“Reflections on 16,000 Feet”

"Jagged mountain peaks surrounded us on all sides while snow-capped summits gazed down at us like the eyes of giants who beckoned us to climb higher. The crisp, early-morning mountain air tickled my nostrils but still I drew in one deep breath after another. My body had just begun to adjust to the shock of being jostled from sleep at two-thirty AM, only to throw on a head light and a few extra layers and begin trekking uphill. Our destination: Goechela Pass, Sikkim, India. Elevation: 6,400 feet.

Like an avalanche, eight months of Asia had taken us by surprise, dropping every variety of experience on us as we fell with it. We now considered ourselves expert travelers; we had seen so much and had been surprised again and again until we felt almost an indifference to surprise - we expected the unusual. We had bonded as a group and had made friends with countless individuals along our path. All that we had experienced had passed by us in a rush, before we hardly had enough time to reflect on what we had seen. These impressions, experiences, and images remained with us in some form or another in the process of slowly transforming from short-term to long-term memory. My mind was processing many of these past experiences and impressions as we set out for Goechela Pass.

Wherever Pac Rim went, we took the place by storm. We quickly filled up bus stations, internet cafes, even airports. As you can imagine, twenty-eight Pac Rimmers on the go, each carrying forty pound backpacks, were a force you did not want to reckon with. And we were no less of a spectacle as we trekked through the Himalayas to Goechela pass accompanied by twice as many staff, shirpas, porters, guides, cooks and ox laden with gear and food. Our final Pac Rim adventure was upon us.

After traveling to many countries and taking a wide range of classes on subjects ranging from Hindu archeology to Comparative Chinese and Vietnamese nationalism, our final class turned inward and examined what we, as tourists, had been doing over the past eight months. The class addressed some of the moral questions associated with visiting a foreign place and interacting with the locals. It advocated for ecotourism, a tourism philosophy which strives to create sustainable tourism that preserves the natural environment and helps local people capitalize on opportunities which improve their quality of life while promoting the local cultural identity. This class took us from Darjeeling, to Gangtok Sikkim, and beyond to the tiny Himalayan towns of Quizing, Yuksom, and Timi."

-Stephanie Engleman

Check out the PacRim wiki website at: http://sites.google.com/site/upspacrim/
Five Fun Facts About the Asian Studies Department:

1. The PacRim Travel Program is scheduled every three years (next in Asia 2011-2012), and offers a full academic year of courses taught in eight different locations in Asia for twenty students.

2. Behold the power of the Asian Studies Designation: complements ANY major.

3. The Asian Languages and Cultures program offers three majors and two minors, as well as Chinese and Japanese language courses that meet the university’s foreign language requirement.

4. Asian Studies scholarship opportunities include the Charles Garnet Trimble Scholarships for selected entering students and Trimble scholarship grants for study abroad in Asia.

5. Post Graduate opportunities from the Asian Studies department include a context for the Miki Fellowship for a postgraduate year in Japan, as well as an English-instructorship at Hwa Nan Women's College.

Calling all interested students for PacRim 2011-2012! Get excited!

Here is a timeline of events to prepare for the next trip:

Nov , 2009 -
Jan , 2010 -
Feb , 2010 -
The Buzz Abroad in Asia: Hotdogs in China

Puget Sound student Elly Henriksen had the opportunity to work in China this past summer at a hot dog stand! She appears in an article by cityweekend.com that highlights an emerging trend in China.

Beijing Weiners: A 'Frank' Discussion on the City's New Hot Dogs

A year ago, finding a good frank was possible, but you had to know where to look – Kala’s Hot Dog in Wudaokou, or for a dog with a side of something special, the supposedly top notch stand at Maggie’s (I dare not venture). Yet with five new hot dog-centered establishments opened in recent months, it’s clear that Beijing has gone weiner crazy.

