The Bass Award for Asian Studies was established in 2010 by the faculty of Asian Studies to honor one student as outstanding. The award is named for Ms. Brenda Bass (Belmont, class of 2003) in honor of her generous support for Belmont’s Asian Studies program since 2001. The award recognizes one student’s contribution to the entire spectrum of Asian Studies at Belmont as outstanding. In naming a person to this honor, we celebrate the student’s high academic performance; conscientious class preparation and participation; dedicated involvement in co-curricular events, lectures and conversations about Asia; and the student’s love of Asia.

**Past Recipients**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Name</th>
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<th>Name</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2009-10</td>
<td>Megan Waddell</td>
<td>2012-13</td>
<td>Tara Clance</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010-11</td>
<td>Carson Murphy</td>
<td>2013-14</td>
<td>Chelsea Johnson</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2011-12</td>
<td>Henna Jurca</td>
<td>2014-15</td>
<td>Ryan Pino</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2015-16 Recipient**

Jennifer Toppins is a “Belmont Scholar” in the Honors Program, receiving dual degrees in Writing and Chinese Language. Her thesis, “The Ballad of Iron Girl Soong,” is devoted to the life of Soong Qing-ling, Chinese feminist and political activist of the Republican period. She is a member of Phi Sigma Iota Honors Society for the Foreign Languages, Alpha Chi and Sigma Tau Delta and the recipient of the Confucius Institute Scholarship for study at Hangzhou Normal University. Her essay, “Dragon Skin,” won the Sandra Hutchins writing award for Creative Fiction in 2014. She was one of the founders of Belmont’s Chinese Culture Club and a recipient of the Award for Excellence in Chinese Language. She presented tonight’s paper in March 2016 at the National Conference of ASIANetwork.

http://www.belmont.edu/asianstudies/
Introduction and Welcome

Student Presentations

“Nope, Never Had It In China, So Why Is it Chinese?”
Faculty Advisor: Prof. Qingjun Li
Jennifer Toppins

Sushi Trending: The Globalization of Japanese Cuisine
Faculty Advisor: Prof. Ronnie Littlejohn
Madeline Glumsic

Art and Music in Modern Japan”
Faculty Advisor: Prof. John H.E. Paine
Peter Donnelly

Award Presentation

Bass Award for Asian Studies
Presented to Jennifer Toppins, 2015-16

Student Presentations

“The True Face of China”
Faculty Advisor: Prof. Qingjun Li
Brooke Massey

“The Development and Cultural Implications of Railroad in Japan”
Faculty Advisor: Prof. John H.E. Paine
Edward Cunningham

“Authoritarianism and Economic Growth: China’s Case”
Faculty Advisor: Prof. Ronnie Littlejohn
Salwa Saba

Congratulations

Salwa Saba has received an award from the Fulbright U.S. Student Program to teach in Taiwan and she has received her second Critical Language Scholarship (CLS). The Fulbright Program is the flagship international educational exchange program sponsored by the Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs of the U.S. Department of State. The CLS program as an effort to dramatically expand the number of Americans studying and mastering critical foreign languages. Salwa was a Pengyou Leadership Fellow in 2015, an officer in the Chinese Culture Club, and a recipient of the Award for Excellence in Chinese Language.

Paul Shaw has been selected as an Assistant Language Teacher in the prestigious Japan Exchange and Teaching Programme (JET). The JET program is administered through the collaboration of Japan’s local government authorities, the Ministry of Internal Affairs and Communications (MIC), the Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MOFA), the Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT), and the Council of Local Authorities for International Relations (CLAIR). Paul speaks Japanese and Korean and was a 2015 recipient of the Sogang University Global Scholarship for study in Korea. He is President of the Belmont Japan-America Relations Club.