Oberlin’s East Asian Studies Program grew partly out of Oberlin’s missionary activities in East Asia. The ongoing dialogue about the missionary past, along with David Kamitsuka and Eric Estes’ course on the meanings of the Memorial Arch, have provided students and the community with an opportunity to learn about Asia as local history, as global history, and as part of broader movements of social change.

As 2008-09 draws to a close, we bid a fond farewell to our colleagues Miku Aoyama (instructor in Japanese, Oberlin University) and Dongju Zhu (instructor in Chinese, Beijing Normal University). We will miss your bright smiles and energy!

Please note a number of personnel changes for the upcoming year. Several EAS colleagues will be away from campus during the 2009-10 year: Qiusha Ma, Hsiu-Chuang Deppman, and Bonnie Cheng. I will be teaching in Kyoto for the fall semester only. All faculty on leave will be replaced during their temporary absence. As for the position of EAS director, David Kelley will serve as interim director during 2009-10, after which Sheila Jager will start a four-year term.

I am proud of the two new initiatives that EAS launched this year. First, EAS worked with Shansi and the Office of the Dean of Arts and Sciences to establish a relationship with Beijing Normal University, one of China’s top universities. This partnership will include Chinese teaching fellows from BNU working in EAS, and EAS graduates studying at Beijing Normal. In addition, we collaborated with Shansi and the Politics Department to hire a Mellon post-doc in East Asian politics, Ji-Young Lee (Georgetown University).
**EVENTS SPONSORED BY EAST ASIAN STUDIES, 2008-09**

**East Asian Studies Faculty Study Tour, China, Japan, and Korea (see photo below)**
May and June 2008, Sponsored by the Freeman Foundation Undergraduate Asian Studies Initiative

**Hiroshima-Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Exhibit**
September 14-24, Mudd Library Academic Commons, Co-sponsored with the Comparative American Studies Program in cooperation with the City of Hiroshima, Hiroshima Peace Museum, Nagasaki Atomic Bomb Museum

**Constitutional Revision in Japan: Security in East Asia and the U.S.: A Symposium**
September 20, Timothy S. George, History, University of Rhode Island; Helen Hardacre, Religion, Harvard University; Richard J. Samuels, Political Science, MIT; Franziska Seraphim, History, Boston College. Co-sponsored by the Departments of History, Politics, and Religion

**The Tibet Question in Historical and Contemporary Context**
September 24, Melvin Goldstein, Anthropology, Case Western Reserve University. Co-sponsored by the Mead-Swing Lectureship Fund

**The Last Tuna? Japanese Food Culture and Global Fisheries**
December 4, Theodore Bestor, Anthropology, Harvard University. Co-sponsored by the Departments of Anthropology, History, and Environmental Studies

**Crazy in Japan: Ethnology of Mental Illness, Schizophrenia and Community**
February 26, Bethel: Community & Schizophrenia in Northern Japan, Documentary film, Karen Nakamura, Anthropology, Yale University. Co-sponsored by the Department of Anthropology

EAS supported events in Asia House organized by Joseph Campbell ’11 (Asia House Liaison) and Asia House residents, including a Chinese Knot Tying Workshop, a karaoke party, an Asian Kite Festival, and a Teshigahara Hiroshi Film Festival.

Ann Sherif would like to acknowledge with appreciation the efforts of colleagues and students who organized 2008-09 events: Joseph Campbell, James Dobbins, Liu Fang, Suzanne Gay, Sheila Jager, Wendy Kozol, Qiusha Ma, Emer O’Dwyer, Eric Oeur, Amy Redden, and Dongju Zhu.
Miku Aoyama writes: “One year in Oberlin passed so fast. I taught first- and second-year Japanese this year. Sometimes it was hard, but I had a fantastic time here. I will go back to Japan this summer to start my new job developing teaching materials for JET participants who are studying Japanese in Tokyo soon.”

Marc Blecher published four articles: “China in 2008: Meeting Olympian Challenges” (Asian Survey); “What—and How—Have Tianjin Workers Been Thinking?” (Journal of Chinese Political Studies); “Into Space: The Local Developmental State, Capitalist Transition, and the Political Economy of Urban Planning in Xinji” (CITY: Analysis of Urban Trends, Culture, Theory, Policy, Action); and “When Wal-Mart Wimped Out” (Critical Asian Studies). He finished the third edition of China Against the Tides (forthcoming from Continuum in November 2009), and a draft of A World to Lose: Working Class Formation in China in the Twentieth and Twenty-First Centuries. Marc was invited to present papers at academic conferences at the University of Northern British Columbia, the University of Regina, and Aoyama Gakuin University and Gakushuin Women’s College (in Tokyo; the conference was in Hong Kong).

