

OBERLIN COLLEGE

East Asian *Studies*

Volume 17, 2020

Director's Note

By Emer O'Dwyer, Director, East Asian Studies



Since my appointment as director, I have deepened my admiration for the wide range of knowledge, skills, and joy transmitted to students by the deeply dedicated teaching faculty of Oberlin's East Asian Studies Program. I have been equally impressed by the devotion with which our

students have absorbed the knowledge before them, as well as the creativity with which they apply that knowledge to generate new levels of meaning. East Asian Studies has, in short, celebrated another year of that lovely reciprocity: students and teachers alike delighting in the give and take of the classroom.

While EAS dearly misses **Professors Suzanne Gay, James Dobbins, David Kelley, and Qiusha Ma**—who retired over the two-year period between May 2017 and May 2019—we have been fortunate in welcoming dynamic new colleagues who have enriched our curriculum with fresh perspectives on teaching and learning. **Andrew Macomber**, who joined the EAS and religion faculties in fall 2019 as a freshly minted PhD from Columbia University, began his first year at Oberlin with a variety of courses on East Asian Buddhism and a focus on the many paths to healing embedded in the rituals and objects of the faithful.

Another newcomer, **Chialan Sharon Wang**, taught—in the absence of **Hsiu-Chuang Deppman** (on sabbatical leave for 2019-20)—a variety of Chinese literature and cinema classes, focusing on marginalized identities in both her Chinese Queer Cinema seminar and her class titled Taiwanese Native-Soil Literature. She also gently coaxed students through the intricacies and challenges of Intermediate Chinese. **Jesse Watson** was the third newcomer to EAS this year, offering a robust variety of courses in Chinese history, including popular seminars Archaeologies of China and Big Government: A Legal and Cultural History of Bureaucracy in China.

Nate Heneghan '00, in his second year of teaching at Oberlin, again introduced students to modern and contemporary Japanese culture across various media platforms in addition to guiding Japanese-language students at both the introductory and advanced levels.

Keren He, in her third year of teaching at Oberlin, inspired her intermediate and advanced Chinese-language students while also attracting a wide swath of Oberlin students to her popular offerings, *Love in Traditional China* and *Knight, Outlaw, Assassin: An Alternative Gateway to Chinese Culture*. While I must limit myself here to commendations of EAS newcomers (relative or absolute), my admiration for the hard work of the veteran EAS faculty knows no bounds. You can read more about their latest doings in the faculty profiles on the following pages.

Abundant and diverse events marked the year in EAS programming. A late September visit to campus by **Hisa and Hikaru Uzawa**, mother and daughter Noh performers and teachers, provided a brilliant introduction to this Japanese theater tradition, which dates to the 14th century. **Ann Sherif** did yeoman's work in organizing the Uzawa's visit from Japan—from overseeing the creation of a custom-built Noh stage in the new Wurtzel Theater to designing two new EAS courses (Japan on Stage and the first-year seminar Japan's Performing Arts) to enhance students' appreciation and understanding of the art form. Other noteworthy programming included an early October lecture at the Allen Art Memorial Art Museum by **Chelsea Foxwell**, associate professor of art history at the University of Chicago, on "Nihonga" painting. In December, **Ricardo Barrios '12** discussed China-Latin America relations from his vantage point as a Washington DC-based analyst and researcher. Finally, in early May, **Ezra Vogel**, the Henry Ford II Professor of the Social Sciences Emeritus at Harvard, joined my Modern Japan class via Zoom to discuss the writing and reception of his 1979 bestseller, *Japan as Number One: Lessons for America*.

欧柏林大学
东亞系
東亞通訊

Director's Note, cont.

It is time to mention the pandemic. What summary of the 2019-20 academic year would be complete without it? Oberlin's notification on March 12 announcing the shift to remote learning and the departure of students from campus was quickly met by our faculty with an intense gear-shifting in which we all regrouped, re-tooled, and adapted our teaching styles to complete the semester through online teaching. Students and faculty learned a new rapport, mediated by technology but unbowed by it. It was a pleasure and inspiration to watch students continue to challenge themselves academically despite the prevailing winds of uncertainty and fear surrounding the spread of the coronavirus.

