Greetings! EAS hosted two major events during the academic year 2011-12. To commemorate the first anniversary of the earthquake/tsunami/nuclear disasters in Japan, Shansi and EAS hosted a highly successful symposium, “Fukushima: Lessons Learned?,” in March. The well-attended two-day event explored the impact of the ongoing nuclear crisis in Japan, with emphasis on environmental, economic, social, cultural, and political ramifications of these events in the U.S. and globally. Ann Sherif also organized a mini-course aimed at preparing students for participation in the symposium. Cosponsoring the Fukushima event were Shansi, EAS, the president’s office, the dean’s office, the Alumni Association, and the Association for Asian Studies.

EAS congratulates Ann Sherif on successfully hosting another stimulating symposium, “The Book in East..."
EAST ASIAN STUDIES EVENTS, 2011–12

October 2011

Lily Chang ’04, Fellow at Oxford University, gave a lecture titled “Adjudicating War: Juvenile Offenders in Wartime China, 1931-1945.”

March 2012

“Fukushima: Lessons Learned?” symposium presenters included Kennette Benedict ’69 (Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists), David Lochbaum (Union of Concerned Scientists), Allison Macfarlane (environmental studies, George Mason University), Akira Tashiro (journalist at the Chugoku Shimbun, Hiroshima), Joonhong Ahn (nuclear engineering, UC Berkeley), David Richardson (School of Public Health, UNC Chapel Hill), Holly Barker (anthropology, University of Washington), and Hugh Gusterson (anthropology and sociology, George Mason University).

Oberlin professors Suzanne Gay (EAS), John Petersen (environmental studies), Eve Sandberg (politics), and Steven Wojtal (geology) chaired panels. In the weeks leading up to the symposium, students attended lectures by visiting scholars and Oberlin faculty members, including Suzanne Gay (EAS) and Wendy Kozol (comparative American studies). EAS major Sarah Fries ’12, who wrote an honors project on nuclear power in Japan, interviewed presenter Daniel P. Aldrich (political science, Purdue University) during his campus visit.

Environmental studies, geology, and EAS students spoke with Jody Bourgeois, professor of geology at University of Washington, Seattle, about her research on tsunami in Japan before and after the 2011 earthquake. Professor Philip Taylor (physics, Case Western Reserve University), presented “Nuclear Power: Its Growing Perils and Fading Promise.” Professors Sylvia Watanabe (creative writing) and Nanette Yacu (art) organized the art exhibit “The Fire That Doesn’t Go Out” at the Baron Gallery in conjunction with the symposium.

At the end of this academic year, we bid a fond farewell to several faculty members: Raja Adal (visiting assistant professor of history and EAS), Kyoko Ichikawa (instructor of Japanese), Yao Jie (instructor of Chinese), Satoko Koizumi (instructor of Japanese), and Justin Ritzinger (visiting professor of religion). We will miss you all!

We also welcome several EAS faculty members who have been on leave or who will be joining the EAS family in 2012: Emer O’Dwyer (assistant professor of history and EAS), Jason Herlands (EAS), Joshua Wright (Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow and visiting assistant professor of EAS and archeology), Sachiko Kondo (instructor of Japanese), Atsuko Kamezawa (instructor of Japanese), and Mi Chao (instructor of Chinese).
Professor Daniel Aldrich (Purdue) has been advising Oberlin student Sarah Fries on her honors project on advocacy for nuclear power in Japan from afar. Sarah interviewed him while he was on campus for the Fukushima symposium.

April 2012

“The Book In Asia” symposium presentations included lectures on East Asian book history and formats by Ann Yonemura (curator, Freer Sackler Gallery, Smithsonian Institution), Cynthia Brokaw (history, Brown University), and Jonathan Zwicker (Asian languages and cultures, University of Michigan). Smaller workshop sessions featured presentations on books in religion, readership, and libraries by Andrew Hare ’85, (conservator, Freer Gallery, Smithsonian Institution), Max Moerman (Barnard College), Charlotte Eubanks (Penn State), Brian Dowdle (University of Michigan), Tim Van Compernolle (Amherst College), Rivi Handler-Spitz (Middlebury College), Young Kyun Oh (Arizona State), and Sharon Domier (University of Massachusetts/Amherst). Professors James Dobbins (religion), Bonnie Cheng (art history), and Raja Adal (history) chaired workshop panels.

Three EAS majors presented their work at the third annual Senior Symposium held on April 27. Professor Suzanne Gay moderated the panel “Decision/Indecision in East Asia: Studies of Historical Memory and Dialogue Without End.” Congratulations to (from l to r) Rene Kamm, Ricardo Barrios, and Sarah Fries (with Suzanne Gay).
CONGRATS NEW GRADS AND STUDENT PRIZE WINNERS!

