

CEAS NEWS 2024–25

In This Issue:

Outreach:
Wisconsin Book Festival 1
Great World Texts 2

Cultural Diplomacy:
Japan – Admiral Visit 4
Korea – Language Study 4
China – Hockey Exchange ... 5

Student News 6

Faculty News 7

Highlights 9

Events 11

Scrapbook 15

About, Mission, Staff 16

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2024–25 Outreach

Connecting Communities Through Books

Fifth year of CEAS partnership with the Wisconsin Book Festival

At the end of 2024, CEAS sat down with **Jane Rotonda**, the current **Wisconsin Book Festival (WBF)** director, to reflect on the festival's partnership with the Center so far and her hopes for further collaboration in the new year. Rotonda, who succeeded **Conor Moran** as festival director in Winter 2023, has been instrumental in sustaining the relationship between CEAS and the WBF.



Jane Rotonda

The **Center for East Asian Studies-Wisconsin Book Festival (CEAS-WBF)** partnership grew out of the pandemic era when organizations across all sectors were forced to rethink the ways programming could happen. Like many, CEAS had to adapt quickly to this new and uncharted landscape. The seeds for a partnership were planted when CEAS Associate Director **David Fields** learned the WBF was already hosting events online that were reaching a large audience. Fields was put into contact with Moran, then festival director, through the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) libraries team.

At the time, Chinese author **Yanke Liang's** *Dream of Ding Village* had been chosen by the UW–Madison's Center for the Humanities for its 2020–21 Great World Texts series. As a result, a collaborative event with the WBF on the novel was already underway. CEAS jumped on board to promote the event, and thus paved the way for working together later that year on another book talk, *The Land of Big Numbers* conversation with author **Te-Ping Chen**. This would become the first CEAS-funded event as part of this partnership.

Since then, CEAS and the WBF have collaborated on multiple events to bring East Asian authors and topics to readers in Madison. Both parties have found the partnership to be mutually beneficial, with each bringing key resources to the table to achieve this common goal. CEAS, which was established in 1962 as the East Asian Studies program, has developed more than sixty years of research and teaching on China, Japan, Korea, Tibet, and Taiwan at the UW–Madison. The WBF has been a community mainstay for a little over two decades, bringing people in the city together through a shared love of literature and their writers. Founded in 2001 by the Wisconsin Humanities Council, the festival is now managed by the Madison Public Library and Madison Public Library Foundation.

Having completed her undergraduate degree in Journalism and Mass Communication at the UW–Madison, Rotonda is no stranger to Madison. Since graduating in 2010, she has repeatedly found herself drawn back to the city in between stints across the coun-

Turn page to read more ➡

Outreach *Continued*

try and world. Shortly after her most recent return stateside in February 2023, she came across the festival director position and as the saying goes, "the rest is history."

In hindsight, the foci of her career on community building, public dialogue, and reading made the WBF a logical next step. Rotonda is especially fond of what she calls "interstitial moments of connections" at the Madison Public Library, where WBF events are usually held. She explained that while virtual events are crucial for increased accessibility, there is something special about the way in-person events can bring fellow readers together in the same space and foster unexpected and charming human-to-human interactions. Although these interactions can occur at any of the singular events that the festival hosts year round, they are especially primed to take place at the annual Fall Celebration, which hosts events over four consecutive days. Rotonda noted that it is not unusual for readers and authors alike to bump into each other on the stairs or around the coffee cart and share related anecdotes and experiences.

In our conversation, Rotonda stressed the centrality of partnerships, such as the one with CEAS, to the success of the WBF in cultivating this warm environment. The festival regularly partners with a host of organizations across town, from departments at UW–Madison to nonprofits and small businesses. As Rotonda sees it, the theme across this range of community partnerships is a desire to serve and integrate as much of the Madison community as possible in the work of the festival as well as the work of these various local organizations.



L to R: Craig Thompson • Will Hsu

The first partnership event organized under Rotonda serves as a prime example of the results of this resource pooling. Author and artist **Craig Thompson** spoke on his 10-book graphic memoir series, *Ginseng Roots*, in October 2023. The series offered a host of unexpected and insightful connections between the Badger State and China. Thompson's discussion of his artistic process on the final installment of the series – which situates his experience cultivating ginseng in Wisconsin during his youth within the context of the global ginseng trade – was augmented by the insights of **Will Hsu**, president of the Wisconsin-based Hsu's Ginseng Enterprises. CEAS suggested Hsu as the best interlocutor for the event considering his personal connection with Thompson, as well as his background as a UW–Madison alum and his identity as the son of first-generation Taiwanese immigrants who established the ginseng trade in Wausau.

The partnership events that followed resulted in similarly lively conversations spanning a range of genres – including memoirs, graphic novels, fiction, and non-fiction – and East Asian countries. November 2023 saw award-winning journalists **Shibani Mahtani** and **Timothy McLaughlin** presenting their narrative historical account of the Hong Kong pro-democracy movement, *Among the Braves*. Fall 2024 events featured writers **Tessa Hulls** and **Margaret Juhae Lee** as part of a panel on finding solace and sisterhood in memoir, as well as a book talk by **Wendy Chen** on her novel, *Their Divine Fires*. Hulls's *Feeding Ghosts* (which bagged the 2025 Pulitzer Prize for Memoir or Autobiography), turns her grandmother's story in Shanghai into a graphic memoir spanning three generations of Chinese women; Lee's *Starry Field* is based on her grandfather's experience under Japanese-occupied Korea. Chen's debut novel is a semi-autobiographical work about a family experiencing wartime upheaval in 20th century China.

Rotonda has continued to work with CEAS on books that might be a good fit for a partnership event. Either party can initiate a pitch. Of the six author events that have emerged so far from this collaboration, two have been pitched by CEAS and the rest from the WBF. Once a title is accepted, Rotonda works on the schedule and CEAS handles promotion. We also work together to find a moderator, often someone on campus. For instance, CEAS helped identify UW–Madison's Chinese literature PhD student **Eliot Chen** to be a conversation partner for the Wendy Chen event. While the WBF is a well-oiled machine with event templates and structures in place, Rotonda stresses the importance of leaving room for flexibility so tweaks can center the "who" and "how" of the specific communities that an event is serving.

Fields and Rotonda have been delighted to witness how the CEAS and WBF communities have been able to forge connections with each other through books and authors as the beating heart of programming. Such connections might not have been possible otherwise without this ongoing relationship.

Rotonda hopes to deepen and build on this partnership endeavor, keeping the conversation open and adjusting shared goals to meet the demands of the moment. She notes how there has been positive growth in terms of community interest in East Asian topics since she began attending WBF events as a student, a trend she wishes to continue developing in line with the library's mission to promote inclusion. She says, "there's always more work to be done and more ways to continue to feature authors, books, and genres that draw new and different audiences, new perspectives and backgrounds into our community."

The latest CEAS–WBF event was **Grace Jung's** *K-Drama School* on February 19, 2025. Jung was visiting assistant professor in Korean Studies at UW–Madison in 2024–25. For more about the Wisconsin Book Festival visit **wisconsinbookfestival.org.**

Great World Texts Program

Wisconsin high school students engage with international best-selling Korean novel

On April 15, 2025, the **Center for the Humanities** welcomed 800 high school students and their teachers from 27 schools across Wisconsin to the UW–Madison campus for the annual **Great World Texts (GWT) in Wisconsin** student conference. The 2024–25 program focused on **Cho Nam-joo's** third novel *Kim Jiyoung, Born 1982*, which has had a profound impact on the problem of sex discrimination in Korean society. The novel, which details the descent of the titular character, Kim Jiyoung, into psychic distress in the face of everyday sexism, has been credited with launching Korea's latest feminist movement.

CEAS was proud to support the chosen text this past academic year. CEAS faculty partnered to select the book, write the cur-

Both photos: SV Heart Photography





High school students at event

ricular guide, and organize the conference. We were delighted to see the results, which were on full display at the student conference. In total, 2,500 Wisconsin students read Cho's novel.

