



QBERLIN SHANSI

JOINING WORLDS SINCE 1908

ANNUAL REPORT
2019-2020



Oberlin Shansi

2018-2020 Jagori Grameen Fellow Austin Cope '15 with his neighbors in Dharamshala on Holi

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,

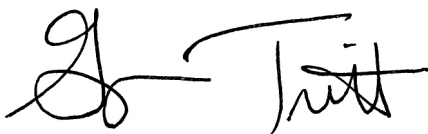
In February and March 2020, as the Covid-19 global pandemic accelerated, Shansi made the difficult decision to remove Fellows from their sites in Asia and Visiting Scholars from Oberlin. Fortunately, our Fellows showed great professionalism and adaptability, and our partners did everything they could to support them. And as our partners in Asia shifted to online learning and remote work, our Fellows followed suit, often staying up until past midnight to handle the time differences with their classes or to participate in meetings of NGO staff.

Through Fall 2020, we have continued to operate remotely. As we navigate online work plans that extend to multiple regions and time zones, our staff has taken an individualized approach to supporting our Fellows. We recognize that Fellows' individual circumstances and the public health scenarios at their respective host sites will differ, sometimes significantly. As such, we have worked collaboratively with our Fellows to ensure that they can maintain their responsibilities in a safe and secure environment. While many are currently working from the United States, a few have made the decision to travel to their host sites in Asia. Though we are moving forward cautiously, we believe that robust, data-driven, and honest dialogue with our Fellows and partners will remain central to our approach.

While we faced significant challenges in 2020, Shansi has continued to innovate and develop new opportunities. This year, we officially launched a new Fellowship program with Keystone Foundation in Tamil Nadu, India, selected a second Independent Fellow, who will work in Taiwan for the next two years, and saw a dramatic increase in funding support for our Hiroshima program. These are milestone achievements for Shansi, and you can find out more about them by taking a look at these program sections on our website at www.shansi.org.

I am proud of how Fellows, partners, Trustees, and staff answered the challenges we have faced this year, and I am immensely grateful for the response from the Shansi community. We asked for your support and you answered with insights and advice, generous donations, and offers to help mentor Fellows seeking work. I hope we can count on you in the coming year, as we continue building bridges and joining worlds.

Sincerely,



Gavin Tritt
Executive Director



Above: Executive Director Gavin Tritt with Taigu Fellows Le'Priya White and Radia Lahlou at a Taiyuan mall
Front cover: Folded origami cranes at the Peace Memorial Park in Hiroshima, Japan

SHANSI fellowships

Shansi Fellowships offer recent Oberlin graduates life-changing opportunities to live and work in Asia for up to two years. They work with universities and nongovernmental organizations while studying languages, learning local arts, volunteering, and finding other ways to engage in local communities.

CHINA

Shansi has two partners in China. At Beijing Normal University (BNU), Shansi Fellows spend one year teaching graduate students as well as undertaking intensive Chinese language studies. Concurrently, a Chinese graduate student comes to Oberlin to serve as a teaching assistant for the Chinese language program. At Shanxi Agricultural University in Taigu, Shansi's historical partner, Fellows teach undergraduate English majors and graduate students.



Mackenzie Lew at Mt. Huangshan in Anhui Province

Beijing Normal University

While in Beijing, MACKENZIE LEW '19 enjoyed connecting with her students in class and discussing their lives and favorite TV shows in office hours. With the help and encouragement of previous Shansi Fellow Andrew Boor '18, Mackenzie got the hang of creating lesson plans and adjusted to life in Beijing. Outside of teaching, she attended language classes with other international students, where Mandarin became the common language among students from Cambodia, Japan, and Korea. In her free time, she enjoyed finding quiet parks, visiting tasty bakeries, trying new fruit, and drawing. Before flying home early, she spent her Lunar New Year break traveling and meeting up with other Shansi Fellows in Vietnam, Cambodia, and Japan. Mackenzie is now back home in Seattle, spending time with family and exploring next steps in her career.



Le'Priya White with her class in Taigu

Shanxi Agricultural University

Although the year took an unexpected turn, RADIA LAHLOU '18 had a rewarding second year as a Shansi Fellow. In her first semester, she moved to a campus apartment where she would host dinner parties for her students, friends, and co-workers. She continued to teach elementary school students and create artwork in addition to teaching seven university classes. On long weekends, she would travel to Beijing to visit with friends and explore. When the Covid-19 pandemic hit, Radia was backpacking in Indonesia. She returned home to Carbondale, Illinois, where she taught asynchronous online classes. She continued studying Chinese with her teacher through video calls and plans to continue next year, when she hopes to return to China to teach at Beijing Normal University.

