



# South Asia Center

OUTREACH BULLETIN

Spring 2005

## Special points of interest:

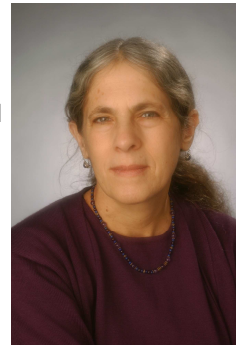
- Ann Gold joins as the new Director for the South Asia Center at Syracuse University
- Radha Ganesan joins as the new Outreach Coordinator
- Syracuse begins a study abroad program in India.
- South Asia Human Rights Film festival continues in third year by popular demand
- Cotton workshop at April end

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## "Do Shabd" From Our New Director

As the incoming director of Syracuse's South Asia Center, I want to introduce myself and to ask for your help as I embark on this challenging enterprise. I am an anthropologist of North India, and for over two decades most of my research has been rooted in one small part of rural Rajasthan. In academia, however, I have always lived in multiple places. My primary professional home at Syracuse is in the Religion Department; I have a courtesy appointment in Anthropology. My work has consistently spanned humanities and social sciences as I write and teach about religious meanings in practice. Fieldwork in India has included studies of pilgrimage, world-renunciation, oral traditions, gender, and environmental history. My current project has to do with the intersection of sacred groves, healing shrines, miracle tales and community forestry. I hope my eclectic background helps prepare me for directing the South Asia Center's fundamentally interdisciplinary activities.



*Ann Gold*

I have been at SU since 1993 and up until now I have successfully evaded major administrative responsibilities. I accepted the daunting challenge of directing our Center for a limited period – through spring 08 – largely because I feel indebted. Looking back over the past twenty-five years on several university campuses, there are very few during which I did not benefit both tangibly and intangibly from being part of a National Resource Center.

My graduate work at the University of Chicago was supported for three years by language fellowships (FLAS, then known as Title VI); my first post-fieldwork job, while I began thesis writing, was as assistant outreach coordinator of the South Asia Area Center at Chicago. My very first teaching job, a one-year visiting assistant professorship at Cornell, was funded by monies from the very first Cornell-Syracuse consortium grant in 1986-87, and until joining Syracuse I was affiliated in various ways with Cornell's South Asia Program. I was Associate Director there in 1991-93 -- my sole previous administrative experience.

Since joining the Syracuse faculty, I have reaped multiple boons from our own South Asia

## Syracuse's Study Abroad Program in India

South Asia Center is energized about the new study abroad program in India that is being introduced in fall 2005. While India has many cities and centers that would offer a rich cultural experience, this program will take place in Mysore. Located in south India, Mysore is often called the 'Cultural Capital of Karnataka'.

Syracuse University's Division of International Programs Abroad (DIPA) in conjunction with the Office of Study Abroad at the

University of Iowa has formulated this program as a joint effort. The program will run from mid-August till mid-December with a short break around the Diwali holiday..

Participating students from Syracuse University are required to take four different courses for this study abroad program. One of them will be a language course in

*-Continued on Page 2-*

## “do shabd” Continued...

Center which – among other things -- supports some of our excellent graduate students and attracts others; helps me to bring speakers and to organize events; educates and dazzles me and my students with its rich offerings in art, music, dance and seminars; supplies me with videos; keeps our excellent South Asia holdings at Bird up to date; and above all instills a sense of community. In sum, as I reflect on my career in South Asia studies, it is absolutely clear that I literally would not be the person I am today were it not for area centers. So: payback time.

What is my vision for the future of the Center? For the past two decades under Professor Susan Wadley's dedicated and energetic leadership we have accomplished amazing things. I hope to see our Center continue to flourish as an institutional setting which fosters interdisciplinary intellectual life and attracts and nurtures young scholars offering superior language training and much more. Equally importantly we must continue to serve a broader central New York community interested in South Asia.

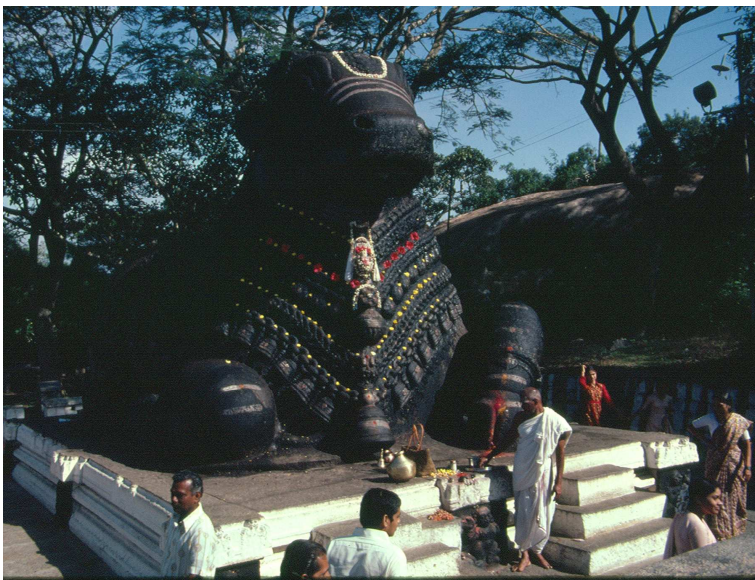
Beyond sustaining our well-established program's primary missions, I foresee a few timely initiatives: to expand our

base in the University, including faculty from all schools and programs as active participants; to have increased collaboration with our consortium partner, Cornell, and other central New York scholars; to diversify our seminar offerings across disciplines as well as regions and nations of South Asia. In this year that began so tragically in the aftermath of unprecedented natural disaster in South and Southeast Asia, our Center will participate in efforts to assist survivors and contribute to reconstruction in the affected regions.

