



CEAS NEWS 2023–24

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CEAS Helps Launch New Study Abroad Program in Kyoto

A select group of 24 incoming UW-Madison first-year students got a head start on their college education in summer 2023. These Badgers went through a unique three-week experience where they immersed themselves in the unfamiliar sights and sounds of Kyoto, Japan, while engaging with Japanese tales about ghosts and monsters.

"The UW Summer Launch in Japan: Supernatural and Surreal" is part of the UW Study Abroad Summer Launch 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 degree program.

The Japan edition of Summer Launch, initially slated to run in 2020 but stalled by COVID-19, finally debuted this year with funding from the Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS) and in collaboration with the Council on International Educational Exchange (CIEE). **Dr. Charo D'Etcheverry**, a Professor in the Department of Asian Languages & Cultures, served as the program leader for this study abroad experience.

"The further in time I get back from that trip, the more fun it becomes," said Professor D'Etcheverry during a conversation in her Van Hise office. The responsibilities of leading 24 pre-freshmen on their first trip to Japan weighed heavily on D'Etcheverry so that she was only able to fully relax and process it in hindsight.

A specialist in premodern Japanese literature, D'Etcheverry explained how she drew primarily from "Japanese Ghost Stories," an upper-level topics course she has taught for many years, for her Summer Launch. The topics course, which she revised for the summer, allowed her to take advantage of student interest in contemporary Japanese popular culture to explore older literary texts that are within her field of expertise.

Considering the compressed nature of the summer program, younger age group of the incoming students, and historic importance of Kyoto as the capital of imperial Japan, D'Etcheverry selected *The Demon at Agi Bridge and Other Japanese Tales* as the primary literary text for the study abroad iteration of this course. The text is an English



Study Abroad *Continued*

translation of 38 anecdotal (setsuwa) stories from early and medieval eras. The stories explore themes of Buddhist sensibilities and monsters, offering critical insight into foundational cultural beliefs that impact contemporary Japanese society.

According to D'Etcheverry, this collection lent itself well to a summer study abroad course as it comprises bite-sized stories that run from as short as two paragraphs to four pages in length. These short pieces allowed students to examine traditional Japanese literary narratives on the supernatural in manageable chunks while visiting historical sites where some of these stories were first compiled over a thousand years ago.



Their time in Kyoto was divided between morning classes and afternoon site visits. One site visited was Mount Hiei (aka the Devil's gate) in the northeast corner of Kyoto. They toured a monastery and discussed how supernatural forces, as understood by early Japanese/Chinese continental feng shui thinking, shaped city planning in ways that still influence life to this day.

The students, all of whom were visiting Japan for the first time, got to experience the joys and challenges of navigating a new culture and environment. They quickly learned, for instance, the importance of staying hydrated in the punishing humidity of Japanese summers, where temperatures often soared past 100°F. They also noticed how North American notions of space differ from the Japanese, and how cultural conceptions shape the way one's body inhabits a particular environment.

One of the key highlights for D'Etcheverry was how much her students connected with the older stories in *The Demon at Agi Bridge*. She had occasionally given them the option of watching five-minute contemporary anime episodes as a substitute for reading. (These episodes were part of a digitized series of modern short horror anime.)

To her pleasant surprise, D'Etcheverry said students often chose to stick with reading the traditional Japanese ghost tales and looked forward to discussing them. The short story that seemed most compelling to students was "Take a Good Look," which depicts a procession of demons in Kyoto. A man, who is

at a festival reviewing booth with a prostitute, hears a demon singing and has a conversation with him. The story abruptly ends after this conversation, with the narrator detailing how the man never returned to the festival stand again. Students had a generative discussion on whether it was a morality tale because of the presence of the prostitute and other theories on the meaning of such a strange narrative.

Another delightful trip outcome for D'Etcheverry has been seeing the fruits of connection that were seeded. Many students who went have since formed friendships and have come to serve as each other's primary social network as they settled into campus life in the fall. The group also had two reunions with D'Etcheverry after their return. At least half of the Japan study abroad cohort got together for ice cream during the first month of the semester and pizza towards the end of October.

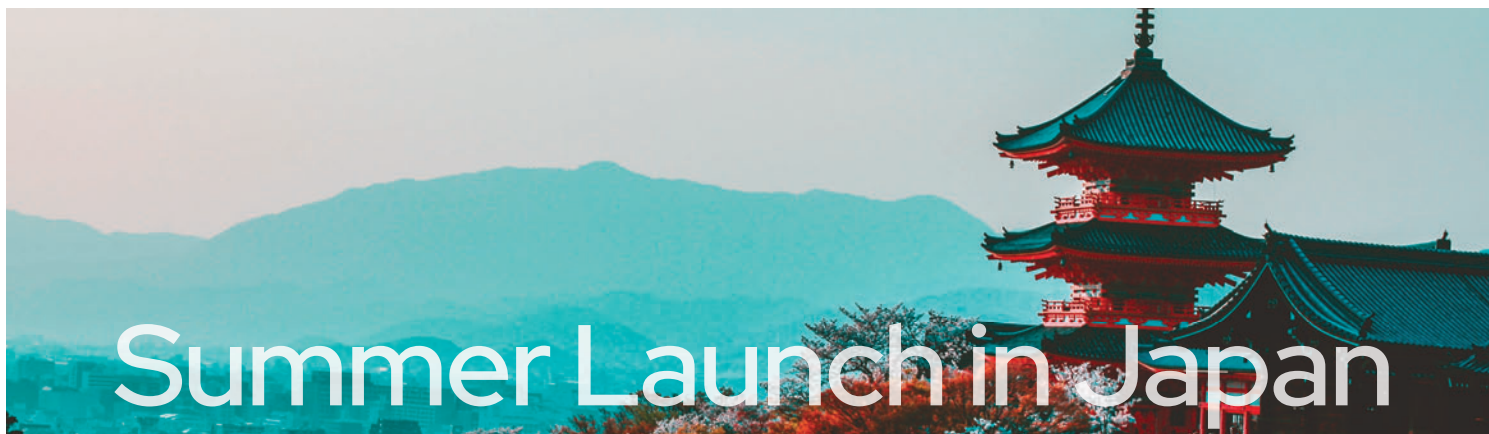
While there were certainly challenges during the experience including those presented by the social and physical mobility landscape, communication issues, and jet lag, the students agree that it was an incredible learning experience overall.

Some student feedback from program evaluations:

"It's a wonderful opportunity and a great way to start off your freshman year of college. I met many friends that I'll be happy to see around campus and a professor that I'll definitely feel comfortable contacting if I have any questions about college in the future."

"The time I spent in Japan is irreplaceable – anyone who wishes to explore, learn, and foster new relationships should not hesitate to apply."

D'Etcheverry is glad to have been part of the program and led a second study abroad group of 15 students in summer 2024. They visited Mount Hiei again, and ended the trip with a visit to a summertime "haunted house," one of the best ways to cool off from the Tokyo heat. She assures incoming students who are curious about Japan but nervous about international travel that "this program is for you." She emphasizes the care and detail that various campus departments, including International Academic Programs, invested into the program's success. She also commended the McBurney Center for their work with students in ensuring accessibility needs were met during the trip.



CEAS Outreach

Library Grant Keeps the Dragon Dancing in Viroqua

You can't have a dragon dance without a dragon.

