

Center for East Asian Studies
The University of Kansas

NewsNotes

Volume 14 Number 8
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From the Director

CEAS faculty and staff have been so busy, generating so much to report, that it almost seems as if this update should be a full-bodied annual newsletter instead of a September NewsNotes.

The most important news, which most of you have heard by now, is the renewal of Title VI and FLAS funding for four more years. Many thanks to Marsha Haufler and her team for the inspiration and hard work that produced the successful grant proposal. With the funding received, we will launch a series of themed events, one for each year of the grant cycle. This year's theme is "Green Tea and Bamboo: the Botanical Bounty of East Asia." Next year's is "Countdown to the Beijing Olympics," with "Protest in 1989 Beijing and Beyond" and "Korean Art and Religion" to follow in 2008-9 and 2009-10.

Developing the theme of "Green Tea and Bamboo," this fall we feature two events on bamboo and two on green tea. More related events will follow in the spring.

This fall we also have the special pleasure of having with us former Consul General of Japan Takao Shibata, who

will give three presentations for CEAS, in addition to presentations in a number of courses across the Lawrence campus. As the Chancellor's Lecturer, Mr. Shibata will meet with groups of students and faculty and with the community during his stay from August 31 to October 14. He will return in the spring, from January 28 to March 10, to lecture and share insights gleaned from years of experience as an economist and a diplomat both with the UN and the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

CEAS is pleased to announce the inauguration of a new graduate degree program, the joint EALC MA-Business MBA, which was approved by the Regents this summer and already has two graduate students enrolled. Other new offerings this year include Intermediate Tibetan, and in the spring, Mongolian Culture.

In addition to calling your attention to upcoming events, this first NewsNotes of the year is devoted to introducing new faculty members and graduate students, to updating you on programs, and to reporting on summer travel supported by CEAS.

We look forward to seeing CEAS faculty members at a meeting, to be called this fall, to talk with our new College Dean, Joe Steinmetz, and our new contact dean, Associate Dean Danny Anderson. Till then, may you have the best of beginnings!!

Elaine Gerbert

East Asian Events, Fall 2006

** Refreshments served

Friday, September 1

CEAS Welcome Back Potluck

Bring a favorite dish to share; CEAS provides wine, beer, soft drinks, tableware. Come meet old friends, make new acquaintances, and learn the identity of the recipient of the East Asian Studies Faculty Service Award for 2006!

Time: 5:30 pm – 7:30 pm

Place: Union Pacific Depot (402 North Second Street)

Wednesday, September 6

Panel discussion: "Rocket Science: North Korea, the Bomb, and what we can do about it"

Speakers: Takao Shibata, former Consul General of Japan, University of Kansas Chancellor's Lecturer; David Lambertson, former U.S. Ambassador to Thailand, Co-Director of the Center for International Business Education and Research, KU; Dr. Janet Breslin-Smith, Professor, Department of National Security Strategy, National War College, Washington D.C.

Time: 7:30 pm

Place: Dole Institute for Public Policy

Thursday, September 7**

Tea & Talk with Karen Wigen, Associate Professor of Japanese History, Stanford University, "Birth of a Region: Imagining Shinano in the Provincial Press, 1875-1925"

Time: 7:30 pm – 9:00 pm

Place: International Room, Kansas Union

Friday, September 8

Karen Wigen, History, Stanford University, "The View from Edo: How Urban Cartographers Shaped the Alpine Imaginary of Early Modern Japan"

Hall Center Seminar: Nature and Culture, co-sponsored by the Hall Center and CEAS

Time: 3:30 pm – 5:00 pm

Place: Hall Center Seminar Room

Thursday, September 14**

Tea & Talk with Greg Simpson, Professor of Cognitive Psychology and Department Chair, "Korean: The Crown Jewel of Alphabets"

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Place: Ecumenical Christian Ministries (ECM), 1204 Oread

Friday, September 15

Advanced Language Maintenance Lecture in Japanese with Takao Shibata, former Consul General of Japan and KU Chancellor's Lecturer: "Images of America in Post War Japan: through the eyes of a Japanese boy"

Time: 12:30 pm – 1:30 pm

Place: Courtside Room, Burge Union

Monday, September 18**

Lecture by Takao Shibata, former Consul General of Japan and University of Kansas Chancellor's Lecturer: "Japan-China Relations In the 21st Century: Reconceptualizing World War II on the Eve of China's Economic Expansion"

