



*Asian Studies Program
University of Louisville
Fall 2013. Issue 2.*



Our Strong Commitment to Asian Studies Education

We run three educational programs in Asian studies: Asian Studies minor, Asian Studies Graduate Certificate, and Bachelor Degree in Asian Studies. Our Asian Studies minor program has been developing smoothly. We have also started to enroll graduate students.

In January 2013, we launched our Bachelor Degree in Asian Studies. The plan, which was approved by relevant offices of authority, was to enroll 5 students in the first year. To our pleasant surprise, we have already enrolled 10 students in our Bachelor Degree program in less than a year.

The following are our majors in Asian Studies:

- 1) **Sheridan Alexander**
- 2) **William Bauml**
- 3) **Courtney Browne**
- 4) **Daniel H. Dunbar**
- 5) **James Hardy**
- 6) **Lukas House**
- 7) **Matt Jansing**
- 8) **Hau Le**
- 9) **James Sils**
- 10) **Zachary Taylor**

The following are our Graduate Certificate students in Asian Studies:

- 1) **Daniel H. Dunbar**
- 2) **Kendra N. Sheehan**

The Woman Who Started It All

What was once just an idea became a reality for Helen Lang when she founded Asia Institute - Crane House in 1987. In 2008, she generously provided seed money to formalize, under the leadership of the late Dean Blaine Hudson, the Asian Studies Program at UofL. As an inspiring leader and visionary in cultural education, Mrs. Lang served as a catalyst for an international movement in the City of Louisville. In a brief interview with her, she spoke of her role in creating the Asian Studies Program.

Tell us about yourself.

I was born and raised in Seattle, Washington. I graduated from the University of Washington but took a break in my sophomore year (1945) to work with the Chinese delegation to the UN in New York City. I went back to college and graduated in 1949, with a major in Far East Studies (Being Chinese, I wanted to know more about my heritage.) and a minor in Political Science. After Calvin Lang and I married, he got his PhD from Johns Hopkins University and then came to the University of Louisville Medical School. My four children were very young at that time. When my children were in school, they participated in Show and Tell and introduced Chinese culture to their classes with the objects they showed. I wanted them to feel pride about their heritage and to share it with others.

How did you start Crane House?

I started Crane House because Louisville didn't have anything like it and I felt, and still feel, that everyone needs to know about Asia. It had long been a personal goal to establish a place like the China Institute in New York, my role model when I was living there in the 1940s. In the 1980s in Kentucky, there were still many people who had no idea where Asia was or what its cultures were about.

My home had a lot of Chinese things and I knew how to cook. I decided the best way to interest people in China was through their stomachs so I started teaching Chinese cooking in my home. When my niece came here to live from China, her presence and help made it possible to do a lot more than just cooking classes. Faculty at UofL were helpful, even outside their own academic disciplines, in teaching about Asian culture. Andrea McElderry, a History professor with an emphasis on China, did lots of programs for us and later, she also became quite knowledgeable in Vietnamese history and spoke on that as well. The late K C Huang, in Pharmacology, was also very supportive and gave lectures on traditional (Chinese) medicine and Jay Kloner and the late Tom Marsh in the Fine Arts Department shared their knowledge of Asian Art. After starting with the initial focus on Chinese culture, we expanded to include other Asian cultures, as reflected by the growing Asian diversity in the region. Programming was expanded based on the interest in representatives of various Asian countries to help teach others about their own culture.

Lang, continued:



Helen and her late husband, Calvin



Late Dean Blaine Hudson

My kids also helped me as they were all grown by the time I started Crane House. My oldest daughter had experience in museums and non-profit management; my second daughter was in marketing and advertising; one son was a realtor and found the first location for Crane House; and another son digitized our membership records and advised on the business side of things. My husband provided the funds for Crane House and gave me the freedom to undertake this project; I got the whole family involved.