Xi Chen (East Asian librarian, Mudd Library) writes: “I went to the University of Washington, Seattle, to attend a two-week Summer Institute for Chinese Librarianship in the Digital Age in August 2008. I learned from peer librarians the most current trends in developing EA collections so that we can better support teaching and research at our own institutions. I also participated in the AAS/CEAL (Council on East Asian Libraries in North America) meeting in Chicago in March 2009 and co-chaired a roundtable discussion for small EA collections.”

Bonnie Cheng says she had a busy but wonderful year, beginning last summer with a stimulating trip to Japan to explore sites for her course on East Asian monuments. The monuments were spectacular, but the amazing food ran a close second! Bonnie writes: “During the year I was invited to participate in a conference on pre-modern ‘new media’ at UC Berkeley, and to give a talk at OSU. I completed an article on theorizing cross-cultural exchange for Ars Orientalis. I also got tenure! Next year I will be on leave and plan to finish up my book.”

Hsiu-Chuang Deppman is on sabbatical in 2009-10. She will spend the year working on her second book, tentatively titled Envisioning Eileen Chang.

James Dobbins serves as the stateside director of the 16-college Associated Kyoto Program consortium, through which many Oberlin students study in Japan. His article on “Shinran” appeared in the Encyclopedia Britannica Online this year. He is a member of the American Advisory Committee for the Japan Foundation and has chaired its Dissertation Research Fellowship subcommittee. He also recently served on the selection committee of the Weinstein Dissertation Prize in Buddhist Studies for Yale. In 2008-09 he was invited to give public lectures at Yale University, Macalester College, and the University of Michigan.

Suzanne Gay will have an article, “The Oil Merchants of Iwashimizu Shrine: Transregional Commerce in Medieval Japan,” based on her recent research, published in the spring 2009 issue of Monumenta Nipponica.

Ayako Harada writes, “My first year at Oberlin has finished! Since I hadn’t taught intermediate-level Japanese for a while and was new to the textbook, it was very challenging. However, the students were nice and fun, and I enjoyed teaching. For the summer, I will stay in my second hometown, Portland, Oregon, for about two months and...”
will work on my pottery, which hopefully will be my side job someday. I am looking forward to spending a beautiful Portland summer with my friends.”

Sheila Miyoshi Jager returned from a two-year visiting research professorship at the U.S. Army War College’s Strategic Studies Institute. She is finishing up a book on the Korean War and will be moving back to Oberlin with her four kids and husband in August.

David Kelley writes: “During 2008-09, I was on leave for first semester and Winter Term, pursuing a research project on grain prices and grain tax collections in China during the Qing dynasty. The data I collect will be analyzed by incorporation into a GIS data set associated with a detailed base map of the period. I traveled to China during the fall to pursue this research in the First Historical Archives in Beijing. This summer I will return to the archives to complete my research, funded by a H.H. Powers travel grant. In the spring semester I returned to teaching with a course on modern Chinese history and a seminar on Chinese social movements and protest.”

This year, Ikuko Kurasawa, together with seven students and EAS alumni, launched Oberlin College Taiko, a Japanese drumming ensemble that was chartered by the College in February. They had several performances on and off campus, including the College’s 175th anniversary event and the World Language Night at Prospect Elementary School in town. She hopes that OCT will give a different kind of opportunity for Oberlin students to learn about Japanese culture and reach out to a broader community in Oberlin and beyond.

Li Kai writes, “Since the publication of my book Classical Chinese, I have been busy working on its companion as a continuation of a series. This summer, I will be helping the Beijing IUP Program with its advanced textbook, training its teachers, and attending some conferences. I will be teaching advanced (4th- and 5th-year) level Chinese courses at Oberlin next year.”

As a busy and productive semester approached its end, Liu Fang again started preparing for her summer job as the academic director of CET’s Beijing Language Program. She will be there for about 10 weeks. When the fall semester begins, she will teach first-, second-, and third-year Chinese at Oberlin. As always, she looks forward to hearing from her former students.

