



2005-06 Newsletter

Faculty

Cody Poulton, Chair

Martin Adam

Michael Bodden

Daniel Bryant

Leslie Butt

Yasuko France

Benglan Goh

December. In 2004, our colleague Richard King, a specialist in modern Chinese literature, became Director of the Centre for Asia-Pacific Initiatives for a three-year term. The Japanese section of the Department, under the leadership of Dr. Cody Poulton, Dr. Hiroko Noro, and Nozomi Riddington, successfully applied to the Japan Foundation-AUCC for seed money for an additional Senior Instructor in Japanese language. As a result of this, Ms. Mika Kimura was hired and has now become a member of the department's regular faculty. We were also fortunate to be the departmental home for the first regular faculty member hired to teach in the Religious Studies Program, Dr. Martin Adam, who specializes in Tibetan Buddhism. Martin will be teaching courses on East Asian Religions and Buddhism for the department. In early spring we were delighted to receive permission to begin the search for a new specialist in Japanese studies with a history or social sciences disciplinary background. On a sad note, Dr. Benglan Goh will be leaving her position in Pacific and Asian Studies to return to the National University of Singapore. We'd all like to wish her well. We are currently looking for a Southeast Asia specialist to replace her.

Our drive to raise funds for The Pacific and Asian Studies Student Travel and Research Award (announced in the last newsletter) got off to a good start last year, with over \$3000 in contributions. Based on those results, the department's faculty decided to give the Fund's first annual award last spring. The recipients were recent graduate Nickie Sorochan and fourth-year undergrad Chandler Vandergrift, who proposed to produce a documentary film on the conflict in Southern Thailand (more about that on pages 3-5). The department was also awarded an additional \$5000/year by the Dean of Humanities to support our graduate TAs. While funding for graduate students remains in short supply, this is a significant step in the right direction.

As of July 1st of this year, Michael Bodden stepped down as Chair and was replaced by Dr. Cody Poulton of the Japanese Language, Literature, and Culture program. His first major task was to prepare and coordinate documentation for an external academic review, the first in seven years, which involved an intensive two-day site visit in October by three external examiners, Tim Craig (from the Faculty of Business, UVic), Christine Jourdan (Concordia University) and Graham Sanders (University of Toronto). Academic reviews of this type are a regular part of the university's monitoring of programs and providing accountability to the community and government for what we teach. While P&A is awaiting the external reviewers' report, the "self-study document" produced by Pacific & Asian Studies, which describes the Department's history, programs, faculty, staff, students and goals, was recently held up as a model by the Office of the Vice-President Academic at a workshop for other units on the academic review process.

