LETTER FROM THE CHAIR
SHU-CHIN TSUI

THE PROGRAM
As I end my three-year term as chair and return to regular teaching and research, this will be my last newsletter to colleagues, students, and alumni of Asian Studies. I take this opportunity to share with you the exciting news and events that highlight the achievements of Asian Studies in the academic year 2009–2010. First, 22 students graduated with majors and minors in Asian Studies. Among them, 11 pursued double majors in Asian Studies and another department/program. In our contribution to the College curriculum, the total of 51 courses Asian Studies offered in the fall and spring semesters attracted an enrollment of 772 students. In addition, the 12 students who pursued study abroad programs ventured to China, Japan, Nepal, Thailand, and Vietnam.

News from faculty: Professor Tom Conlan received promotion to full professor after 12 years of teaching and service at Bowdoin College. His impressive scholarship and excellence in teaching bring honor to himself as well as the program. Tom was also selected by the class of 2010 to give the Karofsky Faculty Encore Lecture titled “The History You Do Not Know: My Journey to Medieval Japan.” In addition, Assistant Professor Vyjayanthi Selinger is conducting research in Japan with funding from the Japan Foundation. Professor John Holt has received a Bowdoin Faculty Research Fellowship to support his research on various Buddhist rites in Cambodia and Burma. I also have just received faculty research funding to support my research trip to China on the subject of women’s art in contemporary China.

News from students: Colin Matthews received a Grua/O’Connell Research Award through Bowdoin, which supported his travel to Hong Kong and Beijing over winter break to further his honors project titled “China’s Lost Generation: Representations of the Male Body in Contemporary Chinese Art of the 1990s.”


DEPARTURES AND ARRIVALS
I extend my appreciation and farewell to our two language lecturers, Asuka Hosaka in Japanese and Xiaoke Jia in Chinese. Asuka will pursue her graduate study in Japan, and Xiaoke will continue Chinese language teaching at Princeton University. After years of teaching and service at Bowdoin, the two established reputations as beloved teachers among students and wonderful colleagues in the program. Students in their classes have already started missing them.

Along with the departures, Asian Studies welcomed on board Yan Li in Chinese and Mitsuko Numata in Japanese. Yan Li came to us from the CET Academic Program in Beijing and Mitsuko from the University of Iowa. Both are experienced language teachers in terms of teaching pedagogy and are dedicated instructors to our students.

Kidder Smith sends news that he is still in Ann Arbor at the Buddhist center Tsogyelgar. He writes, “I’m like Henry Puyi, the last emperor of China, who after Liberation worked in the imperial palace grounds as a gardener.”...continued on page 2
Special Thanks
My special thanks go first to our alumni, Mr. Rafael C. Baeza ’90 and Mr. Robert M. Sargent ’58, for their generous donations. We also thank Dick Lyman for his generous donation of books and articles to the program, which adds to the College’s, as well as the program’s, library collection.

I’d also like to express my sincere appreciation once more to our coordinator, Suzanne Astolfi. With her small island section located at the heart of the Asian Studies house, she is the center and caretaker of the program. She has organized my schedule well and kept me mindful of my responsibilities. Thanks again to Lorna Lavigne, our housekeeper, for keeping the building clean and the residents comfortable in their offices. Asian Studies cannot thank enough the Keepers of the Garden group. Guided by Sharon Whitney, the group has never failed to show up and tend to the Japanese garden every year as the season requires.

My appreciation goes to all our valued alumni, friends, and former students for your continued support. You may live and work in different places around the globe, but Bowdoin College and Asian Studies tie us together as the home base. As we are continuously working to improve the strength of the program and the quality of the curriculum, we won’t succeed without your generous support. Please share with us your stories of achievement and adventure. Stop by Brunswick and visit the Polar Bear whenever you have a chance to return to this small town.

Finally, I’d like to take this opportunity to thank all my colleagues, students, and alumni who have supported me, as well as the program, during my term as director. I’ve learned how to listen to others, to provide support as needed, and to envision the program growing in its best interest. As I return to my faculty status and to a private time for writing, please join me in welcoming Prof. Henry Laurence as my successor. Under our new director’s leadership, I am confident that Asian Studies will enjoy a bright future.

