

EAST ASIAN

Studies

Alumni Newsletter



Volume VI, fall 2013

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Letter from the Chair

Greetings from our new location at Gerard House! At this writing there are still a few loose ends to tie and even boxes to unpack, but for the most part East Asian Studies' summer migration across the Brown campus is complete. We are now settled into the former Philosophy building, a grand old house at 54 College Street, just down the hill from List Art Center. Thanks to our valiant staff, Kathy Spicer and Melina Packer, and to our enterprising faculty, the complex process of moving the entire contents of the two Brook street buildings has come to a successful conclusion—and our new quarters are looking truly impressive.

During the last year the faculty of East Asian Studies have continued to win recognition in the field at large as well as from the University.

- ★ Sam Perry received a Salomon Faculty Research Award from Brown and a Japan Foundation Grant;
- ★ Hye-Sook Wang, on sabbatic leave this fall, will serve as East Asian Studies Chair 2014-2016. She also received multiple grants from the Academy of Korean Studies this past year;
- ★ Lingzhen Wang received a Pembroke Faculty Fellowship for semester I, 2013-14.

This summer East Asian Studies benefited once again from Brian Leach's generous support. Seven Brown students were able to pursue language study in China this summer with the help of the Leach Fund. They attended

I realized that I shouldn't be afraid to make mistakes, as often happens when learning a new language, or try new experiences, no matter how foreign or frightening it is. In the end, everything is a learning experience, and only through these experiences can we grow as a person.

Pheakdey Son

such programs as Princeton in Beijing and Duke Study in China.

Two students received the Arun Stewart '11 Memorial Fund in 2013: Mathew Kelley and Daphne Xu. Please enjoy their summer reflections on pages 24-25.

East Asian Studies is delighted to have several new colleagues during 2013-14. There is much demand at Brown for East Asian language courses, and the Department is especially happy that Wenhui Chen, a new lecturer in Chinese, has joined us this semester. Ms. Chen taught most recently at Harvard; she has considerable experience teaching Chinese to college students and so-called heritage students. The Department also welcomes a new visiting lecturer in Chinese, Caiju Wen, and a new visiting instructor of East Asian Studies, Casey Lee. In addition, a new visiting instructor of Chinese, Qifan Ding, joins her colleague from the Chinese University of Hong Kong, Rongrong Hao, who arrived last year. Visiting Lecturer Minji Chun will continue to teach Korean language for the Department this year, providing critical continuity for the Korean program; Professor Hye-Sook Wang is on leave this fall and likely to take up senior administrative duties in the spring. The Japanese language program for its part is fortunate to have with us a new visiting lecturer, Sachiko Hiramatsu.

As announced last year, Sarah Kile, a cutting-edge scholar of late imperial Chinese literature and culture, joins us this fall after pursuing post-doctoral research last year under the auspices of the University of Michigan Society of Fellows. Professor Kile's expertise in the broader cultural

impact of Chinese literature and her interests in such areas as gender studies and visual culture intersect well with the strengths of the East Asian Studies faculty. Her experience and finesse as a teacher will also be much appreciated at Brown. Students are looking forward to Professor Kile's additions to the Department's curriculum, such as the first year seminar "Reading China: Texts and Contexts" this fall and "Introduction to Chinese Opera" in the spring.

We would love to hear about your post-graduate activities, whether you moved on from Brown recently or years ago. We will be happy to share any news of employment, internship, or study opportunities with current students, or to host meetings with current concentrators and/or faculty, should you visit Providence.

Thanks to all our readers for your support of the Department and of the study of East Asia at Brown.

Janine Sawada

Professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies
Interim Chair of East Asian Studies

Faculty News

Wenhui Chen: This is my first year as a Lecturer of Chinese at Brown University; I am excited to become a member of this excellent team in the Department of East Asian Studies. I will lead fourth-year Chinese and co-teach third-year with Hsin-I Tseng this fall semester.



Prior to Brown, I worked at Harvard University and Tsinghua Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies. I am a believer of happy learning; my students have described me as a teacher who can create excitement about the class and really encourages conversations that stretch ideas. My research interests focus on Chinese pedagogy for

advanced learners, how to teach Chinese language with Chinese cinema and literature, and how to integrate technology into language teaching.

Minji Chun: This is my second year teaching Korean at Brown. I am excited to see new faces and names on the registration list of the beginner class (KREA0100), as well as faces of the intermediate level students (KREA0300) whom I taught last year.

I still have a vivid memory of the rainy day when I arrived in Providence. Two days later, still in recovery from jet lag, I began teaching. Instead of being exhausted, the thrill of this new experience made me full of energy. Meeting my new students and seeing their eyes shining and their faces full of curiosity about the Korean language and about their teacher from Korea made me forget about my jet lag. I will always remember their passion for learning Korean; it kept my heart pounding those two semesters. Prior to coming to Brown I had taught foreign students at



Kyunghee University. Clearly teaching Korean at Brown was a new experience. Besides being diligent and very intelligent, the students at Brown are nice and warm-hearted. These students make teaching so very enjoyable.