Time: 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Place: Malott Room, Kansas Union

Thursday, September 21

Murphy Lecture: Dr. Alfreda Murck, Central Academy of Fine Arts, Beijing, "Mangoes as Sacred Relics: Creation of a Symbol in the Cult of Mao"

Time: 5:00 pm

Place: Spencer Museum of Art Auditorium

**Followed by a mango ice-cream social in the Central Court, Spencer Museum of Art

Saturday and Sunday, October 7-8

Greater Kansas City Japan Festival

Saturday: 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Sunday: Noon till 6 pm

Place: Carlsen Center, Johnson County Community College

Monday, October 9**

Lecture/demonstration: "Bamboo Ubiquity: A Universal Material's Role in Japanese History, from Music to The Mundane"

David Wheeler, musicologist and professional shakuhachi player

Time: 7:30 pm

Place: Malott Room, Kansas Union

Tuesday, October 10

Concert: "Songs of Japan"

Yukiko Iwasaki, Professor, Kunitachi Music College and professional opera singer from Hiratsuka, Japan

Co-sponsor: Lawrence Sister Cities Advisory Board

Time: 7:30 pm

Place: Swarthout Auditorium, Murphy Hall

Thursday, October 19**

Lecture: "Bamboo: Applications in Furniture and Sculpture"

Thomas Huang, Assistant Professor, Art and Design
Tea & Talk

Time: 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm

Place: Pine Room, Kansas Union

Tuesday, October 24**

Lecture: "Drink Tea and Live Longer?"

Lester Mitscher, Distinguished Professor, Medicinal Chemistry

Time: 7:30 pm – 9:30 pm

Place: Malott Room, Kansas Union

Monday, October 30

"Tibetan Buddhist Views of Death and Dying."

The Venerable Champa Tenzin Lhumpo

Time: Noon to 1:00 pm

Place: Alcove C, Kansas Union

November 8, Wednesday
University Forum: John Kennedy, Assistant Professor of Political Science. "China: The Divide between the Haves and Have Nots"

Sponsored by Ecumenical Christian Ministries
Time: Noon – 1 pm
Place: Ecumenical Christian Ministries, 1204 Oread Avenue

Thursday, November 9
Demonstration: The Japanese Tradition of Tea

Dale Slusser, Instructor of Urasenke Chanoyu
Time: 4:00 pm – 5:30 pm
Place: Malott Room, Kansas Union

Welcome New Faculty Members and Researchers

Takao Shibata, former Japanese diplomat and Consul General of Japan, will be affiliated with the EALC Department as the Chancellor's Lecturer and will have an office in 2025 Wescoe, Telephone number: 864-9472.

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Consul General Shibata's speaking schedule for the fall semester is as follows:

Wednesday, September 6, 12:00 – 1:00 pm, Alcove G at the Kansas Union

Ujamaa Brown bag presentation for the Center for African Studies: "Decommissioning Rebel Armies in Africa"

Wednesday, September 6, 7:30 pm, Dole Institute for Public Policy

Panel Discussion: "Rocket Science: North Korea, the Bomb, and What We Can Do About It"

Friday, September 15, 12:30 – 1:30 pm, Courtside Room, Burge Union

Advanced Language Maintenance Lecture in Japanese: "Images of America in Post War Japan: through the eyes of a Japanese Boy"

Monday, September 18, 7:30 – 9:30 pm, Malott Room in the Kansas Union

Lecture: "Japan-China Relations in the 21st Century: Reconceptualizing World War II on the Eve of China's Economic Expansion"

Thursday, September 21, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm, in Room 109 in Blake Hall

Lecture, POLS 672: International Political Econom "Japan's role in and response to the East Asian financial crises of 1997–98 and the changing role of the IMF in Global Finance Governance"

Thursday, September 28, 1:00 – 2:15 pm, in Room 124 in Fraser Hall

Lecture, ANTH 390: The Peoples of Africa "The experiences of a Japanese diplomat in Africa"

Tuesday, October 3, 11:00 am – 12:15 pm, in Room 105 in Bailey Hall

Lecture, COMS 560: Seminar in East Asian Communication "Cultural Influences on Communication during the Negotiation process"

Thursday, October 5, 8:00 - 9:15 am, in Room 321 in Snow Hall.

