
It would not be inaccurate or exaggerated to state that the Department of Asian Languages and Literature, by way of the range of activities that constitute its core mission, is as involved in matters of diversity as any academic unit at the University of Washington. This unit is a nationally and internationally renowned department engaged in teaching, research, and service with regard to representative languages and literatures of East, South, Southeast, and Central Asia. The Department places particular emphasis on treating Asian languages and literatures in a broad humanistic context, taking care to examine them with reference to the cultures and cultural traditions within which they exist and have developed. The Department seeks to achieve an effective balance among its various activities. Through its language classes, it seeks to inculcate in students, both undergraduate and graduate, advanced abilities to utilize Asian languages for a multiplicity of purposes in a rapidly changing world. Through its courses on literature, culture, and civilization, the Department seeks to spread awareness of the contributions of Asia to the literary and cultural traditions of the world as a whole. And through its research, in areas as far-ranging as literature, linguistics, language pedagogy, philology, religion, epigraphy and paleography, and cultural studies, it attempts to increase knowledge about a geographical region that includes approximately forty percent of the world's population.

In order to carry out its mission, the Department draws upon and serves a diverse population of people of different cultural and national backgrounds. These include foreign nationals from around the world, and particularly Asian countries, newly naturalized American citizens or permanent residents of foreign birth, and native born American citizens of diverse cultural heritages, but with heavy representation from various Asian-American communities. Of these, the Japanese-American, Korean-American, Chinese-American, Vietnamese-American, Indian-American, Pakistani-American, Indonesian-American and Thai-American communities are particularly well represented.

2. Student Access

There are several activities that the Department conducts to promote student access to its courses and activities. These include the following:

- Participation in student fairs designed to familiarize students with the activities of different departments
- Cooperation with such units on campus as International Programs in developing and encouraging participation in international study-abroad programs and exchanges
• Sponsoring informational meetings intended for majors and potential meetings so as to inform students of the advantages of majoring in Asian Languages and Literature

• Working cooperatively with units such as the Jackson School, the Simpson Center for the Humanities, and programs in both Comparative Literature and Comparative Religion to design new courses that serve to familiarize students with the breadth and diversity of Asian cultures and civilizations. An example of such a course is Humanities 101, intended for entering first-quarter freshman, team-taught by faculty from Asian Languages and Comparative Literature, which incorporated a substantial amount of material dealing with Asian literature and culture into its curriculum.

• Redesigning and updating the Department's webpage so as to make it much easier for students to obtain information about the Department's courses and activities. As a result of this redesign, the number of monthly "hits" on the webpage has increased exponentially.

3. **Relationships with External Communities.**

The Department of Asian Languages and Literature operates in a complex network of relationships, at the local, national, and international levels, with numerous and diverse external constituencies. Some of these constituencies are primarily academic in nature, while others are more broadly cultural. A sample listing of such relationships includes the following:

• The creation, with the support of local communities, of endowments or other funds to support the study of Asian languages and literature. Examples of these include the Tatsumi scholarship for the study of Japanese language and the Yen Fu fund for the study of Chinese language.

• The organization of cultural events at the UW, under the sponsorship of governments of Asian nations, pertaining to Asian languages and cultures. Presentations in the Department, sponsored by the Consulate General of Japan, on such matters as calligraphy and Noh drama.

• Co-sponsorship of a series of Japanese films, together with Hyogo Prefecture in Japan, and held at the UW.

• Holding of lunches for prominent members of local Asian communities to discuss ways to improve and extend interactions between the Department and these Asian communities.

• Holding of lectures and lecture series to which members of local Asian-American communities have been particularly encouraged to attend. Prominent among such lectures are the Andrew Markus Memorial Lecturer, bringing internationally renowned scholars in the area of Asian Languages and Literature to the UW, and the Distinguished Faculty Lecture in Asian Languages and Literature.

• Co-sponsorship, along with other units at the UW and other local cultural institutions (e.g. Seattle Asian Art Museum) of exhibits of Asian art. Often Asian L&L give lectures relating to the topics of such exhibitions.

• Beginning in Spring Quarter 2004, an annual Visiting Scholars program will be instituted, through which the Department will bring to the UW senior and
renowned scholars of Japanese literature from Japanese universities to co-teach seminars along with UW faculty.

4. Staff and Faculty.
In AY 2003-04, the Department had an aggregate of 30 faculty members. Of this aggregate, a robust percentage were of diverse national origin. This diversity includes members born and raised in Japan (including Okinawa), Korean, the PRC, Taiwan, Hong Kong, India, and Israel. The permanent staff of the Department consists of four positions, of which three are currently filled. The breadth of background in the faculty and staff enriches the intellectual life of the Department, as it exposes students to a diversity of approaches and outlooks towards the study of Asian languages and cultures.

Some noteworthy points about Asian L&L faculty and staff with regard to staff and faculty are the following:

- The last two faculty members to be tenured are female. This has helped the Department to increase the representation of women at the senior level.
- The last faculty member to be promoted to (full) Professor was female.
- The Department has during the past year extended Affiliate Professor status to the distinguished Chinese historian Hok-lam Chan, previously of the UW and Chair of the History Department at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, thereby allowing its students to benefit from contact with one of the world's most distinguished historians of China.

5. Curriculum and Research
It would not be unfair to state that ALL of the teaching and research conducted by faculty and students in the Department of Asian Languages and Literature contributes the diversity of the institution, in the sense that it is all related to a broad diversity of cultures, civilizations, and languages. This coverage extends to approximately 40% of the world's population. The Department teaches at both the undergraduate and graduate level, courses on the languages, cultures, and literatures of East, South, Southeast, and Central Asia. Languages taught on a regular basis include Japanese (both modern and classical), Chinese (both modern and classical), Korean, Vietnamese, Indonesian, Thai, Hindi, Urdu, Sanskrit, Pali, and Prakrit. Other Asian languages, including Manchu, Mongolian, and Punjabi, have been taught on a less regular basis. Faculty in the Department also bring their expertise in Asian culture and languages to the broader university community by teaching courses in Asian history, religion, linguistics, literature, etc. either in other departments of the University of collaboratively with faculty in other Departments.

The research carried out by Asian L&L faculty is rich and diverse, and pertains to numerous areas of literature, linguistics, religion, textual criticism, philology, philosophy, and history. Many of the projects carried out by AL&L faculty are highly collaborative in nature. To notable examples of such collaborative projects are the following:

- Faculty in AL&L direct the Early Buddhism Manuscript Project, which is a collaborate project of the UW and the British Library. This project, which involves the decipherment, translation, and evaluation of the earliest manuscripts.
in the entire Buddhist tradition, has involved faculty from the US, Japan, Australia, as well as graduate students from Taiwan, Germany, and the UK.

• Faculty in AL&L have played a central role in a project entitled *The Culture and Civilization of China*, which is the largest publishing program ever taken between the United States and the People's Republic of China. In this project, many of the leading scholars of China and their counterparts in the U.S. and other countries are collaborating on the publication of some seventy-five volumes to be published in English by Yale University Press and in Chinese by the China International Publishing Group.