



Asian Studies Newsletter

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<http://academic.bowdoin.edu/asianstudies/>

Program News

Thomas Conlan

The Asian Studies Program has witnessed several important achievements and innovations over the past year. First, well-deserved congratulations to Songren Cui for earning tenure. Songren, a devoted Chinese language teacher, has enriched language study at Bowdoin through his tireless efforts and high standards. He also helped devise an innovative two-tiered approach to the instruction of elementary Chinese, with one track for students with some background in the language and another for true beginners to the language. This flexibility will allow first-year students of varied backgrounds to have excellent language instruction that is most tailored to their needs. Our Chinese language faculty, Songren Cui, Shuqin Cui, and Nicholas Lin, have strove to make Chinese language instruction something to be proud of. Similar excellence characterizes our Japanese language courses, where Natsu Sato, Vyjayanthi Selinger, and Reiko Yoshida provide an integrated program of language instruction.

We hope to formalize the position of our visiting language instructors. As our language program strengthens, we see more majors and have had greater success in recruiting students interested in Asian Studies. Epitomizing the steady growth of the program, as of the spring of 2006, we have 36 majors and 17 minors, a significant increase over last year. Our courses also have broad appeal, with 767 students enrolling in Asian Studies courses this year.

This year witnesses an important revision to the major. To date, the Asian Studies major requires specialization in geographically based subfields—Japan, China, East Asia and South Asia. We add the possibility of a new disciplinary-based subfield. Students can focus on the fields of literature, history, government, and religion within the context of Asia. They must meet the

program's language requirements, but they can adopt a more comparative approach, specializing in say the literature of South Asia, China and Japan. This innovation gives the program added flexibility and also allows us to take advantage of Asian-related courses that are not geographically bounded. We are fortunate in that with the addition of Belinda Kong and Vyjayanthi Selinger, we can offer the discipline of literature, in addition to more established offerings in history, government, and religion.

Two of our faculty received major research grants. John Holt received his fourth (!) NEH grant for study of Laos, while De-nin Lee was awarded a Fulbright grant. Sunil Goonasekera, a visiting Associate Professor of Religion and Asian Studies, will replace John next year, while in De-nin's absence, Clif Olds will return to offer his excellent lectures on Art History. Shuqin Cui will also take a sabbatical year, and be replaced by Hongyun Sun, a visiting language fellow, to help out with Chinese language instruction.

This year represents the last year of the Freeman grant, which continued to enrich the program in a variety of ways (see our Freeman report on p.12). Numerous faculty and students traveled abroad, and we also sponsored a variety of concerts and talks. Among the most noteworthy, we had the Japanese novelist Murakami Haruki visit for an informal discussion and dinner in the fall. Bowdoin constituted one of only three Colleges or Universities that he visited while in America, and our students appreciated the opportunity to meet him and learn more about his novels. Interestingly enough, when asked about his favorite novelist, he replied F. Scott Fitzgerald. Salman Rushdie, who visited Bowdoin in the spring during our Common Hour, also stated a preference for Fitzgerald. As Rushdie stated, "It must be a Fitzgerald moment."

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Bowdoin

Program and Faculty News

Other highlights include a combined Taiko (Japanese drumming) concert by Hawaii's Kenny Endo, Odaiko New England, and Bowdoin's own Taiko group; Dance and Music performed by Aniruddha Knight and Ensable; and a spring lecture series about the rise of China.

The Luce Foundation has also generously provided funds for a series of events to promote the study of Asia on campus, and we enjoyed fascinating talks by Professor Thomas Metcalf, entitled "Conquest and Colonialism: The Indian Army and the British Empire in Africa and the Middle East;" Evan Thompson, "Buddha and the Brain: Investigating the Mind in the Twenty-First Century," and James Dorsey, "The Web of Culture in Wartime Japan." In addition, Bill LaFleuer examined medieval texts to show how the Japanese monarchy was legitimated via Buddhist theories. Ellen Tajima Creef gave a lecture about photo-brides, entitled "East to America: Picturing Photographic Histories of Japanese Picture Brides" and the visual construction of citizenship, nation and body, and Joanne Cheng screened her film "Mama's Gold: The Orphans of Shangri-la." Some Luce funds were also used to defray expenses for our annual China Night and Japan Fair celebrations.

Finally, an expanded parking lot is now located behind 38 College Street, beyond our splendid Japanese garden. (See photo on p. 23). If you have the time, or are in the area, by all means, please stop by. Our program continues to grow and strengthen. I look forward providing you with an update of our vibrant program next year.