That was the problem weighing on Pleasant Ridge Waldorf School (PRWS) teacher **Shihhan Chou** as she prepared for Lunar New Year festivities set for the first day of the Year of the Dragon, Saturday, February 10, 2024.

Ms. Chou had received help from dragon dance coaches in Chicago and reserved the requisite dragon puppet, pearl and drum from the closest Taipei Economic and Cultural Office, also in Chicago. However, her school is located over a four hour's drive away – in Viroqua, WI, where Ms. Chou had two eight-member teams of 7th graders in **Christina Hotchkiss's** class learning a dragon dance routine, assisted by committed parent volunteers. So what Ms. Chou really needed was a dragon that would be able to stay in Viroqua, to be used again and again for school and public performances. She'd located the correct type of dragon puppet on a Chinese website, but she worried about the expense, and that it would not arrive in time.

"I wasn't even sure if it was a real website," she said.

For funding, Ms. Chou relied on her local public library, McIntosh Memorial, which serves a rural community based in the Vernon County seat in the heart of southwestern Wisconsin's Driftless Region. And since a Lunar New Year dragon is an item symbolic of East Asian culture, McIntosh's librarians turned to the "**East Asia in Wisconsin Libraries Program**" through the University of Wisconsin-Madison's Center for East Asian Studies (CEAS).

This program is now in its fourth year and McIntosh is among 71 Wisconsin libraries that have received grants for up to \$1,000 per year for buying materials and holding community programs about East Asia. Notably, McIntosh Memorial is the only library in the state that received a grant for four years in a row. This funding has been used to purchase over 80 titles for the library collection, along with materials and other costs related to programming – including the dragon, which arrived on time.

"It came with only half the bamboo poles," Ms. Chou noted. "But we got the rest at a local hardware store."

The 7th graders performed for an audience of over 100 who attended the Lunar New Year celebration, which included tables for making Chinese-style dumplings and a buffet for sampling Korean rice cake soup. PRWS, a K-8 school, has hosted students from Korea each January for the past 12 years, and Ms. Chou said she was eager to learn from visiting students how Lunar New Year celebrations differ. She found out that both involve children receiving gift envelopes with money from their elders, though the envelopes are red in Taiwan (where Ms. Chou grew up) but white in Korea. Both festivals also involve large New Year's Eve feasts of traditional foods, like the dumplings and soup offered at the PRWS gathering.

For McIntosh, encouraging understanding of the Lunar New Year, a major holiday in East Asian countries, has been a focus for the funding received from CEAS. For the Year of the Tiger, the library sponsored a class on how to make dumplings, and the year prior, handed out "Take and Make" bags featuring a Chinese lantern craft project. (Festivities traditionally start with a new moon and conclude 15 days later with the Lantern Festival, which celebrates the first full moon of the lunar year.)

CEAS, a federally-funded Title VI National Resource Center, launched the library program in 2020 at the start of the COVID-19 pandemic when it was forced to reimagine its outreach model, which normally involves bringing people together to discuss issues connecting East Asia in Wisconsin. The center instead found a way to partner with the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction's (DPI) Public Library Team to fund libraries.

"Public libraries are natural partners in the Wisconsin Idea, which our center and faculty take very seriously," said CEAS Associate Director **David Fields**. "We decided to use some of our resources to help libraries provide high-quality materials and programming to patrons looking for information on East Asia."

The program proved so successful that it has become a regular part of CEAS activities, dispersing an average of almost \$20,000 per year to public libraries across the state.

Turn page to read more ➡



Outreach Continued

During the 2023–24 round of funding, CEAS handed out its 100th library award. Besides McIntosh Memorial's dragon, the fourth year grants were also used for book clubs in Appleton, classes on making sushi in Menomonee Falls, manga collections in Rusk County, East Asian-themed additions to the Wisconsin Digital library, and Asian Cultural Day in Kaukauna. Overall, the CEAS library program was used for the purchase of over 500 books in 2023–24, among which the category of "manga/graphic novels/anime" was the most popular.



The launch of the program in 2020 corresponded with the hiring of **Laci Sheldon** at McIntosh Memorial.

"This was the first grant I applied for," she said.

Ms. Sheldon stated the grant dovetailed with her focus on creating diverse

programming, particularly through a monthly series created to encourage awareness and acknowledge different histories. January starts the annual cycle with special displays about Asian American Heritage Month.

The latest grant to McIntosh Memorial was used to buy books about such topics as migration from China to Taiwan (*Two Trees Make a Forest* by **Jessica Lee**), and an African man who became a samurai in feudal Japan (*The True Story of Ysuke* by **Thomas Lockley** and **Geoffrey Girard**), along with several books about the Korean language.

Items purchased through CEAS funding all have a sticker inside acknowledging the program.

"We have used this for everything from books for adults to board-books for babies, all about East Asia," said Ms. Sheldon, holding up a children's title, *Playing with Lanterns*, by **Wang Yage**, and pointing to the sticker inside. "This has really increased awareness."



The new dragon dance puppet will now be available for future events in Viroqua. After the festival at PRWS, it was slated for a performance at the Vernon County 4-H Lunar New Year Celebration, held in Viroqua's Historic Temple Theater on February 18 and attended by over 200.

"It turned out to be a really successful event," said Ms. Chou of the dance. "We had to make this happen. It's the Year of the Dragon. Now we have a dragon and can make it a tradition."

Early Chinese Badgers Event Launches New Collaboration with UW Libraries and Archives

An activist, an economist, an astronomer, and an ambassador. The stories of these four Badgers were the focus of an April 8, 2024, symposium at Memorial Union on the history of the University of Wisconsin–Madison and early Chinese students.

CEAS worked with UW-Madison Libraries and the University Archives to organize the event, "**Chinese Badgers/Badgers in China**," which also included a special exhibit at Memorial Library's East Asian Reading Room, "**Journey Across Cultures: The Saga of Early Chinese Badgers**."

"This is an ongoing and important project for us," said East Asian Librarian **Anlin Yang**. "Along with the presentations, we are also working to prepare a digital exhibit about our first students from China."

A capacity crowd of over 150 attended the symposium. Seated in the front row was a group of 10 descendants of the three featured Chinese students, who traveled from California, Texas, and Canada to learn more about their early 1900s relatives' connections to UW-Madison.

"I am still processing everything I learned, and I am so inspired," said Hao Ko, great grandson of Class of 1912 Badger **Wen-Shion Tsu**.

Those profiled included:

- **Paul Reinsch**, Milwaukee native, 1869–1923, inaugural chair of the UW Political Science Department, and U.S. Minister to Republican China, 1913–19.

Recent UW graduate and CEAS research assistant **Lihao "Billy" Yuan** discussed how Professor Reinsch connected promising students in China to the University of Wisconsin, helping turn his alma mater into a top recipient of Chinese students in the 1920s and 30s.

- **Wen-Shion Tsu**, Jiangsu Province, 1883–1939, UW Class of 1912, active in campus international clubs and a student of mathematics Professor **E.B. Van Vleck**. Tsu went on to become a pioneer in the use of modern scientific methods to systematically study the ancient history of Chinese astronomy. A minor planet, numbered 300634, was named after him in 2021.

History of Science PhD student **Yu-Hsuan Wang** commented on Tsu's time on campus, including his work at the Washburn Observatory, and remarked on how much he would have appreciated that the April 8 event coincided with a solar eclipse.

