



Asian Studies Opportunities at Alabama

January 31, 2011

Lion dancing, long noodles, fireworks, and red envelopes with money are a few elements in celebrations of Chinese New Year. Thursday is the first day of the new year based on the traditional Chinese calendar, and it marks the beginning of the year of the rabbit. The Association of Chinese Students and Scholars at UA will host a New Year's celebration on Chinese New Year's Eve (Wednesday, Feb 2), but time is running out to purchase advance tickets. See below for more details.

If you want to learn about Asia and to travel abroad, UA has a diverse range of Study Abroad programs for summer 2011, many led by Asian Studies faculty. Deadlines for applying are approaching fast, so check out the specifics today. While time is not running out on signing up for an Asian Studies minor, don't put that off, either. To learn more about the opportunities to take a range of courses emphasizing the cultures and history of Asia as an Asian Studies minor, contact Steven Ramey, the Director of Asian Studies, at sramey@as.ua.edu.

OPPORTUNITIES AT UA

- **Chinese New Year Celebrated at UA – **Wednesday February 2****
- **Kami-con**
- **Film Series coming soon**

OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE TUSCALOOSA

- **Alabama in China – May-June study abroad program on language and culture in China**
- **Alabama in India – May term study abroad program on cultural history**
- **Alabama in Japan – June study abroad on language and culture**
- **Alabama in Oxford – July study abroad includes South Asian course**
- **Alabama in Bangladesh – May term study abroad on micro-credit**
- **Alabama in Cambodia – May term study abroad on entrepreneurship**
- **Alabama in China – June study abroad program on business in China**
- **Chinese New Year Festival in Birmingham**
- **63rd Japan-America Student Conference**
- **Holi at Birmingham Museum of Art**

OPPORTUNITIES AT UA

Chinese New Year

The Spring Festival Celebration, organized by the Association of Chinese Students and Scholars, will be held on Feb 2nd in the Ferguson Center Ball Room. This is the eve of the Chinese New Year. It will start at 6:30 pm and will include a Chinese buffet and Chinese cultural performance. Advanced tickets will go on sale on January 31st and February 1st in the Ferg from 9am to 4pm. The price is \$8 for adults and 4 for children (0-12). The price at the door will be \$10.

Kami-con

Kami-Con is a free anime convention hosted by a UA student organization, The Bama SoS Brigade. This year's convention, Kami-Con Season 3 will be held at the Ferguson Center on February 19th-20th, 2011. (Doors open at 10:00 a.m.). Activities include Anime screenings, games, cosplay, music, artists and dealers, and much more. For more information, check out their website at <http://www.kamicon.net/>.

Film series coming soon

The Asian Studies program has plans for several film series, including a co-sponsored series with the Japan Club. More information will be available later in February, so check out the Asian Studies website (<http://www.as.ua.edu/asianstudies>) or Asian Studies Opportunities for updated information soon.

OPPORTUNITIES OUTSIDE UA

Alabama in China – May-June study abroad program on language and culture in China

This intensive language and culture program will blend classroom-based language and culture instruction with lectures and learning experiences led by Chinese natives and will feature on-site visits to linguistically, culturally, and historically important locations. Sites will range from the streets near Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden city, the Great Wall, and the Summer Palace in the nation's political center, Beijing, to Xi'an, the 3000-year-old ancient Capital that is home to the city Wall and the Terra Cotta Army. No previous knowledge of Chinese language is required. Contact Xiang Zhang, Modern Language and Classics instructor and participant in the Asian Studies program at zhang023@bama.ua.edu.

Alabama in India – May term study abroad program on cultural history

Immerse yourself in the cultural history of India with a three week intensive study tour of major sites in Indian history. The immersion begins in Delhi, the base of the Islamic Mughal Empire, with explorations of Hindu temples, Islamic mosques, and stunning examples of Indo-Islamic architecture. After Delhi, the group will travel to Varanasi, one of the holiest cities in India. The program will conclude in Mumbai, home of the booming Bollywood film industry, for an in-depth exploration of modern Indian culture amongst the glitz and glamour of the Hindi film industry. Dr. Amy Holmes-Tagchungdarpa, an Asian Studies affiliated faculty member in History will lead this program. Contact her for more information at aholmes12@bama.ua.edu.

