

Asian Studies Newsletter

Spring 2005
Volume 15

Program News

Thomas Conlan

It has been a very good year for the Asian Studies Program. Having successfully completed this year's tenure track searches, we are happy to welcome two wonderful colleagues to the program. Vyjayanthi Ratnam Selinger, currently completing her Cornell Ph.D. with a specialization in medieval Japanese literature, will be teaching both Japanese language and courses in Japanese culture, while Belinda Kong, finishing her Ph.D. in English at the University of Michigan, will instruct courses in Asian Diaspora. We have also strengthened our Chinese and Japanese language programs with two added language instructors. Finally, as if to symbolize this flourishing, our home at 38 College Street has been renovated, with our porch repaired and the building gleaming with a new coat of white paint. If you are able to visit our Zen garden, which has become a fine venue for contemplation thanks to the dedication of skilled gardeners affiliated with the Friends of Bowdoin, check out these improvements. By all means, please visit!

Our academic offerings continue to increase in breath and depth. Already, we offer courses in anthropology, art, government, history, literature, music, religion, and sociology, as well as Chinese and Japanese language. Several visiting faculty taught interesting

courses over the past year. Jack Kline offered courses in Chinese philosophy and Buddhism, while Bill Hurst, who leaves us for Cambridge University, taught Chinese and South East Asian politics. Thanks, too, to Xiaoyun Jiang for her fine instruction of second-year Chinese, and Tae Yang Kwak of Harvard for his informative "International History of Korea." We also are grateful to Tudor Silva, who came from Sri Lanka to teach a stimulating course on terrorism this past year. Our dedicated faculty enrich the program in a myriad of ways.

Interest in Asian Studies continues to grow. As of the spring of 2005, we have 25 majors and 15 minors. Over a quarter of all Bowdoin students take courses in Asian Studies each year. East Asian language enrollments continue to expand as well. Currently we have 25 students taking Chinese, and 38 taking Japanese.

We are fortunate that Reiko Yoshida will be with us for two more years, providing excellent language instruction, along with Nicholas Lin, who will be joining us next year. As of next year, teams of three instructors will help with the time intensive instruction of both Chinese and Japanese. We hope that this approach will continue to strengthen our instruction in these East Asian languages.

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This represents my first year as director of the program, and I am grateful for the wise advice and insights offered by my predecessors, John Holt, Kidder Smith and Henry Laurence. Suzanne Astolfi, our coordinator, also does a wonderful job in ensuring all

at the program functions well. I am honored to be part of such an excellent team, and look forward to providing you with an update of our continuing growth next year.

Faculty News

Tom Conlan has had another productive and enjoyable year. His article “Thicker than Blood: The Social and Political Significance of Wet Nurses in Japan, 950-1330” will appear in the *Harvard Journal of Asiatic Studies* this June. Having completed his study of the administrative nobility in Japan he is now exploring the political importance of Esoteric Buddhism in Japan. Tom will also travel to Japan this summer under the auspices of a Freeman grant and explore important cultic centers in Japan, and sites related to Kitabatake Chikafusa, a fourteenth century ideologue. He has also advised the publication of a magazine, *Callipole*, which will have a forthcoming volume dedicated to medieval Japan.

At Bowdoin, Tom has taught his survey sequence of Japanese history as well as seminars on the Courtly Society of Ancient Japan and a comparative study of heroism, focusing on ideals in Japan, China, Mongolia, and medieval Europe. The recently launched Bowdoin website, *Scrolls of the Mongol Invasions of Japan* (<http://www.bowdoin.edu/mongol-scrolls/>), also provides an interactive overview of this important source. Bowdoin’s Information Technology (IT) department has provided invaluable assistance in creating this dynamic site.

Finally, Tom’s wife Yuko and son George remain happy and a source of continuing happiness.
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Shuqin Cui: In the academic year 2004-2005, Shuqin offered her two favorite courses: Transnational Chinese Cinema and Perspectives on Modern China. With China’s ever-changing sociocultural conditions, the subject of modern China engages her students. The exploration of new issues and materials in these classes enhances her students’ critical reasoning.

