

East Asian Studies Newsletter

2013-2014

Department of East Asian Studies
Dickinson College



Dickinson

Chair's Message



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First of all I would like to congratulate our graduates. We had an amazing class this year (as of course we always do). They all worked so hard on their theses and the final products show their accomplishments. It was wonderful to see them all present their work on the first reading day, and then to see them walk down the stone steps of Old West. The thesis is the culmination of one's time at Dickinson and it is a major project. You can see the fruits of these labors in the bound volume in the Asian space downstairs in Stern in the fall, alongside collections from the past two years. You can also find honors theses from the past few years in Dickinson Scholar: http://scholar.dickinson.edu/easn_honors/

We had a great lineup of lectures this year, and there are more to come next year. Highlights from this last year include lectures on Asia's foreign policy, how the Yellow River was used in war, and Tokyo and sushi. Next year we will be co-sponsoring a mini-lecture series through the Clarke Forum on Asia and the Environment. This is in conjunction with several related classes on the topic.

Along with these lectures, we've had several other events. We made sushi and jiaozi, and we celebrated the moon, the New Year, and cherry blossoms. In addition to our regular film series,

we showed documentaries on joint performances by the US Army Band and the Military Band of the People's Liberation Army of China, and on workers helping to clean up the destroyed Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant.

One of the seniors remarked to me that we have a lot of activities in this department, and it is certainly true. It has been a busy year, but each of these co-curricular events help enrich our course offerings by expanding student knowledge and appreciation of East Asia. East Asian Studies has had generous support from alumni and friends of the college, without whose generosity none of this would be possible.

Finally, I'd like to bid a fond farewell to Chaoying Liu and Chie Tokuyama. They both have taught us so much, both in and out of the classroom. We look forward to hearing more from them about their life beyond the limestone. We are also excited to meet our new visiting international scholars next semester.

Thank you, everyone, for a wonderful year. Best wishes for the upcoming year as Neil Diamant takes over as Chair.

Alex Bates

Lectures and Events



August

- Flaherty Lecture: "War and Peace." Yoshimitsu Miyakawa, Nanzan University (8/28)

September

- Flaherty Lecture: "Absolute Apology, Absolute Forgiveness." David Eng, University of Pennsylvania (9/17)
- Luce Lecture: "Science, Earthquakes and Politics in Mao's China." Fa-ti Fan, Binghamton University (9/19)
- Moon Festival (9/20)

October

- Ikebana workshop by Ellen Kelley (10/02)
- Field Trip to Shofuso Japanese Garden in Philadelphia (10/05)
- *Music of Diplomacy*, a film showing by Sherwood Goldberg (10/22)
- Flaherty Lecture: "China-India Future Relations." Mark Frazier, New School for Social Research (10/29)
- Flaherty Lecture: "Asia's Looming Hotspot."

Michael A. McDevitt, Rear Admiral, US Navy (Ret.) (10/31)

November

- Alumni lecture by Courtney Weatherby '12 (11/04)
- Sushi making class by Satsuki Swisher (11/07)
- Field Trip to attend "Peace and Remembrance Series at Elizabethtown College" featuring Ms. Shigeko Sasamori, a survivor and Hiroshima maiden (11/14)

December

- Taiko Performance by the Kaoru Watanabe Ensemble (12/5), featuring as special guests students of EASN 305 "Japanese Music"

February

- Mochituski celebration, featuring Taiko Club (2/01)
- Asian New Year celebration (2/01)
- Field trip to Elizabethtown College (as part

of the Japan Fest) to attend "Rakugo and Kamikiri" (2/15)

March

- Luce lecture: "The Ecology of War in North China" by Micah Mascolino, Assistant professor, Department of History, Georgetown University (3/19)
- Chinese cooking class by Prof. Liu (3/27)
- Senior field trip to Philadelphia to attend 2014 Association for Asian Studies Conference on (3/29)

April

- Bonsai classes (04/02, 04/09)
- Field Trip to Washington D.C. for Sakura Matsuri (4/12).
- Flaherty Lecture: "How Tokyo Invented Sushi." Jordan Sand, Georgetown University (4/17)
- Flaherty Lecture: "What's New in Chinese Poetry." Poet, Yang Lian (4/18)

