

IN THIS ISSUE



Faculty update

•2•



Meet Our Language Assistants

•4•



Year in Review

•6•

EALC House at Dower and Beyond

Chinese, Korean, and Japanese Corridors combined as the EALC House in Dower Residence Hall.

In 2019-2020, language learners and language assistants of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean lived together and formed the EALC house at Dower. Three language assistants, Shiao Yang Lin (Mandarin), Mizuho Tanaka (Japanese), and Hyejin Park (Korean), contributed to building up the wonderful EALC community by hosting cooking events and gatherings.

The year at EALC house began with a get-to-know-you house meeting in early September, shortly followed by a Full Moon Festival celebration open to the campus community. Many came and enjoyed Chinese moon cake, Korean Songpyon, and Japanese Mochi.

On October 5, the EALC house held the Common Text Project in collaboration with the Newhouse Center. Participants read and discussed Good Talk by Mira Jacob, and also had brunch together.



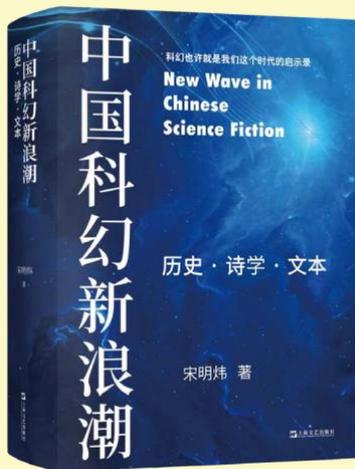
On November 6, residents of EALC house and faculties of EALC and EAS had dinner with President Paula Johnson. Everyone enjoyed the food of three countries, cello music by professor Jahee Ju, Kahoots (a game with questions about three countries' languages and cultures), performances by students, and talk with President Paula Johnson. (continued on page 8)



Faculty Updates

EALC faculty is always up to something, whether it's here at Wellesley or somewhere else around the world. Here's what they've been busy with this year.

Ellen Widmer has three conference papers coming up on totally diverse topics. One is about music in the eighteenth-century Chinese novel *Dream of the Red Chamber*, one is about an artist's fantasy vision of around the same time as that novel, and one is about missionaries of the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Their specialty was treatments for the blind and deaf. She is not sure when the conferences will happen, but hopes for some time in 2021.



Mingwei Song participated in the 2019 Frankfurt Book Fair in October 2019, where he gave a talk on Chinese science fiction and had an on-stage conversation with a Chinese writer about the literary representations of environmental crisis. Later he also gave a talk at the Kunsthaus in Berlin, Germany. He received a Silver Nebula Award for achievement in literary criticism about science fiction in October 2019. The Silver Nebula was awarded by the Chinese Association of Science Fiction writers. After the outbreak of the COVID-19, while staying at home, he completed four long verses in Chinese: "February," "Apocalypse," "Memory," "Story." These four long verses, together with a shorter poem Professor Song wrote last year, "China," will be published under the title "Pietà" in the Spring/Summer 2020 issue of *Today*, a literary magazine edited by Bei Dao. In May 2020, he published a new book in Chinese, "New Waves in Chinese Science Fiction" with Shanghai Literature & Art Press. The book was named as the most important book in Chinese science fiction studies by *Dushu*, a leading intellectual journal published in China. "New Wave in Chinese Science Fiction" consists of twenty articles Professor Song wrote over the past decade.

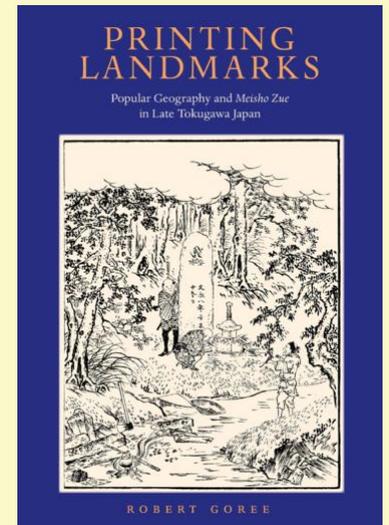
He is currently participating in a project known as "Around the World in 80 Books," which was launched by Harvard professor David Damrosch. The project releases one essay about one book continuously for 80 days. The project aims to achieve the following goal: "As we shelter

in place in these troubled times, or when we return home after a socially distanced excursion out, we can use antidotes to the closing in of the walls around us. Literature has always provided windows into the wider world, and I've found myself more than ever drawn to reading writers from around the world, people who have transformed their own traumas and their society's struggles into brilliantly achieved works of art."

