

# Asian Studies Program



Photo: Students from Zhanjiang University with Senator Mee Moua at the State Capitol

## *Delegation from Zhanjiang Visits CSB/SJU*

In January of this year, ten students, one professor and one vice president from Zhanjiang Normal University (ZNU) in Guangdong, China spent three weeks at CSB/SJU. ZNU began its relationship with CSB/SJU over ten years ago, when many CSB/SJU alums went to Zhanjiang to teach through the Maryknoll China Service Project. This is the third time that ZNU has sent students and faculty members to our campus, and ZNU has hosted three May Term study groups from CSB/SJU.

The senior member of this year's delegation was Vice President Zhang Lanying. While on campus, Vice President Zhang met with President

MaryAnn Baenninger, Provost Rita Knuesel, Dean Joe Desjardins and many other administrators and professors. She expressed her willingness to strengthen the relationship between ZNU and CSB/SJU and to promote more exchanges and cooperation in the future.

The student group was led by Professor Sun Weidong of the English Department at ZNU. Their schedule included attending various classes, including Professor Jeanne Cook's Intercultural Communication class where they played an important role in demonstrating how people from different cultural backgrounds behave and communicate differently. The students also visited the Minnesota State capitol as guests

of Senator Mee Moua of Saint Paul, the Minneapolis Institute of Arts, and Avon Elementary School. Before departing, the group participated in the Asian New Year Celebration sponsored by the Asia Club, performing several songs and dances.

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## A note from the editor:

As an Asian Studies Program Student Worker, the Asian Studies Program has created this newsletter so that we can inform the CSB/SJU community about our latest news. I enjoy working in this program because of the great learning opportunity it has to offer.

**Editor: Tai Ping Lee**

**Supervisor: Norma Koetter**

# Asian Studies Program Announces Sr. Telan Scholarship Recipients

The Asian Studies Program awarded the Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Wang and S. Telan Hu, OSB Scholarship in Asian Studies for 2006-07 to Jenny Vuong (CSB '08) and Joseph John Kane (SJU '09). Jenny was a participant in the fall 2006 study abroad program at Southwest University in Chongqing, China, and Joseph will make his study abroad trip to Southwest University in the fall of 2007.

Established by Margaret Man-Hwa Wang in memory of her parents, Mr.

Jung-Chun Wang and Mrs. Jui-Chin Liao Wang, who spent a lifetime supporting needy students around the island of Taiwan; this endowed scholarship also honors the three decades of dedicated service by S. Telan Hu, OSB to Asian Studies at CSB/SJU and commemorates her Golden Jubilee as a Benedictine sister in July 2005. The need-based scholarship honors students' commitment to Chinese language, culture, and service.

## *Eleise Jones Lands Position with Asian Publisher*

Eleise Jones (CSB '98) recently joined the editorial office at Cheng & Tsui, a Boston-based publisher of Asian literature, history, and language learning materials.

Eleise began her Chinese language studies in the St. Paul Public School system, and later joined CSB/SJU's then-burgeoning Asian Studies program. She spent a semester abroad at Southwest University in Beibei, Sichuan Province, and graduated with a major in English and a minor in East Asian Studies.

In 1998, Eleise and fellow CSB graduate Angela Anderson helped to pioneer the Maryknoll China Teachers Program at Zhanjiang Normal College in Zhanjiang, Guangdong Province. There they spent an unforgettable year teaching English and culture to college students, kindergarteners, and members of the business community. Upon returning to the U.S., Eleise worked in a variety of

publishing and bookselling positions.

In 2005 she had the opportunity to reignite her interest in the language and culture of China while pursuing a Master's degree in Chinese Studies at SOAS (School of Oriental and African Studies), University of London. In London, Eleise found herself among an outstanding academic community. Beyond classes in Chinese history, literature, and language, she was able to participate in a variety of political and cultural activities that enhanced her year of study and research. Eleise wrote her dissertation on two contemporary Chinese writers, Wang Anyi and Zhou Weihui. She graduated with the honor of Distinction in September 2006.

After a respite in Minnesota, Eleise moved to Boston's Chinatown to forge a career blending two great loves: literature and Asia.

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# President MaryAnn Baenninger Leads Tour of Vietnam



Photo: Beautiful Halong Bay, Vietnam

This past January President MaryAnn Baenninger and her husband Ron Baenninger welcomed a group of friends of the College of Saint Benedict on a two week tour of Vietnam. Sponsored by the Benedictine Center for Lifelong Learning, the tour afforded the group an opportunity to view a country that still shows the remnants of a destructive war but has recently managed to experience remarkable economic growth and improve the lives of many of its people.

The group began its tour in Ho Chi Minh City, where they visited a Carmelite Convent, attended Mass at the Cathedral and met with the Archbishop. The city's vibrant commercial atmosphere testified to the 8% annual growth in

GDP that Vietnam has experienced over the past decade. Tourism is an important part of the economy. The group felt welcomed by the Vietnamese people and frequently saw other US and European tourists during their visit. The tour also visited the historic city of Hue in the center of the country. The group visited a university there where they attended a drama class and discussed potential collaboration and exchanges with university officials.

The tour also included a visit to the capital city of Hanoi. There the group visited several sites of significance from the war era like the "Hanoi Hilton" and the tunnel systems constructed in and around the capital. Ho Chi Minh's

mausoleum and a museum dedicated to the communist leader that preserves his "house on stilts" and "used car garage" were also on the itinerary. A stunning tour of the famous Halong Bay was another highlight as was a visit to a non-profit in Hanoi that provides services to underprivileged children.

