Director’s Note

By David Kelley, Director, East Asian Studies

After more than nine years of loyal service to the EAS Program, Ikuko Kurasawa has decided to resign and join her husband, Jeremy, in Pittsburgh, where he is in medical school. I know you will all join me in wishing her the best of luck with her future endeavors. While we will certainly miss Ikuko, “change is the only constant.” I’m confident that over time these changes will work out very well for her.

There are a number of other changes that will flow into next year. First, Sheila Jager will be taking up the EAS directorship. I look forward to turning over the reins to her at the end of June.

Second, our staffing in Japanese language is undergoing some changes. Ms. Ai Sukegawa has accepted our offer to join us in the Japanese instructor position that Ikuko has held. Ms. Sukegawa recently completed her MA in Japanese linguistics and pedagogy at the University of Wisconsin and has experience teaching there and at other schools. She also has an MA in education with an emphasis on language education. Please join me in welcoming her to Oberlin.

Ayako Harada, our teacher from Obirin, is completing her second and final year here. We thank her for her contributions to the program.

EAS majors Amanda Tobin ’11 and Samantha Conroy ’11 were part of a winter term project on curatorial practices and museum management led by Michele Matteini and Christina Neilson (art history). Here, the group learns about the exhibition “From Xanadu to Dadu: the World of Khubilai Khan” at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York. Photo by Michele Matteini.

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Marc Blecher’s article “Globalization, Structural Reform, and Labour Politics in China” appeared in the inaugural issue of the *Global Labour Journal* (http://digitalcommons.mcmaster.ca/globallabour/vol1/iss1/6). In addition to his normal classes on campus, this spring he has been teaching *Development in East Asia: History, Politics, Economy and Society in China, Japan and South Korea* to a group of 21 area teachers under the auspices of the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia, through the Ohio State University East Asian Studies Center.

Pauline Chen enjoyed having the chance to teach first-year Chinese and classical Chinese poetry this year. In the fall she looks forward to exploring the development of Chinese narrative in a course on the classical novels *Romance of the Three Kingdoms* and *Dream of the Red Chamber*.

Xi Chen is in her third year of serving the Oberlin College community. She writes: “I earned my Master’s of Library and Information Science from UNC-Chapel Hill. As the East Asian Studies librarian at Mudd Library, I collect Chinese and Japanese language materials in addition to English-language books to support EAS’s curriculum and research. I am always available and happy to meet one-on-one with EAS students, discuss their research topics, help develop search strategies, and help locate materials.”

Bonnie Cheng is on research leave. She’s writing a book on medieval Chinese funerary art and tombs.

Hsiu-Chuang Deppman is spending her 2009-10 sabbatical year in Taipei, Taiwan. Her book, *Adapted for the Screen: the Cultural Politics of Modern Chinese Fiction and Film* (University of Hawai‘i Press), is forthcoming in June. She has been working on a new project, tentatively titled *Faces of Change: Ethics and Aesthetics in Contemporary Chinese Cinema*.

James Dobbins teaches courses on the religions of China and Japan at Oberlin. He is completing his final year as the stateside director of the Associated Kyoto Program.
Suzanne Gay will be on sabbatical in Kyoto during 2010-11, continuing her research on merchants of the 16th-century Kyoto area. She also received a GLCA New Directions Initiative grant to help support creation of a new course in cultural history on *The Tale of Genji* over the centuries, including contemporary graphic novel renditions of the work.

Sheila Miyoshi Jager will become director of EAS on July 1. She is finishing her book *Korea: War Without End*, which will come out with W.W. Norton and Profile Books in 2011.

David Kelley writes “This year I served as director of East Asian Studies and taught a range of courses, including the colloquium on Vietnam’s history. Both my colleagues in East Asian Studies and the students have been wonderful to work with. Last summer, I spent a month in Beijing and environs doing research, as well as gathering experiences, photographs, and materials for teaching. I plan to make a brief trip to China again this coming summer to complete the research for an on-going project on Chinese history.”