Launched in 2005, the GWT in Wisconsin program connects high school teachers and students across the state with UW–Madison scholars through the shared project of reading and discussing a piece of world literature. Now in its 20th year, GWT has reached tens of thousands of students and teachers in dozens of school districts throughout Wisconsin. The program employs a capacious understanding of classic literature in its selection of texts across various time periods and geographic locations.

This is the second time that a text by an East Asian author has been selected for the GWT program in the past five years. The previous was *Dream of Ding Village* by Chinese novelist **Yan Lianke** in 2020–21. CEAS also partnered with the Center for the Humanities to support the program that year.

As in previous years, the GWT program continued its practice of offering schools complimentary copies of its chosen text for 2024–25, which were then taught in Wisconsin classrooms. Participating teachers were provided with the opportunity to attend a colloquium to work with UW–Madison faculty members on interpreting and understanding the text, extensive supporting curriculum materials, and a stipend to participate in the GWT Annual Student Conference. The conference is a culmination of the year-long program during which students from all participating schools come together to share their creative responses to the text and hear from distinguished speakers, often including the text's author or contemporary representative.

High school students had the chance to meet author Cho Nam-joo, who delivered the keynote address alongside interpreter **Robert Holloway** at this year's conference. After the keynote session, students shared a wide range of projects that were created in response to the novel. CEAS staff had the pleasure of interacting with some of the students who were present and gained some insight into their creative processes behind performance pieces, poems, essays, blogs, collages, and more.

Among the highlights of the afternoon poster sessions was a satirical blog, "5 Expectations for Korean Women," that a pair of students had made to demonstrate the double standard for men and women in Korea. They chose to write the blog from the perspective of two men to effectively "show the ugly truth about how Korean women are being treated with prejudice, sexism, and otherness in modern society." Another student had made a TikTok account from the perspective of Kim Jiyoung which romanticized the life of a stay-at-home mom by documenting the supposed pleasures of domestic bliss. She commented on the resonances between her enactment of Kim's online persona and the explosion of "tradwife" content, a trend that embraces traditional gender roles, across social media.



L to R: Eunsil Oh • Cho Nam-joo • Robert Holloway

SV Heart Photography

Engagement with this prolific text extended beyond high school students as Cho spoke that evening to more than 150 members of the Madison community during a partnership event between the Center for the Humanities and the Wisconsin Book Festival. CEAS faculty affiliate and Assistant Professor of Sociology and Asian Languages and Cultures **Eunsil Oh** served as moderator for a conversation at the Madison Central Public Library. Author Cho shared the rippling impacts of her groundbreaking novel across South Korea, reflected on her writing process, and delighted in a number of insightful audience questions.

CEAS and the Center for the Humanities are hoping to partner again to bring texts from East Asia to Wisconsin. In the meantime, the 2025–26 GWT is **Nnedi Okorafor's** *Death of the Author* with the student conference to take place on April 7, 2026 at UW–Madison. Author Okorafor will be the keynote speaker. Find out more about Great World Texts and access their excellent teaching guides at **humanities.wisc.edu/great-world-texts**.



2024–25 Cultural Diplomacy

Top Military Leader From Japan Visits UW–Madison

CEAS hosts Japanese Self-Defense Forces senior officer

Last November, the Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) hosted Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Forces **Rear Admiral Hayamizu Takaaki**. During his three-day visit, the Admiral delivered briefings to University of Wisconsin–Madison Air Force and Navy ROTC cadets, and met with university faculty and state officials. His presentations focused on Japan's efforts to bolster its defense capabilities in response to growing regional tensions, particularly from China, North Korea, and Russia.



Admiral Hayamizu with UW Navy ROTC

Admiral Hayamizu's briefings to the ROTC programs highlighted the long-standing and close cooperation between American forces in the region and the Japanese Self-Defense Forces. The briefings emphasized the importance of the Japanese Constitution, which states "the Japanese people forever renounce war as a sovereign right of the nation and the threat or use of force as means of settling international disputes."

Admiral Hayamizu explained how Japan's pacifist constitution has shaped the development of its military forces over the past seven decades. As a result, Japan maintains self-defense forces rather than a conventional military and has focused on defensive capabilities. The nation will only engage in the use of force in a narrow set of circumstances – generally an attack on Japan itself.

"Hearing from senior leaders is always an invaluable opportunity, offering unique insights into the evolving geopolitical landscape," said UW student and Cadet Lieutenant Colonel **Ian Jacobson** of the Air Force ROTC program. "Admiral Hayamizu's visit was a particularly impactful experience among the leaders we've hosted. He provided not only a thoughtful perspective on the Japan Self-Defense Forces' plans to modernize within constitutional bounds but also touched on the Japanese public's view of the U.S. presence in their region. This engagement was a remarkable opportunity to gain a deeper understanding of our ally's mission in safeguarding their security in the Indo-Pacific and how the United States can better support these efforts."

While in Madison, Admiral Hayamizu also met with UW–Madison faculty, toured the Wisconsin Veterans Museum, and visited the Wisconsin Department of Military Affairs, where he received a briefing from state military and civilian leaders on the organization and mission of the Wisconsin National Guard.

This visit was made possible through a collaboration between CEAS, the Japan-America Society of Wisconsin (JASWI), and grant funding from the National Resource Centers of the U.S. Department of Education. CEAS is particularly grateful for the support of **Andrew Seaborg**, honorary consul of Japan in Wisconsin, and JASWI Executive Director **Kerry Clark**.


At state capitol building

The event underscores CEAS's commitment to providing students and faculty with opportunities to engage with leading experts and policymakers in the field of East Asian Studies. To learn more about CEAS and JASWI, visit their respective websites at **eastasia.wisc.edu** and **jaswi.org**.

Korean Language Study

Profile of a 2024 UW–Madison graduate

Before she had ever set foot in the country, **Sawyer Getschman** knew she loved South Korea. Her love affair began in Germany, where she attended high school after spending six years in Japan. She started listening to J-pop as a way to stay culturally connected, and stumbled across Korean artists who were re-recording the original Japanese songs. Inevitably, she found her way to BTS, the boy band and global cultural juggernaut, and then Korean drama. She remembers bursting out of her room one day while watching a K-drama episode and announcing that she wanted to learn the language to her father.


Outside Gyeongbokgung Palace

Photo: Zoe Howard

Armed with only a love for the culture and a hearty dose of determination, Getschman began taking Korean language classes during her freshman year at UW–Madison – held online due to the pandemic. In her second semester, she spoke to CEAS faculty and Korean language instructor **Jaerin Ahn** about her desire to visit Korea and was encouraged to apply for a **Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship**. These fellowships, funded by the U.S. Department of Education and administered by UW–Madison National Resource Centers like CEAS, enable students to acquire foreign language and area studies competencies. Awards are available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents for studies during the academic year and the summer.

Getschman successfully applied for a summer 2022 FLAS fellowship as a sophomore, which allowed her to embark on a nine-week intensive program at Yonsei University in Seoul. That first visit turned out to be life-changing. According to Getschman, such an invaluable language and cultural immersion experience would not have been possible without the FLAS fellowship, which covered tuition, housing, and textbook expenses.

If Getschman was shocked at being awarded the fellowship the first time, she was just as astounded, if not more so, when she applied for another FLAS award and was offered one for her senior year. During that second visit to Yonsei, Getschman was able to immerse herself more deeply into Korean culture and language. Besides writing and language courses, she was also able to take classes on Korean history that were not available at UW–Madison and explored areas outside of Seoul.

While the significance of winning a national fellowship is not lost on her, she stresses how attainable FLAS awards feel compared to other fellowship competitions. Whereas the prospect of securing other scholarships and funding had seemed entirely out of reach, she felt she at least had a shot with the FLAS program as long as she dedicated her best efforts to writing the application essays. Those efforts ended up paying dividends.