Lecture: ECON 550: Environmental Economics "Kyoto Protocol"

Saturday October 7, Greater KC Japan Festival, at JCCC (Johnson County Community College)

Presentation with Mrs. Shibata at the Japan Festival

For information, contact Andrew Tsubaki@sunflower.com

Wednesday October 11, 1:00 – 3:50 pm, in Room 204 in Blake Hall

Lecture, POLS 973: International Political Economy (Doctoral seminar)

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Assistant Professor **Robert Fiorentino** is a neurolinguist who does research on the processing of Japanese complex words. His program integrates linguistic theory, psycholinguistics, and neurolinguistics (including the application of state-of-the-art brain-imaging techniques to linguistic research). His primary languages of research are English and Japanese.

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Tien-Tsung Lee, Associate Professor of Journalism, does research on ideologies, values and attitudes in the context of political and mass communication. His research has included studies on the portrayal of Asian-Americans in the media and a comparison of newspaper photographs of presidential candidates in the US and Taiwan. A native of Taipei, Taiwan, he has worked for newspapers and publications in Taiwan as well as in Minnesota, Oregon, Washington, and Honolulu.

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Johnny Kim, Ph.D., Assistant Professor in the School of Social Welfare, received his masters in social work from Boston College and his PhD from the University of Texas (Austin). His areas of research and teaching interests include: school social work, social work practice with Asian-Americans, and community mental health practice and substance abuse among adolescents.

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A native from Ecuador, Assistant Professor **Ketty Wong** is a musicologist and ethnomusicologist interested in the music of world cultures. She holds degrees from Guayaquil, Ecuador; Moscow; and Austin, Texas. Her course on World Music this semester includes classes on traditional East Asian music.

Associate Professor **Young-jo Suh** of the Department of Political Science, Dongeui University, Busan, South Korea has joined the KU Department of Political Science as a visiting researcher for the year (fall 2006-summer 2007) while on sabbatical from his university. He can be contacted at yjsuh@deu.ac.kr.

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Zeng Xiaoyu, Professor of Nankai University, Tianjin, China is an Exchange Scholar in residence, August 2006-July 2007. She will be affiliated with the EALC Department and pursue research in linguistics.

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Dr. Jungjo Yuu, senior researcher at the Geosynthetics Institute at Inha University, Korea, will work with Jie Han in Engineering on geosynthetics-related research for one year.

New Graduate Student Teaching Assistants make their debut

The university is a place where tomorrow's professoriate is trained. Meet this year's new teaching instructors in East Asian Studies:

Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

CHINESE

Haining Lou is a first year MA student in Education. She received her BA degree in Economics from Dartmouth College and was working as a stock analyst in New York City for the past several years before joining the EALC Department this fall as a GTA in the Chinese language program.

EALC's new Chinese OPI (Oral Proficiency Interview) instructor is **Li Yingjie**. (Doctoral candidate, TESL Education)

JAPANESE

Bobby Del Greco, [MA candidate, EALC; BA, Japanese, KU] begins his work as a GTA in the Elementary Japanese class. Bobby spent a year at Obirin Daigaku in Machida, Japan and wrote an EALC honors thesis on the Zainichi Korean novelist Kimu Saryan.

Tadashi Monma, a second year graduate student in Communication Studies, will be in charge of the Japanese language tables this year.

KOREAN

Li Jee-yeon [doctoral candidate, TESL, Education], will conduct the Korean language tables, the Korean OPI and the Korean advanced language maintenance program and help with tutorial work.

MONGOLIAN CULTURE

Battsetseg Serj [doctoral candidate, American Studies], lecturer, EALC, taught Mongolian history in spring 2006 and will teach Mongolian culture for the EALC Dept. in spring 2007. Battsetseg is from Ulan Baatar, Mongolia, where she served as chairperson of the English Language and American Studies Department at the State Pedagogical University. She was also chair of the Department of Diplomatic Translation, School of Foreign Service, National University of Mongolia.

EASTERN CIVILIZATIONS

Eunice Park [doctoral candidate, Theatre and Film], will teach ECIV sections on Korea and Japan.

Alison Miller [MA candidate, History of Art] will teach ECIV sections on China and Japan.

Carrie Janiga [MA candidate, History of Art], will teach ECIV sections on China.

