

New department

by Mary Ruth Olson

Good news for students interested in dissecting the mysterious Orient.

The Department of East Asian Languages and Literature became an official department of the Faculty of Arts on July 1, 1981.

Asian Studies was formerly a part of the Department of History.

The combined efforts of a Faculty of Arts committee consisting of Professors Brian Evans, Hazel Jones, Stan Munro, Kahoru Ohta, Yukie Miyakawa, and Jennshann Lin initiated the founding of the new department.

"Funding for the department has been provided by The Japan Foundation, the Consul-General of Japan and through a special grant from the Alberta government," says Brian Evans, acting

chairman of the new department.

The department offers general degree programs in Japanese and Chinese languages and literatures and special degree programs through the Arts Faculty.

"Enrollment has been growing," says Evans.

Since 1976 there has been a 50% increase in enrollment with approximately 235 students registered in Asian Studies for the '81-'82 session.

East Asian history courses have been offered at the U of A since 1961 and with Japanese Language studies being added in 1967.

The department offers a wide range of Asian courses including languages, literature and history with related courses in political science, economics and sociology.



Welcome to the world of the mysterious Orient. East Asian Studies can take you there.

Asbestos hazard

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scarring of lung tissue that reduces the lungs' ability to carry oxygen. It is dangerous, however, only when airborne.

Asbestos insulation commonly is found around light fixtures. It is loosened by surface damage even, for example, when changing a lightbulb. The loosened fibers resemble dust, and pose long-term health risks.

Last year residents in the Michener Park student residence complained of loose asbestos around light fixtures. The university was slow to respond. It was reluctant to accept, says Pretzlaff, that the levels of asbestos found

posed a health hazard.

"But after we began working on it we found there were good reasons for students' concerns," he says.

Chunks of asbestos material were loose from the stipple ceilings and dust was settling everywhere. Parts of the ceiling had actually fallen down, Pretzlaff says, and there were cracks where the wall and ceiling met.

Last May Michener Park tenants had to vacate while their apartments were stripped of asbestos and new material sprayed on.

The university has a campus-wide schedule to clean up all buildings with asbestos problems.

Official Scoffs

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never been cuts in his government's funding of post-secondary education, and that the

declining quality of education in Alberta (larger classes, fewer instructors, poor course selection, shorter library hours, etc.) is in fact the result of "allocation decisions" made by administrators of the various individual campuses.

FAS President Lorraine Mitchell disagreed, saying after

the meeting that "Dr. Bosetti knows as well as Alberta students that the government's grant increases have not kept pace with inflations."

"And frankly," Mitchell added, "I see nothing wrong with rationality in government decisions."

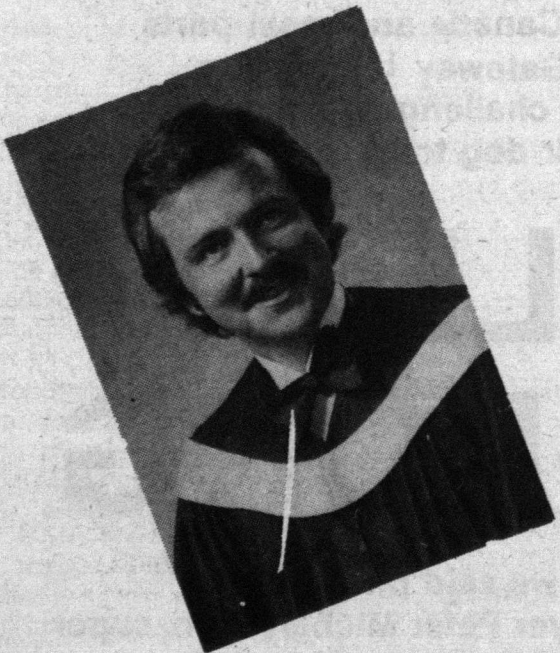
The U of C Students' Union made its own presentation to the government tuition team during its stopover in Calgary in late

August. This presentation repeated the call for a freeze in tuition until the effects of any increases are examined in a major study.

The SU presentation suggested that "tuition fees, like any user fee for publicly funded services, are a greater hardship for people with low incomes than for those with high incomes. The irony is that (lower income families) are denied access to a service they helped fund through their tax dollars."

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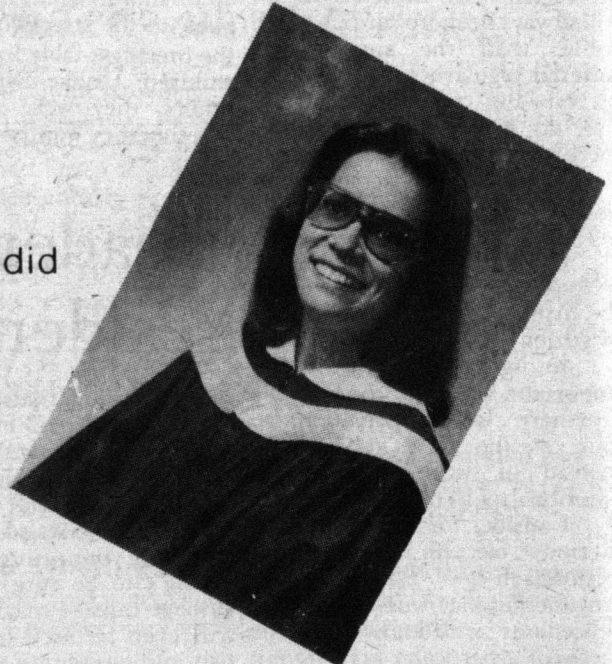
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