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# The Update

*A bi-weekly roundup of news in the [Department of Asian Studies](#)  
for our Students, Faculty and Staff*



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## Take Japanese This Summer!

For those interested in a less intensive beginner Japanese course, consider taking [JAPN 100 \(923\)](#) as it spans the full 6-week term instead of the usual 3-week compressed format. This section has just been opened so there are plenty of seats available for immediate registration. There are also seats remaining in our 200-level and 300-level classes. Register today!

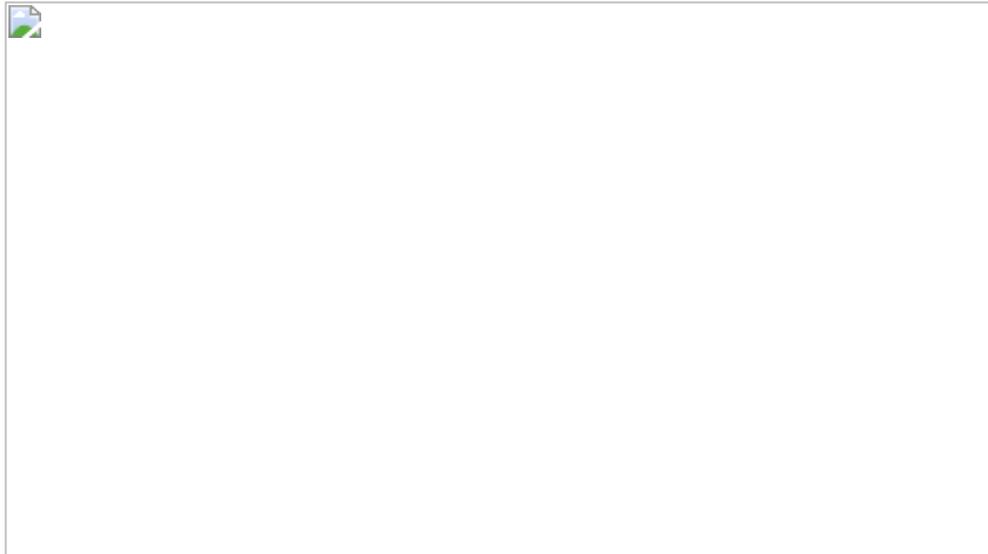


[Details>>](#)

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## Video: 2017 Yip So Man Wat Memorial Lecture

On March 15th, guest speaker Dr. Barbara Mittler, from the University of Heidelberg, gave a talk titled "Living the Cultural Revolution - Impact Events and the Making of Cultural Memory." The full lecture can now be streamed online.



[Watch the full lecture >>](#)

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## Professor Leo K. Shin Interviewed on OMNI Toronto

Professor Shin was interviewed on the importance of studying the history of Hong Kong. The interview is in Cantonese.



[Watch the full interview here>>](#)

## National Japanese Speech Contest

The National Japanese Speech Contest was held at in the Asian Centre Auditorium on March 18. It was attended by Consul General Asako Okai, and filmed for television by TV Japan, airing three times on March 24 and 25. Dr. Stefania Burk, who also served as a judge, gave the welcoming remarks to 25 contestants, first-place winners in speech contests from 7 regions across Canada (BC, Alberta, Mannitoba, Ontario, Atlantic, Quebec and Ottawa) on behalf of the Dean's Office and the Department of Asian Studies.

