SPAS Highlights

2007 - 2008

School of Pacific and Asian Studies
University of Hawaiʻi at Mānoa
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*Boys being boys, Southern Thailand. See article on p. 10. Photo by Anthony Medrano.*

*US high school students practice martial arts in Henan, China as a part of “Chinese Bridge” summer camp. CI-UHM hosted a student group from Hawai‘i.*
A Message from the Dean

The 2007-2008 academic year commenced with a name change. The School of Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Studies (SHAPS) became the School of Pacific and Asian Studies (SPAS) with the July 1 departure of Hawaiian Studies into a new school, Hawai‘inui‘akea, School of Hawaiian Knowledge. SPAS, a newer and leaner school, continues to remain at the heart of the University of Hawai‘i’s initiatives in Pacific and Asian studies. This change in the configuration of schools on campus has become part of a larger campus-wide discussion on how best to promote the liberal arts at Mānoa. Our new chancellor, Virginia Hinshaw, has asked that the current four divisions within the Colleges of Arts and Sciences combine with SPAS to provide a more streamlined and effective delivery of undergraduate education. Currently these five units are engaged in ongoing conversations on how best to reconfigure our programs to enhance student learning and both the undergraduate and graduate experience. During the 2008-2009 academic year Mānoa expects to hire a new dean of the expanded College of Arts and Sciences, and redescribe the units within the college. Within this new configuration Pacific and Asian Studies will remain a vital part of the University’s offerings.

As discussion about campus reorganization proceeded, SPAS underwent a thorough program review. Four specialists, not affiliated with UHM, visited the campus for three days in March with the sole purpose to evaluate SPAS and its programs. Needless to say SPAS fared quite well in this review. The evaluators noted that the University of Hawai‘i “has several important areas of excellence and distinction. Asian and Pacific studies are one of those areas.” The review went on to commend the high caliber of SPAS faculty, students, and staff, as seen in its three National Resource Centers in Southeast Asia, East Asia and Pacific Islands. Community and legislative support have remained constant for SPAS and its many programs.

SPAS hosted two visits by the Governor’s office this year. In April 2008, Governor Linda Lingle’s staff attended a Pacific Islands conference that explored the issues confronting the Micronesian populations as they assimilate into Hawai‘i. New voices from the community came forward to offer dramatic and moving insights into their cultures. The Governor returned on July 1, to inaugurate the new Center for Okinawan Studies. Each of our eight centers has played a crucial role promoting Pacific and Asian studies, locally, nationally and internationally. And through our many partnerships with other campuses and programs, the School of Pacific and Asian Studies remains an exciting gathering place where students and faculty, visitors and locals, share and learn about “our corner of the planet.”

Japan Foundation Awards Three-Year Grant for the New Center for Okinawan Studies

The University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa has been awarded a three-year grant by the Japan Foundation for its new Center for Okinawan Studies, which initiated its programs within the School of Pacific and Asian Studies (SPAS) on July 1, 2008. The grant is part of the Japan Foundation’s Institutional Project Support Program, which promotes “innovative projects in the field of Japanese studies” in the United States. Eight other institutions, such as the University of Colorado, have received similar awards in this round of grants.

The grant application was made by the Center for Japanese Studies (CJS) on behalf of Okinawan Studies. Project proposals for the grant were reviewed and selected by the Center for Okinawan Studies Steering Committee, and include funding for a major conference in 2009, as well as such research projects as the Okinawan diaspora in Hawai‘i, the relations between communities in Okinawa and the U.S. military bases there, and traditional Okinawan performance. The award will also support the development of on-line Okinawan language learning materials, the translation of a key Okinawan history textbook into English, and other curriculum-related activities. The grant is for three years; $70,000 for the first year and the remainder to be determined later. Several of the projects will be done in cooperation with faculty at the University of the Ryukyus, which was awarded a five-year $2.5 million grant from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to examine the Okinawan diaspora world-wide.
CPS Raises $22K for Philippine Literacy Project

At a community fundraiser on March 18, 2008 held at the Philippine Consulate in Honolulu, the Center for Philippine Studies (CPS) at UH Mānoa raised $22,000 to help support GILAS (Gearing Up Internet Literacy and Access to Students), a private sector-led consortium that aims to connect all of the 6,300 public high schools in the Philippines to the Internet. Only 1/3 of them are currently Internet-connected.

