

Oberlin

Shansi

Annual

Report



2016-2018

OBERLIN SHANSI



The 2016-2017 Visiting Scholars; Dinaroe, Hengyu Zhang, and Faradilla "Fara" Fadlia with Visiting Instructor Moe Hirose at Niagara Falls.

OUR VISION

Deepening mutual respect and understanding through exchange between Asia and the United States.

OUR MISSION

Shansi facilitates experiential learning and nurtures mutually beneficial exchanges between Oberlin College & Conservatory and partners in Asia. Shansi's programs have a transformative impact, empowering individuals, institutions, and communities to be leaders in cross-cultural engagement.

Dear Shansi Friends and Supporters,

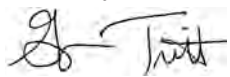
This annual report reviews an eventful two years of Shansi programs, partnerships, and operations. I am particularly excited to tell you about the new Hiroshima Fellowship, a marvelous opportunity for a young Oberlin graduate to work with a United Nations agency and two dynamic local nongovernmental organizations in Hiroshima, Japan. Inside this report, you will get a glimpse of Annelise Giseburt's outstanding work as the first Hiroshima Fellow, as well as the impact at Oberlin through sharing of the story and seeds of Hiroshima's A-Bomb survivor trees.

We are also proud of the new Independent Fellowship launched in 2017. The Independent Fellowship challenges applicants to design and propose their own full-time Shansi Fellowship. For Laura Li, appointed as the first Independent Fellow in 2018, that means working with a startup Japanese social enterprise on programs that help high school students build entrepreneurial skills and global perspectives. We are looking forward to telling you how Laura is doing in our next Annual Report!

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Shansi's alumni and friends for your generosity. Your support is critical to our success, and we hope to see many of you here in Oberlin and around the country in the coming year!

I hope you will enjoy this report, and I encourage you to follow us on our website, on Facebook, and especially on Instagram, where you can get a glimpse of current Shansi Fellows telling their own stories with pictures and videos like Aliya Tuzhilin's post pictured here.

Sincerely,



Gavin Tritt
Executive Director



Gavin Tritt with Green Legacy co-founder Nassrine Azimi sheltered by A-Bomb survivor eucalyptus tree at Hiroshima Castle



One of Aliya Tuzhilin '17's Instagram posts from her "Fellow takeover", where each Fellow takes over the instagram for a week to share their daily experiences

SHANSI FELLOWSHIPS

Shansi Fellowships offer recent Oberlin graduates life-changing opportunities to live and work in China, India, Indonesia, and Japan for up to two years. They work with Shansi's university and nongovernmental organization partners, while at the same time studying language, learning local arts, volunteering, and finding other ways to engage in local communities. If you want to learn more about their experiences as Fellows, take a look at their annual narratives at www.shansi.org.

CHINA

Beijing Normal University

Shansi Fellows spend one year teaching and undertaking intensive Chinese language studies at Beijing Normal University (BNU). They teach graduate students studying linguistics and Chinese as a second language, many of whom are preparing to work overseas as Chinese language teachers. At the same time, a graduate student from BNU comes to Oberlin College for up to two years to teach Chinese language in the East Asian Studies Program.

JEREMY RUBINSTEIN '14 noted that his students and others he met in Beijing had very different cultural conceptions of health and wellness than he experienced growing up in the United States. For example, Jeremy writes, "a balance between the two states" of "hot and cold" are of utmost importance in Chinese health practices. This is demonstrated by the fact that cold or ice water are often thought of as unhealthy, yet eating cold things is important to fight off pimples, which are considered a result of having a high internal level of "fire" (a result of eating too much hot food). Jeremy stayed on in Beijing after his Fellowship, and he is currently enrolled in a Master's Degree program in linguistics at Peking University.

LYRIC GRIMES '17 started her year at BNU with a focus on improving her teaching and figuring out how to create student-centered lessons. She has also enjoyed her time traveling in Vietnam, Malaysia, South Korea, Indonesia, and Thailand and it has inspired her to start a travel blog dedicated to Black travelers. She writes, "I think some of the biggest deterrents for Black travelers are money and fear, but if I can do it I know that others can; I want to be a light and hope for them." As her Fellowship came to a close, Lyric was thrilled that BNU offered her the opportunity to stay another year and continue teaching.

Shanxi Agricultural University

At Shanxi Agricultural University (SXAU) in the provincial city of Taigu, Shansi Fellows teach undergraduate English majors and graduate students while sharing American culture and building on a relationship that extends back more than a century. In recent years, under the leadership of a new Party

Secretary, SXAU has increased its internationalization efforts. There are Pakistani, Indian, and Iranian students and researchers on campus, and several long-term research fellows from the US, Canada, and Australia who spend time there every year. High-speed rail now reaches Taigu West station, shortening travel time to Beijing to just over four hours, and new coffee shops and grocery stores have been a boon to Shansi Fellows.

BRENDAN NUSE '17 has been a long-time fan of the TV show 中国新歌声, also known as *Sing! China* (a rebranded version of *The Voice of China*). In Taigu, it was only natural for Brendan to find a new hobby singing KTV, which stands for karaoke television and refers to private karaoke rooms. Singing KTV was not only an opportunity for Brendan to live out his dreams of starring in *Sing! China*, but it also gave him a chance to practice Mandarin, which he has been studying since middle school, and an opportunity to bring different groups of friends together. His teachers at his summer language program also introduced him to a KTV app that can be used to record yourself singing karaoke tracks. One of Brendan's recordings even got 367 listens!



