

Ting Gong on Fulbright

Ramapo Scholar and Teacher in Hong Kong

Greetings! I am writing from Hong Kong, the city known for its distinctive blend of East and West, fast-paced business, high-tech modernity and unique cultural heritage.

As you know, Hong Kong is not new to me. However, I never came here as a researcher and teacher before. This year I am fortunate to receive a Fulbright lecture/research grant and I am now hosted by the City University of Hong Kong. My Fulbright project includes teaching 2-3 courses in my areas of specialization at the Department of Social and Public Administration and working on a research project about corruption and anti-corruption reform in Hong Kong and China. I look forward to an exciting and rewarding year.

*"Hong Kong is cosmopolitan, but not overwhelming,
and easy to navigate, but not confining."*

The City University of Hong Kong enrolls over 20,000 students in its various programs ranging from associate degree to postgraduate research. It mixes the British and American systems of instruction, with classes scheduled for two hours of lectures and an hour of "tutorials." Students do not have to attend all the lectures, but participation in the tutorials is compulsory. This places pressure on professors to make their lectures interesting or even entertaining as well as intellectually stimulating, to attract students.

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AIS Faculty Updates

Research and Pedagogy Events

Patricia Ard presented at Monmouth University in September, 2005 at a symposium on Bruce Springsteen sponsored jointly by Monmouth University and Penn State University. The symposium was called *Glory Days: A Bruce Springsteen Symposium*. Her presentation was titled "Bruce Springsteen and the New Jersey Renaissance." She also presented in September, 2005 on the New Jersey Jews at the New Jersey Historical Society.

Lisa Cassidy traveled to Leeds, UK to present her paper "Teaching Kant's Ethics" at the University of Leeds's Future Discourse: Teaching and Learning in Philosophy conference. This paper will be published this winter in the journal *Teaching Philosophy*. ¶She also presented "North is to South as Husband is to Wife: Exploring an Analogy" at the North American Society for Social Philosophy's conference in Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, NY. ¶Her article "'Starving Children in Africa': Who Cares?" will be published shortly in the online *Journal of International Women's Studies*.

Robert Christopher has completed the first half of his proposed two part biography of the American filmmaker Robert Flaherty, best known as the maker of "Nanook of the North," released in 1922 and widely regarded as a classic in the history of American cinema. The biography, "Robert & Frances Flaherty: A Documentary Life, 1883-1922," has just been published by McGill-Queen's University Press. An early reviewer spoke of the work as "Indispensable" to any one interested in the Flahertys and the development of the independent filmmaker tradition.

This summer **Rosetta D'Angelo's** poetry book *Itinerari* was published by Carrello Editori in Italy and it is being used also in schools as a scholastic anthology. At the end of August, she was invited and participated in a poetry recital at Erice in Sicily. ¶In addition, Rosetta read poetry at Hofstra University's 13th annual Italian American Festival in September and presented a scholarly paper "Images of post-colonial Africa in Italian Literature" at the SWAD International conference in Brazil. ¶Rosetta attended the New Jersey Department of Education Seminar on Teacher

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I am currently teaching two courses on Chinese Politics and Issues in World Politics. Because they are considered large classes (60 and 40 respectively) I have two teaching assistants. The students in Hong Kong are conscientious and hardworking. However, they are much quieter than their American, British or French peers in class. It is a challenge to get the students involved in class discussion. The faculty and staff at City University are cordial and welcoming. I have been invited to lunches, presentations, and cultural events by colleagues. I receive wonderful secretarial support from the department. The opportunities for my Fulbright engagement are many, but they also place considerable demands on my time. Sometime I have to set boundaries to my public activities in order to get my own research work done.

As a former Fulbrighter said, "Hong Kong is cosmopolitan, but not overwhelming, and easy to navigate, but not confining." I believe that my Hong Kong experience will allow me not only to add a stronger comparative component to my teaching at Ramapo but also to help promote greater understanding and cooperation between the US and China.

My best wishes for a wonderful academic year at AIS and the college.

AIS Clubs & Organizations

Students and Faculty Events

The AIS Colloquium Series Presents:

The first presentation in the AIS Colloquia Series will be "Moments of Silence, Acts of Speech: Uncovering the Incest Motif in Chaucer's Man of Law's Tale" by Yvette Kisor (Assistant Professor of Literature/AIS) on Wednesday, October 12 at 4 pm in Pavilion Room 1, with a reception to follow.

Paula Straile-Costa (Assistant Professor of Spanish Language/AIS) will present her research on "Marketing Afro-Brazilian Culture in the 'Racial Democracy': Brazil's Restored Colonial Capital, Old Salvador" on Wednesday, October 26 at 2 pm in SC138.

Marta Vides