HISTORY

Margarita Karnysheva [PhD candidate, Japanese history] will assist Bill Tsutsui in History 118.

HISTORY OF ART

Shuli Han, a second year graduate student in the Department of History of Art, will begin teaching as a GTA for the course taught by Marsha Haufler, Visual Arts of East Asia, this fall. She will assist Amy McNair with Art and Culture of China in the spring.

CEAS welcomes back returning faculty members and graduate students

Bill Lindsey, Assistant Professor, has returned to the Department of Religious Studies from a research leave at Kanagawa University, where he completed his manuscript, "Fertility and Pleasure: Ritual and Sexual Values in Tokugawa Japan." His research and travel were made available through a fellowship from the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science. During his time in Japan Bill also took his first visit to Korea through a wonderful (and highly recommended) expertly guided travel tour made possible by a fellowship from the Korea Society.

John Dardess has been lured from retirement to help the history department by teaching Imperial China this fall.

Margarita Karnysheva returns to KU from East Siberia State University of Technology in Ulan-Ude Russia, where she taught Japanese history and culture and basic Japanese language. Margarita returns this time with her two daughters, Masha (15) and Anya (12).

Brenton Sullivan [MA candidate, EALC]. Returns from two years in China, where he studied at Beijing University in 05-06 and Qinghua University in 04-05. He will teach sections of ECIV (China) this year.

Welcome New Graduate Students!

In Theatre and Film:

Sohn Eun-Kyung (doctoral program) will study the intersection of Confucianism and East Asia film

Yoon Dol Youm (doctoral program) will focus on Korean cinema

Scott Evans (MA program) is interested in Japanese cinema and Sam Peckinpah

In EALC:

Eriko Akaike-Toste, Japanese Studies

Erin Billing, Chinese Studies

Geoffrey Cook, joint EALC MA (Japanese)-Business MBA.

Robert (Bobby) Del Greco, MA program, Japanese

Brian Mellor, joint EALC MA (Japanese)- Business MBA

In History of Art

Janet Chen (MA program; Chinese art)

Ghichul Jung (PhD program; Korean art)

Rachel Voorhies (MA program; Chinese art)

Wenrui Zhong (MA program; Chinese art)

New student assistants at CEAS

Michelle Chen, from Taipei, Taiwan, is a junior studying Graphic Design.

NEW CEAS RESOURCES also include a collection of 60 videos of Japanese films by major film directors. This collection was donated by KU alum, **Glenn Duffee**, who now resides with his wife, Muey, in Thailand.

CEAS faculty members on leave this year

Kelly Chong, fall and spring (Korea Foundation Advanced Research Fellowship leave)

Sherry Fowler, fall sabbatical (with a Robert and Lisa Sainsbury Fellowship to work at the University of London)

Amy McNair, fall (NEH fellowship leave)

Nobleza Asuncion-Lande, fall

Felix Moos, spring

Dan Stevenson, fall sabbatical

Akira Yamamoto, spring

Fiona Yap, fall sabbatical

Yan Bing Zhang, spring

Reporting on Title VI-funded faculty travel to East Asia

Megan Greene

The CEAS helped me to fund a 5 week trip to Taipei to research my new project on historical narratives and the construction of identity in Taiwan. It was a wonderful trip. I collected a great deal of material, saw lots of old friends, and of course ate very well indeed! This project also gave me the opportunity to visit numerous museums and public sites where history is commemorated and described. There has been a proliferation of such sites in Taiwan over the past 10-15 years, some of them public, and others private. Most such sites are dedicated to celebrating some particular feature of Taiwan's past or present, and as a result, many of them promote narratives of Taiwan's history that emphasize its uniqueness and its separateness from China. Among these narratives is that of a globalized Taiwan—a Taiwan that has been deeply connected through trade, imperialism, cultural exchange, and so on to a vast network of places since at least the 17th century. Although visitors often note, as they gobble their Big Macs, the extent to which late 20th and early 21st century Taiwan has become part of the global village, it is only recently that globalization has taken on this different and more politicized meaning. Globalization, or at least a narrative of globalization, has now become a rhetorical tool with which some Taiwanese are arguing for their independence.

