



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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Asian Studies Program
Bowdoin College
7500 College Station
Brunswick, Maine 04011

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

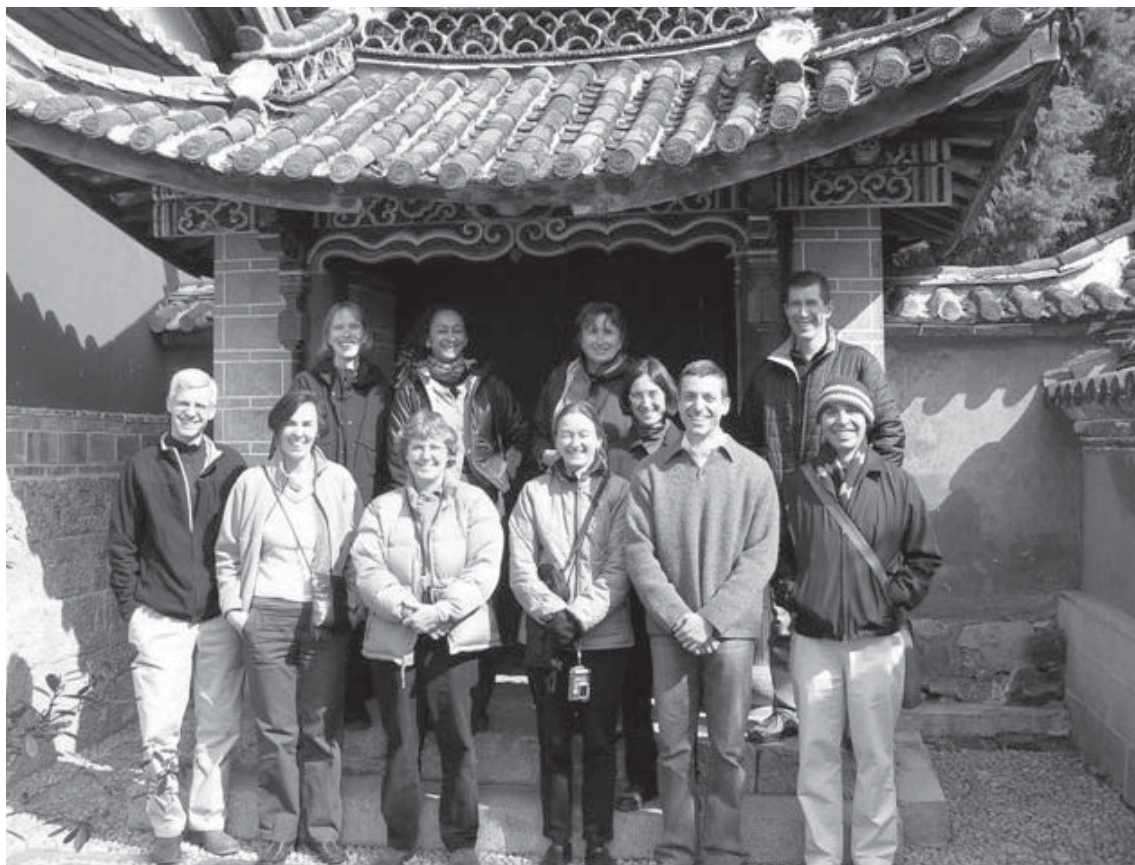
“I am currently a first year at Harvard’s John F. Kennedy School of Government as a candidate for my Master’s in Public Policy. I’m off to China this summer to work at the consulate in Shanghai. I’m living in Cambridge and miss Bowdoin lots! I’m busy staying active with Bowdoin as an Alumni fund volunteer (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

Sydnae 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.

Alumni Directory

Adams, Jennifer Goldsmith '90
177 East 77th Street, Apt. 3E
New York, NY 10021
bcajga@aol.com

Adolfi, Christine '98
1427 Akamai Place
Kailua, HI 96734
spicerack1@hotmail.com

Ames, Kacy '99

Anderson, Nathaniel '01
364 Howland Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5R 3B9
Canada
nandotox@hotmail.com

Archambault, Cassandra Dragon '01
Guangfu Bei Lu
Ln 190, 4th Fl, #7
Taipei, 10579
Taiwan
dragon_kaijen@yahoo.com

Armstrong, Andrea '02
24 Furman Avenue, Apt. B-8
Brooklyn, NY 11207
andrea_armstrong821@hotmail.com

Auerbach, John '91
johnauerbach@yahoo.com

Austin, David '98
209 Lincoln Place, Apt. 8E
Brooklyn, NY 11217-3712
daustin@nyc.rr.com