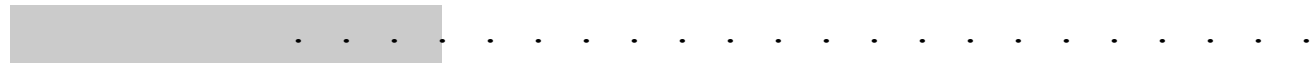
In addition to teaching, the year has also seen the publication of “Raise the Red Lantern: The Cinematic Orient and Female Conflict” in *Film Analysis: A Norton Reader*, and the submission of “Caught between the Local and the Global: Anxiety

and Uncertainty in Jia Zhangke’s Films” to the *Journal of Popular Culture*. She will also present at the ICAS conference in Shanghai, and the China Cinema Modernity International Conference at Nottingham Trent University in Britain.

As classes come to a close and final papers pour in, Shuqin once again is in the process of preparing for her summer post as the academic director of CET, Beijing Program. After fulfilling this commitment, she has decided to sit down and concentrate on her manuscript “Gender and Space: Rethinking Women’s Writing in Modern China.”
scui2@bowdoin.edu

Songren Cui taught first and fourth year Chinese language courses this year, a teaching load lighter than normal for him. He has been, however, as busy as usual. He converted all his lecture notes for Chinese 101 and 102 to handouts for students, and PowerPoint for class presentations, thus saving his time to write on the blackboard, and also students’ time to take notes in class. He intends to put these sources on the web so as to enable students to get access to the materials even if they have missed a class.

In addition to teaching, Songren has also been involved in the Chinese Language Teachers Association. In December 2004, he was invited by the China National Office for Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language (NOCFL) as one of 14 guest speakers from American colleges and universities to give presentations at the Symposium on Teaching Chinese as a Second Language in the New Century in Beijing. He will continue to serve as a teacher trainer in the Chinese Language School at Middlebury before traveling to Beijing, China to attend the Eighth International Conference of Chinese Language Teaching.
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Sara Dickey and her family began this year in Madurai, southern India, where Sara directed the SITA Program for five months. She had a great group of 16 students, and taught a course on fieldwork methods and South Indian anthropology. Sara also directed 16 independent studies ranging from the impact of cell phones on social values, to human rights education, to sacred grove conservation. She also squeezed in some interviews for her continuing research on class identities in Madurai.

Back at Bowdoin she is teaching the "Activist Voices in India" course again, this time with a new section on nuclear armament, and planning a new course for next year titled "Modernity in South Asia." She will be back in India for a month in July, this time to begin re-visiting her old research topic of Tamil film and film-watching. When Sara finished her book *Cinema and the Urban Poor in South India* in 1993, she thought she had said everything she could about the topic for a while. Now, 20 years since her first fieldwork on film-watching, fan clubs, and politics, she is diving back in. She just published an article titled "Still 'One Man in a Thousand'" in a book that brings together art critics and film scholars to discuss Indian film posters (*Living Pictures: Perspectives on the Film Poster in India*, edited by David Blamey and Robert E. D'Souza). Her summer fieldwork will allow her to explore why M.G. Ramachandran – Tamil cinema's biggest film star, and Tamil Nadu Chief Minister from 1977-87 – remains so popular almost two decades after his death, and what social and political values he currently represents for fans. She will also begin preparing a second edition of her book on cinema.

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Lance Guo has been on sabbatical, conducting research into the rapid and dynamic changes in contemporary China.

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John Holt has published *The Buddhist Visnu: Religious Transformations, Politics and Culture* (NY: Columbia University Press, 2004; 448 pages) and has begun work on two new studies: 1) the Sinhala Buddhist response to the Portuguese in Sri Lanka and 2) Buddhism and Politics in Laos. He is also editing a collection of essays from faculty at the University of Peradeniya in Sri Lanka to commemorate 25 years of the ISLE Program in 2007.

