**Letter From the Director / Monisha Das Gupta**

The Academic Year 2012-2013 has been one of growth and dynamism for the Center for South Asian Studies. We have programmed more intensively to continue to foster a keen interest in South Asia among our students, faculty, and community. We have been working closely with undergraduate and graduate students, including the student organization, Lovers of South Asian Culture. A milestone this year has been the Study Abroad Center’s success in establishing an India Program based in Delhi at the Ambedkar University, which offers a liberal arts curriculum well-suited to our UH undergraduates. The Study Abroad Center embarked on this project after we learned from a CSAS student survey that our students were very eager to experience India. Over 200 students responded to the survey with the majority expressing a deep interest in the culture, history and contemporary issues of South Asia. The first group of students will be leaving this summer to study at Ambedkar University.

*continued on page 2*

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**Two Notable Watumull Sculptures from South Asia in the Hamilton Library Asia Collection**

by Paul A. Lavy

In 2011, five South Asian sculptures, originally donated by Indru and Gulab Watumull to the UHM John Young Museum of Art, were transferred to the Hamilton Library Asia Collection, where they are now on permanent public display. The University of Hawai‘i is fortunate to have these historically and aesthetically significant works of art for study, research, and appreciation. We would like to offer our gratitude to the Watumulls for their generosity and outstanding legacy of fostering South Asian Studies in Hawai‘i. We would also like to acknowledge the efforts of Monica Ghosh, South Asia Librarian and Head of the Asia Collection at Hamilton Library, for her ongoing support of South Asian Studies and for her instrumental role in putting the sculptures on display; Linda Laurence, Asia Collection Library Technician, for her research and assistance; and Kanako Iwase, UHM Visual Resources Manager and Librarian, and her assistant, Darren Zane, for providing the photographs that accompany this article.

In addition to the two sculptures featured here, the collection includes (1) a ca. 7th-8th century terracotta head of a woman or goddess from central India; (2) a ca. 10th – 11th century sandstone male divinity, also from central India; and a ca. 19th century painted wood Buddha from Sri Lanka.

*continued on page 3*
Many of these students discovered their curiosity about South Asia while taking courses from our affiliated faculty, attending the very popular Bollywood film series organized by Prof. Ned Bertz in History, and participating in Aaja Nachle Hawaii, a new outreach effort launched by Indo-Pacific Languages professor, Sai Bhatawdekar. Students also had the very first opportunity to learn Nepali music from master flutist, Ram Kumar Singh, and ethnomusicologist, Prof. Anna Stirr (Asian Studies). The ensemble performed for a large and appreciative audience at the end of the 2012 fall semester.

Our affiliated faculty makes us proud. We celebrated new books authored by Prof. Kazi Ashraf in Architecture, Prof. Reece Jones in Geography, and Prof. S. Shankar in English (see faculty updates). This academic year, Prof. Jones and Prof. Bhatawdekar won the Regents’ Medal for Excellence in Teaching. (Prof. Bertz had won the medal in 2010). We have a new and energetic colleague in Religion, Prof. Kerry San Chirico, who works on minority religions in India, and whose research has been based in Banaras. Prof. Ramanath Sharma, who cultivated the love for and facility in Sanskrit among our students, retired after many years of tireless service. We will miss him.

Among our regular activities worth noting, the CSAS organized a teach-in about the shooting at the Oak Creek gurudwara (see feature). The rich discussion and reflection were made possible by the generous participation of our faculty members, local community member, Dr. Birendra Huja, and Los Angeles-based activist, Hamid Khan. In January, the CSAS helped organize environmentalist Vandana Shiva’s standing room-only public lecture, and visit to the University of Hawai‘i. Three extraordinary scholars have been part of the Rama Watumull Collaborative Lecture Series, the Department of Religion hosted David White, whose expertise lies in tantric traditions and yoga. The Department of English invited Francesca Orsini, reader in the literature of North India at the School of Oriental and African Studies, to be part of the Words in the World Conference. The Dance Program will be hosting dancer, choreographer, and scholar, Uttara Coorlawala. The An extraordinary event was the fruition of the hula-bharatanatyam collaboration that budded in 2011 between the Rama Watumull Distinguished Indian Scholar, Anita (Shanmuganathan) Vallabh, and Kumu Hula Vicky Holt Takamine and her halau, Pua Ali‘i Ilima. The two master artists choreographed an innovative coming together of Sufi poetry, meles, hula, and bharatanatyam, at a breathtaking performance at Shangri La in February. One of Anita’s and Kumu Vicky’s students, Rohini Acharya, Coordinator for the CSAS, splendidly executed a Bharatanatyam piece, choreographed by Sonja Sironen, for the Kennedy Theatre’s spring mainstage performance, Taiko Drum and Dance.