I hope to work closely in conjunction with the other regional centers and thematic programs within the soon-to-be-dedicated Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs under Peg Hermann's dynamic leadership. Moynihan's newly formulated core themes in the areas of civil society, mobility, and security will help to shape our Center's directions. Finally and most importantly, I invite all of you to give me your ideas for the future: email me your thoughts and suggestions or give me a call: [aggold@syr.edu](mailto:aggold@syr.edu); 315-443-5717. I rely on your participation, and look forward to working with you.

## Syracuse Study Abroad Program in India (Continued from page 1)

Sanskrit, Hindi, Tamil, Kannada, or any other South Asian language. A traveling seminar titled “Globalization of Traditional Arts in Rural India” is required. In addition, students can choose an elective — Indian Cinema; Women in Indian society; Science and Technology in India; or Civilization or Culture of India.



*Nandi Bull, Mysore. Picture courtesy Prof. Susan Wadley*

The final four weeks are an independent research topic or internship chosen by the student. The study could be on any traditional South Asian art form such as art or dance, or related to an earlier course. The internship may vary from governmental to non-governmental work in Bangalore or Mysore, focusing on issues such as health, business, management, film, gender or health care.

The initial orientation for the program will be held for two days in mid May. Many exciting field trips are also planned for this semester of study abroad in India. For more information please contact the Division of International Programs Abroad (DIPA) 106 Walnut Place, Syracuse, NY 13244, (315) 443-3471 or (800) 235-3472. <http://suabroad.syr.edu/>

## The Indian Institute of Management Public Policy Program: A collaboration with the Executive Education Program at Maxwell School —By Banita Sarwar

During mid Fall when everyone was gearing up for the impending elections, Indian Civil Servants and private sector employees who are currently students at Maxwell were participating in a very interesting program. The annual program that was started as a joint collaboration between the Indian Government and the Indian Institute of Management, Bangalore (IIMB) aims to train individuals in public policy analysis. The Program is co-sponsored by the Government of India, the United Nations Development Program, and IIMB with the Maxwell School's Executive Education Program serving as the administrative unit coordinating all events.

Participants have the opportunity to pursue a Masters program usually in the field of Public Policy. Half of the participants come from the Indian civil service while the other half have usually worked in areas such as Indian Railways, the Indian Police, the Forestry Service, and Telecommunications. As part of the one-year program, participants undergo seven weeks of intense training and coursework in Maxwell.

This program has been at Maxwell for three years now. Professor Larry Schroeder from the Public Administration department, who is in charge of the academic aspect of this program, has been running it successfully for the last three years. Indeed, the number of participants has slowly increased from 25 in 2002 to 33 last year.

During their six weeks at Maxwell, three hour-long lectures by eighteen different Professors at Syracuse are arranged for the Indian civil servants every afternoon. Topics of the lectures and discussions range from US domestic policies to those of international concern. For example, Professor Dave Richardson from the Economics department led a lecture on International Trade Policies for this group while Professor Jeremy Shiff-



*Indian Institute of Management Bangalore participants in Fall 2004*

man discussed population policies. Other common topics include environmental policies and decentralization.

At the end of the seven weeks the students are expected to submit two policy analysis papers on countries other than India. An important aspect of the paper is the lessons drawn from policy issues that serve as valuable information for future analysis. At the same time, the participants benefit from the analysis as they can implement the lessons drawn from their real life experiences as civil servants. The students then present their research work in the Symposium on Global Issues in Public Administration sponsored by the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs.

Maxwell also arranges a week in Washington for the IIMB students as a part of the curriculum. While in Washington, the students are exposed to various governments' offices and introduced to policymakers, experts, and high ranking officers, an opportunity that most students appre-

ciate highly. During the time the students spend at Maxwell, various social activities from dinners to parties are arranged making the program a combination of regular academics and informal learning experiences. This past fall, the participants and their family members enjoyed a Diwali lunch (a traditional Indian celebration) among other activities. Another highlight of this fall's program was the elections which the participants followed with interest.

The students of this program comprise a diverse group of individuals whose work experience in the civil service, typically ranges from 8 to 20 years. Thus, the amount of knowledge and experience brought by this group is invaluable to the mentors and Maxwell faculty. As Professor Schroeder said "This program is mutually advantageous because participants get a lot out of it but I myself and the others learn from the participants. Sometimes, the questions they ask are very challenging"





## South Asian Human Rights Film Festival

The 3rd Annual South Asian Human Rights Film Festival is back by popular demand! In the first week of April (1st– 3<sup>rd</sup>) this year, Syracuse University's South Asia Center and the S.I.Newhouse School of Public Communications, in collaboration with Break-through, an international non-profit organization, and Asia Society, New York will be presenting a three-day festival featuring dynamic full-length films and documentaries by well-known directors and independent filmmakers from India, Pakistan, Nepal, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh and the South Asian diaspora. These films focus on many of today's compelling issues, such as HIV/AIDS, conflict, sexuality, among others. Faculty member, experts and film directors will join the post-screening discussions.

