



# SOUTH ASIAN NEWS

Center for South Asian Studies at the University of Hawaii, Manoa  
www.hawaii.edu/csas

Spring 2012

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

The academic year 2011-2012 has been a busy one for the Center for South Asian Studies. We were fortunate to start the year with welcoming six new faculty members across the humanities, and social sciences with two of them expanding our research interests to Nepal. We also augmented the South Asia regional expertise in the Department of Urban Planning with the addition of Andrew Rumbach.

The highlight of the fall semester was the residency of the RamaWatumull Distinguished Scholar, Dr. Anita Shanmugathan, an accomplished choreographer and performer of Bharatanatyam. It allowed the CSAS to enter into new and enriching collaborations with the Department of Theatre and Dance that warmly hosted her; the Mid-Pacific Institute's School of the Arts directed by Kevin Doyle; Kumu Hula Vicky Takamine and her school, Pua Alii 'Ilima; and a local Bharatanatyam exponent, Sonja Sironen.

Dr. Shanmugathan's semester-long stay was unique in several respects. The opportunity to host an academic who is also a performer is rare, and required us to break out of the mold of the usual activities that are expected of Rama Watumull scholars. A performer and teacher, Dr. Shanmugathan seamlessly bridged the

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### *CSAS Welcomes New Faculty to UHM*

Reflecting the continued importance of South Asia in contemporary and historical world developments, six different University of Hawaii at Manoa departments hired seven new faculty members with South Asian Studies areas of specialization in 2011-2012. The Department of Anthropology hired Jan Brunson while English added Urvashi Chakravarty. Meanwhile, the Department of Urban and Regional Planning added two new faculty: Ashok Das and Andrew Rumbach. Geography hired Waquar Ahmed and the Theater Department added Cheri Vasek. Finally, the Department of Asian Studies brought on Anna Stirr, who joined us in Spring 2012.

The hires reflect the universities continued commitment to the South Asia region and acknowledgement throughout the university of South Asian Studies' interdisciplinary significance. These scholars will contribute to the vitality of South Asian Studies at UHM for years to come. See pages four and five for more detailed information about each of these new members of the CSAS community.

## *Letter From Director*

(continued from page 1)

university and the community. At the university, her upper division course exemplified how dance is a portal to culture, and how this embodied practice can invite students to cultivate their knowledge not only about Bharatnatyam and its regional context but also more broadly about India. The love and respect that the students had for the material that was entirely new to them testified to Dr. Shanmugathan's talent as a teacher, and her ability to kindle a passion for Indian dance and culture (see Rohini Acharya's story on Page 3). The CSAS, with the assistance of the Dance Program, has been able to continue building on Dr. Shanmugathan's efforts by offering a one-credit Bharatanatyam course in the spring.

The contributions that Dr. Shanmugathan made to the community were myriad. She helped choreograph a children's dance performance for Diwali, and encouraged her students at the university to showcase what they learned in her class to the wider Honolulu community on the First Friday in December. In keeping with her generosity, curiosity, and openness to experimentation, she participated in what was, perhaps, the first cross-cultural exchange between hula and Bharatanatyam in a lecture-demonstration with Kumu Hula Vicky Takamine Holt. Even as the two superb dancers translated their art into each other's traditions, they engaged in a fascinating conversation about the limits of translation by identifying which conventions were malleable and which were less so. Both had their students demonstrate core principles of each dance form. The peak of Dr. Shanmugathan's visit was her mesmerizing performance attended by over 200 members of the South Asian community, the arts community, and UH faculty and students. In recognition of her contributions to the community and her extraordinary talent, she received an honorary certificate from Honolulu City Council member, Tulsi Gabbard, at the performance.

In addition to these exciting events, the Center's colloquium series and the Rama Watumull Collaborative Lecture Series (RWCLS) highlighted the rewards and challenges of research that breaks out of the traditional area studies boundaries, and traces circuits between South Asia, South East Asia and the Middle East. Both RWCLS invitees, Dr. Nazli Kibria of Boston University, and Dr. Susan Bayly of Cambridge University challenged our audience to think beyond simple comparativism to wrestle with the difficult questions that multi-sited and cross-disciplinary research raise. These events have opened up collaborations with new partners on the UHM campus like Asian Studies, Theatre and Dance, the cross-disciplinary Muslim Societies in Asia and the Pacific, and the Center for South East Asian Studies. As part of our colloquium series, we also heard from our J. Watumull scholars, who impressed us with the depth of their cultural and social immersion during their stay in India, and the quality of their work (see feature on J. Watumull Scholars).

