Greetings! The 2012-13 academic year was an eventful one for EAS. The EAS program was awarded a two-year Mellon postdoctoral fellowship to hire a Korean/East Asian archeologist to teach four courses over the span of two academic years. We were very fortunate to have Joshua Wright (PhD Harvard, 2006) join both the EAS program and the Department of Anthropology this past year. His course offerings included “Northeast Asia Prehistory to Early History” and “Pastoralism: Past and Present.”

Also this past year, EAS and the comparative literature program cohosted a well-attended two-day translation symposium and lecture by Howard Goldblatt and Sylvia Lin, English translators for Mo Yan, last year’s winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature. Hsiu-Chuang Deppman (East Asian studies) and Jed Deppman (comparative literature) cohosted this event, which was also sponsored by a Center for Languages and Cultures grant from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation.

As another academic year ended, we bid a fond farewell to two faculty members: Jason Herlands (visiting assistant professor of Japanese) and Mi Chao (visiting instructor of Chinese). We also welcome two new faculty members who will be joining us this fall: Ying Gao and Mengmeng Yu, both visiting instructors of Chinese.
As part of the continuing symposium “The Book in East Asia,” organized by Ann Sherif in spring 2012, Cambridge University Professor of East Asian Studies Peter Kornicki gave the lecture “Scuffy Paperbacks, Unsightly Texts and Illustrations for the Ignorant: Japanese Books in the 17th Century Meet the Challenge of Imports from China and Korea.” The Book in East Asia faculty workshop and lectures attracted faculty members from English, religion, art history, and EAS; professionals from Mudd library and the art library; staff from the Allen Memorial Art Museum; and scholars from 20 colleges and universities across the country.


As part of the Mead Wing Lecture Series organized by James Dobbins, Bates College Professor of Japanese Language and Literature Sarah Strong ’69 gave the lecture “Sacred Technologies of Abundance: Human-Salmon Relationships in the Indigenous Ainu Culture of Japan.” As part of the same lecture series, John Strong ’69, the Charles A. Dana Professor of Religion at Bates College, gave the lecture “Not Your Usual Story About the Buddha: Demythologizing and Re-mythologizing A Sacred Biography.”

Haili Kong, professor of Chinese at Swarthmore College, gave the lecture “Beijing, A City of Walls” sponsored by EAS, the history department, and Oberlin Shansi.

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**CONGRATS NEW GRADS AND STUDENT PRIZE WINNERS!**

**2012 GRADUATES:**

**KIRA FATH** will be going to New England Center for Circus Arts next year to train in contortion handbalancing and aerial hoop.

**Dakotah FitzHugh** is traveling in Thailand and Vietnam this summer, then moving to England temporarily to work at a business consulting firm based in Cambridge with offices in East and Southeast Asia. Future plans involve furthering her education in Pacific Studies, returning to her hometown of Honolulu to work with indigenous Hawaiian social and political groups, and moving to Japan, possibly through an English-teaching program.

**Xenna Goh** received a Shansi Teaching Fellowship and will be at Shanxi Agricultural University in Taigu, China from 2013-15.

**Cassie Guevara** will be teaching English and (hopefully) playing Taiko in Tokyo at Obirin University as a Shansi fellow for two years.

**Alex Guo** plans to return to New York and spend some time with his family before looking for a job.

**Aki Gormezano** is spending the summer in Himeji, Japan, at Dokkyo University, learning Japanese through the U.S. Department of State’s Critical Language Scholarship Program. After that, he will be an assistant language teacher in Japan through the JET Program.

**Devon Rettew** authored and co-edited a book on class politics in Britain, which was published in April. He is planning to join the Navy then continue his education.

**Michala Rollé** tentatively intends to move to the D.C. area to continue searching for jobs and would like to work in an international relations position focusing on East Asian-Western relations. She hopes to work in Japan in the future.

**Katelyn Smith** will be diving enthusiastically into the perilous world of job hunting. She may eventually pursue a graduate degree in Japanese language and literature.

continued on page 3
NEW GRADS AND STUDENT PRIZE WINNERS, CONT.

