Our Title VI grant application is now in, and at long last we are able to bring to you this year’s somewhat belated 2009 annual report. CEAS has had another active year of programming both on and off campus and has been able to support research, conference travel, and course development for numerous faculty across many disciplines. Sadly, we have also experienced losses in recent months. We were saddened in December by the passing of Andrew Tsubaki, a former Associate Director of CEAS, and in February by the passing of Nobleza Asuncion-Lande, both long-time CEAS members and regular contributors to CEAS activities. We will miss both Andrew and Nobleza.

There were a number of highlights in our programming for 2009. We were especially excited to be able to give grants to two scholars whose research and teaching had not previously focused on East Asia so that they could travel to China and begin work on projects that could enable them to add China segments to their courses. We hope to be able to do something similar again in the future. As always, this has been a very active year for outreach, and among other things, Randi Hacker, whose “5 Days of Chinese” course was written up in an ACTFL newsletter, prepared a new group of first and second graders to sing at the 2010 Lunar New Year Party on February 19. We hope that some of them will go on to study East Asian languages at KU in about 12 years!

In addition to regular and well attended events over the course of 2009 including a conference on The Opening of Western China in April, organized by John Kennedy and Arienne Dwyer; the Grant Goodman Distinguished Lecture in Japanese Studies, given by Samuel Yamashita of Pomona College; and the first Wallace Johnson Memorial Lecture in Medieval Chinese Culture given by Peter Bol of Harvard University. Eric Rath and Yoonmi Nam spent a part of summer 2009 in Qinghai Province working with a Tibetan school, and you will find a description of these activities later in this report.

As many of you know, in 2009 CEAS celebrated its 50th anniversary, and some of this annual report is dedicated to reminiscences about the past 50 years. CEAS faculty and some alumni had a fascinating walk down memory lane with Grant Goodman and Felix Moos in late November to celebrate the anniversary, and we are especially grateful to Grant and Felix for sharing their memories with us on that occasion.

The 2009-2010 theme has been Korea, and we have celebrated it with a film series in the fall and series of lectures by Koreanists this spring, in addition to several new courses taught by CEAS members. We will also be working with the Lawrence Public Library to co-host a Korea reading group over the summer. Korean studies at KU has gotten quite strong in recent years with the addition of numerous faculty with research and teaching interests in Korea, and this is an area in which we hope to see further growth in coming years.

Our programming for the next four years will again revolve around a series of themes. In 2010-2011, CEAS will be working together with the other area studies centers on programming related to “Heartlands and Migration.”

With best wishes for the remainder of your 2010,

—Megan Greene, CEAS Director

2009 Mid-Autumn Moon-Viewing Festival

Our third annual Mid-Autumn Moon-Viewing Festival in September celebrated East Asian harvest traditions with mooncakes, the Kansas City Chinese Music Ensemble, and Korean, Chinese, and Japanese poetry inspired by the full moon.
In November, current, former, and emeritus faculty joined alumnus and patrons at the Adams Alumni Center to celebrate the 50th anniversary of CEAS. Dinner and drinks were followed by a conversation about the history of East Asian Studies at KU led by professors Grant Goodman, Felix Moos, and Bill Tsutsui.

In 1947, Thomas R. Smith, associate professor of geology, offered KU’s first East Asian course. By 1959, a full-fledged program in East Asian Studies was approved by the Kansas legislature, CEAS was founded, and Benjamin Wallacker began teaching Chinese language courses. (Twenty-four students enrolled the first semester, though it seems from John Ross’s reminiscences that they didn’t all stick with it!)

Goodman and Moos entertained the dinner guests with stories about the protest sit-in at the CEAS building by the February Sisters in 1972, touring Japan with Kansas governor Robert Docking, and celebrating the eccentricities of faculty members such as Wallacker, who kept a pet alligator in his office. John Ross (Class of ’61) amusingly recalled how the alligator would hiss during Classical Chinese lessons (please see Mr. Ross’s story below).

Included in the festivities was a surprise announcement by alumnus Thomas Kurata that he had endowed a scholarship in Anthropology in honor of Felix Moos.

A few entertaining reminiscences from faculty and alumni follow.

“Temporary Associate Director” and a Few Charms
John W. Dardess
Professor of History, Emeritus

I had two close encounters with the Center during my career at KU.

The first came sometime in the late 1970s, I think. The director, Chae Jin Lee, had me appointed “Temporary Associate Director” to help prepare the 3-year application for Title VI funding. I had to fly to D.C. to review the successful applications other universities had submitted 3 years earlier. Armed with the glorious bureaucratic title of Temporary Associate Director, off I went. I expected to meet sleek and intimidating officials sitting behind expensive desks. Instead, I found the officials modest and the ambience a bit scruffy. I was amused by a few of the applications. One, from an Ivy League school, was as arrogant a model of sloppy cut-and-paste composition as one could ever hope for. Another, from a big state university, read as though written by a committee of nervous academics awaiting a possible death sentence—on the one hand groveling and apologetic about even the tiniest sins, and on the other hand promising with deeply impressive sincerity a moral commitment to total self-rectification and a wholly new and shining beginning. It read like a Maoist exercise in confession and reform. In the end, we were awarded the grant, edging out the University of Illinois for the last available slot in that year’s quota. (Some people I knew at Illinois were not pleased).

The second close encounter came some 20 years later. G. Cameron “Cappy” Hurst, who had headed the Center for many years, left for the University of Pennsylvania. By default, I was the only candidate available to replace him. Still, I had to submit to interviews by various deans, plus a hiring committee. I made it as clear as I could that I did not view myself as an administrator and did not covet the job, but would do it rather than have the Center collapse altogether. I got the job and did it for a few years until a suitable replacement (Marsha Haufler) became available. We submitted a proposal and were awarded another Title VI grant.

