

2023  
ANNUAL REPORT



# CENTER FOR EAST ASIAN STUDIES

University of Kansas

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# CONTENTS

- 04** Letter from the Director
- 06** Faculty Highlights
- 11** Faculty Spotlight
- 12** Student Highlights
- 17** Alumni Spotlight
- 18** CEAS Events
- 20** 71st MCAA
- 21** Education Outreach
- 23** Japanese Outreach Initiative
- 24** East Asian Library
- 25** Give to CEAS







# LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR



The Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) had a wonderful kickoff to the 2022-2023 academic year. It started with the news that we had been awarded a nearly \$2 million U.S. Department of Education Title VI grant for 2022-2026 (National Resource Center and Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, combined) as well as a Laurasian Institution JOI (Japan Outreach Initiative) grant to host Yoshie Hisatomi for the next two years. Thanks to the Title VI grant, we were able to hire Japanese popular culture specialist Dr. Linda Galvane and her partner Dr. Thomas McDonald. The JOI grant has enabled us to expand our Japan-related outreach programs, including the resumption of the Lawrence-Hiratsuka sister city exchange program.

In fall 2022, CEAS hosted its first in-person regional conference, the 71st Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (MCAA), in the post-COVID period. The three-day conference welcomed more than 250 registered attendees. CEAS also organized a film series focused on public health in the fall and held a two-day symposium on the same topic in spring 2023. At these academic meetings, faculty and graduate scholars had interdisciplinary and cross-regional dialogues.

Our community events enjoyed superb attendance. Three major events—a harvest moon viewing event in the fall, a new year's party, and a kite festival in the spring—attracted hundreds of parents, children, and community members to enjoy East Asian food, music, and culture.

The center is excited about further expanding our strengths in the upcoming year. We have just launched our Tibetan and Uyghur tuition-waiver fellowship program to enrich these Least Commonly Taught Languages (LCTLs). KU uniquely offers 2 years of Tibetan and 3 years of Uyghur language courses. KU is also one of 10 U.S. universities that offer 5 levels of Korean language programs, as well as a major and a minor. Thanks to the Korean Foundation, we will search for a Korean literature specialist who can start teaching in fall 2024.

CEAS's joyful and productive year was impossible without community support. I would like to thank CEAS's advisory board members, East Asianists on campus and beyond, and each individual and organization who supported our activities. I am also grateful for the efforts of the CEAS staff team. Former CEAS Assistant Director and FLAS Coordinator Amanda Snider moved on to another job in April. She trained our new outreach coordinator, Mego Londeen, and transferred her other roles and duties to our new assistant director, Ayako Mizumura. LaGretia Copp remains as our program specialist. I believe the new CEAS staff team is as strong as ever.

—Akiko Takeyama  
*Director*





## CEAS STAFF

**Akiko Takeyama**

*Director*

**LaGretia Copp**

*Program Coordinator*

**Amanda Snider**

*Assistant Director*

**Alex Graham**

*Graduate Advisor, COGA*

**Ayako Mizumura**

*Graduate Program Director*

**Yoshie Hisatomi**

*Japanese Outreach Coordinator*

# FACULTY HIGHLIGHTS

**The Center for East Asian Studies consists of over 65 faculty in 25 departments and professional schools at the University of Kansas. Their work is the core of our vibrant academic community.**

**CHRISTOPHER ANDERSON**, Finance, completed his fifth year as associate dean for undergraduate programs at the KU School of Business. Since September 2022, he has been the director of the Global Business Studies Center promoting study abroad and global engagement. He was a visiting scholar at Chongqing University's School of Economics & Business Administration in winter 2022.

**MELISSA BIRCH**, Management & Entrepreneurship, published a chapter, "Paraguay and Mercosur: Unlocking Global Potential in a Regional Trade Agreement?", in Barbara A. Ganson (ed.), *Native Peoples, Politics, and Society in Contemporary Paraguay: Multidisciplinary Perspectives* (University of New Mexico, 2021).

**CHRIS BROWN**, Geography & Atmospheric Science, published two articles: S. De Oliveira Folharini, S. Nogueira De Melo, R. Guimarães Ramos, & J. Brown, "Land Use and Green Crime: Assessing the Edge Effect," *Land Use Policy* 129 (2023) and J. Brown, J. De Jesus Corrêa-Neto, C. Feitosa Ribeiro, & M. Luiz Oliveira, "The Impact of Agricultural Colonization and Deforestation on Orchid Bee (Apidae: Euglossini) Richness, Abundance, and Composition in the Brazilian Amazon," in *Biodiversity and Conservation* (2023). He is currently working as an international partner on a project funded by Brazilian federal and state funding agencies to study land use and land cover change dynamics in the Amazon portion of the state of Maranhão. This is a partnership

among the State University of Campinas (UNICAMP), State University of Maranhão, Cardiff, and KU.