In our Japanese Garden. Left to right, 1st row: De-nin Lee, Sree Padma Holt, Rachel Sturman, Shu-chin Tsui; 2nd row: Yan Li, Mitsuko Numata; 3rd row: Asuka Houeaka, Belinda Kong, Sara Dickey; 4th row: John Holt, Tom Conlan, Lawrence Zhang, Xiaoke Jia
David Collings
Professor, English
David greatly enjoyed the opportunity to contribute to the Asian Studies curriculum with his course Writing the South Asian Diaspora a year ago this spring, and after his sabbatical in the coming year, hopes to be able to do so again. During the 2009–2010 academic year, he served as a second reader to the honors project of Tara Rajiyah, who is researching the depictions of Indira Gandhi’s Emergency in novels by Salman Rushdie and Rohinton Mistry, and by directing Zarine Alam’s independent research in the South Asian diasporic writing of V. S. Naipaul.

Thomas D. Conlan
Professor, Asian Studies and History
Thomas D. Conlan had an eventful year. He was promoted to the rank of full professor and was also honored by the class of 2010 by being asked to deliver the Karofsky Faculty Encore lecture on September 11, 2009. This lecture, titled “The History You Do Not Know: My Journey to Medieval Japan,” can be listened to as a podcast (bowdoin.edu/podcasts/#commonhour). Also in September, Tom talked about a tenth- or eleventh-century Japanese Buddhist text, The Sutra of Rushana’s Net, which belongs to Bowdoin’s museum, as part of Bowdoin’s Faculty Seminar Series. Tom also curated an exhibition at the museum during the fall of 2009, titled Japan and the World, which showcased a new woodblock print in the museum collection. In addition, Tom gave a talk about his new research at Columbia University for a workshop on Japanese religion in February, and also gave talks at Duke and the Association for Asian Studies in Philadelphia. Tom has several projects under review, and is writing several more, and continues to enjoy teaching and research at Bowdoin. His son George and wife Yuko remain well and happy.

Sara Dickey
Professor, Anthropology
Sara Dickey has spent her spring semester leave on two writing projects. The first is a book on class identities and relations in southern India, Living Class in India, which charts the lives of people she has known for 25 years, setting them in the context of recent social and economic changes in India. She has just finished a chapter that examines how poor people work to create a social presence that allows them dignity, in which she reflects on the importance of dignity in everyday life, a topic rarely addressed in studies of class. The book’s final chapter is now underway. It focuses on the symbolic importance of feeding and eating, acts that often encode intimacies, hierarchies, inclusions, and exclusions. The chapter examines narratives about two examples of giving and accepting food: an act of annadhanam—a public feast—put on by a wealthy industrialist for his daughter’s wedding in 2009, recounted by the industrialist himself and by an autorickshaw driver who attended the feast; and memories of M. G. Ramachandran, the most famous of Tamil film stars, who became the head of the state government from 1977 to 1987 and was supported by devoted fans who continue to recount detailed instances of his feeding and eating with followers.

The second project is a special issue of the journal South Asian Popular Culture, on “South Asian Cinemas: Beyond Bollywood,” forthcoming in October 2010. Two of the great pleasures of this project have been the collaboration with her co-editors, Rajinder Dudrah of the University of Manchester and Moti Gokulsing of the Open University in London, and the process of working with emerging research and new scholars.