Some of the 2012 East Asian studies graduates, at a pizza party in their honor.

2012 GRADUATES:

RICARDO BARRIOS will be in Beijing, China, under a Shansi Fellowship, taking Chinese classes and teaching English at Beijing Normal University. He plans to attend grad school or law school and hopes to work in the international political sphere such as the foreign service.

JEREMY BLANKS will teach English in Riems, France.

SIMON EHRlich will live in DC for a year and then apply to programs that would put him in Japan.

JASON FIELDS tentatively plans to move to China to find work for several years. He would like to find a U.S. government or NGO position. He will spend free time volunteering at the Beijing LGBT center and HIV-related NGOs.

SARAH FRIES will intern on Capitol Hill for Representative Rush Holt, with hopes of finding a more permanent job opportunity in Washington, DC.

ABBY JOHNSON will be a Fellow at Yongfeng Elementary School in Yonfeng, Shaanxi, China for one year, instructing in Mandarin.

EMMA KARP writes, “Graduate school!” She’ll be entering a master’s Chinese Flagship program through Ohio State. “I will spend a year studying Chinese language and culture in Columbus and then a year in China working with a business organization in my chosen field: public health and community health education in China.”

AMELEA KIM will attend a summer language program in Beijing to study intensive Chinese. She will then teach English as a Shansi fellow in Taigu, China, for the two years.

NATHAN SABELLI would like to stay local and find a short-term job until he figures out where he wants to go and what he really wants to do.

CARL STEIB will move to Beijing in July to work for DK Education, one of China’s fastest-growing providers of international education services.

ANGELA SUICO plans to spend the upcoming months exploring the rocky terrain of “Jobsearchlandia.”

HONORS STUDENTS:


TERENCE HSIEH, “Jazz Meets East: Cultural Dimensions of Asynchronous Jazz Music Development in Modern China.”

RENE KAMM, “The Sino-Tibetan Dialogue: Talk Shop or Path to Resolution?”


TUCKERSHIPS:

Thanks to the generous support of Tom Tucker, Dana Berry, and their friends, four Oberlin students were able to travel to Asia for winter term this year. The Tuckership was established in 2005 in memory of Tom and Dana’s son, Zachary Tucker. Zac’s sister Ashleigh, who graduated from college this year, asked that her family and friends donate to the Tuckership fund rather than receive gifts for herself. Thank you Ashleigh!

In March, these students shared their projects during
RAJA ADAL will serve as a research fellow in 2012-13 at the University of Tokyo on a fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. He will return to Ohio afterward as an assistant professor at the University of Cincinnati.


“*I have totally drowned myself in Oberlin’s environment and culture. The most exciting thing was not only teaching, but also the close relationships with other faculty and students.*” —Jie Yao

PAULINE CHEN’S novel *The Red Chamber*, loosely based on the Chinese masterwork *Dream of the Red Chamber*, will be published by Alfred A. Knopf in June 2012. The book will also appear in translated form in France, Italy, Spain, and Holland.

This is XI CHEN’S fifth year at Oberlin. She continues to acquire library materials in support of the EAS curriculum and research needs.

BONNIE CHENG is the new director of art history at Oberlin.


JAMES DOBBINS continues to teach courses on the religions of Japan and China. He is also editing a volume of writings on Pure Land Buddhism by D.T. Suzuki, the great popularizer of Buddhism in the West during the 20th century. Dobbins spent the 2010-11 academic year as a visiting professor at Otani University in Kyoto. He recently participated in a public panel discussion at the Smithsonian’s Freer/Sackler Galleries on two current exhibitions, *Masters of Mercy: Buddha’s Amazing Disciples* and *Hokusai: 36 Views of Mount Fuji*.

SUZANNE GAY has been busy teaching and going to the next step with her research from her sabbatical year. In fall 2011, she taught a new first-year seminar on Japanese cultural history called Manga Genji. A revised version of her coauthored history text, *A Brief History of Japanese Civilization*, is just off press. She gave papers at the University of Michigan and Princeton University this year. Focusing on a Kyoto family of confectioners, she is contributing an article to a book on how 17th-century Japan viewed the earlier medieval age.

KYOKO ICHIKAWA writes: “This is my last semester in Oberlin. I very much enjoyed teaching Japanese classes the past two years. Teaching Japanese at Oberlin was a great experience and a great way to meet wonderful students. I hope my students will all continue to enjoy studying Japanese.”

