

The Asian Edge, released at the end of each term, summarizes the main news and events of UBC's Department of Asian Studies.

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**a place of mind**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA



## DEPARTMENT NEWS

### The 10th Annual Yip So Man Wat Lecture



On October 15th, the Department of Asian Studies hosted our 10th Annual Yip So Man Wat Lecture. This year Professor Victor Mair of the University of Pennsylvania spoke on *Changing Language in China: The Evolution of Chinese and the Impact of the Internet*.

[View the full lecture online >>](#)

### 2014 John Howes Lecture in Japanese Studies



Our 3rd Annual John Howes Lecture was held on December 5th with guest speaker Dr. Laurel Rodd of the University of Colorado. This year, Dr. Rodd spoke on the *Translation, Transmission and Experiential Learning* of traditional Japanese poetry.

[View the full lecture online >>](#)

### Parampara: Master/Disciple Tradition in Indian Classical Music



## RECONNECT

### 2015 Asian Studies Careers Night



Interested in mentoring current students? Consider being a guest speaker at our **Annual Asian Studies Careers Night on February 3rd!** Please fill in the below survey and the department will be in contact with you shortly.

[Get Involved Survey >>](#)

### Add us on LinkedIn!



Join our Asian Studies LinkedIn Group. With over 100 members already, start reconnecting with other Asian Studies students and alumni today!

[LinkedIn Group >>](#)

The Department hosted a performance/discussion exploring the master/disciple relationship, with masters of the Sarod and Tabla, Pandit Alope Lahiri and Ustad Hashmat Ali Khan, respectively; and their sons and disciples Abhishek Lahiri and Akram Khan. The event was co-sponsored by the Department of Asian Studies and the Centre for India and South Asia Research at UBC, in cooperation with the Virasat Foundation.

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### **Making Music Religious: Kirtan, Qawwali, and Dharmic Geet Across Punjab**



The Department hosted Dr. Virinder Kalra of the University of Manchester for a lecture on the transformations of culture within Punjab under the strict, homogenizing influence of colonialism. Dr. Kalra explained the unique position of music within Punjab, specifically how music has been able to resist the tight constraints that colonial modernity tried to impose.

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### **Chinese Fun Night**



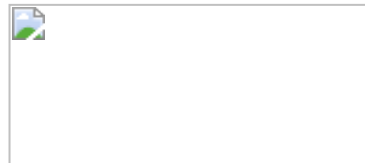
On October 6th, students in CHIN 101 & 111 got together for the annual Chinese Fun Night, organized by the Chinese language program at UBC. The night began with the xuesheng (students) bringing handmade business cards and family photos to exchange or share with other students, which they were asked to place in their 'passports'-booklets with instructions for three unique activities designed to improve students' ability to communicate in putonghua (Mandarin) while also building their confidence, a critical step in second language acquisition.

Follow us on  

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## **FACULTY & STAFF NEWS**

### **Dr. Slingerland's New MOOC Ends with Great Success.**

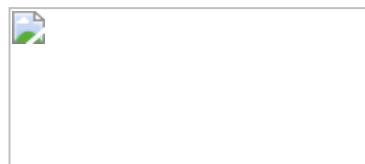


We talked to Dr. [Edward Slingerland](#) about his new Massive Open Online Course, [Foundations of Chinese Thought](#). The course offers an introduction to Warring States Chinese thought — one of the most exciting times for religious and philosophical thought ever.

[Our Interview with Dr. Slingerland >>](#)

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### **Sur's Ocean Edited by Dr. Ken Bryant**



Dr. Ken Bryant has released a new book through Harvard University Press. *Sur's Ocean: Poems from the Early Tradition* is a remarkable collection of Surdas' poetry.

[Details >>](#)

[Photos >>](#)

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### Video Messages for the Tohoku Residents in Japan



To reach out to the Tohoku residents in Japan who still face various challenges three years after the triple disaster hit the region in 2011, a group of instructors in the Japanese Language Program initiated a project to collect video messages from our current Japanese language students, alumni, faculty members and friends since last spring.

[Watch the messages online >>](#)

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### The Possibilities of Classical Japanese Literature and Cross-Cultural Harmonies



The Department of Asian Studies, in collaboration with the National Institute of Japanese Literature (NIJL), hosted a series of lectures on classical Japanese literature on the 26th of September. The event was divided into two parts, with the theme of the morning half being "**Heian Literature as Seen in Translation,**" and the afternoon featuring lectures on "**The Grammatology of Kanji and Kana.**"

[More details >>](#)

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### Casey Collins Awarded Khyentse Foundation Award



Casey Collins, one of our M.A. students, was awarded the fourth annual [Khyentse Foundation Award of Excellence in Buddhist Studies](#).

### Newly Tenured Professors



The Department recently celebrated a major milestone in the careers of three dynamic young colleagues: [Anne Murphy](#), [Adheesh Sathaye](#) and [Christopher Rea](#) were all tenured and promoted from Assistant to Associate Professor.

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### Maija is Back!



[Maija Norman](#), our Department Administrator, has officially returned from her maternity leave!

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### Lecturer of the Year Awards



Congratulations to Professors [Robert Chen](#) and [Ihhwa Kim](#) for being reconized as Lecturers of the Year! The two are the inaugural winners of the award, which was established this year as an in-house mechanism for official recognition of both teaching excellence and teaching innovation.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**Thursday, January 8th, 2015**

[Public Talk — Sei Shonagon Gets the Last Word](#)

**Friday, January 9th, 2015**

[Emotional Registers of the Kagero Diary](#)

**Wednesday, January 21st, 2015**

[Upcoming Screenings: "Project Fukushima!" & "The Nuclear Village"](#)

**Tuesday, February 3rd, 2015**

[2015 Annual Asian Studies Careers Night](#)

If you are interested in being a guest speaker please fill in our survey and you will be contacted shortly.

**Saturday, March 7th, 2015**

[2015 Japanese Speech Contest](#)

## MERCHANDISE

**Asian Studies Swag**



[Items and Prices >>](#)

## INTERVIEWS

**Kayla Black**



Kayla Black, B.A. 2014, did a two-semester exchange to Ewha Woman's University in South Korea. Kayla tells us about her experiences and take aways from her Go Global adventure.

[Interview >>](#)

**Melody Pan**



Melody Pan, B.A. 2014, most recently worked for Bandai Namco Studios Vancouver (the same company responsible for the Katamari Damacy franchise) doing translation and interpretation.

[Interview >>](#)

**Michael Zipursky**



Michael Zipursky, B.A. '04, established a design firm in Japan after graduating from UBC. We ask him about how Asian Studies has shaped his career trajectory.

[Interview >>](#)

## STUDENT NEWS

### 2014 Korean Speech Contest



With 49 contestants from across British Columbia — and from diverse backgrounds — the inaugural Korean Speech Contest was a massive success and an event we hope to continue annually.

[Winners and Photos >>](#)

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### Chinese Bridge Singing Contest

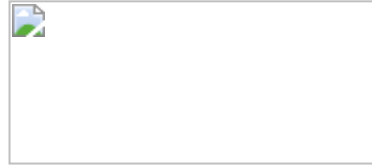


The BC "Chinese Bridge" Mandarin Singing Contest is one of the biggest annual events involving Chinese programs in the BC area. This year, 27 current and previous students of CHIN courses attended, of which 16 made it to the final round. In the final round of the contest, UBC students won ten out of the twelve prizes.

[Winners and Photos >>](#)

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### Intensive Chinese Program at Yunnan Normal University



[UBC Go Global](#) is offering students the opportunity to enroll in an intensive Chinese language program at Yunnan Normal from May through July 2015.



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