During her first year teaching, LE'PRIYA WHITE '19 explored ways to introduce music into her classroom. Regular discussions on popular artists and musical genres in China have allowed her students to practice English conversation skills creatively and on their own terms. She also explored local music in Asia, learned the violin in China, and furthered her study of Javanese Gamelan while visiting Indonesia. Le'Priya was able to travel to nine different countries before the Covid-19 pandemic struck. Upon returning to the United States, she found ways to further connect to her students and continue practicing her language skills by sharing music recommendations, including some pieces created by the students themselves.

INDIA

Shansi's two partners in India allow Fellows to experience India's linguistic and cultural diversity. At Lady Doak College in Madurai, Tamil Nadu, the Fellow manages student programs at the International Study Centre (ISC), designs global engagement workshops, and teaches co-curricular classes. At Jagori Grameen, a nongovernmental organization in Himachal Pradesh, Fellows work with rural Knowledge Centers and programs that promote access to sustainable agriculture and justice for women.

Lady Doak College

KATE LITTLE '18 spent the past year serving as the Program Manager at the International Study Centre (ISC). During that time, she continued to support student engagement with Model United Nations through competitions in Chennai, introduced a new environmental studies course, and aided students seeking educational opportunities abroad by organizing interviews and application workshops. Outside of the ISC, Kate spent the year taking Tamil classes and eating her way through classic South Indian dishes. Additionally, she used her weekends and time off to travel around India with friends and co-workers, including trips to Kerala, Karnataka, and Rajasthan. Kate is currently back in Washington State and is working with students and ISC faculty to build ISC events that adapt to online learning.



Austin Cope purchasing produce near his home

INDONESIA

At Gajah Mada University (UGM) in Yogyakarta, Fellows work as teaching assistants or independent instructors at the Faculty of Cultural Studies (FIB) and the Center for Religious and Cross-Cultural Studies. At Syiah Kuala University in Banda Aceh, Fellows teach English reading, writing, and speaking as well as occasional specialized courses to undergraduates, graduate students, and faculty. At the same time, Syiah Kuala University faculty visit Oberlin College as Visiting Scholars to explore new teaching pedagogies and co-curricular programs.

Gajah Mada University

Senior Fellow NIKAIO THOMASHOW '19 started the year with a strong sense of community, especially in Yogyakarta's dance scene. They competed and performed with the local hip-hop crew Freakingz and taught contemporary dance workshops throughout the city. At UGM, Nikaio helped choreograph the English Days annual musical as part of their engagement with the English department, and also MC'd the first-ever International ICONESIA Conference, hosted by FIB, which focused on English literature across Southeast Asia. Nikaio worked closely with co-Fellow Sydney Allen to ensure English majors and the Center for Religious and Cross-Cultural Studies graduate students received a balance of speaking and writing instruction. In March, Nikaio returned home and taught remotely while continuing to collaborate with dancers in Southeast Asia.

SYDNEY ALLEN '19, has spent the last year teaching writing and journalism classes at UGM. Throughout the first semester, Sydney led numerous writing workshops and cross-cultural discussion groups at universities throughout Java and worked to improve her teaching skills. In her free time, she took up Muay Thai, worked as a freelance editor, and volunteered at a children's English camp. Beginning in March, UGM transitioned to online learning and Sydney