SHEILA MIYOSHI JAGER’S book *Brothers At War: The Unending Conflict in Korea* will be published by W. W. Norton in June 2013.

DAVID KELLEY offered a new course on ethnicity and nation in China. He will be teaching another new course on Asia and the environment next year.

SATOKO KOIZUMI is going home to Japan. She taught Japanese language for five years and enjoyed great teaching experiences at Oberlin. She hopes she can meet her students in Japan someday. She would like to say thank you to her wonderful students and colleagues in EAS.

LIU FANG continued to head second- and third-year Chinese this year. She worked for the CET Beijing program last summer and, to help CET Academic Programs establish its new program in Kunming, China, she traveled to Kunming during winter break and will serve as its academic director starting this summer. Liu attended an international conference in Kunming last summer and also coauthored the article “Introduction to American Chinese Language Programs in China” with Li Kai. The piece was published in the *Journal of International Chinese Language Education* by Foreign Language Teaching & Research Press of China.
YAO JIE writes: "I taught Intermediate Chinese with Liu Laoshi and drill section for Elementary and Advanced Chinese during my teaching period in Oberlin. I also taught Tai Chi Fan on weekends. Even though this was my first time to teach abroad, I feel very lucky and relaxed in Oberlin. I have totally drowned myself in Oberlin’s environment and culture. The most exciting thing was not only teaching, but also the close relationships with other faculty and students. EAS is indeed a lovely family, and I have many great memories. The students are not only students, they are more like friends, brothers, and sisters. I will go back to China to finish my MA degree. I really hope all teachers and students enjoy their time in Oberlin and EAS!"

In addition to teaching fourth- and fifth-year Chinese and calligraphy, LI KAI also offered several private readings. This April, he helped two students attend a Chinese government-sponsored competition, the Chinese Bridge. Both participants were very successful. During the summer of 2011, he attended an international conference in Kunming, China. He also gave several talks at different study abroad programs when he was in China. His article “Introduction to the American Chinese Language Programs in China” was published in the *Journal of International Chinese Language Education* by Foreign Language Teaching & Research Press of China.

QIUSHA MA writes: "After research status leave, this year I resumed my teaching duties. This was an exiting and fast-paced year, and I enjoyed both teaching and service greatly. We have a wonderful group of first-year Chinese students, and it is just amazing to see how much they have learned and how good their pronunciation is. At the upper level, the students learned the language through studying Chinese history, society, and culture. All the students remind me why I love teaching so much. This is the first year I worked as a full Shansi board member, and I have learned a great deal and am very glad that I can contribute to the meaningful cause of this organization. On the research side, after finishing my new book, *To Change China: The Rockefeller Foundation’s Century Journey* (2012 forthcoming), I am now working on new research on China’s civil society and Western medicine in China."

EMER O’DWYER spent the 2011-12 academic year in Washington, DC, at the Library of Congress, where she is finishing her book manuscript. She wishes the EAS Class of 2012 all the best in future endeavors.

In February, AMY REDDEN celebrated her 15th anniversary in EAS. It was a busy year, and she looks forward to time off this summer. Amy announces that Oberlin has 63 EAS majors.

ANN SHERIF enjoyed teaching her Japanese literature and language classes this year and also appreciated the students’ enthusiasm and insights during two mini-courses she organized this spring: Fukushima-Lessons Learned? (with Shansi) and the Book in East Asia Conservation Workshop. Ann will be on sabbatical leave during the 2012-13 academic year to travel to Japan to research her project on independent and regional publishers and literature in 20th-century Japan. She also plans to write from her study in Cleveland Heights.

AI SUKEGAWA finished her second year at Oberlin and again taught first-year Japanese in the fall and fourth- and fifth-year Japanese in the spring. She had many opportunities to learn more about the college and the students, and says she enjoys working at Oberlin College more and more. This summer she will teach a course at International Christian University in Tokyo, as she did last summer, and she looks forward to coming back to Oberlin in the fall.

Student Prize Winners, cont.

public presentations on campus:


MARGARET RIBOVICH DICENZO PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN EAS

(aka: “Ron’s Mom’s Prize”)

Martin Rouse (Japanese Studies)
After graduating in 2010, Siena Aguayo was selected for an internship in Saitama, Japan, as part of the Ohio-Saitama Internship Program. There, she worked for the Saitama Co-op (Seikatsu Kyoudou Kumi-ai Saitama Co-op), learning about grocery delivery and grocery store management as part of one of the largest cooperative associations in Japan. Upon returning to the States, Siena moved to Palo Alto, Calif., in the Bay Area, and passed the Japanese Language Proficiency Test Level N1, the highest level. In October 2010, she began working full time as a solutions consultant for the software company eGain Communications, a company that provides customer service software to enterprise and small-to-medium businesses. She continues her Japanese studies daily and hopes to move to Tokyo in the near future to work for a startup.