The new dogs in town range from simple stands like the misleadingly named No More Bunz on Xindong Lu, Wu-dao-kou’s Crazy Dogs and Bar Uno Hot Dog, to restaurants like Cosmo Gourmet Hot Dog Lounge and Stadium Dog, which aim to take the humble weiner to new heights. Blane Spencer Gray, top-dog owner of Cosmo, has been waiting to open a hot dog spot for over 10 years. “I had the idea, but there wasn’t the market or acceptance of the product. Now, there’s a general consensus that the time is right. After everything, it’s really the perfect American food.” Cosmo will take advantage of its prime Sanlitun location by staying open late and offering two hot dogs and a Tsingtao for RMB25 – a deal poised to snag passersby away from the ubiquitous chuan’r stands lining the lane.

Nearby, Workers Stadium is home to recently launched Stadium Dog, featuring 14 free topping choices and a “hidden” back bar named Fubar. For a former patron of Crif Dogs/PDT in New York’s East Village, where a secret door in the hot dog shack’s phone booth lead to a swanky lounge, this combination of hot dogs and cocktails is a welcome and familiar one, and it’s sure to create a buzz among the Mix and Vics crowd.

For traditionalists, Bar Uno Hot Dog on Nanluoguxiang serves a tasty RMB15 boiled dog with conventional top-pings options including Cheez Wiz, Chicago-style fixin’s and chili. American college student Elly Henriksen is spending the summer manning the stand, which may soon morph into more of a sit-down establishment called the Grotto Grill. For now, though, they’re keeping things fun and simple. “It’s entertaining – we don’t take it too seriously. We just have a really great time selling hot dogs.”

In an email update while in China, she wrote:

“So I guess I have some strange little celebrity status around Nanluogu Xiang. No idea how it came to be but my role as the Meiguoren [American] hot dog lady seems to have become very official.

Aside from that things are pretty calm around here. Lot’s of other foreign kids are headed home right about now and it’s sad to watch them leave. I’ve pretty much made up my mind that I need to come back to study here in a year. We all seem to agree, there’s something about Beijing that just sucks you back in, despite struggling with a love/hate relationship with the city the whole time you’re here. I’ve met amazing people and have established a little bit of guanxi [connections, relations] while I’ve been here, essentially the Chinese version of social capital (norms of reciprocity) and I plan to use it upon my return.”
CSOC 481 - Minorities of China
Professor Denise Glover

Chinese Studies at US institutions has traditionally focused on study of the major ethnic group of the PRC: the Han Chinese. This course is designed as a complement to this focus, seeking to broaden understanding of the social and cultural landscape of the People’s Republic. Students spend the semester getting to know more about China’s minority peoples, all of whom are termed “national or ethnic minorities” (shaoshu minzu), and how such groups interact with and react to state policies of ethnicity.

The course begins with a brief historical overview of how minority peoples have been conceived of in both imperial China and the early decades of the 20th Century after the fall of the Qing Dynasty, and then continues by examining minority policy and the construction of minority status within the PRC, how identities are contested and negotiated, how minorities are educated, and the ways in which minorities are active agents in the construction of their own identities and futures. Finally, the class explores three case studies (Muslims, Tibetans, and Yi) and analyzes the various aspects of their current minority status.

IPE 333 - IPE of Southeast Asia
Professor Nick Kontogeorgopolous

This course serves as an overview of the political, economic, social, and cultural processes shaping the region known as Southeast Asia. This course utilizes a range of disciplinary approaches in order to illustrate patterns of change in the Southeast Asian context. Throughout, the course integrates discussion of theoretical issues with examples from around Southeast Asia. By applying theoretical material to specific countries and real-world examples, the class explores the ways in which broad perspectives intersect with economic, political, and social issues to shape the nature and direction of change in Southeast Asia.