Badger, Angus '89
Chesley Farm Road
Jackson, NH 03846

Baeza, Rafael '90
rafael_baeza@landor.com

Bakhtiari, Bobak '01

Bao Bean, William '95
China Technology,
Deutsche Bank Securities
55/F Cheung Kong Center
2 Queen's Road Central,
Hong Kong
wbean1@yahoo.com

Barnard, Laura C. '83
254 Main Street
Rockland, ME 04841-3306
peleb@aol.com

Bell, Sean '92
6818 16th Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98115
seanmbell@hotmail.com

Bennett, Brian '95
426 15th Street #2R
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Bernard, Jamie '89
23 Dante Street
Larchmont, NY 10538-1608
jbernard@stroock.com

Beverage, Karissa '98
kbeverage@yahoo.com

Bierhaus, Fred '90
313 Sourwood Road
Black Mountain, NC 28711-9710

Borgenicht, Joseph '92
1062 S. 1500 E.
Salt Lake City, UT 84105

Boylston, William '05
11725 SW Lynnridge Avenue
Portland, OR 97225
wboylsto@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Brant, Sarah '94
55 Dolores Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
podiiysarah@gmail.com

Brewer, Robert '92
Prins Hendriklaan 34
1075 BD
Amsterdam,
THE NETHERLANDS
chip_brewer@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Briggs, Chance '86
c/o CRS Nigeria
209 West Fayette Street
Baltimore, MD 21201
chance_briggs@yahoo.com

Buckley, Sarah '98
4326 NE 9th Avenue
Portland, OR 97211-4502

Bunt, Matthew '97
30010 8th Place S
Federal Way, WA 98003

Burnett, Megan '98
65 Franklin Street, #10
Allston, MA 02134
xumeige@hotmail.com

Cantor, Selena '90
3935 Blackstone Avenue, Apt. 8J
Riverdale, NY 10471
skcantor@earthlink.net

Caplan, Aaron '90

Carbine, Jason '93
212 Grove Street
Rutland, VT 05701
jcarbine@amherst.edu

Carpenter, Stephen P. '96
20 W Canal Street, Apt. 507
Winooski, VT 05404
scarpenter@ardinc.com

Carroll, Catherine '00
217 Valencia Road
West Palm Beach, FL 33401
cathsiobhan@hotmail.com

Alumni Directory

Castell, Gregory '91
gcastell@iname.com

Ceterski, Nicole '04
625 Hidden Valley Drive,
Apt. 101
Ann Arbor, MI 48104
ceterski@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Chambers, Eric '04
450 East Harrison Street
Long Beach, NY 11561-2346
ericchambers@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Chan, Ellen '97
59 Arnold Avenue, #3
Cranston, RI 02905
echan7@cox.net

Cheval, Yoko Yamaguchi '00
Juko Mezon 4C
4-27-12 Ikebukuro
Toshimaku, Tokyo 171-0014
JAPAN
yoko_yamaguchi@hotmail.com

Chin, Joshua '99
226 Atrol Avenue, #208
Oakland, CA 94606-1377
josh.chin@sbcglobal.net

Choi, Christopher '04
4325 Woodleigh Lane
La Canada, CA 91011-3540
cchoi@bowdoin.edu

Chu, Alexander '02
2222 Fuller Court #313
Ann Arbor, MI 48105-2315
mask69venom@hotmail.com

Collier, Peter '88
IOM SKOPJE
KRCIN 2A
Skopje, MACEDONIA 1000

Cook, Adrienne Cardella '89
445 Placid Street
Gaithersburg, MD 20878-6539
brentacook@aol.com

Cormier, Nate '95
2716 39th Avenue SW
Seattle, WA 98116-2505
ncormier@jonesandjones.com

Cornell-Feist, Marci '88
Meetinghouse Solution
82 Shaker Road
Harvard, MA 01451
marcicf@charter.net

Cowan, Jonathan '01
127 Cornell Court
Lake Oswego, OR 97034
jonathancowan@swirvemail.com

Cowen, Amanda '03
amandalcowen@hotmail.com

Coye, Michael '75
835 Soundview Drive
Mamaroneck, NY 10543
MichaelCoye@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Crain, Andrew '94
532 East 13th Street
Cincinnati, OH 45210

Crawford, Maya '95
572 Collins Street
Hillsdale, NY 12529
mayacrawford@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Crocker, Cory T. '94
cory_crocker@hotmail.com

Crowley, Meredith '94
1529 S. State Street, #19A
Chicago, IL 60605
mcrowley@frbchi.org

Cushman, Charlotte '81
P.O. Box 84
Thomaston, ME 04861
ccushman@midcoast.com

Custer, Arthur '82
500 Old Farms Rd
Avon, CT 06001
custer@avonoldfarms.com

Dahm, Elizabeth '94
3 Everell Road
Winchester, MA 01890
elizabeth_dahm@yahoo.com

Dalseth, Anthony '01
14005 Frontier Lane
Burnsville, MN 55337
lionofjudea@hotmail.com