John Holt
Professor, Asian Studies and Religion
John Holt published Spirits of the Place: Buddhism and Lao Religious Culture with the University of Hawaii Press and has continued to work on The Sri Lanka Reader for Duke University Press, the latter of which should be published sometime in 2011. This February, he gave a public lecture for the Department of South Asian Studies at the University of Pennsylvania on the politicization of the Buddhist Sangha in Sri Lanka. In March, he gave a public lecture for the Buddhist Studies Program and Department of South and Southeast Asian Studies at the University of California–Berkeley on the persistence of spirit cults in the history of Lao religion. Next year, he will be on leave doing research on various Buddhist rites for the monastic and lay communities in Cambodia and Burma while being a visiting research scholar at the Center for Southeast Asian Studies at Kyoto University in Japan.
Sree Padma Holt
Lecturer, Asian Studies; Administrative Director of the ISLE Program
Sree Padma spent a big chunk of her time in the past year figuring out legal documents as she went through several drafts and documents to incorporate the ISLE Program on the U.S. side (for more information on ISLE, visit: bowdoin.edu/isle). Nonetheless, she is happy to have managed some writing in the summer and in the fall. She has contributed a couple of articles to *India Today: An Encyclopedia of Life in the Republic* with the following titles: (1) “Indian Dance” and (2) “India’s Relations with Sri Lanka.” She has also contributed an article, “Neither Sinhala Nor Tamil—On Being a South Asian in Sri Lanka,” to *The Sri Lanka Reader* edited by John Holt and to be published by Duke University Press. In the fall she offered a course on Goddesses and the Deification of Women in Hindu Tradition. In addition to using some primary materials, film, fiction, and documentaries for this course, she used some of the chapters of her manuscript-in-the-making on “Goddesses of Andhra Pradesh.”

Asuka Hosaka
Lecturer, Japanese Language
Asuka Hosaka is sadly leaving Bowdoin College after three wonderful years. She would like to send her appreciation to all the faculty, staff members, and students over the years for their mentorship and friendship. She is confident that her experience at Bowdoin made her a better Japanese instructor. As for the future, she is currently contemplating pursuing a doctorate degree in Japanese pedagogy in Japan.

Xiaoke Jia
Lecturer, Chinese Language
Xiaoke taught two courses this year. He’s delighted that lots of his students are going to study Chinese in China this summer. He appreciates his colleagues and students for everything they did for him in the past two years. He had a wonderful life in Maine. He will be moving to New Jersey and will start teaching at Princeton University this fall.

Belinda Kong
Assistant Professor, Asian Studies and English
Returning from sabbatical leave this year, Belinda has found the transition back to teaching both challenging and rewarding. In addition to re-offering three of her regular courses that cross-list between Asian Studies and English—the first-year seminar Shanghai Imagined and the two 200-level Introduction to Asian American Literature and Writing China from Afar—she is currently teaching a new themed course called Asian America’s Aging. On the research front, she continues to work on her book project on Chinese diasporic fiction of the Tiananmen massacre. At the same time, she has been happy to see three of her articles appear in print this year: one on Lan Samantha Chang’s “Hunger” in the anthology *Death in American Texts and Performances*, a second on Eileen Chang, J. G. Ballard, and wartime Shanghai in the *Journal of Narrative Theory*; and a third on theorizing the hyphen via Ha Jin’s writing in a special theme issue of *Modern Fiction Studies*. She awaits the appearance of two other completed articles, one on Chinese diasporic fictional rewriting of the Monkey myth and a second on the representation of the comfort woman in Chang-rae Lee’s *A Gesture Life*. All in all, this has been a highly exciting and productive year!

Henry Laurence
Associate Professor, Asian Studies and Government
My class Japanese Politics and Society was particularly interesting to teach this year because of the momentous power change from the Liberal Democratic Party to the Democratic Party of Japan. Whether this turns out to be a watershed, or a temporary blip like 1993, remains to be seen. The LDP will win power back eventually (and not implode as some have predicted), but we are surely seeing the advent of a two-party system in place of the 1955 model. Of all DPJ policies, administrative reform (of the bureaucracy) will prove most important, I suspect, although these reforms are not nearly as far reaching as they could be.

On another note, it has been interesting watching the debate on financial reform with my International Political Economy class, who were unfortunate enough to have to read my *Money Rules: The New Politics of Finance*, which partly explains how we got into this financial mess and gives some clues about how to get out of it. I am afraid that the current reforms being debated in the United States will prove wholly inadequate to prevent another crisis, which taxpayers will have to underwrite.

