

KU Center for East Asian Studies

NewsNotes

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A note from the Director

2003-04 was a busy year at the Center. We marked the opening of the new academic year with a fall gathering at the Lawrence Depot, attended by more than 100 faculty, graduate students, and their families. Randi Hacker joined the staff in August as our new K-12 outreach coordinator, and Jun Fu came to the Center in January as our new accounting specialist. Maria Roman Navarro (Art History), Tailan Chi (Business), John Kennedy (Political Science), Yanbing Zhang (Communication Studies), Raj Bhala (Law School), Thomas Huang (Art and Design), and Yong Bai (Civil, Environmental and Architectural Engineering) joined the Center as new faculty members. Led by faculty advisers Megan Greene and Yanbing Zhang, and with the help of History of Art graduate student Halle O'Neal, the East Asian Studies Graduate Student Association got off the

See Director, p. 2

Greetings from CEAS

Welcome back for another academic year on the Hill! After several years in "civilian life," I have returned to the CEAS as the acting director for the fall, filling in (and endeavoring not to screw anything up) while Elaine Gerbert is off on an NEH fellowship. Elaine's break from administration is well deserved: her leadership of the Center has been exemplary and we all owe her a big "thank you" for her dedicated and selfless service. Thank goodness for us, she will be back in August of 2005 to take up the Center's reins (and write the next Title VI grant!) once again.

This should be a full and exciting fall for East Asian Studies at KU. Not only do we have the usual fresh crop of graduate students and undergrads, but we have an exceptionally large cohort of new tenure-track faculty joining us this year. I hope you will all come out for the Center's fall "get-together" on August 27 to welcome our new colleagues and reconnect with more familiar faces.

...Bill Tsutsui

As always, the CEAS has a full line-up of academic and outreach events planned for the semester. In addition to the wine-and-cheese presentations, language tables and other regular Center programming, Godzilla will be much in evidence in Lawrence this fall. In addition to the international scholarly conference "In Godzilla's Footsteps: Japanese Pop Culture Icons on the Global Stage," there will be a monstrous film festival at Liberty Hall, a series of special speakers (including renowned *manga* expert Frederik Schodt), a special performance by English Alternative Theatre, and exhibitions at the Spencer Museum of Art, the Museum of Natural History, and Watson Library. Check out the full schedule at www.g2004.ku.edu and join us for the extravaganza: it should be stimulating, timely and, above all, fun!

Have a good start to the fall semester and keep your eyes out for big, radioactive reptiles on the horizon.

Godzilla Stomps into Lawrence this Fall!

For full information about Godzilla in Lawrence, check out www.g2004.ku.edu. A full schedule of events is listed on the website. Highlights include:

In Godzilla's Footsteps: Japanese Pop Culture Icons on the Global Stage

This conference is free of charge and open to the public, but pre-registration is required.

October 29 & 30 all day, Lawrence Arts Center Auditorium, Downtown Lawrence

Free Godzilla Movies at Liberty Hall!

10/28: Free public showing of a rare Godzilla film (title to be announced, please stay tuned!) on the big screen at Liberty Hall.

10/29: *Godzilla vs. the Smog Monster* (a.k.a. *Godzilla vs. Hedorah*).

10/30: *Godzilla, Mothra, and King Ghidorah: Giant Monsters All-Out Attack*.

October 28-30: 7:30 p.m. each night with discussions after the films.

New Global Awareness Program to Offer International Certification on KU undergraduate diplomas for learning more about East Asia

KU's new Global Awareness Program (GAP) begins this fall, providing global awareness certification on KU diplomas. Undergraduate students can fulfill the GAP requirements by studying abroad, taking courses about East Asia and by attending CEAS events.

The new program gives credit to undergraduate students for various categories of international involvement. They have to fulfill two out of three coursework, study abroad, and event attendance requirements. Students who do not study abroad can receive credit by taking one year of a foreign language and three courses with international content, and by receiving 60 event credits. A full list of courses is available on the GAP website, and includes virtually all Center for East Asian Studies cross-listed courses. If a student wants credit for a course not listed, we can assist the student in appealing and adding a course to the list.

The event credits are earned by attending language tables, events, and by being a member of an international organization at KU. For example, attending a language table ten times in a semester provides a student 10 credits. Attending a CEAS wine and cheese or a film in the CEAS film festival earns a student five points.

