Chuseok is an annual harvest celebration involving a festival and three-day holiday during the autumn equinox. The celebrations coincide with other harvest moon festivals in East Asia, which CEAS will celebrate on October 3.

Major traffic snarls are the beginning of the Chuseok celebration—at least, that’s the joke among South Koreans as families return to their ancestral homes to celebrate. Once in their hometowns, and following an ancestral rite, families enjoy a large feast of newly harvested rice, soup toran (beef broth and taro root), and songpyeon (rice cakes stuffed with sesame, beans, chestnuts, rice flour, and grains), among other dishes.

Family graves are then tidied and offerings of food, drinks, and the harvest bounty are bestowed upon ancestral tombs as a token of thanks for the successful crop season. Great care is taken in cutting back the summer’s weeds and trimming plants as a gesture of filial piety.

The purchasing of new clothes—today no longer limited to the traditional hanbok—is traced to the days when the head of the household bought new clothes for everyone in the family, including the servants. This was also the time when clothes for the cooler months ahead were pulled from storage.

Although modernity has had an impact on Korean tradition, with more and more families choosing movie theaters over traditional games, some folk traditions continue.

Ganggangsullae, a dance wherein village women form a large circle and chant a song under the full moon, remains a popular performance during Korean cultural celebrations.

This year, ChangHwan Kim, Assistant Professor of Sociology, will share Korean poetry as part of the CEAS Mid-Autumn Festival Moon Viewing Party. The event is free and open to the public. We look forward to seeing you there.

Mid-Autumn Festival Moon-Viewing Party
Saturday, October 3 || 7:30 pm
Stephens Courtyard, KU Lied Center
Join us for East Asian music, poetry, and moon cakes as we celebrate traditions surrounding the full moon. Featuring poetry from Korea, China, and Japan, and the music of the popular Kansas City Chinese Music Ensemble.
Each academic year, much of the Center’s programming is formed around a theme determined by our Title VI grant. This year, we have the pleasure of exploring the culture and traditions of Korea. In addition to Korean poetry at the annual Mid-Autumn Moon-Viewing Festival on October 3 (in addition to Chinese and Japanese), we are hosting a Korean Film Festival in the Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium on Sunday afternoons during October and November. (Please see schedule below.) The films promise to entertain myriad filmgoers, from those interested in provocative and poignant documentaries to those who can’t help but love good monster movies.

Our Korea theme will continue in the spring when we bring Korean scholars to the KU campus. In January, anthropologist Nancy Abelman will give a talk on her research, which explores gender, race, and education in South Korea. The following month, sociologist Seungsook Moon will discuss her research on the cultural construction of civil society in South Korea, and later in the semester, anthropologist Eleana Kim, who researches transnational South Korean adoptions, will pay us a visit. Look forward to announcements about these events as winter approaches.

Beyond our Korea focus, we have a full schedule of East Asian lectures and events we hope you will participate in. Last year, through Title VI, we invited scholars outside the CEAS faculty to apply for travel grants to China in an effort to further disseminate East Asian content into the KU curriculum. Both grant winners—Kapila Silva and Judith Major—were from the School of Architecture and traveled to China this past summer. We have invited them to share their experiences with us at our informal Tea & Talk discussions: On November 5, Silva will explore vernacular architectural traditions in China, and on November 19, Major will share her interest in the classical gardens of Suzhou.

In October, the Spencer Museum of Art will open Extra/Ordinary: Video Art from Asia, with artworks from China, Japan, Taiwan, Korea, and Pakistan. In these works, the artists explored the constructed notions of the everyday, upending the expected and finding imaginative potential.

We are looking forward to the spring and two of our annual events: The Lunar New Year Party, scheduled for February 19, and the Annual Grant Goodman Distinguished Lecture in Japanese Studies. This year’s lecturer will be Edward Drea, author of the new book, Japan’s Imperial Army: Its Rise and Fall, 1853-1945. He will speak at the Hall Center for the Humanities on April 12.

The front page of our web site has been redesigned; when you have a moment, please take a look: www.ceas.ku.edu. One of our projects is to load a CEAS timeline and photos from our 50 years here at KU. We will let you know as soon as the project is completed.

As many of you know, this is the final year of our current Title VI grant, which means we are busy writing a new grant proposal for future funding. Thank you for your assistance and patience as we continue to request data and ideas to help strengthen our proposal. In the meantime, we appreciate your interest in the many events and activities that we sponsor on campus, in the community, and throughout the region.

**KOREAN FILM FESTIVAL**

All films will be shown at 1:30 pm in the Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium

**Sunday, October 11**

**Dear Pyongyang** (2005)

In the 1970s, director Yonghi Yang’s father, an ardent communist and leader of the pro-North movement in Japan, sent his three sons to North Korea under a repatriation campaign. As the situation in the North deteriorated, the brothers became increasingly dependent on the care packages sent by their parents. The film shows Yang’s visits to her brothers in Pyongyang, as well as conversations with her father about his ideological faith and his regrets over breaking up his family.

