As our successful 2008-2009 academic year comes to an end, we are already looking to the fall and our upcoming celebration of 50 years of the Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Kansas. Founded in 1959, KU CEAS remains the largest East Asian Studies center in the Great Plains region. Its mission is to encourage a broader understanding of East Asia through faculty and student support, K-12 outreach, and community activities.

We are fortunate that two of our original faculty members—Grant Goodman (History) and Felix Moos (Anthropology)—are still active CEAS members and can regale us with tales of CEAS in the early days. We look forward to hearing their stories and reflections as we celebrate this important milestone.

We also invite you to reminisce and share your own stories. Was there a favorite professor who helped you during your college career? Do you remember fondly an event you attended, or a lecture that changed your outlook toward the world? Please send us your CEAS memories for publication in our 2009 Annual Report. They do not need to be from 50 years ago— we welcome stories and photos from anytime during the last half century.

Please send your reminiscences to Leslie vonHolten (lvonholt@ku.edu, 785-864-1457). We look forward to sharing your stories in the upcoming months.

Bol delivers first Johnson Memorial Lecture

Harvard professor Peter Bol honored the legacy of the late KU professor Wallace Johnson April 17 with his lecture “In Defense of Translating and Computing: From the Tang Code to Biographical Databases.” Bol connected Johnson’s translation work of the Tang Code to Harvard University’s Center for Geographic Analysis project, particularly with that Center’s work in population distribution models in Chinese history.

Bol discussed the challenge of mapping population distributions from data that goes back 2000 years and his interest in accurately mapping settlement patterns.

The Center created an automated model that combines political and physical geography, SRTM data that generates slopes and stream flows, and known locations of administrative seats and historical population data. Testing with detailed contemporary data has shown that the model has a high degree of accuracy in predicting settlement patterns.

The lecture was made possible by generous donations from alumni, Prof. Johnson’s former students, and the Tang Research Foundation. For more information on the Harvard Center for Geographic Analysis, please visit www.gis.harvard.edu.
KU hosts artists-in-residence from China

The Undergraduate Asian Studies Initiative, funded by the Freeman Foundation and administered through the Center for East Asian Studies, hosted three artists-in-residence during the spring 2009 semester.

In March, Chinese opera and film director Chen Shi-Zheng taught acting and directing classes in the KU Theatre & Film department, and he gave a public lecture following the showing of his feature film *Dark Matter*.

The William Allen White School of Journalism hosted Li Rong, one of China’s most active members of the media. Li is vice editor-in-chief, vice president, and cofounder of the 21st Century Business Herald Group in Guangzhou. Among his many engagements at KU was a brownbag discussion in Chinese focusing on the state of media coverage in China.

In May, the Spencer Museum of Art front lawn became a conceptual art piece when Shanghai-based experimental calligrapher Wang Tiande orchestrated the planting of bluestem grass in his work titled *Up/Down*. Two goats, a sheep, and a miniature horse tethered to posts were also instruments in Wang’s work in progress during the final week of classes.

Clockwise from top: Tethered goats enjoy an afternoon in front of the Spencer Museum; opera and film director Chen Shi-Zheng; journalist Li Rong; visual artist Wang Tiande.

---

2009 Faculty Development Grants

*These awards are funded by our Title VI National Resource Center grant*

**Course Development Grants**

- **Arienne Dwyer** (Anthropology) will redesign her course EALC/ANTH 368: Peoples of China. Her proposal to redesign the course along thematic lines promises to promote greater student learning and enable her to teach subject matter in greater depth.

- **Sherry Fowler** (Art History) will develop a new course, *History of Japanese Buddhist Art*, which will focus on both premodern and contemporary Buddhist art. This will make a significant addition to the Art History department’s redesigned offerings.

- **Li Yan** (East Asian Languages & Cultures) will develop a new course entitled *Language and Society in East Asia*. The addition of this course will be meaningful not only to EALC students, but also to students in a wide range of other disciplines such as anthropology, politics, religion, philosophy, and linguistics.

- **Lu Yang** (History) will rework his course *Huns, Turks, and Mongols*. The expansion of content in this course will position it to serve students interested in Central Asia, thus becoming an important supporting culture course for our Uyghur language program.

- **So Yeon Park** and **Yoonmi Nam** (Art) will design and set up a summer study abroad to South Korea course, which will add a wonderful new study abroad dimension to the Art program and help expand student awareness of East Asia.

**Domestic Conference Travel Grants**

- Sherry Fowler (Art History); Sanae Eda (EALC); Vickie Doll (East Asian Library); Kelly Chong (Sociology); Kyoim Yun (EALC); Yanbing Zhang (Communications); Arienne Dwyer (Anthropology); Akiko Takeyama (Anthropology); Daniel Stevenson (Religious Studies); Keith McMahon (EALC); Yan Li (EALC); Maki Kaneko (Art History); Michiko Ito (East Asian Library); Marsha Haufler (Art History); Patricia Graham (CEAS Research Associate)

**International Conference Travel Grants**

- Larry Martin (Natural History Museum); Lu Yang (History); Li Yan (EALC); Fiona Yap (Political Science); Yanbing Zhang (Communications)

**International Research Travel Grants**

- Dongbin Kim (Educational Leadership & Policy Studies); John Kennedy (Political Science); So-Min Cheong (Geography); Kyoim Yun (EALC); Eric Rath (History)

**Non-CEAS Faculty Development Grants**

- **Judith Major** (Architecture & Urban Planning) will study and photograph gardens in Beijing, Shanghai, Suzhou, and Hangzhou, enabling her to add China material to her Introduction to Landscape Architecture course.