We greatly miss the opportunity to celebrate in-person the graduation of the Class of 2020. How dearly we all wish that circumstances were different and that our students could have enjoyed a long-awaited senior spring and the

pleasures it bestows. A poem by Philip Larkin reminds me nonetheless of the ways in which our experiences of the Time Before and the Time After are shaping the people we will be years from now:

*The daily things we do
For money or for fun
Can disappear like dew
Or harden and live on.
Strange reciprocity:
The circumstances we cause
In time gives rise to us,
Becomes our memory.*

I urge our seniors to live intentionally, continue to seek learning in all that you do, maintain and improve your language skills, and help create circumstances that will help us all, that is, all of humankind.

Faculty/Staff News



BONNIE CHENG continues to teach courses in premodern and modern Chinese and Japanese art but is looking forward to the break from COVID remote teaching. Last August, she was invited to Beijing to present her research at the Sixth International Conference on Ancient Tomb Art (2019) 第六届古代墓葬美术研究国际学术会议, the final conference in a series intended to establish tomb art as a field of study in China. She is finishing up that paper for an article, "Carving out a Niche: Tomb Art and the Rewards of Multiple Methodologies," to be published by Hunan Meishu Chubanshe. Her article "The Underground Silk Road: Pictorial Affinities in Fifth-century Cave Temples and Tombs" appeared in the journal *Inner and Central Asian Art and Archaeology*. Another article, "The Afterlife of Mingqi: Relational Meaning in Underground Tombs," awaits publication in a volume entitled *The Social Lives of Chinese Objects*.



HSIU-CHUANG DEPPMAN has been on sabbatical in 2019-20. Her monograph *Close-ups and Long Shots in Modern Chinese Cinemas* will be published by the University of Hawaii Press in October 2020. She has been working on another book project on the Chinese Sixth-Generation director Jia Zhangke. She looks forward to returning to teaching this fall.

JAMES DOBBINS retired from teaching in the spring of 2018, but continues to do research and writing on Japanese Buddhism. His latest book, *Behold the Buddha: Religious Meanings of Japanese Buddhist Icons* (University of Hawai'i Press, 2020) was published in March. It was inspired by Oberlin students during visits to the Allen Memorial Art Museum each semester to explore Buddhist art.



Cheng, Deppman, and Dobbins



YUE FAN writes: "I am leaving Oberlin soon to go back to my graduate school and complete my graduation. I would like to get another teaching job in a Chinese school, so this summer will be filled with preparation for the teaching qualification certificate."

LIU FANG AND LI KAI write: "The first half of the spring 2020 semester went smoothly as usual. However, everyone was forced to move into the Zoom room to teach and study during the second half of the semester. The remote instruction seems dull and boring because of the lack of



interaction, but if you make good use of the tool of Zoom, it can become a much broader space for communication. Last month, I (Liu) hosted a Zoom meeting and Li Kai was the speaker. His topic was the cultural implications of Chinese names. Over 100 Chinese language teachers from all over the world attended the talk. I also set a surprise farewell party for our wonderful BNU teaching assistant, Yue Fan. As for the summer, it is obviously impossible to go back to China as we expected. We hope we can go to visit some friends and places which we have never been to during the summer if the stay-at-home requirement gets lifted.”



SUZANNE GAY writes: “I am retired and living in Seattle as of last fall. Little did we know that we were moving to what would become the first COVID-19 hotspot in the US! I am sheltering in place, walking daily in Volunteer Park (always with a mask), and depending on

my daughter for groceries. Since U.W. library is closed, I am mining the internet for pre-1600 Japanese history sources (surprisingly rich), writing, reading, playing piano, enjoying Netflix/Amazon trash, etc. I truly hope that all of you are well and continue to take good care of yourselves in this pandemic.”