LIASE Report

In 2012, Dickinson College was awarded a \$400,000 Luce Initiative in Asian Studies and the Environment (LIASE) grant. This grant is awarded to liberal arts colleges that aspire "to encourage innovative approaches to Asian studies teaching and research at the undergraduate level through the lens of the environment and sustainable development." The grant will run over four years, and the College intends to use it to build a broader awareness of both East Asian and Environmental studies among the faculty and student body. Dr. Ann Hill, professor of anthropology and East Asian Studies and LIASE project director, provides an update on LIASE activities over the past year and a preview of 2014-2015.

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This year the **Luce Initiative for Asian Studies and the Environment** on the Dickinson campus built on the momentum of spring 2013, our first semester of the grant. Our Luce teaching fellow, Kelin Zhuang, joined us last summer in time to teach a fall course on climatology in East Asia, followed in the spring by a course focused on the Yellow River, an area Professor Zhuang, a geologist, knows well from his research. We also welcomed Limei Yang from Yunnan University. Professor Yang, in part sponsored by her home province of Yunnan, lectured on minorities in China, while pursuing her own research on US rituals. She also taught Chinese to the Valley and Ridge group slated to go to China this May and will join the group as we travel through Yunnan Province.

The Luce Faculty Colloquia continued, led by several distinguished scholars in collaboration with members of the Dickinson faculty. Fan Fa-ti, from Binghamton University, led a September colloquium with Professor Ashton Nichols on "nature" and natural science in China and the West. In spring 2014, Prof. Zhuang invited Micah Muscolino from Georgetown to talk about his recent research on breaching the Yellow River dykes as a war strategy during the Japanese invasion of China in 1938. In April, Professor Donghong Li gave several presentations, including one for students and for the faculty colloquium, on agriculture and landscape in his hometown in northwest Yunnan. The **Valley and Ridge Goes to China** group met four times in the spring semester to discuss readings and learn about China in preparation for their trip to Yunnan this May.

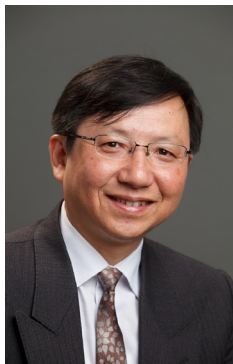
In addition to the two courses offered by Professor Zhuang, our Luce grant supported two new courses in the Dickinson curriculum. One of these, "**Seismic Japan**," was taught in Japan in summer 2013 by Alex Bates of the East Asian Studies Department and Peter Sak of the Earth Sciences Department. The sixteen students visited several locations in Japan to see first hand some of the consequences of the earthquake and tsunami in 2011. History faculty Emily Pawley was a faculty learner on this trip. The other new course was Dave Strand's "**Asian Urban Ecology**."

This spring we continued to fund bonsai classes in the Stafford Greenhouse, thanks to additional support from the Center for Sustainability Education. And Professor Bender, our new faculty resource person, worked with a new student assistant, Anna Roach-Howell, on recording and publicizing our program.

Upcoming in Fall 2014 is a faculty colloquium led by Karen Thornber (Comparative Literature, Harvard) entitled, "Overwhelming Disease and Nature: New Perspectives on Ariyoshi Sawako and Amitav Ghosh," as well as a new course taught by Emily Pawley, "Looking Across the Pacific: Japanese and American Environmental History." David Strand, Ann Hill, and Kelin Zhuang will be collaborating on two first-year seminars about the environment in Asia. Rae Yang will be teaching for the first time a course on Chinese traditional and contemporary approaches to the environment; Alex Bates will be teaching for the second time his course on nature and the environment in Japanese literature and film.

