



## SOUTH ASIA CENTER

OUTREACH BULLETIN

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## From the Director's Desk

It has been a tremendous honor to begin my tenure as the new Director of the South Asia Center, following the many years of inspired and tireless leadership of my predecessors, Susan Wadley and Ann Gold. Thanks to their efforts and those of our colleagues at Cornell, we are delighted to report that the Cornell-Syracuse South Asia Consortium has been awarded another four year National Resource Center grant and four years of continued support for our Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) fellowships, both from the Department of Education. With this, our Center will continue to be able to offer funding for both undergraduate and graduate students and programs that seek to enhance people's understanding of the South Asia region – a goal which continues to be of utmost importance as political violence rages in Afghanistan and Pakistan and erupts again in Kashmir; a fragile peace emerges in Sri Lanka; and President Obama endorses India's bid for a permanent seat on the UN Security Council on his recent visit to the country.

Three broad themes run throughout our events this year: Afghanistan, South Asian foreign policy concerns, and water.

We have many activities planned for this year that highlight Afghanistan. Pashto language is being offered for the first time at SU and we welcome Habib Sangar as our Pashto instructor (see page 2). This spring, Susan Wadley is offering a new course on the anthropology of Afghanistan and Pakistan. There will also be a number of other events including a one day film festival, an Afghan musical concert (featuring John Baily on rubab and Dibyarka Chatterjee on tabla), and two speakers, Margaret Mills and Noah Coburn, who will discuss their research in Afghanistan. We hope to provide outreach programs on Afghanistan (with the help of our graduate assistant, Akbar Quraishi) to schools throughout Central New York

and in particular, the school districts surrounding Fort Drum, near Watertown.

The Center will also be increasing programming on critical matters of foreign policy. To that end, in September, Philip Oldenburg from Columbia University presented his work on the question of why India has been a strong democracy while Pakistan has not. In January, we hosted Robert Blake, the Assistant Secretary of State for South and Central Asia, who spoke on "The India Model: The Beneficial Rise of an Economic Power." Later in the spring, Zia Mian from Princeton's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs will discuss security issues in the region. And in April, the Sri Lankan Ambassador to the UN and a representative from the United States Tamil Political Action Council will come to campus to engage in a critical dialogue on political and economic developments, plans, and recommendations for Sri Lanka, in the post-war era

As we began the 2010-11 academic year, the people of Pakistan were experiencing one of the



Director Cecilia Van Hollen with her daughter Lila Van Hollen Rodgers, at the Peradeniya Botanical Gardens, Sri Lanka

## New Faces at the South Asia Center

The South Asia Center would like to welcome **Habib Sangar**, the new instructor for Pashto; he joined the LLL faculty in Fall of 2010 to teach Pashto I. In addition to his teaching responsibilities, Habib is a student in the Executive Master of Public Administration program and International Relations. Last year, his studies were funded by the Joint Japan/ World Bank Graduate Scholarship Program (JJWBGSP).

When asked about his time at Maxwell, Habib immediately compares Syracuse's weather to that of his home town and that he misses the 200 days of sunshine that Kabul receives. Despite this, after reflecting on his academic experiences here at Maxwell, he states, "Being among a diverse community of international students coming from all around the world is something of a unique opportunity to learn about different parts of the world, about different peoples and their culture as well as providing them with information on my own..." Habib loves teaching and sharing his culture with his fellow students and the larger Syracuse community. "Even though Pashto is my native language and I did my most of high school and undergraduate studies in Pashto, I had never thought how complex but interesting it is to learn. I enjoy teaching language, which I believe is due to its relationship with culture. As a native speaker, I feel confident in describing and teaching this language with its culture context, which is widely varied from place to place in my country. Furthermore, I believe that it is two way of learning and teaching for me. Apart from what I teach to students, I also learn about their culture as well improving my English too."



Before coming to Syracuse, Habib worked for the Afghanistan government in a variety of capacities, including being the Chief of Protocol for International Relations in the *Wolesi Jirga* (House of Representatives) and the Director of the Afghanistan Parliamentary Institute. He is originally from Kabul., Afghanistan.

The South Asia Center and Syracuse University were also pleased to host two international visiting scholars this past year whose research interests were based in South Asia—Matteo Rossini, University of Florence and Dr. Ahsan Habib, Bangladesh Institute of Bank Management.

**Matteo Rossini** is a doctoral student at the University of Florence; his dissertation work focuses on India-U.S. relations during Johnson's presidency. He was able to be in residence at Syracuse through an exchange program between Syracuse University and the University of Florence. He had previously spent time at the Johnson archive in Austin TX as well as in Washington, D.C. In my conversation with Rossini, he told me that the time he has spent in the U.S. has been very fruitful due to the amount of archival sources to which he had access.



