

# Asia at WSU

## The Mission of the WSU Asia Program

As we begin a new academic year, I thought it might be an appropriate time to communicate to our alumni and supporters the current mission, profile, and vision of the WSU Asia Program.

The WSU Asia Program promotes teaching, research, and outreach to prepare present and future leaders for the opportunities and challenges of Asia's increasing presence in global and regional affairs.

The WSU Asia Program is unique among its peers. First, the curriculum, leading to a B.A. in Asian Studies, promotes depth and breadth. The program provides students the opportunity to focus on one country or region (China, Japan, India, Middle East), while at the same time, requiring students to develop pan-Asian perspectives through geographic distribution requirements, and interdisciplinary perspectives (through disciplinary distribution requirements). Second, as part of a land-grant institution, the Asia Program not only seeks to promote the global role of Asia, but also develops learning and outreach activities linking Asia with the Pacific Northwest.

We will achieve our mission by three main efforts:

Enhance Curricular and Co-Curricular Undergraduate Opportunities: Develop additional curricular and co-curricular learning opportunities to strengthen the Asia Program's contribution to the internationalization of the WSU undergraduate experience.

Establish Cooperative Programs across WSU: Promote the study of Asia across WSU by establishing and promoting cooperative programs, curricular initiatives, and Asia-related activities on WSU campuses.

Establish Local and Regional Partnerships: Promote regional business, government, and educational initiatives by forging connections with local and regional constituencies through outreach activities.

The activities reported on in this newsletter are consistent with our mission and goals. Further success will continue to depend on the support of alumni and friends.

- David Pietz, Director

## UNDERGRADUATE SPOTLIGHT . . .

### WSU Hosts Asian Studies Research Symposium

In April 2006, the WSU Asia Program hosted the Columbia Valley Undergraduate Asian Studies Research Symposium at Washington State University. Although the 2006 symposium is a first, we hope this event becomes an annual symposium to promote undergraduate research in Asian Studies at WSU.

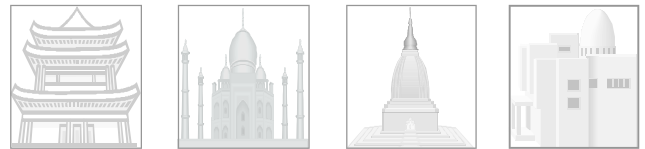
The symposium included presentations on all regions of Asia, from the Middle East and India to China and Japan, with interests spanning literature, international relations, history and environment. Thirty-three students from WSU Pullman and Vancouver campuses, Gonzaga University, Whitman College, Central Washington University, as well as faculty mentors, participated in the symposium.

We hope the participants gained familiarity with the sorts of arenas they will likely be participating in as professionals. A further goal was

to introduce the notion of how individual work, in this case research, is part of a larger network of similar interests. Perhaps the most important outcome of the symposium will be to instill a sense of confidence in communicating a student's work to an audience of peers. We also hope the symposium will ignite collaborative initiatives across the Pacific Northwest.

Highlights included a panel, "Water in the World's Most Populous Nation: Economic Development, Social Change and Resource Management in China," by students from Central Washington University funded by a National Science Foundation Grant.

Cross-cultural influences in the creative arts kicked off the conference. Pei-Pei Hsu, a WSU bachelor of fine arts student from Taiwan, and WSU professor Ann Christenson presented their ceramic creations.