Find out more at: <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/luce-asian-studies>

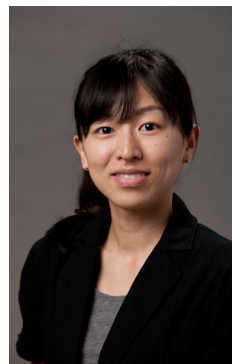
Visiting Faculty



Chaoying Liu
*Visiting professor of
Chinese*

I think it was fortunate for me to work in the Dickinson College East Asian Studies Department over the past year. I was deeply impressed by the students, faculty, administration and the work environment here. I was so happy to cooperate with my colleagues and to teach my students that I felt it was pity the two semesters passed so quickly. I still remember the good times I spent with my friends in the classroom, in the Great Room or kitchen of Stern when we were studying Chinese, celebrating the Moon Festival and making Chinese dumplings together. Thank you so much!

My post-Dickinson plan is to go back to China and continue to work in School of Chinese as a Second Language in Peking University. Besides the other courses I will teach at a Chinese Culture course set specifically for the Dickinson College students who are going to study in Peking University in fall 2014. All of them were the students I taught in my class or I met at Chinese language table. We will meet once a week, which will let them feel familiar and ease their feelings of homesick. I enjoyed my year very much.



Chie Tokuyama
*Visiting professor of
Japanese*

Once in a while you stand at the turning point and wonder how many chapters of life you have passed through, think of past moments with regret, embarrassment or satisfaction. The chapter entitled "Me at Dickinson" would be my favorite one to recall, perhaps more so in years to come. I've enjoyed the past two years in Carlisle not because it was full of happy stories but rather because of the challenges I faced and the warm support I received from my EAS colleagues. I respect them for being truly professional in their individual research and dedication to teaching, as well as their commitment to the department and collegiality. I was very fortunate to have been influenced by such wonderful people here.

In fact, this encounter has formed a big part of my motivation to pursue my PhD in Japanese literature at University of Oregon, which I could hardly imagine at the time I started working here two years ago. I would also like to give many thanks and a warm hug to every single student who made me a teacher. As I look back now, I feel I learned more from my students than they learned from me. My life in Carlisle was thus an invaluable start to a new chapter in my life, which will be filled with challenges, excitement, patience and hope. Working at Dickinson College has certainly paved the way. I hope students, campus staff and faculty enjoy their time at Dickinson College as I did.

Faculty News

This past year, **Alex Bates** added a new course to his repertoire, East Asian Cinema. Though Professor Bates has taught classes on various aspects of Japanese film, this was a chance to branch out into other regions to explore transnational aspects of film production and reception. Jumping on some of the digital humanities projects at the college, he designed assignments that are publicly available online. Students wrote film reviews of each film we watched and did group projects about transnational connections in film. These can be seen at <http://blogs.dickinson.edu/east-asiancinema/>. In addition to his regular teaching duties and work as chair of the department, Professor Bates was refining his manuscript on literature and film depicting Great Kanto Earthquake of 1923, now under contract at the University of Michigan, Center for Japanese Studies Press.

Building on his research on Japanese taiko drumming as well as his personal contacts in the taiko community, **Shawn Bender** taught a new course entitled "Japanese Music" in fall semester. Along with introducing students to the genres of Japanese music-making, the course made use of funding generously supplied by the Dean of the College to bring the professional taiko drummer Kaoru Watanabe to campus to teach students in the course how to play taiko. The students, and Mr. Watanabe,

used taiko drums that the Dickinson Taiko Club has been acquiring since its formation in 2012. In December, the students showed off what they had learned by performing as an "opening act" for the Kaoru Watanabe ensemble (Kaoru Watanabe, Kenny Endo, and Sumie Kaneko).

In spring Prof. Bender co-taught a course with Prof. David Sarcone (INBM) entitled "Health and Healing in Cross-Cultural Perspective" as part of the CGSE **Global Scholars US-Japan program**. Funded for two years by a grant from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science, and Technology, the program brings together five students from Akita International University and five students from Dickinson in order to investigate a problem of global significance. The program is comprised of both the spring semester course and an eight-week summer field study program on the Health-Related Quality of Life of older adults in Cumberland County and Akita Prefecture. Together with his AIU colleagues and Dickinson Colleagues Prof. Sarcone and Prof. John Henson (Biology), Prof. Bender will help lead this summer program in the US and Japan.

