Zhanjiang Students Visit CSB/SJU

An exchange group of 12 students from China’s Zhanjiang Normal University (ZNU) visited CSB/SJU during January and February 2011. The presence of the visiting students was an enriching and positive experience for the CSB/SJU students, and provided all participants with new perspectives.

In addition to attending courses, the ZNU students were immersed in American college life, including visits to athletic and fine arts events; eating meals in the SJU Refectory and CSB Gorecki Center; exploring the library and research facilities; and just enjoying time hanging out with friends.

Many CSB/SJU students volunteered to help the ZNU students (cont. on page 3)
CSB/SJU Students Participate in the 63rd Japan-America Student Conference

The Asian Studies Program at CSB/SJU would like to congratulate students Kunihiro Shimoji and Courtney Kimball for their achievement in having been selected as American delegates to participate in the 63rd Japan-America Student Conference for the summer of 2011. The Japan-America Student Conference (JASC) is a time-honored tradition for young leaders, initiated in 1934 by Tokyo University students concerned by pre-war relations with the U.S. These Japanese students invited a delegation of U.S. students to Japan to openly discuss pressing issues of the day. The following year, American students reciprocated the invitation by hosting a delegation of Japanese students in the U.S. Through the years, this unique cultural interchange has grown in purpose and scope and now includes more than 4,000 alumni on both sides of the Pacific. This year, the 63rd JASC was held in Japan from July 28th until Aug 21st. This year the conference also devoted time to discussing how we can move forward as a global community after the recent disasters in Japan, and Shimoji and Kimball are excited to bring back stories of how CSB/SJU students are positively engaging the situation.

In 2010, Shimoji was one of 70 students (35 from each country) selected for the 62nd Japan-America Student Conference that took place in the United States. At the conference, Shimoji quickly set himself apart as a leader and was elected to the Executive Board of 16 students in charge of organizing the 2011 conference in the Japanese cities of Niigata, Kyoto, Tokyo, and the prefecture of Okinawa. Shimoji also led a roundtable at the conference on strengthening the ties between nations through comprehensive security, where he analyzed the long-term strategic possibilities for both nations to promote the peace and prosperity of East Asia and the international community. Shimoji was born and raised in Okinawa, Japan, and is currently a junior at Saint John’s University where he is pursuing a major in Political Science with a focus in International Relations. Here at CSB/SJU Shimoji is a resident assistant in Mary Hall, an active member of the International Affairs Club, and a part of the Extending the Link team for the 2011-12 academic year.

Kimball applied to take part in the 63rd JASC and was accepted from a competitive nationwide pool of applicants. The application process required Kimball to write four essays and submit a transcript, resume, and writing sample. Professors Martin Connell and Richard Bohr also supported her through letters of reference. Kimball is from Apple Valley, Minnesota, and is currently a junior at the College of Saint Benedict, where she is pursuing majors in both Theology and Asian Studies, as well as a minor in Japanese. Here at CSB/SJU Kimball is involved with Magis Ministries, intramural sports, and the Student Ambassador program. At the conference she was a member of the roundtable on globalization, where she was asked to discuss the insight offered by the theories and paradigms of the past, while at the same time asking what we need to rethink, or what new ideas and theories we must consider, as we attempt to understand the globalizing world.

For more about the Japan-America Student Conference, visit http://isedc.org/content/view/44/69/lang,english/

Asian Studies on Facebook!

The Asian Studies program at CSB/SJU would like to remind students that the program is now available on Facebook. While the Facebook group is still small, we are excited to have more students join! Take a look at http://tinyurl.com/asianstudies
Zhanjiang Students Visit CSB/SJU (cont.)

feel at home, walking them to class and inviting them to off-campus events. The ZNU students attended both ESL classes and Chinese classes, learning English and teaching CSB/SJU students Chinese at the same time. They also attended other courses, such as Intercultural Communications, alongside CSB/SJU students. The ZNU students’ last day in Minnesota before their flight home was spent in Bloomington, where the students enjoyed shopping at the Mall of America.