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William Hurst has had a busy year moving to Maine from California and then teaching four new courses while also completing his dissertation. Before coming to Brunswick, Bill had only lived in large cities, where restaurants were always more likely to be filling up with dinner crowds at 8 p.m. rather than closing for the night, and having an automobile was more nuisance than necessity. Bill had also never before been on a liberal arts college campus, except for his brief visit last May, so he really did not know what to expect. Everything has been pleasantly surprising, however. All of his colleagues on the faculty and staff in both Asian Studies and Government, Bowdoin's librarians and IT specialists, and his students have helped make his stay here both productive and highly enjoyable.

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Tae Yang Kwak very much enjoyed teaching his course on the international history of Korea at Bowdoin. Tae was impressed by the caliber and enthusiasm of the students here and appreciates everyone's kindness and support. Tae hopes that Korean Studies will continue to flourish at Bowdoin. Next year he will be finishing his doctoral program while teaching at both Harvard University and Wheaton College in Norton, MA.

tkwak@bowdoin.edu

Henry Laurence continues to teach Government and Asian Studies courses, notably "Japanese Politics and Society" last fall and "Advanced Seminar in Japanese Politics" this spring. He is still researching various aspects of public television in Japan, Britain, and the U.S., covering issues from political bias to the political economy of technological innovation. Due to some health problems he has taught only part-time, but is feeling much better and looking forward to being back to full-time in the fall of 2005.

hlaurenc@bowdoin.edu

De-Nin Deanna Lee characterizes this year as a delightful, wonderful blur. On the research front, her article, "Fragments for Constructing a History of Southern Tang Painting," was published in *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies*, and she presented a paper about murals from an early tenth-century tomb at the New York Conference on Asian Studies in the fall. This summer, with financial support from a NEH Summer Stipend, De-nin will revise and expand her research on the cultural lives of Chinese handscroll paintings. Handscrolls, both Chinese and Japanese, were the subject of a first-year seminar that she found

particularly enjoyable and rewarding to teach. A team from IT helped develop a website for this seminar featuring a digital reproduction of *Spring Festival on the River* (a 12th c. Chinese painting) that allowed students to upload and append their own colophons. De-nin continues to take students to see the scrolls in Bowdoin's Special Collections and on field trips to the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Working with Katy Kline at the Bowdoin College Museum of Art, De-nin has helped Bowdoin acquire a small and delicate painting of a bodhisattva and a digital photograph – a bright yet devastating post-industrial landscape – by contemporary Chinese artist, Hong Lei. Her other projects include participating in Columbia University's Expanding East Asian Studies teaching collaborative and becoming the campus representative for AsiaNetwork.

Finally, this year De-nin became the mother of Sebastien Lee Xiabin Kline, that chubby dark-haired babe you may have spotted in the VAC, at 38 College St, or elsewhere on campus.

dlee@bowdoin.edu

Sree Padma has been administering the Inter Collegiate Sri Lanka Program for the last seven years. She continues to enjoy her work with various member colleges in the U.S. and with the University of Peradeniya, Sri Lanka. Although the program keeps her busy, she likes teaching and doing some research in her free time. Her half-credit course in the fall of 2005 explores the relationship between women and goddesses in Indian culture. She is co-editing a book entitled, "Buddhism in the Krishna River Valley of Andhra" with Anthony Barber at the University of Calgary. She has sent her manuscript to State University of NY Press and is hoping to publish it soon.

spadma@bowdoin.edu

Nancy Riley continues work on China. In April 2005, she gave a talk at the Peabody-Essex Museum in Salem, MA to the Boston Bowdoin Alumni Club on her research in China. She has also given talks about her work on China's "missing girls" in a variety of places, including National Public Radio with Susan Stamberg and Stanford's Center for East Asian Studies (where she saw Josh Chin '99). She will be teaching a new course, Gender and Family in East Asia, in fall 2005 and, in the spring, will be offering another version of her China course, with its accompanying "traveling seminar" after the end of the semester.

nriley@bowdoin.edu

Natsu Sato has had a wonderful year with many good students. Nearly 50 students were enrolled in the Japanese language courses in the fall, and the majority of them continued into the spring semester. Student enthusiasm in their final class performances proved contagious, further encouraging Natsu to better the program. In the spring, Natsu traveled to Washington, D.C., to introduce Bowdoin's Japanese Program to secondary schools with strong Japanese language programs. Natsu has received a Freeman Asia Faculty Fellowship to develop a Japanese language placement test and to attend an international conference on Japanese language pedagogy in Yokohama. She will spend the summer of 2005 in Shiga, Japan, teaching for the Japan Center for Michigan Universities.