Daner, Kevin '88
kbdaner@aol.com

Daniels, Cara Bird '94
RFD 2, Box 249
Fort Fairfield, ME 04742
carabirddaniels@gmail.com

Darling, Todd '89
18 Sheffield Drive
Boxford, MA 01921-1906
mtdarling@worldnet.att.net

Davies, Catherine '05
315 West Neck Road
Huntington, NY 11743-1726
cdavies4@gmail.com

Davis, Catherine '02
216 Westmorland Blvd
Madison, WI 53705
kate_g_davis@yahoo.com

Deans, Jill Roberts '88
6 College Lane
Haverford, PA 19041-1325
jdeans@haverford.edu

Alumni Directory

Dedrick, Scott '90
8225 Bainbridge Loop NE
Lacey, WA 98516-6223
sdedrick@hotmail.com

Deeks, Payton '99
1954 Columbia Rd NW, Apt. 308
Washington, D.C. 20009
paytondeeks@earthlink.net

Dempsey, Jack '02
102 Quaker Lane
Villanova, PA 19085
jdempsey@intra.nida.nih.gov

DeTemple, Jill '93
11815 Duxbury Drive
Dallas, TX 75218
detemple@smu.edu

Downs, Margot '91
26 Dinmore Road
Selkirk, NY 12158
margot.downs@maine.edu

Driskill, Nicolas '02
c/o Osaka International School
4-16 Onohara-nishi 4-Chome
Mi, JAPAN
ndriskill@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Dunn, Andrew '03
andrewtdunn@alumni.bowdoin.
edu

Duyan, Peter '00
6733 SW Alden Street
Portland, OR 97223

Eckels, Amanda Fuqua '00
amandaeckelscm@yahoo.com
Eckhardt, Philippa '89
Monash University School of
Biological Science
Victoria, 3800
AUSTRALIA

Eckhart, Kimberly '91
1369 Hyde Street, Apt. 39
San Francisco, CA 94109-3841
keckhart@mofo.com

Edwards, David '99
Emerson, Laura '02
330 East 38th Street, Apt. 435
New York, NY 10016
laura_emerson@alumni.bowdoin.
edu

Erie, Lucas '05
35 Harvest Hill Road
West Simsbury, CT 06092-2224
lerie@bowdoin.edu

Erspamer, Kevin '05
1 Paseo Linares
Moraga, CA 94556-2101
kerspame@bowdoin.edu

Farmer, Jessica '02
187 Atlantic Avenue
Wells, ME 04090
jessicatfarmer@hotmail.com

Farnbach, Daniel '01
dfarnbach@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Farrington, Kate '89
55 Sixth Street
Cambridge, MA 02141
sevensisters88@hotmail.com

Feinberg, David L. '98
4735 Roswell Road, Apt. 2314
Atlanta, GA 30342
dfeinbe@LearnLink.Emory.Edu

Felsher, Nathaniel '02
190 East 7th Street, Apt. 714
New York, NY 10009-5993
nfelsher@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Fitzpatrick, Hillary '04
79 Myrtle Street
Boston, MA 02114-4813
hfitzpatrick@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Flaherty, Patrick '91
1012 East Clarke Street
Milwaukee, WI 53212-3011

Flanders, Andrew David '96
P.O. Box 17
Pownal, ME 04069

Fleming, Doug '99
2324 Melody Lane
Reno, NV 89512-1433
sf_investment_banker@yahoo.com

Fox, Richard '03
Bitterroot Ranch
1480 East Fork Rd
Dubois, WY 82513

Fox, Suzanne '87
241 Foreside Road
Falmouth, ME 04105
sfox5@maine.rr.com

Fraleigh, Lisa '88
46 Lawrence Street, #2
Medford, MA 02155-4060

Fuchs, Adam '91
2113 A Byron Street
Berkeley, CA 94702

Gabrielson, Sarah Bruss '03
11 Island View Road
Cape Elizabeth, ME 04107-1316
sbruss@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Gallagher, Peter '88
374 6th Avenue, Apt. 1
Brooklyn, NY 11215

Alumni Directory

Gallo, Greg '98
P.O. Box 3488
Telluride, CO 81435
greggallo@hotmail.com

Galloway, Will '88
wgmediate@aol.com

Gerson, Simon '02
19 West 95th Street, Apt. 3b
New York, NY 10025-6755
sgerson@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Gillia, Ryan '04
33 Iliahi Street
Honolulu, HI 96817-3219
rgillia@bowdoin.edu

