

East Asian *Studies*

Number 13, Summer 2016

Director's Note

By Hsiu-Chuang Deppman, Director, East Asian Studies

Greetings from Oberlin! After a short hiatus, the EAS newsletter is back to update you on the state of the program. First, let me say thanks to David Kelley for serving as interim director during 2014-15 before I began my four-year term of directorship in fall 2015.

Over the last two years, the department sponsored many successful events. In March 2015, Anuradha Needham in English and I cosponsored the [Asian Film Symposium](#), a first-of-its-kind symposium that brought keynote speakers Tom Gunning and Ho Chao-ti along with nine renowned film scholars to discuss Indian and Chinese cinemas in the global context. This three-day symposium attracted more than 200 students and faculty and included lectures, workshops, and film screenings.

Congratulations to Ann Sherif for being part of the faculty team that received a [LIASE](#) grant (Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment) from the Henry Luce Foundation. The exploratory phase of the grant sponsored seminars, lectures, and two faculty-student research trips: one to China in January 2015, led by Qiusha Ma, and another to Japan in June 2015, led by Ann Sherif. More research, teaching, and collaborative opportunities initiated by the grant will begin in fall 2016.

This year EAS has been blessed with many wonderful visiting faculty, but now we bid farewell to four of our beloved colleagues: Ai Sukegawa in Japanese, Jie Zhang in Chinese,

Asako Izumi in Japanese, and Austin Parks in EAS and history. EAS appreciates their intellectual energy, collegiality, and pedagogical contributions to the program. We cherish their friendship and wish them much success.

Meanwhile, we will welcome six new colleagues in fall 2016. Xin Zhang, a Mellon language postdoc from Ohio State University, has a two-year appointment teaching Chinese language and linguistics. Huiping Pang, visiting assistant professor of East Asian art history, will replace Bonnie Cheng on sabbatical leave in 2016-17. Moe Hirose, visiting instructor of Japanese, and Miho Suzuki, visiting lecturer of Japanese, will join the Japanese language teaching staff. Hengyu Zhang from Beijing Normal University is our new visiting instructor of Chinese. Martino Dibeltulo, OKUM postdoc in EAS and religion, will be teaching Chinese Thought and Religion and Tibetan Buddhism.

Special thanks to Joe Romano, visual resources curator in the art department, who in 2015 scanned, digitized, and edited over 4,500 slides donated by retired Japanese history professor Ron DiCenzo.

Our program continues to thrive in language instruction and interdisciplinary course offerings. We have robust enrollments in all five levels of Chinese and Japanese language classes, a rare feat among liberal arts colleges across the country. We value the support of our alumni and hope to stay in touch with everyone in our extended EAS family.



Faculty Publications

欧柏林大学东亞系東亞通訊

FACULTY AND STAFF NEWS

MARC BLECHER was on leave in the fall, during which he finished a draft of his book manuscript titled *A World to Lose: Working Class Formation in China from the 19th Century to the Present*. He published “Working Class Reformation and De-formation in the PRC,” in Yingjie Guo, ed., *Handbook on Class and Social Stratification in China*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar, 2016, chapter 17 (pp. 335-361) and “China: From State Socialist to Capitalist Iconoclast” in *Comparative Governance*, edited by Paulette Kurzer. New York: McGraw-Hill, 2015. Shorter publications include a review of Eli Friedman, *Insurgency Trap: Labor Politics in Post-Socialist China*, in *China Quarterly* 222, June 2015: 552-554, and a contribution to “Author Meets Critics: Wu Yiqing, The Cultural Revolution at the Margins: Chinese Socialism in Crisis,” *Comparative and Historical Section Newsletter*, Social Science History Association, 2015. In April he journeyed to the University of Texas to speak in *A World to Lose*, and in May to Fudan University in Shanghai to present a paper, “Cuba, China and Comparative Politics: Prolegomenon for a Research Project on Transitions.”

BONNIE CHENG will be on sabbatical in 2016-17.

HSIU-CHUANG DEPPMAN began her four-year term of EAS program directorship in fall 2015. She enjoyed designing and teaching three new classes in 2014-15: CHIN 202, a mid-level Chinese language class; EAST 206, Chinese Literature and Cinema, a course on the art and politics of adaptation; and an advanced seminar, EAST 309, Chinese Popular Cinema and Public Intellectualism. She worked with Anuradha Needham in English to organize a large public event, the Asian Film Symposium, in spring 2015, which brought together for the first time film scholars to discuss Chinese and Indian cinemas in the global context. She gave a talk on Jia Zhangke at a workshop at Reed College in fall 2015 and will give two lectures on Hou Hsiao-hsien and Eileen Chang in June 2016. She published a referred essay, “Chinese Literature and Film Adaptation,” in *The Columbia Companion to Modern Chinese Literature* (ed. Kirk Denton. New York: Columbia UP) in 2016.

JAMES DOBBINS continues to teach courses on the religions of Japan and China. He will offer his seminar on Buddhism and Orientalism again next fall. Among the topics covered in it are the religious ideas of D.T. Suzuki (1870-1966), the great popularizer of Buddhism in the West. It will draw on themes from Dobbins’ edited volume, *Selected Works of D. T. Suzuki: Pure Land*, which was published by the University of California Press in 2015. Dobbins also continues his work on Japanese Buddhist art and hopes to publish a handbook on it in the near future. He was appoint-



East Asian Studies Potluck

ed coeditor of *The Journal of Japanese Studies* last year for a three-year term.

SUZANNE GAY writes: “I am happy to report that our Japanese language program is flourishing with five years offered, strong as ever. In addition to two levels of language, I teach a first-year seminar on cultural history called Manga Genji and an upper level EAS seminar, The Japanese Spatial Imagination. In the coming year I will add coverage of environmental issues to my fourth-year Japanese language media course and to my upper level seminar. It continues to be a pleasure to teach our engaged students. I continue my research and writing in medieval commercial history, with articles in the pipeline for several collections, including a new *Cambridge History of Japan*. I am also pleased to mentor occasionally several graduate students in my (very small) field.”

