

EAST ASIAN STUDIES

Alumni Newsletter



Fall 2020

Table of Contents

A Letter from the Chair

Page 2

Faculty News

Page 4

Class of 2020

Page 11

Post-Fellowship

Page 12

Alumni News

Page 13

Faculty Directory

Page 18

A Letter from the Chair

Dear Colleagues, Students, Alumni, and Friends of East Asian Studies:

As the new chair of the East Asian Studies department, I am delighted to be joining Brown's EAS community. As President Paxson has frequently observed, the current 20-21 academic year is like no other. Likewise, the 19-20 academic year, though starting out normally enough, came to a highly unusual and demanding end. That the EAS department has weathered—and continues to weather—the crisis so well is testament to the exceptional hard work and dedication of the faculty and staff. I have heard numerous accounts of how, when classes suddenly went on-line, EAS faculty rose to the challenge. Not only did they adapt their teaching methods and curricula for on-line delivery, many also held extra class sessions to accommodate students in different time zones. When the administration announced that Brown would have three semesters in the 20-21 academic year, they thoughtfully reorganized their class offerings to provide the broadest and most flexible curriculum possible to the widest number of students. I have been consistently impressed by the faculty's commitment to delivering rigorous, high quality instruction amidst very challenging circumstances. Our fabulous staff, Leah Lebel and Jessica Cho, likewise increased their already intense hard work: among many other efforts, they managed to provide our graduating seniors with a memorable graduation, COVID notwithstanding.

Other important changes that took place during the 19-20 academic year concerned departmental personnel. Yuko Jackson, a long-time lecturer in the Japanese Program, has retired: we thank her for her long years of service in the department. In addition, two of our faculty members, Rebecca Nedostup and Tamara Chin, have been away on research leave since January 2020. We very much look forward to welcoming them back in January 2021. During the Spring semester, the department also created the new position of Language Program Director, to assist the Chair in overseeing the language programs and facilitate interaction among them. Sam Perry, Associate Professor of EAS and Comparative Literature and a scholar of modern Japanese and Korean Literature, is currently serving in the role.

We have also had new additions to the faculty, including yours truly. I joined the department on July 1, 2020, not only as Chair, but also in my role as a historian of middle-imperial China (roughly 750-1350 AD). My research interest is in social and cultural change in that period, with special attention to interactions between personal relationships (including family, gender, and relationships of friendship and patronage) and larger social, political, and economic trends. At Brown I am looking forward to teaching courses on gender and family in imperial China, on the social and cultural history of the “medieval” period, and other topics. The department is also delighted to announce that Jeffrey Niedermaier, a scholar of pre-modern Japanese literature, has been awarded a joint appointment in East Asian Studies and Comparative Literature. Currently a Doctoral Candidate at Yale, he will join the Brown faculty in fall of 2021. Finally, I am delighted to report that my predecessor as Chair, Cynthia Brokaw, has

officially moved 25% of her appointment from the History department into EAS. Welcome back, Cynthia!

I will admit that COVID has made the transition into my new position at Brown very different from what I expected. I am grateful to all of the faculty for their warm welcome and for their patience as I learn the ropes over email and Zoom. I would especially like to express my appreciation to the former Chair, Cynthia Brokaw, and to our dedicated staff, Leah Lebel and Jessica Cho. Cynthia spent many hours on the phone with me over the summer answering questions, and even more hours preparing lucidly written information about virtually all aspects of the job. Leah and Jessica gave up their regular summer month off to help me and the department deal with the complications of COVID. They have been unfailingly helpful, gracious, and patient, on top of their extraordinary efficiency and competence.

Although ongoing COVID-related restrictions have limited much of our departmental social life this fall, our faculty, staff, and students are finding creative ways to connect and enrich our academic lives. All three language programs are still maintaining “Language Tables” (though the Chinese program has renamed its event “Chinese Happy Hour”) to bring students together—if only virtually—for conversation and camaraderie. The Korean program held a Korean Language Week in early October, featuring a talk by Mr. Yonghyon Kim, the Consul General of the Republic of Korea. Rebecca Nedostop (despite being on leave!) has organized a webinar series entitled “Asian Studies (and Beyond) for the Pandemic Age,” to address “the roles that scholars in the Asian/Pacific studies communities and allied fields can play in building a humanistic context for the current pandemic.” The first of these webinars, “Facing Precarity: Envisioning Careers in 2020 and Beyond” was held on October 23. It was a lively, well-attended gathering, and provided much good advice and warm encouragement to those facing a tight job market. Finally, EAS’s Departmental Undergraduate Group has been busy planning a number of exciting activities, from film screenings to virtual cooking classes. Please see the “events” page of the [EAS website](#) and/or the EAS Weekly for more information on these and other events.