In the Seoul Forest

Photo: Zoe Howard

Getschman looks back on previous journal entries lamenting how terrible she was at the language as a beginner and marvels at how far she's come. Although popular culture was her introduction to Korean, it was really her love for the language that kept her going through that steep learning curve. She also credits the Korean language community at Madison for her success. The encouragement of her Korean professors as well as her involvement with various Korean extracurricular activities such as Korean Happy Hour (sans alcohol) and language tutoring were vital to building her confidence as a non-native speaker. For Getschman, the ultimate sense of fulfillment from this process came from the recognition from other Koreans that a foreigner had cared to learn their language. She found that unlike the classroom, the actual experience of using the language in the real world prioritized comprehension over grammatical correctness, which helped her enjoy the language more.

Getschman has no regrets about the challenges she's faced on her foreign language journey. She does, however, have one piece of advice for students who are interested in East Asian languages but are intimidated: "You have one life; don't let fear get in the way."

Getschman graduated in Fall 2024 with a bachelor's degree in East Asian languages and cultures, as well as a certificate in teaching English to speakers of other languages. She was selected as the student speaker for the Winter 2024 Commencement. Since graduating, she has been looking for opportunities to work in Korea. For now, she is trying to start private tutoring in Korean, as well as applying to companies that would allow her to market Korean media.

CEAS is delighted to profile students who are engaging in exciting academic and extracurricular activities related to East Asian studies. If you know of a student who you would like to recommend, reach out to **Laurie Dennis** at **ldennis@wisc.edu**.

Sports Diplomacy With Northeastern China

CEAS part of two-way hockey exchange

Sports diplomacy became a special focus of the spring semester for the Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) through an $80,000 public service grant to organize an exchange of hockey coaches sponsored by the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs.

The exchange was part of the bureau's International Sports Programming Initiative (ISPI), which cultivates people-to-people ties that build enduring networks and personal relationships and promote U.S. national security and culture. Through sports diplomacy exchanges, the ISPI uses athletes, coaches, teams, and sporting events to foster dialogue, promote peace, and improve international relations.



Chinese coaches with Mark Johnson (in red)

The role of CEAS in this initiative was to arrange the itinerary and logistics for a delegation of Chinese hockey coaches to Wisconsin in March, followed by a delegation of Americans to Heilongjiang Province in June. Heilongjiang, located in northeastern China, is Wisconsin's sister state.

"We viewed this as a kind of 'ping-pong diplomacy 2.0'," said CEAS Assistant Director **Laurie Dennis**, referring to the exchange of ping pong teams that helped thaw relations between the U.S. and China in the early 1970s. "But we switched out ping pong balls for hockey pucks. The two delegations of hockey coaches were warmly welcomed wherever they went. I learned from this how sports diplomacy can open doors that maybe no other kind of diplomacy can open."

CEAS contracted with PH International, a Vermont-based nonprofit focused on sports diplomacy, and was advised and assisted by the U.S. Consulate in Shenyang (located in northeastern China's Liaoning Province), which came up with the idea for the two-way exchange.

The initiative launched with 10 Chinese hockey coaches and administrators spending 10 days in Madison and Milwaukee, arriving just in time to watch the Wisconsin state high school hockey tournament, and to catch the UW–Madison women's team preparing for their successful NCAA tournament run. The Chinese coaches also observed UW–Madison history and Chinese language classes, worked with former Badger women's team captain **Claudia Kepler** on how to teach new hockey shooting technique drills, and played in three scrimmages.

"Getting out on the ice and playing hockey with our guests was amazing," said Madison Polar Caps youth hockey coach **Steve Ridgely**, who is also CEAS faculty director. "The biggest surprise was how their questions about American youth hockey were exactly the same issues we also worry about as coaches:

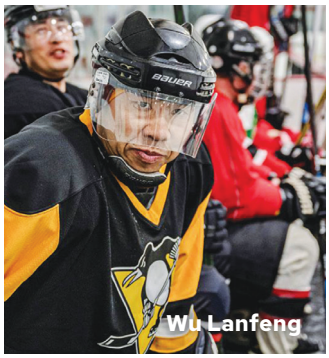
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Diplomacy *Continued*

how much does it cost families, how many practices per week, how many games per weekend is the right number, whether or not to play year round, how do you balance player development with efforts to grow the game."

Ridgely organized scrimmages for the visiting Chinese delegation with adult leagues around Madison, including at the university's Bakke Recreation Center. He said entire rosters turned out for a chance to play on the ice with skaters from China.

For the Chinese delegation's final day in Wisconsin, Coach In-Chief for the Wisconsin Amateur Hockey Association (WAHA) **Raja Aylsworth** organized a scrimmage at Arrowhead High School's arena. Each line consisted of both Chinese and American players. When the allotted time resulted in a 14–14 tie, Aylsworth, who served as game referee, called for a shoot-out. Members of the Chinese delegation scored at both ends of the ice, with the onlookers cheering and banging the boards.


Wu Lanfeng

Coach **Wu Lanfeng**, a former player on China's national team who scored the tiebreaker at Arrowhead, said of his trip, "The world would be more peaceful if we had more such programs."

The Chinese coaches in the March delegation were all members of the Heilongjiang Ice Hockey Association. The June exchange featured a cohort of six Wisconsin coaches (including Ridgely and Aylsworth), along with four coaches from Minnesota, Texas, Florida, and New Hampshire. This group spent 10 days in Heilongjiang, divided between Harbin, the provincial capital, and Qiqihar, recognized as the "Best Hockey Town in Asia" at the 2016 Asian Winter Games. The visit featured several scrimmages, along with a chance to play a "coaches vs. kids" game with a youth team in Harbin, and an opportunity to take over running the Sunday morning practice of a girls' team in Qiqihar.

"Everybody's smiling, which is the most important thing – having fun," commented Aylsworth as he watched the guest American coaches holding drills for the teenage players.


Outside ice arena in Qiqihar

In Wisconsin and Heilongjiang, the delegations toured ice rinks (including UW's LaBahn Arena, where they met Badger women's team head coach and Olympic gold medalist, **Mark Johnson**; Milwaukee's Pettit National Ice Arena; and Harbin's hockey venues for the February 2025 Asian Winter Games). They also experienced local food and culture. In Wisconsin, that meant sampling ice cream and cheese curds, and touring the Harley Davidson Museum and state capitol building. In Heilongjiang, they dined on local BBQ and other northeastern specialties, visited a nature reserve for red-crowned cranes, and attended a concert.

The Americans also met with city and provincial sports association officials in China and toured higher education institutions in Harbin that focus on winter sports training.

On the last night of the exchange, host **Zou Yachang**, the president of the Heilongjiang Ice Hockey Association, told the American coaches that his trip to Wisconsin in March was his first time to the U.S. He said he especially cherished making new friends and then having them become "old pals" as part of the follow-up visit to Heilongjiang.

"Everyone was so friendly to us (in Wisconsin), and we hope that you felt the same kind of friendliness from people here," said Mr. Zou, speaking through a translator. "We want this to be a thing we do normally. We hope to see you all again."

2024–25 Student News

Federally-funded Study of East Asian Languages

Eleven Badgers received federal funding to study East Asian languages in 2024–25 through the U.S. Department of Education's **Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS)** summer and academic year fellowships program.

For summer 2025, three fellows attended the same Chinese language intensive in Taipei, Taiwan, while a fourth focused on Japanese through an online program at Beloit College.

Two of the 2024–25 academic year fellowships were also used to attend study abroad programs: **John-Coahle Merryfield** at the Kyoto Institute of Culture and Language in Japan, and **Mina Yildiz** at Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea, for the fall semester. FLAS fellows who remained in Madison were introduced at the CEAS annual fall reception and invited to all CEAS lectures.

FLAS fellowships offer tuition funding and stipends for qualified students focused on foreign language and area studies competencies. CEAS is certified to offer FLAS awards for the study of Chinese, Japanese, Korean, and Tibetan. Competitions typically open in late November with a February application deadline. See the FLAS website for more information: **flas.wisc.edu.**



Summer 2025 FLAS Fellows:

- **John Tobin**, History graduate student, Japanese
- **Mina House**, Asian Languages and Cultures graduate student, Chinese
- **Sophia Pringle**, undergraduate, Chinese
- **Adam Sherwood**, undergraduate, Chinese

Academic Year 2024–25 Fellows:

- **Matthew Bialo**, International Public Affairs graduate student, Korean
- **Pope (Max) Kanne**, Asian Languages and Cultures graduate student, Japanese
- **Nathan Le**, Music graduate student, Korean
- **John-Coahle Merryfield**, History graduate student, Japanese
- **Delia Mitchell-Gray**, Art History graduate student, Korean
- **Je-In Woo**, undergraduate student, Japanese
- **Mina Yildiz**, undergraduate student, Korean

Matsudaira Award for 77th Japan-America Student Conference



Neurobiology and psychology major **Ella Jiang** was selected as UW–Madison's representative for the **Japan-American Student Conference (JASC)** in summer 2025. This year, the conference took place in August across cities in Japan.

