

# 2006 ASIANetwork Freeman Student-Faculty Fellows Abstracts of Research Projects

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During the summer 2006, the Student-Faculty Fellows Program will support collaborative research in Asia for at least three weeks for 65 students and faculty mentors comprising 13 research teams from ASIANetwork member colleges. This year's research will be conducted in the following countries: The People's Republic of China (seven teams), Japan (four teams), Singapore (1 team), and Indonesia (1 team). Presented below are the colleges, faculty mentors, and student researchers participating in this year's program. The titles of their research projects and brief project abstracts are also given.

ASIANetwork wishes to extend our sincere appreciation to the Freeman Foundation for their continued financial support of these research endeavors.

## **Elon University, Kirstin Ringelberg, Art History, Japan**

Katherine Little, '08, *The Internationalization of Japanese Art: Art Institutions*

Leslie Mumme, '06, *The Internationalization of Japanese Art: Contemporary Fine Arts*

Thomas Spradling, '07, *The Internationalization of Japanese Art: From Ukiyo-e to Video Games*

Professor Ringelberg and her students "propose a research trip to Japan to study in more depth what we call the 'internationalization' of Japanese art. Since the Meiji period, Japan has become increasingly connected to, infiltrated by, and in some cases, dominated by the Western view of what constitutes art and art history at the same time that its own art has become more widely known in the United States and Europe. We have studied this expanding relationship primarily from our Western perspective, and desire to ask the questions we have developed from this study of (the) Japanese sources: how has the increasing internationalization of the Japanese art world affected its institutions, artists, and the popular culture that has developed from it?"

## **Gettysburg College, Voon Chin Phua, Sociology, Singapore**

Li Fong Chen, '08, Emily Harsen, '09, Douglas Kaufman, '09, Jason Loh, '08, and

Michael Quinn, '08 joint project on *The Social Construction of Chineseness in Singapore*

Professor Phua writes: "Few studies have examined Chineseness as a symbolic ethnicity where the Chinese population is the majority in a country. This student-directed project examines the social construction of Chineseness among Chinese Singaporeans and asks if this Chineseness is merely a symbolic ethnicity. The project will focus on Chineseness in family formation processes, such as dating and wedding rituals (relying upon) a triangulated approach to data collection (drawing from) oral history interviews, photography and historical documents."

## **Guilford College, Eric D. Mortensen, Religious Studies, China**

Amanda Armbrust, '07, *Dynamics of Consistency and Change in Tibetan Horse Festivals*

William Frank, '06, *The Sacred Role of the Horse in Pastoral Tibetan Life*

Lauren Reed, '06, *Gender Performance at Tibetan Horse Festivals: Masculinity's Voice in Gender Roles and Consumer Culture in Kham, Tibet*

Joshua Shelton, '08, *Nomadic Melodies: An Exploration of Music at Tibetan Horse Festivals*

William McKindley-Ward, '08, *Medicinal Practice in Eastern Tibet: Preservation and Profiteering*

Professor Mortensen's research group will "travel to Kham (Eastern Tibet...) to pursue and complete five independent research projects relating to nomadic horse festivals and the culture of Kham. Following a week of acclimatization and study in Zhongdian (Northwest Yunnan), we will travel across nomadic areas of Kham to Yushu (Southern Qinghai) in order to attend a twelve day nomadic horse festival. We will camp for the majority of our time in China. The five projects include the study of the performance of gender roles in Kham, changes at the horse festivals, the sacred role of the horse in Khampa nomadic life, peripheral music at nomadic gatherings, and the role of traditional medicine in Kham."

## **Green Mountain College, Mark Dailey, Anthropology, China**

Felipe Colón, '06, Ashley Converse, '07, HariNarayan Khalsa, '08, Tala Wunderler-Selby, '08, Keith Solmo, '06 joint project on *Changing Traditional Behaviors and Beliefs Relating to Ancestors in Jiangsu Province, China*

Professor Dailey writes: We (a cultural anthropologist and five students) propose to conduct four weeks of ethnographic research on the changing traditional behaviors and beliefs relating to ancestors in Jiangsu Province, China. Primarily through the intensive ethnographic study of a small set of families, we will document the changing behavioral and cognitive relationship contemporary Chinese families have with their ancestors. We will also contextualize our research findings within the broader issues of religious practice, urban expansion into farmland, and how Chinese people are negotiating the tensions between modern and traditional choices.”

