

# East Asian *Studies*

Volume 16, 2019

## Director's Note

By Hsiu-Chuang Deppman, Director, East Asian Studies

**C**ongratulations to the Class of 2019! We bid adieu to our 13 graduating majors and 14 minors and wish our lovely graduates a smooth journey to their next destinations.

EAS said goodbye last spring to three of our beloved visiting faculty members. **Gwendolyn Gillson**, visiting assistant professor of religion and East Asian studies, was the most wonderful mentor and professor, inspiring students to study gender and sexuality in Asian religions. We are happy to report that she accepted a tenure-track position at Illinois College that begins this fall. **Miho Suzuki**, lecturer in Japanese, was unparalleled in teaching students to love language learning. Her classes were always fun and rewarding. EAS faculty deeply appreciated her energy, collegiality, and contribution to the Japanese program. She plans to move to South Korea to embark on a new professional journey. **Xin Zhang**, visiting assistant professor of Chinese and Mellon Language Postdoc, was an outstanding colleague. Students loved her classes on language pedagogy and the learning of Asian languages and cultures, finding them enlightening and engaging. They also admired her innovative teaching style that combined theory with practice. She accepted a tenure-track offer at the Duke-Kunshan University in Shanghai. Together, these three colleagues helped diversify and enrich the EAS curriculum, training a generation of Oberlin students to be better prepared for a wide range of career options. We thank our amazing colleagues for their service to the college and to the program and wish them the very best in all of their future endeavors.

With this new academic year, EAS welcomes three new colleagues. **Andrew Macomber**, assistant professor of religion and East Asian studies, will bring to our interdisciplinary program exciting new courses on Buddhism and religious rituals in East Asia. **Jesse Watson**, visiting assistant professor of history and East Asian studies, will bring his

expertise in law and materiality in the formation of China's early empires. **Chialan Sharon Wang**, visiting assistant professor of Chinese and a specialist in Sinophone cinemas, will teach stimulating new courses on Chinese literature in translation and Taiwanese cinemas.

Meanwhile, we are also very happy to announce that **Nathaniel Heneghan '00**, visiting assistant professor of Japanese language and culture, accepted Oberlin's offer to extend his appointment for another year. He will offer courses in the study of zainichi (Koreans in Japan) and Asian cinemas. **Keren He**, visiting assistant professor of Chinese, also accepted the extension of her contract and will continue offering such well-subscribed courses as *Love in Traditional China* and *Knight, Outlaw, Assassin*. **Risa Yamanaka**, visiting instructor of Japanese from Obirin University, and **Yue Fan**, visiting instructor of Chinese from Beijing Normal University, also agreed to the extension of their contracts. We are immensely grateful to these visiting faculty for their continuous support of the program.

As in the past, EAS sponsored many successful symposia in 2018-19. In spring 2019 alone, the program held three momentous events. **Hsiu-Chuang Deppman** organized the international conference *Public Intellectuals in a Changing World*, with 19 speakers and filmmakers from Asia, Europe, and America. **Sachiko Kondo** sponsored a compelling lecture titled "Story of Peace" by the Hiroshima Bomb survivor Shigeo Sasamori. **Sheila Miyoshi Jager** put together a *Global Issue Symposium* that brought to campus prominent speakers on current affairs. These events drew appreciative crowds and enthusiastic participants.

In spring 2019, EAS also underwent a program review that invited external reviewers **Peipei Qiu** from Vassar College and **Eugenia Lean** from Columbia University for a three-day assessment in April. Many thanks to EAS colleagues for

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## Director's Note, cont.

their tremendous help in drafting a detailed 21-page preliminary report and for meeting with the reviewers individually. We appreciated the reviewers' concrete and constructive suggestions for sustaining the productivity and vivacity of East Asian Studies for the next decade.

