# Asian Studies at Colgate

# NEWSETTER

Fall 2017

# What's happening in Asian Studies at Odgate and Beyond

# What's inside:

From the director
Student activities
Weet Asian Study faculty
Weet the author
Voices of alumni
and more!

Find us at: http://www.colgate.edu/asian-studies

# Why Study Asia?

Asia holds a un

of the spirit median see be a me a site, a mobile temple, through which worshippers can come into direct contact with the divine, in the here-and-now.

### What is the challenge of doing your research in the "western" intellectual context?

# Are you working on a book right now?

I am, and it's about modern Japanese poetry. Many readers all around the world are familiar with the shortest form of Japanese poetry—the seventeen-syllable haiku. Other readers will also have heard of the slightly longer tanka in thirty-one syllables, which was for

# Professor Nick Albertson (East Asian Language and Literature)

### I'd like to knowhowyou got to Colgate

I was first exposed to Japanese language and culture when I was eleven. My parents took us as a family to Japan and we spent 5 months in Kyoto. I fell in love with the culture and the language, and with Kyoto especially - I love that city; we spent a lot of time going to shrines and castles. When I was in high school, I started taking Japanese

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# Events on Asia at Colgate

# Dan tranh zither performance by Van-Anh Vanessa Vo

On September 22, Colgate hosted a dan tranh zither performance by Van-Anh Vaneca

# Friday Night Film Series: Under the Sun

Asian Studies co-sponsored a controversial film by the Russian director Vitaly Mansky who was originally invited by the North Korean government to make a film about one girl and her family in the year she prepares to join the Children's Union, but who was

### Voices of Alumni

# Li Jian (dass of 2017)

What I like the most about Asian studies major is its multidisciplinary approach. Instead of taking classes from only one department, I was able to explore my interests in history, political science, economics, language courses, etc. For example, I took three years of Japanese, Chinese economy, and Asian politics. These courses complement each other and gave me the ability to think in di erent perspectives and dimensions, which I believe is the very essence of a liberal arts education.

While every course I took was an incrementally step toward establishing my holistic conception and understanding of the society, the most indispensable component is arguably studying Japanese language. Studying a new language is a completely new experience because it opened the gate to a whole new world. Japanese became an essential tool **co**understanding more deeply the culture, of communicating with the people in the culture, of challenging my old ideas. I was able to use the language in aisys ther courses to do research and to gain insights that would be impossible without the language.

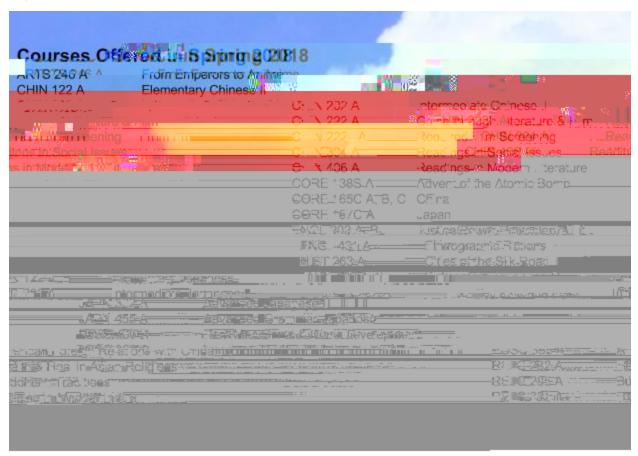
Born and raised in China, I chose Asian studies because I wanted to challenge what I have known about my country. I lidatedoubts about what I learned at school and questions about what I sent to the street every day. Byestudying it, I could be ted my identity and saw more closely who I am. This building of self-consciousness is one of the most important girls I received from Colgate.

# Maddy Clough (class of 2017)

Naddy is working at USAI, a foreign policy NGO in DC, whose mission is to strengthen the relationships between the people and governments of the US and Asia. She recently came back from the first congressional delegation where she worked directly with the Chinese Nation agad

every trip USAI takes. I took the sta ers to see the Forbidden City, the Great Wall, the National Museum of China and the Silk Street Market. The day we saw the Great Wall was quite unusual because it POURED all day – very uncommon for Beijing, even in monsoon season! Despite the rain, the Great Wall was amazing. Slippery, yes, but mist surrounded us so the only thing in sight was the 2,000-year-old wall. The usually packed wall was empty and we gottg.

# **Explore Asian Studies**





# Meet the Faculty

### **Professor**

### Department and Program

Japanese
Chinese and Asian Studies
Russian and Eurasian Studies
Art and Art History
Geography, Russian and Eurasian Studies
Japanese
History, African and Latin American Studies
Sociology