JASC is focused on people-to-people diplomacy and empowering the next generation of U.S.-Asia leaders. The program alternates between sites in Japan and the U.S., and UW–Madison was one of the host campuses for the 2012 and the 2018 conferences. Summer 2025 marked the 77th occurrence, and took place in Kyoto/Osaka, Kumamoto, and Tokyo.

JASC dates back to 1934, when the first conference was organized in response to deteriorating relations between the U.S. and Japan. Students from Japan invited their American counterparts to Tokyo for in-depth discussions about pressing issues. The following year, American delegates reciprocated by hosting a second meeting in the United States.

Ella's participation in JASC was enabled by the **Ichiro and Toyoko Matsudaira Memorial Award**, which CEAS administers for UW–Madison students. The award covers the $3,000–$3,500 program cost and was established by **Andrew and Kristin Seaborg**; its namesake is the family that hosted Andrew when he participated in JASC in the early 1990s. (The award competition typically takes place in December; more details can be found on the CEAS website.)


Brandon Rivera De Leon

In addition to Ella, the award also funded marketing major **Brandon Rivera De Leon's** JASC program costs due to his leadership role this year. Brandon, who was UW–Madison's representative at JASC last year when it was hosted in the U.S., served on the Executive Committee that was in charge of planning the conference this summer. This is Brandon's third consecutive summer being a part of programs connecting Badgers with Japan. As an incoming freshman in summer 2023, Brandon joined the inaugural UW Summer Launch Japan program, which is designed to encourage incoming first-year students to grapple with important social, political, and historical issues, develop college-level critical thinking and writing skills, build community networks, and develop cross-cultural awareness – all while traveling abroad before the start of their college degree program.

2024–25 Faculty News



● **Steven Gagnon –** CEAS was delighted to welcome **Steven Gagnon** as the new Korean language teaching faculty in Fall 2024. Professor Gagnon earned his PhD in Second Language Studies from Michigan State University. Dedicated to Korean language education, he taught Korean for five years at Michigan State and served as the interim program coordinator during the 2023–24 academic year. For his service, he received several teaching awards including a university wide Excellence-in-Teaching Citation. His research interests are rooted in improving Korean language pedagogy, primarily using corpus-based methodologies to compare first-, second-, and textbook language.



● **Yang Li –** CEAS welcomed **Yang Li** as the 2024–25 Anna Julia Cooper Postdoctoral Fellow. In Fall 2025, Professor Li will be jointly appointed as assistant professor in the Department of History and the Integrated Liberal Studies Program. A scientist-turned-historian, she specializes in the history of science, medicine, and technology in modern China. Her first book, tentatively titled *Biopolitical Socialism: Antibiosis, Scientific Capital, and China's Cold War Rationality, 1949–90*, demonstrates how biotechnology played a central role in transforming the peasant-based Chinese Communist Party into a thriving industrial regime. Professor Li teaches on the histories of modern science and medicine from a global perspective, as well as on science, medicine, and technology in East Asia.

Turn page to read more ➡

Faculty News *Continued*



● **Xiuyuan Mi –** CEAS was glad to welcome **Xiuyuan Mi**, who joined the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures as assistant professor of classical Chinese literature. She holds a PhD and an MA in premodern Chinese literature from the University of Pennsylvania and a BA in English literature from the College of William and Mary. Her current book project traces the interplays between poetry, performance, religion, and material culture in China from the beginning of the second millennium until the Mongol conquest. Her recent publications have appeared in the *Journal of Song-Yuan Studies* and *Sino-Platonic Papers*. She is also a co-editor of the *Dictionary of Medieval Sinitic*, forthcoming with Brill.



● **Grace Jung –** This past year, CEAS had the pleasure of welcoming **Grace Jung** as the visiting assistant professor (VAP) of Korea Studies with the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. Professor Jung earned her PhD in Cinema and Media Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. She specializes in Korean television, film, comedy, and gender and queer studies. She is a former Fulbright Scholar and the author of *K-Drama School: A Pop Culture Inquiry into Why We Love Korean Television*. During her time at UW–Madison, she presented talks on Korean pop culture as part of the CEAS Spring 2025 Speaker Series as well as at a Wisconsin Book Festival event co-hosted with CEAS.



● **John Garnetti –** One of several new CEAS faculty affiliates this year, **John Garnetti** is the managing director for the Office of Business Engagement. Garnetti's vast experience in international business, his time living abroad in East Asia, and his fluency in Mandarin Chinese make him an excellent addition to CEAS. Prior to joining the university, John held director-level positions in business development and marketing for the Foxconn Technology Group, SHARP Electronics, and AVer Information, Inc. This past spring, Garnetti was a panelist for a CEAS event featuring a conversation with professionals who have worked in various countries across the East Asia region including Korea, Japan, and Taiwan.



● **Dayin Zhang –** CEAS welcomed another faculty affiliate, **Dayin Zhang**, an assistant professor in the Department of Real Estate and Urban Land Economics at the Wisconsin School of Business. His research interests include financial intermediation, real estate finance, and macroeconomics in the contexts of the U.S. and China. Professor Zhang earned his PhD in Finance and Real Estate at the Haas School of Business, University of California–Berkeley.



● **Sachin Tuli –** While only officially affiliating with CEAS this year, **Sachin Tuli** has been actively engaging with our programming for some time. Currently director of the International Business Program, Professor Tuli also brings over 17 years of teaching experience to his courses at the Wisconsin School of Business. His years of teaching multiple experiential learning based international business immersions to Argentina, China, Cuba, India, Mexico, Thailand, the United Arab Emirates, and Vietnam make him a valuable asset to CEAS's faculty expertise.



● **Kim Ruhl –** Curt and Sue Culver Professor of Economics and Co-director of the Center for Research on the Wisconsin Economy (CROWE) **Kim Ruhl** also joined CEAS this year as a faculty affiliate. His research focuses on international economics, models of firm heterogeneity, and national income accounting. He is on leave until April 2026 as he was appointed to the President's Council of Economic Advisers (CEA). The CEA was established by Congress in 1946 to advise the U.S. president on economic policy issues. Prof. Ruhl is the first economist from UW–Madison to serve as a member of the CEA.



● **Terence Roehrig –** Last but not least, our final addition to the CEAS faculty affiliate lineup is **Terence Roehrig**, lecturer in political science and professor emeritus at the U.S. Naval War College. He was a research fellow at the Kennedy School at Harvard University and a past president of the Association of Korean Political Studies. A UW–Madison PhD alum, Roehrig has written numerous books, articles, and book chapters on Korean and East Asian security issues, North Korea's nuclear weapons program, the South Korean Navy, deterrence theory, and the U.S.-South Korea alliance. He has interviewed with and written for many news organizations, including the BBC and Bloomberg. He was a panelist for a CEAS "East Asia Now" panel this past spring, which discussed the aftermath of former Korean President Yoon Suk-yeol's attempted coup.



● **David Fields –** CEAS Associate Director **David Fields** had the honor of being named a 2024–25 Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) NextGen Korea Scholar along with nine other topic experts. The U.S.-Korea NextGen Scholars Program is a unique two-year non-resident program that provides opportunities for mid-career Korea specialists to discuss issues of importance to U.S.-Korea relations with policymakers, government officials, and opinion leaders in Korea and the United States, learn how to effectively engage with the media, participate in the policymaking process, gain experience as public intellectuals helping to bridge the scholarly and policy communities, and address issues of importance to the U.S.-Korea relationship.



