The Asian Studies Program at Northern Arizona University is active this semester. We are teaching 17 different courses that earn credit in the Asian Studies minor, some in multiple sections, some as web courses, and some with Honors students. Our offerings include courses in Japanese, Chinese, Arabic, and Sanskrit languages, as well as courses in Asian history, religions, art history, geography, and humanities. We’re happy to bring you our news.

– Bruce M. Sullivan, Professor of Religious Studies & Coordinator of NAU’s Asian Studies Program.

Spring 2010 Events
We continue celebrating India this academic year with various events.

The Asian Studies Film Festival
Asian Studies is sponsoring free showings of three films about India this semester, each at 7 PM on the following Thursday evenings on NAU’s campus in Cline Library’s Assembly Hall. Please join us for these interesting films!

Feb. 18: “Ganges” (2008)
A dazzling BBC documentary on north India’s major river, showing its origin in the Himalayas and passage through heavily-populated plains, as well as the human and animal life that the river so profoundly affects.

Feb. 25: “Welcome to Sajjanpur”
A comedy set in rural India by acclaimed director Shyam Benegal, this 2008 feature remains popular in India today for its witty dialogue and satirical style.

March 4: “Sita Sings the Blues”
An innovative, independently-made animated film (2009) based on the ancient story of Rāma and Sitā, but told from the woman’s perspective. The blues music tells her story in surprisingly effective ways.

Concert: Classical Music of India
Pandit Rajeev Taranath will perform a classical Indian concert on sarod Friday, April 2, at 7:30 pm, in Ashurst Hall. A distinguished disciple of Maestro Ali Akbar Khan, his performances masterfully combine the depth and rigor of the tradition of Hindustani classical music with an inspired imagination and emotional intensity. His website is: www.rajeevtaranath.com
Asian Studies Faculty News
Faculty in nine different programs and departments at NAU comprise the Asian Studies faculty group.

Jason BeDuhn (Religious Studies program in the Dept. of Comparative Cultural Studies), published the first volume of a two-volume work, *Augustine's Manichaean Dilemma, 1: Conversion and Apostasy*, 373-388 C.E. (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania). He is engaged in another research project while in residence this semester at the National Humanities Center on a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities: “Digital Enhancement, Editing, Translation, and Analysis of the ‘Dublin Kephalaia,’ a 4th Century Coptic Manichaean Codex in the Collection of the Chester Beatty Library, Dublin.” Both these projects relate to the (now vanished) Iranian Gnostic religion Manichaeism.

Sheila Nair (Politics & International Affairs) has published an edited volume: Shampa Biswas and Sheila Nair, editors, *International Relations and States of Exception: Margins, Peripheries and Excluded Bodies* (London and New York: Routledge 2010). It contains her chapter “Sovereignty, security, and migrants: Making bare life.” She has also been awarded an East-West Center Fellowship in Washington, D.C. next spring for research.

Paul Donnelly (Religious Studies program in the Dept. of Comparative Cultural Studies) is teaching Sanskrit this semester. He will lead two study-abroad trips this summer to the northwestern areas of India known as Spiti and Ladakh. These regions were formerly part of the Tibetan empire and are home to numerous Tibetan monasteries dating back to the 10th century. Both trips also include visits to important goddess temples and several days in Dharamsala, home to the Dalai Lama and the Tibetan exile community. The first trip is June 21 to July 14; the second is July 12 to August 4. Contact: Paul.Donnelly@nau.edu
Jim Wilce (Anthropology) presented a paper (coauthored by Heidi Haapoja, Helsinki University) entitled “Registering change, enregistering authenticity: Competing claims to the Finno-Ugrian 'lament language' in a 'lament revival'” at the 108th Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Assn., at Philadelphia. A version of the paper will be presented at UNLV in February in its Anthropology Colloquium series.

Bruce M. Sullivan (Religious Studies program in the Dept. of Comparative Cultural Studies) has had an article accepted for publication in the Religious Studies journal CrossCurrents. Entitled “The Buddhist Health Study: Meditation on Love and Compassion as Features of Religious Practice” (coauthored with Professors Bill Wiist of Health & Human Services and Heidi Wayment of Psychology), it will appear in summer 2010. He also presented a paper on Hindu and Buddhist themes in science fiction at the international meeting of the American Academy of Religion in Montréal.

Neal Liang (Modern Languages) reports that students of Chinese will participate in a workshop for this year’s Modern Languages and International Studies Day on April 8, 2010. They will showcase their knowledge of Chinese tones and help the high school students gain knowledge of this tonal language. Also, at the Chinese New Year party on Feb. 13, students of Chinese will perform traditional songs and dances as entertainment.

Krista Rodin (Humanities program in the Dept. of Comparative Cultural Studies) is presenting two papers at conferences: “Stages of Mantra Mind and Modern Psychological Approaches to Cognition” at the Humanities, Education & Research Assn. conference in El Paso, and “Music, Mantra and Metaphor” at the International Humanities Conference on New Developments in the Humanities, at UCLA.

Chie Okubo (Modern Languages) will co-chair the 21st annual Japanese speech contest in April. Next year’s Japanese speech contest will be held at NAU.

Modern Languages Film Series
Asian films in original languages with English subtitles are featured in the series sponsored by the Dept. of Modern Languages, Wed. evenings in Liberal Arts Building, room 135, at 7 pm: Shall We Dance? (Japan, 1996), seeing a beautiful woman in the studio, an accountant signs up for dance lessons and slowly falls in love with the art form itself (April 7).

Cline Lecture in the Humanities
Wendy Doniger, distinguished Professor of the History of Religions at The University of Chicago, will present a lecture entitled “Are We All Hindus Now?” on April 26 in Cline Assembly Hall, at 7 PM. Contact: Krista.Rodin@NAU.edu
Sackler Collection Comes to NAU

The Arthur M. Sackler Study Collection, which is on long-term loan to the NAU Art Museum through the generosity of Dr. Elizabeth Sackler and the Arthur M. Sackler Foundation, includes ceramics, metalwork, jewelry and other artifacts, the most ancient perhaps 4000 years old.

China, Korea, Southeast Asia, the Eurasian Steppes and Near East are among the regions represented in the collection. This is an extraordinary teaching resource for NAU students and scholars. The collection offers a “hands-on” experience of material cultures that are thousands of years old, yet still thriving today. Visitors will examine the forms, textures, and craft of objects without the intervention of white gloves; the opportunity to hold in the hand an object lovingly crafted centuries ago can inspire creative responses in many disciplines, including Art History, Religious Studies, Anthropology, Archaeology, Art, and History. NAU’s Professors George Speer (Museum Director) and Zsuzsanna Gulácsi (of Asian Studies and Comparative Cultural Studies) were instrumental in collaborating with Dr. Sackler to establish this rich study collection of Asian works of art at NAU.

Dr. Trudi Kawami, Dr. Elizabeth Sackler, and Dr. Gulácsi are shown at the storeroom of the Sackler Collection in New York City, Sept. 2009, selecting the objects for NAU.

For further information on NAU’s Asian Studies Program, including our minor, please visit our website www.cal.nau.edu/asian_studies or contact the Program Coordinator, Dr. Bruce M. Sullivan
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