- **Yuan-Lung Yeh**, Anhui Province, 1897–1967, UW Class of 1921, master's degree in 1922, and recipient of the prestigious "golden key" award from the Artus honorary economics fraternity in Madison. In China, Yeh was a professor of economics in Shanghai and Nanjing, and he was also involved in education



Outreach *Continued*

reform. Yeh served as president of Chongqing University, guiding the campus through the tumultuous war years of 1938–41.

History major **Zhengzai Pei** presented Yeh's Madison years, when he was among the first Chinese students to study economics, and his career as an educator and economist in China.

● **Wen-Ying Peng**, Jiangxi Province, 1904–62, UW Class of 1927, one of three from Jiangxi's Anfu County who trained in political science at UW and went on to become prominent political activists in China. Peng's writings and advocacy made him a target of both the left and the right in China, but also helped spread the concept of human rights to Chinese audiences.

UW–Madison Engineering PhD **Xingyu Chen** discussed Peng's political advocacy from the perspective of his own 1989 experience on campus, when he served as inaugural president of the Chinese Independent Union. Using poetic language, Dr. Chen called Peng's career "a candlelight in the storm" and remembered his legacy as a way to "rekindle the candlelight in our hearts."



During emotional comments at the end of the presentations, Peng's daughter **Zhikang Peng** described the persecution her family endured when her father was targeted in the 1957 "Anti-Rightist Campaign." She presented a wooden tablet carved and inscribed by Wen-Ying Peng shortly before his death, with wording in English about the power of education and the written word in the continuing fight for freedom and democracy. The Peng family donated the tablet and a curated collection of Wen-Ying Peng's writings to the University Archives.

The Yeh and Tsu families also contributed historical photos and materials to the university and their donations were recognized at the start of the symposium.

Peng's daughter-in-law, **Xilin Li**, wrote in Chinese about what the symposium meant to her: "To witness (Wen-Ying Peng) being honored and commemorated in a free and open atmosphere as part of a group of several early alumni, I found this to be a matter of deep significance."

Recent interest in the history of early Chinese students at UW–Madison started with public history classes on the topic taught by Department of History professors **Joseph Dennis** and **Judd Kinzley**, which launched the research and collection of materials. This coincided with the work of Genetics Professor **Jerry Yin**, former Wisconsin China Resource faculty director, to connect with the archivist at Tsinghua University in Beijing and create lists of students sent from China to study at UW–Madison through the Boxer Indemnity Scholarship Program (established to send students to study in the U.S. as part of the aftermath of the Boxer Rebellion in China). Starting in 1909, the scholarship program made it possible for almost 1,300 Chinese students to attend universities across the United

States. UW–Madison was the fourth-largest recipient overall, and the largest among all public universities.

In February 2024, CEAS hired **Lihao Yuan** for a special project to research both the careers of early Chinese Badgers, and the first UW–Madison faculty in China. Yuan received a Department of History 2023–24 undergraduate writing prize for his senior thesis on how **Paul Reinsch's** early Chinese studies at UW–Madison (1900–13) impacted his diplomatic career in China.



Through Yuan's research, the Chinese Badgers history project was able to connect with the Peng family, and arrange for a donation of Peng's papers to University Archives.

"The whole Peng family worked together to carry out his legacy," said Yuan, calling the donation a "treasure" for future scholars at UW–Madison. "We need to continue this kind work."

Relatedly, Dr. Chen concluded his presentation at the symposium by stressing that the stories of early Chinese Badgers "should be told again and again."

"Their stories are an integral part of the rich heritage of this great university," Dr. Chen said. "History is again calling for the emergence of leadership to provide vision and resolution for the challenges democracy is facing."

The history project also reveals the strong intellectual and emotional connections between the U.S. and China: the Wisconsin Idea became an important driving force in China's modernization through the efforts of these early Chinese Badgers. In April, **Billy Yuan** and **Atlas Guo**, a PhD candidate in the Geography Department, collaborated on a GIS map of the hometowns and biographies of 160 Chinese Badgers from 1907–20, which visualizes some startling facts: **at least 18 Chinese Badgers served as presidents of Chinese universities, and many of the Chinese Badgers were founding fathers of their professions in China.**

"You can easily find Chinese Badgers at universities, museums and even on the streets of Shanghai today," Yuan said. "It's necessary to work with more Chinese institutions to honor this constructive history between the United States and China. We still have a lot of work to do!"



CEAS Student News

CEAS Graduate and Schwarzman Scholar at UW-Madison

No, it wasn't spam.

The message flashing on the screen of then-undergraduate **Jinwan Park**'s phone on an afternoon in December 2023 was instead a message from the fully-funded, yearlong **Schwarzman Scholars** master's degree program in Beijing, China.

Park recounted his immense excitement and relief upon learning the news two weeks after the program's final round of applicant interviews in New York: "I received a call from an unfamiliar number, which I initially mistook for spam, only to discover it was a notification of my acceptance into the program."



Inspired by the University of Oxford's prestigious Rhodes Scholarship, the Schwarzman Scholars program is based at Beijing's Tsinghua University campus and seeks to train future global leaders for the unique challenges of the 21st century. It is a highly selective scholarship, with Park being one of the 150 students chosen from a pool of more than 4,000 candidates across the globe. Park, who will be part of the ninth Schwarzman Scholars cohort, is the fourth Badger to be awarded.

In an interview with the Institute for Regional and International Studies (IRIS), administrative home to the university's nine area studies centers and the International Studies Major, Park shared some of his personal, educational, and professional background since moving to the United States for college as an international student from South Korea. He began his collegiate career in Japan before transferring to the University of Wisconsin-Madison in the spring of 2022, and graduated in fall 2023 with a major in political science and a minor in East Asian studies.

Throughout his time as a student at Wisconsin, Park actively pursued various academic and professional endeavors in his fields of interest. He has developed an impressive profile as a foreign policy and international affairs commentator, regularly contributing thinkpieces to distinguished institutions such as the Council on Foreign Relations, the Chicago Council on Global Affairs, and the U.S. Consulate in Busan, among others.

A few courses altered Park's initial plan to progress directly to law school upon graduation. In spring 2023, he took Professor **David Fields**'s course on U.S.-East Asia relations, Professor **Scott Mobley**'s course on Theories of International Security, and Professor **Thomas Popkewitz**'s class on International Educational Knowledge. Park said these classes reignited his desire to become a foreign policy maker and international law expert. CEAS touched base with Park over email to learn more about his journey to Madison, and how his course experiences led him to apply to the Schwarzman Scholars program.

Q: What made you decide to transfer to UW-Madison versus staying in Japan to complete your degree?

A: My two-year stint in Japan was both an academically enriching and personally transformative experience. Engaging with Japanese friends, particularly those interactions from the varsity debating society at Keio University, revealed that the perceived hostility towards South Korea during times of tense bilateral relations was only a small part of a larger, more complex reality. This experience profoundly altered my perspective, highlighting the significance of genuine people-to-people connections in building lasting relationships, especially during times of global challenges.

My career ambitions were the driving force behind my decision to transfer to the University of Wisconsin-Madison. Paradoxically, the indelible memories and lessons acquired from my time at Keio steered me toward a career in foreign policy and international law. This path ultimately led me to pursue studies in the United States. The University of Wisconsin-Madison, renowned for its academic rigor and situated in the heart of America, presented itself as the ideal environment for me to evolve both as a scholar and an individual.

