

**Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences Interdisciplinary
Asian Studies Minor Program
Strategic Framework**

Submitted by John A. Tucker, Director

Vision Statement: The Interdisciplinary Program in Asian Studies, which coordinates the Asian Studies minor offered through the Harriot College of Arts and Sciences' Interdisciplinary Studies Program, is currently in a high-growth phase made possible by the HCAS Dean's Office and a grant (\$158,000) from the U.S. Dept. of Education Undergraduate International and Foreign Language Studies Program. The Asian Studies Program is administered by John A. Tucker, Professor of History, and Sylvie Henning, HCAS Director of International Programs, working in conjunction with the ECU Asian Studies Committee composed of a broad range of ECU faculty with teaching and research interests in Asia. An overview of the ECU Asian Studies program is found at <http://www.ecu.edu/asianstudies/>.

Building on the momentum provided by the grant and with the support of the HCAS, we envision an expansion of offerings in Asian languages, especially Chinese and Japanese. Next year, a new full-time faculty, Dr. Nobu Takahashi, will begin teaching Japanese at ECU. Also there will be a part-time instructor of Chinese, Mr. Peng Yu. Ultimately we would like to see tenure-track positions for the Dept. of Foreign Languages and Literatures in both languages. We envision regular offerings of both languages, along with related literature and culture courses and study-abroad opportunities in China and Japan coordinated by ECU faculty for ECU students.

In the near future we foresee an array of existing courses infused with Asia-related content. These infusions will result from grants for summer travel to Asia that provide participating faculty with an opportunity to gain direct experience of an Asian culture. Currently four grants have been awarded for summer 2007 and another four will be awarded for 2008 curriculum development travel. Drawing on cultural learning made possible by this travel, faculty are expected to introduce Asia-related units into existing courses. In some cases, new courses will be proposed for inclusion in the undergraduate catalog. With this expansion of the Asia-related course, the curriculum of the Asian Studies minor will be significantly strengthened.

The Asian Studies Program is also expanding its outreach efforts. In addition to public lectures, on-campus film programs sponsored by affiliated student organizations, and teacher workshops funded by the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership, the Asian Studies Program has submitted a grant application to the U. S. Dept. of Education Group Projects Abroad Program for support to take Pitt County Social Science K-12 teachers on a 4-week study tour of Japan.

The Asian Studies Program is currently drafting a proposal for an "individual concentration" Asian Studies major to be offered through the Multidisciplinary Studies Program sponsored by the HCAS. We hope to see this approved and foresee considerable interest in it. Already the HCAS interdisciplinary Asian Studies minor, first offered in 2004-05, has attracted a continuing number of students. With expanded language options and infusions resulting from the curriculum development grants, we envision the Asian Studies major as an increasingly attractive option for undergraduates.

The Asian Studies Program also envisions increased library holdings that are commensurate with the increases in Asia-related units infused in existing

courses as well as with the regularization of instruction of Chinese and Japanese language.

Mission Statement: Asia is a dynamic force in the emerging global culture of the twenty-first century. Its economic and political impact is highly significant. Now, as it has been for centuries in the past, Asia is a source of innovative ideas and products, and a major player in the larger global arena in every respect. Understanding the potential contributions of Asia to global culture is therefore imperative.

Recognizing the appeal and profound historical importance of Asian cultures, the ECU Asian Studies Program takes as its mission the expansion and strengthening of an interdisciplinary curriculum of study empowering undergraduates with a more informed and progressive understanding of the power of Asian cultures and their prospective roles in the twenty-first century. In fulfilling this mission, the Asian Studies Program will establish the foundations in our undergraduates for leadership in the new global world. Ultimately the mission of the Asian Studies Program is to prepare for the tomorrow that rightly starts, through an innovative curriculum and the insightful understanding generated from it, here at ECU. In doing this the Asian Studies Program is educating leaders for the global society that we are part of today, as well as providing for the dynamism of the community and region that we most immediately serve.

Strategic Directions: The Interdisciplinary Asian Studies Program contributes to the basic Liberal Arts foundation and purposes of the Thomas Harriot College of Arts and Sciences through the development and expansion of human knowledge and skill. The need for greater understanding of Asia is both obvious, but also unrealized. Given that over one-half of humanity is Asian, the absence of a profound understanding of the cultures of that region leaves ECU undergraduates relatively uninformed about the larger and ever more powerful world in which they live. If we are to educate and empower our students for the future, it must be at least in part through the promotion of Asian Studies. There is no area of the world today that will be more important to the present century than Asia.

21st Century Education

Unit Name	Priority Addressed: Education	Timeline	Resource Needs	Evaluation/Assessment
Asian Studies: Education Initiative	Access to ECU by Asian Students	Long-range	Increased curriculum development for foreign students, such as an English as a second language curriculum	Increases in enrollment by foreign students

	Access to Asia by ECU students	Long-range	Increased curriculum development for ECU students to promote interest in Asian and global culture	Increases in enrollment by ECU students in foreign programs
Unit name	Priority Addressed: Economic Development	Timeline	Resources	Evaluation
Asian Studies: Economic Develop. Initiative	Economic development and investment in eastern NC facilitated through educational programs encouraging appreciation of and sensitivity to Asian cultures	Long-range	Increased curriculum development enhancing study of Asian cultures	Amount of Asian investment in eastern NC
	Economic investment by eastern NC in Asia facilitated through educational programs encouraging appreciation of and sensitivity to Asian cultures	Long-range	Increased curriculum development enhancing study of Asian cultures	Amount of eastern NC investment in Asia
	Partnerships between Asia and Eastern NC	Long-range	Increased funds for study abroad, student and faculty exchanges	Number of partnership agreements generated

A Region's Health

Unit Name	Priority Addressed: Health	Timeline	Resource Needs	Evaluation/ Assessment
Asian Studies: Health Initiative	Access to understanding of Asian diets, physical regimens such as yoga and taichi, and health programs generally	Long-range	Faculty lines in Asian Cultural studies related to health and physical well-being	Weight studies, high blood pressure studies, etc.

	Economic development will result from better employee health and well-being	Long-range	Faculty lines in Asian Cultural studies related to health and physical well-being	Health studies related to those with understanding of Asian cultures
	Exchange programs with yoga, taichi, meditation, and other health-related organizations in Asia	Long-range	Increased funds for study abroad to make these exchanges feasible	Numbers of exchanges

A Region's Arts

Unit Name	Priority Addressed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access • Economic Development • Partnerships/Engagement 	Timeline	Resource Needs	Evaluation/Assessment
Asian Studies	Greater access to the high arts and popular cultural arts of Asia	Long-range	Cooperation with the School of Art, the Greenville Art Museum, and regional art centers	Community responses

A Region's Prosperity

Unit Name	Priority Addressed <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access • Economic Development • Partnerships/Engagement 	Timeline	Resource Needs	Evaluation/Assessment
Asian Studies	Increasing access to eastern NC through building a community with understanding of and appreciation for Asian culture	Long-range	More teaching faculty, library resources, funds for guest speakers	Increased investment in the region
	Building a public more educated in Asian cultures and in the opportunities that Asia offers to NC businesses	Long-range	More teaching faculty, especially in Chinese and Indian cultural and language studies	Increased investment in the region

Unit Name	Priority Addressed <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Access• Economic Development• Partnerships/Engagement	Timeline	Resource Needs	Evaluation/ Assessment
Asian Studies	Building the leaders of the future by educating them about Asia and its global importance	Long-range	More teaching faculty	Effective leadership in the area