**JAMES BUTLER**, Geology, received an Excellence Award in Interdisciplinary Scholarship from the Michigan State University chapter of Phi Kappa Phi.

**HUI CAI**, Architecture, was appointed to full professor.

**YI-YANG CHEN**, Piano, performed nine major national solo and seven collaborative and chamber music performances. He conducted fourteen masterclasses nationally and adjudicated nine international and national competitions. Chen also hosted the 2022 Inaugural Asian Classical Music Initiative International Conference. He is a recipient of the 2021 and 2022 Hall Center Research Grant.

**SUNYOUNG CHEONG**, Visual Arts, was appointed to assistant professor of Metalsmithing/Jewelry.

**HYESUN CHO**, Curriculum & Teaching, published two books: H. Cho, R. Al-Samiri, & J. Gao, *Transnational Language Teacher Identities in TESOL: Identity Construction Among Female International Students in the U.S.* (Routledge, 2022) and H. Cho, & K. Song, (eds.), *Korean as a Heritage Language from Transnational and Translanguaging Perspectives* (Routledge, 2022). She is also a co-PI for a national grant, PEACE (Promoting English Learners' Academic Achievement and Cultivating

Educational Equity through Professional Development). This 5-year federal grant will prepare preservice and inservice teachers in Kansas to better work with English learners through equity-focused pedagogical practices. Cho continues to serve as co-conference chair for the Korean American Educational Researchers' Association.

**KELLY CHONG**, Sociology, co-authored (with Miri Song) an article, "Interrogating the 'White-Leaning' Thesis on White/Asian Multiracials," in *Social Sciences* 11, no. 13 (2022). She was also awarded a Hall Center Scholars On Site Fund for her documentary, "Invisibility and Rage: Asian Americans, Racial Trauma, and Mental Health."

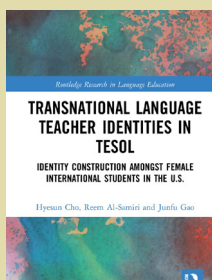
**BRAD COKELET**, Philosophy, completed his manuscript, "The Emerging Science of Virtue," under contract with Cambridge University Press. He also presented lectures at the University of Chicago, Edinburgh University, and University of Mississippi. He was appointed to the Committee on Asian Philosophies and Philosophers by the American Philosophic Association.

**ALEXANDER DIENER**, Geography & Atmospheric Science, was awarded a residential fellowship at the University of Connecticut's Humanities Institute for 2023-2024.

**SHERRY FOWLER**, Art History, worked on her manuscript, "Buddhist Bells In and Out of Japan: Over and Under Water." She was honored as a visiting scholar in South Korea by the National Research Institute of Cultural Heritage of Korea in December 2022. Fowler also gave a lecture, "Two Buddhist Bells as Interregional Bridges between Korea, Japan, and Ryukyu," at the National Palace Museum of Korea in Seoul. Fowler co-authored (with Yui Suzuki) an article, "Japanese Buddhist Sculpture," for *Oxford Bibliographies in Art History* (Oxford UP, 2022).

**MAKI KANEKO**, Art History, was awarded a residential fellowship from

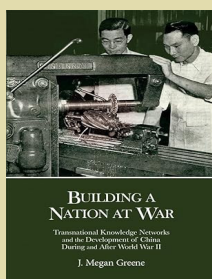
## NEW BOOKS



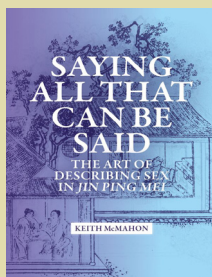
**Hyesun Cho**  
Linguistics  
(co-authors R.Al-Samiri & J. Gao)  
*Transnational Language Teacher Identities in TESOL*



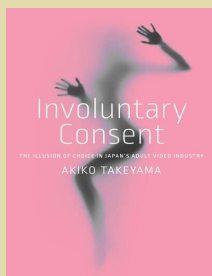
**Alexander Diener**  
Geography  
(co-author J. Hagen)  
*The Power of Place in Place Attachment*



**J. Megan Greene**, History  
*Building a Nation at War*



**Keith McMahon**  
EALC  
*Saying All That Can Be Said: The Art of Describing Sex in Jin Ping Mei*



**Akiko Takeyama**  
WGSS  
*Involuntary Consent: The Illusion of Choice in Japan's Adult Video Industry*



## NEW FACULTY



**Joonmo Kang**, Asst. Professor  
School of Social Welfare



**Jieun Lee**, Visiting Asst. Professor  
Linguistics



**Stephen Politzer-Ahles**,  
Asst. Teaching Professor, Linguistics



**Cecilia**, Chinese Studies Librarian  
KU Libraries

the Smithsonian American Art Museum for her exhibition project tentatively titled "Street Nihonga: The Art of Jimmy Tsutomu Mirikitani," which will be held at the Spencer Museum of Art. Kaneko also received grants from the Grants for Arts Project and the National Endowment for the Art for this exhibition project.

