

Asian Studies Program



Photo: The Zhanjiang Delegation, led by Prof. Jinkai Liu, at the MSP International Airport. Courtesy Jinkai Liu.

Delegation from Zhanjiang Normal University Visits

A delegation of 15 students from Zhanjiang Normal University (ZNU) in southern China visited the CSB/SJU campuses in January and February. The students participated in a wide range of courses alongside American students on both campuses, engaging in topics such as Intercultural Communication and International Business. The presence of the visiting students was an enriching and positive

experience for the CSB/SJU students, and provided all participants with new perspectives.

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

lights of their visit included a luncheon hosted by CSB President MaryAnn Baenninger, seeing the Minnesota Timberwolves take on the Los Angeles Lakers at the Target Center, and a weekend in the Twin Cities visiting sights like the Science Museum
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CSB/SJU Develops Ties to St. Xavier's College, Calcutta

By Joe Rogers, Director of Education Abroad, SJU '89

With an eye toward expanding our international offerings to the world's second most populous country, Director of Education Abroad Joe Rogers recently visited Kolkata (Calcutta) and Delhi. This visit was an outgrowth of three previous faculty development trips to India.

Two of these trips visited St. Xavier's College, Calcutta, one of India's most prestigious universities. CSB/SJU is fortunate to have several faculty members from Kolkata and two of these are graduates of St. Xavier's. In many ways, St. Xavier's is an ideal partner for our institutions. Earlier this year, we took another step toward establishing a permanent relationship with St. Xavier's. Professor Madhu Mitra directed a short term program to India over the winter break. Five students from CSB/SJU accompanied Professor Mitra to Delhi, Agra, and Kolkata. This program visited the Taj Mahal and toured the unique environment of the Sunderbuns in the Ganges river delta. Students also attended classes at St. Xavier's and lived with families whose children attended St. Xavier's.

While in India, Rogers worked with the administration and faculty at St. Xavier's to lay the groundwork for a semester-long study abroad program for CSB/SJU students to begin in the spring of 2011. Exploring ways for St. Xavier's students and faculty to study at CSB/SJU was another important topic of conversation. We look forward to expanding student learning opportunities in India in the coming months.



Photo: Professor Mitra with students at the Taj Mahal.
Courtesy Hannah Nelson, CSB '11.

Directors of Pangea World Theater Visit

Meena Natarajan and Dipankar Mukherjee of Pangea World Theater in Minneapolis visited the CSB/SJU campuses for a two-day residency April 14-15. Their keynote presentation, entitled "Intercultural Theater and Globalization: South Asia, America, and Beyond," described how their work with a multi-ethnic theater troupe in Minneapolis has encouraged them to think broadly about culture, identity and nationality.

Their work strives to celebrate diversity, and to "remain cognizant of... borrowings of stories and texts within the context of globalization." In addition to the keynote presentation, Ms. Natarajan and Mr. Mukherjee joined Prof. Kaarin Johnston's classes for a theater workshop. For more information on their work at Pangea World Theater, please see www.pangeaworldtheater.org.

Zhanjiang Delegation (continued from pg. 1)

of Minnesota, the Minnesota History Center, the Minnesota State Capitol, the Mall of America, and the James J. Hill House.

When they left to return to China on February 13, the ZNU students said they appreciated the opportunity to meet so many kind and interesting people on the CSB/SJU campuses, and several expressed interest in returning as fully-matriculated students. They said they are also looking forward to May, when a group of CSB/SJU students, led by Professor Sophia Geng of the Modern and Classical Languages Department, will visit ZNU.

The exchanges between ZNU and CSB/SJU are the result of a decade-long partnership shared by the three institutions that all participants hope will flourish for decades to come.