After serving the college for 37 years, **David Kelley**, associate professor of history and East Asian studies, officially retired. The history department and EAS celebrated David's retirement with a collection of first-person accounts that paid tributes to his remarkable service to the college. David chaired EAS four times, helping build the program to what it is today. Each time he was a rainmaker. He created a tenure-track position to hire Suzanne Gay, emeritus professor of Japanese. He wrote successful tenure documents for **Bonnie Cheng**, associate professor of art and East Asian studies, and for **Emer O'Dwyer**, associate professor of history and East Asian studies. He applied for and received Luce Asia

Foundation Grant that allowed EAS to hire a Korean specialist, **Sheila Miyoshi Jager**. His directorship steered the program through many challenging transitions and stabilized the staffing in ways that make EAS one of the most successful interdisciplinary programs in the U.S. We wish David a very happy retirement, free from the pressures of any more chairing. Special thanks go to **Fang Liu**, **Amy Redden**, and **Pablo Mitchell** for working diligently behind the scenes to make his retirement celebration possible.

As I conclude my four-year term as EAS director, I thank my colleagues for their generous support and unwavering dedication to the program. I am confident that incoming director **Emer O'Dwyer** will enable East Asian studies to continue to thrive as an intellectual center on campus. Again, it bears repeating that we deeply value the connection with our alumni and hope to stay in touch with everyone in our extended EAS family.

## Faculty/Staff News



**BONNIE CHENG** was interviewed for an NPR segment on the contemporary artist Cui Jie, who exhibited in the inaugural *FRONT International: Cleveland Triennial for Contemporary Art*. She also presented a paper for the conference Chinese Objects and their Afterlives at INALCO (National Institute

for Oriental Languages and Civilization) in Paris and submitted the article for publication. She gave two invited talks in Oklahoma and Venice and completed an article on the underground silk road for the *Journal of Inner Asian Art and Archaeology*. In fall 2018, she organized a talk by Tobie Meyer-Fong (professor of history, Johns Hopkins University) on the future of Qing studies, and a lecture and faculty workshop on Song painting and the environment with Liu Heping (associate professor of art history, Wellesley College) and Julia Orell (assistant professor of art history, University of British Columbia) for Ann Sherif's LIASE grant. In May 2018, Cheng and all other Japanese-related faculty took two busloads of students to the Shinto exhibition at the Cleveland Museum of Art. She also served on two elected committees this year and is happy that a two-year stint on the College Faculty Council is coming to an end.

**HSIU-CHUANG DEPPMAN** completed her four-year term as EAS director and two-year term as director of Oberlin's



Center for Languages and Cultures. Recently she signed a book contract with the University of Hawaii Press; *Close-ups and Long Shots: Ethics and Aesthetics in Modern Chinese Cinemas* is scheduled to be published in May 2020. She is on sabbatical in 2019-20 and will work on finishing her manuscript *Parenting Bilingual Dreams*.



**KEREN HE** specializes in modern Chinese literature and culture, intellectual history, performance studies, and political anthropology. Her research explores death and aging in Chinese aesthetic and popular imagination as a counterpolitics of life. She is finishing a book manuscript, *Over My Dead Body: Political Suicide in Modern Chinese Literature and Culture*, which examines intermedial representations of self-destruction within the context of transnational radicalism in the first half of the 20th century. Her second book project studies how old age challenges normative notions of humanism in post-socialist China and contemporary Sinophone regions. Keren holds extensive teaching experience in premodern and modern Chinese literature, media and film studies, and cultural history and theories

## Faculty/Staff News, *cont.*

at Stanford University and the Chinese University of Hong Kong. At Oberlin, her course offerings include Love in Traditional China; Knight, Outlaw, Assassin; and Chinese language at multiple levels.



**NATE HENEGHAN '00** was excited to return to Oberlin (this time as faculty), where he taught JAPN102, JAPN401, and courses on Japanese and French New Wave cinema and Japanese and Korean literature and film. He never ceases to be impressed by the level of intellectual engagement and enthusiasm of

students in EAS—particularly evident during the visit by atomic bomb survivor Shigeko Sasamori—which makes Oberlin a uniquely rewarding place to teach. Nate also published a translation of the short story “Lee-kun’s Blues” in the collection *Zainichi Literature* and the article “The Minority Machine: Alterity and Excess in the Films of Sai Yoichi” in *Azalea: Journal of Korean Literature and Culture*.