We thank the Watumulls for enabling us to fund so many of our programs. We also thank the School for Pacific and Asian Studies, and partner departments across the UHM campus for helping us thrive.
In spite of its fragmentary condition, this elegant image exudes the quiet forcefulness that is a characteristic quality of many depictions of Hindu goddesses. Because decorative and iconographic details do not survive, or are eroded, it is difficult to assign her a precise date. The style of the jewelry, girdle, and hair combined with the broad facial features, the shape of the eyes, and the continuous brow do, however, suggest a 10th-11th century date, and an origin in either Madhya Pradesh or Rajasthan.

She belongs to a broad class of what might be called “semidivinities” who provide the worshipper with protection, fertility, material wealth, and general well-being. They take numerous forms that occur under various epithets, including yakṣī (nature and fertility spirit), apsārās (“water nymph”), surasundarī (“celestial beauty”), vrkṣadevatā (“tree deity”), and śālabhañjikā (“breaking a branch of a shala tree”). That these categories may not have always been sharply distinguishable in the past is suggested by a passage in the great Sanskrit epic poem, the Mahābhārata, in which Prince Koṭikāśya inquires into the nature of the heroine Draupadī. The questions he asks apply equally well to this image:

Who are you that bends a kadamba branch,
Alone in the hermitage, lighting it up,
Ablaze like the flame of a fire in the night,
With your lovely brow, that is fanned by the wind?

An exquisite loveliness adorns you –
How is it you have no fear in the woods?
A Goddess, a Yakṣī, a Dānavī,
An Apsarā, or a Daitya nymph?

Or are you a beautiful Serpent maiden,
Or a night-stalking sprite who roams the woods?
Perchance the wife of King Varuṇa,
Or of Yama or Soma or the Lord of Riches?

A clue to our figure’s identity is provided by what appear to be the remnants of a tree trunk running vertically along the back of the image, as well as perhaps fragments of tree branches to the proper left of her head. Therefore, she may well be a nature spirit or a tree goddess, often depicted in Indian art clasping tree branches with the hands and entwining the tree trunk with one leg. Indian art and literature are replete with examples of the transfer of female fecundity through the mere touch of a woman’s hand or foot that causes trees to blossom and bear heavy, low-hanging fruit. Here, the voluptuous body, in the position of tribhaṅga (“three bends”), enacts the swelling forms of nature just as her sensuality and the right hand placed over her full breasts hold the promise of fertility and abundance. Images such as this often adorned Hindu, Buddhist, and Jain sites to serve a magically apotropaic function, to enliven the architecture, and to bestow auspiciousness upon the faithful.

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Faculty and Student News

Kazi Ashraf  
(Department of Architecture)

Associate Professor of Architecture, Kazi Ashraf, has a new book, Designing Dhaka: A Manifesto for A Better City (Loka Press, 2012). Moving away from the usual accounts of the problems of Dhaka’s urban sprawl, this beautifully produced book presents a series of imaginative plans that integrate the city into its riverine landscape. Many of the designs for this “liquid city” have emerged from collaborations with the UHM School of Architecture students as well as those from other universities in Asia. Another book, The Hermit’s Hut: Asceticism and Architecture in India (University of Hawaii Press, 2013) will be released in August. The book draws on primarily Buddhist materials to show that ascetic practice is fundamental to an architectural project.