Kate Little with an elephant in Thekkady

Jagori Grameen

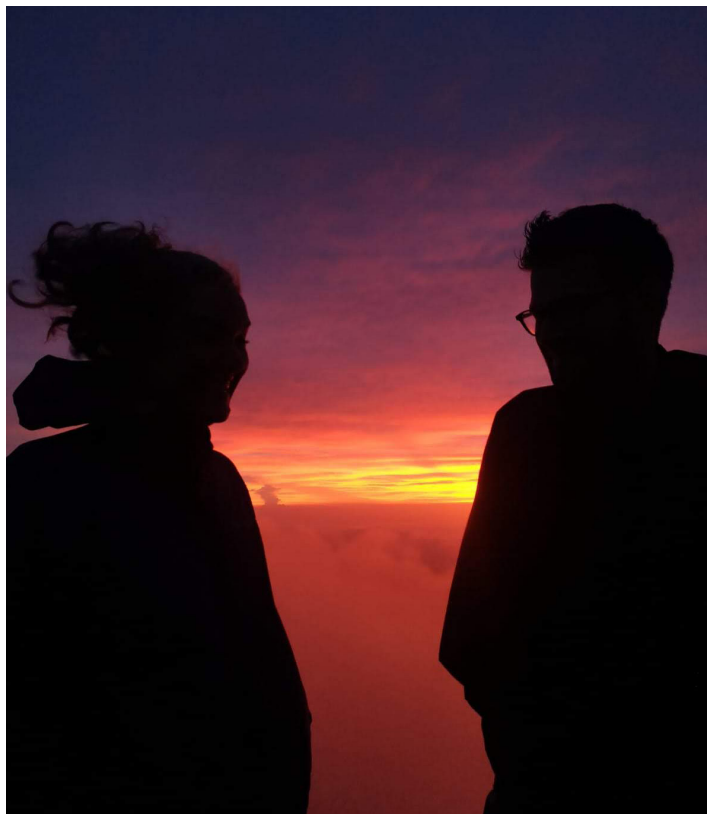
AUSTIN COPE '15 expected to spend his second year settling further into life in Rakkar, but instead encountered challenges and opportunities that helped him learn the value of flexibility and adaptability. After spending the summer in the U.S., he returned to Jagori Grameen to help support the organization's work with civic leadership, traveling around the local region with colleagues to work on various programs, including Jagori's One Billion Rising campaign against domestic violence. He also traveled to South India to visit the Lady Doak Fellow Kate Little '18, and to serve as an interpreter for an international agroecology conference. Just as he started to find community and a new rhythm working at Jagori, the Covid-19 pandemic began. Less than a week after receiving the departure notice from Shansi, he flew out of Delhi and returned home. He is still in contact with friends and colleagues in Rakkar and around India, and hopes to visit again.

chose to remain in Jogja, teaching remotely from her apartment. Throughout the pandemic, Sydney strove to act as a point of stability and escape for her students. During the coming months, Sydney will continue to teach remotely and assist her students in their online learning endeavors.

Syiah Kuala University

SYDNEY GARVIS '18 continued organizing Eco-Picnics and Park Clean-Ups with Aceh Zero Plastic in parks throughout the city of Banda Aceh. During her second year of teaching, she prioritized keeping a good record of lesson plans and resources for future Shansi Fellows. In November 2019, she was invited to speak about her experience teaching in Indonesia as a Keynote Speaker at the second International Conference on English Language Teaching and Learning hosted by the University of Lampung. With her co-Fellow Emily Peterson, she continued to expand the on-campus English Conversation and Movie Clubs. Outside of teaching, she enjoyed taking day trips to explore Aceh, learning how to surf, and meeting in coffee shops to paint with a local watercolor community.

EMILY PETERSON '19 spent her first year developing her teaching skills and connecting with students outside the classroom. She and senior Fellow Sydney Garvis reinvigorated and expanded the Pusat Bahasa (Language Center) Movie and English Conversation Clubs that had been led by Fellows for years by creating an Instagram page and moving the Movie club into the newly-built cinema room in the campus library. She also connected to the greater Banda Aceh community by teaching employees at HaKa, a conservation organization, and at a local office of PLN, Indonesia's main electrical utility. Outside of work, Emily enjoyed exploring Aceh on her motorbike, hanging out with friends at coffee shops, taking Muay Thai classes, and watching sunsets on the beach.



Sydney Garvis and Peter D'Auria at sunrise on Burni Telong Mountain

JAPAN

Fellows at J.F. Oberlin University teach first-year students, provide one-on-one tutoring at the Writing Support Center, and organize other language-based activities. In Hiroshima, the Fellow works with three different partners: UNITAR, a United Nations agency that provides training to support sustainable development and mitigate conflict; and ANT-Hiroshima and Green Legacy, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) that share Hiroshima's story and message of peace through educational programs.

J.F. Oberlin University

In the second year of her Fellowship, LEAH AKI WOOD '16 continued teaching English, taking koto lessons, and volunteering. She also continued tutoring one-on-one and worked with an English children's book group for families with pre-K children, where she presented on topics from her life and helped facilitate activities. She traveled domestically as well as to India, where she was able to visit other Shansi sites, and Korea. As global conditions worsened with Covid-19, Shansi supported her choice to stay in Japan and continue teaching. Leah joined the Shansi staff as the Grants and Fellowships Coordinator upon her return to the United States. Next year, she plans to pursue a masters degree in mental health counseling.