James Barnard ’07 writes: After teaching at Shanxi Agricultural University for two years (’09-’11), I am now working in Beijing as an SAT tutor with a company called DK Education and developing a curriculum for its international program. I enjoy the work, and I enjoy living in Beijing. The distance from my family and home is really forcing me to be independent and resourceful. I am also working my way through Ba Jin’s Family in the original Chinese. For the first time I am really starting to feel literate in Chinese. I need to keep at it to solidify things, but it feels like a fruition of all these hard years of work.”

Naomi Basik ’06 is the Asia program associate for the Rights and Resources Initiative in Washington, DC, a global coalition advocating for legal and policy reforms to support the rights of indigenous peoples and local communities to natural resources, especially land and forests. RRI works in a number of countries in East and Southeast Asia, including China, Laos, and Indonesia. She is set to complete her MA in international development studies at the Elliott School of International Affairs (George Washington University) this fall, with a concentration in sustainable natural resource policy. Prior to moving to DC, Naomi was an ALT with the JET Program in Shiga Prefecture and helped to design and pilot an elementary school English program.

Peter Berman ’73 writes: “I’m a professor of global health at the Harvard School of Public Health. I live in Cambridge, Mass. Three kids. My youngest, Nina, is a sophomore at Oberlin and will live in Asia House next year.” Peter lived for four years in Indonesia as a Shansi Fellow and spent two years in central Java doing PhD research in development economics. Later, he spent four years in India as a program officer with the Ford Foundation, followed in the mid-2000s by four years with the World Bank in India. “My wife, Jenny, does public health research and is currently working on projects in India in her research position at Boston University.”

Tami Blumenfield ’04 writes: “I will begin a tenure track position as James B. Duke Assistant Professor of Asian Studies at Furman University in South Carolina beginning in August. I will teach China anthropology and related courses. Profound thanks to my dear Oberlin profs in EAS who started me down this road. Anyone in the region should get in touch at tamiblu@uw.edu.”

Ethan Brewer ’00 writes: “I am now a Mandarin language qualified flight attendant for Delta Airlines. I have flown since January 2008. This year, my news is that Delta is sponsoring tuition for a year of online Japanese study aimed at qualifying in Japanese. I am profoundly grateful to the EAS community at Oberlin for preparing me to use East Asian languages throughout my career life.”

Manfred Elfwstrom ’02 writes: “I am pursuing a PhD in international and comparative labor at Cornell University’s School of Industrial and Labor Relations. The focus of my research is the impact of Chinese worker activism on state policymaking. I will transfer to Cornell’s Department of Government in the fall. Before beginning my studies, I was responsible for China programming at the International Labor Rights Forum for three years. I have also worked for China Labor Watch as campaigns coordinator and interned for a year with the Carter Center’s China Elections Project. In 2007, I received a master’s degree in international affairs at Columbia University’s School of International and Public Affairs.”

This April, Elyssa Faison ’88 received the University of Oklahoma Regents’ Award for Superior Teaching. This summer she will be a visiting professor in the Graduate School of East Asian Studies at Yamaguchi University for six weeks, where she will teach a course, Transnational Women’s History: Asia and the Pacific, and present a paper on the Japanese socialist feminist Yamakawa Kikue. Her trip to Yamaguchi will be followed by another summer graduate seminar for U.S. military personnel at Hurlburt Field (U.S. Air Force) in Florida, this time on Japan and the atomic bomb, part of a series of intensive seminars she teaches for the OU master’s program in international relations, which is offered to U.S. military personnel on bases throughout Europe and North America. Before returning to the University of Oklahoma to begin fall classes, she will attend the American Historical Association Pacific Coast Branch annual conference in San Diego to present a paper, “Hiroshima Maidens, Bikini Islanders, and Lucky Dragons: Contesting War Memories and Promoting Peace in Cold War Japan and the U.S.” This presentation is part of her new research project on U.S. and Japanese memories and representations of the atomic bombs.

continued on page 8
KARL FOGEL ’96 writes: “My most recent news is that I became an Open Internet Tools Project (OpenITP) Fellow at the New America Foundation (http://openitp.org/ and http://newamerica.net/). OpenITP supports and incubates a collection of free and open source projects that enable anonymous, secure, reliable, and unrestricted communication on the Internet. Its goal is to enable people to talk directly to each other without being censored, surveyed, or restricted.”

