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The Post-Pandemic New Normal: 2022-2023

This year, we have certainly returned to the normal, having all classes in person, resuming on-campus activities, and inviting guest speakers to the campus. I am sure that all, including faculty and students, enjoyed the classroom experiences, often mask-free and always lively. For the first time, the three language programs could celebrate some traditional East Asian festivals together on campus. Our guest speakers of this past year could fill a gallery of celebrities, with distinguished authors ranging from the amazingly popular science fiction writer Ken Liu to China's foremost poet Wang Jiaxin to the Newhouse Center's Cornille Professor, Murakami Haruki.

During 2022-2023, we were fortunate enough to have three excellent language assistants, for the first time since the pandemic, to work in the department: Entzu Chang, Yuri Moriwaki, and Hyun Joeng You, whose presence, hard work, and very pleasant personalities have made all of us feel truly back in a normal academic environment again. The EALC faculty all agree that these three language assistants have been exceptionally diligent and their unique contributions to the department will become part of the legacy of EALC.

EALC has seen some important growth this year. Again, we have many courses that were full or over-enrolled. Our Korean Program has kept the momentum of rapid growth. All our language programs have great performance. We had nearly 60 students in our language corridors, another record. By the end of the academic year, we can proudly say that EALC faculty and students have worked tirelessly to make EALC one of the strongest departments on campus in the post-Pandemic new normal. Time to celebrate, time to reflect!

I hope everyone will enjoy a pleasant and productive summer!

Mingwei Song
Chair of the Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures

Congratulations to the Class of 2023



Faculty and Seniors of EALC and EAS at Senior Dinner

Congratulations to the class of 2023. You lived through the most difficult years of Wellesley's history and you all prevailed. You are all heroes! I wish all of you a brilliant future! EALC will be your home forever. We will always be here, ready to offer advice and support you in your future studies and career development! Keep us updated about your progress!

East Asian Studies hosts lectures by scholars in Chinese Politics and Korean History

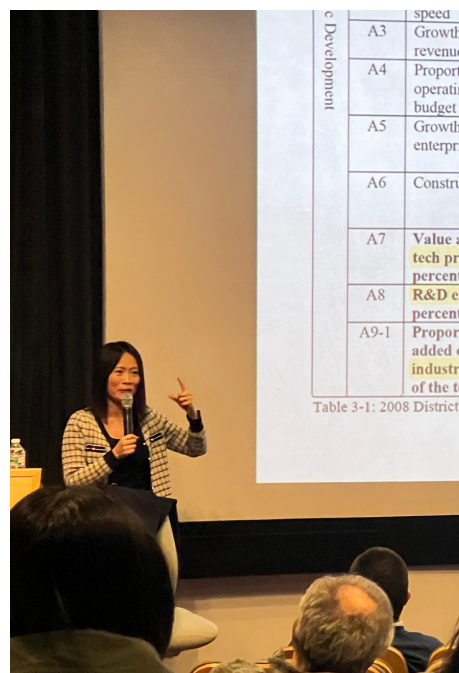
by Professor Robert Goree, chair of East Asian Studies

Spring 2023 saw the East Asian Studies program host two lectures by remarkable up-and-coming scholars in the fields of Chinese politics and Korean history. Held in Collins Cinema, the talks were very well-attended, a testament to the speakers' reputations and the interesting and timely topics they explore.

The first talk, titled "The Gilded Cage: Technology, Development, and State Capitalism in China," was given by Ya-Wen Lei, an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at Harvard University. Professor Lei traced the contours of China's techno-developmental regime since the mid-2000s, as the country shifted away from labor-intensive, export-oriented manufacturing to a more science and technology-centered approach to socioeconomic development. She shared stories of people whose lives had been transformed by China's rapid rise to economic and technological dominance, highlighting both the positive and negative effects of this transformation.

The second lecture, titled "Extracting Nature in Colonial Korea: Integrative Mapping through Agricultural Science," was from Albert Park, the Bank of America Associate Professor of Pacific Basin Studies at Claremont McKenna College. Professor Park explored the intersection between the capitalist modernization of agriculture in colonial Korea, the pathways taken by scientists to extract and reconfigure colonial bodies and landscapes, and the characteristics of Japanese destructiveness on the Korean peninsula. To do this and thereby shed light on the relationship between science, authority, and change in the modern world, Professor Park examined the Suwŏn agricultural experiment station, one of the largest stations of its kind in imperial Japan.

The East Asian Studies program has not hosted lectures by scholars in some time. Given how the lectures offered valuable opportunities for students, faculty and the broader community to engage with important issues in the East Asian region, it will be exciting to see what future events the program has in store.



From left: Poster of Ya-Wen Lei's Lecture, Professor Lei in the lecture, Poster of Albert Park's Lecture

Faculty Updates

Distinguished Faculty Lecture by Professor Ellen Widmer

The talk I gave on April 18 had the title “Hidden Trajectories of Talent: Women and Music in Nineteenth-Century China.” However, that title was not completely accurate. The very efficient President’s Office wanted it long before I had finished writing, and the talk was evolving as I wrote. I gave them the title prematurely. It really only covered the first third of what I wanted to say.

What the talk did was identify three stages of music development among women in China, both Chinese and Western. The time frame really covers the time between 1800 and about 1930, with a conclusion that takes things up to the present day. I also tried to bring out reasons that each stage was slightly obscured by later developments (hence the use of the word “hidden”). I also mentioned that I was only interested in clusters of female talent, not individual women (hence the use of the word “trajectories”).

