2010 has been another great year for CEAS. Most importantly, we competed successfully in a very competitive pool for another Title VI grant that will help fund our activities through the 2013–14 academic year. Notice of the award came a bit later this year, so we had to embark on planning for the grant even before we knew we had the funding to carry out our projects. It was a great relief to learn that we would be able to move forward with nearly everything we had proposed. For this grant cycle, the four KU area studies centers plus CGIS agreed to collaborate on a set of yearly themes, although you will see from our list of past and planned events that CEAS is also doing plenty of programming on other topics and themes.

This year’s collaborative theme is migration, and we have been drawing upon the considerable expertise of KU faculty and graduate students to put on a very nice set of Tea & Talks on various dimensions of this subject. We are working on several activities for the spring that will examine linkages between migration and the arts, including a collaboration with the Lawrence Arts Center on Japanese printmaking and American art in February, a collaborative teacher workshop on the arts and migration with the other centers in April, and a collaborative film series at Liberty Hall.

Connections between migration and religion are the subject of some of our other events. Jonathan Lipman of Mount Holyoke College gave a wonderful talk on Islam in China that examined, among other things, historical connections between Chinese Muslims in Yunnan Province and Central Asia, Egypt, and other parts of the Middle East. In February, Xu Xin, author of *The Jews of Kaifeng*, will speak on Judaism in China. We anticipate that he will talk on both the history of Chinese Jews and Judaism in contemporary China. We will continue to have some funding to bring in speakers to talk about Islam in East Asia (not necessarily related to migration) for the remaining years of the grant, and I would welcome your suggestions for possible speakers.

In addition to our themed programming, Title VI funding allows us to do a number of other things. For example, the grant is seeding a position in Northeast Asian Political Science, for which we are currently bringing in a series of three candidates. By the time you receive this report, the search may have come to fruition with the addition of a Political Scientist with expertise on Korea, Japan, or both. We also have funding to support the creation of a regional network of East Asian language instructors who will encourage more interaction among area language instructors and the improvement of articulation of language instruction between high schools, junior colleges, and KU. And we will be offering funding to help support a couple of faculty members with research travel grants to Xinjiang, Tibet, and/or Mongolia, so they may work material on those regions into their courses.

In keeping with our efforts to expand our capacity in regions where our least commonly taught languages (Uyghur, Tibetan, and Mongolian) are spoken, CEAS has been working with Environmental Studies, CGIS, and faculty in some other units to get the KU-Mongolia Initiative off the ground. Not a Mongolian Studies program in a conventional sense, this initiative aims to create new linkages with Mongolian institutions, identify and work with faculty in a variety of science and social science disciplines who have an interest in doing research in Mongolia, and help them to develop a set of research projects that will enhance our knowledge and understanding of Mongolia. We also hope that this initiative will get more material about Mongolia into social science and science classrooms at KU, and encourage both graduate and undergraduate students to consider taking Mongolian.

In addition to our Title VI NRC grant, we received a significant increase in FLAS funding and are now able to give out more FLAS awards to both graduate and undergraduate students during this grant cycle. As of this past summer, we have been making FLAS awards to undergraduates studying East Asian languages at the second-year level and above. The availability of these new undergraduate FLAS awards is a very exciting development in the program, and we at CEAS hope that faculty will encourage promising students to apply so that they can take advantage of this opportunity.
Director’s letter (con’t)

CEAS also continues to run Freeman-funded programs such as the Kansas Asia Scholars Program, which sends 15 students from the School of Education to China each summer, and the Undergraduate Asian Studies Initiative, which brings three Chinese professionals—a journalist, a visual artist, and a theater director—to KU each year. Through the ongoing KCTA, CEAS continues to teach teachers throughout the Midwest about East Asian history and culture.

Finally, I would like to extend my thanks to the staff of CEAS, Jun, Randi, Leslie, and Nancy, for all that they do to keep CEAS running and to further the Center’s mission. The spring and summer of 2010 were hectic and stressful for all of the staff at CEAS, but they were all wonderfully helpful, efficient, and full of good ideas throughout the grant writing (and waiting) whirlwind, and managed to keep CEAS and its activities running beautifully through it all. I also want to thank our core and affiliated faculty for their generosity in giving time and ideas to CEAS. Without them we could not do all that we do.

We look forward to seeing you at the lunar new year party on February 4.

With best wishes for 2011,
Megan Greene

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Lipman Delivers 2010 Islam in East Asia Lecture

The Center’s new Title VI grant provides for an annual speaker to address issues related to Islam in East Asia. Thanks to the efforts of Arienne Dwyer (Anthropology), in December CEAS hosted Jonathan Lipman, professor of History at Mt. Holyoke University. Lipman spoke to a diverse group of students, faculty, and community members about the history of Muslims in China’s Yunnan Province. He spoke particularly about the case of Yusuf Ma Zhu, a Chinese Muslim scholar and gentryman of the 17th century who identified as both a Confucian and a Muslim.

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ALUMNI: We want to hear from you!

We are always looking for better mechanisms to track our alumni, and we appreciate when we hear about your professional activities.

Please remember, you may create and update entries on our Alumni webpage by emailing Leslie vonHolten, lvonholt@ku.edu

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CEAS Staff

**Director**
Megan Greene

**Accountant and Office Manager**
Jun Fu

**CEAS K–12 Outreach Coordinator**
Randi Hacker

**CEAS Program Coordinator**
Leslie vonHolten

**Associate Program Staff**

**Executive Director, The Confucius Institute at the University of Kansas**
Sheree Welch Willis

**Associate Director for Education, KU Confucius Institute; Associate Director, KCTA**
Nancy Hope

Center for East Asian Studies
The University of Kansas
1440 Jayhawk Blvd. #201
Lawrence, KS 66045

Tel: (785)864-3849
Fax: (785)864-5034
E-mail: ceas@ku.edu
Web site: www.ceas.ku.edu

CEAS publishes electronic and printed newsletters that provide up-to-date information on CEAS events and news. To sign up, please contact Leslie vonHolten at lvonholt@ku.edu, (785) 864-1457.

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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.
Chancellor Travels to South Korea

In early November, new KU Chancellor Bernadette Gray-Little traveled to South Korea to meet with representatives of three universities that have cooperative agreements with KU: Korea University of Technology and Education (KUT), Kookmin University, and Ewha University. These schools have signed partnerships to exchange students and faculty, and KUT has a joint degree program in engineering with KU. Dr. Gray-Little shared her thoughts about her first visit to the peninsula.

How does KU benefit from exchange agreements with universities in South Korea?

For students who want to study in Korea, it simplifies the process to make a connection at another university. At each university that we went to, it was clear that they were eager to have students from KU be there, and they want their students to have the opportunity to be here at KU. It is a very significant advantage for our students to have these opportunities. In particular, to have such strong ties through our alumni. At KUT, the person who showed us around, introduced us, and spent a good deal of time with us is a graduate of the KU School of Engineering and now a very distinguished faculty member at KU. At Kookmin, the chair of their board of trustees is a KU alum. And at Ewha, the dean of the School of Pharmacy is a graduate of our School of Pharmacy. So we were very well connected. When we met with the president of the Korea Foundation—although he is not fortunate enough to be a KU alum—we were accompanied by Dr. Yi Song-mi, who is an associate of Dean Marsha Haugler. It was marvelous.