**JOHN JAMES KENNEDY**, Political Science, published four scholarly works: J. J. Kennedy and H. Nagao, "The Rite to Vote: Community Interactions and Grassroots Voter Participation in China" *Journal of Chinese Political Science* 26, no. 4 (2021); J. J. Kennedy and R. Liu, "One Country, Many Paradigms", in Shiping Hua (ed.), *Paradigms Shifts in Chinese Studies* (Palgrave-Macmillan Press, 2022); J. J. Kennedy, "Contained Emancipative Values: Waves of Conservative and Liberal Trends in China" in Ronald F. Inglehart and Yang Zhong (eds.), *China as Number One? Evolution of Social and Political Values in China's Society* (Routledge, 2022); and J. J. Kennedy, book review of "Voting as a Rite: The History of Elections in Modern China," by Joshua Hill, *China International Review* (June 2021).

**EUNGSIK KIM**, Economics, was awarded the KU College General Research Fund Award. He received three grants: a CEAS New Course Development Grant, a CEAS International Travel Grant, and a CTE Course Transformation Grant. He also presented a paper at the 2022 Annual Conference of the Society for Economic Measurement.

**MIN-YOUNG KIM**, Curriculum & Teaching, was awarded a research grant from the Academy of Korean Studies to conduct a case study with three Korean immigrant teachers in public K-12 schools in the U.S. In this study, she examined how immigrant teachers mobilize their translanguaging and transnational assets and funds of knowledge in and beyond the classroom contexts.

**JIEUN LEE**, Linguistics, presented two abstracts at the *Acoustic Society of*

America 184 in Chicago.

**YAN LI**, East Asian Languages & Cultures, published a book chapter, "Predicting the Unpredictable: -le Used in Chinese Serial Verb Constructions," as well as a paper, "Pinyin Instruction: How Chinese Instructors Teach and What They Expect," which has been accepted for publication. She is also the co-PI for the KU Project GO Center: Critical Language Training, Bridging Intercultural Competence and Regional Expertise grant to support ROTC students Chinese and Japanese.

**KEITH MCMAHON**, East Asian Languages & Culture, published his seventh book, *Saying All That Can Be Said: The Art of Describing Sex in Jin Ping Mei* (Harvard Asia Center, 2023)

**AMY MCNAIR**, Art History, was invited to give the keynote lecture to announce the acquisition of the Lo Chia-Lun Calligraphy Collection at the University of Michigan Museum of Art. "Liang Shicheng and Xuanhe Catalogue of Paintings," her study of the controversial authorship of the 12th-c. imperial painting catalogue, will be published by Harvard Asia Center Publications in September 2023.

**YOONMI NAM**, Visual Art, had a solo exhibition, "Delivered & Discarded," at grayDUCK Gallery (Austin, TX), an installation of a public art piece titled "Blizz" at H&R Block Artspace Project Wall (Kansas City), and 14 group exhibitions. These exhibitions included a show at Nelson-Atkins Museum of Art (Kansas City) and at other locations such as Philadelphia, Brooklyn, Chicago, and Finland. She was awarded artist residencies at the Studios Inc. (Kansas City), the Lawrence Arts Center, and at the In Cahoots Artist Residency (California). Nam was invited to give artist lectures at University of Oregon, Texas State University, Northeastern Illinois University, and Berea College. Her works were acquired by Fidelity Investments, Thrivent Art Collection, The Free Library of Philadelphia, and Studios Inc.

**STEPHEN POLITZER-AHLES**, Linguistics, has rejoined the KU linguistics department after several years of researching and teaching overseas. He published an article, "Long-lag Identity Priming in the Absence of Long-lag Morphological Priming: Evidence from Mandarin Tone Alternation," in *Glossa: Psycholinguistics*. Additionally, he received a Research-Intensive Course Mini-Grant from the KU Center for Undergraduate Research for the course LING 435: Psycholinguistics.

**HYUNJIN SEO**, Journalism, received the Award of Excellence in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion from the University Economic Development Association for her Digital Inclusion Project. She also was project director for the "How the Light Gets In" interactive visual art installation at the Spencer Museum of Art and the Lawrence Public Library.

**KWANGOK SONG**, Curriculum & Teaching, is the co-PI for the PEACE (Promoting English Learners' Academic Achievement and Cultivating Educational Equity through Professional Development) grant project to provide professional development for preservice and inservice teachers and to create online professional development modules for early childhood educators in Kansas.

**MAYA STILLER**, Art History, won the American Historical Association's 2022 Patricia Buckley Ebrey Prize for her book *Carving Status at Kŭmgangsŏn: Elite Graffiti in Premodern Korea*. Additionally, her digital atlas project is now live at [www.aaok.info](http://www.aaok.info).

