



Center for East Asian Studies

International Institute, University of Wisconsin-Madison



National Taiwan University's Dean Tung Shen of the Office of International Affairs shares a token of collaboration with UW-Madison Associate Dean of the School of Education, Adam Gamoran

The University of Wisconsin-Madison, an academic leader in the study of East Asia, maintains a strong focus on China for both students and scholars through the Department of East Asian Languages and Literature, the Center for East Asian Studies, the Law School, the College of Engineering, the College of Agricultural and Life Sciences, and the School of Education. As part of this China focus, the UW has enjoyed strong ties to peer institutions in China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Singapore; in the past three years, the University has worked to coordinate and expand those ties through efforts of individual colleges and departments, and through the Wisconsin China Initiative (a program led by the Division of International Studies). Now the Center for East Asian Studies is introducing a new effort in this direction, the Taiwan Studies Initiative. The brainchild of Chinese Literature Professor (and Director of CEAS) Nicole Huang, the Taiwan Studies Initiative seeks to establish the UW-Madison as the premier destination for the study of Taiwan through a program of student and faculty exchange, curriculum development, and new faculty support.

In June 2009, Director Huang, School of Education Interim Dean Adam Gamoran, and a delegation of faculty from across the University visited Taiwan to explore collaborations between UW-Madison and Taiwanese universities. They were graciously welcomed by government officials of Taiwan—including the leader of the Legislative Yuan—who were very

(Continued on page 2)

CENTER FOR EAST ASIAN STUDIES

newsletter of the Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) at University of Wisconsin-Madison

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interested in working more closely with the UW-Madison. This venture resulted in three Memoranda of Understanding with the highly-ranked National Taiwan University (NTU), National Taiwan Normal University (NTNU), and National Chengchi University (NCCU) supporting new study abroad opportunities for UW students in addition to an existing agreement with National Tsing Hua University (NTHU) and several opportunities not associated with a specific institution. The first group of students will go to Taiwan summer 2010.

Parallel to the visit to Taiwan, Professor Huang, CEAS Associate Director Richard Miller, and CEAS Assistant Director David Dettmann began to develop funding proposals to enable the development of Taiwan Studies at the UW-Madison. Elements of the proposal include new faculty lines, new courses (and additions to existing courses) with content addressing Taiwan, and a library and media collection for Taiwan Studies. There are of course a few courses on the East Asian region that already address Taiwan, such as Contemporary East Asian Societies and Understanding 21st Century China (offered by East Asian Studies), Music Cultures of the World: East Asia (Music), Chinese Foreign Policy, Politics of the World Economy, and Challenges of Democratization (Political Science). Proposed courses include Contemporary Taiwan in Literature and Cinema (East Asian Languages & Literature), Colonial History of Taiwan (History), and East Asian Popular Media (East Asian

Studies). Other courses would be provided by visiting faculty from the UW-Madison's Taiwan partner institutions on a semester-by-semester basis.

QUICK FACTS ABOUT THE UW AND TAIWAN

Number of dissertations on Taiwan produced at the UW-Madison since 1969: 86

Most common disciplines: Education, Economics, Literature, Life Sciences

Number of Taiwanese studies currently at the UW-Madison: 231

Number of active UW Alumni in Taiwan: 1,142 (third largest after South Korea and Japan)

Percentage of UW Alumni in Taiwan who earned a Master's or Ph.D. Here: 89%

Top Schools/Colleges of First Degree: Letters & Science (primarily Journalism, Economics, Statistics, and English), Engineering, Business, Education, Agricultural and Life Sciences, Law



Wisconsin Film Festival 2009: Exclusive interview with *Kai's* Place director Albert Shin

In developing the Taiwan Studies Initiative, CEAS is working closely with faculty across campus, members of the Wisconsin China Initiative and the National Association for Taiwan Studies (NATSA), the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office (TECO) in Chicago, and UW alumni in Taiwan, as well as faculty at NTU, NTNU, NCCU, and NTHU. Professor Huang is confident that the next few years will see the establish-

ment of a solid foundation for the development of Taiwan Studies at the UW-Madison. The Center for East Asian Studies, in addition to its academic services to UW-Madison Students, has been reaching out to enhance local communities' understanding of East Asian cultures. Different outreach events are held every year. With the newly established Korean Initiative, this year, CEAS cosponsored six Korean movies at the annual Wisconsin Film Festival from April 2nd to 5th. The six movies included *Daytime Drinking* (directed by Young-Seok Noh, 2009), *Grain in Ear* (directed by Zhang Lu, 2005), *Kai's Place* (directed by Albert Shin, 2008), *Secret Sunshine* (directed by Lee Chang-Dong, 2007), *The Show Must Go On* (directed by Jae-Rim Han, 2006), and *Treeless Mountain* (directed by Young Kim So, 2008). During the festival, all six films received very positive reviews and successfully increased the visibility of Korean culture in Wisconsin. Albert Shin, director of the film *Kai's Place*, also attended the film festival for the showing of his film. CEAS was lucky to catch him for a brief interview.