**Dr. Ahsan Habib** was in residence at Syracuse from February to June 2010 as a Fulbright Scholar. His research interests include Corporate Social Responsibility of Banks, and Green Banking. His wife, Pinky Shah and their son, Ishan accompanied him and he writes that they "are taking back home a benign face of American people. They received tremendous support and cooperation from the very first day of their stay at Syracuse." He credits the cooperation of faculty of the University and bankers of Syracuse played the major role in the successful completion of his Fulbright project.

—Emera Bridger Wilson

## From the Field: Notes from a Qasba

As a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad fellow this academic year, I am approximately four months into an eleven-month project in the provincial town of Jahazpur, District Bhilwara, Rajasthan. I have worked periodically in Rajasthan as a cultural anthropologist for over thirty years, always returning to a single village, Ghatiyali. There I studied religion, local history, folklore, environmental knowledge, gender roles and a lot more. Jahazpur—where my husband and I settled on August 5, 2010—is a *qasba*, neatly defined as a place which is "smaller than a city but bigger than a village." Exactly! In 2007, my close friend and research associate, Bhoju Ram Gujar, bought a house in Jahazpur's slightly suburban area, Santosh Nagar. During the last twenty years families such as Bhoju's moving in from nearby villages, and many others moving out from Jahazpur's congested center, settled in Santosh Nagar. On summer visits to Bhoju's home, I found myself attracted to Jahazpur: its rich legends and deep history; its storied landscape and cordial populace whose *qasba* lives offer a fascinating blend of cosmopolitanism and rurality.

The municipality of Jahazpur is the administrative center of a sub-district (*tehsil*), with numerous government offices, and a hospital. It is thus a regional hub for services unavailable in villages. Jahazpur's extensive and bustling market attracts shoppers from surrounding rural areas who come to purchase cloth and ready-made clothing, utensils, medicines, electronic goods, jewelry, cosmetics, staple groceries and much more. The produce market at the bus stand begins each morning with a lively auction of bulk fruits and vegetables from the countryside which individual vendors purchase. As far as I know, this lucrative endeavor—the brainchild of entrepreneurial ex-butchers—operates every day of the year, testimony to the priorities of commerce.

I am only 28 kilometers from familiar territory, but many aspects of life in Jahazpur—such as the availability of fruit which even today is missing in Ghatiyali—are entirely new for me. In Jahazpur, I keep my fridge stocked with papayas. Yes, my fridge! For me, this too is unprecedented. Although the power does go off anywhere between 5 to 10 times a day, and stays off from 15 minutes to several hours, it is far more reliable than village electricity; in my entire time here I have not once seen a serious outage after nightfall. Informally, fieldwork is nothing but life itself: laundry, cooking, shopping, complaints about the weather, juicy gossip. Lately, I have found myself sucked into one of the TV serials that Bhoju's daughters find irresistible—revolving around a spectacularly cruel mother-in-law's dark plots.

My formal research has taken two main forms: recorded interviews and participation in public events. I continue to work with Bhoju, a middle-school headmaster in his early fifties, who leads me to male and senior persons including temple priests, retired educators, shopkeepers, journalists, and those involved in community leadership. From them I have learned a great deal about local history, geography, politics and business. Bhoju's 23-year-old daughter Madhu, who has almost completed her teacher

training, introduces me to young women, mostly our neighbors. Many of them, like Madhu, belong to the first generation of educated females in their families. From them I learn about the aspirations and tribulations of youth—working incredibly hard to succeed (against the odds) in the competitive examination system that can lead to desired, secure salaried jobs.

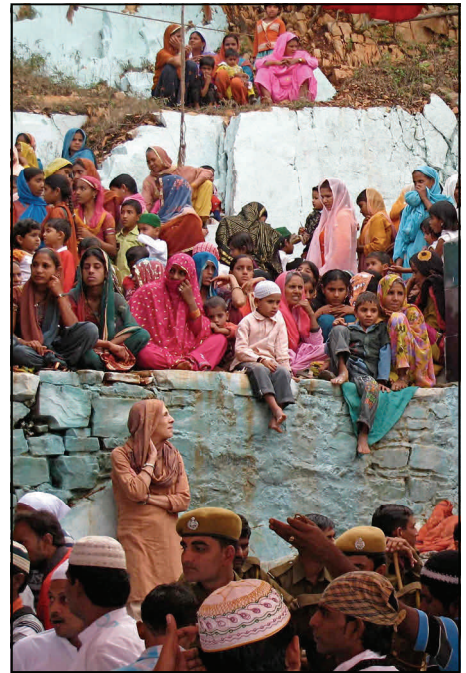
Interviews give individual perspectives. Public events both religious and social—in which Jahazpurites invest significant re-

sources—show me society's collective faces. Since our arrival there has truly not been a dull moment. I have observed religious celebrations including Hindu, Muslim and Jain processions, rituals and fairs; and secular programs including Independence Day and victory parades after the local election. All such events are compelling and photogenic. I am probably the only person in Jahazpur to attend them all, except for the ever-present policemen who have begun to acknowledge with smiles our frequent proximity.