We hope that all of you have been able to stay healthy and active in spite of the pandemic’s impacts on all of our lives. Please do send updates of how you are doing (to Jessica_cho@brown.edu). We love to hear from you!

Warm wishes to you and yours,

Beverly Bossler

Chair of East Asian Studies
Professor of East Asian Studies and History

Faculty News

Atsuko Suga Borgmann participated in Anchor, a course design institute provided by the Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, in June 2020, and served as a facilitator in the institute in July 2020. With the shift to remote learning in fall 2020, she is devoting herself to integrating technology into her Japanese language classes with the Community of Inquiry (COI) framework. She is currently engaged in research on multimodal learning and teaching and their impact on language acquisition, multiliteracy, and on content-based and task-based instruction. Her advanced-level class is currently working on incorporating a social justice lens into their course project. Once the pandemic is over, she cannot wait to start collaborating with a Japanese university to create online Japanese teaching materials in support of immigrant children now living in Japan.

Wenhui Chen

This summer, because of the ongoing pandemic and social distancing rules, I stayed at home most of the time, but found a broader teaching community online. A lot of interesting and inspiring events and discussions have happened in this community. I have attended many online conferences and talks on teaching languages, which were organized by ACTFL, CLTA, NCLC and other organizations and institutes. Many of these conferences and talks, as you may have guessed, were on long-distance teaching. This community not only connects me with peers all over the world, but also has taught me many useful teaching skills and pushed me to rethink my own teaching philosophy, curriculum designs and pedagogy.

I also attended the Anchor Program offered by the Sheridan Center in July. The program offered extensive readings on online and hybrid teaching, and my instructor, Rebecca Taub, was an amazing instructor; she was very supportive, responsive, and enthusiastic.

I won a raffle prize offered by the comprehension-based Communicative Language Teaching SIG of ACTFL in July. The prize is free enrollment in the course, "Teaching with Culturally Responsive Comprehensible Input." The course is a 6-part webinar series offered from August to March 2021.

I will be teaching next spring and summer, but not this fall. It seems that we probably will be teaching online or hybrid courses this coming spring. I think online teaching has many advantages; however, the biggest challenge, for me, is how to keep large sections as interactive as real classroom teaching. For me, it's a bit challenging to manage an online class with more than 10 students. In the spring, when we transitioned to remote teaching, even when my students tried their best to follow me, I could not always see all the students on the screen at the same time.

Because they were muted most of the time, I couldn't make judgments if students understood based on visual or aural signs. This created lags and made the class less interactive.

Finally, I want to say that I hope this pandemic will end soon, and I will be able to meet my colleagues and students in person on campus. Stay strong and support each other! 加油 !

Tamara Chin

Just before the global shutdown, Prof. Tamara Chin did research in China and India for her book in progress, *The Silk Road Idea*. She gathered materials on India-China cultural exchanges in the 1930s-1950s at the Cheena Bhavana (China Hall) at Rabindranath Tagore's Visva-Bharati University in Santiniketan near Kolkata, and in the special collections of the Chinese Sanskritist Ji Xianlin at Peking University.



Photo of the murals inside the China Hall at Visva-Bharati University, Santiniketan, India, 2020. Chang Xiufeng's "Drawing of a cushion design" (1948). Exhibition of China-India Cultural and Artistic Exchange in Santiniketan (Homeland of Peace) at Peking University, 2019.

Sachiko Hiramatsu

I started out the 2019-20 academic year with enthusiasm as the course director of JAPN 0500 and in a new role as Lecturer of Japanese. The third-year Japanese course included a new collaboration project with Harvard University and Knox English Network in Japan, for which students discussed issues of gender and the environment over Zoom. It was the first collaboration between these three schools and although there were some technical and logistic challenges, students enjoyed the interactions, especially the small group discussions.