For me, the job as Director was not all joyless drudgery: it did have a few charms. I found I enjoyed glad-handing—that is, meeting and escorting visitors from all parts of the globe. I also learned a lot about what our colleagues in Asian Studies across campus were doing, and that led me to respect them all the more. So when I happily bowed out, I received no golden parachute, but I was able to take at no charge some pleasant memories along with me.
Classical Chinese with Alligators

John Ross
Class of 1961

The East Asian program has made giant strides from the first offering in Chinese. We began with just Dr. Wallacker and a native speaker for the lab. There were 10-12 students in the first class that finally resolved into five dedicated people—four guys from the scholarship halls and a lady from Kansas City. The only name I can now recollect is Jack Salmon, who went on to a PhD and emeritus status at Virginia Tech.

Wallacker, of course, had that damned alligator—a distracting hiss while you were trying to fathom Classical Chinese in your tutorial. All the offices and some of the classrooms were in clapboard barracks buildings left over from WWII and set behind Strong Hall where the special collections are now. They were at the mercy of the elements and never comfortable. We were fortunate that Drs. Beckmann, Smith, Goodman, Moos, Wallacker, Burton, and the rest were not only scholars, but marvelous teachers with great presence and presentation.

My academic career ended at the Stanford University Center for Japanese Studies (then located at ICU in Tokyo) after a year of graduate study in the KU History department. Mainland China was closed to U.S. citizens in those days, so Japan and Taiwan were the only places in Asia where study in the Chinese classics was really happening. Things were going in an orderly fashion in Lawrence, with the East Asian programs slowly building a reputation for excellence. KU had always had superior standing for excellence in U.S. history.

In 1964 KU sent two junior-year-abroad students to Tokyo, and Drs. Smith and Goodman charged me with finding them lodging and providing support as need to make their study worthwhile. Interesting at times, frustrating at others. This period was during the normalization of relations between Japan and South Korea, with many student demonstrations and protests. One afternoon I had arranged to meet Dr. Goodman at the Gaimusho library and had no sooner arrived than the demonstration began outside the building and we were trapped for a couple of hours before the police broke it up.

Exacting, Captivating: The Best Years

Chip E. Miller, PhD
Class of 1986

I have very fond memories of my studies in EALC from 1974 to 1986.

Wally Johnson was the most fascinating and engaging professor I could imagine. His was an exciting classroom experience; he made every day an adventure.

Grace Wan was unquestionably the best language teacher I have ever studied with—across four languages. She was demanding, exacting, and commanded more respect from her students than anyone I’ve known. We joked about her being the “Dragon Lady,” a pun on her last name. (It was meant with love, I assure you.) One day when she did not come to class, we sat there reverently for more than 35 minutes until someone told us she was ill and that class was canceled. We dreaded what would have happened if she came and we weren’t there! She was not shy about correcting our mistakes if we were lax, either. I can still hear the refrain, “Dzemma nemma ben ne?!” (“How can you be so dumb?!”) I had never studied so hard for classes, nor enjoyed the work so much.

John Dardess was also a captivating professor. His class on Huns, Turks, & Mongols was one of my favorites in graduate school. I was convinced at the time that he was sight-reading an original Mongolian history.

Everything about EALC, both undergrad and graduate, was spectacular for me: Karl Friday’s publishing of the history of kashima-shin ryu swordsmanship, Cappy Hurst and his Samurai History course, my role as an officer in the Asian Studies club, the incredible American students learning Asian culture and the Asian students who devoted so much time and effort to helping us. Those were unquestionably the best years I spent in college.
Our Faculty

New Faculty Spotlight

Faye Xiao
East Asian Languages & Cultures

Faye Xiao joined the faculty in fall 2009 as an Assistant Professor in the KU Department of East Asian Languages & Cultures.

Xiao earned her PhD in East Asian Languages & Cultures from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign in 2009 with her dissertation, “Representing Divorce, Reforming Interiority: Narratives of Gender, Class, and Family in Contemporary Chinese Literature and Culture.”

Her research interests span a range of cultural topics, from modern and contemporary Chinese literature; transnational Chinese cinema; Chinese and Asian popular culture; marriage, family, and society; and Chinese language pedagogy.

At KU, Xiao has taught Introduction to Contemporary China and Modern Chinese Literature in Translation. She is a member of the American Association for Chinese Studies, Association of Asian Studies, and the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, among other affiliations.


When she has time to herself, Xiao enjoys watching movies, reading novels, playing video games, and sometimes jogging.

ChangHwan Kim
Sociology

ChangHwan Kim has been an Assistant Professor of Sociology at KU since 2008. His specialization in sociology of the economy and elements of statistics and data analysis made the 2008-09 academic year an exciting one: “The economic meltdown and presidential election provided a rich set of topics to discuss in my courses and research,” he said.

Before coming to KU, Kim was a postdoctoral associate at the Minnesota Population Center, University of Minnesota. He earned his PhD in 2006 from the University of Texas at Austin with his dissertation, “Occupational Structure and Growing Wage Inequality in the United States, 1983–2002.”

Among Kim’s research interests are stratification and inequality, labor markets, economic sociology, Korea studies, and research methods and statistics. During the spring 2010 semester, Kim will be teaching Elementary Statistics & Data Analysis and Sociology of the Economy.

