



CHINESE & JAPANESE STUDIES NEWSLETTER

Valparaiso University

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CHINESE & JAPANESE STUDIES PROGRAM

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Preparing for the popular annual Japanese dinner on April 4, 2009 were Collins von Carsten, Akiko Hasegawa, Kiyoshi Kanazawa, Naoki Shimoyama, and Ken Takekura. See page 2 for story.

Summer, Summer, Summer!

1. 2009 Summer Courses/Internship in China Program

21 VU students and 2 faculty will depart for Hangzhou, China on May 18 to participate in the 8th Summer Courses/Internship in China Program. They are: Sarah Adams, Nicholas Babbitt, Daniel Barbosa, Israel Bisoni, Kayla Breitenbach, David Carter, Brittany Edwards, Katherine Emig, Tuvshinbileg Ganzorigt, Austin Hook, Jackson Hui, Michael Jones, Catherine Joshua, Bruce A Morgan II, Jessica Moy, Andrew Schultz, Alexander Smith, Kathryn Springer, Christopher Stohs, Martha Walsh and Margaret Weber. Professors David Weber and George Pati from the Theology department will join the trip as a resident director and research scholar, respectively. In addition, Professor Paul Trapp (CBA) who has helped organized the tour will teach an online course for the program.

While in China, the students will conduct internships in nine Chinese companies and institutions for four weeks. They will travel to various places in China such as Beijing for the last three days of the program. Contact Dr. Lin for more information on the 2010 Summer Courses/Internship in China Program in.

2. 2009 Summer Advanced Chinese Program in Hangzhou

22 participants across the country will participate in VU's Summer Advanced Chinese Program (SACP). The program is funded by a four-year, \$390,000 grant from the US Department of Education.

Participants must have taken at least two years of college Chinese. They will go through 8-11 weeks of intensive training in Chinese language as they will be immersed into the environment. Participants include current and incoming VU MACS (Master of Arts in Chinese Studies) students, K-12 teachers of which some are enrolled in the special teacher's track of MACS, and college undergraduate and graduate students from some 12 universities.

This is the second year VU sponsors a SACP. If you are interested in the 2010 Summer Advanced Chinese Program, please contact Jamie Haney, the program coordinator (jamie.haney@valpo.edu).

3. Windiana 2009 China Concert Tour

33 members of *Windiana Concert Band* under the directorship of Dr. Jeff Doebler (Music) and Professor Jianyun Meng (Foreign Language) will travel to China in June. They will perform five to six concerts and tour several places in China including the famous *Jiuzhaigou* near the panda reservation area.

Faculty Notes

- **Jennifer Prough** (Christ College): This year my main research focus has been revising my manuscript on the production of *shōjo manga*, which is out for review with the University of Hawai'i Press. I hope to have good news on that by the end of this summer. This spring I gave a paper at the Midwest Japan Seminar and attended the Association of Asian Studies Conference, both of which inspired me to think about the next big research project as well as potential courses to teach. Here at Valpo much of my time this year was consumed by the Provost search which was certainly an interesting event to take part in. My teaching responsibilities are divided between Christ College's "Freshman Program;" courses on Japan for CJS; and courses on Anthropology. Last fall I taught in "Freshman Program" and "Introduction to Anthropology." In spring, I taught two upper level seminars, "Japanese Visual Culture" which I have taught one other time and "Object, Ritual, Discourse" which is a new interdisciplinary seminar. Finally, I have coordinated the CJS Colloquium since its inception three years ago which I particularly enjoy for its ability to bring us all together to think about Asian culture and foster community. This summer I am looking forward to writing up several research projects and working on grants for my next project on history and memory in Kyoto.

- **Jaishankar Raman** (Economics) is the winner of the 2009 Caterpillar teaching award.

- **James Nelson** (Psychology) is the author of a recently published book, *Psychology, Religion, and Spirituality* (2009, Springer). For the 2009-10 academic year, he will be on sabbatical doing research at U. of Notre Dame and U. of Cambridge.

- **Zhimin Lin** (Political Science) contributed a chapter on soft power to a book on the latest developments in the field of studies of international relations that will be published in China this year.

- **George Pati** (Theology) has two scholarly articles: "Mohiniyattam: An Embodiment of Bhakti Bhava and Rasa," *Journal of Hinduism*. Leiden: E. J. Brill; "Kalar and Kalarippayattu of Kerala, South India: Nexus of the Celestial, the Corporeal, and the Terrestrial,"

TAPASAM: Journal of Kerala Studies; and a chapter, "Sivasurabhiby Kumaran Asan: A Translation," Norton Anthology of Religion, accepted for publication.