Summarizing the peer review writing exercises and students' reflections for JAPN 0500, I presented at the ACTFL convention in Washington, DC in November 2019. The title of the talk was "Scaffolding in Writing: A Case of Intermediate and Advanced Japanese". In late February 2020 I attended the SEATJ (Southeastern Association of Teachers of Japanese) meeting in Memphis, and presented "Using Peer Review for Writing in the Advanced-level Japanese classroom" (in hindsight the February meeting was the last occasion before large meetings indoors were banned).

After instruction moved online in March 2020, I was happy to observe that our Advanced Japanese community remained intact. Although we were spread from China to Hawaii to New York City to Florida, through weekly individual meetings and journal writing, students shared their concerns and sought out connection and solace. We concluded the very strange, but amazingly meaningful semester with a Zoom talent show where we laughed loudly together.

I look forward to seeking new ways to connect with students and creating a classroom-like community no matter where or how we hold classes through 2020 and into 2021.

Lung-Hua Hu

I kept myself quite busy this year. I gave several talks and co-organized a national conference from spring into the summer of 2020. Below are some of the highlights.

Right before the pandemic brought the nation to a travel halt, I gave a keynote speech to the Southern California Council of Chinese Schools (SCCCS) in February 2020. I chose to share with members of SCCC'S my take on the new mission and challenges Chinese heritage language schools face today. In my report, I showed data of the decreasing student enrollment numbers in foreign languages in higher education and my suggestions on how best to deal with the issue. I talked about how increasingly important it is to incorporate STEAM in their curriculum, and I also touched upon the touchy subject of moving away from mandatory handwriting of Chinese characters and delaying that until a later stage of students' learning process. Incidentally, in my own teaching, I have begun to require fewer hand-written assignments, replacing them with computer-generated ones with a focus on identifying the correct words among the many homophones. I also gave two additional talks on Chinese pronunciation and student motivation at the conference.

In May, I was asked to give a talk on Chinese phonetics to a large WeChat group, with approximately 500 members who are primarily Chinese language teachers from all over the world. There were 280 participants at the talk that day. Unfortunately, the organizer was not ready to use Zoom for the talk at the time; I

uploaded my handouts one sheet after another as I talked, using WeChat's Chat room. Although I received positive feedback, it was somewhat unsatisfying for me as I was not able to easily share audio files during the talk. Luckily, I was invited back to give the same talk on Zoom a couple months later. This time I interacted well with the participants and the discussion was substantially more engaging and fun. In these talks, I discussed my approach and techniques used in teaching Chinese pronunciation and a variety of methods I find most effective in correcting students' pronunciation. Thanks to help from a tech-savvy audience, the video recording of my Zoom talk is accessible anywhere in the world now, including China. The director of Middlebury Chinese Summer School asked me for permission to use my talk as part of their June teacher-training. I have heard positive feedback from several Middlebury teachers since then. I am happy that they found it useful, but I am most pleased knowing that they won't have to jump through hoops like I did.

In August, I gave a series of talks to students enrolled in National Cheng-Chi University's MA and PhD program in Chinese Pedagogy. The organizer gave this series a fun name: Trilogy in Chinese Pronunciation. In the first part, I gave students a revised version of my previous talk on pronunciation, as most of them have not had the experience or have little experience in teaching the Chinese language (whereas the previous talk's targeted audience was current Chinese instructors, some quite senior). The second part was my first attempt of its kind in three decades of my teaching career: systematically helping the students, all native speakers of Chinese, to improve their own pronunciation. I assigned them materials to record, pointed out the imperfections, and helped them correct the problems. The last part was a one-on-one session where I went over students' teaching clips (from those who have had the opportunity of conducting a tutorial session) and discussed how they could better teach and correct students' pronunciation. The Department at Cheng-Chi University has invited me back for a similar mini-course; this time students will be members of their international outreach program in addition to their own students, several of whom are return students from the same group I taught in August. I am really looking forward to these courses in December as I will get to practice doing something that was new to me in August: helping native speakers pronounce Chinese better.

Hye-Sook Wang

2019-2020 was my first year since returning from sabbatical leave. Like everyone else, unprecedented challenges presented by COVID-19 affected not only my professional activities but also the Korean Program that I coordinate.

