



RUTGERS

School of Arts and Sciences

Department of

Asian Languages and Cultures

Summer 2020

NEWSLETTER

2019-2020 Highlights in ALC



Each year, the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures co-sponsors an event to mark the beginning of the lunar year and celebrate Chinese culture.

Originally scheduled for Feb. 7, this year's celebration was postponed to March 3 and held in conjunction with Rutgers Global's *Spring Festival*. We thank our co-sponsors (the Confucius Institute, Rutgers China Office, and Rutgers Global) and the group of Lecturers in Chinese headed by **Lihui Zhu** who organized the event.

Image above: The Rat is the first of twelve Chinese zodiac animals and traditionally signifies wealth, surplus, and new beginnings

Welcome!



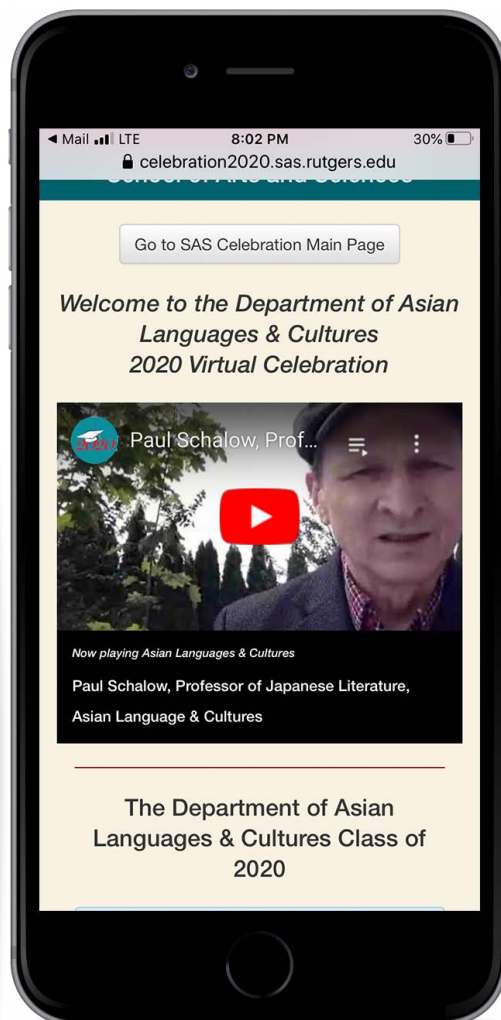
Jaehyun Jo recently joined the department of Asian Languages and Cultures as Assistant Teaching Professor of Korean. Professor Jo earned his Ph.D. in Korean linguistics from UCLA and has taught Korean and language-related cultural courses at Yonsei, Wellesley, Qatar Academy, University of Costa Rica, and UCLA for the past 11 years. He plays the haegeum, a traditional Korean stringed instrument; his performance of *Arirang* is featured in a recent documentary film *Land of My Father*.

2020 Rutgers Convocation—Virtual Celebration



In May 2020, twenty-seven Majors in the department earned their B.A. degree in Asian Studies (formerly East Asian Languages & Area Studies), Chinese, Japanese, or Korean.

Congratulations to all!



ALC faculty posted their virtual congratulatory messages on the SAS Celebration 2020 website

- Emily Ali (Genetics, Chinese, *Cum Laude*)
- Jamie Arakaki (Japanese, *Cum Laude*)
- Tara C. Bobal (Chinese, *Magna Cum Laude*)
- Annalise M. Burke (Public Policy, Korea, *Cum Laude*)
- Tiani P. Edwards (Korean)
- Anthony M. Elias (Japanese)
- Jamie A. Fan (East Asian Languages and Area Studies)
- John E. Fox (Korean, *Cum Laude*)
- Christina M. Gaudino (Chinese, Political Science)
- Julia Gu (Japanese, Linguistics, *Summa Cum Laude*)
- Bill H. Huang (History, Chinese)
- Susana Iglesias (East Asian Languages and Area Studies)
- Gumju Kim (Asian Studies, *Cum Laude*)
- Taeseong Kim (East Asian Languages and Area Studies)
- Grace Lee (Korean)
- Jia Li (Chinese, *Magna Cum Laude*)
- Michael S. Lind (Computer Science, Japanese)
- Jimmy L. Lu (Chinese, *Magna Cum Laude*)
- Myoung S. Min (Korean, *Magna Cum Laude*)
- Jason D. Seo (East Asian Languages and Area Studies)
- Kathryn R. Slusarczyk (Linguistics, Korean, *Summa Cum Laude*)
- Yuyang Wang (Japanese)
- Andrew Weiner (Asian Studies, *Summa Cum Laude*)
- Anna G. Winters (Political Science, Chinese)
- Benjamin A. Yang (East Asian Languages and Area Studies)
- Emili F. Yiu (East Asian Languages and Area Studies)
- Xiaomeng Zhang (Korean)