nsato@bowdoin.edu

Kidder Smith is enjoying the first half of his sabbatical. (The second half will come a year from now, in the spring of 2006.) He's working on a variety of pieces, including one on early Chinese philology and another on the usefulness of the term "experience" to academic investigations.

kidder@bowdoin.edu

Rachel Sturman much enjoyed her first year at Bowdoin, teaching four new courses on modern South Asia. Some highlights included "Politics and Popular Culture in Twentieth-Century India," in which students considered changing modes of aesthetic and political engagement by studying materials such as Hollywood films, popular religious and political posters, post-colonial novels, and a major television production of the Hindu epic, *Ramayana*. In the fall, a first-year seminar called "Gandhi and His Critics" enabled students to delve deeply into Gandhi's own writings and the numerous controversies surrounding his life.

Her research has continued to focus on histories of property, family and law in colonial western India. An article entitled "Property and Attachments: Defining Autonomy and the Claims of Family in Nineteenth-Century Western India" will appear in the July issue of *Comparative Studies in Society and History*, and another piece "Marriage and the Morality of Exchange" is forthcoming in *Decentering Empire: Britain, India and the Transcolonial World*, published by Orient Longman Press. She is currently writing a couple new chapters for her book manuscript, *Worldly Attachments*:

Intimate Relations, Property, and Law in Colonial Western India.

rsturman@bowdoin.edu

Reiko Yoshida enjoyed her second year at Bowdoin. She is looking forward to teaching the third year Japanese language course again in the next academic year as well as team-teaching the first-year course with Natsu Sato and the second-year course with Vyjayanthi Selinger.

ryoshida@bowdoin.edu.

Alumni Notes

compiled by Suzanne Astolfi
Asian Studies Coordinator

CLASS OF 1986

Chance Briggs
chance_briggs@yahoo.com

“Living and working in Islamabad, Pakistan -- which really is, as someone told me, "one of the best kept secrets in Asia." Green, calm, not much traffic or pollution. We go hiking and biking all the time in the Margalla Hills National Park which abuts our house, and I've taken up paragliding. I'm running the Pakistan office of a British NGO, Interact Worldwide, which is trying to help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Pakistan (which is, fortunately, not yet close to epidemic proportions). My partner, Renata, and I don't get to the U.S. much, as our vacation time often takes us to our home on the island of Brac in Croatia (<http://members.lycos.co.uk/kucadol/>).

All the best to Alums around the world, and to Kidder, wherever he is these days.”

CLASS OF 1987

Daniel Heyler
dan_heyler@yahoo.com

“Any Bowdoinites working in Asia, email me: dan_heyler@yahoo.com, as we are building up the network. I'm starting my 7th year at Merrill Lynch and remain a regional Technology equity analyst while heading up the Asia (inc. Japan) research team. Wife Katherine and daughter Angelina (4).

All the best to Kidder and Sara.”

CLASS OF 1988

Mitra Morgan
88 Beals Street, Apt. 2
Brookline, MA 02446
mitra_morgan@hotmail.com

“I started a company about a year ago to produce children's products: www.brookspnd.com. It has been an amazing and grueling experience especially while also being the mother to a 3.5-year-old daughter. Since our product is manufactured in Asia it looks like I've finally found a way to leverage my studies at Bowdoin and the Fletcher School!”

CLASS OF 1989

Edward J. Murphy
202 West Cypress Avenue
Redlands, CA 92373-5947
ejm@carril.com

“My wife, Karen Derris, and I had a baby girl, Rebekah Derris Murphy, on January 15. Our son, Ben, is now 3 1/2.”