Jeremy with friends at the Great Wall

MAISY BYERLY '15 created comics about “Life in Taigu” throughout her Fellowship. They featured subjects that inspired her during her time there, including the vegetable market on campus, the peony garden, and making baozi (stuffed steamed buns). During the last semester of her Fellowship, Maisy shared her passion with her English major students. They made their own “Life in Taigu” comics to practice English, and Maisy also used the lesson to teach “storytelling strategies and politically important cartoons in history.” After returning home from Taigu, Maisy completed a Master’s Degree in Politics at the University of Chicago.

For LOUISE EDWARDS '16, historical and familial narratives have been an important theme of her Shansi Fellowship experience. She has enjoyed learning about Shanxi Agricultural University and Oberlin College’s long connection with each other and used this information along with old photographs to teach an English lesson about change, storytelling, and oral tradition. In addition, her travels took her to her grandmother’s hometown on the island of 鼓浪屿(Gǔlàngyǔ) and a neighborhood of Shanghai where her grandmother spent much of her youth.



Louise in the Kong Xiangxi (H.H. Kung) Compound in Taigu, China

Louise deepened her passion for creative writing when she was in China through journaling and writing about her family and her experience abroad. In future writing, she hopes to continue exploring subjects she learned about in China, such as the comfort women (WWII sex slaves forced to serve the Japanese army) and Chinese LGBTQ communities. In China, she spent time reading and translating queer artist Ren Hang’s poems. Currently she is the Shansi Returned Fellow and will begin an MFA program in Creative Writing this fall.

In Taigu, LIAM LESLIE '15 would often strike up conversations with taxi drivers, which gave him insight into local traditions and language. They would talk about “Chinese food, nationality, dialects, and of course alcohol.” For Liam, cultural differences surrounding alcohol consumption were particularly striking.

As a seasoned senior Fellow, Liam helped newcomer Louise Edwards navigate drinking customs at banquets, and he learned about social problems drinking can cause in China through stories from colleagues, students, and taxi drivers. In addition, Liam could often be found watering or re-potting plants in his yard in Taigu, sharing his interest in botany with students and the local tourists visiting SXAU.



As part of his travel experience, Liam traveled to Mongolia with Justin Kang and went horseback riding through the taiga (snow forest)

INDIA

Lady Doak College

At Lady Doak College in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, the Shansi Fellow promotes international engagement by running the International Study Centre (ISC) and supporting international service learning projects. In recent years, Lady Doak has increasingly focused on internationalizing their curriculum and campus. The International Service Learning Program (ISLP) now includes partner institutions from the US, South Korea, Japan, and Hong Kong. Shansi Fellows have introduced innovative programming at the ISC, including a study abroad fair, a passport club, and a Model United Nations club. In the Fall of 2017, Dr. Christianna Singh, a long time friend and supporter of Shansi, was named the new principal with a mandate to further internationalize Lady Doak.

For VANESSA CHAMPAGNE '13, leaving Madurai involved a number of “difficult goodbyes.” For one, saying goodbye to Indian cuisine — such as “savory dosas, biryanis, and idiyappams” — would be a struggle. Having spent two long years in the city, Vanessa finds it hard to imagine that she will no longer be able to “hop on [her] scooter and zoom through the streets of Madurai to [her] favorite restaurants.” Vanessa’s experience at Lady Doak College has influenced her career path as she began working toward an M.S. in higher education at Northwestern University after returning to the United States.



Olivia performing with her Bollywood dance group in Madurai

In her first year teaching and living in Lady Doak, OLIVIA HAY '17 has explored what she can bring to her work and her daily life in Madurai. An avid tennis player in Oberlin, she was at first nervous to play tennis in Lady Doak, but through her students learned that she didn't need to leave her interests behind. Her interest in diplomacy and cross-cultural education led her to launch a Model UN Club for students interested in better understanding the politics and cultures of other countries.

Jagori Grameen

At the nongovernmental organization Jagori Grameen in northern Himachal Pradesh, Fellows work with rural Knowledge Centers and support programs that fight gender-based violence, promote access to justice for women, and advance sustainable agriculture. Over the last two years, Jagori Grameen has reorganized to bring staff and resources closer to the local communities where they do the bulk of their work. They continue to engage in national advocacy to eliminate violence against women and children through leadership of the "One Billion Rising" campaign in north India.

EMMANUEL GREENBERG '15 reports that living in Himachal Pradesh has led him to observe and ponder changes to India's environment and agriculture. He writes, "By working with farmers, working with the land, and studying the science of the soil and the history of agriculture in India, I have developed an approach to understanding the many challenges of food production in the country." He also reflected on the diversity of his daily interactions, which could range from meeting an electronics repair man to chatting with a Tibetan activist. Many of these chance meetings came from Emmanuel's volunteer activities with local health clinic Nishtha. These experiences provided him with exposure to the health challenges of the local community and inspired him toward a career in public health.

ALIYA TUZHILIN '17 has learned from local community members about their "values, relationship to the environment, local economy, and infrastructure." In particular, she has become close with a team of farmers who support their community by providing trainings on sustainable agricultural practices. She has also been working on a project titled "Himachal Pradesh Does Not Need Genetically Modified (GM) Mustard." They interviewed farmers and officials about mustard farming practices and created a short video and booklet about what they learned. With their data and stories from farmers, they hope to support local advocacy against GM mustard in the region.