Curtis Wright—M.A. Program in East Asian Languages & Cultures



Curtis Wright

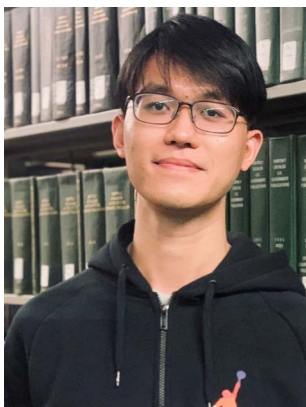
Curtis A. Wright earned his Master's degree in East Asian Languages & Cultures in January, 2020, with a final exam on Japanese adaptations in text, film, and animation of Alexandre Dumas' *The Count of Monte Cristo*. He analyzed the success of Japanese versions of the novel, titled *Gankutsuō*, as a product

of cultural adaptation in which the theme of vengeance was retained but characters and motives were recast from a Judeo-Christian context of 19th-century France into a Japanese historical and philosophical framework. Curtis completed his graduate coursework while working full-time as a high school English teacher in Burlington, New Jersey. Curtis writes, "I'm especially grateful to Professor

Weijie Song (Associate Professor of Chinese) for helping me to receive a One Asia Foundation Achievement Award Scholarship, and to Professor Jiro Harasaki (Assistant Teaching Professor of Japanese) for encouraging me to serve as Japanese interpreter for a non-profit organization ICAP (International Child Assault Prevention), where I continue to work as a volunteer."



Xingming Wang—Asian Languages and Cultures Ph.D. student admitted through Comparative Literature Program



Xingming Wang

Xingming Wang began his doctoral studies in the Comparative Literature Program on an ALC Excellence Fellowship in September, 2019. He joins Yuanqiu Jiang (entered 2017) and 'Coco' Xu (2015) in the program and will begin his Teaching Assistantship in the department in 2021.

Xingming writes "I decided to pursue a doctoral degree in the U.S. when I set out to study in a master's program in English Language and Literature at Nanjing University in China. I was incredibly fortunate to be admitted to Rutgers Comparative Literature Program and entered in September 2019. I plan to explore modern and contemporary Chinese literature, with attention to new directions in humanities such as animal studies and environmental humanities.

"When the coronavirus broke out in China, I was worried about my family and friends over there. However, three months later, they became increasingly anxious about my situation in New Jersey, one of the most affected areas in the U.S. It is hard to articulate the anxiety, loneliness, frustration, and sense of vulnerability during the quarantine. Yet what makes things worse is perhaps the constant tension between China and the U.S., generating troubling nationalist (sometimes even racist) sentiments and mutual restrictions that affect our travel plans and visa status, let alone the psychological damage it is inflicting. But it is also the difficult time that proves once again the importance of interpersonal relationships, despite the fact that our connection with people is limited to interactions on computer screens, phones, images, and voices at the moment. I have nothing but heartfelt thanks to those who care for me. Hope that the pandemic will be over soon."

For Xingming's full profile, see the Center for Chinese Studies blog post: rccs.rutgers.edu/blog

New High School Outreach Program



PPBHS Chinese instructor Hui Wen Chen, left, and Professor Yang before class observation

The department initiated a new Concurrent Enrollment Program in Chinese at Point Pleasant Beach High School, which allows PPBHS students of Mandarin to earn Rutgers University credits in their senior year of high school.

In December, 2019, ALC Language Program Coordinator Yuan-chen Yang (Assistant Teaching Professor of Chinese) paid a site visit to Point Pleasant Beach, New Jersey, to meet with the instructor and observe her class.

