

If you are having difficulty viewing this email properly, please click here:
[View Online](#)

Thursday, November 24, 2016

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Printable Version](#) | [Send this to a friend](#)

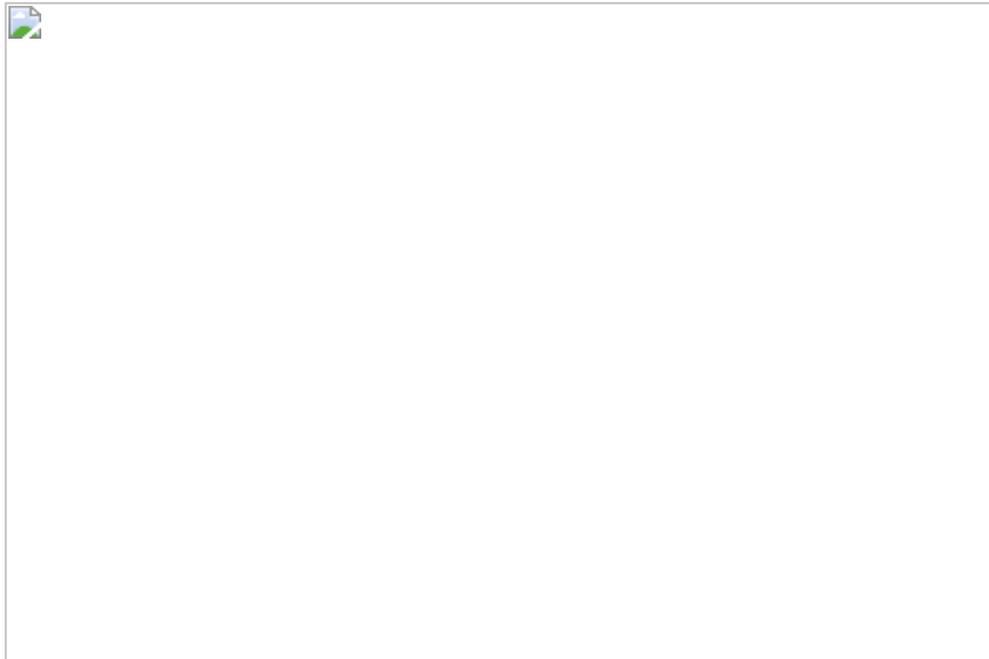
The Update

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



Office Closed for Winter Break

The Asian Studies office will be closed from December 23rd to January 2nd. This will be the last Update in December. Happy holidays and New Year!



Korean Studies Visiting Scholar Seminar

Speaker: Professor Bong Nam Kim (Yeungnam University)

Thursday, December 8th, 2016

3pm – 6pm

Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

Open to the public. All are welcome.

This seminar will be instructed in Korean.

[Details >>](#)

Okinoshima: A Field Visit Report With Dr. Christina Laffin

From October to November 2015, [Professor Christina Laffin](#) and four graduate students of Japanese literature travelled to the remote islands of Okinoshima in Shimane Prefecture to present an exhibit, workshop, and series of lectures aimed at making local cultural heritage more accessible. This presentation will offer an explanation and visual introduction into our journey through the Dozen Islands of Okinoshima while inviting us to consider the global and national issues Japan is currently facing.



Wednesday, January 25th, 2016

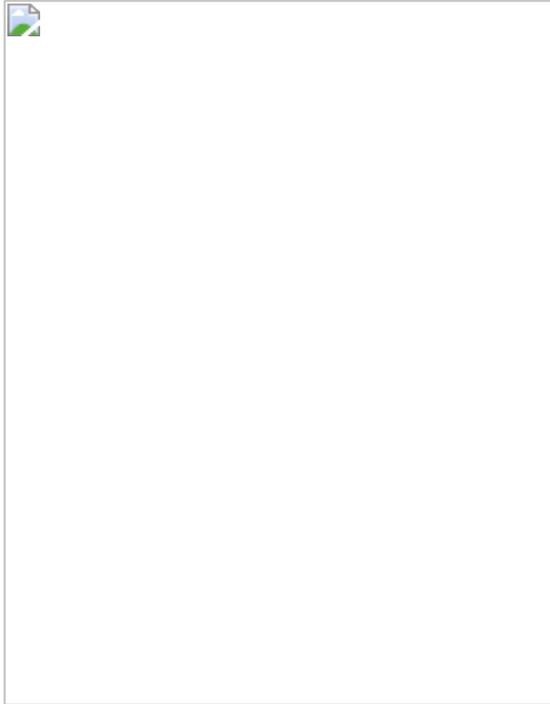
12:20pm – 1:30pm

Room 604, Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

[Details >>](#)