The donation was made by the Ilocos Sur Association of Hawai‘i (ISAH), under the leadership of Danny Villaruz. Former state representative Jun Abinsay and Dr. Charlie Sonido, publisher of Hawai‘i Filipino Chronicle, have agreed to fully fund three high schools in Ilocos Sur province in the Northern Philippines at $6500 each. ISAH will also fund the Internet connection of other high schools in the province at $2500 per town. Altogether, the award amount is $22,000.

Other Filipino community leaders, such as Dr. Dan Cañete, President and CEO of Hawai‘i Medical Center, Larry Ramirez, Chair of Philippine Celebrations Coordinating Committee of Hawai‘i, and Amado Bermuda, President of Rosalenians of Hawai‘i, have also made commitments to fund other GILAS projects in the Philippines.

GILAS is an international collaborative effort to help the Philippines by investing in the education of children who have little or no access to innovative, high-quality technology-based curricula. It is one of CPS’ international outreach projects.

Only a small fraction of high school graduates in Philippine public schools attend college. Training them in basic computer literacy skills while still in high school, or even in the elementary grades, is crucial because of the difficulty in competing for employment in the global market, which requires computer and Internet skills. Many of the more than 3,000 immigrants from the Philippines who arrive in Hawai‘i annually have only a secondary education.

The GILAS project is implemented by the Ayala Foundation-USA, established in 2000 and currently headed by Vicky Garchitorena (see related story). The Foundation is based in San Francisco. It reaches out to American corporations and international foundations to provide them with necessary information and due diligence on programs they aim to undertake in the Philippines. All donations are tax deductible.

For further information, contact Dr. Belinda Aquino, director of the CPS at (808) 956-6086 or email: lyndy@hawaii.edu.

UHM Confucius Institute At Home and Abroad

The creation and funding of Confucius Institutes around the world has been a recent initiative of the Chinese Ministry of Education through its Office of Chinese Language Council International (“Hanban”). These institutes, each of which is partnered with a university in China, now number 248 world-wide, with 42 in the U.S. The Confucius Institute at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (CI-UHM) is one of twelve CIs partnered with Beijing Foreign Studies University (BFSU). The remaining eleven of BFSU’s partners are in Europe, predominantly in Eastern Europe. CI-UHM is now the outreach arm of the SPAS Center for Chinese Studies, and is responsible for generating a good deal of press coverage for Chinese Studies at UHM. CI support is also instrumental in maintaining administrative support to CCS.

The second annual conference of Confucius Institute leaders took place in December 2007 in Beijing. CI-UHM co-directors Cynthia Ning and Ted Yao; BFSU visiting professor Meiping Zhu; and UHM assistant vice chancellor Bee Kooker attended. Seven hundred people participated in the two-day forum; half stayed on for a three-day workshop following. At the forum and workshop in Beijing, the US CIs resolved to form an effective network of US-based CIs, to coordinate efforts to promote Chinese language education and Chinese studies in the US.

Accordingly, on April 19, 2008, a meeting of US-based CIs was held in Washington D.C. as an addendum to a national conference organized by the Asia Society for Chinese language specialists. The meeting was organized by the CI-UHM. Ning was named to a six-member Steering Committee, which is tasked with identifying ways in which CIs in the US can collaborate and share activities.

Teaching Chinese to the community is a priority of CIs worldwide. The projects of the CI-UHM, which have been exponentially enhanced by additional funding from the Freeman Foundation and the STARTALK initiatives, are primarily focused on training, certifying, and licensing Chinese language teachers at the secondary educational levels, and increasing training opportunities in Chinese language to US students in pre-collegiate settings. Meanwhile, there is a growing pressure on U.S. colleges and universities to offer higher level training in Chinese. Many institutions already offer 5th- and 6th-year courses, as well as a range of content courses in disciplinary departments taught entirely in Chinese.