Looking forward to our 29th Annual Spring Symposium, "Settling and Unsettling the City in South Asia," the CSAS has partnered with the School of Architecture and the Department of Urban and Regional Planning. The symposium aims at imagining urban spaces and their relationship with rural areas in South Asia in innovative ways outside of a lens that sees urbanization as a problem that has to be managed by planning. Last but not least, the CSAS's unusually busy schedule this year was supported by the enthusiasm, foresight, and hard work of the members of the executive committee, and our outgoing coordinator, Rohan Kalyan. We will miss Rohan.

# Anita Shanmuganathan's Semester-Long Visit

By Rohini Acharya

South Indian dance took center stage last fall with the selection of Dr. Anita Shanmuganathan as the 2011 Rama Watumull Distinguished Scholar by the Center for South Asian Studies (CSAS). Dr. Shanmuganathan, or Anita Akka (sister) as she known to her students, is a celebrated exponent of Bharatanatyam, the millennia-old dance of India. A student of renowned gurus (teachers) Shanta and V.P. Dhananjayan, she has performed internationally and received many awards, including the National Award for Best Dancer and the title Kala Bharati (Art of India) from India's National Hindi Academy.

At heart a teacher, Dr. Shanmuganathan established AEKA (one) Academy, a holistic performing arts school in Chennai that imparts instruction to students of all ages in dance, music, painting, clay modeling, and sculpture. A scholarly thirst for inquiry into the intellectual, cultural, historical, and philosophical contexts of dance, particularly Bharatanatyam, led her to complete a doctorate at the University of Madras in 2002, and author the book "Message in Movements" in 2008.

The conversation that brought Dr. Shanmuganathan to UHM as a Watumull Scholar began in Fall 2010 when CSAS and the Department of Theatre and Dance sponsored a Bharatanatyam lecture-demonstration and master class by her. Dr. Monisha Das Gupta, Director of CSAS and Associate Professor of Ethnic and Women's Studies, said that the visit created a desire among faculty and students to have her visit UHM to teach and "fill a gap that we saw in the dance program in Indian/South Asian dance and theory," resulting in the residency which began last fall along with a concurrent stint as a visiting lecturer in the Department of Theatre and Dance.

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Anita Shanmuganathan with her dance students.



## Faculty and Student News

### Ned Bertz (Department of History)

Since last spring, Ned published one book chapter, titled “Traces of the Past, Fragments for the Future: South-South Cooperation in the Indian Ocean,” in Renu Modi, ed., *South-South Cooperation: Africa on the Centre Stage* (Palgrave Macmillan). Summer launched him into the usual circuits, with research visits to India and Tanzania designed to support revisions of his book manuscript, *Race and Nationalism in the Indian Ocean World: Urban Space and the Indian Diaspora of Tanzania, 1920-2000*. Back at the UH, last fall Ned offered his history of Indian popular cinema class, and the public Bollywood film series attached to it drew well over 700 attendees – hopefully creating a new generation of addicts. In addition, he taught his Indian Ocean world history course, and this spring is offering his history of modern South Asia class. One of his undergraduate Honors advisees, Kathy Nii, completed her senior thesis on Bangladesh, and it won the annual best essay award in the Department of History. With much assistance, last spring he was honored to launch the initial competition for the Jagdish P. Sharma Memorial Scholarship to sponsor graduate students pursuing South Asian studies. This spring Ned will give an invited lecture at a conference on the Indian Ocean world hosted by the University of Cambridge; he’s currently pleased to have the opportunity to procrastinate writing that paper by producing this update instead.