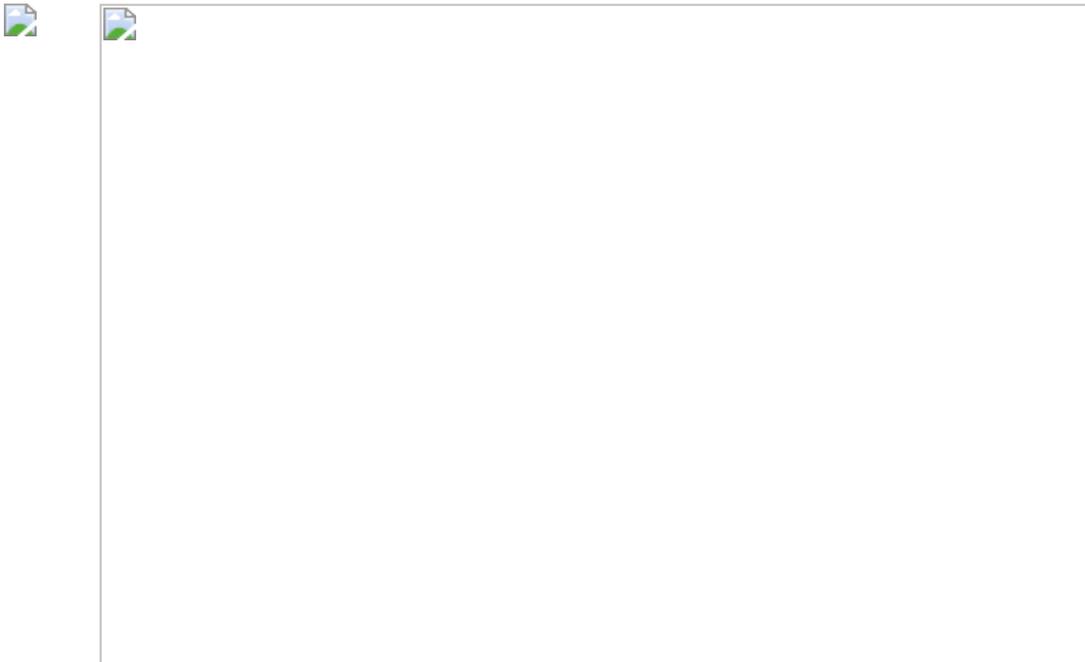
Congratulations to Dr. Sunera Thobani for Receiving the CAUT Sarah Shorten Award!

The Council of the Canadian Association of University Teachers has awarded [Dr. Sunera Thobani](#) with The Sarah Shorten Award. This award was established in 1990 in honour of Sarah Shorten, who served as Vice-President (1982-83) and two terms as President of CAUT (1983-84 & 1984-85), to recognize outstanding achievements in the promotion of the advancement of women in Canadian universities and colleges. The CAUT highlighted Dr. Thobani's longstanding commitment to improving the status and working conditions of women at the local, regional and national levels has led to a legacy of service, advocacy and accomplishments that make her superbly suited to receive the Award.



2016 BC “Chinese Bridge” Mandarin Singing Contest

On Saturday, November 19, 2016, the BC “Chinese Bridge” Mandarin Singing Contest for University Students was held at UBC. About 60 students from eight post-secondary institutions across BC participated in the contest. Out of the 18 prizes in total, UBC students won 9 of them. Congratulations to all the prize winners and every UBC student who participated in the contest! All of the instructors in the Chinese Language Program are proud of you! A big thank you also goes to our CHIN course instructors and TAs, who have put in tremendous effort in promoting the contest and helping students in their preparation.

