Food, friends, music, martial arts—the ingredients for a good Friday night anytime, but an especially suitable way to ring in the new Year of the Rat.

CEAS is again hosting its annual Lunar New Year party on Friday, February 8. The festivities begin at 5 pm with traditional food tastings from China, Korea, and Japan. (Although Japan celebrates the new year on January 1, in the spirit of inclusion Japanese traditions are incorporated in our annual celebration.) Please join us at the ECM, 1205 Oread Ave.

The celebration will include songs performed by the KU East Asian Languages and Cultures undergraduate students; a traditional Korean flute performance; nursery rhymes by the Lawrence Chinese School children; and a song performed by students from the CEAS elementary Chinese language class taught by Randi Hacker, CEAS Outreach Coordinator.

New this year are two martial arts demonstrations. The first, Wushu, is a Chinese martial art rooted in attack and defense moves based in the taolu (forms) and sanshou (sparring) disciplines. Notable for its gymnastic qualities and use of weaponry, Wushu is a visually stunning performance of fitness and skill. Wushu demonstrations will include the Dropping Floor Fist and the Young Dragon Broadsword.

Lawrence’s Kansas Ki Society will close out the festivities with children’s and adults’ Aikido demonstrations. Aikido developed in Japan as a defense form that uses ki (life energy), rhythm, and mind-body coordination for self-defense and discipline. The Kansas Ki Society members will display their basic and advanced moves, which include a visually dramatic demonstration of weaponry skills.
THOMAS HUANG at the LAWRENCE ARTS CENTER

Thomas Huang’s (Art & Design) installation exhibit, Coolies, paid homage to the thousands of Chinese immigrants who worked to build the U.S. Transcontinental Railroad. The show was on view through January at the Lawrence Arts Center.

Huang’s exhibit featured a row of rail ties supporting undulating bamboo sculptures. It was a beautiful combination of grace and materials—the bundles seemed to inflate and flow with breath of their own. The ties were bracketed by two walls built of mirrored bricks, a tribute to another great construction: The Great Wall of China.

Over 150 people attended Huang’s Jan. 25 gallery talk in which he discussed his interest in materials as a way to explore cultural divides. The crowd was also treated to a bamboo-splitting demonstration. Huang’s sensitivity to history, heritage, and materials served as a reminder of the diversity and hard work that built the modern era.

POK CHI LAU at the GUANGDONG MUSEUM OF ART

Pok Chi Lau (Art & Design) is currently exhibiting 40 years of his photography in a show titled Flow, China at the Guangdong Museum of Art in Guangzhou, China. The exhibit is accompanied by the publication of a 296-page book of the same name. The exhibit is on view through February 12.

Lau uses social documentary photography to approach issues such as migration of Asians to the Americas, multiculturalism, diversity, and ethnic identity. He focuses on most Chinatowns in North America; the Imperial Valley of California; and Tijuana, Mexico. His work has evolved into a project about mixed-race children, resulting in a trilingual photography book called “Dreams of the Golden Mountain.”

In 2003, Lau received a Hall Center for Creative Work Fellowship to make a body of conclusive photographs on contemporary China.
TEA AND TALK SERIES
Our Thursday afternoon Tea & Talk series features an informal lecture, refreshments, and an East Asian “tea of the week.” Free and open to the public.

Thursday, February 7
David Cateforis, “Wenda Gu’s Neon Calligraphy Series.” Professor Cateforis (Art History) will discuss his research on contemporary Chinese artist Wenda Gu.
Time: 4 pm
Location: English Room, Kansas Union

Thursday, February 21
Kris Imants Ercums, “Beyond Sports: The Cultural Impact of the Olympics in China.” Ercums (East Asian Curator, Spencer Museum) will discuss preparations for the upcoming Beijing Olympics.
Time: 4 pm
Location: Pine Room, Kansas Union

Thursday, February 28
Bill Tsutsui & Maki Kaneko, “Beyond Sports: The Cultural Impact of the Olympics in Japan.” Professor Tsutsui (History) and Assistant Professor Kaneko (Art History) will discuss the 1964, 1972, and 1998 Olympics in Japan.
Time: 4 pm
Location: Malott Room, Kansas Union

Thursday, March 6
Gregory Hadley, “Old Wars, Present Memories: Revisiting the ‘Field of Spears.’” Professor Hadley (Niigata University of International and Information Studies) discusses his book, Field of Spears, the true story of a B-29 crew that was shot down over a rural Japanese village on July 20, 1945.
Time: 4 pm
Location: Pine Room, Kansas Union