*Film "Chokher Bali" by Rituparna Ghosh*

This film festival is being organized for the third time. The festival has grown from strength to strength in the last two years. Previous festivals brought many productions to the United States for the first time. In 2003, the festival brought two prominent directors from India to the Syracuse University campus. Dr. Jabbar Patel, Marathi theater personality and cinema director attended the February 22<sup>nd</sup> screening of his film "Dr. Ambedkar", and Aparna Sen, award-winning actress and director, attended the February 23<sup>rd</sup> screening of her film "Mr. and Mrs. Iyer". In 2004, award-winning film maker Prakash Jha attended the screening of his film "Gangajal." The documentary and feature films included in the South Asian Human Rights Film Festival are very recent productions (made after year 2000) and are among the most critically acclaimed and socially relevant films produced in South Asia.

The film festival is directly in line with Chancellor Cantor's vision of "University as Public Good: Exploring the Soul of Syracuse". The event caters to the demand for "liberal education" and the need to illuminate critical social issues. The festival will enrich undergraduate and graduate studies in such fields as religion, anthropology, sociology, history, geography, international relations, public administration, social work, environmental studies, film studies, and communications. It will inform the SU community about the important issues in the international arena, particularly in the strategically important region of South Asia, while deepening our understanding of domestic social issues such as religion, sexuality, globalization, and human rights. Moreover, the film festival is a direct, strong and positive answer to Dr. Cantor's question "Can we imagine a more expansive role for art as a medium of exchange?" If the past two years are any indicators, the event will attract a diverse, multi-cultural, multi-ethnic constituency from Syracuse University and the Greater Syracuse area. The University will build further on its historical landscape by hosting this unique and successful event the third time. For more details, contact [rganesan@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:rganesan@maxwell.syr.edu)

## TEACHING "RELIGION, RITUAL AND MUSIC OF SOUTH ASIA" IN LONDON — by Prof. Tazim R. Kassam

From Brick Lane's Banglatown Curry Festival and Southall's Little Punjab shopping stalls to the Nehru Center's book launches and the Royal Festival Hall's performances of Indian classical dance, London is an exceptional site for experiencing and exploring India's diverse cultural, linguistic and religious heritage. More than a third of the United Kingdom's Asian population lives in London forming vibrant and thriving communities. Last semester, I taught a course at Syracuse University's London Program on the religiously inspired sacred music of South Asians.

Complementing course readings with fieldtrips and cultural events, students were immersed in the sounds, smells and sights of India's Muslim, Sikh, and Hindu diasporic communities. They heard *shabads* at the 400th anniversary of the Adi Granth Sahib held at the Royal Albert Hall which was packed with Sikh's from all over the UK and Europe; they experienced the thrill of powerful storytelling at the Nehru center where dancer/actor Salim Ghouse from Pune mimed and narrated the tales of the Muslim mystic, Jalaluddin Rumi; they analyzed the dynamic relationship between dancer, singer and tabla-player at a dance recital of Kathakali at the Purcell Room on the South Bank; they studied the intricacy and artistry of illuminated manuscripts of the Qur'an and other scriptures at the British Library and Museum.

( Continued to page 10)



*shabad at the Royal Albert Hall*

## ***“Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Isaai, Aapas mein sab bhai bhai” (Hindu, Muslim, Sikh, Christian, how does it matter? We are all brothers/family after all)***

**by Aarti Khanna, Santa Clara University, CA, Fall 2005 SU DIPA program in Madrid Spain**

I am standing in front of El Hospital del niño Jesus, totally unprepared for what lies ahead. I walk in through the double doors and call Carlos, my supervisor. I don't know where I'm supposed to meet him or what I'm supposed to do. He answers, says something in rapid Spanish, and hangs up. I didn't understand any of that, but I say 'sí, sí' as if I was born speaking the language. I've learned Spanish for just one year and am left wondering, as I have on many occasions in the past month, what made me decide to come to Spain. I see Carlos walking towards me. I guess he had said he was coming to get me. And so began my Service Learning experience at the hospital. My job description was simple. Go around all the wards with a book cart and ask if any of the kids want any books. If you see a child alone, or bored, play with them a little bit, talk to them, watch TV with them, etc.

I really struggled at first; I got many a blank look because of my broken Spanish. Not having read any of the books when I was younger, I didn't know what age group they were for. No one wanted books from a girl who couldn't tell them what they were about and whether they were meant for girls or boys! But things got better. I gave up on the books and moved onto playing with the kids. I played cards with one girl, and helped another one with math. I made a puzzle with one boy and played foosball with another.