Rongrong Hao: Last year, I co-taught third-year Chinese with Tseng *laoshi*, and beginning Chinese with Wang *laoshi*. The friendly work atmosphere and students' excellent academic performance left a very deep impression on me. I enjoy teaching at Brown. And now I am thrilled to start another semester with the new and great people here at Brown University.



This semester, I will focus my research on student error analysis, trying to find useful ways of helping students acquire the target language more successfully. I'll also try some new homework and teaching methods to stimulate students' learning interest.

Jia-lin Huang Hsieh: I can still clearly remember the first time I came to 341 Brook Street back in 1995. I was visiting Mrs. Chieh-Feng Ou Lee (Senior Lecturer Emerita), who has been a very dear friend of mine. When walking past the backyard of 333 Brook Street, I thought to myself how wonderful it would be to be a part of East Asian Studies at Brown. And it was just a wish I kept secretly back then. It is a blessing and an honor that my dream did come true several years later.

Although I have no recollection of our conversation that day, I later had countless interesting ones in Mrs. Lee's office, 341 Brook 202, after I came to Brown. She always referred to her students as her "kids." From time to time, she shared with me the founding history of, and many fun things about, East Asian Studies and the Chinese program. "How young we were at that time, you know! We were only 50-something when we first came here." For my first few years at Brown, I seldom set foot in 333 Brook St. unless our Chair, Professor Dore Levy, called

Previously, even when I was in the country or speaking with a Chinese person, I had always been talking *about* China, not talking *to* China. The Chinese language was the key with which I opened the gate and engaged China directly in conversation.

Christopher Kim

me into her office. The mail room used to be in 341 Brook St. 101. I still remember the aroma of coffee brewed fresh by our then Department Manager, Ann, early every morning. I received in my mailbox a Christmas gift from her, my very first bag of Lindt chocolate truffles in the United States. The sweetness lingers today.

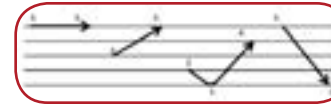
341 Brook Street brings back lot of memories and stories. I know there will be more stories to be told after our move to 54 College Street.

Lung-Hua Hu: As some of you may know or remember, I have always had strong interests in researching and teaching Mandarin pronunciation, especially the four tones. During my leave in the fall of 2012, I looked into some of the current and past research papers on tones and came up with a modified tone representational system that I believe to be closer to what native speakers of Mandarin are saying these days. Below is a sabbatical report I drafted which briefly discusses my research. The software I used, Praat, is a lot of fun to work with. I look forward to doing more of my future research with this powerful tool.

Using Praat to Analyze Mandarin Tones

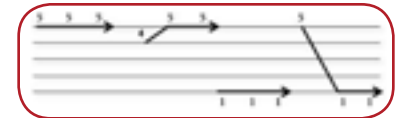
One of the most challenging aspects in Mandarin Chinese for American students is its tones. Mandarin Chinese has four tones, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 4th. 1st tone is a high-pitched and flat tone; 2nd tone is a rising tone, much like the rising intonation in the English language for questions; 3rd tone is a very low tone with a dip and a slight rise; 4th tone is a falling tone, similar to the intonation for a stern "No!" The conventional representation for the contour of these tones is 5-5, 3-5, 2-1-4, and 5-1, respectively.

Although this numbering representation system is never challenged, or so I thought, and is adopted by almost every Mandarin instructor, for years I have been "secretly" teaching my own version that I believe more accurately reflects current speech, with a major distinction falling on 3rd tone. While doing research for a conference paper, I stumbled onto a young scholar's work that articulated a very similar view to mine. Frederic Xu argued that the length of each tone would be more accurately represented if the assigned contouring numbers were increased from 2 numbers to 3. He also argued that modifications need to be made to show the correct contouring. See below for his modified diagram:



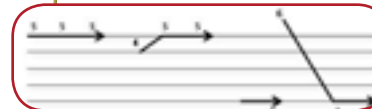
Conventional Representation

I was extremely excited to see how similar Xu's version was to my "secret" version, but had reservations about how he treated the length of 3rd tone and the starting point of 4th tone. During my sabbatical leave in fall 2012, I experimented with Praat, a piece of software designed for the analysis of speech in phonetics. Not surprisingly, the speech spectrogram showed the length of 3rd tone to be much shorter and the starting point for 4th tone higher, as I had always believed.



Frederic Xu's Representation

I introduced my findings in the NCLC conference in April, and will share them with a much bigger audience in November at the ACTFL/CLTA conference.