Q: You mention **David Fields**'s course on U.S.-East Asia relations as an important factor in shaping your educational journey. Was there a key takeaway (or takeaways) that you gleaned through that class? How did these takeaways challenge or complement what you were learning in other international relations/foreign policy courses?

A: In Professor Fields's class, I gained a profound understanding of the historical significance and complexity of U.S.-East Asian relations, and how past decisions continue to influence current dynamics. Although primarily a history course, its timing was impeccable, considering East Asia's growing strategic role in U.S. foreign policy and national strategy. This course underscored a crucial lesson: comprehending the present is impossible without a thorough grasp of the past.

The course also highlighted the dual avenues of learning about a country: from both internal and external perspectives. Having been born and raised in South Korea, where I studied Korean history from a young age, I believed I had a comprehensive understanding of my country's past. However, just two lectures in Professor Fields's class revealed the extent of my ignorance about not only South Korea but also East Asia at large. Topics that were lightly touched upon in my South Korean education were explored in depth in his lectures, highlighting their importance. This revelation led me to recognize the unique insights gained from studying a country or region from an outsider's perspective, which sometimes can offer a more objective and less personal view than learning from within. This epiphany ultimately drove me to pursue education in China, realizing the critical need to understand a country of such undeniable importance from both insider and outsider perspectives after having previously only viewed it from the outside.

Q: How has your experience with East Asian studies courses (and the certificate program in general) shaped your educational development at UW-Madison?

Student News *Continued*

A: Exploring the history and beauty of my native region through unique courses was an enlightening experience, enriching my knowledge and reinforcing my personal roots. While most of my political science coursework focused on American history and politics, the East Asian studies courses provided a vital counterbalance, broadening my understanding of global perspectives alongside American ones.

Moreover, these courses delved into cultural and educational aspects of East Asia, offering a refreshing divergence from the politics and economics-heavy curriculum mandated by my major. Engaging with the artistic nuances of comics in Professor **Adam Kern**'s class and exploring the topical issues in education and diverse philosophies in Professor **Tom Popkewitz**'s lectures were among the highlights of my time at the University of Wisconsin-Madison pursuing East Asian studies. These experiences not only enriched my academic path but offered both a valuable break and deeper cultural insights.

Q: How did you find out about the Schwarzman Scholarship? What drew you to it compared to other post-graduation opportunities you were considering?



A: I first became aware of the program during my sophomore year in Japan, but at that time, the thought of applying and being accepted to the scholarship seemed like a far-off dream. Initially, my plans post-graduation were focused on enrolling in U.S. law schools for my legal education

and commencing my legal career immediately, without any gap years. However, my coursework, which encompassed both topical and historical aspects of U.S.-East Asian relations and international affairs at large, inspired a shift in my aspirations. I began to contemplate graduate school as a means to further deepen my knowledge and understanding of global affairs and foreign policy.

The Schwarzman Scholarship program stood out to me, particularly for its two distinct advantages: affordability and brevity. The opportunity to pursue advanced studies in global affairs and the critical issues pertaining to China, without any financial strain, presented itself as an extraordinary chance. Furthermore, the intensive curriculum, spanning from core classes to practical training and travel, all within a single year, was particularly appealing. This structure is quite unique compared to graduate programs in the United States or elsewhere.

Above all, the increasing strategic significance of China in international affairs, especially in relation to my homeland, South Korea, cemented my decision. Gaining an education from a prestigious program like the Schwarzman Scholarship, which offers in-depth insights into Chinese studies, appeared to be an essential asset for my ambition to become a foreign policy maker.

Q: What would you say to students who are on the fence about diving into EA studies and pursuing the certificate?

A: Based on my humble personal journey, I've found that stepping out of one's comfort zone presents the most significant challenge. Students, including myself, often gravitate towards courses covering familiar topics or those where they feel more confident, influenced by considerations like workload and grading. Yet, the East Asian studies courses at UW-Madison present a wealth of knowledge encompassing a diverse array of areas and cultures within the region. The chance to gain such insight is too precious to be ignored for the sake of comfort, whether it's through fewer assignments or easier exams.

As someone who initially hesitated to explore unfamiliar territories but ultimately took the step, I heartily encourage my fellow students to seize these unique chances to engage with subjects and topics that are new or previously uninteresting to them. This approach has not only expanded my academic horizons but also profoundly enriched my overall educational experience, making it one of the most rewarding and enjoyable learning experiences I've had at UW-Madison. Echoing Amelia Earhart's famous quote, "Adventure is worthwhile in itself," I've found profound truth in this statement throughout my journey here.

Federally-funded Study of East Asian Languages

Fourteen Badgers received federal funding to study East Asian languages in 2023-24 through the U.S. Department of Education's **Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS)** summer and academic year fellowships program.

For summer 2024, all six fellows attended language intensives through study abroad programs located in Seoul, South Korea; Taipei, Taiwan; and in both Tokyo and Yokohama, Japan.

Three of the 2023-24 academic year fellowships were also used to attend study abroad programs: **Adrie Falkenberg** at Nanzan University in Nagoya, Japan; **James Flynn** at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama, Japan; and **Sawyer Getschman** at Yonsei University in Seoul, Korea. For FLAS fellows who remained in Madison, CEAS worked with colleagues at the University of Utah's Asia Center to hold a second annual hybrid spring career panel for FLAS recipients, featuring talks on careers using language skills by UW-Madison International Division Dean **Frances Vavrus**, and Utah Air National Guard Cryptic Language Analyst **Joseph Vasquez**.

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.

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Student News Continued

Summer 2024 FLAS Fellows:

- **John-Coahle Merryfield**, History graduate student, Japanese
- **Dehlia Mitchell-Gray**, Art History graduate student, Korean
- **Kingsley Song**, History graduate student, Korean
- **Benjamin Ostrow**, Asian Languages and Cultures graduate student, Japanese
- **Jack Rogers**, undergraduate, Chinese
- **Steven Yang**, undergraduate, Chinese

Academic Year 2023–24 Fellows:

- **Zachary Cervenka**, Art History graduate student, Japanese
- **James Flynn**, History graduate student, Japanese
- **Genevieve Jacobs**, Asian Languages and Cultures graduate student, Chinese
- **James Segee-Wright**, Law graduate student, Chinese
- **Simone Tripoli**, Anthropology graduate student, Chinese
- **Adrie Falkenberg**, undergraduate student, Japanese
- **Sawyer Getschman**, undergraduate student, Korean
- **Kayne Young-Chewning**, undergraduate student, Japanese

Matsudaira Award for 76th Japan-America Student Conference

For two summers, marketing major **Brandon Rivera De Leon** has been part of programs connecting Badgers with Japan. As an incoming freshman in summer 2023, Brandon joined the inaugural

Summer Launch Japan program. (See related story beginning on page 1). Then for summer 2024, he represented UW-Madison at the **Japan-American Student Conference (JASC)**, which took place in August in cities across the U.S.



Brandon attended JASC thanks to the **Ichiro & Toyoko Matsudaira Memorial Award**. CEAS administers the annual award, which covers the \$3,000 program cost and was established by **Andrew & Kristin Seaborg**. The award was named after the family that hosted

Andrew when he participated in JASC in the early 1990s. (The award competition typically takes place in December; find more details on the CEAS website.)