Cultural Enrichment Event with Artist Kate Oh

A poster for a Minhwa Workshop. On the left is a traditional Korean painting of a tiger and its cubs. The text on the poster includes: "RUTGERS School of Arts and Sciences", "Asian Language & Culture alc.rutgers.edu", "Minhwa 민화 Korean Traditional Folk Painting Workshop with Minhwa Artist Kate Oh", "2-4pm, Friday, October 18, 2019", "Pane Room, Alexander Library", "169 College Ave. New Brunswick, NJ 08901", a photo of Kate Oh, and a QR code. There is also a small text block about Kate Oh's background and a pre-registration link.

Our first Minhwa workshop, held on October 18, 2019, with support from the Korean Education Center in New York, was enthusiastically attended by 36 participants

Announcing a New Korean-English Certificate Program for Fall 2020

**The Korean - English
Translation
&
Interpreting
Certificate Program**

The department launched a new 12-credit Korean-English Translation & Interpreting Certificate Program, designed to meet the needs of the State of New Jersey, which has the third largest Korean population in the United States.

The program provides Korean-English bilingual students the opportunity to master translation processes and ethics in order to develop the expertise to serve as translators and interpreters in courts, hospitals, schools, and service agencies.

For information, contact admin@alc.rutgers.edu

Seminars and Workshops



University of Fukui Professor Ryuhei Hosoya (left) visited "Rutgers Meets Japan" Honors Seminar in February 2020 with first-prize winner of the Griffis & Fukui essay contest, Takuma Funakoshi (center). Shown with Haruko Wakabayashi (right) in front of Old Queens.



t-shirt contest designs

Rutgers Meets Japan

Haruko Wakabayashi (Assistant Teaching Professor of Japanese) taught a spring 2020 interdisciplinary honors seminar about the history of the relationship between Rutgers and Japan. The year 2020 marks 150 years since a young samurai from Fukui, Japan, named Kusakabe Tarō, who was the first international student to attend Rutgers, died of tuberculosis a month before his graduation in 1870. Later that year, Kusakabe's friend and mentor William Elliot Griffis was invited

to Fukui to teach English and science. To mark the sesquicentennial, Rutgers students developed two designs for a t-shirt contest, and faculty and students from both universities held the first-ever online joint class between students at Rutgers and Fukui. For more on the project, visit the seminar website and see the article featured in *Rutgers Today*.

sites.rutgers.edu/rutgers-meets-japan/
sas.rutgers.edu/japanandrutgers150

Photographs of Korea in the William Elliot Griffis Collection



Professor Cho, right, with Professor Hyun Soon Sohn, widow of the volume's co-editor Sang-hyun Yang

Young-mee Yu Cho (Associate Professor of Korean Linguistics), 2018 recipient of an Overseas Korean Cultural Heritage Foundation grant, organized a workshop in August, 2019, centered on the Korean materials in the William Elliot Griffis Collection at Rutgers Alexander Library. The workshop brought together 20 scholars and librarians of modern Korean history and culture to explore Griffis's understanding of Korean civilization, religions, and political changes in Colonial Korea. The participants included Daniel Pieper (Washington University in St. Louis), Jong-Chol An (University of Tuebingen), Myung-hwan Kim (Seoul National University), Sean Kim (University of Central Missouri) and Hye-Eun Lee (Sookmyung Women's University). The workshop celebrated the publication of a volume titled *Photographs of Korea in the William Elliot Griffis Collection*, which Professor Cho co-edited with the late Professor Sang-hyun Yang.



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The Department of Asian Languages and Cultures at Rutgers



Rutgers University–New Brunswick is a leading national research university and the state of New Jersey's preeminent comprehensive public institution of higher education.

We have created an exceptional learning environment for the study of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean languages and cultures, and we now offer Filipino and Vietnamese language study through the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA). Our faculty members conduct cutting-edge research that is transforming the fields of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean Studies.

Support Us...

We invite you to make a gift and make a difference to Asian Languages and Cultures' students and faculty by supporting one of the following annual dedicated gift funds: **Asian Studies Gift Fund**, **Chinese Studies Gift Fund**, **Japanese Studies Gift Fund**, and **Korean Studies Gift Fund** by visiting alc.rutgers.edu/support-us