The first phase began in around 1800. It ended with the Taiping Rebellion (1850-64), which basically destroyed the elite cultural practices of the Jiangnan region. Elite women of that region were already good poets and painters by 1800, but around that time, they started to add music to their repertoire, specifically the music of the guqin, or zither. This change must have had to do with encouragement by talented men, but it was also inspired by supportive statements from the Manchu rulers of the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911). In the talk, I detailed the efforts of one woman (Hu Xiangduan) to tutor family and friends. This musical development is not widely known about. It was overwhelmed both by the destructiveness of the Taipings, but also by the attitudes of the group I will talk about next, the missionaries, who wanted to believe that Chinese women did not change until missionaries entered the picture.

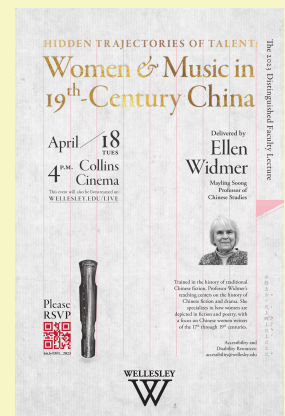
Missionaries had been in China for a long time by the mid-nineteenth century. What was different about the period from roughly 1870 to 1940 was that all of a sudden Western women missionaries started arriving. They were part of an effort to try and convert gentry and other women, many of whom were cloistered and did not venture from their homes.

Musically speaking, missionaries were interested in church music, especially hymns. Their thought was that hymns might be a means of enticing Chinese people to church services, which could be a first step toward converting them. But they soon discovered that the musical systems of China and America were quite different. Here are five differences that they had to deal with. 1. Different instruments—instead of the guqin, American, British, and other Western missionaries focused mainly on the piano and the organ. 2. Different scales—the five-tone (pentatonic) scale in China versus the twelve-tone (diatonic) scale used by missionaries. 3. Different musical notation. China had its own system, but the missionaries wanted to bring in their own arrangements, with clefs (base and treble), rests, and so forth. 4. Singing. China had singing, of course,

but not what the missionaries were aiming for—choral work, with four-part harmony. 5. Teaching. Unlike in the old days, missionary teaching of music was done in classrooms with one teacher and many students. No longer was the one-on-one tutorial system used. All of these changes were conveyed by missionaries to converts, or potential converts, in their churches and schools. In my talk I also detailed the experiences of two missionaries, who aimed to overcome these barriers. One was an amateur, who wrote an important book on the topic, the other was a teacher of piano and organ, who experienced the transmission first-hand. This phase ended with the success of the Communist Revolution in 1949-50, when foreigners were expelled. Its accomplishments were downplayed by China’s next rulers, who aimed to define the efforts of missionaries as imperialism, and were not interested in studying them, until rather recently.

My third phase begins with the Boxer Rebellion of 1900. This event, a revolt by peasants and others against the foreign presence in China, was put down by the dynasty, but with the help of foreigners. In recompense, the foreign powers demanded staggeringly high indemnities. The Americans converted some of the indemnities into scholarships for students to study in the US. (They also forgave some of the indemnity). The first crop of students was chosen in 1909. It consisted of 47 men. Later there was pressure to include women too. Thus, 10 women were chosen for the crop of 1914. They all went to “Seven Sisters” Colleges, four to Wellesley, two each to Vassar and Mount Holyoke, one each to Smith and Radcliffe. The rest of my talk considered the strong impact of missionary teaching of music on this outstanding group of women. It mentioned that four out of this group of ten majored in music. During the talk, I also argued that a fifth student was a music major at Wellesley. I say this even though Chinese sources claim that she majored in economics. My basis for this assertion was her transcript, which was supplied to me by the Wellesley College Archives. It looks as though this student started to think of herself as an economics major halfway through, but she only had three courses in economics, whereas she had a full complement of music courses.

It appears that the missionary school succeeded in their aim of prioritizing the study of Western music, at least among female students. Another point to take note of is the high level of English students were able to acquire at missionary institutions, enough for



Above: Poster of the Lecture

(Continued on page 6)

Professor Eve Zimmerman, Director of the Suzy Newhouse Center by Sydney Yi '23

After five successful years leading the Suzy Newhouse Center for the Humanities, Professor Eve Zimmerman will be concluding her service as Director to continue her private research and pedagogical work as a Professor of Japanese with the EALC Department.

The Center first opened in 2004 owing to a donation from alumna Suzy Newhouse '55. At its inception, it primarily focused on uniting the campus' humanities faculty in one space as a means of fostering interdepartmental camaraderie and encouraging innovative scholarship. Unlike the Newhouse Center that most of us are familiar with today, the Center of old was much quieter, offering little in ways of programming or career-developing opportunities.

But 20 years have seen a fundamental shift in the Center's mission. Nowadays, it supports not only the work of Wellesley's various humanities faculty but also its students. It has developed a swath of diverse programming, including fellowships, open classes, public events, and symposia—to name only a few. Per the Director's Letter published on the Newhouse Center's website, Professor Zimmerman writes, "Our goal is to have the Newhouse serve as a 'commons' where faculty, students, and staff enter freely, congregate, exchange ideas, and grow."

Indeed, this theme of collaboration forms the fundament of Professor Zimmerman's work at the Newhouse Center. In a mere five years, Professor Zimmerman has widely expanded its influence and repute with a particular focus on global contexts. Her most recent accomplishment is recruiting world-acclaimed novelist and literary icon Haruki Murakami as the Mary L. Cornille Distinguished Visiting Professor in the Humanities for Spring 2023. Under her direction, the Newhouse Center has also come to host a number of external research fellows, help sponsor faculty research, and invite a myriad of guest lecturers—from both on- and off-campus—to lead public talks and roundtable discussions.

