PacRim Students Meet the Dalai Lama in India!

On Saturday, March 10th, PacRimmers arrived for their Tibetan Buddhism class in Dharamsala, India at 11 AM. Their teacher? His Holiness the Dalai Lama!

Holding onto His Holiness’ left hand, Lisa Long, PacRim Business manager, describes the experience in an email:

“Disclaimer: Contrary to how it may appear [in the picture], I was NOT trying to hog His Holiness from the students. I was actively trying to get the students to stand next to him, but let me tell you...he is much stronger than he appears.”

Follow the PacRimmers in their latest ventures in India this spring on their blog: www.upspacrim.org/blog

A PacRim Student’s Adventure at a Mosque in Fuzhou

Sarah Homer, Chinese major and Religion minor, writes of her visit in December 2011 to Fuzhou’s only mosque as part of her thesis research on Islam in China, India, and Malaysia:

I deliberately walk past the entrance of the mosque. I had envisioned walking through the open gate, but when it came right down to it, I felt scared, out of place and intrusive. I make eye contact with a few Muslim men, and smile. Smiling, I have learned, is the key to everything – the universal words for “hello,” “I am friendly.”

I have passed Fuzhou Qingzhensi (福州清真寺), the only mosque in Fuzhou, a handful of times on my way into the city. Muslim men and women sit outside selling walnuts, dried fruit, and kebabs. I notice them because the Muslim community in Fuzhou, like me, does not blend in. Although the men wear their telltale white skull caps and the women cover their heads with colorful scarves, it is their facial features, body stature, and clothing that really reject assimilation. Of the thousands of people who attend this mosque, most are from Qing Hai province and Xinjiang Autonomous Region, and are now living and working in Fuzhou. For over 700 years the city of Fuzhou has slowly evolved and engulfed the mosque and its surroundings. The white and green trimmed building appears out of place against the fancy new shopping malls and international chains like McDonald’s, Nike, and Tommy Hilfiger. Recently buildings have been knocked down on both sides of the mosque; making the mosque look awkward and vulnerable.

Today, with a smile and small hand gesture I non-verbally ask “is it okay for me to enter the mosque?” Once inside the sanctuary, all noise of the city disappears –like entering a new world. Today I enter the unknown. I step over the threshold of the mosque and enter with giddy eagerness and hesitant caution. Yet even within the walls of the Mosque, I still stand out, and a Chinese man with a TV camera immediately approaches me. This man, who I will refer to as Pius, his English name, and the name he would prefer I use, stands confidently and immediately asks me where I am from and if I am Christian. Before I even have a chance to respond, another man, this time a Muslim man, walks over to us and asks Pius if I am Muslim. I answer all of their questions by saying, “No, I am American.”

“American.” This word means more to me now than it did a few months ago. I have been traveling throughout Asia for over four months now, and have become accustomed to people asking me where I am from. “America” is a weighted word. Even before leaving for the Mosque this morning, my mother ended our Skype conversation with, “Be careful, and remember that not everyone likes Americans.” (cont’d on page 2)
Fuzhou mosque (cont’d)

Though advice is always welcome, I couldn’t help but wonder if these were words of overall parental concern, or an added bit of caution because the place I was going was a mosque with Muslims. Coming from America, my mother, and even me at times, have fallen privy to subconscious misperceptions of people and the world around us. Why should I be any more cautious in a Mosque, then in the jungles of Borneo, or the motorbike-filled streets of Hanoi? Yet I took my mother’s words to heart and heard them repeat in my head as I answered my new friend’s question.

“I am an American.” I explain further that, no I am not Muslim, nor am I Christian or Jewish though both of my parents were raised in these religions. Rather I am a student who is curious about the world, Asia, China, and Islam. The Muslim man seems satisfied with my answer and walks away in preparation for the call to prayer. Pius on the other hand remains.

