

KU Center for East Asian Studies NewsNotes

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Radio Active Press Coverage CEAS Conference covered by media around the world

by Ben Duncan

On an unseasonably pleasant day late in October 2004, the town of Lawrence, Kansas went about its daily business: students in droves braved the hallowed halls of KU while shoppers strolled up and down Massachusetts Street in search of the quaint and unusual. All seemed in order as the day progressed uneventfully and peacefully - albeit lethargically - in the warm autumn sun. The day, in fact, was on the verge of disappearing into quiet obscurity when suddenly, amid the unaware shoppers of downtown Lawrence, a giant radioactive reptilian monstrosity rose on top of Liberty Hall, preparing to wreak havoc and destruction on the sleepy Midwestern town! Or

- more specifically - to inaugurate the beginning of the much anticipated 2004 KU Conference "In Godzilla's Footsteps." While the giant green inflatable lizard atop Liberty Hall did little more than rock quasi-menacingly in the wind, reverberations of the conference could be felt around the world.

The brainchild of the Center for East Asian Studies' acting director William Tsutsui and Japanese studies librarian Michiko Ito, the conference, timed to coincide with the 50th anniversary of Godzilla, drew interest from across the globe. Highlighted by free evening showings of classic Godzilla films, the conference dealt with a myriad of academic and pop culture issues ranging from the



Godzilla rises above the streets of Lawrence

influence of Godzilla on Anime and Hello Kitty, to the political origins of the green beast himself.

News organizations from as far away as Taiwan, and as unexpected as Australia, picked up the 'tale' of Godzilla's arrival in Lawrence. All of this was quite overwhelming for Tsutsui, whose life-long fascination with the gigantic, radioactive scale-covered lizard had finally come to fruition as the world's media turned a curious and inquisitive eye toward the three day Godzilla-filled extravaganza.

The conference was mentioned in hundreds of publications both online and in print in a multitude of countries, and even made the *See Monster*, p. 3



Acting Center Director Bill Tsutsui with some of his monstrous friends

FOREIGN LANGUAGE AREA STUDIES FELLOWSHIPS

The Center for East Asian Studies invites qualified University of Kansas graduate students to apply for FLAS Fellowships for summer 2005 and for the academic year 2005-2006. Summer awards pay tuition up to \$3,600 and a stipend of \$2,400. Awards for the academic year pay tuition up to \$11,000 and a stipend of \$14,000.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: March 1, 2005

ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS:

FLAS program regulations specify that eligible applicants must be:

- 1) Graduate students;
- 2) US citizens, nationals, or permanent residents;
- 3) Accepted for enrollment or enrolled in a program that combines modern foreign language training with international or area studies or with the international aspects of professional or other fields of study.

Additionally, applicants should present plans for the fellowship award period which correspond to the eligible uses of FLAS fellowships.

For summer 2005, one special FLAS award will be given to an outstanding M.A. candidate who plans to enter government service. There will also be one such FLAS award given for the 2004-2005 academic year.

ELIGIBLE USES OF FLAS FELLOWSHIPS:

- 1) Academic-year FLAS fellowships are awarded for a full academic year to students engaged in:
 - a) a formal overseas or domestic program of full-time language and area or international studies course work

or

- b) full-time dissertation research abroad. Use of the foreign language in dissertation research must be extensive enough to result in language improvement equal to the improvement that would be obtained from a full academic year of formal classroom instruction.

- 2) To receive summer FLAS fellowships students must be enrolled in:

- a) formal domestic programs of intensive language study at the beginning, intermediate, or advanced level

or

- b) formal overseas programs of intensive language study at the intermediate or advanced level.

For the purposes of this program, "intensive" summer language programs are those which offer a minimum of 140 contact hours of advanced-level language instruction or 160 contact hours of beginning or intermediate-level instruction. In order to be considered intensive, summer language programs must last a minimum of 4-5 weeks; longer programs are preferable because they are more likely to provide the student with the equivalent of a full year of language study.

FLAS fellowships can only be used for programs whose tuition falls within the limitations of the award. Recipients may not use personal funds for the difference between a FLAS award and higher tuition.