### Sai Bhatawadekar (Department of Indo-Pacific Languages and Literatures)

Dr. Sai Bhatawadekar continues her research simultaneously in two fields: cross-cultural comparative studies and language pedagogy. Her article entitled “Locating the Diaspora: Delhi 6 and Its Challenge to Bollywood’s Image of the Transnational Indian” was published

in October 2011 in the *Journal of South Asian Popular Culture*. Her article “The ‘Tat Tvam Asi’ Formula and Schopenhauer’s Deductive Leap” is forthcoming in an edited volume on *Orientalism and Transnationalism*. She presented an abridged version of this article at the annual meeting of the Continental and Comparative Philosophy Circle in March 2012 and was also invited to give a series of talks on German Orientalism at Whitman College and Seattle University early this year. Currently, Sai is working on two articles appraising the newest research and approaches in German intellectual engagement with India and on Schopenhauer’s role in the concerns of comparative philosophy. Sai is also the founding member of the new ‘Asia-Pacific and Germany Initiative’ at UH. She initiated and contributed to the paper “Task Based Language Teaching for Heritage Learners” for the TBLT international conference in New Zealand in November 2011. She will also be presenting her paper “Bollywood Appreciation Course for Advanced Hindi-Urdu Proficiency and Cultural Competency” in the South Asian Language Teachers’ Association conference held in conjunction with National Council of Less Commonly Taught Languages in April 2012. This year Sai was on the Honolulu Indian Film Festival committee, which brought a diverse selection of new Indian films to Honolulu audiences.

### Reece Jones (Department of Geography)

Over the past year Reece finished his book entitled *Border Walls: Security and the War on Terror in the United States, India, and Israel*, which will be published in July by Zed Books. Reece also published five articles: “Spaces of Refusal: Rethinking Sovereign Power and Resistance at the Border” in *The Annals of the Association of American Geographers*; “Dreaming of a Golden Bengal: Discontinuities of Place and Identity in South Asia” in *Asian Studies Review*; “Border Security, 9/11 and the Enclosure of Civilization” in *The Geographical Journal*; “Rethinking ‘the Border’ in Border Studies in Political Geography (with Corey Johnson, Mark Salter, Alison

Mountz, Louise Amoore, Chris Rumford and Anssi Paasi); and "Technopolitics: Reconsidering Globalization through the Role of Walls and Fences" in *Geopolitics* (with Stephane Rosiere).

**Rohan Kalyan**  
(Department of Political Science)

In December 2011 Rohan's article "Fragmentation by Design: Architecture, Finance and Identity" appeared in the journal *Grey Room*, published by MIT Press. Rohan defended his dissertation in Spring 2011 and will take a position in Fall 2012 at the University of the South in Tennessee as Assistant Professor of International and Global Studies. He is currently developing his dissertation manuscript into a monograph for publication.

**Kavita Rao**  
(College of Education)

In January 2012, Kavita Rao, Assistant Professor at the College of Education, presented a paper at the IEEE International Conference On Technology Enhanced Education (ICTEE 2012). The conference was hosted by Amrita University in Kerala India. Dr. Rao's presentation was entitled "Universal Design for Online Courses: Addressing the Needs of Non-Traditional Learners." The presentation focused on ways in which university and college-level courses can be designed to accommodate the need of students with disabilities, foreign language speakers and adult learners who choose to return to earn college degrees. The theme of this year's conference was the use of technologies for societal benefit, including sustainable ways to use technologies and to meet needs of diverse communities. More information on the conference at <http://www.ictee.org>.

**S. Shankar**  
(Department of English)

S. Shankar's book *FLESH AND FISH BLOOD: POSTCOLONIALISM, TRANSLATION AND THE VERNACULAR* will appear from University of California Press in July 2012. In the spring

of 2011 he presented an invited lecture on research agenda for postcolonial literary criticism at Rutgers University and on world literature in a symposium at the School of Oriental and African Studies in London in the summer of 2011. He also presented at the MLA conference in January 2012.

**Lee Siegel**  
(Department of Religion)

With the support of a Senior Research Fellowship from the American Institute of Indian Studies in affiliation with the Xavier Research Centre in Goa, Lee Siegel (UHM Department of Religion) conducted research in India for a book on Indian hypnosis. He lectured on that subject last summer at Hebrew University in Jerusalem, and was the keynote speaker for the Fulbright Foundation Conference on South and Central Asia in Goa. He was a featured author at both the Goa Literature and Arts Festival in Dona Paula and the Jaipur Literature Festival in Rajasthan.