**SHEILA MIYOSHI JAGER** received an International Security & Foreign Policy grant from the Smith Richardson Foundation (<https://www.srf.org/programs/international-security-foreign-policy/>) to complete her book *The Other Great Game: The Opening of Korea and the Birth of Modern East Asia*, which is under contract with

Harvard University Press. The book provides a major “big picture” narrative of the geopolitical context surrounding Korea’s “opening” in the late 19th century that will provide a deep historical understanding of Northeast Asia’s (China, Japan, Russia and Korea) present situation, as well as over the long term. Jager is also working on a joint book project with Jiyul Kim (visiting professor of history at Oberlin) on the Korean War, tentatively titled *The Korean War: A New History*, under contract with Cambridge University Press. Finally, Jager appeared in a major new PBS documentary narrated by John Cho, *Korea: The Never-Ending War*, which examines the Korean War as part of a conflict that continues to this day (<https://www.pbs.org/weta/korea-never-ending-war/>).

**DAVID KELLEY WRITES:** “After 37 years I am saying a fond farewell to teaching and learning from generations of Oberlin students. I have been exceptionally fortunate in spending my career at Oberlin, engaging with exceptional, committed, and challenging students. I have



also been blessed with wonderful colleagues in both history and East Asian studies over the years. Most important for the everyday functioning of EAS, is of course our multitalented Amy Redden, who oversaw a wonderful retirement party in my honor last spring. As I transition to retirement, I plan to spend more time with my grandchildren, complete a scholarly project, catch up on lots of reading, and from time to time visit with colleagues and friends.”



**SACHIKO KONDO** writes: “In the fall, at our annual Japanese Festival, we participated in “onigiri action project” (for every photo with onigiri {rice ball} posted on social media, five school meals were provided). We made many onigiri, and students enjoyed themselves. In the spring, we invited Ms.

Shigeko Sasamori, a survivor of the Hiroshima atomic bomb. She shared her stories with students, faculty, staff, and community members. She loved visiting Oberlin. Although we are thrilled that both Heneghan-sensei and Yamanaka-sensei will stay here for another year, we are sad to see our beloved Suzuki-sensei leave our campus. I am humbled to have had a chance to work with such a wonderful colleague. I am looking forward to another fulfilling year of learning from teaching!”



*Hsiu-Chuang Deppman presents a gift to David Kelley at his retirement party as his granddaughter, Gwen, looks on.*

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Faculty/Staff News, cont.



**KAI LI** gave talks in the summer of 2018, at Beijing University and the University of Science & Technology of Zhejiang. He was also invited to be one of the keynote speakers at the 11th International Conference of Chinese calligraphy held at Beijing Normal University.



**FANG LIU** enjoys teaching her first- and third-year students and learning how to enhance her classroom instruction. During the summer of 2018, she attended an international conference on Chinese calligraphy in Beijing and also went back to Kunming to see her family.

**AMY REDDEN** writes: “I was happy to return after being on medical leave during spring semester 2018. Being away made me realize how much I love working with young people. It is so fulfilling to watch them grow and mature during their college years. It also helps keep me young. In my mind, I will forever be 18 to 22 years old! I want to thank David Kelley for everything he has done for me. He went above and beyond the call of duty when he was EAS director to make sure I was hired. Happy retirement, Professor Kelley! You will be missed.”



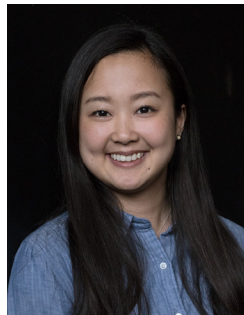
**CHIE SAKAKIBARA** writes: “I spent the first half of my junior faculty leave in Kyoto, Japan, as a visiting faculty fellow for the Associated Kyoto Program. During the fellowship, I taught a course on the environmental humanities at Dōshisha University and also initiated a

collaborative project with the Nibutani Ainu community in Hokkaido. I came back to Oberlin in early January this year, and I am spending the remainder of my sabbatical to complete my first book on climate change and cultural resilience among Iñupiat of Arctic Alaska. In my spare time, I enjoy hanging out with my 6-year-old human daughter Kaya, 8-year-old canine son Giro, and 5-month-old canine baby (well, puppy) Ferrin Kuma.”



