



ASIAN STUDIES



Asian Studies Program in 2014-15

The Asian Studies Program begins its fifth year of existence at UMBC and has moved into new quarters on the fifth floor in the renovated Fine Arts Building (South wing). 85 students (sixty-five majors and twenty minors) are enrolled in the program as of this fall.

During the past year, the Program moved into some new, exciting directions, with the addition of Hindi, the world's fourth most frequently spoken language (please see story below on this subject). Hindi is the first South Asian language offered at UMBC and compliments our offerings in East Asian languages,—Chinese, Japanese and Korean. The addition of Hindi

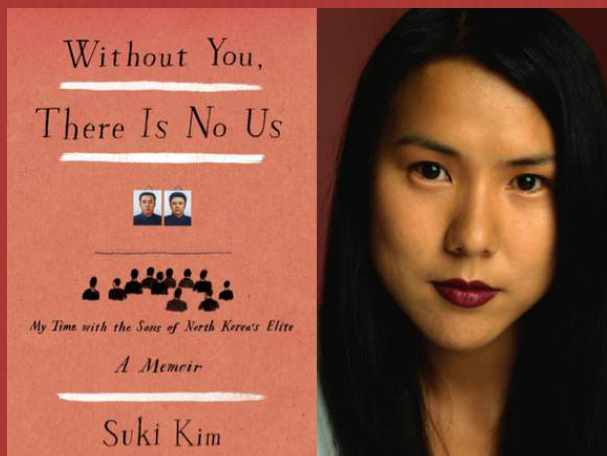
supplements a growing number of courses in our curriculum that focus on South Asia, one of the two areas in Asia (along with China, sometime collectively referred to as Chindia) that have been experiencing rapid economic growth.

This past year we also had several major events with speakers from outside the university. *The New York Times* award winning author Suki Kim came to UMBC and gave a fascinating talk based on her best-selling book *Without You, There is No Us. My Time with the Sons of North Korea's Elite*. In the spring, scholar of South Asian art and visual culture Dr. Rebecca Brown (Johns Hopkins University) delivered a captivating

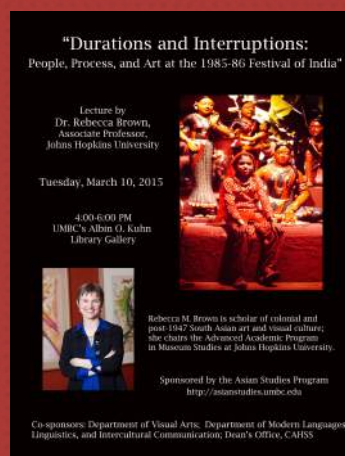
lecture on Indian art and national identity, entitled "Durations and Interruptions. People, Process, and Art at the 1985-86 Festival of India." Towson University professor and filmmaker Dr. Harjant Gill also presented his latest, thought-provoking film "Mardistan (Macholand).



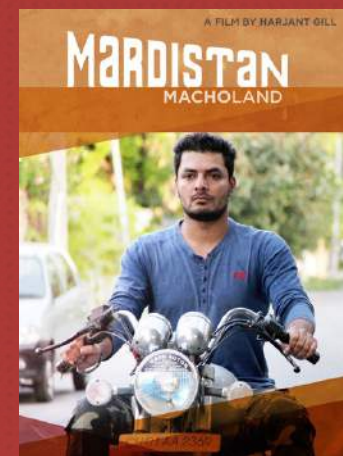
Asia Studies Program director, Dr. Constantine N. Vaporis



Award-winning author Suki Kim presented her best-selling book on North Korea.



Publicity for lecture by Dr. Rebecca Brown (center) and film showing by Dr. Harjant (right).



Fall News

On August 26, the first day of classes, the Asian Studies Program will be holding a Welcome Back reception for students, faculty and staff in its old home, the 7th floor of the Administration Building. The following day (8/27), the Program will co-host (together with Sister State Programs from South Korea, Japan and China) a welcome reception for the First Lady of Maryland, Yumi Hogan, in the Atrium of the Performing Arts Building.

Asian Studies Students Win Awards for Language Study in Taiwan

This past spring two Asian Studies students won major awards to study overseas this past summer: Kayla Barrett and John Miller. Both won Huayu Enrichment Scholarships from the Taiwan Ministry of

Education (TECRO) to study Mandarin in the Republic of China (Taiwan). Congratulations to both!

