Ms. Brenda Bass (Belmont, class of 2003)

Studying at Belmont in the early 2000s, Brenda Bass excelled as a student and went on to complete her law degree in Nashville. The first gift made by Ms. Brenda Bass to Belmont’s Asian Studies program was in the fall of 2001. Since then, she has given annually to the program making possible an amazing array of accomplishments.

• The development of Belmont faculty in their Asian Studies scholarship, infusion of existing courses, and creation of new courses focused on Asia. Twenty-seven different Belmont faculty members have received funding to attend and make presentations at conferences, institutes, and seminars in the U.S. and abroad, including China, Japan, India, Korea, the Philippines, the Silk Road, the Pearl River Delta, and Cambodia.

• The funding of travel for students to conferences to present their research in Asian Studies. Thirteen different students have received such funding and have claimed awards for the work in Asian Studies including the Ninash Award for Comparative Philosophy, the Southeast Association of Asian Studies Undergraduate Award, and the SUNY Oneonta President’s Award.

• The support necessary to bring to Belmont a long list of distinguished visiting scholars and consultants, as well as Asian-related events. A partial list includes the Southeast Region of Asian Studies Conference; the Asian Studies Development Program National Conference; the NEH Workshop Representing Excellence: The Authoritative in South and East Asian Art and Literature; the East West Center Regional Workshop “Contesting Boundaries: Environments and Interdependencies: Asian Perspectives;” Kong Linghong, a 74th generation descendent of Confucius; the Taiyuan Political Delegation in the Nashville Sister City Program; Roger Ames, Director of Chinese Studies and Editor of Philosophy East and West, who spoke at the Translation and Other Acts of Cultural Interpretation Symposium; The Noh-Uratake touring group; the “Energy, Economy and the Environment: Challenges and Opportunities for the U.S.-Japan Relationship” caravan; and the Spring 2010 Belmont University Asian Studies Symposium focusing on South Asia.

The Bass Award for Asian Studies is established this year by the faculty of Asian Studies to honor one student as outstanding. The award recognizes the student’s contribution to the entire spectrum of Asian Studies at Belmont University. In naming a person to this honor, we celebrate the student’s conscientious class preparation and participation, dedicated involvement in co-curricular lectures and conversations with other students and faculty in Asian Studies, and the student’s love of Asia. To commemorate this award the recipient is given an appropriate emblem and the student’s name is engraved on a plaque placed outside the office of Asian Studies.
Belmont University

Asian Studies

Opening (please be seated and quiet when the music begins)

Yuzhou Changwan 演舟唱晚
performed by
Bai Jia 白佳
Nashville Chinese Cultural Club

Introduction and Welcome                      Dr. Ronnie Littlejohn
Director, Asian Studies

Student Research Presentations

“The Lotus and the Quantum”        Megan Waddell
“Girl Power in the Korean Music Industry”  Jimin Anna Lee
“Clash of cultures: Oppression and Revolt in Twentieth-Century Tibet”  Jill Lawton
“Comparative Philosophy: Incommensurability and Translatability of Eastern Philosophic Traditions”  Lauren Mackenzie Grosser

Break

Liuyang River 利阳河
performed by Bai Jia

Presentation

Bass Award for Asian Studies
Presented to the Outstanding Student in 2009-10

undergraduate Research

Solo Dance

Liangzhu 梁祝
performed by
Wu Linna 吴琳娜
Nashville Chinese Cultural Club

Student Research Presentations

“Plato and Vedanta: The Necessary Bond between Metaphysics and Ethics”  Brian York
“Moral Realism and Wu-wei in Moral Action”  Ryan Weed
“Morality and Progress in Princess Mononoke”  Keith Johnson
“Metaphors for the Self in the Dhammapada”  Allison Berwald

Asian Studies Faculty

Bullington, Judy  Art  Moser, David  Music Business
Cason, Nancy  Art  Schafer, Daniel  History
Cochran, Howard  Economics  Shen-Miller, Seraphine
Dale, Corinne  Literature  Siao, Andrew  Psychology
Davis, Andy  Philosophy  Smith, Bonnie  Literature
Garrett, Mika  Japanese  Stepnick, Andi  Sociology
Giordano, Pete  Psychology  Stover, Andrea
Heard, Ernest  Library  Thorndike, Jonathan  Honors/Literature
Hirao, Yumiko  Japanese  Velikova, Marieta  Economics
Littlejohn, Ronnie  Philosophy