I think my children's interest in their heritage was more pronounced when they got older. Even today, young Asians who are growing up here want to be like their peers. They don't want to be singled out as being Asian. When they are older, they embrace their differences and want to know more about their background. Curiosity about one's heritage sometimes comes with maturity. Many prominent Asians raised in the US did not develop an interest in their heritage until their late twenties and early thirties.

How did the Asian Studies Program begin?

Before Blaine Hudson was the Dean, we were both on the Greater Goals for Louisville Committee. We got to know each other and when he became Dean, he invited me to be on the Community Advisory Board of Arts and Sciences. When I mentioned it would be nice to have an Asian Studies Department at the University of Louisville, he agreed. Dean Hudson recognized Asia's growing importance in the global marketplace and understood that expanding student horizon would benefit many. He gradually hired new staff and identified others in various departments who could contribute to an Asian Studies Program.

What was the original vision for the Asian studies program? It took several years for Dean Hudson to amass the staff in various disciplines and to offer a wide range of courses. At some point, it was clear that the program needed a boost and together, we were able to make that happen. A formal program was established and a head, Shiping Hua, selected and now, the University is building student support by attracting "majors" in Asian Studies.

Next, I think we need to have people interested in Asian culture go into the elementary and high schools to cultivate students at that level to come to UofL to study. When Crane House had schools (K-12) and at-risk students come to visit, it was amazing how it opened a whole new world to them. I remember one mother told me, "My son has had problems but after he came home today from Crane House, he did not stop talking about it. It was the first time he was interested in anything. Something new had hit him."

Do you have any advice for incoming students and Asian Studies students?

I encourage ALL students to participate in international events as often as they can. If there are any Asian activities and lectures, whether offered by UofL, World Affairs Council, Council of Foreign Relations, Asia Institute-Crane House, etc. I would encourage non-Asian students to participate and mix with the Asian students. I know that the Asian students would appreciate practicing English and learning about American culture, just as students learning Chinese, and other Asian languages could benefit from practicing with native speakers and learning about THEIR culture. Appreciating other cultures is critical to successful functioning in the global marketplace. Even if one is not an Asian Studies major or Asian, engineers, marketing experts, teacher of many disciplines, need to know and understand how people of other cultures think. UofL has terrific opportunities for students to travel abroad. Consider an Asian country, there is so much out there to see and experience!



Bryan Warren - Director of Asia Institute - Crane House

How did you get involved in Crane House?

My first involvement in Crane House came through the Speed Art Museum. I was asked to be the Speed's representative for the Asian Pacific Heritage Festival, back in 2001. I was able to pair up with the University of Louisville and this wonderful organization of Crane House. We grew that event into probably one of the better Asian family events in the city at the time. Through that, I was recruited to be on the board at Crane House and I served on the board for a year and a half before becoming the executive director.

How do you see your involvement in Crane House tying into Asian Studies at UofL?

I think there are two really important things going on. One, Asia, as a geographic region, is rising in the world. A lot of people talk about the 21st century being the Asian century. A lot of it has to do with how people view the economic growth in that region of the world. But, a lot of things have to do with it as well – population growth, cultural exchange, world affairs and politics, and environmental issues. Because of the growth of Asia, population-wise and impacting the world, it is really important and interesting that in Louisville, there is a cultural and heritage organization that has been in place to look at this part of the world and how to build understanding about Asia. To pair that up with an academic program, resident in the city, that looks at Asia in a scholarly perspective is a nice match. There is expertise and knowledge that UofL can bring to bear that we cannot possibly impart. But, then an organization like Crane House can operate outside of that sphere and make other connections to the community that UofL is not capable of doing.

The second thing that's really important is the local Asian communities are rising in civic engagement. So, it's part of that 20-30 year cycle that immigrant communities have. They become financially stable, send their children to college and find jobs. There become "empty-nesters" that can now reflect upon their position within their own community, within the larger community. You begin to see middle-aged people who get involved on the boards, get politically involved, and want to share their cultural traditions.