He has been published in Sociological Forum, Annual Review of Sociology, Social Science Research, and the Korean Journal of Sociology.

Kim commutes to his office by bicycle, and he enjoys walking around campus and downtown Lawrence.

Kapila Silva
Architecture

Kapila Silva has been an Assistant Professor in the School of Architecture, Design, & Planning since 2008. He joined the CEAS faculty in 2009 after he was awarded the CEAS China Research Travel Award for non-CEAS faculty. He used the award to research vernacular architectural traditions in China, including siheyuan, tulou, and diaolou homes. He then incorporated this research into a course, Vernacular Architecture in the Western & Non-Western Worlds.

Silva earned his PhD in Architecture from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee in 2004. Before his doctoral studies, he taught at the University of Moratuwa in Sri Lanka.

Silva currently researches traditional architecture and UNESCO World Heritage Sites. Other research interests are environmental design and policy in developing countries and community participation in urban design and preservation.


In his free time, Silva enjoys reading early Buddhist Thought, eastern mythologies, and esoteric sciences and playing the tabla, an Indian percussion instrument.

Michael Taylor
Geology

Michael Taylor joined the KU Department of Geology in 2005 and serves as Co-Director of the KU Cosmogenic Nuclide Extraction Laboratory. He became an associate member of CEAS in 2009.

Taylor researches tectonic evolution of Himalayan-Tibetan mountain ranges, and he travels to the Tibetan plateau every year. His extensive interaction with the rich culture of Tibet developed an interest in collaborative research into how the regional geology exerts control on cultural development.

Other research interests include neotectonics, timescales of fault behavior, fault interaction and mechanics, remote sensing, and field mapping and structural geology. Taylor’s research has been published in Recent Advances in Tectonics of Sedimentary Basins, Science, the Journal of Geophysical Research, and Earth & Planetary Science Letters.

At KU, Taylor teaches courses such as Neotectonics & Advanced Mapping, Introduction to Physical Geology, Advanced Techniques in Remote Sensing, and Structural Geography.
Christopher Anderson (Business) recently published articles on capital markets and property markets in the Journal of Financial Research and the Journal of Real Estate Research. In summer 2009 he helped direct a short-term study abroad in Brazil for KU business students and also co-directed the CIBER-consortium sponsored Global Business Project MBA team consulting project in Brazil. Anderson and his wife, Shari, also traveled to Beijing, Chongqing, and Guangzhou to adopt a 10-month-old Chinese girl. In spring 2009 Anderson taught international finance and team-based learning at Capital West China. In spring 2009 Anderson taught a new class on capitalism and freedom.

Yong Bai (Civil, Environmental, & Architectural Engineering) supervised one PhD student and three master students during the past year. After graduation, all were able to find jobs related to their major despite the tough economic condition. Seonghoon Kim, Bai’s PhD student, accepted an assistant professor position in the Dept. of Construction Management at Georgia Southern University. Sponsored by the NSF, Bai and Steven Schrock visited four Chinese universities and gave several presentations in June 2009.

Michael Baskett (Film & Media Studies) was recently made Director of Graduate Studies for the newly formed Film & Media Studies department and is currently preparing a book-length manuscript examining transnational film exchange and Japanese film culture in Asia during the Cold War. In addition, Baskett is working on a book chapter on Kamiyama Sojin and Japanese film journalism in 1920s Hollywood to be published as part of a collection on early film studies.

Edward Canda (Social Welfare) published two articles and six book chapters in 2009. During the summer, he visited Hong Kong and South Korea to continue his study of East Asian religions and social work. He presented a plenary address at the International Conference on Social Work and Counseling Practice at the City University of Hong Kong and coordinated a meeting between KU and Hallym University social work faculty in Korea.

Kelly H. Chong (Sociology) received the 2009 Distinguished Book Award by the Sociology of Religion Section of the American Sociological Association (ASA) for her book, Deliverance and Submission: Evangelical Women and the Negotiation of Patriarchy in South Korea (Harvard University Press, 2008). In 2008, Chong’s article “Negotiating Patriarchy: South Korean Evangelical Women and the...
Politics of Gender” (Gender and Society, 2006) was awarded two Best Research Paper Awards by the ASA. In December 2008, her article, “Coping with Conflict, Confronting Resistance: Emotions and Identity Management during Fieldwork in a South Korean Evangelical Community,” appeared in Qualitative Sociology. During the 2008-2009 academic year, Chong carried out the bulk of her field research in Chicago for her new project on Asian Americans, intermarriage, and the politics of race/gender. She is currently analyzing her data and preparing peer-reviewed articles based on this research.

Vickie Doll (East Asian Library) finalized her paper, “Fifty Years of the East Asian Collection at the University of Kansas,” for the forthcoming Collecting Asia, a book dedicated to East Asian collection history in North America (Association for Asian Studies). Doll created the North America East Asian Collection database to collect East Asian studies program information and data on library strength, which will supplement the Council on East Asian Libraries Statistics database, created and maintained at KU since 2000. Her new project is compiling an annotated bibliography of the KU Chinese rare book collection, a joint project with other Midwest Chinese collection librarians. Doll’s daughter, JoAnn, a National Merit Scholar, studied Mandarin Chinese in Shanghai during the summer of 2009. The pre-departure program in Washington, DC, and intensive language study and homestay in China were funded by the U.S. Department of State National Security Language Initiative for Youth (NSLI-Y) program.

