

daaas news

A Newsletter from the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies

From the Chair

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

AAASP Becomes a Department

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.

The Department Receives New Grant

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.

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Chair of DAAAS Promoted to Distinguished Service Professor

History Professor John Chaffee, chair of the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, and director of the Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas, has been promoted to the rank of distinguished service professor. The distinguished professorship denotes consistently extraordinary accomplishments and is conferred upon only a select few in the SUNY system.

Chaffee has a long history of service to the Binghamton University community: In addition to his current role as chair of the new Department of Asian and Asian American Studies and director of the Institute for Asia and Asian Diasporas, he has been chair of the History Department; president of the New York Conference on Asian Studies; 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).

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Chair
John Chaffee

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DAAAS Welcomes New Faculty

Chenqing Song, assistant professor in the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, comes to Binghamton from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, where she earned a doctorate in East Asian Languages and Culture in 2008 and is currently completing a second dissertation in linguistics. Her research interests are in historical Chinese phonology, Chinese language pedagogy, Chinese dialectology, general phonology, especially tones and intonation, tonal acquisition and poetic prosody in Chinese poetry. Song's recent publications include: co-translator for *Phonology in Generative Grammar* by Michael Kenstowicz, Beijing: Shangwu Yinshuguan (Commercial Press), 2008; "Teaching Methodology of Classical Chinese — from the Perspective of Different Learners," *Journal of Language Teaching and Research*, vol. 1, pp. 9-22, 2005; and "Chinese Language Oral Proficiency Test in North America," *Overseas Chinese Language*, vol. 1, pp. 200. She was also the 2007 recipient of the Young Scholar Award and the Hashimoto Historical Linguistics Award from the International Association of Chinese Linguistics. Professor Song is teaching courses in elementary-level Chinese this fall.

Yuki Taguchi is a lecturer in the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies. Ms. Taguchi earned her MA in 2003 from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in Japanese linguistics and is teaching Japanese language courses at Binghamton.

Shu-min Tung-Kaldis, lecturer in the Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, received her MFA from the Rhode Island School of Design in 2004 and has been on the faculty at Binghamton University as a visiting artist and visiting assistant professor in the art department and an instructor in Chinese. Ms. Tung-Kaldis has exhibited her work in a number of juried shows, including *Spectrum: The Chakra Element*, at the Micro Museum, Brooklyn, N.Y., April 2007; *The Boston Printmakers' 2007*, at the North American Print Biennial, Boston University, February-April 2007; *New Prints 2000-2006*, at the Mayer Museum, Randolph Macon College, Ashland, Va., September-December 2006; and *New Prints 2006/Summer: COLOR*, at the International Print Center, New York City, June-August 2006. Ms. Tung-Kaldis is currently teaching intermediate-level Chinese.

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 AAAS major and provide the basics of the Hindi language, which includes speaking, listening comprehension, reading and writing for students who are not native speakers.

DAAAS Faculty Member Organizes Back-to-Back Conferences

Sungdai Cho (Binghamton University) and John Whitman (Cornell University and president of ICKL) were the local organizers for the 16th Meeting of the International Circle of Korean Linguistics (ICKL), which was held at Binghamton University and Cornell University in conjunction with the 2008 Meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Korean (AATK), June 26-29, 2008.

Invited speakers for the ICKL meeting included William O'Grady, University of Hawaii- Manoa; James Yoon, University of

Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; Gregory Iverson, University of Maryland, College Park; and Yoonjung Kang, University of Toronto.

The invited speakers for the AATK were Heidi Byrnes, the George M. Roth Distinguished Professor of German at Georgetown University, and Yasu-Hiko Tohsaku, professor of development studies at the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies at the University of California, San Diego.

Kudos

Jeffner Allen, professor of philosophy, presented papers on "Diving Planetarity: Narratives of Reef," First International NarrativEncounters Conference, University College, Cork, Ireland, February 2008; and "Air dipotong tidak putus | Cut water is not severed," 8th ASEAN Inter-University Conference, Asean as a Community—Solidarity in a Globalizing World," Manila, May 2008. Her recent publications include "Linguistic Imagination in the 21st Century," in *The Power of Language: Theory, Practice, and Development*, ed. N. Karasanandana, Bangkok: Royal Institute of Thailand Press, in press, forthcoming 2008; and "Diving Planetarity," in *This Watery World: Humans and the Sea*, 2nd ed., ed. Vartan Messier and Nandita Batra, Newcastle-upon-Tyne: Cambridge Scholars Press, in press, forthcoming 2008.