Goodell, Trelawney '95
asmart2004@kellogg.northwestern.edu

Gooneratne, Tehani '97
32 Harwick Lane
West Hartford, CT 06117

Goto, Christina '04
398 Courtland Avenue Apt. 14
Lions Gate, Apt. #R32
Stamford, CT 06906-1851
cegoto@gmail.com

Gregg, Eric '93
53 North Moore Street, #7E
New York, NY 10013
eric.gregg@csfb.com

Haddock, Tiffany '96
1825 2nd Avenue North
Great Falls, MT 59401-3227
thaddock@salud.unm.edu

Han, Elizabeth '04
350 West 50th Street
New York, NY 10019-6664
lizzy.han@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Hand, Henry '88
281 President Street
Brooklyn, NY 11231

Hart, Prescott '04
10 Market Place Drive
Hilton Head Island, SC 29928-3814
phart2@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Hastings, Paul '04
6-10-28 Osawa
Mitaka-Shi
Tokyo, 181-0015
Japan
phastings@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Hegarty, Erin '03
ehegarty@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Heriot, Anita '88
8315 Childs Road
Wyndmoor, PA 19038
aheriot@haverford.org

Herrmann, David '91
529 South Owen Drive
Madison, WI 53711
katndav@tds.net

Heyler, Daniel '87
dan_heyler@yahoo.com

Hollis, Duncan '92
4203 Harrison St., NW
Washington, D.C. 20015-1943
duncanhollis@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Hopkinson, Kate '94

Hoxie, Leah '03
65 Washington Street
Newton, MA 02458

Huang, KoKo '00
kokohuang@hotmail.com

Hudson, Melissa '05
22 Holden Street
Cambridge, MA 02138-2069
melissahud@gmail.com

Humphrey, Rachel '96
212-1 Bitterroot Road
P.O. Box 5
Sun Valley, ID 83353
rachelhumphrey@hotmail.com

Hunter, Rhett '98
119 Park Street, #10
Brookline, MA 02446
rhunter@adventinternational.com

Ivan, Zhe Fan '01
ivan_z_fan@yahoo.com

Jaccaci, Anthony '91
Portsmouth Abbey School
Portsmouth, RI 02871
fac@stgeorges.edu

Jagosh, Melissa Weinman '82
5340 N. Commercial Street
Ruston, WA 98407-3112

Jeon, Denny '95
440 E 79th Street, Apt. 5L
New York, NY 10021-1437
dcjeon@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Johnson, Chris '04
52 Jacqueline Road, Apt. 12
Waltham, MA 02452
cjohnso2@bowdoin.edu

Karlin, Amanda '02
33 East 3rd Street
Frederick, MD 21701
amandakarlin@yahoo.com

Kasper, Emily '95
5616 Greenleaf Road
Cheverly, MD 20785-1111
emily_kasper@mckinsey.com

Alumni Directory

Kehoe, John Breffni '90
54 Cameron Street
Coburg VIC 3058,
AUSTRALIA
breffni-kehoe@rocketmail.com

Keller, Kurt '90
439 Manhattan Road SE
East Grand Rapids, MI 49506

Kim, Cindy '00
327 Erin Lane
East Setauket, NY 11733-6460
cindymijung@yahoo.com

Kim, Henry '98

Kim, James '98
924 Virginia Avenue
Lodi, CA 95242

Kim, Jin Ho '03
1 Terrace Road
Weston, MA 02493
jkim500@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Kiser, Melissa '89
4901 9th Avenue
Sacramento, CA 95820

Kiu, Eugenia '99
301 East 45th Street, Apt. 15B
New York, NY 10017
eugeniakiu@hotmail.com

Klose, Chandler '94
2930 Chain Bridge Rd, NW
Washington, D.C. 20016
chandlerklose@hotmail.com

Knapp, Brian '00
brknapp@hotmail.com

Koka, Rahul '97
14 Pilgrim Drive
Winchester, MA 01890
rahul_koka@yahoo.com

Kondabolu, Hari '04
19341 Nero Avenue
Hollis, NY 11423-1153
harikondabolu@yahoo.com

Kono, Shion '95
Princeton University
318 East Pyne
Princeton, NJ 08544
skono@princeton.edu

Kraus, Richard '91
116 Possum Hollow Road
Wallingford, PA 19086

Kuba, Meredith '00
1188 Bishop Street, #2908
Honolulu, HI 96813
merekuba@yahoo.com

Kucer, Anton '91
7312 134th Avenue NE
Redmond, WA 98052
kucer@eternal.net

Kurusu, Jason '96
142 Mill Rover Road
Chappaqua, NY 10514

Larsen, N. Eric '92
1813 W Newport Ave.
Chicago, IL 60657
nlarsen@egii.com

Larson, Jan '03
1711 Massachusetts Ave. NW #716
Washington, D.C. 20036

Law, Howard '05
14 East 85th Street
Harvey Cedars, NJ 08008
howard.a.law@gmail.com