NEWTON PRIZE


OHIO SPEECH CONTEST

On March 2, 2013, the Ohio Japanese Speech contest was held in Dublin, Ohio. Ruije Yu, a third-year student at Oberlin, won second place in the speech contest. It has been years since Oberlin last participated in the speech contest, but Ruije courageously took up the challenge and wrote a story with her mother. She concluded that whenever she is having hard time at college, she always look back to moments like this to keep going. In her words, happiness does not need to be a big event in life, but comes from small happenings that occur in everyday life.

UDALL FOUNDATION SCHOLARSHIP

The Udall Foundation recognized EAS major Rachel Manning as one of 50 students to be named 2013 Udall Scholars. The foundation awards the scholarships on the basis of commitment to careers in the environment, health care, or tribal public policy; leadership potential; and academic achievement. This highly qualified class of Udall Scholars was selected from 488 candidates nominated by 230 colleges and universities. Each scholarship provides up to $5,000 for the scholar’s junior or senior year. Congratulations, Rachel!

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 in 2013. 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 public presentations on campus: Ariella Blank (China) “Pakistani Refugee,” Samantha Serazo (Korea) “Sodangs: A Study of History, Tradition and Education in Korea,” Teresa Tippens (Japan) “Hearing Cultures: America and Japan,” and Nicholas Loh, Christopher Nguyen and Yue Qiu, (Hawaii) “Taiko in Honolulu with Kenny Endo.”

MARGARET RIBOVICH DICENZO PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN EAS

(AKA: “Ron’s Mom’s Prize”)

Aki Gormezano (Japanese) and Devon Rettew (Chinese)
MARC BLECHER presented a new paper, “The Transition to Capitalism: Urbanization, Globalization and Popular Politics with Chinese Characteristics,” at the International Conference on Comparative Politics, Global Democratization and Urbanization at Shanghai Normal University in October 2012, after which he journeyed to Hong Kong for field research. He returned to Beijing in May for further research. In early June, Marc participated in the workshop “The Sinews of State Power: Intra-State Alliances in Local China” at McGill University, Montréal. He became chair of a dissertation committee in the UCLA political science department, taking up the reins left by Professor Richard Baum, who died last fall. His PhD student at UCLA, Josh Eisenman, is writing on late Maoist-era agricultural political economy. Marc also continued his usual flurry of professional work, referring a promotion case at SUNY New Paltz; book manuscripts for Stanford, Oxford, Cornell, and the University of Minnesota presses and Routledge Publications; article manuscripts for *Modern China*, *The Journal of Peasant Studies*, *Human Relations*, and *Third World Quarterly*; and grant proposals from the Hong Kong Research Grants Council. Unrelated to East Asian studies, Marc coedited *What the English Know as Class*, a book of field research papers done by his students on the 2012 Danenberg Oberlin-in-London Program.

BONNIE CHENG served another year as chair of the art history department, where she conducted several searches for visiting art history faculty and curators at the Allen Memorial Art Museum. Despite all the administrative duties, she also enjoyed teaching students in her modern Chinese art course in the spring. She was one of five scholars invited to participate in an interdisciplinary workshop on early Medieval Chinese art and archaeology held at NYU’s Institute for the Study of the Ancient World in March, and she also presented at an international conference on cultural exchange, “Face to Face: the Transcendence of the Arts in China and Beyond” at the University of Lisbon. She is finishing up preliminary research on this project for publication later this summer.

This year HSII-CHUANG DEPPMAN continued to develop her interests in Chinese literature and cinema. She completed an essay on Jia Zhangke and Chinese docufiction and in spring 2013 enjoyed teaching a new fifth-year Chinese course, “Reading Chinese Short Stories.” She also received a Powers travel grant (to travel to Paris and Taipei) and a GLCA/Mellon New Directions Initiative grant to work on her new book, *Parenting Bilingual Dreams*.

JAMES DOBBINS taught his upper level seminar, Buddhism and Orientalism, in which a large number of students in EAS and religion participated. In April, he presented a paper on Japanese Buddhist icons at a small conference at Yale on the topic of materiality and transcendence in Asian religions. Also, two of his articles appeared in print, one in the journal *The Eastern Buddhist* and the other in an edited volume titled *Sins and Sinners: Perspectives from Asian Religions* (Leiden and Boston: Brill, 2012).

SUZANNE GAY was busy with teaching and heavy service duties in 2012-13. In fall 2012, she appeared on a panel on Japanese economic history at the Social Science History Association’s meeting in Vancouver. She is coediting a volume of essays on 16th-century Japan and this year will contribute a chapter on Japanese medieval commerce to a new history textbook.