Keith McMahon (East Asian Languages & Cultures) received a year-long fellowship from the National Endowment for the Humanities to work on a research project that is a history of wives and concubines of emperors from the Han to the Qing dynasties (August 2009–July 2010). His fourth book, Polygamy and Sublime Passion: Sexuality in China on the Verge of Modernity, was published in December 2009 by the University of Hawaii Press. McMahon gave a lecture in Chinese to the Second International Conference on Sexualities in China at People’s University in Beijing. His paper was entitled “Concubines in China: Institution and Behavior.”

Kris Ercums (Spencer Museum of Art) participated in the Korea Foundation curatorial workshop, delivered a conference paper at “Beyond Thoreau” in Beijing, and visited six biennials and over 30 artist studios in East Asia. Back at the Spencer, he helped give the Asia Gallery a new look, including a space for contemporary art. After the refined installation of Chu-ting Li’s modern paintings, Ercums curated a slightly edgy show about masculinity simply titled xy and another exhibit, Extra/Ordinary: Video Art from Asia. Wang Tiande’s poetic installation of grass called “Up/Down” grew in front of the museum throughout the year, as did the Spencer’s artist-in-residence program. In the fall of 2009, he returned from a curatorial fellowship by the Andy Warhol Foundation, which funded travel, research, and project development on contemporary art across all of Asia. “Keep an eye out for my new website complete with video blogs,” said Ercums.

Robert Fiorentino (Linguistics) presented work at the International Conference on the Mental Lexicon, the Cognitive Science Society annual meeting, the Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition conference, the L2 Processing and Parsing: State of the Science conference, and the Theoretical and Experimental Neuropsychology conference. Fiorentino and Fund-Reznicek had a manuscript accepted to the journal The Mental Lexicon. He also was awarded an NIH/NIDCD grant, and served as Co-PI on an awarded NSF doctoral dissertation grant.

Sherry Fowler (Art History), with a Hall Center Fellowship in Spring 2009, was able to make great progress toward her book project, Accounts and Images of the Six Kannon Cult in Japan. The cult of the Six Kannon flourished in Japan from the 10th through the 16th centuries, and Fowler’s manuscript will examine the development of its associated sculptures, paintings, and prints. In summer 2009 she was able to travel to Japan as a recipient of a Japan Foundation Fellowship to continue research on this project.

Alison Gabriele (Linguistics) published articles in the EUROSLA Yearbook, Studies in Second Language Acquisition, and the International Journal of Bilingualism and Bilingual Education. She presented her research with several colleagues at the Boston University Conference on Language Development, Generative Approaches to Second Language Acquisition, and Second Language Processing and Parsing. Gabriele gave a plenary presentation at Mind-Context Divide, a workshop on interfaces in language acquisition. She also received the Byron A. Alexander Graduate Mentor Award from CLAS.

Jie Han (Civil, Environmental, & Architectural Engineering) received research funding totaling $257,000 in 2009. He published nine journal papers, with an additional eight papers in press, and delivered 16 conference papers. Han gave 11 invited lectures and paper presentations in the United States, China, Australia, Japan, and Malaysia. He is a member of several committees, including the Second GeoShanghai International Conference; the Technical Organizing Committee, GeoHunan International Conference on Challenges and Recent Advances in Pavement Technologies and Transportation Geotechnics, Hunan, China; chair, New Technologies session, International Symposium on Deep Mixing and Admixture Stabilization, Okinawa; co-chair and editor-in-chief of proceedings, the US-China Workshop on Ground Improvement Technologies, Orlando, FL; 10th Editorial Board of the Chinese Journal of Geotechnical Engineering; and the International Advisory Committee, International Symposium on Lowland Technology, Busan, Korea.

Maki Kaneko (Art History) completed her article entitled, “New Art Collectives in the Service of the War: The Formation of Art Organizations during the Asia-Pacific War.” She also presented two papers: “Sensōga (War Paintings) Past and Present,” at the Greater Kansas City Japan Festival in September 2008; and “Art Under the Umbrella of State Sponsorship: Bunten (The Ministry of Education Art Exhibition) and Japan’s Arts Administration” at the AAS Annual Meeting in Chicago.

John Kennedy (Political Science) has been working on a rural education project in Shaanxi, Ningxia, and Qinghai provinces. The research examines how an improvement in basic nutrition and health needs for rural elementary school children can improve academic performance and educational opportunities. He is working with the Northwest Socio-Economic Development Research Center (NSDRC) in Xian, as well as the Rural Education
William Lindsey (Religious Studies) established two courses, REL 510: Religion in Korea and a graduate seminar on modern Japanese religion, REL 773: Religion in War and Peace, which are now regular offerings in the Religious Studies department. Lindsey is developing a new research line through a conference paper at the AAS Annual Meeting, which focuses on the child’s body as a ritual site of contestation in Japanese religious history. He is also currently preparing for tenure and promotion.

Larry D. Martin (Museum of Natural History) continued collaboration with the Institute for Vertebrate Paleontology and Palaeoanthropology in Beijing and with Northeast University in Shenyang, China. He visited China for 3 weeks in June, where he presented an invited paper to the International Symposium on the Paleogene of Asia at the Institute for Vertebrate Paleontology and Palaeoanthropology in Beijing. Martin also collaborated with former KU student Zhonghe Zhou, who is presently director of the Institute of Vertebrate Paleontology and Palaeoanthropology, on several joint papers. Martin was a guest of Northeastern University in Shenyang, China, where he gave an invited lecture, “Engineering the Origin of Avian Flight.” He visited the Tianyu Museum in Shandong, China, and has begun scientific collaboration with that institution. Martin’s travel to China was supported in part by a CEAS travel grant. He presently has four MA students and one PhD student. He published two journal papers in 2009.