# WSU ASIA PROGRAM'S 2006-2007 ACCOMPLISHMENTS

**Conference Host: Association for Asia Studies Pacific Coast Branch Annual Conference**  
(Pullman, June 16-18, 2006; 100 + participants; with support from the Department of History and CLA)

**Columbia Valley Undergraduate Asian Studies Research Symposium** (April 14-15, 2006; 30+ student participants from regional institutions)

**Asia 301: "East Meets West"** (one-credit course co-sponsored Foley Institute, General Education, and WSU International Programs; 80+ students)

**K-12 Teacher Training Workshop: "U.S.-Asia Relations in Historical and Contemporary Perspectives"** (co-sponsored with the UW East Asia Resource Center, April 2007)

**K-12 Teacher Training Workshop: "Legacies of Imperialism in China"** (Pullman, June 2006; in collaboration with the UW East Asian Resource Center)

**Development of Certificate in East Asian Studies for College of Business Majors**

**Development of Certificate in East Asian Studies for College of Engineering and Architecture Majors**

**Completion of Asia Program Excellence Awards Endowment** (\$25,000; to fund academic awards)

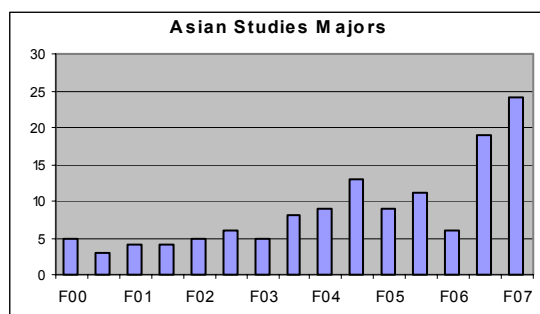
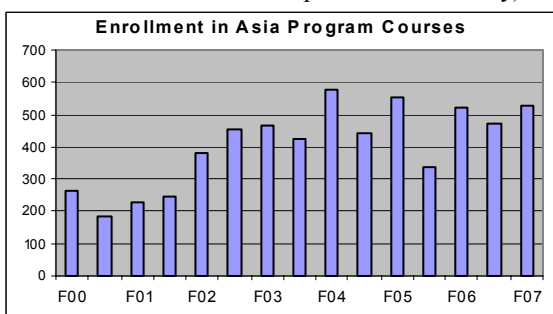
**Executive Conference: "Managing the U.S. - China Relationship"** (Spokane, September 13; day-long/three-part program featuring Hank Levine, U.S. Department of Commerce and Joe Borich, Washington State China Relations Council; in collaboration with the Spokane World Affairs Council and the Spokane International Trade Alliance:

1. Executive Round Table: "The Future of US-China Trade"
2. Seminar: "Opportunities and Costs: Trading with China"
3. Keynote Address: "The China Trade and America's Foreign Policy"

**Lecture Series: "Contemporary China"** (three-part lecture series during 2006-2007; funded by National Committee on U.S.-China Relations, with additional support from the Foley Institute)

**Collaboration with Department of Foreign Languages and Cultures: International Studies a Foreign Language Program Grant Application**

**Faculty-Led Study Abroad Program to Yunnan University** (2006, 2007; led by Prof. Roger Chan; in collaboration with Department of History)



## WSU Hosts Regional Asian Studies Conference

The 2006 Asian Studies on the Pacific Coast Conference (ASPAC) was held on the WSU campus in June 2006. The conference, hosted by the WSU Asia Program, the WSU Department of History, and the WSU College of Liberal Arts, attracted approximately 120 participants from 34 academic institutions including seven international universities. Eight colleges and universities in Washington were represented.

"Asian Studies is a very important component of colleges and universities world-wide as we become more aware every day of our shrinking world and our interdependence," said Erich Lear, dean, College of Liberal Arts, in his letter of welcome to conference attendees. "You and the work you do together and separately in your own institutions, very likely will impact future generations in new ways," he said.

Carmen Burch, cultural anthropologist and associate professor of conservation science, College of Santa Fe agrees. "It's so wonderful," said

Burch, "to be in a place where there is an intense interest in Asia. Often when we go off to do our faculty work we are isolated."

Noriko Kawamura, Associate Professor of History at WSU, believes there was special significance in hosting the regional conference. "By bringing regional conferences such as this to WSU many of the smaller Asia Programs are energized." Kawamura also believes the reputation of WSU's Asia Program is strengthened by the conference because leading scholars witness the passion and depth of WSU's Asia-related research.