Ned Bertz  
(Department of History)

Since last spring, Ned has given a number of invited lectures and public presentations related to his research. Last spring, he was a featured speaker in a workshop at Cambridge University on “Languages of Citizenship in Translation: Conversations in Africa and across the Indian Ocean.” In the summer, the Alternative Law Forum in Bangalore invited him to present a paper called “Diaspora, Nation, and Languages of Citizenship across the Indian Ocean.” This spring, at the Association for Asian Studies annual conference in San Diego, he contributed a paper to a panel titled “The Indian Ocean in South Asian History: A Diasporic Perspective.” This month, at the China Seminar in Honolulu, he spoke on the topic of “The View from Across the Himalaya: The Trajectory of India’s Relationship with China.” And next month, he will deliver a lecture to a workshop at the University of Pennsylvania on the subject of “Traces of the Past, Fragments for the Future: South-South Cooperation in the Indian Ocean.” At UH, Ned’s first MA advisee, Richard Forster, graduated in the fall, and this spring he has led a small group of graduate students in an independent readings seminar on South Asian migration, diaspora, and transnationalism. In the fall, his semesterly Bollywood film series celebrated its 100th screening since its inception in 2007. Ned has also assisted the Study Abroad Center to launch a new semester program in Delhi, where he will teach for the fall term at Ambedkar University with the first cohort of UH students to study there.

Sai Bhatawadekar  
(Department of Indo-Pacific Languages)

Dr. Sai Bhatawadekar just received the University of Hawai‘i system-wide Board of Regents’ Medal for Excellence in Teaching. In response, she says, she receives her Happiness in Teaching reward everyday in the classroom with her wonderfully intelligent, funny, and extraordinarily creative students. In addition to all the communicative, proficiency-based teaching methods, she is a big advocate of creative writing and performance as joyous and effective tools to learn languages and cultures. Her students have done several excellent projects – a 15 min spoof of Sholay, love poetry writing and recital, a video documentary on Bollywood as a pedagogical tool, and many others. Recently she and her former student Nada McClellan have started a dance troupe called Aaja Nachle Hawai‘i, which is attracting dancers and enthusiasts from all ages and walks of the Honolulu community. Among other gigs, they also performed at the 6th Annual Bollywood Film Festival at the Honolulu Museum of Art in January 2013. Sai’s research on German Orientalism is also in full gear: her article, “The Tat Tvam Asi Formula and Schopenhauer’s ‘Deductive Leap,’” is in the final printing stages and is forthcoming in...
Imagining Germany Imagining Asia with Camden House. Another one, “Claims and Disclaimers: Schopenhauer and the Cross-cultural Comparative Enterprise,” is forthcoming in German Engagement with the East (working title) with Routledge. In February she submitted her paper “Islam in Hegel’s Philosophy of Religion” for a special issue of the Journal of World History. The first draft of her book proposal, “Symptoms of Withdrawal: The Threefold Structure of Hegel’s and Schopenhauer’s Interpretation of Hindu Religion and Philosophy,” is ready and will be sent out to presses in the summer. Sai is also organizing with two of her colleagues in German and Indo-Pacific Language and Literature conference entitled, “The Image of Asia and the Pacific in German Culture,” to be held here at UHM in February 2014.

Monisha Das Gupta
(Department of Ethnic and Women’s Studies)

Dr. Monisha Das Gupta takes much pleasure in the work she does with faculty, visitors, and students as the director of the CSAS. Using the teach-in she organized on the massacre at the gurudwara at Oak Creek as a model, she helped organize a panel, “The Lives of Empire: Oak Creek, Racialization, and Violence,” at the 2013 Association of Asian American Studies conference with Dr. Sharmila Rudrappa (University of Texas, Austin), and Dr. Vivek Bald (Massachusetts Institute of Technology). She is putting the finishing touches on her article, “‘Don’t Deport Our Daddies’: Gendering State Deportation Practices and Immigrant Organizing,” for Gender & Society. She also wrote an entry on “Resistence” for Keywords for Asian American Studies being co-edited by Linda Trinh Vo, Cathy Schlund-Vials, and K. Scott Wong. In the last year, she has helped students at UHM, and on the neighbor islands to successfully change a Board of Regents policy that will now allow undocumented students admitted to the UH system to pay in-state tuition. Last month, she was delighted to learn that she was awarded the Chancellor’s award for teaching.