What would you say about the job market for an Asian Studies major?

I think that students, who are taking languages and Asian Studies, will have a leg up in opportunities. I don't think we have even begun to tap the potential in Asia. Even in China, it has not reached its high yet. I think that students studying languages and cultures in Asia in a deep way definitely have a competitive edge. I don't always see things from the lens of an economic perspective, but in the broader spectrum of what you can contribute to the community and in life. I think there is still a lot of misunderstanding of Asian philosophy and Asian perspectives. I think that understanding needs to continue to grow for us to be real partners with Asia in the future.

Do you have a message for the Asian educational community?

I think we should keep pushing forward in the good work we are doing. I think that we are taking the right steps. Crane House has a great educational foundation and we keep building upon that. I love the fact that Asian Studies is growing at UofL. I think that is really important. That's the keystone of Asian educational community. We have the Center of Asian Democracy, which is this wonderful, scholarly, research project that is giving more in-depth discussion to the political, world affairs of Asia. You can see it in the high schools themselves. There is a much bigger focus on Asian language and cultural studies at the high school level, which seeps down into the other grade levels as well. Our mayor talks about it all the time that we are a "great, global community." If we are going to be impactful and global, Asia has to be a big part of that. As we continue forward, just keep doing the work, keep finding the resources to maintain that, and try to keep the smart people here. We are bearing the great parts of American culture with the great traditions of Asian culture. This is what America is all about.

Our Strong Commitment to Research in Asian Studies

We have always committed ourselves to cutting edge research in Asian studies. Our faculty affiliates always publish with leading academic journals and books. We have already publicized the result of our faculty affiliates' research in the previous issue. We will feature their research again in our next issue. For this current issue, we focus on the Lang Seminar, an international conference on China, and the book series.

1. The Lang Seminar

We have been running an annual Lang Seminar in the last three years. Top Asia specialists from North America were invited to participate in this one-day seminar in the Spring. The accumulation of the research as presented in the seminars has resulted in a book to be published by Routledge, a leading scholarly publisher based in Great Britain. The majority of the contributors of this book come from the Lang Seminars in the last three years. The book focuses on East Asia. This is to complement a previously published UofL-workshop-based book, *Islam and Democratization in Asia* (Cambria Press), that focused on South Asia, Southeast Asia and Central Asia). Now all major regions of Asia have been covered in our published research. Here is the book's table of content:

East Asian Development Model: 21st Century Perspectives

Preface

Part I: Theories and Ideologies

Chapter 1: "Need for a Paradigm Change for the East Asian Economy."
Yoon-shik Park, George Washington University

Chapter 2: "The Role of Nationalist Ideologies in the Economic Development of East Asian Countries."
Changzoo Song, Auckland University, New Zealand

Part II: The Republic of Korea

Chapter 3: "Japan-South Korea Economic Ties: Growth and Stability through Discord."
Terence Roehrig, Naval War College

Chapter 4: "Democratic Development and Authoritarian Development Compared: South Korea."
Hyug-Baeg Im, Korea University, ROK

Part III: The People's Republic of China

Chapter 5: "The Beijing Consensus," the "World Capitalist System" and the Limits of Globalization."
Peter Moody, Notre Dame University

Chapter 6: "China and the East Asian Development Model: China's Development Path from a Comparative Perspective."
Weixing Chen, University of Mississippi

Chapter 7: "The Mass Line Model: East Asian Democratic Model?"
John Kennedy, University of Kansas

Chapter 8: "Beyond Win-Win: Rethinking China's International Relationships in an Era of Economic Uncertainty."
Brantly Womack, University of Virginia

Part IV: Japan

Chapter 9: "Japanese Political Economy and the Postal Service." (tentative title)
Patricia Maclachlan, University of Texas, Austin

Chapter 10: "The Political Economy of Digital Switchover in Japan and the US."
Henry Laurence, Bowdoin College