Faculty News

Thomas Conlan

Thomas Conlan has had a good year. This past year Tom taught his two-semester survey of Japanese history, his seminar "Japan and the World," and his advanced seminar about the "Warrior Culture of Japan." Watching his students grow, Tom feels fortunate to have chosen this profession. Advising Dan Bensen and Sarah Damerville as they both wrote impressive honors projects proved to be most interesting and enjoyable. Tom gave talks at Emory and Kyoto this past year, and also served as contributor and general editor for an issue on Medieval Japan in the January issue of *Calliope* magazine. He also has crafted three chapters of his manuscript "From Sovereign to Symbol: A Liturgy of Legitimacy in Fourteenth Century Japan," and intends to complete a draft of this work over the summer.

Next year will be Tom's final year as chair and after that he looks forward to a welcome sabbatical. As always, his family represents an enduring source of joy.

Shuqin Cui

After a challenging but rewarding summer position as academic director of the CET Beijing Program, Shuqin returned to Bowdoin College with wonderful memories and potential research topics. The fall and spring semesters have kept her busy with teaching and independent study projects. In addition, Shuqin published an article, "Ning Ying's Beijing Trilogy: Cinematic Configuration of Age, Class and Sexuality," in *The Urban Generation: Chinese Cinema and Society at the Turn of the 21st Century*, Duke University Press, 2006, and completed another, "Caught Between the Local and the Global: Anxiety and Uncertainty in Jia Zhangke's Films." The academic year has also seen many activities taking place on campus, one most notably being the lecture series "Concurrent Worlds: China in the Era of Globalization."

Shuqin will be on sabbatical leave next year, which will allow her to concentrate on writing a book-length manuscript, tentatively titled "Gender and Space: Rethinking Women and Writing in Modern China." Shuqin will remain in Brunswick, so if you want to contact her, please do!

Songren Cui

Songren Cui is delighted to see increasing Chinese enrollments. For the first time, he has team taught both Elementary and Intermediate Chinese at Bowdoin with Nicholas Lin, and has been able to have individual conversations with every student in Chinese on a weekly basis. In order to better meet students' needs, he has changed the content of the fourth year Chinese course to focus on the business context. This course uses case study and task-based instruction to train students as language learners and as language users.

Songren has published an article in *Chinese Language Instructional Materials and Pedagogy – A Volume for Professor Liu Yuehua's Retirement* (Beijing: Beijing Language University Press, 2006. pp.53-70), in addition to the submission of two other articles to the same publisher. He has further revised supplementary materials for the release of a new version of his *Integrated Chinese* textbooks. His research continues to focus on pedagogical Chinese grammar and classroom procedures. With the increased interest in studying Chinese language, articulation between high school and college has been a great challenge. Songren conducted a survey of the placement and performances of the freshmen in 30 universities and colleges who studied Chinese prior to their enrollment, and presented the results at a panel that he organized for the 2005 Annual Meeting of the Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA) in Baltimore. Songren is planning to work closely with his Chinese language colleagues to develop a prototype and test based on the Bowdoin model and hopes that it will be widely used at other institutions throughout the country.

Faculty News cont.

Songren is very happy to be tenured recently. He feels extremely grateful to have such an opportunity to continue teaching at Bowdoin. He will be teaching a graduate course on Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language in the Chinese Language School at Middlebury College, and then go to Beijing, China to attend a conference on Chinese language pedagogy this summer.

Sara Dickey

Sara Dickey is teaching a new Asian Studies course this spring, titled "Modernity in South Asia." It examines the impacts and meanings of modernity in several countries of South Asia, as well as struggles to produce "alternate modernities." In the fall she will teach another new course, "Indian Cinema and Society." This will focus on mainstream cinema in different regions of India, as well as the "culture" of film consumption, including fan clubs, the film magazine industry, and the interaction of cinema and politics. This will be Sara's first course on cinema at Bowdoin, and a return to her dissertation research topic 20 years later. Last summer she also returned to that research by carrying out an initial project on fans' current perceptions of MGR, a Tamil film hero and politician who died in 1987. Her research showed a remarkable shift in MGR's image since his death, from that of a virile leader to a nurturing protector. This shift is particularly ironic since the current leader of Tamil Nadu's state government—who was MGR's last female co-star—is criticized as being too distant from and unconcerned with her citizens and, although she is called "Mother," her style is directly contrasted with MGR's (now) more maternal image. Sara was also able to observe some interesting contrasts in cinema and, especially, in class issues in China, when she participated in a Freeman Faculty Development program in eastern and southwestern China over spring break. The lessons gained from the readings for the trip and the group's observations there will be incorporated into her courses next year, beginning with "Introduction to Cultural Anthropology" and "Class and Culture."

Lance Guo

Lance Guo currently teaches a wide range of courses in Government and Asian Studies while working on a number of research projects. His book *Market Communism: The Institutional Foundations of China's Post-Mao Hyper-Growth* is published by Oxford University Press

At Bowdoin he teaches Chinese Politics, Chinese Foreign Policy, International Relations in the Asia-Pacific, Political Economic Development in East Asia, International Political Economy, and Politics and Societies in Southeast Asia. His senior seminar on Chinese politics focuses on current developments in China.

