

Asian Studies Program



Students from Zhanjiang Normal University, along with their chaperone, Ms. Xiao Jianchun, participate in a home visit.

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)

COLLEGE OF
Saint Benedict



Saint John's
UNIVERSITY

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://iscdc.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>

CSB Student Receives S. Telan Hu Scholarship

The CSB/SJU Asian Studies Program wishes to offer its congratulations to **Lindsay Brull**, 2011 recipient of the Sister Telan Hu, OSB Scholarship. The Sister Telan Scholarship is a yearly merit-based award of given to CSB/SJU students in Asian Studies with a concentration in Chinese who demonstrate a strong commitment to service. The scholarship was established by Margaret Man-Hwa Wang in memory of her parents, Mr. Jung-Chun Wang and Mrs. Jui-Chin Liao Wang.

Lindsay is a Hispanic Studies major with minors in Asian Studies and Chinese; she studied abroad during fall semester 2010 in Beibei, China. Taking Chinese language courses and studying abroad piqued her interest in Chinese history and culture, and she says she hopes to return to China or Hong Kong someday to pursue a job or an internship. Lindsay is actively involved in service both on and off campus, devoting much of her time to teaching English and working in nursing homes. Congratulations, Lindsay!

CSB/SJU Students Receive UISFL Scholarship

The Asian Studies Program wishes to offer congratulations to the 2011 Recipients of the UISFL Scholarship in Chinese or Japanese Language: **Chi Le, Kevin Horton, Senssue Vang, Faith Xiong, Rachel Mathwig, Senai Mesfin, Frederick Jones, Roger Gregory, Cindy Gonzalez, Zachary Boever, Rachel Mullin, and Gerald LeGarde.**

The United States Department of Education granted CSB/SJU a Title VI Undergraduate International Studies and Foreign Language grant for the purpose of strengthening Asian Studies on our campuses. Part of the fund was been designated for student scholarships to study abroad in China or Japan, with selective preference given to those who will be studying Japanese or Chinese at an advanced level and who plan to continue their language study after their return from study abroad. The students listed above are studying at Southwest University in China or Bunkyo Gakuin University in Japan during the fall semester of 2011.

China Cross Cultural Communication Club Celebrates Chinese New Year

The China Cross Cultural Communication Club (5C) delighted students, faculty, friends, and family as they held their Chinese New Year celebration again this year in the Great Hall. This semi-formal event offered a Chinese buffet that served authentic Chinese dishes, and after dinner a two hour program was held with over 11 acts performed. Some of the performances included a traditional Chinese song, a Chinese fashion show, and an act by Johnnie Blend. In between acts there was also a raffle for prizes, and the event ended with a marriage proposal, a surprise to both the audience as well as the woman being proposed to. The Chinese New Year event is entirely student run, and this year 400 students attended the festivities to welcome the year of the Rabbit. However, this event did more than offer insights into the Chinese culture. Since the Chinese New Year is celebrated by the gathering of families to share a meal and give thanks, this year's event brought the CSB/SJU family together, marking a wonderful celebration of culture and diversity here on our campuses.

Zhanjiang Students Visit CSB/SJU (cont.)

(cont. from page 1)

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.

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 Exchange Student Mei Fujiu Teaches Japanese Culture in Local Schools

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.



Working with Asia Panel

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.

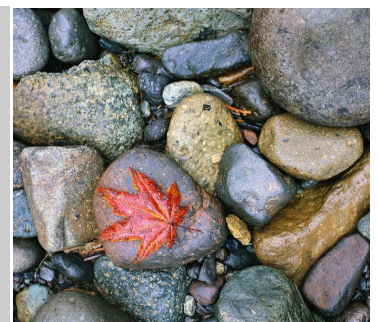
Most of the CSB/SJU alums got their starts through teaching English in Japan or China. For example, **Jessica Hovey** taught English in China for one year and in Korea for two years, and is now teaching with Minnesota College Success Core. Similarly, **Andrew Millford** taught English in China, and is 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



Asian Studies Program

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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.