Eric C. Rath (History) made significant progress on two book projects: Food and Fantasy in Early Modern Japan (University of California Press, 2010) interprets secret and published culinary writings from 1400–1868, and Japanese Foodways Past and Present (University of Illinois Press, 2010) covers topics such as early 20th-century cookbooks, ramen noodles and the U.S. occupation, and the wine trade in the 1600s. Rath is also studying the occult in Buddhist communities in Tibet and Japan. During summer 2009, he led a team of faculty and graduate students to China to help develop a school for the underserved Tibetan population. The trip was funded by a U.S. State Dept. Ngwang Choephel Fellowship; the same grant will allow five Tibetan students to study at KU in 2010. In 2009 Rath also participated in a Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership exchange between Kansas and Japanese organic farmers to promote sustainable, organic farming and rural communities.

Catherine Shenoy (School of Business) visited several companies in Beijing that are held by the Applied Portfolio Management (APM) class portfolio. They visited with senior officials of the companies and toured several facilities, including the cryogenic storage facilities for Golden Meditech, a bio-technology company. During the fall and spring semesters the APM class produced several special reports on Golden Meditech and other Chinese investments. Shenoy’s research projects include a new working paper on executive compensation with PhD alum Ron Mau. They presented their paper at several conferences. Shenoy was invited to put together a session on student investment classes at the Southern Finance Association meeting in Key West.

Greg Simpson (Psychology) continued his research of cognitive processing of the Korean alphabet, wherein he investigates whether systematic characteristics of the alphabet (i.e., how visual form maps onto pronunciation) are discernible by novice learners. This research was presented in November 2009 to the Psychonomic Society. In September, he will publish a co-edited volume entitled The Handbook of East Asian Psycholinguistics: Korean. During the 2009-2010 academic year, Simpson served as Interim Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

Dan Stevenson (Religious Studies) serves as chair of Religious Studies, which substantially eats into his research and teaching time. He was in Korea for a week during January 2009, mainly for family business (conclusion of mourning rites). Stevenson served as a discussant on two panels: “Seeing in Early Medieval Chinese Religion” at the AAS Annual Meeting, and “New Studies in Late Ming Chinese Buddhism” at the Annual Meeting of the American Academy of Religion. A chapter, “Buddhist Practice and the...”

**CEAS Members Visit Mayul School**

During our month-long visit to the Tibetan town of Longen in Qinghai Province, PR China, in the summer of 2009, the CEAS team members observed classes taught at the Mayul School, a vocational school for Tibetan nomads. Those classes included Chinese, Tibetan, and math. The team members also taught a conversational English class to the Tibetan students everyday during their stay. Regular curricular development meetings were held with the CEAS team members and the faculty at the Mayul School to make plans for future classes, such as a Thangka painting class.
2009 Faculty Updates (con’t)


Akiko Takeyama (Anthropology and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies) conducted follow-up research for her book manuscript, which is in negotiation with Duke, California, and Hawaii University Presses. She took a research-intensive semester in spring 2009 and wrote two journal articles, which she already submitted. Takeyama has also given lectures and presentations on her research projects at KU and beyond.

Bill Tsutsui (CLAS) completed his first year as associate dean for international studies in CLAS. When not sitting in committee meetings or creating red tape, he published two essays: “Through the Years with Godzila and Tora-san: Film Series in Postwar Japan,” in the collection The Legend Returns and Dies Harder Another Day: Essays on Film Series, and “Nerd Nation: Otaku and Youth Subcultures in Contemporary Japan” in Education About Asia. He recently completed a manuscript for Japanese Popular Culture and Globalization, a short classroom text to be published by the AAS, and has five additional articles and book chapters in press or under submission. Tsutsui presented invited lectures and conference papers at Montana State University, the University of Kentucky, the Japan Studies Association (annual meeting keynote), the Beach Museum of Art at Kansas State University, John Carroll University (Mitsui Distinguished Lecture), the American Society for Environmental History, and the University of Chicago.

Crispin Williams (East Asian Languages & Cultures) was in China through the spring, continuing collaborative work and his own research on the Wenxian Covenants, a set of excavated texts dated to the fifth-century BC. Over the year substantial progress was made on the excavation report for these materials, and he plans to submit it to the publisher next year. In 2009–10, Williams is taught two semesters of Classical Chinese, Ancient China, and Myth, Legend, & Folk Beliefs in East Asia.

Ketty Wong-Cruz (Music) was invited by the Ministry of Culture of Ecuador to present a conference in the First International Colloquium of Musicology in December 2008. In 2009, she presented two conference papers on the role of music in shaping national identities: one at the Hawaii Conference on Arts and Humanities (January), and the other at the Latin American Studies Association Conference in Rio de Janeiro (June). In May, Wong-Cruz taught a 2-week seminar on studies in Ethnomusicology at the University of Cuenca, Ecuador.

Kyoim Yun (East Asian Languages & Cultures) presented a paper dealing with a discordant, collaborative telling of Korea’s founding myth at the Annual Meeting of the American Anthropological Association in November 2008. She developed this paper during spring 2009, and it is now under review by the Journal of American Folklore. She has also been working on her book manuscript, Ritual Economy: Contingencies of Value in Korean Shamanic Practice, and will concentrate on completing it as a Kyujanggak Fellow at Seoul National University this year.

Jie Zhang (Linguistics) researches theoretical phonology with a particular focus on tone languages. His current NSF-funded project investigates the phonetic underpinning as well as the nature of variation in the tone patterns in a number of Chinese dialects, including Beijing, Tianjin, Shanghai, and Southern Min. The project brings him to different parts of China to collect data and collaborate with local scholars. Beyond phonology courses, he regularly teaches Structure of Chinese and Introductory Linguistics.