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 2018 conferences. Summer 2024 marked the 76th occurrence, and took place in Los Angeles, New Orleans, and Washington, D.C.

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.

CEAS Faculty News

- **Wei Dong** – CEAS Emeritus Faculty and School of Human Ecology Professor **Wei Dong** has been keeping busy since his retirement this past January. This spring, he headed



to China to teach art to first graders at the De Young De Moor Elementary School in a remote mountain village in China's Sichuan Province. Professor Dong has been sending supplies to this school over the years and was finally able to make an in-person visit. He taught there for a few months and returned to Madison this summer.

Read the story of Professor Dong's post-retirement adventures in the March 2024 edition of the *Madison Magazine*. Search his name at channel3000.com.

- **Jing Wang** – We welcomed a new faculty affiliate in fall 2023! **Jing Wang** joined the School of Journalism and Mass Communication (SJMC) as Assistant Professor of Race,



Ethnicity, and Media. Professor Wang received her PhD in sociocultural anthropology at Rice University in Houston, with a BA degree from the English Language and Literature Department at Renmin University in Beijing. Before joining SJMC, she was a Global Perspectives on Society postdoctoral fellow at NYU Shanghai and then Senior Research

Manager at the Center for Advanced Research in Global Communication at Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania. Wang recently received a First Book Workshop award from the Center for Humanities at UW-Madison which provides scholarly and collegial support for junior faculty

Faculty News Continued

to turn manuscripts into first-rate, field-shaping books. She will use the award to work on her manuscript, *We Have Never Been Silent: Lowkey Media and Resilient Islamic Public in China*, which is currently under contract with Columbia University Press. The book examines Chinese Muslims' media practices from print such as novels and magazines, broadcast like TV dramas and films, and digital including Chinese-language Islamic websites, blogs, social media, and podcasts. It is an interdisciplinary project that speaks to scholars and students in the fields of global media and communication studies, anthropology of Islam, China studies, and critical studies of race, ethnicity, and gender.

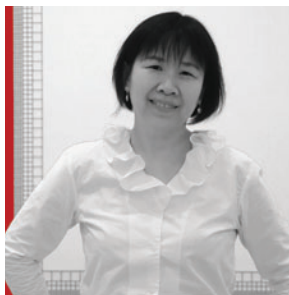
● **Viren Murthy** – Congratulations to CEAS faculty and Associate Professor of History **Viren Murthy** for publishing a new book, *Pan-Asianism and the Legacy of the Chinese Revolution* (University of Chicago Press, 2023), in October. Professor Murthy addresses the increased attention to the concept of pan-



Asianism due to ongoing Western interest in China's growth. He argues that these discussions lack historical grounding in the thought of influential twentieth-century pan-Asianists. His book offers an intellectual history of the writings of theorists, intellectuals, and activists across various political ideologies who proposed new ways of thinking about Asia in

their own historical and political contexts. Tracing pan-Asianist discourse across the twentieth century, Murthy reveals a stronger tradition of resistance and alternative visions than the contemporary discourse on pan-Asianism would suggest.

● **Yuhang Li** – Congratulations to Associate Professor of Chinese Art and CEAS faculty **Yuhang Li** for winning the Society for Ming Studies' Geiss-Hsu Book Prize. *Becoming Guanyin: Artistic Devotion of Buddhist Women in Late Imperial China* (Columbia University Press, 2019) was awarded the prize for the best first book in Ming Studies published between 2019 and 2022. Professor Li's book explores the intimate spheres of Buddhist women's devotion in 16th and 17th century China. Li combines theories of dance and performance, materiality and technology, and gender and sexuality to re-read familiar stories and paintings in new ways, as well as draw our attention to more obscure objects and images. Her argument challenges the perception of late Ming gentry women as entirely submissive to Confucian patriarchy, recognizing the agency of these women as creators, storytellers, and leaders.



● **David Fields** – Congratulations to CEAS Associate Director **David Fields** on the publication of *Divided America, Divided Korea* (Cambridge University Press, 2024), a collection co-edited with Professor **Mitchell Lerner** (Ohio State University). The volume brings together leading experts on Korea and U.S.-Korean relations to provide a nuanced look at the critical relationship between the U.S. and the two Koreas during and

after the Trump years. In a blog post for the Cambridge University Press, Fields describes the four years of U.S.-Korea relations under former President **Donald Trump** as "Not as bad as we might have feared; not as good as we might have hoped." The essays in the edited collection explore the legacy of the Trump administration on relations with the Korean peninsula, including the loss of South Korea's confidence in their U.S. ally, a failure to push North Korea on human rights issues, as well as a broader look at how Trump's take on U.S.-Korea relations signify regionally.



● **Sunho Ko** – The Korean Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at UW-Madison for 2023-24 was **Sunho Ko**, a historian of modern Korea with expertise in food and agriculture, who received his PhD in East Asian Studies at the University of Toronto. He is currently working on a book manuscript, *Food for Empire:*



Warfare Food Politics on the Korean Homefront, 1937-1945. Dr. Ko's research focuses on the intersection between food, everyday life, war, and colonialism. He is also expanding his research interests into postcolonial, socialist food production and consumption with a focus on North Korea in the 1950s and 60s Cold War context. Dr. Ko delivered a CEAS

lecture in spring 2024 based on his current project. He delved into a wartime gardening campaign in colonial Korea between 1941 and 1945, and explored how urban food production intersected with the formation of male subjectivity within the domestic space during the war years. Rather than portraying subject formation as solely dictated by state directives, the presentation highlighted the interplay between everyday gardening practices and diverse aspirations of the era.

● **Hyunju Lee** – Dr. **Hyunju Lee** of Ajou University in Korea was a visiting scholar in the Department of History for 2023-24. During her time on campus, Dr. Lee finished her book manuscript on marriage networks for the royal families over centuries of pre-modern Korean history. In addition, she wrote an article with history professor and CEAS faculty **Joseph Dennis** (also pictured), "Changes in the Perception and Legal Significance of Surnames in Pre-Modern Korea: A Study Focusing on Chinese Influence on Korean Marriage Law." The article uses materials translated in Professor Dennis' Chinese Legal History seminar with graduate students **Baiyi Du**, **Yuhao Ding**, **Yirui Ma**, and **Yue Meng** (visiting from Sichuan University). Professors Lee and Dennis have also been working on a research project about Korean local gazetteers and the application of digital methods. Dr. Lee attended many CEAS events this past year and we will miss her now that she has returned to Korea!



2023–24 Highlights



● Ambassador Stephens Featured at CEAS Professional Series

Former Ambassador **Kathleen Stephens** was on campus the week of April 15, 2024, serving as speaker for year three of the **CEAS Professional Series**. This program offers students and the campus community

perspectives on East Asia from those who work outside the context of a university. Ambassador Stephens was a career Foreign Service officer from 1978–2014, serving as U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Korea (2008–11), and Chargé d’Affaires to India (2014–15). Other overseas postings included China, Northern Ireland, Yugoslavia, and Portugal. She has also held numerous State Department and White House positions in Washington, and is Board Chair of The Korea Society and Vice-Chair of The Asia Foundation. During her week in Madison, Stephens met with students involved in ROTC and the Peace Corps. She delivered a public lecture on America’s geopolitical influence in Asia, offering insights on how the U.S. can strengthen its ties within the region and the importance of developing close partnerships.