Pius is making a video about Religion in China and the coming New Year. He is Christian and states, “Parents and the older generations have no religion – they always say they are soldiers of the Mao precedent, so they do not understand how I can say I am a soldier of Jesus”. Inside of this mosque, my new Chinese friend explains how he started to explore religion in high school and at university, and when he heard the sermons at church he felt his heart open. Pius expresses his appreciation for all religions and excitedly points to his borrowed skull cap –he will be able to worship with all of the men. “In today’s China,” he proclaims, “I think religion is very necessary.”

Suddenly another man approaches our corner. His name is Rufat and he is from Azerbaijan. He also asks me if I am Muslim and when I tell him no, he asks me if I am Christian. Finally he asks if I am American. Rufat informs me that I should understand that “Islam is not a religion but rather a fact of life”. Furthermore, Muslims do not worship Muhammad, but a single God, and to Muslims, Muhammad is just a human. He tells me that in history “everyone worshiped a God, there was no name for this God, and it is only within more recent history that we have given this God different names”. This intrigues me - perhaps if everyone still understood religions as there being a God, but not necessarily their god, there would be less hate and lack of understanding.

The three of us, Pius, Rufat, and me, a Christian, a Muslim, and a half-Jewish-half-Christian, stand together in silence when the call to prayer begins. Rufat excuses himself and welcomes me to stay and observe. Pius also leaves to direct his camera crew. I stand alone, and become more and more aware of the eyes that are staring at me. As more men enter the Mosque, clean their hands, faces, mouths, and feet, and walk toward the prayer hall, they all seem to stop and look in my direction. As eyes meet mine, I smile. Most men smile back with sheer curiosity, easing my heart and soul a bit, but some glances are of confusion, dislike, and irritancy.

For over an hour men keep coming into the mosque, finding less space to stand, kneel and pray. By the end of the first hour, the entire prayer hall fills with men, and the overflow spills into the outside courtyard. Like in a giant game of Tetris I reposition to be less intrusive as soon as anyone needs more space to lay a mat down. I am standing next to the only other woman in the building – a member of Pius’s camera crew. We speak different languages, yet I am comforted by her presence beside me. I can’t help feeling that I am witnessing something I should not be witnessing. Men and women do not usually worship together. There is only one mosque in all of Fuzhou, and therefore there is no women’s mosque available – where do the women pray?

One hour and nine minutes pass and the call to Friday afternoon service comes to an end. Men begin to leave quickly, though some come over to stare at me up close or talk a little. Rufat returns, asks if I am hungry and hands me a large bowl of rice and carrots with chicken before I have a chance to respond. I am ushered to a room and sit with him and seven other Muslim men. Little is spoken, but I no longer feel uncomfortable. Suddenly I feel accepted - I have become worthy enough to eat with these men, in silence, but together. I leave lunch feeling full and content, holding my head a little higher as I exit through the same doors I walked through two hours ago.
**Campus Visits**

**Professor Lin Benchun**
Former president of Hwa Nan Women’s College in Fuzhou, China and longtime friend of the university, Professor Lin offered a lecture on “Educating China for the 21st Century” on March 7th. He discussed the challenges and opportunities facing a rapidly industrializing society that produces seven million college graduates annually. Professor Lin is currently a visiting professor at Morningside College in Sioux City, Iowa. He will be returning to China at the end of the spring semester.

**The Trimble Family Visits Puget Sound**
On March 8th, Puget Sound students and faculty had the opportunity to thank the Trimble family at a reception for their continuing support of Asian Studies student scholarships, research grants and the English instructorship at Hwa Nan Women’s College for post-graduates as well as grants for faculty research. In addition to touring the campus and speaking with current students and faculty, the Trimbles visited the Fuzhou Ting (Chinese Pavilion) at the Chinese Reconciliation Park at Ruston Way. Their interest in the Ting reflects the century-long relationship the Trimbles have had with Fuzhou, Tacoma’s sister city, and Hwa Nan Women’s College. Continuing the legacy started by Lydia Trimble in the early 20th Century, Robert, Gordon, and Sonia Trimble now teach English at Hwa Nan College. A short video of their story can be found on the Asian Studies website.

