

# 2008 ASIANetwork Freeman Student-Faculty Fellows

*This is the tenth year of the Freeman Foundation-funded Student-Faculty Fellows Program that has so far sent 432 students and faculty mentors to East and Southeast Asia. Thirteen research teams from ASIANetwork member colleges totaling 67 students and faculty mentors are being awarded a total of \$385,998 to conduct research for three or more weeks in Asia. Seven of the teams are going to the People's Republic of China, four to Japan, one to South Korea, and one to Singapore. Congratulations to the faculty mentors and their students!*

## **Bard College, Li-hua Ying, Chinese Language and Literature, China**

David Duckler, '09, Chinese Language and Literature, Eun Hae Kim, '10, Economics and Asian Studies, Quinn Knox Olbrich, '09, Film, and Lalita Wint, '09, Asian Studies; Joint project entitled *Striving for Cultural Authenticity amid a Confluence of Civilizations: Tibetan Communities of Aba and Ganzi in Sichuan Province, People's Republic of China.*

Professor Ying's research group will spend 25 days in Aba and Ganzi in Sichuan Province, which lie directly at the crossroads between the Tibetan and the Chinese civilizations. Here, more acutely than anywhere else in the country the Tibetan culture, in all its manifestations, can be seen both absorbing and rejecting elements of outside influences. The team will focus on the literature, education, and economy of the region and will explore the issue of Tibetan self-awareness of a cultural authenticity. Some research foci include the ways outside influences affect Tibet, the spectrum of variation that can be seen in Tibetan self-conception of identity, and the consequences of living on the border between two cultural centers. They will try to determine whether a framework that separates "Tibetans" and the "other" is useful or whether an entirely new conception of identity should be applied.

## **Earlham College, Rajaram Krishnan, Economics, Singapore**

Kim Wassel Hardy, '10, Peace and Global Studies, Jonathan Donald Jenner, '10, Economics and Peace and Global Studies, Virgil Reed Looney, '10, Economics and International Studies, and Lukas Manka, '10, Economics, Joint Project entitled, *Immigration in Singapore: A Study of Connections, Class, and Country.*

The Earlham group will undertake a case study of the economic and social transformations that migrants undergo when they leave their home countries to work somewhere else. They will examine how these economic and social transformations influence interaction with countries of origin. The group will survey and interview a number of groups in Singapore, including American, British, and Indian immigrants and try to understand the variances in connections to their places of origin based on class and country.

## **Eckerd College, Andrew Chittick, East Asian Humanities, China**

- Suzanne Simpson, '09, East Asian Studies and Modern Languages, *Immortality of the Celestial Masters*,
- Galway B. Traynor, '09, East Asian Studies and Sociology, *Leadership Ideals in Modern China: Cao Cao as Villain or Hero*,
- Christina Marie Welter, '09, East Asian Studies and Modern Languages, *Guan Yu in the Lives of the Chinese People.*

Professor Chittick will be leading a group of three students for three weeks of field research in Xi'an and several locations in Hubei province. The students' research projects, though independently conceived, share common themes in the contemporary appreciation of Daoism and the Three Kingdoms legends.

## **Kenyon College, Jie Zhang, Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, China**

- Alexander Aeschbach Gladstone, '09, Political Science and International Studies, *China in Transition: Political Representation*
- Andrew Charles Stein, '09, International Studies, *China in Transition: Environmental Consequences*
- Jerry Lee Stewart, '09, Religious Studies, *China in Transition: Perceptions of Religion*
- Amanda Edith Harris, '10, Biology and Economics, *China in Transition: Transformed Spaces*
- Paige Lee Markham, '09, International Studies, *China in Transition: Western and Eastern Medicine*
- Jie Zhang, faculty mentor, *China in Transition: Cultural Consumption*

The objective of Professor Jie Zhang's research team is to document and contextualize the radical changes in contemporary Chinese society that have profoundly redefined the experience of being a Chinese person in recent decades. Each team member will apply his/her specialty training to the study of one of the six important aspects of these changes: 1) Chinese people's changed perceptions about political representation; 2) the changes in religious belief and spiritual life; 3) the ongoing negotiation between traditional Chinese medicine and Western medicine;

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4) the environmental consequences of economic development; 5) the reconfiguration of public and private spaces; and 6) the consumption of a more diverse body of cultural products. The team will spend three weeks in Beijing and selected places in Shanxi Province and Sichuan Province.