While continuing the study of the market development in China and its wide-ranging political ramifications, his research on the evolving state-market relations in China has turned to focus on the changing role of the State Development Planning Commission in a market environment. He spent most of his 2004-2005 sabbatical doing fieldwork in China. During that year he investigated the impact of socio-economic transformation on the recruitment of the Chinese Communist Party—the impacts in various classes of China's emerging new class structure. He extensively interviewed former and current officials of top bureaucracies and Chinese scholars. Recently Lance has become interested in environmental politics focusing on the current Chinese attempts to introduce a "green GDP" in cadre evaluations to induce more environmentally friendly economic policies.

John Holt

After five years of chairing the Dept. of Religion, Prof. John Holt will be on leave in 2006-7. In the fall semester, he will be the Visiting Numata Professor of Buddhist Studies at the University of Calgary in Alberta, Canada, teaching a graduate seminar, delivering public lectures, and conducting research for a study of Theravada Buddhism in Laos. In the spring semester, he will continue his research in Luang Prabhang, Laos. In January, he and Sree Padma will host the Bowdoin, Bates, and Colby college presidents, along with administrators from other colleges, in Kandy, Sri Lanka, where the ISLE Program and the University of Peradeniya will mark 25 years of ISLE.

Belinda Kong

Belinda Kong characterizes her first year at Bowdoin as full of exciting new challenges and rewards. She taught three new courses for the Asian Studies curriculum: a 200-level introduction to Asian-American literature; a 300-level seminar on the displacements of World War II in Asian diasporic fiction; and -- on a more lighthearted note -- a first-year seminar on "Reincarnations of the Monkey," which explores the literary and cultural transformations of the legendary Monkey King from its origins in a sixteenth-century Chinese folk novel to its many incarnations in contemporary Asian diasporic literature. Belinda looks forward to supplementing this set of courses with a new one on "Writing China from Afar," to be offered in the spring of 2007.

On the research front, Belinda is eagerly awaiting the publication of her article "Traveling Man, Traveling Culture: Arthur Miller and "Death of a Salesman in Beijing", forthcoming in "Global Miller", edited by Enoch Brater (University of Michigan Press, 2007). Meanwhile, she is at work on two new writing projects, both growing out of her teaching this year: "Fragmented Monkeys: the Chinese Diaspora's Journeys in the West" and "The Afterlife of Comfort Women: the Ethics of Representing Alterity in Chang-rae Lee's A Gesture Life."

Faculty News cont.

Henry Laurence

Henry is back teaching full-time, now that the health problems of last year are well under control. His research on public television continues, and he is looking forward to going to Tokyo this summer on a Freeman Grant to update some work on the digitization of TV broadcasts. Henry has also had short pieces published about media censorship, and on images of Japan in the American media. Henry enjoyed a series of interviews on NPR's "On Point" about Japan: the first, on the Japanese Royal Family, apparently came about because of his dull but often-repeated story that he taught the Crown Prince how to disco-dance! This has been a great year for Japanese studies at Bowdoin, with the visit of Murakami Haruki and the Taiko concert being two particular highlights.

De-nin Deanna Lee

Last fall, De-nin hosted Amy McNair, an Associate Professor of Art History from the University of Kansas. This spring De-nin has taken classes on field trips to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts and to the Davis Museum at Wellesley College to see Asian art and contemporary works by Chinese artists.

De-nin is looking forward to a leave next year when she will be working on her manuscript, "The Social and Cultural Lives of Chinese Paintings." Part of the year will be spent in Taipei, Taiwan on a Fulbright grant.

Nicholas Lin

Nicholas Lin joined the Asian Studies Program in the fall semester of 2005 as a visiting lecturer. He used to teach at Middlebury College and Tuebingen University, Germany. This year, he team teaches first and second year Chinese with Songren Cui and also is responsible for fourth year Chinese.

The material for fourth year Chinese is mainly related to business. This is new for the Chinese program but not new for Nicholas as he has been teaching business Chinese for years because his family business background provides him with a lot of authentic business knowledge and practical experience. Nicholas compiled a new business Chinese textbook which is forthcoming.

He enjoys writing poems. He feels lucky that almost every place he has been is a hometown of a famous poet. Nicholas was pleased to participate in the Bowdoin poetry celebration and read his work there. One of his short poem selections has been translated into English and has been published by a Hong Kong publisher.

Nicholas often introduces Chinese culture and Chinese folk art in his language classes. On Chinese New Year, for instance, he

decorated the office and classrooms with many Chinese traditional paintings and calligraphy. For two weeks, before and after the Chinese New Year, he prepared every day a different kind of Chinese snack for students and teachers to try. He also tutors students in Chinese calligraphy.