ASAKO IZUMI writes: “When this academic year started, I was worried if I could adjust to Oberlin within a year. As time passed too fast and my appointment is ending now, I regret things I could not try or improve in and out of class. However, I have been happy working with wonderful people here. Amy always helps me out with everything. Professors kindly guided me so that I could quickly get used to Oberlin. There is nothing better than working in a warm and cheerful environment. I sincerely appreciate EAS family for accepting me. Also, I would like to thank my Japanese students, too. Oberlin students’ enthusiasm for learning impressed me very much. I enjoyed and was glad to work together with those motivated students too. I wish EAS and all students continued success!”

SHEILA JAGER writes: “Having returned from a sabbatical year in Korea as a senior Fulbright scholar, research for my third book, *The Other Great Game: The Opening of Korea and the Birth of Modern East Asia, 1876-1905*, is progressing and inspires my teaching at Oberlin. I offered two new courses

linked to the new book and research project. Despite my new research focus, I continue to be involved in Korean War scholarship since the publication of my last book, *Brothers at War: The Unending Conflict in Korea* (W. W. Norton, 2013), and have taken up advisory roles for two PBS documentaries on the war. I also serve as an inaugural advisory board member for the Woodrow Wilson Center's for Korean History and Public Policy in Washington D.C."

DAVID KELLEY writes: "I just celebrated 35 years teaching and learning from some of the best students in higher education—Oberlin students, of course. I came back from a sabbatical leave which I spent working on materials for two courses. One I offered this spring on ethnicity and nation in China, and the other on China's environmental history will be offered in a future semester. I continue to travel to China for research and study and on a recent trip even enjoyed several clear and beautiful days in Beijing!"

SACHIKO KONDO writes: "The year 2016 is significant for me for two reasons—it marks the 10th year since I first came to the United States, and Oberlin students whom I taught for the first time as a full-time instructor are graduating. This year, I have attended various conferences and workshops, which have motivated me to expand my teaching skills to provide the best learning experience for our students. Teaching the past four years at Oberlin only helped to grow my love for teaching. Starting next academic year, I will be the oldest of all three Japanese instructors—how is that possible? I will miss our colleagues who will go on their new journeys, but I'm determined to work harder to make students so proud of our program! Thank you for a great year."

During the 2015-16 academic year, **KAI LI** taught fourth- and fifth-year Chinese, as well as a calligraphy class. As the private reading sponsor, he guided four students to read Chinese classics such as *The Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, *The Story by the Water Margin*, and *Dream of the Red Chamber*. The most important achievement Kai made for Oberlin students was to secure two Chinese Government Scholarships for an initial period of three years. This scholarship allows the recipients to choose their universities to study in China for a semester with all expenses covered. Over the summer of 2015, Kai played an active role in a teacher-training workshop organized by the Chinese Language Promotion Office of the PRC Ministry of Education to train young teachers selected to come to the United States to teach Chinese. He also gave two talks on the self-improvement as a Chinese language teacher and the compilation of Chinese language teaching materials. He also went to the Hebei Normal University, together with a group of American scholars, to deliver a talk on the basic requirements to be a

Chinese language teacher.

It seems that the academic year of 2015-16 for **FANG LIU** wasn't very different from the previous year. The only difference for her was to help teach first-year Chinese for the last five weeks of the first semester. Normally she would teach Chinese 102. Last year, we said goodbye to our dearest friend, Lao Huang, the most important character of our previous first-year textbook. Now we have a new friend, Ding Yi. The new textbook helps first-year students improve their language proficiency more quickly. As in previous years, Fang is in charge of Chinese 201, 301 and 302. She went back to Kunming, China again in the summer of 2015 and completed her fifth term as Director of the CET-Kunming Intensive Summer Language Program.

QIUSHA MA writes: "The 2015-16 academic year started with great hope and excitement. I had two wonderful groups of first-year Chinese students and a small, but challenging, fourth-year class. Sadly, due to serious negligence of the dining hall staff, my head was badly injured by a falling dividing board while I was attending Chinese Language Table with students. I am still on medical leave and hope to return to the classroom as soon as possible. One chapter, "NGO Policy and Politics in China: A Changing Game," in *China's Social Policy: Transformation and Challenges* was published by Routledge in the spring of 2016."

EMER O'DWYER is currently in Tokyo, based at Keio University, where she is conducting research for her new book project on the period immediately following Japan's surrender in World War II. She is looking forward to the fall semester when she will be teaching a history of Kyoto as part of the Associated Kyoto Program at Doshisha University. She sends all best wishes to the EAS Class of 2016!

AUSTIN PARKS had a great year at Oberlin College. Highlights included two upper-level seminars on Japanese photography and war memory. Although his life was consumed with teaching classes in the EAS and history departments, he still found time to work on his book manuscript on Japanese war photography. He also presented research related to that project at the 2016 Association of Asian Studies conference in Seattle. Next year he will be a visiting assistant professor of history at Kalamazoo College, where he will continue to teach classes on East Asia. He will miss Oberlin students and the albino squirrels. (They really do exist!)

AMY REDDEN writes: "It was a lot of work during a really busy time, but I am happy we have resumed the newsletter. I have really enjoyed reading the many alumni blurbs we have received. They really help current students when they wonder

EAST ASIAN STUDIES EVENTS

November 2014: Robert B. Olshansky, professor and head of urban and regional planning at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, and David Green, professor of geology at Denison University, offered a faculty development seminar titled “Resilience to Natural Disasters: a Case Study of the Sichuan Earthquake.”

January 2015: LIASE (Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment)

March 2015: Aimee Lee '99, papermaker and artist, and Tatiana Ginsberg, Mount Holyoke College, offered the workshop “Sustainable Traditions of Papermaking in East Asia.”

March 2015: Asian Film Symposium

March 2015: Donald Baker, professor of East Asian studies at University of British Columbia, gave the lecture “Christianity, Capitalism, and the Emergence of Democracy in South Korea.”

April 2015: Jeffrey Angles, associate professor of literature at Ohio State University, gave a lecture titled “Do Not Tremble: Poetic Responses to the March 11, 2011 Disasters in Japan.”