A future project with potential to take advantage of linkages between US CIs may be the UHM Theatre & Dance Department’s 2009–2010 training program and production of “The White Snake,” a Jingju/Kunqu play to be performed in English. UHM Theatre faculty Elizabeth Wichmann-Walczak will be doing the majority of the fundraising for the production during the next year.
Dr. M. S. S. Pandian served as the Rama Watamull Distinguished Visiting Scholar during the Spring 2008 semester. Dr. Pandian is one of the foremost authorities on caste and caste-related issues in India. His scholarship has contributed in a variety of ways to South Asian Studies, with particular attention to Tamil Nadu. Film, political economy and history are three of the fields to which he has made significant contributions. His most recent books are *Brahmin & Non-Brahmin: Genealogies of the Tamil Political Present*, an important study of caste and anti-caste movements in Tamil India, and *Muslims, Dalits and the Fabrications of History*, a volume in the Subaltern Studies Series.

Dr. Pandian shared his thoughts about UHM in a short interview.

**What are your first impressions of South Asian Studies at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa?**

The number of South Asianists in the University of Hawai‘i is indeed small. But, South Asian studies have a vibrant presence in the campus. It seems to me that there are two significant reasons for this paradox. First, almost every department of social sciences and humanities, ranging from literature to architecture to political science, has South Asianists. They surely bring in varying perspectives on South Asia. Second, post-colonial and subaltern studies, wherein the contribution of the South Asianists is substantial, diverse and rich, seem to inform quite a bit of teaching and writing at UH. The library resources at UH on South Asia, including the collection of films from the region, are of a special interest to me. The collection is no doubt substantial. However it needs further consolidation. The collection of periodicals in South Asian languages is not kept up to date and there are major gaps in the collection. It is evident that the library has also narrowed its focus to a few South Asian languages instead of many. It is pertinent to address this problem if UH is to ever become a major center for South Asian studies.

**How did you select the class that you are teaching this semester, and what are your first impressions?**

I am offering a graduate seminar on colonialism in South Asia. The choice of the theme was informed by the fact that colonialism, whichever way one defines it, is a common legacy of South Asia and Hawai‘i. Apart from teaching, I am using my stay at the UH to complete a book-length manuscript which uses films as a prism to understand changing contours of post-independence Tamil politics in south India. Several faculty members at UH use films in teaching and my discussions with them have been rather rewarding.
Micronesian Voices in Hawai‘i Draws a Wide Audience

Over 300 Micronesian community members, community activists, service providers, faculty and students from several campuses gathered for Micronesian Voices in Hawai‘i, the Center for Pacific Islands Studies’ 2008 conference, held April 3-4. They came to hear speakers from the Marshallese, Kosraean, Chuukese, Pohnpeian, Palauan, and Yapese communities describe the challenges for recent migrants and the work that they are doing with families and with state agencies to help meet needs in the areas of education, health, language access, and the legal system. Micronesians are the fastest growing Pacific Islander group in the state. Their migration is facilitated by the provisions of Compacts of Free Association that permit citizens of The Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau to live and work in the United States without visas. The conference, which was supported by the center’s US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Grant, with assistance from the UHM School of Pacific and Asian Studies and the Sidney Stern Memorial Trust, was the first center conference designed to engage primarily with state officials and public and private service providers in the state, rather than with other academics.

At the conference, three distinguished Micronesian leaders provided background on Micronesian migration and the situation for Micronesians in Hawai‘i: Benjamin Graham (current Ambassador from the Marshall Islands to the United States), Dr. Hilda Heine (Director of the Pacific Comprehensive Center, Pacific Resources for Education and Learning), and the Honorable Andon L. Amaraich (a lead negotiator for the first Federated States of Micronesia Compact of Free Association and current Chief Justice of the FSM). All three speakers highlighted the desire for a better education as an important reason for migration, beginning in the 1960s. Increasingly, however, migration, particularly from the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, is being driven by economic factors and, to a lesser extent, for medical reasons.

