

# Asian Studies Program

## Newsletter

FALL 2005

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## Fresh Start...

The 2005-2006 school year is now in full swing and so is the Asian Studies Program! Over the summer and into the beginning of Fall semester, Asian Studies Program has been hard at work expanding its program and bringing the Asian and Asian American cultures to the College of Saint Benedict and Saint John's University.

As the first newsletter of the school year, we will take a look at many of the exciting events over the summer as well as the on going plans of the Asian Studies Program. This Fall also marks the 10 year anniversary of Asian Studies at CSB/SJU. For a decade, this program has

continued to make considerable strides in its growth on and off campus.



With the great advancements in technology, the interaction

between East and West has never been easier. Everyday the Asian world continues to expand its influence to the United States. With the dawning of this global interaction, the Asian Studies Program hopes to prepare its college students for future interactions with Asia and Asian America. It seeks to educate the students of CSB/SJU by offering courses of study to strengthen their background in Asian culture, history and language. The Asian Studies Program also provides students with the opportunity to directly immerse themselves in the cultures by traveling to many different Asian countries.

### Asian Studies Program

College of Saint Benedict/ Saint John's University

<http://www.csbsju.edu/asianstudies>

A note from the editors:

As the Asian Studies Program Student Workers, we have created this newsletter so that we can inform the CSB/SJU community. We both enjoy working in this program because of the great learning opportunity it has to offer.

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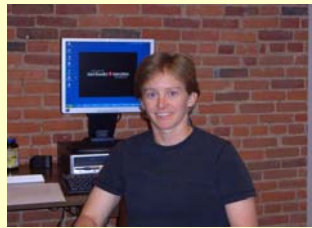
**United, we can  
move a  
mountain.**

# New Faces

**Professor Carolyn Ford** is now teaching first and second year Chinese at CSB/SJU. She inherits the program from Sr. Telan Hu, OSB, who retired last spring. Professor Ford started the program in Chinese language at St. John's Preparatory School in 2004. She will now split her time between the prep school and SJU, teaching

Chinese at both levels. Professor Ford received her D. Phil. in Chinese Literature from Oxford University in 2004.

She studied Chinese at West Point and the Defense Language Institute in Monterey. She has also been promoted to the rank of Major in the United States Army Reserve. In addition to Chinese, Professor Ford speaks Spanish fluently and is an advanced student of Japanese.



**Joseph P. Rogers**, a SJU graduate and former attorney, is now the Coordinator of Asian Studies. Working in conjunction with Professor Richard Bohr, the Director of Asian Studies, Rogers will help manage the various

Asia-related programs and exchanges and insure that our campus community continues its emphasis on global studies, multiculturalism and experiential learning. .

efforts there.

Rogers will also add additional support to various institutional offices and programs. One example is admissions, as Rogers just returned from Taiwan in October to aid recruitment



Professor Bohr welcomes Joe to Asian Studies Program.

The Center for International Education is pleased to announce the hiring of **Kristi Kremers** to serve as Global Education Coordinator. Kremers received her B.A. in Communications from James Cook University, Australia, where she studied indigenous tribes. She went on to pursue her Masters degree in College Student Development at Minnesota State University—

Mankato and graduated at the top of her class. During her time there, she helped revive the MBA program after a seven-year hiatus by coordinating the admissions, advising and administration processes for the program, as well as aided in the development of the College of Business website. She also taught a career development course at Minnesota State and worked for Gustavus

Adolphus College in their Office of International Education, advising both study abroad and international students. She will help administer the various programs and enterprises under the WorldStar umbrella and add specific support to our various programs in Japan.

## Continue...New Faces

While not a new face on campus, **Masaichiro Nashiro** has begun his second year here as a visiting scholar from Okinawa, Japan. Nashiro is the Vice Principal of Shogaku Gakuen Junior and Senior High School in Okinawa. Shogaku has close ties to CSB/SJU—eight Shogaku graduates are currently enrolled here as undergraduates. Nashiro's responsibilities at CSB/SJU include guest lecturing for

history, sociology and education courses as well as teaching a cultural conversation course for upper level Japanese language students. Nashiro is also a student of education. In May he will complete his Ed.D. degree at Saint Mary's University of Minnesota. Nashiro is joined here by his wife, **Orie**, and his children, **Kanako** (16), **Makiko** (14) and **Masahide** (11). Orie is a graduate of Sophia University in Tokyo, where she

studied English Literature. She says she is quite satisfied with her life here in Minnesota and values the opportunity for her and her family to learn more about American culture. Kanako and Makiko are students at the prep school, taking classes with students from all over the world. Masahide goes to school at Westwood Elementary School in St. Cloud.

