

## Ting Gong on Fulbright

*Ramapo Scholar and Teacher in Hong Kong*

Greetings! I am writing from Hong Kong, the city known for its distinctive blend of East and West, fast-paced business, high-tech modernity and unique cultural heritage.

As you know, Hong Kong is not new to me. However, I never came here as a researcher and teacher before. This year I am fortunate to receive a Fulbright lecture/research grant and I am now hosted by the City University of Hong Kong. My Fulbright project includes teaching 2-3 courses in my areas of specialization at the Department of Social and Public Administration and working on a research project about corruption and anti-corruption reform in Hong Kong and China. I look forward to an exciting and rewarding year.

*"Hong Kong is cosmopolitan, but not overwhelming,  
and easy to navigate, but not confining."*

The City University of Hong Kong enrolls over 20,000 students in its various programs ranging from associate degree to postgraduate research. It mixes the British and American systems of instruction, with classes scheduled for two hours of lectures and an hour of "tutorials." Students do not have to attend all the lectures, but participation in the tutorials is compulsory. This places pressure on professors to make their lectures interesting or even entertaining as well as intellectually stimulating, to attract students.

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## AIS Faculty Updates

*Research and Pedagogy Events*

**Patricia Ard** presented at Monmouth University in September, 2005 at a symposium on Bruce Springsteen sponsored jointly by Monmouth University and Penn State University. The symposium was called *Glory Days: A Bruce Springsteen Symposium*. Her presentation was titled "Bruce Springsteen and the New Jersey Renaissance." She also presented in September, 2005 on the New Jersey Jews at the New Jersey Historical Society.

**Lisa Cassidy** traveled to Leeds, UK to present her paper "Teaching Kant's Ethics" at the University of Leeds's Future Discourse: Teaching and Learning in Philosophy conference. This paper will be published this winter in the journal *Teaching Philosophy*. ¶She also presented "North is to South as Husband is to Wife: Exploring an Analogy" at the North American Society for Social Philosophy's conference in Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY. ¶Her article "'Starving Children in Africa': Who Cares?" will be published shortly in the online *Journal of International Women's Studies*.

**Robert Christopher** has completed the first half of his proposed two part biography of the American filmmaker Robert Flaherty, best known as the maker of "Nanook of the North," released in 1922 and widely regarded as a classic in the history of American cinema. The biography, "Robert & Frances Flaherty: A Documentary Life, 1883-1922," has just been published by McGill-Queen's University Press. An early reviewer spoke of the work as "Indispensable" to any one interested in the Flahertys and the development of the independent filmmaker tradition.

This summer **Rosetta D'Angelo's** poetry book *Itinerari* was published by Carrello Editori in Italy and it is being used also in schools as a scholastic anthology. At the end of August, she was invited and participated in a poetry recital at Erice in Sicily. ¶In addition, Rosetta read poetry at Hofstra University's 13th annual Italian American Festival in September and presented a scholarly paper "Images of post-colonial Africa in Italian Literature" at the SWAD International conference in Brazil. ¶Rosetta attended the New Jersey Department of Education Seminar on Teacher

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I am currently teaching two courses on Chinese Politics and Issues in World Politics. Because they are considered large classes (60 and 40 respectively) I have two teaching assistants. The students in Hong Kong are conscientious and hardworking. However, they are much quieter than their American, British or French peers in class. It is a challenge to get the students involved in class discussion. The faculty and staff at City University are cordial and welcoming. I have been invited to lunches, presentations, and cultural events by colleagues. I receive wonderful secretarial support from the department. The opportunities for my Fulbright engagement are many, but they also place considerable demands on my time. Sometime I have to set boundaries to my public activities in order to get my own research work done.

As a former Fulbrighter said, "Hong Kong is cosmopolitan, but not overwhelming, and easy to navigate, but not confining." I believe that my Hong Kong experience will allow me not only to add a stronger comparative component to my teaching at Ramapo but also to help promote greater understanding and cooperation between the US and China.