What would you say to a student who is considering study in South Korea?

There are benefits of studying in another country, another culture, that you can’t get anywhere else. In South Korea, in particular, you get experience in a country that is growing, has a very dynamic society, and has a very long, long history, and that is characterized by all of these things. You see a commitment to true tradition, yet it is ultra modern at the same time. The universities also have particular strengths. For example, with Kookmin we have an exchange around our design programs—ceramics, metal work, fashion design, fields of study like that. While we were there we toured the design studios. The facilities and the products are outstanding. With Ewha, which is the largest women’s university in the world, a student would have the opportunity to be at an institution with a distinctive history and philosophy. It was founded by an American woman who decided that it needed to have Koreans running it. So it’s an institution with an American foundation, a very value-laden mission, and also one where women, particularly Korean women, have been in positions of leadership for many, many years. So there’s some distinctive things about the particular university that you go to that would make it an enriching experience.

How do KU faculty benefit from these exchanges?

There are benefits for faculty who are studying Korean culture, art, history, military history—obviously current military conditions—urban design, urban development, to name a few. With urban design and development—there are 12 million people in Seoul, and the government is building new cities to ease overcrowding. It’s a different level of planning than what we are used to seeing here. It would be a good experience for a faculty member or a student to see.

How do you see the future of KU relationships in Korea?

There are other universities that would like to have exchange agreements with KU. The question for us is, how many really make sense, and how many can we cultivate, and how many can we really have a meaningful relationship with? There will certainly be other opportunities for us. We were even invited to build a research building in one of the new cities! [laughs] There will be a city that will have a lot of the government offices, their equivalent of NSF and NIH, and they’re going to have a research city and park. They invited us to be a part of it. But it’s not something we are planning on.

The commitment of KU alumni in Korea is very strong. Because we have between 200 and 300 South Korean students at KU now, I think that strong alumni commitment is going to continue.

Is there interest among South Korean alumni and donors to expand Korean Studies at KU?

Yes. There have been talks about expanding Korean art history.

What were your general impressions upon visiting South Korea for the first time?

Seoul is a big town! There is a lot of building going on. It’s very modern, very dynamic. There are a lot of people. While we were there, we did go to the DMZ. That was something I thought about while I was there, and I asked a couple of people what it was like to be a couple hours’ drive away from the DMZ and having that area of demarcation, which is significant of conflict and war. Someone told me that people are aware of it, but they don’t think about it on a day-to-day basis. Of course, that was before this latest incident. And so around Seoul there is a lot of activity, a lot of building, a lot of prosperity, and yet it’s this place where nearby conflict and the recognition and longing, the divisiveness is there. As the years go on, the differences between the people from each nation increases. I understand that when someone comes from North Korea to South Korea, they need to be acculturated because they are very, very different, and so it’s something that’s happened over a very long period of time. Anyway, it was something I was thinking about while I was there, but I don’t know how much people who live there think about it everyday. But it was something I was very aware of.

Final thoughts?

If students have a chance to go to South Korea, I encourage them to do so. Time spent there is certainly well worth it in regard to learning, sight seeing, and enjoying.
Our Faculty
CEAS Welcomes New Faculty Members

**Virginia Harper Ho**
School of Law
Virginia Harper Ho joined the KU Law School in 2010 as an associate professor. Prior to KU, she was a visiting assistant professor at the Indiana University Maurer School of Law in Bloomington, Indiana. She received her JD cum laude from Harvard Law School, where she was awarded the 2001 Yong K. Kim Memorial Prize for her research on Chinese labor law reform and was a member of the 1999 Jessup International Moot Court Competition Regional Championship Team (Northeastern Region).

Harper Ho practiced corporate, international, and securities law for six years, representing U.S. and foreign multinationals. She also worked as a law clerk for Chief Judge Robert Pratt of the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Iowa.

In 2003, she was appointed a research fellow at the University of Iowa Center for Asian and Pacific Studies and was a visiting researcher at Zhongshan (Sun Yat Sen) University School of Law in Guangzhou, China, where she also served as a visiting lecturer in international business transactions in spring 2008.

Her work has been published by the *Journal of Corporation Law*, the *Columbia Journal of Asian Law*, and the University of California–Berkeley’s Institute for East Asian Studies.

Harper Ho’s research interests include corporate governance, Chinese law, comparative corporate law, corporate social responsibility, and foreign investment.

**Utako Minai**
Linguistics
Utako Minai is a new assistant professor of Linguistics. Before arriving at KU, she worked as a research scientist at the RIKEN Brain Science Institute in Saitama, Japan.

Minai earned her PhD in Linguistics from the University of Maryland in 2006. Her research and teaching interests are logico-semantic competence in child language, developmental aspects of sentence processing, and cross-linguistic research on language acquisition and processing of language meaning. Her languages of research are English and Japanese.

She directs the Developmental Psycholinguistics Lab, where she conducts experimental studies on how preschool children acquire and use their knowledge about language meaning.

In 2010, Minai published a paper with her colleague, Linguistics assistant professor (and CEAS faculty member) Robert Fiorentino, in *Language Acquisition*, “The Role of the Focus Operator Only in Children’s Sentence Interpretations.” They also presented research findings at the Architectures and Mechanisms for Language Processing conference at the University of York, United Kingdom, with PhD student Yuka Naito-Billen.

At KU, Minai teaches courses such as First Language Acquisition, Research Methods in Linguistics, Structure of Japanese, and Semantics.

**L. Ayu Saraswati**
Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies
Ayu Saraswati has been an assistant professor of Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies since 2008, but recently joined CEAS as an associate member. Her research explores mediated cultural transmission and the production of whiteness in a transnational context, specifically how the shifting meanings of white skin color, as it intersects with other categories of identity such as gender, race, and sexuality, in Indonesia from the pre- to post-colonial period, are embedded in histories of transnational flows of people, ideas, and cultural objects. She examines Javanese adaptations of Indian folktales, beauty product advertisements and transnational women’s magazines, postcolonial Indonesian novels, and the cyberspace as a transnational, visual/virtual, and “emotional” (affective) space.

Saraswati earned her doctorate degree in Women’s Studies from the University of Maryland in 2007 with her dissertation, “The Maze of Gaze: The Color of Beauty in Transnational Indonesia.” Her undergraduate and master’s degrees are in Political Science, with theses focusing on women’s political participation.

In 2010, Saraswati presented a paper, “Cosmopolitan Whiteness: The Effects and Affects of Skin Whitening and Tanning Advertisements in Transnational Women’s Magazines,” at the KU Hall Center for the Humanities Gender Seminar. She has three journal articles forthcoming, as well as a book in progress exploring beauty and race in transnational Indonesia.

During the spring 2010 semester, Saraswati taught Asian Women in the Diaspora and Gender & Sexuality in Cyberspace.
Alfred Tat-kei Ho
Public Administration

Alfred Tat-kei Ho is a new associate professor of Public Administration. Prior to coming to KU, he taught at Iowa State University (1998-2004) and the School of Public & Environmental Affairs at Indiana University–Purdue University Indianapolis (2004-2010).