Reece Jones
(Department of Geography)

In Geography, Associate Professor Reece Jones, has recently published Border Walls: Security and the War on Terror in the United States, India and Israel (Zed Books). He analyzes how these controversial border security projects were justified in their respective countries, what consequences these physical barriers have on the lives of those living in these newly securitized spaces, and what long-term effects the hardening of political borders will have in these societies, and globally.

S. Shankar
(Department of English)

S. Shankar’s recently published Flesh and Fish Blood: Postcolonialism, Translation and the Vernacular (University of California Press). In this book Subramanian Shankar breaks new ground in postcolonial studies by exploring the rich potential of vernacular literary expressions. The book opens up new horizons of theoretical possibility for postcolonial studies and cultural analysis. It was recently awarded Honorable Mention by the Rene Wellek Prize Committee of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA). In addition to publishing his book, he is the convener of the XVI International Conference of the Forum On Contemporary Theory in India. The theme of the conference is: “Translation, Comparatism and the Global South” and will be held 15-18, December 2013 in Mysore, India. In Summer 2013, he will be teaching a two-week seminar entitled “Translation, Comparatism and the Vernacular in the Context of Postcolonial Studies” as part of the Eleventh Theory/Praxis Course in Goa. His essay “Thugs and Bandits: Life and Law in Colonial and Epicontinental India” will appear shortly in a special issue of Biography.

Spring 2013 South Asia News
Welcome New CSAS Faculty!

Kerry San Chirico (Department of Religion)

Kerry P. C. San Chirico, born and raised in Monterey, California, holds a Bachelor’s degree in Political Science from Santa Clara University, and Master’s degrees from Princeton Seminary, Rutgers University, St. Vladimir’s Seminary, and Boston College. He holds a doctorate in Religious Studies from the University of California, Santa Barbara. His expertise lies in Global Christianities and Indian religions. He is interested in inter-religious interaction and exchange. Dr. San Chirico is particularly interested in minority religions in India, and Christian missionary history. His work is grounded in comparative theology, and the anthropology of religion. His doctoral dissertation is an ethnographic, historical, and comparative study of a new religious community known as Khrist Bhaktas, or devotees of Christ. Located in the Banaras region of Uttar Pradesh in northern India, they hail mostly from lower caste backgrounds and exist “in-between” the official religious categories of Hindu and Christian. He has lived and travelled extensively in India. As a member of the faculty of Religion, Dr. San Chirico teaches courses in Christianities, Indian religions, and theory and method in the study of religion.

Mahalo Nui to Sanskritist Dr. Rama Nath Sharma

by Amit Chaturvedi

The retirement of Dr. Rama Nath Sharma at the end of 2012 was the culmination of his illustrious tenure as Professor of Sanskrit and Hindi at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Over a career at UH Mānoa spanning nearly four decades, Professor Sharma has distinguished himself through his prolific scholarship and commitment to the study of South Asian languages and culture. He joined the Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures in 1976, having previously been an Assistant Professor of Linguistics at the University of Rochester. Two years after his arrival, he became the chair of the UH Mānoa South Asian Studies program, and from 1978-1983, he sat on the Board of Trustees of the American Institute of Indian Studies. He served several times as the IPLL department chair.

Professor Sharma has published an extensive range of articles, reviews, and literary pieces on Sanskrit and Hindi language, and Hindu religion and culture. His most notable work, which cemented his place as a world expert on Sanskrit grammar and linguistics, was his six-volume study and translation of the Astadhyayi of Panini (5th century BCE). This work helped open the study of Panini’s grammar to new applications in the fields of artificial intelligence and computational linguistics. Professor Sharma has remained an active scholar even after retirement. His recently completed five-volume study of the Kasikavrtti, a 7th century Sanskrit commentary on Panini’s grammar, is currently being published, and he continues to deliver talks and keynote addresses at international conferences.

Yet, it is has been his wholehearted service as an educator that has earned Professor Sharma the admiration and reverence of his colleagues and students. Known respectfully to many as “Sharmaji,” Professor Sharma has approached teaching Sanskrit language and culture to generations of students with an unwavering dedication and infectious enthusiasm. His classes often featured colorful stories drawing from both his deep knowledge of Hindu mythology and his upbringing in India. Professor Sharma has also been an integral member of the island’s broader Indian community, regularly contributing his knowledge of Vedic and Hindu rituals for the performance of communal pujas and weddings.