-What is your educational background?

I graduated from York University in Toronto, Canada with a B.F.A. in Film and Video Production in 2006.

-What made you enter the film industry?

When I was very young, I discovered movies and there was an immediate attraction to the medium. As I got older, a lot of my other hobbies and interests came and went; however, my love for films and then eventually filmmaking only became stronger. So, I'd have to say that there was

really no other option for me in terms of career paths.

-How did you conceive the story of *Kai's Place*? Is there a true story behind the film?

After graduating from university, I wanted to get away from the routine and lifestyle I found myself in as I went to school for 4 years. I was a little tired of making movies in and around Toronto and wanted an entirely different environment to stir my creativity. So I ended up moving to Korea for 6 months to re-connect with family and perhaps do some writing.

When I was a child, I used to go to Korea every summer to see my grandparents and all my extended family, but as I got older, my summers to Korea became less frequent. So, it had been several years since I had gone back, but in that short time, there had been a noticeable influx of North Americans that were now living in Korea. When I was a child, weeks would go by without seeing one non-Korean person, but now it was quite amazing to see all the different races and cultures permeating the streets of what was once known as the "Hermit Kingdom." Of course with that, I saw a lot of interracial couples, usually being Caucasian men with Korean women. As I began to meet and interact with many such couples, I began to wonder how they overcame their obvious language barrier. Then I began to think in larger thematic terms of what connects us all as human beings? There's the old adage that 90 percent of all communication is non-verbal and by bringing two people together, not through the language they speak, but through the common bond they share, I wanted to explore core themes

that are universal regardless of race or culture. Love, death, hope, regret—these are feelings that are the same in every language, and when we find someone that understands how we *feel*, sometimes language has nothing to do with it.

I also wanted to explore this idea in a story that was a sort-of personal love-letter to Korea. I wanted to tell a story that tried to show different facets of the land and culture and really take an outsider by the hand and carry them off to this beautiful place.

Apparently, I tried to cram a lot into a 17-minute film!

-Did you encounter any difficulties while shooting *Kai's Place*?

All things considered, filming *Kai's Place* went fairly smoothly. My cinematographer (who is not of Korean descent) flew over from Canada to shoot the film with me and he probably had a more difficult time trying to communicate with the Korean crew. We did not have a translator on set, but after a day or two, he was able to find a common ground in communication and it became more of a fun challenge than an actual problem.

We did massive amounts of pre-production on the film because of the many locations we had to shoot and the logistics of trying to pull off a fairly large production in only five days. We probably did a little more prep work—location scouting, storyboarding, actor's rehearsals, tech scouting, etc. than what a lot of short films usually require, but I was very cognizant of the fact that I was a foreigner filming in an environment and system that I'm

Continued on page 7

Faculty News

David Furumoto (Theatre and Drama) will go to Honolulu in July for the 50th anniversary of the founding of the Prince Akihito Scholarship. As part of the commemoration, the Emperor and Empress of Japan will have a special audience with recipients of the scholarship, which was founded in honor of the marriage of the then Crown Prince and Princess. He will present at a special symposium, which is part of the event, to discuss the use of kabuki theatre and Japanese folk tales to increase awareness of Japanese culture and traditions. He will also go to Tokyo to gather materials in preparation for his upcoming presentation of *Narukami: The Thunder God* as part of the UW-Madison University Theatre season (this traditional kabuki play opens in February of 2010) and also for the production which he will guest direct at Michigan State University, *Trojan Women* (this production will open at MSU in October of 2009 and will be presented using traditional Japanese theatre techniques).

Edward Friedman (Political Science) presented a paper on "Power Transition Theory" at a conference on China's Peaceful Development held in Macao. He will also speak at a Taiwan round-table at George Washington University and present a paper on China and Africa at a conference in Washington, D.C. in May. In late May, he will be on a panel of the Canadian Political Science Association in Ottawa as

a discussant. On June 1st, he will give a paper, "The Darker Side of the Legacy," at Northwestern University for a conference on the historical significance of Tiananmen Square. Also in June, he will present a keynote speech to a conference in Beijing's People's University to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the People's Republic of China, meet with Taiwan President Ma Yingjiu, and present a paper on "Appeasing a Rising Authoritarian China" at a Taiwan University workshop on power asymmetries.