● CEAS Helps Sinica Bring “More Light and Less Heat” to Conversations About China

North Carolina-based journalist **Kaiser Kuo**’s career boasts a diverse range of experiences, from freelance writer and musician to international communications strategist for

Chinese tech giant Baidu. In 2010, Kuo added “podcaster” to the list, co-founding the **Sinica Podcast**, a platform for uncensored conversations about Chinese political and economic affairs. With an average of one million listeners per year over the last six years, notable guests have included **Mary Kay Magistad** of Public Radio International, **Evan Osnos** of The New Yorker, and **Bill Bishop**, founder of CBS MarketWatch. Listeners to the Sinica Podcast may have noticed this message at the start of the most recent edition of the program: “Sinica is supported this year by the Center for East Asian Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison...” This reflects a new partnership between the podcast and CEAS. Center funding will ensure the on-air continuation of this highly regarded show for at least an additional year, bridging a funding gap created by the closure at the end of 2023 of the former podcast host, the China Project. The support also marks a new chapter in CEAS’ relationship with Sinica. Previously, Kuo offered a CEAS Professional Series lecture in April 2023, “Rethinking The U.S. Approach to China in a Time of Crisis.” He also visited campus to appear on CEAS’ **East Asia Now** podcast, where he delved into the origins of

Sinica and offered listeners a curated selection from its extensive archive, including in-depth interviews with diplomat **Chas W. Freeman** and journalist **Sidney Rittenburg**.

● 4th Annual Wisconsin Sijo (WiSijo) Competition

In fall 2023, the **WiSijo Competition** attracted almost 250 entries in all age divisions from across Wisconsin for its fourth annual poetry contest. A collaboration between CEAS and the Sejong Cultural Society of Chicago, IL, the competition seeks to highlight Korea’s cultural heritage by giving Wisconsinites an opportunity to learn a traditional Korean poetic form. “Sijo” are similar to Japanese Haiku poems, requiring 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. WiSijo was featured on Wisconsin Public Radio’s “Wisconsin Life” program on May 23, 2023. For more information on the competition and sijo, visit eastasia.wisc.edu/wisijo.

Take From Creative Writing

*rule of thirds; anaphora; synesthesia;
innovation.*

*dialogue; hyperbole, repetition;
powerful ends.*

*the knowledge: your voice has power;
your words matter; you matter*

Elizabeth Jorgensen, Waukesha, WI
2024 Sijo Grand Prize Winner

● “Happy Hour” Expands (With Toasts) CEAS continued its monthly “Happy Hour” program this past year with more chatter, laughter, and toasts! The monthly get-together, which kicked off in January 2023, allows graduate students and faculty focused on East Asian studies to relax over sodas and beers at the Memorial Union’s iconic Rathskeller meeting hall. Held on the last Fridays of each month, the CEAS Happy Hour will be continuing for the foreseeable future and will never have an agenda beyond: come join the conversation!



● CEAS Scholars Across Wisconsin (SAW) Film Screening at Lawrence University

The **CEAS Scholars Across Wisconsin (SAW)** program helped fund a screening of “Beethoven in Beijing,” a feature-length documentary by journalist and filmmaker **Jennifer Lin** (pic-

tured center) about the legacy of the Philadelphia Orchestra’s 1973 performance in the People’s Republic of China. Lin was on

Highlights *Continued*

hand for a post-film discussion, which took place March 2, 2024, at Lawrence University in Appleton, WI. The event was organized by Lawrence History Professor **Brigid Vance** (pictured left), one of 27 scholars participating in SAW. Launched during the pandemic as a way to increase collaborations among East Asianists around the state, the program offers CEAS affiliation to faculty or academic staff at any Wisconsin institution of higher education, both public and private, who devote at least 33% of their research and/or teaching to East Asia.

● **East Asia in the Upper Midwest Update** For its fifth iteration of the **East Asia in the Upper Midwest (EAUM)** program, CEAS piloted a new relationship with the World History

Digital Education (WHDE) Foundation, enabling four Wisconsin high school teachers to participate in a summer research tour of South Korea. The four joined 26 other teachers from the U.S. and New Zealand. Over 10 days, the group visited historic sites, discussed education strategies with Korean high school teachers, met with government officials, and witnessed South Korea's post-war transformation. CEAS Associate Director **David Fields** accompanied the teachers as their "scholar in residence," giving "bus lectures," answering questions, and providing context for the sites they visited. EAUM is a summer program designed to provide professional development opportunities for teachers interested in integrating East Asia into their classrooms. Past programs have looked at how to teach the Korean War and the influence of Japan on architect **Frank Lloyd Wright**. Find lesson plans for past programs at eastasia.wisc.edu/eaum.

2023–24 Events

Following is a selection from the more than 60 events CEAS hosted or co-hosted during the 2023–24 academic year, attended by 3,900-plus people. Events annotated are archived online:

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

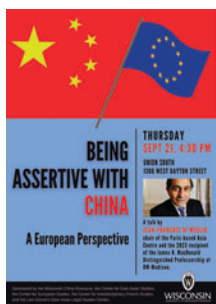
PODCAST indicate that this episode is available on the **East Asia Now** podcast: eastasia.wisc.edu/podcast/



● Japanese Popular Culture and Contradictions of Late Capitalism September 20, 2023 **YouTube**

Osaka University professor **Eiichi Nojiri** looked at Japanese animation (anime) in the 2000s, arguing for a connection between the temporal plays in Japanese pop culture/subculture and **Fredric Jameson's** theory of the political unconscious. He demon-

strated resonances between Jameson's reading of cultural works in late capitalist societies and the phenomenon of contemporary Japanese individual consciousness in losing sight of larger narratives and its attempts at reacquiring a meaningful future.



● Being Assertive with China: A European Perspective September 21, 2023 **PODCAST**

Jean-François Di Meglio, chair of the Paris-based Asia Centre, explored potential next steps for the European Union in terms of engaging with China, and how they might match the expectations of the U.S. and other allies. He argued for the necessity of EU assertiveness – a diplomatic stance

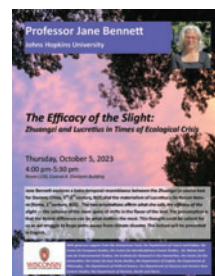
that is distinct from aggressiveness – with China. Di Meglio's visit, which included other speaking engagements on campus, was co-sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies; the Center for Interdisciplinary French Studies; the Center for European Studies; and by the UW Law School's East Asian Legal Studies Center.



● What Can You 'Eat' in Chinese: A Usage-Based Approach to Chinese Language and Culture Based on Contemporary and Historical Corpora September 26, 2023

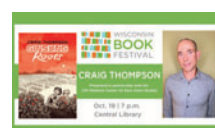
Hongyin Tao examined the behavior of the lexis 吃 'eat' in Chinese, which

has long puzzled many linguists. He addressed this puzzle by showing how noun-verb associations can be better understood by adopting a usage-based approach as exemplified by the Emergent Argument Structure Hypothesis (2001). First in a series of two Chinese linguistics webinars.