Ho earned his PhD from the School of Public & Environmental Affairs at Indiana University (Bloomington campus), with majors in public finance and policy analysis complemented with minors in economics and regional economic development. His current research projects explore budgeting, performance management, and citizen engagement by local governments in the United States, China, South Korea, and India. He recently finished some projects related to China’s infrastructure financing, China’s fiscal reforms for the past 30 years, and U.S. energy security concerns in the global economy.

He enjoys playing the piano and badminton. His wife, Virginia Harper Ho, is an associate professor at the KU Law School. They have two children, Elana and Evan—both are great fans of “Jay-Jay” (the Jayhawk mascot).

Christina Lux
French & Italian

Christina Lux has been a Language Program Coordinator in the KU Department of French and Italian since 2007, but recently joined CEAS as an affiliate member because of her research interest in Asian American women writers and in the complex ties between Area Studies and Ethnic Studies. In spring 2010, she delivered a paper, “Dictating the Nation: Multilingual Textuality in Theresa Hak Kyung Cha’s Dictee,” at the Association for Asian American Studies in Austin, Texas.

Lux earned her PhD in Romance Languages from the University of Oregon in 2007 with her thesis, “Literary Warscapes in Contemporary Francophone Sub-Saharan Africa.” Her research and teaching interests are contemporary literature (sub-Saharan Africa, Caribbean, and North America); peace and conflict; gender; literary translation; and creative writing. Her work has appeared in the International Journal of Francophone Studies, Women's Studies Quarterly, and Metamorphoses: A Journal of Literary Translation.

In her role as a KU Language Program Coordinator, Lux supervises the intermediate French language program and teaches Intermediate French, French Phonetics, French for Reading, Advanced Conversation, Contemporary France, Writing Peace and Conflict, and Francophone African Literature.

J. Christopher Brown
Geology and Environmental Studies

Chris Brown is an associate professor of Geography and director of the KU Environmental Studies Program. He joined KU in 2001 and became a member of CEAS in 2010 through his work with the KU–Mongolia Initiative.

Brown earned his PhD in geography from the University of California, Los Angeles, with his dissertation, “Beekeeping in the Amazon: Rural Development, Conservation, and Participation in Rondonia, Brazil.” His current research and teaching interests are the political and ecological dynamics of development and conservation, biogeography, development institutions and policy, NGOs, human-environment relations, Latin America, Amazonia, Brazil, and Mongolia.

During summer 2010, Brown traveled to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, with KU Mongolia language instructor Battsetseg Serj for preliminary work on the KU–Mongolia Initiative, which is housed in CEAS.

Malcolm Gibson
School of Journalism

Malcolm Gibson has been instrumental in the success of the KU Undergraduate Asian Studies Initiative since its beginning in 2008. A KU journalism instructor since 1996, he joined CEAS as an affiliate member in 2010.

Before coming to KU, Gibson worked for 34 years as a newspaper reporter, editor, and news executive. His publishing credits include the Miami Herald, the Associated Press, and the New York Times Company. Much of his career was spent reporting from around the world, including East Asia. His area of particular interest, however, was Africa, where he hitchhiked extensively, climbed Mt. Kilimanjaro, and even interviewed Nelson Mandela in 1993.

Today Gibson serves as general manager of the University Daily Kansan and teaches International Journalism, among other courses. His current research interests are African and African-American war correspondents in World War II, and he is currently working on an anthology of African-American journalism of the 20th century.

In 2009 and 2010 Gibson worked closely with Nancy Hope and Jun Fu of CEAS to organize visits by journalists Li Rong and Li Shuo, respectively. He proved to be an energetic host, planning multiple classroom lectures and events as well as visits to newsrooms as far away as Kansas City and Wichita.

Kelly Chong (Sociology) continues work on her current project on Asian American intermarriage. She also made a preliminary field trip to South Korea during summer 2010 to examine the archives of early 20th-century missionary writings on Korea for her next research project on the history of Western missionary activities in Korea and contemporary Korean missionary activities in the world. She won a second Distinguished Book Prize for her book *Deliverance and Submission: Evangelical Women and the Negotiation of Patriarchy in South Korea* (Harvard University Press, 2008) from the Midwest Sociological Society in 2010.


Arienne Dwyer (Anthropology) published a revised version of the textbook *Greetings from the Teklimakan: A Handbook of Modern Uyghur* with her co-authors Tarjei Engesæth and Mahire Yakup in August 2010. Since its initial publication in 2009, the handbook has been downloaded from KU ScholarWorks over 2000 times. In 2010, Dwyer also accepted a part-time position as the faculty co-director of KU’s new Institute for Digital Humanities. She looks forward to involving East Asia faculty in exploring digital humanities tools and methods in the near future.

Patricia Graham (CEAS Research Associate) completed the Appraisers Association of America certification exams in Chinese, Korean, and Japanese art in 2009, and then was asked to completely rewrite the Chinese and Japanese exams in 2010. Graham also recently published “The Savior As Ascetic: Shakyamuni Undergoing Austerities by Kano Kazunobu” (Spencer Museum of Art Register, available at http://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/dspace/handle/1808/6823) and major revisions to two chapters in the fourth edition of Marilyn Stokstad’s *Art History* survey textbook (chapter 11, “Japan to 1333,” and chapter 25, “Japan after 1333.”) In April, she chaired a panel, “Monumentality in Modern and Contemporary Asian Art and Architecture,” during which she delivered a paper, “Religious Devotion As Spectacle: Buddha-Buildings in Modern and Contemporary Japan,” at the Midwest Art History Society annual meeting. In September 2009 she gave a talk at Amherst College, “Searching for the Spirit of the Sages: The Japanese Tea Ceremony for Sencha.”

Sherry Fowler (Art History) traveled to Japan for a short research trip and gave a talk, “Multiplying Merit with Images of Thirty-Three Kannon,” for the Asian Studies Group at Doshisha University, Kyoto. While there, she met graduate students Hillary Pedersen and Halle O’Neal and received their dissertation updates. Another highlight was visiting the temple Daienji in Tokyo with alumna Pat Fister (PhD ’83) and seeing sculptures by Takamura Koun. Her book project addresses the images of the Six Kannon cult, and she was especially thrilled to see a set of tiny images of seven Kannon by Koun that survived the temple’s bombing during World War II. In the past year, Fowler also gave talks at the University of Virginia, the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture at Columbia University, the University of Chicago, and an invited talk at the Columbia Center for Japanese Religion. Fowler’s article, “Locating Tomyoji and Its ‘Six’ Kannon,” was published in English and Japanese in *Capturing the “Original”: Archives for Cultural Properties* by the National Research Institute for Cultural Properties, Tokyo. She also wrote entries that appeared in the catalogue *Pilgrimage and Buddhist Art* (Yale University Press).