MIRIAM FRIEDMAN ’78 recently bought a home in Concord, Mass., where she is a speech-language pathologist working with the elderly population. Her 13-year-old daughter is excited that they can now finally get a dog, and they are expecting a puppy at the end of the summer. She keeps up her Japanese connection with the Concord-Nanae sister city exchange program. She also took her daughter to Japan for a month when she was 9 and would love to make another trip when finances allow! She can be reached at miriam_friedman@comcast.net.

DAVID FROST ’04 writes: “I’m currently learning French in preparation to begin work as a political/economic officer at the U.S. Embassy in Lome, Togo. I leave for Togo in August! Honestly, it’s kind of stressful right now, because ALL I’m doing is studying French all day. However, I’m also grateful for this opportunity.”

LIZ GELNER ’02 earned a master’s degree in EAS at Lund University in Sweden. Since her thesis topic—birth control for women in China—made her realize she much preferred reading journals to writing her thesis, she decided to follow up with med school. She is currently a third-year student at USU (Uniformed Services University of the Healh Sciences) in Bethesda, Md. She is excited to be doing a rotation at Manila General Hospital next year, so if anyone has contacts in the Philippines, feel free to let her know!

R. MAX HELZBERG ’08 graduated in May with an MA in international relations and international economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Max writes: “This summer I will work for PFC Energy, an energy consulting firm, in its Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, office. In August I’ll head to Japan to start a career in management consulting at the Tokyo office of L.E.K. Consulting. I will be able to use my Japanese language skills on a daily basis!”

DONALD J. HOLDER ’96 writes: “In January 2012 I took the position of assistant principal at the Affiliated High School of Peking University (HSPU) after serving four years as vice principal of the ISF Academy in Hong Kong. This marks my family’s return to Beijing after 12 years in southern China. My role includes managing reforms in student management and curriculum development as well as overseeing the school’s international division, which prepares students for undergraduate study abroad. HSPU is one of the top public secondary schools in China, with 2,300 students from grades 7 through 12. Unlike most public schools, we are under the direct management of the university itself, and I am the only foreigner in China to have a school-wide administrative role in a public school. In addition, I am a lecturer at the Beijing Institute of Education, where I provide professional development courses for sitting principals and aspiring administrators. My wife, Tingting, continues to work on business ventures around China, and my daughter, Audrey, is in grade four at the Affiliated Primary School of Peking University, just down the street from my campus. We welcome all Obie visitors who are in town. Feel free to drop us an email at holderdj@yahoo.com or dholder@pkusch.edu.cn.”

THEO JENNINGS ’99 writes: “Hi Oberlin family! I miss you all very much and carry a part of Oberlin with me every day! Oberlin was incredibly instrumental in launching my international career, which started with my decision to take Japanese and subsequently deciding to be an East Asian studies major. After a total of 14 years living experience in Japan, I finally got my Japanese “Green Card” and became an official, permanent resident of Japan! Who knew that Oberlin would play such a huge role in changing my life from leaving Texas to Tokyo?! There’s lots to say, but probably the biggest change for me over the last couple of years has been running my own small consulting and design companies, Theodore Jennings Consulting, and Vacation Veranda, respectively. Whereas my consulting company takes advantage of my 12 years in finance and my other major, economics (I double majored with EAS), the most exciting work has come from my design company, Vacation Veranda. It’s a premier, outdoor lifestyle design company whose goal is to transform idle, unused balconies and rooftops in bustling Tokyo into eco-friendly green spaces, and it has taken off! I’ve been featured in the New York Times, AERA magazine, and, most recently, in the Japan Times for my “out-of-the-box” niche design business in Tokyo. The struggles of running a new company are incredibly tough, but I love what I do. I’d love to hear back from other Obies in EAS and am always happy to help Oberlin students who are interested in studying or working in Japan! Who knows what the future holds, but if God continues to be gracious to me, I’ll be here in Tokyo waiting to meet many of you as you travel here or begin a more medium- to long-term experience in Japan. Blessings and success to you all and congratulations to the graduating Class of 2012!” W: www.vacationveranda.com. E: info@vacationveranda.com.