Emiko Ohnuki-Tierney (Anthropology) has been the Kluge Distinguished Chair of Modern Culture at the Kluge Center, the Library of Congress. She will spend the fall semester in the newly established Institute for Advanced Study-Paris and return to UW-Madison at the end of the year.

Quitman Eugene Phillips (Art History) is on a sabbatical year in Japan, where he is centered in Tokyo as a visiting scholar at Gakushuin. There he will also present a paper titled, "Shuten Doji: Picture, Text, and Ritual," at Gakushuin University on June 11th.

Julia Murray (Art History) will present a keynote address at the international and interdisciplinary conference, "Rethinking Visual Narratives from Asia," at Hong Kong in June. She will take up a Senior Fellowship at the Institute for Research in the Humanities in September.

Byung-jin Lim (East Asian Languages & Literature) was selected by the Academy of Korean Studies as a winner of the 2009-2010 Korean Studies Grant competition for his

New Faculty

Ann Y. Choi (East Asian Languages & Literature) received her Ph.D. at the University of California, Los Angeles and has taught at Claremont McKenna College and at Rutgers University for a number of years. Her specialty is modern Korean literature with an emphasis on poetry. Her new work is on the images of children in contemporary South Korean fiction. A published poet, she was a Stegner Fellow in Poetry at Stanford University. Having taught a variety of Korean literature and culture courses on both coasts, she is excited at the opportunity to live and teach in the Midwest and is particularly appreciative of the friendly people who have welcomed her to UW-Madison.

Charles Kim (History) studies twentieth-century Korean culture and society with a specialization in South Korea after 1945. His research and teaching interests include national discourse, collective memory, popular culture, and social relations. He is currently at work on a study that examines the cultural origins of South Korea's April Revolution of 1960.

Faculty News (continued)

research project "Developing Intercultural Communicative Competence and Linguistic Competence: Telecollaboration in the Korean Language Program at UW-Madison." Telecollaboration involves interpersonal exchanges between foreign language students and native speakers of the target culture through the use of Internet communication tools. Through telecollaboration with native speakers of the target language and culture, language learners can have authentic intercultural experiences which promote intercultural communicative competence and linguistic competence.

Jung-Hye Shin (Design Studies) was awarded the 2009-2010 Korean Studies Grant from the Academy of Korean Studies for her research "Making Home for the Aged: Spatial Analysis of Class, Culture, and Modernity in Korea and in the U.S." This is a cross-cultural and multi-sited ethnographic study that will take place in five interrelated retirement communities in Korea and in the Midwestern U.S., all of which are run by the same international organization. In her study, Professor Shin will explore the social meanings attached to these facilities, the ways that each regional culture affects spatial configuration of homes, and the daily lives of various social actors in each setting.

Alumni News

Aurora Carlson ('07, BS in East Asian Studies and in Chinese) hosted a TV program called *Rediscovering China* for China Central Television (CCTV) after her graduation from the UW-Madison. She is currently a graduate student at Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies studying International Economics with a China focus.

Brian Busha ('09, BA in East Asian Studies and Chinese) is currently teaching English in Tianjin, China. He teaches Chinese high school students functional English for living and working in the US, for example, helping students learn Excel in English. Life in China for Brian has been a journey of learning, relearning, and adapting to a new environment that challenges not only his endurance, but also his mind.

Debby Egly ('08, BA in East Asian Studies and Chinese) is currently teaching English in a cram school (buxiban) in Taipei, Taiwan. The hustle-bustle life in Taipei has kept her occupied but at the same time given her great opportunities to explore the difference in cultures and in lifestyles between Taiwan and the US. Debby will be teaching English in a private elementary school in Taipei next year.

Jimmy Koo ('07, BA in East Asian Studies and International studies) is currently a law student at American University, Washington College of Law in Washington, D.C. He will be writing a commentary for the American University International Law Review about

the provisions in the US-ROK SOFA concerning the terms of the return of military bases in Korea and the problems with criminal jurisdictions in cases concerning both the US and Korea.