For research, I published a paper entitled "An Analysis of Testing Practices in College Korean Language Classrooms" in the *Journal of Less Commonly Taught Languages*, Vol. 27, which is a peer-reviewed journal. My book chapter "KFL Program Building and Professional Development," which I co-authored with my colleagues

at other institutions, was published in *Teaching Korean as a Foreign Language: Theories and Practices* (Edited by Y. Cho, Routledge). Another book chapter, “Genre-based Approach to Korean Language Teaching: A Curriculum Application” is in the final stage of printing, to be included in *The Cambridge Handbook of Korean Linguistics* edited by S. Cho and J. Whitman.

Travel restrictions imposed by the University because of COVID-19 disrupted my conference participation plans as I preferred in-person presentations, but I delivered an invited talk, “Highlights of Korean Culture” to the audiences of the National Consortium for Teaching About Asia seminar held in MA in February, before things were seriously affected by the pandemic. I carried out my professional service including a book publication review for the University of Hawaii Press while continuing to serve on the editorial board of the journals *Korean Language in America* and *Culture and Empathy*, providing reviews for other journals, and serving as external judge for promotion reviews. In February 2020, I also started serving as the newly-elected president of the New England Association for College Korean Educators (NEACKE). For the University, I successfully completed my term as a member of the Grievance Committee in June, 2020. I regret that the Korean Lecturer Search that I chaired in fall 2019 had to be postponed due to unforeseen circumstances. I hope this search resumes sooner rather than later.

As for teaching, during AY 2019-2020, I taught Advanced Korean, Business Korean and a First Year Seminar entitled “Language, Culture, and Society: Korea.” An abrupt transition from in-person to remote instruction in the middle of a semester was a big change to respond to, and required a lot of adjustments for a non-digital native like myself. Nonetheless, things went smoothly for which I am grateful. More tech training is on the way, I am sure.

On the program level, the Korean Language Program hosted its 5th annual Korean Language Week events from October 7 to 11, 2019, with the support of the department and the Korean Consulate General in Boston, during which we hosted two guest talks, an event on the Main Green, and a performance night event.



It was an exciting week full of wonderful activities all of which turned out to be successful. Korean-American community members in RI also joined the performance night event. On November 16, 2019, I coordinated, with help from my colleagues Hyunju and Cheol Rin, sending Brown delegates to Wellesley College for the inaugural Korean Language Speech Contest for students attending colleges and universities in New England, sponsored by the Consulate General of Republic of Korea in Boston. Five students from Brown's Korean classes participated as contestants: Eric Kim received 1st prize (heritage level 3-4 category, "Success Factors of K-Pop"); Inho Lee received 2nd prize (level 2 heritage, "This is freedom to me"); and Minna Kimura-Thollander received third prize (level 2 non-heritage, "life is Bibimbop"). These were indeed great achievements for our students. Also, one of our students, Peter Choi, performed 'beatbox' during intermission and it received an enthusiastic applause from the audience. All these students made us and Brown proud.

On February 12, 2020, the State of Rhode Island hosted a Korea Day event in conjunction with the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Boston and the Korean American Association of Rhode Island. I was invited as an honorary guest to the House Chamber. Brown's K-pop Dance Group Daebak, of which many of our students are members, performed at the State House Rotunda after the official ceremony. This was a memorable event for RI Koreans, and Brown being part of the celebration made it a memorable day for us as well.

COVID-19 forced us to cancel our own Brown Korean Speech Contest scheduled for March 13, 2020, and due to the school's closure, we were also forced to postpone the Korean Studies Workshop that we were going to host with the grants that I and Prof. Ellie Choi received from the Korea Foundation and the Academy of Korean Studies. I sincerely hope that we can resume all these exciting events next year in-person and report on them in my 2021 newsletter entry. I wish that everyone stays safe and healthy during these challenging times.