Sun-Hee Lee and Jae Young Song presented their on-going project "Blended-Learning Model for Intermediate-level Business Korean" at 2019 New England Regional Association of Language and Language Technology annual conference in October 2019 at Yale University. They attracted dozens of language teaching professionals, as well as administrators and technologists. This Business Korean project has been being developed in collaboration with the MIT Korean program. They are presenting further developments of their online learning modules in the 1st Online Conference of Association of American Teachers of Korean in June 2020. It is a great opportunity to publicize the Wellesley Korean Program's achievements in renovating the Korean curriculum and pedagogy using cutting-edge technology. Despite the current COVID-19 pandemic, Wellesley's past five year's support with the Blended Learning Initiative produced excellent outcomes with strong online and offline teaching in Korean. We look forward to seeing more technology and theory based new modules in Korean language learning at Wellesley.



Robert Goree is excited about his book coming out this summer from the Harvard University Asia Center. *Printing Landmarks: Popular Geography and Meisho Zue in Late Tokugawa Japan* tells the story of the late Tokugawa period's most distinctive form of popular geography: meisho zue (pronounced "may-show-zoo-ay"). Beginning with the publication of *An Illustrated Guide to the Imperial Capital* in 1780, these monumental books deployed lovingly detailed illustrations and informative prose to showcase famous places (meisho) in ways that transcended the limited scope, quality, and reliability of earlier guidebooks and gazetteers. Putting into spellbinding print countless landmarks of cultural significance, the makers of meisho zue created an opportunity for readers to experience palpable encounters with places located all over the Japanese archipelago. In this groundbreaking multidisciplinary study, Professor Goree draws on diverse archival and scholarly sources to explore why meisho zue enjoyed widespread and enduring popularity. Examining their readership, compilation practices, illustration techniques, cartographic properties, ideological import, and production networks, he finds that the appeal of the books, far from accidental, resulted from specific choices editors and illustrators made about form, content, and process. Spanning the fields of book history, travel literature, map history, and visual culture, *Printing Landmarks* provides a new perspective on Tokugawa-period culture by showing how meisho zue depicted inspiring geographies in which social harmony, economic prosperity, and natural stability made for a peaceful polity.



Eiko Torii & Yoshimi Maeno presented their online teaching project, "Enhancing Aural-Oral Skills through authentic videos for Beginning and intermediate Japanese" at the Hawaii International Conference on Education in January 2020.



Qiuyan Tang published a Chinese translation of Ha Jin's biography of the Tang poet Li Bai, "The Banished Immortal: A Life of Li Bai," through Taiwan's Linking Press in January 2020. An abridged version of the biography was printed in *Beijing Literature Magazine* in October 2019, and the PRC version of the entire book was published through Beijing October Literature & Art Press in March 2020.



After our last class, I invited three of the students who had remained on campus to meet for an individual snack (wrapped by a bakery) and a poetry reading in the Botanical Gardens. As you can see from the photo, Sofia Girard-Ramirez, Xinhui Xu, and Rachel Rabayeva were masked and standing at a safe distance. As we recited our poems, a soft rain began to fall and the pine trees overhead moved in sync with the wind. They waved goodbye. I wished that the other members of the class could have been there, too, and I dedicate this little piece of writing to them: Marina Hostrop, Hilary Slater, Elisabeth Clemmons, and Maya Sullivan.

Teaching in the Time of COVID-19 by **Eve Zimmerman**

What a semester it has been! In hindsight, my class on postwar Japanese fiction and visual culture (JPN 352) was one of the most rewarding teaching experiences of my entire career. Zoom itself is a 'hot medium,' bringing with it a certain awkward intimacy that belies the miles that separate us. But it also bound us closely together as an intellectual community and resulted in a set of truly creative final presentations. In this time of crisis, literature gained more relevance to us, too. We lingered on the texts that were written in the aftermath of hardship in Japan, whether from World War II, the Kobe Earthquake of 1995, or the sarin gas attack on Tokyo. How, we asked, do Japanese writers confront and refigure human suffering?