**Anna Sirr**  
(Department of Asian Studies)

Anna Sirr is an ethnomusicologist specializing in South Asian music. Much of her research focuses on language and song in Nepal. She is currently working on a book about intimacy and changing ideas of nation and heritage in Nepali popular folk music, and doing research on song in Nepal's communist movements from the mid-20th century to the present day. She is also interested in sound and religious practice, and is teaching courses about Islam in Asia, emotion and music, and South Asian music.

## Welcome New CSAS Affiliate Faculty!



### **Waquar Ahmed (Department of Geography)**

Waquar got his PhD from the Graduate School of Geography at Clark University in 2008 after completing his Masters at the Center for the Study of Regional Development at Jawaharlal Nehru University in 2002. His research concentrates on the socio-economic and environmental contradictions of capitalism. In 2011 he co-edited a volume entitled *India's New Economic Policy: A Critical Analysis* (Routledge).



### **Jan Brunson (Department of Anthropology)**

Jan comes to UHM from the northeast, where she completed her PhD in Anthropology from Brown University and taught for three years at Bowdoin College in Maine. As a medical anthropologist, her ethnographic research focuses on the politics of reproduction and discourses of development, women, and health in Nepal. Her book manuscript, "Family and Fertility in a Time of Social Vertigo in Nepal" is the culmination of several years of research in Nepal.



### **Urvashi Chakravarty (Department of English)**

Urvashi earned her PhD from the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. Her research examines representations of service in early modern English drama using primarily a philological approach. She comes to UHM having completed an Andrew W. Mellon postdoctoral fellowship at Vanderbilt University in Nashville, Tennessee in 2009.



### **Ashok Das, (Department of Urban and Regional Planning)**

Ashok earned his PhD from the Urban Planning Department at UCLA in 2008, after completing his M.Arch and MA in Environmental Planning and Management at Kansas State University in 2001. Prior to UHM, he was Assistant Professor at San Francisco State University and has also worked as an architect in India. His research revolves around issues of urban poverty in developing countries, mainly in South and Southeast Asia.



**Andrew Rumbach (Department of Urban and Regional Planning)**

Andrew's research examines the relationships between urbanization and environmental risk, with special focus on the vulnerability of marginalized groups to natural hazards and global climate change. He earned his PhD from Cornell University in 2011 in the City and Regional Planning Department, where he also earned his MRP.



**Anna Stirr (Asian Studies Program)**

Anna just joined UHM in Spring 2012 after completing a postdoctoral fellowship in the Asian Modernities and Traditions research group at Leiden University in the Netherlands. She earned her PhD in Ethnomusicology from Columbia University. Anna is currently working on a book manuscript called "Singing Across Divides: Music and Intimacy in Migrant Nepal."



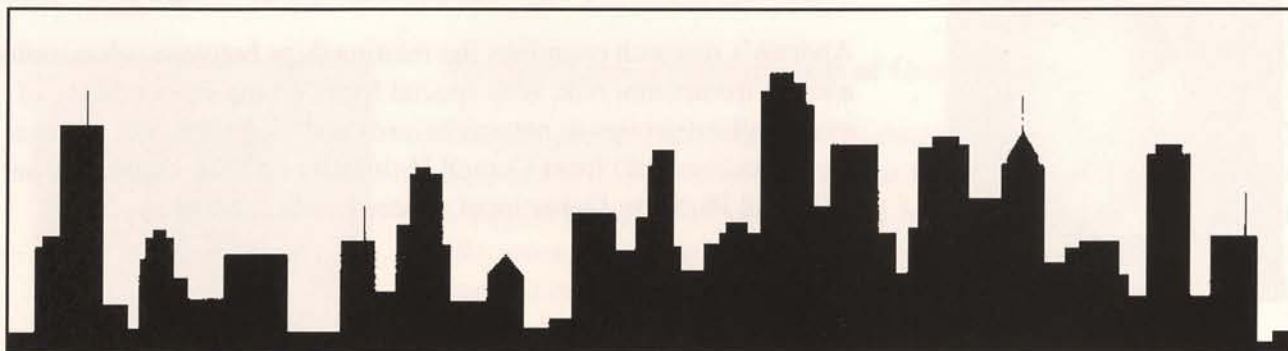
**Cheri Vasek (Department of Theater and Dance)**

Prior to coming to UHM in 2010, Cheri taught at the University of Idaho in Costume Design and Technology. In addition to courses in costume design and theatrical makeup, she also teaches costume crafts, masks and millinery, and Asian Theatre History. She has worked as a costume crafts person in several professional regional theaters throughout the United States, including Minneapolis and San Francisco.