**ANN SHERIF** taught Living with the Bomb, a course about culture in the nuclear age that she designed originally with Wendy Kozol (CAS), as well as a new environmental humanities course, Pine, Bamboo, Plum: Nature in Japan’s Arts & Literature, related to Oberlin’s LIASE grant and an AMAM exhibit with Kevin

Greenwood. Among her research activities, she published “Politics and Culture of Fascism” in *Literature among the Ruins, 1945-1955: Postwar Japanese Literary Criticism* and will soon complete a digital exhibit titled *Popular Protest in Postwar Japan: The Antiwar Art of Shikoku Gorō* with the support of a Mellon Digital Humanities grant. This year she looks forward to working with colleagues, students, and alumni in strengthening the Japanese language program.



**MIHO SUZUKI** writes: “I have been teaching Japanese at Oberlin since 2016. I cannot believe it has already been three years. They went by so quickly! Sadly, 2018-2019 is my last year at Oberlin. I will start a new chapter of my life in South Korea. The three years in Oberlin were the most precious time of my life. I have learned so much during my

time here and will miss everyone I have met at Oberlin. THANK YOU! ありがとうございます! 謝謝! 감사합니다!



Faculty publications

# New Grads and Student Prize Winners

## CONGRATS 2019 EAS GRADS!

### Majors

Lindsay Brubaker  
Ingrid Dutton  
Ethan Harrison-Weil  
Ethan Hill  
Emily Kelley  
Catherine Lytle  
Goo Mattison  
Natalie Mattson  
Riley Pearsall  
Eli Roane  
Kayla Seeger  
Rex Simmons  
Adam Work

### Minors

Jacqueline de Leeuw Huang  
Samuel Chapin  
Emily Eisenstein  
Felipe Ferreira  
Cora Hasegawa  
Martha Hoffman  
Katheryne Ladouceur  
Meghan Lannoo  
Le, Thu  
Chu Pan  
Hannah Rasmussen  
Noah Singer  
Jiyao Tang  
Claire Wong



## AN FAMILY FOUNDATION SUMMER STUDY AWARD

Thanks to the An Family Foundation, we were able to send several students to Korea in the summer to study Korean language.

Grace Hamby                      Mengying (Catherine) Xia  
Taoxuan Xu



## MARGARET RIBOVICH DICENZO PRIZE FOR ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE IN EAS

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

Lindsay Brubaker              Ethan Hill  
Catherine Lytle



## THANK YOU, DONORS!

EAS gratefully acknowledges these donors:

Dr. Joan C. Abele (parent of Tom Newhall '07)  
Brendan Lepis '93  
Devon Rettew '13  
Yoko Nakayama '98

**Top right:** EAS student major representatives Catherine Lytle, Korea; Kayla Seeger, China; and Julia Weldon. **Photo 2:** Leina Fieleke '21, an art history and psychology double major with an East Asian studies minor, received an In-Asia grant to work as a curatorial intern at the Maruki Gallery for the Hiroshima Panels in Saitama, Japan. **Photo 3:** Catherine Lytle '19 will use her majors in East Asian studies and musical studies, as well as her skills in Czech and Korean languages, as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant in South Korea. **Photo 4:** New Shansi Fellow Emily Eisenstein '19, a psychology major and East Asian studies minor, will teach and support student activities at J.F. Oberlin University in Machida, Japan.



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## East Asian Studies Events, 2018-19

**September 28-November 13:** Asia and The Environment Lecture Series.

**September 28:** Peter C. Perdue, professor of history at Yale University, gave the lecture “Resources, Ecology, and Environment in Modern China.”

**November 1:** Liu Heping, associate professor of art history at Wellesley College, gave the lecture “Empire of Water: Art and Environment in Northern Song Dynasty China.”

**November 2:** Julia Orell, assistant professor of art history at the University of British Columbia, gave the lecture “Place, Region, and Empire in Song Dynasty Painting: Landscape and Environment.”

**November 6:** Timothy Choy, professor of anthropology and science/technology studies at UC Davis, gave the lecture “From Hong Kong Air to Atmosphere: The Particular Problem in Atmospheric Politics.”

**November 13:** Kevin Greenwood, the Joan L. Danforth Curator of Asian Art at the Oberlin Allen Memorial Art Museum, gave the lecture “Worlds Apart: Nature and Humanity Under Deconstruction.”

**October 12:** Tobie Meyer-Fong, professor of history and director of East Asian studies at Johns Hopkins University, gave the lecture “Rethinking the Qing in the 21st Century.”

**October 18:** “Green Legacy: Stories of Peace.” Through Japanese-style storytelling, the story behind the trees in Hiroshima after the Atomic bomb was told in Tappan Square at the site of the trees planted last year.