Deborah Peterson

In June, 2006 I spent a week in Xining, the capital of Qinghai Province. I met with instructors and students at Qinghai Normal University, and with Sangjie Jia, the Director of the Nationalities Department at Qinghai Normal University. Sangjie Jia and I discussed the possibility of, and practical issues that would be involved in establishing a study abroad program for KU students. In particular, we discussed courses of study, course availability in English, length of courses, facilities and course related travel, and control of course content. I was particularly impressed with the young Tibetan scholars I met. I hope that in the future KU students will have an opportunity to interact with, and learn from these dedicated young people.

Jie Han

GeoShanghai International Conference 2006 was successfully held in Shanghai, China, from June 6 to 8, 2006. The general theme of this conference was to merge geotechnical engineering practice and research. Geotechnical engineering is one of the fields in civil engineering, which studies the engineering behavior of soils and rocks and deals with the use of these earthen materials for civil engineering applications, such as foundations for bridges and buildings, earth dams, highway embankments, tunnels, etc. GeoShanghai 2006 was organized by Tongji University in China, the American Society for Civil Engineers (ASCE), the University of Kansas, the Georgia Institute of Technology, the University of Tennessee, and other four internationally well-regarded organizations. About 450 delegates from 33 countries attended this important event. Dr. Jie Han, associate professor in the Department of Civil, Environmental, and Architectural Engineering (CEAE) and also a faculty member of the Center for East Asian Studies, was the secretary general and the technical committee co-chair for this conference. Dr. Han and his colleague, Dr. Robert L. Parsons at the CEAE department also served as the editors-in-chief for two ASCE Geotechnical Special Publications (GSPs) on the proceedings of this conference. Dr. Han's trip to this conference was sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies.

John Kennedy

In May and June 2006, I spent five weeks in China to conduct training courses in quantitative research methods and to carry out qualitative interviews with villagers in Shaanxi, Ningxia and Qinghai provinces. The training courses are part of a two year Ford Foundation grant to develop the research capacity of the Northwest Socio-economic Development Research Center (NSDRC). The office of the NSDRC is at the Northwest University, Xian (*Xida*) and it is affiliated with four other universities in northwest China (see www.nsdrc.org.cn). Currently, only the major universities on the east coast such as Peking University and Fudan University (Shanghai) teach courses on survey methods. The goal for this trip is to help develop semester long courses in survey methods such as questionnaire design, sampling and data analysis for each participating university in the northwest. I also conducted interviews with village cadres, township leaders and county officials on local land management practices, the new rural health insurance plan and the cadre management system. The data collected will be used for my current book project on political reform in the Chinese countryside.

Jie Zhang

In May 2006, I traveled to the Academia Sinica in Taipei with my research assistant Yuwen Lai to present a paper entitled "Revisiting the psychological reality of Taiwanese tone sandhi" at the Joint meeting of the 14th annual conference of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics and the 10th International Symposium on Chinese Languages and

Linguistics (IACL-14/IsCLL-10). I also presented a paper entitled "Contour restrictions and Faithful Alignment in Chinese tone sandhi systems" at the meeting in competition for the 2006 Young Scholar Award of the International Association of Linguistics, and I was named the winner of the award at the closing ceremony of the conference. Yuwen and I then traveled to National Tsinghua University in Hsinchu, Taiwan, where I gave an invited talk entitled "Directional asymmetries in Chinese tone sandhi systems." We also participated in a mini-conference organized by students at the Graduate Institute of Linguistics at Tsinghua University, where they shared with us their current research. Yuwen later traveled to Chungcheng University in Chiayi, Taiwan to collect data from native Taiwanese speakers for a project of ours that is funded by KUCR and the Chiang Ching-Kuo foundation for International Scholarly Exchange.

Summer Programs

Pok Chi Lau: "Understanding China Through Photography." A brief report on the summer Study Abroad Class ADS 560

This summer two KU instructors and I and a group of 24 students spent three weeks touring, experiencing and photographing regions of China as part of a Study Abroad Class offered by the School of Art and Design. The students hailed from a number of departments including Industrial and Graphic Design, Political Science, Architecture and Anthropology.

The students experienced a China that many visitors do not get to see. From visits with corporate executives in Hong Kong to basketball games with live-in factory workers in Dongguan to university students and professors in Guangzhou, the students were able to photograph and learn about diverse ways of life in this quickly emerging market economy. Students had the rare opportunity to visit Tongsha, a town just outside Guangzhou where building codes are non-existent and Jiao Lung Village where the main residents are all over 50 because young people have made their exodus to large cities to seek their fortunes. But perhaps the greatest culture shock came when the students went to Yao On, a small impoverished village where people struggle to live on less than \$12 a month.