After arriving in Japan, EMILY EISENSTEIN '19 enjoyed various modes of transportation. She often bicycled to nearby



Sydney Allen and Nikaio Thomashow with FIB staff

neighborhoods, trails, and parks. She took buses and trains to shopping districts, mountains, and historical sites in Tokyo and Kanagawa prefectures. For longer distances, including travel to Sapporo, Akita, and Kyoto, she boarded the Shinkansen and took overnight buses. Becoming familiar with musical jingles at train stations, bus drivers' voices, and which streets were the smoothest for bicycle rides were highlights of her experience and allowed her to feel more at home. She feels a deep appreciation for Japan's public transportation and hopes to ride again someday when she can return to Japan.

In her first year, SARA CHANG '19 attended yoga classes, tutored, hiked, and ate lots of good food. Domestically, she was lucky enough to travel to Sapporo, Akita, Niigata, Osaka, Kyoto, Nara, and Hiroshima during her first year. Unfortunately, due to Covid-19, her only overseas travel was to South Korea, but she hopes that 2021 will bring a vaccine and more opportunities to visit other countries. While teaching online, Sara found that she was still able to connect well with her students, despite the many miles and a thirteen hour time difference between them. This helps make her hopeful for her remaining year in Japan.



Jenny Luan and Tomoko Watanabe of ANT at the Atomic Bomb Dome

INDEPENDENT FELLOW

Oberlin Shansi's new Independent Fellowship allows graduating seniors and recent alumni to design their own two-year experiences with an NGO, social enterprise, or education institution. This allows motivated applicants the chance to propose innovative projects and partnerships in regions and sectors outside of Shansi's typical purview.

Tokyo

JINGYI "LAURA" LI '18 continued to build community at Taktopia in Tokyo while exploring new mediums of artistic expression. With the outbreak of Covid-19 in China, she noticed a surge in hate crimes against Chinese nationals in Japan and formed the group Nikaikoshitsu as a safe harbor for them to have social and political discussions. The group also hosted monthly meetings to discuss their experiences facing discrimination and racism in Japan. She also founded an artist collective, BluZoo, with seven other artists. They collected more than 100 photos and videos of people's memories of the pandemic and curated two local exhibitions—one of the exhibition's InstagramLive feed reached more than 50,000 views in three hours. Laura is considering a masters degree in fine art and/or social work to further her research into trauma and identity.



Emily Eisenstein and Sara Chang on a platform at Takao Station

Hiroshima

Though XIN "JENNY" LUAN '17 entered her Fellowship as a student committed to psychology research, she has finished as an aspiring professional in international relations, specifically in conflict management. Her Fellowship offered her different angles to view the world, understand other people, and utilize skills honed through her liberal arts education. She believes her experience in Hiroshima not only gave her the opportunity to contribute to UNITAR, ANT, and Green Legacy, but also time to reflect and gain insight into the importance of the work they do. She plans to carry Hiroshima's message of resilience and peace in her future work.



Laura Li traveling in Inner Mongolia, China

CAMPUS programs

ON-CAMPUS PROGRAMS

Shansi collaborates with academic departments and student organizations to develop and support programs related to Asia on the Oberlin campus. These include symposia, visiting speakers, and student organization events such as taiko performances and Asian Night Market.

Çudamani: Gamelan and Dance of Bali

Associate Professor of Ethnomusicology and Anthropology Jennifer Fraser organized a performance by Gamelan Çudamani, one of Bali's most innovative music and dance ensembles. Trained in the village of Pengosekan, the 18-member group is known for the members' multidisciplinary mastery of arts from gamelan, to dance, to voice which allows the group to create performances with complex layers of sound and visuals.

Shadow Puppet Theater Workshop with Master Puppeteer Darsono Hadiraharjo

The musicology department sponsored a workshop on Wayang, a form of shadow puppet theater art from Indonesia. The workshop was run by Darsono Hadiraharjo and featured puppets, their traditional movements and voices, as well as an idea of the training required for puppeteers.

Diwali Celebration

The South Asian Student Association (SASA) held their annual Diwali celebration at Shansi House.

Barefoot Dialogue

Visiting Scholars and staff worked together to cook meals and host a series of dialogues to help students adjust to Oberlin life. Visiting Scholars were able to share their traditional foods with students and enjoy home cooked meals.