Lung-Hua "Gail" Hu's Representation

Sarah Kile: I am excited to begin my first year in the Department of East Asian Studies at Brown. I have just moved to Providence from Ann Arbor, where I spent the 2012-13 academic year on a postdoctoral fellowship in the Michigan Society of Fellows. I also served as Visiting Assistant Professor in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, where I taught a course called “Gender, Sexuality, and Power in Premodern China.” I received my PhD from Columbia University in 2012, and over the years I have also studied at Fudan University, Peking University, and Nanjing University. I work on early modern Chinese literature and culture, specializing in Ming and Qing drama and fiction and gender studies. My current book project examines how the best-selling author of seventeenth-century China, Li Yu (1611-1680), engineered and marketed a new experience of the everyday in the burgeoning market economy of the early Qing dynasty through his experimental fiction, diverting plays, and inventive essays.



In summer 2012, I had the pleasure of participating in the international conference on gender research in Chinese studies organized by the Nanjing-Brown Joint Program in Gender Studies and the Humanities, where I presented a paper called “Making Meaning of Seventeenth-Century Female Masculinity: Li Yu’s Women in Love.” A version of this essay is forthcoming in the upcoming special issue of differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies (edited by Lingzhen Wang), under the title “Transgender Performance in Early Modern China.” I received a grant from the Institute of Research on Women and Gender at the University of Michigan to continue my work on gender presentation in early modern China, which has provided me with the support to spend the summer of 2013 undertaking research in Nanjing and Beijing. Research engagements also took me to San Diego, where I spoke on the uses of theater in early Qing urban networks at the Asso-

ciation for Asian Studies annual meeting, and to Macao, where I presented on literary representations of the global circulation of silver at the International Convention for Asia Scholars. I also gave an invited lecture at the Ohio State University on the relationship between technology, practice, and narrative in seventeenth-century China.

In addition to these research projects, I am also involved in a digitally organized collaborative research platform known as the China Biographical Database (CBDB) project. The CBDB is a relational database that enables us to visualize the connections among thousands of figures throughout Chinese history; using this technology, I have been able to position the author who forms the focus of my current book project, Li Yu, within the cultural interactions of the late Ming. The collaborative aspect of the CBDB means that I was able to involve several undergraduate students at Michigan in the project, working with them both to input relevant data and to extrapolate research results. I look forward to continuing this work while at Brown, and I hope to involve Brown students in it as well.

I am looking forward to joining the Department this fall, and I will be teaching a new first-year seminar “Reading China: Texts and Contexts” in my first semester. This course will include readings from classical, premodern, and modern Chinese literature, and contextualize it for non-majors through questions of translation, circulation,

To my great surprise, it was not a giant leap in learning Chinese or about China in particular that was the most valuable reward, as enormous as my gains were in those areas and as grateful as I am for having them. It was from the extraordinary labor of forming a single sentence that the great gift emerges. You had a sense of being alive at every moment, of appreciating the existence of a language, no matter your grasp of it, able to convey your meaning.

Justin Sohn

and world literature. In the spring, I will teach a course on classical Chinese, intended for students who have completed three years of modern Chinese, and a seminar on Chinese theater.

Eng-Beng Lim (Assistant Professor of Theater and Performance Studies) will be teaching his TAPS course, Performances in the Asias, this fall, one that our concentrators are happy to count towards their EAS requirements. His first book, *Brown Boys and Rice Queens: Spellbinding Performance in the Asias*, was recently published by New York University Press.



Sam Perry: This year I received a Salomon Faculty Research Award from Brown as well as a Japan Foundation Grant to pursue an altogether new research project. This will allow me to spend the academic year 2013-2014 working in various archives throughout Japan—in Tokyo, Osaka, and Fukuoka in particular—and to give new shape to my next project called Japan's Korean War: A Cultural History of 'Postwar' Japan.



This summer I am delighted to be working with my research assistant Heeso Kim as part of a Karen T. Romer Undergraduate Teaching and Research Award (UTRA). Heeso and I will be working on the construction of a website for my first book, *From Wŏnso Pond*, a translation of and introduction to Kang Kyŏng-ae's brilliant colonial Korean novel. The site will have the original images published alongside the novel as well as other pedagogical resources to help readers at Brown, and beyond, to understand the historical context. This past summer I also had a chance to work closely with undergraduate Haruko Hashimoto with the help of an International Affairs Curriculum Grant which we were awarded to create one of the first courses in the department to focus on all three

East Asian cultures—a course on the history of sexuality in Japan, Korea and China.

The coming year looks to be an exciting one in terms of publications as years of research and writing will finally pay off. I will soon be submitting to publishers my translation of Sata Ineko's works, to be called *Crimson and Other Stories by Sata Ineko*, a volume made possible by the National Endowment for the Arts Translation Fellowship I was granted last year. An article I wrote on Kang's novel was also accepted for publication in the journal *Korean Studies*. My monograph on mid-20th century Japanese proletarian culture was also accepted early this year for publication by the University of Hawai'i Press, which will issue the book in 2014.

