

# Asian Studies Program



Maria Traxler, CSB '13, joins the Bunkyo group for a day of sightseeing in the Twin Cities.  
Photo courtesy of Yumi Hirayama

## ***Bunkyo Gakuin Group Visits***

An exchange group of 14 students from CSB/SJU's Japanese partner school, Bunkyo Gakuin University, visited CSB/SJU for three weeks in March. The students participated in many different activities both at CSB/SJU, including rock climbing and visiting art exhibitions, and off campus, such as visiting the Science Museum and participating in home-stay excursions for a weekend. Many CSB/SJU students volunteered to help the Bunkyo students feel at home, walking

them to class and hosting the students for their home-stays. The Bunkyo students attended both ESL classes

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## *Three CSB Students Receive S. Telan Hu Scholarship*

The CSB/SJU Asian Studies Program wishes to offer its congratulations to Pa Nhia Lee, Victoria Ly, and Adrianna Rivera, 2010 recipients of the Sister Telan Hu, OSB Scholarship. The Sister Telan Scholarship is a yearly need-based award of \$1000 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.

Sister Telan developed the Chinese language program at CSB/SJU and taught language, literature, and academic skills courses. She continues to serve the CSB/SJU community and exemplify a spirit of service.

## *Asia Club Celebrates Asian New Year*

The Asia Club delighted students, faculty, friends, and family as they held their customary Asian New Year celebration again this past year in the upper level of Gorecki. The celebration's theme was "Making Wishes," and was reflected in the paper boats set afloat in a tub of water. The boats had been folded earlier in the year at Asian Craft Night, also sponsored by the Asia Club, and everyone who attended the New Year celebration was able to add their wishes for the New Year to a boat and let it float. Displays from eight different cultures were set up around the room, offering insights into each culture through presentations as well as food. The festivities also included a fashion show presenting kinds of clothing from many different Asian cultures.

## *Bunkyo Students Visit CSB/SJU (cont.)*

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and Japanese classes, learning English and teaching CSB/SJU students Japanese at the same time. They also attended other courses such as Intercultural Communications and Dance Studies alongside CSB/SJU students, and an ESL class specifically designed for the BSIS program. The Bunkyo students' last day in Minnesota before their flight home was spent in Bloomington, where the students enjoyed shopping at the Mall of America.

This is the first year that CSB/SJU has hosted students from Bunkyo University during the spring. Previously, Bunkyo students have come during summer vacation. This year, the timing of the trip was changed so that the Bunkyo students would be able to interact with CSB/SJU students during the

American school year. The Japanese school year starts in April, so the trip's timing in March also coincided with Bunkyo Gakuin's spring break.

The partnership between Bunkyo Gakuin and CSB/SJU has been in agreement for nearly 20 years, and last year the president of Bunkyo Gakuin, Akiko Shimada, was presented with a Presidential Citation from Saint John's University honoring her contributions to higher learning and commitment to international education.

Students interested in study abroad at Bunkyo Gakuin University should visit the Office for Education Abroad in the Academic Services Building at CSB.

## *CSB/SJU Student-Faculty Groups Receive Freeman Grants*

The Asian Studies Program at CSB/SJU would like to congratulate **Dr. Sophia Geng** and **Dr. Gar Kellom** for their achievement in having been selected to receive research grants from ASIANetwork to conduct research with students in the summer of 2010. ASIANetwork, a consortium of over 170 colleges, supported the research of thirteen different student-faculty groups in Asia this summer through grants from the Freeman Foundation.

Dr. Geng and her students researched Geng Village, famous for its storytelling tradition. Over the years, the village has become associated with a tradition of storytelling, and today Geng Village has over 230 officially recognized storytellers. Five students from CSB/SJU spent a week in Beijing interviewing scholars and officials who are seeking to preserve China's "intangible cultural heritage," including some of the tales told by oral storytellers in Geng Village. They then traveled to Geng Village to spend three weeks conducting observations and interviews, and videotaping storytellers. Their project culminated in an academic paper focused on their discoveries, a collection of fifteen of the folktales they discovered at Geng Village, and a video documentary about storytelling in Geng Village.

Dr. Kellom's students carried out a number of different research projects in Nepal. Two projects were conducted by biology majors who plan to enter graduate studies in medicine and dentistry. **Jess Narjarian** (CSB'10) focused on a qualitative study on the lack of adequate understanding regarding Alzheimer's and dementia in the Kathmandu Valley as well as outside the valley in Biratnagar and Dharan. **Megan Kack** (CSB'10) studied the socio-cultural forces that hinder the ability of Western dental practice to bring advanced dental technology to Nepal and considered strategies for alleviating this problem. Two other projects focused on Nepali women in villages and monasteries. **Jamie Utzinger** ('10) chronicled the life stories of five women through narratives and photographic images in the Pokhara area in order to produce an image collection and photo-journal for display in selected sites in Nepal and in the CSB/SJU art gallery. **Elizabeth Carroll-Anderson** (CSB'10) tutored Buddhist nuns in Spanish and, in doing so, conducted research on why Nepali women enter monasteries and what their current roles are in the monastic community. Finally, **Sarah Mahowald** (CSB'11) conducted research focusing on the lack of adequate instruction in art, modern art techniques and art history in the schools of Nepal. Mahowald, who returned to Nepal for a second summer, helped design and integrate an art education curriculum for several art schools in Nepal.