Then just last week I had the most unique experience. I was sent to room #15 in the Santa Luisa ward. The patient was an eleven year old child called Abdul who had his older brother, Rashid, for company, but wanted someone else to play with. Within two minutes I realized that the child and the brother spoke a total of ten words of Spanish. They didn't speak any English either. In very slow Spanish I asked them what language they spoke and they couldn't really tell me. It sounded like an Arabic language. The nurse came in, tried to ask some questions, and got no answers. They didn't know what she was saying and I had no way of helping them understand. Then the little kid happened to mention the word 'Urdu'. Hindi and Urdu are very similar languages. In fact, the language that I speak back home is a mix of both Hindi and Urdu. I started to speak Urdu and I saw relief wash over their faces as they started to understand me. The nurse heaved a sigh of relief and I knew the rest of my evening would be spent translating from Urdu to Spanish and back. Once I had helped answer the nurse's questions, I started talking to them. I finally figured out that they were Muslims from Afghanistan and spoke Afghani and a little Urdu. They had been in Spain since the end of their month of fasting, Ramadan, which was about a month ago, and had been communicating with the nurses using hand gestures. We started talking about Indian cinema, the movies they had seen and the actors they liked. We sang a few songs and they told me about their lives and I told them about mine. They offered me tea and cookies while we complained about the lack of spices in Spanish food. At one point Rashid said, "*Tum Musalman?*" (Are you Muslim?) And as I was saying 'no' it dawned on me that here I was a Hindu from India, talking to Muslims from Afghanistan, in Spain, about movies, actors and food!

Before I go on about why this was so strange and such an alien concept for me, it is important to understand one thing. Hindus and Muslims have always been different. They have always had different and sometimes opposing beliefs. Yet, they lived in harmony in the Indian subcontinent till partition in 1947, when the Muslim population was moved to Pakistan and the Hindu population to India. After that however, things have been different. My grandparents lived through partition and had to leave everything in Pakistan and re-start their lives in India. The recent India- Pakistan war in 1999 and the Hindu- Muslim riots in 2002 left a deep impact on all our lives. We saw the bloodshed and we saw the hatred. Afghanistan is perceived to be a fanatic Muslim country. This fact has come into the limelight for the world only recently but it has been prevalent in the Indian subcontinent for many years. We always heard about the atrocities by the Taliban, their mistreatment of women, incidents of terrorism and fanaticism. My perception of Muslims from that part of the world was therefore tainted. I couldn't understand or appreciate a religion based on war, intolerance and one that includes practices such as Polygamy. I was never, however, intolerant towards Muslims. I never could be, because even though Pakistan has a majority Muslim population, India has more Muslims than Pakistan. I live in a colony named after a Muslim leader. I can hear the calls of the Mosque from my bedroom window and my next door neighbours are Muslims. We have lived side by side for as long as I can remember. We learned to ride our bicycles together, shared recipes, and celebrated each other's festivals. It is therefore impossible for me to make a generalization and dislike Muslims.

I had always believed Muslims from Pakistan or Afghanistan believed otherwise. Never having been to those countries, I thought that most people from those parts felt a sense of extreme dislike towards Hindus. This seemed to be the notion portrayed by the media as well. Through my experience at the hospital however I realized that this was not the case. Abdul and Rashid were just happy to talk to a person who understood them, who was from their part of the world and was probably having the same problems as they were in Spain. It didn't matter to me that Rashid had 2 wives back in Afghanistan and it didn't matter to them that I was Hindu.

This incident has given me hope for Hindus and Muslims around the world. We have our differences and we have had a past of wars and loathing, but if Abdul, Rashid and I are able to leave our differences in the past, relate to each other, and help each other, so should our political leaders and entire countries. We are all one family after all.

## Cotton Workshop:

The Cornell-Syracuse NRC consortium will sponsor a collaborative workshop on "Indian Cotton: Biology and Utility; Meanings and Histories." This event opens on the evening of Friday, 29 April, and runs from 9 am to 5 pm on Saturday, 30 April 2005. It is hosted by Cornell University's South Asia Program and co-sponsored by Cornell's Program on Development, Governance and Nature. Participants will address the symbolic power and politics of cotton in twenty-first century conflicts around genetically modified seeds, as well

as under colonialism. Ron Herring, Professor of Government at Cornell, is the workshop's convener, with collaboration from Ann G. Gold, Professor of Religion and Anthropology at Syracuse. Besides faculty and graduate students from the consortium, participants include Priti Ramamurthy (Ph.D. from Syracuse), Professor of Women's Studies, University of Washington, Seattle, who will speak on "Cotton Body Politics and Inter-generationality in Andhra Pradesh"; Sumit Guha, Professor of History, Rutgers University who will address the ways farmers responded

to efforts begun under British colonial rule in the middle decades of the 19th century to change or "improve" Indian cottons; and Glenn Davis Stone, Professor of Anthropology, Washington University, St Louis who has recently investigated debates over the ways farmer suicides have been linked to biotechnology in South India, particularly in cotton farming.