Though his presence on campus will be missed, Professor Sharma remains a stellar example of a life dedicated to education. As a consummate scholar, teacher, and mentor, his influence will continue to be felt by many of us at the University of Hawai‘i.
Viṣṇu is one of the most popular and beloved of Hindu deities. For his worshippers, he is the one supreme God, the “all-pervader,” and the sustainer of the universe. In addition to his many avatara, he takes a variety of supreme (para) forms, one of which is seen here. Wearing the crown (kirīṭa-mukuṭa) and jewelry of a cosmic sovereign, as well as a long floral garland (vanamālā), he is portrayed as a four-armed deity with four primary attributes, one held in each hand (clockwise from the lower proper right hand): a lotus bud/flower (padma), a mace or club (gadā), a wheel or discus (cakra), and a conch shell (śaṅkha). As a unit, the four attributes symbolize Viṣṇu’s all-encompassing creative, protective, and destructive capabilities. They may be arranged in twenty-four different configurations that correspond to twenty-four distinct forms of Viṣṇu (caturviṅśatimūrti). Due to a lack of agreement among the various iconographical systems, however, it is difficult to state with confidence which precise manifestation of the god is presented here; depending on the text, it may be Vāsudeva, Trivikrama, or Upendra.

This image may have been worshipped either in the principal shrine of a temple or in a subsidiary niche of an external wall. It is rendered in the style of the late Pāla period of eastern India and Bangladesh (8th – 12th centuries CE). Viṣṇu sculptures of this type were extremely popular, and were produced with a formulaic regularity. In Bengal, by the 11th-12th century, Viṣṇu images perhaps outnumbered those of all other Hindu deities combined. Like much sculpture of the period, it is carved with abundant details in a fine-grained gray stone. Viṣṇu stands rigidly, frontally, and regally on a lotus. The opening in the back-slab highlights his figure and emphasizes his centrality in the composition. As Viṣṇu emerges from ultimate void and manifests the cosmos from his body, he is surrounded by floral designs, animal motifs, an apotropaic face (kīrttimukha) at top-center, and, flanking his crown, flying celestials bearing garlands (vidyādhara).

Standing beside him is a retinue of figures. These figures diminish in size relative to their iconographical importance. To his proper right, the figure holding a fly-whisk, perhaps combined with a lotus, is Śrīdevī (or Lakṣmī), goddess of prosperity and good fortune. To his left, the figure playing the stringed instrument (vina) is Puṣṭi (or Sarasvatī), goddess of wisdom and the arts. Together, they represent specific components of religious attainment and reinforce Viṣṇu’s role as beneficent protector of human prosperity, knowledge, welfare, and order. At the outer edge, beyond the goddesses, stand male figures. They are two of Viṣṇu’s personified attributes, probably the wheel/discus (proper left) and either the conch or the lotus (proper right). These āyudhapuruṣas (“weapon men”) are partial incarnations of the god himself and thereby extend the divine powers that he wields. On the base, beneath the feet of the two goddesses, are adorant figures, who may represent the donors of the image.
Sensing South Asia

What happens when we approach social and natural worlds, the body, and affect through the senses? How do disciplinary and interdisciplinary understandings of South Asia change if we consider that what and how we feel, hear, taste, smell, touch, see, and intuit are culturally and historically mediated? In this symposium, we explore what South Asian societies — and their histories, philosophies, everyday rituals and practices, and political economies — can offer to emerging theories and methods in

April 17 - April 19, 2013
School of Architecture, Room 214

Invited Lectures:

Robert Desjarlais, Anthropology, Sarah Lawrence College, 4/18
  Fieldwork in Photography, in Nepal

Nayanika Mookherjee, Anthropology, Durham University, 4/19
  Sensing Violent, Haunted Pasts: ‘Feeling’ the Raped Woman of the Bangladesh War of 1971

Uttara Asha Coorlawala, Dance, Ailey School and Barnard College, 4/19
  Angikam Bhuvanam: Whose Bodies? Whose Worlds? And by Which Words?

