This past year has been momentous for Asian and Asian American Studies at Binghamton University. Last January, our faculty decided to transform our program into a department, and over the course of the spring semester our proposal moved through the many steps of institutional approval. The Department of Asian and Asian American Studies was formally established in June and in August we moved into our expanded quarters.

The chief challenge was to incorporate into the new department three large language programs (Chinese, Japanese and Korean) that had been in the Department of German, Russian and East Asian Languages. Not only did we successfully accomplish this move, but we also began teaching Hindi this fall, with just one class, to be sure, but with plans to expand from there.

To add to these developments, the Freeman Foundation invited us to apply for a new Asian Studies three-year grant. Our ensuing proposal was accepted, and as a result we are now searching for a tenure-track position in pre-modern Japanese literature. We will also begin teaching Vietnamese in the fall of 2009, fund scholarships for students to study in Asia, and hire a half-time outreach coordinator.

We are enthused by what has happened and excited about the future. Even as we grow, we continue to share a commitment to studying Asia and Asians globally and comparatively as well as within particular national and cultural contexts.

— John Chaffee

In June, the final step in the conversion of the Asian and Asian American Studies program to department status was completed with the formal approval of the Binghamton University Faculty Senate and the Provost. The new Department of Asian and Asian American Studies comprises the existing AAASP offerings, staff and faculty as well as the faculty of the East Asian language programs who were previously a part of the German, Russian, and East Asian Language Department.

The Department of Asian and Asian American Studies is now able to offer its students a wide variety of options at both the undergraduate and graduate levels. These include the current major and minor in Asian and Asian American Studies, AAAS Graduate Certificate, AAAS/MPA Graduate Certificate and combined AAAS/MPA degree, as well as a minor in Chinese and Korean. The creation of a major in Chinese and a minor in Japanese are planned for this academic year, with majors in Japanese and Korean to follow. In addition, plans for an MA in Asian and American Studies are currently underway.

With the support of the University administration and the Harpur College Dean’s Office, DAAAS faculty and administrative functions have been relocated to a refurbished and expanded suite of offices on the ground floor south of the Bartle Library.

Binghamton University’s Department of Asian and Asian American Studies was among a select number of institutions invited to submit a proposal for two additional years of funding in support of their Asian Studies efforts. This past July, the Freeman Foundation trustees approved a two-year grant of $293,000 as part of the Undergraduate Asian Studies Initiative II program, with the third year of funding to be a one-to-one match by Binghamton University.

The additional funding will allow the DAAAS to recruit a Japanese assistant professor in pre-modern Japanese literature and to begin teaching Vietnamese. Elementary Vietnamese I and II will begin in the 2009-10 academic year, with both elementary and intermediate Vietnamese I and II to be offered during academic year 2010-11. In addition to these positions, a part-time outreach coordinator for the Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas will begin in January 2009. The outreach coordinator’s role will be to expand upon current programs as well as seek new partnerships and collaborations in Asia-related areas within the community. In addition to the teaching and outreach positions, funds will be available through the grant for scholarships for undergraduate students wishing to study in Asia.
Service Professor Conference (March 2006).
Conference on Asian Studies (October of the Asian and Asian American Studies Initiative Grant; director on Asian Studies; project director for
In addition to his current role as chair of the Binghamton University community:
only a select few in the SUNY system.
denotes consistently extraordinary rank of distinguished service professor.
A Diasporas, has been promoted to the
of the Institute for Asia and Asian American Studies, and director
Chaffee has a long history of service to the Binghamton University community: a project director for the Freeman Foundation Undergraduate Asian Studies Initiative Grant, director of the Asian and Asian American Studies Program, chair of the New State Conference on Asian Studies October 2007), and chair of the Migrations Conference (March 2006).

Hindi Added to Fall 2008 Asian Language Offerings

Beginning with the fall 2008 semester, Elementary Hindi I has been added to the language offerings of the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies and Elementary Hindi II will be offered for the spring term. The addition of Hindi will enhance the South Asian track for the AAS MA program and provide the basics of the Hindi language, which includes speaking, listening comprehension, reading and writing for students who are not native speakers.

Kudos

Jeffeller Allen, professor of philosophy, presented papers on “Distinguishing Planetary Narratives of Resurgence: First Interstellar Conference on Regio-Future Program for European Union, at the University of Warsaw in and Poland, on scientific and technological management, organized in association with the European Entrepreneurship Network. He was invited to participate in numerous roundtables at Ben-Gurion University on Palestine-Israel cooperation in Palestine development and entrepreneurship and regional development and was a keynote speaker at the International Sociological Association Annual Meeting held in Seoul, Korea, in July. He presented a seminar at Seoul National University and was a guest at Peking University and Tsinghua University, where he received an honorary affiliation as a Senior Visiting Scholar. He was the principal speaker at a meeting sponsored by the Institute of Defense Economics and Management, Central University of Finance and Economics (CUEE), in Beijing, and the keynote speaker at the 12th Annual International Meeting of Economists for Peace and Security, in Ankara, Turkey, in June.


Phoebe Golinhans, assistant professor of English, was the recipient of the Dean’s Semester Fellowship Award for spring 2009.

Masahisa Izu, assistant professor of Japanese and Asian American Studies, served as a member of the organizing committee for the three-day international conference, “The Literary View from Below: Comparative Indian and

David Stahl, associate professor, Department of Asian and American Studies, helped organize and chair panels for the annual meeting of the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association in Calgary, and “History of Wounds, Trauma, Memory, and Identity in 20th Century Chinese and Japanese Literature.” He also presented three papers (all of which will be incorporated into an ongoing book project provisionally titled Trauma, Repetition and Recovery in Modern Japanese Literature and Film). “Shin of the Fables: Interpreting the Transgenerational Transmigration in Imamura Shinobu’s Vengeance is Mine,” Historical Trauma and Response—ability: Representing and Working through Vicissitudes of the Fall in the Future,” and “A Search out and Working through in Ōe Kenzaburō’s Personal Matter.” He was invited to submit an expanded, article-length version of his work on Imamura’s Vengeance to Save,” in “Vituperative Approaches to Korean Geography,” eds. Kim Taehunbi and Sally Yee, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2007, 175-185, and a journal article, “’Indai kore’ and Korean Literature with regard to such as: Tokyo, Nihon (2006).”

Makuna Saka, associate professor of sociology, published Visible History: Women, Asian American Studies, served as a member of the organizing committee for the three-day international conference, “The Literary View from Below: Comparative Indian and

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Institute Trip to Singapore

This past April, the Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas (renamed from the Institute for Asian and Asian American Studies) organized a trip by four members of the University community to Singapore to investigate the possibility of partnerships between Binghamton and Singapore. The Binghamton group, consisting of Gerald Sonnenfeld, the University's vice president for research; Ricardo Laremont, interim dean of Harpur College of Arts and Sciences; Martha Reitman, the institute's senior executive for long-range planning; and John Chaffee spent almost a week meeting with representatives from the National University of Singapore, Nanyang Technological University, Singapore Management University, and the Singapore government’s economic development board. Follow-up on initiatives that came out of these meetings is underway, including possible collaborations in the sciences and engineering, management, and Asian Studies.

Binghamton Students spend part of summer at Fudan University’s Chinese Business Culture Program

First row, from left: Professor Yuan Jianmin (Fudan), Hsing-I Lee, Susan Chan, Virginia Chen, Iris Lau, Dila Szeto, Associate Dean Wu Zhongwei. Second row, from left: George Lee, Jimmy Tong, Kevin Su, Ezechiel Bly, Eve Gao, Diana Chan. Not in photo: Lilly Tam.

daaas news

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