SU's South Asia Center will help with transportation to and from Ithaca for this event. For further information please contact Ann G. Gold [ag-gold@syrr.edu](mailto:ag-gold@syrr.edu) or Radha Ganesan [rganesan@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:rganesan@maxwell.syr.edu)

## Teaching... in London ... (Continued from page 4)

In addition to attending a variety of cultural events and festivals, students also created short Pocket Guides of religious centers which they visited including the Ismaili Muslim Jamatkhana, the Sri Guru Singh Sabha Gurudwara, ISKON's Radha Krishna Temple and Shri Swaminarayan's Mandir. There were a dizzying variety of activities and resources available in London for the exploration of South Asian cultures. One student's comment sums up the opportunity to take such a course in

London: "I have never been in a city as multi-cultural as London. I feel that in the US, we would never have found so many religious centers so close in proximity. I have also learned to look at the music of South Asia in a totally different way and to appreciate it for what it is."

This was the first time that such a course, cross-listed under Religion and Anthropology, has been offered at the London program. A 2003

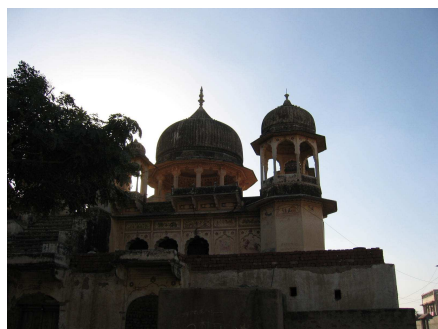
ACE report that mapped internationalization on U.S. campuses found that only 12 percent of students surveyed had participated in study abroad programs. When asked to assess their semester in London, students said their exposure had made such a profound impact on their appreciation of diversity that they felt that studying abroad should be an integral part of every undergraduate student's experience.

## A testament to the wondrous working of chance.... — By Prof. Susan Wadley

"Mem Sahab. Mainpuri. Karimganj, BUA (auntie)" As I started to enter the door leading to the ATM machine at the bank two blocks from my guest house in an upscale suburb of New Delhi, I jumped, startled and initially

fearful of the shouts from the bank guard, gun slung over his shoulder. As the words penetrated, "hamari bua?" "Our Aunt?" I looked more carefully.

Unexpectedly, in a city of several million, the ATM machine nearest my hotel was guarded by a man who lived two doors away from my village residence—some seven hours away in the rural countryside. I had known him since his infancy. That this man, from a village of some 3000 residents, guarded 'my' bank in Delhi is a testament to the increasing intersections of this rural community with the wider world.





## An evening of Rhythm Fantasies!

By Banita Sarwar

Some say Carnatic music is almost divine. On November 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2004, the Classical Indian musical performance that took place in Maxwell auditorium lived up to its reputation. The event was named "A Musical Odyssey" and indeed it was an eventful journey for the evening. Sponsored by the South Asia Center, this event consisted of a unique musical concert performed by Umayalapuram K. Sivaraman and his troupe who are trained professional musicians from India.

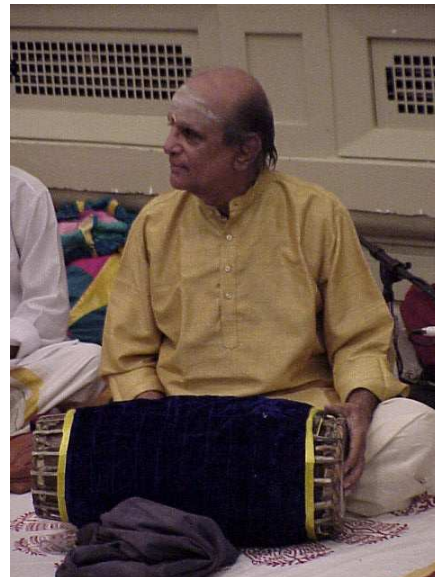
The principal instrument played in the concert was the *Mrudangam* (played by the Maestro Umayalapuram K. Sivaraman), a South Indian barrel shaped hand drum with drum heads on both sides that produces intriguing musical overtones. Another instrument that captivated the audience was the *Jalatharangam* (played by Nemani Somayajulu) which is a tonal musical instrument played by striking a set of sticks on a set of 12 porcelain cups filled with different levels of water. Other traditional South Indian musical instruments that were played were ghatam, thimila, edakka, chenda, panchavadhyam and tha-yambaka.

Anyone walking by the auditorium

that evening witnessed the performers dressed in traditional white cloth wrapped around their waists, and bare-chested -- a pleasant change from the cold weather scene outside the auditorium.

The musical played was a variety of rhythmic cycles (*thaalam*) and melodies (*raagam*). Along with traditional South Indian musical compositions, the musicians added western musical components to amuse the audience. By the end of the performance, the musicians had managed to engage the whole audience in their performance as everyone clapped along with the musical beats played.

"Are his hands flying or is the drum making the noise on its own?" exclaimed an awestruck Aly Ramji, a first year IR student sitting in the audience on this enchanting evening. Students, professors, and guests were obviously delighted by the smiling musicians who played a popular South Asian style of music known as the '*Thani Aavarthanam*' in the form of exchanges, where each performer's music is said to converse respond to the others.



*Umayalapuram K. Sivaraman*

"SU has never had this variety and array of percussionists in one program," said Carol M. Babiracki, associate professor of music history and culture in SU's Department of Fine Arts. "This performance is unique because of the caliber of musicians. Sivaraman is considered one of the best South Indian drummers alive today."



