Linguistics from The University of Texas at Arlington. His dissertation title is "The Acquisition of Chinese Nominal Classifiers by L2 Adult Learners." His areas of interest are Second Language Acquisition, Cognitive Linguistics, Chinese Linguistics, and Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language.

**Ranya Al-Shayuwkh** is teaching Arabic language courses this year.

## Asian Studies Student News

**Karlie Knudtsen** (B.A. in Religious Studies, B.A. in Philosophy, minor in Asian Studies) did research with support from a Hooper Undergraduate Research Award, and



presented her findings in April at a colloquium on "Constructing Modern Tibetan Cultural Identity." Her work won her a university-wide award for Most Promising Undergraduate Researcher at NAU, as well as the Gold Axe Award.

**Anthony Raschke** will complete his Anthropology B.A. with minors in Asian Studies and Religious Studies by studying Arabic language in Dubai, UAE.

**Shannon Trosper** (B.A. in Religious Studies, minor in Asian Studies) has begun the M.A. program in Religious Studies at Univ. of Colorado, Boulder.

## Where are former students now?

**Scott Palmer** (graduated NAU in 1991) was in the first batch of students NAU sent to Beijing. He earned a law degree from Indiana University with a specialization in international law and is Special Counsel at the Beijing office of Baker & McKenzie, a global law firm.

**Katie Fisk** (ASN minor, graduated in 2003) is enrolled in Hawaii Pacific University for their M.A. degree in Global Leadership and Sustainable Development, with an emphasis in International Disaster Relief.

**Sam Hopkins** (ASN minor, graduated NAU in 2005) earned a master's degree in the study of religion at Harvard University, and is now in the History of Religions Ph.D. program at The University of Chicago. He spent the summer of 2009 in India studying Sanskrit.

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For further information on NAU's Asian Studies Program, please visit our website [www.cal.nau.edu/asian\\_studies](http://www.cal.nau.edu/asian_studies) or contact the Program Coordinator, Dr. Bruce M. Sullivan Professor of Religious Studies Dept of Comparative Cultural Studies NAU Box 6031 Flagstaff, AZ 86011 (928) 523-0244 [bruce.sullivan@nau.edu](mailto:bruce.sullivan@nau.edu)