Since 2003, YOUNG KIM ’85 has been running the Fondy Food Center in Milwaukee. This nonprofit agency works...
to improve healthy food access in a part of the city that has a shortage of full-service grocers and an overabundance of corner convenience stores. Kim runs one of the largest farmers markets in the region, along with an 80-acre “near-ganic” farm in nearby Port Washington. Nearly all his farmers are Hmong immigrants. He also volunteers as past president of the Portland, Ore.-based Community Food Security Coalition—an alliance of more than 300 North American community groups and individuals who are working to make healthy food available to all people at all times. He lives in Waauwatosa, Wis., with his wife, the Rev. Suzelle Lynch, and their 13 year old daughter, Grace.

LAURA TOMITA KUSAKA ’74 writes: “I am currently at the University of Washington (Seattle) as a visiting scholar in the English department for one year. I am on sabbatical from Aichi University, Toyohashi Campus, in Aichi Prefecture (Japan), where I teach English for communicative purposes. I will be working on my doctoral dissertation on the identity negotiation of Japanese American TESOL professionals, a case study I have conducted as a doctoral candidate in education at Temple University (Japan Campus). I would be happy to get in touch with any EAS alumni in the Seattle area. When the sabbatical is over, I will be at Aichi University again. Aichi is known for its collection of materials related to the Toa Dobun Shoin, an educational institution established at the beginning of the 20th century in China by Japanese scholars and politicians. After WW II, former teachers of that institute established the current Aichi University.” W: www.aichi-u.ac.jp/orc/pamphlet-No.1.pdf.

LIANE LAU ’02 writes: “This summer, I am biking across the U.S. for MS. To follow my blog, go to http://withoutapillow.wordpress.com. To donate, go to http://www.biketheusforms.org/cyclists/detail.asp?cid=212.”

FRANCESCA “CHESA” LICHAUCO ’04 writes: “Greetings from Hong Kong! I’m just finishing up a 1.5-year assignment at the U.S. Consulate General Hong Kong & Macau, and a lot has happened since I came back to Asia. Last year I met and married my better half, Juan, a research scientist; we’ll be moving to Washington, DC, in July 2012. We will spend the rest of 2012 learning to speak Urdu before moving to Islamabad, Pakistan, in 2013 for another overseas tour with the State Department. Before heading back to the U.S., we are trying to squeeze in lots of travel, which has included great adventures to Cambodia, Taiwan, Burma, and Mongolia, where I worked on Vice President Biden’s visit to Ulaanbaatar. I’m always happy to chat with any Obies who might have an interest in pursuing work as a Foreign Service officer or who might just be looking to hang out in a far-flung corner of the world. Feel free to shoot me an email at lichauco@world.oberlin.edu.”

JENNA LINDEKE ’09 returned from a Shansi Fellowship in Himachal Pradesh, India, last summer and spent the year working for an international English school. Starting this fall, she will pursue a dual master’s program in international development and global cooperation at American University School of International Service and Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto.

DYLAN LUERS ’09 writes: “I’m still living in Kyoto with my girlfriend and former EAS tutor, Asaki Toda ’11. I recently finished my year-and-a-half stint as a research student at Otani University and in April entered the Buddhist studies master’s program there. I’m researching the discourse of Buddhism as philosophy in the early modern period in Japan. Obies should feel free to contact me at dylan.luers@gmail.com if they are in the area.”

RUSSELL MENYHART ’99 is the political unit chief at the U.S. Consulate in Shanghai. He lives in downtown Shanghai with his wife and two kids and would love to connect to other alumni in and around the city.

TOM NEWHALL ’07 writes: “I’m currently getting my master’s degree in Buddhist studies from Foguang University in Taiwan. My research is on the seventh-century Chinese monk Dãoxuān 道宣 and Buddhist law and discipline in China.”

JONATHAN OGLE ’92 writes: “Despite my EAS major, I find myself teaching English and history to high school students in a rural cloud forest of Costa Rica. Just this week, as my students discussed developments in Meiji Japan, I was remembering discussions of Japanese history with DiCenzo-Blecher. Thanks to my teachers and mentors at Oberlin; I’m still using what you taught me!”

MORGAN PITELKA ’94 spent the 2011-12 academic year as a fellow at the National Humanities Center, working on a new project on the history of war and daily life in 16th-century castle towns in Japan. He also became the inaugural director of the Triangle Center for Japanese Studies, newly established as a collaboration of Duke University, North Carolina State University, and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, with support from the Japan Foundation. Catch up with him at mpitelka@unc.edu or http://triangle-japan.org or http://www.unc.edu/~mpitelka.

MICHAEL PLANK ’05 writes: “I’m graduating from Harvard Law School on May 24 and then moving to California to clerk for Judge A. Wallace Tashima for a year before going on to practice...somewhere, hopefully in California. I just have to pass this pesky bar exam in July.”

continued on page 10
KARL RIUKAS ’97 earned his MA in politics at the New School for Social-Research in New York.