The most recent public event I followed concluded the day before I sat down to compose these notes. This was the three-day 'Urs of Jahazpur's important Muslim saint, Gaji Pir. Gaji's 'Urs included a fair in the streets at the foot of his hilltop shrine; two imported urban qavali groups; the ceremonial procession and offering of gorgeous coverlets for the saint's tomb; gripping displays by *malang* -- Muslim ascetics from eastern U.P. who appear to pierce their eyes, cheeks and tongues with swords and skewers. Concerned for my sensibilities, kind local men assured me that these performers were artists of illusion. The closing prayers at Gaji's shrine included a request for his blessings to Hindus as well as Muslims, and an exuberant, liberal sprinkling of the happy crowd with fragrant rosewater.

As you can tell, I like it here. See you all in Fall '11.

— Contributed by Ann Grodzins Gold, Professor of Religion and Anthropology



A liminal spectator at Gaji Pir's 'Urs, Ann stands between the women and the ever-present police.

## The Girl and the Calf: A Painting

While doing research for the Ethnic Arts Foundation in Madhubani, Bihar this past fall, Susan Wadley was approached by Vanita Jha, a 50 year old Mithila painter, with this painting and the accompanying story that Ms. Jha says is “a true one from her community.”



**Scene 1:** An old woman had no grandson, but she was told to take her daughter-in-law to the river to worship and pray for one.

**Scene 2:** Through the mercy of the river god, the daughter-in-law became pregnant. She is a beautiful daughter named Radhiya. When Radhiya was older, they arranged her marriage with a competent young man.

**Scene 3:** When she went to her groom's house, she took a female calf with her.

**Scene 4:** Some time later, both Radhiya and the calf were pregnant. Her husband was away in a foreign land, but her in-laws cared for both her and the cow.

**Scene 5:** Both Radhiya and the cow gave birth to females. Her mother-in-law was very sad. When the neighbors came, her mother-in-law cursed her granddaughter.

**Scene 6:** But her in-laws loved the female calf and tied a black amulet on its neck.

**Scene 7:** The husband returned and played with and loved his daughter. But his mother stood with her back to the happy family.

**Scene 8:** One day the daughter became ill, and no one helped Radhiya. She could only give her daughter herbal medicines. Both mother and child cried.

**Scene 9:** The female calf was also ill, and the in-laws called a veterinarian to cure it. He gave the calf an injection. Radhiya feels that the value of a calf is greater than that of a daughter and says to God, “Oh, why did you not make me a cow?!”

## Asst. Secretary Blake affirms commitment to Indo-US Partnership

The South Asia Center was honored to host Assistant Secretary of State Robert Blake on Tuesday, January 25th. Speaking at the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, he affirmed the Obama Administration’s commitment to the US-Strategic partnership, which was strengthened by the President’s recent three day visit to India last November. He began his talk by pointing out the enduring ties that the Maxwell School has with India, starting with Dean Appleby making a visit to India and preparing the “Survey of India” in the 1950s’, which led to the establishment of the Indian Institute of Public Administration. Furthermore, the Moynihan Institute is named for Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, who served as Ambassador to India.

Assistant Secretary Blake went onto outline why this partnership is so important. He stated, “India shares our commitment to pluralism, religious liberty, universal education and the promotion of innovation and free enterprise. Indeed, our mutual commitment to these freedoms animates our global strategic partnership and provides us with the energy and the courage to build a better world together. President Obama’s trip produced a number of significant new milestones that show how the United States and India are working together to advance global peace, security and development and illustrates why he believes our relations with India constitute an ‘indispensable partnership’ for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.”

The Assistant Secretary also pointed out that India is the rising economic star of the region, with its GDP being 10 times what it was in 1990, when it liberalized its economy. “And, I assure all of you here tonight,” Blake asserted, “that U.S is making it a priority to work with our private sector to give them the opportunities to help meet India’s growing needs . Over the last decade, India became our 14<sup>th</sup> largest goods trading partner and we exchanged \$ 37.6 billion in goods in 2009. US foreign direct in-

vestment in India reached \$ 16.1 billion in 2008, a 10.8% increase from 2007.” He also fielded questions from the audience about security issues in the region, the relationship between Pakistan and India, and the current situation in Sri Lanka.

