2008–2009 Events

Letter from the Chair
Shu-chin Tsui

The Program
In looking back on the academic year of 2008–2009, I’m happy to report to our friends and alumni that the Asian Studies Program has experienced another year of growth. The most exciting news comes from students graduating with majors or minors in Asian Studies. The numbers, 36 majors and 12 minors, exceed last year’s total of 25 majors and minors. We have also seen an increase in language enrollment, with 77 students taking Chinese and 45 Japanese. In terms of general enrollment, we had a total of 584 students enrolled in courses in Asian Studies in the fall and spring. The numbers reflect not only students’ growing interest in Asian Studies, but also the appeal of our sophisticated curriculum and the dedicated work of our faculty.

In addition, Charles Stern successfully completed an honors thesis, “Notes on Ouyang Xiu’s Collected Records of the Past,” under the guidance of De-nin Lee and with a reading/review committee of John Holt and Shu-chin Tsui. Charles’s project involved a series of translations from and reflections on a calligraphy collection assembled by the Song Dynasty scholar-official Ouyang Xiu. In other good news regarding faculty, we congratulate Vyjayanthi Selinger for her reappointment as assistant professor in Asian Studies. Vyjayanthi will take a year of sabbatical leave to work on a manuscript, tentatively titled “Imagining the Shogun in Fourteenth-Century Japan.” A research scholarship from the Japan Foundation will take Vyjayanthi to Tokyo from March through July 2010.

Lectures
With generous support from the Luce Foundation, the CBB Faculty Development Fund, and Bowdoin College, during the 2008–2009 academic year we presented our most ambitious schedule of lectures, concerts, and other events. The list of topics and guest speakers stretched from ancient art in China to a Japanese puppet show, from independent documentary films to music concerts, from distinguished Prof. Peter Duus to literary authors, and from a history of Gandhi’s Spinning Wheel to India’s art and architecture. Two highlights were large-scale, public events: “Text and Context: New Directions in Medieval Japanese Literary and Historical Studies,” a symposium held in May 2009, and “Manufactured Landscapes,” a campus-wide series on global environmental issues held from September to October 2008. With support from the CBB Faculty Development Fund, the symposium featured scholars from different institutions with a focus on current research about the warrior culture of Japan. The environmental series was funded by the Joseph McKeen Center for the Common Good at Bowdoin College and drew faculty, students, filmmakers, and members of the local community concerned about our deteriorating global environment. For the full list of this year’s events, please see the attachment at the end of this letter.

Departures and Arrivals
The end of the semester is a difficult time for faculty and students when we must say goodbye to a number of faculty members, especially to Natsu Sato and Lance Guo. After six years of dedicated service to the Japanese language program, Natsu accepted a faculty position as chair of the Modern Languages Program at the Canadian Academy in Kobe. I see Natsu’s departure as a great loss; she is truly irreplaceable. Under her leadership and coordination, the Japanese language program developed into a four-level curriculum, characterized by pedagogy of the highest quality. Natsu is well-loved and a teacher popular among students. They see her as “a fantastic...”
language teacher and an indispensable addition” who “has breathed new life into the Japanese Language Program.” We wish Natsu and her family the best in their new home at the Canadian Academy in Japan.

Our same gratitude goes also to Prof. Lance Guo who served seven years in Asian Studies and Government. Lance’s courses ranged from Chinese Politics and Chinese Foreign Policy to International Political Economy, International Relations in the Asian-Pacific, and the Politics of Southeast Asia. His interdisciplinary scholarship and unconditional devotion to teaching have made a great contribution to the political science curriculum at Bowdoin. We are uncertain how we will cope with the loss created by Lance’s departure, but we wish him the best in his new position. We also say goodbye to our Japanese language lecturer, Jun Ono who, as a newlywed, will join her husband in Boston. We cannot thank her enough for coming to us at a time of great need due to leaves or replacements. We wish all of our departing friends the best as they return to their home institutions or relocate to new positions.

In my letter last year, we expressed our gratitude for Kidder Smith’s dedication to the program and bid him farewell on his retirement. In this letter, however, I welcome wholeheartedly the arrival to our program of Assistant Prof. Lawrence Zhang, Ph.D., from Harvard, as Kidder’s successor. Lawrence will offer a survey course on the history of Imperial China and a first-year seminar on Tea Culture this coming fall. A welcome goes also to Mitsuko Numata from the University of Iowa, a lecturer in Japanese language, and to Yan Li from Beijing, a half-time lecturer in Chinese language.