Nicholas enjoyed his first year here as the working environment was very friendly and the winter proved to be milder than anticipated.

Sree Padma

Sree Padma's manuscript on "Buddhism in the Krishna River Valley of Andhra" has been accepted for publication by State University of New York Press. Once editorial work with that manuscript is finished, she is planning to continue with her next book project focused on the cults of folk goddesses in Andhra Pradesh. As administrative director of the ISLE Program, she continues to introduce various innovations to the study abroad experience. The ISLE website can be visited at <http://academic.bowdoin.edu/isle>.

Nancy Riley

Nancy Riley taught a new course, Gender and Family in East Asia, in fall 2005. In the spring term, she taught her two-course sequence on China; the second part of the course is a 6 week traveling seminar in China. This year, the group (consisting of sophomores and juniors) will be traveling to Japan and to several places in China, including Beijing, the Hangzhou area, and Guizhou. This year she also organized and co-led (with Mark Lenhart '87 and now Director of CET Programs) a study tour of 10 Bowdoin faculty members (see photo on page 11). The group included faculty from a range of disciplines including art history, biology, environmental studies, economics, education, Latin American studies, anthropology, and gender and women's studies. The group spent 2 weeks in China (Shanghai, Hangzhou, Lijiang, and Hong Kong) over spring break, learning about various aspects of contemporary Chinese society.

Natsu Sato

Natsu Sato had a great year working closely with Reiko Yoshida and Jayanthi Selinger teaching Japanese language. Natsu is pleased that two of the students she met during last year's recruiting trip are members of the incoming Bowdoin Class of 2010. Natsu will welcome new students of Japanese and continue to cultivate current Japanese language students. She will spend the summer of 2006 in Shiga, Japan, teaching an advanced Japanese course at the Japan Center for Michigan Universities, and also explore the Kansai dialect under the auspices of a Freeman Grant.

Faculty News cont.

Vyjayanthi Selinger

Vyjayanthi Selinger enjoyed her first year of teaching at Bowdoin. She reports that teaching second-year Japanese has been extremely rewarding because it allows her to work with the same students for the whole year and see them grow into seasoned speakers of the language. She also created a new class this spring called the "Fantastic and the Demonic in Japanese Literature," in which students examined how the positing of other-worlds and marginal beings in literature is linked to social and ideological critique. She won a course-development award for this class, allowing her to create a website with IT showcasing the "Dôjôji Engi Emaki", a narrative scroll which depicts the serpentine transformation of a woman spurned in love. Students appreciated the opportunity to view the scroll in close detail as they wrote about its visual grammar for their papers.

On the research front, her article "The Idiom of Landscape: Bandô in the Narrative Topography of the Gempei War Tales," was published in the "Proceedings of the Association of Japanese Literary Studies." This summer, she will be traveling to Japan with the financial support of the Freeman Foundation to examine fifteenth-century manuscripts of the *Baishôron*, a text that expounds on the legitimacy of samurai government. This text is a crucial historical signpost for the problem her research tackles; her book manuscript entitled "Fractured Histories: Retrospections of the Past in the Gempei War Tales" examines how later medieval thinkers created elaborate fictions to legitimate the political place of the Shoguns in a polity that upheld imperial sovereignty.

Two weeks before the beginning of class in the fall semester, Jayanthi became the mother of a beautiful baby girl, Anjali. Now eight months old, Anjali likes pulling Japanese books off her mother's shelf, asking her mother to read to her about Japanese literature.

Kidder Smith

Kidder is enjoying the second spring of his sabbatical. He divided the year off into two spring semesters, since he figured it would seem longer that way. Kidder remarks that the thing about open time is room exists for one to be surprised. Kidder has been following his hunches and ended up with productive new views and some promising writing. Kidder will be in China and Tibet this May, thanks to Freeman Foundation generosity. Last fall he had extraordinary students, and looks forward to being back with the next crew this September. His short piece, "A Love Letter," is due out in the *International Journal of Transpersonal Studies*. (Yes, it really is a love letter.)

Rachel Sturman

Rachel Sturman had a wonderful year teaching two new seminars on the subjects of "History of Sexuality, Gender & the Body

in Modern India," and "Violence & Memory in Twentieth-Century India." On the research front, she has been hard at work on a book manuscript on Hindu family relationships within British colonial law, entitled, "Worldly Attachments: Property, Law, Family and the Human in the Making of Modern India," which she hopes to complete in the next year. In the meantime, she enjoyed the opportunity to present portions of this project at various venues during recent months: at the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) Annual Meeting in San Francisco, at the Northeast Regional AAS Conference, as an invited participant in a small, closed-door workshop at Columbia University & Barnard College entitled, "The Idea of the Political," as well as here at Bowdoin in the Faculty Seminar Series. This summer, as a break from her writing schedule, she is looking forward to a brief trip to Indonesia, funded by a Freeman Faculty Grant, to collect materials and enhance her expertise for a new class she will be offering next Spring on Indian Ocean Worlds in the millennium before modern imperialism.