LeBlanc, Nicole '90
534 Mills Way
Goleta, CA 93117-4023
nleblanc@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Lee, Chuin Ming '93
BLK 150, 02-46
Tampines Street
22 520150,
SINGAPORE
leecming@cyberway.com.sg

Lee, Hueling Melissa '99
hlee@integral-inc.com

Lee, Seungah '05

Leighton, Maxwell '01
228 Smith St., Apt. 1
Brooklyn, NY 11231
mleight@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Lenhart, Mark '89
1201 Q Street NW, Apt. 201
Washington, D.C. 20009
mlenhart@academic-travel.com

Lenherr, Sara M. '00
5500 South Shore Dr. Apt. 808
Chicago, IL 60637
slenherr@uchicago.edu

Leong, Harrison '03
1438 40th Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94122-3020
hleong@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Leung, Thomas '96
thomasaleung@yahoo.com

Lew, Han Jin '00
Chung Kwang A-301, 1020-1
Bangbae 3 Dong, Sechoku
Seoul, 137-851
KOREA
hanjinlew@gmail.com

Lilley, Kirk '83
10039 41st Avenue NE
Seattle, WA 98125
kirkl@prestongates.com

Alumni Directory

Lim, Christopher '98
1184 Hunakai Street
Honolulu, HI 96816
chris_lim76@hotmail.com

Lin, Archie '95
110-14 65th Avenue
Forest Hills, NY 11375
archielin@hotmail.com

Lyman, Erin '01
206 Main Street
Box 2697
Northfield, MA 01360
elyman@nmhschool.org

Lyon, Alexis '97
Branch Lane
Prides Crossing, MA 01965

MacNeil, Meghan '03
60 Evergreen Street, 3rd floor
Providence, RI 02906
mmacneil@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Mahlstedt, Zhara '02
83 Dover Road
Chichester, NH 03234
zharamahlstedt@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Mahnke, Daus '95
dausmahnke@hotmail.com

Maiberger, Matthew '98
3 Lisa Court
Westport, CT 06880

Makino, Akimitsu '04
20322 Pinntage Parkway
Cupertino, CA 95014
amakino@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Makowski, Suzana '90
914 Senora Avenue
Billings, MT 59105-2049
suzanakm@hotmail.com

Mallen, Justin '93
60 Santa Rita Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94116
jmallen@srt.com.cn

Marri, Anand '95
Columbia University
525 West 120th St, Box 80
New York, NY 10027
marri@tc.columbia.edu

Martin, Katina '96
R.F.D. #4 Box 3900
Caribou, ME 04736

Martin, Lawrence '88

Martin, Melinda Zych '94
23 Maple Street
Whitinsville, MA 01588-2216
mindymartin01@hotmail.com

Mast, Kelley McGrath '97
knmcgrath@yahoo.com

Matthews, Tori Garten '95
17707 Ridge Road
Rockville, MD 20853
t_matthews123@yahoo.com

McCabe, Andrew '90
72 Audrey Avenue
Needham, MA 02492
abmccabe@jpmccabe.com

McCabe, Gao Hua '92
72 Audrey Avenue
Needham, MA 02492
ghmccabe@aol.com

McIntire, Jennifer Noering '88
P.O. Box 205
6 Barstow St
Mattapoisett, MA 02739-2603
mac1990@comcast.net

McNulty, Abigail '97
4006 62nd Street
Bethesda, MD 20816
abbymcnulty@hotmail.com

Menon, Roshen '01
60 Brattle Street, Apt. 605
Cambridge, MA 02138-3740
rmenon@summitpartners.com

Merrick, Valarie '99
6000 Halsey Road
Rockville, MD 20851-2203
vjm00@yahoo.com

Mershon, Beth LaLumiere '92
5 Price Street
Hopkinton, MA 01748
mershons@baypathleos.com

Messer, Miwako '91
c/o Barnes & Noble
122 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10011
mmesser@bn.com

Meszaros, Alexander '05
214 Blue Mill Road
Morristown, NJ 07960
ameszaro@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Metz, Marcia '95
60 Briarcliff Road
Longmeadow, MA 01106
mametz@mindspring.com

Meyers, Christian '90
677 Duncan Street
San Francisco, CA 94131
c-meyers@pacbell.net

Meyers, Margaret '05
124 Canterbury Lane
McMurray, PA 15317
mmeyers@bowdoin.edu

Alumni Directory

Miliano, Peter '86
Nakamura Building, Apt 406,
6-6-36 Yako
Tsurumi-ku, Yokohama 230-0001
JAPAN
pmiliano@za.netyou.jp