### **Haverford College, Leslie Dwyer, Anthropology, Indonesia**

Colon Cahill, '07, *Balinese Identity in Transition: Identity and Cultural Commodification in Bali-Visual Art and the Case of Kamasra*

Ippolita Di Paola, '08, *Balinese Identity in Transition: Regional Identity in Post-New Order Bali*

Elizabeth Rhoads, '07, *Balinese Identity in Transition: Balinese Punk*

Deepa Vasudevan, '07, *Balinese Identity in Transition: Women at the Crossroads-Feminist Literature in Bali*

Professor Dwyer states: “This collaborative research project...will address shifting discourses of ‘identity’ and ‘culture’ in contemporary Bali, Indonesia. Using anthropological methods of participant-observation, supplemented by interviews, guest speakers and community discussions, project participants will explore various facets of Balinese identity-formation, broadening their understandings of dynamic processes of cultural redefinition and globalization. Student research projects on the arts and identity, youth culture, feminist literature, and new articulations of regional autonomy will complement the faculty mentor’s ongoing research on community peace-building in the aftermath of conflict and the role of narratives of ‘Balinese culture’ in setting the limits and possibilities for social transformation.”

### **John Carroll University, Paul Nietupski, Religious Studies, China**

Melissa Ann Cigoi, '07, *The Labrang Educational System and Modernity*

Nicholas Mercurio, '09, *Music of the Sino-Tibetan Borderlands*

Alecia Ott, '08, *The Union of Politics and Religion in the Labrang Monastery and Its Properties*

Rosemary Stanitz-Skove, '08, *The Art and Ideology of the Labrang Monastery and Surrounding Regions with Emphasis on Tantric Deities in Visual Art, Labtse, and Prayer Flags*

Jeffrey Villanueva, '09, *Patient Choice of Chinese, Tibetan, and Biomedical Health Care Systems in the Sino-Tibetan Borderlands*

Professor Nietupski writes: “This project is a collaborative study of the greater Labrang (Chinese Labuleng) Monastery community. The community is located in the Sino-Tibetan borderlands, where Gansu, Sichuan and Qinghai Provinces meet.

Its culture is undergoing rapid socioeconomic change. The goal of the project is to introduce students to the complexities of culture and social life in the Labrang subregion...As our research team travels through this diverse region, each member will draw on his or her own interests and expertise to study a key component of this culture that remains vibrant and central in people’s lives and yet is undergoing significant changes.”

### **Loyola Marymount University, Katherine Anne Harper, Art History, Japan**

Brian Dworetzky, '06, *Kamakura Zen Architecture*

Stephanie Jewell, '07, *Kamakura Temple Sculpture*

Courtney Sherman, '08, *Tokeiji Nunnery and the Role of Women in Kamakura Zen Buddhism*

Professor Harper writes: “Given the dearth of information and photographic documentation on Kamakura’s Zen temples and its material culture, the project team...proposes to conduct a historical and photographic survey of...seven temples and their artifacts...All are Rinzei Zen temple complexes of the Kamakura Period... (Although) a number of the structures are reconstructions, the project team, nonetheless, intends to document all the buildings since they are reflections of the original constructions at the various sites.”

### **Marietta College, Luding Tong, Modern Languages, China**

Jamie Gougarty, '07, Timothy Kemble, '08, Lauren Stermer, '06, William Sullivan

IV, '07 joint project on *Investigating the Building Blocks of Advertising in Contemporary China*

Professor Tong writes: “This project is a cross-disciplinary examination of the advertising industry in contemporary China. We will investigate three areas: 1) changes in the Party leadership’s attitude towards capitalism and consumption, 2) government law and policies on advertising and their implementations, and 3) the interplay of Chinese cultural and philosophic tradition and Western influence reflected in contemporary Chinese advertising.”

### **Mills College, Wah K. Cheng, History, China**

Stacy Fisher, '07, *Huaju and Broadway: A Comparative Study of Chinese and American Theatres*

Stephanie McLeod, '07, *Advertising in the Socialist Market Economy of China*

Stephanie Snyder, '06, *Renovating the Past: History, Symbolism, and Rhetoric in Creating Chinese War Monuments*

Emily Warde, '07, *The Conflict Between Tradition and Modernity in the Architecture of Chinese Cities*

Sarah Wong, '08, *Women Artists in the Chinese Contemporary Art Scene*

Professor Cheng states: “While our proposal consists of five independent, though related, student research projects, and

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therefore should fall more fittingly into the 'individual' category, each of these projects has been profoundly informed by an overall analytical framework that is the result of our collective, ongoing discussion...In the end, we came to the conclusion that our collective inquiry would be framed around the concept of the metropolis as icon of modernity and that our field work would focus on the three metropolitan clusters of Beijing, Shanghai, and Hong Kong."