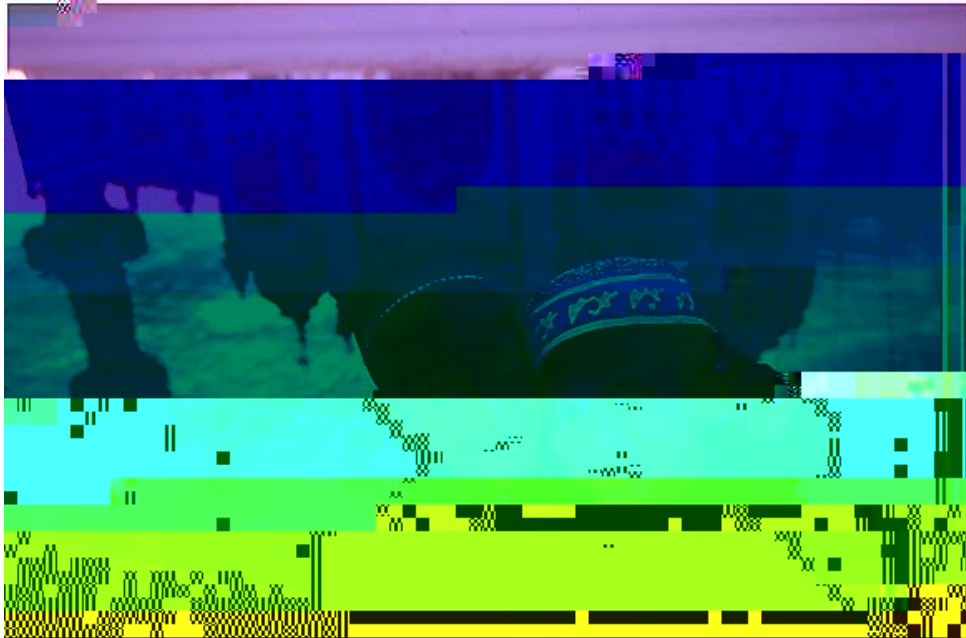
Over the past seven years, Pacific & Asian Studies has negotiated a difficult period that saw the loss of several faculty due to resignations and retirements and a downturn in enrollments in Southeast Asian studies due to political and economic uncertainties in the region, particularly in Indonesia. At the same time, however, a degree of political and economic stability has returned to all parts of Asia, prompting increased interest among students in Southeast Asian Studies again, as well as continuing strong enrollments in Chinese and Japanese Studies. In the meantime, the Department has managed to regain its lost faculty positions, albeit slowly, while instituting a new language and literature major for undergraduates and, most importantly, a new MA program. P&A currently has 9 MA students, a number of them nearing completion; we will be accepting more in the spring of 2006.

Michael Bodden (Outgoing Chair), Cody Poulton (Incoming Chair)

FILMING THE CONFLICT IN SOUTHERN THAILAND By Chandler Vandergrift

We had been watching the headlines emanating out of Thailand for over a year but we were still shocked by what happened in the last week of October 2004. The daily violence that was plaguing the far Southern provinces of Pattani, Narathiwat, and Yala was increasing in tempo and increasing in raw brutality. The execution of school teachers, the beheadings of agricultural workers, and the bomb attacks on Buddhist monks taking alms were reported on a daily basis now. Yet the events of late October somehow propelled the conflict to a new and more dangerous level. A protest had formed outside a police station in the small southern town of Tak Bai and had grown violent. As the news started to filter out of the south it was reported that 85 protesters had died – the majority while in police custody. That evening Nickie called me and said “wow, it will be an interesting time to go to the South now!”

Nickie Sorochan and I had been planning to produce a documentary film about the violence in Southern Thailand for over a year before the escalation in violence occurred. We had approached the concept of a documentary film as a way to apply our Pacific and Asian Studies degrees. It had all seemed rather easy in our initial plans. Nickie had a growing interest in film and was planning to take film classes in her final year and I had had a long interest in photography. With a basic knowledge of film and our regional understanding of Southeast Asia it seemed like a natural progression. The monumental size of our project had yet to dawn on us.



Muslim Boys in front of a Mosque reflecting pool in Pattani

As Nickie settled into film classes at UVic I went to Thailand on an official UVic exchange to Mahidol University. I began to study the conflict in the South with a whole range of

While my various theses were being tested and defeated, Nickie was in pursuit of our most challenging obstacle – funding. Our simple pursuit of a documentary film was planned with ample enthusiasm but also with the limited budget of undergraduate students. Nickie tackled the monumental funding trouble by organizing a fund raiser at the Grad Lounge and securing the much appreciated 1st



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Thanks to all the contributors for this issue: Chandler Vandergrift, Tamara Sone, Kenta Omigishi, David Sulz, Louise Vogler, and all regular faculty members.

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NEW FACULTY
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Mika Kimura

Though Mika Kimura has taught as a sessional instructor in the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies for some years now, we are pleased that as of July 1, 2005, she has officially joined the Department as a regular faculty member with the Rank of Senior Instructor for Japanese Language and Culture courses. This position was secured with the assistance of funding from the Japan Foundation-AUCC. This hire greatly strengthens the Japanese language and culture program allowing more advanced classes to be offered to meet continuing student demand.