● **Kaiping Chen –** Congratulations to CEAS faculty **Kaiping Chen** on her Vilas Early-Career Investigator Award! Dr. Chen is currently assistant professor in computational communication in the Department of Life Sciences Communication. She was joined by eleven other recipients of the award, which recognizes research and teaching excellence in junior faculty. The award provides flexible research funding for three years. The Early-Career Investigator Award is one of several award categories supported by the estate of Professor, U.S. Senator, and UW Regent William F. Vilas (1840–1908).

2024–25 Highlights



● **CEAS Professional Series Featured *The Economist* Journalist David Rennie:** British journalist and Geopolitics Editor **David Rennie** (pictured) of *The Economist* was on campus in April to serve as the speaker for year four of the **CEAS Professional Series**. This program is designed to offer the campus community perspectives on East Asia from those who work outside a university context. Rennie joined *The Economist* in 2007 where he has held various positions including European Union correspondent, Washington bureau chief, and Beijing bureau chief. Rennie's lecture focused on U.S.-China relations and the prospect of a historic confrontation between these two countries. He traced the evolution of China's conditional welcome by the U.S. in the 1970s to its increasing vilification as an adversary in the current moment. As part of his campus visit, Rennie also gave a talk for the Navy ROTC and met with a group of undergraduate students to discuss his career path as a journalist. This year's CEAS Professional Lecture was supported by the East Asian Legal Studies Center, the International Business Program, and the Madison Committee on Foreign Relations.



● **Economist and UW–Madison Alum Nicholas Lardy on U.S.-China Economic Relations:** Last October, **Nicholas Lardy** (pictured) – senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics (PIIE) in Washington, D.C. and UW alum ('68 BA Economics) – delivered a talk on China's rise and its impact on bilateral relations with the U.S. He commented on China's economic reforms since the 1970s, the rise of China's private sector, and how the economic policy landscape has shifted under Chinese President Xi Jinping, especially in regards to the role of government attitudes toward the private sector. Moderator **Michael Knetter**, then Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association CEO, described Dr. Lardy's lecture as "a great example of a Wisconsin education." The talk was sponsored by CEAS, the East Asian Legal Studies Center, the La Follette School of Public Affairs, the Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership, and the Center for Research on the Wisconsin Economy.

● **Fifth Annual Wisconsin Sijo (WiSijo) Competition Held in Fall 2024:** The **WiSijo Competition** attracted almost 200 entries in all age divisions from across Wisconsin for its fifth annual poetry competition. A collaboration between CEAS and the Sejong Cultural Society of Chicago, the competition seeks to highlight Korea's cultural heritage by giving Wisconsinites an opportunity to learn a traditional Korean poetic form. Similar to Japanese haiku, sijo consists of three lines, a specific number of syllables, and thematic shifts. Sijo can be easily adapted to modern themes, such as the success of the Badger volleyball team. The WiSijo competition has previously been featured on Wisconsin Public Radio's "Wisconsin Life" program. For more information visit **eastasia.wisc.edu/wisijo**.

Christmas Caroling

Beautiful, your family
Is beautiful, thank you for the song
The woman claps, then wanders on
Like her mind, already gone
We are yours; remember, grandma
You knew the words once, sang along

Rachel Leverenz, New Holstein, WI
2025 Sijo Adult Grand Prize Winner

● **"East Asia Now" Events Addressed Hot Button Issues:** CEAS held several panel events that featured UW–Madison experts examining pressing issues pertaining to East Asia. The **"East Asia Now"** event series brings together scholars, policymakers, business people, and community leaders from around the state and nation to discuss the impact of East Asian current events on Wisconsin and beyond. The first panel discussed how the U.S. presidential election might impact East Asian politics. While panelists offered differing opinions, they saw a great deal of overlap in the two campaigns' policies towards East Asia. The second panel dealt with North Korea's involvement in the Russia-Ukraine War. Panelists concurred that Russia's move to engage North Koreans for help was a sign of its



L to R: David Fields • Terence Roehrig • Eunsook Jung • Charles Kim

Turn page to read more ➡

Highlights *Continued*

growing weakness, and that North Korean involvement in the conflict did not appear sufficient to shift the outcome of the war in Ukraine at that time. The third and final panel (pictured) tackled the political upheaval in the Republic of Korea in the aftermath of former President Yoon Suk-yeol's declaration of martial law.

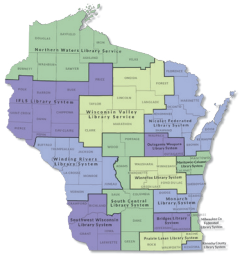
● **CEAS Tearline Project With the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA):** CEAS released its first project on the **National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA) Tearline** open source intelligence platform, a pioneering detailed analysis focused on small passenger vehicles (SPVs) in Hamhung, North Korea's second-largest city. By examining public and commercial satellite imagery and other open source intelligence (OSINT) sources, the project sheds light on the growth and distribution of SPVs in the city as an indicator of economic activity and development, and enables a revised estimate for the number of such vehicles in North Korea. This project was conducted by students led by **David Fields**, CEAS associate director and scholar of U.S.-Korean relations. It represents a significant advancement in the application of open source intelligence to provide valuable insights into one of the world's most opaque nations. The National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency is part of the United States Intelligence Community (IC), specializing in the collection, analysis, and dissemination of geospatial intelligence (GEOINT) for national security purposes. The Tearline initiative, sponsored by NGA, produces unclassified, public-facing intelligence reports that combine expert analysis with open-source data to enhance transparency and public understanding.

● **CEAS Scholars Across Wisconsin (SAW) Events:** CEAS provided funding for two March events at UW System campuses related to East Asia. This funding is part of the **Scholars Across Wisconsin (SAW)** program, which currently includes 28 affiliate faculty at public and private Wisconsin universities and colleges. First, CEAS SAW affiliate **Aragorn Quinn** arranged to hold a tea ceremony in his Japanese language class at UW–Milwaukee. This was led by **Yoko Kawamura** (pictured), who studied the tea ceremony of the Urasenke School for over 10 years in Japan before moving to the U.S., where she teaches Japanese at the University of Notre Dame.



Professor Quinn described the ceremony as "a huge hit" with his students. As a student noted in a class reflection: "It is one thing to learn about and see pictures of certain customs of a culture, but to experience it in real life was a memorable experience I won't forget." Then at the end of the month, CEAS SAW affiliate **Michelle Damian** at UW–Whitewater, brought **Sachiko Kawai** (researcher at the Project for Premodern Japanese Studies, University of Southern California) to give a public lecture on the topic of popularizing Japanese history and also to meet with faculty and visit History and Asian Studies classes.

● **CEAS's Library Program Dispersed Grants to Every State Library System:** For its fifth cycle, the **East Asia in Wisconsin Library Program** competition awarded nearly $15,000 in funding to 24 libraries across the state's 15 library systems. The competition offers grants of up to $1,000 to Wisconsin public libraries to enrich patrons' understanding of East Asia through programming and materials. "This is the first time that we have been able to award at least one grant to every single library system in the state," said **Laurie Dennis**, assistant director of CEAS. Along with the purchase of new books, manga collections, DVDs, and related materials, funding in 2024–25 went toward: a Mahjong program in New Berlin, Hong Kong arts and crafts in Brillion, Chinese qigong sessions in Land O'Lakes, and more. It also connected libraries to special events, such as the celebration of sister-city relationships between Waupaca and Mitoyo City, and Racine and Oiso, Japan.





● **Mid-Autumn Festival Collaboration With the Chinese Language and Culture Club and Allen Centennial Garden:** Last fall, the Chinese Language and Culture Club (CLACC) presented at the Harvest Folk Festival at the Allen Centennial Garden. They introduced the Chinese Mid-Autumn Festival to visitors, elaborating on its history. CEAS provided moon cakes, awarded as prizes at the booth staffed by CEAS faculty affiliate and Chinese language teacher **Tianlu Zhang**. A public botanical garden of the UW–Madison Horticulture Department, the Allen Centennial Garden serves as outdoor classroom for students and surrounding communities, providing learning opportunities for visitors of all ages.