### **Oglethorpe University, Robert Steen, Foreign Languages, Japan**

Brittany Bennett, '06, *The Current State of Ainu Cultural Traditions*

Johannah Garon, '08, *Deligitimization in Japan: Official Nationalism and Its Impact on Ainu Minority Rights*

Jessica Pond, '07, *The Ainu: We or They*

Professor Steen notes: "Japan has long been viewed as a mono-racial society. Prime Minister Nakasone himself once infamously attributed Japan's economic success to its racial homogeneity. Yet there are many distinct minorities in Japanese society: the burakumin (descendants of the traditional outcast class); Japanese of Korean heritage; the people of Okinawa and several others, depending upon how the term minority is defined. Indeed, one need only scratch the surface of Japanese history before discovering that on the margins of the cultural center, peripheral groups exist in Japan that clearly do not adhere to normative definitions of what it means to be Japanese." Students in this research group will explore different aspects of Ainu culture including how Ainu youth view their ethnicity, how Ainu history is conveyed in the Japanese public education system, and the recent history of Ainu political activism.

### **Trinity University, Wen Xing, Modern Languages and Literatures, China**

John Bandy, '06, *The Art of the Mogao Caves and the Power of the Tang*

Adrienne McAllister, '07, *Marketing the Ancient: Perspectives on How China Markets Concepts and Objects of Antiquity to Foreigners and Its Impact on Chinese Society*

Jennifer Rektorik, '06, *Yangsheng: Cultivating the Elements of Ancient and Modern Chinese Food Culture*

Daniel Williamson, '07, *Chinese Medicine and Cosmology: Yin-Yang and the Five Phases*

Professor Xing's research group is comprised of undergraduate students who have completed his upper level Chinese language course entitled "Excavated Chinese Texts," which focuses upon the translation of "excavated early Chinese manuscripts, many of which are texts not available in the transmitted textual tradition, (which) have been extremely important in rethinking and understanding Chinese civilization." This grant will now enable these students to visit five Chinese cities to "observe the original manuscripts, visit the archaeological sites, conduct research with leading scholars in the leading institutions, and use the best libraries in China." Each student has developed his/her own research project, listed above,

related to early textual discoveries, and they have also committed themselves to analyze and translate a recently excavated text.

### **Valparaiso University, Zhimin Lin, Political Science, China**

Bethany Birch, '06, Carl Boschert, '07, Stanley Chin, '06, Vaura Van't Land, '06 joint project on *Chinese Perceptions of the Rise of China and China's Relations with the United States*

Professor Lin writes: This research team "will examine how the general public and elite groups in China view the rise of China and its implications on relations with other countries, especially the United States. By conducting in-depth interviews and surveys in the Hangzhou area of Zhejiang province, the project hopes to shed light on two important questions: 1) With the 'rise of China' becoming ever more prominent, how do the Chinese react to the phenomenon; and 2) Given China's growing influence over world affairs, how do the Chinese view their relationship with other nations, especially the U.S.?"

### **Wittenberg University, Jennifer Oldstone-Moore, Religion, Japan**

Kimie (Vance) James, '07, *Commercialization and the Shikoku Pilgrimage*

Zachariah Simon, '07, *Who are the henro of the Kobo Daishi Pilgrimage?*

Professor Oldstone-Moore notes: "This project examines the practices of pilgrims on the 88 temple circuit around the island of Shikoku in Japan...(to study) key aspects of religious practice, both those that specifically characterize Japanese religious expressions and those that are found more widely across religious traditions and cultures...This includes observing the demographics of those observed on the pilgrimage; specific ritual practices; the role of and reverence for Kobo Daishi (Kukai) expressed on this circuit; the commercialization and marketing of Kobo Daishi in particular and Buddhism in general; and the experience of pilgrimage juxtaposed with academic learning about pilgrimage."



2005 Lawrence University ASIANetwork Freeman Student Fellows interact with Filipino hosts during field research on bats.