Following the conclusion of this summer program, Prof. Bender will continue his research on the use of robotics to care for older adults in Japan with a field study based in Kanagawa Prefecture. This study follows on the heels of research that he conducted in Japan and over the past two summers in Copenhagen, Denmark.

Prof. Bender also continued on for the sixth-year as Treasurer for the Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies and served for the first time as editor of the EAS Newsletter!

During his sabbatical leave **Neil Diamant** has been working on two projects: political activism among military veterans in China (based mainly on blog posts) and the historical foundations of "constitutional critique," which relies on archival sources. Articles based on this research will be published in journals throughout 2014 and 2015. During the summer Prof. Diamant will be traveling to Guangzhou for more research and to a summer workshop at the Institute of Sociology at Nanjing University, where he will give several talks to graduate students and young faculty members.

This year **Ann Hill** directed the College's four-year grant, The **Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment**. The grant brought to campus a teaching fellow, Prof. Zhuang, who enriched our knowledge of climate change and the Yellow River in China. Last October, Prof. Hill presented a paper on the impact of labor migration on



China's remote ethnic groups to an international conference in Chengdu, China. She can vouch for the fact that eating real Sichuan food makes your ears red and your nose run!

This summer Profs. Hill and Niemitz (Earth Science) will co-lead a group of Dickinson faculty on a three-week field trip in Yunnan, China that focuses on sustainability, alternative energies, and the environment. In addition, she and Prof. Zhuang will be taking fifteen students to the Yellow River and its adjacent communities in January 2015.

Along with teaching regular classes during 2013-14, **Junjie Luo** developed an independent studies course, "Chinese Poetry: Themes and Connections" with Xijing Zhang ('14). This course highlighted some themes represented in traditional Chinese poetry and examined them within their historical and cultural contexts. He continued to pursue his research interest in traditional Chinese fiction.

He also served as a guest editor for two special issues of *Translation Quarterly* on the topic, "Traveling Texts: Western Translations of Chinese Literature in the Contemporary World." His paper "Translation and English-language Criticism of Chinese Literature: The Case of Jin Ping Mei," was published in one of the two special issues. In addition, he presented a paper, titled "Baffled by Fictionality: The Commentaries on Jin Ping Mei during the Qing Dynasty," at the 2014 Association for Asian Conference.

In the 2013-2014 academic year, **Akiko Meguro** taught a first-year seminar entitled "Understanding Intercultural Communica-

tion," Elementary Japanese 101, Intermediate Japanese 212 and Advanced Japanese 362. In the spring, she accepted four Japanese graduate students from Tohoku University as teaching interns to help instruct and interact with students in the Japanese language classes. Instructor Meguro also attended the Association for Teachers of Japanese in Philadelphia.

Dave Strand began the year with a summer 2013 stint as Senior Visiting Research fellow at the Asia Research Institute of the National University of Singapore. While in Singapore he carried out research on a new "linear park," the Green Corridor. The Green or "Rail" Corridor is a green space created from a decommissioned rail line at the initiative of Singaporean nature groups and with the support of the city-state's government. He finished a paper that summarizes his results entitled "A Walk in the Park: Singapore's Green Corridor as Homegrown Import."

Inspired in part by his Singapore experience, Prof. Strand taught a new course this spring called "Asian Urban Ecology." He will also teach a First Year Seminar this coming fall on "Tropical Asia" in a learning community format with Professor Ann Hill and her First Year Seminar on "Culture and Environment in Upland Asia." All of these "green" projects and courses are part of Dickinson's four-year "**Luce Initiative on Asian Studies and the Environment**" program.

Prof. Strand also completed a three-year term as an elected member of the China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) during which he served (2012-13) as Chair of the Council and a member of the

AAS Board of Directors. Finally, this year he was appointed by the University of Hong Kong to a four-year consultancy position as External Examiner for the disciplinary majors and minors of China Studies for the Bachelor of Arts and the Bachelor of Social Science curricula.