John Chaffee, professor of history and chair, Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, recently published "At the Intersection of Empire and World Trade: The Chinese Port City of Quanzhou (Zaitun), Eleventh-Fifteenth Centuries," in Kenneth R. Hall, ed., *Secondary Cities and Urban Networking in the Indian Ocean Realm, c. 1400-1800* (Lanham, MD: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers, 2008), pp. 99-122; and "Examinations during Dynastic Crisis: the Case of the Early Southern Song," *Journal of Song Yuan Studies* 37 (2007): 135-160.

Manas Chatterji, professor, School of Management, co-edited two books: *Conflict and Peace in South Asia and War, Peace and Security*, Amsterdam: Elsevier Publishing (forthcoming). He participated in three organized international workshops on peace science and regional science in association with Professor Walter Isard from Cornell at the department of history at Calcutta University; the School of International Studies, Nehru

University, New Delhi; and Indira Gandhi Institute for Development Research, Mumbai. He gave invited speeches at the Warsaw Conference on Regio-Future Program for European Union, at the University of Warsaw and in Łódź, Poland, on entrepreneurship and technology management, organized in association with the European Entrepreneurship Network. He was invited to participate in international 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 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 (CUFE), in Beijing, and the keynote speaker at the 12th Annual International Meeting of Economists for Peace and Security, in Ankara, Turkey, in June.

Zu-yan Chen, professor of Asian and Asian American Studies, has published an article, "Shao Yong's (1011-77) 'Great Chant on Observing Weiqi': An Archetype of Neo-Confucian Poetry," in the *Journal of the American Oriental Society* 126.2 (2006): 199-221, (published in March 2008).

Praseeda Gopinath, assistant professor of English, was the recipient of the Dean's Semester Fellowship Award for spring 2009.

Maneesha Lal, assistant professor of history and Asian 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

Diasporic South Asian Literature and Culture," held at Cornell University May 3-5. She was also the organizer and discussant for a panel at the conference on "Institutional and International Contexts: Translation, Publication, Criticism." Her article, "The Politics of Gender and Medicine in Colonial India: The Countess of Dufferin's Fund, 1885-1888," will be reprinted in *Women and Science in India*, ed. Neelam Kumar (New Delhi: Oxford University Press, forthcoming 2009).

Yoonkyung Lee, assistant professor of sociology, has had an article, "Divergent Outcomes of Labor Reform Politics in Democratized Korea and Taiwan," accepted for publication in *Studies in Comparative International Development*, 44 (1), spring 2009. She was the recipient of the dean's research semester award for fall 2008 and will be a Visiting Research Fellow at the University of California-San Diego's Korea-Pacific Program in spring 2009.

Michael Pettid, associate professor, Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, recently had published *Korean Cuisine: An Illustrated History*, London: Reaktion Press, April 2008; "Cyberspace and a Space for Gays in South Korea," in *Sitings: Critical Approaches to Korean Geography*, eds. Tim Tangherlini and Sallie Yea, Honolulu: University of Hawaii Press, 2007, 173-185; and a journal article, "현대 한국 대중문화에 관한 교육자료: 현황, 분석, 개발" [Educational Materials on Contemporary Korean Popular Culture: Present State, Analysis, and Development], in *한국문화연구* 13, Korean Cultural Studies, 2007, 13, 279-302.

Mahua Sarkar, associate professor of sociology, published *Visible Histories, Disappearing Women: Producing Muslim Womanhood in Colonial Bengal*, Duke University Press (April 2008), and as a special South Asian edition from Zubaan Books, Delhi.

David Stahl, associate professor, Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, helped organize and chaired panels on "Interpreting Sex and Violence in China, Taiwan and Japan" and "Interpreting Sex and Violence in Postwar Japan" for the Annual Meeting of the Rocky Mountain Modern Language Association in Calgary, and "History 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*): "Sins of the Fathers, Sins of the Sons: Transgenerational Transgression in Imamura Shōhei's *Vengeance is Mine*"; "Historical Trauma and Response-ability: Representing and Working through Victimization in Grave of the Fireflies"; and "Trauma, Acting out and Working through in Ôe Kenzaburō's *Personal Matter*." He was invited to submit an expanded, article-length version of his study on Imamura's *Vengeance is Mine* for journal publication by one of the editors of Japan Forum.

Hong Zhang, senior lecturer of Chinese, Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, attended the Sixth New York International Conference on Teaching Chinese in New York, May 2008, where she chaired a panel on teaching methodologies and presented a paper entitled "Developing Language Proficiency through Singing."

Bong Joon Yoon (尹鳳駿), professor of economics, recently published "The Tales of Three Rich and Strong Nations (선진3국부강기, 先進3國富強記): How Did China and Korea Get behind England, America, and Japan?" (Samsung Economic Research Institute, 2008).

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.



Left to right: Ricardo Laremont; Gerald Sonnenfeld; Seeram Ramakrishna, NUS vice president for research strategy; John Chaffee; and Martha Reitman

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.

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