

KU Center for East Asian Studies

NewsNotes

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Eighth Annual Greater Kansas City Japan Festival Proves to be a Success

Kansas City residents and individuals from the surrounding area immersed themselves in Japanese culture on October 8 and 9, 2005, by attending the eighth annual Greater Kansas City Japan Festival at the Carlsen Center at Johnson County Community College in Overland Park, Kansas. Featured activities included music and dance; art, history, culture; martial arts; lectures; culinary arts; an amateur talent contest; hands on workshops; shopping; and kid-friendly activities.

Andrew T. Tsubaki (Professor Emeritus, University of Kansas) and Francis Lemery coordinated the event as co-executive directors in conjunction with over 26 organizations; and many volunteers were also involved. The festival was co-sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies.

The festival opened with music, dance, candy-making, remarks by distinguished guests and the ritual of *kagamiwari* (or breaking into the sake barrel).

Among the honored guests were Yutaka Yoshizawa, the Consul-General of Japan at the Consulate-General of Japan in Chicago and Consul and Director of the Japan Information Center Hiroko Matsuo. CEAS faculty members delivered various lectures for



Mary di Franco presents at the Japan Festival K-12 Teachers' workshop

the festival including Maggie Childs's "Why Study Japanese?"; Assistant Professor Michael Basket's "Recent Trends in Japanese film;" and William Tsutsui's "Searching for the Real Japan: Anime, Manga, and the Transformation of the Ordinary."

The K-12 Teachers' Workshop, "Beyond Origami Cranes: Art-Driven Lessons on Japan" was one of the highlights of the program. Dr. Childs presented a lesson called, "The Samurai World." KU's Dr. Sanae Eda presented lessons on Japanese calligraphy while Mary di Franco presented "Samurai Jinbaori."

Musical and dance performances and workshops also added to the festivities. Performances by Ottawa Suzuki Strings; classical Japanese musicians Yoko Hiraoka, David Wheeler, and Motoshige Kai; classical Japanese music by Colorado Ensemble; Koto and Shakuhachi, performances by the Falconers, and Taiko drum performances by Taiko with Toni provided festival attendees with a symphonic palette of Japanese musical delights. Sensui and Jukei Nishikawa treated the audience to the graceful art of buyo dance, a classical Japanese dance. Workshops related

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East Meets West: Performance by Beijing Modern Dance Company

The Lied Center fuses East and West by presenting Chinese modern dance to western tunes! Catch the Beijing Modern Dance Company presenting “Rear Light,” a bold new fusion of the traditional and modern performed to a recording of Pink Floyd’s *The Wall*. The Beijing Modern Dance Company creates innovative modern dance works that reflect the Chinese struggle to reconcile its traditional culture with influences from abroad and a thirst for freedom. According to *China Cultural News*, the work “demonstrates the incomparable power of modern dance to touch the human heart.” Reflecting the universal concerns of a younger generation, the company’s dancers convey feelings of idealism, rebellion, conformity and change. at 7:30 p.m. at the Lied Center.



Free Lecture: There will be a free lecture on ‘**Conflict and Creativity in China: Dancing on the Wall**’ on Tuesday, October 18, at 7:30 p.m. in the Hall Center for the Humanities Conference Hall. The lecturers will be J. Megan Greene, assistant professor, KU History; John Kennedy, assistant professor, KU Political Science; Joan Stone, lecturer, KU Music and Dance.

Mark Your Calendar...

Hair Power: Recent Drawings by Hong Zhang. Until October 28, Hong Zhang, an artist from China and wife of CEAS faculty member John Kennedy, is exhibiting drawings revolving around the imagery of hair. “According to Eastern culture, a young woman’s long hair is associated with life force, sexual energy, growth, and identity,” explains Zhang. The exhibit is open Monday to Friday between 9 a.m. and 4.30 p.m. at the Kansas Union gallery, level 4.

The Sacred and the Secular: Buddhist Imagery in Religious & Popular Contexts is an exhibition at the Spencer Museum of Art’s Asian Gallery organized by Hillary Pedersen, KU doctoral candidate in art history. The exhibition aims to illustrate how Buddhism is manifested in Asian Art. Pedersen says the exhibition is intended to provoke thoughts of how religious imagery is used, and about the possible definitions of religious art. The exhibition continues through February, 2006. For more information, go to: www.spencerart.ku.edu/exhibitions/exhibitions.html.

Lecture Series in Japanese: Wednesday, October 19, will be the next in our Advanced Language Maintenance lecture series in Japanese. Masashi Wakitani, a graduate student from the Department of Special Education, will present: “**Osaka, the People’s Town and its Culture**” from 12:30 to 1:30 in Alcove A (Level 3) Kansas Union. The lecture is part of the Advanced Language Maintenance Program and is approved for GAP credit.