Millis, Robert '88

Minor, Robert '92
luobogao@hotmail.com

Miyake, Dylan '93
9 Cumston Street
Boston, MA 02118-3856
dmiyake@bscol.com

Mok, Tiffany '02
tswmok@yahoo.com

Moloney, Lynn '91
364 West 18th Street, Apt. 5C
New York, NY 10011
lynn@maloney.com

Morgan, A. Mitra '88
88 Beals Street, Apt. 2
Brookline, MA 02446
anna.mitra.morgan.tu95@alum.
dartmouth.org

Morgan, Emily '02
505 Innwood
Georgetown, TX 78628
emorgan@bowdoin.edu

Moriguchi, Denise '98
510 6th Avenue South, Apt. 603
Seattle, WA 98104-3879
dmoriguchi@yahoo.com

Morrison, Ansley Dauenhauer '90
109 St. George's Sq, Flat 1
London, SW1V 3QP
ENGLAND
ansleymark@onetel.net.uk

Morton, Elizabeth '95
9110 U.S. Highway 42
Prospect, KY 40059

Moryan, Willow '97
P.O. Box 81
N. Anson, ME 4958
willow.moryan@midwives.org

Moy, Sandy '92
1771 74th Street
Brooklyn, NY 11204
sandymoy@earthlink.net

Muico, Norma K. '89
Seoul Academy
Young Dong,
P.O. Box 85, Seoul
SOUTH KOREA

Munton, Andrew '98
20 Upham Street
West Newton, MA 02465-1520
menganzheng@hotmail.com

Murphy, Edward '89
202 West Cypress Ave
Redlands, CA 92373-5947
ejm@carril.com

Mussman, Royce '04
2703 Ruhland Ave., Apt. 2
Redondo Beach, CA 90278-2641
rmussman@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Nagakawa, Ai '02
2-17-27 Kitamachi Nishi
Tokyo-shi
Tokyo 202-0003,
JAPAN

Najberg, Adam '90
AP-Dow Jones News Service
4808 Central Plaza
Wanchai, HONG KONG
adam.najberg@dowjones.com

Nosnik, Alexander '03
5404 Blackhawk Drive
Plano, TX 75093-2807
danoz19@yahoo.com

Nugent, Deepa Gandhi '90
51 Claremont Avenue
Orinda, CA 94563
dgnugent@worldnet.att.net

Nutik, Chandler '03
5508 Saint Charles Ave.
New Orleans, LA 70115-5048
cnutik@alumni.bowdoin.edu

O'Donnell, Nanako '97
18 Birch Meadow Road
Brunswick, ME 04011-2955

O'Hara, Sean '05
507 Timber Lake Way
Southlake, TX 92076
wu@artificinate.com

Odell, Naomi '00
4 Neptune Street
Newburyport, MA 01950-3121
nodell@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Offen, Suzanne '05
10201 Grosvenor Place, Apt. 309
Rockville, MD 20852-4606
soffen@gmail.com

Oh, Kevin '01
2156 East Edison Street
Tucson, AZ 85719-3802
kevin_oh@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Owen, Bryn '96
bryn_owen@alumni.bowdoin.edu
Pak, Irene '03
54 Lakeview Avenue
Tyngsboro, MA 01879

Alumni Directory

Park, Heather '01
333 3rd Avenue, Apt. 26
New York, NY 10010
hpark33@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Park, Wanki '04
6-43 Kwang Myung 1 Dong
Kwang Myung Si
Kyung Ki Do,
Republic of Korea
wpark@bowdoin.edu

Pechilis, Karen '84

Pendy, Gary '93
19 Dickinson Court
Red Bank, NJ 07960
mike@duquesne.com

Petersen, Amy '03
4628 Butterworth Pl, NW
Washington, D.C. 20016
apeterse@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Phung, Han '99
2628 Doray Circle
Monrovia, CA 91016
hanphung@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Piscatelli, Patrick '90
Hingham, MA
pap33@hotmail.com

Pitoniak, Jonathan '01
75 Washington Avenue
Northampton, MA 01060
pitoniak@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Pollini, Franco '03
13 Richlee Court, #4-S
Mineola, NY 11501
fpollini@bowdoin.edu

Powers, Kelly Johnson '95
P.O. Box 708
Girdwood, AK 99587-0708
kgj_us@yahoo.com

Privratsky, Joanna '01
P.O. Box 1252
Clinton, TN 37717-1252
joa.sky@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Ramirez, Brenda '02
6105 S. Karlov Avenue, #HSE
Chicago, IL 60629-4930
brendita25@yahoo.com

