Dear EAS Colleagues:

I am writing to welcome you all back after a relaxing AND busy summer for the new and exciting fall semester of 2011.

Before I get to the details of various accomplishments of EAS faculties during the summer, I’d like to congratulate Jennifer Oldstone-Moore and Lauren Crane for their promotions to professor of religion and associate professor of psychology, respectively.

I also want to welcome three new faculty members to EAS for the new academic year and beyond. They are Nona Moskowitz of anthropology (Ph.D: University of Virginia), Joanne Quimby of Japanese language and culture (Ph.D: Indiana University at Bloomington), and Fan Zhewei of Chinese language and culture (ABD, Kent State).

Yu Bin, EAS Director

Travel

Summer is a time for travel. Many East Asianists hit the road: Ralph traveled to Thailand via Japan; Jennifer went to Massachusetts; Terumi to Japan, Yu Bin to China; Brenda Fagan (EAS Office Assistant) to the Philippines with her church, and Shelley and Howard to Hong Kong, where, joined by visiting Business Professor Imane Khayat, they launched the first Wittenberg Global Business Immersion program in Hong Kong.

For almost a month, 14 Witt students fully engaged in Hong Kong’s culture and business world. While taking topic courses including, “Introduction to Business Chinese and Hong Kong Culture” and “Global Business in China,” students also conducted field trips to local companies, towns, economic institutions and historical/cultural sites. As part of the experience, students worked in groups to complete business site journals graded on the quality of writing and organization. Each student also completed a graded business report with an observation of Chinese economy and globalization, an analysis about doing business in China and recommendations for American managers who want to conduct business in China.

“There aren't many places that can rival the fast-paced and colorful lifestyle of Hong Kong, and we had a whole month to explore just about every aspect of this booming metropolis,” said Haley Beckett from Norwalk, Ohio. “This trip was a perfect way to experience a foreign culture while feeling close to home in the company of my classmates from Witt. In a relatively short period of time, I witnessed a great deal of impressive people and places in a city that is becoming increasingly relevant to global affairs.”
"Hong Kong was an eye opening experience. Besides being a trade center in Asia, it is surrounded by some of the most beautiful land in the world," said Lane Craig ’13 from Pataskala, Ohio. "The opportunities that are available in the Wittenberg program are second to none; from meeting successful Wittenberg alums to having a Q&A with the head economist of Hang Seng Bank, you get to learn from those who have the experience and are successful, something a textbook can never provide."

Professional Activities

For many EAS faculty, the past summer was not just relaxing, but also for “recharging”: researching, going to conferences, and preparing for new courses.

Prof. Jennifer Oldstone-Moore (Religion) spent the summer in professional workshops, working on her research project, and preparing a new course. At the Lutheran Academy seminar at Harvard, she spent two weeks with colleagues learning and discussing new theories about the role of the everyday or mundane in scholarship. The seminar dovetailed nicely with her project on the New Life Movement, a Confucian movement of the 1930s that used everyday behaviors as a way to create moral, orderly, and patriotic citizens. During her time at Harvard she also spent time at the Houghton Library archives researching for the same project by reading fascinating letters from Americans who were involved with the movement. An essay on the topic in an edited collection from SUNY press is due out this year, part of a larger project.

In addition to taking Witt students to Hong Kong, Prof. Howard Choy of Chinese language had a very productive summer. One of his papers, “Toward a Poetic Minimalism of Violence: On Tang Shu-wing’s Titus Andronicus,” was published in the Asian Theatre Journal, 28.1: 44–66. He also had another paper, “Linguistic Identity in Fruit Chan’s 1997 Trilogy,” accepted for publication in by World Cinema and the Visual Arts edited by David Gallagher, which will be published by Anthem Press in London. Also in progress is his translation book project, Liu Zaifu: Selected Essays, contracted to be published by MerwinAsia in Portland.

During the summer, Prof. Choy also started a new edited volume, titled Discourses of Disease: Writing Illness, the Body and the Mind in Modern China, to be published by Brill in Leiden. This is an expansion from the AAS panel papers by Howard and Shelley in March 2011, and Howard is currently soliciting more papers for this edited volume.