New Faculty Profiles: Maija Devine



Maija Devine is a new lecturer in Korean language in the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at KU. Ms. Devine completed her Bachelor of Arts in English from Sogang University, Seoul, and moved to the United States to do her Master's in English at St. Louis University, Missouri. She has also completed graduate work in creative writing at University of Wyoming, Laramie and at University of Missouri, Kansas City. Some of her academic distinctions include a full tuition scholarship at Sogang University, Seoul, Korea; Fulbright Travel Grant by Fulbright Commission, Seoul, Korea; and full tuition scholarship at St. Louis University, Missouri.

Ms. Devine has explored different genres in writing, including fiction, non-fiction and poetry and has several publications to her credit. Some of her works have been published in *ByLine*, *The Kenyon Review*, *The Michigan Quarterly Review*, *Northern Light*. She has also translated writings from English into Korean. She has been a recipient of many awards in writing including *Blanchan Award*, *Wyoming Writers' Association award*, *The Boulevard Short Story Contest for Emerging Writers award*, and *An International Merit award*. She has also been a finalist in *Writer's Digest competition*, *Red Ink*, and *William Faulkner Creative Writing Competition*. She has three more projects, including a book-length memoir, in the works of publication. She has been involved in editing and literary reading as well.

Ms. Devine has taught a wide range of courses including advanced English conversation, paragraph writing, English literature, and political science. Currently, she is teaching Eastern Civilization as well as Korean at KU. She enjoys writing and is passionate about teaching.



Champa Lhunpo

Champa Lhunpo has recently joined the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures at KU as a lecturer in the Tibetan language.

Champa Lhunpo was born in Tibet. In 1959, when he was four years old, he was forced to flee with his family to India. He joined the *Namgyal Monastery* (The Dalai Lama's personal monastery) in Dharamshala, India at age fifteen. There he earned his Master of *Sutra and Tantra* in 1986, after 12 years of extensive training. For many years, he traveled as part of the Dalai Lama's personal

entourage, assisting him with rituals and performing sacred dance, music and art. He also tutored at the Namgyal Monastery in India and worked with the Indian Army camp.

He moved to the United States in 1992 to join the Namgyal Institute of Buddhist Studies (in association with Cornell University) at Ithaca, NY.

He has taught the Tibetan language, Buddhist Philosophy, Religion, Sacred Art and Prayer Rituals and worked as a translator for the abbot of the Namgyal Monastery of Buddhist studies.

He has taught at various schools and centers in the US, including University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Cornell University and now, the University of Kansas. He also delivered lectures on "Healing Violence through Art Youth Program" and facilitated classes on Concentration, Discipline, Self esteem and respect for all life to inner city children.

He enjoys teaching and looks at his profession as an opportunity to spread knowledge about Tibetan culture and Buddhism in this part of the world.

The Japan Festival (Continued from Page 1...)

to music and dance included buyo, Taiko drums, Japanese classical music, Shakuhachi (bamboo flute), and biwa. Japanese candy artist Miyuki Sugimori introduced the audience to candy-shaping techniques accomplished by blowing air into candy-making materials and finishing them using her fingers, scissors, and edible dye in order to create delectable candy creations such as flowers and animals. Martial Arts workshops allowed participants to practice Ki-Aikido, Kendo (Japanese swordsmanship), Kyudo (archery), Iaido (Katori), and Tenshin Ichi Ryu (comprehensive martial arts). CEAS faculty member Dale Slusser demonstrated the Japanese tea ceremony and CEAS speakers Bureau member Nancy Bjorge presented an origami workshop. Ben Oki taught a bonsai workshop.

The festival was a great success with around 1700 people attending on Saturday and 700 on Sunday.

- Jaimie Oborny

Kleinberg scholarship

The Center for East Asian Studies and the School of Business at the University of Kansas announce the creation of a new scholarship for undergraduate students pursuing double degrees in the two programs. The scholarship, supported by professor Jill Kleinberg, who will retire in 2006, will provide an annual award of \$1,000 to support either a study abroad experience or a business internship in an East Asian country for the scholarship recipient. Kleinberg, who has been at KU since 1988, lived in Japan for five years and has studied business and culture in Japan, China and Mexico. At KU, her teaching specialty is comparative and crosscultural management. "This scholarship reflects how important I feel it is for people doing business today to have knowledge of foreign languages and the cultural context of working across nations," says Kleinberg. She has chosen the emphasis on East Asia because of the tremendous importance of that region in terms of global economics, politics and culture.

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