Lingzhen Wang

The devastating covid-19 pandemic and the surging geopolitical, socioeconomic, and ethical crises all occurring during the past academic year have produced unprecedented and substantial impact on research and teaching in higher education, transnational intellectual collaborations, and campus life. "Transnational Feminism, Gender and Media," an international conference organized by the Nanjing-Brown Joint Program in Gender Studies and the Humanities in collaboration with the global women's cinema network (established in 2013 in Rome), had to be first rescheduled from its original dates, July 3-5, 2020, to December 9-11, 2020 and then, eventually, canceled for the year. Two other major conferences in my fields—the annual conference of the Association for Asian Studies and the annual conference of the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, where I had prepared to present papers, were also canceled in the early spring.

In the fall and winter of 2019, I completed some research and attended a few academic events. My article, “Alternative Women’s Experimental Cinema: Zhang Nuanxin and Socially Committed Film Practice in 1980s China” came out in December 2019 from *Camera Obscura: Feminism, Culture and Media Studies* (vol. 34, no. 3, 2019, 1-30); I also published in February a review of Megan M. Ferry’s book, *Chinese Women Writers and Modern Print Culture* in the journal *Nan Nu: Men, Women and Gender in China* (vol 22, no. 1, 2020, 203-206). At the invitation of the University of Alberta, Canada, on Oct 28th I gave a public lecture, “The Resignification of the Xieyi Aesthetic in Huang Shuqin’s *Woman Demon Human*”; and on November 21, I delivered a keynote speech, “From Socialist Feminism to Cultural Feminism: Women’s Cinema in Contemporary China,” at the International Conference on Global Women’s Cinema held at Roma Tre University, Rome.



In June, I was invited to contribute a lecture on “Wang Anyi and Post-Mao Cultural Movements” to the “Modern Chinese Literature Video Lecture series,” organized by Kirk Denton (the Ohio State University) and Christopher Rosenmeier (University of Edinburgh). On July 25, I gave an online lecture on feminism and women’s cinema at Zhejiang University Summer Program on Media and Communication.

During this past year, in addition to departmental and university service, I also devoted much time to professional service. I peer reviewed an article for the *Journal of Chinese Cinema* in January; and in March I assessed a research proposal as an external reviewer for the Research Grants Council (RGC) of Hong Kong. Also in March, I completed my last year of service for the China and Inner Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies (2017-2020). Due to the pandemic, the council accomplished all its tasks via online meetings this year. From May 12 to June 10, I served as a peer reviewer for the NEH Fellowship in the area of Film and Theater Studies. Once again, the review process proved to be an incredibly intensive and rewarding experience.



Class of 2020

The East Asian Studies Department's 2020 graduates are listed below.

Yong Hui Chin

Alisa Pugacheva

Rose Craig

Alexander Rafatjoo

Gia Dao

Nicholas Rasetti

Zoe Koss

Eric Shaw

Sicheng Luo

Jason Togut

Danning Niu

Post-Fellowship

Margret Fisher

In what now feels like a blur, I spent three incredible weeks of the spring semester studying at Minzu University in Beijing before my program was cancelled due to the spread of the Coronavirus. Because it was only February at the time, I returned to Brown a week late for registration, and frantically re-enrolled. As a so-called “study domestic” I decided to enroll in coursework related to East Asia, and found I enjoyed learning about Chinese culture and history in addition to language. I was positive that I wanted to study abroad in China again, and so I applied to another study abroad program for the summer. Of course, when summer came it still wasn’t safe to travel and the program was cancelled. However, I had already received a fellowship from the EAS Department to study during the summer, and I knew I wanted to continue working on my Chinese, so I started looking into online programs. Finally, I applied and was accepted to IUP: the Inter-University Program for Chinese Language Studies (IUP) at Tsinghua University.

Because this year was the first year the program was operating online, my typical day involved two hours of one-on-one instruction with two different teachers Monday through Friday — as opposed to a mix of group and one-on-one instruction. Typically I would study a chapter from the assigned textbook — “A New China” — every night which would allow me to practice using the vocabulary and grammar during class.

After I returned from China, I was reminded of how rewarding speaking a language can be. IUP gave me the opportunity to focus on learning Mandarin not just to study for a test but to communicate. The two hours I spent with my professors each day challenged me to express new ideas in Chinese and use the vocabulary I was learning in the textbook in conversation. IUP was especially helpful in improving my tones, which is something I have had trouble with since I started studying Mandarin. When I first started learning Mandarin, I didn’t realize the importance of tones, and as a result I often use the wrong tones even with simple words. At the beginning of the IUP program I had a conversation with my professors about this, and they worked to incorporate more tone exercises into the course. Overall, I’m very grateful for the opportunity to study Mandarin this summer through the EAS Department fellowship, and I look forward to continuing to study East Asia at Brown.

