



"If you persevere long enough, if you do the right things long enough, the right things will happen" - Ian Millar (61 year old Canadian Equestrian Olympian after winning his first medal after nine Olympics)

A Semester in the East: An Interview with Tabby Hrynick Interview by Weston Brownlee

Tabby Hrynick, a senior Sociology major at Colorado College spent her first semester last year studying in India. The Lotus was able to catch up with her for an interview. Tabby, along with other CC students who have studied in Asia, will be sharing her experiences at the Asian Studies Opening Reception on Wednesday, October 1st.

Where were you staying?

In Pune, a city of about five million people, in the state of Maharashtra. I was there with the ACM program, so I was taking classes with other American students and an Indian professor. Pune is really a big college town, so there were a lot of students from India, but then from all over the world too.

Tell us a little bit about what you studied and your

experience in India.

Well I was taking quite a few classes: Indian sociology, political science, environmental science, and then Marathi –a local dialect derived from Sanskrit. I'd say that was the hardest part of my academic experience because the script is quite a bit different from Sanskrit. But by the end of my time there I was able to get around the city with ease, and to bargain which definitely saved quite a bit of money.

What was it like coming back after spending a semester in a country so different from the United States?

Well I'm a lot more appreciative, if not somewhat critical



Tabby Hrynick

of the US. One of the bigger experiences was living with a host family. They were fairly well off, I'd say upper-middle class, but my two host sisters, ages seven and eleven didn't have a lot of toys so they were really creative with whatever scrap-material they found around the house.

Continued on page 4...

Important Dates

Wednesday, October 1st, 2008
Asian Studies Opening Year
Reception at Gaylord Hall,
12:30 - 2:00PM

Friday, October 17, 2008
Student Fall Gaylord Prize Submissions due Friday, October 31st
by 3:00PM to Sandy Papuga Palmer room # 208C

Inside this issue:

Meet Student Organizations	2
Meet Student Organizations	3
Semester in the East	4
The Interns!	5
Japanese Whaling	5
New Course Listing	6

Meet the Student Organizations (Part 1 of 2) By Lisa Ly

You have seen their meeting information listed in the Lotus issue after issue. If you are lucky, you might have even run into a student associated with the organization. You might be wondering why you have never been interested in dropping in on a meeting, and then realized that it is probably because you are not sure what these clubs are about. Well, read on and learn about **KASA** and **MOSAIC** this block!

1. What is your organization's mission?

KASA: Our mission is to share Korean culture with the Colorado College community. We hope to explore, embrace and become more educated about Korea, Korean politics, Korean culture and Korean and American relations.

MOSAIC: We are dedicated to the promotion of multiculturalism at The Colorado College as well as the surrounding community. We are a mosaic of different ideas and perspectives from around the world who share a common human spirit. Our main aims are to infuse cultural diversity in the community so that we may have the opportunity to share our own culture along with learning more about other cultures.

2. Main events of the year (please describe).

KASA: For the past two years, KASA hosted a fashion show in the fall semester. This year, we hope to bring "A Taste of Korea" and/or Korean Culture Night in the spring semester.

MOSAIC:

INTERNATIONAL AWARENESS WEEK involves a variety of activities including cultural presentations, performances, guest speakers, film screenings, and Taste of the World.



MOSAIC ski trip



MOSAIC's Taste of the World

CARNIVAL: food, fun, and busting open piñatas to honor international students

SOCIAL OUTINGS: Ski trip - a lot of our members come from different countries, where they have never experienced snow. Baca trip – hot springs, community service at a nearby Zen Center, and the opportunity to see a Hindu Fire Ceremony at the Hindu Ashram. It is a great bonding opportunity for everyone.

3. Why do you think your org. is important to the community and campus?

KASA: We think our organization is important to the community and campus because there is a unique essence about Korean culture that we would like to share. The history, culture, traditions, and even existence of Korea are often forgotten and we find that it is important to bring awareness of Korea. We also hope to share and discuss current events with the CC community with hopes of creating more dialogue on issues of ethnic/cultural/racial identity, foreign affairs, similarities and differences between American culture and Korean culture.