JASON HERLANDS accepted a tenure-track job in the modern languages department at Grand Valley State in Michigan. There he will teach classes on Japanese language, literature, and film and will have fond dreams about white squirrels and the Obies who worship them.

SHEILA MIYOSHI JAGER’s book, *Brothers At War: The Unending Conflict in Korea*, was simultaneously published by W. W. Norton (U.S.) and Profile Books (UK) in July 2013. She was invited to give a talk about her book at the 2013 National Book Festival in Washington D.C. She is currently working on a new book project entitled “The Opening of Korea, 1876-1905” and will teach a seminar this coming year on this topic.

ATSUKO KAMEZAWA writes: “It was my first year at Oberlin. I was impressed with great students and colleagues, and I already love this EAS program. I would like to express my deepest gratitude to everyone for making my first year great.”

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DAVID KELLEY writes: “Among the courses I taught in 2012-13 were my First-Year Seminar on Worldview and History and a course on Ethnicity and Nation in China. Both were courses that focused on discussion, the writing process, and student presentation of research and learning. I was particularly impressed with the engagement of the participants in these courses and how they helped shape each other’s, and my own, learning. The diverse qualities and interests of Oberlin students keeps my thinking fresh and my enthusiasm renewed each year. Our family was also graced with a new grandson this year, who has brought great joy and fun to all of us.”

SACHIKO KONDO writes: “It was a great first year at Oberlin, and I enjoyed working with all of the EAS faculty and students. Both courses I taught in the fall (3rd year and 5th year) were the first time for me to teach, but with the help from wonderful Japanese faculty and also from students, I think we were able to learn from all the experiences in this academic year. Thank you all for a wonderful year, and I look forward to another fulfilling year to come.”

The year 2012 was a productive one for LI KAI. Over the summer of 2012, he offered a mini course at Hebei Normal University to its graduate students and undergraduate students on Chinese language teaching and pedagogy. Also in the summer, he gave a three-hour lecture at a teacher training workshop at Beijing Normal University. The participants of this workshop were Chinese language teachers who were about to come to the States to teach Chinese at schools all over the country. He also presented at an international calligraphy conference held in Beijing.

During spring break, LIU FANG took a trip to China with a group of Oberlin administrators and professors. They visited two schools in China: United International College (UIC) in Zhuhai and Beijing Normal University (BNU) in Beijing. The main purpose of this trip was to strengthen the ties between Oberlin and these universities. Currently, Oberlin is sending its graduates to both schools and receiving one graduate student from BNU to teaching Chinese at Oberlin. We may see in the future winter-term projects conducted at UIC by Oberlin students or students from Beijing Normal University coming to Oberlin to study in an exchange program. In the summer of 2012, Liu Fang served her second term as the director at CET-Kunming summer intensive program. Obviously the program is in the city of Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan Province in Southwest China. The city is also called the Eternal Spring City.

QIUSHA MA writes: “Another year flies by so quickly, and another year of hard work and fulfillment. I continued to teach 1st and 4th-year Chinese and really enjoyed teaching them. I also taught a senior seminar on civil society and NGOs in East Asia in the fall, and it was a dynamic and exiting class. I reorganized the class this time with a great deal of new materials, and the students’ reactions were worth all the efforts. My new book,《改变中国》(To Change China: the Rockefeller Foundation’s Century-long Journey in China), was published in January 2013 by a top university press in China. Last winter, I went to China as a trustee of Oberlin Shansi for the first time and visited Shansi’s two sets: Shanxi Agriculture University and Beijing Normal University. I was so happy to see our former students in a new environment and to be able to help them cope with difficulties in working and living in China.”

MI CHAO writes: “I really had a wonderful year in Oberlin and met so many nice students and colleagues. Hope everything goes well next year!”

EMER O’DwyER writes: “I returned to Oberlin in the fall semester after a two-year research leave, spent first at the Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies in Cambridge, Mass., and then at the Library of Congress in Washington D.C. It was good to reconnect with first-years who had transformed—as if overnight—into seniors. As usual, I was delighted year-long by the contributions and energies of our EAS students. In other news, my book manuscript, continued on page 6

Thank You, Donors!

