The opening of a new academic year sparks the beginning of a new programming theme, “Protest and Revolution,” to be developed in collaboration with the other international area centers (Kansas African Studies Center, Center for Latin American Studies, and Center for Russian, East European, and Eurasian Studies). Partially sponsored by the Center’s Title VI National Resource Center grants, “Protest and Revolution” events will explore momentous economic, social, cultural, technological, and political changes in China, Korea, and Japan in the 20th and 21st centuries.

The timing for this theme—i.e., the 2008-09 academic year—was inspired, in part, by the coincidence of “9” in the dates of pivotal political movements in East Asia: 1919, 1949, and 1989. Some programs will look back to such periods; others will follow social, economic, and technological revolutions in real time, as they are unfolding now. In early spring, Chancellor’s Lecturer Takao Shibata will lead a conference on the revolutionary economic integration of East Asia. Also in the spring, the four international area centers will coordinate programs examining revolution on a global scale. In the meantime, we will kick off our theme this fall with a film festival featuring films on revolution from Africa, Latin America, East Asia, and Russia/East Europe/Eurasia. Watch for the complete film schedule, coming soon.

Beyond revolution, we have a full calendar of other events, including our second annual Mid-Autumn Moon Viewing Party on the evening of September 15. In collaboration with the Spencer Museum of Art, we are proud to announce the visit of Tibetan artist Gonkar Gyatso August 28-29 (see the story on page 4). Look for the schedule for our fall Tea & Talk Lecture series on page 3. The spring semester promises to be just as full, with an international conference organized by John Kennedy focusing on the opening of western China, a performance by world music explorer and pipa virtuoso Wu Man at the Lied Center, and, of course, our annual Lunar New Year party.

CEAS programming from the last two years will continue to resonate on campus and beyond. Last year’s theme, “Countdown to Beijing,” will echo through a post-Olympics panel discussion organized by Elaine Gerbert for the Hall Center for the Humanities. And our theme from 2006-07, “Green Tea and Bamboo: The Botanical Bounty of East Asia,” has born fruit in a new webpage devoted to the plants of East Asia on the KU campus. Please visit http://www.ceas.ku.edu/EastAsianPlants/greenteaandbamboo.shtml; we will continue to update the site with additional cultural information on each plant.

CEAS will be 50 years old in 2009! Prepare to party!
Drums thundered from the back of the auditorium as the Indiana Samulnori Team kicked off this summer’s Korean Culture Show July 19 at KU’s Kansas Union. The percussion ensemble danced their way down the aisle, rousing the audience of over 200 for a 2-hour spectacle of Korean traditions.

Drumming dominated the event. In addition to the samulnori and seoljanggu performances, Edward Canda (Social Welfare) demonstrated janggu drumming, and the Korean American Ladies Foundation performed a janggu chum for an audience for the first time.

NaHye Kim skillfully played the lovely 12-string kayagum during a solo performance. She also accompanied the samulnori team in a traditional folk song and Juri Park in a stunning vocal performance of “Arirang.”

The stage was ablaze with color during a traditional dance performance choreographed by Kyung Sue Yi, which was followed by a hanbok fashion show. A tae kwon do team led by Junior Master SueJin Yi demonstrated the national sport of South Korea; their strength and agility were cheered with many oohs and aahs from the audience.

Organized by Jeong Woong Cheong (Social Welfare), the Korean Culture Show was part of the international social welfare conference, “Positive Youth Development & Welfare through Strengths & Spirituality: Views from Korea & America,” July 18–23, 2008. It was co-sponsored by the KU School of Social Welfare and the Center for East Asian Studies.

Although campus quieted down after spring finals, our CEAS outreach programs continued through the summer. During June and July, Randi Hacker, CEAS K-12 outreach coordinator, taught two Chinese choir classes for Lawrence’s Century School and the Boys and Girls Club. The enthusiastic students then performed for residents of three retirement homes in Lawrence: Brandon Woods South, Presbyterian Manor, and Drury Place. The program was so much fun that the activity director at Brandon Woods has asked Randi to teach a Chinese language course for the residents this fall.

Leslie vonHolten, CEAS program assistant, co-organized a summer reading group with the Lawrence Public Library. Participants of the “Olympics in Beijing” reading group met through June and July to discuss four nonfiction books relating to Beijing’s past, present, and future. The class is meeting once more after the Olympic closing ceremonies to discuss how perceptions have changed since the summer games.

During the Beijing Olympics, Lawrence residents also heard a series of radio essays about China. Coordinated by Randi Hacker and recorded for KPR 91.5 FM, Marsha Haufler (CEAS acting director), Megan Greene (CEAS associate director), John Kennedy (KU Political Science), and Richard Schrock (Biological Sciences, Emporia State University) offered social and political commentary on China to help listeners understand and contextualize current events.