In contrast, the students found cities like Xian, Beijing and Shanghai almost commonplace. In Xian, they saw the opposite end of China's new economic spectrum when a wealthy industrialist and entrepreneur took them on a tour of his holdings and gave them a ride in his Rolls Royce. The students documented their entire trip as part of their course requirement. Each student has anywhere from 3600 to 6000 photographs. I believe the objectives of the class were exceeded.

Kansas Asia Scholars for Social Work in Korea

We had another great time in this final year of the KAS Korea program. Seven social welfare students participated. After a

semester of pre-trip orientation sessions, we spent three weeks traveling in Seoul and the central and southeastern provinces. Our main theme was to explore the ways that Korean religious and philosophical traditions shape contemporary social welfare. So we visited social work agencies in urban and rural areas that are sponsored by Buddhist (Jogye Jong), Catholic, Protestant, and Won Buddhist denominations. Most of these included mixed religious and governmental sponsorship and funding and also served a wide range of clients. So their various ways of dealing with religion/state relations and client diversity were fascinating. We also had presentations by a prominent Confucian scholar on the Confucian philosophy of social welfare and by a shaman on her social service practices via divination, ritual, and advocacy. These agencies and grassroots services addressed issues such as family welfare, poverty, aging, disabilities, domestic and international adoption, mental health, North Korean refugees and North/South relations, and spiritual wellbeing. We also enjoyed the beauty and significance of many Buddhist temples and sculpture sites, Confucian study centers, shamanic sacred sites, Christian places of worship, palaces, museums, and national parks. We even rooted for the Korean team in the World Cup soccer matches at some gigantic gatherings of great fanfare. The students were sincere, adventurous, mutually supportive, culturally sensitive, and fun to be with. Finally, all the students stayed on in Korea or Japan for further travel based learning. Hwi-Ja (the program coordinator) and I are very grateful to the Freeman Foundation, Bill Tsutsui, Nancy Hope and all the KAS staff who supported and made this rare and wonderful opportunity possible for four years.

Edward Canda, Professor of Social Welfare

Reflections on the Kansas-Asia Scholars Japan Program

During the past four years, the Kansas-Asia Scholars Japan Program led by Pat Graham has given selected KU undergraduates a deeper understanding of Japan beyond stereotypes such as anime, manga, and Mt. Fuji. The program was open to all majors and required no prior Japanese language training, the emphasis being on the students learning to work together to make the program a success.

The nine students chosen each year were asked to complete a series of background readings prior to the actual trip to Japan that focused especially on the way the Japanese are preserving and learning from traditional culture while also promoting attitudes and technologies that protect the ecology. During their three-week study tour, students had the opportunity to talk one-on-one about this topic with a wide variety of individuals including college students and recent graduates. Such encounters were moving, not only for the Americans, but also for the Japanese who saw Americans afterwards in a new light and realized that young people the world over shared similar interests. Despite language barriers, both sides found ways to communicate and gained insights about cultural differences that shape values and priorities.

The tour started in Kyoto where students biked around the city. Being in Japan was an eye-opener in other respects too. Living space was much smaller and conservation of natural resources taken more seriously than in America. For instance, air conditioners in hotel rooms were turned off until the occupant returned to save energy. Other activities in Kyoto included visits to a *sencha* tea ceremony, to a *machiya* (traditional town house), to temples, shrines, flea markets, antique shops, art museums, and an organic farm, and hearing about Japan's plutonium industry.

The group next went to Osaka to learn how Buddhism functions in Japan today, viewing contemporary Buddhist art and architecture and visiting a foster home supported by a Buddhist temple. It was especially difficult to say goodbye to the foster children who were very appreciative of the American games and dances they were taught. The group later met survivors of the atomic bomb at Hiroshima and had homestays in Hiratsuka, the Sister City of Lawrence. The homestay organizers were definitely impressed by the KAS students as cultural ambassadors for the city of Lawrence, and for KU.