September 2015: Tomoke Watanabe gave a presentation on “Sadako’s Prayer” and a film screening of *Hiroshima No Pika* (The Flash of Hiroshima).”

November 2015: Rob Linrothe, associate professor of art history at Northwestern University, gave a lecture titled “Collecting and Its Consequences: Western Himalayan Case Studies of the 11th and 20th Centuries.”

February 2016: Yuichiro Onishi, associate professor of African-American and African studies, University of Minnesota, lectured on “Transpacific Antiracism.”

February 2016: Duy Phoung Le Nguyen, Vietnamese photographer, had an art exhibit and gave a lecture on “Holding Water.”

April 2016: Kenny Endo gave a 40th anniversary Taiko performance.

April 2016: Dr. Tiantian Zheng, SUNY Cortland, gave a lecture titled “Health Activism of Self-identified Gay Men in Post-Socialist China.”

April 2016: Jeffrey Wasserstrom, Chancellor’s Professor of History at the University of California at Irvine, lectured on “China and the Ghosts of 1900.”



Fall 2015 LIASE workshop participants



Oberlin College Taiko performs in Asia House

Thank You, Donors!

EAS gratefully acknowledges these donors:

Dr. Joan C. Abele (parent of Tom Newhall '07)
 Jeff Chan '02 and Ashely Suarez '06
 Alexander Guo '13
 Ellen Hammond '77
 David Heafitz '98
 Tami Blumenfield Kedar '00
 Dr. Richard Fried and Stella Kim '83
 Brendan Lepis '93
 Dr. and Mrs. Andrew Levitas (parents of Matt '05)
 Patrick Benesh-Liu '07
 Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Quiat (parents of Caitlin '17)
 Mina Takahashi '87
 Gregory Tobias '09 and Marjorie Gapp
 C. David Weaver '89

NEW GRADS AND STUDENT PRIZE WINNERS

NEWTON PRIZE

The Newton Prize is awarded for original works of student research and writing that “promote understanding between East and West.”

2015: Zoë Madonna and Franklin Sussman

2016: Henry Aberle, Austen Read-McFarland, and Leah Wood

AN FAMILY FOUNDATION SUMMER STUDY AWARD

Thanks to the An Family Foundation, we were able to send several students to Korea to study Korean language in the summers of 2014 and 2015.

2014: Hannah Kim and Beatrice Chum

2015: Catherine Lytle, Melissa Karp, and Aoma Caldwell

TUCKERSHIP

Thanks to the generous support of Tom Tucker and Dana Berry, two students were able to travel to Asia in 2016 during Winter Term. The Tuckership was established in 2005 in memory of Tom and Dana’s son, Zachary Tucker. Zac was an EAS major who spent Winter Term 2004 in China

Maddy Dunn and Rex Simmons

MARGARET RIBOVICH DICENZO PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN EAS

(AKA: “Ron’s Mom’s Prize”)

2015: Christopher Nguyen and Julia Nussenbaum

2016: Hannah Lorber



2015 Senior Party



2016 Senior Party

CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES!

CLASS OF 2015

Alexander Ahkeah	Chul Kim
Tziporah Amgott-Kwan (Major Rep in Chinese Studies)	(Major Rep in Japanese Studies)
Luke Austen-Smith	Loan Lu
Margaret Byerly	Zoë Madonna
Simone Christen	Christopher Nguyen
Nicholas Eltzik	Julia Nussenbaum
Matthew Jefferis	Taiyo Scanlon-Kimura
	Adina Shanholtz
	Thomas Viehman
	Rachel Young

CLASS OF 2016

Henry Aberle (Major Rep in Japanese Studies)	Manon Hume
Shannon Barnes	Jason Ihm
Jane Clark	Charles Kaplowitz
Madeleine Dunn (Major Rep in Chinese Studies)	Hannah Lorber
Annelise Giseburt (Major Rep in Japanese Studies)	E. Theil Manning
	Emma Mechling
	Bailey Myers
	Austen Read-McFarland
	Arian Robin
	Addison Simon
	Leah Wood

歐柏林大學
東亞系
東亞通訊

FACULTY/STAFF NEWS, CONT.

what they can do with an East Asian studies major. I feel so blessed to work in such a great department with such great people. We have the best work family ever!”

ANN SHERIF enjoyed teaching classes in Japanese language, the Avant Garde in Japan, and East Asian Book History and Cultures. As part of a multi-year Luce Initiative in Asian Studies and the Environment Grant, Sherif coordinated (with NGO Green Legacy Hiroshima, the college, and Shansi) the planting of seeds from atomic bomb survivor trees, which are now saplings in the college greenhouse and will be planted on Tappan Square in several years. Sherif co-authored with Kono Kensuke “Postwar Japanese Literature” in *The Cambridge History of Japanese Literature*. This summer, she will continue research on publishing and the media in Japan, and specifically CIA influence on postwar journals.

AI SUKEGAWA writes: “This is my last year at Oberlin. I will leave at the end of this semester and return to Japan. The past six years have been wonderful for me, and I have so many

good memories. Teaching at Oberlin has been very rewarding and I will definitely miss my students. I also feel very lucky to have such a fantastic and supportive work family in the EAS department. Thank you all so much for the amazing six years. It is sad to say goodbye but I am also looking forward to starting my new life in Japan with my fiancé this summer. I hope all of my students will continue to enjoy studying Japanese.”

JIE ZHANG writes: “I came to Oberlin in the fall of 2014 and I just fell in love with this place. I have spent the most wonderful, meaningful and special two years of my life so far in the Department of East Asian Studies, and this experience has definitely changed my life. I met great people and taught great students here. I am so lucky to have such a close and harmonious work family. I enjoyed every single moment working with my great colleagues and students. Although it is the season to say goodbye, and I certainly feel sad that I have to leave, I wish everyone, as well as myself, good luck for a bright and prosperous future.”