Aliya celebrating Holi with friends in Rakkar

INDONESIA

Syiah Kuala University

At Syiah Kuala University in Banda Aceh, Shansi Fellows teach undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty, helping many prepare for study abroad, participation in international conferences, or publication in peer-reviewed journals. The university is proud of the jump to "A" level accreditation several years ago, which requires they further develop their international relationships and local administration. The Shansi Fellows help faculty and students develop stronger English language skills, and Unsyiah Visiting Scholars to Oberlin College play vital roles in advancing these interests by exploring new teaching pedagogies and investigating key areas like quality assurance, student advising, and co-curricular programs that they can share when they return to Aceh.

PATRICK GILFETHER '15 traveled extensively during his Fellowship, including trips to many of the great metropolises of East and Southeast Asia. His home in Banda Aceh provided a sharp contrast to these cities. He beautifully writes about the sounds of morning prayers, "Across the plum of the sky and the plane of the village, through palm fronds and between walls and windows, rasping high and sharp, swooping low and sonorous,

each wave of sound coincident to those around it, each line punctuated by the sharp, deep in-breath of the muezzin at his microphone.” He notes that these sounds have stayed with him even after his return to the United States.



Peter and Julia at Art that Embraces Heart, an event featuring break dancers, rappers, graffiti artists, and beat boxers

Adjusting to the pace of life in Banda Aceh proved somewhat challenging for JULIA SKROVAN '15 during her first year in Indonesia. As is the case with many Indonesia Fellows, she notes, “I have been surprised at how often I need to be reminded to let go of certain expectations of efficiency in myself and others, because things will turn out fine.” Julia was reminded of this during one of her English classes, when she asked students if they could share messages to people in the United States, especially in light of the 2016 election. Perhaps capturing the spirit of Aceh, one wrote, “Come to Aceh, don’t be afraid of Sharia law. I’ll treat you to a coffee.”

Through her second year, Julia reflected on the challenges of finding community and understanding her positionality as both resident and outsider. While she grappled with how to set her own expectations and accommodate those of her Acehnese friends and neighbors, she realized “how thankful I am to have had so much time to intimately engage with questions of boundaries, respect, authority of opinion, observation versus interpretation, refusal, and acceptance. How thankful I am to have had that time in a community and with people for whom I have so much love and appreciation.”

PETER D’AURIA '14 asks his students to observe life in Banda Aceh through assignments and poetry. In one successful lesson, Peter asked students to write down Indonesian and Acehnese superstitions: “An itchy right hand means you will find money. An itchy left hand means you will lose it.” Peter views superstitions as an attempt to control an unpredictable world — one that he has found more surprising and unexpected since moving to Aceh. He concludes, “In my house in Aceh, ants build their homes in the walls; geckos die still clinging

to the window glass. Not even the rooms we live in are under our control. What else can we do but live our lives picking up pennies, knocking on wood?”

Gadjah Mada University

At Gadjah Mada University in Yogyakarta, Shansi Fellows teach graduate students in religious studies and undergraduate English majors while participating in the educational and cultural hub of Java. The city of Yogyakarta has changed dramatically over the last two decades, with increasing urbanization inspiring Shansi Fellows to spend time in the hills outside the city and visiting beaches two hours away by motorbike. This growth has increased visibility and availability of the art and performance sectors, creating amazing opportunities for Shansi Fellows to study batik production, Javanese dance, and many other areas.

In Yogyakarta, ELI FISHER '16 has also been pushing the boundaries of standard English teaching by incorporating more current events and discussion into his classroom. Most memorable was a class discussion on men and women receiving equal pay in Iceland. The young woman who presented the topic came from a conservative background, and as she was speaking she came to the conclusion that she believed men and women should get paid the same wages. The fact that this was not the case had suddenly occurred to her, seemingly for the first time. She abruptly stopped and said, “Oh my god, I sound like a feminist!” Breaking his usual neutral stance in class, Eli had to smile as a few of the other girls in class said, “What’s wrong with that!?”



Peter and Eli in Bali rice fields

In Eli’s second year, he sought out a way to conceptualize his own Jewish identity in Indonesia, a country that estimates it has a population of around 500 Jewish people. Eventually, his search brought him to a Passover seder lead by one of only two Indonesian rabbis. He had a chance to hear the lived experiences of the Jewish community in Yogyakarta and he was able to learn about the past and present of Jewishness in

Indonesia. As he left Indonesia, Eli observed “in this country, I have come to realize that no questions about religious identity have any simple answers.”

After finding her footing during her first year in Yogyakarta, TERESA TIPPENS '15 took every opportunity her second year presented. From working for a sustainable fashion company, to teaching a course on challah-baking, to taking a permaculture course in Bali, she kept herself busy. Even after returning to America and Oberlin as the Shansi Returned Fellow, she has been looking for opportunities to return to Indonesia in the future, writing, “I will miss Indonesia. Of course I will. But more than that, I look forward to seeing how these threads that connect us will grow thicker, richer, and more vibrant in the years to come.”



