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ASIA NOTES

DEPARTMENT OF ASIAN LANGUAGES AND LITERATURE

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Spring 2007

Top Japanese scholar leads seminar

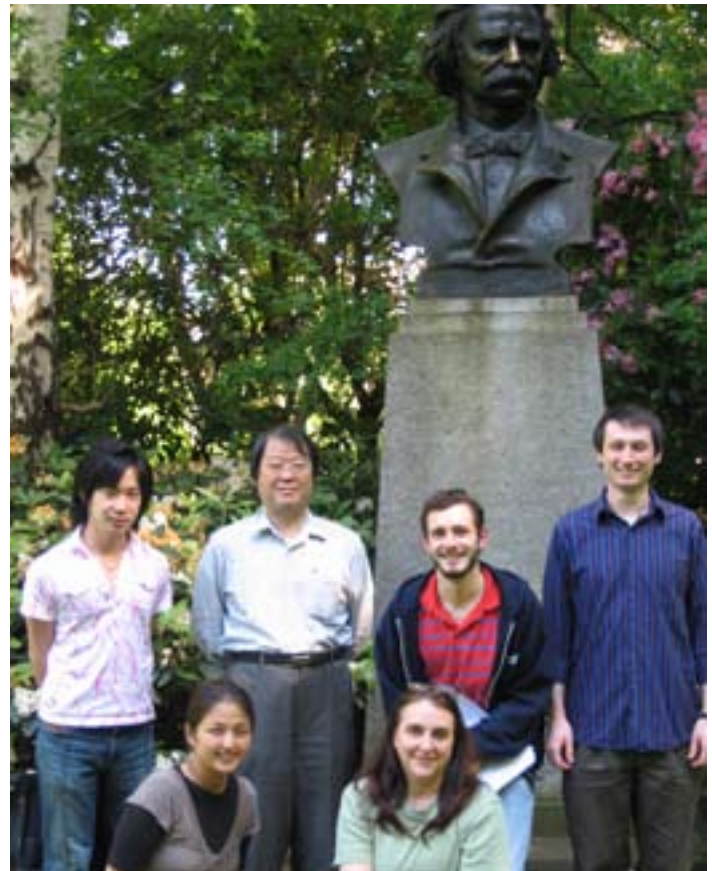
Graduate students explore wartime fiction set in colonies

This spring, AL&L had the privilege of hosting one of Japan's leading literary scholars as part of the Visiting Scholars Program. Professor Minato Kawamura of Hôsei University in Tokyo co-taught with Professor Davinder Bhowmik a graduate seminar that examined the literature of Japanese nationals on the colonial experience in Taiwan, Korea, Manchuria, Shanghai, Sakhalin, Bali, and Okinawa.

Professor Kawamura's focus on resurrecting wartime depictions of Japan's extraterritorial enterprises has led to the recovery of missing texts and added new dimensions to the appreciation of the forces at play in Imperial Japan. His efforts have stimulated scholars to examine wartime issues that are still sensitive and sometimes unresolved. For many of the authors he has researched, their wartime writings, which often reflected sympathy for Japan's imperialism, are sources of embarrassment. However, Professor Kawamura argues that regardless of the content or expressed sentiments, these texts are important documents for understanding a complicated period of Japan's history.

Since the '80s, Professor Kawamura has produced an impressive volume of works on colonial literature and the role of Japanese as an imperial language. Some of his books include, *Watashi no Pusan* (My Pusan, 1986), *Ajia to iu kagami—kyokutô no kindai* (The mirror called Asia—the modern of the Far East, 1989), and *Nanyô·Karafuto no Nihon bungaku* (The Japanese literature of the South Seas and Sakhalin, 1994). His approach extends to writings produced by both the colonized and the colonizer.

