

Asian Studies Program

Newsletter

FALL 2006

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CSB/SJU Grads Teach English in Asia!



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Asian Studies Program

College of Saint Benedict/ Saint John's University

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

A note from the editor:

The Asian Studies Program has created this newsletter to inform the CSB/SJU community about our latest news and happenings. I hope that you find this newsletter both informative and inspiring.

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

May Term Program Views Change, Makes Friends in South China

In May and June, 11 CSB/SJU students and one student from St. Vincent College joined Joe Rogers, the Coordinator of Asian Studies, for a one month study tour of Hong Kong, Macau, and Mainland China. The theme of the program was economic development and social change. The participants witnessed a society in transition from a state controlled/state planned economy to one driven by market forces, as well as the amazing social changes that have occurred in China as a result.

In Hong Kong, participants visited with many CSB/SJU alumni and current students who provided invaluable insight into contemporary Chinese culture as well as access to factories and other commercial facilities. The group also toured the Pearl River Delta area, including Shenzhen, Guangzhou and Zhongshan, to observe one of China's most

outward-looking and prosperous regions. After a relaxing holiday on Hainan Island, the group visited Zhanjiang Normal University (ZNU) in Southwest Guangdong. There, participants took classes in Chinese language, culture, history and art. Each participant also experienced a weekend home-stay with a Chinese family. Perhaps the most unforgettable part of the program was the lasting friendships that were made during the course of the month, and many participants have already expressed an interest in returning to China.

In the meantime, a delegation of ten students and two professors from ZNU plans to visit CSB/SJU for one month this coming January and February. While here, the delegation will participate in the Asia New Year celebration hosted by the Asia Club, attend specially designed lectures on American culture, sit in on regular CSB/SJU courses,

visit an elementary school in the area, and have a home-stay experience. This will be the third time that such a delegation has visited CSB/SJU from ZNU.



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 2006-07 to An Doan (CSB '07) and Andrew Zimmerman (SJU '09).

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. The need-based scholarship honors students' commitment to Chinese language, culture, and service.

CSB/SJU Summer Camps Continue —With a New Wrinkle

This past summer, 75 Japanese students “graduated” from our Summer ESL programs and can now count themselves among the more than 1,000 high school and university students who have participated in these programs over their almost 20 year existence. An earlier Asian Studies Newsletter described these programs in detail and documented the many ways in which they have touched the lives not only of the Japanese students, but also of CSB/SJU students who serve as counselors, the many faculty who have taught in the program and the hundreds of Minnesota families that have hosted home stays. I am already at work preparing for summer programs 2007.

For this issue, I would like to comment on the “new wrinkle” in summer ESL program activity on our campuses. Summer 2006 witnessed the inaugural year of



our AmeriCulture program. Until this summer, our ESL Programs have enrolled only Japanese students from our partner schools in Tokyo and Okinawa. AmeriCulture, however, was an international program with some

forty students from China, Chile, Spain and Japan. Accompanied by teachers from their home schools, students attended classes in both ESL and American Culture, and participated in a host of on-campus activities that included everything from cookouts to our own World Cup to a talent show. And, of course, they explored Minnesota, visiting a State Park, the Mall of America, the Capitol Building, the Metrodome and Valley Fair. Living together in Mary Hall for three weeks, they not only got to know each other, but to break down cultural and political barriers they brought with them in their “baggage.” It was heartening to hear one of them proclaim at the graduation that he had discovered they were not so different after all. As an additional multi-cultural variable, the international students lived and played with American high school graduates entering CSB/SJU this fall. They engaged in their own curriculum in multicultural communication, international business and world area studies as part of the new World Leaders Program. Thus, among those people the students discovered were “not so different after all” were members of the CSB/SJU class of 2010.

It is our hope that some of the international participants will soon choose to enroll at CSB/SJU. Many of our study abroad students will be assisting in their

high schools this year and, we trust, will keep the memory of this past summer fresh in their minds. It is also our hope that the World Leaders participants will become just that—world leaders on our campuses during the next four years.

Can't wait till next year.