The ZNU began its relationship with CSB/SJU over ten years ago, when many CSB/SJU alums went to Zhanjiang to teach English through the Maryknoll China Service Project. This is the fifth time that ZNU has sent students and faculty members to our campuses, and ZNU has hosted four May term study groups from CSB/SJU. These exchanges between ZNU and CSB/SJU are the result of a long partnership shared by the three institutions that all participants hope will flourish for decades to come.
CSB/SJU has a long history of student exchange with Japan’s Bunkyo Gakuin University in Tokyo, and this past year one of the exchange students branched out into the St. Cloud community. Over Easter Break, the International Office gave exchange student Mei Fujiu the opportunity to visit a local elementary and middle school, where she taught 3rd, 4th, and 8th grade students about Japanese culture. “The students are very active and they asked me a lot of questions,” Mei said, and she really enjoyed teaching them origami (paper folding). Mei spent the entire 2010-11 academic year at CSB/SJU, and even though she has now returned to Japan, she reports that her experience in the classroom has made her want to come back to the United States someday to teach Japanese culture and language to American children.

CSB/SJU’s tradition of involvement with Asia was continued with Career Services’ hosting of a panel of CSB/SJU faculty and alumnae/i who have worked with Asia after graduation. The panel was held on February 15, 2011, and consisted of five alums and one faculty member.

Most of the CSB/SJU alums got their starts through teaching English in Japan or China. For example, Jessica Hovey taught English in China for one year and in Korea for two years, and is now teaching with Minnesota College Success Core. Similarly, Andrew Millford taught English in China, and is now getting his graduate degree teaching English as a Second Language. Nick Lenczewski taught English in China after graduation and is currently in China setting up an English school. Nicole Bach worked at CSB/SJU’s summer ESL camps, taught in Japan through OBC for one year, and now works at the Science Museum of Minnesota. Tom Ziegler, who studied abroad in China through CSB/SJU, now works for Target in their international sourcing division, doing business with Target’s offices in Asia and traveling there throughout the year. Finally, Wayne Torborg, Director of Digital Collections and Imaging at Hill Museum and Manuscript Library, spoke about his work digitizing the St. John’s Bible, and how he collaborates with a Chinese publisher and has travelled to China to oversee the Bible’s printing there.

Podcasts of Career Services' series of panels related to careers in other areas of the world are available on the CSB/SJU website from prior years as well. The many different careers explored by alums serve as examples and inspiration for future CSB/SJU graduates.

In the next issue...

- Updates on the Year 3 Activities for the Title VI Grant Project
- Information about the 2nd annual Minnesota-China Business Opportunity Conference, to be held in October 2011
- Profiles of the 2011-12 Asia Club Board
Teaching in Asia Program

Every year, many CSB/SJU graduates start off their Asia-related careers by teaching English as a Second Language in Asia. This year, twenty graduates are teaching English in Japan or China through the Teaching in Asia Program operated by Asian Studies.

JAPAN

Bunkyo Gakuin University
Andrew Morris, Jordan Grabow

Orden Bunka Language Center
Sarah Haugen, John Stanton, Andrew Forkes-Gudmundson

Shogaku Junior and Senior High School
Ben Loiselle, Paul Telthorst, Timothy Deda, Emily Nieves, David Wolf

Chiba Prefecture Elementary Schools
Theo Hoglund

CHINA (all at Southwest University)

Rajko Ivanisevic, Greg Sullivan, Diana Blanco, Brendan Gorman, Ryan Kephart, Matt Laine, John Murray, Peter Sneve

First Standardized Asian Studies Major Graduate

The CSB/SJU Asian Studies Program congratulates the Asian Studies graduates from the Class of 2011: Hannah Nelson (CSB) and Cheng Xiong (SJU). Cheng is graduating with an individualized major in Asian Studies, and Hannah is the first graduate with the new standardized major. The Asian Studies Program is thrilled to celebrate this achievement.

Last year, the CSB Board of Trustees and SJU Board of Regents approved a new, standardized Asian Studies major that was added to the curriculum this past school year. The major, aided by a federal Title VI grant, will help graduates pursue Asia-related careers and increase their competitiveness in the global job market, and is backed by an 80-year tradition of dialogue and community between the Benedictines and East Asia. An individualized major in Asian Studies was offered at CSB/SJU beginning in 1969; continuing their commitment to multiculturalism and global citizenship, members of the CSB/SJU communities worked toward the formation of a standardized major. Students will be able to choose from among 40 Asian Studies courses, including courses in Chinese and Japanese language instruction. CSB/SJU also offers related minors in Asian Studies under the auspices of the Asian Studies program, and in Japanese and Chinese are available through the Modern and Classical Languages department.