ALUMNI NEWS

SIENA AGUAYO '10 and **ANDY BARTHOLOMEW '07** write: “We got married at the Castle Green in Pasadena, Calif., on November 7, 2015. We met at Oberlin (in Anime Club) and currently live in San Francisco. Obies in attendance at the wedding included Carly Hodes, Philip Kurs, Greg Engel, Theora Kvitka, Eric Oeur, Morgan Aguayo, Ilse Miller, Leah Grover Davydov, Ivan Davydov, Marshall Duer-Balkind, and Darrin Schultz (*not pictured*).”

IRENE AKIO '01 writes: “I don’t feel that I have anything recent that’s really newsletter noteworthy, but wanted to send my love to everyone in the department—I still think very fondly of everyone I met and learned from in EAS. I’m living a simple and happy life in Seattle with my husband, Matt, and daughter, Nina.”

LEE AMBROZY '02 writes: “After graduating from Beijing’s Central Academy of Fine Arts in 2011, I began PhD studies in Chinese art and archaeology at NYU’s Institute of Fine Arts. Thanks to Oberlin EAS, translation has remained a primary interest: I edited and translated *Ai Weiwei’s Blog* (MIT Press, 2011) and edited *Inside and Outside the White Cube*, to be published this fall by Sanlian Publishing House. This is a groundbreaking collection of late-20th century American art criticism and theory, much available for the first time to Chinese-speaking audiences. Although buried in 10th-century archaeological materials and *Song Ci*, I’m still writing art criti-



Siena and Andy’s wedding

cism and working as senior editor at Artforum.com.cn.”

RICARDO BARRIOS '12 remains in Beijing, pursuing an MA in international politics (in Chinese) at Peking University. His research focuses on the dynamics of international rivalry.

JOHN CARROLL '84 is a professor of history and associate dean in the Faculty of Arts at the University of Hong Kong. Since graduating from Oberlin, he has lived in Massachusetts, Iowa, Missouri, Texas, Virginia, and Hong Kong (where he grew up). He had the pleasure of meeting Oberlin’s Associate Vice President/Director of Principal Giving Mike Nolan who visited Hong Kong recently.

EMILY CASTLE '11 writes: "I am working as a librarian in the Columbus [Ohio] area for the Reference and Adult Services Department of Southwest Public Libraries. I received my Master's of Library and Information Science degree at Kent State University in December 2015."

LILY CHANG '04 is a historian of late imperial and 20th-century China, specializing in the intersections between law and society in comparative and global perspectives. She is based in the history department at University College London and can be reached at L.Chang@ucl.ac.uk.

RACHEL COYTE '13 writes: "I spent the first two years after graduation working in Shenzhen, China, but returned to the states last year. I loved my time in Shenzhen, and I try to get back to the Pearl River Delta when I can. I've been working in a lab at Duke University since August 2015 and will start my PhD here in earth and ocean sciences in the fall. My focus is on inorganic water chemistry and drinking water quality, with projects in China, India, and North Carolina."

MANFRED ELFSTROM '02 writes: "My life has changed considerably in the past couple years. In 2013, I married in British Columbia. Last fall my wife gave birth to a little boy. I am finishing a PhD in Cornell University's Department of Government. For a large portion of 2014 and 2015, I conducted field research in the Yangtze River Delta and Pearl River Delta, interviewing workers, labor activists, factory owners, and officials concerning the political impact of China's rising labor unrest. When I could, I visited Taigu, where I lived and taught for two years after Oberlin. I have accepted a China Public Policy Fellowship at Harvard University's Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation starting this fall."

SUSANNA FESSLER '87 writes: "I will be on sabbatical for the fall 2016 semester and will visit faculty at Kansai Gaidai during that term. Would love to get together with other Obies who happen to be in the vicinity. I can be reached by e-mail at sfessler@aya.yale.edu."

DAKOTAH FITZHUGH '13 has traveled to Vietnam, Thailand, South Korea, and Japan to visit friends made at Oberlin and Japan Study. She recently moved to Berkeley, Calif., to work with renowned shibori artist and scholar Yoshiko Wada at the World Shibori Network and is helping to organize the 10th International Shibori Symposium in Oaxaca, Mexico, in November. She is hard at work learning Spanish in preparation for the symposium and speaking Japanese at work and home in a bilingual household.

LIZ GELNER '02 has one more year left in her OB/Gyn residency at Tripler Army Medical Center in Hawaii. She was

lucky enough to attend a conference and see Vietnam for the first time this year, so rest assured she hasn't forgotten her Asian studies roots!

SYLVIA GENTILE '76 writes: "In my current position as demonstration teacher at the UCLA Lab School, I have shared the work of our Inquiry Pedagogy Committee with interested teachers, education professors, teacher education students, and administrators at University of Hong Kong in 2012 and Kansai University in Japan in 2015. Our hands-on, inquiry- and project-based approach has offered children ways to make meaning from their studies of everything from micro-organisms to climate change to earth systems to outer space. They get to construct and revise models, create research keynotes, write and act out in tableaux vivants, and, of course, have lots of fun doing all these things as they learn. Students also get to create ways to take action about things that are sparked by their studies."

KATHRYN "XENNA" GOH '13 is hoping to apply to an East Asian studies PhD program. She writes: "In the meantime, I'm busy with work as a docent at the China Institute in New York. A typical day includes anything from painting Chinese characters with 3rd graders to lecturing groups of senior citizens on Buddhist cave paintings. One exhibition that's coming our way is from Shanxi province in China, where I was for two years with Shansi! I'm also working as a journalist for a small financial publication to save up for my next trip to Asia."

AKI GORMEZANO '13 writes: "After a year and a half working at Japan Airlines in San Francisco, I am taking time off to travel before beginning a PhD program in psychology at the University of Michigan. I'm really excited to be so close to Oberlin again!"

CASSANDRA "CASSIE" GUEVARA '13 writes: "After graduating, I spent an unforgettable two years as a Shansi Fellow in Japan with some excellent co-fellows. I still live in Machida, Tokyo, and now teach English at Tokai University, where I am the "youngest professor in institutional memory." I also work at an English immersion kindergarten and am midway through a TESOL MA from the New School. I squander my free time and money on taiko drumming (with the renowned Oedo Sukeroku Taiko), singing (with the international Tokyo Embassy Choir), and recently, horseback riding! Still contemplating ways to get back into my interests of history, Japanese, and Japan-U.S. relations. Look me up if you're ever in Tokyo!"