**Sunday, October 25**

**North Korea: A Day in the Life** (2004)

In this rare look inside North Korea, director Pieter Fleury follows the daily routines of a typical North Korean family as they go to work, attend school, and participate in English classes. Though the country’s inhabitants sincerely put their best face forward, the ritualized practices of propaganda offer a telling portrait of this controversial country.

**Sunday, November 15**

**The Host** (2006)

A creature emerges on the shore of the Han river for a feeding frenzy upon onlookers. When a young girl is snatched in the melee, her family sets off to recover her from the monster, which the government claims to be a host of an unidentified virus. “Aficionados of movie monsters will find things in The Host that they have been waiting to see all their lives.” Directed by Bong Joon-ho.

**Sunday, November 22**

**Whisper Princess** (2002)

An action-comedy-melodrama directed by Lee Jeong-hwang about a South Korean rock drummer who meets the daughter of North Korean leader Kim Jong-il, who is visiting Seoul as a member of an arts troupe.
UPCOMING CEAS EVENTS
All events are free and open to the public.

Tuesday, September 29 || 3 pm
Big 12 Room, Kansas Union
Zhang Qi, a visiting Kansas State University lecturer will discuss capitalist development in communist China.

Mid-Autumn Festival
Moon-Viewing Party
Saturday, Oct. 3 || 7:30 pm
Stephens Courtyard, KU Lied Center
Join us for East Asian music, poetry, and moon cakes as we celebrate traditions surrounding the full moon. Music provided by the Kansas City Chinese Music Ensemble.

Thursday, October 1 || 5:30 pm
211 Spencer Museum of Art
Wood is the Virginia and William M. Spencer III Curator of Asian Art at Birmingham Museum of Art in Birmingham, Alabama.

Tea & Talk: Kapila Silva, “Siheyuan, Tulou, and Diaolou: The Architectural Heritage of China beyond the Forbidden City”
Thursday, November 5 || 4 pm
Malott Room, Kansas Union
Silva (Assistant Professor, Architecture) will discuss vernacular architectural traditions of China and the issues related to the preservation of this architectural heritage.

Lecture: Peter Hessler, “Factory Town: Portraits from a Chinese City”
Thursday, November 12 || 3:30 pm
Hall Center for the Humanities
Hessler researched development in Lishui, a city in China that was establishing a new development zone. His lecture will focus on the owners of one factory as they established the place, hired workers, and interacted with their employees. Co-sponsored by the Hall Center for the Humanities.

Monday, November 9 || 5:15 pm
211 Spencer Museum of Art
The lost standing Yakushi statue was a devotional icon of the monk Saicho (767-822), the founder of Japan’s Tendai school. Suzuki (University of Maryland) explores the significance of this Yakushi’s standing pose, which reflected very different religious ideals from the seated, monumental Yakushi statues commissioned by the Nara and Heian courts.

Tea & Talk: Judith Major, “A Tour of Suzhou’s Classical Gardens”
Thursday, November 19 || 4 pm
Kansas Room, Kansas Union
Major (Professor, School of Architecture, Design, and Planning) will present illustrated observations on several of the finest classical gardens in Suzhou and discuss why she prefers them to the more elaborate imperial parks and gardens of Beijing.

Tea & Talk: Michael Taylor, Title TBA
Thursday, December 3 || 4 pm
Pine Room, Kansas Union
Taylor (Assistant Professor, Geology) will discuss his geological research in Tibet.

CEAS Teachers’ Workshop at the KC Japan Fest
Dianne Daugherty, Olathe school district Japanese language instructor and director of the Olathe Ki Daiko Drummers, led a spirited workshop in the art of taiko drumming for K-12 teachers at the annual Greater Kansas City Japan Fest September 19.
Over a period of two years, freelance journalist Peter Hessler researched and witnessed development in Lishui, a city in China’s Zhejiang province that was in the process of establishing a new development zone. On November 12, he will give a lecture about his observations of the owners of one factory as they established the site, hired workers, and interacted with their employees.


A freelance travel writer, Hessler joined the Peace Corps in 1996. For two years he taught English in Fuling, a city near the Yangtze River. After his teaching stint was over, he moved on to Tibet to research his long article, “Tibet Through Chinese Eyes,” which was published in the Atlantic Monthly (February 1999). In 2001, Hessler became the first New Yorker writer to be accredited as a full-time resident correspondent in the People’s Republic of China.

Peter Hessler’s magazine stories have been selected for the Best American Travel Writing anthologies of 2001, 2004 and 2005, and also for the Best American Sports Writing anthology of 2004. “Chasing the Wall,” a National Geographic story published in 2003, was nominated for a National Magazine Award.