Hyacinth embracing an elephant in Thailand

While in Yogyakarta, HYACINTH PARKER '17 made lists to help her remember important things — lists of Western foods to make, the English names of Chinese children she taught online, good coffee shops, jokes that made her university students laugh. She also recorded her successes and what she found challenging. She found that when living abroad, “things that are obvious at home just aren’t obvious here.” When she first arrived, figuring out how to get water was a struggle. After settling in, however, she found joy in teaching, successes in an internship with an environmental organization, and pleasure from continuing her study of Indonesian and traveling to Hong Kong, Taiwan, Thailand, Malaysia, and Vietnam.

JAPAN

J.F. Oberlin University

Shansi Fellows at J.F. Oberlin University teach first-year students in the English Language Program, provide one-on-one tutoring through the department’s Writing Center, and support a wide range of extracurricular activities, including lunchtime conversation tables and an after-school language club. J.F. Oberlin has been expanding its reach over the last two years, most notably with the launch of the Global Communications College, which aims to have a 50/50 split between Japanese and international students.

The second year of CHUL KIM '15’s Shansi Fellowship was defined by his foray into Japanese job hunting culture. Between writing resumes by hand in Japanese, “getting the hang of the proper way to enter the interview room (two knocks, a cheerful ‘yoroshiku onegaishimasu,’ and a greeting with a 45-degree bow),” and accounting for cultural differences that become especially prevalent in formal situations, this process has been a significant growing experience for Chul. Fortunately, all the hard work paid off and he has launched his career in Japan working with a small internet business.

HENRY ABERLE '16 worked to establish a routine for himself during his first year in Machida. Alongside teaching English, he sought out a Karuta club at Waseda University. Karuta, a Japanese card game that requires participants to memorize lines from over 100 poems, was also a passion for Henry at Oberlin where he taught a Karuta Exco. While in Japan, Henry participated in several Karuta competitions with the club he joined, and enjoyed learning the rituals of donning formal outerwear and preparing for the events nearly as much as the card play.



セクシュアリティに対して不安だった自分が、さらに同級生に いじめを受けて苦しかった。 「その気持ち、おかしくないよ」と 子どもの味方になる 大人がいる社会へ。

Henry Aberle in a feature for Rebit. The text reads: “As a kid I was uncomfortable about my own sexual orientation, so it was painfully difficult being bullied on top of that. I wish for a world where teachers help kids to accept themselves and their feelings.”

During his second year, Henry also volunteered with Rebit, an NGO that provides public information about sexual and gender minorities in Japan, and organizes events to support LGBTQ

people. At Rebit, Henry also participated in a seijin-siki, “a coming of age ceremony for people taking their first steps in coming to terms with their sexual orientation and gender identity” and shared his experiences of “growing up as bisexual and moving to Japan.”

During his time as a Shansi Fellow, CHRISTOPHER NGUYEN '15 became “less focused on the tool of language, and more on the actual connections” he made from close relationships with peers to the briefest links with “people who only enter [his] life for fleeting moments.” He is grateful to have established a number of unique relationships during his time in Japan with everyone from a professional interpreter from France to PhD researchers from Puerto Rico and China. This focus on networking paid off for Christopher as he achieved his goal of securing a position working at a Japanese company after completing his Shansi Fellowship.

KAYLA JOHNSTON-MITCHELL '17's goal for the first year of her Fellowship was to embody an “Osshare Sensei” — “a teacher who looks good, whose students are comfortable and excited for class, and whose name is somehow known by all the students in the department.” Kayla found that a classroom that engages students in multiple ways gets them more involved. She writes, “I have a pretty kooky teaching style. I gesture a lot, make finger guns, use silly voices, and am constantly walking around.” Giving compliments to students when they do well, and putting stickers on their homework has also helped Kayla motivate students. Outside of class, Kayla has enjoyed a pole and aerials dance class where she has connected with a community of Black and Latina women living in Japan.



Kayla, Henry, and Franklin at the Thanksgiving event hosted by Akihiro Gotoh and Yukiko Ebara

FRANKLIN SUSSMAN '17 began volunteering at an LGBTQ community center in Tokyo during the first year of their Fellowship. One of their main roles is being a Delivery Boy who delivers free condoms to over half of the more than 300 bars and other establishments in the Shinjuku area. They have also helped plan Deliveryfest, a celebration that thanks establishments for being part of the program, and they volunteered at Tokyo's Rainbow Pride Festival. In addition to

their work with the LGBTQ community center, Franklin is also proud of the improvements they have made in teaching over their first year and navigating a new country during their month-long solo trip to Indonesia.

Hiroshima

Shansi's newest Fellowship is in Hiroshima, where Shansi Fellows work with a United Nations agency and two non-governmental organizations (NGOs). At UNITAR, Fellows collaborate with an international staff to organize programs that aim to effect positive change in conflict-affected nations. At ANT-Hiroshima and Green Legacy, two dynamic Japanese NGOs, Fellows work with Japanese staff on a smaller scale to share Hiroshima's story of rebirth and resilience and message of peace through educational projects, including preservation of Hiroshima's atomic bomb survivor trees.



Annelise; Mr. Horiguchi, the Green Legacy arborist; China Fellow Louise Edwards; and Ann Sherif in front of one of the surviving trees

ANNELISE GISEBURT '16 knew from the first time she visited Hiroshima as a college junior that she would eventually want to live there. She was captivated by its famous okonomiyaki dishes, scenic Peace Park, and emotionally powerful A-Bomb Dome. During her first year as Shansi's inaugural Fellow in Hiroshima, she found translating sections of Yuko Ishaida's *Meeting Hiroshima's Trees* a good way to learn about the importance of hibakujumoku — the trees that survived the atomic bombing. This helped her understand and explain the importance of the trees as she helped share their stories and their seeds among Green Legacy partners around the world.