Chapter 11: "The Fukushima Crisis and the Political Economy of Japanese Energy Policy: Critical Juncture or Anticlimax?"
Brian Woodall, Georgia Institute of Technology

2. An International Conference on China

We run occasional international conferences in addition to our annual Lang Seminars. For this year, about 50 China scholars with such discipline backgrounds as history, communications, modern languages, sociology, and political science from North America and other countries are coming to the University of Louisville for a three-day conference, titled "The Impacts of Leadership Transition in China: Domestic and International Concerns," on November 1-3, 2013. Six UofL scholars in Asian studies will present their research papers or chair panels at the conference:

- Daniel Dunbar, "Geopolitics of The Potential Asian Battlefield and Rising China."
- John Givens, "Suing Dragons? Taking the Chinese State to Court."
- Shiping Hua, "The Politics of the 1975 PRC Constitution."
- Yuxin Ma, "Marrying Actresses: Success under Japanese Control."
- Li Zeng, (Chair) "China's Engagement with the World: New Perspectives."
- Andrew Zhao, "Second Generation Women in Chinese Business Families."

3. Book Series

In the last few years, we have been editing a book series for the University Press of Kentucky (UPK), titled "Asia in the New Millennium." UPK is a scholarly publisher, serving 15 institutions of higher learning in the Commonwealth of Kentucky, including University of Kentucky and University of Louisville. So far, 11 books have been published or are forthcoming with this series:

- 1) "Challenges to Chinese Foreign Policy: Diplomacy, Globalization, and the Next World Power," edited by George Wei, Yufan Hao, and Lowell Dittmer, published in 2009.
- 2) "The Future of China-Russia Relations," edited by James A. Bellacqua, published in 2010.
- 3) "The Mind of Empire: China's History and Modern Foreign Relations," by Chris Ford, published in 2010.
- 4) "Inside China's Grand Strategy: The Perspective from the People's Republic," Ye Zicheng, trans/eds by Steven Levin and Guoli Liu, published in 2010.
- 5) "Korean Democracy in Transition: A Rational Blueprint for Developing Societies," by HeeMin Kim, published in 2011.
- 6) "Contemporary Chinese Political Thought: Debates and Perspectives," Fred Dallmayr and Zhao Tingyang, eds., published in 2012.
- 7) "State Violence in East Asia," eds., N. Ganesan and Sung Chull Kim, published in 2013.
- 8) "Modern Chinese Legal Reform: New Perspectives," ed. Xiaobing Li and Qiang Fang, published in 2013.
- 9) "Growing Democracy in Japan: The Parliamentary Cabinet System since 1868," by Brian Woodall, forthcoming in Spring 2014.
- 10) "Democracy" for Central Asia? Perspectives and Strategies Promoted From Without and Within," by Mariya Y. Omelicheva, forthcoming.
- 11) "Civil Society and Politics in Central Asia," edited by Charles E. Ziegler, forthcoming.



Daniel Dunbar, Senior

What's your major(s) and minor(s)?

I am studying to earn an Asian Studies Major and a Chinese Studies Minor. I am also working toward an Asian Studies Graduate Certificate.

When did you first become interested in Asian Culture?

For me, I went to California a few times when I was young, such as San Francisco and Los Angeles. I traveled to Korean towns and China towns. My parents also collected Asian art. So, when I got to college, I decided to major in Asian Studies. At first, I was intimidated because I am not Asian and I felt behind not speaking the language. But, as I studied it some more, I felt comfortable with it. I am very glad I didn't give up. I didn't have the home field advantage, but with a little hard work, it worked.

What have you enjoyed most about studying Asian Studies?