RICHARD GUSTAFSON '95 writes: "I work as country manager for Apple Retail in Japan. My son, Noa, 13, and daughter, Maia, 10, attend Yokohama International School near where we live. Life is going well."

ALUMNI NEWS, CONT.

MAX HELZBERG '08 writes: “After working at the Tokyo office of a strategy consulting firm for roughly 1.5 years, I joined a big data analytics software company as the first Japan-based employee. As one of two Japanese-speaking employees, I was originally responsible for close to 100 percent of translation and interpretation in addition to my day job and therefore relied heavily on my Japanese language skills first developed in the East Asian studies department at Oberlin. Helping build an office in Tokyo while simultaneously becoming more technical and learning about the industries of our customers has proven to be the most challenging experience of my life. Thankfully it has also proven to be extremely rewarding, and I have learned more than I imagined possible in such a short time period. After working with my new company for two years in Tokyo, I relocated to London temporarily to get more exposure to our broader operations. I am always happy to chat about ways in which EAS grads can find work in Japan or meet for coffee when I am in London.”

LISA FORD HIRAYAMA '81 writes: “I have been living in Seattle for 30 years now. My double major in EAS and sociology and subsequent master’s degree in counseling have been put to good use. Even though I had no idea at the time what I would do with that combination of fields of study, it has all worked out! After working for the Shansi Association for a year and then spending two years as Asia House director at Oberlin, I spent a couple of years in Pittsburgh as a caseworker in a refugee resettlement program. After moving to Seattle, I became a counselor for Big Brothers/Big Sisters and then spent 22 years at a local community college as an international student advisor. Now I’ve been at Seattle Pacific University for four years as assistant director for international admissions. I really enjoy my work and feel lucky to be able to travel to Asia twice a year. In my “other” life, Kimo '82 and I have two sons: Kai will be 25, and Kian will be 17 this year, and I stay extra busy playing flute/piccolo in community orchestras in the Seattle area.”

ALEX HIRSCHHORN '06 graduated in May from Northwestern University with his JD and MBA. As part of his studies, he led a law student trip to Japan this year to research Japanese law and policy. After the bar, he’ll stay in Chicago.

DONALD J. HOLDER '96 has been appointed founding principal of the Houde Academy (厚德书院) in Shenzhen, China. Already the first foreigner appointed as an administrator of a Chinese public school (assistant principalships at the Affiliated High School of Peking University and Shenzhen Middle School), Daniel is now the first foreigner to be named principal of a national curriculum (non-international) Chinese secondary school. In addition to his duties at the Houde Academy, he will retain his position as adjunct lecturer in education reform at the Beijing Institute of Education.

DAVID HOLLEY '72 writes: “After 20 years as a foreign correspondent for the *LA Times* in Beijing, Tokyo, Warsaw, and Moscow, I left the newspaper in 2007 and moved to Tokyo. Since 2008 I’ve been teaching in English at Waseda University’s School of International Liberal Studies and Keio University’s International Center. I’m teaching Russian history, Chinese politics, U.S. politics, foreign policy, and a bit of journalism. My wife, Fumiyo, and I also have a mountain cabin in Nagano Prefecture, and do some semi-serious gardening in a nearby village.”

JOSHUA HOWARD '88 finished his 15th year at the University of Mississippi this May, where he regularly teaches courses in Chinese history and Asian studies. He is completing a book manuscript on the sonic dimensions of nationalism and the radical “people’s musician,” Nie Er, whose song “The March of the Volunteers” was chosen as the PRC national anthem. He will teach a course on Nie Er at Sichuan University in July. Other recent highlights include celebrating his 50th birthday by performing violin in a chamber music recital with works of Bach, Bartok, Shostakovich, Gliere, and a few Uyghur melodies.

BI-KHIM HSIAO '93 writes: “I was just reelected to the Legislative Yuan (body equivalent to U.S. Congress) of Taiwan, representing the constituency of Hualien in eastern Taiwan. It was an extremely difficult victory since it was a district where my party has historically been weak, but for the first time I managed to win the seat in a one-on-one race. It is my fourth term as a member of congress in Taiwan.”

ISADORA JAFFEE '13 writes: “I am finishing my last and third year of the JET programme as an ALT in Kyoto city. It has been a very fulfilling experience. I was able to complete the interpretation and translation course offered by the foreign ministry to JETs with advanced Japanese, as well as pass the JLPT. I also volunteer at a legal aid/consultation non-profit organization in Kyoto that helps women from foreign countries living in Japan, most commonly with domestic violence cases. I am very excited to announce that in September I will move to Yokohama to study at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Studies. I have received a Blakemore Freeman Fellowship to fund my time and research there. I plan to pursue research on projects comparing Japanese and American immigration law and how to create a better legal consciousness and atmosphere in Japan for change for migrants.”

AMON KILLEEN '97 writes: “My wife, two daughters, and I live in Bethesda, Md., in a wooded neighborhood along the Potomac River. Keeping busy as a Brownie troop leader. I work at the Pentagon and recently started wearing an Oberlin lanyard to carry my ID, which can elicit interesting responses. I am

ALUMNI NEWS, CONT.

currently focusing on defense issues in Africa. My EAS minor, along with my Shansi experience in Kunming, China (1997-99), have been useful as I help shape DoD's work with China, Japan, India, and other Asian partners in Africa, including during the Ebola crisis. This fall, I'll take a sabbatical to earn a master's degree in National Security Strategy at the National War College in Washington, D.C. I previously earned a master's degree in international relations from Princeton in 2003."

AMELEA KIM '12 has been living abroad in Asia since graduating. She spent two years in Taigu, China, as a Shansi Fellow and then two years in South Korea. Currently, she is living in Seoul and working for the Fulbright Korea Commission. At the end of this year, she will head back Stateside to attend graduate school for library and information science. If anyone has questions about moving to Asia, or finding jobs abroad, feel free to contact her at amelea.kim@gmail.com.