## ASIA CLUB UPDATE---Report from Phil Benusa

Greetings Bennies and Johnnies, My name is Phil Benusa and this year I will be acting as Asia Club's Chairperson. I would like to briefly introduce you to the '05/06 Asia Club board as well as inform you of our vision for the year. As Chair, I am fortunate to be accompanied by Kalue Her (Co-Chair), Tenzin Tsomo (Treasurer), and Chimme Dolkar (Secretary) - three dedicated and energetic St. Benedict seniors. The four of us are fortunate to have guidance from Ms. Addy Spitzer, who is the Asia Club adviser. This year we expect Asia Club to grow in numbers and activities. By utilizing our diverse range of

Asian Culture enthusiasts, ranging from study abroad returnees to international students, we will strive to bring new level of awareness of Asian

culture to the CSBSJU community. We'll do this by offering a variety of events, including club member activities (Chopsticks 101) and campus-wide events (Asian New Year). So watch out for our e-mails and please join us to promote Asia's diverse cultures on campus. Feel free to contact me or any of the board members for more information at [asiacub@csbsju.edu](mailto:asiacub@csbsju.edu).

BBQ is not all about eating but



exchanging ideas! Dr. Richard Bohr was talking to Japanese students during the Asia Club BBQ.

## ST. JOHN'S POTTERY STUDIO WELCOMES MASTER POTTERS FROM JAPAN, PREPARES TO FIRE KILN



The Kiln is on Fire!

The excitement surrounding the recent firing of the S. Johanna Kiln at the St. John's Pottery Studio is particularly high, thanks to recent visits by two of Japan's most renowned potters, Koie Ryoji and Goro Suzuki.

by sending his son, Akira, to St. John's this fall. Akira assisted in the firing process, learn many of the new firing techniques employed by the Pottery Studio, and produce his own objects. His upcoming exhibition will feature his own works.

objects, all of which will be included in the upcoming firing. Suzuki commented that the S. Johanna Kiln is so significant in its firing style that he felt compelled to send by Federal Express three "Shino Glaze" tea bowls so they might be fired in it. These bowls will be included in an upcoming book on Goro Suzuki's Shino Ware and his "National Living Treasure" exhibition at the National Museum in Tokyo.

In September of last year, Ryoji spent ten days working with Master potter and Artist-in-Residence Richard Bresnahan at St. John's. Ryoji is the recipient of the prestigious Oribe Award, Japan's highest honor for contemporary art. While at St. John's, Ryoji made tea bowls, flower vases, sake cups, bottles and other objects, all of which will be fired in the Pottery Studios' famous wood fire kiln in October. Many of these pieces will be included in national exhibitions in Tokyo and Seoul. Ryoji further demonstrated his commitment to the Pottery Studio

This summer, the Pottery Studio was again blessed by the visit of perhaps the leading figure in Japanese ceramics, Suzuki. An artist whose style is in many ways contemporary and ground breaking, Suzuki is also a master of traditional Japanese ceramic forms and methods. He has exhibited in New York's Museum of Modern Art and the Los Angeles County Museum, among many others. Suzuki was recently named a "National Living Treasure" in Japan. While at St. John's, Suzuki produced tea bowls, water jars and other

Bresnahan, his two apprentices, Jonathan Walburg and Anne Meyer, and a remarkable crew of potters, artists, and friends from around the world began firing the Johanna Kiln on October 7. The firing lasted for eleven days.



Students touring the Pottery Studio, appreciating the perfectly-made potteries.

## Jeanne Cook-Richard Ice Conduct Research in China

Jeanne Cook and Richard Ice, both associate professors in the Communication Department, traveled to Beijing, Beibei, and Yunnan province in June 2005. Jeanne continued her research on Yunnan's Mosou people and female Chinese dialects. She interviewed Mosou and Chinese dialect scholars in Beijing, Yuxi, and Beibei. Richard met officials

in Yuxi and Beijing to explore internship and short-term study abroad options for CSB/SJU students in China, and visited a language school in Beijing to explore the possibility of adding an intensive language immersion course to CSB/SJU's China study abroad program.