This year the Asian Studies Program will also be offering a travel scholarship for the study of Hindi in India. Details to follow soon.



Aerial view of downtown Taipei, Taiwan

Professor Uma Saini Launches UMBC'S Hindi Program



Uma Saini is Senior lecturer of Hindi at the Johns Hopkins University, where she has also held a number of administrative positions, including Director, ESL Program and Director of the Language Teaching Center. Despite her full-time schedule at JHU, she generously offered to launch our Hindi program at UMBC beginning in the fall 2014. She has also held numerous consulting positions, for the Critical Language Studies program and for the U.S. government, among others. Professor Saini is the author of two textbooks on Hindi (*Written and Spoken Hindi, Elementary I, II*: U & K Publishing Company, Rockville, MD) and is currently working on two textbooks for Basic Sanskrit. We are indeed very fortunate to have Professor Saini directing our Hindi program at UMBC!

Asian Studies Awards from the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences, 2015



Asian Studies students receiving their awards. From left, Caitlin Stone, Sarah Koolbeck, John J Miller, Rebekah Lewis, and Anna Kearns. To their right are Dean Scott Casper and Dr. Constantine Vaporis.

The following Asian Studies students received recognition from the College of Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences (CAHSS) in a ceremony held in May 2015:

Sarah Koolbeck, Award for Academic Excellence: A transfer student from Howard Community College, Sarah has performed at the highest level (4.0 GPA) at UMBC while studying Korean and winning a coveted Critical Language Scholarship (CLS) from the Department of State for the study of Korean in South Korea.

Rebekah Lewis, Outstanding Service to the Asian Studies Program: While maintaining an excellent academic record, Rebekah Lewis provided great assistance to the Asian Studies Program through her leadership of the Asian Studies Council of Majors.

John J. Miller, Award for Academic Excellence: A transfer student from Messiah College, John has excelled academically while pursuing a double major in Asian Studies and MLLI (with a German concentration). He has studied abroad in China and Germany, and is planning another period of study abroad in Taiwan this summer.

Anna Kearns, Award for Academic Excellence: A Humanities Scholar, Anna has successfully performed at the highest level (4.0 GPA) while pursuing a double major in Asian Studies and Global Studies, with a minor in Modern Languages and Linguistics (Spanish specialization). She studied Korean through the intermediate level and Spanish at the advanced level, and spent a semester abroad in Chile.

Caitlin Stone, Excellence in an Asian Language Award: a transfer student from Carroll Community College, has made outstanding progress in the Chinese language since beginning her studies at UMBC, during which time she has completed the entire range of Chinese course offerings.

Sarah Koolbeck, Excellence in an Asian Language Award: has made outstanding progress in the Korean language since transferring to UMBC from Howard Community College. This was further evidenced by her being awarded a coveted Critical Language Scholarship from the Department of State for study in Korea during Summer 2014.

Engaging with the Community: Longwood Apartment Internships and Asian Food Pantry

Students in the Asian Studies Program continued their good work at Longwood Apartments, a HUD Section 8 housing unit in Columbia, MD with about 200 (mainly Korean and Chinese) residents. At Longwood, ASIA student interns worked to improve communication between the residents and the non-Chinese and Korean speaking staff; served as interpreters at community

meetings; assisted the head of the Senior Center, Ms. Kathy Wehr, with English language instruction, art, dance and other classes; and equally important, spent time interacting with the residents. To read about some of their experiences, please go to: <http://asianstudies.umbc.edu/longwood-internship-student-experiences/>

Student interns also worked with the Asian Studies Program

to maintain the Asian Food Pantry at Longwood (photos below). This Program offers the low-income seniors free food. The pantry was held three times during the 2014-15 academic year, and relies totally on contributions of non-perishable food from the community.



Asian Studies Faculty News/Accomplishments

Amy Bhatt, associate professor of Gender and Women's Studies, is returning this fall from sabbatical leave. During that time she was working on a new book manuscript, entitled "It's at Home in Globalization: gender, migration and the Indian household." This fall she will be presenting papers at the Immigrant Histories Conference at the University of Minnesota in October and the National Women's Studies Association Conference in November.