Ramus, Ponahka '02
17 Mt Pleasant Street
Somerville, MA 02145
pramus@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Rand, Robert Jason '94
653 Texas Hill Road
Plymouth, NH 03264

Rao, Ajay '02
3205 N Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20007
ajayrao80@yahoo.com

Rasich, Michelle Melendez '91
1424 Federal Way
Salt Lake City, UT 84102
michelle_rasich@skaggscatholicce
nter.org

Rasmussen, William '89
wbrasmussen@sbcglobal.net

Rau, Alison '04
561 George Washington Tpke
Burlington, CT 06013-1716
alirau@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Raynes, Emma '04
229 5th Avenue, Apt. 3
Brooklyn, NY 11213
emma_raynes@yahoo.com

Reddy, Bina '02
3601 Foster
Evanston, IL 60203

Reimer, Tracy Boulter '94
25 Drummer Boy Way
Lexington, MA 02420
boltshow@yahoo.com

Robbins, Allison '02
1613 Greenleaf Lane
Charlottesville, VA 22903
asr3a@virginia.edu

Rodfong, Tina '91
22186 Delightful Way
Redding, CA 96003
markramus@hotmail.com

Roma, Todd '92
40 Colonial Road
Portland, ME 04102-2010

Rosen, Jennifer '91
65 East Scott Street, Apt. 14H
Chicago, IL 60610
jenrosen4@aol.com

Row, Chris '93
112 Chestnut Street, #1
Brookline, MA 02445-7538
chris.row@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Rutter, Amelia '05
Karl Marx 50
715430 Tashkomur
Jalalabat Oblast,
Kyrgyzstan
arutter@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Ryan, Stephen '88
350 Albany Street, Apt. #10F
New York, NY 10280
ryansb@us.ibm.com

Savage, Elizabeth Danaher '88
171 W. 71st Street, Apt. 8E
New York, NY 10023
savage@nyc.rr.com

Alumni Directory

Saxl, Michael '89
RR 4 Box 6900
Gardiner, ME 04345-9137
repsaxl@msn.com

Schiller, Sara Beard '92
147 Wooster Street, #4
New York, NY 10012
sara.schiller@gmail.com

Schneebeck, Erik '04
8204 Powderhouse Road
Cheyenne, WY 82009-1809
eschneeb@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Schonthal, Benjamin '99
419 Kelling Lane
Glencoe, IL 60022
benjamins22@yahoo.com

Segovis, Colin '99
1111 1st Street, NW
Rochester, MN 55901-6263
csegovis@hotmail.com

Seneviratne, Sonali Needra '97
7158 Standing Boy Rd.
Columbus, GA 31904
ssene@yahoo.com

Shao, Katherine '89
4321 Essex Street
Emeryville, CA 94608
kshao@earthlink.net

Shapiro, Daniel '98
Davis Polk & Wardwell
99 Gresham St
London, EC 2V 7NG
England
danielmshapiro@yahoo.com

Shean, Gregory '89
5341 Linda Way
La Jolla, CA 92037
gshean@fbm.com

Sheehan, Tara '05
358 Jiao Zhou Lu
Building #6 Room 1907
Shanghai, Peoples Republic of China
200041
tseehan@abroadchina.net.cn

Sheen, Calandra '95
792 Columbus Ave, 1M
Manhattan, NY 10025
csheen1@excite.com

Shin, Sharon '04
830 South Garfield Avenue
Monterey Park, CA 91754
sjshin216@hotmail.com

Shinn-Andersen, Won Sin '89
4829 Penrose Avenue
Moorpark, CA 93021
geehea@earthlink.net

Shore, Jesse '98
16 Cottage Avenue
Somerville, MA 02144-3019
jconanshore@yahoo.com

Shorrock, David '90
124 Hudson Street, Apt. 4C
New York, NY 10013
david.w.shorrock@db.com

Simon, James '92
120 MacDougal Street, Apt. 24
New York, NY 10012-1220
jsimon@ny.aada.org

Simonds, Carrie '02
379 Commonwealth Avenue,
Apt. 10
Boston, MA 02115
carrie.simonds@gmail.com

Singer, Yunhui Mao '91
yunhuimao@hotmail.com

Slayton, Ann Sargent '84
206 Village Road
Steuben, ME 04680
aslayton@gwi.net

So, Candice A. '00
907 Crowne Oaks Circle
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
soca3@law.wfu.edu

Sorensen, Joshua '95
23 Waverly Place, #2C
New York, NY 10003
leeds4@earthlink.net

Steele, Kathryn '00
5495 Luckiamute Lane NE
Albany, OR 97321-9013
ksteele2@bowdoin.edu

Steffey, Elizabeth '01
9 Revere Street, Apt. 2
Jamaica Plain, MA 02130
esteffey@planet-save.com