KRISTINA TABER KNIGHT '88 writes: "Since founding Portland Chinese Lessons in 2011, I've been busy teaching, raising kids, and creating a China travel-study program for families. Happy to introduce you some great street food on your next Portland visit! E: kristina@portlandchineselessons.com."

THEORA KVIKKA '10 says she's been on a post-grad path that is just now making sense. She translated two art criticism articles in 2013, which are being published in anthologies by Reaktion Books and Tongji University Press. These days she's keeping up her Chinese by using the Heisig Method and watching *Ultra Rich Asian Girls of Vancouver*. Theora has been working hard as a freelance illustrator and comics artist. Her clients include *The Guardian*, Lenny Letter, and InfusionSoft. You can find her work at www.theorakvitka.com. Next fall, Theora will start a master's degree in interaction design at Carnegie Mellon University.

DAWN LAWSON '80 moved from New York University, where she was East Asian studies librarian, to the University of Michigan, where she is head of the East Asian library. She is happy to be living closer to Oberlin and hopes to visit now and then.

JULIAN LEE '03 says he happily tiptoed through tulips and sensitive topics this year as an instructor in the law and politics department at Northeast Normal University (NENU) in Changchun, Jilin, and also filled in as a course facilitator for academic writing classes in the inaugural semester of NENU's partnership with Rutgers University. This follows a sadly inauspicious conclusion to PhD studies in political science at the University of California, Irvine, with a consolation MA degree in summer 2015. 中美友好万古长存!

TANYA LEE '94 writes: "I am at Stanford University, piloting a new online course for U.S.-bound high school students in China, through the Stanford Program on International and Cross-Cultural Education (SPICE). Before that, I was doing outreach for the Asian/Pacific Studies Institute at Duke University. I completed my PhD in ethnomusicology in 2011 (a history and ethnography of Chicago's Old Town School of Folk Music) and am still whittling away at a book project on that topic. My two kids (age 2.5 and almost 5) take up most of my time, however. We moved back to the West Coast last year when my husband, Aaron, jumped academic ship to become a research scientist for AutoDesk in San Francisco."

FRANCESCA "CHESA" LICHAUCO '04 writes: "Greetings from Mexico City! I'm still with the State Department and working as a special assistant to the ambassador at the U.S. Embassy in Mexico. I was back at Oberlin in January 2015 with my husband as a finalist team in the LaunchU program to help us open our own microbrewery (Drakonus) and restaurant in Mexico City in June 2016! Always happy to chat with Obies interested in talking USG careers and happy to host an Obie in our home if traveling to whatever country I happen to be in. Email: lichauco@world.oberlin.edu."

JENNA LINDEKE '09 and **COULTER HEAVENRICH '09** were married in August of last year. Prior to that, Coulter joined the U.S. Navy as an officer and served aboard a minesweeper in Sasebo, Japan, for two years. Meanwhile, Jenna completed a double master's degree in international development and global cooperation from American University and Ritsumeikan University in Kyoto, Japan. During that time, she received a Boren Fellowship to study the role of Japanese NGOs in international development. Now, they are stationed in Kanagawa Prefecture, where Coulter serves as a training officer aboard the USS STETHEM. Jenna is an intern at a Tokyo-based think tank, The Genron NPO, and picks up research consultant work on the side. They are both thoroughly enjoying their life together in Japan.

JULIET LU '08 writes: "I'm in graduate school (doctoral studies in environmental science, policy and management) at Berkeley. I'm studying Chinese investments in agricultural land in Laos and I have a really fun work study job in the Center for Chinese Studies here at Berkeley. I'm heading to China in the fall for my doctoral research for a year and think fondly of my time at Oberlin!!"

RACHEL MANNING '14 writes: "I'm working at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York, doing community-based education and outreach programming for an environmental health research center. I will be staying in the city to begin law school in the fall. Also, I've enjoyed the opportunity to practice my Chinese

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through a language exchange program at work. I meet weekly with two different women from China so I can help them with their English and they can help me with my Chinese. I miss all my old professors and classmates!”

DAVID MOSKIN '79 writes: “After Oberlin I worked in Hong Kong for four years; owned a restaurant/nightclub (wildly popular—the disco years!); received an MBA from the Wharton School; manufactured parts for GE, GM, and others; and served as an elected official (still am). I’m married with two daughters (now at Oberlin and Wesleyan) and one son (a UMass graduate). My multilingual wife, Camela, works in the Amherst, Mass., public schools. I now do nonprofit work, am involved with small-hydroelectric power, teach, grow hops, and race old cars. Still some business in China too. Thank you Oberlin EAS.”

JEREMY NAIDUS '01 writes: “I live near Albany, N.Y., with my wife, Jane Mitchell '01, and two kids, Eleanor and Sam. After working for the New York State Archives for several years, I’m finishing my Master’s of Public Administration degree this spring and have moved to a job at the New York State Education Department. I’m also always on the lookout for Japanese children’s songs to sing to the kids.”

TOM NEWHALL '07 writes: “I completed a master’s degree in the Department of Indian Philosophy and Buddhist Studies at the University of Tokyo and was accepted into the PhD program in the same department starting this April. My research is on texts on Buddhist monastic life and discipline in China, but crosses into Japan and India as well. I also passed my Nidan (second-degree black belt) test in Aikido this past November, and have recently gotten engaged.”

DAVID NOVAK '91 is associate professor in music, with an affiliation in East Asian languages and cultural studies, at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He recently published the award-winning book *Japanoise: Music at the Edge of Circulation* (Duke, 2013) and is currently working on articles about the role of music and sound in Japan’s antinuclear movement. His website is www.japanoise.com.

REBECCA PAGE '10 writes: “I am wrapping up a four-year international development stint at the Institute for Sustainable Communities (based in Vermont) and will be headed to graduate school this fall to pursue a master’s degree in environmental science and policy at the University of Colorado Boulder. I’m taking the summer off to hike the 500-mile Colorado Trail, which extends through the Rockies, from Denver to Durango, before resettling in Boulder.”

