The Center for East Asian Studies is partnering with KU’s other area studies centers and the KU Center for Global & International Studies (CGIS) on a four-year series of themes for the new Title VI grant cycle. This year’s theme is Heartlands & Migration. As the center directors have discussed collaborative programming, we’ve realized that heartland means something different to each of us, and does not necessarily have the same meaning, or even a specific meaning, within the context of our various regions. Nonetheless, we all agreed that Kansas might be viewed as a heartland, and so our starting point for the year will be to look at connections between Kansas and other parts of the world. To a large extent, therefore, the heartland we’re referring to is Kansas, which, in spite of its landlocked position, has vibrant and active economic, cultural, social, and even political connections to many parts of the world (and to many parts of East Asia).

Our major event with respect to this part of the theme will be a K–12 teachers’ workshop this fall on Kansas Business and the World, at which we will unveil a series of vignettes produced by KU’s CIBER about Kansas businesses that have connections to our regions. Our aim with this workshop is to encourage teachers—and through them, students—to think about how useful area studies knowledge might be to them, even if they end up working for a plant that manufactures fish food extruders in Sabetha or a grain additive manufacturer in Salina.

Migration is a much easier theme to work with, especially in the context of East Asia where there is and has been a great deal of intra-regional migration as well as outward migration. We have begun to line up a series of speakers, many of whom are at KU, several of whom are PhD candidates in the American Studies department who are working on various migrant groups from East Asia. We hope to have programming on migration within East Asia as well. We will announce our full Tea & Talk lecture schedule for the autumn soon. In addition to these talks, we will host a workshop on the arts and migration in April along with KU’s other area studies centers.

As always, CEAS will continue to do programming on other topics related to East Asia as well. Please do not hesitate to let us know if you have ideas for speakers or activities. We may be able to find a way to help you make them happen.

—Megan Greene, CEAS Director

Many faces of East Asian migration. Left to Right: a North Korean woman tries to enter the Japanese Consulate in Shenyang City, China; Japanese immigrants in Peru; Chinese migrant workers in Beijing in 2007; Japanese immigrants enter U.S. Customs on the eve of World War II. Above: Ethnic Korean men living in the Soviet Union; a Japanese “war bride.”
Kennedy Earns Fulbright

John Kennedy, associate professor of Political Science, has received a Fulbright Scholar Grant to travel to China, where he will spend the 2010-2011 academic year. Kennedy will be affiliated with the Northwest Socioeconomic Development Research Center at Northwest University in Xi’an. He will utilize the Fulbright award to examine how malnutrition in rural northwest China contributes to the growing gap between rural and urban educational opportunities. Working with faculty and researchers at the center, he will test how changing nutrition standards of rural elementary students in northwest China can improve academic performance. The study will use quantitative and qualitative methods to address the research question including survey questionnaires, a sample of 75 schools using a randomized control trial design, interviews, and nine school case studies.

Two KU faculty members were awarded Fulbright grants this year: Kennedy, and Majid Hannoum, assistant professor of African and African-American studies.

The Fulbright program is sponsored by the U.S. State Department’s Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs to “increase mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of other countries.” Since the beginning of the program in 1951, 287 KU faculty members have received Fulbright Scholar Grants.

Teaching about East Asia in the Global Economy

This summer CEAS joined with the KU Center for Economic Education (CEE) to present a 6-day professional development institute for educators. Twelve K-12 teachers from across the state participated and received graduate credit from KU. “Teaching about East Asia in the Global Economy” was designed to give an overview and increase understanding of the economics and history of Japan, China, and Korea from the 13th century to today. Mornings were given over to Asian content provided by the Center’s director, Megan Greene. Afternoons were spent on economics and included hands-on activities teachers could bring back for use in their classrooms. This portion of the day was handled by Barbara Phipps and Nadia Kardash, both from KU’s CEE, which is housed in the School of Education. In addition to meeting in a traditional classroom setting at KU’s Edwards Campus, participants took two field trips: one to the Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art where they were acquainted with the museum’s East Asian art collection, and another to the Truman Library in Independence, MO, where director, Michael Devine, spoke to the teachers about the Korean War. On the last day, the participants heard a talk by a member of the Federal Reserve Board of Kansas City over lunch at Bo Ling’s.

New Korea Books Available in CEAS Lending Library

In June and July, CEAS partnered once again with the Lawrence Public Library for a summer reading group, this year focused on Korea. Participants in “Discover Korea” read four books: The Newbery-award winner and young-adult novel A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park; Lost Names: Scenes from a Korean Boyhood, set during the Japanese colonial period, by Richard E. Kim; the controversial North Korea by Bruce Cumings; and a noir murder-mystery set in North Korea, A Corpse in the Koryo by James Church. Randi Hacker (CEAS Outreach Director), Leslie vonHolten (CEAS Program Coordinator), Megan Greene (CEAS Director), and David Lambertson (U.S. Ambassador, Ret.) served as discussion leaders.

CEAS has copies of these books available for loan to individuals, book groups, and teachers. If you are interested in checking them out from the CEAS collection, contact Leslie vonHolten at lvonholt@ku.edu or (785) 864-1457.

Junkeo Takeo Koto Concert

Members of the Wakatake-kai Koto group of Tokyo, including renowned koto musician Junkeo Takeo, performed in KU’s Woodruff Auditorium in August. After the concert, audience members were invited to come on stage and learn a Japanese folk song, try their hands at koto, and wear kimono. The event was made possible by Addie Mehl, a former student of Junkeo Takeo and current Lawrence resident.
UPCOMING CEAS EVENTS

All CEAS events are free and open to the public.