Tarfia Faizullah and Elizabeth Herman, 4/18
  “Is it possible to live without memory?” Bangladesh War, Women, and Sexual Violence in Portraits and Poems
Panels

4/18
Sensory Presence and Absence: The Quotidian to the Imperial

4/18
Performing the Sensory from the Neighborhood to the Nation and Beyond

4/19
Intersensoriality and Empathy

Reception and Cultural Evening

4/18, 5:30 - 7PM, Pupus, conversation, and Ode to the Senses, Sai Bhatawadekar

Made possible through the generous support of the

G.J. & Ellen Watumull Foundation

Co-Sponsored by:
Student Equity Excellence and Diversity Office
Department of Women’s Studies
Lovers of South Asian Culture
Associated Students of the University of Hawai‘i
School of Architecture

Photo credit (pages 8 and 9): Sheri Lyles
THE J. WATUMULL SCHOLARSHIP FOR THE STUDY OF INDIA

The J. Watumull Scholarship for the Study of India aims to promote understanding of India through scholarship support of University of Hawai‘i students who present a focused and well-developed proposal to study for a minimum of two months in India. The scholarship is generously supported by the J. Watumull Fund.

The scholarship supports University of Hawai‘i students in areas of study such as the visual and performing arts, history, philosophy, religion, and politics as well as any other field, including the professional schools and community college programs. These students are expected to be enrolled in courses at a recognized Indian institution or to be conducting some pre-approved independent study overseen by a faculty member at UH in cooperation with a scholar in India. Students may also choose to participate in the India study abroad program.

Complete information about the J. Watumull Scholarship for the Study of India is available on the CSAS website: www.hawaii.edu/csas. Applications are typically due in the early Spring of the award’s calendar year.

2012 - 2013 J. Watumull Scholarship Study of India Recipients

Two of the J. Watumull Study in India scholarships went to Christopher de Venecia and Joshua Mandelstam.

Christopher de Venecia is a Masters student in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. His research interests focus on environmental planning, community-based economic development, and natural resource management. His J. Watumull scholarship allows him to conduct research for his masters thesis this summer and fall on waste-to energy power plants in Assam.

Joshua Mandelstam is a Ph.D. Candidate in Philosophy. His J. Watumull scholarship allows him to examine M.K. Gandhi’s writings in the archives at the Sabarmati Ashram. Through this research, he aims to get a deeper understanding of Gandhi’s action, context, and how, by acting in accordance with a larger self, his interactions with others changed. This research will aid his PhD dissertation, the topic of which is how one’s conception of ‘self’ influences one’s moral attitudes and actions.


**Jagdish P. Sharma Memorial Scholarship**

Now in its third year, the Jagdish P. Sharma Memorial Scholarship supports graduate students pursuing South Asian studies. The scholarship will continue to be awarded annually, with students receiving up to $5000 credit toward educational expenses. A maximum of $10,000 is available for academic year 2012-13. Students must be enrolled next year to be eligible for an award. The prospective recipient should be a graduate student in the College of Arts & Sciences at UH and pursuing studies of or about the South Asia region and its people. This year’s awardees were:

**Bryan Bushley**, a PhD student in the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. Bryan earned a BA in International Relations/Russian Studies from Colby College (1993) and joint MPA/MS degrees in Environmental Policy/Forestry from the University of Washington (2003). His dissertation explores the socioeconomic and governance implications of emerging policies to mitigate climate change (i.e., reducing emissions from deforestation and forest degradation) for forest-dependent communities in Nepal.

**Anjoli Roy** is a creative writer and PhD student in the University of Hawai‘i’s Department of English. Committed to the study of South Asia, she is pursuing coursework that will deepen her knowledge of the histories and cultures of South Asia. She plans to embark on a two-month, multi-modal research project during summer 2014 to recover the lives of her father, her grandfather, and her great-grandfather in India, to produce creative nonfiction narratives, and oral histories about their lives while reconnecting with her family there. This research project and coursework will support her in framing the experiences of Indian Americans in her creative writing.