Another benefit of hosting the conference was that WSU graduate students who do work with an Asia focus were able to attend and rub shoulders with some of the leading Asian Studies experts. Eight WSU graduate students from Asia Program, History, Political Science and American Studies presented papers at the conference.

### Faculty Profile: Michael Myers, Professor of Philosophy

**Professor Michael Myers (Philosophy) has been a pillar of the Asia Program since he joined the WSU faculty in 1991. Mike teaches two courses that have been a regular part of the stable of Asian Studies courses: The Philosophy and Religions of China and Japan, and The Philosophies and Religions of India. His current research interests center on religious pluralism, interpretations of sacred texts, and Judaism and Buddhism. Mike's fascination with Asian philosophies and religions is based on his conviction of their enduring and distinctive contributions to the wisdom of humankind.**

**Professor Myers states that his biggest challenge in teaching undergraduates is "getting across the idea that a university education is a rare opportunity and if one wastes it another person somewhere else will not." Mike also feels that the rewards of teaching center on the opportunity to interact with bright, flexible, and idealistic students. Professor Myers is motivated to continue the educational mission of the Asia Program because he feels that it is imperative for us to be collectively active participants and good citizens of the Pacific Rim community.**

**Professor Myers' hobbies include historical wargame design (his design, Across the Pacific - a simulation game of WWII in Asia and the Pacific - to be published by Pacific Rim Publishing). Mike also is interested in World War II and the American Civil War. Dr. Myers' commitment to Asian Studies make him a truly valued teacher and colleague.**

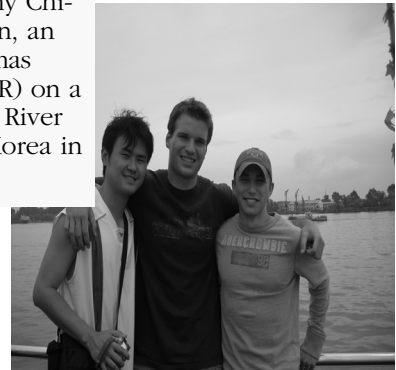


## WSU ASIA PROGRAM STUDY ABROAD STUDENTS

***In the past two years, eight students have studied in Asia with support from the Asia Program's Study Abroad in Asia Scholarship and the India Research Scholarship. Below are some images of our students during their study abroad experiences . . .***



**Mathew Todd** (right): "my Chinese roommate Huang Lin, an American classmate Thomas Hooker and myself (L to R) on a ferry ride across the Yalu River in Dandong with North Korea in the background."



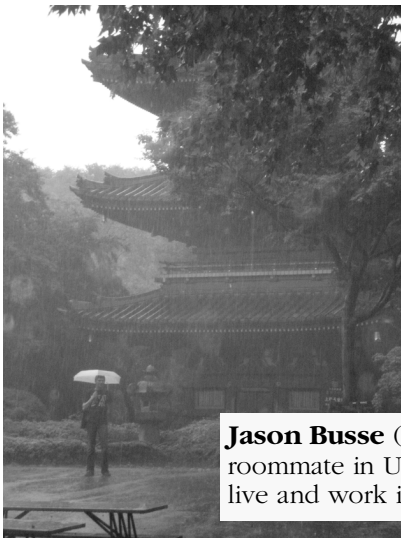
**Jordan Bush:** "at the Great Wall"



**Tamber Hilton:** "an exchange student and a guy we met while playing xiangqi in a hutong (alleyway) in Beijing."



**Samantha Swenson** (upper middle): "This day we went to our driver's small village in central Punjab . . . the whole neighborhood, especially the kids, was so excited to meet visitors from America. We had to pose for pictures with each family and afterwards they took us from house to house to show us where they all lived. Most definitely the best day of the trip."



**Jason Busse** (2006 Asia Program Outstanding Senior): "I spent the day with my roommate in Ueno Park and (of course) it rained while we were at the Ueno Zoo. I live and work in Ibaraki Prefecture, about an hour north of Tokyo."

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