—From Dave Bennetts



CSB/SJU Grads Teach in Asia



For the past several years the Asian Studies Learning Community at CSB/SJU has helped hundreds of students and graduates find teaching opportunities in Japan and China. This year close to twenty recent graduates journeyed across the Pacific to teach English.

Daniel Dooher and Jason Stoffel are teaching in Japan through the Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program. Jon Walburg, another member of the CSB/SJU community who spent the last two years apprenticed to artist in residence Richard Bresnahan, is also teaching in Japan through the JET Program. Daniel Lauer (SJU '05), who began teaching through the JET Program last year, is again teaching through JET this year in Nagano Prefecture. Beth Potvin (CSB '04) and Chad Reker (SJU '05) are teaching at the prestigious Shogaku high school in Okinawa, Japan. They will join Aaron Toussaint (SJU '05) who taught at Shogaku last year and agreed to stay on for an additional year. Teaching at Bunkyo Gakuin University, our close partner and host for our Japan study abroad program, are

Katherine Aubrecht (CSB '06) and Magda Ruzickova (CSB '06). From the Czech Republic, Magda is the first international student graduate to teach at one of our partner schools in Japan.

CSB/SJU has nine recent graduates teaching at Southwest University (SWU) in Chongqing, the site of our China study abroad program. Cheval Morrison (SJU '05) joined eight representatives of the class of '06 at SWU, including Kyle Balder, Phil Benusa, Matt Bonham, Megan Fillipi, Jessica Hovey, Ben

Seggelke. Nicole Naumann (CSB '06) is teaching through Maryknoll's China Service Project at Zhanjiang Normal University (ZNU), the host of three previous CSB/SJU May Term study programs. Nicole has joined a long list of CSB/SJU alumni who have taught English at ZNU over the past ten years.



Oelhafen, Michael Scharenbroich and Kristina Sherman. Karla Forrest (CSB '05) and four members of the SJU class of '06 are teaching English at Xiamen University in Southeast China. The recent SJU grads at Xiamen are Adam Bauerly, Joshua Hewitt, Matt Reubendale, and JJ



Brian Heilman Joins International Education Staff

Brian Heilman, a 2005 graduate of SJU, has recently joined the staff of the CSB/SJU Center for International Education. Heilman's return to the CSB/SJU community comes after a year of Asian excitement, including: participation in a month-long tour of East Asia with the CSB/SJU Choral Arts Ensemble in May 2005, leading five CSB/SJU students on a month-long service learning tour of India in August 2005 and a six-month volunteer teaching placement in Kolkata, India, funded by the University of Minnesota's Upper Midwest Human Rights Fellowship program.

Although he wasn't an Asian Studies student during his time at



SJU, Heilman discovered and developed an intense interest in Asian cultures – particularly those of South Asia – while an undergraduate. He made his first visit to the Indian subcontinent as a Junior, spending a month touring NGOs in northern India with a group of Australian social

justice volunteers. Heilman maintained contact with these Indian groups and his Australian trip leaders upon returning to the U.S.A, and almost instantly began devising methods to return to India. After several serendipitous occurrences, including an unexpected visit to campus by UN-recognized Kolkata school principal, Sister Cyril Mooney, Heilman's India dreams fell right into place.

As the first ever "Global Education Associate," Heilman will write Center for International Education publications, supervise a staff of student employees and interns, and give presentations about study abroad around campus. While he recognizes that all of CSB and SJU's study abroad programs offer thrilling educational experiences to our students, Heilman believes that the trips in Asia offer the healthiest, most exciting mix of culture shock, risk and reward. He is proud and happy to collaborate with Asian Studies faculty and staff in promoting and enhancing CSB/SJU's educational programs in Asia.

The first major step in this collaboration will likely be the creation of a semester-long study abroad program in Kolkata, including service learning opportunities at Sister Cyril's school. Heilman and other CIE staff expect this program to join

the ranks of CSB/SJU's nationally-recognized study abroad programs within a couple years. A summer trip to India in 2007 is also a distinct possibility, although it hasn't been finalized.