Throughout the interview, Professor Zimmerman also repeatedly underscored the importance of student engagement. "This Center



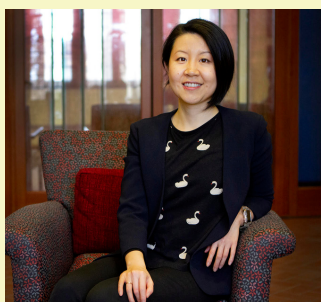
Right:
Professor Zimmerman
with Haruki Murakami
at The Cornille Lecture

belongs to everybody. The space, the funding, the opportunities—they should all be accessible to everybody. Without students, it just doesn't make sense." said Professor Zimmerman. Maintaining an "open-door policy" in the Newhouse Center, she invites students to use the space for whatever their needs may be. She has also worked to develop more programming aimed at attracting and serving humanities students.

In the future, Professor Zimmerman hopes to see the space grow even more. She maintains that the way to do so is rooted in a greater connection to student needs in terms of both academics and career development. "We need to do more. My dream is that we will have more research fellowships for students. Instead of having a campus job, [students] could be doing their own research-based project in the Center and getting paid for it." Such an opportunity would help students with greater financial needs without sacrificing time for academic and career development.

While Professor Zimmerman is sad to see her time in the Newhouse Center come to an end, she departs with a great sense of fulfillment and an eagerness for what other opportunities the next years have in store. After her term concludes, she will be taking a one-year sabbatical to serve as a guest lecturer abroad at Tsuda University in Tokyo, Japan. She is excited to continue researching and working on her upcoming book, *Reading from the Outside In: Girls in Books in Postwar Japanese Literature*. We look forward to welcoming Professor Zimmerman back in the 2024-2025 Academic Year!

Professor Heng Du



Above: Professor Du

I can hardly believe my first year at Wellesley has already flown by. It's been ten months of frequent amazement as I get to know the wonderful colleagues and students here, as well as the hidden gems of this storied place.

Since last summer, my focus has been on developing new courses that I've long been fantasizing about. I learned a lot from undertaking these interdisciplinary adventures with our students, and from the feedback and support from other faculty members.

Alongside teaching, I've been refining the theoretical framework of my monograph through drafting two articles. I've also had the opportunities to test out new ideas at conferences and workshops across the country.

After a multi-month application process, I received a junior fellowship in the Andrew W. Mellon Society of Fellows in Critical Bibliography. This will allow me to bring additional resources to the Book Studies program at Wellesley and to develop future curriculum on the history of the book in China. — Heng

Professor Mingwei Song, Chair, the EALC Department

1. Publication

Professor Mingwei Song published a poetry collection (coauthored with Taiwanese writer Lo Yi-chin), *White Horse and Black Camel*, in Taiwan in 2022. He wrote a new cycle of ten winter poems during the last days of China's zero COVID policy, when the "blank paper revolution" took place. The cycle, titled "Ten Poems of Winter," was first published in Hong Kong's independent literary magazine *Fleurs des Lettres* (March 2023), and then published in *Poetry* (April 2023), China's foremost poetry magazine. In April 2023, Professor Song published 18 poems in four leading magazines in China and Taiwan, setting a record for himself. These new poems include his longest verse "The Night of Rome," published in *Master Literary Bimonthly*.

2022-2023 has been Professor Song's most productive year in academic writing. He finalized his English-language monograph *Fear of Seeing: A Poetics of Chinese Science Fiction* for Columbia University Press (release date: September 30, 2023). He completed editing the volume *Chinese Science Fiction: Concepts, Forms, and Histories* for the book series "Studies in Global Science Fiction" with Palgrave MacMillan (release date: December 1, 2023). He has finalized the Chinese version of *Around the World in 80 Books* by David Damrosch, which will be published by Shanghai Translation Publishing House (release date: September 15, 2023). He is now ready for the launching of a Chinese translation of his own monograph *Young China: National Rejuvenation and the Bildungsroman* (release date: October 10, 2023) and the 25th anniversary edition of his biography *Sorrows of a Floating World: A Life of Eileen Chang* (release date: September 30, 2023). Together with Carlos Rojas, he is now editing *Posthuman Fabulations: Interrogations of Humanism and Humanity in Contemporary Chinese Science Fiction*, a volume for Bloomsbury Press (release date: 2024). Together with Dylan Suher, he is editing a new anthology of Chinese science fiction by women and nonbinary authors, titled *Chimera*, for Columbia University Press (release date: 2024).

Professor Song has recently signed the contracts for the Korean translation for his 2020 book *New Wave in Chinese Science Fiction: History, Poetics, Text* after a German and a Russian translation were contracted in 2020 and 2022 respectively.

From July 2022 to May 2023, Professor Song wrote and published numerous critical essays in Chinese, presenting some provocative theoretical arguments regarding the nonbinary gender and genre, the posthuman conditions, and the Neo-Baroque aesthetics. He also contributed an essay "Lu Xun's Unfaithful Translation of Science Fiction: Rewriting Chinese Literary History" to *In the Face of Adversity: Translating Difference and Dissident* (ed. Thomas Nolden), a festschrift for his Wellesley colleague, Larry Rosenwald (London: University College London Press, 2023. 129-144).