Chris Yager
460 20th Street
Boulder, CO 80302
chris@wheretherebedragons.com

“In 1993 I founded an educational travel company, Where There Be Dragons. Over the past thirteen years, we've conducted hundreds of small-group, unique travel programs for students and school groups, with rugged learning adventures all over Asia. Please check out the Photographic Journey on our web-site, (www.wheretherebedragons.com). And if Asian Studies alums are ever looking for seasonal guide-work, please call! (303.413.0822 x11)

Thanks to Kidder and the many invested teachers who remain a great source of inspiration.”

CLASS OF 1990

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

“Hope all is well at Bowdoin. Since last year things have changed a bit. I finally finished my residency in Primary Care at Bellevue/NYU hospital and am now an Attending Physician in a clinic in Chinatown. Additionally, I am the assistant residency program director of the Primary Care Residency program. The best part of my job is I get to use my language skills throughout the day (I have a large Mandarin speaking patient population) and am doing lots of work on health literacy in the immigrant population.

Most importantly, though, I am having a wonderful time being a mommy to Julia (age 6) and Eleanor (age 1).
Love to all.”

Selena Cantor
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skcantor@earthlink.net

“2004 has been a busy but enjoyable year for me. My job at the College Board kept me busy organizing a large conference in Chicago, which turned out to be a success and is thankfully now finished. I moved in to a new apartment with Ilya; traveled to London and the Caribbean and, just recently, adopted a beautiful kitten. Boris the cat has a sleek, black coat with green eyes and is a natural at soccer. He really warms up our new home.”

Suzana Makowski, MD
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Billings, MT 59105
s.mak@mac.com

“After almost two years in Montana as Chair of Integrative Medicine for Deaconess Billings Clinic, I will be leaving the area in May for San Diego, where I will be starting a fellowship in Palliative Care. And through a little bit of luck, I have finally found a way to merge my interests of medicine and China. I have been appointed a medical advisor to a Chinese Biotech and Traditional Chinese Medicine Company based in Shanghai. I was also invited to become a member of ICCO, an academic cancer society based in China. This winter, I finally made it north of Guandong Province and ventured into Shanghai. I hope to travel to China quarterly now.

My brother, a Brown graduate, also recently finished directing a movie in Singapore, in Cantonese/Mandarin/English (mainly Cantonese). I hope it makes it to the U.S. - and if it does, keep an eye out for "One Last Dance".

I do miss the pines and the ocean. I hope to visit Maine again soon. Cheers to all.”



CLASS OF 1991

John Auerbach
johnauerbach@yahoo.com

John is in Shanghai as General Manager of Kroll Worldwide.

David Herrmann
529 South Owen Drive
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katndav@tds.net

“New things in my life are a second son, Leopold, about eight months ago (his older brother, Willie T, turned three in March). I earned my MA in Chinese Lit from UW-Madison in 2002 (though it wasn't awarded till last August due to a technicality). I passed pre-lims last year, too.

I'm still working on the *Shi ji* translation and am involved in a reading group on Early Chinese Thought led by Mark Csikszentmihalyi. You could say that I'm all about the Han, but then I started writing my dissertation, which is a study of early fiction, Tang tales.

I'm working on a study of the *Xu Xuan guai lu* (Continuation of Records of the Strange and Occult; or however you want to translate it). It will mainly be a textual study, showing how to read these tales. In all the close readings we have done here, we almost always find a good deal of allusion that adds another dimension to the tale. Right now, I am working out the numerous troubles regarding the history of the author, Li Fuyan, and of the text, much of the information lost or confused by problems of transmission. It's fun. Li was a buddy of Bai Juyi, Yuan Zhen, Liu Yuxi, etc. so I'm reading through a lot of poems to learn more about him.”

CLASS OF 1992

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

“I live in NYC with my husband, Marc, and dog, Hudson.

I have just written an article for Theme Magazine - a new Asian Culture magazine. On a recent trip to China we met Zhang Dali, a contemporary artist who also put works up on the street - probably the only graffiti artist in China. Marc and I are co-founders of www.woostercollective.com - a blog that celebrates street art - so this exploration of China street art fit into our interests. The magazine is currently for sale at Barnes and Noble and many other places - it is a terrific buy if you haven't seen it.”