MOSAIC: Our organization is important to the community and campus as it is unique and the only one of its kind that caters to all international students from any continent and non-international students who are willing to participate with us in creating a culturally diverse community. MOSAIC is not only about International Students but it is about sharing our culture with people who are interested to get involved with the events and our club activities. It is highly enriching and adds a lot of color and diversity to the CC campus.



Leah Chibwe at Taste of the World

4. What are some challenges young (Korean-Americans and International students) face today?

KASA: Some challenges that many young Korean - Americans face today are in regards to upholding parental expectations. Culturally, traditionally and historically, it is crucial that children honor and respect their parents. However, as immigrants to the United States, we struggle with finding a balance between freedom and parental expectation. Also, the generation and cultural gap between parents and children is a challenge many Korean-Americans face today. Because of the generation and culture gap between parents and children, there is often disconnect between parents and children. Questions of identity and belonging are often realized. More so, not being able to communicate with the older generation serves as a challenge and difficulty.

MOSAIC: Some international students face challenges when placed in an extremely foreign culture, far removed from the comforts of home. Accepting the norms of the culture and trying to fit in might pose to be tough for some people and relatively easy for others. Also the lack of support system that an international student enjoys at home such as parents, family and friends might make the student feel lonely. Sometimes language, clothing and just relating to other people might pose a problem. It is more pronounced during the initial stages and gradually reduces as we spend more time and appreciate the opportunities we get through Colorado College.

AASU, KASA, SASA, and MOSAIC Meeting Times:

Always welcoming new members...

Asian American Student Union (AASU)

Co-chairs:
Lisa Ly & Nguyen Nguyen
1st & 3rd Wednesdays @ 6PM in Upstairs Worner

Korean American Student Association (KASA)

Co-Chairs:
Susan Kim & Esther Lee
Thursdays @ 6PM in Upstairs Worner

Students for the Awareness of South Asia (SASA)

Co-Chairs:
Smriti Agarwal & Genai Odhner
Thursdays @ 7PM in Upstairs Worner

Multi-Cultural Organization of Students and International Community (MOSAIC)

Co-Chairs:
Somhrita Dutta & Suchi Smita
Wednesdays in Upstairs Worner

5. How does your organization address these challenges?

KASA: We, as KASA, discussed issues on identity recently and allowing a safe place for dialogue challenges us to bring about conversation so we can support and encourage one another. Also, we hope to offer Korean language classes which will hopefully create a path toward communication with the older generation and by exploring Korean culture and history, we hope to empathize a lot more with our ancestors.

MOSAIC: We at Mosaic try to deal with various issues that we might face as internationals. We try to form a support system for each other as internationals we tend to understand each other and the common issues that we face together. The meetings, events and socials are opportunities for us to have a good time together, enjoy ourselves and to learn and enjoy each other's differences. Living in between diversity is certainly a very rewarding and enriching experience. We form a network so that we can identify issues and have the right resources to counteract those issues. Roger Smith, who is our advisor, is an important resource for all of us international student and we can approach him with any issue that we might face.

Tune in next block and meet AASU and SASA!

Semester in the East Continued

In fact the family produced almost no trash –it’s just a different lifestyle. There was just a lot more efficiency than you see here.

I’d also have to say I have come to appreciate the sense of democracy and equality that does not exist in India. You can still see racial, caste, and class discrimination on a daily basis.

The volume of people in cities was suffocating, which made it very strange to come back. You’d walk out a door and there’d be one-hundred people there that you’ve never seen before. Everyone seemed to have a very strong sense of community too. It was really interesting during the Cricket match vs. Pakistan to see how the whole city seemed to erupt anytime India scored a point. That all took a bit to adjust to; there’s really no such thing as privacy even within the family. I came back to the states around Christmas which made it harder to adjust because of all the commercialism and the lack of people in public. I felt alienated.