KEVIN R. E. GREENWOOD writes:

“It was a busy year for Asian art at the Allen Memorial Art Museum! Exhibitions in the fall included *The Enchantment of the Everyday: East Asian Decorative Arts from the AMAM Collection*; *Integral Insects in East Asian Art*; *Japan On Stage*, an exhibition organized in conjunction with the

Arts of Asia series at Oberlin College; and finally *Japanese Dissent: Veiled and Unveiled*, created by curatorial assistant Leina Fieleke ’21. In the spring, *Monkeys, Apes, and Mr. Freer* included paintings donated to the college by the prominent collector Charles L. Freer (1854-1919), including a painting by Kano Sanraku (Japanese, 1559-1635), recently restored with a grant from the Sumitomo Foundation of Japan. Also on view were Ukiyo-e Prints from the Mary Ainsworth Collection. After returning from exhibitions at three museums in Japan, the AMAM was the final venue for this selection of Japanese woodblock prints from the Allen’s renowned collection of over 1,500 prints donated by Ainsworth, an 1889 Oberlin graduate.” After the shift to remote work, Kevin continued to assist Zoom classes and post videos and other material on social media sites.



Above: Bonnie Cheng saw these objects at an exhibition at the National Museum of China of nearly 200 Northern Dynasties Buddhist sculptures excavated in 2012 in Ye, the 6th century capital. **Top left:** Head of a Bodhisattva, marble, polychrome and gilding, late 6th century (Northern Qi). **Top right:** Standing Disciple/Monk, stone, late 6th century (Northern Qi). **At right, top:** Yue Fan’s farewell party. **At right, bottom:** Li Kai’s Zoom lecture featuring Li Kai.



Faculty/Staff News, cont.



KEREN HE writes: “I cannot think of a more meaningful way to spend the surreal year of 2019-20 than teaching my wonderful students. For my content courses on Chinese love and knight-errantry, we experimented with new creative projects of transmedia storytelling, producing film trailers and

online talk shows based on premodern primary texts. This addition to regular assignments demonstrates how media technology, teamwork, and imagination could potentially bridge the crisscrossing gaps that keep people apart. In language classes, I enjoyed creating new materials regarding issues of the year, such as the Hong Kong anti-extradition protests, same-sex marriage in Taiwan, and the Chinese model of disease control. It was heartening to see students participate in discussions with ethical terms to negotiate through their differences. It gave me hope at this time of uncertainty, which I take as the best souvenir of Oberlin.”



NATE HENEGHAN '00 was deeply inspired by the dedication and enthusiasm of his students in Japanese 102 and 401, as well as Digital Desire: Japan Through Pop Culture and Literature (FYSP 179) and Introduction to Japanese Cinema (EAST 119), courses he is excited to teach again this coming year. He was also motivated by

the tireless determination of colleagues and students to meet the challenges presented by the pandemic and to adapt to learning in an online format, while maintaining the intellectual rigor that makes Oberlin such a wonderful institution. Though plans to travel to Japan this summer for research are postponed, Nate will nonetheless continue work on his forthcoming article, “Nothing to Confess: Politics of Passing and the System of Confession in Zainichi Korean Literature and Cinema,” which examines notions of confession and “coming out” in recent works produced by the Korean minority in Japan.



SHEILA MIYOSHI JAGER writes: “I am on research leave this year, to return in spring 2021, and am hard at work finishing up the final drafts for my books *The Other Great Game: The Opening of Korea* and *The Birth of Modern East Asia* and (with Jiyul Kim) *The Korean War: A New History*. Although I

am grateful to have this time off, I really miss my students and teaching.”



DAVID KELLEY WRITES: “This has been my first year of retirement and, until the pandemic struck, I spent a lot of time with my grandchildren, as well as catching up with reading outside my field. I’m continuing to read and have been sheltering in place with my wife in St. Clair, Mich., with very infrequent returns to Oberlin. I do miss my colleagues and students and look forward to socializing again when that becomes possible.”