Oberlin students celebrate Diwali



Upi Isabella Rea in front of the world's largest rubber stamp in Cleveland

VISITING SCHOLARS

Faculty and staff from Shansi partner institutions have the opportunity to 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, learn about student life and supportive networks at Oberlin, and can present their research to students and faculty. Outside of the classroom, they have the opportunity to volunteer with local organizations, participate in academic conferences, and travel around the United States.

FAN YUE

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

DALILA HUSNA YUNARDI

Lecturer, Department of Informatics,
Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

UPI ISABELLA REA

PhD Candidate of American Studies,
Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

IRMA SURYANI

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

ANGEL CHRISTY PRAVEENA

Professor, Department of Commerce,
Lady Doak College, Madurai, India

IN-ASIA

grants

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

Elsie Wang '21

Learning Noh Drama in Japan

Elsie visited Tokyo to study Noh theater under the performers Uzawa Hisa and Uzawa Hikaru, two actors who had traveled to Oberlin to perform the previous year. She was able to watch live Noh performances, learn the art of Noh theater, and interview professional and amateur Noh actors. Elsie was also able to make her Noh debut by participating in the *shinnenkai*, the first meeting of the year, and performing an excerpt of *Youkihi*. Through this immersive experience, Elsie was able to learn about Noh not just from the text and performance but its place in modern Japanese culture and the efforts made to keep the art alive.

Chloe Lai '22

Constructing Heritage: How Heritage is Defined in a Public Museum and Within a Family in Taiwan

Chloe traveled to Taipei to explore how Taiwanese heritage is constructed. She worked at Museum 207, a museum

which focuses on historic restoration and preservation, and celebrated Lunar New Year with her extended family. At Museum 207, Chloe engaged primarily with a special exhibit, "Old Life, New House." She also gave tours, researched exhibitions, and developed ideas for public programs. This gave her the opportunity to engage with how heritage and stories are preserved for the public. When celebrating the New Year with her family, Chloe was able to see the modern iterations of traditions, how they shape Taiwanese identity, and how these identities are constructed by individuals and families.

Kushagra Kar '23

Research and Volunteer Work with Barefoot College in Tilonia, Rajasthan, India

Kushagra spent his Winter Term in Tilonia, Rajasthan observing Barefoot College's approach to community integration and service. He interviewed students and staff, sat in on classes, worked as a volunteer in various programs, and captured photographs and video of these interactions. He created a short film to share the lifestyles and education of rural India with Oberlin students. Kushagra specifically shadowed the participants of the "Solar Mamas" program, local women who work with solar energy and the technology around it. He is working with them to create a brochure for their program in addition to the documentary.



Elsie Wang learning Noh in Tokyo, Japan

FINANCIAL

statements

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES for the year ended June 30, 2020

	Without Donor Restrictions	With Donor Restrictions	Total
Operating Revenues			
Appropriation from endowment	\$ 81,492	\$ 413,677	\$ 495,169
Contributions	66,021	70,274	136,295
Net assets released from restrictions	<u>489,023</u>	<u>(489,023)</u>	<u>-</u>
Total operating revenues	<u>636,536</u>	<u>(5,072)</u>	<u>631,464</u>
Operating Expenses			
Program			
China	67,610		67,610
India	93,262		93,262
Indonesia	126,583		126,583
Japan	100,422		100,422
Oberlin campus	137,771		137,771
Administrative and general	70,386		70,386
Fundraising	<u>56,701</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>56,701</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>652,735</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>652,735</u>
Change in net assets from operating activities	(16,199)	(5,072)	(21,271)
Other activities:			
Investment return, net of fees and amounts transferred to operations	(66,250)	(359,512)	(425,762)
Contributions	<u>-</u>	<u>4,160</u>	<u>4,160</u>
Change in net assets	(82,449)	(360,424)	(442,873)
Net assets at beginning of year	<u>2,510,908</u>	<u>9,996,682</u>	<u>12,507,590</u>
Net assets at end of year	<u>\$ 2,428,459</u>	<u>\$ 9,636,258</u>	<u>\$ 12,064,717</u>

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION as of June 30, 2020 and 2019