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ALUMNI REPORTS
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Kenta Omigishi

My name is Kenta Omigishi, a former undergraduate student at UVic, majoring in Pacific and Asian Studies. Graduating from Belmont Senior High school in Colwood, UVic was a natural choice for me and I did not think of any alternative. I graduated

Louise Vogler

The Power of Foresight – Chinese Studies at UVic

When I arrived at UVic's Pacific & Asian Studies Department in 1988, fresh from high school, I was struggling to decide what language course to enroll in. I initially had my mind set on Japanese. A university counsellor had the foresight to suggest to me, perhaps I should study Chinese. There were far fewer students involved in Chinese studies, more opportunities to go abroad on exchange programs given that there were fewer students to compete with, and well, China had a huge population and was finally opening up to the world. There would be a promising future by focusing on Chinese. I was so convinced, I switched to Chinese classes. And for me, the rest is history.

Since graduating from the Department in May 1995, I have been fortunate to have experienced a varied and interesting career in Greater China. In August 1995, I moved to Guangdong to work as a Commercial Officer at the Canadian Consulate in Guangzhou. After two years, I joined the Royal Bank of Canada, working in both Taipei and Shanghai. Since 1999, I have been working for one of the most prominent and exciting foreign banks in Asia, Standard Chartered Bank. Initially based in Shanghai, last year I was relocated to Hong Kong to run a large corporate banking unit with revenues of USD75Mn per year.

Without a doubt, the most important differentiating factor in my career development has been my Mandarin language skills and my knowledge of Chinese culture and history. And for this, I have to thank the Pacific & Asian Studies Department at UVic. Through the Pacific & Asian Studies Department, I was chosen to study on the East China Normal University (ECNU) Exchange Program in



Louise Vogler in Xinjiang

1990-1991. That opportunity changed my life, and not only professionally – I also met my future husband at ECNU. Also through the Department's support, I was able to study on scholarship in Taiwan for a year and a half during 1992-1993.

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FACULTY NEWS

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Martin Adam

Over the past year a number of exciting projects have come to fruition. Foremost among these was being hired to a full-time position at the University of Victoria. Throughout this period I have split my duties between Pacific and Asian Studies and the fledgling Religious Studies Program. I continue to serve as the Religious Studies Advisor to students pursuing the RS minor. Highlights of the last year include the publication of "Groundwork for a Metaphysic of Buddhist Morals: A new analysis of punna and kusala, in light of sukka" in the Journal of Buddhist Ethics. This paper represents my most recent research and constitutes an attempt to rearticulate the meta-ethical foundations of Buddhist moral thinking as found in the Pali Canon. The article also appeared as part of the JBE's online conference "Revisioning Karma". Other conference papers over the last year have included "Nonviolence and Emptiness: Buddha, Gandhi, and the Essence of Religion" which was part of McGill University's "Revisioning Buddhism" conference, as well as other papers for the Association for Asian Studies and the regional American Academy of Religion. I also delivered two public talks "Buddhism and Social Justice" at the Knox United Church in Parksville and "Etymology of Sanskrit Terms in Yoga and Buddhism" at the Greater Victoria Art Gallery. In the summer of 2005 I attended the Institute for the Advancement of Teaching in Higher Education's Banff Retreat as part of a NTJO.00r1ndefn United

scholarship. Participants came from Australia, Vanuatu, Canada, the United States, Papua New Guinea and Germany to present papers. We are currently revising the papers and expect to publish them as a volume with the University of Hawai'i Press. In addition to work on this edited volume, I also published a journal article addressing indigenous responses to AIDS in Papua, Indonesia. I'm currently on leave, trying hard to write a book on the themes of reproduction and colonization in contemporary Papua.

Yasuko France

From September to December 2004, I taught two sections of JAPA 149. I took a study leave from January to April 2005. During that time, I developed the supplementary materials for JAPA 149 since we have changed the textbook.