Satoko Koizumi came back to Oberlin after finishing her master’s degree at Obirin University in Tokyo and realized how wonderful it is to teach at Oberlin. She taught first-year Japanese in fall and second- and third-year in spring and used some Japanese texts (essays, poetry, folk tale) with Ms. Kurasawa. This teaching experience has motivated her to learn more about “reading in Japanese,” and she plans to research the topic during the summer. She hopes to make Japanese language learning more fun for students.

Ikuko Kurasawa writes: “This academic year, we offered three sections of *Elementary Japanese*, and it was very exciting. I would like express my special gratitude to every single one of our Japanese students and alumni, who made such a huge contribution to become what we are now. I have decided to leave Oberlin at the end of this semester. I will definitely miss Oberlin College and the Oberlin community very much, but I am also excited with new adventures in my new life. It has been a great pleasure working here, and thank you so much for everything!”

Editor’s Note: Kurasawa sensei was one of the founders of Oberlin’s taiko community, along with the Ebiharas and Yuki Ebara. Her legacy is carried on by many enthusiastic students.

Ji-Young Lee is a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Politics and East Asian Studies. She received her MA in security studies and a brand new PhD in international relations at Georgetown University. Her teaching and research interests include East Asian security and history, international relations theory, and international political economy. She is a co-contributor to the Pacific Forum CSIS’s Comparative Connections for Japan-Korea relations. Prior to Oberlin, she was an East-West Center POSCO Visiting Fellow in Honolulu, and worked for the Institute for Peace and Unification Studies while at Seoul National University.

Last summer was very productive for Li Kai. He not only gave two talks at the Princeton-in-Beijing Program and Beijing Normal University, but he also finished writing *Talks on Chinese Culture*, which will be the core textbook of IUP Program in Beijing. All the articles in the book are created by Li Kai.

Liu Fang is still teaching first-year and second-year Chinese, and last semester, started to teach third-year Chinese for the first time in many years. As in previous summers, she will direct the CET summer Chinese language program in Beijing. This job gives her an opportunity to go back to the home country and refresh herself. Recently, she reviewed a Chinese textbook for Cheng & Tsui, an educational publishing company.

Qiusha Ma writes: “In 2009-10, I served as the field director at the Associated Colleges in China (ACC), one of the best-known intensive Chinese language programs in China. I have about 200 students during the year. After I return to the U.S. in July, I will start my research status grant for 2010-11. I will research Western medicine in
China and issues of cultural confrontation and assimilation since the 19th century.

Born in Italy, Michele Matteini taught in art history this year. He is completing his degree in Chinese art history at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University. Michele was a visiting junior scholar at People University, Beijing, and a fellow at the Center for Advanced Studies in the Visual Arts, National Gallery of Art. With Christina Nielson, Michele lead the winter term “Issues in Curatorial Practice” program at museums in New York. He has accepted a tenure-track position at Reed College.

Emer O’Dwyer will be on research leave for two years as she prepares her book manuscript for publication. She will spend her first year at Harvard as a postdoctoral fellow at the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, and the second at the Library of Congress as a Kluge Fellow. She wishes all the best for this year’s graduates and encourages them to stay in touch!

ASIA HOUSE UPDATE

IT HAS BEEN AN EXCITING YEAR AT ASIA HOUSE! Our residents (especially those continuing to live in Asia House next year) are looking forward to the renovations scheduled for this summer. We have been assured that the historic look of the building will only be enhanced.

Asia House has been involved in several interesting programs this year, including our second annual Masquerade Ball, the Oberlin Korean Students Association’s Spring Banquet (featuring a Samulnori performance by students of Michigan State University), and a student-led discussion with guest lecturer and anthropologist of Japan, Liza Dalby, to name a few. Our tireless resident assistants also led karaoke parties and film screenings, and, most recently, the whole house came together for a Spring Celebration in the courtyard of Asia House. Student performers of traditional arts (including Javanese Gamelan, Japanese Taiko, and Chinese Lion Dance) performed alongside the diversely talented residents of Asia House. Also featured was the excellent cooking of Asia House’s caretaker, Dave, who is very dear to all of us. The community of 2009-10 was close and diverse, and we look forward to the new community of 2010-11!