**AKIKO TAKEYAMA**, Women, Gender, & Sexuality Studies, was promoted to full professor and published her second book, *Involuntary Consent: The Illusion of Choice in Japan's Adult Video Industry* (Stanford UP, 2023). She also published two book chapters: one about extramarital romance in contemporary Japan and the other about the contract-making process in Japan's adult entertainment industry. As CEAS Director, she helped

KU secure a Department of Education Title VI institutional grant and a Korea Foundation seeded hire. She was also the recipient of a 2023 Hall Center Resident Faculty Fellowship.

**HONG VU**, Journalism, was a visiting fellow at the Yale Program on Climate Change Communication.

**KETTY WONG**, Ethnomusicology, presented a paper, "Transnational Cultural Flows in Salsa Dancing: Latino Musical Migrations in China," at the 71st Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs in September 2022. She received a Hall Center Summer Research Travel Grant to conduct research at the Library of Congress in summer 2023. She also coordinated and published a CD with the chamber music of Luis Humberto Salgado, a collective project recorded by the School of Music Kansas Virtuosi.

**FAYE XIAO**, East Asian Languages & Cultures, edited a special issue of *Chinese Literature Today*, which included her research article "Caring for the Small: Gendered Resistance and Solidarity through Chinese Domestic Workers' Writings," 10, no. 2 (July 2021). She also published a journal article, "This Is the Way I See the World": Re-Visioning 'Leftover Woman' and Female Gaze in *Send Me to the Clouds*," in *Asian Cinema* 32, no. 2 (Oct. 2021). She chaired two panels at the 71st Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs and gave a series of invited talks at American Comparative Literature Association's annual conference, Temple University, American Philosophical Society, New Books Network, CEAS Global Asia Speaker Series, and Lawrence Public Library.

**KYOIM YUN**, East Asian Languages & Cultures, received the Keeler Professorship from the KU Department of Geography and Atmospheric Science.

**JACK ZHANG**, Political Science, published (with Rigao Liu and Samantha Vortherms) an article, "In the Middle: American Multinationals in China and

Trade War Politics," in *Business and Politics* (2022). He was awarded the KU J. Michael Young Academic Advisor Award and received a Mercatus Center Academic Collaboration Grant. He was also a visiting scholar at Korea University and a Big XII Faculty Fellow at the University of Austin.

**JIE ZHANG**, Linguistics, continued his NSF-funded research with colleagues in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Kansas to investigate the production and perception processing of tonal alternation in Chinese dialects. Two articles from the project appeared in the *Journal of Neurolinguistics and Neuropsychologia* in the last year. His collaborations with KU students and alumni on Chinese phonotactics, Chinese spoken word production, Brazilian Portuguese vowel representation, and the perception of fricative resulted in a number of journal publications and conference presentations. He also gave keynote speeches at the 28th annual meeting of the International Association of Chinese Linguistics and the 34th North American Conference on Chinese Linguistics (Bloomington, IN) on the experimental studies of Chinese tone.

**YANG BING ZHANG**, Communication Studies, published five journal articles and presented multiple times at major national and international communication conferences for the 2022-23 academic year. She continues to serve on the Executive Board of International Association of Language and Social Psychology and the review board for five journals in the field of communication studies. Her other major activities include vice chair and unit planner for Intergroup Communication of ICA, graduate director and member of the Advisory committee in Communication Studies, and member of the Advisory Committee at the Center of East Asian Studies at KU.



# FACULTY SPOTLIGHT

**YANG BING ZHANG**

**PROFESSOR, COMMUNICATION STUDIES**



Dr. Yan Bing Zhang is a Professor and Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Communication Studies at the University of Kansas. Dr. Zhang is an intergroup and intercultural communications scholar. She studies the dynamic interplay between communication, relationships, social cognition, culture, and identity in face-to-face and mediated contexts. Her publications have appeared in U.S. and international communication studies and social psychology journals. This past academic year, Dr. Zhang had ten journal articles accepted or published by scholarly journals, including *Language Sciences*, *International Journal of Communication*, *Communication Studies*, *Management Communication Quarterly*, and *Societies*. The Communication and Aging Division of the National Communication Association

recognized her scholarship with the 2021 Giles-Nussbaum Distinguished Scholar Award.

In line with Dr. Zhang's research agenda, her graduate supervision and teaching has focused on three primary areas: (1) culture and communication, (2) quantitative research method and statistics, and (3) communication and intergroup and intercultural relations. Her commitment to and excellence in teaching and mentorship has been recognized numerous times by the University of Kansas and most recently by the International Association for Language and Social Psychology with the 2020 Howie Giles Mentorship Award. Dr. Zhang currently serves as chair of the Intergroup Committee of the International Communication Association and continues to serve on the editorial boards of several communication journals and the executive board of the International Association of Language and Social Psychology.