**“Go West, Young Comrade: China’s Frontier” Lecture by Paul Strickland ’98**
On February 8th, Paul Strickland ’98 returned to Puget Sound for a visit from his current home in China to report on an extended tour of China’s western frontier in Xinjiang Province and to discuss his work, travel, and other adventures in 21st Century China. He has lived and worked in China for over a decade. An account of his travels in Xinjiang is posted on the Asian Studies website.

**Professor Xu Yongmin **UPCOMING**
Xu Yongmin, President of the Hubei Institute of Fine Arts, will be giving a public lecture “Changing Art Education in China’s Art Academies” on Wednesday, March 28th at 5 P.M. in Wyatt 101. His exhibit of 20 paintings, titled *High Wind*, will be in Kittredge Art Gallery from Tuesday, March 27, to Saturday, April 7. Professor Xu, who uses traditional Chinese brush methods, yet reveals a Western influence in his work, will also give painting demonstrations to art students and work with students interested in calligraphy. The lecture, exhibit, and visit are supported by the Catharine Gould Chism Fund, the Puget Sound Department of Art, and the Asian Studies Program.
SPRING FESTIVAL (春节) CELEBRATIONS

On January 27th and February 3rd, Puget Sound students welcomed the Dragon to the new year. Students wrote auspicious Chinese characters and drew goldfish with calligraphy brushes, made miniature lanterns, and rolled sweet rice balls to be eaten with sweet red bean and peanut soup. Dongni Wang, a freshman from Chongqing, China, shares her New Year experience at Puget Sound:

"At home, the Spring Festival celebration usually starts with the special TV show——‘Spring Festival Gala Evening’; all our families would get together, eating, talking, and watching the show until midnight. In the next week, we would go around the city to visit our relatives and old family friends and send our warmest regards.

"This year, [being here at Puget Sound] I missed the family reunion party and new year gifts, but I got the perfect chance to celebrate the new year with the Asian Studies program. During the celebration, I had Chinese cuisine while chatting with my friends of different cultures and nationalities; we did calligraphy (which is a very traditional Chinese cultural activity, but I have never done it before at home!) together and decorated the walls with our good wishes written on red paper. The most awesome thing was learning how to play mahjong—and then getting beaten by an American guy. That night felt very family-like, very familiar, and because I met so many super friendly people, I did not feel like I was 6400 miles away from home at all.”

JAPAN WEEK Celebrations

Students will have the opportunity to learn about and engage in Japanese culture through the Asian Language and Culture program’s annual Japan Week, April 4-7.

4/2 Mon: Koto concert by Silk Strings: Kilworth Memorial Chapel, 7-8 pm
4/3 Tues: “Mountain Temple” style tea ceremony: Wyatt 2nd floor, 3:30-5 pm
4/4 Wed: Film screening of “Toilet”: Wyatt 109, 6-8pm
4/5 Thur: Kanji cookie and muffin sale: WSC, 11 am -1 pm
4/6 Fri: Mochitsuki (Mochi pounding): front of Wyatt Hall, 3:30-5 pm
4/7 Sat: Ohanami (Cherry Blossom Viewing): meet at Japanese House at 11 am to carpool to UW campus and Uwajimaya in Seattle

New Trimble Hwa Nan English Instructor!

Congratulations to Liz Whitaker '11! She has been selected as the Trimble Hwa Nan English Instructor for the 2012-13 year and will begin her appointment at Hwa Nan Women’s College in Fuzhou, China this September. Originally from Oregon City, Oregon, Liz graduated in 2011 with majors in Economics and Chinese. Her interest in studying Chinese began when she studied abroad during high school through the Rotary Internationals Youth Exchange Program. After teaching at Hwa Nan, she plans on moving to Taiwan for a year or two.
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 application deadline is April 1st for all upcoming summer, fall or spring semester, and full-year programs.

Junior-Senior Trimble Scholarships

All rising juniors who have declared the IEAS designation or an Asian Languages and Cultures major or minor are automatically eligible for consideration for the Junior-Senior Trimble Scholarship. For more information, contact Asian Studies Director Karl Fields (kfields@pugetsound.edu).