● **Panels on Careers in East Asia:** CEAS held two events to inform students on various career pathways in East Asia. In the first, "Working in East Asia: A Panel Discussion," professionals (two pictured on right) who worked in countries including Korea, Japan, and Taiwan shared their experiences across a range of sectors including the nonprofit industry, government relations, business development and marketing, and educational consulting. Our second event, "Teaching ESL in East Asia," focused on teaching opportunities abroad both before and after graduation, featuring speakers (some pictured below) from the ESL Program, the International Internships Office, and the Fulbright Program at UW–Madison.



L to R: Kerry Clark • John Garnetti



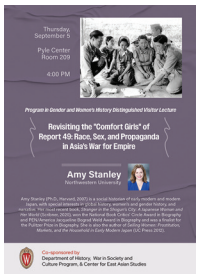
L to R: Joe Nosek • Karen Best • David Fields • Mark Lilleleht

2024–25 Events

Following is a selection of the more than 60 events CEAS hosted or co-hosted in the 2024–25 academic year which were attended by over 7,500 people. Events annotated are archived online:

YouTube can be found on the **CEAS YouTube** channel: **youtube.com/c/CenterforEastAsianStudiesUWMadison**

PODCAST indicates that this episode is available on the **East Asia Now** podcast; more at: **eastasia.wisc.edu/podcast**



● Revisiting the "Comfort Girls" of Report 49: Race, Sex, and Propaganda in Asia's War for Empire

September 5, 2024

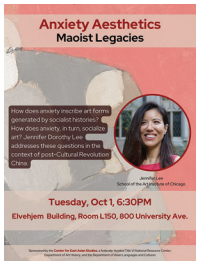
Historian **Amy Stanley** (Harvard University) returned to Report 49, a key historical document, to argue that Asia's war for empire was shaped by women, including "comfort women," prostitutes, sex slaves, and rape victims. Co-hosts: Department of History, War in Society and Culture Program • Department of Gender and Women's Studies.



● Chinese Communist Party Nationalism: What's New, What's Nationalist & What's Communist About It?

September 25, 2024

Historian **John Fitzgerald** (Australian Strategic Policy Institute), discussed the concept of nationalism in China from the era of the Taiping Rebellion to today. Professor Fitzgerald was a Fulbright Postdoctoral Fellow here at UW–Madison in the 1980s. Co-sponsors: East Asian Legal Studies Center • La Follette School of Public Affairs • Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership.



● Anxiety Aesthetics: Maoist Legacies in China, 1978–1985

October 1, 2024

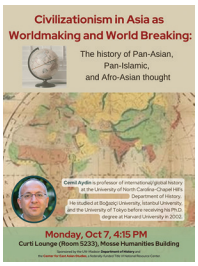
Jennifer Dorothy Lee (Art Institute of Chicago), delivered a talk based on her new book, *Anxiety Aesthetics: Maoist Legacies in China, 1978–1985*. She argued that anxiety offers a crucial frame for perceiving the specificity of both contemporaneity and creative practices in the wake of the Cultural Revolution. Co-sponsors: Department of Art History • Department of Asian Languages and Cultures.



● Chips War? The Geopolitics of Global Electronics Production

October 3, 2024

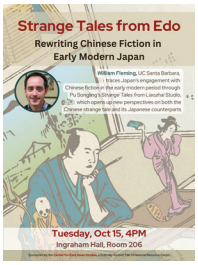
Professor **Henry Wai-chung Yeung** (National University of Singapore) explored the production of semiconductor chips, a technology that is essential to modern life, from cars, to ventilators, to smartphones. Author of *Interconnected Worlds: Global Electronics and Production Networks in East Asia*, he discussed how firms from South Korea, Taiwan, and China integrated East Asia into the interconnected worlds of electronics production across the globe. Hosted by the Institute for Regional and International Studies National Resource Center (IRIS NRC). Co-hosts: CEAS • Department of Geography.



● Civilizationism in Asia as Worldmaking and World Breaking: The History of Pan-Asian, Pan-Islamic, and Afro-Asian Thought

October 7, 2024

Cemil Aydin (University of North Carolina–Chapel Hill) delivered a talk on East Asian visions of Islam and modernity. Professor Aydin discussed ideas about nations and civilizations and how they first evolved in China, Japan, and Turkey, and were influenced by – and a reaction to – European enlightenment and hegemony across Asia. Co-sponsored with the Department of History.



● Strange Tales From Edo: Rewriting Chinese Fiction in Early Modern Japan

October 15, 2024

William Fleming (University of California, Santa Barbara) delivered a talk based on his new book, *Strange Tales from Edo: Rewriting Chinese Fiction in Early Modern Japan*. Professor Fleming demonstrated Japan's engagement with Chinese fiction in the early modern period (1600–1868) by tracing the journey of a text rarely mentioned in studies of early modern Japanese literature: Pu Songling's *Liaozhai zhiyi* (*Strange Tales from Liaozhai Studio*).



● Writing Our Lineages: Solace and Sisterhood In Memoir

October 17, 2024

Panelists **Tessa Hulls**, **Margaret Juhae Lee**, and **Zara Chowdhary** discussed their respective works – *Feeding Ghosts*, *Starry Fields*, and *The Lucky Ones* – about unspoken multi-generational family histories unfolding against the backdrop of political unrest, colonialism, and grief. First of three CEAS-sponsored events with the Wisconsin Book Festival in AY 2024–25.



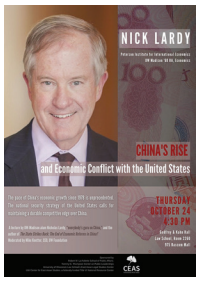
● Wendy Chen: *Their Divine Fires*

October 17, 2024

Novelist **Wendy Chen** spoke with Chinese Literature and Culture PhD student **Eliot Chen** about her debut novel, *Their Divine Fires*. The captivating book, interwoven with folktale and myth, tells the story of the love affairs of three generations of Chinese women across 100 years of revolutions both political and personal. Second of three CEAS-sponsored events with the Wisconsin Book Festival in AY 2024–25.

Turn page to read more ➡

Events *Continued*



China's Rise and Economic Conflict With the United States

October 24, 2024

Nicholas Lardy (Peterson Institute for International Economics), a UW alum ('68 BA Economics), lectured on the unprecedented pace of China's economic growth since 1978 and its implications for the national security strategy of the United States. Moderated by **Michael Knetter**, then Wisconsin Foundation and Alumni Association CEO. Co-sponsors: East Asian Legal Studies Center • La Follette School of Public Affairs • Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership • Center for Research on the Wisconsin Economy.

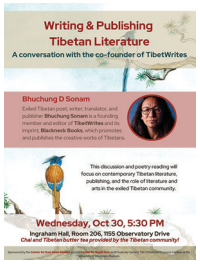


The Impact of the U.S. Presidential Election on East Asian Politics

October 29, 2024

CEAS Director **Steve Ridgely** moderated a panel of East Asian specialists to discuss how the U.S. presidential election might impact East Asia. The panel is part of a regular CEAS series to highlight UW–Madison expertise in topics related to East Asia. Co-sponsored with the East Asian Legal Studies Center. Panelists included:

- **John Ohnesorge**, George Young and Bascom Professor of Law and Director for the East Asian Legal Studies Center.
- **David Fields**, CEAS Associate Director and historian of Korea.
- **Louise Young**, Professor of History.



Writing & Publishing Tibetan Literature: A Conversation With TibetWrites Co-founder Bhuchung Sonam

October 30, 2024

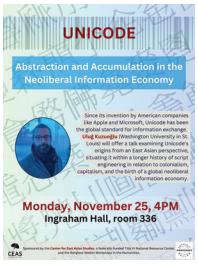
Exiled Tibetan writer **Bhuchung Sonam** held a talk, poetry reading, and book signing on contemporary Tibetan literature, publishing, and the role of the arts in the Tibetan exiled community. Bhuchung is a founding member and the editor of *TibetWrites* and its imprint Blackneck Books. Co-sponsored with the Center for South Asia.