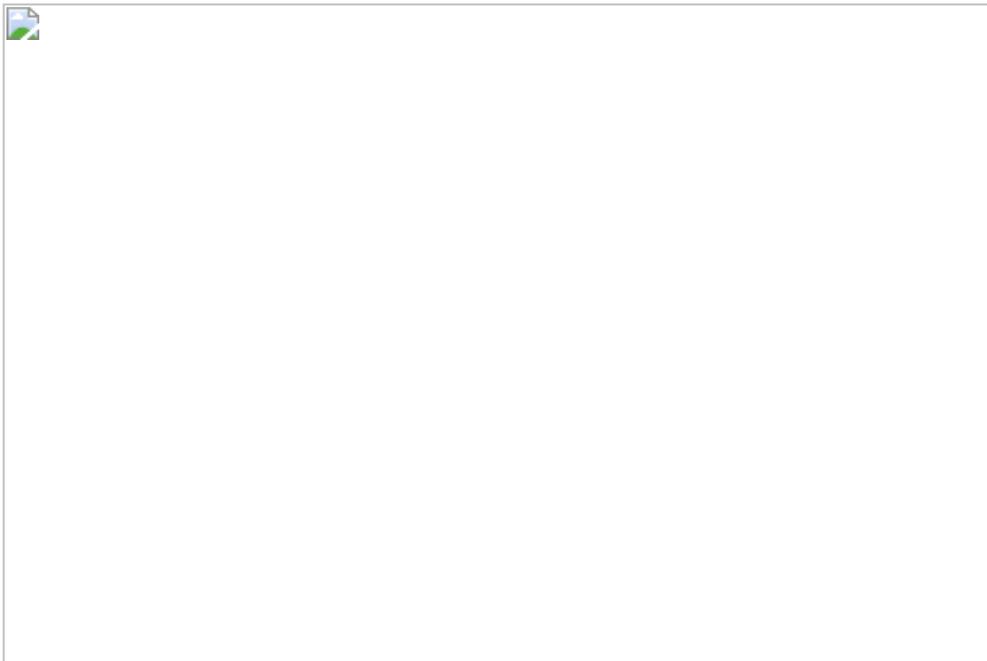


[Results and more photos >>](#)

Screening of *Yellowing* 亂世備忘 (2016)

Some 250 campus and community members showed up on the rainy evening of November 22 at the Frederic Wood Theatre for a screening of *Yellowing*, a mesmerizing documentary about the 2014 Umbrella Movement of Hong Kong. The screening was followed by a conversation with Director Chan Tze Woon, who joined the audience via skype from Taiwan, where he was attending the Golden Horse Film Festival and Awards, for which his film had been nominated for "Best Documentary."

Photos by Ma Zoudan



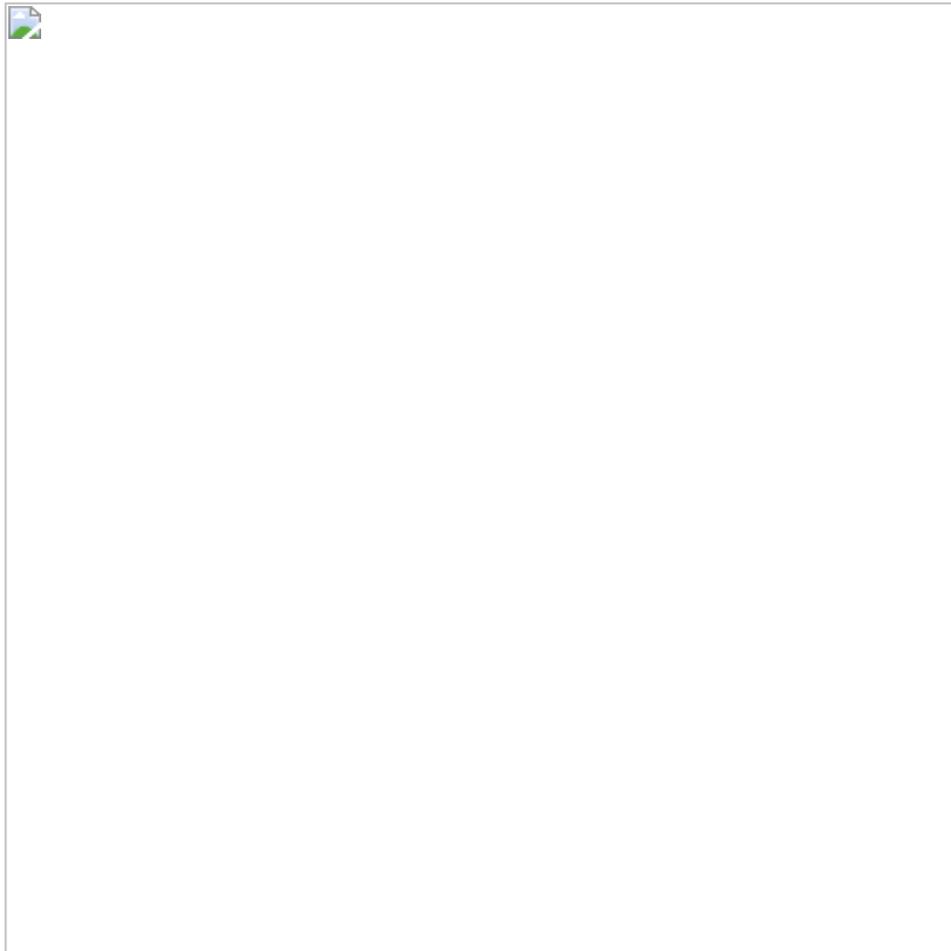
Exeter hosts Power of the Written Word Symposium Featuring Dr. Chris Rea