Professor Cook and Professor Ice meeting with President of Yuxi Teachers' College, Xiong Shuxin.

## CSB/SJU WELCOMES DELEGATIONS FROM CHINA



In the spring of 2005, CSB/SJU welcomed presidential delegations from two of its educational counterparts in China. A delegation led by President Guo of Zhanjiang Normal University (ZNU) was received at a formal luncheon hosted by Presidents Baeninger and Reinhart. Since 1998, ZNU has employed many CSB/SJU graduates as teachers through Maryknoll's China Service Project. ZNU has also hosted faculty led May term study groups from CSB/SJU the past two years. In 2004, ZNU made Asian Studies Director, Richard Bohr, an honorary professor of ZNU. After this spring's visit by President Guo, Professor Bohr

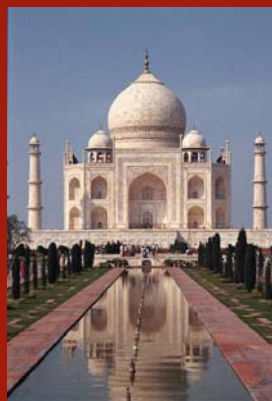
arranged for CSB/SJU to present a collection of books to ZNU for their library.

CSB/SJU also welcomed a delegation from its primary partner in China, Southwest China Normal University (now called "Southwest University"). President Song Naiqing led a delegation that visited our campuses for several days. Culminating in a wonderful luncheon again hosted by our Presidents, their stay included many productive meetings. At the Presidential luncheon, a new five year agreement with Southwest University was signed, ensuring that the faculty and student exchanges we have

developed over the years will continue and grow.

Southwest University has been the site of our China study abroad program since 1988, and nearly 400 CSB/SJU students have studied at Southwest. This year marks the 20<sup>th</sup> year of formal relations between our institutions. To honor this achievement, Presidents Baeninger and Reinhart will visit Southwest University in November. Our Presidents will also be visiting Singapore, Hong Kong, Beijing and Shanghai, as part of the Minnesota Private College Presidents tour of Asia.

## Faculty/Staff Development Trip to India



A group of CSB/SJU faculty and staff visited Calcutta, India for two weeks at the end of March. Dr. Ann Marie Biermaier, Dr. Katie Johnson, Valandra, Dr. Kaarin Johnston, Dr. Ozzie Mayers, and Dr. Madhu Mitra were all participants in the trip, which sought to explore and develop new opportunities for the CSB/SJU community in South Asia. The group explored possibilities for curricular

development and experiential learning, including internships and service learning opportunities, and they planted the seeds for long-term collaborative relationships with South Asian partners for a future study abroad program, May term trips, and community-to-community exchanges (faculty and students). The group also made connections with schools, NGOs, and other

organizations based in Kolkata. The participants also had a chance to explore and strengthen their own academic interests and to make new connections for further pursuit of such interests.

## Service Learning Trip to Kolkata, India

In the summer of 2005, five current and former CSB students and one recent graduate of SJU embarked on a remarkable journey to Kolkata,

India. The trip was the brainchild of Brian Heilman, an SJU English major, who was inspired by the work of Sr. Cyril Mooney and the Loreto Day School outside of Kolkata (Sr. Cyril spent September 2004 at CSB/SJU as a visiting scholar). Heilman planned the service learning trip largely on his own, receiving support and guidance from Campus Ministry and Professor Nick Hayes, the University Chair in Critical Thinking. Accompanying Heilman were

Melissa Dreier, Aisha Sylvester, Sara Ahlfs, Jessica Deloy, and Theresa Guentzel. While in Kolkata, the group volunteered at the Loreto Day School, working with formerly street dwelling children who are housed and educated at the school. The group also reorganized the school's Junior Library, winning the praise and gratitude of Sr. Cyril and everyone at Loreto. Professor Madhu Mitra of the English Department was also in Kolkata this summer and met several times with the trip's participants, enhancing and enriching their experience. The group also had the opportunity to backpack through much of northern India, visiting many fascinating cities and sites.

At the end of the service learning trip, Heilman and Guentzel remained in Kolkata. Heilman is the recipient of the Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellowship from the University of Minnesota Law School, and he continues to work and teach at Loreto. Guentzel, a nursing major at CSB, works with the school's nurse and has helped establish a traveling clinic, dressing wounds and providing general care to many who would not otherwise receive any care whatsoever.

Group photo with Professor Madhu Mitra and her brother.