The major part of the conference was devoted to panels that featured Micronesian community leaders and professionals talking about the work that they are doing in the community,

Shakespeare’s

With support from the Center for Southeast Asian Studies (CSEAS), the UHM Department of Theatre & Dance presented A Balinese Tempest at Kennedy Theatre from January 25 - February 3, 2008. In preparation for this production, 52 students participated in six months of intensive training in Balinese music (gamelan), dance, and shadow theatre during the fall semester of 2007. The training and rehearsal period culminated in six public performances that drew an audience totaling 2,376 people.

The production combined shadow theatre with live dancers to create a cross-cultural staging of Shakespeare’s The Tempest, using a style pioneered by visiting artist Larry Reed. This innovative adaptation of Shakespeare’s most musical and magical play is about a sorcerer and dethroned Milanese duke (Prospero), who has been banished with his daughter Miranda to an enchanted island. Reed fused Balinese and Elizabethan elements with his hallmark shadow-casting method, utilizing a giant screen and live performers to create a magical shadow theatre performance. The production also featured live musical accompaniment by the UHM Balinese gamelan ensemble under the direction of visiting artist and musical director I. Nyoman Sumandhi, an internationally known dalang (Balinese puppet master) and master of traditional Balinese music, dance and choreography.

The week-long performance run garnered mainstream press coverage with previews and reviews in both major Honolulu papers, as well as coverage and reviews from two local TV news stations.

The outreach component of this project included school performances at the Maui Arts and Cultural Center for approximately 600 K-12 school children.

Creation of an educational DVD titled Making of the Balinese Tempest is currently in process. Copies will be streamed from the CSEAS website and will be available for distribution to the resources that are needed, the education that needs to take place, and opportunities to make an impact. In addition to panels that focused on strengthening communities, increasing effective communications, building programs in education and health, and educating about rights and responsibilities, there was an open-ended panel in which pastors talked about their experiences with families and the work that remains to be done.

On the final afternoon, conference attendees met with panel members in breakout groups to brainstorm recommendations which could be later presented to local policy makers, including members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature. These recommendations, along with links to other conference resources, can be found on the “Micronesian Voices” resources page at www.hawaii.edu/cpis/2008conf/april2008resources.htm. The entire conference was taped by ‘Ōlelo Community Television, and was broadcast in eight episodes in the summer of 2008.
Shadow

interested educational institutions in the future.

The project was organized and produced by Kirstin Pauka, faculty in the Asian Theatre Program and Acting Director of the Center for Southeast Asian Studies for 2007-2008. The UHM Asian Theatre Program is nationally and internationally recognized as the world’s leading center for Asian theatre study and research. It has attained this status by providing students

and scholars with unique training, performance, and research opportunities on a regular basis. Each year, intensive training in a selected form of Asian and cross-cultural performance is provided by renowned master artists and teachers, culminating in an authentically-staged English-language production. Undergraduate students, graduate students and scholars engage simultaneously in performance study and research, producing internationally-available documentation of both practical and theoretical results.

A behind-the-screen look at A Balinese Tempest
(Photo by Christian Razukas)

Professor Leon Serafim Appointed Director of Center for Okinawan Studies

Dr. Leon Serafim (Associate Professor of Japanese, Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, and a CJS faculty member) will be the founding Director of the Center for Okinawan Studies (COS). His term of office will run from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009. SPAS welcomes Dr. Serafim warmly with great anticipation for the future of COS.

Dr. Serafim has an MA in Japanese from UHM (1976) and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from Yale (1984). He has studied Ryukyuan languages since 1972, and has actively pursued research in Ryukyuan linguistics since 1975. With a long list of publications and conference presentations on the history and prehistory of Ryukyuan, Japanese, and their parent language, Proto-Japonic, he is recognized in Okinawa, Japan proper, the United States, and around the world as one of the top linguists working on Ryukyuan. He collaborated with Professor Kyoko Hijiirda to develop the two-semester Okinawan Language and Culture course (EALL 471-472), and has also taught an Okinawan history course for the History Department several times in recent years.

