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. Bass to Belmont’s Asian Studies program was in the fall of 2001. Since then, she has given generously to the program, making possible an amazing array of accomplishments and opportunities for faculty and students alike. Here are a few of them:

- 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, and the Pearl River Delta.

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

- The provision of support necessary to bring to Belmont a long list of distinguished visiting scholars and consultants, as well as Asian-related events. A partial list of these scholars and events 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 descendant 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; 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. 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.
Asian Studies

Introduction and Welcome  
Ronnie Littlejohn  
Director, Asian Studies

The evening’s music and dance introduction by  
Li Qingjun 李庆军  
for the Nashville Chinese Cultural Club

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

Student Research Presentations

“Comparative Philosophy: Incommensurability and Translatability of Eastern Philosophic Traditions”  
Lauren Mackenzie Grosser

“Girl Power in the Korean Music Industry”  
Jimin Anna Lee

“Clash of cultures: Oppression and Revolt in Twentieth-Century Tibet”  
Jill Lawton

“The Lotus and the Quantum”  
Megan Waddell

Break

Liyang He 浏阳河  
performed by Bai Jia

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

Undergraduate Research

Solo Dance

Liangzhn 梁祝  
performed by  
Wu Linna 吴琳娜  
Art Director, Nashville Chinese Cultural Club

Student Research Presentations

“Moral Realism and Wu-wei in Ethical Action”  
Ryan Weed

“Morality and Progress in Princess Mononoke”  
Keith Johnson

“Metaphors for the Self in the Dhammapada”  
Allison Berwald

Asian Studies Faculty

Marty Bell  
Religion  
Marcia McDonald  
Literature

Cynthia Bisson  
History  
Jeff Overby  
International Bu

Judy Bullington  
Art  
John Paine  
Literature

Nancy Cason  
Art  
Daniel Schafer  
History

Howard Cochran  
Economics  
Seraphine Shen-Miller  
Psychology

Corinne Dale  
Literature  
Andrew Siao  
Chinese

Andy Davis  
Philosophy  
Bonnie Smith  
Literature

Mika Garrett  
Japanese  
Andi Stepnick  
Sociology

Pete Giordano  
Psychology  
Andrea Stover  
Literature

Ernest Heard  
Library  
Jonathan Thorntonke  
Honors/Literature

Yumiko Hirao  
Japanese  
Marieta Velikova  
Economics

Ms. Bai is playing the guzheng 古筝, which is the parent instrument of the Japanese koto, the Mongolian yutga, the Korean gayageum, and the Vietnamese đàn tranh.

We wish to express our thanks to the Nashville Chinese Cultural Club and particularly to Ms. Yang Chenhua 杨晨华, Director and Ms. Guo Zhen 郭真 for their assistance in providing artists of excellence for our event this evening.