Meet Our Language Assistants

Each year, we're very lucky to welcome three accomplished individual scholars to our department who assist our faculty with language instruction. Shiao Yang Lin(Mandarin), Mizuho Tanaka(Japanese), and Hyejin Park(Korean) speaks about their experiences as teaching assistants in the EALC Department.

The Life by Lake Waban by Shiao Yang Lin

In a tipsy snowy night on the weekend, I snuggled in the sofa in Dower 106, drinking discounted wine and singing random songs with the language assistants. Out of nowhere, we started to talk about our impressions of each other. According to the two French LA, Morgane and Marion, I looked "really proper" and distant at beginning until I grunted "I need to drink" for like ten times. Both of my roommates, Mizuho and Hyejin laughed hard on this because they have known me too well. "How about yours," asked Melania, the Italian LA. "I hoped you wouldn't screw up my life." They stopped laughing with shock and continued after they heard my explanation.

Before I came to Wellesley, I had been teaching Mandarin for a couple of years. I did not intend to spend time on socializing but focusing on learning new pedagogy. However, to my surprise, the friendships with the students, faculty and staffs made my life at Wellesley better than I expected.

All the students in my classes were intelligent, diligent and competitive, thus they were always excessively stressed by themselves. I realized that in addition to teaching, I ought to create a space in which the girls could enjoy in learning without being afraid of making mistakes. Sometimes I wanted to hug them and tell them "it is okay not to be okay."



I miss Prof. Tang and Prof. Chen, who were always smiley and ready to reach out to the students. They also helped me a lot in terms of teaching and life (the Chinese novels that Prof. Tang lent me were the best comfort in the chilling Boston winter.) The



wet and warm summer breeze and all the beautiful and delightful conversations in Wellesley will always be in my mind.

The Life in Wellesley by Mizuho Tanaka

When I first came to Wellesley college...

I literally didn't know anything. What is One Card? Where is Campus Police, Green Hall or our office? A huge lake on Campus WTF?! etc. Luckily, Shiao Yang (Mandarin LA) arrived in Wellesley before me and she had explored a lot, so thankfully she showed me around. Since Wellesley college is huge, we lost the way to Tower from Dower house. But people (maybe senior students) immediately noticed us missing and gave directions. At the time, I realized Wellesley College students are very considerable and attentive. I already loved this college.

Teaching Language

I'd never thought about how Japanese language is interesting. Since it is my mother tongue, I didn't think of its grammar, subtle differences between prepositions etc. However, as I taught

Japanese, I realized there are logical reasons and cultural things in the language. I could find them out thanks to my students' questions.

I also really liked office hours. I was sharing the office with Hyejin (Korean LA) and Shiao Yang (Mandarin LA), and sometimes I talked with students who are taking language courses but Japanese. Even though I don't speak Korean / Chinese, I heard some same / similar words when the students and my colleagues had a conversation. It made me feel like our country is neighborhood. So, I told my students that once you understand Japanese language, you'll understand Korean Language easily, also if you can read Characters in Japanese, you'll be able to read Chinese (Traditional one). Our languages are somehow connected, so please do not stop learning languages because it will definitely help you to see a new world (Shouting out to students in Wellesley lol)

Saying goodbye to Wellesley College

It was unexpected way to say goodbye to Wellesley college, students, and faculty members because of COVID-19 pandemic. Suddenly we had to leave the campus and move to online classes. This year has been challenging for everyone, and we have to be patient, cooperative and strong. Thanks to modern conveniences, we can Zoom, skype, or text from all over the world. I hope to see everybody safe and happy someday



A Letter from Hyejin Park

Dear EALC family.

Hi, this is Hyejin, Korean Language Assistant for 19-20 academic year. It was a really meaningful year. Therefore, I'm going to share some memorable moments and people in Wellesley through this short writing.