Alabama in Japan – June study abroad on culture

Students will study modern Japanese culture and society to include modern history, characteristics of Japanese business, social problems, food, traditional theatrical arts, subculture, martial arts, technology, and the traditional religions and philosophy of the Japanese. Koji Arizumi, an Asian Studies affiliated faculty member in Modern Languages and Classics will lead this program. You can contact him at karizumi@ml.as.ua.edu.

Alabama in Oxford – July study abroad includes South Asian course

The Alabama in Oxford program includes an Asian Studies component with Dr. Nikhil Bilwakesh's course on South Asian British Literature and Culture. To learn more, you can contact Prof. Bilwakesh at nbilwakesh@ua.edu.

Alabama in Bangladesh – May term study abroad on micro-credit

Students participate in Grameen Bank's Basic Training program, gaining foundational knowledge of how to replicate the program in other areas of the world. Winner of a Nobel Peace Prize in 2006, Grameen Bank is a microfinance institution that loans small amounts of money to the poor and has trained hundreds to replicate their microfinance model all over the world. The course is designed for students interested in microcredit, poverty alleviation, development, rural health care, women's studies and entrepreneurship.

Alabama in Cambodia – May term study abroad on entrepreneurship

Students will spend 2 weeks immersed in Cambodian Culture and Entrepreneurship. Meetings are scheduled with local college students, university faculty, business people from small to midsize companies and cultural icons such as a Tuol Sleng Prison Survivor. Travel through 3 different Cambodian universities and 3 cities covering the national capital, Phnom Penh; the historic French Colonial Capitol of Battambang and the major center of Khmer Culture, Siem Reap and the Tonle Sap Lake Region.

Alabama in China – June study abroad program on business in China

The professionally guided tour of China includes visits to Hong Kong, Guangzhou, Shanghai, Nanjing and Beijing. Students will visit the facilities of leading global corporations like GE China and Lenovo, Geli Co. China's largest air conditioner manufacturer, Wal International, a start-up company, the headquarters of Communication Bank, one of China's largest banks as well as the state of the art Port of Guangzhou. The tour will also incorporate tours of iconic Chinese sites like the Great Wall of China, Forbidden City, Tianamen Square and an extensive tour of Hong Kong. There will be several lectures at Zhong Shan University in Guangzhou (one of China's top 10 universities) from Chinese English-speaking professors on the Chinese economy and culture. The primary learning objective is to thoroughly acquaint students with China's leading cities, business customs and business environment.

Chinese New Year Festival in Birmingham

On Feb 19th, 2011, from 11am - 4:00pm, the Birmingham Chinese Festival Association will host events at Boutwell Auditorium in downtown Birmingham, including Chinese games, foods, dances, music, acrobats, martial arts, and more. For more information, visit <http://www.bhmchinesefestival.org/>.

63rd Japan-America Student Conference

Join 72 other students from the U.S. and Japan for a month of academic and cultural exchange, travel and fun! This is a chance for an awesome summer of networking and cultural experience!

The theme for the 63rd Japan-America Student Conference held July 24 - August 21, 2011, will be: "Question, Engage, Build - Collaborative Effort to Make a Difference." 2011 JASC Sites include Niigata, Kyoto, Okinawa, and Tokyo.

For applications or more information, please visit www.iscdc.org <<http://www.iscdc.org/>> or e-mail jasc@iscdc.org. The deadline is March 1, 2011. JASC is a program of International Student Conferences, Inc., a non-profit organization dedicated to promoting peace by furthering mutual understanding, friendship, and trust through international student interchange.

Holi at the Birmingham Museum of Art

The Museum of Art in Birmingham is celebrating the Hindu festival of Holi on Saturday March 26, from 11 – 3. In addition to the Museum's Southeast Asian and Indian galleries, they will have a variety of music, dance, art activities and more.



The Asian Studies Program at UA produces this newsletter to highlight events and opportunities at UA and in the area. If you have questions about the newsletter or opportunities that you want included in a future edition, contact Steven Ramey, Director of Asian Studies, at sramey@as.ua.edu. For more information, you can also visit <http://www.as.ua.edu/asianstudies>. To add a name or remove yourself from the mailing list, email asianstudies@as.ua.edu.