Summer 2010 Course Offering

Asia 344 - Asia in Motion (Connections Core & Asian Studies requirement)
Professor Karl Fields

This course explores the interactions of Asian peoples - the commodities, social practices, and ideas which they produce - across borders, both political and imagined. The course crosses disciplinary borders, as well, drawing upon divergent materials from the humanities and social sciences in an attempt to do justice to a contemporary context that could be called "Asia in motion". An underlying thesis holds that, since nineteenth-century colonialism, nations in the "West" and "Asia" participate in a global, dialectical movement in which notions of identity (national, cultural, ethnic, religious, territorial, linguistic) share moments of fluidity and fixity.
Study Abroad in Asia

Summer Programs (Application deadline Feb 15, 2009)

Tunghai University

The Tunghai, Taiwan Program offers intensive language training in a native-speaking environment for students wishing to continue their study of Mandarin Chinese during the summer. The program allows students to experience Taiwanese and Chinese cultures, and serves as a preparatory session for those continuing their study abroad either in China or Taiwan during the following school year.

To be eligible for the Tunghai Program, students must be at least sophomores in good standing, have completed one year of college-level Mandarin Chinese (UPS 101-102) or the equivalent, have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA, and be enrolled at the University of Puget Sound or a recent graduate. Student are selected for participation based on their cumulative grade average, the strength of the required essay, faculty letters of recommendation, an evaluation of the transcript and discipline records, and other information provided in the application and University records.

NEW Japan Summer Program - Kyoto Institute of Culture and Language

The Kyoto Institute of Culture and Language offers an intensive summer four-week program, providing a stimulating environment in which students may increase their understanding of the Japanese Language and culture. Students will have opportunities to improve their language skills and to develop confidence in intercultural communication inside the classroom and outside school. This program offers a direct encounter with Japan, its language and people.

To be eligible for the Kyoto Program, students must be at least sophomores in good standing, have completed one year of college-level Japanese (UPS 101-102) or the equivalent, have a minimum 2.5 cumulative GPA, and be enrolled at the University of Puget Sound or a recent graduate. Student are selected for participation based on their cumulative grade average, the strength of the required essay, faculty letters of recommendation, an evaluation of the transcript and discipline records, and other information provided in the application and University records.

For more study abroad opportunities in Asia, please visit the International Programs website.

Imagine the possibilities. This could be YOU!
Calling all current sophomores! Interested in a scholarship? Apply for the IEAS Designation or declare an Asian Languages or Cultures major or minor to qualify.

What is the IEAS Designation?

The Interdisciplinary Emphasis in Asian Studies (IEAS) offers students with an interest in Asian Studies the opportunity to augment their chosen major with an Asian Studies concentration. The designation is included on the transcript, indicating the student’s proficiency in Asian Studies. It is a one-click option on your Cascade profile and it will open a world of opportunities to you (including eligibility for scholarships, research grants, study abroad financial assistance, and much more). If you have questions about the Asian Studies interdisciplinary designation, any of our courses, or opportunities to study abroad or intern in Asia, see Program Director Karl Fields.

Financial Support for the Studying Abroad in Asia
Grants are available to students for study abroad programs in Asia. Funds are made possible through the Charles Garnet Trimble Endowment in Chinese Studies. The deadline for the Summer 2009 research award is April 1, 2010.

Senior Thesis Research Grants
Each year the Asian Studies Program funds up to two $3000 research grants for Asian Studies designates to support thesis research in Asia for students who will be seniors pursuing the Trimble Distinguished Asia Scholar designation (whether Asian Studies 489 or an approved seminar within the major). These funds may also be used for a semester-break research project between fall and spring semesters. Funds are made available from the Charles Garnet Trimble Endowment in Chinese Studies. The deadline for the Summer 2009 research award is April 15, 2010.

Financial Support for the Study of Indian Culture
*The Raj K. Kukreja Award offers $500 to support undergraduate student research on India or research that is explicitly related to Indian culture or affairs. This award may also be used in combination with any other student research award (such as those made available for Asian Studies senior thesis field research). The funds may be used to supplement research-related travel costs, books, supplies, tuition for intensive language study or other research related expenses. The deadline is April 1, 2010.

Scholarship Opportunities

All Application materials for scholarships and other opportunities may be found on the Asian Studies website.

