

Asia at WSU

Framing the Future of Asian Studies at WSU

Importance of Asia and Growing Student Interest Drive Enhancements

Welcome to this first issue of *Asia at WSU*. This newsletter is part of a set of new initiatives that will enhance the Asia Program's ability to meet its mission of educating globally conversant leaders. These new initiatives come under the umbrella of the "Asia Program Enhancement Initiative" - a \$150,000 fundraising effort designed to allow the Asia Program to better accommodate increasing student interest in Asia.

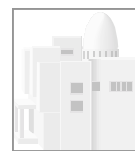


One need only reflect upon how Iraq, North Korea, India, and China have dominated headlines over the past few years to realize that Asia matters. This dynamic has translated into greater student interest in Asia at WSU. Over the last several years enrollment in Asia-related courses at WSU has more than doubled, and the number of Asian Studies majors has than tripled. How can the Asia Program best handle this increasing interest? How can we provide the best undergraduate preparation for a new generation of leaders in business, government, and education to meet the demands

of an increasingly connected world? Our answers are reflected in the "Asia Program Enhancement Initiative." Our goals center on: 1) rewarding academic excellence through scholarships and academic awards, and 2) developing innovative teaching and learning activities that emphasize connections between the Pacific Northwest and Asia.

The key to realizing these goals is money. We are embarking on the second half of our fundraising effort that will create and sustain programmatic and co-curricular initiatives. As we near the halfway point to our goal of \$150,000, we can already point to three significant achievements: the India Research Scholarship endowment, the Study Abroad in Asia Scholarship endowment, and the nearly-completed Asia Program Excellence Awards endowment. These accomplishments are due to the generous support of friends and alumni of the Asia Program. These successes encourage our efforts to continue building a program that our university and region deserve.

STUDENT SPOTLIGHT . . .



"Study Abroad in Asia Scholarship" Winner Thrives in Japan

My interest in Japan was first piqued when I had to decide which language to take in high school. I was excited by the language and the hints of culture we would learn about in class. Having the opportunity to learn about a culture, history and language that is so different from my own provides for a stimulating and rich educational experience. Study abroad helped bring the classroom into reality. One can discuss culture, and the work-



Drew Cason

ings of society but to experience them first hand takes learning even further. Speaking a language in a classroom cannot compare to living in a country and ordering at eateries,

discussing music with friends at the local pub, and hearing native speakers around you.

Studying abroad changed me in many ways. Living abroad helped me to further develop as a person. It challenges you to try new things. It challenges you to step outside of your comfort zone. Most importantly it puts your life into perspective. You find yourself asking who am I? You adjust to new ways of life. You meet people from new places with similarities and differences. This understanding creates lasting friendships that change your life.

I recommend study abroad to any student. Living abroad is a learning experience of its own. You are able to learn so much more about yourself and develop as a person who becomes more understanding of other cultures.

ASIA PROGRAM: ON THE MOVE

INTERDISCIPLINARY

18 FACULTY REPRESENTING 10 DISCIPLINES, OFFERING BA IN ASIAN STUDIES
PAN-ASIAN FOCUS: EAST ASIA, SOUTH ASIA, SOUTHEAST ASIA, & MIDDLE EAST
HOST: 2006 ASSOCIATION OF ASIAN STUDIES ON THE PACIFIC COAST ANNUAL MEETING
PROPOSED CERTIFICATES IN CHINESE AND JAPANESE STUDIES WITH COLLEGE OF BUSINESS
PROPOSED CERTIFICATES IN CHINESE AND JAPANESE STUDIES WITH COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING
AND ARCHITECTURE

STUDENT-CENTERED UNDERGRADUATE LEARNING AND RESEARCH

INDIA RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT (COMPLETED 2003)
STUDY ABROAD IN ASIA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT (COMPLETED 2005)
ASIA PROGRAM EXCELLENCE AWARDS ENDOWMENT (70% COMPLETE)
"COLUMBIA VALLEY UNDERGRADUATE ASIAN STUDIES RESEARCH SYMPOSIUM" (SPRING 2006)
FACULTY-LED SUMMER STUDY ABROAD AT YUNNAN UNIVERSITY, CHINA (SUMMER 2006)
ASIA 301: "EAST MEETS WEST" (ONE-CREDIT WEEKEND COURSE, ANNUAL)