Qiusha Ma writes: “The Chinese program at Oberlin is strong, and this makes it all that more meaningful to work here. I continue to enjoy teaching language courses, and the students and colleagues are just wonderful. As for my NGOs and “Civil Society in East Asia” seminar, I made significant changes this year. While continuing my research on NGOs, I also renewed my interest in the Rockefeller Foundation’s work in China during the 20th century. My newest adventure: I am going to work in Beijing for a year as the field director for ACC [Associated Colleges in China], an Oberlin affiliate language program. I will miss EAS and our students for sure, but I am very excited about this challenge.”

Emer O’Dwyer has received an Andrew W. Mellon Curriculum Development Grant to integrate the collections of the Allen Memorial Art Museum into her survey courses on traditional and modern Japan. She looks forward to encouraging students to immerse themselves in the museum’s impressive holdings in Japanese art—particularly before the museum closes for renovations in 2010.

Amy Redden had another busy year and is looking for-
ward to the summer. She officially celebrated her 10 years at Oberlin College in February.

**Ann Sherif** is in completing her fourth and final year as EAS director. Her book *Japan’s Cold War: Literature, Media, and the Law* was published by Columbia University Press this year. During fall semester 2009, she will teach at the Associated Kyoto Program in Japan and then return to Oberlin for spring semester. She gave invited presentations on Japanese literature at Columbia University and Berkeley.

**Dongju Zhu,** instructor of Chinese from Beijing Normal University, assisted with beginning, intermediate, and advanced Chinese language classes. She held a workshop on Chinese knotting in Asia House and taught the craft of Chinese paper cutting for Shansi, in Asia House, and at the local high school. She helped to organize the Chinese Students New Year Party in Shansi House. Dongju writes, “I will return to Beijing this summer and complete my master’s degree at Beijing Normal University next year. In the meanwhile, I will look for a job teaching Chinese as a second language in Beijing.”

**Director’s Note, continued from page 1**

will begin her two-year post-doc this fall and will teach courses on East Asian politics and security.

In 2009-10, we hope you will join us for lectures by Ethan Segal (Japanese History, Michigan State University) and Liza Dalby (anthropologist and novelist), among other events.

It has been a great privilege to serve as EAS director for the past four years. I very much enjoyed working with the talented faculty, the students, and with Amy Redden, our department’s extraordinarily capable and ever-cheerful administrative assistant.

EAS values the support and interest of alumni. I hope each one of you will send us your news and keep us updated on your email/mailing addresses in the coming year.
CONGRATULATIONS TO STUDENT PRIZE Awardees!

Tuckerships

The generous support of Tom Tucker and Dana Berry, in memory of their son Zac, made possible the Winter Term travels to Asia of seven students in 2009. Students presented their projects to the campus community during spring semester.

Maia Bernstein
“Buddhism and Shamanism in Present-day Laos”

Charles Hufnagel
“Korean Student Protest Movements and their Past, Present, and Future”

Dylan Luers
“Twofold Truth Dialect in Modern Shin Buddhism”

Dashiell Robb
_They Read Books Don’t They?_ (A documentary film, Japan)

Olivia Sideman
“Travel to Thailand for a Globalized View of How Education Can Combat Social Injustice”

Shinri (Arnie) Tanimoto
“Noh, Bunraku, and the Cello”

Rieko Yamauchi
“State-NGO Cooperation during the Earthquakes in China and Japan”

Newton Prize

_The Newton Prize is awarded for original works of student research and writing that promote understanding between East and West._

Maia Bernstein
“Universal Compassion”

Joseph Campbell & Dashiell Robb
_Tachi-Yomi: Stand and Read_ (A documentary film)

Alexandra Sterman
“Modern Chinese Art at a Moment of Crisis: The 1989 China/Avant-Garde Exhibition”

Daniel Tam-Claiborne
_Home_ (A translation of poetry by Tanikawa Shuntaro)

Richard Turner
“Fushimi Noriaki, Yokubo Mondai [Desire Problem]”

Margaret Ribovich DiCenzo Prize for Academic Excellence in EAS

_(AKA: “Ron’s Mom’s Prize)_

Mia Signs and Ezra Spier

Honors in East Asian Studies

Sam Good

A SPECIAL THANKS TO the EAS Elected Student Representatives Ezra Spier (Japanese) and Becky Cassler (Chinese).
2009 GRADUATING SENIORS