The Center for South Asian Studies at the University of Hawai'i

## 29th Annual Spring Symposium



### Settling and Unsettling: the City in South Asia

In the next twenty years, the number of people living in cities in South Asia will be close to 40 percent of the region's total population. Yet, the South Asian city presents a conundrum. Much of what can be imagined about the city remains unmapped. This symposium aims to highlight the multifaceted energies and imaginaries that animate contemporary interpretation of cities.

April 18 - April 20, 2012  
School of Architecture, Room 214

#### Invited Lectures:

Kazi Ashraf, University of Hawaii, 4/18, 4PM

"There's a There There: Recovering the City in South Asia"

Ravi Sundaram, Center for the Study of Developing Societies, 4/19, 9AM

"The Debris of the Indian Urban Century"

Will Glover, University of Michigan, 4/19, 1:30PM

"Modernism beyond the Municipality: Reformatting Indian Villages in 20th Century India"

Uzma Khan, University of Hawaii, 4/19, 7PM

"Misfit Geography: Cityscapes and the Impulse to Not Fit In"

Dilip Da Cunha, University of Pennsylvania, 4/20, 9AM

"Things do not settle; they anchor. And so do people."

Panel Discussions:

Staging and Sensing the City	4/19, 10:30AM
New Dynamics in Old Cities	4/19, 3PM
Neoliberal Urbanisms	4/20, 10:30AM
Dhaka: Designing for Flux	4/20, 1PM



Reception and Literary Reading

4/19, 5:30 - 8PM, Pupus, performance and conversation followed by literary reading by Uzma Khan



Made possible through the generous support of the  
**G.J. & Ellen Watumull Foundation**  
Co-Sponsored by School of Architecture and Urban and Regional Planning

## 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 an approved study abroad program sponsored by another U.S. institution.

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

### *J. Watumull Report by Sheri Lyles*

Sheri Lyles used the Watumull Scholarship to travel to India for research toward her dissertation. Here is an excerpt from her report:

"I spent my first month with farmers, students and scientists at Navdanya Conservation Farm just outside Dehra Dun, where I learned many important skills used by farmers to control pests and enrich the soil using organic methods. I participated in harvesting rice and peanuts; threshing the rice, sorting seeds and doing a variety of other duties on the farm. I spent time on a farm in the remote area of the upper Himalayas in Sankri, Uttarakand, where I stayed with a family who rely on these organic farming practices to sustain them through the winter months. Presently, I am on my way to the south, where I will spend time on an organic cotton farm and learn the struggles faced by Indian farmers today. I'll begin my residency in Jaipur, Rajasthan in November, learning about the culture, the arts, and then also creating my own artwork while connecting with other artists who live and practice there in India. I will be sharing my American perspective of how globalized agriculture and industry has affected the environment and peoples of my country.

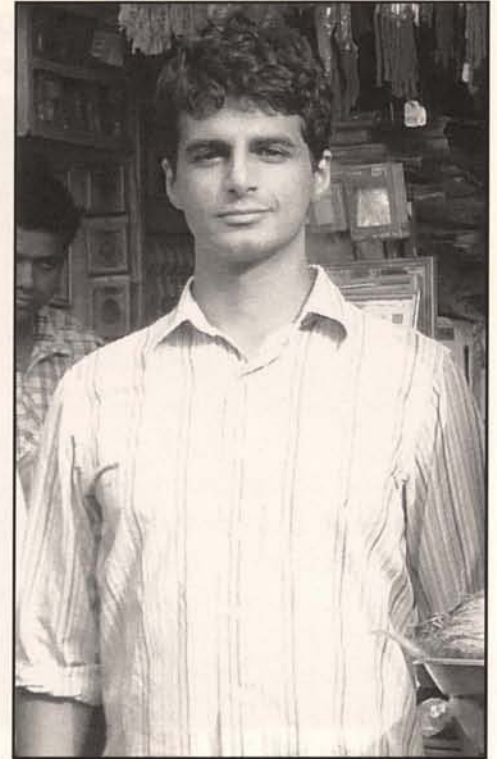
I am excited and honored to be able to have such an opportunity that enriches my education and art practice while establishing connections between India and America related to our common histories, social and environmental issues resulting from a global agriculture and cotton textile industry. I know that without your help, these connections wouldn't have been possible. Once again, thank you so much!"