Guitarist ETHAN ROBBINS ’09 writes that he is a musician whose compositions connect the roots of folk music with the backbeat of funk. Ethan began playing bluegrass at Oberlin, where he met Cold Chocolate upright bassist Kirsten Lamb. The two began evolving a style of music never quite nailed down by a single genre. The songs indicated that Straight-Driving-Bluegrass and All-Out-Funk were to be genres fused from the get-go. Simply put, Bluegrass Funk. Then, after moving to Boston, Ethan and Kirsten met banjo virtuoso and MIT physicist James W. McIver. With the addition of drummer Ariel Bernstein, the arrangements started to become more involved as the songs continued to bring a new perspective to a new style of music. Based in Boston, Cold Chocolate has a reputation for creating intricate, exciting music that gets the crowd on their feet. W: www.coldchocolatemusic.com or www.facebook.com/coldchocolatemusic.

LILY SCHATZ ’06 earned her MA in China studies at the University of Washington-Seattle in the spring of 2011 and began doctoral studies in Chinese history (also at U. of Washington) last fall. She writes: “My main interest is the history of Chinese historiography, particularly during the latter part of the Qing dynasty and the Republican period. I continue to benefit from the foundation Oberlin gave me.”

BECCA SCHLICHTIG ’06 writes: “As of this writing, I am 10 pages away from completing my Masters of Social Welfare degree at the University of California, Berkeley. I’ve spent the past two years studying management and planning in human service agencies, and I’m looking forward to getting back to work full time. Whenever possible, I still try to sneak off to Japan. All my love to everyone in EAS!”

YUKIKO SHISHIKURA ’05 writes: “I moved to London from New York to pursue a new career opportunity at an international classical music agency, Harrison Parrott. One of my responsibilities includes promoting and managing artists, special projects, and tours in Japanese market. Although I miss all my friends in the States, I have begun to enjoy my new job and life in a new city.”


PRESTON SUNDIN ’11 is pursuing a master’s degree in Chinese literature at the National Taiwan University in Taipei, Taiwan. In his spare time he tries his hand at creative writing in Chinese. Three of his short stories will have been published in the Chinese department’s literary magazine (two more short stories will be published in the summer issue). Another work will be featured in the university’s annual literary anthology. In May he placed third in the Xue Mingmin Literary Competition.

MEGAN TABAG ’07 writes: “I am working on a PhD in sociology at the University of California Santa Barbara (beachside!), broadly studying gender and sexuality and specifically looking at romantic pen-pal relationships between incarcerated women and men in prison for my dissertation.”

YOKO TAMANOI ’04 writes: “This year has been both exciting and trying for me. The exciting time is that I have been busy planning for my wedding in March 2013. I am very excited to get married in a Japanese garden. The end of April was a trying time for me. While I was walking back to my fiancee’s car and crossing the street, I got hit by a big tour bus. Thankfully, I only needed five stitches, but I was taken to the emergency room, and that was very scary. After I returned from the hospital, I was relaxing, but I still had a lot of pain. Over the next couple of days, the pain became less and less, but my jaw hurt a lot. Eventually, I will be myself again.”

After serving as a Shansi Fellow in Taigu, China, for two years, DANIEL TAM-CLAIBORNE ’09 spent the last year back in Oberlin as the Shansi Returned Fellow. As part of his job, he was responsible for recruiting and orienting a crop of recent graduates for fellowship opportunities in Asia. He

Thank You, Donors!

EAS gratefully acknowledges these donors:

Eric Bell ’04
Guy Brewer ’00
Joseph Campbell ’11
Mr. & Mrs. Bruce Char, parents of Nick ’13
Don Cohn ’70
James Dobbins & Suzanne Gay, EAS faculty
Marta Johnson ’04
Barbara Klinger ’82
Adam Lanphier ’05
Brendan Lepis ’93
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Levitas, parents of Matt ’05
Jean Robinson ’73
Rebecca Schlichtig ’06
Mina Takahashi ’87

continued on page 11
found it to be an incredible experience reconnecting with old friends and faculty members and developing new ties with people and organizations on campus. While at Oberlin, he also wrote a book, *What Never Leaves*, detailing the experience of living and working in Taigu, and he had the great fortune of being published by Wilder Voice Books. He will begin a master's program in international relations at Yale University this fall and hopes to use that knowledge as a springboard for a future career in international development.

MINDY TAUBERG '08 will begin working toward her PhD in anthropology at the University of California, Irvine, this fall.