Currently, I am teaching two sections of JAPA 149 using the supplementary materials along with the main text book. In the spring 2006, I will be teaching JAPA 150.

Tim Iles

Timothy Iles has taken part in three international conferences in the past year, in Victoria, Edmonton (as keynote speaker), and in China, where he presented various papers on Japanese cinema ranging from spirituality in animated films to feminist issues in contemporary works. He's published his

Modern Chinese Literature and Culture (MCLC). 17.2 (Fall) 2005 (forthcoming). Two other articles on Hong Kong cinema will appear in a book collection on Asian Cinema in early 2006.

Chris Morgan

Dr. Chris Morgan continues work on the research project **Indigenous Economies in the Pacific World System** with further analysis and presentation of fieldwork materials. Data on the turtle catchers of Wainikeli, Fiji, provided the basis for the article: "Property of Spirits: Hereditary and Global Value of Sea Turtles in Fiji". This paper that discusses turtles as a form of property associated with ancestral spirits, then shows what forces at local, regional and global levels challenge the property rights and identity of clan groups today and how the clans respond to these forces affecting their area. An early draft was presented at the annual conference of the Association for Social Anthropology in Oceania (ASAO); this paper now is being reviewed for the journal *Human Organization* Special Issue on *Property and Ecology in Oceania*.

Materials on pre-colonial alliances among Fiji, Tonga and Samoa are the basis of a paper proposed for presentation at the 2006 annual conference of The Royal Anthropological Society (RAS) on themes of *Periphery and Policy*. The paper is titled: "Lost Horizon: Changes to Centre-Periphery Relationships in West Polynesia (Fiji, Tonga, Samoa) and their Implications for Policy and Sustainability". It looks at indigenous forms of centre - periphery relations, expressed in such concepts as the Fijian *matanitu* "faces around the sun" and Tongan paired relation *langi - fonua* "sky - land", among others.

In this coming spring term, along with the established courses on contemporary social and political change and the local economies of Oceania, Dr. Morgan will be teaching PACI 325 "Economic and Social Development", a study of theory and methods for study of socioeconomic change.

Hiroko Noro

Initially I was a bit overwhelmed by the amount of duties after a long break from teaching and administrative duties. After completing one academic year of teaching, I feel I am finally back to normal. One of the major events for the past year was that with a big help from Mika Kimura, I organized the annual conference of Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education in August at the University. We welcomed close to a hundred participants from Canada, U.S., Japan, Korea, and Hong Kong. Many of the participants had a very enjoyable and fruitful experience here at UVic.

Cody Poulton

I've been at work on a number of book projects involving modern Japanese literature and theatre, and was on leave from teaching in the fall of 2004 under a SSHRC three-year grant to do research on

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Nozomi Riddington

The long-awaited development term began in the fall. Thanks to an arrangement made by the Department it was possible

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GRADUATE PROGRAM----AWARDS
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Dwayne Cover

Ho Ka Ki
Graduate Studies Fellowship

Ping Guo

Chinatown Lioness

Gigi Lee

Po Ting Ip

Yuji Matson

Graduate Studies Fellowship

PACIFIC AND ASIAN STUDIES

STUDENT RESEARCH AND EXCHANGE FUND

Last year the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies launched a Fund designed to assist graduate students and undergraduate majors in Pacific and Asian Studies in spending time in Asia learning Chinese, Japanese, or Indonesian/Malay or doing research for a Senior Honours Thesis or M.A. Thesis. **We were excited and gratified to receive over \$3000 in contributions!** Faculty members decided to put \$500 of that money to use right away (the award went to the project proposed by recent graduate Nickie Sorochan and 4th year undergrad Chandler Vandergrift: the making of a video about the conflict in Southern Thailand—see page 3-4 for details). The rest of the money was put into an account with the hope that we can eventually build an Endowment Fund of at least \$10,000, which will be able to generate approximately \$400-500 dollars in

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