SACHIKO KONDO writes: “The 2019-20 academic year has brought me much joy. I taught many Japanese classes, 101, 301, 202, and 302. I have learned a lot from all the students. Although it was challenging during Spring 2020 with online teaching, I am so impressed and encouraged by the perseverance (in Japanese ガッツ)

of all the students to pull through the semester. We held our annual Japanese language festival 学芸会 gakugeikai in November 2019. We had many students participate in singing, and presenting their talent. I look forward to another fulfilling year, hopefully in person, very soon!”



ANDREW MACOMBER writes: “My edited volume (with co-editor C. Pierce Salguero), *Buddhism and Healing in Medieval East Asia*, will be published by the University of Hawaii Press in August. I’m also preparing an entry for the *Oxford Encyclopedia* of Buddhism on Buddhism and medicine and plan to finish an article on the

imagination of epidemics in early medieval Japan.”

EMER O'DWYER writes: “I have enjoyed my first year as EAS director. It is an exciting time for the program, and I am excited to help shape the ways in which Oberlin students learn about the history, literature, arts, religion, cinema, politics and more (!) of the East Asian region. Since I was myself an East Asian Studies major in college, it is interesting to reflect on the many ways in which this area of study has changed over the last quarter-century. This second year of Japan’s Reiwa era (2020) provided

Faculty/Staff News, cont.

me with the opportunity to give a talk at Texas Christian University in February on the recent abdication of Japan's Emperor Akihito and enthronement of his son, Naruhito. Again, the weight of historical change over a quarter-century made itself felt as I recalled the last major ceremonial event in the imperial household (the royal wedding of June 1993) which occurred just weeks after I had declared my East Asian Studies major. I don't ordinarily think of my life in terms of imperial time, but this year has proven exceptional in that regard—as well as in so many others!”



CHIE SAKAKIBARA writes: “My forthcoming book *Whale Snow: Iñupiat, Climate Change, and Multispecies Resilience in Arctic Alaska* (University of

Arizona Press, 2020) sheds light on how a marginalized Indigenous community fosters resilience in the time of global climate change through its relationship with the environment. Through my ongoing collaboration with Ainu mentors and Japanese colleagues, I'm looking forward to expanding my horizon on this topic in the years to come. My stepdaughter Antonia '20 graduated from Oberlin this spring. It will make me a proud step parent of an Oberlin alumnus!”



ANN SHERIF is grateful for the persistence and enthusiasm of students, despite being scattered around the globe. Though it seems like another life, she also thanks the many people who helped with the Noh residence in the fall. This year, Sherif translated essays and poems for the 2019-2020 exhibit [A](#)

[Tale of Two Brothers Across Time—Hiroshima Artist Gorō Shikoku and the Diary of Naoto](#) at The National Peace Memorial Halls for the Atomic Bomb Victims in Hiroshima and Nagasaki, and designed a digital exhibit *Popular Protest in Postwar Japan* with the College Libraries & Max Mitchell. During her upcoming sabbatical year, Sherif plans to complete her book on arts activism and publishing during the Vietnam War and to teach at AKP in Kyoto during 2020-21, if travel and study abroad are possible.



SHARON WANG writes: “Given the COVID-19 situation, I plan to spend my summer at Oberlin focusing on my research and preparing for the courses I will be teaching in the coming fall term. It has been a challenging spring semester in 2020, but I am hopeful that Obies will make it through the uncertain times.”



JESSE WATSON had an exciting first year at Oberlin that began auspiciously at the ID card office in August, where it was discovered that Jesse had a T-number (ID number) preserved from his undergraduate college application! Jesse was also deeply fortunate to

follow in the footsteps of Professor Emeritus David Kelley, whose enthusiasm for Chinese history meant that Jesse had both an enthusiastic and a ready-formed audience for his courses. Much of Jesse's time was consumed attempting to fill those footsteps. He presented a paper on early Chinese paperwork at the annual conference of the American Society for Legal History in Boston in November, while last summer was a Hurst Fellow in Legal History at the University of Wisconsin, Madison. He is also grateful to be the recipient of a postdoctoral research grant from the Tang Center for Early China at Columbia University. Lastly, Jesse and his wife welcomed their first child, Aldo, in December.