Reiko Yoshida

Reiko Yoshida has had another enjoyable year at Bowdoin teaching Japanese language. The students continue to impress her by their ever-growing enthusiasm and progress. Reiko enjoys exchanging and discussing thoughts and ideas with her colleagues, and is looking forward to the new academic year this fall.

Faculty News cont.



Asian Studies Department "Happy Hour" May 12, 2006

Top row:

Shuqin Cui, Sara Dickey, John Holt, Sree Padma holding De-nin's son, Sebastien, Tom Conlan, Songren Cui, Nicholas Lin, Reiko Yoshida

Bottom row:

De-nin Lee, Vyjayanthi Selinger and her daughter, Anjali, Natsu Sato and her daughter, Aya

Alumni Notes

Alumni Notes

Compiled by Suzanne Astolfi
Asian Studies Coordinator

Michael Coye

"I recently returned to Taiwan and am living in Taipei and working as an Area Credit Officer for Standard Chartered Bank. I am traveling to Japan and China often and am enjoying being back in the region. I look forward to connecting with others from Bowdoin who are here or passing through. My office phone is 886.2.2514.6639 and email is MichaelCoye@alumni.bowdoin.edu."

Class of 1975

Chance Briggs

"I'm now finishing my fourth year living in Islamabad, Pakistan. After spending the last two years running a nation-wide HIV/AIDS prevention programme as Country Director for Interact Worldwide (a British NGO), I've jumped back to relief programming. The massive earthquake here on 8 October 2005 shook us more than physically and I decided that I needed to repay Pakistan for its hospitality by putting myself to work on the relief and rehabilitation program.

I'm now the director of the earthquake response in Pakistan for World Vision, managing a \$28m program of relief, reconstruction, and recovery. The relief phase of food, tents, blankets, clothing, hygiene kits, and more is now thankfully almost over. We're focused on children, so we also have education and child protection programs, and we'll be reconstructing up to 100 of the schools that were damaged or destroyed because of the quake. We're also helping to restore livelihoods through cash for work programs (a little like FDR's Works Progress Administration program during the Depression), distribution of seeds, tools, and livestock, and reparation of village irrigation and water schemes. And we're doing a lot more, too.

More exciting (and earthshaking) than the quake is the imminent arrival of our first child, due on 18 March (so presumably here with us long before anyone reads the newsletter). After getting married in South Africa to my long-time Croatian partner, Renata, last fall, and changing jobs on January 1, the baby boy seems like the jewel in the crown. If we could only agree on a name! Namaste."

Class of 1987

Suzanne Fox

"My cross-cultural consulting company, Fox Intercultural Consulting Services, continues to grow. I now have an office in Beijing and am involved in a wide range of projects aimed at helping businesses, individuals and educational institutions develop intercultural skills. Check out my new website at www.foxintercultural.com."

Class of 1988

Leslie Stone

"Biggest news is my decision to step down from my current position at the Lingnan Foundation. After 12 years, it's time to seek out some new horizons. Don't know what I'll be doing, but we're planning to stay in New Haven."

Class of 1989

Mark Lenhart

"I'm still working at CET (www.cetacademicprograms.com) and still loving it. We're growing a lot with all the new interest in Chinese and study abroad, and my work still gives me chances to return to Bowdoin to meet with faculty and students. This March I'll be accompanying Bowdoin's Freeman-sponsored faculty trip to China... it's shaping up to be an exciting trip!"

Alumni Notes

Class of 1990

Jennifer Goldsmith
Adams

"I continue to work as a primary care physician in a clinic in Chinatown and as the Assistant Program Director of the primary care residency program at NYU/Bellevue. I continue to serve a large Chinese immigrant population and get to use my language skills daily.

I have two delightful daughters, Julia age 7 and Eleanor age 2. Would love to be in touch with any AS alum in the NYC area. We also just moved and have room for guests so any NYC visitors are welcome!"

Selena Cantor

"I have just started in a new role at the College Board as the Director of the Chinese Language and Culture Initiatives – a series of new programs to support the growth of Chinese language learning in U.S. schools. With the growing interest in learning Chinese and the launch of the new AP Chinese course and exam, we recognized that a major obstacle is the shortage of qualified Chinese language teachers to teach in middle and high schools across the country. So, the new programs will try to address this need both in the short- and long-term, by bringing volunteer teachers from China to teach in U.S. schools for a few years, supporting Chinese language teacher candidates in Schools of Education, and providing funds and opportunities to schools looking to set up new Chinese programs or expand existing programs. Just next week, the Minister of Education from China, Zhou Ji, will be visiting our office to announce the projects, which are made possible through a partnership with Hanban (the National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign language).