Students can receive credit for courses they have already taken and events they have already attended. Therefore, many students will have already fulfilled the GAP requirements.

To sign up for GAP, students can go to www.international.ku.edu/programs/GAP/, where they can find online registration forms.

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ground in the fall. Randi Hacker, together with Michiko Ito, Vickie Doll, Pok Chi Lau, and Miwha Stevenson put together a collection of films for the 2004 East Asian/Korean Film Festivals with commentaries by Maggie Childs, Yanbing Zhang, Shanghai ghetto survivor Tom Lewinsohn, and KU film graduate student Noochul Park. In addition to CEAS noontime and wine and cheese presentations by KU faculty members Amy McNair, Arienne Dwyer, Marilyn Gridley, Tadashi Isozaki, Michiko Ito, Keith McMahan, Kathy Libal, and Andy Whitford, guest speakers included Osaka City University economics professor Chuck Weathers; Tibetan Thangka painter Jamyong Singye; Boston University Taoist scholar Livia Kohn; U.S. Department of State lawyer, Jackie Caldwell; Toledo University ethnomusicologist Nathan Light; Dr. Ablet Semet from the Free University of Berlin; Dr. Yuko Takahashi from Tsuda College; Dr. Yoshi Ohtake from Okayama University; and archaeologist Kimichika Nagashima from Kyoto, Japan. University of Wisconsin William F. Vilas Research Professor of anthropology Emiko Ohnuki Tierney delivered this year's Grant Goodman Distinguished Lecture in Japanese Studies. The Center sponsored a koto and shakuhachi concert by the Shonokai from Suwa, a calligraphy exhibit by Shikoku artist Tokou, and a lively vocal concert delivered with charm

and warmth on a cold, snowy day in January by the Seoul Ladies Singers. Our annual outreach conference focused on Military Arts in East Asia and brought back to Lawrence former CEAS director Cappy Hurst for the keynote speech. In May an 8-man delegation sponsored by JETRO Chicago visited KU to provide a panel discussion on economic policy in East Asia.

The Center's outreach programs to educators and community leaders continued to grow in number and scope. The KU-Olathe Articulation Agreement was signed, and the first four high school Eastern Civ classes were taught by Olathe teachers. Other program initiatives are described elsewhere in this issue.

Successful searches for new faculty members in Japanese language pedagogy and Japanese film culminated in the hiring of Sanae Eda and Michael Baskett. They join Kelly Chong (Sociology) and Anne Choi (American Studies) as our most recent additions to East Asian studies at KU. We welcome each of them and look forward as well to the first-time offering of Uyghur, taught by Arienne Dwyer, and to a new course on Tibet, offered by Eric Rath. I will be on research leave this year and know that the Center will be in good hands under the leadership of Bill Tsutsui in the fall and Marsha Haufler in the spring. Best wishes to all for a most interesting and enjoyable 2004-2005.

Elaine Gerbert, CEAS Director



Photo by Brad Stauffer, Director of Communications, Topeka Public Schools, USD 501

China in Kansas: Chinese Ambassador Yang Jiechi greets Richard Wilds, a teacher at Capital City High School in Topeka. Wilds' class has been learning about China through its World Band Radio Program. Wilds is a KCTA graduate and a member of the CEAS EACommunity.

New Faculty Profile: Michael Baskett

CEAS is pleased to welcome Michael Baskett to our faculty. Baskett joins the Theatre and Film Department specializing in Japanese film.

Baskett came from the University of Oregon, where he taught in the East Asian Languages and Literatures Department for the last four years. Prior to that, he received his Ph.D. in Japanese Film/Literature from UCLA.

Baskett has enjoyed Japanese film

since growing up on Kyushu Island. There, he would go to movies as often as he could. He went on to obtain a B.A. in Japanese Literature from Brigham Young University and an M.A. from UCLA. In addition to his academic experience, Baskett has worked for the Consulate General of Japan in Los Angeles, and has served in the film industry as a script consultant, director of localization, and assistant director. He has also organized film festivals in Osaka and in Hong Kong.