RUNXIAO ZHU writes: “I am working with Heath Patten, the visual resources curator at the library, to create a series of educational virtual modules by featuring some archival documents from Shansi: Oberlin and Asia Collection and Special Collections materials. The latest one available online is ‘History of Opioids from China to Oberlin.’ Those virtual modules will also become part of Oberlin College Library Digital Collections. In 2020-2021, I am looking forward to having more collaborative work with EAS faculty. In addition, I am calling for more use of the Letterpress Studio in the library, run by Ed Vermue, the Special Collections librarian. We can host workshops, classes and even simple tours for the students, alumni or faculty to get hands-on experiences.”

FOND FAREWELLS

Amy Redden, who supported EAS for more than 20 years, retired in January. Wishing you good health and happiness, Amy! We also send fond farewells to three colleagues who have served the department and inspired many students over the past years: Keren He, Yue Fan, and Risa Yamanaka.

Reflections from the Class of 2020

Graduating seniors wrote about what they will remember most about senior year during a pandemic, what they are grateful for, and their plans moving forward.

HANNAH ADLER-LEVINE (EAS & GSFS): I will remember how hard it is to write a capstone from the confines of a small apartment, and I will remember the love & support from those (metaphorically) around me! A HUGE thanks to both my professors and parents for all the (last-minute) emails and meetings and (zoom) calls. I'll be moving to Baltimore to get my masters in education from Johns Hopkins and then hope to teach in Baltimore.

WILLIAM CRAMER (EAS & Religion): The few intense days of goodbyes. Thank you for being there for us not just as teachers, but as open and vulnerable people. It's meant a lot to me in this time. Plans: Internship at Religious Freedom Institute in DC, then City Year.

NICHOLAS GALLITANO (EAS & Viola Performance): I will remember most the feeling of camaraderie with my fellow college students and especially graduating seniors, the kind that only comes out of a traumatic event. Even from afar, I feel connected to the Class of 2020. I would like to thank my parents and teachers for their comprehensive support of my diverse interests and activities throughout college. My specific course of studies often left me feeling spread thin, but my parents and professors gave me constant encouragement to pursue all my passions, no matter how varied, to the fullest that I could. I will be commencing a two-year Master's of Music program this fall at The Juilliard School in New York City. A year from now, I hope to be spending time with as many people as possible, ideally in a world where social distancing is no longer necessary! I want to send a special shout out to the best department at Oberlin College, the EAS program!

LIAM HEFTA (EAS): I am both grateful for and amazed by those who have spent the time and effort to invest in my learning, well-being, and success, especially in those times I felt I could not do so myself. It takes a big heart to support others in the way my parents and professors have done, and I owe a great debt of gratitude for their patient instruction. I plan to work odds and ends to save up for the costs of a formal job search this summer, with a focus on finding Japanese translation work. I wish to be doing work where I can make use of the skills I have learned from the friends I have made and the experiences I have had at Oberlin.

SAMANTHA LAM (EAS, Korean Studies Concentration): There were people I was finally getting to know and becoming better friends with, but had to suddenly say goodbye to them, and I'm unsure if I will see them again after graduating. Thanks Mom and Dad for supporting me and pushing me to pursue East Asian Studies! I was always afraid that I wasn't meeting your expectations, but thank you for believing in me. I was hoping to go to China for a year to study China intensively. The pandemic has put a halt on those plans, so I'm probably going to apply to graduate school for museum studies or library science. A year from now, I hope I'll be doing well in grad school, with a job on the side doing something with archival research and organization!