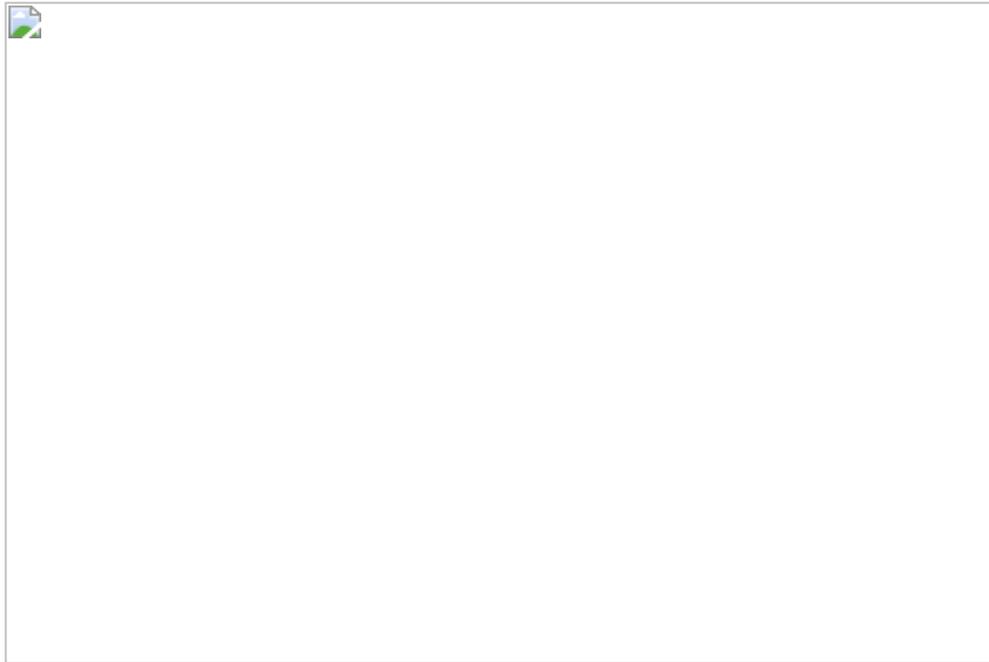


*All participants and judges*

Four top winners from the BC contest, all UBC students, participated, and three of them won prizes, including the Grand Prize! They were:

Jack Hwang, Intermediate Category 2nd Place  
Jeremy Sit, Open Category 1st Place  
Cynthia Carter, Advanced Category 1st Place and Grand Prize

Congratulations to all, and many thanks to the instructors who worked tirelessly to coach and support these students.



*Prize winners and judges*

A cultural and educational presentation of tea ceremony in the Omotesenke style was presented by Dr. Nick Hall together with his teacher, Yukiko Basley, and a group of her students including Selina Jones, a fourth-year UBC History major.

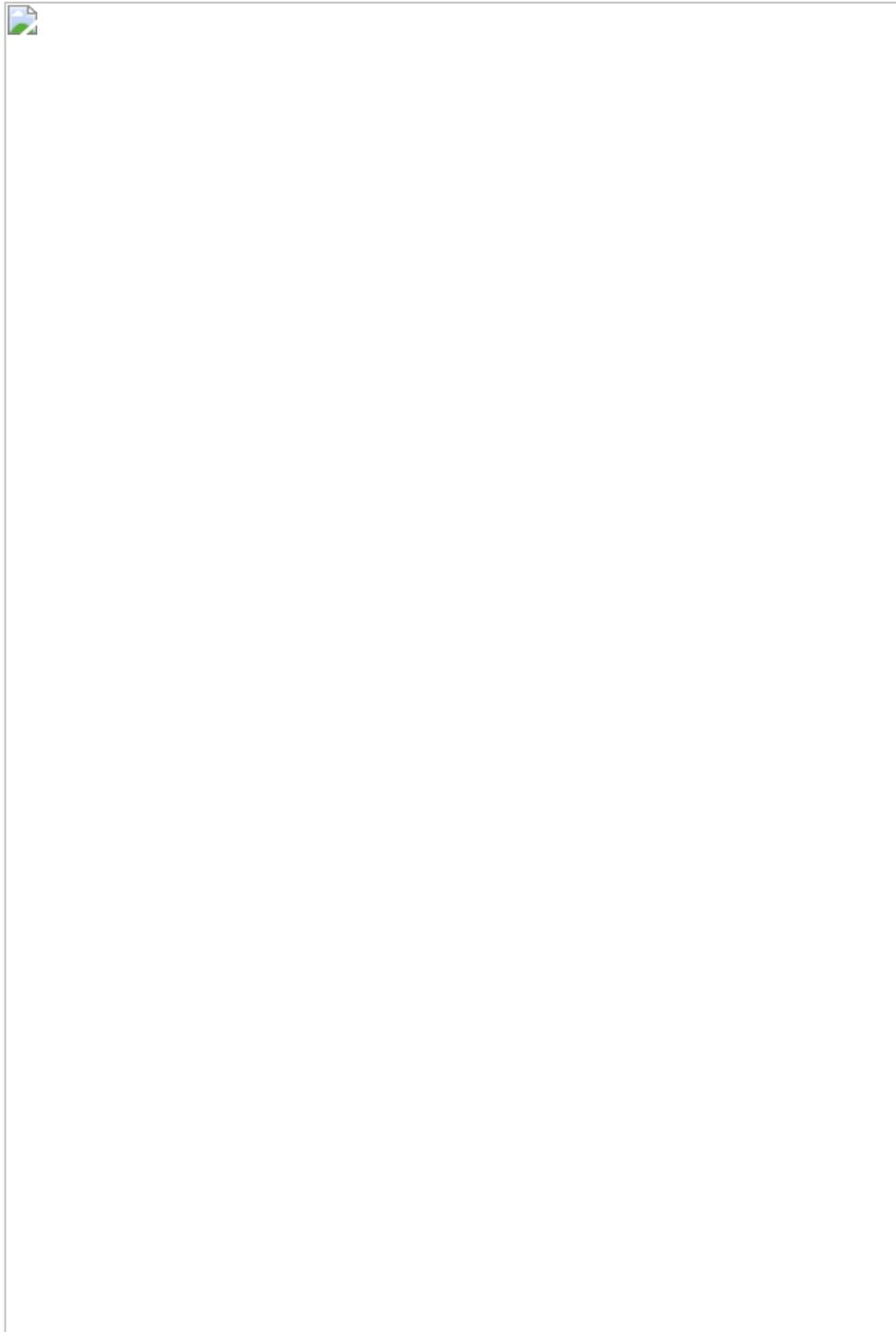
Instructors from the Japanese Program and student volunteers worked very hard to prepare for and run the contest. Thanks to their efforts, it went off without a hitch, and was an enjoyable event for all.