Earlier in the day, Assistant Secretary Blake spent time with undergraduate and graduate students over lunch to discuss his experiences as a Foreign Service officer and possible career opportunities available to students. He also answered questions that the students had concerning U.S. policy in South Asia. Students who attended the lunch and the lecture appreciated Blake’s insights and commented on how approachable he had been during his visit.

For people interested in viewing Assistant Secretary Blake’s talk or listening to Professor Grant Reeher’s radio interview with him, please see our website, <http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/moynihan/Programs/sac/>.



SAC Director Cecilia Van Hollen presents Assistant Secretary Blake with a copy of Steven R. Weisman’s new book containing the letters of Daniel Patrick Moynihan

—Contributed by Sabith Khan, MPA/IR Student



Dan Cheifer, Ph.D. Candidate in Religion (pictured on the left with Ann Gold), is participating in the year-long AIIS Hindi program in Jaipur. During a recent break, Dan visited Ann Gold in Jahazpur. Dan is planning on doing his research on the Gayatri Parivar, a global Hindu movement. As Ann told us via email, “...I was able to take him to the small Gayatri Parivar center in Jahazpur and you see us here talking with one of the main members of this movement who lives here (and behind us are the faces of the revered founders of course).”

## An Emerging Voice Goes to Europe

A few months ago I was selected to be an ‘Emerging Voice’ based on an essay competition organized by the Institute of Tropical Medicine (ITM) in Antwerp, Belgium. For some time now ITM has been focusing on strengthening health systems research capacity in the Global South. They view this process as ‘bridging the poles’ in order to balance the current domination of Western viewpoints in the global health arena. The Emerging Voices essay competition was aimed at recognizing young researchers from low and middle income countries who were working on innovative issues and providing them with support and mentorship in order to enable them to be better seen and heard in academic and policy circles. The end goals were to move us towards publishing our essays in a peer-reviewed journal as well as allowing us to attend the First Global Symposium on Health Systems Research.

My essay was on language barriers in health care settings in India, a topic that I first became interested in during my medical studies in the cosmopolitan city of Bangalore in South India. There we practiced a medicine embedded within the English language in a multi-lingual setting where often patients and doctors did not speak each other’s languages. Yet research into such issues or any attempt at providing organized translation services was more or less unheard of.

During the first two weeks of November, 52 of us Emerging Voices from 29 low and middle income countries got the opportunity to travel to Antwerp, Belgium to participate in a training workshop on academic writing and presentation skills. At the end of the two weeks we got to present our research topics at the ITM Annual Colloquium. We were encouraged to use a new style of presentation known as Pecha Kucha in which 20 image rich slides automatically advance every 20 seconds. Our resulting presentations which had to be carefully choreographed were the highlight of the colloquium and the feedback we received was useful in expanding our research themes.

The next week we all bused down to Montreux, Switzerland for the First Global Symposium on Health Systems Research, a highly profile event attended by many major academic institutions, funders and international agencies. Seventeen Emerging Voices were selected to present at two sessions within the symposium. I was served as one of three Emerging Voices who were to provide feedback at the closing plenary. Overall the efforts of ITM created a structured program by which we Emerging Voices could navigate the worlds of academic publishing and international conferences. More importantly, they created a network of young researchers from the Global South who normally would not have been able to get to know each other, share ideas and collaborate on research and advocacy.



Lalit (fifth from the left) in the Alps with other participants at the conference.

—Contributed by Lalit Narayan, Ph.D. Student, Anthropology

## A Welcoming Place, and Pace, of Life

“You are our first customer and this is auspicious, so pay whatever you like,” the manager said. I had ended up there on the recommendation of a friendly waiter in the restaurant below. If I liked coffee he said, I should go upstairs where there was a newly opened cafe with a great view of town. Two hours later I had enjoyed one cup of coffee and made four new friends.

That experience was emblematic of my summer in India, where, thanks to the South Asia Center, I had the privilege of participating in the American Institute of Indian Studies (AIIS) summer Hindi language study program in Jaipur. Known as the ‘Pink City’, Jaipur provided a great location for the program as a bustling city of more than 2 million encircled by hills in the desert. The classes at AIIS focused on reading, writing, speaking, grammar, listening comprehension, vocabulary building, and culture. I was continuously impressed by my dedicated and outstanding teachers and by my classmates, who came from univer-

sities from all across the United States.

While classes and homework occupied much of my time, some of the best learning experiences were from practicing my Hindi as I navigated the streets, shops, and markets. While I had studied Hindi, and India’s economy, politics, and history at Syracuse, in Jaipur I experienced the vibrancy of India that no statistics or books could show me. Visiting shops turned into learning opportunities, where even armed with passable Hindi and previous bargaining experience, I proved to be a novice among the ‘master of the poker face’ shopkeepers, who always had the uncanny ability of making me believe that I had gotten the better side of a bargain until I found out later that I had paid well above the ‘local’ price. Some of my favorite memories were drinking chai and speaking with my tailor Shanti Lal, who would talk about his life growing up in West Bengal before he moved to Jaipur, about how he got started in (continued on page 7)

(continued from page 6)

tailoring, and about his family. Time and again I had experiences where I was expecting to run an errand quickly in the same way I would in the States that instead turned into an interesting hour-long discussion with the shop or business owner about anything and everything, including India, the United States, and life in general.