EMILY REEVES (EAS & Neuroscience double major on Pre-Med track): The one thing I will remember the most is the zoom calls with my best friend. They really helped us stay focused on our school work and not go too stir crazy in our houses. I would like to express my deepest gratitude for all of my EAS teachers. In every class I took, every single one of my teachers made the class so enjoyable and interesting. And I would like to thank my mom for always being there for me when I got too stressed with school work. She is a huge part of why I made it to graduation, and I am truly blessed to have her in my life. After graduation my plans are to travel (once it is safe again of course). I really miss the friends I made when I studied abroad in South Korea, so I would love to visit them sometime! I hope to be in medical school a year from now. Fingers crossed! Thank you Amy! You always helped me so much. I'm going to miss visiting you in the office!

JULIA WELDON (EAS & Cello): A December grad, I thought I'd be off in Japan by now attending a music program. That didn't happen though, and I spent the rest of the spring semester in Oberlin. I kept myself busy with a pile of books from Ben Franklin, baking, and practicing cello. I relished living with my housemates. Thanks to those teachers who really emphasized the hands on experiences of travel to Japan, attending language tables, and organizing events related to EAS. I will cherish all these memories I made beyond just the classroom.

ANNI ZHONG (EAS & Comparative Literature): I really want to thank all the teachers in EAS Department, especially my advisor for sharing your passion and always offering support and care to me! I will try to study Korean and maybe learn how to drive during the summer. I hope I will get into a graduate school in Japan and continue to study literature.

New Grads, Prize Winners, and Scenes from EAS

CONGRATS 2020 EAS GRADS!

Majors	Beibei Zhao
Hannah Adler-Levine	Anni Zhong
William Cramer	
Nicholas Gallitano	Minors
Liam Hefta	Marika Anderson
Samantha Lam	Jose Barrera
Xueyao Liu	Max Finkelpearl
Emily Reeves	Samuel Fishman
Richard Scheuch	Ariana Gladieux-Carter
Amanda Tennant	George Hawk
JoAnn Tinker	Indrani Kharbanda
Julia Weldon	Noa Lewis
Hartley Wise	Alex McNicoll
Yiwen Wu	Amy Sahud
Mengying Xia	Kelly Whittle

AN FAMILY FOUNDATION SUMMER STUDY AWARD

Thanks to the generosity of the An Family Foundation, the following students will be able to study Korean language and culture in S. Korea. All three have had to postpone their time in Korea until summer of 2021, due to the pandemic.

Diana Montero, Lea Watkins-Chow, Taoxuan Xu

MARGARET RIBOVICH DICENZO PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN EAS

(AKA: "Ron's Mom's Prize")

Hannah Adler-Levine, Mengying Xia

LEVINE FELLOWSHIP

The Gregory Levine Fellowship is aimed at assisting students to extend their stay in Japan after their study abroad program has finished. This year's winners have had to postpone their projects until 2021 due to the pandemic.

Noah Kawaguchi, Jacky Valentine

NEWTON PRIZE

Awarded for original works of student research and writing that "promote understanding between East and West."

Natsumi Osborn

SCENES FROM EAS **Top:** Elsie Wang '20 received a Shansi In-Asia Grant to travel to Japan and study Noh Theater with the Uzawas. **Middle:** EAS faculty with Cora Hasegawa '19 and Lauren Waldman '21 after an AMAM lecture. **Right:** Kaya Sakakibara Offen checked on the Green Legacy ginkgo tree, a second-generation survivor of the atomic bombing. The April 15 Trees and Climate Change Webinar (video available on Oberlin College's Vimeo Channel), sponsored by [LIASE](#) and EAS, featured Nassrine Azimi, co-director of Green Legacy Hiroshima, along with researchers from Holden Arboretum.



Looking Back at This Year's Programming

This year was full of exciting programming hosted by EAS. Even when the college shifted to distance learning due to COVID-19, we found a way to come together with virtual events! Here is a look back on some of our favorite events.

Year of Mouse Printing

Runxiao Zhu (East Asian librarian) and Ed Vermue (Special Collections) combined woodblock printing with type setting to create Year of the Mouse cards in the Mary Church Terrell Library's Letterpress Studio. See photos below.