**Special Thanks**

My special thanks go first to our alumni, Mr. Robert M. Sargent ’58 and Mr. Mark S. Tannenbaum ’88, for their generous donations. Your generosity enables us to maintain the highest quality in our curriculum as well as to launch special initiatives. I’d also like to share the exciting news that the Freeman Foundation supports us in opening an Asian Economics position and that Mr. Yao Tang from the University of British Columbia will join the Department of Economics this fall. The support of the Henry Luce Foundation for the last couple of years has enabled us to organize numerous events and invite distinguished guest speakers.

I’d like also to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation again to our coordinator, Suzanne Astolfi. No one can imagine how many itineraries Suzanne has handled or searches she has scheduled. The program could not function smoothly without her care and skills. Thanks again to Lorna Lavigne, our housekeeper, for keeping the building cleaner and more comfortable than anyone has done before. Thanks to Sharon Whitney, Dian Petty, Bowdoin Friends, and the Keepers of the Garden group for their commitment to the care of the Japanese garden for many years.

Finally, my appreciation goes to all our valued alumni, friends, and former students for their continued support. The high quality of our program—an interdisciplinary curriculum with flexible opportunities for students—owes a great deal to your support. The connection and partnership between Asian Studies and its alumni began here but now reaches beyond the classroom. Your achievements and adventures in the larger world always excite us back here at Bowdoin. Please share with us your stories and news. We look forward to seeing you whenever you can join us.

*Spring cleanup of our Japanese Garden—Jane Harris, Sharon Whitney, Yaeko Collier, Nancy Olsen, Jo McCartan, Wes Wood (not in photo). Photo by Xiaoke Jia.*
Asian Studies Newsletter
Summer 2009

SUSAN BURGGRAF
“Psychology in Tibetan Buddhism”
March 25, 2008

CHRISTOPHER BOLTON
“Anime’s Haunted Battlefield—Blood: The Last Vampire”
March 26, 2008

NICHOLAS YOUNG
“Harmony by Decree: China’s Struggle to Contain Citizen Activism”
April 2, 2008

MIN XIAO-FEN
“Pipa Solo and Trio”
April 12, 2008

DOUGLAS BROOKS
“Ways of Learning: An Apprentice Boat Builder in Japan”
May 1, 2008

JOY KOGAWA
“Joy Kogawa in Conversation”
May 5, 2008

E. VALENTINE DANIEL
“The Long Walk: Tamil Coolies in Sri Lanka”
May 6, 2008

BUNRAKU BAY PUPPET TROUPE
September 18, 2008

ALI KAZIMI
“Narmada: A Valley Rises”
September 25, 2008

XIAOMING AI
“Vagina Monologues: Stories from China”
October 3, 2008

JENNIFER BACHWAL
“Manufactured Landscapes”
October 15, 2008

ZI’EN CUI
“Night Scene: Queer Identity and Alienation in China”
October 20, 2008

SUSAN BELL, MICHAEL KOLSTER, SHU-CHIN TSUI, AND TRICIA WELSCH
“Reading Manufactured Landscapes: Drawing Meaning from Photography”
October 22, 2008

PETER WONG
“Sangaku: A Mathematical Tradition in Edo Japan”
October 23, 2008

RAJESWARI SUNDER RAJAN
“Society Must Be Led: The Dilemmas of the Vanguard in Some Post-Independence Novels in India”
October 29, 2008

DAI QING
“On the Completion of the Three Gorges Dam Project and China’s Environmental Crisis”
October 29, 2008

SONALDE DESAI
“Health and Education Reform in Asia’s Changing Economies: A Conversation with Sonalde Desai”
November 3, 2008

REBECCA BROWN
“Unwinding the Thread: The History of Gandhi’s Spinning Wheel”
November 13, 2008
“Tapping into India’s Past: The Role of History in Modern Indian Art and Architecture”
November 14, 2008

JANET LEE SPURGEON
“Ancient Art in Modern Contexts: Re-envisioning Horyuji and Ise Shrine in the Late Nineteenth and Mid-Twentieth Century”
December 10, 2008

ZI’EN CUI
“Night Scene: Queer Identity and Alienation in China”
October 20, 2008

PETER DUUS
“Remembering the Pacific Anti-Japanese Great East Asia War”
February 5, 2009

TANG YING
“Hair in Air”
February 11, 2009

LAVINA SHANKAR
“Beyond Gender Troubles: Representations of Indian American Masculinity in Jhumpa Lahiri’s Short Fiction”
February 12, 2009