Prof. Shih-Ming L. Chang (Theater/Dance) continued to work on her book of Chinese dance during the summer.
I myself (Prof. Bin Yu, Political Science) made two conference trips to China in June and July. One was to attend a workshop, “U.S.–China Relations and the World Order,” co-sponsored by Beijing University and Princeton University. My paper topic was “China’s Defense Policy.” The other conference was the 10th annual conference of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization (SCO) in Shanghai, sponsored by the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences. I presented my paper, “SCO Ten Years After: In Search of Its Own Identity.” The two papers are part of the edited volumes for publication in the coming year. I also gave several talks in China, including one on U.S.–China relations for the Beijing-based China Foundation for International Strategic Studies, as well as one on the history of the Korean War at the Chinese Academy of Military Science in Beijing.

During the summer, I also published several pieces of my research. One was a chapter: [The Role of Political Science in U.S. Foreign and Defense Policies], in [Maya, ed.], : [The Logic of the United States: Ideology, Politics and Diplomacy] (Beijing Economics Publisher, July 2010). Another was an article, “Mounting Challenges and Multilateralism,” in CSIS’ Comparative Connections 13, no. 1 (Pacific Forum, 15 May 2011).” Meanwhile, I started to work on a Chinese language book, From Sovietology to Russianology In the West [ ], which is contracted to be published by the Eastern China Normal University Press in Shanghai.

Teaching for the New Semester
Now with the beginning of the new semester, several new courses have been added to the EAS curriculum by both current and new EAS faculty:

Prof. Oldstone-Moore is teaching a new course entitled "Religions of the Silk Road," now with full enrollment. This successful launch was partially a spill-off from a late-summer workshop at Smith College on contemplative education, a new pedagogy she is developing for all her classes. “Religions of the Silk Road” includes the study of a number of intriguing religions past and present, and their connection to Chinese and Central Asian history and culture. The course is also a prelude to the Silk Road field study that will be sponsored by Wittenberg (and that Oldstone-Moore will co-direct) that will actually visit these places and peoples in the summer of 2012. The new course and the actual trip look at the religions for sure, but also economics, history, art and literature. It will be a rich and exciting adventure for Witt students.

Prof. Tanya Maus is offering a new “Modern China” course (HIST 101-1W).

Prof. Nona Moskowitz is teaching “Anime and Youth Culture” (SOCl 201C)

Buddhist Art of Asia Course (Art 280C)

This course, taught by Prof. Janice Glowski (Art and Religion) surveys Buddhist art and architecture throughout Asia, including South Asia (India, Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka), the Himalayas (Nepal, Tibet, Bhutan), and East Asia (China, Japan). Art from Southeast Asia and other countries, such as Mongolia, Korea and the United States is considered briefly for comparative purposes. As visual culture, the artwork is examined for its role in articulating Buddhist theories and practices within unique historical and cultural contexts.

Prof. Glowski has also been working on an exhibition of Chinese Embroideries from Wittenberg’s Li Collection for the Summer–Fall 2012. Students from East Asian Studies and Art History would survey and conduct research on the Li Collection of Chinese Embroideries throughout the 2011–2012 academic year.

This summer, Jessica Thomas (EAS, ’11) began work on the project and did excellent job inventorying the collection, which is displayed throughout the University. Hilary Strimple (Art History, ’12), Dale Angles (EAS, ’12), and Rose Farmer (EAS, ’13) will continue Jessica’s work, performing conservation assessments, photodocumentation, and database work on the objects. Students will also research the objects and create an exhibition of 30 – 40 works that will be displayed at the Springfield Center for the Arts in the Summer and Fall of 2012. Through these efforts, we hope to promote stewardship of the objects, establish several guidelines and protocols for working with the Wittenberg Art Collection, and create new knowledge through the exhibition context. Most of the work will be conducted in the Springfield Center for the Arts and the Thomas Library under the guidance of Janice Glowski and Suzanne Smailes. For further information or inquiries on how to participate in the efforts, contact jglowski@wittenberg.edu.

While the new courses are attracting many students, some of the exiting EAS courses remain extremely popular. Prof. Choy’s 100–level course “Food, Film & Fiction in Modern China,” for example, is closed with full enrollment. So are Prof. Maus’ “Hiroshima’s Shadow” (HIST 202C 2W) and Prof. Lauren Crane’s “Psychology and Culture” (PSYC 280C–01).