Sam Good will be a Shansi Fellow in Machida, Japan. Erin Kalla will teach English in Japan in the JET Program and hopes to pursue a career in education. Peter Kim also plans to work in Japan, and later will attend graduate school in design. Jenna Lindeke will be a Shansi Fellow in Himachal Pradesh, India, teaching English and helping with a women’s issue NGO. She hopes to work in human rights related fields. After a year studying Japanese language intensively at the Inter-University Center in Yokohama, Dylan Luers plans to obtain an MA at a Buddhist-affiliated university in Japan and then enter a PhD program in Buddhist studies in the U.S. After working for WAVE over the summer, Mia Signs will work and study at Beijing Normal University for a year, and then perhaps pursue a teaching career. Ezra Spier will travel to Seoul this summer to student intensive Korean on a Department of State Critical Language Scholarship, and then plans to move back to Portland and apply for graduate school. Ally Sterman will research the Allen Memorial Art Museum’s Asian Art collection this summer, as a first step toward her dream job of becoming a curator of Chinese art. Daniel Tam-Claiborne will take intensive Chinese at Cornell this summer before starting his two-year term as a Shansi Fellow in Taigu. Daniel hopes to attend grad school and eventually become a foreign broadcast journalist and writer. Ricky Turner is on the job market right now, but plans to attend graduate school in Japan Studies eventually. For the next two years, Andrew Yoon will study science at Hunter College in New York in preparation for dental school. He hopes to travel to China within the next five years!
Jun Ball ’08 will renew her contract to teach in Yokohama, Japan, for another year.

Tami Blumenfield ’00 writes: “I am working on my dissertation, ‘Scenes from Yongning: Media Production in China’s Na Villages.’ I have also been teaching in an interdisciplinary arts and sciences program at the University of Washington, Bothell. This quarter, I have finally come full circle and am teaching a course about China! The course is called *China in Motion* and looks at many different forms of movement in contemporary China. I am looking forward to teaching about representation in China this summer in Seattle.”

Ben Brown ’06 spent the past 2 ½ years in Japan, teaching and doing translation at the National Institute for Environmental Studies, and then returned to Oregon in December. Ben writes, “I lucked into a decent job serving at an upscale Spanish restaurant in town and am thinking about applying to the University of Oregon to get my master’s in education so I can teach high school. Are there any EAS alums who went into teaching, specifically Japanese language education (or even more specifically, Japanese at the high school level)?”

Nick DeMarino ’07 earned a master’s degree in magazine journalism at the University of Oregon in 2008. He interned at NPR on Tripp Sommer’s *Northwest Passage* show. Now he is writing freelance and has a piece on needless acupuncture for pets in the April/May issue of *Animal Wellness Magazine*.

Suzanna Fessler ’87 published *Hanatsumi Nikki: The Flowers of Italy* (Fukuoka: Kurodahan Press). The monograph is a translation with introduction of Anesaki Masaharu’s early 20th-century records of his travels in Italy, a “classic of travel writing, philosophy, history, and comparative religions.” The volume includes Suzanna’s translation of Anesaki’s *How Christianity Appeals to a Japanese Buddhist*.

David Frost ’04 looks forward to completing his second master’s degree in diplomacy and international commerce by December 2009, and is looking to work for the Department of State or Defense. This summer, he is working as an intern for SCG International, doing research and analysis on current events and security concerns.

David Heafitz ’98 writes: “I have just finished the core curriculum of the EMBA-Global Program at Columbia University and London Business School. This executive MBA rotates each month between London and N.Y. for the first three terms (12 months) and then offers electives at either campus for the remaining eight months. I returned recently from a course in Dubai and will study venture capital at Hong Kong University in June. In August, I will be doing an international seminar in Chennai in India and doing research for my independent project on expanding reach for financial products in emerging markets through mobile technology in countries that have developed mobile infrastructures (India/China). I am particularly interested in micro-finance and micro-insurance, so if anyone has information or leads they can provide me on these areas, I would greatly appreciate it. I still have my day job as a project manager for a data center migration in Japan for Prudential’s two largest businesses there. None of this would be possible without the stupendous support of...”

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**Thank You, Donors!**

EAS gratefully acknowledges these donors for their support of our educational mission:

Dr. Joan C. Abele, *parent of Thomas Newhall ’07*
- Martha Brennan ’93
- Yen Shern Chew ’02
- Marta Johnson ’04
- Adam Lanphier ’05
- Jin Lee ’86

Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Levitas, *parents of Matt ’05*
- Christopher Ross ’01
- Lili Schatz ’06
- Howard Spendelow ’66
- Mina Takahashi ’87
- Michael Vomacka ’07
my wife, Kayo, who is currently working on a short-term engagement at the U.N. in New York. We’re still living in New York/N.J., so if you’re in the area, please let me know.” Email: david@heafitz.com.

