

School of Asian Languages and Studies

Book Launch

SALS and the Co-op Bookshop held a joint launch of two new books from the School in September. The Vice Chancellor Professor Daryl Le Grew launched both books.



Barbara Hatley's book *Javanese Performances on an Indonesian Stage: Contesting Culture, Embracing Change* gives a sense of the vitality of theatre as a cultural medium in Indonesia, particularly Java; and of performances as a time for the gathering of social groups and representation of themes, issues, ideas of importance to them.

Dirk Tomsa's wide-reaching study of political change *Party Politics and Democratization in Indonesia: Golkar in the post-Suharto era* is the first English language book to analyse contemporary Indonesian party politics and is timely before the upcoming 2009 election.



Indonesia Calling



SALS had a strong presence at the Asia Link annual arts forum in July, which this year focused on Indonesian arts today. Wulan presented on visual arts and Barbara on performing arts. Asia Link is a forum on arts exchange between Australia and Asia and attracts delegates from around Australia and overseas. See the SALS website for a link to the full report.

Japanese Literature Workshop

In September Barbara Hartley hosted an excellent international workshop, funded by the Japan Foundation, to explore approaches to teaching Japanese Literature in Australia.

Eleven scholars from Japan and Australia demonstrated a wide range of approaches to "reading" cultural texts, focusing on how they can be made relevant to the contemporary lives of students. A highlight was a postgraduate session in which participants offered valuable research advice to UTAS students.

The workshop results will be published as a teaching resource book *Texts in Japan and Japan in Texts*.

Mark is now leading Chinese

Welcome to Dr Mark Harrison who has joined the Chinese program as a new Senior Lecturer.

Mark completed his PhD at Monash University in Melbourne and spent seven years in London working at the University of Westminster. As well as teaching in the Chinese language program, his research covers politics and contemporary culture in China and Taiwan, and media representation of China.

He is author of *Legitimacy, Meaning and Knowledge in the Making of Taiwanese Identity* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2006) and his current project is entitled Visions of the Future in the Chinese-speaking World.



An appetite for Asia this spring?

HMA206 Understanding Asia through Food is a new unit offered this spring semester. The unit is taught over ten days 17 – 28 November and explores what the staple foods and cooking of Asia can reveal about the lives of people in Asia. For details contact Pam.Allen@utas.edu.au

Looking ahead, two new units will be running in 2009 **HMA214/314 Islam in Asia** and **HMN218/318 Political and Social Change in Contemporary Indonesia**.

JET success

SALS graduate Nick Howe caught up with his tutor Yukiko Burns after spending two years in Kochi prefecture, Japan, on the JET (Japan Exchange and Teaching) Program. Now Nick is returning to his Japanese studies at Suzuka International University in Mie prefecture with one eye on a future interpreting career. Nick says the JET program gives fantastic support and is a great stepping stone for a future in Japan, Japanese and international relations.



More about the JET Program:
<http://www.jetprogramme.org/>

Teaching Japanese in Multiple Intelligences

Japanese Teaching Workshop by Yuichi Deguchi from Victoria
Sat 20 September, 10 am - 3 pm, Social Sciences 329, University of Tasmania Sandy Bay campus
Fee: \$40 (\$20 for students)

Yuichi has taught Japanese in primary schools for 13 years using the theory of Gardner's Multiple Intelligences (M.I.) to motivate students into finding their own way of studying Japanese. He will show you his activities/ games list categorized by 7 intelligences and demonstrate his unique Hiragana Rap and Katakana Karate.
Contact T.U.Sabine@utas.edu.au by 16 September to attend.

Post-Olympics Seminar

A new China?

Dr Mark Harrison
Dr Haiqing Yu

**Tuesday 23 September 2008
at 5.30pm**

Law Lecture Theatre 2
University of Tasmania
Hobart Campus

ALL WELCOME

Asian Studies lunchtime seminar

Tuesday 30 September at 1.00pm
Hum477A for Kaz's mystery topic

Gifts to the Chinese Library

With generous bequests and donations our Chinese library is expanding.

Mrs Lisowski has kindly donated a collection of her late husband's books on politics, development and education in China. Professor Peter Lisowski, a strong friend of SALS, was a medical professor with a lifelong involvement with China and was instrumental in bringing the first group of Chinese exchange medical students to UTAS.

We are grateful also to Mrs Florence Dwight of Penguin who has offered her late husband's precious collection of China-related journals and magazines spanning many years.

The East Asian Library of Melbourne University has donated bound copies of the Chinese journal on economic policy and development 决策与信息 (*Decision and Information*) 1994-99. Special thanks to Bick-Har Yeung of the East Asian Library.

Research Trip to Indonesia

In July-August Barbara Hatley made a 3 week trip to Indonesia. At an anthropology symposium held in Banjarmasin, Kalimantan, entitled "The Future of Indonesia: Sustainable Development and Local Initiatives in the Post-Capitalist Era", Barbara spoke of local arts groups defining and sustaining community identity amidst rapid political change and globalisation. Later she visited research sites in Java, where the thriving arts scene emphatically confirmed this picture. Local neighbourhoods performed stories about their history; transvestite sex workers staged a musical about their lives; entrants in a mural competition painted the town of Yogyakarta red. A *ludruk* popular theatre troupe in Mojokerto staged a mock launching of Barbara's new book on Javanese theatre.



The star clown of the group introduces Barbara to his two 'wives' played by male actors in drag.

Australia-Japan Society Lecture Gifts from Space: Why We Challenge the Unknown

Presented by Dr Mamoru Mohri, the first Japanese astronaut to fly aboard a US space shuttle.

10:00 – 10:50am, Tuesday 14 October, Stanley Burbury Theater, University Centre, followed by refreshments. RSVP to science.enquiries@utas.edu.au

SALS newsletters – please email Mandy on sals.enquiries@utas.edu.au for further information on any contents and if you wish to add others or remove yourself from our newsletter list. Comments always welcome.

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