## CSB/SJU Choral Arts Ensemble Tours Asia

Last May Professor Axel Theimer, Director of the CSB/SJU Choral Arts Ensemble, led a group of more than 60 students to Asia. The Ensemble performed in Tokyo, Okinawa, Seoul, Beijing and Hong Kong. Highlights of the trip included visiting Bunkyo University, CSB/SJU's close partner and host site of our Japan Study Abroad program; wonderful homestays in Okinawa; visiting amazing museums, temples and palaces in the capital cities of Seoul and Beijing, and connecting with many hospitable and

generous CSB/SJU alumni in Hong Kong. The performances were all well attended and well received—and the visit of the choir received considerable media coverage, including a segment on NHK, Japan's National Television, featuring the choir's appearance at the Okinawa Peace Memorial in commemoration of the 60th anniversary of the Battle of Okinawa.

One of the major goals of the tour was to provide the CSB/SJU students with the opportunity to perform together

with choirs from these countries, to meet students during rehearsals and social activities and share our common appreciation for music. The Choral Arts Ensemble shared the stage with choirs from Seisen and St. Mary's High School and Bunkyo University in Tokyo, Shogaku High school in Okinawa, Capitol Normal University in Beijing and the Youth Choir of the Cultural Office in Hong Kong.

The Ensemble performing in Hong Kong.



## SJU Hosts Summer ESL Programs for Japanese Students —Report from Dave Bennetts



On two separate occasions this past summer, “graduation” ceremonies were held for the 50 Japanese junior and senior high school and university students who completed the CSB/SJU Summer 2005 ESL program. They came from Shogaku Junior and Senior High Schools in Okinawa, Japan, and from Bunkyo Gakuin University in Tokyo. They were the latest of more than 1,000 participants in this program which began in 1989. Many of these students have gone on to attend and graduate from CSB/SJU. Presently, there are 17 such students enrolled

here. Others have participated in a one year program at Saint John’s Prep School. We expect those numbers to increase in the future.

Also present at the ceremonies were the American families who welcomed the Japanese students for a weekend home stay. Over the years, some 500 families from Minnesota, and a few

from Iowa and South Dakota, have volunteered for this important feature of the program. Some of these families have done ten or more home stays, evidence that they get as much from them as the students. One of the families this year included a CSB student who was part of the CSB/SJU International Choir that performed at both BGU and Shogaku High School in May. The daughter in another host family is one of 20 CSB/SJU students participating in the 2005 CSB/SJU Japan Study Abroad program.

Others present also gave evidence of the many-faceted nature of the CSB/SJU relationship with these Japanese schools. Three of the CSB/SJU counselors employed in the program participated in the Japan Study Abroad semester hosted by Bunkyo Gakuin University. Two others are presently studying in Tokyo. Three of this year’s counselors will spend the 2005-06 school year teaching

at Shogaku; two will be doing the same at BGU. These counselors joined the more than 100 CSB/SJU students who have worked in the program and who, in not a few cases, have had their lives changed by the experience. And finally, the three ESL teachers who participated collectively have 45 years experience in the program. Over the seventeen year history of the programs, 12 CSB/SJU faculty members have taught in the summer sessions. Four of them have also taught in intensive English retreats at BGU and Okinawa. Some 30 Japanese teachers have visited our campuses as group chaperones, several of whom now teach in the Japan Study Abroad semester.

With each passing year it becomes more apparent just how great an impact these programs and others they have spawned have had on internationalism at CSB/SJU.



## **Asian Studies Program Organizes May/June 2005 Study Tour of South China**



The Asian Studies and E-Scholars Programs conducted the second annual May/June Term study tour entitled "Economic Development and Social Change in China" (COLG280). During May-June 2005, two dozen CSB/SJU students immersed themselves in the historical, economic, political, social, and cultural dimensions of South China's economic boom and experienced first-hand the far-reaching consequences of mushrooming economic development. They toured Hong Kong, Macau, Guangzhou, and other

industrial cities springing up along the Pearl River Delta before heading west to the coastal enclave of Zhanjiang, a seaport where China meets Southeast Asia. At Zhanjiang Normal College (ZNC), the students attended classes on intercultural communication as well as



Chinese language, history, culture, and martial arts taught by ZNC faculty. They also took part in Chinese home stays.