This spring's graduate seminar centered on literature produced by Japanese nationals during the 1930s and 1940s. Their writing presents a complexity of perspectives on the impact of Japanese imperialism--an area of study complicated by censorship, by



From left, Kai Nagase, Professor Minato Kawamura, Steve Poland, Dan Farmer, Nobuko Yamasaki, and Sarah Clayton in front of a bust of composer Edvard Grieg.

the government and the authors themselves. Professor Kawamura's expertise guided spirited exploration into these texts and their meaning. "Kawamura-sensei's subject area is unique. His seminar has

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AL&L centenary in 2009 is a time for reflection

FROM THE CHAIR



Lately, I've found myself thinking a lot about the year 2009, which is going to be a very special year for our Department. Instruction in Asian languages at UW has a longer history than most people realize. In 1909, the UW's regents established what was called the Department of Oriental History, Literature, and Institutions, in which one Asian language, Sanskrit, was taught. Other Asian languages were added to the curriculum in the decades to follow. The establishment of such a department was tied to an emerging international outlook in Seattle. UW's decision to host the Alaska Yukon Exposition in the summer of 1909 was one expression of this new outlook. Our current department and other units on campus such as Slavic Languages and Literature, the Jackson School of International Studies, and Scandinavian Studies are all descendants of departments that were created in what might be called "the spirit of the Alaska Yukon Exposition." A century of instruction in Asian languages and literature clearly is something to celebrate. In the months to come, the Department will be announcing a year-long program of activities that not only commemorate the UW's past accomplishments with regard to Asian languages and literature, but also highlight how the Department plans to promote the teaching of Asian languages and literature in the years to come. Lectures, symposia, public events, and yes, fundraising activities, are all being planned. You will be hearing more about this in the near future.

As part of the planning for this centenary, I have had occasion to look over the list of people who received degrees from our department over the past four decades. There are over 1100 names on this list. That many of our graduates had gone on to achieve distinction in academic careers in fields dealing with Asia was no surprise. But I was taken aback by the range of fields outside of the academy into which our graduates have gone. AL&L alumni are well represented in medicine, law, business, government service (including diplomacy, intelligence, and the military), business, technology, and education. Looking over this list served as a reminder that in providing students with skills in languages and in familiarizing them with the literatures and cultures of Asia, we are not only training the next generation of translators, linguists, and scholars of literature, but we are training students who will bring their skills and knowledge into diverse occupations and environments. A department such as ours can measure its success by the accomplishment of its students. Clearly, we will have much to celebrate in 2009.

Michael C. Shapiro

Symposium considers flow of religious ideas in early modern India

On Friday and Saturday May 18 and 19, the Department of Asian Languages and Literature, the Comparative Religion Program, the South Asia Center and the Scholarly Exchange Program of the College of Arts and Sciences co-sponsored an international symposium on the theme of "Patronage, Performance, Procession and Pilgrimage: Channels of the Flow of Religious Ideas in Early Modern India."

Speakers were influential scholars from India, France, Germany and the U.S., namely Vasudha Dalmia and Vasudha Paramasivan (UC Berkeley), John Stratton Hawley (Columbia University), Navina Haidar (Metropolitan Museum of Art), Ulrike Stark (University of Chicago), Véronique Bouillier (Sorbonne), Monika Boehm-Tettelbach and Anand Mishra (University of Heidelberg), and Hans Bakker (Groningen). UW presenters included Purnima Dhavan (History), Prem Pahlajrai (AL&L) and Heidi Pauwels (AL&L).

All twelve presentations were of high scholarly quality. The papers in one way or another dealt with the exchange of religious ideas in early modern India, a topic that fits within the wider interdisciplinary intellectual interest in circulation of ideas and culture as well as in the construction of religious identities. The symposium was very stimulating in its interdisciplinary approach, with scholars from history, anthropology, textual studies, religious studies, and art history taking part. Publication of the proceedings is under discussion.

Newsletter Committee

Michael C. Shapiro, Collett Cox, and Zev Handel

Editor

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Leading Japanese scholar teaches seminar

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addressed a gap in my understanding of modern Japanese literature,” notes graduate student Sarah Clayton. Comparative literature graduate student Nobuko Yamasaki states, “It has been a fascinating experience for me to have Kawamura-sensei in our seminar. In light of his keen insight, I have been able to deepen my thought on how ethics become possible in colonial encounters.”