ANKENEY WEITZ
“Antiquarian Bronzes in the Song Dynasty” and “Fan Paintings from the Song Dynasty”
February 24, 2009

YOKO HIRAOKA
“Biwa and the Tale of Heike”
April 22, 2009
“Text and Context: New Directions in Medieval Japanese Literary and Historical Studies”
May 9, 2009

SPeakerS/PerformerS/ConferenCeS
JanuarY 2008–May 2009 Asian Studies

Summer 2009
Tom Conlan

Having returned from his sabbatical, Tom is putting the finishing touches on his manuscript “From Sovereign to Symbol: Regalia, Ritual, and the Struggle for Secrecy in Fourteenth Century Japan.” Tom’s translation of the Mongol scrolls, In Little Need of Divine Intervention, also came out in its third revised printing. Tom also expects to have an interactive map of the Mongol Invasions available online, thanks to the help of Kevin Travers. Tom also has submitted his article about medieval warfare for the Cambridge History of War, and soon will have “Traces of the Past: Documents, Literacy, and Liturgy in Medieval Japan” published in Rethinking Medieval Japan: Essays in Honor of Jeffrey P. Mass. Another article, “Instruments of Change,” will appear in War and Politics in Medieval Japan (Stanford University Press).

Tom had a good year at Bowdoin, and was selected by the class of 2010 to give the Karofsky Faculty Encore Lecture, which he will present this September. Tom is most grateful to the class of 2010 to have received such a great honor.

Tom invited Peter Duus of Stanford to give a Golz lecture, “Remembering the Pacific/Anti-Japanese/Great East Asia War,” on February 5. He also helped bring Yoko Hiraoka, a lute (biwa) player to campus to perform the medieval Japanese warrior epic, The Tale of the Heike on April 22. Finally, along with Vyjayanthi Selinger and Roberta Strippoli of Bates, Tom helped organize a conference, “Text and Context: New Directions in Medieval Japanese Literary and Historical Studies,” which was held at Bowdoin May 8–10.

Sara Dickey

In the fall semester, Sara Dickey taught Indian Cinema and Society for the second time. Those who took the course the first time will be interested to know that both the 1975 devotional film Jai Santoshi Maa and the subtitle-less 1965 MGR film Ayirathil Oruvan were shown only as clips this year; and the gory Kamalhasan film about caste violence, Virumandi (2004), was “replaced” by the equally gory South Indian goddess film, Ammorn (1995), and by a Kamalhasan film about globalization and Tamil identity, Anbe Sivam (2004), both of which were enthusiastically received. Next fall Sara will be teaching Modernity in South Asia, also for the second time, and she has been reviewing recent Indian fiction to find a new novel that will suit the course. Two possibilities are Thrity Umrigar’s The Space Between Us and Aravind Adiga’s The White Tiger.

Sara spent the spring semester in India, where she worked in Chennai and Madurai on two research projects. In Chennai, she began a new project on recent changes in cinema produc-
**John Holt**

John Holt is back at Bowdoin after directing the ISLE Program for the fourth time last spring. In February, he gave a public lecture at the University of Texas titled “The Death of Justice and the Justice of Death: Magic, Ritual and Violence in Contemporary Sri Lanka,” and a week later he gave the Annual Tessa Bartholomew Lecture at Florida State University, which was titled “The Buddhist Visnu: Exclusivity and Inclusion within Sri Lankan Religious Culture.” In March he gave a paper at the Association for Asian Studies meeting in Chicago on the Buddhist novices of Luang Phrabang (Laos), drawn from a chapter of his book titled *The Spirits of the Place: Buddhism and Lao Religious Culture*, which will be published this summer by the University of Hawaii Press. He is also working on a book chapter of his book titled *Sri Lanka: History, Politics, and Culture* to be published by Duke University Press in 2010.

**Belinda Kong**

Belinda has devoted much of her time this sabbatical year to completing her book manuscript, now refocused fully around Chinese diasporic fiction on the 1989 Tiananmen movement. At the same time, she has been developing her thoughts on wartime Shanghai through several research venues. In March, she presented a paper titled “Shanghai Biopolitians: Wartime Colonial Cosmopolis in J. G. Ballard and Eileen Chang” at the American Comparative Literature Association annual conference, a paper she has also been invited to present in a special session at the upcoming Modern Language Association meeting in December. She has expanded this talk into a journal article, which is now under review, along with another article on theorizing Asian American literature. On other fronts, Belinda will have the opportunity to give a talk on one of her newly discovered authors, Li Yiyun, at the American Literature Association conference in May. Moreover, she has been solicited by the Luce Foundation to contribute a short essay to a projected volume tentatively titled “Asia in the Classroom and the Academy: New Ideas in Scholarship and Teaching,” for which she participated in a roundtable meeting with other Luce faculty in Chicago in March. This summer should see the completion of several of these research projects as well as, of course, preparation to reenter the classroom in September!