KU East Asian Library 2009 Update

In April 2009, the Wallace S. Johnson Jr. Readers project was completed. Every Reader is now full-text searchable, some even with updated articles. Endnotes were changed to footnotes for easy reading, and Mandarin phonetic Romanization was changed to Pinyin. All four readers can be found in KU ScholarWorks, the digital archival space for KU publications.

Library funding in 2009 included three internal requests for library materials: Korean studies; social and cultural history of the Silk Road, 600–1700 CE; and a collaboration with art librarian Susan Craig on exhibition catalogs for contemporary Chinese art. The North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources provided for the acquisition of a 25 documentary film set, Kōgai no genten Minamata kara manabu, about the discovery of pollution-related Minamata disease. Two grants from the Korea Foundation allowed acquisition of 200 titles in art history, history, culture, and literature. The EAL also received nearly 100 gift titles from the National Library of China through the U.S.-China Policy Foundation.

The reduction of shelving space for a larger reading area in International Area Studies forced a review of the entire EAL reference collection. Faculty and librarians made decisions to either move items to the regular collection, to the west campus annex, or to keep them in the EAL.

The 2009 Library Travel Grant was awarded to Peter Worthing (History, Texas Christian University), whose book project is tentatively titled Militarizing the Revolution: He Yingqin and Nationalist China.

Vickie Fu Doll, Chinese and Korean studies librarian, made an acquisition trip to Seoul in October. She visited the National Library of Korea and several bookstores. In Taiwan, she attended a National Central Library workshop for overseas Chinese studies librarians. The nine-day workshop focused on Sinology studies and introduced several prestigious collections in Taiwan, Japan, Korea, Mongolia, and Vietnam by well-known scholars of those collections.

Michiko Ito, Japanese studies librarian, also went to Japan from July to August 2009 to purchase rare books in Tokyo.
Andrew Takahisa Tsubaki (1931–2009)

Professor Emeritus Andrew Takahisa Tsubaki died December 16, 2009, at his home in Lawrence, KS. A member of the Theatre & Film and East Asian Languages & Cultures faculty from 1968 until his retirement in 2000, Tsubaki is remembered as a tireless promoter of Japanese art and culture who was active both on campus and within the Lawrence and Kansas City communities.

Born in Tokyo in 1931 to Ken and Yasu Tsubaki, Prof. Tsubaki was raised in Japan. He received his bachelor’s degree in English from Tokyo Gakugei University in 1954. In 1961, Tsubaki earned a master’s degree in theater arts from Texas Christian University, and he completed his doctorate in speech and drama at the University of Illinois in 1967.

Tsubaki is survived by his wife, Lilly Yuri Takashiba, whom he married in 1963. They have two sons, Arthur Yuichi and Philip Takeshi, and six grandchildren.

Tsubaki served as director of the International Theatre Studies Center from 1971 to 2000 and director of International Classical Theatre. He was chair of the East Asian Languages & Cultures department from 1983 to 1990, and served as associate director of CEAS in 1981.

Tsubaki directed several plays, including Kanjincho, Rashomon, and King Lear between 1973 and 1995.

Among his many honors was a 2003 citation from the Japan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and in 2006 Tsubaki was named to the Order of Sacred Treasure by the Japanese government for promoting cultural exchange and mutual understanding between the United States and Japan. Tsubaki was an area editor of the Asian Theatre Journal, University of Honolulu; member of the Editorial Board of Studies in American Drama; contributing author to Indian Theatre: Traditions of Performance; and published seven entries about Japanese traditional plays in the International Dictionary of Theatre, volumes 1 and 2.


Tsubaki was a fifth-degree black belt in Ki Aikido martial arts, and founder of the Kansas Ki Society.

He was a creative impresario who brought energy and drive to whatever project he undertook, whether it was laying the foundation for the annual Greater Kansas City Japan Festival or ensuring that the Lawrence Japanese garden replicated in small the garden-park of Lawrence’s sister city, Hiratsuka, Japan. Though ill, he continued to chair the Friends of Hiratsuka Committee and was planning its fall 2010 guided tour of Japan when he passed away.

Nobleza Asuncion-Landé (1938–2010)

Nobleza Castro Asuncion-Landé, Prof. of Communication Studies, died at her home on February 13, 2010.

Asuncion-Landé joined the KU Communications Studies department in 1968 as an assistant professor. Her teaching interests included intercultural communication, organizational communication, linguistics, and the management of cross-cultural conflict. She was born in Cabanatuan, Philippines, the daughter of Dr. Juan A. Asuncion and Dr. Josefa Castro Asuncion. After earning a bachelor’s degree from the University of the Philippines, Asuncion-Landé taught at the Ateneo de Manila University. In 1960, she completed her PhD in communication studies from Michigan State University. Her postdoctoral appointments before coming to KU included Yale University, the University of Hawaii, and the State University of New York at New Paltz.

Asuncion-Landé married Carl H. Landé, whom she met at Yale when she was an instructor for the Institute of Far Eastern Languages and he was an assistant professor in the political science department. He later would become the Southeast Asia specialist for the KU Department of Political Science. He died in 2005. Together they had two sons: James, who lives in Washington, DC; and Charles, who lives with his wife Kitt in Chicago. They also had three grandchildren: Lilly, Nathaniel, and Luke.