First, I want to show my appreciation for everyone's welcome. Because of the housing problem in Seoul, I had to come to Wellesley almost right before the first week. But thanks to EALC faculty and amazing LAs, Mizuho and Shiao Yang, I was able to manage that really hectic period. And to our amazing LAs (including other departments), it was really great to have you guys as my colleague. We had spent really good time in Wellesley and I hope we would keep in touch. For professors, I really appreciate all of your support and care. I didn't feel homesick because of your warmth and help. And, all of the students for Korean course and members of K-Corridor and KSA, I really love you all and wish we had more time. But let's keep in touch and please feel free to talk to me through any channel!

While I was in the US, I traveled Newport, NY, LOLA, Gilford and Meredith. Also, I experienced NBA and MLB, and spent lots of time in Boston. (I planned for other trips after the Spring semester, but I canceled all of it.) It was my second time to spend time in the US, but it was really adventurous and exciting. (I've attached some pictures for them.) If I get the chance, I'll make it as a video clip and share through YouTube!

For me, it was a really valuable period, because I was hitting a slump before I got to Wellesley. I hadn't spent time for myself when I was in Korea. I needed some breaks from pushing hard myself. In that sense, I really enjoyed every moment in Wellesley. I started exercises, changed my eating habits, got some balance between work and life. Because of that experience, I feel much healthier and less stressful. I was able to publish a few research papers and now I'm so happy when I'm studying. Before this year, even studying myself was a burden on me and I was thinking of quitting my doctor's course. But now I'm getting happier and motivated.

So again, thank you all for everything. And I'm feeling so sorry for this COVID-19 situation. I hope all of us will stay healthy and be able to meet again. I'm already missing you all so much. Until we meet again, stay strong and healthy.

Best regards,
Hyejin

Congratulations to Professor Eve Zimmerman on her promotion to full professorship!

The EALC and the Newhouse communities celebrated Professor Zimmerman's promotion on December 12, 2019, at Slater.



With students, staff, and faculty altogether, it was one of the most memorable moments for the EALC/EAS community. Professor Zimmerman, the former chair of EALC and the current director of the Newhouse Center is known for her sincere dedication to our community, witty sense of humor, and amazing laughter. Indeed, she is the EALC faculty who is respected and loved by everyone



Year in Review

Here are some highlights from the 2019 - 2020 academic year.

Meetings with students and professors

Major and Minors met with Professors of EALC and EAS in September 2019.

Also, seniors shared their thoughts and experiences about studying abroad and internships



Course info meeting for EALC and EAS courses of Spring 2020 in November 2019.

Major/minors in Korean attended the meeting and learned about summer/winter programs, internships, and study abroad opportunities. Professors and students cooked some delicious Korean food, including Kimbap, Ddeokbokki, and Kimchi Buchimgae.



Japanese majors/minors met with professors and had sushi rolls together.

Congratulations for your achievements!

TED WANG FELLOWS AT TANNER CONFERENCE

As Ted Wang fellows, Keiko Hilmo '20 (Korea), Olivia Lewis '20 (China) and Sofia Ginard Ramirez '20 (Japan) traveled to Seoul, Shanghai, and Tokyo, respectively, for an eye-opening six months of study and cultural engagement. In addition to interacting with new learning environments, making friends, and improving our foreign language skills, they also networked with native professionals and immersed themselves in the local work culture through three unique internships. While developing exciting projects, participating in local traditions, and exploring our host cities and beyond, they witnessed and recorded how cultural heritage combined with recent global advancements have shaped these booming regions. Through their presentation, they will compare our experiences living, studying, and working in East Asia as well as their reflections on the Ted Wang Fellowship. They are thrilled to share their memories and insights from blending study abroad and professional development with the Wellesley community.



JAPANESE ESSAY CONTEST

Nafisa Rashid '23 has been selected as the 2nd place winner of the College Beginner Essay category in the Japanese Language Contest, held by the Consulate General of Japan in Boston. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, the awards ceremony will be held on the day of the Japanese Speech contest in fall 2020.

THE FIRST NEW ENGLAND KOREAN SPEECH CONTEST

The 1st New England Korean Speech Contest sponsored by the Korean Consulate of Boston happened on November 16, 2019, at Wellesley College. One hundred thirty people attended the event, and there were 22 participants from 6 colleges located in the New England area. The top 3 in each category received prizes, and the Grand prize was an Asiana Airlines plane ticket to Korea.