EAS gratefully acknowledges these donors:
Dr. Joan C. Abele (parent of Tom Newhall ’07)
Martha Brennan ’93
Gilbert Forsyth ’06
Richard Fried ’83 & Stella Kim ’83
David Heafitz ’98
Marta Johnson ’04
Adam Lanphier ’05
Brendan Lepis ’93
Dr. & Mrs. Andrew Levitas (parents of Matt ’05)
Jean Robinson ’73
David Schlesinger ’82
Thomas Shannon ’09
Mina Takahashi ’87
Michael Vomacka ’07
**Faculty/Staff News, cont.**

Significant Soil: Dairen and Japan’s Urban Empire in Manchuria, is currently under review for publication.

**Amy Redden** writes: "It was a rough year, but I am very grateful for the many friends, colleagues, students, and alumni that helped me get through a difficult time. Charlie truly cared about my EAS family and loved the amazing potlucks we have! Thanks everyone for all the support."

**Ann Sherif** has been on sabbatical leave. She visited Hiroshima and Tokyo several times during the year to dig into the archives and to interview writers and journalists about independent publishers and literature in 20th-century Japan. Ann admits, “Although I love my research, and am so fortunate to have this time to focus on my writing, it will be fun see EAS students and colleagues again in fall semester 2013!”

**Ai Sukegawa** enjoyed working with her new colleagues in the Japanese program. Also, she taught 3rd year Japanese for the first time at Oberlin. Although teaching the new course with a new textbook was at times challenging, she still enjoyed it very much, as teaching Oberlin students is always rewarding and fun for her.

**Joshua Wright** writes: “My talks and publications concentrated on comparisons and positioning East Asian archaeology as part of Eurasia. Papers at the Society for East Asian Archaeology conference in Fukuoka covering the Chengdu Plain Archaeological Survey. At the Society of American Archaeology Meetings on pre-modern states and pastoralists in Mongolia and Greece. As an Archaeological Institute of America lecturer on the Mongol Empire in New York and Tucson. Published “Message from the Far Eastern Neolithic: The Session ’Pottery and Neolithisation in East Asia’” in the journal Neo-Lithics. A chapter in The Oxford Handbook of the Archaeology of Death and Burial including “Mongolian Bronze Age,” and in the journal Asian Perspectives entitled ‘Authority and Hierarchy in the Organization of Ancient Northeast Asian Mobile Communities.’ Field research projects: Qufu, Shandong, focused on cognitive and conceptual landscapes. Studying the political and economic landscape of Kitan/Liao dynasty in Northeast China and surrounding regions.”

**ALUMNI NEWS**

After a fruitful and exciting year in Beijing, **Ricardo Barrios ’12** will return to Oberlin in August to serve as the new Shansi Returned Fellow. Ricardo hopes to spread the Shansi-love to the four corners of Oberlin and beyond.

**Eric Bell ’04** writes: “Since auctioning the fate of my two-year-long beard for a master’s in information stuff in 2010, I’ve been working as an information architect and interaction designer. My current claim to fame is the Japanese keyboards on Windows Phone 7. After spending a year working in Tokyo at the design agency Conent, I moved to San Francisco to seek my fame and fortune in the tech startup world.”

**Mary Anne Carcelli ’74** writes: “My book, The Five-Colored Clouds of Mount Wutai: Poems from Dunhuang, was published in December 2012 by E.J. Brill. In it, she examines a set of poems from the Dunhuang manuscripts about Mount Wutai, the most sacred mountain in Chinese Buddhism.

After graduating with double majors in East Asian studies and politics, **Lily Chang ’04** continued with graduate work in East Asian studies at Harvard (2004-06) before relocating to the United Kingdom in 2007 to pursue a PhD in history at the University of Oxford. She is the Henry Lumley Research Fellow at Magdalene College at University of Cambridge, where she also serves as a research associate with the Centre for History and Economics. Her research interests include Sino-Japanese relations in the 20th century, the history of childhood, Chinese legal history, and the intersections between law and society in East Asia. Lily welcomes all queries and correspondence from Obies interested in pursuing graduate studies in East Asian studies in the UK. E: Lc428@cam.ac.uk.

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“Skritterers have studied around 300 million items so far now and have learned to write many millions of characters with the app. Skritter is, of course, free for all Oberlin students and alumni...Get those forgotten characters back into the noggin!”