*Radha Ganesan*

## Meet Our New Outreach Coordinator!

Anyone passing through the Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs this year must have met Radha Ganesan, the new Outreach Program Coordinator for South Asia Center. Radha also works as the new Assistant Director at the Center for European Studies. Her work in the Center involves outreach activities and developing the K through 12 programs. She is also planning on teaching courses involving education in South Asia.

With a Ph.D. in Education with focus on distance education, M. Ed. in Special Education and a B.A. in Psychology, Radha has extensive experience in Educational Program Evaluation.

An ideal future for Ganesan would involve working for some international organization that focuses on education and development in South Asia and making documentary films. In recent years, Radha has been awarded the Francis McMillan Parks "Woman of Influence" Award, the Harry S. Ganders Merit Award from the School of Education at Syracuse University and the IDD& E Professional Development Award.

We at South Asia Center are delighted to have Radha Ganesan as a part of our team.

# Faculty Updates

**Carol Babiracki**, Fine Arts, won the Meredith Teaching Recognition Award in spring 2004. She presented the talk "Nacnis Through the Veil of Humor" at SU's 2004 Tolley Minnowbrook Conference on Teaching in the Humanities. She has contributed "Jharkhand" for *The Continuum Encyclopedia of Popular Music of the World*, v.4 and is revising "An Interpretive Dance with the Nacnis," for publication in *Ethnomusicology*. Her 2004 article "The Illusion of India's 'Public' Dancers" is being used in courses on Women and Music at Tufts University and Queen's University at Kingston.

**Tej Bhatia**, Language, Literature and Linguistics, worked to improve the teaching of uncommonly taught languages for government agencies at the Center for the Advanced Study of Language, University of Maryland. He was invited to offer a short course at the S.N.D.T. Women's University, Mumbai, India. April 29-May 1, 2004, titled "Resolving Global vs. Local Paradox: Marketing Language and Identities in Cross-Cultural Advertising." He was appointed Acting President, Teachers' of South Asian Languages (SALTA). Professor Bhatia was also invited to be a guest in an hour call-in show called "Hello India" for Voice of America. In 2004 he published *Handbook of Bilingualism*, coauthored with William Ritchie, and had numerous articles accepted for future publication.

**Ann Gold**, Religion and Anthropology, received the Chancellor's Citation for Exceptional Academic Achievement from Syracuse University. She published "The Long-Tailed Rat" in *Asian Folklore Studies*, and delivered invited lectures at the Center for South Asia, University of Wisconsin, Madison; the second International Symposium on "Region and Regional Consciousness in India," Arizona State University; the "Conference on Women, War and Peace," Presidential Symposium: War, Peace and Justice in the Middle East and Asia, Auburn University; and "Remembering Komal Kothari: A Conference on Intellectual Contributions to Scholarship on Rajasthan and Folklore," Columbia University. She also gave a paper at the 18th European Conference on Modern South Asian Studies, Lund, Sweden.

**Tazim R. Kassam**, Religion, has published "Balancing Acts: Negotiating the Ethics of Scholarship and Identity," in *Identity and the Politics of Scholarship in the Study of Religion* (Routledge, 2004). She also edited two issues of *Spotlight on Teaching* on "Teaching about Religions, Medicine and Healing" (Spring 2004) and "Teaching and Site Visits" (Fall 2004), published in *Religious Studies New*, American Academy of Religion. A specialist on the Ismaili Muslim poetry called *ginans*, she presented two papers on this topic titled "Envisioning New Directions in Ginanic Studies," at the 2nd International Conference on Ginan

*Literature* held at Saurashtra University, Rajkot, November 18-21, 2004 and "A Third Space: The Creative Religious Encounter of Identity and Difference in the Ismaili Ginans," at the *Ray Smith Symposium on Religious Boundaries in South Asia*, Syracuse University, April 1-3, 2004. She was invited to speak on "The Phenomenon of Scripture in Islam," at the *Conference on Theorizing Scriptures* at Claremont Graduate University.

**Prema Kurien**, Sociology, edited a special issue of the *International Journal of Sociology and Social Policy* on the impact of immigrants on American institutions, and published 3 articles as well as 2 chapters in edited books. In addition, she had another article and 4 book chapters accepted for publication. These publications focus on Hindu and Christian Indian groups in the U.S.

**Jishnu Shankar**, Hindi Instructor and Associate Director of the South Asia Center, Moynihan Institute, Maxwell, presented two papers, one at the Aghor Parampara Vyakhyanamala at Ujjain University, Madhya Pradesh, India, on January 24, 2005, titled "Cremation Ground, the Body and the Bodily in Sadhana: A Comparison of Esoteric Practices of Buddha and Aghor Ascetics", and the second one at the inaugural meeting of the South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Religion in New Delhi on Jan. 29, 2005. Mr. Shankar's paper was titled: "Tracing the History of Some Common Elements in Buddha's Sadhana and Aghor Esoteric Practices".

**Larry Schroeder**, Public Administration, served as the host and academic advisor during the fall semester to thirty three senior Civil Servants who are enrolled in the Public Policy Program at Indian Institute of Management in India.