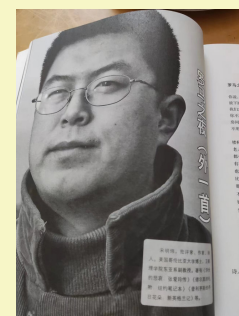
2. Scholarly Activities and International Travels

Professor Song delivered talks on different topics (ranging from the nonbinary to the Neo-Baroque to the Classical in Chinese science fiction) at Oxford University (June 2022), SOAS (February 2023), Frankfurt Goethe University, and Heidelberg University (April 2023). He also visited Cambridge University in March 2023 to collect materials for his research. At the Association of Asian Studies annual conference in Boston in March 2023, Professor Song co-organized and moderated a special roundtable "Romantic Generation @ 50" which was dedicated to Professor Leo Ou-fan Lee's groundbreaking monograph *The Romantic Generation of Modern Chinese Writers*.

On April 20, 2023, Professor Song moderated a special panel about the sustainability of the human future through a sci-fi lens at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. He led a discussion with Liu Cixin, the author of the "Three-Body" novels. The event was broadcast live through UN Web TV and watched by millions simultaneously. It was also broadcast on all major Chinese web channels and became the No. 1 topic of the day in Chinese media.

In May 2023, Professor Song traveled to Taiwan to establish a partnership between Wellesley and the National Taiwan University. He and Tang laoshi met with the Wellesley alumnae in Taipei. Professor Song talked with the Chair of the Chinese Department at the NTU as well as the Vice President of the University about the collaboration between two schools.

In Spring 2023, Professor Song brought four guest speakers to campus: Professor Lin Zheng, a scholar specializing in the study of social space; Mr. Wang Jiaxin, a major Chinese poet; Mr. Ken Liu, a Chinese American science fiction writer; and Ms. Zhang Huiwen, a Chinese writer living in Boston.



Above left: "White Horse and Black Camel,"

Above right: Song was covered in *Master Literary Bimonthly*



Above: Song moderating a panel at the UN

(Continued from page 3)

top graduates to be admitted to “Seven Sisters” Schools. This history has been obscured by its association with missionaries, and hence with imperialism, as mentioned above.

In conclusion I considered the fates of two musical instruments in China in recent decades. Both pianos and guqin became targets and were smashed during the Cultural Revolution (1966-76), the former because of its association with missionaries, the latter because it was so old-fashioned; but nowadays China is a leading consumer and producer of pianos, and Chinese pianists (including women) enter and win international competitions and solo with leading orchestras. The guqin, too, has enjoyed a resurgence. This is because of its distinctly Chinese sound in an ever-internationalizing world. I ended my talk with a clip of a woman guqin player displaying her talent at a recent meeting between China’s president Xi Jinping and France’s president Emmanuel Macron.

3. Media Coverage

From December 2022 to January 2023, Professor Song received interviews by two of China’s most popular magazines: *Southern Weekly* and *Life Magazine*. *Southern Weekly* published a 20,000-word profile to present Professor Song’s academic achievement, literary thought, and theoretical thinking. *Life Magazine* devoted six pages to reporting Mingwei Song’s career and academic achievements, with a focus on his role in promoting Chinese science fiction. These two leading magazines in China named Professor Song one of the most influential literary critics of our time. *Wellesley Alumnae Magazine* also featured a profile of Professor Song in the Winter 2023 issue.

Eun Ha Hwang, Visiting Lecturer



Above:
Photo of 'Multilingual and Identity'

Eun Ha Hwang published a monograph entitled ‘Multilingual and Identity(다중언어 화자와 정체성): Exploring Linguaging of Korean Studies Major Student Based on Bakhtin’s Dialogism’ through Hanguk Munhwasa in 2022, as part of a series on Korean language pedagogy. It explored the language learning experiences and identity negotiation of Korean Studies major students in Europe.

Senior Lecture Qiuyan Tang by Professor Ellen Widmer



Above: Zhao laoshi, Prof. Widmer,
Prof. Song, and Tang laoshi

Professor Tang has been on the Wellesley faculty since 2007, when she held the rank of Visiting Lecturer. In 2010 she became a Lecturer in Chinese. Since then she has taught several levels of Chinese language courses, including first, second, and third-year on the regular track, and first and second year on the heritage track. She is known by all for the care she gives her teaching. She reads and researches a good deal for every class and is ever-alert to new on-line techniques, which she adjusts frequently. She is also careful to solicit reactions from her students, whom she often meets one-on-one. She is thought to be strict with pronunciation and tones, and she is very clear in her explanations of grammatical patterns. Students come away from her classes feeling that they have learned more than they ever thought possible. Another feature of her teaching is the sense of community that develops in her classes. Whereas they might be rather tense, because of all the supervision that is going on, she manages to make students feel at home. At the same time, she reaches out to students who are having trouble—with the course or in other aspects of their lives.

Another aspect of Professor Tang’s work is her leadership of the Chinese Program. Between 2018 and 2020, and now again this year, it has fallen to her to coordinate schedules, but also to make sure that the set of Chinese language offerings proceeds in clear stages and that all the bases are covered. She recently devised a placement test, with 110 questions. Over 170 students have been placed in language courses on the basis of their performance on this test.

Outside of the Wellesley curriculum, Professor Tang has achieved considerable success as a translator, particularly of the work of noted author Ha Jin. A Chinese native who writes in English, his works are in demand in all the various Chinas, and Professor Tang has managed to choose words that accord with the Chinese spoken in both the mainland and Taiwan. The author praises her work for this quality, as well as for Professor Tang’s familiarity with classical Chinese literature. Her recent translation of his *The Banished Immortal*, Li Bai (in 320 pages) has been very well received, in part because of the fluidity of the language but also because of its firm grounding in the poetry of the Tang Dynasty (618-907). She has also translated works by other authors, including such standouts as Jhumpa Lahiri and Ernest Hemingway.