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## **Ghost in the Shell: Movie and Critique with an Expert**

On Tuesday, April 11<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Yuki Ohsawa and the Department of Asian Studies will be organizing an informal outing to see the new *Ghost in the Shell* remake in theatres. Following the film, we will discuss what we loved or hated about it, and how accurate it was to the 1995 cult classic over dinner. As the current Instructor of ASIA 326 Critical Approaches to Manga and Anime, Dr. Ohsawa will be full interesting insights.

If you would like to participate, please send an email to our Communications and Events Coordinator, Oliver Mann, at [oliver.mann@ubc.ca](mailto:oliver.mann@ubc.ca) by 12pm on April 6<sup>th</sup>. As seating will most likely be reserved, we will need to coordinate the purchase of tickets in advance.



Tentative Plan:

**Tuesday, April 11th, 2017 (Cheap movie Tuesdays!)**

5:30pm, exact screen times will not be available until April 6<sup>th</sup>.  
Scotiabank Theatre Vancouver, 900 Burrard St, Vancouver

**Price:** All attendees will be expected to pay for their own movie ticket, food and drinks.

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## **Asian Studies Language Learning and Teaching Workshop Series: Speaking and Listening**

Two workshops will be presented: Engaging Students in Speaking Tasks using Technology & Listening Comprehension in Second Language Teaching and Learning.

**Friday, April 28, 2017**

12:30-2:00 &amp; 2:00-3:30

Room 604, Asian Centre (1871 West Mall)