Dr. Zhang has been a core member affiliated with the KU Center for East Asian Studies for almost twenty years and has served on its advisory committee multiple times. Her most recent term ended in May 2023. In addition to serving on the advisory committee, Dr. Zhang was a member of the Center's 2022-23 Steering Committee on Public Health along with Drs. Ayako Mizumura, Changming Duan, Hui Cai, and Brad Cokelet. The committee developed year-long programming for CEAS's Title VI grant, including the Global Asia Speaker Series, the fall Public Health Film Series, and the spring Public Health Symposium. Dr. Zhang chaired the panel, "Disability at Work: Examining the Intersections of Disability Accommodation, Media Representation, Culture, and Education."

# STUDENT HIGHLIGHTS

The CEAS offers five languages—Chinese, Korean, Japanese, Tibetan, and Uyghur—and also Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships to support undergraduate and graduate students.

## FLAS FEATURE: CODY SIMPSON UNDERGRADUATE FLAS FELLOW, 2022-23 East Asian Languages and Cultures (JAPANESE)

### Why did you choose your degree program and KU?

*I transferred to KU from a community college. At that time, I was given the choice to either give up my Japanese studies or to change my major. Having such an ardent passion for it, I decided to change to an EALC major on a Japanese language track.*

### How has the fellowship helped you attain your academic goals?

*Receiving the FLAS Fellowship allowed me to study abroad, something I never even dreamed of attempting in the past. As I look back, the whole idea and application process seemed like a whirlwind, but afterwards I found myself in Japan participating in not only a summer program but a year-long intensive program as well. This allowed me to improve my language skills and meet people from all over the world!*

### Why is it important to learn another language?

*The importance of learning another language lies not only in the ability to change how your brain thinks but also in the ability to understand a new culture. By learning a new language, you are then able to process it in both your native and second language. You may then be able to contemplate any cultural differences between the translations. Let's not forget, you can also expand the number of people with whom you can converse*

### What advice do you have for students who want to learn a new language?

*Do not be afraid to take the plunge. It may seem like an insurmountable challenge but that's all the more reason to do it. When you actually make progress, and trust me with enough time and commitment you will, it will be all the more rewarding. Just be patient and find a method of study you enjoy, one that will propel you even further!*

### What would you say to students who want to apply for the FLAS fellowship?

*Apply! I was extremely nervous that I wouldn't receive the FLAS Fellowship. I had just transferred to KU, and it was my first year there. I was able to write a successful application with the help of my advisors and further cultivate my academic studies in Japan. You can have this sort of experience too, don't hesitate!*



**"Be patient  
and find a  
method of  
study you  
enjoy."**



# FLAS FELLOWSHIPS

## UNDERGRADUATE 2022-23

**EMMA GREEN**, Japanese

**MILLA HANOVA**, Chinese

**AVERY HECK**, Japanese

**COLLIN KEATING**, Chinese

**SAVANNAH NOLTE**, Uyghur

**JOSETTE PINTO**, Korean

**CODY SIMPSON**, Japanese

## GRADUATE 2022-23

**JACOB BARTA**, Japanese

**MOLLY MCITYRE**, Japanese

**JACKSON MORRIS**, Japanese

**CAROLISA WATSON**, Japanese

## SUMMER 2023

**DELWYN DAVIS**, Korean

**NICOLE GIAM**, Chinese

**ANNAMARIE HILTON**, Japanese

**JOHN LUBIANETSKY**, Chinese

**ONYX TURNER**, Korean

**DAPHNE WAGNER**, Korean

## M.A. PROGRAM

The CEAS M.A. Program, which started in Fall 2014, officially entered its eighth year. We have six graduate students as of Spring 2023. Three of them, including Chris Mason, Molly McIntyre, and Jackson Morris, successfully defended their M.A. research project papers and graduated. All three are founding members of GSEAS and took central roles as Graduate Scholars in East Asian Studies (GSEAS) officers. Chris, Molly, and Jackson are also active in academic spheres. They all presented their impressive research papers on several occasions, including the MCAA in fall 2022. Molly also presented at the CEAS Public Health Symposium in March 2023. Molly, Jackson, and another graduate student, Mie Kitakawa (WGSS), jointly presented themed papers on Manga at Naka-kon in May 2023. These dedicated students, with their proactivity and goodwill, contributed to the center in many ways. We shall miss them!

Due to a program merger, we have been working closely with the Center for Global and International Studies (CGIS). Ayako Mizumura continues to support the new GIST M.A. program with East Asian concentration and serves on the Graduate Advisory Committee. The current CEAS M.A. program will end after the remaining CEAS students graduate, but we see this merger as the ideal opportunity to expand contemporary East Asian studies in connection with "Global Asia" and to strengthen interdisciplinary, inter-regional research and collaboration with the CGIS and other international area centers' academic programs. If you seek information about the new East Asian concentration, please contact Ayako Mizumura via email: [mizu@ku.edu](mailto:mizu@ku.edu).