The opportunity to live and study in India was personally enriching while enormously beneficial to my graduate studies and future career. Before leaving my pleasant conversation with the staff at the newly opened cafe, they took my photo, had me sign my name and my country of residence in Hindi on a piece of paper, and told me they would post the photo and information on a bulletin board to show future customers. I hope to get back there one day to see it.

— Contributed by *Matthew Dippold, International Relations Student*



**AIIS Hindi Language students** (from left): Matt Dippold (IR), Chris Giamo (Anthropology), Kelsey Kobik (History), and Scott Collison (Physics/Philosophy).

## Book Review: “The State and Governance in India: The Congress Ideal”

William Kuracina, Routledge, 2009

William Kuracina, a 2008 PhD recipient in History from Syracuse, has recently published a monograph, “The State and Governance in India: The Congress Ideal,” which is based upon and expanded from his doctoral dissertation. The book, which appeared in 2010, is the eighth title in the Routledge series Studies in South Asian History. In this book, Kuracina enters into and contributes to significant debates concerning the foundation and development of the post-colonial Indian state. Taking a position critical of both the prominent Subaltern Studies and Cambridge School perspectives, focusing, respectively, upon ‘the historic failure of the nation to come into its own,’ or ‘the Congress’s transformation into the Raj,’ Kuracina attempts to ‘holistically investigate’ Congress policies and activities in the 1930s in order to consider the intent and vision of prominent actors in the Congress and ‘what might have been.’

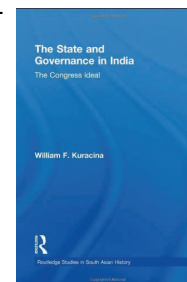
In particular, Kuracina reconsiders the Congress’s cooperation with and resistance to the British Raj, and towards these ends he focuses upon the Congress’s attempts during the 1930s to lay a foundation for a strong and centralized post-colonial state through the development of a parallel government and an indigenous governmentality. To undertake this ambitious rethinking of the pre-Independence Congress, Kuracina focuses upon the individuals who were members of the Congress Working Committee, the powerful executive Council of the Congress, and their efforts to frame issues of national concern, to formulate policies and plans for forwarding the national cause, and to develop a democratic national state. Within the five core chapters of the monograph, Kuracina considers the forming of a parallel state by addressing Congress concerns with and efforts to address the issues of democracy and civil liberties, foreign affairs, national economic development and planning, the forming of a federal state, and national defense.

Amongst these five strands in the creation of a parallel

state, Kuracina’s treatment of Congress leaders’ involvement in foreign affairs and national economic planning are quite striking and clearly present the foundation for his larger argument. Concerning the former, Kuracina presents the pre-Independence Congress attempts, led by Bose and Nehru. These efforts included both presenting the Indian situation abroad as well as formulating a nationally-based foreign-policy outlook instead of a London-based one and formulating positions on international issues and in regard to other nations. Concerning the latter, Kuracina considers the discussions within both the Congress Working Committee and Provincial Congress Committees to collect extensive data on agriculture, industry and poverty in order to attempt to formulate a parallel administrative structure and policies that could be drawn upon after Independence for national economic development. Kuracina through engaging the efforts of and debates among Congress leaders in these two areas as well as others is able to bring out the complexity of Congress undertakings in the decades before Independence and draw attention to the centrality of the formation of a distinctly Indian parallel government oriented towards not only independence but a broader national interest.

Kuracina’s monograph, based upon extensive research in British and Congress official reports and statements as well as Congress leaders’ speeches, correspondence, and private papers, succeeds in offering important new insights into the aspirations and visions of the Congress leadership and their political, policy, and administrative undertakings.

—Contributed by *Ian Wilson, Ph.D. Candidate, Anthropology*



world's most devastating natural disasters with a flood which took the lives of more people than the 2010 earthquake in Haiti, the 2004 tsunami, and Hurricane Katrina combined. It was heartening to see our students at (*continued on page 8*) (continued from page 1) SU mobilize a major humanitarian effort to respond to this crisis through a series of fundraising initiatives under the banner of "Syracuse Cares" and the South Asia Center was proud take the lead role in sponsoring this endeavor. Thus far, this initiative has raised \$6000 to be donated to Oxfam and the Edhi Foundation (a Pakistan-based NGO) for relief to victims of the flood.

