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

TOP STORIES

Buddhist Charitable Foundation Gives UBC $2.2 Million to Create Strategic Partnership
The six-year collaboration will support various types of academic research and cultural activities, including close to twenty collaborative projects such as conferences, cultural festivals, fellowships for graduate students and postdoctoral fellows, research periodicals, series of academic exchanges and courses on Buddhist Studies.

2016 Asian Studies Welcome Back Lunch
Come learn about the Asian Studies Experience and join the Asian Studies community on September 6th.

The "New" Asian Studies Major
We have revamped our major to be more flexible and achievable in the time frame students expect from their BAs!
Frontpage Re-design for asia.ubc.ca
In an effort to give each story more space, we made a slight change to our frontpage this summer.

Asian Studies is on Linkedin
With over 200 members already, start reconnecting with other Asian Studies alumni and students today!

INTERVIEWS

Ben Whaley - PhD Student
Ben Whaley was recently hired as an Assistant Professor of Japanese (tenure track) in the newly named School of Languages, Linguistics, Literatures and Cultures at the University of Calgary. We interviewed him about his experience as a student in our program.

Kaiqi Hua - Postdoc
Arriving from UC Berkeley, Dr. Kaiqi Hua will be teaching ASIA 301: Buddhism in

CedarBough Saeji - Postdoc
Meet Dr. CedarBough Saeji, the new instructor for our highly anticipated "K-
the Modern Era as one of our new Postdocs specializing in Buddhist studies.

"pop" course ASIA 327: Korean Popular Music in Context.

The Sheng Yen Education Foundation gives UBC Asian Studies $375,000 to create new Postdoctoral Fellowship in Chinese Buddhism.

The gift will be distributed over the next five years and will play a significant role in advancing Buddhist scholarship at the University. Asian Studies interviewed Jamie Yang, a representative of the Sheng Yen Education Foundation, about the gift and the foundation.

FEATURED COURSES

ASIA 310W
History of Hong Kong

ASIA 327
Korean Popular Music in Context

ASIA 371
Foundations of Chinese Thought
SPRING HIGHLIGHTS

2016 Lunar New Year Celebration
With the tradition of an opening lion dance, more than 250 student performers from different levels of CHIN, CNTO, and KORN classes participated in 18 different performances.

2016 John Howes Lecture in Japanese Studies
Guest Speaker Dr. Norma Field gave an enlightening lecture that revealed the devastating reality of the 2011 Fukushima nuclear disaster.

2016 Harjit Kaur Sidhu Memorial Program
On March 16th & 17th UBC gathered for its eighth annual celebration of Punjabi language and culture in BC.
ASIA 397 The Idea of India offered for the First Time this Summer

Despite the daunting challenging of teaching 4,000 years of Indian history, Dr. Harjot Oberoi, the instructor of ASIA 397, was very pleased to see high enrolments and such a positive response among UBC Students. Dr. Oberoi commented that "besides a core group of students from Asian Studies, the course has attracted students from Political Science, Sociology, International Relations and Sauder." It is very exciting to see a large variety of students participating in our newest South Asian course.

Digital Textualities in South Asia Symposium

The symposium brought together leading international scholars who are actively adopting and developing digital technologies for the study of South Asian textual cultures.

Cantonese Language Program in the News

On February 1st, the Vancouver Sun published an article that featured our new Cantonese Language Program titled 'Cantonese still thriving in Metro Vancouver despite wave of Mandarin-speaking immigrants.'
Asian Studies Careers Night
This year’s event was opened with a keynote by Canada’s Ambassador to China, Guy Saint-Jacques, and included a panel discussion featuring 4 alumni with over a decade each of experience living and working in Asia.

Symposium: Queer Transfigurations in Postwar Japanese Popular Culture
5 guest speakers from Australia, Japan and the U.S. were invited to present on their research on gender/sex/sexuality and/or queer studies in the area of Japanese popular culture.

2016 Asian Studies Graduate Conference
With fifteen presentations from Asian Studies graduate students, the annual conference was a great success!

A Journey with Sayuri Yoshinaga and Ry?ichi Sakamoto
On May 4th, one of our graduate students met with Japanese actress Sayuri Yoshinaga and composer Ry?ichi Sakamoto during their visit to UBC.

Building Community, One Conversation at a Time
Our Chinese Language program was selected as one of the main stories for UBC’s ‘Today’s Assignment’ campaign in the spring.

Japanese Rare Books Workshop
On February 5th, approximately sixty

David Graham Memorial Fund
David Graham was a friend of Asian
librarians, curators, artists, faculty members, graduate and undergraduate students, and independent scholars gathered in the IK Barber Learning Centre for a two-part workshop led by Professor Takahiro Sasaki of the Keio University Institute of Oriental Classics. Studies and an avid bibliophile, especially as concerns books on the arts of Japan and Korea. A fund has been set up in his memory that will be used to purchase print materials related to traditional visual and material art and architecture of Northeast Asia.

RESEARCH

Adheesh Sathaye - Book
Crossing the Lines of Caste: Visvamitra and the Construction of Brahmin Power in Hindu Mythology

Chris Rea - Book
The Age of Irreverence: a New History of Laughter in China

Bruce Fulton - Translation
The Human Jungle

STUDENT NEWS

Japanese Program Karaoke Night
Giving students a chance to showcase their Japanese language abilities while having fun.

The 28th Annual BC Japanese Speech Contest
Fifteen students from UBC were selected as finalists to participate in this year’s contest.
Cantonese Student Video Showcase: Class of 2015W
After nearly 8 months of hard work, the students of the first year of 'Beginning Cantonese' at UBC showcased their language skills in the format of a video competition on April 8, 2016.

2016 BC "Chinese Bridge" Mandarin Speech Contest
On Saturday March 19, 2016, the BC "Chinese Bridge" Mandarin Speech Contest for University Students was held at BCIT. Out of the 12 prizes in total, 7 of them were won by UBC students.

Documenting Punjabi Canada
Students in ASIA 475, "Documenting Punjabi Canada" have developed oral history projects based on interviews with members of the local Punjabi community. Several of the final projects can be viewed online.

NEW MERCHANDISE
Check out our new Asian Studies Merchandise! We recently ordered new sustainable water bottles, hoodies, portable battery packs, re-usable shopping bags and other awesome goodies.