Before departing Vietnam, a group of over 50 students, all with an eye toward studying in the United States, met with the tour participants to discuss their hopes for the future. Judging from the talent and dedication of these students, there is no doubt that CSB/SJU will continue to recruit wonderful students from Vietnam in the years to come.

# Brian Heilman Returning to India

Brian Heilman, Global Education Associate in the CSB/SJU Center for International Education, has recently accepted a 2007-2008 Service Corps Fellowship from the American India Foundation (AIF). The Service Corps Fellowship is, according to the AIF's website, "a selective program that builds bridges between America and India by sending talented and skilled young Americans to work with leading non-governmental organiza-

tions in India for a period of ten months. The program serves as an exchange of technical skills and intellectual resources which aims to build the capacity of Indian NGOs while developing American leaders with an understanding of India."

In late May, Heilman will leave the Center for International Education to spend the summer in language training in preparation for the fellowship placement, which will begin in Sep-

tember. This will be Heilman's third human-rights focused trip to India in the past three years. Upon completing this fellowship, Heilman hopes to enter graduate school in the field of South Asian Studies, with long-term goals in both academic and development-oriented areas of this field. To learn more about the Service Corps Fellowship, you may visit [www.aifoundation.org](http://www.aifoundation.org)

## A Letter from SJU Grad Vinh Ho

"The 21st Century will be the Pacific Century." As I recall, it was spring of 1995, and I listened intently, a college freshman fascinated by Dr.

Richard Bohr during one of his Introduction to East Asia lectures. It was a theme he would return to again and again over the semester. Inspired by Dr.

Bohr's pronouncement, I decided to embark on an academic and career path with Asia as the prime destination.

After graduating from Saint John's in 1998 and a brief stint working in the Twin Cities, I left Minnesota to teach English in Zhongshan, at Zhongshan College in Guangdong province of the People's Republic of China. During the weekdays, I practiced English conversation with my students and taught them the ins and outs of English grammar,



Photo: Vinh Ho SJU '98

while they taught me about life in China and Chinese culture. I enjoyed my year in Zhongshan so much that I decided to extend my stay in China for one more year. I moved onto Jilin, in the northeastern corner of China, where I continued teaching English, and began learning Chinese in earnest.

After my two years in China, I earned a masters degree in Asian studies from the University of Hawaii, followed by a graduate certificate in regional literacy from the East-West Center's Asia Pacific Leadership Program. During this time, I stayed in touch with Dr. Bohr. I was very excited to tell him how I had developed a passion for all things Asia-related, and that one of the best things about being at the East-West Center was the international student community -- my daily interaction, and friendships, with graduate students from all over the Asia-Pacific region -- people from China, Thailand, Vietnam, Korea, Japan, India, Tibet, Bhutan, Indonesia, Fiji, Micronesia, and Hawaii. My day-to-day life was so rich with inter-cultural friendships and learning that I stayed on for one more year with the East-West Center as a program assistant/teaching assistant.

Having spent the past year teaching

English to post-secondary students and businesspeople at Pagoda Academy in Seoul, Korea, I have had the opportunity to expand and build upon my previous experiences living abroad. I have concluded that the old adage: "If you treat others kindly, they will treat you kindly in return," runs true in every person in every country I encounter.

Currently I am traveling throughout China and Vietnam, where I will visit with East-West Center alumni and some former Maryknoll teachers who are now studying or working there. While in China, I will also visit with the same students to whom I taught English almost a decade ago.

Looking back on how my life has changed since graduating from SJU, I have realized what a profound impact Dr. Bohr and the SJU Asian Studies program have had on me. As I focus on my future and a career helping others understand the growing importance of Asia-Pacific region, I would like to express my gratitude and appreciation to Dr. Bohr. Thank you, Dr. Bohr, for sharing your knowledge and vision of Asia with me, as well as your incredible leadership in building such a fine Asian Studies program at CSB/SJU.

# Asian Studies Program Sponsors Visit to the MIA

On April 26, 2007 over 80 members of the CSB/SJU community, including students, faculty and staff toured the Asian galleries at the Minneapolis Institute of Arts (MIA) as guests of Dr. Matthew Welch, the curator of Japanese and Korean art at the MIA. The group was divided into three teams, and tours were led by Dr. Welch, SJU Artist in Residence Richard Bresnahan, Political Science Professor Manju Parikh and History Professor Brendan Larocque. Architecture featured prominently on the tours, as the Japanese Tea House and the Suzhou Scholar's Studio, among other structures, were explained in great detail. Before visiting the MIA, the group was treated to a dinner at Tea House restaurant in Plymouth, where authentic Sichuan style food was presented and devoured by the group.



Photo: Students pose at the entrance of the Minneapolis Institute of Arts

## Professor Ted Farmer Visits CSB/SJU as Resident Scholar

In late January, Professor Edward L. (Ted) Farmer, an East Asian historian from the University of Minnesota, participated in a two-day residency at CSB/SJU. Approximately two hundred people attended his keynote address entitled "From Revolution to Consumption: China's Immersion in the Global Transformation." While on campus Professor Farmer met with students in Professor Richard Bohr's Chinese History class and Professor John Hasselberg's International Management Seminar, as well as members of the Asia Club and students from Zhanjiang Normal University. Before his keynote address, Professor Farmer led a group discussion with CSB/SJU faculty and staff regarding China's relationship with its Asian neighbors and the prospects for the development of an economic community in Asia.

# Asian Studies Program

[www.csbsju.edu/asianstudies](http://www.csbsju.edu/asianstudies)

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團結，  
我們能移動山

結合されて、  
私達は山を移動できる

결합해,  
우리는 산을 이동할 수 있다