**Asuka Hosaka**

Asuka Hosaka had another wonderful year teaching highly motivated students. She was promoted to a lecturer this year and taught second-year Japanese with Prof. Selinger, and third-year Japanese. The teaching experience she gained this year was challenging but rewarding for her skills as a Japanese instructor. She also taught Japanese at International Christian University in Tokyo, Japan, during the summer. Asuka is looking forward to an even better year.

**Xiaoke Jia**

This was his first year in the States. He’s surprised that he could sustain himself with his bad cooking skills. It also gave him quite a shock to see the storm and the beautiful scenery in winter. He really appreciated his students because they were always willing to share with him their happiness and even frustration, which made him get rid of the loneliness like a polar bear during the winter. He also really appreciates his colleagues for their kind help.

**De-nin Lee**

This past year, De-nin has added Arts of Japant to her list of regular classes, which sent students to experience the garden behind 38 College Street. This year also saw the opening of “Ink Tales,” an exhibition of Chinese painting from the collections of Bowdoin and Colby colleges, co-curated with students Gea Ermotti ’11, Anna Kosovsky ’08, Erica McLeod ’08, and Eleanor Meyer ’08, as well as students of Ankeney Weitz at Colby College. In conjunction with the exhibition, artist Arnold Chang delivered a colorful talk about his life as a scholar, dealer, and painter. De-nin continues to do research and write about Chinese art. An essay in the “Ink Tales” catalogue includes her piece “The Brahmin’s Invitation and the Buddha’s Incantation,” which examines a tenth-century printed dharmasutra in the Bowdoin collection.

**Jun Ono**

During the 2008–2009 academic year, Jun Ono served as a visiting lecturer at Bowdoin College. In her term, she taught first Intercollegiate and fourth-year Japanese. She exclaimed that she had a wonderful time teaching such highly motivated students. In August, she was wed in Boston and will be moving to Boston to start their new lives together.

**Sree Padma**

Sree Padma has been busy with administrative work in 2008. ISLE (Intercollegiate Sri Lanka Education) ran two programs this year, one in the fall and one in the spring. More details on recent news about the ISLE Program are found on its Web site: www.bowdoin.edu/isle. Sree Padma was glad to see her book, titled *Buddhism in the Krishna River Valley*, co-edited with Professor A. W. Barber, was published by SUNY (State University of New York Press) this past summer. In October, she presented a research paper titled “The South Indian Goddess in European Narratives” at the 37th Annual Conference on South Asia, University of Wisconsin–Madison.
Vyjayanthi Selinger

This year, Vyjayanthi Selinger saw the publication of two articles, one on pre-modern Japanese literature and one on modern literature. Her work on medieval warrior tales developed into the article “The Sword Trope and the Birth of the Shogunate: Historical Metaphors in Muromachi Japan,” published in the spring 2009 issue of *Japanese Language and Literature*. She also explored the modern reimagining of the medieval aesthetic of “idle reflections” through her translation of the contemporary short story *My Mama Drinks Her Tea*. In May 2009 she co-hosted a conference on medieval Japan with Tom Conlan (Bowdoin) and Roberta Strippoli (Bates), a forum that sparked new ideas for both teaching and research. She is excited about working these ideas into her book manuscript during her upcoming sabbatical leave.

Kidder Smith

Kidder Smith is in Ann Arbor at the Buddhist center run by his buddy Traktung Rinpoche, having the time of his life.

Rachel Sturman

Rachel had a lively return from sabbatical, thoroughly revising all of her courses, while finishing the final chapter of her manuscript, now titled “Empire of Law: Liberalism, Custom, and the Making of Modern India.” She enjoyed the opportunity to present work from this final chapter at both the American Historical Association and the Association for Asian Studies annual meetings this year. She was also thrilled to begin work on her next project, a comparative project on Indian indentured and migrant labor in the British Empire, with a brief trip to Trinidad in March. This summer she will continue this initial phase of new research through a short trip to London, with support from a Kenan Faculty Fellowship. She is looking forward to the fall, when she will be teaching a new course on Indians and the Indian Ocean World which has long been in the works!