John Hugens ’08 is working in Korea. He writes: “Max Helzberg, Tom Newhall, and I had an ‘Oberlin in Fukuoka, Japan’ reunion this year. Think of the huge benefits that come with knowing dozens of recent EAS graduates in Asia and having places to stay. If any current students are interested in Korea, and don’t mind sleeping on futons or wooden floors, I live five minutes outside of Seoul and next to a major subway station, so I’m willing to put them up.”

Sarah Le Baron von Baeyer ’05 writes: “I’ve almost survived my first year of a PhD program at Yale in socio-cultural anthropology, studying migrants in Japan, under William Kelly. If anyone has questions about the program, don’t hesitate to contact me!” Email: sarah.lebaronvonbaeyer@yale.edu.

Julian Lee ’03 graduated from Marquette University in May with an MA in international affairs and hopes to run into some alumni in Asia during a year off (before applying to PhD programs).

Jennifer Melyan ’06 completed two years in the Teach for America (TFA) program and is still teaching in the Los Angeles area public schools. Jennifer writes: “I’m so pleased to hear that students are still applying for TFA, which is rough, but it’s well worth all the tears. Can you believe I just finished my first marathon? I fundraised for the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Call me crazy, but I’m going to do it again. I’m trying to fundraise $4,000 to run in San Francisco’s Nike Women’s Marathon in honor of my mom, who passed away in 2007 due to liver cancer. My website is http://pages.teamintraining.org/los/nikesf09/jmelyan if you would like to contribute to my campaign.”

Aaron Moore ’99 will start a permanent appointment teaching Asian history at the University of Manchester’s Department of History. U of Manchester is the UK’s largest research institution, ranked just behind Oxford and Cambridge, and has a rapidly expanding Asian studies community. He’s also starting research for his next book on childhood and war in China, Japan, the UK, and the USSR.

Nik Smart ’06 started teaching at elementary schools in Japan. Nik writes: “It is a refreshing, fun change from junior high. In many kids’ eyes, I’m a mysterious, funny thing to be admired.” He practices French, Japanese, and guitar for an hour each day. Nik celebrated the New Year in Korea!

Deysi Villarreal ’08 writes: “I’m still in Suzuka, Japan, teaching for the Board of Education. I teach at two schools in the area: Shiroko Junior High School and Oki Junior High School. The kids are great, and I sometimes help the girls’ volleyball team after school. I’ve decided to stay here in Suzuka for another year. I plan to work hard and keep bringing fun and entertaining English classes to the kids. I do have to admit that teaching is so rewarding and so much fun.” Email: deysi.villarreal@gmail.com.

Don’t Miss Out!

In an effort to curb print, postage, and environmental costs college-wide, Oberlin is moving several of its print publications online. Please make sure we have your email address, so that you don’t miss out on newsletters, invitations to alumni regional events, and more. You can update your email address (and other information) via OBIEmobile at www.oberlin.edu/alumni. Go to the MyOBIEmobile box and click on “register to access the community” (it’s free). Please direct questions to alumni@oberlin.edu or call the Alumni Association at (440) 775-8692.
FOR HIS EAS CAPSTONE PROJECT, Will Tobias-Gapp (’09) mounted an exhibit in Mudd Library about his grandfather’s experiences as a journalist in Shanghai in 1937-38.

CONGRATULATIONS
NEW GRADUATES!

Maia Bernstein
Rebecca Cassler
Danielle DeLanoy
Grace Fardella
Eli Fitch
Russell Giblin
Ezra Gish
Samuel Good
Micheline Heal
Erin Kalla
Peter Kim
Aaron Levine
Jenna Lindeke
Dylan Luers
Jordan Maseng
David Moss
Ethan Robbins
Thomas Shannon
Mia Signs
Ezra Spier
Alexandra Sterman
Adam Sultanov
Daniel Tam-Claiborne
William Tobias-Gapp
Richard Turner
John Weil
Nicholas Wirtz
Rieko Yamauchi
Andrew Yoon

The EAS Newsletter is published annually. Please send your news for the 2010 newsletter to amy.redden@oberlin.edu.

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Calligraphy: Li Kai

We dedicate this issue to Jed Deppman