Senior Thesis Trimble 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 pursuing the Trimble Distinguished Asia Scholar designation (whether participating in 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 2012 research awards is April 15, 2012.
NEW Fall 2012 Course Offerings in Asian Studies

ALC 330 (Writing the Margins in Contemporary Japanese Literature)
Professor Jan Leuchtenberger

As the third in a series of Japanese literature surveys, this course follows the pre-modern (ALC310) and modern (ALC320) surveys with an examination of contemporary and post-modern literature in the post-war period. The examination of the self and its representation that has dominated Japanese literature since the Meiji period (1868-1912) took on a new urgency and tone in Japan’s post-war period, with many authors exploring identities that challenged the established order. For some, that challenge was expressed through transgression and violence; for others, it was embodied in characters who lived outside of the boundaries of social acceptance. During a post-war period of general economic prosperity in which the Japanese government has famously taken pride in being a “homogenous” society, the country’s contemporary literature is consistently and remarkably populated by characters who live on the margins of that homogenous identity. This course will explore the dominant themes of the most important modern and post-modern authors of Japan, including Ōe Kenzaburo, Murakami Haruki, and Yoshimoto Banana, with particular emphasis on these marginalized characters and what they say about the “center” and the self.

ENGL 470 (Bollywood Film)
Professor Priti Joshi

A couple coyly dancing around trees against a mountainous backdrop; pulsating music and audacious dance steps; costume changes that will make your head spin; song sequences that make you simultaneously roll your eyes and wipe away tears; epic wrangles between parents and children, good and evil – these are just some elements (or stereotypes) of Bollywood films. What is Bollywood? Why does it have a wider global audience and appeal than Hollywood? Who is watching Bollywood films and why? ENGL 470 will make you an A-1 master of these questions as it introduces you to films from India. While our focus will be on Bollywood films from the 1950s to the present, we will also watch and discuss some of the great “artists” of Indian cinema (Satyajit Ray, Shyam Benegal). As we trace the development of Indian cinema, we will primarily address the ways films articulated the new nation’s dreams and desires, fears and follies, anxieties and growing pains.

Note: in addition to class meeting time (TuTh 3:30-4:50 pm), you must also commit to attend the film screenings on Tues from 5:30-8:30pm. The films will mirror an authentic film-going experience. Think of the screenings as time you would spend reading for class or a lab; class readings will be proportionally adjusted.

Summer 2012 Course Offering

ASIA 344 (Asia in Motion)
(Fulfills Connections core & Asian Studies designation requirements)
Professor Karl Fields
5/14—6/22, MTThF, 1—3 pm

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.
About the Asian Studies Program

The Asian Studies Program provides a broad range of courses on Asian cultures, civilizations, and societies as electives for all students. The program also offers a curricular concentration on Asia as a designation on the transcript upon graduation for students who choose this concentration. This designation of Interdisciplinary Emphasis in Asian Studies (IEAS) reflects the program’s multidisciplinary content and interdisciplinary effect. The designation is not a major or a minor, but functions as an enhancement of, or a complement to, any major of a student’s choice. Fundamental to the program is its invitation to a student who chooses the designation to cultivate her or his intellectual autonomy by exercising flexible choice of courses and participating in co-curricular events. Students who demonstrate academic excellence and complete a one-semester senior thesis will achieve the added designation Robert Trimble Distinguished Asia Scholar.

The Interdisciplinary Emphasis in Asian Studies 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 (kfields@pugetsound.edu).

The Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC) Program, a component of the Asian Studies Program, offers majors, minors and courses of interest to all undergraduates at Puget Sound. Grounded in a strong foundation of languages and cultures, the program draws on the broad expertise of the Asian Studies faculty and complements the Asian Studies Program’s Interdisciplinary Emphasis in Asian Studies and Trimble Distinguished Asia Scholar designations in offering students a focused and comprehensive understanding of the languages, cultures, and literatures of East Asia. The program offers three majors, two minors, courses in the core curriculum, and Chinese and Japanese language courses that meet the university's foreign language requirement.

Choice of Majors
Students may select from three major areas of study:
1. Chinese
2. Japanese
3. East Asian Languages
# Course Offerings for Fall 2012

Check Cascade for details

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