Kristine Kwon '20, Daniela Gomez '20, Noella Ingabire '22, and Mariama Seydi '23 were selected to participate and represented Wellesley at the contest. Congratulations to Mariama for winning the Audience Award and Noella for the 1st Place Award! Also, huge congratulations to Kristine Kwon for winning the Grand Prize with Asiana Airlines tickets! We are so proud of all of you!



EALC House (continued)

As the first of a series of "Tea with faculty," on March 5, Professor Robert Goree came to a house tea at which he spoke of his journey from the first interest in Japanese to his current teaching of the language at Wellesley.



Throughout the year, community director Don Leach and Chandler Pettigrew '20 (who acted as EALC House President even while disclaiming the title!) planned and hosted Chinese, Japanese and Korean film screening on Friday nights. How Long Will I Love U, Our Little Sister, Train to Busan, Dreams, Millennium Actress, Paprika, Poetry, Ash is the Purest White was screen during the first semester. In response to student requests, the second semester featured a series of films directed by women: The Farewell, Sweet Bean, The Truth Beneath, Lost in Beijing, Tokyo Idols, A Brand-New Life.

Also, the house held four-weekend brunches; two with showings of Japanese anime – Totoro and Kiki's Delivery Service - and two held conjointly with the Newhouse Center.

More exciting news!

We were planning to move the EALC House to Lake House under a new name of Asian Languages and Cultures House, and Hindi and Urdu learners will be included.

Unfortunately, because of the COVID-19 Pandemic, the future of the ALC House is unclear in 2020-2021. However, we will keep you posted on how the plan moves forward.

Internship in Asia

Ted Wang Fellow Michelle Shen '21 spoke about her experience in Korea.



Last year, I had the privilege of being chosen as the 2020 Ted Wang Fellow to South Korea. As a fellow, I was to complete an internship in the winter, study at Seoul National University (SNU) for the spring semester, and conduct eight informational interviews in my fields of interest. Furthermore, I had secured a summer internship so that I could continue staying in Korea even after my semester ended. Excited for what was in store for me, I flew out to Seoul, South

Korea at the beginning of January 2020 and started working as the Multicultural Social Responsibility Intern at SNU's Institute for Global Social Responsibility (IGSR). My main role was to provide general administrative support as well as assist the SHANUM program, a volunteer service course offered to SNU domestic and exchange students. Over the course of my eight or so weeks at the IGSR, I had the chance to attend and help out with various activities that targeted vulnerable demographics in Seoul. As the only native English speaker in the office, there was no easing in to my internship; I was immediately asked to translate documents ranging from program schedules and event descriptions to privacy policies and budgets, and also translated for live audiences when necessary. In the beginning, I only understood the general gist of what was being spoken and missed a lot of details, which put a lot of pressure on me when I had to translate on the spot, but eventually I saw my Korean comprehension and speaking improve after constantly practicing in the office and familiarizing myself with the jargon of office administration. During my time in Korea, I made sure to explore as many tourist attractions, cafes, and neighborhoods of Seoul as possible. Some memorable visits included going to Gyeongbokgung Palace, Namsan Tower, Cheonggyecheon Stream, Seoul Sky, Samcheongdong, Hongdae, and Myungdong. It was so beautiful to walk through each place and experience the food and architecture, and I'm glad that I was able to do so before I left. Transitioning to Korea was definitely very challenging; I faced a lot of logistical problems that I hadn't anticipated, but luckily I had many generous Korean friends who were able to help navigate the minutiae of bank accounts, phone plans, alien registration, and cultural immersion. However, due to COVID-19, I had to return to the US in the beginning of March before my study abroad program even started. Although I was extremely disappointed that my time in Korea was cut short, I was grateful that I could at least finish my internship and complete one informational interview. Despite the steep learning curve, I initially faced, looking back now, I realize how much I've grown and learned from my experience and can see the reverberating effects my brief time in Korea had on me. Now that I'm back in the US, I am actively reevaluating my post-graduate plans, and I hope to return to Korea in the near future.

KEEP UP WITH US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

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