During her second year, Annelise hit her stride at UNITAR, helping organize and implement training programs with government and civil society officials from countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, and Sudan, among other places. She also supported UNITAR's public outreach efforts in Japan by managing their blog and online news, and somehow also found time to create her own podcast about living in Hiroshima. Since finishing her Fellowship, Annelise has remained in Hiroshima working for the Mazda corporation and continuing to engage with NGO public education efforts around Hiroshima's history.

VISITING SCHOLARS

Faculty and staff from Shansi partners experience Oberlin College and the local community for a semester or a full academic year as Visiting Scholars. They focus on scholarship and teaching pedagogy, learning about student life and support networks at Oberlin, presenting their research to students and faculty, volunteering with local community organizations, and participating in academic conferences and traveling within the United States.

VISITING SCHOLARS 2016-2017

DINAROE

Lecturer, Faculty of Business and Economics, Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

FARADILLA “FARA” FADLIA

Lecturer, Faculty of Social and Political Sciences, Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

NESREN MOHAMED ABD EL MOHSEN HEFNAWY

Fulbright Arabic Language Teaching Assistant from Egypt

HENGYU ZHANG

Visiting Instructor of Chinese, Oberlin College, and graduate student at Beijing Normal University



Fara Fadlia playing the saron at a Gamelan concert

While most Visiting Scholars choose to audit Oberlin courses directly related to their disciplines, Faradilla Fadlia also chose to take one class a little closer to home: Indonesian Gamelan with Professor Jennifer Fraser. Her friends said, “Learning the gamelan in America, are you crazy?”, but Fara found the experience quite meaningful. She noted that many young people in Aceh are no longer learning to play traditional instruments, and she was excited to learn from an American perspective. “It [was] so interesting to see how other people, especially foreigners, became so excited to learn about [gamelan].”



Moe Hirose, Hengyu Zhang, and Fara Fadlia at Niagara Falls

During her two years at Oberlin, Hengyu Zhang kept very busy teaching first-year students Chinese, leading grammar drill sessions, and conversing with students at lunch time during Chinese Table. She says, “I love to teach Chinese and my Oberlin students are very diligent.” When she was not busy with her students, she enjoyed cooking Chinese dishes to share with her Shansi House friends, and she traveled widely, including the annual Visiting Scholar trip to Niagara Falls and a trek to Yellowknife in Canada’s Northwest Territories to view the Aurora Borealis.

VISITING SCHOLARS 2017 - 2018

ZAUJATUL AMNA

Lecturer, Department of Psychology, Faculty of Medicine, Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

NAZAMUDDIN FE BASYAHSID

Vice Rector, International Relations, and Professor, Faculty of Economics, Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

FATIMA SARHAN

Fulbright Arabic Language Teaching Assistant from Algeria and Egypt

ASRUL SIDIQ

Lecturer, Faculty of Engineering, Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

HENGYU ZHANG

Visiting Instructor of Chinese, Oberlin College, and graduate student at Beijing Normal University

CAMPUS PROGRAMS

Highlights of events supported or organized by Shansi, including collaborations with academic departments and student organizations.

Careers to Write Home About: The Impact of a Shansi Fellowship

Shansi alumni Jesse Gerstin and Brittany Jordan discussed their experiences as Fellows in Indonesia and how this helped prepare them for their careers in environmental policy and education.

“The Risk of Nuclear War between the United States and China” Lecture by Gregory Kulacki

The Politics department, the East Asian Studies program, and Oberlin Shansi sponsored a talk about growing nuclear tensions and common misconceptions between the US and China.

Green Legacy Hiroshima “Spring Thaw” A-Bomb Survivor Tree Visit

A video from Green Legacy Hiroshima, created by Shansi Fellow Annelise Giseburt '16, explained the history and condition of Hiroshima survivor trees. Professor Mary Garvin discussed the growth of ginkgo and wisteria saplings in Oberlin and the challenge of finding suitable permanent locations.

“Stories from the Epicenter”

Shansi Visiting Scholars from Banda Aceh Asrul Sidiq and Zaujatul Amna discussed their experiences with relief and reconstruction following the 2004 Indian Ocean earthquake and tsunami. Asrul reviewed urban and regional planning efforts, while Amna, a Clinical Psychology professor and therapist, explained the continuing challenge of treating PTSD more than a decade later.

Oberlin Without Borders: Global Careers Symposium

Shansi joined with the Oberlin Center for Languages and Cultures to organize a day-long symposium on international careers. Shansi alumni Beatrice Camp and Aparna Jain joined four other speakers and resource persons who made presentations and met one-on-one with students for mentoring sessions. Camp told students about her distinguished foreign service career, and Jain spoke about how her Shansi Fellowship affected her decision to pursue a career in global public health research.

Oberlin Taiko - Performance and master class by San Jose Taiko

Shansi provided support for a visit, performance, and master class with renowned taiko ensemble San Jose Taiko. This visit coincided and connected with Oberlin’s “Courage and Compassion” exhibit chronicling the experiences of Japanese-American students at Oberlin during World War II. Members of San Jose Taiko combined performance with a presentation on Taiko’s history in the United States and its relation to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II.