Stone, Leslie '88
39 Linden Street
New Haven, CT 06511
leslie.stone@yale.edu

Story, Kristin Meader '90
P.O. Box 979
Wells, ME 04090-0979
kris.story@wachovia.com

Sturk, Joshua '97
33 Alice Road
Casco, ME 04015-3548
jsturk@sad61.k12.me.us

Succop, Meg '94
111 Pembroke Street, #1
Boston, MA 02118-1207

Alumni Directory

Swit, Michael '79
4350 La Jolla Village Dr., Suite
700
San Diego, CA 92122-1246
mswit3@yahoo.com

Tannenbaum, Mark '88
20 Pierrepont Street, Apt. 4B
Brooklyn, NY 11201
mtannen@bloomberg.net

Thich, Sophia '04
270 Wu Xing Rd
Bld #2, Apt. 3105
Shanghai, 200030
Peoples Republic of China
sophiathich@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Tobin, Daniel '04
5591 Bittersweet Lane
Doylestown, PA 18901-1429
dtobin@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Toommongkol, Worawan '03
P.O. Box 20684
Park West Station
New York, NY 10025
worawan@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Trainer, Michael '98
473 Ellita #6
Oakland, CA 94610
michael_trainer@yahoo.com

Trainor, Kathleen '83
5822 North 19th Street
Arlington, VA 22205
05trainor@cua.edu

Tran, Cali '97
Harvard Business School
One Western Avenue #240
Boston, MA 02163
cali_tran@hotmail.com

Triplett, Patricia '00
One Penn Plaza #2
New York, NY 10119
patricia_elain_triplett@hotmail.com

Tsukada, Takao '91
17946 Chardonnay Cl
Eagle River, AK 99577
tth@gci.net

Turley, Sean '05
30 Langdon Street, Apt. 8
Cambridge, MA 02138-2513
sturley2@bowdoin.edu

Turner, Amy Beck '91
ladyejoule@aol.com

Turner, Reid '04
reidcrow24@yahoo.com

Vega, Teresa '89
344 West 122nd Street
New York, NY 10027

Voges, Katherine Huggins '90
1608 Treadwell Street
Austin, TX 78704-2144

Wathen, Marc '78
P.O. Box No. 87266
Tokwa Wan Post Office
Kowloon,
Hong Kong
kismarc@gmail.com

Watt, Mary McNamara '92
17A Dragon Garden
#1 Chun fai Terrace
Tai Hang, HONG KONG
melizabe2@yahoo.com

Watt, William '91
918 1st Avenue W, Apt. 3
Seattle, WA 98119-4710
wwatt@u.washington.edu

Weiner, Andrew '97
344 Thorpe Road
Jenkintown, PA 19046
amwasia@hotmail.com

Wells, Marcia Williams '96

Weng, Suzie '01
91 Boerum Street, Apt. 21F
Brooklyn, NY 11206
suzie827@yahoo.com

Wheeler, Andrew & Kathleen
(Guerro) '93
1025 S. Farragut Terrace
Philadelphia, PA 19143
aiw@h-s.com

White, Susan '98
P.O. Box 2112
Lewiston, ME 04241
susan9161@yahoo.com

Wiehe, Benjamin '96
105 Old Niskayuna Road
Loudenville, NY 12211

Wilke, Sarah '94
3108 S. Mount Baker Blvd
Seattle, WA 98144-6142
sarah_wilke@hotmail.com

Wish, Heather '05
103 Gainsborough Street, Apt. 107
Boston, MA 02115-4238
heatherwish@gmail.com

Woo, Courtney '03
23 Orchard Street
Upton, MA 01568-1525
courtney-woo@alumni.bowdoin.
edu

Alumni Directory

Yager, Christopher '89
460 20th Street
Boulder, CO 80302
dragons@earthnet.net

Yam, Jeffrey '01
70-25 Yellowstone Boulevard
Apt. 21-0
Forest Hills, NY 11375
jeffrey.yam@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Yamanaka, Shalyn '01
251 Kaanapali Drive
Napa, CA 94558
syamanaka@alumni.bowdoin.edu

Yang, Europa '05
1680 Commonwealth Avenue #4
Brighton, MA 02135
eyang@bowdoin.edu

Yu, Edward '97
#108-804 Hyundai Apt.
1 dohwa-1-dong
Mapo-Gu, Seoul
SOUTH KOREA

Yusah, David '02
9 Scott Road
Lexington, MA 02421
dyusah@bowdoin.edu

Zhang, Wenyong '96

Ziegler, Christopher '92
2032 Wiltshire Road
Akron, OH 44313
ziegler@uakron.edu



Asian Studies
Bowdoin College
7500 College Station
Brunswick, ME 04011-8475
U.S.A.

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