Center faculty members Eric Rath (History), Yoonmi Nam (Art), and Champa Lhunpo (EALC) again traveled to China this past summer to work with the Mayul School, a new school for Tibetans in Qinghai. Along with KU art history PhD candidate Sooa Im and Emporia State University art professor Eric Conrad, they are working with Mayul School faculty to establish a curriculum in traditional arts. By learning skills in tangkha painting and vocational training, students will be able to continue important Tibetan artistic traditions and help diversify the local economy in the years to come.

Group members will discuss their experiences with this project, provide an overview of the process of creating traditional Tibetan paintings (tangkha), and examine the paintings’ cultural meanings in a presentation November 5 at 5:30 in Alderson Auditorium in the Kansas Union. The panel discussion is free and open to the public.

Development of educational infrastructure is a particular need for Tibetans. Rates of adult illiteracy and primary school participation in Qinghai remain far below these national averages. Even when students are able to receive a primary school education, further education is often not available because entrance exams require knowledge of Mandarin Chinese. As a result, approximately 2% of Tibetans in China attend high school, and just one half of 1% graduate from college.

Tibetans in Qinghai are also undergoing cultural changes because of government-enforced settlement of these previously nomadic people as a reaction to Qinghai’s desertification. Settling the nomads will surely change traditional life patterns and bring about economic problems as their traditional livelihoods are permanently disrupted.

The Mayul School Project addresses the clear need for developing secondary and postsecondary education for Tibetans in Qinghai. By studying in their own language and learning skills and new trades that preserve their local culture and encourage a local economy, future generations of Tibetans will be able to pull themselves from poverty. The Mayul Gesar Foundation’s vocational school and the curriculum in arts training that KU faculty are co-developing are first steps toward meeting these goals.

Learn more about the Mayul School project at http://mayulschool.wordpress.com/

“Wrathful Deities and Peaceful Buddhas: Studying Tibetan Art in China” by Eric Rath, Yoonmi Nam, Champa Lhunpo, & Eric Conrad
Friday, November 5 || 5:30 pm
Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union
Panel discussion focused on a 2-year project between KU and Mayul School faculty to develop a program in traditional arts for a school for Tibetans in China.
Origami Workshop Packs ‘Em In

The Center for East Asian Studies has been hosting teacher workshops at the Greater Kansas City Japan Festival for 8 years now, and this year our workshop drew the largest number ever: over 50 K-12 teachers from Kansas and Western Missouri signed up to attend “Folding and Unfolding: Origami and Storytelling.” The 2-hour workshop, held in the Nerman Museum’s Hudson Auditorium at Johnson County Community College, was led by Kuniko Yamamoto, a nationally known performer and origami practitioner who has appeared at the Kennedy Center and Disney’s Epcot Center Japanese Pavilion, among other distinguished venues. Dressed in a lovely kimono with a beautifully arranged obi, Kuniko talked about the history of origami, passed around a basket filled with complicated and complex paper creations, and demonstrated her folding and storytelling fusion: Soliciting contributions from her audience, she unfolded stories as she folded paper using each intermediate folded shape as a part of a tale that crested and climaxed and, finally, culminated with a final elaborately folded paper sculpture like, for example, a dragon. Quite remarkable and engaging. Teachers then got to try their hands at folding and unfolding a story involving a kite, a whale, and a penguin, all created using the same piece of square origami paper. Kuniko also worked with the teachers on paper cranes. Cranes are considered good luck, and it is said that if you fold 1,000 paper cranes, you will get your wish. Cranes are among the most difficult origami creations, requiring several complicated folds and refolds. Many teachers who had been frustrated cranefolders in the past happily reported that they succeeded thanks to Kuniko’s instruction. Appreciation for Kuniko’s skill and style was concretely expressed at the end of the workshop: Teachers spontaneously rose to give her a standing ovation.

KU Uyghur Textbook Most Popular Download

In September, Greetings from the Teklimakan: A Handbook of Modern Uyghur by Tarjei Engesæth, Mahire Yakup, and Arienne Dwyer was the most downloaded publication on KU ScholarWorks. The textbook, which also serves as a grammatical reference, is suitable both for self-study and for classroom use and is equivalent to one year’s study of the language.

Uyghur (pronounced roughly ooi-GOOR) is a southeastern Turkic language spoken by approximately 10 million people in Chinese Turkestan (Xinjiang) in western China, as well as in neighboring Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, and in smaller diasporic communities around the world. One of 56 official languages of the People’s Republic of China, Uyghur has three dialects and a number of local vernaculars. Modern Uyghur is typologically similar to modern Uzbek and serves as the lingua franca for many other ethnic groups in Xinjiang such as the Tatars, Uzbeks, Sibes, Huis, Kazakhs, Kyrgyz, Russians, and Oyrat Mongols.