**New Study Abroad Program in India**

CSAS is pleased to announce the new 2013-2014 Study Abroad Program in Delhi, India. Initiated by Sarita Rai, Director of the Study Abroad Center, UHM, the program will allow students to study at the Ambedkar University, Delhi. This public university offers undergraduate and postgraduate programs with an emphasis on the social sciences and the humanities. In addition to studies at Ambedkar University, the India Study Abroad program will offer planned excursions such as a guided walk through Old Delhi, a day focusing on Indian crafts and traditions found in the city’s museums and markets, a day trip to visit the Taj Mahal in Agra, and an overnight journey to Jaipur, the ‘Pink City’ and capital of the neighboring state of Rajasthan. Prof. Ned Bertz (UHM, History) will serve as the program advisor for Fall 2013. Prof. Lee Siegel (UHM, Religion) will serve as an advisor for Spring 2014. For more information, visit the UH Manoa Study Abroad Center for Delhi, India at http://www.studyabroad.org/programs/delhi/.
“We Are All Sikhs”: A Teach-In on the Sikh Temple Shooting in Wisconsin

By Ranjan Adiga

On October 4, 2012, the Center for South Asian Studies organized a teach-in on the Sikh temple shooting in Wisconsin. The event, held at UH-Manoa, commemorated the lives lost in the shooting and provided a forum to reflect on how the shooting was covered by the US media, and why it should be treated as a hate crime. Among the speakers were Miriam Sharma (Professor, Asian Studies Program, UHM), Birendra Huja (Medical Doctor and Community Member), Brian Chung (Assistant Professor, Department of Ethnic Studies, UHM), and Los Angeles-based social activist Hamid Khan (Campaign Coordinator, Stop LAPD Spying).

Each panelist reflected on the need to recognize and challenge cultural narratives about racial stereotypes in the US and abroad. Professor Chung spoke about the violence embedded in US policy-making by highlighting exclusion laws that have historically targeted Asian immigrants while Professor Sharma made a video presentation that explored the relationship between Islamophobia, and the presumed failure of multiculturalism in contemporary UK. Mr. Khan, via video conferencing, articulated the need for community outreach programs and grass-root awareness campaigns, and Dr. Huja emphasized the importance of cultural solidarity.

The event, attended by faculty and students from UH-Manoa as well as by members of the community, culminated with a lively discussion and Q&A session with the panel members.

Photo Credit: The Seattle Times
Aaja Nachle is Hawai‘i’s own and only Bollywood/Bhangra dance troupe founded by us – Dr. Sai Bhatawadekar and Nada McClellan. It has its origins in Sai’s Hindi courses at UHM, in which the students write and perform Bollywood inspired plays, songs, and dances as creative language learning tools. Since 2011 we had informally choreographed and performed “Soniye Mil Ja” from the movie Aaja Nachle at various cultural events. We had so much fun and the event drew such audience enthusiasm that in September 2012 we founded the dance troupe to share our creativity with the Honolulu community.

Choreography and Performances:

We have been very successful in the last six months in attracting a solid group of regular dancers and other enthusiasts. In January, we performed at both the opening and closing receptions of the Honolulu Museum of Art’s 6th Annual Bollywood Film Festival and made several appearances on local TV and radio news programs. In addition, we have performed at events like the Hawaii 5-O fundraiser, the Virsa Bhangra Night, the Global Dance Cafe, the Annual Diwali Celebration, the UHM’s South Asian music Fall 2012 showcase, and Kapiolani Community College’s International Festival. We also organize our own dance events for the community. Last November, we hosted a “Garba in the Park” in Kapiolani Park, sponsored by the student club, Lovers of South Asian Cultures, that Sai helped found and continues to mentor. At the park, we taught everyone the traditional Gujarati dances Garba and Dandiya. The event was attended by nearly one hundred people!
We choreograph popular Hindi songs. We have performed several different dances that suit the mood and theme of any given occasion. This includes our double features that start with a graceful, playful dance and end with a high-energy group Bhangra. We also have Giddha, Garba/Dandiya, Marathi Lavni, and some cross-cultural fusion pieces in our repertoire. We are known for getting our audience inspired by teaching them some simple moves, and getting them up on the dance floor.