Previously, Professor Kawamura taught overseas at Toa University in Pusan, South Korea, and University of Delhi in India. As sites of colonial exercise in parts of the world conceptually configured as “Asia,” they hold special significance for him. In particular, he notes that the four years he spent in Pusan teaching Japanese echoed the journeys taken by so many authors to spread fluency in the language of the colonizer. In this sense, his personal sojourn provided new perspectives on such concepts as “mother tongue” and “native language.”

Professor Kawamura’s stay in Washington coincides with a shift in his research interests. In recent years, he has turned to the study of the Shinto god Gion as represented in medieval Japanese mythology, specifically texts connected with Kyoto’s Yasaka Shrine. “By reading religious and mythological texts as literature, I will re-examine the concept of ‘Japanese literature.’ I think that the study will be significant in expanding the concept,” he says.

When not in the classroom, Professor Kawamura was a regular fixture in the UW East Asia Library. He expresses an appreciation for the learning environment supported by the University of Washington. In particular, he finds the setting and resources of the school invaluable for creating an environment that nurtures the development of academic thought. The wide, open spaces and lush greenery complemented by the academic resources available on this campus stimulate creative intellectual exploration, he notes. He compares his experience in Seattle favorably to his own university, which is set in an urban environment.

Professor Kawamura’s visit is part of an ongoing program that brings a scholar to teach graduate students in Japanese each spring quarter. Previous visiting scholars have included Professors Sumio Rimbara of Kobe University, Keiko Kanai of Waseda University and Kensuke Kôno of Nihon University. UW Professor Ted Mack reciprocated at Nihon and Kobe universities in Japan in 2003 and 2005 respectively. The program is sponsored by AL&L to encourage greater interaction between Japanese and American scholars. The scholar for the coming academic year has yet to be decided.



From left, Professors Keiko Kanai, Kensuke Kôno, Minato Kawamura, Ted Mack, and Davinder Bhowmik present at a symposium on “Literature and Colonialism.”

Former visiting scholars return for AL&L symposium

On May 31, 2007, former visiting scholars, Professors Keiko Kanai and Kensuke Kôno, joined Professors Minato Kawamura, Ted Mack, and Davinder Bhowmik for an informal symposium on “Literature and Colonialism.”

Professor Kanai, whose primary research interest is Ishimure Michiko’s literature on the victims of Minamata disease, spoke of the connection of Japan’s industrial policies and its colonial ventures. After the failure of Japan’s exported industrialization in Korea, the postwar government was under pressure to encourage production within the nation. In this way, the intensity of that mandate contributed to the rapidity and regulatory irresponsibility of industrial development.

Professor Kôno spoke about the shifts in perspective reflected in the 28-year serialization of the popular story *Daibosatsu Pass* (*Daibosatsu tôge*). Author Kaizan Nakazato began serializing the novel in 1913 and published his last chapter in 1941. Professor Kôno suggested that the text reflects the popular shifts in national perspective as Japan moved from colonialism to imperialism.

Professor Kawamura traveled a divergent intellectual path and examined the appearance of hot springs in literature. Like the colonies, hot springs represent capitalized territory. In this sense, they are symbols of expansionist and capitalist incursions.

Professors Davinder Bhowmik and Ted Mack concluded by raising respectively issues and questions about Japanese literature produced by authors of Japanese descent in Okinawa and Brazil.

IN MEMORIAM

Scott Swaner honored by new book award

Scott Swaner (1968-2006), assistant professor of modern Korean poetry and aesthetic theory in the Department, passed away on 20 December 2006 after being diagnosed with pancreatic cancer earlier that year. His passing came as a shock to the department; he is deeply missed by his friends, colleagues, and family.



Professor **Scott Swaner**

Swaner was born in California and raised in Utah. He initially went to Korea as a Mormon missionary, but continued learning about that country even after he had parted with

the Church. His continued studies took him first to Cornell and then to Harvard, where he received his Ph.D. in 2003. He joined the UW faculty later that year as a post-doctorate fellow and joined the regular faculty the following year, in 2004.