In April, Ed Drea gave the Annual Grant Goodman Distinguished Lecture in Japanese Studies with his talk, “From Samurai to Soldiers.” He explored the challenges that Japan faced while creating a new imperial army amid samurai insurrections, peasant uprisings, and sweeping social change, and how that creation should be viewed as a revolutionary achievement. Drea described how the army was built, who became soldiers, and the lasting consequences for Japan. After military service in Japan and Vietnam, Drea received his MA in international relations from Sophia University in Tokyo and his PhD in Modern Japanese History from KU. He has taught at the US Army Command & General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, and the US Army War College, Carlisle Barracks, Pennsylvania, and was Chief of the Research and Analysis Division at the US Army Center of Military History in Washington, DC. He is the recipient of the Society for Military History’s award for Best Book on Non-US Military History. His most recent book, *Japan’s Imperial Army: Its Rise and Fall, 1853-1945*, is published by the University Press of Kansas.
Marsha Haufler (Art History and Associate Dean, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences) traveled a lot this year. She gave a presentation, “Relationships between the Joseon and Ming/Qing Portraits of Buddhist Monks,” at the 11th Workshop for Korean Art Curators in Seoul. This past spring, she gave the keynote lecture, “Views from the Back of the Book: Monks, Women, and Foreigners,” for a graduate-student symposium in East Asian Art at Princeton University. Recently she presented two papers: “Mosaics As a Sacred Art in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea,” at Heidelberg University, and “Mosaics of the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea” for the International Symposium on “Exploring North Korean Arts,” organized by the University of Vienna and the Museum of Applied Arts/Contemporary Art, Vienna. Haufler also recently completed her first year on the Board of Advisors for the Center for Advanced Study in the Visual Arts at the National Gallery of Art, and she is continuing as Chair of the Editorial Board for Archives of Asian Art. Closer to home, she just stepped into a new role as Associate Dean for International Studies in the KU College of Liberal Arts & Sciences.


Maki Kaneko (Art History) presented papers on the Japanese oil painter Mukai Junkichi at the East Asian and South East Asian Councils Conference in Vancouver and the Asia Studies Conference in Japan in Tokyo. She was invited to lecture about war propaganda artists for the Visual and Material Perspectives on East Asia Workshop at the University of Chicago. Based on these paper presentations, Kaneko completed the article “Mukai Junkichi’s Transformation from a War into Minka (Folk House) Painter” (forthcoming, Archives of Asian Art). Kaneko also continues her work on her book project on the visual arts of Japan during the Asia-Pacific War and the Allied Occupation. After receiving an international travel grant from CEAS, she made a research trip to Tokyo during summer 2010. Articles based on some of the book’s chapters will be published in the forthcoming anthology Dark Valley: Japanese Art and the Second World War and Nihon kingendai bijutsu zenshi (Comprehensive History of Modern and Contemporary Japanese Art). Kaneko was delighted to co-teach two seminars on transnational art during the 2009–2010 academic year: Contemporary Asian Artists Overseas (with David Cateforis) and the Franklin D. Murphy Seminar Modernity and Identity of Transnational Japan: 1850–1950 (with Sherry Fowler).

CEAS Advisory Committee Awards

The CEAS Faculty Service Award was given to Yang Lu (History) for organizing the Wallace Johnson Memorial Lecture in Medieval Chinese Studies and securing a partnership with the Tang Foundation on behalf of CEAS.

Research Travel Grants were awarded to Yan Bing Zhang (Communication Studies), Jie Han (Civil, Environmental, & Architectural Engineering), Maki Kaneko (Art History), Akiko Takeyama (Anthropology and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies), Pok-Chi Lau (Art), Crispin Williams (EALC), Kelly Chong (Sociology), and John Kennedy (Political Science).

Course Development Grants were awarded to the following faculty members:

Akiko Takeyama, for ANTH/EALC/WGSS 363: East Asia in Global Perspectives

Faye Xiao, for EALC 590: Contemporary Chinese Cinema, Culture, & Society

Crispin Williams, for CHIN 544: Readings in Classical Chinese: Daoist Philosophical Texts

Michael Baskett, for FMS 302/702: Survey of South Asian Film

So-Min Cheong, for GEOG 396: China’s Geographies

Promotions

Jie Han (Civil, Environmental, & Architectural Engineering)
Full Professor

Marsha Haufler (Art History)
Associate Dean of International Studies, College of Liberal Arts & Sciences

Xingong Li (Geography)
Associate Professor with tenure

William Lindsey (Religious Studies)
Associate Professor with tenure

Yoonmi Nam (Visual Art)
Associate Chair, Visual Art
Faculty updates (con’t)

John Kennedy (Political Science) is currently in Xian, China, with his wife and five-year-old daughter on a Faculty Research Fulbright Grant for the year. He and his colleagues are examining how improvements in nutritional standards in the poorest areas of Gansu, Ningxia, Shaanxi, and Qinghai provinces can improve rural elementary students’ academic performance. The aim is to influence China’s educational investment policies. Kennedy is working at the Northwest Socio-economic Development Research Center (NSDRC) at Northwest University, Xian. The NSDRC was established in 2004 with funding from the Ford Foundation as well as some seed funding from KU. He has two KU students who received Fulbright grants and are working through the NSDRC in China this year: Mao Kuo-Ray and Alina Scalora. Another goal while in China is to co-author a social science research methods textbook in Chinese. This is not a translation from English, but an original Chinese text using China examples. Kennedy has also published several articles and book chapters this year.

William Lindsey (Religious Studies) received tenure in spring 2010. Currently he is working with a range of early modern Japanese materials (medical, educational, and ritual texts as well as visual genre and artifacts of non-written material culture) in continuing to establish a new line of research investigating the constructions and contestations of childhood in Tokugawa, Japan. Lindsey spent summer 2010 in Japan traveling, and in particular took time to see the events commemorating the 1300th anniversary of the city of Nara. Also in 2010, Lindsey helped one of his graduate students, Teresa Mathew, secure funding to teach English to elementary and junior high children in Amakusa, Kumamoto, Japan, in September.

Christina Lux (French & Italian) presented “Dictating the Nation: Multilingual Textuality in Theresa Hak Kyung Cha’s Dictee” at the Association for Asian American Studies in Austin, Texas. She subsequently co-authored an article on Cha with Hee-Jung Serenity Joo (University of Manitoba), which is currently under review. Lux also presented “Fluid Attachment: An Ethics in Relation to Véronique Tadjo’s Reine Pokou” at the National Women’s Studies Association in Atlanta, Georgia. Her article “Narrative Tensions in Ahmadou Kourouma’s Allah n’est pas obligé: Running through History and Attaching to the Environment” was published in the International Journal of Francophone Studies in June 2010. Her poetry was also published in Women’s Studies Quarterly that same month. Finally, Lux co-authored a French language assessment program that was published by Heinle on CD-ROM.

Amy McNair (Art History) presented two papers this year: “Early Spring As ‘Landscape of Truth’: Xuanhe huapu on Guo Xi,” for the workshop Early Spring (1072): Multiple Views at Harvard University; and “Is this Writing Barbarous? A Medieval Chinese Stele and Its Twentieth-century Reception” at the University of Florida. In addition, McNair chaired the open session on East Asian art at the College Art Association conference in February, and took part in the Commons Interdisciplinary Research Initiative in Nature & Culture’s “Power of Color in Early and Medieval East Asia,” where she presented the talk, “Chinese Painting Pigments in Medieval Times: Uses and Symbolism.”