Asuncion-Landé was a Fulbright scholar to Singapore in 1995 and was past division chairperson of the intercultural communication divisions of the International Communication Association and the National Communication Association. In 1999 she received the Phi Beta Delta Honor Society award for excellence in international education, and in 2001 she earned a citation from the Rochester Intercultural Conferences as “a lifelong pioneer in intercultural and international communication ethics.” She was inducted into KU Women’s Hall of Fame in 2001.

Asuncion-Landé remained an active scholar until the time of her death. In addition to her teaching duties, she was editor of Human Communication, a journal of the Pacific & Asian Communication Association. She was a member of the editorial boards for the Howard Journal of Communication and World Communication, a journal of the World Communication Association. In her personal time, she was also an active member of the St. Lawrence Catholic Center and supported various Catholic missions abroad.
2009 Student Scholarships and Awards

2009-2010 FLAS Recipients

Halle O’Neal (Art History) used her summer FLAS to study third-year intensive Japanese at Middlebury College Summer Language Program in Vermont.

Janet Chen (Art History) used her summer FLAS to study first-year Japanese at KU.

Teresa Mathew (Religious Studies) used her summer FLAS to study second-year intensive Japanese at Middlebury College Summer Language Program in Vermont.

Stephen Politzer-Ahles (Linguistics) studied first-year Uyghur at Indiana University’s intensive summer program, and used his academic-year FLAS to study second-year Uyghur at KU.

Steve Davis (Ecology of Evolutionary Biology) used his academic year FLAS to study third-year Japanese.

Amanda Falk (Geology) used her academic year FLAS to study first-year Chinese at KU.

Melinda Varner (History) used her academic year FLAS to study fifth- and sixth-year Japanese at KU.

2009 Amsden Awards for Art History

Marilyn J. Stokstad Art History Graduate Student Award: Shu-Yun Ho, for her major contributions to the educational mission of the department.

Laurence Sickman Scholarship: Established in honor of Sickman, past curator of Chinese art and director of the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art in Kansas City, to recognize an outstanding student specializing in Chinese art. The 2009 award went to Janet Chen.

Scholarship for Academic Excellence in Asian Art History: Rachel Voorhies.

2009 East Asian Languages & Cultures Awards and Scholarships

Mary and Joseph Kuo Scholarship: Given annually in memory of Mary Kuo, a former member of the Lifespan Institute. This year’s recipient was Abigail West.

Andrew and Lilly Tsutaki Award: Awarded to a theatre student who plans to participate in a study abroad program devoted to theatre and/or language and culture. The 2009 recipient was Samantha Phillips.

Grace Wan Chinese Language Award: For outstanding work in the Chinese language, in memory of Grace Wan, a former KU professor of Chinese. The award this year went to Amy Hensen.

Niswander Dictionary Awards: Established by Rex and Sonoko Niswander, in honor of John Niswander, the award recognizes outstanding achievement in three Asian languages. The 2009 winners were Melinda Berger and Alexandra Hastono (Chinese); Shannon Tierney, Korey Keen, and Kelli Sanborn (Japanese); and Beni Dang and Susan Hong (Korean).

Niswander Japanese Language Award: Alicia Cusano

Niswander Korean Language Award: Tiffany Fields

Nelson Scholarship in EALC: Andrea Peterson

2009 Okubo Award

Tom Barker (History), for his paper, “Preserving the Church: The Franciscan Efforts in the Tohoku Region, 1614–1640.” Named after Genji’s Okubo, a supporter of Japanese studies at KU, the award is granted annually for the best student paper on a topic related to Japan.

2009 Chinese Government Scholarship

Libby Allen (School of Business) received the 2009–2010 Chinese Government Scholarship.

Kansas Consortium for Teaching About Asia (KCTA)

KCTA (www.kcta.ku.edu) was fortunate to be funded again by the Freeman Foundation of New York and Stowe, Vermont, although at a reduced level due to the national economic downturn. Nevertheless, in fall 2009 KCTA was able to bring its signature seminar, “East Asian History and Culture for Teachers,” to 20 K-12 educators working in greater Kansas City—area elementary and secondary schools. Participants were drawn from urban, suburban, and rural school districts such as Kansas City, Olathe, and Wathena, respectively, as well as from private schools such as St. James Academy and Pembroke Hill School.

The seminar consists of 25 hours of classroom instruction followed by a gallery talk on Chinese and Japanese art at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Participants receive a cash stipend for attending the seminar and creating lesson plans about East Asia that introduce or increase content about China, Japan, or Korea in the subject areas and grades they teach. They also meet like-minded educators who recognize that students must know about this increasingly important part of the world if they are to be prepared for the 21st century.

More than 350 educators have taken the KCTA seminar since its inception 9 years ago, including 12 educators from South Dakota who participated in the first KCTA “blended” seminar featuring both face-to-face and online instruction led by KCTA Director Bill Tsutsui and Associate Director Nancy Hope in spring 2009.

KCTA alums also are eligible for additional enrichment opportunities, including study tours of East Asia subsidized by the Freeman Foundation. Two alums were chosen to go on the study tour to China in 2009, and 18 more will do so in summer 2010. Upon their return, these alums help to make a more permanent place for East Asian content in the K-12 curriculum.
Faculty Promote China Studies in Costa Rica

In early November Sheree Willis (Executive Director, KU Confucius Institute); Megan Greene (Director, CEAS); and Juliet Kaarbo (Associate Professor, KU Political Science) traveled to KU’s partner institution in Costa Rica, the University of Costa Rica (UCR), to conduct a 3-day workshop on integrating China into their curriculum. In March, John Kennedy (Associate Professor, KU Political Science) and Tailan Chi (Associate Professor, KU School of Business) went for a second workshop. Costa Rica, which recently switched its recognition from Taiwan to the People’s Republic of China, is experiencing a real China wave. A new Chinese-built stadium is going up near the new PRC embassy in San Juan, and Chinese Costa Ricans are working with the San Juan city government to build a new Chinatown. UCR, which has a new Confucius Institute, is also interested in integrating more material about China and other parts of Asia into its general education history and culture course, as well as its courses in disciplines such as history, political science, and business. The November and March workshops were great successes, and CEAS looks forward to a long collaboration with UCR as they continue to develop teaching materials and train their faculty in East Asian studies.