Meanwhile, my current research on broadcasting politics has led me to some interesting comparisons between the dawn of the radio era in the 1920s and the hype surrounding the Internet and “new media” today. Ongoing health problems, which got particularly bad in the summer and fall, kept me from finishing the book manuscript, but there’s always next year!
Asian Studies newsletter
Spring 2010

Yan Li
Lecturer, Chinese Language
How time flies. I still remember the first day of classes at Bowdoin. I went to the wrong classroom and met only three students. I didn’t realize that another group of 18 students was anxiously waiting for me in a different classroom. I do not deny that it was a bad start, but the year at Bowdoin turned out to be wonderful.

I really appreciate my students, because they always work hard and surprise me with progress every day. Their Chinese expression goes from the simple “hello” to complicated sentences such as “Beijing is China’s capital, and it’s also China’s political and cultural center with lots of famous historic sites,” and from the easiest character with one stroke to a complicated one with 16 strokes.

With help from colleagues, I have well adapted to American life. I have made quite a few friends and learned rock climbing at the Fitness Center. In addition, I really like the multicultural environment at Bowdoin, which makes me feel comfortable and forget about cultural shock. I am happy that I will stay one more year at Bowdoin and will have more time to work with my students, my colleagues, and other friends in Maine.

Dhiraj Murthy
Assistant Professor, Sociology
This year, Dhiraj saw the publication of two articles relating to South Asia: “Nationalism Remixed? The Politics of Cultural Flows between the South Asian Diaspora and ‘Homeland’” in Ethnic and Racial Studies and “Representing South Asian alterity? East London’s Asian electronic music scene and the articulation of globally mediated identities” in the European Journal of Cultural Studies. He taught South Asian Popular Culture in the fall and a blog with student writing from the class can be viewed at learn.bowdoin.edu/sociology/soc236/blogs/. In the spring he taught Transnational Race and Ethnicity, a course which partially examines transnational South Asian diasporic cultural products and identities. Dhiraj continues his research on South Asian musical formations through his current project, #Taqwatweet, which explores a South Asian music subculture through Twitter and other online spaces. One of the bands explored by his work, The Kominas, performed on campus in May.

Mitsuko Numata
Lecturer, Japanese Language
Mitsuko Numata, a native of the Kansai region of Japan, has just finished a fascinating first year teaching first- and fourth-year Japanese language students at Bowdoin. Her first day at Bowdoin felt as exciting as the first day that she started teaching Japanese.

Throughout the year, she has been impressed by the dynamic and successful interactions she has observed among her students, with their diverse backgrounds, personalities, preferences, and learning styles. Through these interactions in the classroom, she has learned a lot of invaluable things from her students. Seeing how her students have made efforts to improve their language skills and how much they have improved in using the language, continues to make her smile.

Next year, she is looking forward to co-constructing the learning environment with her new students. Why not join Numata-sensei and learn some Japanese?

Nancy Riley
Professor, Sociology
I continue to teach and do work on China and parts of the Pacific (I taught a course on Hawai‘i in fall 2009). I recently finished a book manuscript (co-authored with Bowdoin anthropology professor Krista Van Vleet) on adoption, which included a chapter on transnational adoption (focusing on adoption from China). I have also begun work on another project on adoption, this one on the adoption of Indian children by Indians living in the United States I will be on leave for the 2010–2011 academic year and will spend the fall semester in Beijing [I will be doing research and teaching part-time in CET’s Chinese Studies Program (CET is directed by Bowdoin graduate Mark Lentzer ’89)]. I will also spend most of the spring semester in Hawai‘i, as a visiting fellow at the East-West Center.

Makizushi-making, May 2010, with Mitsuko Numata
**Vyjayanthi Selinger**

**Assistant Professor, Asian Studies**

For Vyjayanthi Selinger, her sabbatical year has been a rare gift of time to pursue the writing she loves. She began her sabbatical year by co-hosting a conference on medieval Japan in May 2009. The conference, which brought leading scholars of Japanese literature and history to Bowdoin College, created an ideal forum for her to present sections of the book she is writing, *Imagining the Shogun in Fourteenth-Century Japan*. As she wrote further chapters, she continued to present them around the world, first at a conference at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and then as an invited lecturer at Kokukakuin University in Japan. With the help of a Japan Foundation grant, she is spending the second half of her sabbatical in Tokyo, where she continues to uncover new and interesting dimensions of medieval Japan and presents those findings at workshops and conferences. She also has joined a panel of Japanese experts as a research collaborator, and looks forward to traveling to Japan once a year for the next four years for workshops that showcase these collaborative efforts. In the meanwhile, she is enjoying hearing the daily discoveries her daughter makes as a new student at a Japanese kindergarten.