CLASS OF 1993

Jill DeTemple
201 Howell Street, Apt. #6-C
Chapel Hill, NC 27514
detemple@email.unc.edu

“It's been a busy year here in North Carolina. I've been finishing up my dissertation and will defend it in time for a May graduation, scheduled for the same day that my husband Brian and I are expecting our first child! As if this wasn't enough excitement, I just accepted a tenure-track position in religious studies, with an adjunct in anthropology, at Southern Methodist University. We'll make the move to Dallas in July.”

CLASS OF 1994

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

“2004 was an exciting year! I was married over the summer, and then bought and renovated a condo in the fall. Professionally, I am the marketing manager for a healthcare consulting firm in Newton, Mass. My husband, Bryan, is an industrial and manufacturing engineer who works as a research scientist at MIT. Outside of work, we enjoy outdoor sports and travel. My thoughts and prayers go out to all those affected by the South Asian tsunami.”

CLASS OF 1995

William Bao Bean
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Pokfulam
Hong Kong
wbean1@yahoo.com

“My wife, Lisa, and I have had a busy time moving from Taiwan to Hong Kong, keeping up with our five-month-old son, Alexander Bennett Bean, and juggling work where I cover the China technology sector. So far the little guy has been to Los Angeles, Honolulu, Taiwan, Hong Kong, and India.

I have joined with Archie Lin '95 to start the Bowdoin Club of Asia which we hope will serve a dual role of providing an opportunity for the 50-100 odd Bowdoin alumni in Asia to network as well as providing support in coordination with Bowdoin career advisors for rising grads and those coming through business school to find job opportunities. We are currently working with five rising grads interested in opportunities in Greater China, primarily in finance.

Anyone interested in helping out or receiving updates and participating in events, please get in touch with us at wbean1@yahoo.com or archie.lin@jpmorgan.com.”

Nathaniel Cormier
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Seattle, WA 98116
ncormier@jonesandjones.com

“as a landscape architect practicing in seattle, i continue to design parks, habitat restorations, and environmental education centers. in august 2004, i visited hyderabad, india to participate in the wedding of my sister, maria, and anand marri, class of 1995. in january 2005, i taught a design studio at the university of são paulo, brazil. the subject was restorative green infrastructure for the tietê river. learning portuguese has bumped the last remnants of japanese language skills from my memory, but my asian studies experiences continue to shape my perspective on life.”

CLASS OF 1997

Cali Tran
Harvard Business School
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Boston, MA 02163
ctran@mba2006.hbs.edu

“I am taking a few years off from a company I co-founded, Agilix Labs, Inc. (www.agilix.com) to earn my MBA. I just finished my first semester at the Harvard Business School and am having a wonderful time. I am also the proud uncle of four nieces and two nephews (six in all!). Staying close to the College by serving on the Alumni Council (2004-2008 term) and acting as a class fund raiser.”

CLASS OF 1998

Josephine Vodicka Cameron
josephinev@lycos.com

“I’ve actually just finished recording my 3rd CD, "Close Your Eyes." I wanted to do a collection of lullabies that would create a sense of calm and be enjoyable to both kids *and* adults. So this is a set of original, traditional, and cover songs. All my CDs are available at my website (www.josephinecameron.com), and also at Amazon.com, CDBaby.com, and itunes.com.”

Andrew Munton
andrew@stewartsearch.com

“I will be leaving the Executive Recruiting field in the fall to pursue an MBA in International Management at Babson in Wellesley, Massachusetts. It’s tough to sell the house and move back into an apartment, but my wife Linda and I are looking forward to moving to Newton, where we’ll have access to lots of great Chinese food, as well as a great public library with two whole stacks of Chinese language books! Hope to see some of you in the Boston area!”

Daniel Shapiro
Davis Polk & Wardwell
99 Gresham Street
London EC2V 7NG
England
danielmshapiro@yahoo.com

"I am now living in England and work in the London office of Davis Polk & Wardwell."

CLASS OF 1999

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

Josh is attending the Graduate School of Journalism/Group in Asian Studies at the University of California in Berkeley.