CEAS Outreach Coordinator Randi Hacker leads Century School students as they count to 10 in the Chinese fashion for residents of Brandon Woods South.
Artists’ Lecture: Gonkar Gyatso
Thursday, August 28 :: 7 pm
Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium
Born in Lhasa in 1961, Gyatso’s artistic career reflects the course of contemporary Tibetan history, documenting a creative engagement with what it means to be Tibetan in the 21st century. Sponsored by the Spencer Museum of Art and the KU Center for East Asian Studies. (For more information, see page 4.)

Meet & Greet: Tibetan artist Gunkar Gyatso
Friday, August 29 :: 2 pm
Centennial Room, Kansas Union
Come meet the artist and enjoy refreshments with others interested in contemporary art and Tibetan culture during this informal reception. Open to all KU faculty, students, and members of the community.

Annual Mid-Autumn Festival Moon-Viewing Party
Monday, September 15 :: 7:30 pm
Dole Institute, KU Lawrence west campus
Join us for East Asian music, poetry chanting, and moon cakes as we raise our (non-alcoholic) glasses to the full moon.

Panel Discussion: “The Beijing Olympics and the Global Community”
Thursday, September 25 :: 3 pm-5 pm
Hall Center for the Humanities
Modern Olympic games bring into focus not only sports but other kinds of social, political, and technological changes taking place in the world. What did the 2008 Beijing Olympics bring to light? This panel will address the evolving nature of world sport, national self-representation and global communications, perceptions held of China, China’s view of itself, and paradigm shifts in public consciousness.

Tea & Talk: Yong Bai, “Engineering and National Identity: Modern Bridges of China”
Thursday, October 9 :: 4 pm
Centennial Room, Kansas Union
Several signature bridges built in China in recent times will be introduced along with bridge engineering and construction education programs in Chinese universities to illuminate the current development boom in China.

Tea & Talk: Akiko Takeyama, “Selling Dreams: The Art of Seduction and Affect Economy in Japan”
Thursday, November 6 :: 4 pm
Pine Room, Kansas Union
Takeyama will investigate the interplay among political economy, social inequality, and subjectivity formation in the underground world of Japan’s increasingly popular host club scene.

Tea & Talk: Hungkar Dorje, “Compassionate Activity: Tibetan Schools in China”
Thursday, November 13 :: 7 pm-9 pm
Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union
Hungkar Dorje, a Tibetan spiritual leader and head of a Tibetan charity in China, will talk about his operation of three schools in Golok Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture, one for monks, one for lay yogis (nagkpas), and a new vocational/cultural school for children and teenagers.

Tea & Talk: Marsha Haufler, “Alternate Realities: Perceptions of Pyongyang, Capital of the Democratic Peoples’ Republic of Korea (North Korea)”
Thursday, December 4 :: 4 pm
Pine Room, Kansas Union
Professor Haufler (Art History) will share images and stories about her recent travels in North Korea, one of the most reclusive nations in the world.

Coming Soon! Protest & Revolution Film Festival
(dates, times, and locations to be announced)
Gonkar Gyatso will give a talk at the Spencer Museum of Art at 7 p.m. Thursday, August 28, tipping off three days of activities in the Lawrence and Kansas City area.

Born in Lhasa in 1961, Gyatso’s artistic career reflects the course of contemporary Tibetan history, documenting a creative engagement with what it means to be Tibetan in the 21st century. Gyatso’s art charts the subtle shifts in identity and belonging caused by constant migration, exploring the fusion of cultures and tradition in contemporary global society.

“The recent Tibetan protests in Lhasa against Chinese occupation, and the related controversy around the Olympic torch relay worldwide prompted us to invite an artist who, through his exploration of Tibetan cultural identity, can provide fresh perspectives on the complex problems surrounding the rights of indigenous peoples in the contemporary world,” said Kris Imants Ercums, SMA Curator of Asian Art.

Currently based in London, Gyatso was the recipient of a Leverhulme fellowship in 2003 and became Artist in Residence at the Pitt Rivers Museum in Oxford. His work has been internationally exhibited in galleries and museums in Europe and North America.

The lecture will be followed by visits to studios of local artists, as well as talks with KU students and faculty. On Saturday, August 30, Gyatso will join Ercums and H&R Block Artspace Director Raechell Smith for T.N.T. (The Noon Thing), “A Conversation with Gonkar Gyatso,” at 12 p.m. (The Artspace is located at 16 E. 43rd St. in mid-town Kansas City.)

Gyatso’s visit is co-sponsored by the Spencer Museum of Art and KU’s Center for East Asian Studies.

Would you like e-mail event reminders?
Contact Leslie vonHolten, lvonholt@ku.edu