

SALS NEWSLETTER 2007

School of Asian Languages and Studies

SHARING TALENT

In May this year Hobart students and lecturers celebrated together the creative achievements of SALS students at a lunchtime showcase of work and music. Students displayed colourful and informed presentations of Asian culture and society, and performed songs and poetry (also translations) to each other.



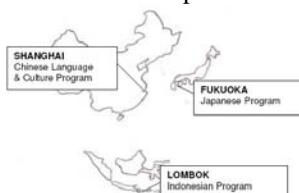
WELCOMES AND FAREWELLS

We look forward to welcoming our new Chinese lecturer Dr Haiqing Yu in January.

Also in January we say a sad farewell to Associate Professor Mobo Gao who during 12 years with UTAS has established and nurtured our fast-growing Chinese Studies section. Mobo is leaving Tasmania to become Director of the Confucius Institute at the University of Adelaide.

SUMMER IN-COUNTRY PROGRAMS

Over the summer 35 SALS students are immersing themselves in the countries they are passionate about, and completing units towards their degrees, on in-country programs in China Indonesia or Japan.



AWARDS

This year Pam Allen received a Carrick Citation Award for Teaching Excellence. This is a national award recognizing "a significant contribution to the quality of student learning over a sustained period". Congratulations Pam!

Dr Barbara Hartley won a prestigious fellowship through the Japan Foundation to work on the intellectual journey of the 20th century Japanese scholar Takeda Taijun. The fellowship has taken Barbara to Hokkaido University until June next year.

The Vice Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence was given to Yoji Hashimoto in recognition of his contribution to teaching and learning at the University.

Isabel Wang was nominated by students and peers for a Teaching Merit Certificate.

NEW STUDY UNITS FOR 2008

Volunteering in Asia

The theoretical and political dimensions of volunteer tourism are examined, as well as issues relating to working as a volunteer in Asia.

Placement in Asia

This exciting unit culminates in a 4-week placement in a non-government organisation or equivalent in Asia, after the project has been set up by the student in consultation with SALS staff.

Contemporary Chinese Cinema

This unit explores major genres and themes of film in contemporary mainland China, Taiwan and Hong Kong and the Chinese diaspora.

Writing/Researching Chinese

Writing and research skills for native speakers of Chinese majoring in computer science, management or commerce.

PhD SUCCESS

In December we are celebrating with two of our postgraduate students who have completed PhDs, Dr Heather Curnow and Dr Carmencita Palermo.

Heather wrote her thesis on women in Indonesian literature and Carmencita wrote on Balinese mask drama.

SALS CULTURE HIGHLIGHTS

Shakuhachi

During a visit to UTAS in August, Robert Herr, lecturer at the University of Hawaii at Manoa's Music Department gave an excellent introduction to his Chikuho style of shakuhachi playing. Robert first studied with John Kaizan Neptune and grand master Riley Lee, then with grand master Yokoyama Katsuya in Japan.

Puppets

Indonesian shadow puppeteer Sumardi performed stories from the 'Ramayana' cycle and 'Mahabharata' epics during a visit to Launceston. Sumardi's puppets are traditional - intricate, translucent figures crafted from leather and projected against a backlit screen. With his theatrical storytelling Sumardi brings to life the ancestral spirits said to dwell inside the puppets.

Pipa

Visitors to a SALS event this year may have heard the captivating pipa music of Chinese tutor Zhou Fen. Fen's music is mesmerising and wistful, then startlingly upbeat. Always memorable. Thank you for lifting our spirits, Fen.



JAPANESE DANCE TROUPE

The Hobart-Yaizu Sister City Committee Dance troupe led by Taka won the Best Dance Group award at the Myer Hobart Christmas Pageant. Taka led 20 UTAS students plus 60 Japanese language teachers and students from St. Mary's College, Friends' School, Mt. Carmel College, Ogilvie High School, Fahan School and Blackmans Bay Primary School. These are some of the schools that participate in the Japanese Assistant Training Scheme (JATS) organised each year by Taka. JATS arranges placements for trainee Japanese teachers who are seeking to experience 12 months as an assistant Japanese teacher (in this case doubling as dance teacher) in a Tasmanian school. This year the JATS assistants taught their students a folk dance from Yaizu for the Pageant – *Minato Gumbu* or 'Group dance from the harbour'.



OPEN SESSIONS

Yoji Hashimoto organised a workshop and seminar in ICT (Information and Communications Technologies in Language Education) in collaboration with Keio University in Japan. The sessions were well attended by teachers seeking to incorporate ICT in their language teaching practices, as well as officials from the Department of Education.

SIGNIFICANT PUBLICATIONS

This year Wulan Dirgantoro published a stunning book *Indonesian Women Artists: The Curtain Opens*. The book is co-authored with two other Indonesian writers, Carla Bianpoen and Farah Wardani.

Appearing in January 2008 is Barbara Hatley's book *Javanese Performances on an Indonesian Stage: Contesting Culture, Embracing Change*, published by Singapore University Press.

Dirk Tomsa's book *Party Politics and Democratisation in Indonesia* is to be published by Routledge in June next year.

Mobo Gao has a book out next year also - *The Battle of China's History: Mao and the Cultural Revolution*

INDONESIAN SEMINAR

Pam Allen helped coordinate a seminar for teachers of Indonesian in Tasmania in Burnie in September. Risa Magnusson, Barbara Hatley and Wulan Dirgantoro also contributed their expertise to a lively and convivial event.

WHO'S WHO AT SALS?

Asian Studies

Kaz Ross
Dr Dirk Tomsa

Chinese

Dr Haiqing Yu
Isabel Wang

Indonesian

A/Prof Pam Allen
Prof Barbara Hatley
Wulan Dirgantoro

Japanese

Taka Ueki-Sabine
Dr Barbara Hartley
Yoji Hashimoto

Administration

Mandy Pink
Hisako Umeoka

LINKS WITH SCHOOLS

Networks

A key objective for the School this year has been to establish links between our staff and teachers of Asian languages and studies. We used this great excuse to hold cocktail parties in Hobart and Launceston and were rewarded with meeting our colleagues in high schools, colleges and primary schools in Tasmania. Next year SALS will be keen to further these links through presentations in schools. We welcome enquiries!

Visits from Schools

Enthusiastic groups visited from St Mary's College in May, Burnie High School in August and Bicheno Primary School in November during organised tours of UTAS. The students experienced 'taster' classes and we hope went away with a clearer idea of the Asia-related options open to them at University.



EMAIL MATE SCHEME

In November Taka Ueki-Sabine set up an Email Mate Scheme to accompany the Japanese section's Language Exchange Program. Students in Tasmania will establish email links with 150 Japanese university students who will study at UTAS for 4-6 weeks during Feb-Mar 2008. The E-mates will get acquainted through email before the visit to Tasmania and then have the opportunity to meet up. For the UTAS students of Japanese, there is an added bonus as participation in the scheme will contribute to their overall assessment.

Future SALS newsletters – please email Mandy on sals.enquiries@utas.edu.au if you would prefer to receive newsletters by email, or if you wish to add others or remove yourself from our newsletter list. Comments welcome. Happy New Year to all!

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