Yoonmi Nam (Art) had two solo exhibitions: Yoonmi Nam: Transient Landscapes at the Beach Museum of Art in Manhattan, Kansas, and Book of Rocks, Flowers, and Birds at the Front Gallery in New Orleans, Louisiana. Her prints and drawings were also included in several group exhibitions. One of these exhibitions is a traveling show in Texas titled Convergence: Korean Prints Now. In addition, Nam was selected to be one of 15 Kansas City area artists to be included in the Kansas City Collection (www.thecollection.com). In summer 2010, Nam taught a sumi ink and brush workshop at the Penland School of Crafts in Penland, North Carolina. Next year she will collaborate with two other artists on a series of large-scale prints as an artist-in-residence at the Frans Masereel Centrum in Kasterlee, Belgium. The works completed during this residency will be exhibited in Kansas City and Sydney, Australia. Beginning in fall 2010, Nam began to serve as the Associate Chair of the Department of Visual Art at KU.

Eric Rath (History) published two books: Food and Fantasy in Early Modern Japan (University of California Press) on the origins of Japanese cuisine, and a volume he co-edited, Japanese Foodways Past and Present (University of Illinois Press). As principle investigator of the U.S. Department of State–funded project, “A Partnership for Arts Education at a Tibetan School,” Rath led a team of KU faculty and graduate students to rural Qinghai, China, to help develop the curriculum for a new school for Tibetan nomads. This summer the team saw completion of construction of the school, which now offers vocational training to some 200 students with plans to expand for another 400. Their activities included teaching English, developing curriculum with the faculty, and assisting the creation of a vocational training program in traditional Tibetan painting. Descriptions of these activities and short articles about life in the region appear on the project website, http://mayulschool.wordpress.com/. The project concludes next semester when it funds five Tibetan students to study at KU. In the last year, Rath gave invited talks at the University of California, Berkeley, Pomona College, and the University of Toronto, and he published a short article on Tibetan food in Gastronomica.

Dan Stevenson (Religious Studies) was invited to give a talk at the annual Hwei Tai Seminar in Buddhist Studies at Stanford University in March, a lecture at Dartmouth College in May, and delivered the keynote speech for a conference on Buddhism in contemporary Taiwan and China in Taipei in May. Also in 2010, Stevenson published a book chapter in Readings of the Lotus Sutra (Princeton University Press) and a refereed article. Two additional articles (chapters for a volume) are currently under review at Columbia University Press. At the moment, he is completing a chapter titled “Buddhism in the Song,” which was invited for the volume Religion in Song China due to be published in the Cambridge Press History of China series.

Akiko Takeyama (Anthropology and Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies) spent a month and a half in Tokyo, Japan, between May and June 2010 with research
funding from CEAS, the Center for Research (KUCR), and International Programs. She conducted follow-up research on Japan’s host clubs and pilot research on a possible future project on the issue of North Korea. Her book project, *Affect Economy: Neoliberal Globalization and Gender Politics in Tokyo Host Clubs,* was awarded the Wenner-Gren Hunt Postdoctoral Fellowship. She is on research leave for 2010–2011 to complete the book. Her journal article, “Intimacy for Sale: Masculinity, Entrepreneurship, and Commodity Self in Japan’s Neoliberal Situation,” appeared in the September issue of *Japanese Studies.* Takeyama gave presentations at Temple University in Japan, University of Tokyo, University of Pittsburgh, Johnson County Community College, the Association of Regional Centers for Asian Studies, the Heart of America Japan-America Society, and the Greater Kansas City Japan Festival, among others.

**Crispin Williams** (EALC) attended a workshop on the Tsingshua bamboo-slip manuscripts held at Dartmouth College. He received KU General Research Fund and Hall Center funding to support continuing work over the summer in China on the processing, research, and preparation for publication of the Wenxian Covenant Texts. He also received a CEAS New Course Development Grant for a readings course on Daoist Philosophical Texts, which will be offered spring 2011. During the 2009–2010 academic year, Williams taught two semesters of classical Chinese: a beginning course in the fall, followed in the spring by an extensive reading course on Confucian philosophical texts in which students read substantial sections of the Mencius along with a selection of passages from the Analects and the Xunzi.

**Ketty Wong-Cruz** (Music) submitted her book manuscript, *Whose National Music? Identity, Mestizaje, and Migration in Ecuador* to Temple University Press. Her article “The Song of the National Soul: The Ecuadorian Pasillo in the Twentieth Century” was accepted for publication in the *Latin American Music Review.* Another article, “The Pasillo and the Sanjuanito: Two Contrasting Metaphors for the Ecuadorian National Identity” will appear in the *Festschrift Volume* in honor of Gerard Béhague in 2011. She has also reviewed two textbooks on Latin American popular music for Oxford University Press and Norton & Company. In the summer 2010, Wong-Cruz taught a seminar on research methods in ethnomusicology and a specialized workshop on Andean Ethnomusicology at the Pontificia Universidad Católica in Quito, Ecuador, from July 30 to August 13. Forty-one students were enrolled in these 32-hour courses, which are part of the Master’s of Music program of the Universidad de Cuenca.

**H. Faye Xiao** (EALC) published two articles in the *Journal of Contemporary China* and *Collection of Women’s Studies,* and a book review in the *Journal of International and Global Studies.* She also made presentations about her current research at the 51st Annual Conference of the American Association for Chinese Studies (AACS) and the Annual Conference of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS). Currently Xiao is working on her first book project, *Chinese-Style Divorces: Narratives of Gender, Class, and Family in Post-Reform Chinese Literature and Culture.* She has taught modern Chinese Literature in Translation; Introduction to Contemporary China; Advanced Chinese; and Gender, Marriage, and Family in Modern China. Next year she will offer two new courses, Contemporary Chinese Literature and Chinese Popular Culture.

**Kyoim Yun**’s (EALC) paper, “Negotiating a Korean National Myth: Dialogic Interplay and Entextualization in an Ethnographic Encounter,” was accepted by the *Journal of American Folklore* and will be published in October 2011. As a 2009-2010 Kyujanggak Fellow of Seoul National University (SNU) in Seoul, South Korea, Yun conducted archival research on Korean shamanism during the Koryŏ and Chosŏn dynasties and presented her research findings at SNU. A paper developed from this talk is now under review by a peer-reviewed journal. Revision of this paper during the summer was supported by KU’s General Research Fund. She also conducted follow-up research on Cheju Island in the spring with funding provided by an International Travel Grant from CEAS. Yun gave a short presentation on issues in the anthropology of Korea as a roundtable speaker at the Korean Studies in the 21st Century conference at SNU in April, and served as a referee for two article manuscripts for *Korean Studies* and *Journal of Folklore Research.*

**Jie Zhang** (Linguistics) continues his NSF-funded project, “Testing the Productivity in Chinese Tone Sandhi,” and traveled to Tianjin and Shanghai, China, for data collection. His grant currently supports two graduate students. He published articles in *Phonology, Lingua,* *Studies in the Linguistic Sciences,* and two conference proceedings volumes, and he presented his research at the Generative Linguistics in the Old World conference, Beijing; the 6th International Workshop on Theoretical East Asian Linguistics, Beijing; the annual meeting of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics, Paris; and the Mid-America Linguistics Conference, Columbia, Mo.