The EALC Department is delighted to report that on the basis of these impressive accomplishments, Professor Tang will be promoted to Senior Lecturer in July, 2023.

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. Entzu Chang (Mandarin), Yurie Moriwaki (Japanese), and Hyun Jeong You (Korean) speak about their experiences as teaching assistants in the EALC Department.



Yurie Moriwaki
森脇 友里恵

My name is Yurie Moriwaki, and I am from Osaka, Japan. Prior to coming here, I worked as an administrator at a college. I wanted to be a teacher and applied for the ALLEX program, which is designed to train future teachers of East Asian languages. This was my first year teaching, and I feel incredibly fortunate to have the opportunity to be here at Wellesley and see my students' growth and improvement in Japanese. In my free time, I love to spend time by the lake on campus or by the ponds in Boston Common.

Q: How many times does Yurie blink her eyes when she shows agreement?

A: 72 in 10 sec

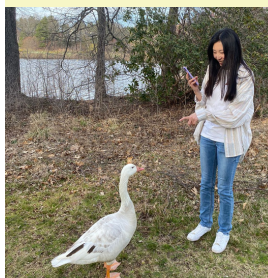


Hyun Jeong You
유현정

My name is Hyun Jeong You, and I am from Gyeonggi-do, South Korea. Just before joining Wellesley College, I received my Master's degree from Yonsei University. I worked as a Korean teacher in Korea for four years, and this is my first time in the USA. It has been a wonderful year being a Language Assistant at Wellesley, where I have had the pleasure of working with amazing teachers and students, not to mention the peaceful campus with lakes, woods, squirrels, and geese. My favorite things to do are listening to K-pop and exploring new places.

Q: How many skirts and dresses does Hyun Jeong have?

A: 36



Entzu Chang
張恩慈

I am Entzu Chang from Taipei, Taiwan. I am happy to be the Chinese Language Assistant at Wellesley. Before coming here, I completed my Master's at Boston University and was a Language Assistant at Colby College. I take delight in reading, writing, and creating music, which have helped me cultivate a deeper appreciation for the nuances of language. I am honored and grateful for my time at Wellesley, for the wonderful people I have met, and for all the beautiful memories we share.

Q: How many times has Entzu changed her hair color at Wellesley?

A: 7



Wellesley, Our Home Away from Home

As Language Assistants, we teach drill sessions, hold office hours, and organize weekly Corridor events for our students. Here is our typical schedule at Wellesley. → → →

Twice a week, we taught in the morning. After that, we waited for each other to have lunch together and reflected on our lessons while eating. In the afternoons, we worked side by side in our shared office, exchanging ideas and giving each other advice and support as we prepared for our next lessons. Besides, we always looked forward to our weekly treat of grabbing Starbucks coffee in Lulu.

In our free time, we enjoyed a lot the tranquility of this beautiful campus. We liked taking leisure walks amidst the woods and by the lake. We often lounged in the hammocks and swings, reading or meditating, and sometimes even took naps on the cozy chairs next to the grand windows in the library.

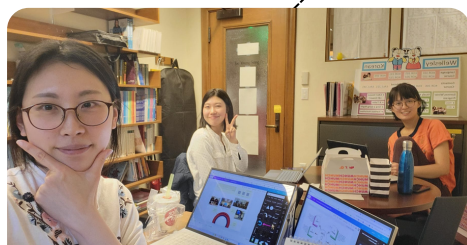
We were also happy to be so close to each other as neighbors on the same floor in Freeman Hall. From time to time, we knocked on each other's doors, checking in, and surprising one another with unexpected outfits, snacks, and stories. At the end of the day, we gathered in Bates dining hall to catch up on our days. The nearness of this communal space is something we cherish genuinely.

We took pleasure in the simple things that made each day unique. We shared laughs and created fond memories over cooking, board games, movie nights, badminton, ice skating, bowling, and heartfelt conversations... so many more. Every moment was a seed of joy.



Drill Sessions

Office Hours



Language Assistants

Corridor Events



Our Weekly Trips to Boston

We enjoyed having short trips to Boston every Wednesday and weekend. We missed our hometown food, and H-Mart was one of the best places to find Asian products and we bought a lot of delicacies there! We also went shopping there for snacks and ingredients for weekly corridor events.

We loved eating out and have tried many different restaurants. One of our favorite restaurants was Koreana, a Korean cuisine restaurant located near Central Square. Being the place where we hung out together for the first time last September, it has been memorable for us, and we went there frequently.

As big fans of desserts, we also tried many boba tea and pastry shops. Entzu loved boba tea so much that she often went to Gongcha, a famous Taiwanese boba tea shop, and enjoyed her beloved passion fruit tea. Hyun Jeong's favorite was mochi donuts; almost every time we found a mochi donut shop when walking around in Boston, she bought one with a big smile. Yurie loved enjoying coffee while spending time in Boston Common, just sitting on one of the park benches, admiring the beautiful scenery, and thinking about this and that.



How We Spent Breaks Together

We felt so grateful to have found each other as great traveling companions. With each break and every week, we embarked on new adventures together. We went apple picking in the autumn in Boston, explored the charming Christmas market in Philadelphia, mesmerized by a stunning Broadway musical performance in New York, and marveled at the beauty of cherry blossoms in Washington DC.