- **Fred Kavanagh** (Foreign Language) has been hard at work driving the Japanese section in its core language courses. The decision to shelve FLJ 250 (*Japanese Traditional Poetry and Calligraphy*) during the spring semester was a blow to some of our students, and is deeply regretted. Dr. Kavanagh has also been preparing a paper based on his translation of the Shinkokinshū imperial poetic anthology of 1205. The paper details the imagistic cycles occurring in Book VI of the anthology. Dr. Kavanagh will be completing this article and tuning the translation as a whole (when he's not touring the foothills of the Ozarks on his road-racing bicycle) in his Springfield, Missouri, home.

- **Jon Schoer** (Chemistry): VU students Jeff Field (ENVS and Geo) and Lindsey Gilman (Chem) completed 16 days of surface water quality research with me in the Hangzhou area. We worked collaboratively with the research group of Professor Zhijian Zhang of the Research Center of Eco-Environmental Science in the College of Environmental and Resource Sciences at Zhejiang University. We looked at a variety of water quality parameters including dissolved oxygen, pH, ammonia concentrations, conductivity, and heavy metal concentrations. We are currently preparing a paper on our research. VU Engineering student Philip Lohrman performed similar research during the summer while he was at Zhejiang Forestry University working with the research group of Dr. Zhengqian Ye of the Lab of Forest Soils and the Environment at ZFU. Philip focused his efforts on domestic and agricultural waste water.

- **Benjamin Ridgway** (Master of Arts in Chinese Studies): This has been a very eventful, busy, but exciting second year for me at VU. First, I taught a brand new topics course, Chinese Studies 590: A Seminar in Classical Chinese Poetry, composed of MACS graduate students, undergraduate students from Christ College, and international graduate students from China. The combination of diverse points of view created some wonderful class discussions and the students produced some impressive papers on Chinese poetry.

Perhaps the event that I feel most proud of being involved with this year and which I hope has had a significant impact on the area community is the First Annual Indiana-Illinois High School Chinese Speech Contest sponsored by the MACS Program and the Confucius Institute at VU held on March 29, 2009, for which I acted as a coordinator.

This summer I am presenting two papers at international conferences in Tokyo and Shanghai and conducting research in China related to my dissertation revisions. First I will lead a panel at the Thirteenth Asian Studies Conference Japan (ASCJ) held at Sophia University in Tokyo. Then I will fly on to Shanghai where I will be a presenter on a panel at the University of Michigan-Fudan University sponsored First International Conference on Gender Studies. Last but not least, three encyclopedia entries that I composed for the *Berkshire Encyclopedia of China* on the Song dynasty poets Su Shi (1037-1101) and Xin Qiji (1140-1207), as well as an entry on the song lyric genre, were published in March 2008.

Japanese Studies at VU

Valpo offers three years of Japanese and several courses related to Japanese literature, calligraphy, popular culture, history, politics. Students majoring in Chinese and Japanese Studies (Japanese) also

have opportunity to study in Kansai Gaidai in Osaka, Japan for up to one year.

Japanese Club: On Saturday, April 4, the *Wakabakai Japanese Club* held their annual Japanese Dinner. Over 60 guests attended, including students, faculty members, and community members. With the help of Professors Zhimin Lin, Jennifer Prough, and Brent Whitefield, students Brittany Partin, Akiko Hasegawa, Amber Hill, Kirsten Eid, Adam Raynor, Naoki Shimoyama, Kiyoshi Kanazawa, Ken Takekura, Kory Biggerstaff, Philip Lohrman, and other volunteers served udon and soba (two types of Japanese noodles), tempura, onigiri (rice balls), and a variety of Japanese desserts. Students also provided entertainment, including trivia and chopstick games, origami, writing guests' names in Japanese, and singing karaoke in Japanese.

The Japanese club meets every Monday at 4:30 pm in the Heritage Room of the Harre Union for *Hanashihoudai* (All-You-Can-Speak), the Japanese speaking hour. All students studying Japanese or interested in learning Japanese are welcome to attend. Besides the annual dinner for the community every April, the Japanese club members also take trips to the Mitsuwa Japanese marketplace near Chicago, read English translations of novels by Japanese authors, and host movie nights. The club plans to use the proceeds from ticket sales at the dinner to purchase books in Japanese as a resource for the Japanese studies program. Contact Brittany Partin (Brittany.partin@valp.edu) if you are interested in the Club.



Here is Brittany Partin writing names in Japanese with Amber Hill (sitting next to Brittany) teaching *origami*.

Chinese and Japanese Studies Administrative Committee

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