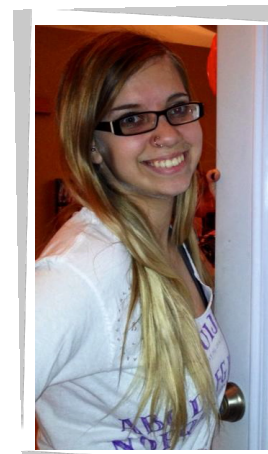
I have enjoyed the foreign language aspect the most when studying Asian Studies. When you first start to understand grammar and make progress it feels great. It has helped me make new friends and experience the culture in an organic, moment-to-moment way.

Have you studied abroad?

I have been to China twice with UofL. I went to Beijing, Xian, Shanghai, and Suzhou. We studied at the BFSU (Beijing Foreign Studies University). The person who does that is Sun, who is a wonderful person and does a great job with study abroad.

What do you plan to do after you graduate?

At first I was planning to apply for the JET program in Japan. But, now that I am doing the Graduate Studies, I would like to get my Masters and teach abroad. I am also considering working toward becoming a professor and earning my PhD.



Courtney Browne, Senior

What's your major(s) and minor(s)?

I am double majoring in Cultural Anthropology and Asian Studies. I have two minors in Chinese Studies and Religious Studies.

How did you start your Asian Studies major?

I talked to my advisor in Anthropology and I was told that I had almost all of the courses to major in Asian Studies. Also, I took a lot of Eastern religion courses and Chinese classes that all came together for the Asian Studies major. I am graduating in December so when I heard about the Asian Studies major, I was set on getting it.

When did you first become interested in Asian Culture?

My dad was an international pilot so I grew up with a natural curiosity about the world, especially in Asia. I was raised Christian, but as I matured I started to explore Eastern religions. My high school did not offer any education in Eastern religions. But, when I went to college, I was able to read more about it and took courses on it. This led me to take Chinese language courses at UofL.

What future career are you working toward?

I would like to work in China for a year or two. I would like to teach English in China for a couple years. Eventually, I would like to be an international flight attendant for flights to China and live there as well.

Have you studied abroad?

I did the same program for two summers. I studied at the Beijing Foreign Studies University for my first summer, and Beijing



Students Abroad.



Students Excelling.



Sherridan Alexander, Senior

What's your major(s) and minor(s)?

I am double majoring in Asian Studies and Humanities, and minoring in Chinese Studies.

When did you first become interested in Asian Culture?

When I was 14, I started working at a Chinese restaurant, the Emperor of China on Brownsboro Road. I couldn't communicate with some of the other employees. So, I decided to learn Chinese so that I could converse with them. Learning the Chinese language introduced me to the culture. At work, I would teach my co-worker English and she would teach me Chinese. We had a cultural exchange.

What courses are you taking in Asian Studies?

I am taking the courses, Anthropology of China and Modern China. I am also doing an independent study of China, Japan, and India. I am at the beginning of starting a research study for the Asian Studies Program.

Have you studied abroad?

Last summer, I studied abroad in China through the A&S department. We went to Beijing and Shanghai, and other cities. That was really fun! We rode the bullet train and had a lot of interesting experiences. There were some culture shocks, especially the attention I received being an African American. Asia is such a huge continent. The philosophy and the religions enhance your perception of life. You have a better understanding of the Asian people once you get to know their culture.

What are the advantages of learning Asian Studies?

I know you can get into philanthropy easily through culture. You can better help people if you understand their backgrounds. Having an Asian Studies major can help me to get into Asian communities that are in most need, in order to do service work. I know that you can get a government job to make partnerships and connections in Asia. Being an African American, I am one of few who are studying Asian Studies. With my background, I can be role model and representative of African Americans in Asia.



Hau Le, Junior

What is your major?

I am a double major in Political Science, with a concentration in International Affairs, and Asian Studies.

What introduced you to learning about Asian culture?

I am Asian myself. I'm Vietnamese, but I'm also mixed. So, I also have western ideology from my French and German descent. But, I'm more dominant in Vietnamese than anything. What really got me interested is the aspect of countries like China, Japan, Korea, and Thailand that the western civilization doesn't have. When you travel and talk to people of their culture, they are very open and they are proud of their identity. They are willing to talk about their politics and ideologies.