There were so many more experiences that we shared, and each one added preciousness to the last. What made these moments truly special was the sense of closeness that we developed during our travels. We were thankful for our friendship and for the times exploring places together. Looking back, we recognize how fortunate we were to have had these experiences and how they helped strengthen the bonds between us. We cherish every moment and look forward to even more adventures in the future, no matter where we will be.



Highlights of Collaborative Corridor Events

While we held cultural events weekly for each corridor (check QR codes for more), here are some collaborations!

Karaoke Night (12/9/22, 3/17/23)

Students from the three Corridors joined us and sang together! Jointly, we belted out Japanese, Korean, and Chinese tunes, immersing ourselves in these cultures through music, a unifying energy that brought us closer beyond languages.



Korean



Japanese



Chinese



Game Night (4/7/23)

One of the shining memories of our collaboration! We prepared an exciting scavenger hunt in the Freeman building with a variety of hidden prizes and challenges for students to uncover. Seeing them enjoying the games and using the languages within the fun was truly a joy. Here are the happy faces of our best hunters!



From left: Kayla (Chinese Corridor), Emma (Japanese Corridor), Halle (Korean Corridor)

Lunar New Year Celebration (1/27/23)

We organized a grand celebration for the Lunar New Year! There were snacks and traditional games, including Menko, Fukuwarai (Japanese), Yut-nori (Korean), and paper cutting (Chinese). It was heartwarming to see so many cheerful faces at the event, waiting for the spring semester to flourish.



End of the Semester Party (4/22/23)

As the semester approached its end, we hosted our final event of the year, a costume party! Dressed in creative Asia-related costumes from anime characters to sports figures, we came together to reminisce about the year, cherishing the time we spent as a community, wrapping up a year of collaboration.



Student Spotlight

Honors Thesis



Left: Poster for Ruhlman Conference, Middle: Kiara, Lily, and Avalon in Q&A session, Right: Prof. Zimmerman, Avalon, Lily, Kiara, Maeno sensei, and Torii sensei

AVALON SWANSON '23, EALC: Japanese Concentration and History Major

This year, I had the opportunity to write a thesis under the supervision of Professor Zimmerman and Professor Maeno. My thesis primarily involved the translation of Katō Shizue's autobiography *One Hundred Years: A Record of Words of Love and Courage* (加藤シヅエ: 百歳—愛と勇気の言葉の記録) into English. I translated four chapters of the book and also wrote a fifteen page introduction about her life and legacy. *One Hundred Years* was written by Katō and her editor, Emi Tsutsumi, when she was ninety-nine years old. The book is a reflection of her one hundred years of life and provides advice to future generations of Japanese people.

Katō had a long and impactful career, although not without its controversies. She is credited with bringing birth control to Japan, was the first Japanese woman to run for office, served in Parliament for twenty-seven years, and wrote several books. Broadly, Katō's life story is about relating to people different from you and using your privilege to help the less fortunate. I think many of the issues that Kato Shizue discussed in the *One Hundred Years* - feminism, bodily autonomy, global warming, nationalism, militarism, and political polarization - also apply to the challenges of the current day and age.

I loved this project because it allowed me to combine my EALC and History majors and produce meaningful research. I believe that it is important to translate the works of women throughout history and make their words more accessible to English-speaking audiences. In April, I had the pleasure of presenting my thesis research during the 2023 Ruhlman Conference with my fellow EALC thesis students. It was so lovely to go through the thesis process with Kiara and Lily, and I am grateful for their humor and advice throughout the year.

On a personal note, I have loved being a EALC major and think this is one of the best departments on campus. My EALC major has opened up numerous opportunities for me, from an internship at the State Department's East Asia - Pacific Bureau to random encounters with Japanese speakers in rural California. When I visited Detroit last spring, I was shocked to see that all of the airport signs were in English and Japanese. You never know where you'll find fellow Japanese speakers!

This summer, I will be studying in Okayama, Japan with the Critical Language Scholarship. I am so excited to continue my language studies in an immersive environment and visit Japan again! Thank you again to the EALC department, especially Professors Maeno, Torii, Goree, and Zimmerman, for all of your advice and guidance. ありがとうございます!

LILY WANCEWICZ '23, EALC: Japanese Concentration and Economics Major

Over the course of this academic year, I wrote a thesis titled "Translation of Rio Shimamoto's *Little by Little* and "The Breathing of the Plants," which involved translating a short story and a section of a novella by author Rio Shimamoto, as well as providing a literary analysis of both works. In my analysis, I specifically focused on how the female protagonists of both *Little by Little* and "The Breathing of the Plants" present as detached from their emotions as a result of coming of age in a tumultuous Japan.

My interest in pursuing a translation thesis arose after taking JPN 314 (Contemporary Japanese Narrative) with Professor Zimmerman during my junior year. It was in this course that I was introduced to fiction by contemporary Japanese women authors, including work by Rio Shimamoto. This course also exposed me to the practice of translating literary fiction, a challenge that I was intrigued by. Although my thesis was the longest translation project I've undertaken thus far, I thoroughly enjoyed exploring Shimamoto's literary world and attempting to bring her work to an English-speaking audience. Writing a thesis in the EALC department provided me with a unique opportunity to engage more deeply with a compelling piece of literature, and I am so grateful for the support and guidance that both my advisors, Professor Zimmerman and Professor Torii, offered me throughout the entire thesis process.