Janine Sawada: Last year Janine Sawada offered a new undergraduate seminar in East Asian Studies called "Turning East" in which students considered several Chinese and Japanese models of pilgrimage, both historical and literary, in light of modern pilgrimage and tourism theory. In the spring her undergraduate seminar in Religious Studies focused on Buddhist scriptures considered classics in China and Japan. During the year Sawada also taught a survey of Japanese religions and an introduction to premodern Japanese culture. In the meantime she served as an advisor to sophomores for Brown University and as an evaluator for the McVickar senior thesis award in Religious Studies. She completed her fourth year as co-



ordinator of the Asian Religious Traditions Ph.D. area in Religious Studies, and in that capacity initiated a series of regular meetings among Brown graduate students across departments who work on East Asia from the perspectives of History, Comparative Literature, History of Art and Architecture, Sociology, Religious Studies, and Anthropology.

Before I knew it, I became very comfortable expressing my opinions on social and political issues in Chinese.
Huyen Phan

In the fall Sawada chaired a panel on “Making Sense of Ambivalence: Women in Early Modern and Contemporary Japanese Buddhism” at the American Academy of Religion annual meeting in Chicago. She served again as book manuscript reviewer for the University of Hawai‘i Press and continues to sit on the editorial advisory board of the *Journal of Religion in Japan*. In June 2013 Sawada visited Japan to check small libraries and archives in Tochigi and Yamanashi prefectures for unpublished materials related to her research on Fuji religious groups of the Edo period (1600-1868). She took the opportunity to crawl through Funatsu Tainai 船津体内, a cave on the northern approach to Mt. Fuji used by devotees for ascetic practice since at least the late medieval period.

Hiroshi Tajima: I was in Tokyo and Kyoto during my sabbatical leave, in the spring of 2013, working on a project to finish the final draft of reading materials based on CBI (Content Based Instruction) and an interdisciplinary approach. I also researched effective instruction of Japanese essay writing and the use of polite and honorific expressions between Senpai (senior/older students) and Kouhai (junior/younger students) in Japanese schools. I collected and evaluated publications on comparative studies in Japanese and American legal systems to offer a course called “Japanese Society and Law” in the future.

I'm coming to realize how hard it is to define modern Chinese custom. More often than not, it seems that the difficulty is not that I have to learn the rules of how this system works; it's that I have to get over the fact that the social rules I think exist actually don't.

Rebecca Levy

While in Japan, I went to many traditional events such as the Mamemaki Festival, Hina Festival, and Children's Day celebration. I saw a theatrical performance of Mamemaki in Kyoto. Actors were throwing soybeans at demons while shouting, per tradition, “Demons out! Luck in!” I also visited the Hina Festival to see numerous displays of Girl's Day ornamental dolls (hina-ningyou) in a suburban

area of Kyoto. On Children's Day, families used to fly koinobori (carp-shaped windsocks) in the hope that their sons would grow up healthy and strong, but because of the overcrowding in cities like Tokyo, we are no longer able to see many Koinobori. I visited a small traditional town in the Osaka area to see these koinobori instead.

I met three of my former students—Stephen Rife '95, Brain Hooper '95, and Meredith Show '00—in Tokyo. I also ran into Nicholas Varone '12, when I was visiting Isejinguu, the oldest and largest shrine in Japan. He was travelling with his mother and sister. Of course, we took pictures of ourselves making the traditional Japanese peace sign.

Hsin-I Tseng: During the 2012-2013 academic year, I taught third-year (CHIN 0500 and 0600) and fourth-year (CHIN 0700) Chinese language courses. I also offered my “Introduction to Chinese Prose (CHIN 0910C)” course for the second time. In addition, I conducted an independent study focusing on the cultural elements expressed in Eileen Chang's novella *Love in a Fallen City*. Over the past six years I have taught at Brown, I've observed that the interrelationships between teacher-student-material in advanced classes are increasingly influenced by students' diverse goals, language education backgrounds and study abroad experiences, among other factors. In response to various learning needs, each semester my colleagues and I endeavor to improve our curriculum – material selection, teaching methods, pace. During each class meeting, we always strive to balance discussion and language instruction. My goal is to maintain high expectations and standards for students while keeping class fun. I love to try different approaches to delivering material. When teaching, I sometimes feel like a scientist anxious to see the results of her experiments.



Samantha Gross '15, William Deren '15, and Sarah Perelman '15 (CHINo400) sing the American song “Hot N' Cold” in Chinese with their originally choreographed dance. Photo by Alan Sban '14 (CHINo800).

Speaking of experiments, the biggest one for me each year is definitely the annual Chinese Language Showcase. This was the fourth year I coordinated the event, an approximately two-hour Chinese language student performance at the end of the spring semester. Students sign-up voluntarily, and choose to express themselves through their favorite performance type, such as singing, poetry recitation, skits and short videos. Fourteen performances were delivered this year; once again, students impressed the audience with their amazing talent, creativity, and

language achievement. I believe everyone enjoyed a fun afternoon amid the pressure of final papers and exams. [A video of the 2013 event is available online.](#) As always, I truly appreciate the time and effort of all participants, including students, EAS faculty and staff, Brown's Media Services and Facilities.