How do you plan to apply your Asian Studies major in your future career?

I am a Harlan Scholar at the University of Louisville. The legal field is something that I would want to become involved in, as a lawyer or a politician. As a lawyer, my job would be to be a civil servant, to help people to coexist, to understand law and culture. But, I also thought about being a politician. I know for a fact that many politicians see Asian countries as a distant relationship based on needing each other to survive. But, it's much deeper than that. As a politician, I want to show people other ideas of what relationships we could have with Asia.

Do you have plans to study abroad in Asia?

In this semester and next semester, I want to focus on my Asian Studies major. In high school, I studied political science and constitutional and immigration law. But, coming into college, I realized that Asian politics are more difficult to understand because of the cultural shift. I would most likely go to Japan because I want to adapt to their culture, and to understand their politics, and their relationship with other East Asian countries.

What are the advantages of learning Asian Studies?

You will hear people say, "You're studying Asian Studies? That's cool. But, that's useless, you should change it." But, you have to cast that idea away. Being a politician who studies the Asian ideology, and who lives in the Western civilization, you are more perceptive of politics than anybody else. Because you are adapting to two different spectrums of political ideologies, anything that falls in between is very easy to grasp. As a Vietnamese studying both Asian Studies and Political Science, I have more credibility and respect. I am majoring in Asian Studies to observe different cultures and to make a change. There is nothing wrong with majoring in Asian Studies - you are excelling.



Matt Jansing, Sophomore

What's your major(s) and minor(s)?

I am studying Asian Studies. When I first got here, I was studying Environmental Science, with Asian Studies.

When did you first become interested in Asian Culture?

I did Japanese Rosetta Stone when I was in high school. It seemed like a challenge to me because I read that it was one of the most difficult languages for an English speaker to learn. I found that I was pretty good speaking Japanese, so it interested me. Since I have been here at UoFL, I also picked up the Chinese language. I also got interested in Asia from Eastern religion. Buddhism is something that interested me and made me want to learn about Asian Studies.

Have you studied abroad?

I applied to the Kansai Gaidai program in Japan, but I was a freshman at the time. So, they did not want me to go. So, they said to apply as a junior. I hope to study abroad there as a junior.

What is your career plan?

I would like to get into politics and become an ambassador. I could easily translate for companies. Dr. Abbott works in Malaysia for democracy. I would like to do something similar to his work in international policy.

What are the advantages of learning Asian Studies?

I would say that anyone in business school right now should be learning a different language. You have to learn another language in order to get outside the box. You have to stand out and be competitive among the business majors.



William Baumler, Junior

What's your major(s) and minor(s)?

I am majoring in English and Asian Studies. I have always been fascinated with Asian culture, particularly Chinese culture and history.

When did you first become interested in Asian Culture?

When I was a kid, I played the Nintendo game, "Destiny of an Emperor," which was about the three kingdoms period of Chinese history. I also worked at a Chinese restaurant so I was always hearing different languages, like Mandarin, Vietnamese, and Cantonese, being spoken. From there, I felt like certain aspects of Chinese culture continuously appeared in my life until I found myself where I am now.

Have you studied abroad?

I haven't studied abroad. But, I have been looking into it for next summer. I have been to China, but it was before I started learning Chinese. I would like to go back having a little bit of experience with the language.

What is your career plan?

I plan to go to graduate school. I have also thought about combining my interests in literature and Chinese culture. I would like to translate literary works. I am very drawn to the intersection between Eastern and Western literature, like Ezra Pound and Li Po. But, I'm keeping my options open.

What are the advantages of learning Asian Studies?

A lot of the world's economies are going to be centered in Asia in the future. At least, that's what it looks like right now. From a Humanities-oriented perspective, there are many rich, cultural histories in Asia that are largely ignored in the West. I think that there are a lot of interesting things to learn about Asia.