In early May, CEAS sponsored two events focused on geopolitical issues facing East Asia. “More at Stake than the Olympics: Power and Influence between China and Post-Soviet Central Asia” was held May 1. Professor Morris Rossabi (City University of New York) spoke to a standing-room only crowd about the history, politics, and cultural changes between China, Mongolia, and Inner Asia. His lecture was followed by a roundtable discussion featuring Brigadier General Mark E. O’Neill (Deputy Commandant, U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, Ft. Leavenworth) and Lieutenant Colonel (Ret.) Joseph G.D. “Geoff” Babb (Instructor, Command and General Staff College), and was moderated by KU Anthropology Associate Professor Arienne Dwyer. The talk was part of the Eurasian Security two-part symposium co-sponsored with the KU Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies.

The following Monday, May 5, CEAS sponsored “Olympic Spotlight on Tibet,” a program organized by Eric Rath (History) in light of the recent political tensions between Tibet and China. A showing of the documentary film *Tibet: The Cry of the Snow Lion* was followed by a panel discussion featuring the Venerable Champa Tenzin Lhunpo (EALC, Tibetan language) and Lu Yang (History), and led by Rath. A spirited question and answer session with the audience explored the historical context of current events and presented the many sides to this controversial topic.
CEAS COURSE DEVELOPMENT GRANTS
The following courses are being developed with grants provided by Title VI.

EALC 788/POLS 788: Politics and Society in the People’s Republic of China / John Kennedy
A graduate course exploring the “state of the field” in the study of topics such as state and society relations, the reform of party and state institutions, rural and urban unrest, and the People’s Liberation Army (PLA). The main focus will be on post-1949 political and social developments, especially after the 1976 death of Mao Zedong and at the beginning of the reform period. The course is divided into three general parts: approaches to the study of Chinese politics and society, issues in domestic politics, and foreign policy.

HIST 393: The Silk Road / Yang Lu
A comprehensive introduction to the cultural influence and material exchange among major civilizations along the Silk Road. This course covers over 1000 years—from the 2nd to the 15th centuries CE—when Persians, Chinese, Indians, Tibetans, Mongols, and others shaped the geopolitical landscape of the vast region from the Caspian Sea to the Gobi Desert. Visual and musical material will be used along with texts to present topics such as Sogdian burial practices, Arab accounts of Tang China, Nestorian Christianity at the Mongol court, and Marco Polo’s journey to the East.

TITLE VI RESEARCH TRAVEL GRANTS
The CEAS Advisory Board awarded travel grants to the following faculty members:

Sanee Eda (EALC) will travel to Tokyo and Hiratsuka, Japan, this summer to conduct an empirical study of the effects of intonation in speech communication among native speakers of standard Japanese.

Sherry Fowler (Art History) will travel throughout Japan to photograph and research paintings featuring the Six Kannon made for the esoteric Japanese Buddhist Six-Character ritual.

Jie Han (Civil, Environmental, & Architectural Engineering) will travel to construction sites throughout China to collect information for his research on technologies used in Ancient China to those used within the last 30 years during the rapid development of modern China.

Thomas Huang (Fine Arts), during a trip to Yunnan and Tibet, will research furniture as both functional objects and talismans of culture and behavior.

Yoonmi Nam (Fine Arts) will continue her research of the “state of in-betweenness” by traveling to Seoul, South Korea, to make paintings of man-made structures and surrounding natural environments that are in transition—being torn down, built up, or in some state of change.

Akiko Takeyama (Anthropology) will conduct follow-up interviews and archival research in Tokyo to update her doctoral dissertation project, which she will turn into a book.

Yanbing Zhang (Communications) will extend her research on intergenerational communication in the East Asian cultural context by interviewing 20 mothers-in-law in China.