Matt Beyer ('08, BA in Journalism) worked for Yi Jianlian and the Milwaukee Bucks during his final year in UW-Madison. He served as Yi's interpreter and the Bucks' general China specialist, which included providing content to their Chinese Web site and working with the team's marketing department. Following Yi's trade to the New Jersey Nets, Matt decided to continue to freelance for the Bucks, focusing on planning the logistics of their visit to China for the 2008 NBA China Games. Matt stayed on in China after the 2008 NBA China Games and took a job at Edelman Public Relations in Beijing, working in the corporate team with clients such as GE, Wal-Mart and Coca-Cola among others. Matt is also working independently on a charity project, freelance PR projects and an Internet start-up, as well as proudly serving as the president of the UW Alumni Association Beijing chapter.

Ted Feierstein ('08 BA in Chinese and English Literature) is leveraging both of his study focus areas--with emphasis on the Chinese--in his current position at Fuel Tech, Inc., a world leader in air pollution control systems and energy efficiency technology for fossil fuel-fired power plants. Holding the position of "Marketing Specialist, China/ Pacific Rim," and being the only

Alumni News (continued)

"Westerner"/native English speaker working in the C/PR Department and Beijing Fuel Tech office combined, Ted relies heavily on his training in Chinese language every day. Performing a broad array of marketing duties, Ted is based at the Company's Warrenville, IL headquarters and spends about 20% of his time in China and around Southeast Asia.

Amy Bliss Marshall ('05 BA in EAS) is now a PhD candidate at Brown University with a focus on the cultural history of 19th-20th century Japan. She also received both the Fulbright and Fulbright-Hays grants for her dissertation research in Japan. Her current research focuses on popular culture and the media in the interwar era and the first half of the 20th century.

Walter Brummund ('08 BA in EAS) taught English at an elementary school in Shenzhen, China after graduating from UW-Madison. He also traveled to the Philippines during his stay in Asia.

CEAS/EAS 301 Film Series 2009:

Crying Out Love, In the Center of the World (Japanese, directed by Isao Yukisada, 2004), March 26
Maundy Thursday (Korean, directed by Song Hae-Seong, 2006), April 2
Tokyo Tower—Mom & Me, and Sometimes Dad (Japanese, directed by Joji Matsuoka, 2007), April 9
Happiness (Korean, directed by Heo Jin-Ho, 2007), April 16
Tell Me Something (Korean, directed by Chang Yun-hyon, 2001), April 23
Memories of Murder (Korean, directed by Bong Joon-ho, 2003), April 30

2009 Foreign Language and Area Studies program award winners:

Summer:

Kyle Fry (Law, Chinese)
Rachel Goc (Ethnomusicology, Japanese)
Jessica Havens (Com Arts, Japanese)
Kelly Rux (EALL, Japanese)
Timothy Shea (Art History, Chinese)
Rebecca Shearier (History, Japanese)
Amy Vance (Ed Policy Studies, Korean)
Kristin Vekasi (PoliSci, Chinese)
Jared Xu (EALL, Japanese)

Academic Year:

James Homesy (History, Japanese)
Daniel Kim (History, Japanese)
Kerry Ratigan (PoliSci, Chinese)
Benjamin Rosenberg (EALL, Japanese)
Kelly Rux (EALL, Japanese)
Amy Vance (Ed Policy Studies, Korean)
John Zinda (Sociology, Chinese)

Spring 2009 events at CEAS Guest Lectures

Rebecca Copeland, *Washington University in St. Louis*, "Digging Out: Kirino Natsuo's Archaeological Fiction"

Thomas Lutze, *Illinois Wesleyan University*, "China's Inevitable Revolution: Rethinking America's Loss to the Communists, 1945-1949"

Eun Young Jung, *CEAS, UW-Madison*, "The Korean Wave in Global Pop Culture"

Bruce Dickson, *George Washington University*, "China's Crony Communism"

David Kelly, *University of Technology, Sydney*, "Exporting Uncertainty: How China's Governance Impacts the World"

Michael Robinson, *Indiana University-Bloomington*, "Unable or Unwilling to Forget: Historical

Student Group Activities

Ulssu, a local Korean Traditional Drumming and Dance Group, hosted a 10-year anniversary concert for Traditional Korean Drumming sponsored by CEAS. The concert had a central theme of "The Pearl of Thunder." The concert program included works written by Young Nam, SeolJango, Sun Ban, NukChum, Libertango, and ChoongChungDo.

Japanese Cultural Club is a new and growing organization at the UW that was created by Japanese language students who thought it would be rewarding to have an official student group for those people who are either studying the Japanese language or interested in the culture of Japan. They hope to get off to a good start this fall and are looking forward to interested new students joining in the activities they will be organizing throughout the school year. The Japanese Cultural Club can currently be found on Facebook, or students can contact Jason Hicks at jdicks2@wisc.edu to be added to the mailing list to be kept informed of updates as they occur.