CLASS OF 2000

Cindy Kim
840 West End Avenue, Apt. 1C
New York, NY 10025
cindymijung@yahoo.com

"I'm finishing up my master's in social work at Columbia University and am likely heading down to Washington, D.C., in June."

CLASS OF 2001

Nathaniel Anderson
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Canada
nandotox@hotmail.com

"I was accepted into the history program here at the University of Toronto. I also got accepted into a collaborative program in Asia Pacific studies which, in addition to having a few extra course requirements, offers access to some really neat lecture series on a wide spectrum of asia-pacific topics. After I finish the program next summer, Lynn and I plan on heading to China for six months. She's Chinese-Canadian and speaks Mandarin, but has never been. I'm in purely for the experience."

Cassandra Dragon-Archambault
Guangfu Bei Lu
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dragon_kaien@yahoo.com

"After working in the field of education in Shanghai for three years, I moved to Taipei at the end of August 2004 to pursue a year of Chinese language studies, full-time in Taipei, currently at National Taiwan University. Besides studying, I am keeping myself busy with work in film production and translation for a TV station in Taipei. In my free time I mostly just roam the streets with my camera and a notebook, write, play mahjong, practice tai ji, and travel about Asia. I am looking forward to repatriation this summer when I plan to return to New England for graduate studies at UMass Amherst's School of Education in the department of International Education, studying policy, research, and administration."

CLASS OF 2003

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

"I married Jeremy Gabrielson in South Portland in August 2004 after spending another year living in Maine after graduation. In Portland I was studying Child and Family Policy and Management at the Muskie School of Public Service, USM while Jeremy was finishing his Master's Degree. We left for China less than a month after getting married to pursue our shared interest in Chinese language and culture by teaching English at Shandong University in Jinan, China.

We are having a wonderful time here! I am particularly enjoying teaching my first year graduate students English and learning taichi from one of the Province's wushu champions. Jeremy is progressing with his study of the erhu, an ancient Chinese musical instrument. We traveled in the south of China during our winter vacation, and have traveled extensively around the Province. We hope to see even more of China as our year of teaching winds down. If you would like to read our stories and see our pictures, you can go to our blog site at ballofdirt.com. Just search for Jeremy and Sarah Gabrielson in Jinan, China.

We are planning on returning to Maine this August via the trans-Siberian railroad through Mongolia and Russia. We are still looking for jobs when we get back. So, if the Bowdoin Asian Studies faculty or alumni have any ideas for us, we would greatly appreciate it. Please email me at: sbruss@alumni.bowdoin.edu or my husband at: jeremygabrielson@hotmail.com. I hope you are all well!"

CLASS OF 2004

Emma Raynes
emma_raynes@yahoo.com

"In december I returned from South India, where I was working for sara dickey, teaching photo, studying tamil, and doing some photography fieldwork for the last six months. here is a web project that I worked on from Madurai:
<http://studorgs.bowdoin.edu/eraynes/>

I recently moved to Durham, NC where i am studying at Duke's Center for Documentary studies. Here is a website that I will be working on sometime soon. It is a visual letter that I will be writing about my life in america to a friend in India. Bowdoin is working on the site:

<http://studorgs.bowdoin.edu/eraynes/dear-tamil/>

Freeman Grant/Study Abroad

Funds from the Freeman Foundation Undergraduate Asian Studies Initiative Grant continue to serve as a catalyst for promoting study of Asian culture on Bowdoin's campus. By sending students and faculty to Asia, and by supporting discussions and performances here on campus, the Freeman Grant has allowed the Bowdoin community to entertain and feed their interest in East and Southeast Asia.

Ten students have studied abroad in China, Japan, Sri Lanka and Tibet for either a semester or the academic year. Under the auspices of the Freeman grant, nine students received funding to continue their study of Chinese or Japanese language during the summer or winter break.

The Freeman Foundation has also allowed our students to engage in innovative research in Japan and China. Five students traveled to Tibet, China, Japan, and Singapore for data collection relating to their independent studies. To highlight two such research projects, William Boylston managed to secure a Freeman grant to study in Japan, and is writing an informative study on the importance of epidemics and the incorporation of Japanese medicine. Tara Sheehan has also studied education in Tibet and, in addition to writing a gripping account of her travels, she has even staged an exhibit of photos from her travels.