Heilman welcomes emails (bhielman@csbsju.edu), phone calls (320-363-5974), and impromptu visits from any students interested in Asia, India, study abroad, or otherwise.



SJU Student Contributes to Korean Newspaper, Discovers Heritage



SJU sophomore Nik Nadeau spent the summer of 2006 on an intercultural journey of sorts. A Korean adoptee, Nik decided to enroll in an intensive Korean language course at the University of Minnesota and to intern at the St. Paul-based *Korean Quarterly* newspaper. Both experiences were rewarding and illuminating for Nik. He greatly improved his abilities in the Korean language by not only going to class for several hours a day, but he also befriended a student from Korea through an exchange program at the University of Minnesota called "Tandem Plus." Nik and his Korean partner shared many rewarding experiences together. Nik's internship also brought him closer to his Korean heritage, as he had the opportunity to meet many leaders in the Korean American community. He also traveled

with the *Shinparam poongmulnori* drum troupe to the Korean Street Festival in Chicago, an experience Nik identified as the highlight of his summer.

Next spring, Nik will pursue his other great cultural and linguistic interest by participating in the CSB/SJU Guatemala program. Calling himself a "Spanish-speaking Korean American," Nik hopes to nurture his interest in Latin America before setting his sights on a trip to Korea sometime thereafter. In an article for the *Korean Quarterly*, Nik stated the following conviction: "*Han-guk-un ajik cheu-hantae ju-nun manieego cheu-nun ajik Hanguk-hantae ju-nun mani issoyo*—Korea still has a lot to give me, and I still have a lot to give Korea." The CSB/SJU community is fortunate to have students like Nik who not only are

willing to pursue their passions and interests, but to share that experience for benefit of all of us.

Asia Club Update

Asia Club would like introduce itself to the CSB/SJU community. This year has begun with great vigor and enthusiasm, but we feel the best is yet to come.

Recognizing that Asia is as vast as it is diverse, we understand the need to respect the uniqueness of each Asian culture. This year we have celebrated Diwali, a Hindu festival of lights rooted in the traditions of South Asia. Eid al-Fitr, a feast celebrating the end of Ramadan, was also presented by the Asia Club and highlighted customs common throughout the Southwest Asia.

We now look forward to presenting both student and faculty speakers who will engage subjects pertaining to Asia. Also on the agenda are communal

events like barbecues, craft nights, Asian-themed dinners, and the construction of an Asian garden here on campus. And of course the Asian New Year will be the crown jewel that it has always been.

Of course this could not be possible without the help of a dedicated board and the guidance of our club advisor Joe Rogers. PX Yeap is our chair this year along with two co-chairs Tom Liedl and Mai Moua. Nriya Ramani is our fall secretary who will be substituted by Rachel Avenido in the spring. Jinnie Regli and Masaaki Genka are our two historians, and Keiichiro Oyama will act as the club treasurer.

But the greatest asset to Asia Club is the students here at CSB/SJU. Without out their desire to understand Asian culture, the club could not exist. To them we say thank you. For more information about Asia Club, please contact asiacub@csbsju.edu.

Science Exchange Program with Southwest University Breaks New Ground

Last summer, CSB/SJU started an unique summer science research exchange program with Southwest University, Beibei, China. Eight CSB/SJU science students from the Biology, Chemistry, and Physics Departments traveled to China where they partnered with eight undergraduate Chinese science students to conduct scientific research at the university. They worked on projects as diverse as isolating bacteria with novel pesticide-degrading properties to computer modeling of the electronic properties of crystals. Six weeks later, on July 3rd, all the students returned as research partners and friends to CSB/SJU to start new projects, ranging from laser optics to genetic engineering. It's the first time the schools – who have been partners for 20 years – have been part of a truly reciprocal exchange of students.