On Saturday, November 26th, Exonians and their guests were welcomed back to Exeter College for a day of talks focused on the Power of the Written Word. [Dr. Christopher Rea](#), who had come over especially from the University of British Columbia, then spoke very eloquently on the illustrious writing of Old Member Qian Zhong Shu (1935, BLitt). Listen to his address [here](#).



Japanese Language Exchange Table End-of-term Party

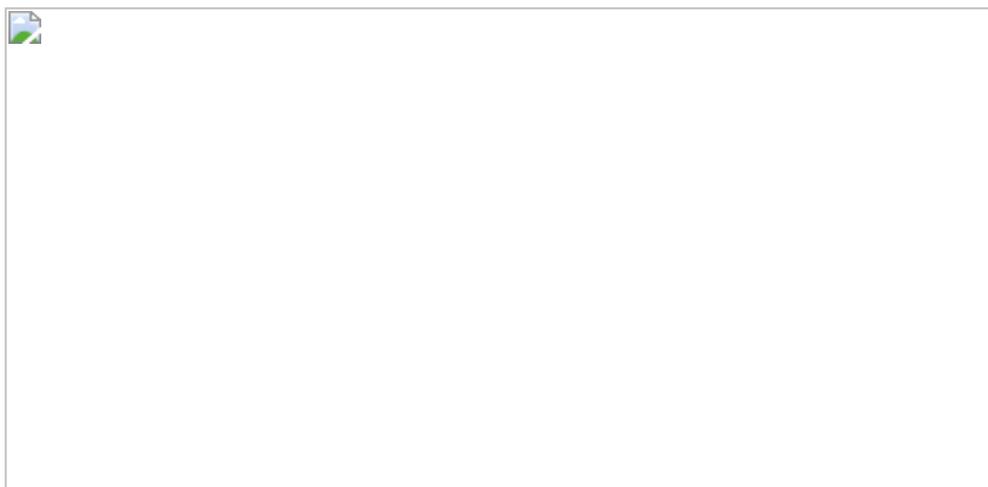
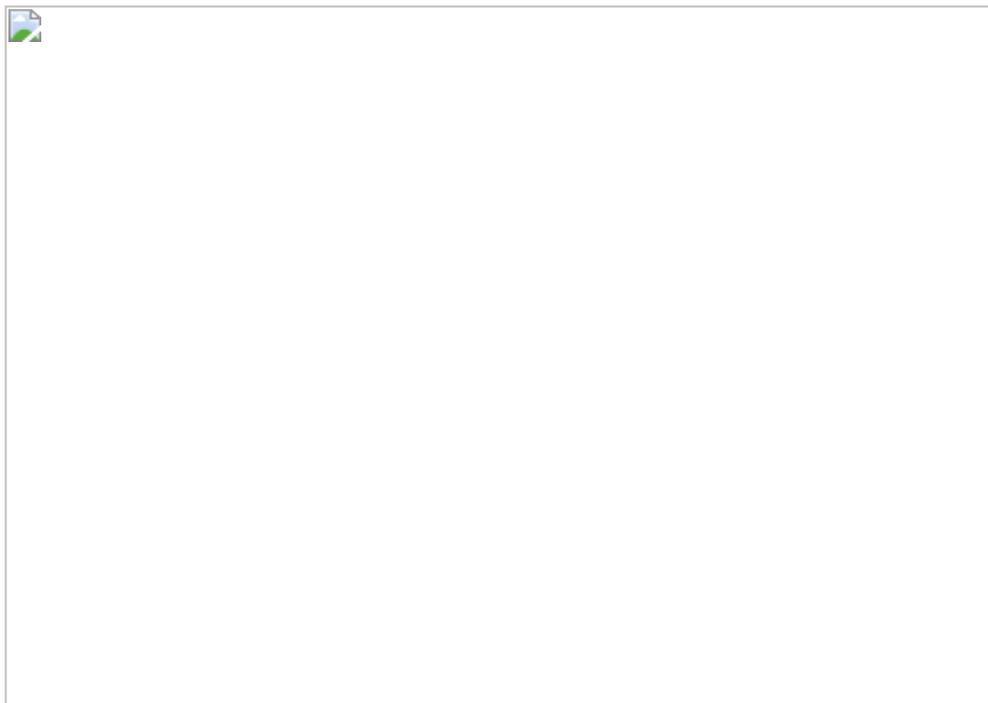
On December 2nd the Japanese Language Exchange Table held its end of term party in the Asian Centre auditorium. It was attended by UBC's Japanese language students of all levels, as well as the Japanese language instructors and Ritsumeikan students. There were games with challenges in Japanese and English, videos, snacks, and of course the highly anticipated award ceremony for the most frequent participants! See you all again next term.