On a personal level, it has been a fantastic opportunity for me to apply my interests and experiences and to help strengthen Chinese language education. It is a lot of fun, as we are just now putting all the programs together and figuring it all out as we go, but it is also very hectic, because there is so much interest and attention being paid to Chinese studies these days. Would love to hear if there are Bowdoin Asian Studies alums out there who have interest and/or experience relevant to our work."

John Breffni Kehoe

"I live in Melbourne, Australia, and have done so for almost six years now. I came to Melbourne to work for Allens Arthur Robinson, a corporate law firm, working in Energy, Resources and Infrastructure (i.e., major projects). I worked at Allens for five years, before changing firms to my current firm, Freehills. I am in their Projects department, working on project financed deals – typically with an infrastructure or construction angle. My firm is doing quite a bit of work in Asia (including Korea, China, Indonesia), although most of my work is within Australia.

On the personal front, I have a 2.5-year-old son named Declan, with another son on the way – due in early July.

Anyone finding themselves 'down under' is welcome to get in touch."

Patrick Piscatelli

"I am living in Hingham, MA with my wife, Sarah, and daughter, Bridget. Life is good. I enjoy working on our home and garden, reading, travel, histories from the turn of the last century covering central Asia and Tibet. Do they still hold the Qing simulation game for History 2XX? Great fun that was."

Class of 1992

Mary Beth McNamara

"I am still living in Hong Kong, working in hedge fund sales at a specialist investment bank, CLSA. I've now been here 10 years, with the exception of a year spent backpacking around the world in 2002. Last May I had a baby boy (Rory) and am enjoying the challenge of traveling with an infant! We spent new years in Laos and hope to travel more in 2006!"

Alumni Notes

Class of 1993

Jill DeTemple

“As for news, I’m happy to say that I started in a tenure-track position in Religious Studies at Southern Methodist University this fall, having defended my dissertation last spring. I’m also happy to announce the arrival of my daughter, Mary Clarice Bunge (call her Molly), on April 2nd of last year, just in time to get me off the hook for said dissertation defense for a few weeks.”

Justin Mallen

“I continue to be the CEO of a telecom services company I founded in Hangzhou, China. We provide innovative value added mobile phone services with coverage in over 13 provinces, including Guangdong, Zhejiang, Jiangsu and Sichuan. In 2005, we closed our first round of private equity funding that amounted to \$4.5 million. Growth continues to be very strong for us – and I enjoy running into a few other Bowdoin alums floating around Asia.”

Class of 1997

Cali Tran

“Hello all! Hope you are all well – 2006 has been quite an eventful year for me. I am graduating from Harvard Business School this spring and will stay in the New England area. I recently accepted a position with North Bridge Venture Partners, a local venture capital firm focused in early stage technology businesses. My family has grown and I now have nine nieces and nephews! It’s amazing how quickly kids grow up. Was in Shanghai over the Christmas holiday and ran into Tara Sheehan, a fellow Polar Bear / Kidder protégé!”

Class of 2000

Meredith Kuba

“I am currently pursuing a Ph.D. in chemistry at the University of Hawaii. Right now, I am in Italy for three months doing collaborative research at the University of Rome “La Sapienza.” Aloha.”

Naomi Odell

“After I graduated in 2000, I went on to join the Peace Corps in Nepal where I worked with the Water Supply and Sanitation Office in one district of southern Nepal. The area where I worked had problems with inorganic arsenic contamination in the tube wells, so we launched several projects to identify the contaminated wells, mark them, and find alternative safe water sources for families and communities. I learned a great deal about Nepali culture and politics as well, and a bit of the language. It was an amazing experience. Even though Peace Corps has since had to pull out of Nepal temporarily due to the civil war going on there, I would recommend anyone to join! Two years is not as long as it sounds.

While I was in Nepal I did take a short jaunt back to my old stomping grounds in Madurai, Tamil Nadu to visit Ted Adams and my host family from the SITA program. They were doing very well, and I was amazed at how quickly Madurai had changed in five years. Newer roads, better bridges, and the internet EVERYWHERE! When I had last been there in 1998, we had had to crowd into the back room of one of the host family’s home and make expensive long-distance calls to Chennai in order to connect to the net. Those days are over: I wouldn’t be surprised if that area of India were not more advanced than the USA.

Nowadays I’m staying busy as a second year medical student Mayo Medical School in MN, thankful for the training my Bowdoin days gave me to “weather” the cold. I still have a lot of interest in returning to South Asia, perhaps to do more medical or public health work.”