—Ayako Mizumura

*Graduate Program Coordinator*



CEAS M.A. graduate students Christophr Mason (left) and Molly McIntyre (right)

# AWARDS & SCHOLARSHIPS

## GRADUATE DEVELOPMENT FUND

**TIMOTHY CICHANWICZ**

Political Science

**CHANG LIU,**

Curriculum & Teaching

**DAISKE MURATA,**

Art History

**AYUMI NOBUKI,**

Linguistics

## JILL KLEINBERG SCHOLARSHIP

**CHARLOTTE CARRICO,**

Marketing/EALC



## GSEAS



The student organization Graduate Scholars in East Asian Studies (GSEAS) continues in grow. In the 2022-2023 academic year, It organized several events, such as the Half-Baked Graduate Forum and professionalization workshops. At the MCAA last fall, GSEAS hosted a graduate student reception, "Meet and Greet," to create space for graduate student conference participants from various disciplines and institutions to meet and network, to exchange information and ideas, build academic relationships and friendships, and foster collaboration.

GSEAS plans to expand its academic activities to include a graduate symposium, in conjunction with the CEAS annual spring symposium, next year. GSEAS would like to reach more students and to see greater faculty involvement in the future.

Many thanks to the GSEAS officers for their hard work and dedication: President Carolisa Watson (Geography), Vice President Jackson Morris (Communication), Kyungmin Jung (Film & Media), and Logan Ward (Art History).

New and current graduate students: Please contact [gseas@ku.edu](mailto:gseas@ku.edu) for more details about GSEAS membership and activities.



# ALUMNI SPOTLIGHT

## GABRIEL REBECK

**INTERNATIONAL PROGRAM MANAGER**

**B.A., EAST ASIAN LANGUAGES & CULTURES, 2008**

**B.A., FILM & MEDIA STUDIES, 2008**



I had my first transformative experience in Japan at 13 years old when esteemed KU CEAS alum, Dianne Daugherty, invited me on a homestay to Gunma Prefecture. In Maebashi, I crossed paths with an assistant language teacher on the JET Program. I decided then and there that I would join JET after graduating. I studied Japanese and film at KU and gained another mentor in the process, Dr. Michael Baskett. He bridged my two fields of interest perfectly.

JET sent me to a paradise beach in Kagoshima Prefecture where I taught English for three years in a tiny town of farmers and fishermen. In search of a new challenge after JET, I moved up to Nagoya in Aichi Prefecture and became a personnel manager for the Corporate Relations

Division of a company called ECC Foreign Language Institute. I was the only foreigner in an office of salesmen. They took me on sales calls, and I used Japanese all day every day. I learned so much about how Japanese companies work by observing from the inside.

After ten years in Japan, I interviewed with a non-profit group, called the Lurasian Institution, in Tokyo. They wanted me in the Seattle office so I moved back to the United States. Today, with Lurasian, I have the honor of facilitating international exchange programs between the U.S. and Japan. Collaborating closely with organizations like the U.S. State Department, the Japanese Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan Foundation, KAKEHASHI, and others, we work to foster lasting friendships through grassroots-level programs of academic exchange. Drawing upon all my experiences from my time as an exchange student to my understanding of Japanese corporate culture from my "salaryman" years, I effectively communicate with our partners to make it possible for us to run our programs.

I couldn't have accomplished any of this without the knowledge I gained in my years at KU, especially the support I received from my teachers. It is both an honor and a privilege to empower and guide young people in our programs at Lurasian who, like I once did, yearn to reach beyond themselves and their home country to cultivate meaningful connections with the wider world. (May 2023)



Yondenzang Akyung, Tibetan language lecturer, and participants at the Tibetan calligraphy workshop.

# CEAS EVENTS

The Center for East Asian Studies holds many free public events each year, including lectures, film showings, and cultural celebrations. All are open to students, faculty, staff, and the general community.

## FALL 2022

**SEPT 8** | Mid-Autumn Festival

**SEPT 16-18** | 71st Annual Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (*see pg. 20*)

**SEPT 29** | CEAS Book Talk

"Leveraging Stereotypes to Your Advantage," Dianne Lee, executive director at Kitchell Corporation.

**OCT 25** | Public Health Film Series  
Parasite (2019)

**OCT 26** | Public Health Film Series  
The Farewell (2019)

**OCT 27** | Public Health Film Series  
Go. Away Mr. Tumor (2015)

**OCT 28** | Public Health Film Series

The House Where the Mermaid Sleeps (2018)

**Nov 16** | CHINA Town Hall

"The Legacy of COVID on U.S.-China Relations," Dali Yang, professor of political science (University of Chicago) & Deborah Seligsohn, asst. professor of political science (Villanova University). Co-sponsored by the International Relational Council of Kansas City.

**Nov 29** | CEAS Book Talk

"Carving Status at Kūmgangsan: Elite Graffiti in Premodern Korea," Maya Stiller, professor of art history (KU) & "The Ṭampiṭavihāras of Sri Lanka," Kapila Silva, professor of architecture (KU).