Gangnam, South Korea: The Hallyu Entertainment Industry Capital and the Locus of Social Evil

November 19, 2024

Pil Ho Kim (The Ohio State University) discussed how Gangnam, the epicenter of Hallyu and a key pop culture production site, is widely regarded as a breeding ground for social evil in South Korea. He analyzed two films to explore the dark side of South Korean society and its impact on Hallyu media. Co-sponsored with the Academy of Korean Studies.



Unicode: Abstraction and Accumulation in the Neoliberal Information Economy

November 25, 2024

Since its invention by American companies like Apple and Microsoft, Unicode has been the global standard for information exchange. **Uluğ Kuzuoğlu** (Washington University, St. Louis) offered a talk examining Unicode's origins from an East Asian perspective, situating it within a longer history of script engineering in relation to colonialism, capitalism, and the birth of global neoliberal information. Co-sponsored with the Borghesi-Mellon Workshops in the Humanities.

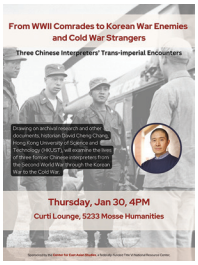


North Korea's Involvement in the Russia-Ukraine War

December 10, 2024

Experts discussed how Russia's move to engage North Koreans for help is a sign of its growing weakness. Although it remains to be seen how things might develop, North Korean involvement in the conflict does not appear sufficient to shift the outcome of the war in Ukraine. Moderated by **Kevin Kelly**, military operational law professor and retired Navy Reserve officer. Co-sponsored with the Center for Russia, East Europe, and Central Asia. Panelists included:

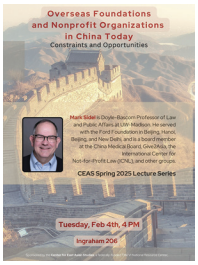
- **David Fields**, CEAS Associate Director and historian of Korea.
- **John Hall**, Ambrose-Hesseltine Professor of U.S. Military History.
- **Yoshiko Herrera**, Professor of Political Science.



From WWII Comrades to Korean War Enemies and Cold War Strangers: Three Chinese Interpreters' Trans-imperial Encounters

January 30, 2025 YouTube

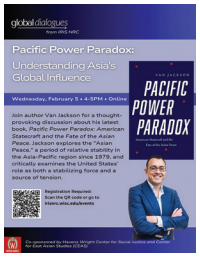
Drawing on archival research and other documents, **David Cheng Chang** (Hong Kong University of Science and Technology) examined the lives of three former interpreters from the Second World War through the Korean War to the Cold War. His talk highlighted the multifaceted encounters between the Chinese interpreters and the Americans, first as comrades and later as allies, enemies, and strangers.



Constraints and Opportunities for Overseas Foundations and Nonprofit Organizations in China Today

February 4, 2025

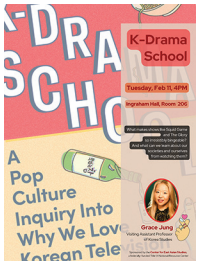
CEAS faculty affiliate and law professor **Mark Sidel** gave an overview of the landscape for NGOs in China today after legislative changes. Since January 1, 2017, the international nonprofit sector has been shaped by a new framework under the Law on the Management of Domestic Activities of Overseas NGOs of the PRC (2016). Under this new law, the scope and shape of the nonprofit sector has been carefully managed by the Chinese government to meet its political and security agendas.



Pacific Power Paradox: Understanding Asia's Global Influence

February 5, 2025

International Relations scholar **Van Jackson** discussed his recent book, *Pacific Power Paradox: American Statecraft and the Fate of the Asian Peace*, in this online talk. Jackson explored the "Asian Peace," a period of relative stability in the Asia-Pacific region since 1979, and critically examined the United States' role as both a stabilizing force and source of tension. CEAS Associate Director **David Fields** moderated. Co-sponsors: Institute for Regional and International Studies National Resource Center (IRIS NRC) • Havens Wright Center for Social Justice.



K-Drama School: Subway Sandwiches, Coffee and Korean Drama TV History

February 11, 2025

Visiting Assistant Professor of Korea Studies **Grace Jung** (UW– Madison) explored the draw of Korean television shows like *Squid Game* for global audiences. Jung contextualized the cultural juggernaut that is K-drama within the investments of large Korean food conglomerates as well as the legacy of American imperialism and Japanese colonization.



Working in East Asia: A Panel Discussion

February 18, 2025

Panel discussion with professionals who have worked in various countries across the region including Korea, Japan, and Taiwan. Panelists shared their experiences across a wide range of sectors including the non-profit industry, government relations, business development and marketing, and educational consulting. CEAS Associate Director **David Fields** moderated. Panelists included:

- **Kerry Clark**, Executive Director, Japan-America Society of Wisconsin (JASWI).
- **John Garnetti**, Managing Director, Office of Business Engagement, UW–Madison.
- **Zachary McLeod**, Research Analyst, GiveWell.



Grace Jung: K-Drama School

February 19, 2025

Visiting Assistant Professor of Korea Studies **Grace Jung** (UW–Madison) examined the cultural significance of Korean television by discussing her book, *K-Drama School: A Pop Culture Inquiry Into Why We Love Korean Television*. This was the third event that CEAS co-sponsored with the Wisconsin Book Festival for AY 2024–25.



East Asia Now: Political Upheaval in the Republic of Korea

February 25, 2025

Panel discussion featuring UW experts on the aftermath of former President Yoon Suk-yeol's declaration of martial law and attempted coup. CEAS Associate Director **David Fields** moderated. Panelists included:

- **Charles Kim**, Director of Graduate Studies and Korea Foundation Professor of Korean Studies.
- **Eunsook Jung**, Assistant Dean in College of Letters and Science at UW–Madison and previous faculty associate in Department of Political Science (2016–20).
- **Terence Roehrig**, lecturer in Political Science and Professor Emeritus at the U.S. Naval War College.



Teaching ESL in East Asia: Opportunities for Teaching Abroad Before and After Graduation

February 25, 2025

Panel discussion featuring UW experts on teaching opportunities in East Asia. Co-sponsors: English as a Second Language (ESL) Program • Department of Asian Languages and Cultures. CEAS Associate Director **David Fields** moderated. Panelists included:

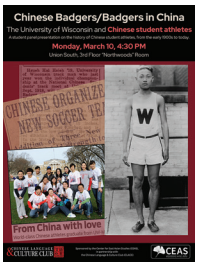
- **Karen Best**, ESL Liaison to the Writing Center.
- **Nathaniel Liedl**, Intern Abroad Advisor and Program Manager.
- **Mark Lilleleht**, the UW–Madison's Fulbright Coordinator.
- **Joe Nosek**, English as a Second Language Program Director.



Legal Dimensions of Maritime Military Conflicts in East Asia

March 4, 2025

Associate Dean for Academic Affairs **Kevin Kelly**, also a retired Navy Reserve officer specializing in military operational law and international law issues, unpacked the South China Sea territorial dispute from the perspective of maritime law. Presented in partnership with the East Asian Legal Studies Center (EALSC).



Chinese Badgers/ Badgers in China: The University of Wisconsin and Chinese Student Athletes

March 10, 2025

Third in an annual spring history series celebrating the stories of Chinese students at UW–Madison. This year's focus was on athletes and athletics in conjunction with the campus hosting of a special delegation of hockey coaches from

Turn page to read more ➡

SEE FUTURE EVENTS AT
eastasia.wisc.edu/upcoming-events

Events *Continued*

China. In collaboration with the Chinese Language & Culture Club (CLACC), the panel featured presentations by current students on their fellow Chinese badgers during the early 20th century, including **Hsueh Hai Hsieh** 薛学海, Class of 1919, **Abby Shaw Mayhew** 梅爱培, UW professor of physical training from 1903–12, and **Hwei Lan Chang** 张汇兰, Class of 1926.



Africa in Global China Imaginaries

March 12, 2025

A collaboration with the African Studies Program for the Africa at Noon series. **Ignatius G.D. Suglo**, assistant professor of Rhetoric & Communication Studies at the University of Richmond, engaged with the African presence in Chinese media from the 19th century to the present and their role in knowledge production, circulation, and worldmaking. The talk was held in-person and livestreamed.