My best wishes for a wonderful academic year at AIS and the college.

## Off the Syllabus

### Recent Reads & Reactions



**Sharon Fingerer-Goldman:** I just read "The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay" a 2001 novel by Michael Chabon. It is a wonderful story about two cousins who played an instrumental role in creating cartoon super heroes. Clay is raised in America, and Kavalier is a young Jewish artist who is smuggled out of Prague in the early years of Hitler's occupation. What is so interesting is the way Chabon explores the relationship between the cartoon artists' personal psyches- their fears, anger, etc. and their creations. He also brings to life a whole world that existed in New York in the 1940's.

**Alumni News:** Recent 2005 graduates Joe Venosa (History) and Lauren Gargani (Literature) moved to Athens, Ohio, where Joe is currently finishing the first semester of his Master's program in African Studies at Ohio University. In addition to working on his degree Joe has been performing with a nationally touring African drumming group based at the University. Lauren is working full time in human resources and making her way through Dr. Shannon's infamous list of must-reads, as well as researching graduate programs "back east."

## AIS Clubs & Organizations

### Students and Faculty Events

#### The AIS Colloquium Series Presents:

- The first presentation in the AIS Colloquia Series will be "Moments of Silence, Acts of Speech: Uncovering the Incest Motif in Chaucer's Man of Law's Tale" by Yvette Kisor (Assistant Professor of Literature/AIS) on Wednesday, October 12 at 4 pm in Pavilion Room 1, with a reception to follow.
- Paula Straile-Costa (Assistant Professor of Spanish Language/AIS) will present her research on "Marketing Afro-Brazilian Culture in the 'Racial Democracy': Brazil's Restored Colonial Capital, Old Salvador" on Wednesday, October 26 at 2 pm in SC138.
- Marta Vides (Assistant Professor of Law and Society/SSHS) will present her paper "Restorative Justice in the USA: A Case of Over-extended Borrowing?" on Wednesday, December 14 at 4 pm in SC 138, with a reception to follow.

*Funds for these receptions provided are provided in part by a Ramapo Foundation Grant.*

**Sigma Tau Delta, The Literature Honor Society and The Philosophy Club** are sponsoring two roundtables this semester:

- 10/5: Feminism Roundtable--Sponsored by ΣΤΔ & the Philosophy Club (guest moderators: Profs. Lisa Cassidy & Val Flenga)
- 10/26: Fear & Violence Roundtable—sponsored by ΣΤΔ & The Philosophy Club (guest moderators: Profs. Ed Shannon & Patricia Ard & Karen O'Brien)

Roundtables will raise funds for "Books for Soldiers," a non-profit organization sending books & care packages to soldiers in Iraq & Afghanistan. Check out their web site: <http://booksforsoldiers.com/>

**The Foreign Languages Convening Group** at AIS is hosting the visit of three visiting professors from abroad. Through the efforts of **Val Flenga** and **Susi Rachouh**, **Encarni González Sacristán**, from Spain, and **Fabièn Rivière**, from France, are serving as Fulbright Foreign Language Teaching Assistants. **Iván Méndez Revidiego**, an instructor of Spanish and French, is visiting from the University of Cádiz. Another two visiting faculty, **Jianhui Peng**, from the Utah Institute of Science and Technology at Shanghai Normal University, and **Margarita Tulnova**, from Volgograd State Pedagogical University, are also teaching language courses. We wish them all a pleasant stay at Ramapo.

