The Institute for Asian Studies (IAS) at Portland State University promotes research, training, curricular development and public awareness on all parts of Asia. Drawing on the expertise of over 50 faculty and academic professionals, across 15 disciplines, the Institute for Asian Studies plays a vital role as a nexus and resource hub for Asia-related programs at PSU.

New Appointments

Fall 2010 brought new faces to the Institute for Asian Studies: Dr. Sharon Carstens, PSU professor of Anthropology, was appointed Director; and Katherine Morrow, formerly with the PSU International Special Programs Office, now serves as the Institute’s new Programs Administrator.

Sharon Carstens has been a professor at Portland State University in the Department of Anthropology since 1987. She regularly teaches courses on China, Southeast Asia and the Asian-American experience. Dr. Carstens primary area of research has been with Chinese communities in Malaysia and Singapore, and she has spent a total of 8 years in Asia, including Taiwan, China, Singapore, and Malaysia. For the past seven years she has been researching and working on a curriculum development project that integrates instruction in Chinese language and culture for K-8 students.

Katherine Morrow brings a wealth of program administration and management experience to both the IAS and the Confucius Institute.

Prior to joining the Institute for Asian Studies, Katherine worked for 15 years with PSU’s International Special Programs office where she specialized in developing customized programs at PSU for partner universities in Japan and Korea. Katherine is conversant in Japanese and is deeply knowledgeable about both Japanese and Korean culture. In addition to managing the day-to-day operations of the IAS, she provides support to the Confucius Institute at PSU.

The Institute for Asian Studies appreciates the contributions of our 2010-2011 interns and volunteers: Dong Ae Park, Suelki Park, Mike Shin, and Eun Young Her. Looking ahead to Fall 2011, the IAS office is pleased to welcome new interns Bora Ra and Maki Karakida, and welcomes back volunteer office assistant Eun Young Her.

A Review of 2010-2011

With renewed energy and focus on collaborative efforts, the Institute for Asian Studies coordinated and co-sponsored a wide array of public lectures and events in 2010-2011. A detailed list of past events is posted on the IAS website at http://oia.pdx.edu/ias.

Areas of program development included quarterly meetings open to all associated and affiliated IAS Faculty, formation of a Korean Studies Program Committee, renewed attention to fund raising, expanded focus on Korea, and submission of two grant proposals to the Korea Foundation to aid in expanding Korean Studies at PSU.

The IAS staff also kept busy with networking and community outreach, building partnerships with the Portland Art Museum, Asian Art Council, World Affair Council of Oregon, Portland-Suzhou Sister City Association, NW China Council, Portland Chinese Garden Volunteers, colleagues at nearby universities and colleges, and Asian-American community leaders in the Portland metro area.

2011-2012 Activities & Events

IAS priorities for the up-coming year include: re-establishing the Friends of Asian Studies; growing our partnerships; enhancing communication and outreach; fund raising; and developing a regular lecture and program series.

Fall 2011 Calendar

• 10/4 (Tues), 6:00 pm; SMSU 327-8
 Lecture: What would it take for Korea to forgive Japan for the past?
• 10/17 (Mon), 4:00 pm, SH 210
 Lecture: Spectacular Compassion: “Natural” Disasters and National Mourning in China’s Tibet
• 10/28 (Fri), 6:00 pm,
 Lecture: Deng Xiaoping and the Transformation of China
• 11/5 (Sat), 9:30am, location TBA
 First Saturday Lecture Series, in partnership with the Portland Chinese Garden Volunteers, Sensory Plants in a Scholar’s Garden to Awaken and Inspire
• 11/17 (Thur), 6:00 pm, SMSU 238
 Lecture: The South Korean Economy: What Lies Ahead?
• 12/3 (Sat), 9:30am, location TBA
 First Saturday Lecture Series, in partnership with the Portland Chinese Garden Volunteers.

For more information about up-coming events, volunteer opportunities, ways you can contribute to the PSU Institute for Asian Studies and more, contact the Institute for Asian Studies, tel. 503-725-8576, e-mail: asianstudies@pdx.edu, or visit our website http://oia.pdx.edu/ias

Katherine Morrow, Program Administrator
Institute for Asian Studies