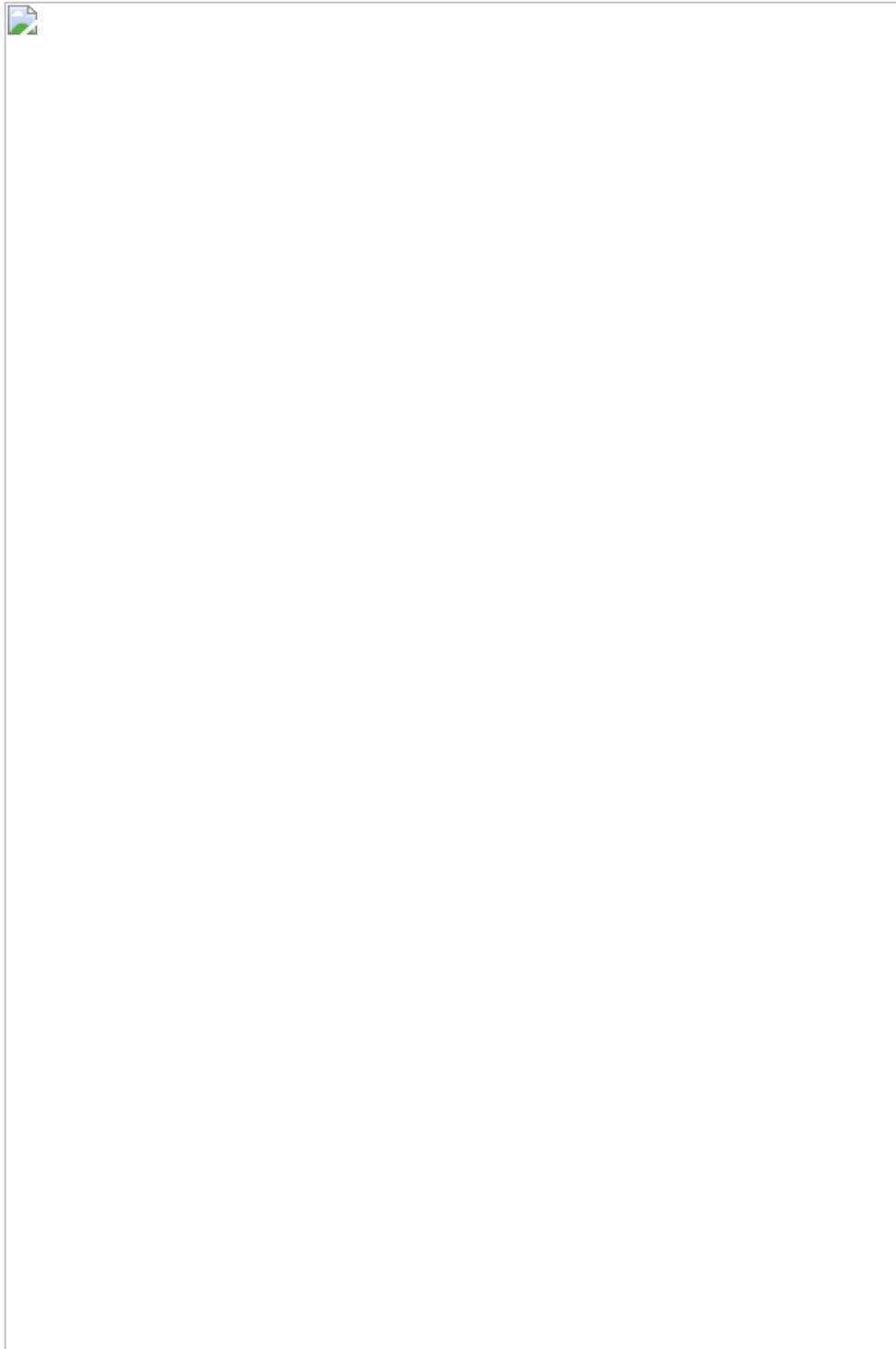
Light refreshments will be provided.

RSVP by Apr. 24 midnight to [qian.wang@ubc.ca](mailto:qian.wang@ubc.ca)[See the full program here>>](#)

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**The 2017 Harjit Kaur Sidhu Memorial Program**

The Harjit Kaur Sidhu Memorial Program will take place later than normal this year, in association with an Arts-Based Workshop with the Peter Wall Institute for Advanced Studies. The Workshop will take place May 2-4 at UBC, with a performance of works-in-progress at the Dorothy Somerset Theatre on May 7, with two performance specialists from India: Sohil Bhatia (a young Delhi/Bangalore-based artist) and Samuel John (an established theatre activist from Indian Punjab who was our guest for the Sidhu program in 2015). Other participants include our own Ph.D. students Kiran Sunar and Ranbir Johal, as well as other performance professionals and artists from the BC South Asian Canadian community. We will also work with George Belliveau, from the Department of Education, who specializes in the theatre education and theatre research creation. The Sidhu Program will follow by one week, with a performance on May 13 evening in Delta featuring two short plays with Samuel John and selections from the Workshop (to be determined after the workshop).