Henry Jakubowski, a Professor of Chemistry at CSB/SJU, developed the new science exchange program. He first thought about a possible exchange program in 1997, when he visited Southwest University (then known as Southwest China Normal University). Return visits in 1999 and 2004 only reinforced his idea. Science majors have many required science courses with labs that can not easily be completed abroad. Just 28 percent of science students are

able to complete a study abroad experience compared to an average of 50 percent for other CSB/SJU majors who participate in one of CSB/SJU's 17 semester-long programs. The summer exchange program helped CSB/SJU science students to have an intensive experience in China, and in addition allowed for the first truly reciprocal exchange of students between the partner institutions.

Jianping Xie, a Professor of Biological Sciences at Southwest University, led the Chinese students to CSB/SJU. He notes that his students learned to study and make friends abroad. In addition, they learned a different style of asking scientific questions, and learned teamwork with the foreign experience with the U.S.



students. Besides their work in the labs, the Chinese students visited the Science Museum in St. Paul, the University of Minnesota, attended a Minnesota Twins' game at the Metrodome and camped on the North Shore.

Professors Jakubowski and Xie are planning next summer's program which will hopefully be expanded to include faculty and students from Mathematics and Psychology. In addition, five CSB/SJU science faculty will accompany Professor Jakubowski and the selected CSB/SJU students to SWU for the start of the program, so they can meet their corresponding faculty



partner and develop collaborations.

—From Henry Jakubowski

SJU Alum Teaching English, Launching Career in Thailand

A report from Jamie Zamjahn.

As a history major, I tried to take advantage of all the different cultural courses that CSB/SJU had to offer. I first got interested in Asian Studies in the fall of 2001 while taking Modern China with Dr. Bohr. I had never studied Asian History before and I found it extremely interesting. Dr. Bohr would always bring former students into the class and have them discuss their experiences while traveling and living in Asia. The seed was planted and I soon decided that after graduation I would also go to Asia to teach English.

I have now been teaching English in Thailand for over

three years. I am currently teaching at Valaya Alongkorn Rajabhat University in Pathum Thani and also serving as a Language / Human Resources Consultant for Western Digital Corporation. For those interested in working or teaching in Asia, Thailand has a lot to offer. There are presently too few quality teachers for the amount of jobs available. In addition, teaching can open doors into other careers. It is not unheard of for language consultants to be hired full-time by multinational companies in Thailand. Right now, I am applying to MBA programs and planning on starting my own language and HR consulting company directed at multinational companies in Thailand. So, if you have the motivation and want to

experience a new culture with a low cost of living, Thailand is definitely a great place to be.

If anyone would like more information on teaching, working, living, or just traveling to Thailand, please e-mail me at jzam77@gmail.com.

Alumni Updates

Tom Kain, currently teaching at Shogaku high school in Okinawa, Japan, published an article entitled "*Regrettable Incidents: The Historical Foundations of Japanese Stereotypes in WWII*" in the Spring 2006 issue of the *Wittenberg Journal of East Asian Studies*, the premier journal of American undergraduate research on East Asia. Tom is applying to graduate schools to study Japanese history.

Tom Craft and **Paul Wegerson** are studying Chinese language in Beijing this year in preparation for graduate programs in Asian Studies. Tom wants to become a college teacher in modern Chinese history, and Paul wants to earn an advanced degree in U.S.-China relations in preparation for entering a U.S. government career dealing with China.

Jamie Polga, who taught at Southwest University, is now on the staff of the China Center at the University of Minnesota coordinating China Center outreach programs in the Twin Cities area.

Mike Cass, who taught in China through Maryknoll and is now enrolled at Saint Thomas University Law School, did an internship at a Chinese law firm in Shanghai last summer to learn about Chinese legal practices regarding patent and copyright protection. Mike is heading for a career in U.S.-China law.

Vinh Ho, former co-president of the Asia Club, taught in China through Maryknoll and is now teaching in Korea. He wants to make a career of teaching in Asia.

Anna Murayama, the first Shogaku high school in Okinawa, Japan, student to study at CSB, has just been accepted into the graduate program at Tokyo University, Japan's most prestigious institution of higher learning.

Lia Veenendahl, who studied at Southwest and wrote a senior honors thesis on China, has just been accepted into Tufts University and Georgetown University in international relations. She wants to develop a career in U.S.-China relations