Alumni News



1977

Linda Jaivin reports from Sydney, Australia, that she continues to co-edit the China Story Yearbook published by the Australian National University in Canberra and that her forthcoming *The Shortest History of China*, which she is dedicating to Professor Lea Williams, will be published by Black Inc. (Melbourne) in May 2021.

1986

Dawn Kopel (nee Weiner)

This year has been like no other, and it sure felt good to hear from Brown amidst all the rest of the chaos. As an East Asian studies major, I have to confess my personal and professional life has less to do with East Asia than I might otherwise like or prefer. I am a part-time gynecologist with a special interest in vulvovaginal diseases and use my feeble Mandarin sparingly. I would so enjoy a refresher in spoken Mandarin with a little boost to the medical vocabulary as my patient population is diverse and multicultural. Fortunately, my patients mostly speak English, and Yale has interpreters on hand 24/7 if needed. At home, I keep track of the house and the family, which is easier now that the kids are big. My daughter recently returned from London where she just completed her masters at the LSE, and my son just began high school. We are grateful to be together and doing our

best to stay safe at work and at school. Not much else to share. Please do let me know if you have specific questions regarding my studies at Brown and my early years after college where I did more with my Chinese background and education.



1987
Peter Christy

Continues to study the Tao and manifests that through user-experience design by day and teashop shepherding by night.

Once we are moving about in the world again all are welcome to come to Far Leaves Tea in Berkeley, CA (where else?). Our Pacific-style tearoom is an attempt to demonstrate this sentiment that Peter first read while at Brown a century ago:

“Teism is a cult founded on the adoration of the beautiful among the sordid facts of everyday existence. It inculcates purity and harmony, the mystery of mutual charity, the romanticism of the social order. It is essentially a worship of the Imperfect, as it is a tender attempt to accomplish something possible in this impossible thing we know as life.”

- Kakuzo Okakuro - The Book of Tea - 1906

For more on Far Leaves and to order excellent tea at a reasonable price go to www.farleaves.com.

1992
Andrea Shen

I attended Brown and then attended the School of International and Public Affairs at Columbia University until 1994. Since then I have been working in the finance sector, primarily as an equity analyst and fund manager. Earlier in my career, the focus was primarily US and European equities, with little involvement in Asian markets. I thought about all the years I spent in the language lab (back then) and decided that Japan was just not meant to be except for the odd leisure trip there. About 2 years ago, my firm launched a global product. So Japan and Japanese came back to my life, albeit somewhat rusty. I am grateful for the solid Japanese foundation that I received from Yamashita Sensei, Tajima Sensei, and Prof. Rabson. Once the covid-19 situation is under control, I hope to be visiting Japan and practicing/using Japanese again. I also hope to come to Brown for the 2022 reunion.

2004

Sara Novak Hepburn

We (me, my husband, our five year old son, and two house cats) sold our house and moved from Swampscott, MA to Wilmington, NC this past June. My husband and I are remotely working for our Boston-based companies while we enjoy the laid-back vibe, wonderful beaches, and great weather in Wilmington!

Akemi Johnson

In November/December 2019 I traveled to Japan, including Kyoto, where I had studied abroad at KCJS. I spoke about my book, *Night in the American Village:*



Women in the Shadow of the U.S. Military Bases in Okinawa, at Doshisha University, and was able to catch up with long-time KCJS staff Fusako Shore-san and Tazuko Wada-san, and introduce them to my baby daughter. It's been wonderful connecting with old friends, colleagues, and readers around my book, especially in Japan and Okinawa. The book, which was published last year, began as my senior honors thesis at Brown, so I remain thankful to the East Asian Studies Department for its early support of my work!

2006

Benjamin Boas '06.5 continues to work in Japan as an ambassador for the national government's Cool Japan program. You can see his most recent appearance reporting for public broadcaster NHK at <https://www3.nhk.or.jp/nhkworld/en/ondemand/video/2053172>. He welcomes anyone visiting the area to contact him at Benjamin.Boas@fulbrightmail.org.