CSB/SJU Host Three Delegations From Japan

This spring, the CSB/SJU campuses hosted three delegations from partner institutions in Japan. All three visiting groups send students to the summer ESL camps at SJU, and all three made visits to the grave of late SJU president Br. Dietrich Reinhart. In February, Dr. Ichiro Nashiro and his wife, Orie, were in Minnesota to celebrate the successful defense of his dissertation at St. Mary's. Dr. Nashiro is the Vice-principal of Shogaku Junior and Senior High School in Okinawa. He and his family spent two years at CSB/SJU while he was a Visiting Scholar and Lecturer. Every year, his school hires 4-5 CSB/SJU graduates, and the majority of the Japanese students here are graduates of Shogaku High School.

In mid-April, President Akiko Shimada of Bunkyo Gakuin University, Tokyo, visited SJU to demonstrate her respect for and deep friendship with Br. Dietrich. Two years ago in Tokyo, Br. Dietrich awarded President Shimada the President's Medal in recognition of her and Bunkyo's efforts on behalf of CSB/SJU students studying in Japan. Five to seven Bunkyo students attend CSB/SJU annually as exchange students, and Bunkyo hires two CSB/SJU graduates each year. President Shimada was accompanied by Ms. Noriko Kataoka of the International Programs Office. Ms. Kataoka works on an almost daily basis with staff in the CSB/SJU Asian Studies program, Office for Education Abroad, Admissions and Academic Advising. She had the opportunity during this visit to put faces to the names on her e-mail lists, as well as to conduct some important business with these partners.

Mr. Alex Kishaba, Chairman of the Ryukyu America Historical Research Society, and a delegation of Okinawan mayors and public school officials visited in late April. Their purpose was to gather information and confer with a number of people at CSB/SJU who are responsible for the summer ESL programs to which Kishaba's non-profit organization sends 40 students each year. Education leaders in the several public schools represented are now considering encouraging their high school students to pursue college careers at CSB/SJU. To further this end, Professor David Bennetts, History, will attend a College Day in Okinawa in May. Like Shogaku and Bunkyo, this organization is considering the hiring of CSB/SJU graduates as teaching assistants.



Photo: President Akiko Shimada with Ms. Noriko Kataoka and BGU students Tomomi Inoue, Masae Kubota and Maki Asano. Tomomi, Masae and Maki were students at CSB in 2008-09. Courtesy Noriko Kataoka.



Asian Studies Program Autumn Newsletter Preview

- A feature on the 2009 May term trips to Asia
- An article about new Japanese language professor Dr. Yuko Shibata
- A feature about Gar Kellom's annual trip to India and Nepal

SJU Staff Member Shares Life-changing China Experiences

By Lynette Raymond

After welcoming two Zhanjiang University students for a homestay visit during their three-week study at CSB/SJU in February 2008, Lynette was invited to visit the students and their families in China during the students' summer vacation. Employed as the SJU Life Safety Services ID/Card Access/Alarms Manager, she was extremely excited to visit and learn more about an Asian culture firsthand after meeting numerous Asian students through her job and from previously hosting Japanese students through the Bunkyo University summer program.

On July 21, Lynette arrived at the Guangzhou Airport for her ten day visit. She was met by homestay students Wang Yuefeng (Linda) and Wu Qiong (Joan). Her first afternoon included going with Linda and Joan to visit two other students, Deng Yin Xing (Yan) and Huang Shu Hui (Eko), in Yan's hometown of Guangzhou. Yan and Eko had also been to CSB/SJU in February.

First observations for Lynette included hot temperatures and the overcrowded streets and sidewalks filled with pedestrians, bicyclists, scooters, and other means of personal and public transportation. Yet during the midst of such busyness, she experienced the first of many warm "welcomes" by the family and friends of the Chinese students as Yan's parents invited all to a private tea room. With the fact that Lynette spoke no Chinese, she was extremely grateful that Linda and Joan were English majors who had experience translating.