Lunar New Year Party

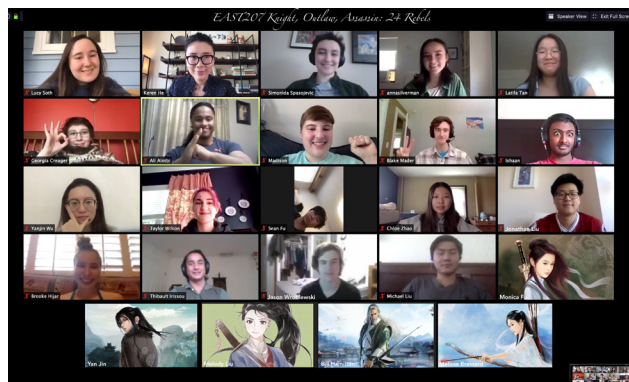
EAS gathered in Shansi House to celebrate the Year of the Mouse.

Jed Deppman Memorial Translation Symposium

EAS was well represented at the 2020 Translation Symposium, with two translations from the Japanese!

Mina Ono '22 translated an excerpt of Kanehara Hitomi's *Hebi ni Piasu*, and Momo Suzuki '20 translated the song "Kantorii rôdo" from the Studio Ghibli film *Whisper of the Heart*. This year, the annual symposium was renamed in beloved colleague Jed Deppman's memory.

Japanese Program Party Japanese language students did OnigiriAction# during the annual gakugeikai. See photo at bottom.



Noh Performance and Residency

The September residence featured acclaimed Noh actors Hisa and Hikaru Uzawa of the Tessenkai, Kanze School (Tokyo). The sold-out performances of Japanese Noh plays were the first international productions in the new Wurtzel Theater. Along with a movement workshop in Warner, the Uzawas lead a well-attended Noh music workshop in Stull Hall. The Uzawas viewed Noh prints loaned by Fred and Tina Zwegat in the AMAM exhibit curated by Kevin Greenwood. The hard work of students & faculty in EAS and Theater back stage made it possible!





Uzawa tea time in Shansi House with students, Chie Sakakibara, and Alice Blumenfeld

Alumni News

RICARDO BARRIOS '12 is keeping safe and self-isolating in DC. Family's likewise safe and at home in Puerto Rico. He's pictured here on a giant rock in Guatapé, Colombia.

NEIL ENGLEHART '87, political science professor, department chair at Bowling Green State University, and respected scholar of Asia, passed away this year. He was an alumnus of Asia House and studied abroad in Thailand. He will be missed by us all. His obituary can be read [here](#).

DAVID FROST '04 continues to work for the State Department and has been assigned to the embassy in Eritrea since 2019. He serves as the political, economic, and public affairs officer there, and since the beginning of the COVID crisis has been in charge of American Citizen Services. David was in charge of getting 29 United States citizens and legal permanent residents back home after the local airport shut down.

BÁLINT GERGELY '00 writes: "Daniel and I are very happy to introduce our baby boy, born on Mother's Day, and younger brother of Mitsuhiro. Our new son's given names are Kazuhiro (和裕 "Abundant Peace" in Japanese) and Tasziló (in Hungarian, "Glittering as the Day")."

ANNELISE GISEBERT '16 writes: "I hope you're doing well. I can't believe it's already mid-May! After a mild winter, Japan feels like it's getting an early start on tsuyu this year—an unfortunate turn of events I have been



Barrios, Gergely



working at the *Waseda Chronicle*, a nonprofit, investigative newsroom in Tokyo. I'm their translator and English editor. We've started publishing my translations last month. [Here's](#) a link.

THALIA HARRIS '12 lives in Tokyo, where she works as a writer and teacher. This year she started contributing to *Unseen Japan*, a news site. [Here](#) is a link to her work.

MAX HELZBERG '08 writes: "I'm in the process of relocating from London to the San Francisco Bay Area to be closer to family. I'm working in Artificial Intelligence consulting, and although I don't use Japanese very often, there could be professional opportunities in the future. On the personal front, I'll hopefully have read the Murakami books on my bookshelf by the time the next EAS newsletter comes around. Hope everyone is safe and healthy!"