	<u>ASSETS</u>	
	<u>2020</u>	<u>2019</u>
Current Assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 74,213	\$ 40,764
Accounts receivable	6,210	1,280
Deposits and prepaid expenses	11,348	40,118
Total current assets	<u>91,771</u>	<u>82,162</u>
Long-Term Investments	<u>11,847,756</u>	<u>12,212,100</u>
Property, Plant and Equipment:		
Land	56,000	56,000
Buildings	225,427	225,427
Building improvements and renovations	309,497	309,497
Furniture and equipment	110,475	109,109
	<u>701,399</u>	<u>700,033</u>
Less: accumulated depreciation	(484,842)	(462,554)
Net property, plant and equipment	<u>216,557</u>	<u>237,479</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>\$ 12,156,084</u>	<u>\$ 12,531,741</u>

LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS

Current Liabilities		
Accounts payable and other liabilities	\$ 32,367	\$ 24,151
Paycheck Protection Program loan	59,000	-
Net Assets		
Without donor restrictions:		
Current operations	187,714	183,243
Invested in plant facilities	216,557	237,479
Board designated funds - endowment	1,894,925	1,965,450
Board designated funds - plant facilities	129,263	124,736
Total net assests without donor restrictions	<u>2,428,459</u>	<u>2,510,908</u>
With donor restrictions:		
Donor restricted funds for specific purpose	105,096	110,168
Endowment funds	2,815,296	2,811,136
Cumulative investment earnings - endowment funds	6,715,866	7,075,378
Total net assets with donor restrictions	<u>9,636,258</u>	<u>9,996,682</u>
Total net assets	<u>12,064,717</u>	<u>12,507,590</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES and NET ASSETS	<u>\$ 12,156,084</u>	<u>\$ 12,531,741</u>

OBERLIN SHANSI

2019-2020 donors

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 Sarah Willis
 Lawrence Yee

IN MEMORY

midge brittingham



Shansi and the Oberlin community lost a dear friend and dedicated partner when Midge Brittingham '60 passed away at the end of December 2019. Midge was the Executive Director of the Oberlin Alumni Association for 28 years and served many terms on the Shansi Board. With her amazing memory for Oberlin alums and Shansi stories, she was an invaluable guide to generations of Shansi staff and trustees.

After retirement, Midge and Smith Brittingham hosted Sunday night dinners for Oberlin students and international guests. For generations of Shansi Visiting Scholars, the Brittingham kitchen became a home away from home. The Oberlin and Shansi communities will miss Midge, and we mourn her passing.

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Randy Gaynes & Christine Haxager, *In Honor of Julie Gaynes*
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 Dr. Barbara Johnson, *In Memory of Divakar Masilamani*
 Gretchen Van Meter Lawton, *In Loving Memory of Jo Hamilton Van Meter (OC'35) and Herb Van Meter (OC'37)*
 Nien Lung Liu Tai, *In memory of Judy Manwell & William Ratliff*
 Benjamin Tucker, *In Memory of Jean Warner Eaton*
 Mr.&Mrs. Joseph Yuen-Terry, *In Memory of Francis Davis and all whose names are on the Memorial Arch*

Photo Credit: Dale Preston

PEOPLE of shansi

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JESSICA COTTER, *Administrative Assistant*
ELI FISHER '16, *Returned Fellow 2020*



2020 Shansi Fellows & Staff in virtual Shansi Breakfast skit
(Top row: Sheng Kao, Ava Prince, and Léo Anderson; Middle row: Kara Nepomuceno, Ted Samuel, Eli Fisher, and Madeleine Gefke; Bottom row: Rex Simmons, Jennifer Lin, and Ora Hammel)

THE 2020 FELLOWS

LÉO ANDERSON '20, Studio Art and Politics
UNITAR, ANT-Hiroshima, and Green Legacy Hiroshima,
Hiroshima, Japan

MADELEINE GEFKE '20, Biology and Environmental Studies
Keystone Foundation, Kotagiri, India

ORA HAMMEL '20, Environmental Studies
Syiah Kuala University, Banda Aceh, Indonesia

SHENG KAO '20, Biology and Computer Science
Independent Fellow, Taiwan

JENNIFER LIN '20, Art History and Creative Writing
Shanxi Agricultural University, Taigu, China

KARA NEPOMUCENO '20, Dance and Biology
Gadjah Mada University, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

AVA PRINCE '18, History
J.F. Oberlin University, Machida, Japan

REX SIMMONS '19, East Asian and Environmental Studies
Shanxi Agricultural University, Taigu, China