**Jane Zhao** (Business) won the 2010 KU School of Business Guy O. and Rosa Lee Mabry Best Paper Award for her paper, “A Multilevel Perspective of Knowledge Transfer: Evidence from the Chinese Automotive Industry” (with J. Anand, *Strategic Management Journal, 30*(9)).

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**In the News**

Below are just a few examples of KU East Asian Studies making headlines in 2010.

**Reuters: Asian-Americans in U.S. Earn Less than White Men: Study**

KU Sociology assistant professor ChangHwan Kim was interviewed following publication of his research in the *American Sociological Review.* The lede: “Asian-American men are paid up to 29% less than equally qualified white males.” The story was also picked up in the Chinese press. (December 2010)

**PBS Art Through Time: Writing**

KU Art History professor David Cateforis discussed the work of artist Xu Bing, who uses Chinese calligraphy as a springboard for his visual art. Quote: “So it is not only a way of writing, but when we look at it, we are encouraged into a new way of seeing.” (Summer 2010)

**ScienceDaily: Venomous Prehistoric Raptor Discovered in China**

Larry Martin, KU professor of vertebrate paleontology, was interviewed about his co-discovery of the Sinornithosaurus. The lede: “A group of University of Kansas researchers working with Chinese colleagues have discovered a venomous, birdlike raptor that thrived some 128 million years ago in China.” (December 2009)
Mid-Autumn Moon Viewing Party

In September CEAS celebrated the full autumn moon with poetry and a concert by the popular Kansas City Chinese Music Ensemble. A steady breeze added to the ambience as the moonlight reflected off the pond and children played in the grass around the Dole Institute of Politics.

Outreach
You’re All Invited Back Again

Over the past 7 years, the Center’s K–12 Outreach program has built a loyal base of teachers who turn to us for all of their East Asian educational needs. From Lansing to Lawrence, Kansas City, Kansas, to Kansas City, Missouri, from elementary schools to high schools, teachers call us time and again to bring presentations, programs, speakers, and stories to their students. Some of the most popular presentations are the following:

**Five Days of Chinese:** Geared toward students in grades K–4, this interactive program teaches basic Chinese vocabulary, numbers, and colors, and finishes up with a story about the Chinese zodiac.

**Introduction to Chinese:** For grades 5–12, this presentation introduces older students to the tones and the writing system, along with some vocabulary.

**East Asian Story Time:** This presentation for the lower grades brings a native speaker of Chinese, Japanese, or Korean to the class to teach some vocabulary, and then read a story in the target language side-by-side with the same story in English. Stories are the *Rainbow Fish* (Korean), *Where Are You Going?* (Japanese), and *A Kiss for Little Bear* (Chinese). The story time ends with an activity that reinforces the new vocabulary.

**The Song of Mulan:** Designed to complement the 6th-grade Ancient Civilization unit, this program focuses on the historic Mulan, teaches basic spoken and written vocabulary, then gives students a chance to hear the poem in Chinese and English.

**Furoshiki Wrapping:** Designed for middle and high school, college, and educator levels, participants learn to wrap gifts using traditional Japanese furoshiki, or cloths.

**Brush Calligraphy:** Each year, the Center brings a calligraphy expert to the Kansas City Art Institute to work with students in its art history classes.

**Annual Visits:** Each year, CEAS is invited to teach at the Lansing Culture Day, Southwest Junior High East Asian Unit Kick-off, and Southwest Junior High. Presentations have exposed students to calligraphy, furoshiki, Korean children’s games, martial arts, taiko drumming, and Chinese, Korean, Japanese, and Mongolian language.

CEAS Partners with Center for Economic Education

CEAS collaborated with the KU Center for Economic Education to offer a credit-bearing course for teachers in summer 2010. Eleven teachers and librarians from around Kansas enrolled in Teaching about East Asia in the Global Economy: 1200 to the Present, which met at the Edwards campus and included activities at the Nelson-Atkins Museum and the Truman Library. In June 2011, CEAS and CEE will team up again to offer a new credit-bearing course for teachers, The Rise of East Asia in the Global Economy, which will focus primarily on the last 100 years.

2010 East Asia Library Grant Scholar

In November, Chia Ning, history professor at Central College in Pella, Iowa, visited KU as the 2010 East Asia Library Grant Scholar. Her current research explores why the Qing dynasty needed both Libu and Lifanyuan boards among their eight key institutions. She shared her research in a Friday afternoon Tea & Talk, “The Institutional Renovation of the Manchu Dynasty: Lifanyuan and Libu in the Qing Empire Building.”

Photo left to right: East Asia librarian Vickie Doll, professor emeritus John Dardess, and visiting scholar Chia Ning

Students learn Chinese vocabulary at Southwest Junior High

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The East Asian Library had another year of growth in 2010. Total collection size is now over 300,000 items, with 3,763 periodical titles including eJournals from online databases. The library received three external grants in 2010. A Korean Studies Resource grant partially covers two subscriptions of three aggregate databases by the Korea Foundation. The Metropolitan Center for Far Eastern Art Studies granted $4,000 to purchase back issues of the Japanese art magazine, Bijutsu techo (Art Notes), primary sources on the World Expo ’70 in Osaka, and dictionaries on stone sculptures. The North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources granted $2,300 to purchase back issues of SF Magazine, which played a central role in developing science fiction in postwar Japan and indirectly influenced popular culture elements such as manga and anime.

Several new titles were added to the East Asian Studies Community in KU ScholarWorks, a digital repository for scholarly work created by KU faculty and staff. Among them, Greetings from the Teklimakan: A Handbook of Modern Uyghur, co-authored by Tarjei Engesæth, Arienne Dwyer, and Mahire Yakup, has had 3,275 downloads and 4,026 “browses” from 78 countries as of December 2010, one year after its online debut.

In November, Eric Rath (History) moderated the CEAS Research Forum. Faculty members made 13 presentations covering various disciplines. The event proved to be an excellent opportunity for faculty to learn and share their research interests with colleagues. A follow-up library exhibition of faculty research, publication, and library materials is planned for 2011.

In spring 2010, librarians Michiko Ito and Vickie Doll gave six class presentations to about 150 7th graders in social studies and geography classes at South Junior High School in Lawrence. The topic was the lives of junior high kids in China and Japan. Students also tried their hands at Chinese calligraphy and Japanese furoshiki gift wrapping.