CSAS Turns Its Attention to “Caste”

With support from the School of Pacific and Asian Studies, the UHM Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS) has started to focus sustained attention on the concept of ‘caste.’ CSAS held a mini-symposium titled Caste in the Contemporary World on Saturday, April 12, 2008. Preliminary efforts are also underway to present introductory caste-related instructional and research materials on the CSAS website.

Caste is frequently construed as a defining characteristic of South Asian cultures and societies. There has also been much interesting caste-related research in recent years. The purpose of both the mini-Symposium and the internet project is to introduce ‘caste’ as a critical concept and to introduce members of the broader UH and academic community to recent scholarly work on the topic.

Caste in the Contemporary World featured M.S.S. Pandian (2008 Rama Watumull Distinguished Visiting Scholar), Anupuma Rao (Assistant Professor of South Asian History, Barnard College), and Ramnarayan Rawat (Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, University of Pennsylvania). About forty participants-scholars from out of town who had come for the symposium, faculty and students from UH, community members–joined the presenters for a session that lasted about four hours. The session covered a variety of topics--the changes in caste identity brought about by modern political processes, the unique issues related to the intersection of caste with gender, and the difficulties of defining particular castes (such as the so-called Chamars).

The internet aspect of the project will present original essays, selections of relevant permissioned and public domain materials, and bibliographies of select textual and online scholarly, literary, and religious or philosophical materials. The bibliographies will be selected with the input of UHM faculty and specialists in the field, including M.S.S. Pandian.
Sarona Aiono-Iosefa, author of a number of fiction and nonfiction books for children, was the Fulbright–Creative New Zealand Pacific Writer-in-Residence at the Center for Pacific Islands Studies for three months in Fall 2007. Aiono-Iosefa first started writing for her own children, so that they could read stories about Samoan culture. According to an interview with the media, the mother of four said she was inspired to write because, in Aotearoa/New Zealand, “There were no books involving Samoan culture that my children could see themselves in.”

During her residency, Aiono-Iosefa worked on a novella entitled O Se Mea e Tatau: Something Right. The novella, which weaves stories from pre-Christian Sāmoa with stories of contemporary times, was the subject of Aiono-Iosefa’s public talk, “Shedding Some Light on the Potlūli,” on October 9, 2007. The talk was also taped to be shown as part of the UH Department of English’s Bibliovision program on ‘Ōlelo Community Television.

Aiono-Iosefa is the fourth Fulbright–Creative New Zealand Pacific writer to be hosted by the Center for Pacific Islands Studies. In addition to her public talk, she visited Pacific literature and Samoan language and culture classes at UH Mānoa. She also gave a talk at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo as part of the Center for Pacific Islands Studies’ outreach program, a trip that was funded by the center’s Title VI National Resource Center Grant.

The Pacific Writer-in-Residence program is an example of an innovative collaboration with rich benefits to all participants. The program, which is funded by Fulbright New Zealand and Creative New Zealand, the arts funding arm of the New Zealand Government, provides authors with dedicated time to write and the opportunity to meet other Pacific artists and writers. Through visits to classes and informal discussions, these writers serve as cultural ambassadors for Pacific arts and culture in New Zealand, enriching the academic experiences of students and faculty, and broadening the horizons of the general public in Hawai‘i.

STARTALK Summer Chinese Language Immersion Sports Camp Brings China to US Youth

During July 2008, the Confucius Institute at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa sponsored a Chinese Language Immersion Sports Camp for the second year, this time with a Beijing Olympics theme. Twenty-five students, aged 12-17, from Hawai‘i and the mainland US participated in the camp. They learned Chinese language, culture, ping pong and martial arts for 3 weeks (July 7 – 25) and stayed at UHM’s Hale No'elani residence hall.

The camp also provided a learning opportunity for 13 teachers-in-training in how to teach the Chinese language using the “task-based method.” The lead instructor was Dr. Cynthia Ning, who has written several textbooks, created video tapes teaching Chinese for the Hawai‘i State Department of Education, and recently aided Yale University in producing a series of movies teaching K-12 students the Chinese language.