—Chloe Dalby ’12
EVENTS SPONSORED BY EAST ASIAN STUDIES, 2009-10

Human Rights in China: 20 Years of Dialogue
December 7, John Kamm, director, the Duihua Foundation. Co-sponsored by the Department of Politics, the East Asian Studies Program, Shansi, and the Committee on Third World Studies.

The Transformation of Korean Industry and Occupations: Its Weakness
February 17, Hong Joon Yoo, sociology, Sung Kyun Kwan University, Korea. Co-Sponsored by the Department of Sociology.

If You Hide It, It’s A Flower
March 1, 2010, Liza Dalby, anthropologist, independent scholar, and author (Parent of Chloe Dalby ’12).

Robo-Sexism in Japan: How the Robot Got Its Gender
April 9, 2010, Jennifer Robertson, anthropology, University of Michigan. Sponsored and organized by Oberlin Shansi; Institute for Gender, Sexuality, and Feminist Studies; and the Multicultural Resource Center.

The Painter as Knight-Errant: Xu Wei (1521-1593) and the Creation of Alternative Artistic Personas in the Late Ming
April 15, Kathleen Ryor, art history, Carleton College. Co-sponsored by the art history program.

An Evening with Yoko Ono
May 6, Yoko Ono. Co-sponsored by the Creative Writing Program and the Office of the President. (See page 9.)

Oberlin Taiko Spring Performance
May 13, OC Taiko, a student group. Faculty sponsor: Ikuko Kurasawa.

Above: Oberlin Taiko's spring performance featured Chloe Dalby ’12, Galen Rogers ’12, and Amelea Kim ’12. Above right: Oberlin Taiko member Andrea McQuate ’10 thanks the group's mentor, Kurasawa Sensei. Right: The Oberlin Taiko concert featured a variety of drumming styles, both contemporary and traditional. Pictured are members John Paddock ’12, Amy Kim ’11, and Meryl Philips. Photo by Dale Preston ’83.
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 2010. Students presented their projects to the campus during spring semester.

Chloe Dalby
“Taiko drumming in America: Winter Term with Kenny Endo”

Terrence Hsieh
“Jazz Meets East”

Fei-ran Lee
“Member Retention Mechanisms at Taiwanese Cram Schools”

Kelly Orita
“Japan’s Amateur Comics Subculture”

Mo-Ran (Anna) Park
“Pansori: A Story Untold”

Yujean Park
“Photography in Korea”

Yidi Wu
“Research on Chinese Student Movement at Hoover Institution”

Margaret Ribovich DiCenzo Prize for Academic Excellence in EAS
(aka: “Ron’s Mom’s Prize”)

Joycelyn Eby and Jessica Purkis

Newton Prize

The East Asian Studies faculty is pleased to sponsor the Newton Prize Competition for essays, translations, poetry, and other work submitted by Oberlin College undergraduates that bear on issues of cross-cultural understanding between Asia and the Western world. The Newton Prize was established in 1918 by Mr. Yeijiro Ono of Tokyo in memory of Professor James K. Newton of the Oberlin faculty, and was intended to further cross-cultural understanding between East and West.

Siena Aguayo
“Translating Mizumura” Translation theory and contemporary literature in Japanese and English

Kelly Orita
“Appropriate With Your Dying Will!: Boys’ Manga and the Doujinshi Subculture”

Jessica Purkis
“Translating Narnia” An analysis of cultural and theoretical aspects of translating literature

Neil Ruby
“The Japanese Identity Crisis: The Birth of Western Style Avant-Garde Music in Japan”

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. Update your email address (and other information) via OBIEWeb at www.oberlin.edu/alumni. Go to the MyOBIEweb 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.
2010 GRADUATING SENIORS