ALEX PAIK '08, after working in PR for Seoul Tourism Organization, started an agency that consults on the promotion of Korean destinations and brands. He is also cofounder of a live-action escape room business in Seoul and enjoys developing games throughout the city. Having worked in the local tourism and culture industry for many years, Alex knows Seoul very well and is always happy to show visiting Oberlin alumni around!

MICAH PETERSON '07 graduated from UCLA with a Master of Public Policy degree in 2009. After graduating, he joined the Urban League in Phoenix, Arizona, where he assisted disenfranchised populations with securing employment. In 2012 he moved to New York, where he transitioned to working with the New York City Department of Education as an analyst in special education with a focus on preschool students with special needs. He has a black Shiba Inu named Keio and is currently learning Portuguese as a side project to bridge a better cultural perspective between Japan and Brazil.

DAVID PETRICK '10 writes: “After teaching English in Taigu, Shanxi, at Shanxi Normal University in 2010-11, I eventually found my way to Washington, D.C., where I’m in my third year as a research associate at the Congressional-Executive Commission on China, a government commission monitoring human rights and the development of the rule of law in China.”

MORGAN PITELKA '94 is director of the Carolina Asia Center and professor of Japanese history in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of North Carolina. He has two books out this year: *Morgan Pitelka, Spectacular Accumulation: Material Culture, Tokugawa Ieyasu, and Samurai Sociability* (Hawaii, 2016) and *Kyoto Visual Culture in the Early Edo and Meiji Periods: The Arts of Reinvention*, coedited with Alice Y. Tseng (Routledge, 2016).

JONATHAN ROUSELL '05 completed his doctorate in clinical psychology at the Wright Institute in Berkeley, Calif., in June 2015. His dissertation, “A Cross-Cultural Psychoanalytic Study of Pathological Narcissism in Japan and the United States,” involved interviews with Japanese and American psychoanalysts to better understand the effects of culture on self-formation and expressions of pathological narcissism. During his trip to Japan in June 2014 to conduct these interviews, Jonathan visited his former AKP host family in Kyoto. He will present his dissertation research at the International Congress of Psychology in Yokohama this July.

REBECCA “BECCA” SCHLICHTIG '06 writes: “I’m working as part of the leadership team of an LGBTQ community/social services center. I feel like my East Asian studies degree helped open my eyes to perspectives outside of my own experiences and culture. I still try to sneak off to Japan when I can—

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in January 2015, I was lucky enough to get to see Gay sensei in Kyoto! Much love to everyone in the EAS family.”

RYAN SCHULTZ '11 writes: “I’ve gone on to graduate school at Ohio State University since graduating with my BA in history and East Asian studies from Oberlin. I’m now a PhD candidate in Japanese history at OSU, and next year I’ll head to Japan for a one-year archival research trip under a U.S. Student Fulbright grant. My dissertation discusses the Manchukuo Army—a puppet army of the Japanese empire in Manchuria made up of Chinese soldiers who were trained and commanded by Manchuria-born Japanese officers.”

MIA SIGNS '09 is living in Vientiane, Laos, and working for a nonprofit research organization that works on sustainable development, especially related to agriculture. Given the large amount of Chinese investment in the region, she sometimes gets to speak Mandarin at work, which is exhilarating.

JONATHAN SILK '83 is professor in the study of Buddhism at Leiden University (since 2007). He is the founding general editor of *Brill’s Encyclopedia of Buddhism*, the first volume of which, on languages and literatures, was published in fall 2015. His research focuses mostly on Buddhist scriptural literature, and recently he published *Buddhist Cosmic Unity: An Edition, Translation and Study of the Anūratvāpūrṇatvanirdeśa-parivarta*. Hamburg Buddhist Studies 4 (Hamburg: Hamburg University Press, 2015), and *Materials Toward the Study of Vasubandhu’s Vimśikā (I): Sanskrit and Tibetan Critical Editions of the Verses and Autocommentary; An English Translation and Annotations*. Harvard Oriental Series 81 (2016). Almost all of his publications may be found at http://www.buddhismandsocialjustice.com/silk_publications.html. In 2016 Silk was elected as a member of the Royal Netherlands Academy of Arts and Sciences (Koninklijke Nederlandse Akademie van Wetenschappen) .

PRESTON “MAC” SUNDIN '11 (孙毅) writes: “I graduated from National Taiwan University in December 2014 with a master’s degree in Chinese literature. My thesis, *The Role of Food Writing in the Novels of Yu Hua*, fed my love for learning and sustained me during the many tedious hours of rewrites and revisions. I am currently teaching Mandarin Chinese and East Asian history at Emma Willard, a boarding school for young women outside Albany, N.Y. This March I led a group of my language students on a spring break immersion trip to Taipei, Taiwan. This summer I’ll return to Beijing with a generous grant from the Fulbright-Hays GPA Program to attend the ACC K-12 Chinese Language Teachers Institute. I’m looking forward to meeting up with other Obies in the area. I think about the Oberlin EAS department often and hope to return soon! *JIA YOU!*”

DANIEL TAM-CLAIBORNE '09 completed an MA in global affairs at Yale University in 2014 with a focus on economic and international development. After graduating, he spent three months studying advanced Mandarin at IUP and 10 months working as a Gruber Fellow in global justice and women’s rights at the China Foundation for Poverty Alleviation in Beijing. He is now back at Yale, as the Asia project manager for the Yale Young Global Scholars Program, where he oversees precollegiate education programs in Beijing and Singapore for talented high school students. In February 2017, he will move to Seattle with his partner and says he is ready for the next big adventure!

YOKO TAMANOI '04 writes: “I can’t believe it is already 2016! Things have been very busy. In addition to work, I have been volunteering and taking care of rabbits in the shelter. I really enjoy taking care of these rabbits that do not have homes yet. In July, my husband and I will be moving into a condo.”

