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Thurs // 9am-2pm

Director's Message

The Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies at the University of Illinois wishes you all a happy and prosperous Year of the Monkey! We have an exciting line-up of events for the Spring Semester, including our Brown Bag Series, guests from other institutions speaking on anime, journalism in China and Japan, and Chinese investment in Latin America, and of course the AsiaLENS film series, focusing this term on gender and identity in Asia. We will also host our annual Osaka City University-University of Illinois Exchange Symposium in March and support a Program in Medieval Studies symposium on traditional Japanese theater in April. Most of our events are listed on the calendar included in this newsletter, and additional ones will be included in our weekly bulletin and on our renovated website, featuring the art of Professor Su Su, one of our former Visiting Asian Scholars. We welcome your feedback on the website. Please feel free to give us suggestions about how it could be more navigable, or what kinds of other information you would like to see included.

In addition to our new website, we also have new space for the AEMS collection and Visiting Asian Scholars Program (VASP). Both have moved to the third floor of 505 Green St, where we hope to be more accessible to AEMS' borrowers in the community. We invite you all to visit us during AEMS hours to look at our collection, view a film in our screening room, or visit with the VASP scholars. This space has been provided by the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and gives AEMS a more central location on campus. Another important place you can visit us is at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA, this March 30-April 2, where AEMS will again be hosting the Documentary Film Expo.

We are pleased to report that, thanks to grant funding through Title VI and the Confucius Institute, we will be developing materials for Digital Asia, an on-line curricular program built around AEMS materials. We are in the preliminary stages of identifying documentary films around which to design interactive curriculum, and we have also made an application for further grant funding from the US-Japan Foundation to support this project. Outreach Coordinator Duane Johansen is heading up this effort, with cooperation from College of Education faculty Mark Dressman and Grace Oh and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences faculty Elizabeth Oyler and Rod Wilson. We are looking for other faculty and experienced middle and high school teachers who would like to advise on the project; please be in touch with Duane if you are interested.

Finally, we are looking forward to hosting the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs in October, 2016. We anticipate that this will be a very large gathering of Asian Studies scholars, and will also involve a film expo, a teacher workshop, and musical performances. For more information, please visit the conference website: www.eaps.illinois.edu/mcaa-2016.

Elizabeth Oyler

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EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The Fall semester at CEAPS was a very busy one, featuring speakers for our Brown Bag, AsiaLENS, and Speaker series and a number of larger events. On

October 5, we joined over 70 other venues from



UI's Alex Lee talks gender roles for flight attendants in South Korea

throughout the United States and the world in hosting a live webcast panel discussion on

foreign investment in the US in a China Town Hall broadcast, the first time ever that the University of Illinois was involved in the annual event. October also brought the Association of Japanese Literary Studies 24th Annual Conference, hosted by

Elizabeth Oyler and Robert Tierney, to campus. In addition to lectures by upcoming and established scholars, the event included an incense ceremony demonstration at Japan House and a keynote address by internationally renowned film scholar Aaron Gerow.

Another highlight was the Gender and Transnational Identity in Contemporary Asia Symposium, held on November 6 with the co-sponsorship of Gender and Women in Global Perspectives. It featured scholars from around the US, and was moderated by WGGP Director Colleen Murphy. We also collaborated with the Asian American Cultural Center for a Mid-Autumn Festival Celebration and a discussion on Study Abroad experiences in Asia.



Scholars from around the US gather for the Association of Japanese Literary Studies Annual Conference



A packed house listens to Dr. Nojin Kwak from the University of Michigan discuss politics in South Korea



At the Asian American Community Center speaking to students about doing Study Abroad in Asia

OUTREACH ACTIVITIES

There's been a lot happening over the last few months in the Outreach Department, as we've been working with teachers and community members from all around to help others to learn more about East Asia.

After working with staff from the University of Illinois, Lincoln Land Community College professors Paul Van Heuklom and Ashley Green organized a film and lecture series at their campus in Springfield featuring movies from



Our Outreach Coordinator talks about Labor Thanksgiving Day

China, Korea, and Japan. The series was a prelude to their course “Cultural Wisdom in the Eastern World,” which they revitalized after several years of not being taught.

We've been active at area schools, too, including talking about Japan's Labor Thanksgiving Day holiday with first graders and teaching Korean sijo poetry to high school students at GlobalFest. We also told the Japanese story of “The Paper Crane” to a group of first graders – with help from a dancing crane played by a

sixth-grade student. Additionally, we looked at how clothing makes its way from the cotton fields of South Carolina to the textile mills in China with a high school consumer science class. Graduate student Brad Coyle also helped out, speaking to a high school class about his experiences living in South Korea and telling stories about some dicey encounters at the border with North Korea.