Hye-Sook Wang: Since last summer, most of my time has been devoted to my ongoing book project "History of Korean Programs in U.S. colleges and universities," supported by grants from the Acad-

emy of Korean Studies, providing feedback to the contributors and writing the Introduction to the book. I also edited volume 17 of *Korean Language in America*, the journal of the American Association of Teachers of Korean. This was the last volume I edited as I have stepped down from the editorship after serving in the position for the past eight years. Reviewing papers for various academic journals (e.g. *Sociolinguistic Journal of Korea*, *Korean Lin-*

The language pledge does not make making friends as difficult as I feared. I think we have all surprised ourselves with our proficiency! We manage to get to know each other, effectively convey important information under time constraints, and make jokes. I am happy to say that most of my classmates adhere very strongly to the pledge. My roommate, especially, is very conscientious. The only times either of us have used English have been in our sleep!

Livia Whitermore

guistics, *Teaching Korean as a Foreign Language*), and working as an external referee for major promotion reviews for other schools, also took much of my time. As usual, I gave invited talks at various places, and continued to get involved in the Standard Curriculum Development project that AATK is running as a member of the overseeing committee.

As for teaching, I developed two new courses this past academic year; "Media Korean" which I taught in the fall of 2012 and "The Korean Vision: A Debate" that I taught in the spring of 2013, both high advanced/superior level content-oriented courses, in addition to teaching Advanced Korean. I also successfully re-applied for the visiting lectureship grant to the Academy of Korean Studies, which enabled our visitor Minji Chun to teach for the program one more year.

I am on sabbatical this fall and will be back to teaching in the spring.

Lingzhen Wang: During the 2012-13 academic year I guest-edited and published a special issue of *differences: A Journal of Feminist Cultural Studies* (Vol. 24, Issue 2, 2013; Duke University Press), titled "[Other Genders, Other Sexualities?: Chinese Differences.](#)" Interrogating the totalizing perspectives on Chinese gender studies that typically treat China only in binary opposition to the West, this special issue focuses on the dynamics of difference within China and probes the complex history of Chinese sexuality and gender formations. The centerpiece of this special issue is the first English translation of Li Xiaojiang's 1983 post-Mao feminist re-theorization of women's emancipation and sexual differences. Other topics addressed include the emergence of the "modern girl" in early twentieth century China, the legacy of socialist gender practices in rural cultures, transgender performance on Chinese television, the political ambivalence of Chinese gay identity in the cinema, and early Chinese gender

I made lifetime friends and "older sisters" in China as our teachers were just a little older than us.

Vivian Phung

configurations in East Han art and writing. By recognizing the gender implications of China's competing economic ideologies (from Maoism to socialism to neoliberalism to transnational capitalism), "Other Genders, Other Sexualities" generates critical insights and new perspectives for the study of Chinese history, gender and sexuality, and feminist culture. To this special issue, I have contributed two essays, the introduction and an essay on Li Xiaojiang.

I also contributed, at invitation, an article titled "Embedded Feminist Agency: Wang Ping and Early Chinese Socialist Cinema," to a special issue of *Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society: "Feminist Sinologies"* (guest edited by Nan Da, forthcoming 2014). This article examines Wang Ping, the first Chinese socialist female film director, and her most representative film: *The Story of Liubao Village* (1956), re-theorizing female cinematic authorship as a contingent articulation embedded within dynamic interactions among a multiplicity of historical forces. This analysis addresses three critical issues in Chinese Studies: 1. the dismissal of socialist cinema as mere propaganda, 2. the Cold War influence on the study of socialist China and women since the 1980s in American academia, and 3. the liberal feminist approach to gender, which tends to separate gender from other political, social, and cultural practices by adhering to a Western-centered universalism. Methodologically, this presentation re-historicizes/constructs the practice of early Chinese socialist cinema (1949-1957) as experimental, and situates Wang Ping within that dynamic filmmaking context to re-configure women's cultural agency as a historical effect of multi-force significations.

I was invited to give talks on gender and socialist cinema at the Harvard Gender Workshop (April 2013) and the University of Michigan (October 2012). I also served as discussant on the panel "Nation, Gender, and Transcultural Modernism in Republican China" at the annual conference of the Association for Asian Studies held in San Diego, March 2013.

In the fall of 2012, I organized film screenings and a writer-director talk for Liu Jiayin's *Oxhide* and *Oxhide II*, and co-organized "The Memory Project: Chinese Independent Filmmaking." Both events directly engaged Brown students with independent filmmaking, offering students fresh perspectives on, and approaches to, social and cultural issues in contemporary China.



Yang Wang: This fall I am teaching first-year Chinese (CHIN0100) and an upper-level course: The Changing Face of China: Advanced Reading in Chinese Media (CHIN0920C). In CHIN0100, students learn how to ask someone's honorable surname and where the dining hall is, whereas in CHIN0920C, students listen to online news reports, interview native Chinese speakers and read primary source materials published on Chinese websites. I enjoy the contrast between these two courses; it reminds me of how much progress my students have made over three years!