Title VI Conference Travel Grants were awarded to

- Maggie Childs (EALC)
- Kelly Chong (Sociology)
- Vickie Doll (EA Library)
- Sanee Eda (EALC)
- Alison Gabriele (Linguistics)
- Elaine Gerbert (EALC)
- Megan Greene (History)
- Michiko Ito (EA Library)
- Eric Rath (History)
- Akiko Takeyama (Anthropology)
- Bill Tsutsui (History)
- Kyoim Yun (EALC)
- Jie Zhang (Linguistics)
- Yanbing Zhang (Communications)
OUR 2008-2009 FLAS RECIPIENTS

Robert J. Del Greco is a second-year MA student in East Asian Languages and Cultures. He will use his summer FLAS to study fourth-year intensive Chinese—which he studies to strengthen his Japanese language skills—at the Columbia University Summer Language Program in Beijing. Afterward, he plans to continue his research of Japanese literature. Del Greco is from Merriam, Kansas.

Rachel Voorhies is a second-year MA student in Art History. Supported by FLAS summer and academic year grants, Voorhies will complete first- and second-year Japanese by Spring 2009. These language skills will help her as she pursues her PhD in Japanese art history. Voorhies is from Fayetteville, Arkansas.

James D. Parker is a first-year MA student in East Asian Languages and Cultures. He will use his academic year FLAS Fellowship to study third- and fourth-year Japanese at Fukuoka University in Japan. Parker’s long-term career goal is to work for the U.S. government. He is from Borger, Texas.

Karin Warch is a second-year MA student in Art History. An academic year FLAS Fellowship will enable her to study third-year Korean at Ewha University in Seoul, South Korea. Intensive course work will help her develop her language proficiency while she studies the country’s art and culture firsthand. Warch is from Ellison Bay, Wisconsin.

CEAS STUDENT SCHOLARSHIPS and AWARDS

Okubo Award: Sooa Im (Art History), for her paper titled “Beyond the Outlandish Charm: Manpukuji’s Eighteen-Arhat Sculptures.” Named after Genji Okubo, a long-time supporter of Japanese studies at the University of Kansas, the Okubo Award is granted annually for the best student paper on a topic related to Japan.

Kleinberg Scholarship: Undergraduate Rebecca Russell will use her scholarship to travel to Beijing to participate in the Beijing Institute for Education study abroad program for the 2008-2009 academic year.

Chinese Government Scholarship: Two students were awarded Chinese Government Scholarships for 2008-2009. Maria Ahmad is majoring in Chinese language and literature, with a co-major in International Studies. While in China, she will use her Chinese language skills in writing an honors thesis about Chinese and U.S. international policies. Erin Billing is an MA student in Chinese Language and Literature. Her academic interest is Chinese women’s literature of the late 19th and early 20th centuries. She plans to deepen her knowledge of the structure of the Chinese language during her study.

EALC PRESENTS STUDENT AWARDS

In a ceremony May 1, KU’s East Asian Language and Cultures Dept. presented awards and scholarships to students who have demonstrated outstanding academic success in East Asian languages.

Bryce Clark and Lindsay Winder received the Higuchi Japanese Language Award, which is given annually in memory of the late Prof. Takeru Higuchi, Regents’ Professor of Pharmaceutical Chemistry.

Erin Billing was presented the Grace Wan Chinese Language Award. Given for outstanding work in the Chinese language, the award is in honor of the late KU Professor of Chinese Grace Wan.

Michael Bourbon will study abroad next year with the help of his Andrew and Lilly Tsubaki Award, which is given annually to an undergraduate or graduate student. Andrew Tsubaki is Professor Emeritus of Theatre at KU.

The Niswander Dictionary Awards, established by Rex and Sonoko Niswander in honor of Rex’s father, John Niswander, recognize achievement in three East Asian languages. The awards this year went to Cooper Alton (Chinese); Alicia Cusano and Stephan Thrun (Japanese); and Peter Mussatto and Michelle Heitmann (Korean).

Ethan Skinner, who is studying the Japanese language, received the Nelson Scholarship in EALC. This scholarship is awarded on the basis of academic excellence to a second-semester junior.

Congratulations to these students for their accomplishments this academic year!

An Invitation

Pok Chi Lau has presented a copy of his beautiful new book, Flow China, to the Center. Please drop in and enjoy it!
Watch for East Asian Botanicals at KU!

This is a small sample of the botanical riches of East Asia to be found on our beautiful campus. Our web site featuring a finding map for these plants, as well as historical, cultural, and biological information about them, will be launched later this summer. Stay tuned!