CAROL TENNY '77 writes: “Immediately after I graduated, Channing Ahn and Tomo Nakamura and I traveled to California by way of the Canadian and Mexican borders. In a rattling old car that made it, miraculously. The rest of my trajectory has been in more or less the same vein. I have supported myself by every possible means except for prostitution and professional baseball. And it’s too late for those. Currently I live in Pittsburgh and am working as a computational linguist for Nuance. I manage their Japanese, and sometimes their Thai and Vietnamese resources. Glad to hear EAS is still kicking around at Oberlin.”

DYLAN LUERS TODA '09 writes: “The past few years have been eventful for me. I received my master’s degree in Buddhist studies from Otani University, began working full time as a freelance academic translator, and married former EAS tutor Asaki Toda '11. Two pieces of mine were also published in Japanese. They can be found in the journal *Kindai bukkyō* 近代仏教 (no. 21, 2014) and the book *Kindai bukkyō sutadūzu* 近代仏教スタディーズ (Hōzōkan, 2016). In my free time, I enjoy cycling in the beautiful mountains of Kyoto and Osaka.”

ED TRAGER '86 writes: “My daughter Cattleya graduated from Michigan State University on May 8, 2016, with a bachelor’s degree in Japanese language & literature. So in a way, I guess one could say she has followed in the footsteps of her father with her interest in languages and East Asian studies (I graduated from Oberlin with a degree in Chinese language and literature). She is getting to ready to work this coming fall with the City Year program in Detroit.”

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CAL TRUMANN '07 installs solar panels for ReVision Energy in Exeter, N.H., and has appeared on the cover of *Solar Pro Magazine*, the leading publication for the industry. They finally got to use their Japanese skills in real life when they moved to Kanazawa, Ishikawa, for three months in 2013, and again when traveling through Kanazawa and Kyoto in 2015. Cal has not forgotten their otokoyaku aspirations and is excited to be seeing the Takarazuka Revue for the second time when performing in New York City this summer.

ROSA TU '11 writes: “I just moved to Berlin after 5 years in NYC. My most East Asian thing is that I worked for a year for the Taiwanese NGO Buddhist Tzu Chi Foundation on their disaster relief effort after hurricane Sandy. Then for the past year I was a content writer at a start-up that makes online training and now I’m a self-employed musician. I perform with my cousin under the name Mother’s Favorite Daughter.”

JOHN WALTON '04 writes: “I’m a PhD student in the critical and interdisciplinary communication program at UC San Diego, doing work on both Chinese policing (gong’an yanjiu) and critical game design, a very Oberlin-style combination of seemingly unrelated things! I had an experimental card game accepted into one of the showcases at IndieCade (the biggest independent games festival in the U.S.) last year. Since Oberlin, I finished an MA in China studies at the University of Washington in 2011 and have spent seven years at various think-tanks doing work on China. My wife, Hannah Joseph, and I had a baby late last year, Miriam Adara Joseph Walton. Former Oberlin librarian and current UCSD librarian Chen Xi and I came up with the idea of creating a digital collection of materials from the 1971 and 1972 Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars’ trips to China (part of their activist, anti-Vietnam War activities). There are a number of other Obies in my PhD program, so the Oberlin connections remain strong!”

TIBERIU WEISZ '77 writes: “Lately I have been busy translating from Chinese for my articles and a book that is in works. *Asian Jewish Life* published a series of my articles, e.g: “Biblical Influences in Chinese Literature,” “No bread-No Torah,” “Tiger Mom vs. Yiddische Mame,” comparing traditional education in China and Judaism. *The Sephardic Horizon* published my article “From East to Farther East—Jewish experience in ancient China.” Currently I am ‘methodically’ (read it slowly) working on my next book. Last fall my wife and I went on a train trip to Spain, and the year before we visited my birth country of Romania. Now we plan to take some road trips in the U.S.”

J.Q. WHITCOMB '02 (魏明) moved to New York City in fall 2015 to work on a master’s degree in jazz trumpet performance at Juilliard. He hopes to travel to Asia again soon, as it’s been three years since his last trip in that direction.

NICK WINTER '08 writes: “The Skritter app I cofounded after graduating has grown to become the #1 app for learning to write Chinese characters. It does Japanese, too. Oberlin EAS students get free Skritter with their oberlin.edu email. Meanwhile, I’ve started another startup, CodeCombat, a programming game for learning to code. Turns out learning programming is way easier than learning Chinese, so give it a try at codecombat.com when those characters are melting your brain! If you want to work at either of these companies, find me at nickwinter.net.”

SCOTT WILSON '87 writes: “In 2014-15, I conducted research, supported with a Fulbright award, on citizen participation in China’s environmental governance. In March 2015, I published a book titled *Tigers Without Teeth: The Pursuit of Justice in China* (Rowman and Littlefield). After a year back in the classroom, I will become associate dean of global education at the University of the South.”

LESLEY WYNN '08 writes: “As of this writing, I am a week away from completing my master’s degree in Asian Pacific studies at the University of San Francisco. In June I will travel to Toronto for the North American Taiwan Studies Association annual conference to present graduate research. My work was recently published in the Center for Asian Pacific Studies’ *Asian Pacific Perspectives*, and can be found [linked from] here: <https://www.usfca.edu/center-asia-pacific/perspectives/v12n2>. All my best to everyone in EAS!”

DIANE YU '73 has just completed 14 years working for the president of NYU— first as his chief of staff, and then as deputy president. She served as a member of the president’s cabinet and worked with deans, faculty, administrators, students, and trustees to improve the functioning of the governance and communication processes and lead key strategic initiatives. She also founded the NYU Women’s Leadership Forum and two major programs at the NYU Abu Dhabi campus for Emirati high school and college students. In addition, since 2002, she has taught the University Leadership Honors class at NYU and since 2015 has taught a public speaking and leadership class at the NYU campus in Shanghai. She has been on the Oberlin board of trustees since 2006. She now serves as Counselor to Leadership at NYU Abu Dhabi and Executive Director of the Sheikh Mohamed bin Zayed Community Programs. She and husband Michael Delaney live in Manhattan and she can be reached at Diane.yu@nyu.edu.