## SPRING 2023

**JAN 27 | Lunar New Year Festival**

**FEB 9 | Global Asia Speaker Series**

"Dying with the Buddha: The Twenty-four Buddhist Talismans in Chosŏn Korea," Sujung Kim, assoc. professor of anthropology (DePauw University).

**FEB 15 | Global Asia Speaker Series**

"Applying the Antidote: A Tantric Perspective on Body, Representation and Imagination," Rae Erin Dachille, asst. professor of religious studies (University of Arizona).

**FEB 27 | East Asian Career Forum**

Jim Small, senior vice president, at International, Major League Baseball & Jeff Willis, international director at the Kansas Department of Commerce.

**APR 7 | Public Health Symposium**

**APR 8 | Public Health Graduate Symposium**

**APR 9 & 23 | Sowa Rigpa Tibetan Medicine Workshops**

Leigh Khandro, Tibetan lecturer (KU).

**APR 9 & 23 | Grant K. Goodman Distinguished Lecture in Japanese Studies**

"From Michelin-Starred Chef to Goodwill Ambassador: My Career in Promoting Traditional Japanese Cuisine," David Schlosser, chef and owner of Shimubi restaurant (L.A., CA).

**MAY 6 | Kite Festival**

Co-sponsored by the Spencer Museum of Art.

**MAY 7 | Tibetan Calligraphy Workshop**

Yondenzang Akyung, Tibetan lecturer (KU).

**MAY 26-28 | Nakakon**

Student manga and anime presentations, fashion show, and yukata photo booth.



Midam Kim and son reciting Korean poetry at the Mid-Autumn Festival



KU student flies handmade kite at the Kite Festival



# 71ST MCAA

## Midwest Conference on Asia Affairs

**259**

Attendees

**75**

Institutions

**60**

Panels

The 71st Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (MCAA) took place September 16-18, 2022, at the Kansas Student Union. The MCAA, founded in 1952, has a long relationship with the University of Kansas and has held six of its annual conferences at KU (1953, 1956, 1967, 1974, 1983, and 2014). The center was delighted to host it again this year. It was the first in-person conference since 2019, due to the COVID pandemic. Participants from 25 states and 8 countries attended.

The MCAA kept common program offerings. A total of 9 concurrent sessions with 5 to 7 panels of paper presentations or roundtable sessions over three days provided varied opportunities for all participants to exchange ideas and learn from new or ongoing research. A reception, featuring KU Asian student organizations and alumni, was held on Friday to conclude the first day of the conference and included music, dance, and other performances. A presidential luncheon and panel, "Global Asia and Science, Technology, Environment, and Medicine," and an awards banquet with keynote address by Kamran Asdar Ali (University of Texas-Austin), "Female Desire, Forbidden Love and Forgotten Archives: Sexual Politics in 1960s Pakistani Cinema," were held on Saturday. Unique to this year's MCAA, there were three special guided tours highlighting KU's East Asian Collections at the Spencer Research Museum, Spencer Museum of Art, and East Asian Library.

The 2022 MCAA made a concerted effort to focus on the needs of graduate students, who made up 70% of attendees. It held two graduate workshops, "Demystifying Academic Book Publication," with Joyce Harrison, editor in chief of KU Press, and "Career Exploration and Planning Tools," with Nicole Reitz from the KU Office of Graduate Studies. There was also a virtual roundtable with Asian Studies Acquisition and Series editors. A special reception for graduate students was held prior to the banquet.



# K-16 OUTREACH

## Educators & Students

CEAS continues to connect with educators and students through educator workshops, educational materials, and classroom visits with the support of our current Title VI National Resource Center grant and the National Consortium for Teaching about Asia,

### FALL 2022

#### SEPT 16 | Community College Educator Workshop at MCAA

"Engaging with Global Asia in the Community College Classroom," with Dawn Gale, professor of philosophy (JCCC), Eve Blobaum, professor of sociology (JCCC), and Deborah Williams, professor of environmental studies (JCCC), and J. Megan Greene, professor of history (KU).

#### OCT 8 | Japan Festival K-12 Educator Workshop

"Inspired Learning through Manga and Anime," with Dianne Daugherty, Japanese instructor (JCCC) & David Mai, assistant teaching professor of film & media studies (KU).

#### OCT 11 | Your Global Future College Fair (Kansas City, MO)

#### NOV 16 | Today in International Politics Speaker Series

"Elections in China," by John Kennedy, professor of political science (KU). Virtual series for AP Government educators.

#### NOV 22 | Cultural Arts Day at Lilian Schumacher Elementary (Liberty, MO)

#### DEC 3 | Tails and Traditions at Watkins Museum of History

#### FEB 22 | K-12 Professional Development Workshop

"Incorporating East Asia Literature in the Classroom," with Amanda Snider, CEAS assistant director, at Wyandotte High School (Kansas City, KS).