A deep passion for poetry, critical theory, and social justice inspired Professor Swaner's work, resulting in a book-length manuscript entitled *Politicizing the Aesthetic*. Efforts are under way to have the study published posthumously.

Outside of the academic world, Professor Swaner enjoyed jazz, skateboarding, and coffee. Writing, however, was at the center of his life. He was a poet, a compulsive diarist, and a novelist. The Department hopes that many of these writings will eventually be available as part of the University's Special Collections. To honor his memory, AL&L has named an annual award after him. The Scott Swaner Memorial Book Award honors an undergraduate for academic excellence.

Paul Atkins collaborates with Seattle Art Museum

On May 5, the Seattle Art Museum opened its exhibition of an exquisite scroll from the early 17th century, with the contributions of Paul Atkins, assistant professor of Japanese literature. Professor Atkins' expertise played a critical role in the museum's development of an interactive computer display of the reconstructed 72-foot-long *Poem Scroll with Deer* for the "Five Masterpieces of Asian Art: The Story of Their Conservation" exhibition. "Professor Atkins' expertise in ancient poetry provided the essential link between the artwork, the latest computer technology, and our local viewing audience," says Yukiko Shirahara, curator of Asian art for the museum.

The scroll is a combination of poetry from the *Shin Kokinshū*, a poetry anthology ordered by Retired Emperor Go-Toba in 1201, the calligraphy of Hon'ami Kôetsu (1558-1637), and the painting of Tawaraya Sôtatsu (1576-1643). Professor Atkins translated the scroll's 28 autumn poems into modern English and supplied analyses and background to aid appreciation of their meaning. In addition, he provided information on the anthology from which the poems were taken.

The exhibition technologically reconstructs the *Deer Scroll* in its entirety for the first time since it was divided and sold. A prominent Japanese businessman split the scroll in half for display at a tea ceremony he held in 1935. After his death in 1938, the scroll



Deer painted in gold and silver by Tawaraya Sôtatsu complement the calligraphy of Hon'ami Kôetsu in *Poem Scroll with Deer*.

was further segmented and sold. In 1951, the Seattle Art Museum acquired the latter half of the scroll. The first half is owned by five museums and two private collectors. In order to reproduce an authentic viewing experience, the museum has combined images of all segments to construct a virtual recreation of the entire scroll.

The latter half of the *Deer Scroll* can be viewed along with the computer display at the museum through Sept. 9 or virtually under the "Exhibitions" listing on the museum's website at: <http://www.seattleartmuseum.org>. The virtual tour is a permanent feature of the museum's website.

FACULTY NEWS

Jameel Ahmad delivered talks on Urdu poetry at the South Asia Colloquium of the Pacific Northwest (SACPAN), the AL&L Colloquium, and the AL&L Graduate Student Colloquium, where he was the keynote speaker.

Paul Atkins has been promoted to the rank of Associate Professor, effective Autumn Quarter 2007. He has delivered talks in Boston, Pittsburgh, and San Francisco.

Davinder Bhowmik delivered a talk, "The Siren Song: Destruction in the Island Stories of Sakiyama Tami," at the 5th International Conference on Okinawan Studies held at Ca' Foscari University of Venice on 14-16 September 2006. Her talk demonstrated how contemporary writers from Okinawa undermine the conventions of regional fiction.

Nyan-Ping Bi, Zev Handel, and Michael Shapiro traveled to Chengdu, China, this past October to expand a program to enable UW Chinese majors to take advanced Chinese at Sichuan University. **Nyan-Ping Bi** also played a lead role in organizing and running a one-day workshop in April for K-12 educators on the new national AP test for Chinese.

William Boltz has been invited to participate this summer in a workshop on the conceptual background to early writing systems and the origin of writing at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science in Berlin.

Collett Cox participated in April in a conference held at the University of Toronto on Buddhist studies doctoral education in North America.