**Fall 2005 Culture Club activities:**

- September 26. Dr. Lisa Cassidy lecture on "Starving Children in Africa: The Cultural-Philosophical Aspect of Starvation"
- October 3. Dr. George Gonpu (School of Business) lecture on "Cultural Perspectives of a Public Corruption: effects on Economic Welfare in West Africa"
- October 7. Off Campus trip to Sam Pinn's Night Club, "Night at Jazz," in Brooklyn, N.Y.
- October 20. Jazz and Rock Culture Festival, 7:00 p.m. Sc-219
- October 31. Dr. James Morley (SSHS) lecture on "Cross Cultural Psychology"
- November 14. A Celebration of the Culture and Heritage of the Andes performed by SUMAC PUNCHAU
- November 21. Ekphrasis: Visual Arts as reflection of Cultural Paradigm Shifts in Spain

**Philosophy Club**

In addition to the Philosophy Club's co-sponsored Rountables with Sigma Tau Delta (see above) the Philosophy Club holds its Second Annual Fast-a-Thon to raise money for [www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org). Philosophy Club is also planning to host its first Socratic Dialogue of the year November 16 (5-7 pm in SC 136) with campus religious and cultural organizations on "Who is God?"

**Italian Club**

- On October 1<sup>st</sup>, the Italian Club holds a cultural event in Liberty Park with food, music, folklore dances, and bocce.
- Well known Italian artist, Anita Severino, will lecture and present several of her photographs from Venice to Ramapo College.
- In November, the club visits the Metropolitan Opera to experience Rossini's *Cenerentola*.



Preparation for World languages. In November she attends the ACTFL conference on World languages in Baltimore.

The Office of Student Activities gave a Special Recognition Award to **Niza Fabre** for years of outstanding dedication and service to the Community. In addition, Niza received the Lifetime Achievement Award for Outstanding Programming for the Culture Club at the Annual Dinner for Student Leaders. During the Women's Appreciation Celebration, two student organizations, Brothers Making a Difference and The Black Student Union, presented her with an Award of Appreciation for her hard work and dedicated service. ¶On March 26 2005, Fabre presented a paper, Culture and Society: The Black Woman of Ecuador, in the category of African American Studies at a meeting of the Popular Culture Association in San Diego, California. ¶Niza also presented a paper on "The Role of Black Women in Contemporary Ecuador," for the 14th Annual Conference of Association of Afro-Hispanic Culture and Literature, held in Valle de Anton, Panama, May 26-28. Niza also participated in the Annual State of the Africana Professoriate Retreat in New Paltz, at the University of New Paltz, September 30-October 1, 2005.

**Ting Gong** presented "Corruption, Market Reform, and Local Governance in China" at the 4th International Conference of Asia Scholars, Shanghai, August 20-24, 2005.

**Sandra Hancock Martin** presented "Hispanic Culture through Art" to the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese this July.

**Susan Hangen** presented a paper titled "Ethnic Political Parties and Democratization in Nepal" at the Annual Conference on South Asia, held at the University of Wisconsin-Madison in October. ¶Susan was also an invited participant in an international workshop on State Building Challenges in Asia sponsored by the East-West Center, Washington, D.C. She was one of forty-eight participants from around the world who participated in the workshop. She and the other participants submitted and discussed papers presenting research topics that are crucial to understanding the current conflicts in Asia. ¶The next workshop will be held in Kathmandu, Nepal in July, 2006. In conjunction with her participation in this workshop, she was an invited speaker at a Public Forum on Nepal, sponsored by the East-West Center and the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. The forum, called "Making Sense of the Multiple Conflicts in Nepal: Is there a way forward?" was held on November 3, 2005 at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. She addressed the ethnic dimension of the current conflict in her presentation. Her fellow speakers were Dr. Mahendra Lawoti, an expert on democratization in Nepal, and Dr. Prakash Chandra Lohani, a renowned politician and the Former Finance Minister of Nepal.

In August, **Yvette Kisor** served as a reviewer on the panel in Medieval Studies for the NEH Fellowships for College and University Teachers. Yvette has also completed five signed entries and was invited to contribute to *The J.R.R. Tolkien Encyclopedia: Scholarship and Critical Assessment* (ed. Michael Drout) forthcoming from Routledge (2006).