**February 28-March 2:** Public Intellectuals in a Changing World Symposium and Chinese Independent Documentary Film Series. Chinese documentary filmmaker Wu Wenguang gave the lecture “Art and Public Service.” Laura Kipnis, professor of media studies at Northwestern University, gave the lecture “Where Public Intellectuals Should Probably Fear to Tread: Sex and Gender Politics in A Changing World.” Aamir Mufti, professor of comparative literature at UCLA, gave the lecture “The Nomos of World Literature.” The film series Oral History, Memory, and Advocacy for Social Change consisted of four movies: *Faith in Ailao Mountain*, directed by Zhang Ci; *Bumming in Beijing: The Last Dreamers*, directed by Wu Wenguang; *Investigating My Father*, directed by Wu Wenguang; and *Self Portrait with Three Women*, directed by Zhang Mengqi. The directors were on hand and engaged with the audience after each film.



Asia House liaison Ingrid Dutton and Emeritus Professor Rod Knight at the “Means of Music” event in March.

**March 7:** (photos D & E, next page) Global Issues Symposium, Militarizing East Asia. Ambassador (Ret.) Kathleen Stephens, president and CEO of the Korea Economic Institute of America gave the lecture “Militarization and Demilitarization on the Korean Peninsula.” Dr. Sheila Smith, Senior Fellow for Japan Studies, Council on Foreign Relations, gave the lecture “Japan Rearmed: The Politics of Military Power.” Dr. Jeffrey Wasserstrom, Chancellor’s Professor of History, UC Irvine gave the lecture “Martial Rhetoric, Martial Practices, and Martial Landscapes in the People’s Republic of China.” Ambassador Stephens also participated in a conversation with members of the Oberlin community. This was very topical as it was one week after the second U.S.-North Korea summit.

**March 15:** “Means of Music in Asia.” Asia House liaison Ingrid Dutton organized an interactive display of Asian instruments from the conservatory’s Knight Collection. Emeritus Professor Rod Knight explained each instrument. People were able to play the instruments as well. Professor Chie Sakakibara performed a piece on the sanshin.

**April 12:** (photos A-C, next page) “Story of Peace,” featuring Shigeko Sasamori, Hiroshima Atomic Bomb Survivor. Ms. Sasamori spoke to a large audience about surviving the atomic bomb in Hiroshima, Japan, when she was just 14 years old. Professor Kazumi Hatasa from Purdue University jointly told her story in the aftermath of the bombing.

**April 22:** Yidi Wu ’11, assistant professor of history at Saint Mary’s College, gave the lecture “From 1919 to 1989 Via 1957: Student Activism In Maoist China.”

## Events, continued



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**May 4:** Nearly 70 students and faculty from all EAS Japan-related courses were treated to a curator-led tour of Shinto: Discovery of the Divine in Japanese Art at the Cleveland Museum of Art. We are grateful to Sinead Vilbar for her generosity in leading two tours for our large group of

excited attendees. Students from courses in art history, religion, history, Japanese language classes, and additional EAS and ART majors participated in the event, which included additional time to view art in other galleries, or to find lunch and boba at a nearby cafe.

## Alumni News

**JENNE BERGSTROM '97** writes: “My friend and fellow librarian Miko Osada '06 and I are publishing a book! *The Little Women Cookbook*, due out in October from Ulysses Press.”

**TAMI BLUMENFIELD '00**, anthropologist, filmmaker, and translator, writes: “I launched a new academic consulting business in 2018, offering a mix of China-related lecturing and film showing, program evaluation and assessment, and translation.” In spring 2019, Tami showed a new film at Auburn University and was a guest speaker at the University of Delaware, then spent an unforgettable week translating for two Mosuo women on a speaking tour in Italy. (They had been invited to share their culture with women in Italian feminist organizations in Florence, Rome, and Levico.) In June, a piece Tami assisted with and appeared in—“The Kingdom of Women”—was broadcast on the *Today Show*. (View it at <https://www.today.com/video/exploring-the-kingdom-of-women-in-china-61135429599>.) Tami is seeking more opportunities to screen films, speak to groups about the Mosuo, and work with academic programs wanting to conduct assessments. Please reach out to [tami.blumenfeld@gmail.com](mailto:tami.blumenfeld@gmail.com) if interested, or just to say hello!