Weichih Rosa Lee Performance

Weichih Rosa Lee performed selections from the Chinese classical repertoire on the guzheng to mark the opening of the fall exhibitions in the Allen Memorial Art Museum.



Carmen Ambar, community member Kaya, and Ann Sherif at the planting ceremony. All three are wearing necklaces of origami paper cranes folded by Hiroshima school children and Green Legacy volunteers.

Meet the Newly Planted Hiroshima Trees

Oberlin College President Carmen Ambar, Professor Ann Sherif, Shansi staff, and Oberlin students and community members joined together in October 2017 to celebrate the permanent planting of two Hiroshima A-Bomb survivor trees on Tappan Square. The ginkgo saplings had been growing in the Oberlin College greenhouse for two years after being hand-carried from Hiroshima to Oberlin by Green Legacy co-founder Tomoko Watanabe in September 2015. Two other ginkgo saplings have been planted in front of Shansi House, three have been planted at Kendal at Oberlin, and another is growing at Oberlin High School.

“Transnational Mobilities and Global Convergences in Asian American Art”

Margo Machida, Emeritus Professor of Art History and Asian American studies at the University of Connecticut, presented a lecture on the turn towards transnationalism in Asia-American art during the 1970s-1990s.

IN-ASIA GRANTS

Grants promote individual and creative engagement in Asia during summer and Winter-Term for Oberlin students with great ideas and entrepreneurial instincts.

Yael Reichler '19 & Naomi Fireman '19

A Study of Rice Farming: Exploring the Experiences of Japanese Rice Farmers in Their Local Food Systems

Yael and Naomi worked with two organic farms through the organization WWOOF to learn about organic rice farming in Japan and the role that the local food system plays in Japanese culture.



Yael Reicher and Naomi Fireman with Yukari Shibata on her organic rice farm

Mohit Dubey '18

Tracing My India Roots with Music

Mohit focused on tracing his Indian roots as well as performing music for different communities within India. He gave concerts and hosted interactive workshops in Lucknow, Hyderabad, and Bangalore, and spent one week studying veena and the fundamentals of Carnatic music with master Karaikudi Subramanian. When he returned to Oberlin, he shared his experiences at a concert featuring his classical guitar transcriptions of Carnatic music.

Thu Le '19

Human Library in Ho Chi Minh City

During the summer of 2016, Thu Le developed a “Human Library,” adopting an international initiative that encourages communities to create forums for people to serve as “human books” and share interesting life stories. She used her In-Asia Grant to bring the “Human Library” to Ho Chi Minh City and create an event aimed at challenging deep-rooted discrimination against underprivileged groups.

Gloria Lewis '18

In Search of the African Diaspora from Tamil Nadu to Senegambia

Gloria traveled to Madurai, India with Oberlin’s Dance Diaspora to study Africanisms in Southern Indian dance and culture and how they compare to similar phenomena in the United States.

Yasmine Ramachandra '19 & Kirsten Mojzisek '19

Shiv Ganga Animal Helpline

Kirsten and Yasmine spent nearly a month in the state of Gujarat in Western India to volunteer at a government animal hospital. These pre-med students aimed to better understand veterinary and overall care practices in India.

Laura Li '18 & Yan Yu '18

The City Breathes: Documenting Beijing’s Independent Music and Film

Laura and Yan immersed themselves in the various film and music communities of Beijing, traveling around the city to interview a variety of local artists. Their goal was to create a documentary film that will help shed light on youth culture and current art trends in Beijing.

Eleda Fernald '20

Bamboo Bikes in Beijing

Eleda worked with an organization that builds bamboo bikes as a response to pollution and environmental issues. She interviewed the owners and employees to create an anthology of alternate voices and perspectives on environmentalism in China.



Eleda Fernald and Charles Cui with their bamboo bikes near the Bamboo Bicycles Beijing & Beyond building in Beijing

Will Tokunaga '20*Taiko, TIMARA, Tokyo*

In Tokyo, Will studied with the professional taiko ensemble Amanojaku under the tutelage of Yoichi Watanabe-sensei. He took what he learned there to help him create a collaborative work featuring taiko drums and the motion-sensing software Max MSP with Nintendo Wii remotes.



Will Tokunaga performing his composition at his In-Asia Grant Presentation

Juliet Flam-Ross '19*Chilled Out or Out of a Job? Effects of Substance Abuse on Labor Markets in India*

Juliet used her economics background to research the impact of substance abuse on access to labor markets in India, and how government regulation of tranquilizers affects employment and growth.

Rory O'Donoghue '19*Orientalism, National Identity, and Hybridity in Modern Chinese Opera*

Rory undertook research on modern Chinese opera in Beijing. He attended performances at the Zhengyici Theatre, visited prominent museums across the city, and spent time at the libraries of both Beijing University and the Central Conservatory of Music.

Will Cramer '20*A Winter at Dharma Drum Mountain*

Will spent one month at the Dharma Institute of Liberal Arts in Taiwan where he studied Buddhism and engaged in religious-scholarly dialogue. He also helped organize an international symposium at Dharma Drum Mountain with religious scholars from around the world.