Legal Perspectives on China in the Global Economy

March 13, 2025

A collaboration with the East Asian Legal Studies Center (EALSC). The talk featured UW–Madison alum **Phil Chritton** who worked in China, including as legal counsel for UPS, and FGV São Paulo Law School professor **Luciano Timm**, who discussed China in the context of Brazil.



Calling Out Feminists: Antifeminist Hijacking of Cancel Culture in South Korea

March 18, 2025

Professor **Jinsook Kim** (Emory University) explored the antifeminist appropriation of cancel culture in South Korea. Kim focused on the controversy surrounding the finger-pinching motif, allegedly associated with Megalia, a now-defunct feminist online community. Co-sponsors: Department of Sociology • School of Journalism and Mass Communication.



Tariffs, Dealmaking and Uncertainty in 2025: A live WisPolitics + WisBusiness "Talking Trade" Podcast

March 20, 2025

This panel discussed the tariffs, trade threats and new alliances roiling international markets. Hosts: Michael Best Strategies • Carroll University • Wisconsin Center for Manufacturing & Productivity • Support from CEAS. Co-hosts: **Sandi Siegel**, president of M.E. Dey, a customs broker and freight forwarder • **Ken Wasylik** of E.M. Wasylik, international business consulting. Joined by Carroll University experts:

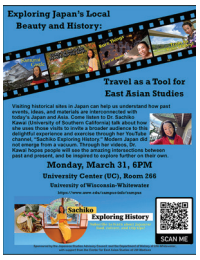
- **Tim Sullivan**, former Bucyrus CEO, now dean of the Business School at Carroll University.
- **Alexandra Sielaff**, PhD, director of the Carroll MBA program and associate professor.



The History of Japanese Kamishibai and Animation

April 1–2, 2025

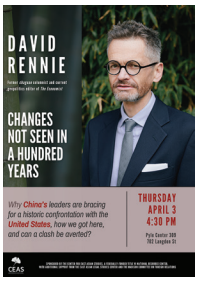
In these lectures, **Tara McGowan** looked at the emergence of kamishibai out of Edo-period (1603–1868) magic-lantern shows and demonstrated how it continued to evolve as a form of animation in relation to early cinema. McGowan is an artist, storyteller, and Japan scholar.



Connecting Japan's Past and Present: YouTube as a Tool for Japan Studies.

April 1, 2025

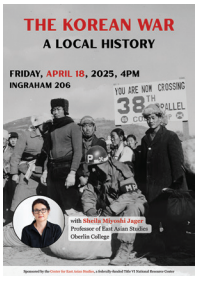
In this public lecture, Dr. **Sachiko Kawai** (University of Southern California) discussed how YouTube can help make people – both Japanese and English speakers across different age groups – more interested in Japanese history and better understand the intersections between past and present. This talk was hosted with CEAS Scholars Across Wisconsin (SAW) affiliate **Michelle Damian** (UW–White Water).



Changes Not Seen in a Hundred Years: Why Chinese Leaders are Bracing for a Historic Confrontation With the United States, How We Got Here and Can a Clash be Averted?

April 3, 2025 YouTube PODCAST

David Rennie, British journalist and geo-politics editor of *The Economist*, delivered a public lecture on U.S.-China relations and the prospect of a historic confrontation between these two countries. This talk was part of the CEAS Professional Series.



The Korean War: A Local History

April 18, 2025

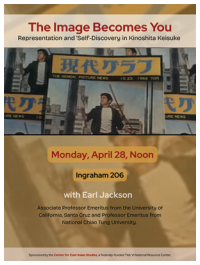
Presenter **Sheila Miyoshi Jager** (Oberlin College) explored how the Korean civil conflicts between 1945 and 1949 were not merely a continuation of the legacy of colonialism, but were largely driven by the forced displacement of Koreans following the division at the 38th parallel. The experiences of those who fled south played a crucial role in shaping the violent ideological struggles of the post-liberation period and beyond.



Feather Satins and Orangutan Felts: A Material History of English Woolens in Qing China

April 25, 2025

Through the 18th and 19th centuries, merchants from Europe, Russia, and America exported hundreds and thousands of lengths of European woolens to China. Independent scholar **Rachel Silberstein** explored the dynamics of textile reception through the Chinese names given to imported woolen fabrics and what they tell us about shifting understandings and valuations of this fibre in Chinese textile history.



The Image Becomes You: Representation and 'Self'-Discovery in Kinoshita Keisuke

April 28, 2025

Professor Emeritus **Earl Jackson** (University of California, Santa Cruz) lectured on Japanese cinema. He explored the affective relationship between images and the idea of the self in a number of Japanese films, including *The Portrait* (1948) and *Here's to the Young Lady* (1949).



Xuanzang in Picturebooks: A Buddhist Exemplar for Modern Children

April 29, 2025

Natasha Heller (University of Virginia) delivered a talk on how picture book depictions of Xuanzang, the most famous monk in Chinese history, reclaim him as a model for modern children. She considered these depictions alongside other representations of historical monks and within the context of lessons about Xuanzang in elementary textbooks.

2024–25 Scrapbook



↑ Sep 2024: Attentive audience at the CEAS annual fall reception.



← Sep 2024: Mooncakes at the Mid-Autumn Festival in Allen Centennial Garden. Highlighted on pg 10.



↑ Oct 2024: Writer Bhuchung Sonam talks about contemporary Tibetan literature. See his event on page 12.

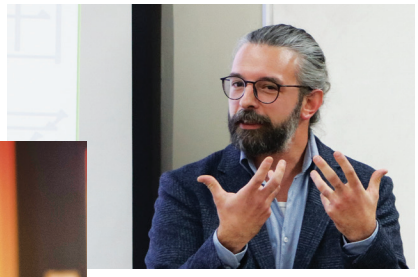
Sep 2024: Celebration at 25th anniversary of the Madison Tibet School. ↓



Feb 2025: Q&A at the popular Wisconsin Book Festival. This series is profiled in our feature story starting on pg 1. →



Nov 2024: Uluğ Kuzuoğlu examines Unicode's origins from an East Asian perspective. More on pg 12. ↓





↑ Feb 2025: Kerry Clark, Zach McLeod & John Garnetti engage after "Working in East Asia" panel. See pgs 10 & 13.

Apr 2025: Journalist David Rennie at an evening reception. More about his lecture on pgs 9 & 14. →



Jun 2025: CEAS Director Steve Ridgely hits the ice in Qiqihar, China. Feature story about the hockey exchange starts on pg 5. ↓

Mar 2025: Students participate in a panel on Chinese Badgers history. See event listing on pg 13 ↓





↑ Apr 2025: Tara McGowan demonstrates kamishibai storytelling. More about her events on pg 14.

Jun 2025: Laurie Dennis (3rd from R) with members of a women's hockey club in Qiqihar, China. ↓





For more photos check out CEAS on Facebook, X, and Instagram: **@UWCEAS**

CEAS MISSION

The Center for East Asian Studies has three primary missions:

- Support the study of East Asia and its individual countries in a variety of disciplines and across disciplines.
- Foster a cohesive community for the study of East Asia on campus, in the UW system, and throughout the state of Wisconsin.
- Disseminate knowledge about East Asia to promote the education of UW students and cultural literacy concerning East Asia in Wisconsin.

CEAS also shares its resources locally, nationally, and internationally with members of the academic community as well as with public and private sector organizations and the general public.

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About CEAS

CEAS began in 1962 as the University of Wisconsin-Madison's East Asian Studies program, building on more than sixty years of research and teaching on China, Japan, Korea, Tibet, and Taiwan. Over the years, the center has grown from fewer than a dozen faculty members teaching thirty graduate-level courses to more than seventy faculty teaching nearly three hundred courses at both undergraduate and graduate levels.

One of the eight federally-funded National Resource Centers at UW-Madison, CEAS is dedicated to all aspects of research, education, and outreach related to East Asia and to highlighting the connections between this region and Wisconsin.

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