Asian-Language Book Club Events Recap

The Asian Library joined forces with UBC Alumni to successfully launch two Asian-language book clubs this fall. Each book club offered a “meet and greet” session in October followed by a book discussion in November.

The Chinese book club featured Dr. Laifong Leung’s new book *History of Literary Interactions between China and Canada* while the Japanese book club chose Murakami Haruki’s short story *Nemuri*. Both book clubs attracted a wide range of participants including UBC students and staff, alumni, and native speakers from the local Chinese and Japanese Canadian communities. These events opened up a perfect opportunity for them to form ties with others in their respective literary communities. Asian Library plans to hold similar events in these and other Asian languages in the future.



Student Opportunities



[Yokohama IUC 10-Month Program](http://www.stanford.edu/dept/IUC): The Inter-University Centre for Japanese Language Studies (<http://www.stanford.edu/dept/IUC>) is the leading institution for training graduate students in Japanese and equipping them for further research. UBC is a member of the consortium, which enables a reduced tuition and better access to funding. The deadline for the ten-month program is December 9 if you wish to be considered for a Nippon Foundation fellowship. Those interested in applying are encouraged to contact Dr. Christina Laffin at christina.laffin@ubc.ca.

[Submit your papers to the UBC Journal of International Affairs. The submission deadline is December 23rd 2016.](#)

[Submissions for the 2017 Edition of the UBC Journal of Political Studies are now open. Deadline is December 23, 2016](#)

[Call For Papers North American Taiwan Studies Association \(NATSA\) 2017 Annual Conference deadline is December 31, 2016.](#)

[UBC's Outside-In:International Photojournal is now accepting written and photo submissions! The theme this year is "Global Crisis" and the deadline for submission is January 6, 2016.](#)

[The deadline for 2017 BC Japanese Speech Contest is Monday, February 6, 2017 at 5pm.](#)

[The Asian Conference on Education & International Development 2017 theme is "Educating for Change." Call for Papers deadline is from Sunday, March 26 to Wednesday, March 29 2017](#)

[For September 2017, the Department of Pacific and Asian Studies at the University of Victoria, Canada, welcomes applications for postgraduate students to work on the themes and subjects listed here. Apply soon!](#)

On-Campus Events

Wednesday, January 11, 2017

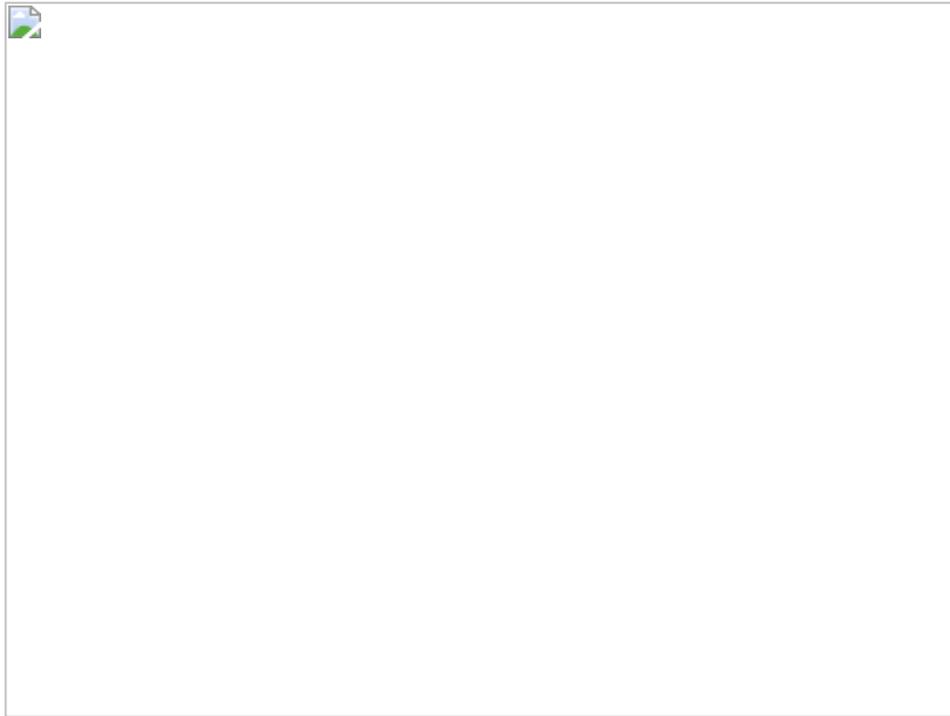
[The Writing Center as a Globalized Pedagogy: A Case Study of an Internationalized University in Japan](#)