Along with many language courses at various levels, these popular new and existing courses will surely provide Witt students with a rich learning environment and will also enhance EAS’s standing on the campus. And I want to thank all of you for your high–level professionalism and dedication to teaching.

Student Achievement

Bradley D. Roberts, our self–designed Chinese major graduated this year, won third place among 118 international university contestants at the 10th Chinese Bridge final competition (dubbed the Chinese language Olympics) in July–August in China! Brad is also the recipient of our Global Awareness Award and Stanley Mickel Chinese Language Award this year.
Seven students serve in steamy Shanghai

Wittenberg University started a new summer service program in 2011, partnering with Yew Wah International School of Shanghai which serves Chinese nationals. The East Asian Institute planned and sponsored the program, allowing seven students to teach in Yew Wah’s two week summer school at their campus in central Shanghai. The students then lead summer camp activities for Chinese primary students in Shanghai, in rural Hubei Province, and at a park near Kunming in Yunnan Province. Finally they had the option to travel independently for one week (those who toured went to Beijing). Yew Wah also provided introductory Chinese language lessons to students new to the culture and language.

Two of our students, Erica Davis and Caitlan Ruff, are Chinese/East Asian Studies majors. Also participating were two English/Writing majors (Lauren Terry and Alissa Wachman), one English/Religion major (Taylor Smith), and two Education majors (Darcey Caciano and Christiana Lehman). Our students possessed great flexibility and a willingness to work very long hours, sometimes under less than optimal conditions. I think they produced and achieved more than they imagined was possible. Through their hard work, flexibility, and self-awareness they created an outstanding and supportive Witt team. The resulting reward was thanks and praise from the children (and staff) they touched. Our students all remarked that the best part of the experience was interacting with children.

Drs. Chan and Choy helped with introductions between Yew Wah and the Institute. After this successful summer experience, Yew Wah has expressed an interest in exploring other ways they might be able to partner with Wittenberg. The first area is admissions – I am sending Witt admissions materials for their guidance counselor. Yew Wah Shanghai has a sister school in Yantai, and the umbrella organization (Yew Chung) runs international schools for expatriates in Hong Kong, Shanghai, Beijing, Qingdao, and Chongqing.

We hope this program can continue next year. Faculty, please help identify students who might be interested and qualified for this rewarding program. We can use hard-working, outgoing students from a variety of academic backgrounds who have an interest in one or more of the following: education, English, sports, camp counseling, singing, drama. Erica even taught a Science class! Knowledge of Chinese is always helpful but not necessary – the junior counselors are available as translators, and a Yew Wah administrator is on hand to help out.

See more pictures and excerpts of letters from the students at the East Asian Institute page:
http://www5.wittenberg.edu/academics/east_asian/events/serviceabroad.html
Personal Travel

Brenda Fagan (EAS Office Assistant) took her first overseas trip in June! She traveled to General Santos, Philippines on a mission trip with her church.

“Naomi’s Heart Mission (NHM) was started by church members, Kristie & Danny Ward, is in an area of extreme poverty. Last December I made a donation in honor of my six grandchildren to support feeding of children in this area six times a year. I didn't know at that time that I would be blessed to actually go there and participate in these feedings. Seeing the great need there and realizing that this is only a small part of the worldwide need is overwhelming. Recalling the scripture that ‘the poor will always be among us’ has helped me realize that although I can’t help them all, I can help one.”

I was told by several people that this trip would be a life-changing experience for me, and they were right. What has God shown me by taking this trip? That living for Jesus is not only accepting His gift of salvation, but also being like Him by serving others. James 2:5, ‘Has not God chosen those who are poor in the eyes of the world to be rich in faith and to inherit the kingdom he promised those who love him?’

I see the human race so differently now. We are one people, ‘created in Christ Jesus to do good works’ (Eph 2:22). ‘There is neither Jew nor Greek, slave nor free, male nor female, for we are all one in Christ Jesus’ (Gal. 3:28). We may speak and look different. And our cultures are different. But we were created by the same God in His image."

Sabbatical Notes

Two EAS faculties are on sabbatical: Prof. Marcia Frost of Economics is on leave for the fall semester and Prof. Shelley Chan of Chinese Language for the entire 2011–12 academic year.

Prof. Terumi Imai has returned from her spring 2011 sabbatical.