Yoga Centre and Ashram at The Hanuman Temple, Carapichaima, Trinidad and Tobago. Photo by Rachel Sturman.

Shu-Chin Tsui

The academic year of 2008–2009 has been a busy one. In addition to a regular teaching load and administrative responsibilities, Shu-chin has been advising a total of seven independent studies in the spring and fall semesters. Highlights include a filmmaking project by director Phuong Pham, cinematographer Daniel Chin, and editor Rachael Fleming; Yongfeng Chen and Julian Leung’s essay submitted for publication in China on the Feng Xiaogang Film Phenomenon; and Audrey Mei-Ping Chee’s essay titled “Between the Local and Global: Branding China through the Beijing Olympic Games, 2008.”

Her publications and submissions include a book review, “From Underground to Independent: Alternative Film Culture in Contemporary China,” edited by Paul G. Pickowicz and Yingjin Zhang, *Journal of Contemporary China* 67–4 (November 2008): 1430–1432, and a book chapter titled, “The Search for Female Sexuality and the Negotiation with Feminism: Li Yu’s Film Trilogy.” In addition, she was invited to give talks and make presentations on Chinese cinema and visual culture at the University of Southern California, the Bangor Foreign Policy Forum, the University of Rochester, and the University of Maryland. A highlight among the events she coordinated in 2008–2009 was “Manufactured Landscapes,” a multifaceted series on global environmental problems. With help from the College’s Common Good fund, the series included documentary film screenings, director’s dialogue, and faculty panel discussions. The keynote speaker, China’s well-known activist Dai Qing, delivered a counter-official presentation: “The Crisis of the Three Gorges Dam Project.”

In her teaching life, she has continued to experiment with conducting fourth-year Chinese as a subject-oriented course. Taking Business Chinese and Chinese Cinema as subjects, the student-centered language classes not only deal with the content but also analyze the written and visual texts. She offered Transnational Chinese Cinema in the spring and Chinese Women through Fiction and Film in the fall. She’s happy to return to the subject of cultural topics in contemporary China again in fall 2009. She’d like to repeat a line from her notes last year: “Teaching, writing, and administrative responsibilities have kept me busy. The only authoritative force able to draw me back home is my two dear brother/sister cats: Doudou and Diandian.”

She’ll spend some time in Brunswick this summer to work on her new manuscript, “The Presence of Absence: An Exploration of Women’s Experimental Art in Contemporary China.” She’ll also spend seven weeks at Middlebury College to teach two courses for its graduate program in Chinese Studies.
ART CUSTER
“I remain at Avon Old Farms School as dean of faculty. This year, I have been able to bring back my Asian Studies course, this time as a semester course. It is fun to be getting back into it. A highlight of the first semester was using the computer to have my son Charlie deliver a lecture (live) on the May Fourth Movement. Charlie is in Harbin, in Manchuria, teaching English. He plans to pursue a Ph.D. in East Asian Studies once he has returned to the U.S. and sat for the GREs. Best to all.”

ANN SARGENT SLAYTON
“Bob Sargent ’58 and daughter Ann Sargent Slayton ’84 just returned from a journey to China following the route of Bob’s grandfather R. Harvey Sargent in 1903-04 as a geologist topographer with a Carnegie Institute expedition. Ann took photos to match those taken by her great-great grandfather over one hundred years ago. Together they are preparing a presentation: China: Exploring the Interior—One hundred years later. This presentation will complement the existing museum-quality exhibit of R. Harvey Sargent’s work in China at the turn of the century. For more information about the exhibit and/or their experiences, contact Bob Sargent at sargent@mainecoastmail.com.”

DAN HEYLER
“This is my tenth year at Merrill Lynch and my second major industry downturn (after the dot com bubble). The past six months has felt like five. Despite what’s happened in the U.S., our Asian business is excellent and China is driving the region.”

“I made the list of Top Analysts in 2008, according to The Wall Street Journal.”

“My family and I continue to love living in Hong Kong, which is home for us. The U.S. is a great country but there are also great places outside the U.S. I encourage anyone interested working outside the U.S. to learn Mandarin—the opportunities will grow exponentially from here.”