**Rachel Sturman**

**Assistant Professor, Asian Studies and History**

Rachel had a productive and rewarding year. In the summer, she quite literally got her feet wet with her new research project, spending three weeks in drizzly London gathering materials on Indian indentured and migrant labor in the British Empire. The academic year saw her send off to publishers the completed manuscript of her first book, tentatively titled *The Properties of Subjects: Economic Governance and the Family in Colonial India*, while also delving more deeply into her new project. She enjoyed the opportunity to present her new research both to the Bowdoin community and to the Law and Society Association Conference in May. She was also very pleased to offer a new course this year that has been long in preparation, India and the Indian Ocean World, which extends the South Asian history curriculum to the millennium before British colonialism. She also appreciated the results of some significant changes to a couple of her old favorites, Politics and Popular Culture in Twentieth-Century India, and the newly titled Sex and the Politics of the Body in India. In the fall, she is excited to launch a new first-year seminar, titled, Globalizing India.

**Shu-chin Tsui**

**Associate Professor, Asian Studies**

Looking back on the academic year, I’m happy to see two previously submitted articles appear in print. In addition, I have a new submission, a book chapter titled “The Return of the Repressed: Masculinity and Sexuality Reconsidered,” in *A Companion to Chinese Cinema*, edited by Yingjin Zhang, Blackwell Publishing (forthcoming). My academic activities also included trips to California (University of Pasadena) and Florida (Eckerd College) for invited talks and workshop demonstrations.

During the past academic year, I worked again with several students on their independent study projects. The research topics—“Shikumen–Architectural Reflection of Shanghai’s Past and Present,” “Questions on International Advertising and Luxury Goods in China,” “Selling Femininity: Advertising and Feminine Ideals within Chinese Consumer Society,” and “Political and Popular Rhetoric via ‘Crazy English’”—were academically innovative and engaging. I learned a great deal as the students went through the reading/writing process. In my teaching life, in addition to advanced language courses, I offered Cultural Topics in Contemporary China and Transnational Chinese Cinema. The exciting moment is to see how students develop intellectually in the course of daily classes.

I have been preparing for a research trip to China this summer, where I’ll interview artists, visit art galleries, and collect research materials for the writing of a manuscript, “Inscribing the Body: The Challenge of Women’s Art in Contemporary China.” Upon my return from China, I’ll take a sabbatical leave and concentrate on drafting and revising the manuscript.

**Lawrence Zhang**

**Instructor, Asian Studies and History**

Lawrence has enjoyed a busy first year as a member of the department and the Bowdoin community, getting to know many enthusiastic and gifted students in a collegial atmosphere. In addition to two survey courses on Chinese history from antiquity to 1644, Lawrence taught a first-year seminar on the history of tea and an intermediate seminar on social movements and revolutions in China from 1860–2000. Lawrence has also continued his research on the sale of government offices in the Qing dynasty (1644–1911) and gave a paper at the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting in March on this subject titled “Inheriting Wealth and Status: Sale of Offices and Elite Families in Qing China.” Lawrence will be making a trip to Asia this summer and is also preparing to teach three new classes in the coming academic year.
Norma Kang Muico

“I visited Bowdoin last year with my husband. So much had changed in ten years, yet many things remained the same. I was sad to have missed Kidder and hope he is enjoying his new life. To summarize the past ten years—upon graduation, I went to Italy, then moved back to South Korea and subsequently worked in Vietnam and Thailand before coming to the UK via France. I’ve been living in London since 2002. After my master’s at the LSE, I began work at Anti-Slavery International before finding my current job as East Asia Researcher at Amnesty International. The work keeps me fully occupied, albeit less than sane at times. Suffice to say that last year I spent six months away on mission. Not sure if I made any lasting connection with those from/around Class of ’89 but if you find yourself in London, I’d be happy to meet.”

