As many of you have heard, Title VI, which funds most of CEAS’s activities, sustained a major blow in the last congressional budget, and the Department of Education was compelled to cut our NRC funding by 46.5%. We were very lucky that the University stepped in to help out for this year, so that the blow to CEAS was not quite as hard as it might otherwise have been, but even so, we were compelled to cut many budget lines, most, but not all of which were for programming and staff. One major consequence of our new budget reality is that Leslie von Holten will now be working half time at CEAS and half time at CGIS instead of full time at CEAS as she has been for the last year, so you may be seeing her name on emails from two different units from now on.

On the more positive side, we were able to save the entire instructional budget and the funding that supports faculty conference and research travel. Also, the FLAS budget was not touched by this round of cuts. We are grateful that both the College and EALC have stepped in to help fund some of the things we lost, so, for example, EALC is covering the cost of language tables for this year. We hope, therefore, that faculty and students will not perceive these cuts as deeply as we at the Center do.

In spite of these difficulties, we have planned many activities for the year, and we look forward to seeing you at them. Our programming theme for this year is Nations and Identities, which is good and broad, so many things fit into it. If you have an idea for a speaker (possibly yourself!), especially someone cheap and local, please don’t hesitate to let us know. In addition to numerous Tea & Talks, we will, of course, hold our staple events such as the Lunar New Year’s party, which will take place on Friday, January 27. This year we hope that the weather cooperates. Last year we tried something new, a Cherry Blossom Festival, which we would like to add into the regular rotation of events, and we hope to see larger crowds there for the second time around. In the spring, the Grant Goodman lecturer will be Greg Pflugfelder, who will present “The History of the Penis in Modern Japan” on Wednesday, March 28. We also plan to have another Wallace Johnson talk, date and speaker TBA.

As always, we have a very active outreach agenda for this year. We will be running a variety of teacher workshops and courses in collaboration with partners such as the Lied Center, which is doing a China Year, and the Center for Economic Education, with whom we are doing a series of mini courses for teachers on the Rise of East Asia in the Global Economy, and a workshop on world heritage sites with KU’s other area studies centers. We will also be helping the Lawrence Arts Center, the Spencer Museum of Art, and the Kansas City Opera with outreach events, and of course we continue to offer additional learning opportunities to teachers through the KCTA program.

Although last year was the final year of CEAS’s last Freeman Foundation grant, we will continue to feel the impact of that grant this year with the presence on campus in the fall of noted director Lei Guohua in the Theater department, and in the spring of Chinese artist Chen Shaoxiong at the Spencer Art Museum. We sent our final group of School of Education Kansas Asia Scholars to Wuhan this past summer, and I gather from those who went on it that the trip was a great success.

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to announce two summer funding opportunities for course development. First, in an effort to increase the number of courses on campus that have content on Mongolia, Tibet, and Uyghur speaking regions of China, we have two $2,500 grants to support summer travel by any member of the KU faculty, including CEAS faculty, to one or more of those regions. Second, in an effort to increase the East Asia content available to students in professional schools, we have two $2,500 grants to support summer travel by non-CEAS professional school faculty to anywhere in East Asia. Proposals will need to demonstrate how the trip will enable the faculty member to prepare a new course or substantially redesign an existing course by adding at least 25% content on the region into the course. We will be putting out formal announcements and instructions for these grants soon.

As always, please alert us to East Asia events on campus so that we can help you advertise them, and if you have a programming idea, we will try our best to help you carry it out. I look forward to seeing you at our events over the course of the year.

—Megan Greene, Director
Dwyer leads Silk Road languages project

With today’s technology, linguistic anthropologists at KU and Qinghai Nationalities University in China are collaborating in real time to document endangered languages in western China. Arienne Dwyer (Linguistic Anthropology) and her colleague, Professor W. Ma, in Qinghai, have been documenting Salar, an endangered language spoken in western China along the Silk Road.

Dwyer launched the Interactive Inner Asia website this summer with a $260,000 grant from the Documenting Endangered Languages Program jointly supported by the National Science Foundation and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

“The site will allow users to actively explore how contact and change between languages affects how similar they are,” Dwyer said. “By understanding a language area such as this one, we learn about all human languages: We can learn how languages merge with each other, how languages are lost, and how new languages are created.”

The new website allows simultaneous research on Salar and four more Silk Road languages that Dwyer has also been documenting: Baonan, which is Mongolian and Tibetan; Wutun, a combination of Chinese and Tibetan; Kangjia, a combination of Tibetan, Mongolian, and Chinese; and Southeastern Monguor, also Mongolian and Chinese. Salar is a Turkic language.

The languages are spoken in northern Tibet along the upper reaches of the Yellow River in western China. Mongolic and Turkic peoples came to this mountainous region largely during the 13th century as the Mongols conquered China and Tibet.

Recent dam construction along the Yellow River has resulted in many speakers of these languages being relocated when their villages were flooded—adding some urgency to the study. Dwyer is tracing the origin and movement of vocabulary and grammatical markers between the five languages, plus Tibetan and Chinese.

“Language[s] lend and borrow grammar as well as vocabulary, and these can sometimes even be dated,” Dwyer said. For example, there are old-fashioned pronunciations of Chinese words in Salar, indicating that these were borrowed from Chinese at least 600 years ago.