The remainder of Lynette's time in China was spent mostly in Shanmei district, Houjie town, Dongguan, Guangdong Province. Linda's extended family owned an apartment building and gave Lynette and Linda each their own apartment to stay in. Because they lived in the Penthouse, Lynette was able to visit with Linda's extended family on a daily basis as well as go sightseeing with them. Of the many outings,



Photo: Lynette Raymond at a tea room in Guangzhou, China.
Courtesy Lynette Raymond.

Lynette visited a Chinese garden, a Pagoda, a private swimming pool and private lake, shopping districts, KTV (karaoke), restaurants and attended a violin concert. Her favorite destination was Shenzhen's Window of the World. It was an unbelievable recreation of sights and landmarks found around the world.

While traveling around, it didn't take long to realize the widespread economic class differential. She also learned that until recently, families were required to pay for all schooling for their child/children and inability would result in a poor living standard for the future of their child as loans and part-time jobs are nearly non-existent.

It was a lifelong learning experience for many reasons: what it feels like to be a minority standing out in both looks and the inability to speak the language; to have experienced the rich, long-standing traditions of the Chinese people, as a reminder to be thankful for the opportunities of education and financial advancement that we have in the United States, but most importantly to be so very welcomed by those who live across the world.

Student-Faculty Team Receive Summer Research Grant

Megan Kack (CSB '10) and Professor Sanford Moscowitz received a Rooney Endowment Grant for summer research in China. Megan, a biology major and pre-dental student, and Prof. Moscowitz wrote a proposal entitled "The Promotion and Marketing of Dental Hygiene in Rural China: Development of a Case Study for International Business." The study will examine cultural and social issues that can hinder the diffusion of advanced dental hygiene products in developing countries, and will use as its model a famous case of Proctor and Gamble's difficulties in marketing hygiene products in parts of Latin America.

Megan will travel to China for four weeks of intensive research on the project; while there, she will be stationed at a university and directed by Chinese faculty. Upon her return, she and Prof. Moscowitz will work together to finish the research, write up the results, and prepare a draft of the case study.

New Addition to Asian Studies “Dream Team”

Rachel Sherman has been selected as coordinator of Asian Studies at CSB/SJU, providing collaborative leadership in managing the interdisciplinary Asian Studies Program. In 2003, she graduated from Gustavus Adolphus College with a double major in honors history and Japanese studies. In the spring of 2002, she studied at Kansai Gaidai University in Hirakata City, Japan; she has also lived and worked in Tokyo as an English teacher. Recently, she completed her master’s degree in international studies, with a Japan concentration, at the Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies at the University of Washington, Seattle. Her focus of study was comparative Japanese-Korean history. She has worked as the Japanese Credit Program Facilitator at Concordia Language Villages, and while a graduate student, she was an Educational Programs Intern at

Global Education Services in Seattle. Her hobbies include travel, reading, yoga, and *sumi-e* (Japanese ink painting). She is proficient in Japanese and conversant in Korean. Rachel is excited to transition into her new role as Coordinator and help CSB/SJU students discover Asia and its rich history, diverse cultures, and complex languages.

Norma Koetter remains the supervisor of the Asian Studies program, and Professor P. Richard Bohr continues to serve as the program’s director. Students with questions about the Asian Studies program or the Teaching in Asia program should contact Rachel at rsherman@csbsju.edu. Students who would like to declare the individualized Asian Studies major, Asian Studies minor, or Chinese or Japanese language minors should contact Dr. Bohr at rbohr@csbsju.edu.

CSB/SJU Hong Kong Gathering



SJU Interim President Dan Whalen and SJU Vice President for Institutional Advancement Rob Culligan with SJU Hong Kong alumni

Photo courtesy of Allan Lai

Dr. Sophia Geng, CSB/SJU Professor of Chinese, with her May term class and several current Hong Kong students



Photo courtesy of Allan Lai

The Asia I Expected, The Asia I Encountered

In April, two panels entitled “The Japan I Expected, The Japan I Encountered” and “The China I Expected, The China I Encountered” offered advice on living and traveling in East Asia. The panels were comprised of students from the Fall 2007 and Fall 2008 study abroad programs to Southwest University in Beibei, Sichuan, China and Bunkyo Gakuin University in Tokyo, Japan. In addition to sharing slides of their favorite photos from their time abroad, the students told humorous stories and gave excellent, detailed advice about what to expect upon arrival in China or Japan. Past directors of the programs gave their input as well. Students planning to study abroad in the fall of 2009, as well as the Japan May term class, were in attendance.