Suzana Makowski

“Writing from Shanghai, where I am a “Visiting Professor” at Tongji School of Medicine, teaching physician-patient communication and pain/palliative care to medical students and junior faculty. The welcome has been tremendous—warm and gracious. I am staying adjacent to Tongji University Campus, which is beautiful due to its careful planning and design by its renowned College of City Planning and Architecture.”

Tracy Reimer

“I am currently enjoying my position as Director of Health Policy and Government Relations at Blue Cross Blue Shield of Massachusetts. It is an exciting time to work in the health policy field given the developments in health care reform at the state and national levels. Personally, the year 2010 got off to a wonderful start as my husband Bryan and I welcomed our first child, Sierra Rose Reimer, on January 30.”

William Bao Bean

“Greetings from Asia. We are coming up on our sixth anniversary in June for the Bowdoin Club of Asia and our third since we actually started activity. Better late than never. Over the last three years we have held over 25 events across Singapore, Kobe, Hong Kong, Shanghai and Beijing and joined with the Bowdoin Club of Korea on their annual fete. The standout was our annual July 4th weekend where 15 alumni and undergrads traveled to Shanghai from Korea, Singapore, Beijing, and Hong Kong for two days of festivities. I would encourage you all to check out the pictures and events on Facebook at Bowdoin Club of Asia facebook.com/group.php?gid=2459746945 and you can also sign up for the e-mail newsletter at list.bowdoin.edu/mailman/listinfo/careernetasia.”

“This last admissions season for BASIC we interviewed over 20 students and hope to build on what was a record matriculation of students from Asia and especially mainland China in fall 2009 after no students matriculating from China in 2008.”

“The Bowdoin Club of Asia Job Program continues to grow with six undergrads getting full-time jobs post graduation through the program—thanks Kyle Hegarty ’99 and Justin Mallen ’93, who is also one of the early Asian Studies majors at Bowdoin, for hiring and placing Bowdoin grads. We also managed to place eight interns across Asia for the summer. If you can hire a Bowdoin student or
recent grad, please let us know—paid or unpaid.” “This season we have 14 interns and will hopefully find everyone a place for the summer.”


“Finally, like to say thanks to all the undergrads and alums for making the group what it is—none of this could happen without you.”

**ELLEN CHAN**

“Cali Tran ’97 and I got married on Vancouver Island, Canada, on September 19, 2009. Our Bowdoin announcement should be in the upcoming Bowdoin magazine issue. We currently live in San Francisco, California, where Cali is a principle at a venture capital firm (North Bridge Venture Partners) and I am a senior fellow in echocardiography in pediatric cardiology (at Stanford University). We just returned from a late honeymoon in the Maldives, which was beautiful!”

**PAYTON DEEKS**

“I have recently started a new position with World Wildlife Fund (WWF) working on the Coral Triangle Initiative. The Initiative works to align six countries in Southeast Asia (Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea, and East Timor) to meet coral reef conservation and community livelihood goals. Although I’m currently based in D.C., I will be moving to Jakarta, Indonesia, where I previously worked for two years with USAID. I would love to be in touch with any polar bears of the tropical Southeast Asia variety!”

**CASSANDRA DRAGON-ARCHAMBAULT**

“I am now working for a new, international IB Diploma Programme school in Westchester County, New York, and looking forward to graduating our first class in 2011! As well, it is my pleasure to lead a professional development tour for heads of schools, through the International Baccalaureate Organization and EF, in China this July! We will make stops in Beijing, Xi’an, and Shanghai and are still looking to confirm a school visit in Shanghai… so if any of you would like to lend a paw to a fellow polar bear: Cassandra.Dragon@ef.com. I hope to meet up with the Bowdoin Club of Asia while there. To Liz Steffey and Erin Lyman please e-mail above—I’d also love to reconnect!”

**JESSICA FARMER**

“I received a Blakemore grant to study Chinese for the year at Taiwan National University in Taipei. I am here through March 2011 and would love to connect with other Bowdoin grads in Taiwan.”