Thursday, March 27
Marsha Haufler, “Beyond Sports: The Cultural Impact of the Olympics in Korea.” Professor Haufler (Art History) will discuss the impact of the 1988 Olympics in South and North Korea.
Time: 4 pm
Location: Pine Room, Kansas Union

Thursday, April 24
Akiko Takeyama, “‘Selling Dreams’: The Art of Seduction and Affect Economy in Japan.” Assistant Professor Takeyama (Anthropology & Women’s Studies) will discuss her research on Tokyo’s popular host clubs.
Time: 4 pm
Location: Pine Room, Kansas Union

CEAS SPECIAL EVENTS
Friday, February 8
Lunar New Year Party
Come celebrate the Lunar New Year with activities for everyone, including crafts, performances, and East Asian food tastings. Free and open to the public.
Time: 5-7 pm
Location: ECM, 1204 Oread Avenue

Friday, April 18
Claire Conceison (Tufts University, Dept. of Drama & Dance) “Collaborative Autobiography: Writing the Life of Chinese Theatre Luminary and Statesman Ying Ruocheng.” Sponsored by the Hall Center for the Humanities and the KU Center for East Asian Studies. Free and open to the public.
Time: 1:30-3 pm
Location: Hall Center for the Humanities

Thursday, March 27
Time: 7:30 pm
Location: Dole Institute of Politics

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE
“Olympian Desires: Building Bodies and Nations in East Asia”
April 10-12, 2008
This international conference will explore the Olympic games in East Asia and their impact on the politics, cultures, economic conditions, international relations, natural and built environments, and lifestyles of the host countries and the region.
Opening lecture April 10, 7:30 pm, Regnier Hall Auditorium, KU Edwards Campus
Conference April 11-12, Hall Center for the Humanities, KU Lawrence campus
For more information: www.ceas.ku.edu

Please see Page 4 for our annual East Asian Film Festival schedule - - - - >>>

Our weekly e-newsletter features up-to-date local and regional East Asian events! Write to Leslie vonHolten (lvonholt@ku.edu) to sign up.
East Asian Film Festival ‘08

As a countdown to the 2008 Beijing Olympics, our spring film festival explores the theme of sports in East Asia.
All film screenings are free and open to the public.

Tokyo Olympiad
Kon Ichikawa’s film, which documents the 1964 Summer Olympics in Tokyo, was considered a milestone in documentary filmmaking. Ichikawa keeps the film’s focus more on the atmosphere of the games and the human side of the athletes, rather than on the winners and the results. Professor Bill Tsutsui (History) will provide context. (1965, 170 minutes)
Tuesday, February 26 • 7pm • Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union

State of Mind
Two young North Korean gymnasts prepare for the annual spectacle of the Mass Games in this documentary that offers a rare look into the closed and secretive communist society and the daily lives of North Korean families. (2004, 94 minutes)
Saturday, March 1 • 2pm • Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union

Wrap around the World
This spectacular satellite link-up, coordinated by seminal video artist Nam June Paik, connected the United States, Brazil, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Japan and numerous other countries prior to the Seoul Olympics. (1988, 47 minutes)
Sunday, March 2 • 2pm • Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium

Game of Their Lives
BBC documentary producer Daniel Gordon was given unprecedented access to North Korea in order to chronicle the story of the famed 1966 World Cup team from the North that advanced to the quarterfinals. (2002, 80 minutes)
Friday, March 7 • 7pm • Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union

Waterboys
Five high school boys decide to learn synchronized swimming, influenced by the new coach of their school’s swimming team, Sakuma. However, when Sakuma goes on vacation, the boys decide to organize a special swimming show with the help of a dolphin trainer. (2001, 90 minutes)
Saturday, March 8 • 2pm • Woodruff Auditorium, Kansas Union

Balls of Fury
Former ping pong pro Randy Daytona is down on his luck and down on his game when FBI agent Ernie Rodriguez recruits him for a mission he can’t refuse: to smoke out his father’s killer, the evil Feng. With the help of a blind ping pong sage and an expert trainer, Daytona travels to Feng’s jungle compound, where he’ll face formidable players en route to the prize. (2007, 91 minutes)
Thursday, March 13 • 7pm • Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union