Joy Yang Jiao (c) with Lincoln Land profs Paul Van Heuklom and Ashley Green



Sixth-grader Truman performs the Japanese story “The Paper Crane”



Brad Coyle speaks about his experiences in S. Korea and about the conflict with N. Korea

We've also worked with teachers from around the state to develop a global competency certification for Illinois high school students to feature on their diplomas and showcased the movie “Pictures from a Hiroshima Schoolyard” for teachers from around the country at the National Council for the Social Studies annual conference.

For 2016, we're looking forward to celebrating the start of the year of the monkey at several local Lunar New Year's festivals, sharing Japanese kamishibai stories with library patrons in Mahomet, and participating in international festivals around the area. There's always time for your event. Just email me at djohans@illinois.edu. We'd be happy to contribute to your community or school event. Finally, you can keep up to date with all of our activities by following us on Facebook (“CEAPS at Illinois”) and Twitter (“@Ceaps_OC”).

AsiaLENS

Established in Fall 2008 by the Asian Educational Media Service in partnership with the Spurlock Museum, the AsiaLENS series presents recent documentary and independent films on issues reflecting contemporary life in Asia. Spring 2016 programming will focus on issues LGBT communities face in Asia. Our first screening will be *Tales of the Waria* on Tuesday, February 9th at 7pm in the Knight Auditorium at Spurlock Museum. A 2011 film by Kathy Huang, *Tales of the Waria* follows individuals known as waria who are biological men livingly openly as women. In this documentary, four waria encounter unique obstacles as they search for romance and intimacy, forcing them to make extraordinary sacrifices to keep the ones they love. An introduction and post-screening discussion will be led by Leslie Morrow, Director, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center, Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

AsiaLENS screenings are held during the semester on the second Tuesday of each month, continuing on March 8th with *I Am*, a 2011 film by Sonali Gulati. *I Am* follows an Indian lesbian filmmaker who journeys home after being away or eleven years to confront the loss of her mother, whom she never came out to. By meeting with parents of other gay and lesbian Indians she pieces together the fabric of what family truly means in a landscape where being gay, until recently, was a criminal and punishable offense. will lead post screening discussion. AsiaLENS concludes on Tuesday, April 12th with *My Fair Wedding*, a 2014 film by Jang Hee-sun. *My Fair Wedding* follows Gwang-Soo and Dave as they plan their gala wedding which also happens to be the first same-sex marriage performed in South Korea. *My Fair Wedding* offers first-hand account on overcoming adversity, as gay marriage opponents make their displeasure heard, and shows how a milestone event goes beyond just one couple.

The Asian Educational Media Service (AEMS) is an engagement program of the Center for East Asian and Pacific Studies at the University of Illinois. AsiaLENS offers to the general public these educational screenings, free of charge, to promote understanding of Asian cultures and peoples. For more information about AEMS and how they assist educators at all levels, from elementary schools to colleges and universities, in finding media resources for learning and teaching about Asia, please visit their website at www.aems.illinois.edu, email aems@illinois.edu or phone (217)333-9597.

SPRING 2016 SCHEDULE

All screenings are held at
Spurlock Museum, Knight Auditorium
600 S Gregory Street, Urbana

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 9 (7PM)

TALES OF WARIA

Directed by Kathy Huang

2011. 56 minutes.

In Indonesian with English Subtitles

Introduction and post screening discussion led
by Meslie Morrow, Director
Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Resource Center
Office of Inclusion and Intercultural Relations
University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

TUESDAY, MARCH 8 (7PM)

I AM

Directed by Sonali Gulati

2011. 71 minutes.

In Hindi and English with English subtitles

TUESDAY, APRIL 12 (7PM)

MY FAIR WEDDING

Directed by Jang Hee-sun

2014. 94 minutes.

In Korean with English subtitles

Introduction and discussion led by Robert L. Cagle
PhD, University Library and Department of
Cinema and Media Studies

The Asian Educational Media Service is looking forward to presenting the 2016 AAS Film Expo at the Association for Asian Studies Conference at the Sheraton Seattle Hotel & Washington State Convention Center from March 31 to April 2, 2016. If you are planning to attend the conference, we hope you will review the film expo booklet, stop by to say hello, and view a film in our screening room or on-demand room