2009

Kimberly Kwok

I am currently still running my own playgroup, nursery, and kindergarten in Hong Kong called Mighty Oaks International Nursery and Kindergarten. My school is heavily focused on character education. Our children explore, learn, laugh, love and grow together in a nurturing educational

environment so our students will blossom from acorns into oaks of righteousness. This year, Mighty Oaks was honored with the “Caring Company Logo” by the Hong Kong Council of Social Service of 2020, in recognition of our ongoing contribution to the local community, the protection of the environment, and staff well-being.

I was recently interviewed by CPA Australia for 3 episodes on their ‘lifestyle and wellness’ series. I shared about character education and practical tips on doing social-emotional learning at home. On a more personal note, I just got married in 2019 in Phuket, Thailand.

2012

Debbie Lai

After graduating, I joined Google’s Global Policy team, then the Business Development team responsible for launching the company’s early-stage products including Google Now (now Google Assistant), Firebase, and various Research & Machine Intelligence projects. I left to conduct research on digital innovation and human wellbeing as an Honorary Senior Research Associate at the University of College London’s Division of Psychology and Language Sciences. Since COVID, I’ve been the Chief Operating Officer of covidactnow.org, a non-profit providing local disease intelligence on COVID-19 in the U.S. Professor Smith remains a source of invaluable guidance, and I still think fondly of my time in Professor Smith and Professor Hu’s courses.

As a note, we are currently looking for full-time interns/ volunteers. See our [req. here](#) and [application here](#). I’d love for this opportunity to be shared with EAS students and fresh grads.

2015

Jiani Liu “I published a book in march by CITIC Press about US and China and it became a bestseller; I was nominated for *Forbes’* 30 under 30. I became a managing partner for Canoone Advertising and designed the new Disney Mulan Poster, and I will be on *L’Officiel magazine* cover for 21 countries in the fall.



2018

Ying Bonny Cai BRDD'18 was awarded a 2019-2020 Fulbright Fellowship to South Korea for research on hanbok [한복], traditional Korean clothing. Her three-part final project featured a 25-page cultural policy report for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), a digital platform that is the first of its kind to comprehensively educate an English-speaking audience on hanbok, and a collaborative piece with Korean-American friends expressing the traumas and triumphs of diaspora experience. <http://www.bonny-cai.com/k-america>. Prior to this experience she was a designer at Madewell, and had exhibited her works at New York Fashion Week, the Textiles Art Center in Brooklyn, and the Korean Cultural Center of NYC.

We want to hear from you! Email 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 from East Asian Studies. Campus visits or emails are more than welcome!

Faculty Directory 2020-2021

Beverly Bossler	Chair of EAS and Professor of History
Brokaw, Cynthia	Professor of EAS and History
Kaijun Chen	Assistant Professor of EAS
Wenhui Chen	Lecturer of Chinese
Tamara Chin	Associate Professor of EAS and Comparative Literature
Ellie Choi	Visiting Assistant Professor of EAS
Hyunju Ha	Visiting Lecturer of Korean
Sachiko Hiramatsu	Lecturer of Japanese
Jia-Lin Huang Hsieh	Visiting Lecturer of Chinese
Lung-Hua Hu	Senior Lecturer of Chinese
Liwei Jiao	Lecturer of Chinese
Zhuqing Li	Visiting Associate Professor of EAS
Mei-Hsing Lin	Visiting Lecturer of Chinese
Naemi McPherson	Visiting Lecturer of Japanese
Rebecca Nedostup	Associate Professor of EAS and History
Cheol Rin Park	Visiting Lecturer of Korean
Samuel Perry	Associate Professor of EAS and Comparative Literature
Janine Sawada	Professor of EAS and Religious Studies
Kerry Smith	Associate Professor of EAS and History
Atsuko Suga Borgmann	Senior Lecturer of Japanese
Lulei Su	Lecturer of Chinese
Hiroshi Tajima	Lecturer of Japanese
Hye-Sook Wang	Associate Professor of EAS
Lingzhen Wang	Professor of EAS
Yang Wang	Senior Lecturer of Chinese
Kiko Yamashita	Associate Professor of EAS

#BROWNTAKESCARE



Brown University Department of East Asian Studies
Providence, Rhode Island