Chris Hamm lectured last December at Oberlin College on the martial arts literature of Republican-era China.

Zev Handel will be on leave this coming year working on the history of Chinese (written) characters throughout Asia. In Autumn, he will be residing in Seoul.

Soohee Kim has been promoted to Senior Lecturer, effective Autumn Quarter 2007.

Akiko Iwata and **Itsuko Nishikawa** received training in Oral Proficiency Interviewing at an ACTFL training workshop held last summer at Middlebury College.

David Knechtges was elected a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Other people elected at the same time as Prof. Knechtges were former presidents George Bush and Bill Clinton, Supreme Court Justice John Roberts, film director Martin Scorsese, and actor Alan Alda.

Ted Mack organized a conference, entitled "Texts and Contexts," at Columbia University in October. Scholars from the U.S. and Japan met to examine the history of books in modern Japan.

Izumi Matsuda-Kiami will attend a workshop this summer at Penn State University on incorporating listening materials into advanced-level programs in Japanese. The workshop is being organized by the Center for Advanced Language Proficiency Education and Research (CALPER). She, **Liping Yu**, and **Nyan-Ping Bi** also attended in November an ACTFL oral proficiency interviewing workshop held in Nashville.

Kim Nguyen will be retiring from the active UW faculty, after teaching Vietnamese in the Department for twenty years. Kim, who is a nationally and internationally known figure in the area of Vietnamese-language instruction, will continue teaching on a part-time basis.

Richard Salomon, on leave this year, has been lecturing around the world on the work of the Early Bud-

dhist Manuscript Project. At last count, he had spoken in Oxford, Paris, Seoul, Tokyo, and Tashkent.

Desiana ("Pauli") Sandjaja participated this past year in oral language proficiency examination training sessions under the auspices of the American Council Teachers of Foreign Language (ACTFL) and workshops on the teaching of less commonly taught foreign languages.

STUDENT NEWS

Lin Deng presented a paper, "The Structure of 'You + Stative Verb (adjective)' in the Shijing," at the 15th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics & 19th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics Joint Meeting at Columbia University in May and will present a paper, "An Examination of the Graphic Variation among the Received, the Mawangdui and the Shanghai Museum Versions of the Zhouyi," at the 5th Conference of the European Association of Chinese Linguistics in Leipzig in September.

Stefan Baums presented a paper, "A Buddhist verse commentary in Gāndhārī," at the 217th Meeting of the American Oriental Society in March in San Antonio.

Ed Lien presented a paper, "Wei Yao's Disquisition on Boyi," at the 2006 meeting of the American Oriental Society, Western Branch at the University of Victoria last October and a paper, "Why Simple Lines in the Da Si Yue Baffle the Best Minds," at the 217th Meeting of the American Oriental Society in San Antonio in March.

Katherine Thornton presented a paper, "Etymological Doublets in Sino-Vietnamese," at the Ninth Annual Southeast Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference in March at Cornell University.

2007 Graduates and Honorees

Doctor of Philosophy

Jina Kim, Korean "Circulation of Urban Literary Modernity in Colonial Korea and Taiwan." December 2006

Suh-jen Yang, Chinese "The Literary Merits of the Han Stele Inscription." June 2007

Master of Arts

Erin Leigh Brightwell, Chinese
Robert Luther Orndorff, Chinese
Jie Wu, Chinese
Li Yang, Chinese

Doctoral Candidates

Lin Deng, Chinese
Fusae Ekida, Japanese
Jon Patrick Holt, Japanese
Chung-Han Kuo, Chinese
Haeree Park, Chinese
Yukiko Shigeto, Japanese
Koji Tanno, Japanese
Nicholas M. Williams, Chinese
Jie Wu, Chinese

