

KU Confucius Institute Opening Ceremony and Events May 4

America's newest Confucius Institute and the only one in the Great Plains region will open on Thursday, May 4th in Regnier Hall Auditorium at the KU Edwards Campus in Overland Park. The Confucius Institute will serve area schools, businesses, government and nonprofit organizations, and the media by sponsoring Chinese language instruction, programs on Chinese culture, professional development for Chinese language teachers, and courses for professionals doing or preparing to do business in China.

Chancellor Robert Hemenway, Vice Chancellor Robert Clark, Dean Diana Carlin, and other KU officials will represent KU at the ceremony. The delegation from the People's Republic of China will be led by Dr. Wu Qidi, Vice Minister of Education, and will include Directors and Deputy Directors of the Department of National Universities; the Department of Academic Degree Administration and Graduate Education; Department of Higher Education; Division of American and Oceanian Affairs, Department of International Cooperation; and the Division of Secretarial Services, General Office of the Ministry of Education; and representatives of Huazhong Normal University. Consul General Xu Jinzhou will head the delegation from the People's Republic of China Consulate in Chicago.

A symposium, *China in Transition: Language, Culture, Business*, will follow the opening. Beginning at 1:30, the first session will address "Chinese language education in the United States today: How can we meet our needs for the 21st Century?" The keynote talk by Dr. Michael Levine of the Asia Society in New York City will be followed by a panel discussion featuring Betsy Degen (Shawnee Mission School District), Prof. William Tsutsui (history, KU), and Prof. Crispin Williams (Chinese language and culture, KU). The second session, 3-4:30 p.m., will examine "The importance of language and culture in business interactions with China: How can we make the connection with the world's fastest growing market?" Joe Patterson, consultant and former Hallmark executive, will be the keynote speaker. Prof. Tailan Chi (School of Business, KU) will lead the panel discussion. The day will conclude with *Experiencing China: An Evening of Music and Dance*, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The symposium and the performance are free and open to the public.

The program is sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies, the Kansas Committee for International Education in the Schools, and the Kansas Consortium for Teaching about Asia. For more information about the Confucius Institute or the opening events, visit: www.ceas.ku.edu.



JAPAN FESTIVAL 2006

On April 1, 2006, Woodruff Auditorium was transformed into a little bit of Japan. The auditorium was filled with families, performers and students. After long hours of planning, the University of Kansas Japanese Student Association (JSA) put on a jam-packed two hours of performances.

To open, the JSA presented a film highlighting the diversity of the Japanese landscape from the majestic beauty of rural Japan to the bustling streets of Japan's urban centers. Just like the range of landscapes Japan has to offer, the performances varied greatly in energy and intensity. Performances ranged from the enchanting dance of Nihon Buyo to the vivacious display of Kendo by members of the Kansas City Kendo Group. Students from second-year through fourth-year Japanese put on a great performance of Rakugo, a Japanese form of story-telling that culminates in a comedic situation at the end of the narrative. The students were able to demonstrate their Japanese language skills and perhaps a little bit of their love for the stage. Although done entirely in Japanese, the performance was accompanied by a video presentation that gave visual clues to what was happening in the story. A special thanks goes to directors Erika Hirano and Yumi Kotera, who prepared the script and worked hard with the students to bring this event to fruition.

After the performances, several workshops were

held in the Big 12 room at the Kansas Union. There were fifteen booths presenting a wide-array of Japanese culture, including papermaking, origami, and anime. Participants could even try "practice" Japanese entrance exams. Or, if that was too much stress, you could try your hand at Kendo and beat a perfect stranger with a large bamboo sword.

The festivities did not stop there. Following the workshops, dinner was held at the ECM. For just \$6, you could sample some wonderful Japanese cuisine. The selection ranged from well-known items such as green tea and tempura to shogakaki, fried and simmered seaweed.

The Japan Student Association has been a student organization at the University of Kansas for five years. This was the third Japan Festival offered by the JSA. For a video of select performances, please visit the CEAS website at <http://www.ceas.ku.edu>.

by Tyler Gatewood



LANGUAGE TABLES

All CEAS language tables are open to anyone. Please join us:

Chinese Language Tables:

Intermediate Level (1st & 2nd Year): Thursdays at 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Advanced Level (3rd & 4th): Thursdays at 5:00-6:00 p.m.

Both levels meet at tables near Milton's Coffee in the Kansas Union (level 1) every Thursday.

Japanese Language Tables:

Intermediate Level: Fridays at 3:00-4:00 p.m.

Advanced Level: Fridays at 4:00-5:00 p.m.

Both levels meet at the tables near Milton's Coffee in Kansas Union (level 1) every Friday.

Korean Language Tables:

Beginning Level: Wednesdays, 1:00-2:00 p.m.

Intermediate AND Advanced Level: Fridays, 11:10-12:10 a.m.

All levels meet in the East Asian Library (5th floor of Watson Library).