Due to her new interest in immigration, **Rae Yang** has been studying Spanish. After nearly two semesters, she went to Peru last spring, visited Machu Picchu, and was delighted to find that she could chat with local people in Spanish. This summer, she will travel to Yangzhou and Shanghai with Dickinson students studying in Beijing. In fall semester, she will teach a new course on Chinese philosophy and literature, focusing on people's attitudes towards the environment—another course generated by our LIASE grant! She is also working with a literary agent to publish a immigration memoir through a commercial press in the hope that it will reach the general reader.

Senior Theses



Back (from left): Chiaoqing Liu, Ann Hill, Kelin Zhuang, Limei Yang, Peter Carr, Akiko Meguro, Nick Wolowski, Rae Yang, Brady Bialek, Dennis Liang, Junjie Luo, Chie Tokuyama, Shawn Bender, Alex Bates. Front (from left): Anna Roach-Howell, Sondey Olaseun, Lauren Kaye, David Strand, Lindsey Akemi Blais, Alyssa Young, Xijing Zhang, Dan Cozort

CHINA AREA

1. Brady Bialek, "Mao Zedong's Art of War: How Ancient Chinese Strategy Led to a Communist Victory in the Chinese Civil War"
2. Peter Carr, "Appropriation of Land in Rural China: Corrupt Local Government, Rural Protests, and a National Goal for Urbanization"
3. Nicholas Wolowski, "China's New Cooperative Medical System: Deficiencies and Strategies for Improvement"
4. Xijing Zhang, "Was the Sixth Dalai Lama a Playboy?: An Investigation of Tsangyang Gyatso's Life and Poetry"

KOREA AREA

5. Lauren Kaye, "K-Pop Empire: Exploring South Korea's Cultural Influence in Asia"

JAPAN AREA

6. Lindsey Akemi Blais, "Japan's Undervalued Other Half: A Study of the Lack of Female Leadership within the Japanese Private Sector"
7. Dennis Liang, "It's a New Miku World Order: A Look at Hatsune Miku's Rise to Stardom, Impact in Japan, and Future Potential in the World"
8. Sondey Olaseun, "Japan and the Black Other: Contemporary Representations of

Black Celebrities"

9. **Anna Roach-Howell, "Who Cares? Japanese Male Caregivers and Shifting Cultural Scripts on Family, Gender, and Care"
10. Alyssa Young, "Murder Society Wrote: Suicide Prevention in Japan"

** *Departmental Honors*

Upcoming Courses 2014-2015

FALL 2014

EASN101-01: Introduction to East Asia

Profs. Neil Diamant & Shawn Bender

An interdisciplinary study of East Asian civilizations. The course provides a framework for understanding by introducing students to traditional social and cultural patterns in East Asia and to the variety of transformations that have taken place there. This course fulfills the Comparative Civilizations graduation requirement.

EASN205-01: Chinese Approaches to the Environment, Traditional to Contemporary

Prof. Rae Yang

This course explores how Chinese view the environment, from ancient literature 3,000 years ago, Daoist philosophy, Neo-Confucianism, the works of Zen artists and theory of Chinese medicine to the ecological and environmental problems depicted by contemporary writers.

EASN 206-01: Imperial China

Prof. Noriaki Hoshino

In this class, you will learn about change and continuity in imperial China, from the third century BC through 1911. Over the course of this more than two thousand years, what we refer to as China changed a great deal politically, economically, socially, and even ecologically. We will explore many of these changes, while at the same time keeping an eye on the continuities that continued to characterize this amazing place and people over the long term.

EASN 206-02: Looking Across the Pacific: Japanese and American Environmental History

Prof. Emily Pawley

Cultural comparison can be a powerful tool to get us to question our assumptions and to make the familiar seem unfamiliar. With this in mind, this class juxtaposes the environmental histories of the United States and Japan, highlighting radical differences, unexpected similarities, and transpacific connections. Separate units will question each culture's definitions of nature, examine different relationships with indigenous cultures, compare energy strategies, with a particular focus on the Three Mile Island and Fukushima disasters, and finally examine how these cultures have influenced each other through the exchange of organisms and ideas.