## **J. Watumull Report by Amit Chaturvedi**

Amit Chaturvedi, a PhD Candidate in the Department of Philosophy, used his Watumull Scholarship to study Sanskrit in Pune. Here is an excerpt from his report:

“I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the J. Watumull Foundation for its generous support of my participation in the American Institute of Indian Studies Summer Language Program in Sanskrit, an intensive and immersive ten-week course held in Pune. By enrolling in the course, I hoped to advance my knowledge of Sanskrit for the sake of deepening my own study of classical Indian philosophy. Such a study is especially relevant to my dissertation research, which focuses on how certain ancient Indian philosophical debates hold special relevance for a contemporary philosophical and scientific understanding of perception and consciousness. Another compelling motive for going to Pune was to further prepare myself for teaching first- and second-year Sanskrit at UH Mānoa in Fall 2011. Through taking the course, I hoped not only to more firmly establish my understanding of Sanskrit grammar and literature, but also to become exposed to new Sanskrit pedagogical methods which I could then incorporate into my own teaching. The course certainly met my expectations and goals in these two respects, yet I could not have anticipated that my time in Pune would leave me with such a lasting and deeply meaningful experience.”



## **J. Watumull Report by Lauren Armstrong**

Lauren Armstrong is pursuing her Master’s degree in Urban and Regional Planning and went to India to research forest management in Sikkim. Here is an excerpt from her travels:

“I have been living in Sikkim for the past two months studying forest management in rural villages thanks to the J. Watumull Scholarship for the Study of India. My primary interest is the balance between conservation of natural resources and economic development, which is a challenge both in Hawaii and abroad. I completed a 20-page report in partial fulfillment of my Masters degree in Urban and Regional Planning at UH Manoa, and gained perspective on a topic I have pursued in previous coursework in my undergraduate and graduate studies. My research on forest management in Sikkim provided an avenue through which I could begin to grasp politics, culture and natural history in this part of India.

I began with a literature review of community-based natural resource management, consulting with my advisor Luciano Minerbi at UH Manoa as well as a professor in the Geography and Natural Resources Department at Sikkim University. Dr. Firdos provided me with interesting perspectives on the legal and institutional framework governing forest management in Sikkim, which I supplemented through interviews with government officials. Sikkim’s forest policy focuses mainly on afforestation and ecotourism through a number of different government schemes. I visited five villages in North and West districts of Sikkim to speak with local people about forest management and the government schemes. They shared with me a great deal of knowledge about the natural environment that I documented in my report. Although many were reluctant to discuss government schemes, a few local activists expressed discontent at the corruption of the Forest Department and skepticism about the implementation of community-based management through government-formed “eco-development” committees. I spoke with presidents of these committees, and lived in homestays where I learned about village life.”

## Anita Shanmuganathan's Semester-Long Visit

Continued from page 3 by Rohini Acharya

Teaching Asian Dance (DNC 301), Dr. Shanmuganathan had an immediate and significant impact on her students, for many of whom the class represented a first exposure to Bharatanatyam. Students were exposed to the dance's movements, rhythm and expression, and expected to fully research and understand its historical and social context through an extensive reading list.

The capstone project for the class was a one-hour showcase that students were expected to collaborate, choreograph, produce, and present to the UHM and Honolulu communities. Ranging from traditional to contemporary renderings, and representing a culmination of all that had been learned in the class, the showcase was a challenging but invaluable experience. Freshman Lexi Hughes noted that what surprised her was "the connection the class made through the performance project," adding that it is "truly special when students are able to work together, negotiate differences, and construct a product they are proud of."