Management Professors John Hasselberg Paul Marsnik directed the study tour. Project sponsors included the Maryknoll China Service Project (which places

CSB/SJU teachers in China) and ZNC, with whom CSB/SJU has conducted student and faculty exchanges in recent years. The project was also supported by several SJU Hong Kong alumni who are generously opening their industrial facilities to our students.

Br. Dietrich Reinhart, SJU President, Rob Culligan, SJU Vice President of Institutional Advancement, and Joe Rogers, CSB/SJU Coordinator of Asian Studies, joined the study tour and Hong Kong alumnae/i for several days in Hong Kong.

## **Richard Bohr Leads U.S. Faculty Summer Study Tour of South China**

Richard Bohr, Professor of History and Director of Asian Studies, led a group of fifteen social science professors from such U.S. liberal arts colleges as Augustana, Colby, Dickinson, Gettysburg, Kenyon, Marietta, and Occidental to South China during June-July 2005. The faculty group studied the impact of rapid economic growth on business development, urbanization,

migration, governance, the environment, and culture in China's fastest-developing region. The participants will now integrate what they have learned into existing and new courses so that students can learn more about China's current rise as a global superpower. Bohr compiled and edited several participants' essays in his "Is China Growing Too Fast" issue of International Policy Review ([www.policybriefs.org](http://www.policybriefs.org))

This project was organized and sponsored by ASIANtework, a consortium of 163 American liberal arts colleges (including CSB/SJU), and the Hong Kong American Center, outreach arm of five Hong Kong-based universities. It was funded by a grant from the Fulbright-Hayes Group Study Abroad Program of the U.S. Department of Education.

## TEACHING IN ASIA PROGRAM AIDS CSB/SJU GRADUATES



The Teaching in Asia Program (currently part of the Asian Studies Learning Community funded by a generous grant from the Bush Foundation) has sent some twenty-five May 2005 graduates to teach English at high schools and colleges in Japan and China during the 2005-06 academic year. The Teaching in Asia Program screens and recommends CSB/SJU applicants to the various teaching institutions in Japan and China. Before these students departed for Asia, they received a day-long workshop by Sarah Pruet

and Lynda Fish, our two resident ESL experts, to prepare for teaching English to their Asian students. In addition, several undergraduates



taught English in China during the summer months.

The Teaching in Asia program is invaluable in giving our students and

graduates -- many of whom have studied in Asia and become Asian Studies majors and minors -- further exposure to Asia. Many of these teachers return to the U.S. to prepare for professional careers as "Asia Hands." In this sense, they are invaluable bridge-builders between CSB/SJU and the "Asian Century."

## S. TELAN HU, OSB SCHOLARSHIP IN ASIAN STUDIES



The Asian Studies Program awarded the Mr. & Mrs. J. C. Wang and S. Telan Hu, OSB Scholarship in Asian Studies for 2005-06 to Kalue Her (CSB '06) and Elizabeth Genzler (CSB '06).

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 anticipates the celebration of her Golden Jubilee as a

Benedictine sister in July 2005. The need-based scholarship honors students' commitment to Chinese language, culture, and service.

## **SJU Grad Publishes Article**

Thomas Craft, an SJU grad from '05, has received much acclaim for his research paper entitled, "Bully for Japan: TR's False Perceptions of Japanese Culture and Its Impact on the Portsmouth Agreement." The paper, which traces Theodore Roosevelt's support for Japan in his handling of the treaty to end the Russo-Japanese War of 1904-05 to the heroic image of samurai Japan instilled in him by a Harvard

classmate from Japan, has been published in *The Wittenberg Journal of East Asian Studies*, America's premier undergraduate Asian Studies journal. Tom's plans now include traveling to Asia for further language study and then applying to graduate programs in modern Chinese history.

## **Asian Studies Program Featured on MPR**

The Asian Studies Program at CSB/SJU was featured prominently on Minnesota Public Radio's "Midmorning" program on August 15, 2005. Daniel Rosen, a renowned businessman and founder of China Strategic Advisory (an organization that provides consulting services to US companies interested in doing business in China), praised the Asian Studies program for its forward-looking approach to training future "China Hands." Specifically, Rosen

mentioned Carol Rueckert, who graduated from CSB in 1999, as an example of someone who St. John's and St. Ben's prepared well for a career in China. Ms. Rueckert currently trains future business leaders in Beijing.

The design, introduction article, and overall creation of this newsletter were made possible by the Asian Studies Program Student Workers, Tai Ping Lee and Gesa Santos.