- **Kapila Silva** (Architecture & Urban Planning) will incorporate material on Chinese architectural traditions and preservation activities into her course, ARCH 600: Vernacular Architecture in the Western and Nonwestern World, as well as lead a winter study abroad trip to China.
Samuel Yamashita, the Henry E. Sheffield Professor of History at Pomona College, delivered the 2009 Grant Goodman Distinguished Lecture in Japanese Studies to a large audience at the Hall Center for the Humanities on April 27. In his lecture, “Coercion, Compliance, and Resistance in Wartime Japan, 1942–1945,” Yamashita used excerpts from wartime diaries to illustrate the sacrifices that Japanese citizens made during World War II.

Japanese citizens suffered under strict food rationing, censorship of war news, and required military service and send-offs. Diary entries illustrate that these governmental demands forced citizens to live under great hardship, such as hunger, malnutrition, and having to abandon their homes in the city to seek food and shelter from relatives in the countryside. The extraordinary government control made them feel they had no choice but to follow the directives, yet many were critical of their government, and a few even defied what they were ordered to do.

The lecture was followed by a lively discussion that included experiences from veterans, recent visitors to Japan, and Professor Emeritus Goodman.

Monks of Drepung Gomang Monastery

On April 15, the Tibetan monks of Drepung Gomang Monastery performed spiritual music and dance at the Spencer Museum of Art. The demonstration was followed by a brief lecture on the Tibetan Buddhist view of the mind. The event was co-sponsored by the Spencer, CEAS, and the Tibetan Education Project.

(Photo courtesy of Ann Dean)

Yamashita delivers annual Goodman Lecture

International conference looks at Northwest China

Thank you to everyone who helped make our spring conference, The Opening of Western China: Problems and Prospects, a tremendous success! The Hall Center hosted the April 17 gathering of scholars, students, and interested community members who came to hear research presentations and participate in discussions examining ethnicity, the environment, and economic development issues facing Western China today. Organized by John Kennedy (Political Science), Arienne Dwyer (Anthropology), and CEAS, the conference was co-sponsored by CEAS, the College of Liberal Arts & Sciences, the Institute for Policy & Social Research, the Confucius Institute at KU, and the Hall Center for the Humanities.

CTE honors CEAS faculty

On May 6, the KU Center for Teaching Excellence celebrated the graduate teaching of instructors from various departments who were chosen by their graduate students. Among the honorees were five East Asian Studies faculty:

William Lindsay (Religious Studies): “Dr. Lindsay challenges his students to examine and reflect on course materials and be active participants in their own learning experiences.”—Teresa Mathew

Michael Baskett (Film): “Prof. Baskett works tirelessly in and out of the classroom to make sure students work to their potential and achieve their goals.”—Julius Fackler & Brian Faucette

Dongbin Kim (Educational Leadership & Policy Studies): “Not only is she an intelligent and effective teacher, she is also a great champion for students and their personal interests and paths.”—Karen Lombardi

Deborah Peterson (East Asian Languages & Cultures): “She is able to create a class community in which students feel comfortable speaking—and making mistakes—in Chinese: no small feat.”—Bobby Del Greco & Randi Hacker

Megan Greene (History): “When educators say their office is always open, few mean that in a literal sense. Prof. Greene, on the other hand, has made it a point to be available to graduate students both inside and outside her field.”—Emily Lowrance-Floyd & Steven Tucker
OUR 2009-2010 FLAS WINNERS

Funded by our Title VI National Resource Center grant

Janet Chen (PhD student, History of Art) will use her summer FLAS to study first-year Japanese at KU. These language skills will help her as she pursues her research interests. Ms. Chen is from Taiwan.

Steve Davis (PhD student, Ecology of Evolutionary Biology) will use his academic-year FLAS to study third-year Japanese. These language skills will help him collaborate with Japanese entomologists and conduct research in Japan. His long-term career interest is to be a professor in Systematic Entomology & Developmental Biology or a Museum Research Scientist. Mr. Davis is from Gaithersburg, Maryland.

Amanda Falk (MA student, Geology) will use her academic-year FLAS to study first-year Chinese at KU. These language skills will help her research behavioral analyses of bird tracks and bird track localities in China. Ms. Falk is from Milan, Michigan.

Teresa Mathew (MA student, Religious Studies) will use her summer FLAS to study second-year intensive Japanese at Middlebury College Summer Language Program in Vermont. Her research focuses on Japanese new religions’ active use of visual art and music. Ms. Mathew is from Dickinson, North Dakota.

Halle O’Neal (PhD student, History of Art) will use her summer FLAS to study third-year intensive Japanese at the Middlebury College Summer Language Program in Vermont. With her improved language skills, she plans to research Japanese Buddhist art. Ms. O’Neal is from Columbia Falls, Montana.

Stephen Politzer-Ahles (MA student, Linguistics) will study first-year Uyghur at Indiana University’s intensive summer program with his summer FLAS and second-year Uyghur at KU with his academic-year FLAS. His long-term goal is to devise and conduct language processing experiments in Uyghur and perform experimental research with native speakers. Mr. Politzer-Ahles is from Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania.

Melinda Varner (PhD student, History) will use her academic-year FLAS to study fifth- and sixth-year Japanese at KU. These language skills will help her reach her career goal as an historian specializing in premodern Japanese and Chinese History. Ms. Varner is from Loveland, Colorado.

Congratulations to our FLAS students!

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