Joanna Quinn '19 & Andrea Wang '19*Togetherness for Action & Equality (TEA) in Thailand*

Joanna and Andrea worked with TEA (Togetherness of Equality and Action), an NGO focused on LGBTQ rights in Bangkok, Thailand. During their time volunteering with TEA, they learned about the human rights challenges facing the LGBTQ community in Thailand, and TEA's efforts to build a sustainable and inclusive movement.

SHANSI PRIZE

The Shansi Prize is awarded annually to a graduating senior from the College or Conservatory in recognition of exceptional work on a topic relating to Asia.

The 2017 Shansi Prize was awarded to Sarah Chatta '17 based on a nomination from Professor of Creative Writing Sylvia Watanabe. Her project grew out of fifteen oral histories she collected in India on a Shansi In-Asia Grant. These personal stories explore the impact of the 1947 Partition on individual lives and are a combination of oral and written histories, ethnography, and memoir. The project's multidisciplinary method was informed by sources in creative writing, South Asian history, Punjabi language and literature, and postcolonial studies.

The 2018 Shansi Prize was awarded to Daniel Evans '18 and Samir Husain '18. East Asian Studies Department Professor Ann Sherif nominated Evans for his Comparative Literature Capstone project "Noise of Words," which used disparate fields including literary theory, noise music, and Japan Studies to develop an experimental translation paradigm. Evans presented his final work by reading his translations of Japanese poet Yoshimasu Gozo alongside a graphically scored, partially improvisatory audiovisual piece, "Counter-Transfer."

Samir Husain '18 was nominated by History Department Professor Zeinab Abul-Magd for his Honors Thesis on "Madrasahs: The Evolution (or Devolution?) of the Islamic Schools in South Asia (1857-Present)." Husain analyzed the history of madrasahs in the region and why they became radicalized. He also used his research to propose how Pakistan should move education policy forward in ways that improve education performance and reduce militancy.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES *for the year ended June 30, 2017*

	2017			Total
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	
Operating Revenues				
Appropriation from endowment	\$ 87,912	\$ 450,159	\$	\$ 538,071
Private gifts and grants	142,515			142,515
Net assets released from restrictions	450,159	(450,159)		
Total operating revenues	<u>680,586</u>	<u>-</u>	<u></u>	<u>680,586</u>
Operating Expenses				
Program				
China	88,938			88,938
Indonesia	120,023			120,023
India	80,355			80,355
Japan	85,748			85,748
Oberlin campus	157,536			157,536
Administrative and general	74,265			74,265
Fundraising	59,825			59,825
Total operating expenses	<u>666,690</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u>666,690</u>
Change in net assets				
from operating activities	<u>13,896</u>	<u>-</u>	<u></u>	<u>13,896</u>
Non-operating Activities				
Investment return, net of				
amounts transferred to operations	109,123	550,209		659,332
Capital and deferred gifts			7,056	7,056
Change in net assets				
from non-operating activities	<u>109,123</u>	<u>550,209</u>	<u>7,056</u>	<u>666,388</u>
Change in net assets	123,019	550,209	7,056	680,284
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>2,504,968</u>	<u>6,264,044</u>	<u>2,796,388</u>	<u>11,565,400</u>
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 2,627,987</u>	<u>\$ 6,814,253</u>	<u>\$ 2,803,444</u>	<u>\$ 12,245,684</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION *as of June 30, 2017 and 2016*

	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
<u>ASSETS</u>		
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 90,589	\$ 54,657
Accounts receivable	1,909	1,038
Deposits and prepaid expenses	136	136
Total current assets	<u>92,634</u>	<u>55,831</u>
Long-Term Investments	11,900,609	11,247,013
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Land	56,000	56,000
Buildings	225,427	225,427
Building improvements and renovations	305,617	305,617
Furniture and equipment	109,109	105,487
	<u>696,153</u>	<u>692,531</u>
Less: accumulated depreciation	(414,096)	(389,215)
Net property, plant and equipment	<u>282,057</u>	<u>303,316</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 12,275,300</u>	<u>\$ 11,606,160</u>
<u>LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS</u>		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other liabilities	\$ 29,616	\$ 40,760
Total current liabilities	<u>29,616</u>	<u>40,760</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted -		
Current operations	436,794	418,017
Unexpended plant and facility funds	2,331	3,996
Invested in plant facilities	282,057	303,316
Board designated funds	1,906,805	1,779,639
Total unrestricted	<u>2,627,987</u>	<u>2,504,968</u>
Temporarily Restricted -		
Cumulative earnings - endowment funds	<u>6,814,253</u>	<u>6,264,044</u>
Permanently Restricted -		
Endowment funds	<u>2,803,444</u>	<u>2,796,388</u>
Total net assets	<u>12,245,684</u>	<u>11,565,400</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 12,275,300</u>	<u>\$ 11,606,160</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES *for the year ended June 30, 2018*