EASN 206-03: Modern Japan in the Transpacific World

Prof. Noriaki Hoshino

Drawing on recent developments in postcolonial and transnational studies, this course explores various approaches to modern Japanese history from a transpacific perspective, in particular Japan's relationship with the United States and other East Asian countries. Using a rich variety of materials such as novels, films, and essays, this course will examine the intellectual, cultural, and socioeconomic history of Japan from the late-nineteenth century to the present. Topics include Japanese migration to the United States, Japanese colonization of

East Asia, African-American interest in racial issues within Asia, Japanese and Chinese intellectual discussions of modernity, American militarization in East Asia, and the circulation of Japanese subcultures abroad.

EASN 305-01: Nature and the Environment in Japanese Literature and Film

Prof. Alex Bates

This course explores the relationship between humanity and nature in Japanese literature and film. Though we will draw from earlier examples, the majority of the course will be focused on the modern era (post 1868). Some topics for exploration include: the role of animals in Japanese culture, nature as a reflection of the self, natural and industrial disasters, and nature in the imagination. As this is a seminar class, it will center on class discussion.

EASN 306-01: Consequences of China's Economic Reforms

Prof. Neil Diamant

This seminar will explore the wide-ranging impact of China's post-Mao economic reforms. Its main goal is to significantly deepen students understanding of certain facets of the current Chinese scene and develop and hone analytical and writing skills. We will be covering politics (both high and low), economic and social changes, protest, law and private and family life, among other topics.

Upcoming Courses 2014-2015

SPRING 2015

EASN203-01: Chinese Drama

Prof. Junjie Luo

This course introduces students to Chinese drama from the 13th century through the 20th century. We will examine representative texts of Chinese drama and explore the dynamic relationship between performance and texts. This course aims to understand both the tradition of Chinese drama and the transformation of this tradition in modern China. All the readings are available in English, and no prior knowledge of Chinese is required.

EASN206-01: Chinese Politics

Prof. Neil Diamant

An introduction to the contours of contemporary politics as shaped by traditional and revolutionary legacies, the institutions of state socialism, China's underdevelopment and struggles over power and policy.

EASN206-03: Climate Change, Rivers, and Chinese Society

Profs. Ann Hill & Kelin Zhuang

This course is an interdisciplinary, globally-integrated course that begins with a two-week field trip to North China in January 2015. The course integrates climate change in East Asia and its geography with the history of populations that are identified with the Chinese state. The course focuses equally on (1) the impact of long term changes in the climate and land forms of the region, especially its large river

systems, and (2) the consequences of human activity for environmental change as populations exploit natural environments, especially rivers, for livelihood, state maintenance, and the market. Although the course is broadly historical, it includes case studies to illustrate in concrete detail critical aspects of longer-term trends, such as course shifts in the Yellow River, the role of irrigation in the formation of Chinese civilization, deforestation in North China, the Three Gorges Dam project, agricultural sustainability, and other important topics.

EASN236-01: Japanese Society

Prof. Shawn Bender

This course is an introduction to contemporary Japanese society. The course examines what everyday life is like in Japan from anthropological and historical perspectives. It explores such major social institutions as families, gender, communities, workplaces, and belief systems. The course focuses as well on how modernization and globalization affected these institutions and the identities of Japanese people.

EASN306-01: Politics of Environmental Protection in Asia

Prof. Neil Diamant

This seminar takes a close look at the political, social, and legal issues that affect environmental protection in Asia. Focusing attention on China, Taiwan, Japan, and India, and by drawing upon scholarly literature in political

science, sociology, law, and history, the course aims to provide students with a multidisciplinary understanding of the myriad factors which shape the content of environmental legislation and policies and how these are implemented in society. Does China's authoritarian system give environmental law more "bite"? What roles do NGO play in Asia? Does Confucianism or Hinduism make people more or less inclined to protect the environment? How do Asians deal with the impact of rapid economic growth? In short, we will try to understand the complex interaction between political, legal, and social dimensions of environmental protection in a region that is home to half of the world's population and three of the world's current and future economic powerhouses.



Department of East Asian Studies

Dickinson College/EAS

PO Box 1773

Carlisle, PA, 17013

Phone: 717-245-1732

http://www.dickinson.edu/homepage/113/east_asian_studies
