



ASIAN STUDIES



It's been an exciting year of growth for Asian Studies

This year the Asian Studies Program has grown to sixty-five majors—and more than twenty minors. We sponsored a full schedule of events, beginning in early September with the Yakshagana theatrical extravaganza (below) from southern India, which drew a sold-out audience of 350 people, and we ended it in late April with a lecture on “The ‘Asianization’ of the 21st Century” by Dr. Rien Segers, a visiting research scholar from the Netherlands. In between these two events there were lectures on “Exhibiting Erotic Art (*shunga*) and the Problem of Obscenity in 20th

Century Japan,” by Cuban-born scholar Dr. Amaury Garcia, and one on “The U.S. ‘Tilt’ to Asia during Obama’s Second Term” by former National Security advisor Dr. Victor Cha. Asian Studies also sponsored or cosponsored four film showings—with accompanying lectures—by four different filmmakers.

Increasing numbers of our students studied abroad this year and no fewer than five won major awards (see next page).

As of this fall (2014), we will begin offering instruction in Hindi, the world’s fourth most frequently spoken language. Hindi is the first

South Asian language offered at UMBC, and will compliment our current offering of East Asian languages,—Chinese, Japanese and Korean.



Dr. Constantine N. Vaparis
Director of Asian Studies Program



Yaksha Manjusha troupe performs “Panchavati: the story of Surpanakha” at UMBC, September 6, 2014



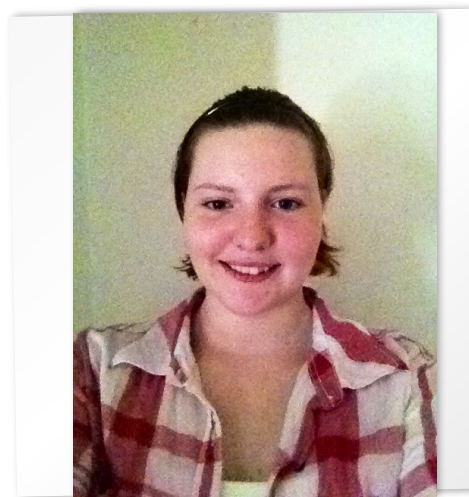
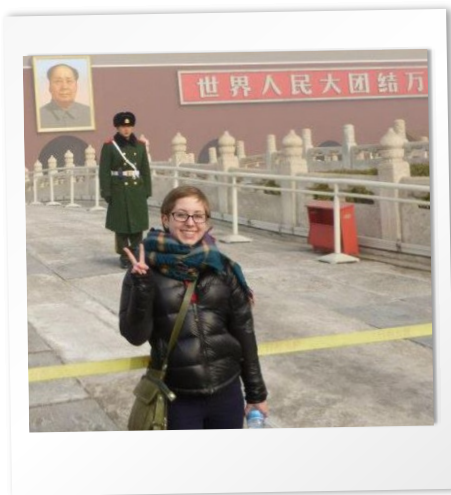
Dr. Victor Cha speaking on “The Tilt to Asia in Obama’s Second Term”

Asian Studies Students Win Awards for Language Study in Asia

This past spring five Asian Studies students won major awards to study overseas this summer or next fall: Molly Brattke (below, left), a Critical Language Scholarship (CLE) from the Department of Defense, to study Chinese in mainland China:

Sarah Koolbeck (below, center), a Critical Language Scholarship to study Korean (in Korea); Anna Kearns (below, right), a Boren Scholarship to study Korean (in Korea); Klara Kim and Rachel McCloud (bottom, left and right, respectively), Huayu Enrichment

Scholarships from the Taiwan Ministry of Education (TECRO) to study Mandarin in the Republic of China (Taiwan).
Congratulations to all of them!



UMBC ASIAN STUDIES STUDENTS STUDYING OVERSEAS IN ASIA

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

In Summer 2013 the Asian Studies Program began an internship program at Longwood Apartments, a HUD Section 8 housing unit in Columbia, MD with about 200 (mainly Korean and Chinese) residents. 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. Our student interns have found their time at Longwood very rewarding. Students have reported that they have learned a great deal from the residents' life experiences and have been able to improve their language skills through discussion with native speakers. To read about some of their experiences, please go to: <http://asianstudies.umbc.edu/longwood-internship-student-experiences/>

This spring three interns worked

with the Asian Studies Program to establish an Asian Food Pantry at Longwood (photos below) to offer the low-income seniors free food. The start-up for the pantry was greatly facilitated by a Breaking Ground grant from UMBC. The pantry has been held twice thus far and relies totally on contributions of non-perishable food from the community. We are hoping to hold the food pantry more often this year and are looking for student interns to work on this during the fall semester, for credit (1-3 credits).



ASIAN STUDIES PROGRAM AT UMBC

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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

Coordinating Committee:

Dr. Amy Bhatt (Gender and Women's Studies) - abhatter@umbc.edu

Dr. Preminda Jacob (Visual Arts) - pjacob2@umbc.edu

Dr. Anna Shields (Modern Languages, Linguistics and Intercultural Communication) -

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Dr. Meredith Oyen (History) - oyen@umbc.edu