Awards

Honors Baccalaureate

Rachel Breanne Burgoon

Henry S. Tatsumi Award

Lindsey Dewitt
Brian Garcia

Turrell V. Wylie Memorial Scholarship

Erin Brightwell

Distinguished Teaching Assistant Awards

Tae Youn Ahn, Korean
Koji Tanno, Japanese
Jie Wu, Chinese

Yen Fu Translation Prize

Ed Lien
Jeffrey Alexander Kylo

Scott Swaner Memorial Book Award

Jeffrey Alexander Kylo

Li Fang-Kuei and Hsu Ying

Graduate Fellowship

Haeree Park

Bachelor of Arts

Aaron Matthew Armstrong, Japanese
Matthew Stanley Baldwin, Korean
Leela Ann Bilow, Japanese
Molly Martha Blair, Japanese
Rachel Breanne Burgoon, Japanese
Hsin-Chih Chiang, Japanese
Jane Jenny Choe, Japanese
Sheree Yuen-May Diep, Chinese
Christoph Pierce Dusenbery, South Asian
Andrew Michael Enomoto, Japanese
Jeremy Keane Fletcher, Japanese
Brian Christopher Garcia, Japanese
Bryn Lee Garrehy, Japanese
Steven Michael Herrera, Chinese
Michael David Heurlin, Japanese
Stephen Patrick Hopkins, Chinese
Tammy M. Ip, Japanese
Thomas Frank Irwin, Japanese
Justin Erling Jacobson, Japanese
Shine Eun-Ki Kim, Korean

Rochelle Marie Krona, Japanese
Jeffrey Alexander Kylo, Chinese
Matthew John McCauley, Japanese
Michael Andrew Mead, Japanese
Matthew James Mendiguren, Chinese
Jongmin Timothy Moon, Japanese
Chun-Chi (Gigi) Ng, Japanese
Jennifer Kristin Numata, Japanese
Julie Oh, Japanese
Edwin Anton Schmitt, Chinese
Brian John Seung, Japanese
Jacob Dean Summers, Korean
Michael Takeshi Swick, Japanese
Ying Tang, Chinese
Hannah L. Todd, Japanese
Kristen Sarah Walker, Korean
Mika Juhani Wallenius, Japanese
James McCallum Wiker, South Asian
Jason Woodrow Wellman, Japanese
Bishop Thomas Wilkins, Japanese

Donors 2006-2007

Department of Asian Languages & Literature—University of Washington

The following people have generously contributed to the Department:

Anonymous (3)	Mia L. Hannula	David R. Nalin
Stephen D. Allee	Bernard Haykel	Ju Namkung & Zev Handel
Mary K. Baird	Jeffrey A. Howard	Dorothy North
Elizabeth H. Becker	Daniel Hsieh	Heidi R.M. Pauwels
Daniel F. Bensky	Joe Ike	John D. Riopelle
Nyan-Ping Bi	Linda Y. Kelso	Carol Anita Ryan
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Cris Cyders & Melissa Upton	Rosemary L. Morgan	Sabrina & Ching-I Tu
Mary Lou Fiala	Shawn K. Morse	Margaret & Ted T. Yasuda
Thomas W. Gething	Yuri Nakata	Anne O. Yue-Hashimoto

Two New Student Support Endowments

The Department of Asian Languages and Literature is pleased to announce the establishment of two endowments for the support of graduate students:

- Alan W. Entwistle Endowment:** General support for graduate students studying South Asian Languages and Literature. Created in memory of Professor Alan W. Entwistle, noted scholar of Hindi and related languages, who taught in the Department of Asian Languages and Literature from 1986 until his death in 1996.
- Chinese Graduate Support Endowment:** General support for graduate students studying Chinese language, linguistics and/or literature.

Other Department-wide funds include:

- Friends of Asian Languages Fund (discretionary)**
- Asian Languages and Literature Endowment Fund**
- Asian Languages and Literature Student Support Fund**

You may support the Department of Asian Languages and Literature by making a contribution to one of these or other funds listed on the Support AL&L website:

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Contributions may be made online or by check with the specific fund noted in the memo line. Please send the check along with this form to:

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For more information about AL&L programs, funding opportunities, or to be added to our e-mail list, please contact us:

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