

Take Note: The Business Meeting is scheduled at 5:15 p.m., Saturday, March 14.

Board Nominees

The ASIANetwork Nominations Committee is pleased to present the following three candidates for election to the Board of Directors. The election will be held at the Business Meeting at the 2009 Conference in Lisle, Illinois.

Jason D. Fuller is Assistant Professor of Religious Studies and a member of the Asian Studies Executive Steering Committee at DePauw University, Greencastle, IN. Jason received his Ph.D. in Religious Studies from the University of Pennsylvania where he pursued his research in the departments of Religious Studies and South Asia Regional Studies. Prior to his arrival at DePauw University, Jason taught at Washington and Lee University and the University of Pennsylvania. He also traveled and lived in India for years while conducting his research.



Jason is a South Asianist who specializes in the study of Modern Hinduism. He is a historian of religions who has conducted fieldwork and archival research in Kolkata, West Bengal and its environs. He is the recipient of several prestigious grants for study and research in India from the

American Institute of Indian Studies and the University of Pennsylvania. His areas of research interest involve postcolonial Hinduism, Hindu responses to the challenges of colonialism and modernity, Gaudiya Vaisnavism, and nineteenth-century Bengali history. His most recent publications include: "Bhaktivinoda Thakura, Colonialism and the *Philosophia Perennis*," *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* (Spring 2008); "Bhaktivinoda Thakura and the Modernization of Gaudiya Vaisnavism," in Steven J. Rosen, ed. *Gaudiya Vaishnavism & Iskcon: An Anthology of Scholarly Perspectives* (2008); and "Vaisnava Hermeneutics and Vedic Authority in the *Sri Krsna Samhita*," *Journal of Vaishnava Studies* (2006).

At DePauw Jason has worked steadily to increase the visibility of Asian Studies on campus by attracting numerous students to the program with a variety of new course offerings and arranging for well-known scholars in the fields of Asian and South Asian Studies to give talks each semester. The topics have ranged from the cultural cachet of "Hello Kitty" merchandise in

contemporary Japan to portrayals of Krishna in Indian calendar art as the child-like Butter Thief. Jason has also expanded DePauw's off-campus course offerings: he directed a number of Winter Term Studies projects for students traveling to India. Jason's teaching interests are broad and include *Hinduism*, *Modern Hinduism*, *Religions of India*, *South Asian History*, *Introduction to the Religions of Asia* and *Asian Religions in America*. In addition to his travel and research in South Asia, he has traveled to Japan on multiple occasions; most recently, Jason went on a faculty development trip to Kyoto sponsored by the GLCA and DePauw University.

In addition to his research and pedagogy in the areas of South Asian history and culture, Jason has interests in methodological issues in the academic study of religion and the emerging field of religion and film. He uses a multi-medial, interdisciplinary approach to the study of religion in his courses, asking students to make intellectually fruitful connections between verbal and visual representations of religion. In the journal *Teaching Theology and Religion*, Jason has published an article arguing for the uses of film in the religious studies classroom. He argues that film can inspire students to think productively about difficult and—especially—esoteric or abstract theoretical concepts.

Outside of his academic commitments, Jason pursues a variety of pastimes and also enjoys traveling. Jason and his wife Rebekah, who is a writer and scholar of medieval literature, travel frequently to England, preferably once a year, so that they can visit Oxford, Northwest Wales and Snowdonia. Also, when Jason is not teaching, watching reruns of *The Tudors*, traveling to Kolkata or doing archival research in the India Office Reading room at the British Library, he is often riding his Indian motorcycle on the back roads of rural Indiana.

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Stephen Udry received his A.B. from Columbia University in 1985. After graduating, he moved to Taiwan to further his study of the Chinese language. He lived on Taiwan from 1985-1989. Upon returning from Taiwan to New York, Steve spent three years in the import/export business mostly importing minerals from China into the US. He returned to school in 1990 attending the Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington, where he received an M.A. in International Studies.



Deciding to continue with his studies, Steve remained at the University of Washington where he graduated with his PhD in History in 2000. During that time, Steve spent two years researching his dissertation in Northeastern China and Taiwan. Since earning his PhD, he has been teaching at Carthage

Shu-chin Wu received her Ph.D. in modern Chinese History from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. She joined the Agnes Scott faculty in 2005 and is the director of the Asian Studies program. She is also an Honorary Research Fellow (2006-09) at the Center for Film and TV Studies at Shaanxi Normal University.

In scholarly pursuits, Shu-chin Wu presents regularly at professional conferences in two areas of special interest:



Chinese intellectual history and the emerging field of contemplative practice in higher education. She is currently working on two book projects: (1) *Time, History, Death: An Intellectual Biography of Li Dazhao*. (2) With Dr. Marjorie Rhine of University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, Shu-chin Wu is co-editing *The Anthology of Contemplative Practice in Higher Education*. Since 2006, she has begun to explore

the interactions between film, literature, and history, in particular the representation of history in modern Chinese film and fiction. She is working on a paper along this line entitled "Film and History: *Lust, Caution* as Understood in Taiwan, China, and the United States."

Shu-chin Wu's teaching interests are modern Chinese social and intellectual history, ancient Chinese thought, the

College in Kenosha, Wisconsin. He teaches introductory courses in both Chinese and Japanese history as well as courses on 20th Century China, Post-war Japan, and Democracy in East Asia. He also frequently lectures on current affairs in China. His research interests focus on the Manchu rulers of the Qing Dynasty, with particular attention to the evolution of the shamanisms of the Manchu peoples. He is currently finishing a manuscript on Manchu shamanisms. Steve is also co-authoring a new East Asian history sourcebook, *Asian Voices*, due out in February 2010 from Pearson. Steve has also been involved with several NCTA (National Consortium For Teaching About Asia) seminars in the Milwaukee area. Steve has been an active member of ASIANetwork since joining the Carthage faculty in 2000, having presented papers at four different annual conferences and contributing several pieces to the ASIANetwork Newsletter.

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representation of history in film and literature, the Vietnam Wars, and the theory and practice of history. Recipient of a Georgia Governor's Teaching Fellowship and a Contemplative Curricular Development Fellowship from Naropa University, Shu-chin Wu is interested in and passionate about bringing mindfulness into teaching and learning in higher education. Her article "Mindfulness in the Classroom: Transforming Obstacles into Opportunities" is being considered for a book titled *Teaching from Within*, a book presently seeking contract with Oxford University Press.

In the summer of 2007, she led a group of Agnes Scott faculty for a faculty development seminar in China. Upon the group's return, she arranged a follow up faculty presentation in the lecture series "China Today: Transformation and Challenges." Since the spring of 2008, she has been organizing a four-year Grace Chao lecture series at Agnes Scott College. Shu-chin Wu worked with the development office in applying for a Japan Foundation grant, which was funded for \$10,000.00. Currently she is working toward the goal of Agnes Scott College hosting the annual meeting of ASIANetwork in 2010.

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