Given the magnitude of this flood, it is appropriate that this year's Consortium conference, to be held on April 8th at Cornell, will be on the theme of "Water in Changing Environments," examining a range of issues including climate change, drinking water, agriculture and managing rivers. Farhana Sultana (Geography) and Emera Bridger Wilson, our Center Outreach Coordinator, have been actively involved in organizing this conference and we encourage all to attend. Emera and Victor Tzen (Architecture) will also be leading a new SU Abroad program, "A Path to Water," to study water management in India during the summer.

We have several exciting outreach activities planned this spring. In early February, members of the Bhutanese-Nepali refugee community in Syracuse will speak about their experiences in Bhutan, Nepal, and the U.S. We hope that this event brings awareness to the plight of these refugees. We are also holding a meeting of the North East Scholars of South Asia (NESSA) on February 18th in conjunction with the Afghan musical concert. Furthermore, in addition to our work in the North country, we continue to provide our services to improve the international curriculum in our local schools. In the fall, Subho Basu, (History) and Anirban Acharya, a Ph.D. student in the Political Science, presented a brief history of the political economy of India at the Central New York Council for Social Studies (CNYCSS) Annual Conference. This spring, we will be teaching sixth graders in the East Syracuse-Minoa about the foods of South Asia.

Finally, I want to thank Anand Dwivedi, the Center's Associate Director, and Emera for all of their help, facilitating the transition into my new role as the Center Director. Anand, Emera, and I all welcome and encourage ideas and help with future programs for next year.

—Cecilia Van Hollen

## Alumni and Student Updates

Four of our alumni received tenure during 2010: **Chaise LaDousa** at Hamilton College, Clinton NY; **Lisa Knight** at Furman University, Greenville, SC; **Yamuna Sangarasivam** at Nazareth, and **Kalyani Menon** at DePaul University, Chicago IL.

Several of our students successfully defended their dissertations in the past year: **Vivek Srinivasan** (Social Science), **Mary Lou Fernandes** (Social Science), **Bandita Sijapati** (Social Science), **Asha Sundaram** (Economics). Vivek has been named the Program manager for the Liberation Technology Program at Stanford University. Since defending, Mary Lou has taught Public Policy at the American University in Kosovo, and she now contributes opinion pieces on Indian policy issues at Huffington Post, consults with the World Bank and runs a high-end consultancy matching service called worldXperts. Asha is currently Senior Lecturer at the University of South Africa. She is also a co-author of a chapter in a new volume on Poverty in India—"Do Lagging Regions Benefit from Trade?" (with Pravin Krishna and Devashish Mitra). *The Poor Half Billion in South Asia: What is Holding Back Lagging Regions*, E. Ghani (ed.), Oxford University Press, 2010.

Two of our Ph.D. students received grants to conduct their dissertation research. **Faris Khan** (Anthropology) received the Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Grant for his project, "Exploring Queer Disjunctures: Sexual Subjects and Activist Groups in Kolkata". He is currently in Pakistan doing research. **Madhura Lohokare**, PhD candidate in the Anthropology Department, has received the Wenner-Gren Foundation Dissertation Fieldwork Grant. Lohokare's project will examine the ways in which the urban poor use public spaces in Pune, Maharashtra and the extent to which their use of space can lead to political mobilization.

**John Giammatteo**, a dual anthropology and magazine journalism major in SU's College of Arts and Sciences and the S.I. Newhouse School of Public Communications, respectively, and a South Asian Studies Minor, has received a Marshall Scholarship, the first in the history of Syracuse University. He plans to pursue a master's degrees in global migration at the City University of London, and in Southeast Asia studies at the University of London's School for Oriental and African Studies. When he returns to the United States, he plans to pursue a Ph.D. in anthropology with a focus on forced migration.



## Elephant Extravaganza a Smashing Success!



The South Asia Center was excited to again participate in the Annual Elephant Extravaganza at the Rosamond Gifford Zoo. In addition to watching the elephants smash watermelons, paint pictures, and do tricks, those who attend the event learned a bit more about the cultures, languages and dance styles of South Asia. We were fortunate to have two different styles of dance performance this year. Durga Bor, from Cornell University, performed in the Odissi dance tradition while Leann Thayaparan, Sneha Dontha and Rachael Thomas, students at Fayetteville-Manlius and Jamesville-Dewitt High Schools, performed the South Indian classical dance, Bharatanatyam. The henna designs, designed and applied by Carly