● The Efficacy of the Slight: Zhuangzi and Lucretius in Times of Ecological Crisis October 5, 2023

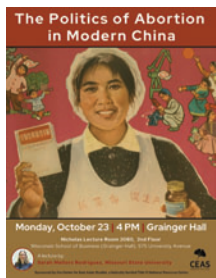
Jane Bennett, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of the Humanities at Johns Hopkins University, explored a trans-temporal resemblance between the *Zhuangzi* (a source-text for Daoism, China, 5th–3rd century, BCE) and the materialism of **Lucretius's** *De Rerum Natura* (Rome, 1st century, BCE). The two orientations affirmed what she termed the efficacy of the slight – the salience of the most spare of shifts in the flavor of the real. CEAS was a co-sponsor together with the Department of French & Italian, Anonymous Fund, and the Center for European Studies, among others.



● Craig Thompson: Ginseng Roots October 19, 2023

Cartoonist and award-winning author **Craig Thompson** spoke on his new comic series, *Ginseng Roots*. Thompson gave some insight into his artistic process in his conversation with **Will Hsu**, president of the Wisconsin-based Hsu's Ginseng Enterprises and a UW-Madison alum. First of two CEAS-sponsored events with the Wisconsin Book Festival.

Events Continued



● The Politics of Abortion in Modern China

October 23, 2023

Drawing on the grassroots history of birth control and abortion, historian **Sarah Mellors Rodriguez** of Missouri State University demonstrated how state agendas and cultural conceptions of gender shaped the trajectory of abortion from criminal offense in the 1950s to a primary method of birth control in modern Chinese society.



● Chinese Acupressure Techniques for Reducing Stress and Calming the Mind

October 25, 2023

Madison area acupuncture and traditional Chinese medicine practitioner **Dr. Xiping Zhou** conducted a special hands-on session for students on relieving stress and

pain through simple acupressure techniques. Based on the principles of traditional Chinese medicine, acupressure involves pressing on specific points such as the head or along the spine.

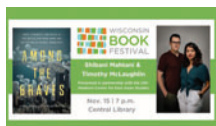


● Dramatizing Architectural Space: The Case of a 14th Century Chinese Temple

November 8, 2023

University of Chicago art historian **Wei-Cheng Lin** explored the drastic changes in timber-frame architectural tradition during the Song-Yuan period, also known

as China's Middle Period. Using the early 14th-century main hall of the Water God's Temple in Hongdong, Shanxi as an example, he demonstrated that architectural modifications orchestrated a multisensorial experience of the interior that is structurally counterintuitive but spatially dramatized.



● Shibani Mahtani & Timothy McLaughlin: Among the Braves

November 15, 2023

Shibani Mahtani and **Timothy McLaughlin**, two award-winning journalists, presented a book talk on their latest work, *Among the Braves*. Their book tells a gripping narrative history of the Hong Kong pro-democracy movement that centers a cast of core activists, culminating in the 2019 mass protests and Beijing's crackdown. Second of two CEAS-sponsored events with the Wisconsin Book Festival.

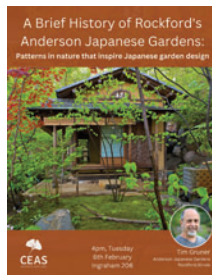


● Improbable Diplomats: How Ping-Pong Players, Musicians, and Scientists Remade U.S.-China Relations

December 5, 2023

This talk by University of Melbourne historian **Pete Millwood** was based on his new book, *Improbable Diplomats: How Ping-Pong Players, Musicians, and Scientists*

Remade U.S.-China Relations. He reveals how a diverse cast of Chinese and Americans – athletes and physicists, performing artists and seismologists – played a critical, but to date overlooked, role in remaking U.S.-China relations.



● A Brief History of Rockford's Anderson Japanese Gardens: Patterns in Nature that Inspire Japanese Garden Design

February 6, 2024

In this talk, curator **Tim Gruner** presented the history of the Anderson Japanese Gardens in Rockford, IL. He showed how

conceptual drawings by a master gardener were brought to life by crews of workers over several years to create a contemplative space based on Zen principles and Japanese traditional design techniques.



● What Are You Working On (#WAYWO): For Whom and For What Cause? History of K-12 Japanese Language and Culture Education in Wisconsin

February 13, 2024 

UW-Madison Japanese Linguist and CEAS faculty **Junko Mori** discussed her ongoing

research project on the history of the Japanese Language and Culture Assistant Program, which was administered by the state's Department of Public Instruction from 1989 to 1993. This talk was part of the What Are You Working On (#WAYWO) series, a regular CEAS program where faculty, staff, and graduate students present East-Asia related works in progress.

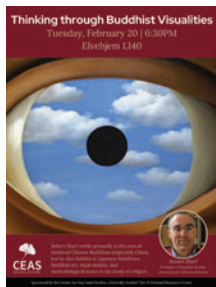


● Film Screening: "Lost Course: A Small Chinese Village's Big Protest"

February 16, 2024

Documentary film screening followed by a Q&A with the filmmaker, **Jill Li**. The documentary is based on her experience witnessing an unprecedented experiment in local democracy while embedding herself in the village of Wukan, southern China, for several years starting in 2011. Corrupt officials had illegally sold villagers' land, but the villagers decided to fight back.

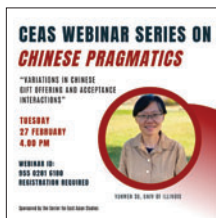
Events *Continued*



● Thinking through Buddhist Visualities

February 20, 2024

Robert Sharf, Professor of Buddhist Studies at UC-Berkeley, examined how the East Asian Buddhist tradition engaged with the age-old conundrum of visually representing a sublime truth. He demonstrates how this tradition's struggles with the conundrum gave rise to a visual culture intended to challenge the very distinction between reality and representation.



● Variations in Chinese Gift Offering and Acceptance Interactions

February 27, 2024 [YouTube](#)

Chinese linguistics webinar with **Yunwen Su**, Chinese Linguistics Assistant

Professor at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. The presentation on how gender and other factors impact the rituals related to giving and receiving gifts in the context of Chinese culture was based on Su's collaborative project with Dr. **Yingling Bao** from Indiana University, sponsored by a CIBER Business Language Research and Teaching Grant from the Centers for International Business Education and Research, Department of Education. Second in a series of two Chinese linguistics webinars.



● The Dreams of Male Gardeners: Urban Gardens on the Korean Homefront, 1941-45

March 12, 2024

UW-Madison Korean Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow **Sunho Ko** delved into a wartime gardening campaign in colonial Korea between 1941 and 1945, exploring how

urban food production intersected with the formation of male subjectivity within the domestic space during the war years.



● The Dawn of the Pacific Century: China and the Condition of the Spatial Revolution

March 20, 2024

In this event, which was presented in collaboration with The Havens Wright Center for Social Justice, Distinguished Professor of Literature and History **Wang Hui** delivered a lecture based on his previous work. His scholarship charts the intellectual and political conditions of contemporary China through a deep engagement with both the history and the consequences of Chinese modernity.



● Digital Literacy and Research in East Asia

April 2, 2024

Panel discussion with CEAS faculty on the intersection of the digital humanities with their current research. Panelists included:

- **Anatoly Detwyler**, Assistant Professor of Modern China Studies
- **Steven Ridgely**, Associate Professor of Modern Japan Studies
- **Joe Dennis**, Professor of History, Premodern China



● Chinese Badgers/Badgers in China

April 8, 2024

Symposium on UW-Madison's earliest students from China. CEAS faculty and historian **Joseph Dennis** moderated presentations by Badgers on Badgers from the early 1900s including U.S. Minister to

Republican China (1913-19) **Paul Reinsch**, Chinese astronomer **Wen-Shion Tsu**, economist **Yuan-Lung Yeh**, and political activist **Wen-Ying Peng**. (More on pages 4-5.)