**TIMO CHEN '93** spent several hours hanging with Yvonne Kimmons '94 in Austin, Texas, talking fondly of James Dobbins and other wonderful things Oberlin. Timo was there for SXSW in support of the latest film he scored, *Go Back To China*, now making the film festival circuit with hopes of worldwide distribution. Films he previously worked on with a heavy Asian/Asian-American influence include *Advantageous* and *Already Tomorrow in Hong Kong*, both available on streaming platforms such as Netflix or Amazon.

**SIMONE CHRISTEN '15** graduated from the University of San Francisco School of Law in May with a Juris Doctorate and a Public Interest Law certificate with honors, and planned to sit for the California Bar Examination in July. Simone accepted a post-bar clerkship at Bay Area Criminal Lawyers, where she can continue to gain valuable experience in criminal defense. She can't wait for her five-year Oberlin reunion in 2020.

**ANNE CROSBY '96** completed a master's degree in theological studies at Harvard Divinity School in 2018 and is studying at ICLP in Taiwan. She'll begin a doctoral program in religious studies at McMaster University this fall, focusing on the interaction between religion, technological development, and the state in ancient to medieval China, with a specific focus on alchemy.

**JOCELYN FORD '81**, following a career in both public radio (*Marketplace Japan* and China bureau chief from 1994 to 2006) and documentary filmmaking (*Nowhere To Call Home: A Tibetan in Beijing*), brings her storytelling to university students in Chongqing, China. In addition to media-related classes, Jocelyn will teach global leadership skills—how to get along with and problem-solve with people who think very differently. Having lived her entire post-Oberlin life in East Asia—she was the first foreign journalist to cover the Japanese prime minister in 1990 and the first foreign live news broadcaster with China Radio International in 2001, Jocelyn says she is more comfortable with the title “professional foreigner” than “honorary professor.”

**MIRIAM FRIEDMAN '78** writes: “I'm still living in Concord, Mass., and working full time as a speech language pathologist. I'm planning a trip to New Zealand to visit my daughter, who is studying abroad. She is planning a trip to visit my Australian housemate from when I lived in Kanazawa and studied at Kanazawa Bidai.”

After four years of studying and teaching Chinese-English translation at Beijing Foreign Studies University's Graduate School of Translation and Interpretation, **URSULA FRIEDMAN JAN '14** will begin her doctoral studies in East Asian languages and cultural studies (with an emphasis on Modern Chinese and Translation Studies) at the University of California, Santa Barbara. Ursula's collaborative translation of the volume *A Study on the Influence of Ancient Chinese Cultural Classics Abroad* is forthcoming by the Economic Science Press. Ursula's current research explores acts of creative subversion in literary self-translation from Spanish and Chinese into English.

**TOM GOLD '70** retired after 36 years teaching in the sociology department at UC Berkeley. He chaired the Center for Chinese Studies and took the lead in many other China-related activities. He was executive director of the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies from 2000 to 2016, and his research addressed social issues on both sides of the Taiwan Strait. Tom has two book projects underway: a study of Taiwan's democratization since the end of martial law in 1987 and a memoir of his year in China (1979-80) as a member of the first group of American government-sponsored exchange students. He is chairing his 50th reunion committee. His daughter, Maddy, graduated from Oberlin in 2014 with a degree in geology.



After completing her Shansi Fellowship in Machida, Tokyo, **CASSANDRA “CASSIE” GUEVARA ’13** began to teach part time at Tokai University in Kanagwa while getting her TESOL MA through The New School’s online program. Since then she’s worked at a private girls’ junior-senior high school, but currently teaches at Tokai, Obirin University (College of Global Communication), and Sagami Women’s University. She occasionally does J to E translation; is involved with the Tokyo Embassy Choir as a singer and manager for auditions and TEC’s subgroup, Tokyo Chamber Singers; takes taiko classes with the Oedo Sukeroku Taiko dojo; and she sings for a cover band. Let her know if you’re stopping through Tokyo!