SELECTION CRITERIA:

The applicant's CV, academic record, statement of purpose, and letters of recommendation will all be taken into account. The committee will also attempt to make awards to students in a variety of disciplines and professional fields. Lowest priority will be given to students who already possess language fluency equivalent to that of educated native speakers in the language for which the award is being sought, and students who are taking the first 12 semester hours of Chinese or Japanese.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT:

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TO PRINT AN APPLICATION, GO TO WWW.CEAS.KU.EDU/FLAS.SHTML.

New Faculty Profile: Kelly Chong

Kelly Chong joins the Sociology department and CEAS this year. Her research interests focus on religion among Koreans and Korean Americans. A 2002 graduate of the University of Chicago, Chong comes to us from Harvard University, where she spent last year as a research associate and visiting lecturer. Prior to that, she spent two years as a research fellow at Yale University. Chong's dissertation was on Evangelicalism

and gender politics in South Korea. Her research thus far has focused on the conversion to Christianity by Korean women. She has also researched Korean churches in Chicago.

In addition to Korean studies, Chong has a background in Japanese Studies, and worked for the U.S.-Japan Foundation. She holds an M.A. in East Asian Studies from the University of Illinois and an M.I.A. in International Affairs

from Columbia University. She is a native speaker of Korean.

Her publications include articles in *Sociology of Religion*, *The Journal of Women's History*, as well as a chapter in an upcoming book about Korean Christianity.

Chong is teaching Gender and Society and Religion and Society this year. In her spare time, Chong enjoys traveling and has traveled extensively. She also enjoys movies, plays piano, and hikes.



Have a recent East Asia-related photograph or story?

We would love for you to share it with our readers. Simply email it to lherron@ku.edu and provide us some details.

Steve Lopes, Kansas NEA, and his wife, Lois Orth-Lopes, a teacher at Cordley Elementary in Lawrence, sent this photograph of their visit to a rural elementary school in Xiao Chen, across the lake from Dali, Yunnan. Steve reports that “there were three classroom groupings with the kids copying and reciting through rote learning. Classes were out around 2 PM when we got to play with the kids. There were few instructional materials available and no resources like a library.”

Steve has prepared a presentation of photographs from the trip this summer. If you would like him to present his photographs from China and Tibet to your group or class, please contact the Center at 864-3849 or ceas@ku.edu.

Monster of a Story, *cont. from p. 1*

front page of the Daily Herald in Wausau, Wisconsin, the Fairbanks Daily News Miner, and our very own Lawrence.com monthly magazine and Lawrence Journal World. Other prestigious news associations such as the Japan Times, the New York Times, the BBC and the Associated Press were soon to follow suit. Tsutsui was also given the opportunity to preach the Godzilla gospel on a plethora of radio talk shows including the academically ubiquitous NPR. Various TV media outlets covered the event from Detroit to Tokyo to

Los Angeles. The conference was even featured in a syndicated “Ripley’s Believe it or Not.” Godzilla, Tsutsui, and the University of Kansas can look forward to joining the ranks of the hundreds of celebrities featured in “Where are they now” and “Behind the Music” style documentaries as they will appear in an up and coming filmed narrative about the geriatric green giant (he is after all 50 years old). For the University of Kansas and Godzilla fans around the world, this was certainly one birthday celebration to remember.



CEAS Staff Takes Educational Leaders on China Tour

Sue Gamble, Vice Chair of the Kansas Board of Education, and Alexa Posny, Assistant Commissioner of Education for Kansas, present a book on Kansas to Yang Jin, Deputy Director General of the Basic Education Department, Ministry of Education, Beijing, China.

Ms. Gamble and Dr. Posny visited China in November, 2004, as members of the Educational Leaders' Delegation to China, a study tour designed for Kansas and Missouri educational leaders interested in exploring educational, economic, and cultural links between China and the United States. The study tour of educational leaders was organized and led by Center staff, on behalf of the Kansas Committee for International Education in the Schools (www.kansasintheworld.org), an organization housed in the Center for "educators, businesspeople and others who advocate teaching our children more about the world at large." The delegation visited Beijing, Kaifeng, Xi'an, and Shanghai to meet with educational policy institutions and schools. During the study tour, regional school district representatives also established school-to-school relationships between schools in Kaifeng and Xi'an and partner school districts in Kansas and Missouri. The Educational Leaders' Delegation to China was funded by the Freeman Foundation of New York and of Stowe, Vermont.

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