**Iraida H. López's** short entries on two major Cuban writers and a lengthier one on Cuban-American literature appeared in *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Latinos and Latinas in the United States*. Another entry on Puerto Rican-American autobiography is included in the *Encyclopedia of Ethnic American Literature*, scheduled to be published in November. ¶Iraida spoke at an event in honor of the late Ana Mendieta at the King Juan Carlos Center at NYU. Iraida served as a candidate evaluator for the MacArthur Fellows Program and as a manuscript reader for several publishers. Last spring, she received a Recognition Award from the Office of Student Activities for her work with the Latino community at Ramapo College.

**Bernard Roy** moderated three cafes philo: Two at the Cantazur Public Nursing Home in Cagnes-sur-Mer. The first was on August 10 and the subject was: "Have we improved human nature?" The second took place on August 25 and the topic was: "Pollution." Bernard also moderated a cafe philo in English in Santa Eulalia, Café Athenea, Spain, and the topic was: "What political role should a resident alien play?" The café was attended by British, Italian and South American long time residents of Ibiza. Bernard gave a talk on "The Power of Conversation," hosted by Columbia University Seminar on Innovation and by Columbia Seminar on Ethics, Moral Education and Society.

**Edward Shannon** became a Trustee of the New Jersey College English Association (NJCEA) last spring. Ed is also chairing a Roundtable discussion on "Creating a culture of literary curiosity on campus" at the NJCEA fall roundtable, Oct 15, 2005 at Seton Hall, as well as chairing a panel on New Jersey Writers at the NJCEA Spring Conference, Saturday, March 18, 2006 at Seton Hall. ¶He will present "This Song was written in New York City: 'This Land is Your Land,' The History of a Song" at Philadelphia, PA March 2-5, 2006. ¶In addition, Ed received a grant from BMI Music Publishers and the Woody Guthrie Foundation to continue my research on the history of "This Land is Your Land."

In October, **Jeremy M. Teigen** presented findings in a paper on the voting habits and partisan tendencies of military veterans in the 2004 presidential election, "Swift Boats and Swing Votes," at both an invited talk at the William Joiner Center for the Study of War and Social Consequences at U Massachusetts-Boston and at the 45<sup>th</sup> biennial Inter-University Seminar Armed Forces and Society Conference in Chicago. ¶An analysis on Texas Redistricting authored by Jeremy and two colleagues will be published in *Social Science Quarterly* in 2006.

**Michael Weinman** will be presenting his paper "Ethics as first philosophy: Ibn Rushd and the cosmological good in Aristotle" at the 23rd Annual Conference on Ancient and Medieval Philosophy at Fordham University, to be held October 14-16, 2005. ¶Michael will also present "Thinking, Sensing, and Rightness: Aristotle and 'Normativity without Nowhereness'" at the 57th Annual Northwest Conference on Philosophy at Seattle University on October 21-22, 2005.

## On a Personal Note

- Lisa Cassidy and Bernard Roy report that the best convening group meeting ever was held in the south of France this summer, where they both happened to be vacationing.
- Lisa also notes that she got engaged this summer to Mark Meiler, a nice fella from her running club. Their nuptials will be performed next August by Anthony Padavano.
- Rosetta D'Angelo directed a study abroad program in Urbino, Italy with students from all over the US and Porto Rico. She also spent a great deal of time in the Middle East with European Delegation and was in Israel during the Gaza Strip disengagement!

- Bob Christopher announces that in a video feature film, entitled "The Street," written and directed by his son Noam, a graduate of NYU's MFA program in film production, Christopher plays the part of the American writer William Saroyan. "A perfect part," Professor Christopher says with a wink, "a has-been writer." The film is adapted from an autobiographical novel by Aram Saroyan who writes a coming of age tale in NYC of the 1960s. "The Street" has been screened at the New York Independent Film Project and the Austin Film Festival. It will shortly be posted on [www.ubuweb.com](http://www.ubuweb.com).
- Informal welcome wagon ambassadors Cliff Peterson and Ron Hayashida earned gratitude by heeding the call of duty and showing up to unload Jeremy Teigen's moving van in Englewood the day the new faculty member arrived to New Jersey.