*Samuel John*

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## **A Walk in the Night with Zhuangzi, Singing Songs of the South**

The "Fan wu liu xing" (All things flow into form) is a Warring States manuscript now stored at the Shanghai Museum. Taking a cue from this text, particularly the discussion surrounding a key formulation about "the mind prevailing over the mind," this paper argues for a new reading of a difficult passage in Zhuangzi "Da zongshi" (The great and venerable teacher), showing that it not only parallels the description of a spirit journey in "Yuanyou" (Far roaming) of the Songs of the South, but is also a detailed account of the different stages of the process of self-cultivation. Such an interpretation situates the newly recovered "Fan wu liu xing" in the context of Pre-Qin intellectual history, cuts across conventional boundaries of Confucianism

versus Daoism and poetry versus philosophy, and ultimately reminds us that the act of reading is never insulated from the linguistic details of the text.



**Wednesday, May 17, 2017**

3pm - 5pm

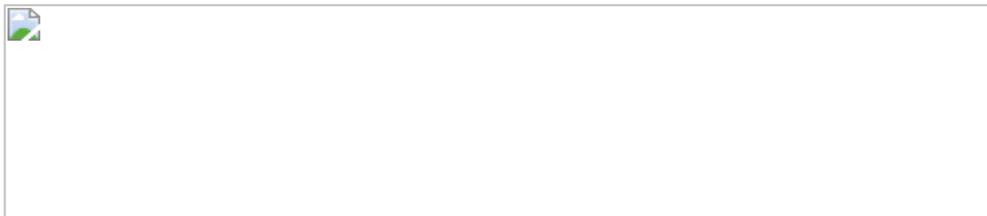
Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

With speaker Kuan-yun HUANG (Tsing Hua University, Taiwan).

[Details >>](#)

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## Student Opportunities



[A new course being offered during Winter Term 1 is HIST: 105 – Global Issues in Historical Perspective. This course, taught by Tristan R. Grunow, explores The Pacific War in History & Film.](#)

[Call for Applications: Post-Graduate Research Fellows 2017-2018 offers up to three Post-Graduate Research Fellowships valued at \\$40,000 for Master's graduates and \\$42,000 for PhD graduates for a one-year non-renewable term. Apply by April 7th, 2017.](#)

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## On-Campus Events

**March 13th – May 31st, 2017****New Exhibition: Double Exposure**

Asian Centre (1871 West Mall) & Rare Books and Special Collections (1961 East Mall)

**Wednesday, April 12th, 2017****Into the Silicon Valley North: Film Screening and Panel Discussion**

4-7pm

Room 120, C.K. Choi Building

**Off-Campus Events****April 6th - April 23rd****Raymond Pai performing in a full production Broadway musical "Anything Goes"**

735 Eighth Ave, New Westminster, BC V3M 2R2

**Monday, April 10th, 2017****Made in Italy or Made in China? A Public Lecture with Dr. Gaoheng Zhang**

6pm

UBC Robson Square Theatre, 800 Robson St, Vancouver

Registration is required. RSVP at [info@dantesocietybc.ca](mailto:info@dantesocietybc.ca).

**Meet Our Students - Gurinder Mann - MA Student  
in Punjabi Language and Literature**** Tell us a little about yourself, your background and how you became interested in Asian Studies?**

I was born and raised in England, and completed my Bachelor's at UBC in 2004. Although I majored in Psychology, my interest in South Asian Studies and Language led to completing a significant number of credits in the field. I considered graduate studies in the field back then, but unfortunately, there was not a faculty member in my area of interest at UBC.

Subsequent to earning my undergraduate degree, I spent ten years working in the non-profit sector, my most recent position being the Executive Director of the CERA Society, a community justice organization serving the Tri-Cities and New Westminster, a position I continue to hold. Additionally, I spent six years working in the field of intelligence for the Combined Forces Special Enforcement Unit (CFSEU-BC), formerly known as the Organized Crime Agency of BC. My interest in justice and law led to earning a Master's in Applied Legal Studies from SFU as well.

