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 Ninash 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.

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The Bass Award for Asian Studies was established in 2010 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

Student Presentations
Katherine Laramée
“Volunteering in China”
Henna Jurca
“East and West in Nara”
Rainu Ittycheriah

Award Ceremony
Littlejohn
Bass Award for Asian Studies
Presented to the Outstanding Asian Studies Student in 2011-12

Student Presentations
Tara Clance
“Unpacking the Use of ‘Ghosts’ in Maxine Hong Kingston’s The Woman Warrior”
Kayla Corbin, Emily Davis, Shelby Duncan, Christen Ferris, and Christy Vitkus

“Contemplative Christianity and Daoism in Dialogue”
Michael Thompson

Undergraduate Research
Asian Studies Faculty

Marty Bell Religion
Cynthia Bisson History
John Paine Literature
Judy Bullington Art
Daniel Schafer History
Howard Cochran Economics
Seraphine Shen-Miller Psychology
Andrew Davis Philosophy
Chiaki Shima Japanese
Peté Giordano Psychology
Andrew Siao Chinese
Nathan Griffith Political Science
Andi Stepnick Sociology
Ernest Heard Library
Andrea Stover Literature
Qingjun Li Asian Studies/Chinese
Jonathan Thorndike Honors/Lit
Ronnie Littlejohn Philosophy
Marieta Velikova Economics
Marcia McDonald Literature
Melanie Walton Philosophy
Jeff Overby International Bu
Michelle Yang ComArts

First Destinations.....

Asian Studies minor Will Emery will be continuing his study of Japanese language and preparing for graduate school.

Audio Engineering Technology and Asian Studies double major, Jerel Henderson, will be working as a DJ/program host for Hiroshima FM, a station that covers the southern region of Japan and is owned by the youngest son of Jujiro Matsuda, one of the founders the Mazda Motor Corporation.

Asian Studies major and recipient of the 2011-12 award for Chinese Language Studies and the Bass Award for Asian Studies, Henna Jurca, is a candidate for the ACC-Class Startalk Teachers Program, part of the Presidential Initiative to Fund Summer Programs in Critical Languages. She has also applied to begin Belmont’s Master of Arts in Teaching Program in the Fall 2012.