Alumni Notes

Candice So

"I am finishing up my last semester of law school at Wake Forest University. This summer I will be taking the North Carolina Bar. I am applying for positions in immigration law and elder law, and I hope to secure a job in or near Asheville. Best wishes to my fellow 3L's, David L. Feinberg ('99) at University of VA School of Law and Jon Rechner ('00) at Vanderbilt University Law School! Many thanks for all the encouragement and commiseration over the last few years. I am proud to be a member of the legal community among fine individuals such as David and Jon [two such lovely snowflakes, falling on no other place]. To all the Asian Studies Alumni, please don't hesitate to drop me a message if you will in NC this summer or if you are considering a graduate program at Wake. Peace."

Class of 2001

Jonathan Cowan

"I was promoted to Executive Director, Government Affairs at Sony Pictures Entertainment."

Jeffery Yam

"I am now a New Media Designer for ESPN."

Class of 2002

Jessica Farmer

"I am currently living in a small town outside Changsha, Hunan in southern China, where I teach English at a middle school. I hope to stay in China through the summer to do an intensive language study program. This May, I'll be running the Great Wall Marathon in Beijing to raise scholarship money so that more trained teachers can come to China through the organization WorldTeach. More information is available at www.worldteach.org."

Class of 2004

Emma Raynes

"I am studying and teaching at the International Center of Photography in New York City."

Reid Turner

"I am currently living in southern Maine and working as an assistant high school teacher at Maplestone School. Maplestone is an alternative high school for children with learning disabilities and disciplinary problems. I currently assist the forestry group and this fall I will be starting my own group focused around aesthetic appreciation and natural sciences. I hope for my group's foci to include pottery, visual arts, bonsai, gardening, and archery."

Class of 2005

Melissa Hudson

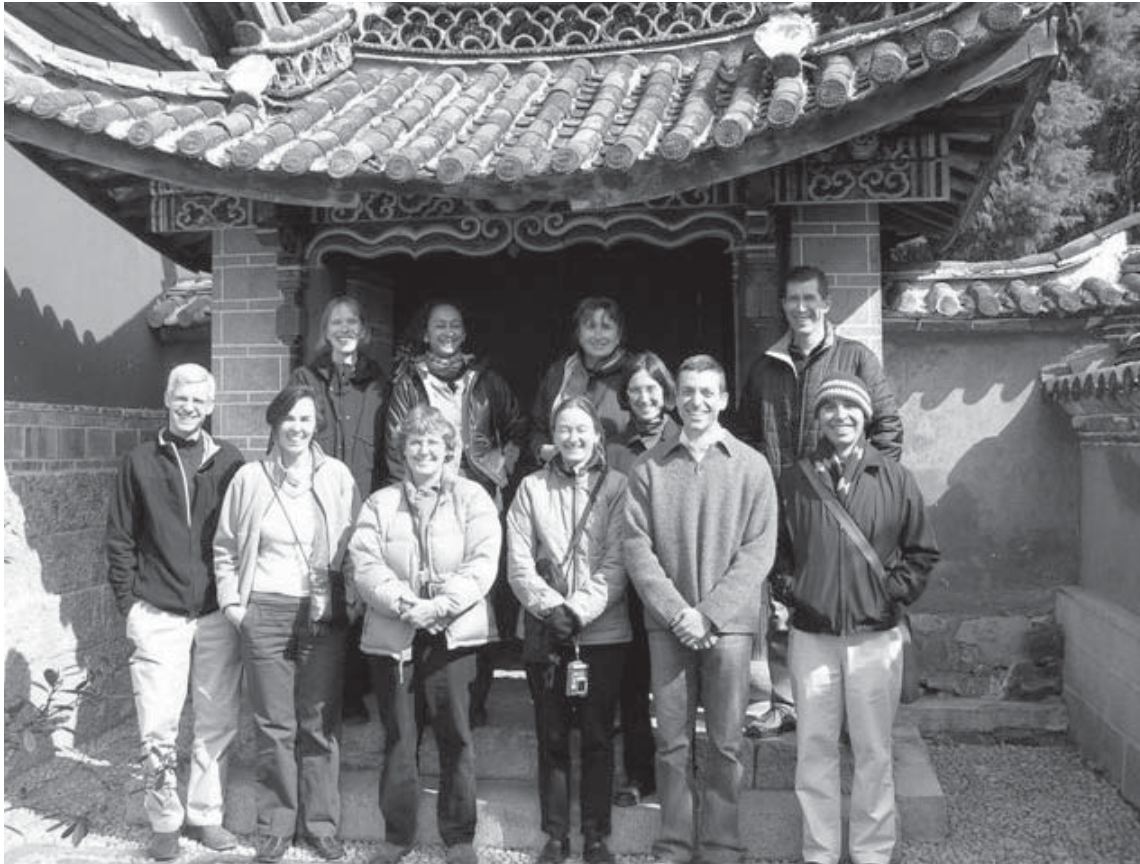
"I am currently a first year at Harvard's John F. Kennedy School of Government as a candidate for my Master's in Public Policy. I'm off to China this summer to work at the consulate in Shanghai. I'm living in Cambridge and miss Bowdoin lots! I'm busy staying active with Bowdoin as an Alumni fund volunteer (class of 2005 please support our efforts!) and as a BASIC volunteer. All in all life is good and I'm excited about the summer!"

