

“Five Friends from Japan: Children in Japan Today”

Give your favorite children (or inner child) a break from the holiday rush and visit Japan through the traveling exhibition “Five Friends from Japan: Children in Japan Today.” The exhibition, which opened on Nov. 19 and will run through Feb. 10, 2006, is presented by The Children’s Museum of Kansas City at the Legends in Village West (a retail and entertainment district) located at the intersection of I-435 & State Avenue in Kansas City, Kansas.

“Five Friends from Japan” is an interactive exhibition that affords glimpses of contemporary Japan through the eyes of Japanese children and offers hands-on-activities in rooms that replicate the physical spaces in which five real children live. According to the news release from the National Building Museum and the National Children’s Museum in Washington, D.C., co-organizers of the exhibition, “the experience begins in a typical **Japanese elementary school classroom** [with] video messages from five new friends. After getting acquainted through the videos and participating in customary activities in the Japanese school, visitors enter the friends’ homes.” Traditional and contemporary Japanese culture are juxtaposed in **Sakiko’s bedroom**, where “visitors can dress in traditional Japanese attire, check out real *manga* (comic books), and try creating their own....An only child and owner of many pets, Saikiko highlights popular culture in her video.” **Ken’s tatami room** emphasizes aspects of traditional culture: calligraphy, futon bedding, and traditional Japanese architecture, but Ken, with an American mother and Japanese father, sounds like a thoroughly contemporary

child. He “shares details about his family, his love of baseball and Harry Potter.” **Aisa’s kitchen and tofu shop** introduce Japanese cuisine, including various types of foods and eating habits. Aisa also teaches visitors about the traditional festivals of her home town. **Yusuke’s yard** allows visitors to perform *aikido* moves with the help of an instructor, learn about Japanese garden design, and “see that not all [Japanese gardens] are pristinely manicured and intended for meditation.” This garden has Yusuke’s bug collection and sports equipment. Visitors will listen to and create Japanese music in **Shoko’s living room**. “Shoko, from an elite and culturally conservative family, shares her shell and stone collections through another video.” Throughout, visiting children are encouraged to compare and contrast the environments and activities of Japanese children with their own.



CEAS will offer three “workshops” as part of the exhibition programming on January 14, 2006, 9:00-noon: “Meanings of Furoshiki Wrapping,” a presentation for K-12 educators; a bi-lingual Japanese-English story hour for young children (pre-school - 3rd grade); and “Godzilla,” a presentation by Dr. Bill Tsutsui.

For more information, see:
www.kidmuzm.org/links/whatsnew.html and
www.nbm.org/Events/news/2004/five_friends.html

New Faculty Profiles

Catherine Shenoy



Catherine Shenoy is an Assistant Professor in the School of Business. She graduated from KU in 1979 with a degree in accounting. She worked for the U.S. State Department as a Foreign Service Officer in Washington D.C. and Tunis, Tunisia before returning to KU, where she received her M.B.A. in 1983 and her Ph.D. in Finance in 1991. She was an Assistant Professor of Finance at Kansas State University from 1991-93. In 1993, she joined the KU faculty. She has taught accounting, statistics, and finance.

Her research areas are corporate governance, corporate financial policies, and applications of artificial intelligence to portfolio analysis. She has published articles on executive stock options, the information content of finance decisions, portfolio analysis using AI techniques, and cash flow forecasting. Her articles have appeared in *Financial Management*, *Journal of Corporate Finance*, and many others. In 1996 she and Paul Koch received the Guy O. Mabry award for the best publication in the School of Business for their paper “The Firm’s Leverage/Cash-Flow Relationship.” Her current work is focused on the Chinese stock market’s microstructure.

Shenoy is also Director of the Applied Portfolio Management program, a student-directed investment fund with approximately \$950,000 assets under management. They take special interest in the Chinese and other emerging markets. In June 2004, she took a group of students to China on the CIBER-sponsored study abroad program “Investing in China.” As part of the program, they visited companies in Beijing and Shanghai.

Dr. Shenoy enjoys playing bridge, snow skiing, and gardening.

Jane Zhao

Jane Zhao joined the School of Business at KU as an Assistant Professor of Management in May 2005. Dr. Zhao completed her Ph.D. at the University of Michigan Ross School of Business in 2005. She holds an M.S. in Aerospace and Mechanical Engineering from the University of Oklahoma and a B.Engr. in Automotive Engineering from Tsinghua University in China. Her Ph.D. dissertation is titled “Toward a multilevel knowledge transfer paradigm: Acquiring engineering capabilities in the Chinese automotive industry.” She has been awarded several grants and fellowships, including a Center for International Business Education Ph.D. Research Award, Leabo Award for Outstanding Ph.D. Candidates, and William Davison Institute Research Fellowship.