**Cecilia Van Hollen**, Anthropology, conducted ethnographic research, supported by a Fulbright Scholar Program Research Award, on a new project entitled "HIV/AIDS, Medicine, and Gender: how pregnant women negotiate options to prevent mother-to-child transmission of HIV in Tamil Nadu, India." Her new publications are of two biographical sketches of South Asian anthropologists: "Jonathan P. Parry" and "Bernard Cohn," in the *Biographical Dictionary of Anthropology*. She also did a book review of *Living with the AIDS Virus: The Epidemic and the Response in India* edited by Samiran Panda, Anindya Chatterjee, and Abu S. Abdul-Quader in *Science, Technology & Society: An International Journal devoted to the Developing World*.

*Continued on Page 9*



## "SU sweeps Coomaraswamy Prize two years running"

Annually, the Association for Asian Studies awards the Ananda Kentish Coomaraswamy Book Prize for the "best English-language work in South Asian studies" to a single work published during a preceding calendar year. Syracuse South Asia faculty have now won this coveted prize for two consecutive years.

This March anthropology professor Cecilia Van Hollen will receive the Coomaraswamy award for *Birth on the Threshold: Childbirth and Modernity in South India*, published by the University of California Press in 2003. Last year Ann Grodzins Gold shared the prize with her co-author, Bhoju Ram Gujar, for their book, *In the Time of Trees and Sorrows: Nature, Power and Memory in Rajasthan* published by Duke University Press in 2002.

### Faculty Updates ...(Continued from page 8)

**Susan Wadley**, Anthropology, published latest book, *Raja Nal and the Goddess in the North Indian Oral Epic Dhola*, Indiana University Press. She has in press two volumes of her collected essays: *The Village Indira: Essays on Women, Religion and Social Change in North India* and *Beyond Texts: Oral Traditions and Performance in North India*; and an Indian edition of *Behind Mud Walls: Seventy Five Years in a North Indian Village*, by William and Charlotte Wiser with new chapters by Susan S. Wadley. She also presented a paper at the inaugural meeting of the South and Southeast Asian Association for the Study of Religion in New Delhi on Jan. 29, 2005. Professor Wadley's paper was titled "Exploring the Epics "Dhola" and "Dhola-Maru": Issues of Identity and Elite Status in Eastern and Western Rajasthan.

**Joanne Punzo Waghorne**, Religion, published her new book *Diaspora of the Gods: Modern Hindu Temples in an Urban Middle-Class World* with Oxford University Press. She returned to Chennai this summer to plan a new project on Hindu-based religious organizations--especially modern guru centered movements--and global civil society in the city.

### Faculty Grants

**Prema Kurien** received a fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies to conduct fieldwork in India over the summer of 2005-2006.

**Jishnu Shankar** at Syracuse University and Prof. Herman Van Olphen at the University of Texas at Austin were awarded a South Asia Language Resource Center (SALRC) mini-grant to develop an online vocabulary list as dictionary on basic words crucial for the first and second year Hindi courses. The project is based on building a database of vocabulary words, which are then presented via a web page. The web page will have the ability to manipulate the lists in various ways, in addition to providing the students an opportunity to test their vocabulary strength by taking online quizzes and practicing exercises. The project is expected to be completed by May 2005.

**Susan Wadley** received a Faculty Research Grant from the American Institute of Indian Studies. She was also awarded grants by the Ray Smith Symposium, College of Arts and Sciences and Uenounter, for programming a symposium titled "Drawing a Line in Water: Religious Boundaries in South Asia" at Syracuse University.



Rajasthan,  
Courtesy  
Prof.  
Susan  
Wadley

Bangalore,  
Courtesy  
Prof.  
Susan  
Wadley



## FLAS FELLOWS

The South Asia Center has named nine Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellows for this academic year, whose studies will reflect the interdisciplinary nature of the Fellowship and its focus on language. We are proud to welcome to the Center's family the following individuals. For the 2004-2005 academic year, Foreign Language Area Studies fellowships were awarded to:

<b>Trudy Delong</b>	<b>Anthropology</b>
<b>Connie Etter</b>	<b>Anthropology</b>
<b>William Kuracina</b>	<b>History</b>
<b>Cassidy Perrault</b>	<b>Anthropology</b>
<b>Carolyn Rodal</b>	<b>International Relations/ Anthropology</b>
<b>Angela Rudert</b>	<b>Religion</b>
<b>Jennifer Smith</b>	<b>Engineering</b>
<b>Mukesh Vidyasagar</b>	<b>International Relations</b>
<b>Ian Wilson</b>	<b>Anthropology</b>



*Sikh Temple Picture courtesy Tazim Kassam*

### **BHARATI GRANT AY 2004-05**

The friends and family of Aghananda Bharati established a memorial grant in his honor in the early 1990s. Each year, one to three awards of up to \$1500 are made to doctoral students in the Maxwell School for research leading to their dissertation research on South Asia. This year's recipients were:

<b>Sharmadip Basu</b>	<b>Social Science</b>
<b>Vikas Choudhary</b>	<b>Anthropology</b>
<b>Nandini Sengupta</b>	<b>English</b>

## Student Updates

**Sadaf Ahmed**, doctoral candidate, Department of Anthropology, returned to Syracuse University in the Fall of 2004 after completing a year of fieldwork in Islamabad, Pakistan. Her research is geared towards understanding why an increasing number of middle-and-upper class women have been actively turning towards and engaging with a rigid form of Islam propagated by Al-Huda, an Islamic school for women that was established in Islamabad in 1994.