Tara Sheehan

"I am currently living in Shanghai, China and have recently been promoted and am now the General Manager of Abroad China's Shanghai office. If any Bowdoin students are interested in coming to China to intern, please tell them to check out our website and/or email me directly: www.abroad-china.net"

Related Program News

China Study Tour



Top row: Anne McBride (Biology); Dharni Vasudevan (Chemistry and Environmental Studies); Susan Wegner (Art History); Sara Dickey (Anthropology); Scott MacEachern (Anthropology).

Bottom row: Chuck Dorn (Education); Jen Scanlon (Gender and Women's Studies); Nancy Riley (Sociology); Deb DeGraff (Economics); Mark Lenhart ('87 and CET Director); Enrique Yepes (Romance Languages/Spanish)

Library News

Sydney Steinhart, Asian Studies Librarian

Again it is an honor to work with the Asian Studies Program at Bowdoin and to facilitate the acquisition of such great material for the library. This year we continued to receive money from the Freeman Fund for new library acquisitions in Asian Studies. This fund has allowed us to add many interesting works to our collection including books, journals, scrolls and DVDs specifically for China, Japan and Southeast Asia. It has also helped us to begin building a solid collection in Asian-American Studies as well. For this we are very grateful!!

Vyjayanthi Selinger was instrumental in arranging for Bowdoin to receive a collection of Japanese language books (637 volumes) currently housed in the gift room. They come from several sources including: Cornell duplicates donated to Bowdoin, including gifts to Cornell from Professor Robert and Mrs. Kazuko Smith, Professor Michael Soloman, Karen Brazell, and Fred Kotas (a librarian and Japanese bibliographer at Cornell), 2) books purchased using Bowdoin funds (some purchased in Japan by Fred Kotas). The collection includes the 100-volume set Nihon Koten Bungaku Taikei. The library is very pleased to have received these wonderful works.

Related Program News

Announcements

Daniel Benson received high honors for his thesis "Taiko: The Formation and Professionalization of a Japanese Performance Art" and Sarah Damerville received high honors for her thesis "Imposition and Adaptation: The Japanese Confrontation and Manipulation of European Notions of the "East " 1860-1905."

Dan Bensen explored the origins of Taiko, a form of choreographed ensemble drumming that has grown in popularity since its creation fifty years ago. Dan explores how earlier performance arts, such as No, coupled with state support of 'folk arts' allowed for the creation of this art form. Dan explains how the tension between innovation and codification has influenced the creation and dissemination of Taiko in both Japan and abroad.

Sarah's project examines the Japanese response to European Orientalist notions of the "East" as a racially, materially, and culturally inferior area of the world. The refusal of Europe and America to accept Japan as a "Western" nation, particularly in the aftermath of the Russo-Japanese War, led European, American and Asian actors to perceive an impending conflict between the "West" and a Pan-Asian alliance of "Eastern" nations, and this view profoundly influenced the political and military conflicts of first half of the twentieth century.

Special Thanks

We are grateful to the Freeman foundation for its profound support of the Asian Studies Program over the years. We also appreciate Luce Funds for the promotion of Asia at Bowdoin. The program is also grateful to the Japan Foundation for donating valuable Japanese language materials. Mr. Ajay Rao '02 and Mr. Robert Sargent '58 have provided generous gifts to the Asian Studies Program and we are most appreciative. The Friends of Bowdoin continue their excellent upkeep of our garden. Finally, we are grateful to Frank and Robin Tenny for their gift of Chinese posters, records, woodblocks and woodblock prints from the 1950s and 1960s.

Freeman Grant

This academic year, the Freeman Foundation's Asian Studies Undergraduate Initiative Grant has supported numerous cultural events, speakers, field trips, and research and language-study opportunities that have enriched individuals, the curriculum, campus life, and local community. Some highlights include a visit from renowned author Murakami Haruki; a wonderful performance by the Guangzhou Symphony Orchestra; a spectacular evening of taiko drumming by the Kenny Endo Ensemble, Odaiko New England, and Bowdoin Taiko; a two-week residency of Suzuki method expert Ellen Lauren; and a lecture series on current issues in China entitled "Concurrent Worlds: China in the Era of Globalization."

In addition, the Freeman Selection Committee awarded twelve fellowships to faculty members to enable them to pursue research or attend conferences in Asia. Eight students received funding for research projects and eleven students were chosen to participate in intensive Japanese and Chinese language training programs over the coming summer. For more information, please contact Laura Kim Lee, Freeman Grant Coordinator/International Student Advisor, at llee@bowdoin.edu or 798-7026.

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