● China's Educational Theories as a "Self Awakening"

April 8, 2024

Weili Zhao, UW-Madison PhD alum and professor of curriculum studies at Hangzhou Normal University of China,

examined Chinese education academia's theorizations on "building Chinese education." Such building grounds China's educational theorizations as a decolonial effort to counter Euro-centric global structures of knowledge (re)production.



● Japanese Painting Circa 1500: A Time of Upheaval and Innovation

April 12, 2024

This symposium explored Japanese art at the turn of the 16th century, which marked a significant inflection point in Japanese cultural history. Sponsored by the Department of Art History, and co-sponsored by the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, Center for East Asian Studies, Center for Visual Cultures, and the Chazen Museum of Art. Speakers included:

- **Shimao Arata**, Professor of Japanese art history, Gakushuin University, Tokyo
- **Steffani Bennett**, Assistant Professor of Japanese Art, and the Joan B. Mirviss Chair in Japanese Art, UW-Madison
- **Yukio Lippit**, Jeffrey T. Chambers and Andrea Okamura Professor of the History of Art and Architecture, Harvard
- **Melissa McCormick**, Andrew W. Mellon Professor of Japanese Art and Culture, Harvard
- **Gene Phillips**, Emeritus Professor in Japanese Art, UW-Madison
- **Aaron Rio**, Associate Curator of Japanese Art, Metropolitan Museum of Art

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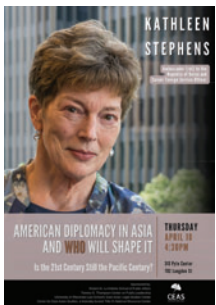


● China's Slowdown: Structural or Cyclical?

April 12, 2024

In this lecture, Peking University economist **Yao Yang** contended that contrary to U.S. assessments, China's slowdown is a consequence of the government's deliberate adjustment on both the economic and political fronts that aims at correcting the

vices accumulated in the reform era. Sponsored in collaboration with the Departments of Political Science and Agricultural & Applied Economics, and with the Law School's East Asian Studies Legal Center.



● American Diplomacy in Asia and Who Will Shape It: Is the 21st Century Still the Pacific Century?

April 18, 2024 **YouTube**

Former Ambassador **Kathleen Stephens** delivered a talk on the state of U.S.-Asia relations. The American presence in Asia and the Pacific – military, economic, and diplomatic – was a major shaper of today's Asia.

Going forward, Stephens emphasized the importance of a new generation of Asia hands who are deeply familiar with the region given the dimming prospects for an American-dominated "Pacific Century." This talk was part of the CEAS Professional Series.



● Transtopia and the Narrative Thresholds of History

April 20, 2024

Howard Chiang, Professor of East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, discussed the programmatic contours and major interventions of a new keyword,

transtopia, to theorize different scales of gender transgression that are not always discernible through the Western notion of transgender. This virtual lecture was the second keynote address for the 2024 Trans Asia Graduate Student Conference.



● Unpacking Shogun: Perspectives From UW-Madison Faculty

April 23, 2024

Panel discussion with UW-Madison faculty to mark the final episode of Hulu's miniseries "Shogun," a historical drama set in early 17th-century Japan. This event was sponsored by the Center for East Asian Studies and the Department of History's History Club.

Unpacking Shogun panelists included:

- **Lori Lopez**, Professor of Communication Arts and Director of the Asian American Studies Program
- **Steve Ridgely**, Associate Professor of Modern Japan Studies and CEAS Director
- **Sarah Thal**, David Kuenzi and Mary Wyman Professor of History



● Tibetan Calligraphy Day 2024

April 26, 2024

This special event commemorated Tibetan Calligraphy Day 2024, with calligraphy demonstrations and work on display.

Hosted by the New York-based Latse Project, the two day exhibition was co-sponsored by the UW-Madison Center for South Asia and the Center for East Asian Studies.



● Toruko Gakan: Japanese Mirror of the Ottoman Turkish World

May 1, 2024

Selçuk Esenbel, historian and Professor Emeritus at Bogazici University in Istanbul, Turkey, presented her research on the modern Japanese mirror of the Ottoman Turkish world in **Yamada Torajirō's** 1911 book, *Toruko Gakan* 土耳古畫觀, *Illustrated Observations of Turkey*. Professor Esenbel

explained how the book shows the beginnings of patterns in Japanese-Turkish relations.



● From France to the Qing Court: Tapestries as Cross-cultural Textiles

May 1, 2024

Art historian **Mei Mei Rado** presented on her book, *The Empire's New Cloth: Cross-cultural Textiles at the Qing Court*. The study engages the circulation of European large-scale pictorial tapestries in China and their subsequent roles in stimulating new developments in Qing imperial arts.



● CineMAP Japan Beta, A Symposium: Location, Location, Location

May 4, 2024

This workshop celebrated the launch of CineMAP, a tool for recording and visualizing the locations of Japanese films. Hosted by Japanese studies scholars **Jonathan Abel**, Penn State University, and **Steve**

Ridgely, UW-Madison, the day-long workshop brought scholars together from across the country to discuss digital humanities research in Japan studies. Sponsors included the Yanai Initiative at UCLA, the Northeast Asia Council of the Association for Asian Studies, and the Center for East Asian Studies.

Events Continued



● 2024 International Conference on Japanese Language Education (ICJLE)

August 1-3, 2024

A core activity of the Global Network for Japanese Language Education (GN), the International Conference on Japanese Language Education (ICJLE) is the largest conference within the Japanese language education field. Held in Madison,

ICJLE's 2024 theme was "Exploring Issues of Diversity and Expertise in Japanese Language Education." With over 600 participants, it featured a public keynote lecture on August 2 by award-winning translator of contemporary Japanese **Ginny Tapley Takemori**. It was jointly hosted by the two affiliated organizations located in North America: the American Association of Teachers of Japanese (AATJ), and the Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education (CAJLE). CEAS Professor of Japanese Linguistics **Junko Mori** was this year's organizing committee chair. This is the first time in 18 years that the conference has returned to the U.S. since ICJLE 2006 in New York.

2023-24 Scrapbook



↑ CEAS faculty and students mingle during the annual fall reception, Sep 2023.



← Serving traditional Korean rice cake soup at a Lunar New Year event in Viroqua, WI, Feb 2024.



Dr. Xiping Zhou led students through Chinese acupressure techniques designed to relieve stress, Oct 2023. ↓



↑ Craig Thompson signed a copy of *Ginseng Roots* for David Fields and CEAS, Oct 2023.



CEAS faculty listen to David Fields's presentation at the CEAS spring planning session, Jan 2024. →



← History Professor Joseph Dennis demonstrated Chinese woodblock printing at the Lake Geneva Public Library, Apr 2024.

Q&A at Yao Yang's talk on Chinese economics, Apr 2024. →

Yao Yang explains the economic cycles of China in his talk, Apr 2024. ↓



Ambassador Kathleen Stephens at a session with the Airforce ROTC during her campus visit, Apr 2024. ↓



Selçuk Esenbel spoke on the development of official Japanese-Turkish relations, May 2024. →



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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UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON



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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eastasia.wisc.edu



Banner photos: front top – Kierstin Conway, travels in Korea; back bottom – Cade Campbell, travels in China.