—Nick Winter ’08

OYCELYN EBY ’09 completed her Shansi Fellowship at Beijing Normal University and has been working at Junior Achievement China for the past two years. She has been a member of the core team developing a new social enterprise program focused on low-income communities in China (learn more at http://yes.jachina.org). This fall, she’ll head back to the States to pursue an EdM in international education policy at the Harvard Graduate School of Education. She looks forward to reconnecting with Obies in Boston!

DAVID FROST ’04 lives in Lome, Togo, where he serves as a political officer at the U.S. Embassy. He spent the first half of 2012 learning French at the Foreign Service Institute. In 2014, he’ll return to the U.S. to brush up on his Chinese, so that he can go to Guangzhou in 2015 to be a consular officer.

MATT FURDA ’11 will complete his two-year Shansi Fellowship in August as a lecturer in English at J.F. Oberlin University in Tokyo. In September, he’ll begin working as a translator at the Japanese game developer Square-Enix in Shinjuku. All those years spent button mashing and staring at the television screen seem to have paid off! (In all seriousness, Matt would like to sincerely thank the EAS staff—past and present—for their love and support.)

MAX HELZBERG ’08 writes: “I’m still in my first year of management consulting, working out of Tokyo. The work is challenging and I am constantly learning. Most of our clients are in the life sciences sector, so I have a much better understanding of the Japanese healthcare system than when I started. Projects often involve me interviewing physicians all over Japan about obscure subjects, so I have the chance to use Japanese both in and out of the office.”

TERRY HSIEH ’12 writes: “In October I started as a full-time editor at the World of Chinese, a culture magazine run by the Commercial Press. I’ve also been touring with the Chinese version of my jazz septet, the Terry Hsieh Collective. I write during the day and play the blues all night. I’ve played at the JZ club in Shanghai, with Vocalist and Voice of China runner up Tia Ray, and recently have been performing night at local jazz clubs around the country.”

EZRA SPIER ’09 writes: “After spending the last three years living in Portland, Ore., building my software development skills at Sustainable Harvest Coffee Importers, I began a yearlong fellowship in January at Code for America (http://codeforamerica.org/), a San Francisco-based nonprofit that partners software developers, designers, and urbanists with local governments around the country. I’m spending the year working with the government of New York City to build technology that will help the criminal justice system there better use data to make the system more efficient and more fair. I’ll be traveling back and forth between San Francisco and New York all year. It’s been an amazing position so far—just don’t ask me what I’ll be doing when my fellowship ends in November!”

YOKO TAMANO ’04 writes: “This past year has been very exciting. Not only have I settled the case with the bus company that hit me last year, but I also got married on March 23, 2013. I could not have asked for a better day to get married. The weather was perfect and it was warm. I got married on a bridge at the Japanese garden and wore a kimono. I am looking forward to this new chapter in my life with my new husband!”

NICK WINTER ’08 writes “Our Oberlin-born Chinese/Japanese character learning app Skritter has been frothing happily in the App Store for iPhones, iPads, and iPods since last summer, in addition to our well-loved web version. Skritterers have studied around 300 million items so far now and have learned to write many millions of characters with the app. Whoa! Skritter is, of course, free for all Oberlin students and alumni, so either sign up with your @oberlin.edu email if you have it or email me at nick@skritter.com for the free hook-up. Get those forgotten characters back into the noggin!”

J.Q. WHITCOMB has been living in his hometown of Santa Fe, N.M., for more than two years since moving back to the U.S. from Shanghai. He’s been busy playing jazz, teaching Chinese classes to 9 to 14-year-olds at a small private school, and tutoring. He also started a business selling LED flashlights and headlamps online (brightmedic.com), which has continued to grow.
CONGRATULATIONS
NEW GRADUATES!

Nicholas Char         Aaron Louie
Rachel Coyte          Alexander Lykoudis
Kira Fath             Kaitlyn Price
Alessandra Ferrer     Devon Rettew
Dakotah Fitzhugh     Michala Rollé
K. Xenna Goh          Katelyn Smith
Aki Gormezano         Koyami Tulley
Cassandra Guevara     Nicholas Ward
Alexander Guo         Jordan White
Amy Huang             Daniel Zipp
Isadora Jaffee        Qing Zhang

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