For more about the Nepal project, visit their blog at <http://csbnepal2010.wordpress.com/>

### *Asian Studies on Facebook!*



The Asian Studies program at CSB/SJU is pleased to announce that the program is now available to students in one more way: through Facebook. While the Facebook group is still small, we are excited to have more students join! Take a look at <http://tinyurl.com/asianstudies>

## *Dr. William Farrell Presents on US-Japan Relationships*

On March 18, CSB/SJU had the honor of hosting **Dr. William Farrell**, Chairman of the National Association of Japan America Societies. Dr. Farrell's presentation, *From Black Ships to a Black President: Images and Reality in US-Japan Relations* focused on how relations between Japan and the United States have been reflected through the years in visual media such as woodblock prints, political cartoons, and postcards. Using these media as examples, and drawing on his own extensive experience with Japan, Dr. Farrell traced the interaction between the US and Japan from 1853, when Commodore Matthew Perry's black ships sailed into Uruga Harbor in Japan, up to the present, touching on the controversy regarding the American military presence in Okinawa. Dr. Farrell holds a PhD in International Relations from the University of Michigan and has spoken and written extensively about Japan in two books and numerous articles and opinion pieces.



### *Working with Asia Panel*

CSB/SJU's tradition of involvement with Asia was continued in Career Services' hosting of a panel of CSB/SJU alums and professors who have worked with Asia after graduation. The panel, held on February 16, 2010 and hosted by Professor David Bennetts, consisted of five alums and one professor.

Most of the CSB/SJU alums got their starts through teaching English in Japan or China. For example, **Carl Schlueter** taught English in Japan for three years, and continues to recruit alums from CSB/SJU to teach at the same school where he used to work. Similarly, **Therese Albertson** taught English in China, and now works in Best Buy's international department. **Katie McCarney**, currently a CSB/SJU admissions representative working with international students, also taught

English in China, and **Brittany Lehnen Reif** taught both at CSB/SJU's summer ESL camps and in the JET Program, and is currently working on her Master's degree in ESL. **Zach Reif**, her husband, worked for a year in Japan at a Japanese internet security company, helping with marketing to English-speaking countries. Finally, Professor **Kingshuk Mukherjee**, a management professor at CSB/SJU, talked about his work in marketing in the textile industry before coming to CSB/SJU.

Career Services' series of panels related to careers in other areas of the world are available on the CSB/SJU website from last year as well. The many different careers alums have been able to enter into serve as examples and inspiration for future CSB/SJU graduates.

### *Asian Studies Program Fall/Winter 2010 Newsletter Preview*

- Updates on the Year 2 Activities for the Title VI Grant Project
- Details on the launch of the new India Study Abroad program
- More information about the new Asian Studies major and Chinese and Japanese language minors



### Asian Studies Program

www.csbsju.edu/asianstudies

P. Richard Bohr  
Director  
rbohr@csbsju.edu  
320.363.5918  
Richarda N29

Rachel Sherman  
Coordinator  
rsherman@csbsju.edu  
320.363.6094  
Richarda P11

Norma Koetter  
Supervisor  
nkoetter@csbsju.edu  
320.363.2770  
Richarda P09

Courtney Kimball  
Student Assistant  
asp@csbsju.edu

Maria Traxler  
Student Assistant  
asp@csbsju.edu  
(Abroad Fall 2010)

Every year, many CSB/SJU graduates start off their Asia-related careers by teaching English as a Second Language in Asia. This year, twenty-three graduates are teaching English in Japan or China.

#### JAPAN

##### **Bunkyo Gakuin University**

Andrea Lewandowski (CSB '09), Bree Auringer (CSB '10)

##### **Orden Bunka Language Center**

Peter Woodruff (SJU '10), Sarah Haugen (CSB '10), Angela Tate (CSB '10)

##### **Shogaku Junior and Senior High School**

Lisa Tsang (CSB '10), Ryan Moran (SJU '10), Ben Loiselle (SJU '08), Hannah Lammer (CSB '10)

##### **JET Program**

Tom McGill (SJU '10), Thomas Allen (SJU '09)

##### **Heart English School**

Theo Hogland (SJU '09)

#### CHINA

##### **Maryknoll Volunteer Teaching Program**

Mayra Aguilera (CSB '10), Jackie Murillo (CSB '10), Steven Posthumus (SJU '10)

##### **Southwest University**

Kelli Brezina (CSB '10), Cory Quirk Becker (SJU '10), Hibes Galeano (CSB '10), Anne Hylden (CSB '10), Kelsey Gustafson (CSB '10), Sean Suter (SJU '09), Brianne Boardman (CSB '10), Nicholas Palmquist (SJU '10)

### *Standardized Asian Studies Major Approved*

The CSB Board of Trustees and SJU Board of Regents have approved a new, standardized Asian Studies major, which is a part of the curriculum as of this fall. 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 a minor in Asian Studies under the auspices of the Asian Studies Program, and minors in Japanese and Chinese are now available through the Modern and Classical Languages department.

To share your information and story ideas, please contact Rachel Sherman at rsherman@csbsju.edu.