**Our Meet-ups:**

We have regular weekly Sunday meet-ups at which we teach basic moves to new Bollywood enthusiasts. We choreograph simple and complicated pieces, and practice for upcoming performances. Our members range from little children to retired folk. They come from a variety of professions. We welcome everyone regardless of their background in dance or knowledge of Indian culture. We love to share our passion for dancing with everyone, and so our practices are always open to anyone in the community, whether they would like to perform with our troupe or just learn the dances for fun. It is a wonderfully creative, collaborative, and friendly space where people enrich the group with their own talents and knowledge. In addition to us – Sai and Nada – we have Komal, Vijaytha, Ellie, Joe, Anthony, Ravi, and Andrew who help us with Bhangra, Giddha, Bharatanatyam, Latin, Hip-hop (and even pizza and a quirky sense of humor).

Find us on Facebook under Aaja Nachle Hawaii (https://www.facebook.com/AajaNachleHawaii?fref=ts)

“Come Dance” with us.

And speaking of “Aaja Nachle,” Madhuri Dixit is a goddess!
Center for South Asian Studies
2012-2013 Rama Watumull Collaborative Lecture Series

The Center for South Asian Studies runs the Rama Watumull Collaborative Lecture Series (RWCLS), which invites scholar of South Asia from the U.S. continent, and other parts of the world. The award is aimed at supporting the interest in departments across the UHM campus in South Asia-related topics and perspectives. The invited speaker delivers a public lecture and runs a workshop for faculty and graduate students on the relationship between South Asian Studies, and the discipline-based questions that the host department participants bring to the table. Departments at UHM compete for the RWCLS funds to bring in a South Asianist. This year, the CSAS collaborated with three departments, English, Religion, and Theatre and Dance, to host a wonderful array of scholars.

Francesca Orsini, Reader in the Literatures of North India, School of Oriental and African Studies, London University, hosted by the English Department for the symposium, Word in the World: Literatures, Oratures & New Meeting Grounds.

Dr. David Gordon White, Religious Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, hosted by the Department of Religion.

Uttara Asha Coorlawala, Dance, Ailey School and Barnard College, hosted by the Department of Theatre and Dance.

Introducing CSAS on ScholarSpace

by Monica Ghosh

CSAS is happy to announce its new digital archive presence on ScholarSpace. This move was prompted by a request for an Occasional Paper Series published by CSAS in the 1990s by A. K. Ramanujan titled, “Who Needs Folklore?: the relevance of oral traditions to South Asian studies.” ScholarSpace is an open-access, digital institutional repository for the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa (UHM) community that stores the intellectual works and unique collections of the UHM academic community and provides a permanent web location for access to these resources.

This project to host, archive and provide open access to papers presented for CSAS events on ScholarSpace was coordinated by Monica Ghosh, South Asia Studies Librarian, with the support of the CSAS Director, Monisha Das Gupta, and Beth Tillinghast, Information Technology Librarian.

Currently, the CSAS ScholarSpace community contains the following:
• 6 South Asia News – CSAS Newsletters (2006-2011)
• 2 items of the South Asia Occasional Paper Series

Items pending upload to ScholarSpace are:
• Newsletters from Spring 2000, Winter 2001, Summer 2002, Fall 2002, Fall 2003, Spring 2004, and Spring 2012 have been scanned and are pending uploading
• Annual South Asia Spring Symposium:
• Publicity Posters
• Program of Events

Check out the new CSAS community on ScholarSpace at:
http://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/handle/10125/25985
Strategically located, and with a multicultural heritage, the state of Hawai‘i has always been uniquely international in outlook. The people, traditions, and cultural milieu of this island state in the Pacific provide a strong and continuing bond with Asia.

Beginning with the establishment of the Oriental Institute in 1935 and a still ongoing series of East-West Philosophers’ Conferences in 1939. This emphasis continued with the establishment of the journal “Philosophy East and West” in 1951 and the Asian Studies Program.

The Center for South Asian Studies was created in 1985. Since then the objective of the Center has been to coordinate and integrate, by juxtaposing humanistic with scientific scholarship, and historical and contemporary data. The Center thus serves to illuminate specific questions of regional interest, and complements and bridges the disciplinary departments directly related to it.

The Center guides and assists study of both past and present societies and cultures of South Asia and promotes faculty interaction across departmental lines to foster comparative and interdisciplinary research on the region. South Asia includes contemporary Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India (including the Andaman and Nicobar Islands), Lakshadweep, the Maldives Islands, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tibet.