The sports camp combined 3-4 hours of language instruction per day, with an hour each of training in ping pong and martial arts. The 2008 Beijing Olympics made a fitting and obvious theme for the camp. Students were divided into five groups corresponding to the five official Olympic mascots, which represent the five Olympic rings. Students also learned the official song for the games in Chinese and performed it together with pride and unity. By the end of the camp, students approached Novice-Mid ability in each of four language skills (reading, writing, listening comprehension and speaking), gained an understanding of the significance of the Beijing Olympics, and developed an appreciation for Chinese culture and a stronger belief that they can learn to communicate in Chinese. The program also included field trips to supplement the learning experience and expose the participants to Hawai‘i culture and history.

The program was funded by STAR-TALK under a $100,000 grant from the US Federal government and the Confucius Institute, which was established in 2006 at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa with support from the Ministry of Education, People’s Republic of China. STARTALK is a collaboration of The National Foreign Language Center at the University of Maryland, the Director of National Intelligence and the Department of Defense. Its purpose is to support innovative summer programs teaching Arabic and Chinese.
CPS Hosts Two Filipina Leaders

The Center for Philippine Studies at UH Mānoa recently presented two prominent Filipina leaders, Sheila S. Coronel and Vicky Garchitorena, in a lecture series on Philippine topics at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

Coronel, an award-winning author and leading figure in investigative journalism in the Philippines and Asia, delivered a lecture at the Center for Korean Studies auditorium on March 18, 2008. Her lecture entitled “Date-line: Philippines” covered Philippine politics and society from a historical perspective with regard to media affairs, democratic participation, and government corruption. She also touched on major social and economic issues, such as poverty in the Philippines, the military, human rights abuses, role of the church, Philippine-American relations, and insurgencies from the time of Ferdinand Marcos to Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

She analyzes in particular the phenomenon of “people power” in Philippine politics with regard to the role of non-mainstream media and the more recent practice of “texting” in society to bring about the ouster in the streets of president-dictator Ferdinand Marcos and a post-Marcos elected president, Joseph “Erap” Estrada.

Coronel is currently the inaugural director of the Toni Stabile Center for Investigative Journalism at Columbia University in New York where she also teaches. In 2003, she received the Ramon Magsaysay Award (the Asian equivalent of the Nobel Prize) for Journalism, Literature and Creative Communication Arts. In 2001, she was elected into the Hall of Fame of the Jaime V. Ongpin Award for Investigative Journalism – an award she had won four times in 12 years.

Also, on March 18, the Center for Philippine Studies co-hosted the lecture of Vicky Garchitorena, president of the Ayala Foundation-USA, a non-profit organization promoting humanitarian, educational and cultural programs on the Philippines in the United States.

Garchitorena gave a presentation on “Tools for Managing Online Communities” at Kuykendall Hall on the use of internet technology to various audiences. She is also the driving force behind the nationwide GILAS program in the Philippines, which aims to connect all 6000 public high schools to the internet by 2010.

Garchitorena is considered one of the pillars of the Philippine non-government organization sector. She was founding chair of the League of Corporate Foundations, Philippine Council for NGO Certification, Philippine Association for Volunteer Efforts, Metro South Cooperative Bank, and the Makati NGO Network. She is also a Board member of the US-based Council on Foundations and is a Senior Adviser of the World Bank’s Asia-Pacific Advisory Council Against Corruption.

The Ayala Foundation USA was established in 2000 as a 501c3 public charity and serves as the bridge between US-based Filipinos and Philippine-based social development institutions, by providing a mechanism by which donations and other forms of support can reach intended beneficiaries in the Philippines.
Islamic Cultures in Reflection: An Exhibition of Photographs from Southeast Asia

In response to the public’s growing interest in Islam, CSEAS collected photographs from students traveling in Muslim areas of Southeast Asia and organized them under three themes of “people,” “architecture,” and “ceremonies and rituals.” The mission of the exhibition was to visually and substantially address the cultural diversity of Islam in the region. This was seen as an important effort given the dominant image and narrative of Islam in American society. Few know, for example, that Indonesia has the largest Muslim population in the world (more than 200 million). Moreover, the geography of Islam and its diverse heritage is evident in nearly every country in the region from East Timor to Viet Nam. Whether it is students at work in their classroom or young children practicing for the hajj, the hope for this exhibition was to enrich the public’s knowledge of Islam in Southeast Asia and to set in motion a dialog regarding the images and people’s perceptions of what they were seeing.