Siena Aguayo will be a business intern in Saitama, Japan, this summer as at an as-yet undisclosed location, and then move to San Francisco. • Joseph Blasher will work in Portland as a HealthCorps coordinator at a local high school for two years. • Talia Brooks-Salzman will move to China and is interested in public health and the role of traditional Chinese medicine in daily life. • Joycelyn Eby has been interning with CITYNET, an urban development NGO based in Yokohama, and in August will be the Shansi Fellow at Beijing Normal University. • John Friberg will work in Manhattan at Kantar Health, a global market research firm serving the pharmaceutical, biotech, and diagnostics and devices industries. The company has a big presence in Japan, and John hopes to work his way into an international role allowing him to travel between America and East Asia. • Adrienne Hoshi will work for the WAVE Program in Oberlin and then move back to California in the fall. • Haley Jones will return to her hometown of Swarthmore and work short-term at a kiln manufacturer, but eventually will pursue a career in cultural exchange between Japan and America. • Nicole Laux received a Shansi fellowship in Yogyakarta, Indonesia, for the next two years, and then will go to nursing school to become a nurse practitioner. • Anna Miles will move back home, and then, after some time in Osaka, attend a grad program in hospitality management at Cornell. • Kelly Orita wants to stay happy and keep learning! She’ll return to California and find work that has to do with Japan. • Rebecca Page will intern this summer for a social service agency for Asian/Pacific Islanders in Cleveland. She’ll be on a Fulbright at Sichuan University in the fall, researching health effects of water pollution in the region. • David Petrick will look for work from home in Worthington, Ohio, but will head for China to teach and eventually attend grad school in security studies. • Jessica Purkis will study advanced Japanese in the Critical Language Scholarship Program on a State Department fellowship this summer, after which she’ll apply for grad school in East Asian history. • Luna Stevenson will be a Shansi Fellow in Machida, Japan, for the next two years, and hopes to attend law school after that. • Nella Williams will be an ALT on the JET Program.

ALUMNI NEWS

Tami Blumenfield ’00 finished her dissertation, “Scenes from Yongning: Media Creation in China’s Na Villages” this year. The project’s origins can be traced to the senior thesis she wrote under the supervision of David Kelley 10 years ago. Tami will continue teaching at the University of Washington while looking for a tenure-track academic job. She writes: “I also attended the AAS meetings in March and enjoyed seeing many Oberlin alums and professors there. Maybe next year we can have an official Oberlin party there!”

Ashley Decker ’08 is in a Master’s of Library and Information Science program at Kent State University and temping at Mudd Library. She’s engaged to Joseph Maiville ’07 and hopes for a 2012 wedding.

Andrew Harrison ’02 and Christina ’99 are happily ensconced in Shanghai. Andy writes: “We were originally supposed to be here for one year but have been asked by my company (Chubb Insurance) to remain for a second year. We are thrilled at the prospect of getting to know Shanghai better. In other news, our second daughter was born in March in Shanghai. Hard to believe how much our lives have changed since we packed up from Boston and moved here!”

Max Helzberg ’08 is completing a year of intensive Japanese study and will start at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies in Washington, DC, this fall.

Alex Kondo ’07 will enter New York University School of Law in the fall as a Housing and Urban Policy Scholar. Alex writes: “A couple schools where I applied expressed specific interest in their acceptance letters and correspondence in the fact that I’m an Oberlin grad”

Sarah le Baron von Baeyer ’05 passed her qualifying exams in the anthropology PhD program at Yale. This summer she’ll do preliminary research about Japanese immigrants in Sao Paulo, Brazil, and in Brazilians of Japanese heritage in Japan.
ALUMNI NEWS, CONT.

EAS loves to keep in touch with our alumni! Emer O’Dwyer and Will Tobias-Gapp ’09 hang out! Photo by Gregg Tobias.

Fumiko Osada ’06 works in San Diego as a youth services librarian for a mid-size urban library. Fumiko writes: “I taught a beginning Japanese class for teens last year, and it was a hit! I’m amazed at how much access I have to Japanese books and food here—there’s an amazing ramen shop just 10 minutes from my house!”

Alex Paik ’08 is back in Los Angeles and will start an internship with the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium this summer. He is interested in policy advocacy work.

Morgan Pitelka ’94 writes: “Starting this summer, my new position is associate professor of Asian Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. I am helping the department to start a PhD program in Asian Studies and Asian History. I continue to work on my biography of Tokugawa Ieyasu and also am now on the editorial advisory board of the Journal of Japanese Studies.”

Becca Schlichtig ’06 writes: “For two years I’ve been working via AmeriCorps for Circle of Sisters, a network of after-school groups for at-risk adolescent girls in northern California. I’ve been enjoying the weather and the fact that so many other Obies are also settling down here. Next year I’ll begin UC Berkeley’s Master of Social Work program. I managed to travel to Japan for a few weeks last year!”