The encounters continued into the final leg of the journey. The group toured the highly selective Tokyo Metropolitan Kokusai High School (www.kokusai-h.metro.tokyo.jp/english/english_index.htm), visited the Nokoso Foundation (www.nokosokai.org) that promotes the value of preserving traditional farmhouses, and made a presentation at the annual meeting of Japan for Sustainability (www.japanfs.org/index.html) and feasted at the Tokyo restaurant of the International Life and Food Association (www.ilfa.org/ilfa_eng/index.htm) whose goal is to promote "food for a sustainable future, focusing on millet, a traditional staple crop of Japan."

Overall, the KAS: Japan Program has been a success due in large part to the hard work of Pat Graham and her assistants. Its effect will continue for quite some time in both direct and indirect ways. Past participants were accepted into the Japanese Exchange and Teaching (www.jetprogramme.org/) program, and have volunteered at the Greater Kansas City Japan Festival (www.gkcjapanfestival.com/). Still others have introduced Americans to Japanese popular culture via presentations in elementary and secondary schools, at scout meetings and art galleries as part of a service learning project. The Program was a job well done, touching both Americans and Japanese-like.

Nancy Hope
Associate Director, Kansas Asia Scholars

Update on the Confucius Institute

The Confucius Institute at the University of Kansas, which had its formal opening on the KU Edwards Campus in May of this year, has now launched its public programming. Community Chinese language classes will begin in early September in Overland Park and Lawrence, and an ambitious

statewide program of Mandarin for high school students has just gotten underway. More events and partnerships are under development, and will be announced later in the fall.

We are particularly pleased to welcome two visiting scholars from our Chinese partner university, Huazhong Normal University in Wuhan. **Liang Zhiqun (James)** is an associate professor of Chinese and has previously spent a year teaching Mandarin at Augustana College in Rock Island, Illinois. He will be the instructor for the community language classes at the Edwards Campus and will work on special projects, including establishing a regional forum for Chinese language teachers. **Li Honggen (Jonathan)** is a familiar face to many on Mount Oread, as he holds an MA in American Studies from KU and was once a GTA in Chinese in the EALC Department. An associate professor of English, Jonathan will be based in Lawrence, leading our distance learning program for high schools and offering one section of conversational Chinese for the community. We hope you will make our two visitors (both of whom, appropriately, are savvy basketball fans) welcome here at KU.

The Confucius Institute's community Chinese language offerings are non-credit, introductory courses, designed to

give the fundamentals of conversational Chinese to professionals, tourists, and anyone interested in learning Mandarin. Classes will be offered on weekday mornings (before work) and in the evenings at the Edwards Campus, and on Wednesday evenings at Lawrence High School. The fees for the ten-week classes are reasonable, and additional information (including enrollment forms) is available at www.confucius.ku.edu.

The IDL (interactive distance learning) program for Kansas high schools is a partnership with the Southeast Kansas Education Service Center at Greenbush, and is facilitated by ALTEC at the KU School of Education. Using advanced videoconferencing technology, Mandarin Chinese is being taught to over 40 students in the Auburn-Washburn, Deerfield, Holcomb, Lawrence, Maize, Marysville, and Winfield school districts. If this pilot program is as successful as anticipated, it will be expanded to additional districts and more advanced Chinese courses will be offered in 2007-2008.

Bill Tsutsui

Director, Confucius Institute at the University of Kansas

Language Tables Fall 2006

Chinese

Beginning and Intermediate Levels: Thursday 11:00 am–12:00 pm

Advanced Level: Friday: 9:30–10:30

Where: Learning Lab on the 3rd floor (lobby floor) of Watson Library

Conducted by: Li Yingjie (kupear@ku.edu)

Japanese

Intermediate Level: Friday 2:00 pm–3:00 pm

Advanced Level: Friday 3:00 pm–4:00 pm, led by Tadashi Monma (mtadashi@ku.edu)

Where: Milton's Coffeeshop, first floor, Kansas Union

Korean

Beginning and Intermediate Levels: Monday 1:00–1:50 pm

Advanced Level: Wednesday 2:00–2:50 pm

Where: Study room on lobby floor of Watson Library



John Kennedy and Hui minority village elders in a relatively wealthy village in northern Ningxia province. The picture in the background is Mecca, to which the elderly in the village wish to make a pilgrimage once before they pass away.

Sala village leader and Prof. John Kennedy in a Sala minority country in Qinghai.



Prof. John Kennedy and their host in Tibetan pastoral village in Qinghai.