ASSESSING STUDENT LEARNING

ASIA PROGRAM ASSESSMENT PROJECT: EVALUATING LEARNING OUTCOMES (COMPLETED 2005)

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

"CHINA'S 21ST CENTURY CHALLENGES" K-12 TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP (SPRING 2005)

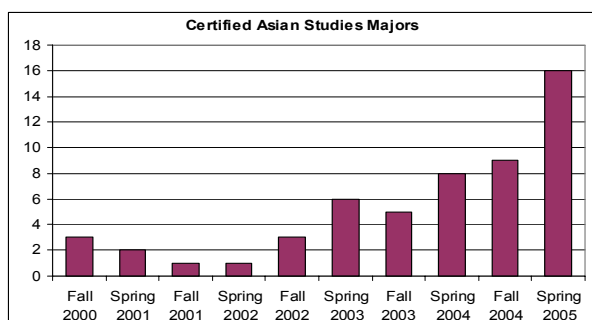
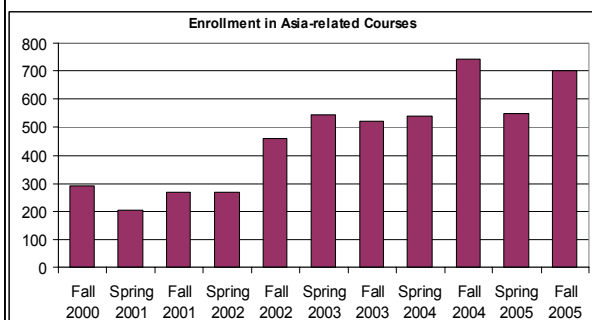
SUCCESSFUL GRANT SEEKING

SAUDI ARAMCO GRANT (2005)
CLA DEAN'S DEPARTMENTAL INNOVATION AWARD (2005)
PROVOST'S TEACHING AND LEARNING IMPROVEMENT GRANT (2004-2005)
CO-TEACH GRANTS (2003-2004)
"ASIA PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE" (IN-PROGRESS)

REGIONAL RELEVANCE

"ASIA IN THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST" (COURSE IN DEVELOPMENT: TRADE, CULTURE, SOCIETY)

DYNAMIC GROWTH



Reflections: India Research Scholarship Winner, Natasha Jaksich, Describes Travels and Research on Indian Author

The India Research Scholarship for 2002-2003 helped me to complete my interview and research paper on activist and writer Madhu Kishwar. I first came to know about the scholarship through Prof. Fritz Blackwell. After taking his courses on the history of India, I was inspired to apply for the scholarship. As a journalism major, I wanted to focus on person in India that was not only a female but also an activist and journalist.

Ms. Kishwar is the publisher of *Manushi*, a magazine centered around helping women in India. She is a talented writer, speaker, and activist, and often referred to as the high priestess of India. To me, she among many individuals is trying to continue to the work of Gandhi, centering around peace and help to all individuals. But what made my project so interesting, was that I not only wrote a paper about Ms. Kishwar, but also had the pleasure of corresponding with her through e-mail. We became quite close and even keep up a correspondence today. She commented about the future of India and the impoverishment still apparent today. By publishing her magazine, she is hoping to further the education and prosperity of women.

The scholarship given graciously by the Asia Program was only a first step in my path to where I am today. After graduating from Wash-

ington State University I have since traveled to India twice. I traveled the first time to partake in an Indian traditional Hindu wedding and the second time to celebrate the Indian festival, Diwali. I am not of Indian decent, but from several courses on Asia, my curiosity was ignited to learn further about the culture and religion of India. There is no substitute for experiencing a place such as India first hand.

Recently I was asked to become a volunteer for the Maple Valley Hindu Temple.

I not only contribute to their newsletter but also helped to put on cultural performances. I

am now currently working at the Pierce County Newspaper Group, located in Tacoma, Washington. Most recently I wrote a book review about an Indian-American author, and have been asked to be a contributing writer for an upcoming book. I am also pursuing a masters degree in International Relations with a focus in Asian studies, and hope to one day work as an American Ambassador in the Indian Embassy.