The exhibition of over 75 enlarged photos was first shown at Punahou School in February 2007 where hundreds of students, faculty, and family members viewed and discussed the images with visiting Muslim students from UH. The photos were later exhibited at Hamilton Library (UHM campus) in March – April 2007, and were a major part of a DOE professional development workshop for public school history teachers in grades 6, 10 and 11 in June 2007. They were also set up for viewing at Kapi‘olani Community College from December 2007 – January 2008. The exhibition has also traveled to the mainland where it has been on display at Morehouse College in Atlanta (April – May 2008) and Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida (July – November 2008). Still in demand, the photos will then move to Winston-Salem State University (Winston-Salem, North Carolina) to be shown from December 2008 – February 2009. This exhibition was supported by a grant from the Hawai‘i Council for the Humanities and organized by CSEAS graduate students Anthony Medrano and Sapril Akhmady.

Freeman Foundation Institutions: Seminars

Past participants of the 2006 Asian Studies Program Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) Mekong Seminar and the 2007 MSI Japan Seminar reconvened in April 2008 on the historic campus of Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. Hosted by the Andrew Young Center for International Affairs at Morehouse College, the 2008 MSI Asian Studies Workshop gave participants an opportunity to discuss the impact of their participation in the MSI Seminars and to further strengthen ties between institutions. The Minority Serving Institutions Seminars, funded by the Freeman Foundation, provide faculty members at minority serving institutions with a broad understanding of Asia and encourage participants to incorporate their experiences into their classroom curriculum.

The Asian Studies MSI workshop coincided with the commemoration of the assassination of Reverend Martin Luther King, an alumnus of Morehouse, as well as the Morehouse Science and Spiritual Awareness Week. As part of the festivities, the Asian Studies Program brought the traveling photographic exhibition Islamic Cultures in Reflection to Morehouse where it was displayed for the month of April. The exhibition, developed by the Center for Southeast Asian Studies to increase awareness of the role of Islam in Southeast Asia, was well received by students and faculty. It is currently on display at Bethune Cookman College in Daytona Florida.

The 2008 MSI Seminar participants included 2006 MSI Mekong participants, Dr. Leah Creque (Morehouse College, GA), Michael Gormley (Central State University, OH) and Barbara Ross (Kapiolani Community College, HI). The 2007 MSI Japan participants were Dr. Jimmy Cheffen (Philander Smith College, AR), Dr. Deborah Farmer (Winston Salem University, NC), Dr. Raphael Jackson (Bethune Cookman College, FL), Dr. Lia Steele (Philander Smith College, AR) and Dr. Cecile Yancu (Winston Salem University, NC). University Community College from December 2007 – January 2008. The exhibition has also traveled to the mainland where it has been on display at Morehouse College in Atlanta (April – May 2008) and Bethune-Cookman University in Daytona Beach, Florida (July – November 2008). Still in demand, the photos will then move to Winston-Salem State University (Winston-Salem, North Carolina) to be shown from December 2008 – February 2009. This exhibition was supported by a grant from the Hawai‘i Council for the Humanities and organized by CSEAS graduate students Anthony Medrano and Sapril Akhmady.
On November 3 – 4, 2007, UHM hosted two special activities: the 4th East Asia Tea Culture Symposium (Nov. 3) and the 4th Panel Discussion: Culture and Peace in East Asia (Nov. 4). Both took place at Keoni Auditorium in the Hawai’i Imin International Conference Center and were emceed by Center for Japanese Studies Director Robert Huey. Organized and sponsored by Dr. Genshitsu Sen, Chado Urasenke 15th Generation Grand Tea Master, to commemorate the UH Centennial, these two events were the fourth in a series of annual gatherings (Tianjin, China in 2004, Seoul, Korea in 2005, and Tokyo, Japan in 2006) that bring together scholars, artists and influential leaders in civil society from China, Japan, and Korea. This year, for the first time, American and European scholars took part, as well.

