
CENTER FOR EAST ASIAN STUDIES

NEWSNOTES



1440 Jayhawk Blvd., #202, Lawrence, KS 66045
Tel: (785) 864-3849 Fax: (785) 864-5034



Vol. 14 No. 3

ceas@ku.edu www.ceas.ku.edu
East Asian Library Homepage: www2.lib.ku.edu/eastasia/

April 1, 2005

Korea: A Divided Nation on the World Stage

A 10-day program of conferences, films, and exhibitions, organized by the Center for East Asian Studies and the Office of International Programs, and co-sponsored by International Studies, the Political Science Department, and American Studies at KU and by the Truman Presidential Museum and Library will begin on April 5. These events are held in conjunction with the dedication of the Korean War Memorial at KU on April 16 (8:30 a.m.).

The conferences and films are free and open to the public. Information packets will be provided to those who pre-register for the conferences; to pre-register, email: rhacker@ku.edu

Focus on Korea: Part I: "Korea Today" (April 9th)

The first of two academic conferences will be devoted to Korean culture and politics. The morning session, "Korean Religion, Society and Art," will be held in the Spencer Museum of Art auditorium and begins with coffee at 8:30. The first panel will examine "Religion and Society." Professor Ed Canda (School of Social Welfare), will give a talk called "The Spiritual Cauldron: Religions in Contemporary South Korea". He will be followed by Kelly Chong (Sociology), whose lecture is entitled "Negotiating Modernity: the Politics of Gender and Conversion in Contemporary South Korean Evangelicalism." The panel will conclude with "From Korea to Kansas City: Local perspectives on Korean Diaspora" by Anne Soon Choi (American Studies).

The second morning session, called "Art and Artists," begins at 10:50. Featured speakers are Marsha Haufler, (Art History and Acting Director of CEAS), whose talk is about "The Changing Landscape of Art in Korea." Yoonmi Nam (Lithography and Drawing) and So Yeon Park (Performance Art) will introduce their own work in a presentation called "Two Diasporic Korean Artists in America: Two Personal Accounts."



All of the speakers are members of the KU faculty and CEAS. Dr. Greg Simpson, KU Professor of Cognitive Psychology, will be the moderator for the whole morning program.

Both the focus and the venue change in the afternoon. The topic becomes "Current Korean Politics and International Relations," and the lectures will be held in Simmons Auditorium at the Dole Institute. Dr. Joseph G.D. Babb, an expert on Asian military history from the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, will start the session with a talk entitled "Asian Security Issues and North Korea." Chae Jin Lee, Bank of America Professor of Pacific Basin Studies and Director of the Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies, Claremont McKenna College is next on the agenda. Dr. Lee, a former Associate Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at KU, and former co-director of CEAS and co-chair of Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures from 1976-82 at KU, returns to give a talk entitled "The South-North Dynamic."

Focus on Korea: Part II: The Korean War in Historical Perspective (April 14 = 15)

April 14: Seeds of Division: Korea's Colonial Legacy — a lecture by Michael Robinson, Professor of East Asian Studies at Indiana University. is the author of several books including *Colonial Modernity in Korea*.

4:00, Centennial Room, Kansas Union

Goodbye Marie, I'm off to Korea— a lecture by Allan Millett, the Raymond Mason Jr. Professor of Military History at Ohio State University. Millett is the author of *Their War for Korea*. 8:00pm, Malott Room, Kansas Union

April 15: The Soviet Union and the Korean War: Origins, Armistice and Legacy — a lecture by Kathryn Weathersby, Senior Associate, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Weathersby is the author of several articles about the Korean War. 10:00am, Malott Room, Kansas Union

Forgotten No More: Historians and the Rediscovery of the Korean War — a lecture by James Matray, Professor of History and Chair, California State University at Chico. Matray is the author of *The Reluctant Crusade: American Foreign Policy in Korea, 1941-1950*.

12:00, Centennial Room, Kansas Union

The final event of this two-day conference will be a panel discussion featuring all of the speakers above. Joining the panel will be Dr. & Colonel Chang Il Oh, Professor, Korea Military Academy; Michael Devine, President of the Truman Presidential Library and Museum and Theodore Wilson, Professor of History and Director of the International Studies Program at KU.

2:30-4:00, Big 12 Room, Kansas Union

War Memorial Dedication



On April 16, the University of Kansas will dedicate its Korean War Memorial. The dedication ceremony will begin at 8:30am at the memorial on Memorial Drive, west of the Memorial Campanile and overlooking Potter Lake. The dedication is the culmination of nearly 30 years of work dedicated to bringing to campus a fitting memorial to honor the more than 60 KU

alumni, students and faculty who were among the 29,000 American casualties of the war. The memorial consists of a sitting area, a tablet describing the Korean War written by Professor Theodore Wilson, and sculpture by KU Professor John Havener. The memorial was made possible, in part, by generous donations from several sources including a \$30,000 donation from Yong L. Kim, a distinguished Kansas City Korean-American businessman, \$15,000 from five South Korean businesses, \$10,000 from KU alumni in South Korea and support from the International Communication Foundation of Seoul, Republic of Korea.

Teaching Korea: A K-12 Teachers' Workshop:

The Center for East Asian Studies, in conjunction with the Kansas Consortium for Teaching About Asia, will sponsor an invitational workshop entitled "Teaching Korea Across the Curriculum." It will take place from 12:30 – 2:30 in the Spencer Museum of Art Reception Room.