**COURTNEY WOO**

“I recently relocated to New York City and am now employed with the Public Affairs practice of Edelman Public Relations, where I work on health care and technology accounts. I’m fortunate to be using Mandarin on a semi-regular basis for a variety of assignments ranging from translation to new business consulting.”

“I hope everyone is well! I can be reached at cwoo80@gmail.com”
**Eric Davis**

“I’m still at the University of Southern Maine’s Muskie School of Public Service working on a master’s in Public Policy and Management. If things go as planned, I should have my degree in spring 2011. I don’t know what I’ll be doing this summer yet, but I’ve applied for several internships and am hoping to hear positive news soon.”

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**Yi Zheng**

“Currently I am working at Asa Society in New York City. I am working in the Education Department’s Chinese Language Initiatives Team as the Administrative Associate. Our goal is to advocate for the study of Chinese language throughout the United States, and to develop 100 Confucius classrooms over the next three years. I like my job a lot because I get to use my Chinese language skills to interact with school teachers, educators, and to do English to Chinese, and Chinese to English translation. I want to thank Bowdoin for giving me the opportunity to go to China through the Freeman Grant where I was able to strengthen my Chinese language skills.”

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**Charles Stern**

“Charles is enjoying his time as a Fulbright Fellow studying Daoism at Sichuan University’s Institute for Religious Studies this year.”
Last September, **William Bao Bean ’95** was selected by Bowdoin’s Alumni Council as the 2009 recipient of the Bowdoin Alumni Club Volunteer of the Year Award for his leadership of the Club of Asia and his service to the College! The award recognizes an individual who, in organizing at least one club event or program in the preceding academic year, has demonstrated enthusiasm, initiative, and outstanding execution and achievement. Everyone at Bowdoin appreciates the work William does in keeping fellow alumni connected to Bowdoin, but probably none as much as our Asia alumns do.

John Thurston, from Bowdoin’s Admissions Office, presented William with his award at a club Happy Hour while visiting Shanghai last fall.

An excerpt from William’s nomination from the summer of 2009: **William helped start the Bowdoin Club of Asia in the summer of 2007 and has single-handedly kept the ball rolling, with little or no assistance (other than sending out messages) from the Alumni Office. For FY 2008, the club held seven events with 40 alums and so far in FY ’09 they’ve hosted four events, including a breakfast with Barry. William is our main contact for anything Asia-related and helps with the CareerNet Asia list serve (which has 96 members), is a BCAN and BASIC volunteer, and has personally taken on two interns from Bowdoin (one of whom successfully landed an internship the following summer with Deutsche Bank in Hong Kong). He’s also established a presence for our Asia-based alumni on Facebook to keep local alums involved and connected. Simply put, we wouldn’t have much of a presence in Asia without William.**

**Congratulations, William!**

– Rodie Lloyd ’80, Associate Director of Alumni Relations
INDEPENDENT STUDIES

PROJECT ADVISOR: SHU-CHIN TSUI
Yongfang Chen, “Shikumen—Architectural Reflection of Shanghai’s Past and Present”

Elizabeth Kyu-eun (year-long project), “Questions on International Advertising and Luxury Goods in China”


Eric Reid, “Political and Popular Rhetoric via ‘Crazy English’

PROJECT ADVISOR: BELINDA KONG
Luke Mondello, “Gender in Hong Kong Martial Arts Films”

PROJECT ADVISOR: TOM CONLAN
Dylan Crawford, “Nationalization and Nation Building: Railroad Development in Meiji Japan”


Kate Emerson, “Cultivating Mutual Respect: France and Bakumatsu Japan”

Nell Yong Mei, “Scenes Inside and Outside the Capital: The Rakuchu Rakugai Zu of Sixteenth Century Kyoto”

Zachary Rudick, “Elements of Perceived Civilization: The Historiography of Tea, 1565–Present”

PROJECT ADVISOR: JOHN HOLT
Sarah Lord, “Dravidian Goddesses of South India and Sri Lanka”

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 log in or register for PolarNet, go to: polarnet.bowdoin.edu/NETCOMMUNITY

Program News