KIARA LIU '23, EAS and Computer Science Major

For my thesis, I translated one chapter from Taiwanese author Egoyan's science fiction novel, *Zero Degrees of Separation*, and provided some literary analysis of the overall text. My analysis is centered around the novel's play with metatextuality—within the narrative, I examine the hybridity of the characters' identities and the theme of creating connections across differences; beyond the narrative, I explore the ways in which the author and the reader co-create meaning in the text.

Although there were many reasons why I wanted to write this thesis, my main motivation (which did not fully manifest until I had already started my writing process) was to capture the relationship between the author and the reader, especially in today's age of interconnectedness. Although this thesis was one of the most difficult projects I have ever attempted, it was definitely also one of the most fulfilling. I hope to further explore these topics in my graduate studies, whether through literary analysis or computational analysis.

Ted Wang Fellows

LUCY LIVERSIDGE '24, Ted Wang Fellow in Japan



Above: Lucy ringing a bell

Last Thursday, 05/04, was Greenery Day (Midori no Hi) in Japan. Rooted in celebration of Emperor Showa's birthday, it is these days more than anything the link between Constitution Day on the 3rd and Children's Day on the 5th that together make up, with the following weekend, Japan's Golden Week. Many celebrants travel, whether from Tokyo to hometowns or from the countryside to Okinawa. Crowds at Tokyo Station this year were enough to draw local news crews.

Just over a month ago, I moved into my homestay in Shinjuku. My host family and I make up an eclectic bunch. We are five in all and span three generations, from 86 to 15. Sachiko and Seishi are my hosts, together with their daughter-in-law and granddaughter. Our house is over fifty years old with blue tile shingles and a horseshoe shape. In the center, a square garden, fifteen feet by fifteen, boasts squash, tomatoes, jasmine and a variety of flowers and other plants, some growing aggressively outwards or spilling tangled onto a stone path.

If spring has bloomed in Tokyo, in its many public parks and private gardens, it is thundering beyond. In Gifu-ken, where I spent my golden week, Greenery Day takes on renewed meaning. Rolling hills of patchwork greens frame the Nagara River, itself a sparkling aquamarine. Red and blue two-person kayaks make their way downstream, and I'm reminded of the landscape in beloved Colorado, where I worked for a summer in a valley like this one.

All this from the backseat of a car headed north, toward the tourist town of Gujo Hachiman, also called "the water city." My host sister and I had arrived the day before at her aunt and uncle's house outside of Gifu. Conversation that night – all in Japanese, of course – came easily as by now I have practiced an extended introduction. I can tell you, if prompted, why I am in Japan, what it is here that I'm interested in, my hopes for the future, and my itinerary since I arrived in February. I can tell you all this and mean it sincerely, but I can't tell you that much more. I probably couldn't tell you in too much detail what Colorado is like this time of year.

All of this is good reason to study harder and more consistently, to practice speaking more recklessly, and to listen more carefully. In beautiful Gifu but in Tokyo too, it is also a vivid reminder to appreciate the ways in which we relate silently. In Gifu, that is by planting green onion side by side in a garden bed, washing the dishes, and watching the news of a 6.3 magnitude earthquake 50 miles away. At a Zen temple in Shinagawa, it is ringing the bell as hard as you can. It is the acceptance of complete misunderstanding.

AUDREY SUN '24, Ted Wang Fellow in Taiwan

It's already been about three months since I touched down in Taipei but the semester has felt like it's whizzed by. Coming to Taiwan, I wasn't exactly sure what to expect. What would it be like to take classes in Chinese and would I be able to succeed? How would it feel to live in another country? Would it be a struggle to adjust to a different culture? Studying abroad is definitely an exciting experience, but living and learning in a new environment understandably comes with its own hurdles. Yet even though the past few months have certainly had their challenges, what I've discovered here as I came to know the answers to these questions is how this experience has helped me better understand myself. It's in the process of trying to express myself that I've been humbled and learned to ask for help, and it's when I've had to tackle exams and essays in Chinese that I've found I was capable of more than I had expected. It's also been an opportunity for me to explore, whether that might be traveling to new places, studying new subjects, or meeting new friends from around the world.

Taiwan is a place that has so much to offer, from amazing food to its rich history and culture. But for me, it's especially been a place of growth where I've learned what I can offer as an individual in a wider world. New things always seem a bit intimidating at the start, but if we never tried, we'd never find out what it's like!



Above: Audrey at the Lantern Festival in Taiwan

BERNICE SUN '24, Ted Wang Fellow in Taiwan

Hello from Taiwan! I am Bernice Sun '24, currently studying abroad at National Taiwan University in the Chinese Literature Department. It has been a wonderful experience so far where I'm learning a lot, delving into new topics in my studies, and exploring Taipei. Learning in another language has been challenging and an eye-opening experience, but each simple attempt of buying something in Chinese has pushed my confidence further.



Above: Bernice in Taiwan

Studying abroad has had unexpected turns, and I've realized it's not something that can be imagined or planned out exactly. Particularly with post-COVID travel, life all over the world has changed, with places you thought you knew becoming totally unfamiliar once more. However, what studying abroad has taught me is that these moments where we have to learn how to adapt are unexpectedly precious and impactful. I know that beyond what I've learned academically, I've grown as a person, learning to appreciate the bends along the road. Even with my classes, I had to pivot my schedule right at the beginning of the semester as I navigated how much I could take on. This gave me the chance to take a class on 3D design, where I explored the frontier of technology with a focus on Taiwan. Although somewhat vaguely familiar, it was a brand new perspective, and guest lecturers were able to directly convey what their industry experience was like in Asia. This insight allowed me to contemplate as a Ted Wang fellow what it meant to be working here in Asia, both the potential joys and the difficulties.