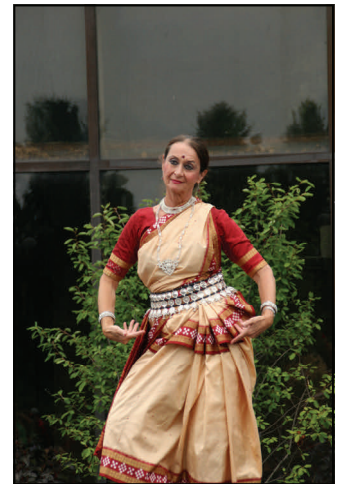


**Graduate Student Volunteers** Akbar Quraishi (EMPA/IR), Rajyasree Banerjee (History), and Jocelyn Killmer (Anthropology)

Dwyer were also quite popular. A big thanks to the faculty and students who volunteered at the Asian Elephant Extravaganza: Cecilia VanHollen (Director, SAC), Anand Dwivedi (Associate Director), Karen McNamara (Anthropology), Ian Wilson (Anthropology), Jocelyn Killmer (Anthropology), Rajyasree Banerjee (History), Amy Friers (Political Science), Akbar Quraishi (International Relations), Carly Dwyer (Religion), and Emily Cloyd (Environmental Policy, ESF). The 5th Annual Elephant Extravaganza will be August 20, 2011. See you there!



Durga Bor (right), from Cornell University, performed in the Odissi dance tradition while Leann Thayaparan, Sneha Dontha and Rachael Thomas (left), students at Fayetteville-Manlius and Jamesville-Dewitt High Schools, performed the South Indian classical dance, Bharatanatyam.



## Bring South Asia to Your Classroom!!

Faculty and graduate students from the South Asia Center are available to present on topics of interest which satisfy New York Learning Standards for Social Studies (2-5) such as: geography, food and dress, family life, language, technology and development, folk arts and oral narrative traditions, history, religious practice, the environment, historical and contemporary political systems, the growth of India as an economic power, and migration within and from South Asia. In addition to classroom visits, we can work with teachers to design or revise lesson plans. We are particularly interested in working in rural school districts whose students may have limited experiences with South Asian cultures. Contact Emera Bridger Wilson (elbridge@syr.edu) for more information.



## Faculty Updates

**Ann G Gold**, Professor, Religion and Anthropology, was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship for academic year 2010-11 (see p. 3). She published three anthology chapters and co-edited (with K.I. Leonard and G. Reddy) the volume, *Histories of Intimacy and Situated Ethnography* (Manohar 2010). She gave invited lectures at Kyoto University and Tokyo University of Foreign Studies in Japan, as well as at the Universities of Florida and Iowa.

**Romita Ray**, Assistant Professor, Art & Music Histories, completed her book manuscript, "Under the Banyan Tree: Relocating the Picturesque in British India" last year with the help of an NEH summer stipend, and grants from the Yale Center for British Art and the Paul Mellon Centre for Studies in British Art. After returning from her sabbatical in India, she spent the Spring semester in-residence at Yale where she worked on her book and gave several guest lectures. She has now moved onto a multi-national project centering on Elihu Yale, founder of Yale College and former governor of Fort Saint George in Chennai (Madras). By Maymester, 2011, she will be branching into Bollywood and its aesthetics, a course that she hopes to develop into a regular offering at SU.

**Larry Schroeder**, Professor, Public Administration, helped plan and participated as a trainer in the training program in Public Policy Analysis and Management for members of the Indian Administrative Service (IAS) sponsored by the Government of India under a contract to The Maxwell School Executive Education Program (April – May, 2010) as well as for the training program in Public Policy Analysis and Management for senior members of the Indian Forest Service (IFS) sponsored by the Government of India under a contract to The Maxwell School Executive Education Program (June and August, 2010). He also conducted feasibility study for a pilot sector conditional grant to District Development Committees in Nepal under auspices of the United Nations Capital Development Fund (August 2010). Larry continues his work with IIM Bangalore; he directed the seven-week training program in Comparative Public Policy Analysis in October-November 2010.

**Farhana Sultana**, Assistant Professor, Geography, organized the highly successful conference 'The Right to Water' at SU, details of which can be found at [www.maxwell.syr.edu/waterconference](http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/waterconference). The conference

has led to a forthcoming book and further international collaborations on water. She is also co-organizing the forthcoming Syracuse-Cornell conference focusing on water in South Asia. Farhana delivered invited talks and keynote addresses at a number of universities in the US and UK, published articles on water governance in South Asia, and accepted two new PhD students who are working on India. She also taught a field course in Bangladesh for Maxwell grad students in Summer 2010.

**Cecilia Van Hollen**, Associate Professor, Anthropology, spent six weeks in Sri Lanka in 2010 doing research on her newest project, "A Biographical Sketch of Miron Winslow: Language, Education, Missionaries, and Identity Politics in Colonial Ceylon and India." Her article, "HIV/AIDS and the Gendering of Stigma in Tamil Nadu, South India," was published in *Culture, Medicine and Psychiatry* (2010) as well as a book review of *Where There is No Midwife: Birth and Loss in Rural India* by Sarah Pinto, (Berghahn Books) in *Medical Anthropology Quarterly* (March 2010). She also gave a lecture based on her HIV/AIDS and reproductive health research at the University of Colombo, Sri Lanka in April 2010, and a presentation for the Society for Medical Anthropology Task-Force for Health Care Reform at the Annual American Anthropological Association Meetings in November.