I encourage anyone who is fascinated by Asia to get involved with the Asia Program.



Natasha Jaksich

Faculty Profile: Thirty Years of Service to the Asia Program

Among the Asia Program faculty, Alice Spitzer is referred to as “the angel.” In fact, Alice has been that and more to the Asia Program for nearly thirty years. Her commitment to the educational mission of the Asia Program were recently displayed by her work to successfully conclude the endowment drive to establish the “Study Abroad in Asia Scholarship,” and her receipt of the WSU Sahlin Faculty Excellence Award in 2003.

Alice received her Masters of Librarianship from the University of Washington (1970), and a B.A. in Foreign Languages from WSU (1966). In 1975 she joined the faculty of Washington State University as a Humanities Reference Librarian. In addition to her work in all humanities and social sciences disciplines, she provides specialized reference assistance in Asian Studies, as well as Languages and Linguistics.

Alice's greatest passion is travel. After undergraduate studies in Mexico and Spain, she joined the Peace Corps and taught secondary school in Tanzania. Subsequent library work has taken her to Ethiopia, Indonesia, Lesotho, Romania, El Salvador, Honduras, and Russia.



*The India Research Scholarship and the Study Abroad in Asia Scholarship were made possible by the generous support of alumni and friends of the Asia Program.
Thank you!*

WSU ASIA PROGRAM ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE

At a Glance

What: A FIVE-YEAR \$150,000 FUNDRAISING EFFORT TO DEVELOP EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES IN RESPONSE TO THE INCREASED GLOBAL AND REGIONAL VISIBILITY OF ASIA, AND INCREASED STUDENT INTEREST IN ASIAN STUDIES AT WSU

WHY: TO EDUCATE TOMORROW'S LEADERS IN BUSINESS, GOVERNMENT, AND EDUCATION TO EFFECTIVELY OPERATE IN A REGION, THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, THAT RELIES ON ITS CONNECTIONS WITH ASIA FOR ITS ECONOMIC AND CULTURAL VITALITY.

Consider, for a moment . . .

- * 70% of Pacific NW agricultural production is exported to Asia
- * Nike: Asia-Pacific leads revenue growth (19%, 4Q 2004)
- * 30% of WA jobs supported by international sales
- * Boeing: Asia-Pacific to account for 40% delivery \$ in next 20 yrs.
- * Asia-Pacific Influence on U.S. Business: Maytag, Unocal, IBM
- * Culture: Ichiro, "Bend it like Beckham," demographics

Today's higher education does not adequately equip students with the knowledge and skills to negotiate these new global realities

HOW: FUNDS RAISED FROM INDIVIDUALS AND FOUNDATIONS/AGENCIES BY THE ASIA PROGRAM COUPLED WITH MATCHING REVENUE SOUGHT FROM THE UNIVERSITY - A SUSTAINABLE AND RESPONSIBLE APPROACH

GOALS:

- 1. INDIA RESEARCH SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT (\$25,000; COMPLETED 2003)**
- 2. STUDY ABROAD IN ASIA SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT (\$25,000; COMPLETED 2005)**
- 3. ASIA PROGRAM EXCELLENCE AWARDS ENDOWMENT (\$25,000; 70% COMPLETE)**
 - + ASIA PROGRAM AWARDS FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE
 - + ASIA PROGRAM AWARDS FOR BEST PAPER
 - + ASIA PROGRAM UNDERGRADUATE SCHOLARSHIPS
- 4. ASIA PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT FUND (\$75,000; BEGINS 10/2005)**
 - + Partial Tuition Scholarships
 - + Asia Program Distinguished Speaker/Performance/Exhibit Series
 - + Annual K-12 Teacher Training Workshop
 - + Undergraduate Research Opportunities
 - + Co-Curricular Offerings ("Asia 301: East Meets West" and "Asia in the Pacific Northwest: Trade, Culture, and Society")

Want to Help? Please go to: <http://libarts.wsu.edu/asia/give/index.html>