**Srikrishna Ayyangar**, doctoral candidate, Department of Political Science, taught a course titled "The Politics of South Asia". He presented papers at the Annual American Political Science Association Conference and the Annual Conference on South Asia last year. His dissertation is a comparative study of micro-credit programs in South India.

**Payal Banerjee**, doctoral candidate, Department of Sociology, presented her research at the Eastern Sociological Society, The Annual South Asia Conference at Wisconsin-Madison, Association of Black Sociologists, and the National Science Foundation. Her paper on "Flexible Production in Information Technology, the H-1B Visa, and the Radicalization of Indian Immigrant Labor in the United States" has been accepted for publication in the special issue of Critical Sociology.

**Kasturi Gupta**, doctoral candidate, Department of Sociology, presented the paper titled "HIV/AIDS Crisis in India - Assessment of National Policies in India," at the first Vichaar meeting held in April 2003, Syracuse University.

**Sanjukta Mukherjee**, doctoral candidate, Department of Geography, presented at the Vichaar meeting in Fall 2004, a paper titled "Bangalore: From pensioner's paradise to silicon city Restructuring of work, gender relations in workplaces and the changing geography of the Software Industry". The presentation was based on 8 months of fieldwork (Dec 2003-July 2004) in India.

**Cassidy Perreault**, doctoral candidate, Department of Anthropology, presented her paper "regarding Sikh Matrimonial Internet Sites: Issues of feminine identity and family values in the American Sikh Diaspora versus India" at Vichaar meeting in Fall 2004.

**Ian Wilson**, doctoral candidate, Department of Anthropology, is currently organizing Vichaar, an organization in which graduate students can share their research on South Asia with their peers. The organization draws members from many departments, and it attempts to provide a place for students to speak about South Asia across disciplines.

# Spring Events

**Christi A Merrill**, Univ. of Michigan & Cornell University

Who owns Chouboli?: Cross-dressing in Translation

**February 8, 4:00 pm, 341 Eggers**

**Kanchana Ruwanpura**, Hobart & William Smith Colleges

Dutiful Daughters, Sacrificing Sons: The Role of Women in Female Headed Households in Eastern Sri Lanka

**February 16, 11:40-12:35pm, Maxwell 205A**

**Gerry Forbes**, SUNY Oswego

Small Acts of Rebellion: Women Tell Their Photographs

**February 22, 4:00 pm, 341 Eggers Hall**

**Divya Sharma**, Utica College

Hundi and Hawala: Indigenous Banking in India, Sociocultural Utility and Contemporary Criminal Manifestations

**March 9, 4:00 pm, 341 Eggers Hall**

**PranitaJain / Kalapriya**

Bharatnatyam lecture and demonstration

**March 22, 5:30 pm, Maxwell 204**

**Payal Banerjee**, SU- Maxwell

Indian Immigrant IT Workers in the U.S.

**April 7, 4:00 pm, 341 Eggers Hall**

**Cecilia Van Hollen**, SU-Maxwell

HIV/AIDS and Maternity in India

**April 19, 4:00 pm, 341 Eggers**

**Kasturi Gupta**, SU- Maxwell

Corporate Social Responsibility and HIV/AIDS in India

**April 21, 4:00 pm, 341 Eggers**

**Sadaf Ahmed**, SU-Maxwell

Al-Huda: Islamic Revivalism Amongst Urban Pakistani Women

**April 26, 4:00 pm, 341 Eggers Hall**



*Karimpur village scene. Picture courtesy Prof. Susan Wadley*



## **SOUTH ASIA CENTER: OUTREACH SERVICES**

Founded as a National Resource Center by the Department of Education, the South Asia Center at Syracuse University serves as a liaison between Syracuse University faculty with research interests in South Asia, educators, and the wider public in the Central New York area. Our resources and faculty interests cover the South Asia region, broadly defined as India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, and Nepal. Our audience includes educators in area schools and colleges, the general community, individuals interested in the region, and the Syracuse University community. South Asia Outreach presents workshops, seminars, lectures, film and video screenings, school and college lecture and discussion programs, cultural programs, and other public events. In addition, Outreach loans a wide variety of educational materials to educators and no cost. These resources include books, maps, videotapes, slide sets, comic books, and "hands-on" kits. We also have curriculum units and our staff is available to offer teachers advice on curriculum development. A list of our comic books and videotapes may be obtained by sending us a request with a self-addressed stamped envelope, or on our web page at <http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/gai/southasiacenter/index.htm>.

Our phone number is 315-443-2553. E-mail: southasia@maxwell.syr.edu



The South Asia Center News is the official outreach bulletin of the South Asia Center, Maxwell School of Citizenship, and Public Affairs, Syracuse University

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