MEG TAYLOR '77 writes: “I’ve been a book editor for 30+ years, starting at Weatherhill (Tokyo) in 1979. I’ve been freelance since 2005, editing primarily general nonfiction and illustrated books. The most recent projects include *Plaited Arts from the Borneo Rainforest*, published by the Lontar Foundation (Jakarta), National University of Singapore Press, University of Hawaii Press, and the Nordic Institute of Asian Studies (Copenhagen); and *Creation and Transformation*, a new book on Inuit art, published by Douglas & McIntyre and the Winnipeg Art Gallery—which has the largest Inuit art collection in the world. I enjoy editing Japanese literature in translation (see *Monkey Business: New Voices from Japan*, edited by Ted Goossen —another Oberlin grad—and Motoyuki Shibata, published by A Public Space). Since 2011, I’ve been the academic coordinator for the post-grad publishing program at Ryerson University, here in Toronto.”

EDWARD H. TRAGER '86 writes: “My daughter, Cattleya, graduates from high school in Ann Arbor, Mich., in June and will attend Western Michigan University in the fall. I’ve been working on a project called Key Curry (http://unifont.org/keycurry/), a free web service that allows anyone to easily type world languages and specialized orthographies in your web browser. No special software is needed—just a modern web browser. In addition to providing support for common languages like Chinese and modern Korean (of course, since I am an EAS graduate!), Key Curry makes it easy for language advocates and web developers to provide support for the orthographies of minority languages, especially the languages that are not currently supported by the major operating system vendors. I hope all EAS alumni will take the time to visit and “like” Key Curry on their favorite social media site!”

TIBERIU WEISZ '77 volunteered to be a Chinese language speaker at the Association of American Museums this spring and he is mentoring a fellow at the University of Bonn (Germany) on the topic of the Cultural Perception of China and the West: Perceptions of Judaism in China Today. The *Revista Teologica* (Romania) published a long review of his book, *The Covenant and The Mandate of Heaven: an in-depth comparative cultural study between Judaism and China*, and *Jewish Time Asia* (Hong Kong) ran an article in 2010 titled “Tiberiu Weisz Linking Judaism into China's Culture.” Weisz gave a speech at Donghai University (Taiwan) on his study of the relationship between China and Judaism. He writes: “I felt a little apprehensive since the audience asked me to present the lecture in Chinese. I think I did OK, judging by the questions and the lively discussion that followed.”

GERRY WILSON '81 says he sold out to the man. After graduating, he spent two years in Japan living a reasonably irresponsible lifestyle—riding motorcycles, hitchhiking, and other assorted activities. He then earned a master’s degree in Japanese history at the University of Michigan. After that, got an MBA, abandoned the whole Asian studies thing, and is currently CEO of Plymouth Rock in New Jersey, a car and home insurance company. However, Gerry is still on speaking terms with many of his East Asian studies pals, and he eats much Asian food—with chopsticks! So there is still hope for him. Gerry lives in South Orange, N.J., with his wife, Lindy, his children, and Rocky, the not-so-miracle-dog. He is a scuba instructor in his spare time and is getting in touch with his creative side through underwater photography. E: gwilson@plymouthrock.com or geraldianwilson@gmail.com.

NICK WINTER ’09 writes: “Skritter has launched its Skritter Chinese iPhone app! Everyone should check it out at www.skritter.com/ios (which has either an email link to hear about the app, or a link to the app itself if it’s out). It’s 9001 times better than the web version, which is already the best, so pretty soon all EAS students will be finishing their characters in a couple weeks during 101 and not have anything to do after that except try to pronounce 美国 (Měiguó) correctly for the next four years. (Skritter Japanese for iOS will probably come out a few months later.) Any past-or-present Oberlin EAS heroes should sign up with their oberlin.edu email or email me to get a free-forever Skritter account.” E: nick@skritter.com.

REBECCA WOLFINGER '98 writes: “Ileana Vega and I were married at the Smithsonian gardens above the Museum of African Art on April 3, 2011. The cherry blossoms were in bloom. Our daughter, Kennedy Zion Wolfinger-Vega, was born June 30, 2011.”
The EAS Newsletter is published annually. Please send your news for the 2013 newsletter to easnewsletter@oberlin.edu.

East Asian Studies Program, Oberlin College, 50 North Professor Street, Oberlin, OH 44074-1091 USA
Phone: 440-775-8313 • Fax: 440-775-6565 • http://www.oberlin.edu/eas

Director: Sheila Miyoshi Jager  Newsletter Editor: Sheila Miyoshi Jager  Administrative Assistant: Amy Redden  Calligraphy: Li Kai