I went to Chengdu, Sichuan this summer to give a presentation at the 11th International Conference on Chinese Language Pedagogy. My paper “Media Reading Courses Meet Independent Research: Chinese Academic Writing Teaching Models” was published in the conference proceedings. I also hosted a lunch party for our students who were studying Chinese at Duke Study in China and Princeton in Beijing this summer. Their fluent Chinese and quasi-Beijing accents surely attracted all the attention in the local restaurant!

Last November, I again served on the National Committee for Fulbright English Language Teaching Assistantships (Taiwan).



Caiju Wen: I graduated from the Chinese Communication University Master’s program in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics, and started my teaching career by joining the Alliance for Global Education at Fudan University in 2008. The first time I worked with Brown was in spring 2011, when some Alliance teachers were visiting Brown to gain learning experiences in Chinese teaching. Beginning in the fall of 2011, I worked with the Chinese Studies Department at the College of Wooster for two years, where I started to

focus on teaching advanced Chinese. In 2012, I participated in the Princeton in Beijing summer program again and taught level 3 students. I am so excited to join Brown, and get to know and work with so many excellent professors.

Class of 2013

The East Asian Studies Department’s 2013 graduates are listed below with their respective senior project titles. Ross Geiger was our sole thesis writer this year; he graduated with honors. Gabi Zerbib also received honors for her thesis, from the History Department. Alex Alonso and Ross Geiger were our two East Asian Studies Prize recipients.

Alex Alonso | *Strengthening Japan’s Cybersecurity Policy: Legal and Social Challenges*

Charlie Fischl | *Ai Weiwei and the Politics of the Canon*

Ross Geiger | *Cracking the Chinese Sports Industry: A Historical Roadmap for Achieving Sport Popularity in China*

Jeremy Korn | *Female Liberation? Suicidal Women and the Political Patriarchy in China*

Mona Li | *Lifeflood of the Metropolis: Tokyo’s Urban Infrastructure Systems*

Taro Shigenobu | *Fighting Invisibility: Foreigners in Japan*

Megan Turley | *Kanzashi: A History in Hair*

Gabi Zerbib | *Parody in Chinese Society: A Comparison of Republican-Era Political Cartoons and Contemporary E’Gao*

2013 SENIOR FORUM



Summer in China

Thanks to the generosity of Brian Leach, several Chinese language students and East Asian Studies concentrators were able to spend the summer of 2013 in China, intensively studying the language or pursuing independent research and internships.

INTENSIVE LANGUAGE STUDY

Princeton in Beijing

Christopher Kim
Rebecca Levy
Huyen Phan
Vivian Phung
Justin Sohn
Pheakdey Son

Duke in China Summer Program

Livia Whitemore

ARUN STEWART '11 MEMORIAL FUND

The Arun Stewart '11 Memorial Fund was established by Sunita and Tony Stewart in memory of their son, the late Arun David Stewart, Class of 2011, to honor his passion for Chinese language and culture. The fund supports undergraduates in East Asian Studies who conduct independent research projects in China, or participate in low-paid or unpaid internships in China, or pursue intensive language studies in China.

For the summer of 2013, both Mathew Kelley and Daphne Xu received support from the Arun Stewart '11 Memorial Fund. Some of their reflections are included below.

Mathew Kelley: I have been studying Chinese since 2006. I have done two summer language programs in Beijing. I won the lower-level Chinese Bridge Speech Competition in New York in 2011 and was sent to Changsha by the government. Am I fluent in Mandarin, and can I survive in the country on my own? Or will I simply still make a fool of myself while in taxis and at restaurants with my mediocre language skills? Thoughts like these were all I could focus on before embarking on my first summer being completely independent in the enormous capital of China: Beijing.

Needless to say, it's been an unbelievably fun but undeniably *uphill* battle studying this language and culture. After arriving at 7:00 am and struggling to direct my cab driver to my apartment in an area I was unfamiliar with, I unloaded my things and realized I had neither Internet nor a cell phone. With both of my new roommates already at work, I decided to hop on a bus – with only Chinese maps and directions – and navigate to the nearest place I knew, namely a Starbucks with wifi. Twenty minutes later, as I sat down comfortably with my computer, new Chinese SIM card, and iced coffee in hand, it hit me: I just landed in China three hours ago, and yet here I sit already



having taken a public bus to a café I knew how to navigate to with a newly-acquired Chinese phone, and I'm 7000 miles from home. I knew then that the summer was going to be exhilarating.

Daphne Xu: The view from my airplane window was familiar. Even the smell from the central A/C at the airport evoked memories of past summers I'd spent in Shanghai. There's something about Shanghai for me that makes landing there feel like I am entering an entirely distinct world that is simultaneously completely foreign and completely familiar.

Being who I am - the daughter of Shanghaiese immigrants to Canada who studies in the US - affords me privilege in Shanghai that I do not possess in the rest of the world. Only in Shanghai am I both an insider and an outsider, at home and not at home. As an Asian in North America, it is not out of place for me to be questioned "where are you from?" or "do you speak English?". Occasionally, I am also addressed with a "Ni hao" or "Konnichiwa". But in Shanghai, I am intrinsically seen as one of the people because of both my appearance and my language ability.