The impact of Dr. Shanmuganathan's class was clearly recognized by the Department of Theatre and Dance. Chair Gregg Lizenbery said he was grateful for her presence because, "she provided a thorough intellectual background in an art form we seldom have the opportunity to explore or pursue."

In the end, Dr. Shanmuganathan's captivating presence and mastery over Bharatanatyam were felt by all in Dance 301. Jamie Miller, a graduate student in dance, aptly summed it all by saying that, "...she was proud to have had her introduction to Bharatanatyam from such a disciplined and accomplished instructor."

Dr. Anita Shanmuganathan and Kumu Hula Vicky Takamine performing at Mid-Pacific Institute





Dr. Anita Shanmuganathan performing at Mid-Pacific Institute



Below: Honolulu City Council member Tulsi Gabbard's staff representative Nathan Miyake awards Dr. Shanmuganathan with an honorary certificate.



## *CSAS Mourns Loss of Devika Wasson, a Vibrant Student, Community Member*

By Dr. Ned Bertz

Late last semester, CSAS mourned the loss of a vibrant member of its community, Devika Wasson, and participated in a lovely memorial celebrating her life. Devika was a Ph.D. Candidate in Dance, pursuing a dissertation project analyzing female performers of contemporary Keralan dance dramas. She was a very active participant in CSAS events, including performing bharatanayam or kutiyattam dances on numerous occasions – never for compensation, but purely for her love of Indian art forms. Devika was also instrumental in bringing Kathakali practitioners from India to campus for a series of spectacular workshops and performances in 2010 (see picture). Dedicated to her studies of India in many ways, Devika learned Hindi and Malayalam, was a Bollywood film fan, and an excellent cook. And more than anything, we will miss Devika's warm and generous spirit, curious and playful personality, and her infectious enthusiasm for dance, learning, and life.



## Center for South Asian Studies 2010/2011 Rama Watumull Collaborative Lecture Series

The Center for South Asian Studies has been happy to fund visiting scholars through our Rama Watumull Collaborative Lecture Series. The funds provided by the Center cover costs of travel, lodging, and honorarium for invited speakers. The responsibility for organizing and making arrangements for the visit and associated events as well as hosting the visiting scholar(s) are that of the faculty/department receiving funds. The invited speaker delivers a public lecture and participates in workshops with faculty and graduate students on the relationship between South Asia and/or South Asian Studies and the specific concerns of the department. We have had a wonderful array of scholars and performance artists visit our campus this year:

**Dr. Nazli Kibria**, Department of Sociology, Boston University.

Hosted by Department of Ethnic Studies, American Studies, Muslim Societies in Asia and Pacific

Public Lecture, "Muslims in Motion: Islam and National Identity in the Bangladeshi Diaspora."

Tuesday, March 13, 2012, 3-4:30 pm

Workshop, "The Challenges of Research on Diasporas: Multiple Locations, Positions and Comparisons." Wednesday, March 14, 2012, 3-4:30 pm

**Dr. Susan Bayly**, Department of Social Anthropology, University of Cambridge.

Hosted by Center for Southeast Asian Studies

Public Lecture, "Nehruvian India and the Life of the Socialist Ecumene." Thursday, March 22, 2012, 3-4:30 pm

Workshop, "Questions of Modernity in South and Southeast Asia: Thinking Across Regions, Disciplines and Temporalities." Friday, March 23, 2012, 1-2:30 pm

### *Jagdish P. Sharma Memorial Scholarship*

Now in its second 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 2012-3. 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 the UH and pursuing studies of or about the South Asia region and its people. This year's awardees were:

**Rohini Acharya**, graduate student at UHM working towards her MFA in Dance (Performance and Choreography). Rohini started learning the classical South Indian dance form, Bharata Natyam, at age 7 from Guru Viji Prakash in Los Angeles, CA. In 2002, she performed her solo debut, otherwise known as an arangetram.

**Sheri Lyles**, MFA student at UHM. She will be returning to India to continue her research, which includes a course in Ayurvedic herbs and their application to textiles, aesthetic research, a professional residency and exhibition of her art work.



**Center for South Asian Studies**

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We're on the Web!  
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Newsletter Staff:

Rohan Kalyan

*About Our Organization...*

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, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Tibet.



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