Alumni News, cont.



Terry Hsieh '12 (above) writes: “Since graduating in 2012, I’ve been all over Greater China. These days, I’m primarily a composer and arranger and session horn player for pop artists in China and Taiwan, but have held a variety of jobs over the last eight years, including magazine editor, tour guide, and teacher. I’ve been teaching a jazz program at the International School of Beijing since 2013, once a week. From 2016 to 2018 I founded and served as the artistic director of the Blue Note Beijing Jazz Orchestra. Primarily, my job is performance and arranging for artists: in 2016, I was in the house band for the *Masked Singer* in China, as well as *I Am a Singer* (now called *Singer*). In 2017 I joined Karen Mok’s (莫文蔚) Ultimate World Tour as the trombonist and horn section leader under the leadership of Arai Soichiro (荒井十一) as well as the section leader on the reality singing competition *Super Vocal*, under director Baby 钟兴民. I’ve also been running my own instrumental funk band, called The Spice Cabinet, with an album due out later this year under Elevenz Label.”

CATHERINE LYTLE '19 writes: “I completed my Fulbright grant year as an English teaching assistant at Daegu Foreign Language High School in South Korea. I will start a master’s program in music in development at SOAS in London in September. I miss my EAS professors! I hope you are OK!”

RILEY PEARSALL '19 writes: “Since graduating last May, I was hired as an editorial assistant at Yen Press, one of the largest publishers of English manga and light novel adaptations. I edit over a dozen ongoing manga series, including *Goblin Slayer*, *Toilet-bound Hanako-kun*, and *Rascal Does Not Dream of Bunny Girl Senpai*. (All my best series have the weirdest names!) I rented my own apartment in New York City just before the lockdown and am currently waiting out the pandemic in a nest of books and empty jars of pasta sauce.”

CAITLIN QUIAT '17 writes: “After completing two years on the JET program, living and teaching in Niigata City, Japan, I am now studying translation and

localization management at the Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey, Calif. I’m hoping to join the localization industry as a project manager after graduation next year and am studying this summer to get certified by the Project Management Institute. Times sure are crazy, but I’m hanging in there! I hope everyone at the EAS department is safe and well!”

EZRA SPIER '09 writes: Hisashiburi! I’ve been living in Oakland, Calif., since 2013 and love being close to so many Obies in the Bay Area—especially the EAS alumni who live blocks away. In 2018, I cofounded Daughters of Rosie (daughtersofrosie.com), an online job center for hands-on careers. Startups can be tough, especially with so much changing in the world so quickly, but I’m grateful to be working on something that I really believe in.”

DANIEL TAM-CLAIBORNE '09 and his partner married in September 2019 and moved to the Bay Area, where he began a new position at Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), a global nonprofit business network and consultancy dedicated to sustainability. Daniel completed his MFA in creative writing at Warren Wilson College and received a Fulbright grant to conduct ethnographic research for his novel-in-progress in Guangzhou, China, where he plans to move in February 2021, coronavirus willing. You can read more of his writing at the website travelbreedscontent.com.

YOKO TAMANOI '04 writes: “I am healthy and my parents are doing well in Kyoto. Hope everyone is doing well during this time. Sadly, I am without work as I work as a substitute teacher in Southern California. So during this time, I am finding more time to play violin and playing pieces that I played as a young girl. I also made videos for some of the students I’ve taught.”

SHANG YASUDA '18 writes: “I’m finishing up my first year at Penn as a PhD student in history. It’s been a great year full of learning, adapting, challenges, and new friends and connections. Despite the challenges, I’ve realized that so many of the things I did at Oberlin prepared me very well for grad school. I hope everyone is doing well and staying healthy.”

LEI ZHAO '08 sends this message: “Just want to say I’m doing fine in Flushing. Hope all is well at Oberlin, as much as it can be.”

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