Participants will hear Greg Simpson, Professor of Cognitive Psychology with a special interest in language acquisition whose research involves Korean, give "An Introduction to the Korean Language and Writing System (Hangul)."

Yoo Gye Hyung, a Korean graduate student at KU, will give the teachers a lesson in Korean calligraphy using brush and ink.

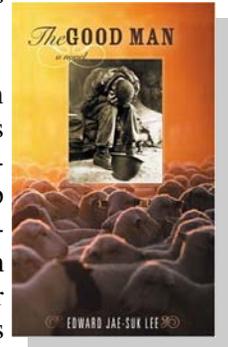
Maija Devine, a Korean author, will read and discuss her autobiographical short story about growing up during the Korean War. Teachers will also receive resources and lesson plans about Korea.

Meet the Author: Edward Jae-Suk Lee (April 14th)

Poet and novelist Edward Jae-suk Lee will meet the public and sign his recently published novel, *The Good Man* (January 2005), from 6 to 7 p.m. on April 14 in the Oread Bookstore in the Kansas Union. Lee, a Korean American, was educated at Montana State University, Williams College, and the University of Kansas. He received his M.A. degree in 2003 from KU, where he also taught English composition and literature. His poetry has appeared in the *Kansas City Star*.

In *The Good Man*, he draws on his firsthand knowledge of Montana in telling the story of a soldier, “a good man who has done bad things.” Gabriel Guttman is the good man, a veteran of the Korean War who is haunted by his past:

“For forty years Gabriel has been burdened by a terrible secret—his participation in the No Gun Ri massacre of Korean civilians...The guilt he has suppressed for so long is forced to the surface when a reporter researching the incident seeks him out. Gabriel attempts suicide, but he survives as a partial amnesiac. [He] finds his way to the sheep ranch he grew up on in the mountains of southwest Montana, the only place he can remember. There he is reunited with the Korean peasant woman he brought back with him following the war...As the spring lambs are born, the familiar surroundings trigger dreams of war and childhood, and he begins piecing together the missing chapters of his life.” [From the book jacket]



Publishers Weekly praises Lee’s “brilliant character writing” and “superb use of...rural setting.” The release of this impressive first novel could not have been better for KU: The book has appeared in time to help stimulate interest in the Korean War just before the dedication of KU Korean War Memorial on April 16. Come to the Oread Bookstore on April 14 to meet the author. [Quotations from Amazon.com]

The Korean War in Images and Documents:

Three small but important exhibitions of visual material will be held in conjunction with the dedication of the Korean War Memorial.

For the **Dole Institute of Politics**, Sheryl Williams, Curator in the Spencer Research Library, has prepared an exhibition of photographs and documents. Along with copy of the armistice agreement, this exhibit will feature photographs taken in Korea during the war by Professor Felix Moos. When asked to describe these photos, Dr. Moos replied:

"I took these images when I was in my very early 20s in a country devastated by war. However, the pictures show how Korea looked to me in the 1950s. Aside from the aerial photos of Seoul, most are north from Pyongtaek to Seoul, some from around the (Iron) Triangle Kumwha/Kumsong (Chorwon valley)/Whachon Reservoir, the area that I flew over daily for some months. This is not Felix at war but a country at war--and one that was just entering the 20th Century in the 1950s."

Another display of Korean War photographs will be on view on the **4th floor of Watkins Library**; these photographs come from the archives of Truman Presidential Museum & Library.

The Spencer Museum of Art will display *The Marines – Korea*, an oil painting on paper done in 1951 by Gustav Rehberger (1910-95), as an example of the way in which the Korean War was depicted in publications intended for mass consumption. The painting is part of the museum’s Esquire Collection, which includes photographs and illustrations that were reproduced in the pages of *Esquire* and *Coronet* magazines. The painting will be shown in its rough state, simply mounted on illustration board, along with the issue of *Coronet* in which it appeared and an explanation of its historical significance by Art History graduate student Kate Meyer.

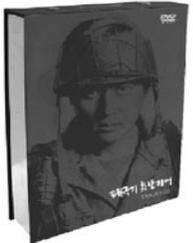
Korean Film Festival

Contemporary Korean film is considered cutting edge by movie lovers the world over. In conjunction with the conference and dedication of the War Memorial, we will show three contemporary Korean films. All are shown free of charge and the public is welcome.



April 2: Shilmido (2003) Based on a true incident, this film recounts the story of Korea's Central Intelligence Agency's (KCIA) recruiting of 31 South Korean men (mostly civilians with criminal records) to sneak into North Korea and assassinate 'Great Leader' Kim Il-sung. Sponsored by the Korean Students Association and the Center for East Asian Studies.

7 p.m. Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union. Free.



April 8 Tae Guk Gi: The Brotherhood of War (2004) Tae Guk Gi is the story of Jin Tae whose devotion to his younger brother Jin Seok knows no bounds. When Jin Seok is conscripted into the army during the Korean War, Jin Tae tries to get him back but ends up going to war himself. Sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies as part of the East Asian Film Festival '05: Not Your Mother's Asia!

7 pm, Spencer Museum Auditorium, Free.



April 9 President's Barber (2004) Witty and intelligently written, this film (sometimes called Korea's answer to *Forrest Gump*) takes viewers into the life of one Song Han Mo, a simple barber, whose actions (or non-actions) result in some of Korea's most famous political and civil upheavals.

7 pm, Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union, Free

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