Shanghaiese is the dialect spoken in my family. Having grown up in Toronto, Canada, my language ability is one of the most substantial traces of any connection I have with my family's history. Hence, the phenomenon of the extinction of the Shanghaiese language hits, quite literally, close to home.

Tracking Shanghainese language use in Shanghai consisted of conducting interviews and collecting oral histories from local Shanghainese individuals from a wide range of ages (-18-80) and professions. My field notes also consist of observations from my daily life there of the language people use in various settings. In other words, my ears were always alert; for three months, I listened to the sounds of Shanghai.



Flyer advertising new course offering from Assistant Professor Kile: "Reading China: Texts and Contexts," a first-year seminar.

Alumni Notes

.....1986
Heidi Proegler Chay: Meeting up for coffee and great conversation with Prof. Jerry Grieder and his wife, Elsa, was a treasured highlight of our family trip to Providence in May to see daughter Maya Chay (Brown '13) graduate. Thank you again, Jerry, for your guidance and encouragement during my undergraduate years, and for inspiring Maya to apply to Brown. It's so good to see you still climbing The Hill. Be well!

.....1989
Andrew Meyer: After graduating Brown in 1989 I lived in Taiwan for two years, then started a degree in East Asian Languages and Civilization at Harvard. While at Harvard I studied at Kyoto University in Japan for one year and at Beijing University in the PRC for another. Currently I am an Associate Professor of History at Brooklyn College, where I teach courses on Chinese and Japanese history. My research specialty is ancient Chinese intellectual history. My publications include *The Huainanzi: A Guide to the Theory and Practice of Government in Early Han China* (co-translated with John Major, Sarah Queen, and Harold Roth, Columbia University Press, 2010), *The Dao of the Military: Liu An's Art of War* (Columbia University Press, 2012), and "The Altars of the Soil and Grain Are Closer than Kin: The Qi Model of Intellectual Participation and the Jixia Patronage Community" (*Early China* 33-34

2011). Harold Roth, one of my co-translators on the *Huainanzi*, is Brown faculty and was my undergraduate thesis advisor.

.....1996
 In 2012, **Gerald S. Ohn** was admitted to The Order of Distinguished Attorneys for the Beverly Hills Bar Association in recognition of Mr. Ohn's outstanding dedication to the legal profession. Gerald S. Ohn was selected as a 2013 Rising Star by the Southern California Super Lawyers magazine. Gerry is the Managing Principal at the Law Offices of Gerald S. Ohn in Los Angeles where his practice focuses on civil rights, business employment and class action litigation. Gerry would love to hear from alumni at gerald@ohnlaw.com.



.....1998
Jason R. Tomita, a corporate attorney in the Palo Alto office of law firm Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher, & Flom LLP, has been promoted to counsel. He represents clients in mergers and acquisitions, strategic sales, joint ventures and debt and equity financings. Jason has represented clients in the technology, finance, retail and energy industries in both U.S. and cross-border deals. He received his J.D. in 2002 from Harvard Law School.





.....2000
Stacy Smith: In my sixth year as a freelance Japanese translator, interpreter and writer, I do a significant amount of work with the State Department through

the International Visitor Leadership Program, interpreting for Japanese delegations as well as serving as a logistical coordinator for multinational groups during these three week gigs. When I am at home in NY, I tend to keep busy with private sector work. This year I also had the chance to interpret at both MOMA and MOMI for Japanese directors, artists and actors, which was very exciting! I get back to Japan every February to run the Tokyo Marathon, and also return on business at least once a year. I am always thankful to EAS for preparing me for this career that I love.

.....2002
Johanna Cox: I would like to introduce my new daughter, Helen Matthews Cox, who was born last September in New York City. For the last two years, I have written freelance and worked as Editorial Director at L2, a think tank and advisory firm focused on digital strategy for luxury brands. Later this year, Helen and I will



be moving to London to join her dad, who has recently taken on a new role as ABC News chief foreign correspondent. I hope to connect with my many Brown friends (and future ones!) living in the UK. Please get in touch with me at johanna.g.cox@gmail.com

.....2004
Akemi Johnson: Almost ten years (!) after completing it, I presented findings from my senior honors thesis, "Island Haafu, Tokyo Haafu: Learning English at the AmerAsian School in Okinawa" at the Hapa Japan Scholarly Conference in April 2013. Part of a five-day, multifaceted Hapa Japan Festival, the conference explored multiracial issues connected to Japan. I remain grateful to the East Asian Studies department for the summer funding to conduct that initial research in Okinawa, and to Professor Kerry Smith, who, as my advisor, contributed much to that project. I recently moved from Honolulu to San Francisco, and am buckling down to finish a creative non-fiction book about mixed race identity and interracial relationships in Okinawa. [An excerpt was recently published online in Kyoto Journal.](#) I'd love to hear from anyone in the EAS community at akemi.johnson@gmail.com.