News from Japanese Language Program

Erick Eickhorst (MA in Japanese) was selected as one of the ten finalists for the Japanese Language Speech Contest sponsored by the Consulate General of Japan. Other finalists included Japanese language students from U. of Wisconsin-Madison, U. of Illinois-UC, and Notre Dame. Erick represented the whole KU Japanese program! He gave his final presentation at the Japan Information Center in the office of the Consulate General of Japan in Chicago on March 25, 2006, and received the Chicago Shimpo Award, which was given to two participants out of 40. (<http://www.chicago.us.emb-japan.go.jp/JIC/spchcont.html>)

Dustin Spillers (Japanese major) won the 1st prize in Intermediate Kanji Bee at the 8th Japanese Language Contest, at Olathe North High School on Saturday, March 25, 2006.

Greg Hazelbeck (enrolled in the 4th year Japa-

nese) has been accepted into a graduate school at Keio University, one of the most prestigious and competitive private schools in Japan. He will be studying computer science at Keio starting this September.

by Sanae Eda
Dustin Spillers (below)



Mark Your Calendars

Monday, April 24: Fifth Annual Grant Goodman Lecture, Dr. Jennifer Robertson, Professor of Anthropology, University of Michigan, "Artificial Humans (*jinzōningen*) in Japan."

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Dole Institute of Politics

Tuesday, April 25: Lectures, Dr. Dawa Dolma, Director of R&D of the MEN-TSEE-KHANG (The Tibetan Medical and Astrological Institute of H.H. The Dalai Lama) and personal physician to H.H. The Dalai Lama; Mr. (Kuno) Ngawangdhondup Narkyid, official biographer of H.H. The Dalai Lama, "Tibetan Ways of Medicine and Politics."

Time: 7:30 p.m.

Place: Hall Center Conference Hall

Thursday, April 27: Panel discussion: "Doing Research in China." Jennifer Turner, Coordinator of the China Environment Forum and Senior Project Associate of the Environmental Change and Security Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, and KU professors Larry Martin, Senior Curator, Natural History Museum and Biodiversity Center; Craig Martin, Chair of the Department of Ecology and Evolutionary Biology, and John Kennedy, Department of Political Science.

Time: 12-1:30 p.m.

Place: Walnut Room, Kansas Union

Upcoming Wine and Cheese Lectures:
This spring, our Wine and Cheese series focuses on "**Nature, Culture and the Environment in East Asia.**"

Thursday, April 13:
"Environmental Crisis and Response in East Asia: Japan and China Compared." Miranda Schreurs, Associate Professor of Government and Politics at the University of Maryland.

Thursday, April 27:
"CHINA: Big (Green?) Society: Emerging Partnerships to Solve China's Environmental Problems." Jennifer Turner, Coordinator of the China Environment Forum and Senior Project Associate of the Environmental Change and Security Program at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

All talks are at Ecumenical Christian Ministries, 1204 Oread, at 4:30 pm.

CEAS Faculty on the Conference Trail

March 3-5, **Sanae Eda** (EALC) presented "Blogging: Not Just a Personal History" at the Annual Conference of Central Association of Teachers of Japanese in Ann Arbor, MI.

April 6-9, Ten members of CEAS traveled to San Francisco for the annual meetings of the Association for Asian Studies (AAS) and Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL). Many took part in panels. **Anne Soon Choi** (American Studies) presented "Confronting the Unspoken: Korean-born Students and the Question of Collaboration in the United States during the Colonial Era" for a panel she organized. **Keith McMahon** (EALC) chaired the panel "Polygyny, Concubinage, and Prostitution: Continuations and After-effects from the Late 19th Century to the Present," and presented "The Polygynous Politics of the Modern Chinese Man." **Arienne Dwyer** (Anthropology) presented "Words of the Ancestors: Cultural Heritage and Modernity in a Lost Wedding Tradition of the Salars." **Patricia Graham** (CEAS) was discussant for a panel titled "Bunka as Business: The Dissemination of Literati Culture in Tokugawa Japan." **Vickie Doll** (East Asian Library) gave a paper on "Using WorldCat and Refworks in Collection Development" and also chaired the meeting of the Great Western Library Alliance East Asian Libraries Cooperative Consortium Meeting.

May 25-29, **Jie Zhang** (Linguistics) will give two papers at The 14th Annual Conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics: "Revisiting the Psychological Reality of Taiwanese Tone Sandhi" and "Contour Tone Restrictions and Faithful Alignment in Chinese Tone Sandhi Systems." The latter will be presented in the competition for the Association's Young Scholar Award.

June 6-8, **Jie Han** (Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering), will take part in the GeoShanghai International Conference in Shanghai, China. This international conference is hosted by Tongji University in cooperation with the American Society of Civil Engineers, the University of Kansas, and six other organizations. Dr. Han was a member of the organizing committee, will serve as Secretary General of the conference, and present three co-authored papers.

June 14-25, **Elaine Gerbert** (EALC) will chair and serve as discussant for the panel "The Utopian Impulse in Taisho Literature" at the Asian Studies Conference Japan in Tokyo, Japan.

June 19-23, **Yan Bing Zhang** (Communications Studies) will present "Stereotype Traits of Chinese Young Adults: Young, Middle-aged, and Older Adults' Descriptions" at the Annual Conference of the International Communication Association in Dresden, Germany.

Center for East Asian Studies

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