



# Alliance News

## Study Abroad in Asia

The Alliance for Global Education, LLC is a not-for-profit partnership of the Arcadia University Center for Education Abroad and the Institute for Study Abroad, Butler University.

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### PUNE PROGRAM SET TO LAUNCH!

On January 15th the Alliance will launch its inaugural program in India: **Contemporary India: Development, Environment, and Public Health**. Based at Fergusson College, one of India's most prestigious liberal arts colleges, the program has hand-picked top faculty from across Pune's many academic institutions, as well as two skilled and experienced resident directors to lead our operations there. The curriculum consists of two required components: a Contemporary India course and a Directed Research or Internship, which includes training in field research methods and conversational Marathi. In addition, students choose two or three electives from a variety of disciplines; Environmental Issues, Public Health, Development Economics, Nation, Caste and Gender through Film, and Hindi. The semester culminates with a four-week internship/directed research period, during which students spend 20 hours a week at their internship or in active research. Students are placed in semi-autonomous housing with host families, and the program also includes field visits and expressive culture classes. All systems are go for a smooth and successful launch of this exciting program. We'll continue to send updates as the semester progresses.

### Mumbai Update

As the dust settles from the recent tragic events in Mumbai, we are continuing to move ahead as planned with all preparations for the spring program. Upon arrival in Mumbai, students will be met by Alliance staff and taken to a modest, clean, and safe hotel near the airport. The hotel is some distance from the areas targeted in the Mumbai attacks and certainly not of five-star glamour like the Taj and the Oberoi hotels. The group will then depart the next morning to a rustic, secluded orientation site in the hills between Mumbai and Pune. An urban field visit to Mumbai had also been planned for later in the semester. For pedagogical reasons we had always intended to avoid touristy

sites, and now feel these early decisions were the right ones for security-related reasons as well. We have not at present altered those plans, but will continue to monitor the situation closely and make any necessary revisions as needed. As always, staff at Alliance headquarters monitor daily U.S. State Department security announcements and other security-related news outlets, in-country resident directors keep headquarters fully briefed on local security conditions and concerns, and we maintain comprehensive contingency plans for regional and international emergencies in keeping with best practices in the field.

### Alliance Emergency Contact Number

Alliance staff can be reached outside business hours in the event of an emergency by calling Arcadia University's 24/7 Public Safety number at **1-215-572-2900** (please keep this number available for true emergencies only).

The Public Safety operator will ask of all callers:

- Their Name
- Number where they can be reached
- Student(s) Involved
- Nature of the Situation
- Country and Program

The Public Safety operator will then call through the Alliance Emergency Contact List until an Alliance member is reached. The Alliance member will then reach out to the caller. This number is also listed on our website in the Contact Us section.

### Issue 2 Highlights:

- **Silk Road Program to Launch in Xi'an!**
- **Exciting Developments in the Pune Summer Program**

## Spotlight: The Alliance Resident Directors

Meet the China and India-based members of the Alliance

### **Brian Hammer** **Director, Shanghai**



Brian oversees our 3 programs in Shanghai. He first traveled to China in 1986 and spent 6 years living in and traveling through the country. Before joining us, Brian perfected his program management skills in a variety of settings including a study abroad program in Harbin as well as a Rockefeller Foundation-funded Project for Critical Asian Studies.

### **Tian Zhuo** **Language Director, Shanghai**



Tian Zhuo oversees the Chinese Language curriculum and staff in Shanghai and has a strong background in Chinese language teaching. She developed a keen understanding of Chinese language pedagogy and the needs of American students while teaching for a well-known study abroad provider. Tian Zhuo further developed these skills during her two years with the Chinese Department at Middlebury College in Vermont.

### **Han Bing** **Director, Beijing**



Han Bing is a Beijing native with over 10 years of experience in study abroad. Most recently he taught Chinese language, culture, film studies, and Chinese business culture at both Vassar College and Williams College. In addition to managing the Beijing program, Han Bing also leads the field study trip for the Fudan program participants.

### **Omar Ali** **Director, Xi'an**



Omar is the newest member of our team. He has considerable experience working in China including several years experience in Beijing where he led student trips on the Silk Road, taught English, and filmed documentaries about China. Most recently, Omar worked as Director of China Relations with the Asia Pacific US Chamber of Commerce.

### **Prashant Kothadiya** **Director, Pune**



Prashant brings over 10 years of study abroad program management to the Alliance as well as extensive experience in Indian higher education and development work with regional, national and international NGOs. A committed international educator Prashant shares the Alliance's vision of introducing U.S. undergraduates to contemporary India through the lens of development issues, environmental studies, public health and related disciplines.

### **Uttaraa Jadhav** **Assistant Director, Pune**



A Pune native, Uttaraa has five years experience in study abroad, a strong professional background in business administration and information technology, and extensive experience in higher education as a consultant to the University of Pune's NAAC project for Performance Excellence in Higher Education.