I consider myself immensely fortunate to have had the professional opportunities that I have had over the past decade, however, my greatest passion has been studying South Asian Studies at UBC, which is why I have chosen to return to UBC to pursue this.

**Why did you choose the Asian Studies program at UBC? Was there an aspect of the program or location that was particularly attractive to you compared to other programs in Canada or internationally?**

There are a number of reasons why I chose UBC to pursue my studies, the primary of which was the opportunity to work with Dr. Anne Murphy, who is an outstanding Professor, and immensely knowledgeable in South Asian Studies. In addition, at UBC's Asian Studies Department, you are offered the rare opportunity to learn from incredible Professors that possess great expertise in various subjects related to Asia.

Being from England, I grew up surrounded by academic campuses, however, one thing I can attest to is that UBC is the most beautiful campus that I have come across. Few campuses can boast having the picturesque view of the mountains complimented with stunning beaches. I remember when a cousin from the UK came to visit me once, I took him to Spanish Banks, and he couldn't believe the setting of our university.

Finally, since I completed my Bachelor's degree here, I possess a special connection with UBC, as it's a place where I have great memories, which encouraged me to come back to make some more!

### **As someone who is still deciding their thesis topic, what do you hope to research and what is the process of confirming your topic?**

Choosing a thesis topic is a major decision, because not only will it be a topic on which you spend an extensive amount of your time during your degree, but it shall also guide your academic direction in the future, so the magnitude of this decision is quite large. Considering the amount of time I shall dedicate to this, I will certainly choose something that ignites my interest, and something that I would be curious to research.

My hope is to conduct research on a topic related to Punjabi language and literature. I shall be aiming to choose a topic that has been discussed in the academic arena, yet shall allow me to continue the discussion and add something new to the conversation. In confirming my topic I shall work closely with my supervisor, who will guide me through the process.

### **As a graduate student, what are your main activities?**

The primary activities are of course completing your coursework and thesis. Graduate level courses do entail a fair amount of reading and research, which ends up being the bulk of what you do. In contrast to undergraduate level courses, which often conclude with a final exam, graduate study involves more writing of papers.

Some students like me decide to also become a Teaching Assistant as well. I spent the previous year being the TA for Punjabi 102 and 200; I found the experience to be very positive, and the students to be very pleasant. Activities involve making quizzes, exams, and assignments, and instructing classes at the request of the Instructor.

### **What has been the most memorable or impactful moment of your graduate experience?**

Although the entire experience thus far has been both enjoyable and memorable, there are two moments that I would share. One has been the sense of comradery with both the graduate students and the faculty. Spending time with fellow students and faculty in the Department has created a sense of family, which certainly enhances the academic experience. Secondly, after recently completing my TA duties for the Punjabi classes I was assigned to, I had the opportunity to read the evaluations. I didn't know what to expect, but I was very touched and appreciative at what the students had to say, which certainly encouraged me to pursue future TA positions.

### **What are your goals (career or academic) once you've completed the program? And how is our program helping you achieve them?**

My passion is South Asian Studies, and I would be delighted to have the opportunity to instruct in the field. I am hopeful that my graduate studies at UBC shall support me in pursuing that desire. I am fortunate that the learning environment in the Asian Studies Department is very conducive to building your academic skills. Faculty in the Department not only support you in becoming better scholars, but guide you in expanding your academic knowledge, through conferences, travel or other endeavors that shall reinforce your educational skillset and better prepare you for a future in instruction.

### **Can you give any advice to new students in our program or for students considering applying to it?**

I strongly believe that life is as much about the journey as it is about the goal, and the journey of a student in the Asian Studies Department shall not only allow you to become a better student, but shall offer you some great opportunities and fine memories along the way.

## **We Welcome your Submissions**

If you have a story that you would like featured in our biweekly update please submit your story [here](#) and it could be featured in the next Update!

## **Missed an Update?**

All past newsletters may be found [here](#).



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