Photo: Tokyo Tower at night. Courtesy Xuyang Tang, CSB '09.

Featured Alumnae/i

Erin Gleeson (CSB '01) Curates Hong Kong Exhibit

Erin Gleeson (CSB '01), who resides in Cambodia, curated an exhibit at the 10 Chancery Lane Gallery in Hong Kong, China. The show's art explores the journey Cambodia has traveled in its struggle to emerge from its tragic past. According to the International Herald Tribune, ninety percent of Cambodia's artists perished under Pol Pot and the Khmer Rouge. The theme of the exhibit, says Gleeson, goes beyond the common images most people associate with Cambodia—temples and trauma—and focuses on Cambodian life. The show features video, photography, painting, sculpture and installation pieces.

Jonathan Keillor (SJU '08) Pursues JD/LLM at Duke

Asian Studies alum Jonathan Keillor will begin pursuing his JD/LLM at Duke Law School in the summer of 2009. He will be specializing in International and Comparative Law, with a strong focus on the East Asian region. The program combines study of US legal systems and principles with an advanced international curriculum. Graduates of the program have worked for international organizations, like the UN and International Criminal Court, as well as for many large, multinational law firms. Jonathan hopes to work towards improved dialogue and cooperation in US-China relations in both the public and private spheres, saying “Arguably the most important bilateral relationship we have, US-China cooperation is critical to solving challenges in matters military, economic, and environmental. Advancing that dialogue requires a new generation of Americans with the professional and cultural background to engage the Chinese in an appropriate manner; a task I hope to contribute to during my career.” Jonathan welcomes students to contact him at jonkeillor@yahoo.com.

Asian Studies Program Announces S. Telan Hu, OSB Scholarship Recipients

The Asian Studies Program is pleased to announce that Kathryn Hauff (CSB '12), Pa Nhia Lee (CSB '11) and Hannah Nelson (CSB '11) have been awarded the Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Wang and S. Telan Hu Scholarship in Asian Studies for the 2009-10 academic year. This scholarship is intended to help its recipients cultivate and strengthen friendly relations between the people of China and the United States and is awarded annually to students with a concentration in Chinese language and culture who demonstrate a commitment to service and financial need.

Kathryn Hauff, a first-year student, actively engaged with the Zhanjiang Normal University students during their January visit, is a member of the campus Amnesty International organization, and has studied Chinese language for one year. She will depart for China on May 15 as a student in

Prof. Sophia Geng's May seminar entitled "Economic Development and Social Change in China."

Hannah Nelson will also be participating in Prof. Geng's May seminar; when it is over, she will stay in China to teach English at Binzhou University before heading to Southwest University in Sichuan for a semester of study abroad. Her commitment to service is truly global, and includes volunteer work in Minnesota; Louisiana; Missouri; and Kolkata, India.

Also planning to study at Southwest University this fall, **Pa Nhia Lee** has been studying Chinese language since high school, and will complete a minor in Chinese and Asian Studies. She has been an active volunteer both in the Twin Cities and here at the College of Saint Benedict, and has said that her future "will definitely involve language and service."

All three women exemplify the academic achievement, commitment to service, and dedication to the improvement of U.S.-China relations required by the scholarship, and the Asian Studies Program is delighted to share the achievements of these students with the campus community.