Chinese Outreach Outdoes Itself

More than 650 K-12 students benefited from classroom presentations about Chinese during the Fall 2009 semester alone. For the first time, our outreach program traveled to Eudora to introduce members of the third and fourth grades to Mandarin. The presentations at Eudora Elementary School were written up in the Lawrence Journal-World. From there, news of the program was sent out nationwide by the American Council for Teaching Foreign Language (ACTFL). Because of this media coverage, Perry-LeCompton, El Dorado, and Lawrence’s New York Elementary each requested a visit.

The program, entitled variously “Five Days of Chinese,” “Four Days of Chinese,” “Three Days of Chinese,” or “Introduction to the Chinese Language,” gives children an overview of the Chinese language. Lessons cover tones and writing, some basic vocabulary (including how to count to 100), and a lesson about the Chinese Zodiac in which students supply the names of the zodiac animals—in Chinese!—in a read-aloud tale that explains the origins of the Zodiac. Teachers who participated in the program were given a free copy of the CEAS middle-grade chapter book The Fastest Pig in the West. The book, written by outreach coordinator Randi Hacker, tells the fictional story of Jimmy Lin, a boy who must negotiate two cultures—Chinese and American—in the fictitious Kansas town of Buffalo Grove where his family owns the Imperial Dragon, the only Chinese restaurant. Chapters of the fictional story are interspersed with chapters that talk about Chinese culture. There is an on-line chapter-by-chapter teachers’ guide with lesson plans, lesson ideas, and downloads that can be found at www.kansasintheworld.org.
By giving to CEAS, you contribute to East Asian academic activities, special events, research, and student scholarships. The Center is funded by the university, foundations, and the Department of Education (Title VI National Resource Center grant), and we actively continue to pursue such support. However, contributions from individual donors are essential to underwrite activities not covered by other sources and to demonstrate to corporate sponsors and foundations the value our members attach to the Center and its mission.

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- CEAS programs: lectures, performances, and cultural celebrations
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**You may also donate by check.** Please send your donations, clearly marked “Center for East Asian Studies,” to Lisa Jackson, Development Officer, College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, KU Endowment, P.O. Box 928, Lawrence, KS 66044-0928.

**Undergraduate Asian Studies Initiative Funding Expanded**

In 2008, the Center received $400,000 from the Freeman Foundation of New York and Stowe, Vermont to extend its Undergraduate Asian Studies Initiative (UASI) for another 3 years. Due to the success of the University in fulfilling the programs funded by the initial UASI award of $2 million in 2002-06, the Foundation invited Initiative Director Bill Tsutsui to submit a request for the extension.

UASI programming is focused this time on contemporary China and increasing opportunities for KU students, faculty, staff, and the public to learn more about this important world area. The Initiative thus seeded a new faculty position in Chinese studies, allowing Assistant Professor Hui (Faye) Xiao whose specialization is modern Chinese literature and film, to join the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures in 2009.

The Initiative also brings noted Chinese professionals to the Lawrence campus for residency programs with the Spencer Museum of Art, the School of Journalism and Mass Communications, and the Department of Theatre at KU. In 2009, these respectively were experimental calligrapher and installation artist Wang Tiande, vice president and co-founder of the 21st Century Business Herald Group Li Rong, and eminent opera and film director Chen Shizheng. Their visits had an impact on more than 700 students, faculty, staff, and the public through a total of 18 events including master classes, lectures, classroom visits, brownbag talks, performances, and film screenings.

The Initiative further subsidizes the Kansas Asia Scholars (KAS) program for 15 undergraduates from KU’s School of Education. During the spring 2009 semester, KAS participants met weekly with Sheree Willis to begin their study of Chinese language and culture. In summer 2009, they continued their studies at Huazhong Normal University in Wuhan, China, and then visited selected historical sites including the Great Wall and the Forbidden City with Willis. Upon their return, they shared what they learned about China when doing their student teaching or in other pre-collegiate classrooms.

UASI programming will allow the residency of six additional Chinese professionals on the Lawrence campus and 30 more Kansas Asia Scholars in 2010 and 2011. The Initiative also funds the creation of a graphic novel about a Chinese-American boy from Kansas visiting China for the first time. The novel, which was written by Randi Hacker and illustrated by students from KU’s Department of Design, is scheduled to be distributed to middle schools throughout Kansas later.

**Thank You to our donors!**

*(Gifts received in 2009)*

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**CEAS Mission Statement**

CEAS produces specialists in East Asian languages and cultures and provides expertise on East Asia to the state, region, and nation. On campus, CEAS supports teaching, curriculum development, faculty and student research, the library, and media resources. CEAS outreach programs enrich the educational experience of our students, provide training and educational materials for K-12 teachers and educators at other post-secondary institutions, and make the university’s East Asian resources, including faculty expertise, available to the community, business, government, and the media.

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**Thank You for Supporting CEAS**

Several Kansas Asia Scholars on the Great Wall in June.