#### MAR 7 | Traveling World Language Fair at Topeka High School

#### MAR 8 | Pre-Japan trip Orientation at Eudora High School

#### MAR 30-31 | Community College Educator Workshop

"Exploring Post-Pandemic Health Outcomes Cross-Culturally," with Deborah Seligsohn, assistant professor of political science (Villanova University),

#### APR 5 | Today in International Politics Speaker Series

"The Chinese Judicial System," by John Head, professor of law (KU). Virtual series for AP Government educators.

#### APR 26 | Language Presentation at St. John Catholic School

Chinese mini-language lesson by Hilla Hanova, CEAS FLAS Fellow.

#### JUL 7 | K-12 Educator Workshop

"Global Health Through Literature," with keynote Araceli Masterson Alar, associate professor of American Studies (KU).



Dianne Daugherty leads Japan Festival Workshop.



Lunar New Year Festival Lion Dance



KU students make strawberry mochi.



Dr. Maya Stiller discusses her new book.



Lawrence-Hiratsuka Sister City workshop



CEAS Nakakon photo booth



# JAPANESE OUTREACH

**Thanks to the Japan Outreach Initiative (JOI) sponsored by the Japan Foundation and Laurasian Institution, the center was able to host a Japanese outreach coordinator, Yoshie Hisatomi, this academic year. She has been an amazing asset to our community outreach with over 35 events. We asked her to share highlights from her activities.**

## Juvenile Detention Center Classes

Teaching my culture at the Douglas County Juvenile Detention Center presented several challenges, but I imagined what it might mean to them to learn about Japan. The beauty and spirit behind my culture was engaging for them, and we built close connections through discussions about Japanese customs. As a special exception, I was given permission by the staff to bring in certain items to enhance their experience. Their favorite was by far the traditional Japanese Yukata and Geta garments, which the students were allowed to try on. Their faces lit up with emotion as we learned messages from Japanese songs too, especially "Sukiyaki," by Kyu Sakamoto, and "My Way," by Def Tech. For me, Japanese radio exercises with the students were the highlight of every week! We started this way every Thursday for three months. With sparkling eyes, they would ask, "Are you coming back next week?" I will never forget the way they made me feel, seeing them waving their arms as I turned to leave for the day. What a memorable time!

## Community Cooking Classes

One of the most important things I want to do as a coordinator is to introduce Japan's food culture. Food has a way of unlocking the stories behind cultures, connecting people from different backgrounds. My four classes included comfort food (rice balls and miso soup), popular breads (melon pan and butter roll sandwiches), home cooking (korokke, rice, and salads), and sweets (strawberry mochi and matcha). These cooking classes have been very successful! It has been rewarding to see the wide range of age groups attending my class, and the sessions always brought laughs, smiles, and vibrant conversations about Japan. I try to present unique aspects of Japanese food culture along with the preparation itself. Our discussions include culture, customs, table manners, lifestyles, and traditional presentation.

## Lawrence-Hiratsuka Sister Cities

I was delighted to be part of the sister cities program because I knew how a piece of international experience could open new doors to students' lives in many different ways. The students were amazing, preparing themselves for their upcoming Japanese adventure. We made great progress during our 5-hour Sunday sessions through engaging language and culture classes, dividing our time between lectures, discussions, and student presentations. They learned a lot and had a blast at the same time! They also created brochures that advertised their favorite parts of Lawrence to welcome incoming Japanese exchange students. I am so proud of these young representatives!



# EAST ASIAN LIBRARY COLLECTION

## NEW CHINESE STUDIES LIBRARIAN

Cecilia Zhang joined the KU Libraries in August 2022 as the new Chinese Studies librarian. Prior to becoming a librarian, she studied East Asian Studies and Art History in Canada. Her research interests include promoting diversity and equality in East Asian library collections, digital archives, visual and pop culture in East Asia, contemporary social movements in East Asia, subcultures of Japan, gender and queer theory, critical theory, and beyond.

## JOHN DARDESS RESEARCH FORUM

The 2023 John Dardess East Asian Graduate Student and Faculty Research Forum was held in person for the first time since the COVID pandemic. It was a great success with 5 faculty, 6 doctoral candidates, and 6 masters students from 6 different schools and departments sharing their research activities.

## COLLECTIONS & ACQUISITIONS

In spring 2023, the East Asian Collection was fortunate to receive a special one-time grant from both the Center for East Asian Studies and KU Libraries. With this special fund, we purchased following collections: for Chinese, 《清画全集》（第五卷）（第七卷），《明画全集》（第十三卷），《中国书画文献稿钞本丛刊（初编）（全六册）》，《宋元版佛教史籍丛刊（全47册）》 and for Japanese, e-book collection of 『天皇家族実録』 and 『国史大系』, both of which were added to the JapanKnowledge database.

## EXHIBITIONS

In Spring 2023, East Asian Collection hosted a book exhibition titled "In Search of Democracy: Contemporary Social Movements in China, Hong Kong, and Taiwan," on the 5th floor of Watson Library.

# GIVE TO CEAS

Your support helps us remain a vital resource center for people of all ages among the wider community.

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