The grant also covers the development of an online dictionary tracing the origins of words and grammar in the five languages. In addition to building the major reference website, both Ma and Dwyer are expected to publish dictionaries based on their work.

Ma, a linguistic anthropologist and a native speaker of Salar, began collaborating with Dwyer in 1999 in China. He earned a master’s degree in anthropology from KU in 2007.

Dwyer, who specializes in Central Asian and Chinese languages and cultures, also co-directs KU’s Institute for Digital Research in the Humanities. She has conducted research in Central Asia and China for the past 20 years. Her 1996 doctoral dissertation focused on Salar.

Dwyer developed the Interactive Inner Asia website with Carlos M. Nash, assistant professor of anthropology. KU graduate students as well as native speakers are contributing data. The website eventually will include audio, text, images, a public Wiki, and databases for scholars.

The Interactive Inner Asia website grant was one of three that Dwyer received this summer from the National Science Foundation. The second will fund a 2012 international summer institute to train academic linguists and indigenous community members on methods and technology for documenting and revitalizing languages with few or no speakers.

Dwyer and Nash will co-direct the six-week CoLang: Institute on Collaborative Language Research in June and July 2012. It will offer two weeks of intensive training in language technologies and practices, followed by a four-week apprenticeship in applying these techniques in a classroom.

CEAS Announcements

Grant Goodman Publication: The Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Kansas is pleased to announce the electronic publication of a new work by Grant Goodman, “A Flood of Immigration: Japanese Immigration to the Philippines 1900-1941.” To view or download this publication, which is available on KU ScholarWorks, please go to the following site: http://kuscholarworks.ku.edu/dspace/handle/1808/7984

FLAS Fellowship Applications Ready: KU offers fellowships for students studying 28 different languages, including six East Asian languages (Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Uyghur, Mongolian, and Tibetan). These scholarships are available for graduate and undergraduate students. Both incoming KU students and current students may apply. Information about FLAS fellowships for East Asian languages can be found at http://www.ceas.ku.edu/academics/flas.shtml.
AnDa Union  
Saturday, November 5 | 7:30 pm  
Lied Center ($21/$5)  
A masterful reimagining of nearly forgotten styles of traditional Mongol music, this rich heritage is intermingled with the modern influences of the many disparate tribes of Mongolia.

Artists’ Talk: Creator of East West—The Same Man  
Monday, November 7 | 4 pm  
Malott Room, Kansas Union  
Join Chinese sculptor Kwan Wu in a discussion of his involvement in the Chinese-U.S. Sculpture Park at the Overland Park Arboretum, including his process of creating East West—The Same Man. Co-sponsored by the KU Fine Arts Dept and the International Sculpture Foundation.

Gallery Talk: John Kennedy on The Race by Irving Norman  
Wednesday, November 16 | 3 pm  
Spencer Museum of Art  
Join Assoc. Prof. of Political Science John Kennedy for a discussion of Irving Norman’s painting, The Race, and how it connects to social action, civic engagement, and the role of technology in our lives today. Kennedy’s expertise is in Chinese politics and rural political development. Co-sponsored by the KU Center for Global & International Studies and the Spencer Museum of Art.

CHINA Town Hall with Zbigniew Brzezinski & Mark Frazier  
Wednesday, November 16 | 6 pm  
Jayhawk Room, Kansas Union  
Join a live national webcast discussion and Q&A with the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations featuring Dr. Zbigniew Brzezinski, former National Security Advisor to President Jimmy Carter. KU will host an expert on China, Mark Frazier (University of Oklahoma), who will speak about nationalism through the lens of economic activity. Co-sponsored by the National Committee on U.S.-China Relations and the Dole Institute of Politics.

Murphy Lecture in Art History: Kuiyi Shen (University of California, San Diego), “Figure & Body in Modern & Contemporary Art”  
Monday, November 21 | 5:15 pm  
Room 211, Spencer Museum of Art  
Kuiyi Shen is Director of the Chinese Studies Program and Professor of Asian Art History, Theory, and Criticism, University of California, San Diego.

Save the Dates!  
March 28, 2012  
“The History of the Penis in Japan”  
Grant Goodman Distinguished Lecture in Japanese Studies  
Greg Pflugfelder, Columbia University  
April 12, 2012  
“Women & Samurai”  
Hitomi Tonomura, University of Michigan

CEAS celebrates the Mid-Autumn Moon  

The Center hosted its fifth annual Mid-Autumn Moon Viewing Party under the full moon of September 12. Over 250 students, faculty, and community members gathered on the front lawn of the Dole Institute of Politics to enjoy East Asian games, music, and the ever popular mooncakes.
Qiao Xiaoguang Papercuts at the Lawrence Arts Center

Downtown Lawrence visitors are being treated to the Chinese folk arts, thanks to a papercut installation in the windows of the Lawrence Arts Center. Artist Qiao Xiaoguang produced the original, site-specific work prior to a recent visit in which he spoke about his artwork and his efforts in preserving Chinese papercutting traditions for UNESCO. He also performed a papercutting demonstration at the Spencer Museum of Art. Qiao’s Arts Center installation is currently exhibited above the front entryway and is illuminated at night. Qiao Xiaoguang’s visit was supported by the Lawrence Arts Center, the Center for East Asian Studies, Dr. Elizabeth Schultz, Dr. John J. Kennedy, and Hong Zhang.