

ASU Center for
Asian Research
Arizona State University

December Newsletter

Message from the Interim Director, James Rush

A big moment in the fall semester for the Center for Asian Research was awarding the first Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships at ASU in many years. Eleven ASU students, six of them undergraduates, are now studying a variety of Asian languages as FLAS Fellows. We are grateful to the federal Title IV program that awarded the fellowships to ASU and to the faculty committee that selected the new Fellows. Moreover, we are especially grateful to Professor Juliane Schober who wrote the grant leading to the award. You will find more about the FLAS Fellows in the newsletter.



We want to thank Miko Foard and Professor Claudia Brown for organizing the splendid occasions surrounding the visit to ASU in September of Biwa master Arao Tsutomo, showcasing the “Tale of the Heike.” Many people contributed to the success of Arao-san’s visit, including several individual donors. We are extremely appreciative. Also, I want to thank everyone who chipped in to make Indian historian and writer Ramachandra Guha’s visit to ASU in October a great success. This includes our colleague Anne Feldhaus and our cosponsors in History, Sustainability, the Institute for Humanities Research, the Center for Jewish Studies, and the Center for the Study of Conflict and Religion.

Again, this year our friend Bill Sage sponsored an ASU student for a period of study and travel in Laos. The 2018 Sage Scholar, Keri Orcutt, is featured in the newsletter below. We have just announced the competition for next year’s Sage Scholarship.

Also, please be alert to the announcements and application materials for our Summer FLAS Fellowships and for our FLAS Fellows for AY 2019–2020.

Finally, the Center is delighted to welcome Chan Lwin as its new program coordinator. Chan earned her BS and MPH degrees at the University of Arizona and is serving concurrently as our instructor in Burmese. Chan replaces Alex Plum, whom many of you know and who began his career as a United States Marine on November 12. Our best wishes to Alex, who is currently in basic training.

All good wishes,

Jim Rush
Interim Director

RESEARCH & FELLOWSHIPS

SUMMER FLAS FELLOWSHIP

DUE January 26, 2019

The Summer Foreign Language and Area Studies award provides eligible students with a \$2,500 stipend and up to \$5,000 in summer tuition to go towards a summer intensive Asian language program of their choice.

Please note that the \$5,000 will only be applied towards tuition and fees, and does not cover housing, travel, or meals which are often included in study abroad program costs. The stipend may be used to cover the costs not included in the tuition portion of the scholarship.

Applicants must have 2 letters of recommendation and a 500-word statement of purpose. Applicants must have at least 2nd-year knowledge of the language in which they are applying for.

[More info](#)

SAGE FAMILY SOUTHEAST ASIAN STUDIES SCHOLARSHIP

DUE February 15, 2019

ASU offers an annual scholarship of \$3,000.00 for an undergraduate student to spend several weeks traveling in Laos, ordinarily (but not necessarily) over the summer. The recipient must be a full-time undergraduate student during the Spring Semester 2019 and have completed 56 hours, or four semesters, of study.

Recipients of the Sage Scholarship are expected to spend at least three weeks in Laos but are free to travel elsewhere in Southeast Asia during their trip. After returning home, they will make an informal presentation about what they have seen and learned and submit a final project report.

If you are interested in this opportunity this year, please see the link below. You will need to submit the application materials no later than **Friday February 15, 2019**. Please see the application form for details. A faculty committee will make the final selection.

For questions, contact James Rush at james.rush@asu.edu.

[More info](#)

Student Spotlight: PhD Student, Beiyin Deng



Beiyin Deng is a third-year PhD student in the School of Historical, Philosophical and Religious Studies. She has a Masters in religious studies from NYU. Her research focuses on the images of Buddha made by sculptors in Myanmar. Clientele for these images is based mostly in China, which is also her country of origin. She studies the trans-national manufacturing, trade and social life of these religious objects.



Beiyin was interviewed regarding her research interests and academic trajectory. Click below to know details about Beiyin's research.

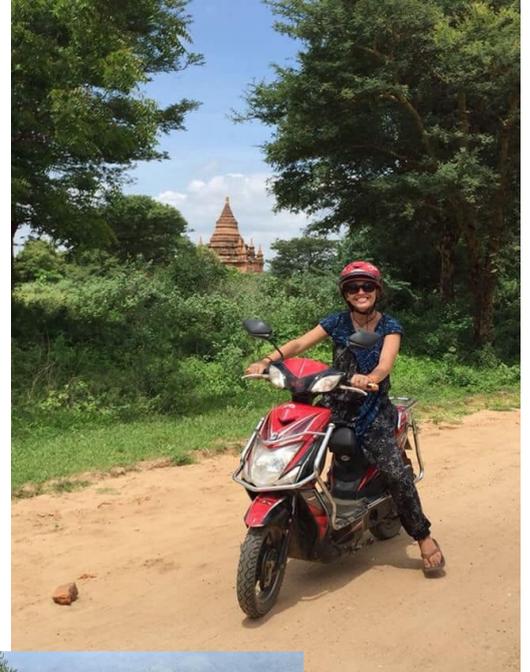
[Click here](#)

Student Spotlight: Keri Orcutt

This summer, Keri Orcutt travelled to Laos as the recipient of 'The Sage Family Southeast Asian Studies Scholarship. She is majoring in Public Relations and aspires to become a cultural affairs officer for foreign services.

Keri had the opportunity to backpack in the landscape, visit Buddhist temples and explore religion. After spending three weeks in Laos, she feels that she has a home in Southeast Asia. She has kept a journal which she will be turning into a blog.

Stay tuned.



Congratulations 2018-2019 FLAS Fellows!

The Center for Asian Research is proud to announce the recipients of the 2018-2019 Academic Year FLAS fellowships. These eleven students have demonstrated expertise on an Asian language and have proven their excellence as leaders in and outside of the classroom. Below are the recipients:

Graduate fellows

- Jay Alabaster: PhD candidate, Japanese
- John Samuel Billing: PhD candidate, Chinese
- James Edmonds: PhD candidate, Indonesian
- Sarah Gossett: PhD candidate, Japanese
- Blayne Harcey: PhD candidate, Sanskrit

Undergraduate fellows

- Ryan Featherston: 4th year, Chinese
- Mary (Katie) Kennedy: 3rd year, Chinese
- Athena Le: 4th year, Chinese
- Delaney Shultz: 3rd year, Chinese
- Ranjani Venkatakrishnan: 2nd year, Japanese
- Margaret Zheng: 3rd year, Chinese

Stay tuned for the 2019-2020 FLAS Fellowship application announcement!

The FLAS Fellowship offers eligible undergraduate students with a \$5,000 annual living stipend and up to \$10,000 towards tuition and fees and graduate students with a \$15,000 living stipend and up to \$18,000 in tuition and fees.

Students who have at least 2nd year knowledge of Burmese, Chinese, Hindi/Urdu, Indonesian, Japanese, Korean, or Vietnamese are eligible and strongly encouraged to apply.

More details and application will be announced within the month of December. For questions, please email Asia@asu.edu.