2010 CEAS Tea & Talks, Lectures, Conferences, Symposia, & Public Events

January 28 || Tea & Talk: Nancy Abelman, “Maternal Excess: Rendering Kinship, Care, and Family in Contemporary South Korean Film”
February 3 || Tea & Talk: Kris Ercums, “Community 2009: Asian Art Worlds”
February 19 || Lunar New Year Party
February 23 || Conference: “East Asia Leading the World Recovery”
February 25 || Tea & Talk: Seungsook Moon, “Cultural Politics of Commemorating Roh Moo Hyun”
March 1 || Lecture: Sachi Nakachi, “Surviving Hiroshima: A Daughter’s Story.”
March 4 || Tea & Talk: Elena Kim, “From Third World Orphans to First World Adoptees: Fifty Years of Transnational Korean Adoption”
March 8 || Wallace Johnson Memorial Lecture in Medieval Chinese Culture: Valerie Hansen, “A New History of the Silk Road”
April 12 || Annual Grant Goodman Distinguished Lecture in Japanese Studies: Edward Drea, “From Samurai to Soldiers”
April 20 || Career Talk: Alex Arvizu, “Working As a Foreign Service Officer”
April 22 || Artist’s Lecture: Yee Sookyung
April 23 || Symposium: “Culture and Security in Central Asia”
Summer 2010 || Discover Korea: Summer Book Discussion Group
August 2 || Concert: The Junkeo Takeo Koto Concert, featuring members of the Wakatake-kai Koto Group of Tokyo
September 22 || Annual Mid-Autumn Moon-Viewing Festival

September 23 || Tea & Talk: Hai Cao, “The Image of Vietnamese Women Over Time”
September 24 || Career Talk: Michael Rizzi, “Graduate Programs in Public Administration and International Affairs”
October 7 || Tea & Talk: David Lambertson & Takao Shibata, “North Korea”
October 21 || Tea & Talk: Michael Taylor, “The Tibetan Plateau: From the Perspective of a Mountain Builder”
November 5 || Brown-bag Talk: Barbara Hayford, “Relationship Between Grazing Riparian Range Condition and Stream Water Quality in Mongolia”
November 5 || Tea & Talk: Chia Ning, “The Institutional Renovation of the Manchu Dynasty: Lifanyuan and Libu in the Qing Empire Building”
November 11 || Tea & Talk: Pok-Chi Lau, “Chinese Diaspora in Cuba”
November 12 || CEAS Research Forum
December 3 || Tea & Talk: Jonathan Lipman, “Authentically Confucian, Authentically Muslim: Personal and Community Identities in Yunnan since the Qing Conquest”
Our 2010-2011 FLAS Recipients

**Summer FLAS**

**Brian Hogarth** (MA, Art History) studied first-year intensive Chinese at KU.

**Breanna Steidley** (MA, Linguistics) studied first-year intensive Korean at KU.

**Abigail West** (MA, East Asian Languages & Cultures) studied 5th-year intensive Chinese at the International Chinese Summer Language Program at National Taiwan University.

**Ashley Thompson** (MA, Anthropology) studied first-year Uyghur at Indiana University’s intensive summer program.

**James D. Parker** (MA, East Asian Languages & Cultures) studied intensive first-year Korean at KU.

**Academic Year FLAS**

**David Kaufman** (PhD, Anthropology) is studying 2nd-year Uyghur at KU.

**Melinda Varner** (PhD, History) is studying advanced Japanese at KU.

**Steven Davis** (PhD, Ecology & Evolutionary Biology) is studying 4th-year Japanese at KU.

**Andrew Kauffman** (MA, East Asian Languages & Cultures) is studying 4th-year Chinese at KU.

**Undergraduate FLAS**

**Daniel Hudson** (Business and Engineering), 2nd-year Chinese

**Diane Hughes** (Linguistics and East Asian Languages & Cultures), 3rd-year Chinese

**Casey Robinson** (East Asian Languages & Cultures and Business Administration), 3rd-year Japanese

**Margaret F. Neff** (Civil Engineering), 2nd-year Chinese

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**Kleinberg Scholarship**

**Kelli Sanborn** (East Asian Languages & Cultures) will attend J.F. Oberlin in Tokyo. The Kleinberg Scholarship is supported by Professor Emeritus Jill Kleinberg.

**Chinese Government Scholarship**

**Alexandria Yueh** (East Asian Languages & Cultures) is studying Chinese language at Dongnan University.

**Matthew Brewer** (MA, East Asian Languages & Cultures) is studying Chinese at Nankai University.

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**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. The 2010 award went to **Abigail West**.

**Andrew and Lilly Tsubaki Award**: Awarded to a theatre student who plans to participate in a study abroad program devoted to theatre and/or language and culture. The 2010 recipient was **Keith Swafford**.

**Grace Wan Chinese Language Award**: For outstanding work in the Chinese language, in memory of Grace Wan, a former KU professor of Chinese. The 2010 award went to **Diane Hughes**.

**Niswander Dictionary Awards**: Established by Rex and Sonoko Niswander, in honor of John Niswander, the award recognizes outstanding achievement in three Asian languages. The 2010 winners were **Andrew Genova** (Chinese), **Jacob Rhodes** (Chinese), **David Nelson** (Japanese), **Anthony Seng** (Japanese), and **Sarah J. Gross** (Korean).

**E. John Niswander Award for Excellence in Intermediate Korean**: **Susan Hong**

**E. John Niswander Award for Excellence in Intermediate Japanese**: **Korey Keen**

**Nelson Scholarship in EALC**: Awarded on the basis of academic excellence in EALC to a second-semester junior. The 2010 recipient was **Jenna Kawase**.

**Okubo Award**

**Andrea Peterson** (East Asian Languages & Cultures and Political Science) for her paper, “Putting Your Money Where Your Mouth Is: The Impact of Prime Minister Koizumi’s Visits to the Yasukuni Shrine on Sino-Japanese Trade.” Named after Genji Okubo, a supporter of Japanese studies at KU, the award is granted annually for the best student paper on a topic related to Japan.

**Amsden Awards for Art History**

**Marilyn Stokstad Award**: **Janet Chen** and **Rachel Voorhies**, for major contributions to the educational mission of the department. The award is supported by Professor Emeritus Marilyn Stockstad.

**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, the award recognizes an outstanding student specializing in Chinese art history. The 2010 recipient is **Sooa Im**.

**Scholarship for Academic Excellence in Asian Art History**: The 2010 award went to **Ai-Lian Liu**.
Lunar New Year Party: Year of the Tiger

Students and faculty gathered at the ECM on February 19 to celebrate the Year of the Tiger. Dumplings, sushi, jop chai, kimchi, and Uyghur rice made by student volunteers were among the dinner buffet specialities. Entertainment was provided by a local kindergarten class and KU language students, and a traditional lion dance was performed by the KU Chinese Student Association.

Friends of the Center for East Asian Studies

By giving to CEAS, you contribute to East Asian academic activities, special events, research, and student scholarships like those described in preceding pages.

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 not only to underwrite activities not covered by other sources, but also to demonstrate to corporate sponsors and foundations the value our alumni, members, and friends attach to the Center and its mission.

You may donate to an unrestricted fund and allow the Center to decide where your contribution can be used most effectively, or you can direct your donation to a particular area or activity, such as:

- CEAS programs: lectures, performances, and cultural celebrations
- Wallace S. Johnson Memorial Lecture in Medieval Chinese Culture
- Student scholarships, prizes, and academic travel
- East Asian Library acquisitions

**Online giving is quick and easy!** See the link on our website, www.ceas.ku.edu

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.

Thank you to our donors!