This year, Baskett will teach three courses related to Japanese film. In the fall, he will teach a course on Japanese filmmakers and a course on War and Memory in Asian Film. He will continue to let students into both courses until the rooms are full. In the spring, he will teach a survey

course on Asian film. This year, the course will focus on Japan, but in the future will rotate, include a course focusing on Chinese language film, and a course focusing on Korean film.

Baskett will include anime in his courses, and indicates that he is impressed with the “excellent collection” at the KU library. But his courses are not just limited to Asia. He notes that Japanese audiences are watching films from all over. Film in the region is far more eclectic than people think, he says. He will also include films in his courses that show how other nations look at Japanese film. He explains that cinema in the region is also a reflection of much more than film, relating to a number of other disciplines.

In his spare time, Baskett and his wife enjoy birdwatching and hiking.



CEAS Takes 22 Teachers on Asia Tour

Twenty-two K-12 teachers from throughout Kansas discovered that Kansas doesn't have a corner on sweltering heat and humidity when they spent three weeks traveling throughout China and Japan on an educational trip organized by the Center for East Asian Studies and funded by the Freeman Foundation of New York and Stowe, Vermont.

The three-week odyssey took the teachers through six cities in China including Beijing, Xian, Pingyao and Shanghai, and two in Japan – Tokyo and Kyoto.

The group visited Beijing where they saw the Forbidden City and climbed the Great Wall; Xian, where they visited the Terra Cotta Warriors and Shanghai's Xintiandi area where the Chinese Communist Party held their first meeting. A highlight of the trip was a visit to an elementary school in a tiny rural mountain town which was a two-hour bus ride from Xian. There the

group was greeted by students banging on drums and blowing horns! The teachers presented gifts to the principal including a Tonganoxie sweatshirt and, of course, a basketball!

In Japan, the teachers visited the Tokufu-ji Temple and ate lunch with Keido Fukushima Roshi, the head abbot of the Zen Buddhist sect. The Roshi has a long-standing association with KU's Spencer Museum. They also stayed at a traditional Japanese inn where they ate dinner sitting on the floor and indulged in a traditional hot bath.

The teachers are alumni of the East Asia Institute for Teachers, the two-



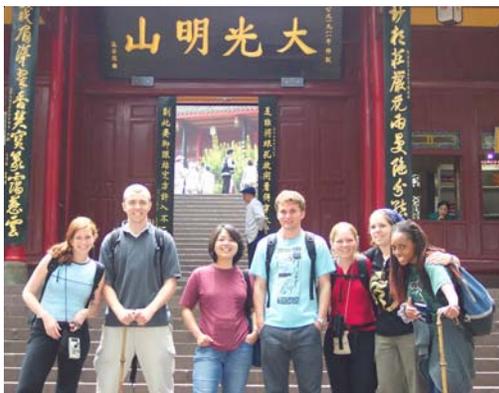
KCTA Teachers at the Great Wall of China credit course run by the Kansas Consortium for Teaching about Asia and which is offered twice yearly during spring and summer semesters. K-12 educators from Kansas and Western Missouri are eligible to attend the Institute.

*by Randi Hacker,
CEAS Outreach Coordinator*

Kansas Asia Scholars travel to Asia

This summer, we sponsored three tours by top KU students. A group of students from across the university went to Japan, students interested in business travelled to China, and social welfare students explored Korea.

Kansas Asia Scholar
Travis Warner at a
Chengdu culinary
college



Kansas Asia
Scholars at
the Wanniansi
Buddhist
Temple on
Mt. Emei,
Sichuan,
China

Fall 2004 CEAS Wine and Cheese Series:

All Wine and Cheese presentations are at 4:00 p.m. on Thursdays at Ecumenical Christian Ministries, 1204 Oread

9/16 “**Godzilla and the Myth of Monsters,**” Larry Martin, KU Professor and Senior Curator, Natural History Museum, and John Simmons, Collection Manager, Natural History Museum

10/7 “**Village Elections in China: Local Democracy or a Hollow National Policy?**” John Kennedy, KU Assistant Professor of Political Science

11/11 “**China, Joining Hands with Modernity: a photography journey, 1979-2004.**” Pok Chi Lau, KU Associate Professor, Design

12/2 “**From a Children’s Colony on a Japanese Periphery: Postwar Counter-Memories,**” Leslie Pincus, Associate Professor, History, University of Michigan

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