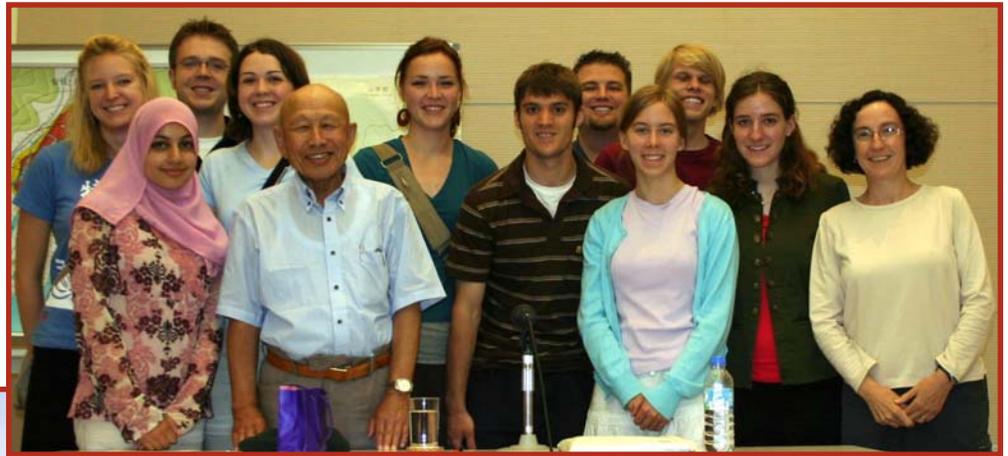
Jie Han addressing the audience at the GeoShanghai International Conference 2006



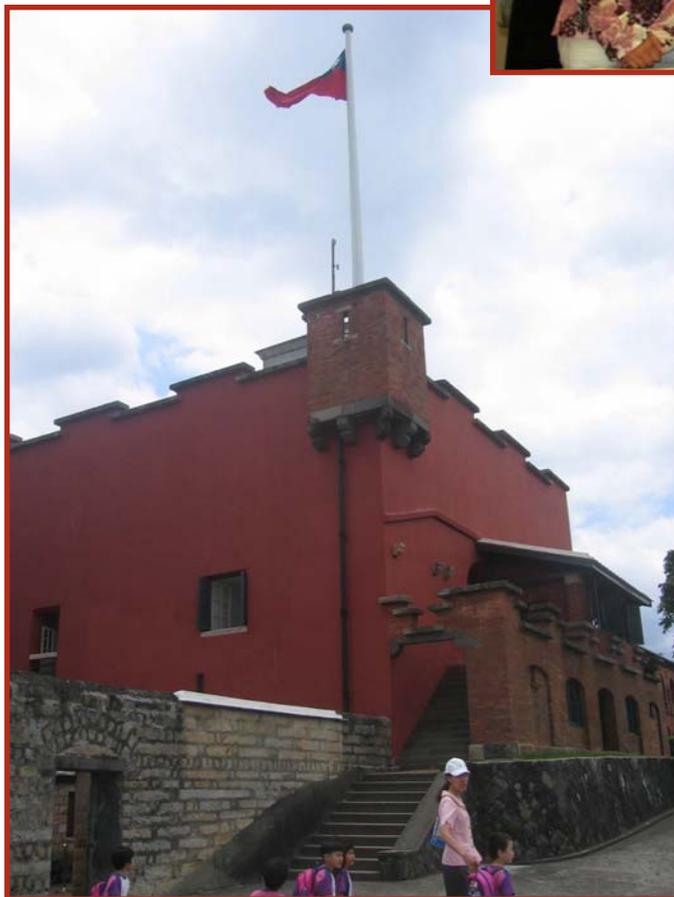


Pok Chi Lau and “Understanding China through Photography” students at the exit gate of the Stone Tablet Museum in Xian with black Hummer.

“Fort Santo Domingo in Danshui was constructed in the mid-19th century to serve as a British Consulate on the site of earlier Spanish and Dutch forts. The exhibits inside really emphasize the important role that these colonial powers had in shaping Taiwan. It is quite common to see groups of school children being taken to such sites.”—Megan Greene



KAS Japan 06 group with Mr. Matsushima Keiji, an atomic bomb survivor from Hiroshima.



Deborah Peterson in Xining this summer meeting with Tibetan students. “These amazing students all speak excellent English—thanks to the work of two incredibly dedicated American teachers who run the English Training Program in Xining.”