*(Gifts received in 2010)*

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CEAS Faculty Launch KU-Mongolia Initiative

During summer 2010, Chris Brown, director of the KU Environmental Studies program and associate professor of geography, and Battsetseg Serj, Mongolian language lecturer, traveled to Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, to meet with collaborators in developing an interdisciplinary KU-Mongolia environmental studies research center in Mongolia.

During the 2-week trip, Brown and Serj met with administrators and researchers from the National University of Mongolia and the University of Humanities, NGOs, government agencies and ministries, and members of Mongolia’s National Academy of Sciences. It was determined that the partnership will pivot on collaboration between KU and the University of Humanities. The KU-Mongolia Initiative will be housed in the KU Center for East Asian Studies.

The KU-Mongolia Initiative began when Jamie Metzl of the Asia Society and Otgonbayar, the Minister of Education, Culture, and Science of Mongolia, contacted Brown to gauge faculty and University interest in an initiative to develop closer KU-Mongolia ties. Brown noted that a number of circumstances at KU made such a collaboration possible: the Environmental Studies Program was newly affiliated with the Center for Global and International Studies, and a number of on-campus faculty from diverse disciplinary backgrounds (e.g., Business, Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, Political Science) had experience in past and current activities in Mongolia.

The unifying themes of the KU-Mongolia Initiative are (1) to foster partnerships to mitigate the social and environmental effects of mining, the growing fossil trade, and climate change, among other issues; (2) collaborative efforts that enhance the technological infrastructure and knowledge base of Mongolian research and training institutions to address any number of environmental issues; and (3) foster collaborative/interdisciplinary work among KU faculty and between KU and Mongolian faculty and institutions to stimulate new opportunities for students and faculty.

Next steps for the Initiative will be a follow-up visit by John Kennedy, associate professor of Political Science, with representatives in Mongolia. Kennedy is in Xi’an, China, this year on a Fulbright-funded research leave. The trip will likely be in April 2011. Also in the spring, four professors from the University of the Humanities will visit KU to spend time with faculty across many disciplines.

A page on the CEAS website devoted to the KU-Mongolia Initiative is in development and should be launched this winter.

The Confucius Institute 4 years later

Confucius Institute associate director Kevin Liu demonstrates sidewalk calligraphy at the Edwards Campus.

Kevin Liu is associate director of the KU Confucius Institute. Among the many projects he manages are the interactive distance learning (IDL) videoconferencing program, summer camps for elementary students, and community language classes. Liu was recently interviewed about his role at the Institute.

How the Confucius Institute has expanded Chinese language learning: We just drove to Maize, Kan., to speak Chinese with about 160 second graders. They were very excited to see the IDL teachers, and all were able to introduce themselves, ask us our names, and tell us how they were feeling. We offer instruction in Chinese as a foreign language to 30 elementary classes and 17 high school classes in 18 different schools. Some of these schools are as far away as Maize and Goddard, Kan., west of Wichita. When the Confucius Institute opened in 2006, there was only one school district in Kansas that offered Chinese as a foreign language option.

The KU Confucius Institute is one of the few Confucius Institutes that offer IDL instruction. We are now developing curriculum and best practices for using the technology to teach foreign languages.

The Confucius Institute and international outreach: We have had the opportunity to showcase our activities to many international representatives. We have hosted delegations from the Bishkek Humanities University in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan; the University of Costa Rica in San Jose, Costa Rica; and Huazhong Normal University in Wuhan, China. We are looking forward to hosting a delegation of 70 university officials from Central Asia and the Baltic region who will be visiting Kansas for an orientation on higher education as part of a U.S. State Department program.

On community outreach: We work with a wide variety of museums, schools, and community organizations including libraries, heritage organizations, the Kansas Humanities Council, business organizations, and others to bring relevant and useful programming on Chinese to the community. We offer business training, custom tailored to the company, to regional businesses. We are always looking for ways to create synergies with other units at KU such as CEAS, the School of Education, the School of Journalism, and others.

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Eighteen schoolteachers and school librarians from Kansas and western Missouri went to China this summer through the generosity of the Freeman Foundation of New York and Stowe, Vermont. All were alums of the Kansas Consortium for Teaching about Asia (KCTA) seminar for in-service K–12 educators, now called “East Asian History and Culture for Teachers.” The two-week study tour began at Huazhong Normal University where participants were introduced to the Chinese language and culture. They also tried their hand at traditional pastimes like the martial arts, explored the city of Wuhan, and visited local elementary and secondary schools. Later, they traveled by overnight train to Xi’an and Beijing where they toured historically significant sites including the Terracotta Warriors and the Great Wall. Nancy Hope, KCTA associate director, led the group.

In fall 2010, the KCTA seminar was offered again at the Shawnee Mission School District for 21 teachers and school librarians working in the metropolitan Kansas City area. The seminar consisted of six sessions of classroom instruction followed by a gallery talk at the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art. Participants met like-minded educators who recognize that their students must know about East Asia to be better prepared for the 21st century. They also received a small stipend after creating a lesson plan about China for the subject area(s) and grade(s) they teach. For more information on KCTA seminars, visit http://www.kcta.ku.edu/.

Kansas Asia Scholars (www.kas.ku.edu) is another program hosted by CEAS that aims to increase knowledge of and appreciation for Chinese language and culture among undergraduates enrolled in a teacher preparation program in the School of Education. In the spring of 2010, fifteen of these students were inducted as Kansas Asia Scholars. They later were accompanied by Confucius Institute Executive Director Sheree Willis and Associate Director Kevin Liu during a three-week study tour of China. The students were introduced to Chinese language and culture at Huazhong Normal University in Wuhan and explored nearby attractions such as Yellow Crane Tower. The group then toured other noted sites such as the Forbidden City and Summer Palace.

KAS is just one component of the extended Undergraduate Asian Studies Initiative (UASI) funded by the Freeman Foundation of New York and Stowe, Vermont for AY 2008–2011. UASI programming has dramatically increased opportunities for KU students, faculty, staff, and the public to learn more about contemporary China. In 2010, UASI brought two noted Chinese professionals to the Lawrence campus for residency programs. Chinese theatre director Lei Guo-Hua and Chinese newspaper reporter and editor Li Shou visited the Department of Theatre and the School of Journalism and Mass Communications for one and two weeks, respectively. These individuals offered 22 different events including public lectures, master student workshops, classroom visits and demonstrations that were viewed by more than 750 students, faculty and staff, and the general public. UASI programming will allow additional residencies of Chinese professionals on the Lawrence campus and 15 more Kansas Asia Scholars to travel to China next year.
Valerie Hansen, professor of history at Yale University, delivered the 2010 Wallace Johnson Memorial Lecture in Medieval Chinese Culture on March 8. Her talk, “A New History of the Silk Road,” explored various archeological sites on the Silk Road and discussed the political, economic, and cultural conditions that made the Silk Road flourish. After the lecture, audience members were treated to a reception for Dr. Hansen, during which Gary Bjorge, former KU East Asian Librarian, demonstrated Prof. Johnson's elaborate Chinese typewriter, which current East Asian Librarian Vickie Doll has kept over the years. The lecture is supported by the Tang Research Foundation and individual donors.