“I’d also have to say I have come to appreciate the sense of democracy and equality that does not exist in India. You can still see racial, caste, and class discrimination on a daily basis.”

With your educational emphasis in Sociology and as an educated American Woman what kind of insight did you have into those types of issues?

Well there’s a lot of extremes: wealth and poverty probably the two most obvious. You will see slums leaning up against extravagant buildings. At first it’s really surreal, but I adjusted to it after a while. Women’s issues certainly became very salient to me when I was there. You don’t

really see women on the streets. There’ll be hordes of men all around or at a tea-bar socializing, but the only women that’ll be out are running errands or carrying groceries or water, or upper-class women shopping.

Being a white woman in India did actually create some issues. American women in particular are stereotyped as being hyper-sexual, which led to verbal abuse and even physical abuse. There seemed to be a difference between class and how men from different classes behaved toward women or even treated foreign women. But at the same time some of the stuff that happened gave a bad name to all men, even though many are very respectful and educated.

Wow! Would you still go back if you had the chance?

I would love to back. I’m actually going again this January with the international service trip. We’ll be working on a sustainable agriculture project. That’ll present a new kind of culture shock because we’ll be in a very rural area, which will be a lot different from the city. I’m open and ready to the new challenges that’ll come with it. I wouldn’t just call it all fun though, there’s really no way to conceptualize India as a whole in any one way that would be accurate. It’s the kind of place you have to go to really get a sense of what it’s like.

The Crowds of India



Map of India



Introducing... the Asian Studies Interns

Weston Brownlee

Senior

Major: English

Minor: Asian Studies

- The Senior!



Sam Buchanan

Junior

Major: Economics

Minor: Asian Studies

- Hopefully in Japan for the spring!



Parker Huang

Sophomore

Major: Economics

- New addition to the Asian Studies team
- The desperately needed web editor



Lisa Ly

Junior

Major: IPE

Minor: Asian Studies

- New addition to the Asian Studies team
- <3 Donuts

Japan intends to expand whaling; protestors react in Theatrical Reenactment

By Sam Buchanan

Japan's dolphin and whale hunting were a hot topic once again this summer. Japan intends to resume commercial whaling after a twenty year hiatus. Japan is frustrated with the lack of progress on the issue at the International Whaling Commission talks in Chile this past June. Anti-whaling nations are equally obstinate and conservationist groups are becoming bolder with public protests and attacks on ships at sea. A group dressed up as dolphins and Japanese fishermen staged a protest in

front of the Japanese Embassy in Washington DC. The protestors had the typical signs and chants, but also they proceeded to act out the dolphin hunt that takes place in Taiji, Japan every fall. The "dolphins" proceeded to crouch in the group and whine and scream as the "fishermen" danced around them thrusting spears and yelling "DIE!". While demonstrations like this do nothing to stop Japan from continuing these hunts, they do serve a purpose for spreading awareness. No matter how poor the protestors' acting skills!



Washington D.C. Protestors wearing dolphin costumes.