The Uyghur language serves as the gateway to Uyghur culture, a burgeoning area of research over the last decade. Studying Uyghur also allows for the study of herbal medicine; Central Asian religious history such as Buddhism, Zoroastrianism, and Sufism; desert water conservation; and art history and archeology.

Today, the language is geopolitically strategic as the region shares borders with Pakistan, Afghanistan, the Central Asian Turkic republics, Russia, and Mongolia. The Center for East Asian Studies offers FLAS scholarships to students studying this rich language.
**UPCOMING CEAS EVENTS**

All CEAS events are free and open to the public.

Thursday, October 28 | 4 pm
Pine Room, Kansas Union
Korean military brides are the backbone of Korean immigration to Kansas. American Studies PhD candidate Sang Jo Kim will explore identity, survival strategies, and what role these women play in the history of Korean immigration to Kansas.

**Panel Discussion: “Wrathful Deities and Peaceful Buddhas: Studying Tibetan Art in China”**
Friday, November 5 | 5:30 pm
Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union
CEAS faculty Eric Rath (History), Yoonmi Nam (Art), Champa Lhunpo (EALC), and Emporia State University art professor Eric Conrad will discuss a 2-year project between KU and Mayul School faculty to develop a program in traditional arts for a school for Tibetans in China.

**Lecture: Jonathan Lipman, “Authentically Confucian, Authentically Muslim: Personal and Community Identities in Yunnan since the Qing Conquest”**
Friday, December 3 | 3:00 pm
Jayhawk Room, Kansas Union
Jonathan Lipman, professor of history at Mount Holyoak University, will discuss the Han Kitab and issues of identity for people who are authentically Chinese and authentically Muslim simultaneously.

**Looking toward the spring semester...**
A sampling of upcoming East Asia events being planned.

**Xu Xin**
CEAS Visiting Scholar, author of *The Jews of Kaifeng, China*
Feb. 17–18, 2011
Lectures, classroom visits, and colloquia

**Film: The Cats of Mirikitani**
In collaboration with the Lawrence Arts Center’s exhibit of works by Roger Shimomura & his collection of art made in Japanese internment camps
Feb. 2011 (Date TBD)

**Katie Baldwin**
Visiting artist, Japanese woodblock printmaker
Lawrence Arts Center
February 22, 2011
Community demonstration and classroom workshops

**Roger Buckley, “Global Sexual Trafficking and U.S.-Japan Human Rights Issues”**
2011 Grant Goodman Distinguished Lecture in Japanese Studies
April 6, 2011

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**TEACHERS!**

Randi Hacker has recently revamped the CEAS Culture Trunks. If you are planning a unit about Japan, Korea, or China, we have loads of resources to get your kids excited about these dynamic cultures. Culture Trunks can be checked out, or you can arrange to have a speaker accompany a trunk for a presentation in your classroom. Contact Randi at (785) 864-3832, rhacker@ku.edu.
On October 18, CEAS hosted China Town Hall: Local Connections, National Reflections, a live webcast and simultaneous local programming in 50 cities across the United States. The annual event is sponsored by the National Committee on United States–China Relations based in New York. U.S. Ambassador Jon M. Huntsman Jr. kicked off the event live from Beijing. He addressed many issues facing the U.S.-China relationship, including the value of Chinese currency, the U.S. debt, and the welfare of recent Nobel Peace Prize recipient Liu Xiaobo. Ambassador Huntsman expressed particular enthusiasm for the emerging blogosphere in China, stating a few times during the presentation that the Internet is revolutionizing communication in China, especially among its younger citizens.

Following the webcast, Dan Lynch, associate professor of international relations at the University of Southern California, presented his recent research to the Lawrence audience in a talk titled “The Chinese Approach to Culture and Soft Power in International Relations.” He described neorealist and neoliberal interpretations of the PRC’s policies and applied them to recent political writings on culture in China. A lively discussion followed, with Lynch and KU students exploring topics such as the South China Sea, India-China border disputes, the role of culture in nationalism, and predictions about China-U.S. trade and the world economy.

The mission of the National Committee on United States–China Relations is to promote understanding and cooperation between the United States and Greater China in the belief that sound and productive Sino-American relations serve vital American and world interests. Established in 1966, the National Committee is a private, nonpartisan nonprofit organization with over four decades of experience developing innovative programs at the forefront of U.S.-China relations. It focuses its exchange, educational, and policy activities on politics and security, education, governance and civil society, economic cooperation, media, and transnational issues, addressing these with respect to mainland China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan.

For those who missed the event, the webcast with Ambassador Huntsman is available online at www.ncuscr.org/cth.