Theodore S. Gonzalves, associate professor of American studies: In April 2015, Professor Gonzalves presented work at two conferences: the 40th anniversary conference of the Center for Philippine Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, and at the annual meeting of the Association for Asian American Studies in Chicago. In October of 2015, Professor Gonzalves will present new work at the American Studies Association conference in Toronto. He will publish an article on the composer Joe Bataan entitled, "Joe Bataan on Heavy Rotation," in the Spring 2016 issue of *CUNY Forum*, the journal of the Asian American / Asian Research Institute based in New York City. His current project focuses on global protest music produced in the 1970s and 1980s.

Devin Hagerty, professor of Political Science and founding director of the Global Studies program: was named the Lipitz Professor of the Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences for 2014-2015. On May 7, 2015 he delivered the Lipitz Lecture at UMBC on the theme of "India, Pakistan, and Nuclear Weapons: Deterrence Stability in South Asia." This summer he taught a three-day course on International Relations Theory at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency.

Preminda Jacob is the new Chair of Visual Arts as of this fall. She presented a paper, "Cine-Signs: The Evolving Art of Film Advertisements in Tamil Nadu," at a symposium in conjunction with the exhibition *Bollywood 101: The Visual Culture of Popular Indian Cinema* at the University of California, Santa Barbara on October 30, 2014.

Meredith Oyen, assistant professor of History: published "The Right of Return: Chinese Displaced Persons and the International Refugee Organization, 1947-56" in the March 2015 issue of *Modern Asian Studies* and "'Thunder without Rain: ARCI, the Far East Refugee Program, and the American Response to Hong Kong Refugees," in the Fall 2014 issue of *Journal of Cold War Studies*. In June she presented a paper, "Displaced by War, Displaced from History: The International Refugee Organization in China, 1947-1950," at the Association for Asian Studies conference in Taipei, Taiwan. Her book, *The Diplomacy of Migration: Transnational Lives and the Making of U.S.-Chinese Relations in the Cold War*, will be published by Cornell University Press this November.

Manil Suri, professor of Mathematics/Statistics: has published a number of op-eds related to India in *The New York Times* (<http://www.nytimes.com/column/manil-suri>): Aug 3 on Abortion rights in India; June 19 on Yoga Day and Indian politics, and April 17 on the Beef Ban in Maharashtra, India. Also he was interviewed for the US-India SPAN magazine on an upcoming theater/math project in India that will take place in early 2016 (http://issuu.com/spanmagazine/docs/july-august_2015/21?e=0/13883093)

Constantine N. Vaporis, professor of history and founding director, Asian Studies Program, completed the second of his three-year term as Presidential Research Scholar. He has organized an Asian History/Studies conference, entitled "Asia in Context: The Human and Physical Environment," which will take place on November 7 at UMBC. Earlier this summer he organized the International Forum on Asian History and Asian Studies in Athens, Greece, sponsored by the Athens Institute for Education and Research, which brought together more than thirty scholars of Asia from across the globe. In 2015 he was named a Smithsonian Expert and delivered four lectures in Japan to a Smithsonian Journeys tour group. During his sabbatical leave last fall he worked on a new book *Sword and Brush. Portraits of Samurai Life in Tokugawa Japan*. This summer he taught a three-day course on Asia-Pacific at the National Geospatial Intelligence Agency.

Fan Yang, assistant professor of Media and Communications Studies: published two articles, "Rethinking China's Internet censorship: the practice of recoding and the politics of visibility," in the journal *New Media & Society* (2014) and "A Bite of China: food, media, and the televisual negotiation of national difference," in *Quarterly Journal of Film and Video* (2015). Dr. Yang's first book, *Faked in China: Nation Branding, Counterfeit Culture, Globalization*, is scheduled to be published by Indiana University Press in January, 2016. Another article, entitled "The Chinese Dream: a global-national ideological formation," will appear in the edited volume *Commercial Nationalism: Selling the Nation and Nationalizing the Sell* (Palgrave Macmillan) this coming October. She also presented at many conferences this year, including the International Forum on Asian History and Asian Studies in Athens, Greece, where she presented an introductory chapter of her new book project, tentatively titled *Chimerica .A Transnational Cultural Production*.

Asian Studies Program (Fine Arts Building, South Wing)

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Program website: <http://asianstudies.umbc.edu>

Please visit and "like" our Program Facebook page: Asian Studies Program at UMBC

Our students also maintain their own Facebook group: UMBC Asian Studies Council of Majors

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