On campus, several Bowdoin faculty utilized the Freeman Grant to supplement their courses. This year, seven different speakers came to Brunswick as guest lecturers for classes. Students taking Asian Art and Architecture had the opportunity to visit the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston and Japanese and Chinese language students showcased their skills to the entire campus at the Japan Fair and at China Night.

Finally, we have had some spectacular concerts over the past year. A performance of Indonesian shadow puppets, Japanese puppets ([bunraku](#)) and the Condors Dance Troupe entertained the Brunswick community. We also had a Taiko (Japanese drum) workshop, and are planning to have a series of Taiko concerts in the fall of 2005.

The 2005-6 academic year marks the final year of the Freeman Grant. This grant has strengthened the program in many ways, and made a variety of student and faculty research projects possible. We have benefited greatly from the energy and talents of Jim Kim, our Freeman Grant administrator, and wish him the best in his future endeavors. Thanks so much, Jim!

Bowdoin Taiko

Taiko (Japanese drumming) has been steadily gaining momentum since its inception 50 years ago and America is now liberally sprinkled with taiko groups. At three years of age, Bowdoin Taiko is the oldest collegiate taiko group in New England, with a steadily growing membership. The group began its spring season with a trip to Dartmouth College, where they played alongside Odaiko New England (<http://www.onetaiko.net/>). Since then, they have played at an unprecedented number of performances, from joint work with the Unity Step team to a parade in Limerick, Maine alongside the Courageous Kid's Club, a local martial arts group. The club is free and open to all those who wish to get together and hit things with sticks at the same time.

If you would like to learn more about Bowdoin Taiko or taiko in general, please visit: <http://studorgs.bowdoin.edu/taiko/>.

Student Organizations

A variety of social clubs pertaining to Asia continue to flourish. They include Anokha, an organization dedicated to the practice and celebration of South Asian cultures; the Asian Student Association (ASA), a political and social organization focusing on Asian and Asian American culture; the International Club, which plans events and programs that support the international student community and educate the broader Bowdoin community; the Korean-American Students Association (KASA), which promotes understanding and awareness of Korean culture, language, people, and their concerns in the Bowdoin community; and the Meditation and Buddhist Studies group which gives students an opportunity to practice meditation. Finally, weekly meetings of the Chinese and Japanese language tables provide an important social outlet and opportunities for students to practice their language.

Library News

Sydney Steinhart is the library liaison to the faculty, students, and staff of the Asian Studies Program, a job she truly enjoys. Over the past few years the library has been building an online Asian Studies Research guide as well as individual subject-specific course guides. These guides nicely organize Asian library materials by country, format or subject matter and link directly to the online catalog or internet. Faculty and students have found these quite useful. Sections of the guide may include major reference books, journals, newspapers, videos, indexes, and websites. See <http://library.bowdoin.edu/rguides>. A new guide for Asian American Studies will be forthcoming in the summer.

This past year we gave many library tours to prospective Asian Studies faculty. Overwhelmingly, these folks spoke highly of our fine library collection in Asian Studies and our unique research and course guides.

Some recent purchases for the library included the online version of "Kodansha Encyclopedia of Japan" and "Siku Quanshu", a 182 CD collection of Chinese classical works also known as "The Four Treasuries."

A recently awarded Japan Foundation library grant will allow Bowdoin to procure a fine collection of fundamental research materials, including dictionaries and encyclopedias, while the tireless efforts of Fred Kotas of Cornell, and Vyyayanthi Selinger, have allowed us to build up our holdings in unexpected and welcome ways as well. Bowdoin is well on its way to having the best collection of Asian language reference materials in Maine.

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Special Thanks

Great generosity has allowed the Asian Studies Program to flower. Support from the Freeman Foundation has greatly contributed to the growth of the Asian Studies Program. We are also most grateful to Mr. Robert Sargent '58 and Mr. Rafael Baeza '90 for their contributions to the Asian Studies Program, and to Mr. Barry L. Kohler for his donation to the Asian Student Association.

Thank you all for your invaluable support.

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