Before joining the KU faculty, she taught at the University of Michigan Business School and Tsinghua University. She has also had industrial and consulting experience.

Her academic and research interests include corporate strategy, firm capabilities, networks, modularizations, China, and the auto industry. She has presented research papers at a number of conferences and published articles in scholarly journals. She has also been working as an ad hoc reviewer for the *Strategic Management Journal* since 2000.

Dr. Zhao is married with two children.

CEAS Student Profile

The Center for East Asian Studies is proud of its students and plans to use the NewsNotes and Annual Newsletter to recognize student achievements. Please alert us to students who deserve such recognition.

Adam Irwin

Adam Irwin, like many KU students, is an ardent movie fan, loves reading, and is crazy about baseball. Adam stands out, however, for his academic achievement and research pursuits.

Irwin has studied economics and political science at KU. He graduated in political science with a cumulative GPA of 4.0 and University Honors and Highest Distinction in May 2005 and will receive a B.A. in economics in December. His academic awards include the Faculty Pi Sigma Alpha Award for completion of requirements for departmental honors (Department of Political Science), the Ethan Allen Award given to an outstanding senior majoring in Political Science, and the Sigma Phi Epsilon "Balanced Man" Award. He was a Phi Beta Kappa inductee in 2005.

Irwin was nominated by KU for Rhodes and Marshall Scholarships. Although he did not receive a scholarship, he looks at the application process as a great learning experience. That process helped him focus on his objectives and career aspirations and identify his academic and research interests.

While an honors student in political science, Irwin took a course from John Kennedy, CEAS faculty member and specialist in Chinese politics. This course sparked his interest in China, and he asked Kennedy to serve as his honors thesis advisor.

He recently reworked his honors thesis into a paper on "The Dynamics of Chinese Budget Constraints: An Analysis of NPL Reduction Reforms in the State Banking Sector" that he presented at the Nebraska Economics and Business Association annual conference. His

paper was well received and is in press for publication.

About his interest in economics and political science, Irwin said, "My primary motivation for studying political science and economics rests in my belief that properly directed economic growth strategies can break the perpetual cycle of war, sickness, and poverty that has enveloped much of the world." His commitment to the betterment of society is reflected in his involvement in social and community services. He served as the president of KU Circle K International, a Kiwanis-sponsored international service organization. In this role, he encouraged members to act as catalysts for constructive social change and aid the poor and marginalized. He has also worked to help impoverished and politically marginalized citizens abroad. He created the Darfur Relief Fund, which promotes awareness, aid, and advocacy for victims of the political and cultural conflict in the Darfur region of Western Sudan. Adam was one of six student ambassadors of KU Endowment Association and represented the student body as a student-alumni liaison at University Endowment events.

Irwin feels that his family background and upbringing on a wheat farm in Western Kansas influenced his academic pursuits and research interests to a great extent. He credits his success to his family, friends and professors. He aspires to continue his academic journey by pursuing a doctorate integrating economics and political science.



Exciting Events and Exhibits

Postcards from Asia: A new radio series

Travel to China, Japan and Korea without leaving your radio through the Center for East Asian Studies' new radio series "**Postcards from Asia**," a collaboration between KPR and the Center for East Asian Studies. Each 'Postcard' offers a brief, enticing glimpse of Korean, Japanese or Chinese culture from the ancient to the contemporary, the exotic to the familiar. Dr. Bill Tsutsui, Associate Professor of History at KU, is the voice of "Postcards from Asia". To hear "Postcards from Asia," tune in to KPR on **Wednesdays** at **9:59 p.m.** and **Saturdays** at **1:04 p.m.** The radio series is also available as an audio link on the CEAS website. Visit www.ceas.ku.edu to download and listen to the series.

The Sacred and the Secular, an exhibition at the Spencer Museum of Art

This exhibit, on display in the Asian Gallery, was organized by Hillary Pedersen, last year's intern in Asian art and a KU doctoral student in art history. The exhibition illustrates how Buddhism is manifested in various types of Asian art, including prints, painting, sculpture, decorative art, and religious objects, and in texts from various geographical areas, particularly China, Japan, and Tibet. The incorporation of Buddhist imagery into non-sacred visual media illustrates an intersection between the sacred and the secular realms. The exhibition continues through February, 2006.

Beyond Origami -- Paper Objects

'Beyond Origami' is a one-person show of recent work by Nancy Bjorge on display until December 22, 2005 at the Lawrence Art Center, 940 New Hampshire Street, Lawrence, KS. For details, visit www.lawrenceartscenter.com/exhibition.html