**Loras College, Lee S. Zhu, History, China**

Christopher M. Bodane, '09, History and Secondary Education, Andrew R. Border, '10, History, Nickolas James Helten, '09, Media Studies, and Erin Teresa Horst, '09, Media Studies and Music; Joint project entitled *Chinese Towns in the Past and Present*.

Professor Zhu's research team will conduct research in Tongli—a town about ten miles from Suzhou—and Zhujiajiao—a town about thirty miles from Shanghai—with the aim of producing a documentary film, *Chinese Towns in the Past and Present*. This film will use these two towns as mirrors to examine important issues in Chinese urban history and dramatic changes that Chinese towns in the Yangzi River Delta have experienced as a result of the rapid economic growth in the post-Mao years.

**Maryville College, Raymond Scott Henson, Political Science, China**

Amanda Lassic-Rose Brooks, '08, Child Development, Whitney Lauren Downing, '09, Writing Communications, Cory Maurice Everett, '09, Economics, Allyson Leah Ketron, '08, Political Science, and Joshua Paul Phillips, '08, International Business and Political Science; Joint project titled *Prosperity and Preservation: The Impact of Globalization on Rural China and Minorities*.

Professor Henson's research team will spend three weeks in the provinces of Sichuan and Guizhou studying the impact of globalization on the Tibetan and Dong minority groups. Much of the research concerning globalization in China focuses on the tremendous economic growth in Eastern urban centers. This project examines the impact that massive migration to these cities from rural areas and spillover from the urban centers such as pollution and tourism are impacting minority communities. A key question to be considered is whether minorities can benefit from participating in the larger Chinese society/economy while still maintaining traditional cultural and socio-economic structures.

**St. Mary's College of Maryland, Holly Ann Blumner, Theater, Film, and Media Studies, Japan**

Kathryn Marie Miller, '09, English, Zachary Edward Pajak, '09, English, Ian Douglas Prince, '10, Theater Studies, Rachel Dorothy Reckling, '09, Theater Studies, and Judith Lynn Sellner, '09, Film and Media Studies and Sociology; Joint project entitled *Studying Traditional Japanese Theatre*.

Professor Blumner will lead a group of five students to intensively study *kyôgen*, a fourteenth century comedy, with a teacher from the Okura school in Kyoto, Japan. The group will also write a modern *kyôgen* play. Each student will have an

individual project that relates to *kyôgen*. This summer study will culminate in a series of public performances and workshops at St. Mary's College of Maryland.



2007 Valparaíso University Student Fellows collecting data and water samples from Taihu Lake, China.

**St. Norbert College, Ikuko Torimoto, Modern Languages and Literatures, Japan**

Alyssa Beyer, '10, East Asian Culture and Society and Theater, Katlyn Elizabeth Jaeger, '10, Graphic Arts, Deziree Leona Larson, '09, Graphic Design, and Paul McEnaney, '10, Business Information Systems; Joint project entitled *100 Faces of Japanese Women: How Japanese Women and Bigaku Are Portrayed in Japanese Pop Culture and Traditional Japanese Theater*.

Professor Ikuko Torimoto will lead a research team of four students to Japan for three weeks, leading to the making of a documentary film that shows how Japanese women are portrayed in both popular and traditional Japanese culture. They will conduct research on how the traditional ideals of *Bigaku*—the Japanese sense of beauty—have carried over into contemporary Japan's popular culture. They will do field work and film interviews with directors of *Manga* and *Anime* productions, *Kabuki* and *Noh* theater actors, local people who take part in festivals, and people in the Harajuku area and the *Gion* district in Kyoto. They will find out how traditional Japanese aesthetic, and theater (*Kabuki* and *Noh*), as well as popular culture, portray women in Japan today.

**Union College, Linda E. Patrik, Philosophy, Japan**

- Emily Brunelle, '10, *Gender-bending in modern Japanese rock music*
- Jasmine Maldonado, '09, *Street fashion: Rebellion against traditional gender roles?*

The Union College team will travel to Kyoto and Tokyo to study public performance of gender in traditional *Noh* theater, contemporary rock music, and popular street fashion. Gender performance is the public display of bodily behavior signifying gender, including clothing with gender messages and music or

dance that is 'feminized' or 'masculinized.' The team will focus on examples of gender-bending and the swapping of gender roles by Noh actresses, Visual-kei rock musicians and the Hirajuku gals. Because gender is an important dimension of the body, our team will also study how traditional and contemporary Japanese gender performances challenge Japanese philosophical theories of the body.

