

Asian Studies Program Newsletter

University of Louisville
College of Arts & Sciences



Spring 2020. Issue 9.



Uofl's Japan Club at an Aikido Event



A Japanese Tea Ceremony taken place at Asia Institute-Crane House

Asian Studies Program

Recent Academic Activities

- Korean Film Day, Spring 2019. Professor Moon-He Baik was the coordinator.
- Seminar on Korean Studies, 2020. Professor Moon-He Baik is the coordinator.
- Indian Film Week, Nov. 2019. Professor John McLeod was the coordinator.
- “In support of Hong Kong demonstrators.” Protest art presentation at Ekstrom library, Sept. 2019 and Feb. 2020. Professor Michael Losavio was the coordinator.
- Dr. Padma Rani, Director, Manipal Institute of Communication presented a talk on Whatsapp in India. Wednesday, Jan 29th, 2020. Dr. Margaret D’Silva was the coordinator.
- AST will collaborate with the Center for Free Enterprise, UofL, for “Speakers Series on China,” Fall 2020. The AST coordinator will be Dr. Shiping Hua.
- AST plans to host the annual conference of SEC/Association of Asian Studies, 2022, coordinator, Dr. Yuxin Ma. It usually attracts about 100 scholars in Asian studies from across the nation. <https://www.sec-aas.com>

Asian Studies Faculty Update



Dr. Shiping Hua published his single-authored book *Chinese Legal Culture and Constitutional Order* with Routledge in 2019. The book won the “Best Scholarly Publication Award for Original Research” by the Association of Chinese Professors in Social Sciences (USA) in 2019. The book has also been nominated for the American Society for Legal History’s “Peter Gonville Stein Book Award” which is awarded annually for the best book in non-US legal history written in English.

For the next step in his career, Dr. Hua has signed book contracts with Routledge for the edited volume *The Chinese Ideology* and with Lexington Books for *The Political Logic of the U.S. China Trade War*. Both of the books are scheduled to be published in 2021. Hua was awarded the Candy Kudos Award by the College of Arts and Sciences through the recommendation of the Department of Political Science, UofL, in Feb. 2020.



Dr. John McLeod’s latest book, a one-volume encyclopedia entitled *Modern India*, was published by ABC-CLIO in November 2019. This semester, McLeod is on sabbatical. He is using the time to finish a book-length study of the Indian statesman and community leader Sir Mancherjee Bhownagree (1851-1933).



Yuxin Ma has received the best article award from SECAAS 2020 for her article “Public Performance and Private Choices: Manying Actresses as New Women,” *American Journal of Chinese Studies* (vol. 26. no. 1, April 2019), 15-42. She has also been elected as the Vice President of SECAAS in January 2020. She is in the process of finishing her research manuscript *Chinese Filmmakers at Manying: Cinema, Daily Lives, and Identities*.

Asian Studies Program Student Interview

Interview with UofL undergraduate Regan Thompson regarding her internship at Crane House. Ms. Thompson is a second semester Junior majoring in Asian Studies and Psychology, and minoring in Japanese.

Q: What made you interested in Asian Studies?

A: My first introduction to Asian culture happened when I was watching the foreign film *Spirited Away*. I was quite young at the time and hadn't quite grasped the vastness of the world and differences between cultures. Since then, I have always been keen to learn more about Asia. My interest narrowed when I made it to college and decided to take Japanese as my foreign language. My love of the language then inspired me to pursue Asian Studies as a major among other things such as becoming president of Japan Club and Cardinal K-pop Dance Team.

Q: What kind of career are you hoping to pursue in the future?

A: After graduation, I am hoping to get into the JET Program and spend some time teaching abroad. After that, I plan to either pursue a career in Japan or be a translator.

Q: What made you interested in doing an internship at Crane House?

A: I was looking for an Asian Studies related internship so I could get some experience in the field. Dr. Hua recommended me to Crane House and after a face-to-face interview, I was offered the position.

Q: How long was your internship? Who all did you work with?

A: My internship at Crane House was June 6th-August 2nd of 2019. The staff I worked with were Ruchi Malhotra who is the Education Director, Joel Buno who is the Executive Director, Mary Beth Buckner who is the Communications and Membership Coordinator. I also worked with some teachers from China during the Mandarin Camp, as well as some freelance associates of Crane House: Marcie and Chie.

Q: Tell us about some of your experiences and what you learned while working at Crane House.

A: I learned behind the scenes information on how non-profit organizations function. This included learning how to write grants, fundraising, and what goes into organizing an event. My confidence in dealing with children improved because I spend quite a bit of time interacting with them.

There were several large events that were the main focus of my internship. The first one was the Mandarin Camp. Students came to the facility every day for two weeks and took Mandarin classes with teachers who came here from China. My job was to assist the teachers when they needed it and taking care of catering.

We would go to local daycare programs and facilities to teach the children about Asian Culture. I assisted in many of these events by providing information and instructions to the group.



Regan Thompson during her visit to South Korea



Regan at Crane House, which was holding a Japanese tea ceremony



Regan wearing traditional Pakistani clothing at an International Fashion Show

Asian Studies Program Student Interview

Interview with UofL undergraduate Samantha Hudson regarding her involvement in Japan Club as its Vice President. Ms. Hudson is a Senior majoring in Sustainability.

Q: What made you interested in Japanese culture?

A: Definitely taking the Japanese language courses with Kaz Sensei. She's one of my favorite professors and I just loved hearing her talk about what it was like growing up in Japan.

Q: What kind of career are you hoping to pursue in the future?

A: I would love to work for a non-profit or similar organization that helps people and the environment.

Q: What about Japan Club made you interested in joining?

A: I wanted to learn more about Japanese culture after my summer study abroad trip to Fukushima, Japan and after completing all the Japanese language classes, I wanted something to keep learning Japanese with my busy schedule.

Q: Tell us about some of your experiences in Japan Club as a member and as its Vice President.

A: I've had nothing but great experiences with Japan Club. We try to make our meetings interesting and fun. We've done topics like the Japanese Tea Ceremony, Origami, Aikido, Cherry Blossom Festival, etc.; some of which have been off campus or had guest speakers. One of my favorite experiences was participating in the Moon Festival; we showed guests how to draw kanji and make paper cranes. One of our members even made digital art that we turned into buttons that we passed out at the festival, so that was really cool.

Q: Who would you recommend join Japan Club?

A: Anyone who is interested in Japanese culture and wants to learn more about Japan.



Samantha Hudson with Melissa Lee, founder and CEO of the GREEN Program. Samantha was in Japan studying disaster mitigation and renewable/nuclear energy. Picture taken at Japan Atomic Energy Agency.



An origami meeting in Japan Club

Asian Studies Fall 2020 Courses

- **AST 290 – Survey Asian Art (HON, ADH2)**
- **AST 317 – Anthropology of China (SBD2)**
- **AST 340 – South Asian Religious Thought and Culture (AHD2)**
- **AST 347 – Global Capitalisms**
- **AST 366 – Politics of East Asia**
- **AST 390 – Eastern Mysticism**
- **AST 397 – Traditional China**
- **AST 495 – Space of Asian CIT & ARCH (CUE)**
- **AST 501 – East Asian Women’s History**
- **AST 531 – Studies in Asian Art (Graduate)**

Happy New Year!