**THEORA KVITKA ’10** is pursuing two careers in Pittsburgh after earning her master’s degree in interaction design at Carnegie Mellon in 2017. Theora works as a user experience researcher for a healthcare tech firm and, in the wee hours of the morning, works as a cartoonist and illustrator. Her comics, which are published in newspapers and magazines, cover topics ranging from gentrification, mosquitos, brogrammers, and women’s suffrage. She’s been taking a lot of trips to London to visit her wonderful fiancé; they were to marry in June. [www.theorakvitka.com](http://www.theorakvitka.com).

**DAWN LAWSON ’80** was awarded the Kyoko Iriye Selden Memorial Translation Prize for her translation of “Sankan no meika” by Nakajima Shōen (1861-1901). The translation, “A Famous Flower in Mountain Seclusion,” was published in *Japan Focus: The Asia Pacific Journal*. Dawn is head of the Asia Library at the University of Michigan.

**RUSSELL MENYHART ’99** writes: “I was selected for the sixth cohort of the Public Intellectual Program of the National Committee on United States-China Relations. The program identifies members of the next generation of American China specialists—in academic, professional, or policymaking spheres, and provides training and opportunities to engage in public education initiatives.” <https://www.ncusr.org/news/20-fellows-selected-sixth-round-public-intellectuals-program-2019-2020>.

**MORGAN PITELKA ’94**, professor of history and Asian studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, started a new role as coeditor of the *Journal of Japanese Studies* in summer 2018. In July, he began a term as chair of the Department of Asian Studies. Please find him on Twitter as mpitelka, tweeting about Japan and higher ed.

**GAINES POST ’95** writes: “I am a freelance translator (Chinese to English), living in Australia and taking a

beginners’ pottery class. I’ve made a couple of clay flutes that actually make sound. Now and then I also write science fiction and fantasy stories.”

**DEVIN RETTEW ’13** received his law degree from George Washington University in May and moved back to his hometown of Brooklyn, where he will begin working with the Manhattan law firm Arent Fox in October. He looks forward to assisting clients in China with aspects of white-collar litigation, government investigations, and compliance with the Foreign Corrupt Practices Act.

**PRESTON “MAC” SUNDIN (孙毅) ’11** writes: “I’ll be celebrating my fifth year of teaching Chinese at the Emma Willard School, an all girls boarding school outside of Albany, N.Y., where I was promoted to international student coordinator. Last summer I celebrated a Taiwanese and American wedding with my husband. Many Obies were in attendance! In May I presented at the National Chinese Language Conference in San Diego on Race, Sex, and Gender in the American Chinese Language Classroom.”

**DANIEL TAM-CLAIBORNE ’09** was completing his final year of an MFA in creative writing and a position as a management consultant in Seattle for technology clients, including Microsoft and Amazon. He and his partner are marrying in September and moving to San Francisco, where he will begin a new role at Business for Social Responsibility (BSR), a global nonprofit business network and consultancy dedicated to sustainability. Read his writings at [www.travelbreedscontent.com](http://www.travelbreedscontent.com).

**DYLAN LUERS TODA ’09** and **ASAKI TODA ’11** (an EAS tutor) moved from Osaka to Philadelphia last year. They are happy to say that their son, Takumi Harrison Toda (perhaps OC 2041?), was born in March. Asaki is attending UPenn’s nurse-midwifery program, and Dylan is continuing to work as a Japanese-English academic translator. He can be reached via his website: [www.dylanluerstoda.com](http://www.dylanluerstoda.com).

**NICK WINTER ’08** writes: “The Skritter app I cofounded after graduating has grown to become the #1 app for learning to write Chinese characters. It does Japanese, too. Oberlin EAS students get free Skritter with their oberlin.edu email. Meanwhile, I’ve started another startup, CodeCombat, a programming game for learning to code. My three years of Chinese classes have come in handy when negotiating business deals in China for our distribution partnerships! If you want to work at either of these companies, find me at [nickwinter.net](http://nickwinter.net).”

# EAS Photo Gallery

From top, then left to right:  
Farewell party for faculty members Gwendolyn, Miho, and Xin. • A crew from the Japan television network NHK visited Oberlin to film a documentary about Shikoku Goro, a Japanese grassroots artist and poet. Professor Ann Sherif (left) participated in the project, part of which involved filming the class *Living with the Bomb*. • An interior shot of Asia House. • Oberlin hosted an exhibition of Shanghai-based artist Cui Jie on the subject of urban architecture.



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