“My advice is to take lots of risks early in your career. This will allow you to accumulate experiences, open more doors, and to learn from mistakes. Stay confident but always humble—You should feel fortunate to have a liberal arts degree from Bowdoin. Your ability to quickly learn, adapt, and communicate will carry you far. I have seen soooo many specialists from undergrad in finance or the like that really struggle to break out of their familiar comfort zones.”

“I’ve enjoyed our Alumni get-togethers in Hong Kong organized by William Bean and I am happy to support the network—we have one hundred alums in our Asian network.”

JAMES L. BERNARD
“Effie and I are doing well and still living in Westchester. For those that remember the two of us walking around campus at the end of our senior year back in 1989, I am thrilled to report that this year we will celebrate our twentieth wedding anniversary. We are equally thrilled to report that we this year finally finished, after more than two long years of waiting, the adoption from China of our baby daughter, Ruby Frances Bernard. She turned one on March 12, and our son Connor turned five on March 19. Ruby’s Chinese name is Han (Effie’s family name) Chen (the Chen in ZhaoChen) and Lu (which means morning dew). We call her LuLu. I am still practicing law, litigation, at the firm I have been with since graduation from law school, Stroock & Stroock & Lavan, and it is always challenging, oftentimes difficult but, in its own way, rewarding. My practice has nothing to do with China, though with my in-laws living with us at home, we speak Chinese at home all the time. If you find yourself in New York and looking for a lunch, give me a ring”
**CLASS OF 1990**

**CHRI$ YAGER**
“In 1993 I launched my professional career as the founder and manager of a guiding company focused on authentic cultural immersion in developing Asian countries. We’ve now logged 200,000 field days for our participants, mostly high school and college students, and have recently been contracted by Princeton University to coordinate their Asia-based Bridge-Year placements. We have since branched out to other corners of the developing world and are always looking to hire visionary field educators—Asian Studies alums wanting to guide and teach in the developing world, please be in touch! (www.wheretherebedragons.com).”

“A profound thank you to Kidder Smith and the other faculty who provided such profound inspiration and guidance.”

**(JOHN) BREFFNI KEHOE**
“I am still living in Melbourne, Australia (coming up to nine years). I am a lawyer practicing in the areas of property development, construction and infrastructure (including social public/private partnership projects). The economic downturn is starting to bite here in Australia, although it isn’t meant to hit us as hard as the U.S.”

“If any alums find themselves in Melbourne, feel free to give me a call—work number: +61 3 9288 1088.”

**NICOLE LEBLANC**
“I’ve been the assistant director of the Office of International Programs at the University of Michigan since December 2006. Along with that role, I’m also the study abroad advisor for OIP programs in Asia, and most recently went to Beijing to review locations for a new summer program. We ended up choosing CET’s programs, so I get to keep working with Mark Lenhart, which is great fun.”

**JILL DETEMPLE**
“I’m still enjoying life as an assistant professor of religious studies at Southern Methodist University in Dallas. I’ll be headed back to Ecuador this summer in order to begin research on a second book about faith-based development. My two kids—Molly, four and John, two—will be coming with me while husband Brian holds down the fort in Dallas.”

**DYLEN MIYAKE**
“I Laurel, Sawyer, and I made the big move from the South End of Boston to Great Island in Harpswell. Sawyer’s enjoying the Harpswell Community Nursery School, and Laurel’s learning her way around the island. I’m working on getting our new company (Ascendant Strategy Management Group) off the ground. If you know of any nonprofits that can use some strategy advice, please send them our way. And if you make it up to Maine, please give us a call—207– 725–0332. We’re about ten minutes away from the campus and always looking for an excuse to get together with friends.”

**WILLIAM BAO BEAN**
“The Bowdoin Club of Asia is going strong since I started it up with Archie Lin ’95 in 2007. We are up to 115 members on Facebook and about ninety on the e-mail distribution list. So far we have hosted thirteen alumni gatherings in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, and Kobe. We have hosted President Mills, Steven Hyde in development, and gave the associate dean of admissions a friendly thrashing for not accepting one applicant from China last year—unfortunately the Bowdoin bubble is still in effect.”