The Mr. and Mrs. J.C. Wang and S. Telan Hu, OSB Scholarship in Asian Studies was established by Margaret Man-Hwa Wang in loving memory of her parents, Mr. Jung-Chun Wang and Mrs. Jui-Chin Liao Wang, who spent a lifetime supporting needy students in high schools and colleges around the island of Taiwan. This endowed scholarship also honors the three decades of dedicated service by S. Telan Hu, OSB to Asian Studies at CSB/SJU.



Photo: Students perform a traditional Japanese dance. Courtesy David Bennetts.

Asian New Year Celebrated

On Saturday, Feb. 21, the Asia Club at CSB/SJU organized a fantastic Asian New Year Celebration. The upper level of the Gorecki Center was full of students and off campus visitors who enjoyed sampling delicious dishes from across Asia while watching an Asian fashion show and a number of musical performances.

As always, the Asia Club created an amazing event. From the food to the décor to the costumes to the music, guests were treated to a well-organized and interesting show with lots of authentic flavor and great entertainment. Special guests included a Korean drumming group from the Twin Cities and many of CSB/SJU's international students from Asia.

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CSB/SJU Graduates Prepare to Teach in Asia

Every year, CSB/SJU graduates head to Asia to teach English as a Second Language. Some students go through CSB/SJU partner institutions in China and Japan, while others strike out on their own. Sarah Pruett, Professor of English as a Second Language at SJU, offered a workshop in April to help prepare these students for their year of teaching abroad.

During the 2009-2010 school year, five members of the class of 2009 will teach in China, and nine will be in Japan. Additionally, Jeff Schwinghammer (SJU '08) and Peter Jordet (SJU '08), who have been teaching in Tokyo, Japan at Bunkyo Gakuin University, will expand their Asian experience into a second year. The Asian Studies Program would like to congratulate these students and wish them the best as they embark on careers as "Asia Hands."

Southwest University, Beibei, China

Anlinh Bui (CSB '09), Brett Pequin (SJU '09), Somy Xiong (CSB '09), Peter Jordet (SJU '08)

Maryknoll China Teachers Program

Raquel Guidel (CSB '09), Molly Maxbauer (CSB '09)

Orden Bunka Center, Japan

Jeff Schwinghammer (SJU '08), Nicole Bach (CSB '09), Mike Lambert (SJU '09)

Okinawa Shogaku, Japan

Jillian Rigg (CSB '09), Andrea Lewandowski (CSB '09), Nicholas Bingham (SJU '09)

Bunkyo Gakuin University, Japan

Alex Kady (SJU '09), Bryan Timm (SJU '09)

Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme (JET)

Aaron Brown (SJU '09)

In addition, six students from Professor Sophia Geng's May term course, "Economic Development and Social Change in China" will stay in China for a summer of ESL teaching at Binzhou University in northern China. This opportunity will allow the students to broaden their Chinese experience; two of them, Hannah Nelson (CSB '11) and Benjamin Casner (SJU '11), will remain in China for the fall semester as well. Both will study abroad at Southwest University, CSB/SJU's partner institution in Sichuan.

Asian Studies Program Offers Three Minors

In order to meet the increased demand for Asian language at CSB/SJU, in the fall of 2007 third-year Japanese and Chinese were added to the course catalogue. Now, students taking these languages can choose to add an "Asian Studies Minor in Chinese Language" or an "Asian Studies Minor in Japanese Language" to their plan of study. Differing from the general Asian Studies minor, which focuses primarily on liberal arts courses taught in English, students minoring in Chinese or Japanese will take mostly language courses, supplementing them with two 300-level elective classes. These options will allow students greater flexibility in adding an Asian component to their CSB/SJU courses. Students who would like to add a minor in General Asian Studies, Chinese Language, or Japanese Language should contact Professor Richard Bohr, Director of Asian Studies, at rbohr@csbsju.edu.

To share your information and story ideas, or to request a paper copy of the newsletter, please contact Rachel Sherman rsherman@csbsju.edu