12:30pm - 1pm

Room 604 at the Asian Centre, 1871 West Mall

Alumni Spotlight- Nick Angiers BA '08

The Alumni Spotlight is an interview series where we interview Asia Studies alumni about their career paths, how they became interested in Asian Studies and for any advice that would be useful to our students. This interview features Nick Angiers, BA '08 in Chinese language. He is currently an advisor at a private high school for students from China and Taiwan.



Tell us a little about yourself, your background and how you became interested in Asian Studies?

I grew up in a tiny town in the Ottawa Valley, and was never exposed to Asian culture of any kind until I moved to Vancouver at the age of 20. Eventually I took a Chinese language class, and, when I got a taste of the four tones, the complex but logical characters, and weird grammar, I was hooked from day one.

While a student, was there anything you did to get ahead with your career? Or anything that you would recommend that other students do?

In China you'll get lots of opportunities to do random work; I did translation, hosted events, judged for English competitions, had a brief appearance in a Jackie Chan movie, and so on. For fresh grads looking to get some workplace experience, China is a great place to jumpstart your career.

How did you get your first "adult" job after graduating? Was it a simple transition?

After doing enough random hosting "gigs" I was eventually invited to host full-time for an independent American TV station based in China. It was a lot of work and didn't pay much, but I had almost complete creative control over my production, writing and editing. I also got offers for more normal but boring jobs, so I guess it was just a matter of time.

After your first job, how did your career progress and what are you currently doing?

I later became a freelance host, mostly doing CCTV shows and events, while continuing with translation and proofreading. I eventually had enough work on both ends that I had to choose one, so I went with translation, as it was more consistent and I didn't have to be away from home so much. I've been back in Canada now and am currently an advisor at a private high school, for students from China and Taiwan. I've also been designing tabletop games for learning and practicing Chinese, and that's something I think is worth pursuing.

What do you enjoy about your current job? What are the challenges?

I like advising students because I actually get to care about them and their futures. I also get to speak Chinese quite frequently, and got to learn how to talk about things I never had before. Some of the students can be problematic, though.

Are there opportunities for recent graduates in your industry? What does a typical entry-level position entail?

If you're of Chinese ethnicity Mandarin is an asset, if you're not and learned Chinese from scratch it's a huge advantage, because you can represent the non-Chinese population while still being able to communicate with Chinese clients. It's an office job, and I like the consistency, but I still get to go to China once or twice a year to attend education fairs.

Has learning an Asian language helped you in your personal or professional life? What tips do you have for students who are keen to play the "language card" in their career development?

Mandarin has not only helped in my personal and professional lives, it has become a major and essential part of them. If you want to add Chinese to your resume, I suggest two years of fundamental language study in Canada, then another two years of concentrated study in China. So it's a significant time investment, but if you really like Chinese and think it suits you, then go for it. Learning a new language, especially one as different from English as Chinese, will forever change the way you look at the world.

Do you have any other advice that you would like to impart to students and/or recent graduates?

Meet-ups are a good new resource where you can practice speaking Chinese for free. Vancouver in general is a great place to make friends who will help you with your Mandarin. Watch movies and all that stuff, but most importantly, speak it, a lot. I had a part-time job where I talked to random Mandarin-speaking customers using the few dozen words I knew, but I progressed quickly because of that. And learn Chinese characters, because they're one of the coolest parts of the language.

[Read more alumni interviews >>](#)

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](#).



[Subscribe](#) | [Unsubscribe](#) | [Send this to a friend](#)

asia.ubc.ca

1871 West Mall
#607
Vancouver, British Columbia
Canada
V6T 1Z3