	2018			Total
	Unrestricted	Temporarily Restricted	Permanently Restricted	
Operating Revenues				
Appropriation from endowment	\$ 82,164	\$ 418,320	\$	\$ 500,484
Private gifts and grants	62,083			62,083
Net assets released from restrictions	418,320	(418,320)		
Total operating revenues	<u>562,567</u>	<u>-</u>	<u></u>	<u>562,567</u>
Operating Expenses				
Program				
China	79,065			79,065
Indonesia	114,645			114,645
India	78,141			78,141
Japan	107,224			107,224
Oberlin campus	131,909			131,909
Administrative and general	74,193			74,193
Fundraising	59,767			59,767
Total operating expenses	<u>644,944</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u>644,944</u>
Change in net assets				
from operating activities	<u>(82,377)</u>	<u></u>	<u></u>	<u>(82,377)</u>
Non-operating Activities				
Investment return, net of amounts transferred to operations	49,249	247,908		297,157
Capital and deferred gifts			3,446	3,446
Change in net assets				
from non-operating activities	<u>49,249</u>	<u>247,908</u>	<u>3,446</u>	<u>300,603</u>
Change in net assets	(33,128)	247,908	3,446	218,226
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>2,627,987</u>	<u>6,814,253</u>	<u>2,803,444</u>	<u>12,245,684</u>
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 2,594,859</u>	<u>\$ 7,062,161</u>	<u>\$ 2,806,890</u>	<u>\$ 12,463,910</u>

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION *as of June 30, 2018 and 2017*

<u>ASSETS</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 66,134	\$ 90,589
Accounts receivable	1,755	1,909
Deposits and prepaid expenses	3,598	136
Total current assets	<u>71,487</u>	<u>92,634</u>
Long-Term Investments	12,160,212	11,900,609
Property, Plant and Equipment		
Land	56,000	56,000
Buildings	225,427	225,427
Building improvements and renovations	309,497	305,617
Furniture and equipment	109,109	109,109
	<u>700,033</u>	<u>696,153</u>
Less: accumulated depreciation	(439,012)	(414,096)
Net property, plant and equipment	<u>261,021</u>	<u>282,057</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 12,492,720</u>	<u>\$ 12,275,300</u>
<u>LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS</u>		
Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other liabilities	\$ 28,810	\$ 29,616
Total current liabilities	<u>28,810</u>	<u>29,616</u>
Net Assets		
Unrestricted -		
Current operations	378,311	439,125
Invested in plant facilities	261,021	282,057
Board designated funds	1,955,527	1,906,805
Total unrestricted	<u>2,594,859</u>	<u>2,627,987</u>
Temporarily Restricted -		
Cumulative earnings - endowment funds	<u>7,062,161</u>	<u>6,814,253</u>
Permanently Restricted -		
Endowment funds	<u>2,806,890</u>	<u>2,803,444</u>
Total net assets	<u>12,463,910</u>	<u>12,245,684</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 12,492,720</u>	<u>\$ 12,275,300</u>

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Benjamin Tucker, *In Memory of Jean Warner
Eaton*

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2018 Fellows with alumni at the Shansi Breakfast



The 2017 Fellows in front of Shansi house

THE 2017 FELLOWS

PETER T. D'AURIA '14, Creative Writing and Neuroscience, *Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh, Indonesia*

LYRIC D. GRIMES '17, East Asian Studies and English, *Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China*

OLIVIA K. HAY '17, Anthropology, *Lady Doak College, Madurai, India*

KAYLA JOHNSTON-MITCHELL '17, East Asian Studies, *J.F. Oberlin University, Machida, Japan*

BRENDAN J. NUSE '17, East Asian Studies and Environmental Studies, *Shanxi Agricultural University, Taigu, China*

HYACINTH D. PARKER '15, Environmental Studies, *Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia*

FRANKLIN J.T. SUSSMAN '17, East Asian Studies, *J.F. Oberlin University, Machida, Japan*

ALIYA T. TUZHILIN '17, Psychology and History, *Jagori Grameen, Rakkar, India*

THE 2018 FELLOWS

ANDREW J. BOOR '18, Politics, *Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China*

RADIA L. LAHLOU '18, Anthropology and Linguistics, *Shanxi Agricultural University, Taigu, China*

AUSTIN P. COPE '15, Politics, *Jagori Grameen, Rakkar, India*

SYDNEY E. GARVIS '18, Geology and Hispanic Studies, *Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh, Indonesia*

XIN LUAN '18, Psychology and East Asian Studies, *UNITAR, ANT-Hiroshima, and Green Legacy Hiroshima, Hiroshima, Japan*

JINGYI LI '18, East Asian Studies and Cinema Studies, *Independent Fellow, Japan*

LEAH A. WOOD '15, Cinema Studies and East Asian Studies, *J.F. Oberlin University, Machida, Japan*

DREAMS OF A DELIVERY BOY

MAGAZINE FEATURE FOR COMMUNITY WORK AND ASPIRATIONS



Through their work volunteering at the community center *akta* as part of the organization's Delivery Boy project, Franklin Sussman was part of a photoshoot for the magazine *Badi*. *Badi* is one of only two gay magazines still in print in Japan. Four volunteers from *akta* were chosen to be in a special feature for the 25th anniversary issue focused on gay people in their 20s discussing their dreams for the future. Franklin describes their dream as:

Some day I want to start a private scholarship fund for LGBT women studying medicine and/or biology, to honor the legacy of all of the LGBT women who were doctors, nurses, researchers, hospice care volunteers, etc. during the AIDS crisis. There's still a great need for HIV/AIDS research and also LGBT representation in medicine so I think it would be important. I first got the idea a few years ago when I read Vital Signs, an anthology of AIDS fiction, and then Signs of the Body by Rebecca Brown about a volunteer caregiver in Seattle during the AIDS crisis. Hopefully I can make it happen some day!





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Oberlin, OH 44074

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