Carly Trumann is living in NYC right now, serving an 11-month Americorps term with the New York Restoration Project. She plays with a band called the Rude Mechanical Orchestra (along with some other Obies), and does some freelance writing.

Richard Turner ’09 will enter the MA program at the Center for East Asian Studies at Stanford this fall.

Nick Wirtz ’09 is living in Portland, Ore., and working as a film editor for an indie film company. He and Rachel Lambert ’09 are writing and illustrating a comic “that started as a project to keep us occupied until we had employment, but quickly ballooned into a huge undertaking,” Nick writes. “We’re planning on making a draft version available for free online, which will be updated as each page is completed, as a way of generating interest in the project.”

Lei Zhao ’08 writes: “I just started working as a manager of community outreach at the Fresh Air Fund, a non-profit that sends disadvantaged NYC children on free vacations to summer camp and the country in the summer. Previously, I worked for Project H.O.M.E. in Philadelphia, another non-profit that focused on helping the homeless.”

Thank You, Donors!

EAS gratefully acknowledges these donors:

Dr. Joan C. Abele (parent of Thomas Newhall ’07)
Tami Blumenfield ’00
Martha Brennan ’93
Thomas Breunig ’79 & L. Tomi Obayashi ’82
Yoko Endo Nakayama ’98
James & Susan Frenzel (parents of Chuck ’04)
Marta Johnson ’04
Brendan Lepis ’93
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Levitas (parents of Matt ’05)

We also thank Shinim Cutcher for her generous gift of framed calligraphy. The calligraphy consists of a single character for Buddha and is by a Korean monk. Shinim, originally from Seoul, is a member of Oberlin’s custodial staff. The calligraphy now graces the wall of the EAS seminar room in Peters Hall.
YOKO ONO VISITS OBERLIN!

A CAPACITY CROWD JAMMED FINNEY CHAPEL on May 6 for the final Convocation Series event of the year, “A Conversation with Yoko Ono.” When Ono arrived on campus, she became the third member of her family—the third generation spanning three centuries—to come to Oberlin. Ono’s grandfather, Yeijiro Ono, graduated in 1887, and an uncle, Tokuji Saisko, studied art at Oberlin from 1916 to 1918. It was that historic connection that prompted professors Ann Sherif and Kazim Ali to invite Ono to campus.

Ono’s talk consisted of a collection of hopes and wishes that implored her listeners to have the courage to imagine peace and to express their love for one another, even for strangers. She also screened two films. The first was a home movie, a touching glimpse into her life as a child in Japan and her first visit to the United States. The second provided additional context to her Imagine Peace project. Ono also took questions from the audience, which ranged from thoughts about the recent oil spill in the Gulf of Mexico, to advice for artists just beginning their careers. At the first question, dancers clad in burlap sacks writhed across the floor, helping to set the stage for music and movement that was to come.

Prior to her presentation, Ono visited her installation Wish Tree for Oberlin, a tree on Wilder Bowl festooned with wishes passersby had written on leaf-like bits of paper and hung on the tree in the days preceding her visit. Ono will incorporate the wishes into her Imagine Peace Tower in Reykjavik, Iceland, which serves as a monument to peace, and to her late husband, John Lennon. Ono has created a number of such trees around the world, collecting almost a half million wishes.

—Jeff Hagan ’86, editor, Oberlin Alumni Magazine

The EAS Newsletter is published annually. Please send your news for the 2011 newsletter to amy.redden@oberlin.edu.

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CONGRATULATIONS NEW GRADUATES!

Siena Aguayo      Eugene Kang
Joseph Blasher    Theora Kvitka
Ellen Braverman   Nicole Laux
Greta Bradford    Jeremy Ledgister
Michael Bricker   Anna Miles
Talia Brooks-Salzman  Piper Niehaus
Wei-Guo Chen      Kelly Orita
Robin Comisar     Rebecca Page
Joycelyn Eby       David Petrick
John Friberg       Jessica Purkis
Adrienne Hoshi     Luna Stevenson
Haley Jones        Nella Williams