Taiwanese Undergraduate Student Organization (TUSO) hosted a new student orientation in Taipei, Taiwan on June 27th. They introduced the campus of University of Wisconsin-Madison to new international students from Taiwan.

Memory and Korean Nationalism”

Michelle Yeh, *University of California-Davis*, “Game Changers: Toward a Theory of Literary Study”

Wu Zongjie, *Zhejiang University, China*, “Interpretation, Autonomy and Transformation: Chinese Pedagogic Discourse in the Cross-Cultural Perspective”

Sung-Chull Kim, *Hiroshima Peace Institute, Japan*, “Jump-Start the Six-Party Talks: Logic, Principle, and Implications”

Brown Bags

Miho Iwasawa, *Research Fellow, Sociology*, “Population Decline and Retreat from Marriage in Japan”

Daisy Yan Du, *Ph. D Candidate, EALL*, “Representing the Others: Wartime Animation Films of China and Japan

Jeremy Leong, *Ph.D Candidate, Music*, “Reconstructing a Musical Self: Jewish Immigrants in Republican China”

Jae-Suk Park, *Research Fellow, Art History*, “Portraits of Su Shi as an Immortal: Perceptions of Su Shi During the Qing Dynasty”

Jung-Uk Rhee, *Visiting Fellow, CEAS*, “Homosexuality and Gendered Nature of Clothing Behavior in Korea”

Wenchi Lin, *Professor, National Central University of Taiwan*, “*Café Lumière* and Hou Hsiao-hsien’s Poetics of *Mise en Abyme*”

(continued from page 3)

not as familiar with and I wanted to leave nothing to chance.

-How does being a Korean-Canadian shape your interpretation of love and family? And how might that be different from a native Korean who grew up in Korea?

I’m not sure how much being Korean-Canadian specifically shapes my interpretation of love and family. My parents are first-generation Korean immigrants, and their story is a very familiar immigrant story. In that, their children’s story can be seen as a very familiar second-generation story. Therefore, I grew up in a household that was very much rooted in Korean culture and tradition, but when I left the house, my influences were quite different. So my influences are quite balanced between the two, but how that differs from native Koreans, I’m not sure. Culturally, there are differences between North American family values and Korean family values, but there are also many similarities as well. In the end, I think how one values and interprets love and family has more to do with how you were raised, not where.

-How does being a Korean-Canadian affect your filming?

A lot of my work up until now has had an underlining theme of self-discovery with characters trying to find their way in life. Much of this may be a reaction to being Korean-Canadian and growing up in a small town in Ontario without any Korean or Asian friends or influences (besides my family of course). Actually, I almost see *Kai’s Place* as a film where I was trying to discover my sense of place, hence the strong theme of “home” in the picture.

-Do you currently have a project going on? If you do, could you talk about what the film or project is about?

Over the winter I shot my first feature film entitled *Point Traverse* on a shoestring budget with a bunch of amateur actors I found on Craigslist. I wrote a film that draws a lot on growing up in a small town in Canada and all the confusion and uncertainty of becoming an adult and having to confront who you’ve become and what the world has in store for you.

I’m hoping to premiere the film at festivals beginning in the fall and it’s currently in post-production. If you’d like, please check out the film’s website at www.pointtraverse.com.

-Would you please give some advice to English-speaking students who are interested in learning Korean or any other East Asian cultures? For example, what kind of mind-set should students have? How could they prepare themselves for culture shock?

I grew up in an almost exclusively WASP suburban environment, and the only advice I have and the one I tried to tell all my friends growing up is simply to keep an open mind. If you have any interest in East Asian culture, you will find it to be one of the most mysterious and beautiful with a long history to draw upon. Also, because our shared history is not very long with the West, a lot of what you will discover is truly new and fascinating. Also, we’ve learned so much from history books, movies and television about our modern Western civilization, from the battles that raged in Europe, the American Revolution, two World Wars, the Cold War, all the cultural movements, etc, but on the other side of the globe, Asia has had its own storied history and wars, developing cultures, and politics that is not nearly enough a part of the public’s discourse. If any of this sounds interesting, you will love East Asian Studies.



News from CEAS is published yearly as a printed newsletter. Beginning in January 2010, we will inaugurate a new, more forward-looking monthly electronic newsletter, along with the yearly newsletter of highlights. These publications will reflect the events and activities sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies at UW-Madison as well as those co-sponsored with other local or campus institutions. We welcome your news and feedback! Send your letters, news, or comments to eas@eastasia.wisc.edu, or mail it to the address on page 2.