“The Bowdoin Club of Asia Internship Program is more gradually ramping up with 2009 seeing two summer interns coming to China, one with my firm in Shanghai and the second with Justin Mallen ’93 in Hangzhou. Justin has also kindly offered to take two recent grads for a year-long, full-time position. Thanks Justin! We started with one intern in the program in 2007—Jasmine Qu ’09 and three in 2008—Jasmine again, Nell Yong Mei ’10 and Bing Zhou ’07. If anyone can take an intern or even a recent grad full-time please let me know—jobs are hard to find these days.”
Trelawney Goodell

“Life is wonderful in Seattle. There are a lot of Japan-related cultural events and, of course, delicious sushi and even izakaya food! I often spend time with friends I met on the JET Programme or as part of the related alumni association, and I’ve recently become a member of the Japan-America Society. I revisited my host family in Osaka about a year ago and had an amazing time. My writing and editing business, NorthWest by NorthEast (www.nwxne.com), continues to grow. I balance freelance work with contract work at Microsoft and other local companies. The Pacific Northwest is a huge playground, and I spend a lot of my time playing sports (mainly lacrosse) and exploring the area with my Maine-raised boyfriend, Bill. We plan to hike, kayak, and camp our way through the weekends in summer and fall.”

Jessica Farmer

“I graduated from the Fletcher School in December and have just begun working at the Department of Labor’s International Labor Affairs Bureau working on child labor issues. I am always eager to connect with other Bowdoinites in the Washington, D.C., area.”

Carrie Simonds

“I just finished my first year at Stanford’s Graduate School of Business after six years working in the finance industry. I am currently participating in an exchange program with Tsinghua University School of Economics and Management in Beijing. I’ll be in Beijing for a few weeks next December and would love to meet up with any Polar Bears in the area!—carrie.simonds@gmail.com.”

Courtney Woo

“This is the first update I have written since my graduation in 2003, so there is a lot to share! I am currently a Roy H. Park fellow at the School of Journalism and Mass Communication at the University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill. I will receive my master’s degree in May 2009 with a concentration in social marketing, public relations, and health communication. For my thesis, titled “Overcoming a (False) Bad Rep,” I designed and tested messages to reposition and secure funding for adolescent health initiatives in North Carolina. I am also the grand prize winner of the Arthur W. Page Society’s national public relations case study competition for 2008.”

“Since graduating from Bowdoin, I have divided my time between China and the United States. I lived in Shanghai from 2003 to 2007, where I taught English for two years at Shanghai University before moving into media (which brought me to where I am today). Taking full advantage of Chinese holidays and summer breaks, I traveled extensively throughout much of China and Southeast Asia. From 2005 to 2007 I freelanced for publications such as Newsweek Select, Fodor’s, and French Vogue; I also produced and edited the Shanghai edition of City Weekend Magazine, an English-language entertainment guide to Shanghai and Beijing. That was undoubtedly the most fun I have ever had—and probably will ever have!—doing “work.” To top it all off, last summer I blogged for the Huffington Post behind the scenes of the Beijing Olympics, where I was a media volunteer and flash quote reporter. My time in China has shaped who I have become, and I hope to return some day.”

“I am not sure what is next in life, but I plan to pursue a career in public relations, social marketing, or consulting (perhaps in China?). There may even be an MBA or Ph.D. on the horizon. Fortunately, I will have a brief respite this summer at UNC, where I will be part of a team of twelve journalism and marketing students producing a Web-based multimedia news project for News21 (http://newsinitiative.org/), a national initiative to encourage innovative journalism, funded by the Carnegie and Knight Foundations.”

“I can be contacted anytime at cwoo80@gmail.com.”

Hillary Fitzpatrick

“I will be graduating from Suffolk University Law School in May and start work at the law firm Foley Hoag LLP in Boston in September.”
**Melissa Hudson**

“Hello all, I am currently living and working in Guangzhou, China. I am halfway through my first tour of duty as a U.S. diplomat. It has been a great experience and I have learned a tremendous amount. I find out my next job this summer and I am seriously considering staying in Asia. I will be heading back to the states for about three weeks starting May 15—spending two weeks in my hometown of Memphis, Tennessee, and one week in Washington, D.C. If anyone will be in either of those two places, let me know. I look forward to hearing everyone’s updates! melissahud@gmail.com”

**H. A. Law**

“I am graduating from Boston University School of Law in May and will be joining the New York office of Winston & Strawn LLP, an international law firm, as a corporate associate after taking the bar and (hopefully) a much needed vacation!”

**Alex Meszaros**

“After two years of working in the construction industry, I’m currently in my first year of law school at Cardozo Law School in New York City. I also got married in June ‘08 and live with my wife in northern New Jersey.”

**Dan Bensen**

“I am currently in Sofia, Bulgaria, where I am teaching English and living with my fiancée, ’07 Bowdoin alum Pavlina Borisova ’07. We’re planning to get married this summer.”