Post Graduate Opportunities in China and Japan:

Miki Memorial Scholar Award—Nine to twelvemonths in Japan as a research student with independent research and travel, formal internships, studio art experiences, formal assistantships or apprenticeships. Deadline: Feb 16, 2010

Hwa Nan Women’s College English Instructor Position—A ten-month appointment as a teacher of English conversation and composition in Fuzhou, Fujian province, China. Deadline: Feb 1, 2010

Your Opportunity gateway to MORE opportunities!
Reflections from the 2008-2009 course
“Comparative Nationalism in China and Vietnam” taught by Karl Fields

“Our group was fortunate to have Karl Fields, director of Asian Studies and professor of Politics and Government at UPS, teach our course on comparative nationalism. Karl’s class spanned throughout our time in Fuzhou, China and Hanoi, Vietnam. The class included sections on the development of nationalism, imperialism, communism, and Confucianism in each country. Our schedule included many visits to famous sites and museums, guest lectures from several esteemed scholars, and opportunities to engage with and interview locals. We all appreciated Karl’s enthusiasm, his depth of knowledge and experience with the countries, and above all his total willingness to gain a new perspective and understanding of the issues right along with us.”

When asked the following question...

“How did Karl Field’s nationalism class shape your experiences in transition from China to Vietnam? How did visiting these two countries in the context of studying comparative nationalism influence your perspective on and experiences within the countries?”

Students answered:

“Karl Field’s nationalism class gave me a useful perspective from which to view China and Vietnam. It made me appreciate the colorful history of these two countries as unique places and also in comparison to one another (and to America). It was important for me to understand the role of nationalism played in forming Vietnam, especially due to the surreal recent history Vietnam has shared with America. I would not have appreciated the experience so much without the academic background to color the experience and give me perspective.”

-Stephanie Engleman

“Nationalism is such a dynamic concept when considered in regards to China and Vietnam. Both countries and ideal models for the study of nationalism, yet the two countries exist in two different states. In China, we were able to see nationalism among the majority ethnic group of the country. However, their nationalism seemed to exist as more of a façade that the government exudes since each region tended to have its own dialect and culture. On the other hand, Vietnam was brought together as truly a country of its people and has shown this cohesiveness throughout history and continues to in its economic development.”
Asian Studies Course Offerings for Spring 2010
Look online (http://cascade.ups.edu) for details

ALC 205 - Great Books of China & Japan
Leuchtenberger, (HM)

ALC 320 - Self & Society in Modern Japanese Literature
Leuchtenberger, (HM)

ART 278 - Asian Art
Hong, (FA)

ART 368 - Japanese Art
Hong

ASIA 344 - Asia in Motion
Barkin, (CN)

CHIN 102 A/B - Elementary Chinese
Perry & Chen, (FL)

CHIN 202 A - Intermediate Chinese
Perry & Chen, (FL)

CHIN 250 - Culture & Communication
Chen, (FL)

CHIN 305 - From Bamboo Grove to Cyberspace: Chinese Literary Texts Now and Then
Perry

CSOC 323 - Tourism & the Global Order
Konto

CSOC 481 - Minorities in China
Glover

HIST 246 - History of China: 1600 to the Present
Neighbors, HM

HIST 248 - Japan’s Modern Century
Neighbors, (HM)

HIST 344 - Resistance, Rebellion, and Revolution in China, 1800 to the Present
Neighbors

IPE 333 - IPE of Southeast Asia
Konto

JAPN 102 A/B/C - Elementary Japanese
Ludden, Tyson

JAPN 202 - Intermediate Japanese
Tyson

JAPN 260 - Situational Oral Expression
Ludden

JAPN 302 - Third Year Japanese
Ludden

JAPN 380 - Reading Modern Japanese Prose
Leuchtenberger

PG 372 - Japanese Political System,
Fields

REL 233 - Japanese Religious Traditions
Stockdale, (HM)

Dates to remember:

Feb 15, 2009 Study Abroad applications due

April - scholarship and grant deadlines