The symposium began with welcome remarks by UHM Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw, greetings from Japanese Consul-General in Honolulu, Toshio Kunikata, and an opening address by Dr. Sen. Dr. Wayne Farris, Sen Chair in the UHM History Department, spoke on how to apply his notion of “history from the bottom up” to the study of tea in medieval Japan. Other symposium presenters discussed various aspects of tea in East Asia, both historical and contemporary. Among them was Mr. Tokuymasa Miyagi, President of the Okinawa Prefectural University of Arts, who spoke on Okinawan pottery. That evening, Chancellor Hinshaw hosted a reception for the participants, including more than eighty guests from Japan.

On November 4th, after a keynote address by Dr. Paul Varley (Sen Professor Emeritus) on Japan’s changing image in the 20th century, the 4th Panel Discussion focused on cultural diplomacy, and explored ways in which tea and tea culture might provide opportunities for easing tensions in East Asia. This year, to highlight the fact that the event was held for the first time outside of Asia, the island perspectives of Hawai’i and Okinawa were added to the mix.

After the panel discussion, Dr. Sen hosted a reception at the Halekulani Hotel, during which UH President David McClain and Chancellor Hinshaw presented him with a special UH Centennial ukulele, which he immediately took out and began to play.
“History” in the Making: SPAS Hosts Conference on a Ground-breaking East Asian History Textbook

In recent years, Northeast Asian diplomatic relations have been punctuated by bitter flare-ups over the content of Japanese history textbooks, with the so-called New History Text (Atarashii rekishi kyōkasho) of 2001 serving as a particularly potent catalyst for regional acrimony. While the interstate diplomatic aspect of this and other “historical memory” issues have received considerable press and academic attention outside of Japan, there have also been a number of less well-publicized cross-national efforts to find ways to resolve these issues. Arguably the most successful of these from the standpoint of impact on the general public in the region has been the tri-national, China-Japan-South Korea effort that resulted in the publication, in the respective languages of the three countries, of a common regional history of East Asia entitled A History to Open the Future. With several printings and a revised edition published in 2007, a recent estimate places sales of this “teaching resource” in the three countries at 270,000 copies.

On October 8 and 9, 2007, SPAS convened a conference in which A History to Open the Future was utilized as a window through which to explore in depth the character, the current status and possible future directions of history textbook controversies in Northeast Asia. Key members of the tri-national editorial committee—Obinata Sumio (Waseda University), Sin Ju-back (Kookmin University), and Rong Wei-mu (Chinese Academy of Social Sciences)—talked about the often contentious process of writing and editing the book and presented their respective assessments of the outcome. This was followed by reports of observers from each of the countries—Yoon Hwy-tak (Northeast Asia History Foundation), Niu Dayong (Beijing University), and Arai Shin’ichi (Ibaraki University)—on the domestic reception of the book in each of the countries. The text and its reception was then examined and discussed from a broader extra-regional perspective. Keynote speeches were given by Mark Selden (Cornell University) and Yeh Wen-hsin (UC-Berkeley), critiques of the book and analyses of the writing process were presented by Asia scholars based in North America—in addition to Selden and Yeh, Geoffrey White (UH-Manoa) and Namji Steinemmann (East-West Center)—followed by presentations by UHM graduate students involved in translating the work into English (Wang Qinghong, Jeffrey Tripp, and Shun’ichi Takekawa) and other SPAS affiliates involved in the project (SPAS Dean Edward Shultz, Prof. Lonny Carlile and Hugh Kang).

The conference made it clear that, on the one hand, the almost exclusive focus in the press on the diplomatic friction over the textbook issue ignores the efforts and significant progress being made by citizen groups across the three countries to transcend differences over historical memory and their transmission via the educational system. At the same time, the fact that the effort by even sympathetic groups was accompanied by great controversy over the portrayal of specific historical developments highlighted just how deep the differences over historical memory in East Asia run. Finally, the “outsider” presentations illustrated that these differences within the region exist within an even wider range of possible historical understandings.