Annual Mid-Autumn Moon-Viewing Party
Wednesday, September 22 || 7:30 pm
Dole Institute of Politics, 2350 Petefish Dr. (west campus)
Join us for mooncakes and traditional works performed by the Kansas City Chinese Music Ensemble as we celebrate the full moon.

Tea & Talk Heartlands & Migration Series: Hai Cao, “The Image of Vietnamese Women Over Time”
Thursday, September 23 || 4 pm
Parlor ABC, Kansas Union
Hai Cao, PhD candidate in American Studies, will discuss issues of identity with Vietnamese immigration.

Tea & Talk: David Lambertson, “North Korea”
Thursday, October 7 || 4 pm
Pine Room, Kansas Union
Having lived in North Korea in various diplomatic roles, U.S. Ambassador (Ret.) Lambertson has rare first-hand experience with today’s “Hermit Kingdom.” In this lecture, he will discuss observations and reflect upon North Korea in a global context.

Webcast & Discussion: CHINA Town Hall: “Issues in U.S.-China Relations”
Monday, October 18 || 7 pm
Jayhawk Room, Kansas Union
John Huntsman, U.S. Ambassador to China, will speak via webcast before an on-site specialist leads a more detailed discussion. CHINA Town Hall is a national day of programming on China involving 40 cities throughout the United States. (KU visiting speaker will be announced in late September.)

Tea & Talk: Michael Taylor, “The Tibetan Plateau: From the Perspective of a Mountain Builder”
Thursday, October 21 || 4 pm
Centennial Room, Kansas Union
Geology assistant professor Michael Taylor will discuss the effects of tectonics on the geography and culture of Tibet.

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 played in the history of Korean immigration to Kansas.

Friday, November 5 || 5:30 pm
Alderson Auditorium, Kansas Union
Associate professors Rath (History) and Nam (Art) 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.

Tea & Talk Heartlands & Migration Series: Pok-Chi Lau, “New Work”
Thursday, November 11 || 4:15 pm
Reception Room, Spencer Museum of Art
Design/Photo Media professor Pok-Chi Lau will discuss his recent multimedia work exploring the Chinese diaspora and work in Cuba.

Thursday, December 2 || 4 pm
Pine Room, Kansas Union
Sociology assistant professor Kelly Chong explores the dynamics of the making and negotiation of ethnic-racial identity/culture among second-generation Asian Americans.

Area Exhibitions

Gao Brothers: Grandeur and Catharsis
through January 2, 2011
Kemper Museum of Contemporary Art, www.kemperart.org
The Gao Brothers’ seek to understand China’s complicated history and a government that has moved from Communism to a form of State Capitalism controlled by the Communist Party.

Cultivating Nature: Printmaking for Painting in 17th Century China
through February 2, 2011
Featuring 40 Chinese prints and 19 paintings exploring the Ten Bamboo Studio Manual of Calligraphy and Painting (ca. 1633) and The Mustard Seed Garden Painting Manual (1679–1701).

Yoonmi Nam, Transient Landscapes
through December 19, 2010
Beach Museum of Art, www.beach.k-state.edu
KU associate professor of art and CEAS faculty member Yoonmi Nam is the 2010 Friends of the Beach Museum of Art print artist.

2010 Greater Kansas City Japan Festival
Saturday, October 2 || 10 am to 8 pm
Johnson County Community College, 12345 College Blvd, Overland Park, Kansas (www.kcjapanfestival.com)
Music, exhibits, martial arts, food, shopping, lectures, workshops highlighting traditional and contemporary Japanese culture. Fun for the whole family. Adults $10, students & kids $5.
SELF Engineering Fellows Visit Shanghai World Expo

A trip to China for a group of students from the KU School of Engineering combined all the elements of a unique leadership program, and could provide others with a better understanding of what engineering has to offer and details on China’s booming economy.

Fourteen students in the Madison “Al” and Lila Self Engineering Leadership Fellows Program, all seniors, visited Beijing and Shanghai, China, for the World Expo in August.

Lucy McGilley, director of the SELF program, said the trip served as a capstone experience for the first group of SELF students to reach senior status. The idea of a trip to China sprang from a challenge she posed to students during their junior year.

“I asked them to come up with an experience that combined all the pillars of the SELF Program—business, entrepreneurship, leadership, management, and communication—as well as all engineering disciplines, and attending the World Expo in China was their idea,” McGilley said.

The SELF program is designed to develop engineering and computer science graduates who are goal-oriented and bring the entrepreneurship, business skills, and vision needed to guide technology-based corporations. The program enables undergraduates to refine their skills through mentoring and academic and leadership opportunities.

Brian Larkin, a SELF fellow and senior in mechanical engineering, said the students selected a location and an event that meshed with the program’s goals.

“China could present some great opportunities in engineering and business during our careers, so we are excited for the chance to experience their culture and business dynamic while we are still in school,” Larkin said.

SELF students collected photos, videos and other materials during their trip. Throughout the academic year, they will present to K-12 students and others at KU an overview of their travels, details on China’s economy, and technical aspects of engineering.

The students spent the first four days of the trip in Beijing, where sightseeing was mixed with tours of several Chinese businesses, including the Beijing offices of Black & Veatch, an engineering firm headquartered in Overland Park.

The group then traveled 800 miles on a nonstop, overnight train to Shanghai. Three days at World Expo 2010 (also known as the World’s Fair) highlighted the second leg of the trip.

The World Expo in Shanghai, themed “Better City, Better Life,” is an engineering extravaganza focused on urban development. More than 190 countries are showcased with elaborate, futuristic pavilions. More than 70 million people are expected to visit the World Expo during its six-month run.

PROJECT SHANGHAI:
KU Students at the 2010 World’s Fair
Learn more about the SELF program and read first-hand experiences at http://sites.google.com/site/projectshanghaiku/

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