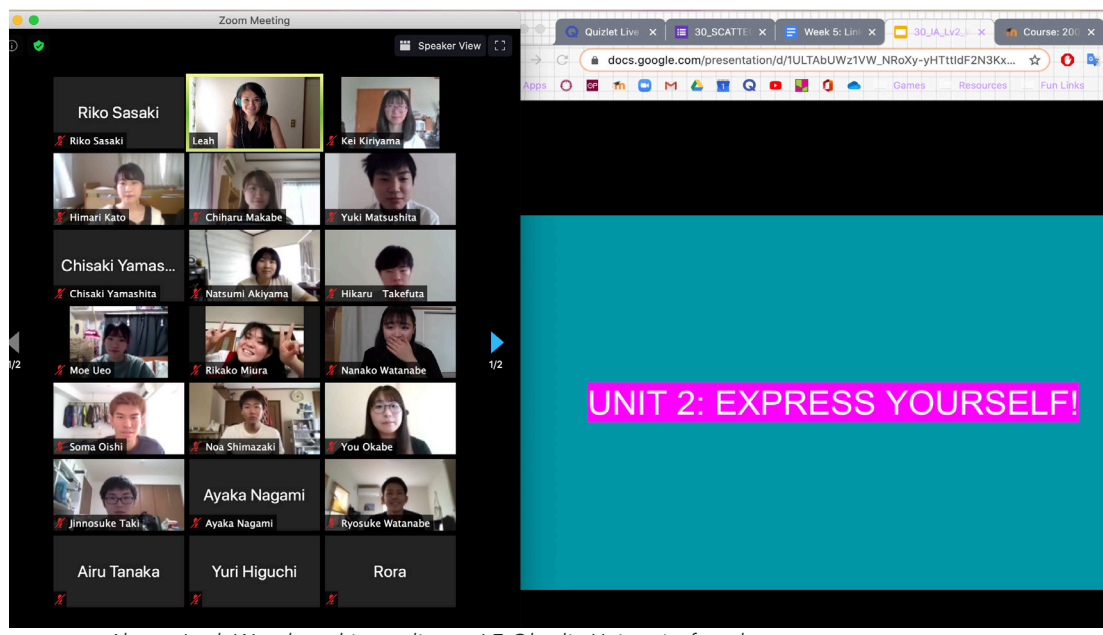
COVID-19 this year & shansi

Nothing has been normal about 2020. It started with ominous warning signs in January as we began to learn about a new coronavirus affecting Wuhan, China. By early February, Shansi had recalled Fellows from China while they were enjoying Spring Festival holidays in Southeast Asia. By mid-March, as the Covid-19 global pandemic began to worsen, Shansi undertook a voluntary evacuation of Fellows from India, Indonesia, and Japan. At the same time, our Visiting Scholars from China, India, and Indonesia departed Oberlin and returned home.

As the world has adjusted to Zoom meetings and remote learning, Shansi Fellows and our partners have found new, innovative ways to engage. Fellows at our university partners have continued their teaching duties on a variety of online platforms. Fellows working with NGOs have engaged remotely, writing reports and managing projects from home. Though many of our Fellows are hemispheres away from their host organizations, they continue to form meaningful connections with students, mentors, colleagues, and communities.

The Shansi team in Oberlin has adapted as well. When the 2020 commencement/reunion weekend was canceled, we decided to move the Shansi Breakfast online and introduced our new cohort of Fellows at a virtual Shansi Breakfast. We keep up with Fellows, alumni, and potential applicants via Zoom instead of meetings in the Shansi Office. We also held a Shansi Town Hall in June 2020 to keep our Shansi family informed of how we are responding to the Covid-19 pandemic and what we see for the future. To view some of these events and wonderful stories from our Visiting Scholars and Fellows, take a look at the Shansi YouTube channel at www.youtube.com/OBSShansi.

Despite the challenges and disruptions brought on by the Covid-19 pandemic, Shansi's work continues. We cannot predict when operations will fully return to "normal." Given our organization's long history of adapting to ever-shifting socio-political realities, we are not even sure that reverting to prior norms is in our DNA. However, our belief in the transformative power of international exchange remains. That mission motivates our staff, our Fellows, our Trustees, and our community. We take the work of "joining worlds" seriously.



Above: Leah Wood teaching online at J.F. Oberlin University from her apartment near campus
Back cover: A couple walking along the Dhanushkodi beach point near Rameswaram, Tamil Nadu in Southern India



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