**Susan S. Wadley**, Professor, Anthropology, spent a month in India this past fall traveling. While in India, she was quite busy. Sue gave a talk at Hindu College, Delhi University, and in Madhubani, Bihar, helped coordinate a workshop on professionalism for students at the Mithila Art Institute, where she has been named to the Board of Directors. Her newest book, *Damayanti and Nala: The Many Lives of a Story*, was released by Chronicle Books in 2010.

**Joanne Waghorne**, Professor, Religion, returned to Singapore, May 15 to June 15 to continue her work on Guru-centered global movements in this cosmopolis. She also gave presentations at the Association for Asian Studies in March 2010, the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion and at the 3rd Annual Iconic Book Symposium at Syracuse University in October 2010.

## FLAS FELLOWS 2010-11

The South Asia Center has named eight 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 2010-2011 academic year, Foreign Language Area Studies fellowships were awarded to:

**Adrienne Atterberry** (Public Communications)

**Elina Berzins** (Public Communications)

**Steven Christopher** (Anthropology)

**Carly Dwyer** (Religion)

**Chris Giamo** (Public Communications)

**Caroline Neilsen** (International Relations)

**Greg Nelson** (International Relations)

**Jon Peres** (International Relations)

## BHARATI SUMMER RESEARCH GRANT 2010

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

**Soumitree Gupta** (English)

**Madhura Lohokare** (Anthropology)

**Auritro Majumdar** (English)

**Elizabeth Mount** (Sociology)

**Shrimoy Roy-Chaudhury** (History)

**Bernadette White** (Sociology)

## GOEKJIAN SUMMER RESEARCH GRANT 2010

This award provides summer research support and mentoring to doctoral students in the Maxwell School interested in contemporary and historical international and global issues. This year one South Asia Center graduate student received the award:

**Jocelyn Killmer** (Anthropology)

## SPRING EVENTS 2011

**Tuesday, January 25, 4:00 pm**

220 Eggers Hall (Public Events Room)

*The India Model: The Beneficial Rise of an Economic Power*  
Asst. Secretary Robert Blake, U.S. Department of State

**Tuesday, February 1, 12:30**

341 Eggers Hall

*Imagining the Abject: Medicine in 19th century Bengal*  
Srimoy Roychaudhary, Syracuse University

**Wednesday, February 16, 4 pm**

341 Eggers Hall

*Afghan Women between Victimhood and Agency*  
Margaret A. Mills, Ohio State University

**Friday, February 18, 8 pm**

Shemin Auditorium, Shaffer Art Building

*Afghani Music Concert*

John Baily (rubab) and Dibyarka Chatterjee (tabla)

**Tuesday, February 22, 12:30PM**

341 Eggers

*Framing Culpability: Discourses on Farmers' Suicide*  
Bernadette White, Syracuse University

**Thursday, March 3, 4:00 pm**

204 Maxwell

*Hybrid medicine for hybrid people: Ayurvedic medicine, popular health culture, and globalization*  
Mark Nichter, University of Arizona

**Tuesday, March 8, 12:30PM**

341 Eggers

*Creating a 'Lady Doctor' for the 21st Century: Femininities in Delhi Medical School.*

Jocelyn Killmer, Syracuse University

**Tuesday, March 22, 12:30PM**

341 Eggers

*Potters and Warlords in an Afghan Bazaar*

Noah Coburn, United States Institute of Peace

**Tuesday, March 29, 12:30PM**

341 Eggers

*Peace and Security in Nuclear South Asia*

Zia Mian, Princeton University

**Tuesday, April 12, 4 pm**

Location TBA

*Peace Building In Sri Lanka - A Conversation Between the Government of Sri Lanka and the Tamils of America*



The South Asia Center newsletter is official outreach bulletin for South Asia Center, Moynihan Institution of Global Affairs, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University.

*Director*  
Cecilia Van Hollen

*Associate Director*  
Anand Dwivedi

*Outreach Coordinator*  
Emera Bridger Wilson

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

Funded 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 Afghanistan, India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Bhutan, 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 lectures and discussion programs, cultural programs, and other public events. In addition, Outreach loans a wide variety of educational materials to educators at 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 to South Asia Center, 346F Eggers Hall, Moynihan Institute of Global Affairs, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 13244 or on our web page at: <http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/moynihan/programs/sac/>. Our email is [southasia@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:southasia@maxwell.syr.edu).

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