.....2005
Mark Cho: My little daughter, Mia, is 7 months old now and drools constantly. My wife Emi is an incredible mother and I am an above average father! My group of menswear stores, The Armoury, is growing to a third location in New York City

at the end of the year. My English accessories brand, Drake's, is now making exceptional hand-made ties for Brown University, all profits go back to the Brown fund. Many thanks to President Paxson, Josh Taub and Steven Souza for making this happen! We have been working hard to create a small range of ties and scarves specially designed for Brown in the coming months. Some are already available from the Brown bookstore and its online store.



Brown had such a huge impact on my life and I am so pleased to be able to do something special to support it! I've attached a picture of me looking very smug in my office wearing one of the new Brown ties with a few of the other designs in front of me.

Daniel Hausmann: I recently created a startup: climbly.com. It allows prospective university students the ability to have an online chat with a current student, professor, or staff member. While we sell the product to universities, we also recently announced [a nonprofit program](#), wherein we provide this product absolutely free to select universities every year.

.....2007
Benjamin Boas: I have successfully completed the 11-month Instructors Training Course at the Yoshinkan Aikido Hombu Dojo in Tokyo and have received my teacher's certificate. I am now making a living doing J-E translation and dictionary editing while

I work with a professional illustrator on a humorous comic detailing my experiences doing "shugyuu," training in Japan.



I continue to organize the Brown-Harvard Zen session, which has become so popular that the monks at Engakuji have agreed to let us run it every month. If anyone is passing through the Tokyo area on the second Sunday of the month and is interested in trying zazen, please email me at benkun@gmail.com. Beginners and non-Japanese speakers are more than welcome.

Alexander Richardson: I recently graduated from the dual MBA/MA (Chinese Studies) program with Wharton and the Lauder Institute at the University of Pennsylvania. I'd be happy to chat about it if other EAS grads are trying to figure out a way to combine business school with foreign language work. I am now in the process of moving to NYC to join the M&A advisory arm at Lazard, and would also be glad to link up with other alums in the city.

.....2009
Hudson Gaines-Ross left his role at Gilt Groupe to launch an online lifestyle brand, ALOHA.com, in the health and wellness space. ALOHA is based in the Flatiron area and is currently hiring! Hudson is still serving as

Board President of CampInter-active, which teaches technology to inner-city youth across the United States, inspiring our next generation of tech leaders.

.....2011
Dana Mirsalis: I just finished the first year of my master's at Harvard University, where I'm studying modern Japanese religion with a focus on Shinto and Shinto-derived New Religions.

.....2012
Liam Hynes: I spent the past year just working on grad school applications and not doing much else, but thankfully it did pay off—this coming September I will begin my pursuit of a PhD in Music Theory at Yale!

Leora (Lee) Kava: I just completed my first semester as a master's student at the Center for Pacific Islands Studies at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. Over the summer I'll be getting ready to work on my thesis, which will focus on Tongan and Chinese diaspora particularly in Tonga and California. I will be working within the East West Center, and I recently received the EWC Alumni Award.

Along with my thesis work, I'll be working as a graduate assistant within the Pacific Islands Studies Department, helping teach an entry level course as well as helping plan a major conference for next spring.

.....2013
Megan Turley: I actually just got a job in Santa Barbara as an accounts receivable specialist for

Deckers Outdoor Corporation. In an interesting twist, my interview began in Japanese! I'm hoping that with time I might have a chance to work in their overseas Japan office.

We want to hear from YOU. Email [eas@brown.edu](mailto: eas@brown.edu) and keep us in the know.

Please also contact us if you're interested in speaking to concentrators about what you did with a degree in East Asian Studies... Good old-fashioned campus visits or newfangled digital narratives are both more than welcome.

East Asian Studies Faculty, 2013-14

Wenhui Chen	Lecturer in Chinese
Minji Chun	Visiting Lecturer in Korean
Qifan Ding	Visiting Lecturer in Chinese
Rongrong Hao	Visiting Lecturer in Chinese
Sachiko Hiramatsu	Visiting Lecturer in Japanese
Jia-Lin Huang Hsieh	Visiting Lecturer in Chinese
Lung-Hua Hu	Senior Lecturer in Chinese
Yuko Imoto Jackson	Senior Lecturer in Japanese
Sarah Kile	Assistant Professor of East Asian Studies
Zhuqing Li	Adjunct Associate Professor of East Asian Studies
Sam Perry	Assistant Professor of East Asian Studies
Janine Sawada	Professor of East Asian Studies and Religious Studies
Hiroshi Tajima	Lecturer in Japanese
Hsin-I Tseng	Lecturer in Chinese
Hye-Sook Wang	Associate Professor of East Asian Studies
Lingzhen Wang	Associate Professor of East Asian Studies
Yang Wang	Senior Lecturer in Chinese
Caiju Wen	Visiting Lecturer in Chinese
Chie Yamamoto	Teaching Associate in Japanese
Kiko Yamashita	Associate Professor of East Asian Studies