**Eric Davis**

“I’m doing well and am currently working on a master’s degree in public policy and management at the University of Southern Maine’s Muskie School of Public Service. I hope to combine it with my Asian Studies degree from Bowdoin to assist in international policy.”

**Rong Li**

“I am currently employed as a Foreign Service Officer with the State Department, likely heading to China in the near future.”

**Special Announcements**

**Charles Stern ’09** is the recipient of a Fulbright Scholarship, which will take him to Sichuan University in Chengdu for the 2009–2010 academic year. As a student at Sichuan University, he plans to study the history of Daoism during the Six Dynasties period (220–589 CE).

**Jessica Lian ’09** has been selected for a Fulbright English Teaching Assistantship in Hong Kong.

**Ikumi Crocoll ’09, Matt Gray ’08, and Samantha Scully ’09** were selected for the JET Program (Japan Exchange and Teaching). Sponsored by the Japanese government, the program sends new graduates to promote international understanding at a grass-roots level and to improve English language teaching in schools.

**Yongfang Chen ’10** co-authored a book about liberal arts colleges in the U.S. titled “A True Liberal Arts Education.” The book’s objective is to inform Chinese high school students and their parents what a liberal arts college education entails. “I think Bowdoin will become famous immediately if this book is accessible to a Chinese audience,” Chen said. “Next year, I think Bowdoin could have a huge increase in applications from China.”
As many of you know, the prospect of receiving the library of the late Professor Frederick Mote has been the main focus of our Asian Studies collection building this year. Professor Mote, a leading historian of China, started the Asian Studies program at Princeton, and taught there for more than thirty years. About 5,000 of the items are in Chinese, and about 1,000 in English. Early discussions between Kidder Smith and Mrs. Mote revealed that the collection had a depth that would vastly improve Bowdoin’s basic reference materials for early Chinese history, but there were a lot of steps that had to be resolved before this collection could be accepted.

Over the last year, those steps have been taken, some funds have been raised, and plans are now underway for the shipment of the materials from the Motes’ home in Colorado, to Back Stage Library Works, in Utah, where the almost 6,000 items will be catalogued, listed, labeled, and packed to be sent to Bowdoin. The Mote Collection will be housed together, on separate shelving, and will be available for scholars and students sometime in the next academic year. Because of the library’s commitment to regional collection building, these materials will also be available to our academic partners both in Maine and in the region. The receipt of these materials will be of significant benefit to scholars at Bowdoin and in the area—in many cases it will eliminate the need to go to other institutions to do research. It will also add enormously to Bowdoin’s ability to attract and keep nationally recognized specialists in Asian Studies.

—Anne Haas, Library Liaison to Art, Asian Studies, and Theater/Dance

**Children of China**

For thirteen years, Gwen Moore has provided financial help to poor children and peasant women in remote Luodian County, Guizhou Province, China, to get an education that would otherwise have been out of their reach. Shared interests drew Gwen to the Asian Studies program when she moved to Maine in 2001, and she has become friends with professors and students alike. In fact, on her most recent trip to China, Bowdoin graduate Jennifer Xu ’07 accompanied Gwen, as had Zheng Yi ’08 in 2005. Of her most recent trip, Gwen says, “I was impressed by the dramatic improvements in the number and quality of educational facilities since my first visit in 1996.” For example, a vocational school in the county seat provides practical training to some 500 students who, before, would have had to leave the county for comparable programs. Since the Fund began, nearly 2,500 students and peasant women have received support (www.childrenofchina.org). What of the future? “We will continue to refine our scholarship and women’s literacy programs to ensure that they are in line with local needs. Our strong partnership with the Education Bureau and Women’s Federation is the foundation of our long-term success.”

Gwen Moore talking with the seven students the Fund supports at Youjian Elementary School, Luodian County, Guizhou Province, April 2006. Photo by Craig Dietrich.

**Alumni Directory**

In place of our Alumni Directory, we are suggesting you visit PolarNet, Bowdoin’s online alumni directory.

PolarNet is free and available only to Bowdoin alumni. Registered PolarNet users are able to:

- Search the Bowdoin alumni directory for classmates or friends.
- Search the Bowdoin Career Advisory Network to connect with other alumni to discuss career objectives and explore career interests.
- Update their own contact and personal information online.
- Establish a life-long alumni e-mail forwarding address.

To sign up for log-in or register for PolarNet, go to: https://polarnet.bowdoin.edu/NETCOMMUNITY