**University of New Hampshire, Dora Wu Chen, Family Studies, China**

Amy Susan Martin, '09, Family Studies, Emilee Minkwitz, '08, Family Studies, Jennifer Maude, '09, Family Studies, and Jennifer Leigh Mongelli, '08, Family Studies; Joint project titled *Early Childhood Education in China Today: Exploring the Experience of Young Children in Rural and Urban Preschools*.

Professor Chen's research team will visit local preschool programs in Beijing and Inner Mongolia to learn about the nature of young children's experiences in rural and urban preschools. The team also wants to use the experience of being foreigners in China, a country so different from what they know, to help them gain a better understanding of what it means to be different; a minority. This understanding will help them become teachers who can more effectively help all children feel included and accepted.

**University of Redlands, Hongwei Lu, Asian Studies, China**

- Sara Adams, '09, Language, Creative Representation, and the Education Crisis, *The Changing Face of Secondary Schools in Urban China*,
- Jessica Irby, '08, Environmental Science, *The Use of Open Space in Urban Center*,
- Iyleen Ismail, '10, Sociology and Asian Studies, *Campus Planning, University Community, and Student Life*,
- Cassandra Ann Peisel, '11, Asian Studies and Global Business, *Western Chains: Globalization and Urban Street Scene and Life*,
- Brian David Wobst, '11, Global Business, *Traditional Space and Contemporary Urban Development*.

Professor Hongwei Lu's research team will spend four weeks in Shanghai, China and study the transformation of urban public spheres in China's largest city. The collaborative research project deals with the transformation of the urban public sphere both in its spatial and physical forms and in the social and cultural implications of these changes. Contributors of this collaborative research project will examine the environmental effects, policies, and public use of an urban open-space park; they will analyze the relationship between the growth and progress in a big city and the operations of its public education system; they will explore how contemporary physical renovations of a university campus influence higher education; they will conduct field work on Western chains in Shanghai and explore their influences on changes in urban values, attitudes, street scenes, lifestyles, and social trends. And, they will examine the dynamics between traditional space preservation, the tourist industry, and contemporary urban development through the lens of a well-preserved and tourist-bound traditional Chinese garden in an urban center.

**Vassar College, Hiraku Shimoda, History, Japan**

Jonathan Kaye, '09, International Studies, Eli Lewis, '09, Japanese and Media Studies, Lauren Stacey Scanlan, '10, Japanese, and Robert Martz Woodward, '09, Economics and Japanese; Joint project entitled *Starbucks in Japan: A Case Study in Globalization and Cultural Change*.

Professor Shimoda's research team will spend three weeks in Tokyo conducting firsthand fieldwork in Starbucks coffee shops. They will observe and interview customers and management to understand Starbucks' place in the local marketplace and consumer imagination. In particular, the team is eager to learn how Starbucks has impacted Japan's deeply ingrained coffee culture, which dates back to the early 1900s. Their research will compare Starbucks against competing purveyors of coffee, including traditional coffee shops (*kissaten*), Japanese chains, and other Western chains. The researchers seek to use Starbucks as a way to understand how the forces of globalization have been influenced by local cultural and consumer patterns.



Kaitlin Okamoto, a 2007 Student Fellow from Colorado College measures an assistant at the Osaka University of Health and Sports Sciences, Japan.

**Viterbo University, Carol J. Klitzke, Nutrition and Dietetics; South Korea**

Leah Anderson, '09, Brooke Moersfelder, '09, Amanda Richardson, '09, Rebecca Sikorski, '09, and Stephanie Walker, '09, all Dietetics majors; Joint project entitled: *A Dynamic Diet: The South Korean Nutrition Transition and Movement toward a Westernized Diet*.

Professor Klitzke's team will explore Seoul and a variety of other urban and rural areas so as to study dietary trends. Each student will specialize in a particular area, researching changes in the diet of adults, the adolescent diet, and the consumption patterns of meat, dairy, and processed foods. The students will develop a semi-quantitative food frequency questionnaire, and will conduct interviews in churches and schools in Seoul, Daejeon, and Iksan. Visits to hospitals, a university, and historical and folk arts museums that deal with foods and herbal medicines will provide a cultural context to their research.