Colorado College

The Lotus is a publication of the
Asian Studies Program

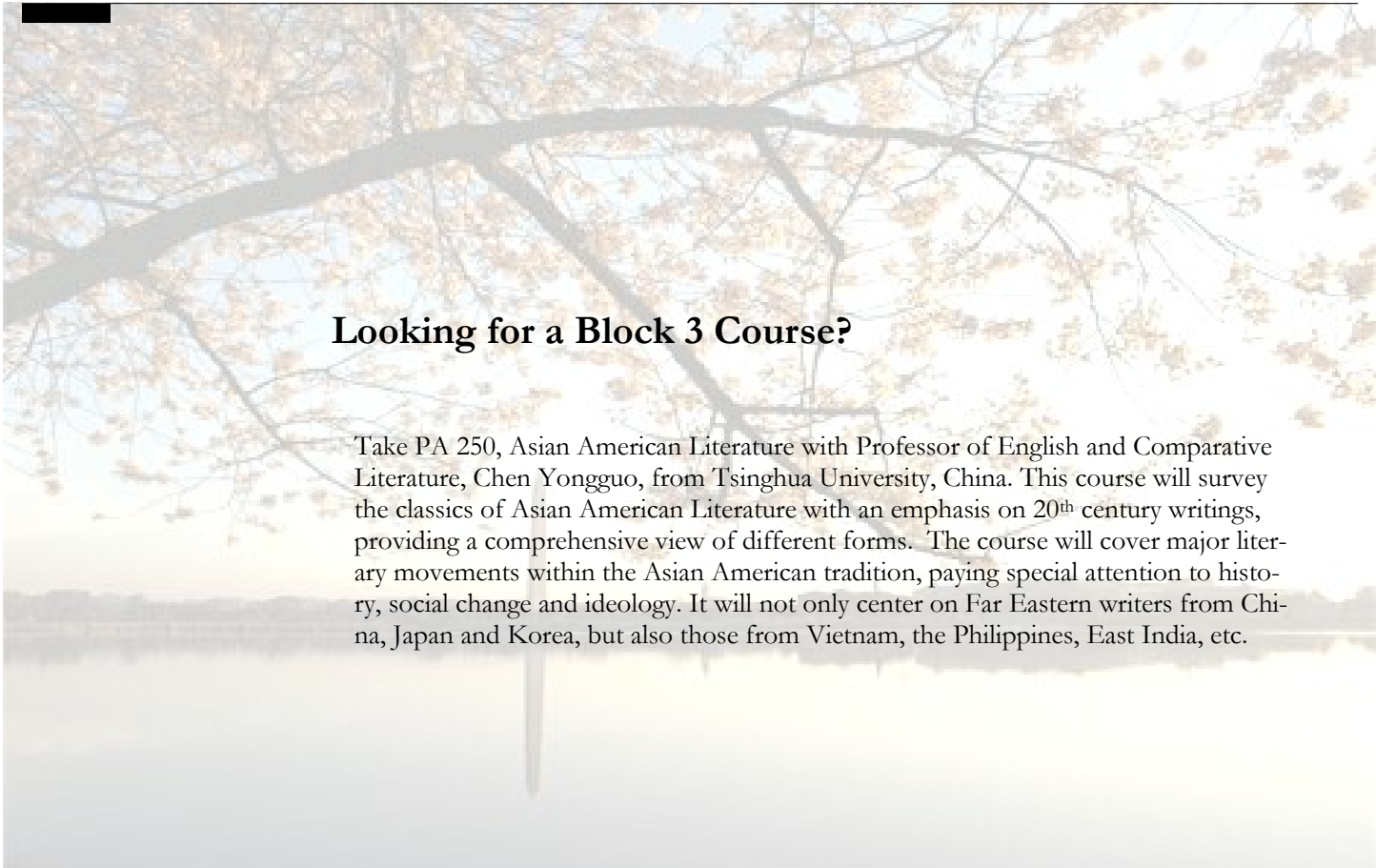
Brought to you by the AS Interns:
Weston Brownlee
Sam Buchanan
Lisa Ly
Parker Huang



**HEY ARTISTS? HAVE ANY ANIME OR ASIAN RELATED WORK?
CONTACT AN INTERN IF YOU WANT TO BE PUBLISHED!**



PLACE AWESOME STUDENT ART HERE!



Looking for a Block 3 Course?

Take PA 250, Asian American Literature with Professor of English and Comparative Literature, Chen Yongguo, from Tsinghua University, China. This course will survey the classics of Asian American Literature with an emphasis on 20th century writings, providing a comprehensive view of different forms. The course will cover major literary movements within the Asian American tradition, paying special attention to history, social change and ideology. It will not only center on Far Eastern writers from China, Japan and Korea, but also those from Vietnam, the Philippines, East India, etc.