With the final stretch approaching for my studies and the upcoming start of my working days here in Taiwan, I'm reflecting back on the experiences that I've undergone. It feels like a blur, something I can't quite relive again through another experience or in my memories. But it's something that I can distinctly tell has already molded me into a new person.

CLEMENTINE STARCK '24, Ted Wang Fellow in Japan

こんにちは~

はじめまして! My name is Clementine (日本語でみかんと呼ばれています) and I am one of the Ted Wang Fellows for Japan this year! I have been in Japan since August, and studying at International Christian University in Tokyo since September! So far my time in Japan has been lovely, and I have my wonderful classmates, peers in my gardening club and bible study, members of my church, and mentors at my Ted Wang internship placement at a local community center to thank for that!



Above: Clementine in Japan

Also, I have been able to travel to many different areas of Japan, which has allowed me greater insight and appreciation for different life styles and ways of thinking here. From my experience in a small village in Nagano called Tenryuumura, to my travels to other big cities like Hiroshima and Osaka, I have been very honored to get to know all different types of people (mostly through mutual friends) and get to know the places they call home!

And as an Education Studies major at Wellesley -- my other major is EALC with a Japanese concentration -- I am very interested in what "community" means to different cultures and different groups of people in Japan. Whether it is the young children I work with on a weekly basis, my Japanese pastor from Yokohama, or my peers at ICU, I have been fascinated by what everyone's lived experiences of "community" within Japanese culture have been like, and how that compares to my upbringing in America and my time living in Germany. It has been a privilege, to say the least, and I have the open hearts of my new friends and family here to thank for that! Especially my work supervisors at 椎の実ハウス・Shiinomi House, the community center, whom have treated me like family since day 1. Shiinomi House a non-profit supported by the Nippon Foundation and centers around intergenerational community building, and it has been amazing to see it transform and support everyone who walks through the doors over my 7 months working there!

I would encourage any student to study abroad in Japan and/or apply for the Ted Wang Fellowship, as it really has been a wonderful experience for me so far!

よろしくお願ひ致します!

TAYLOR WOODY '24, Ted Wang Fellow in Korea

안녕하세요~!

My name is Taylor Woody, and I am a Korean and Linguistics double major and am the Ted Wang Fellow for Korea this year! For the past few months, I've been attending Seoul National University, and I've enjoyed every second of it! I'm taking 5 classes, 4 of which are in Korean, and surprisingly, it's not nearly as hard as I thought it would be. Honestly, some Wellesley classes have been harder than my Korean classes here haha.



Above: Taylor with friends at SNU

The professors are super accommodating and helpful, especially since I'm the only international student in most of my classes. The classes have definitely helped with my Korean listening and reading skills, especially since Korean lectures are super PowerPoint/lecture-heavy compared to Wellesley's discussion-based teaching style. But it's still appreciated and has been immensely helpful! The course load is super manageable for me and has given me the opportunity to pursue different hobbies both on and off campus.

I'm part of the SNU Buddy program on campus that matches international students with Korean students for the semester, and I've made some very good friends through this club. We've gone hiking, done escape rooms, had lots of good food together, and done lots of drinking, haha (responsibly, of course)! I also experienced my first Korean school festival with my buddies, and it was an unforgettable experience. Not only did I see amazing dance groups, 박예슬, and ITZY, for free (!!!), but I also got to do the school chants and see the SNU 응원Team! I have honestly never felt a school spirit like that before. It was hands-down one of my favorite experiences in Korea this time around.

I've also had the chance to pursue club sports here! Off campus, I play for SUS, a Korean and International combination volleyball team, where I met many of my closest friends in Korea. Spending my weekends playing volleyball and doing team bonding made me feel like I really had a family in Korea. Sadly this time around, I was not able to travel in Korea much, but I did have people visit me in Korea, including this year's Ted Wang Fellows from Taiwan, Audrey and Bernice Sun! They are two of my closest friends, and seeing them in Korea really reminded me of home. And I'll return the favor in a few weeks by visiting them too!

As my time at SNU starts coming to a close (only 5 weeks left), I am beginning to reminisce on all of the fun I've had and all of the experiences. I can tell that through this experience, I have grown immensely both personally and academically. I will be forever grateful for the lessons I have learned and will carry them with me into my senior year. And I'll be counting down the days until I come back here for graduate school. Thank you so much for reading, and I hope you're excited to start your journey in Korea soon!

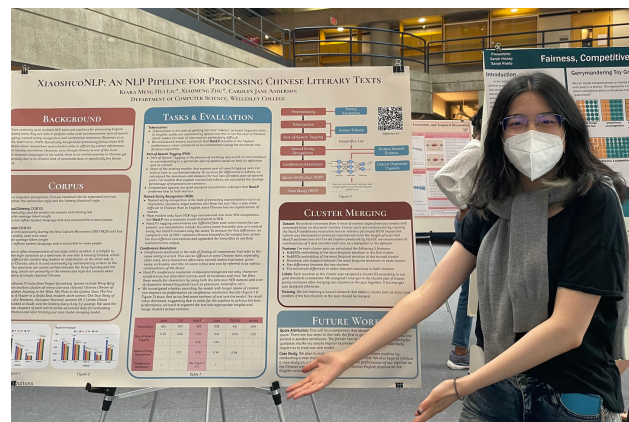
Class of 2023

Class of 2023 shared their experience at Wellesley College as an EALC or EAS major.

KIARA LIU '23

East Asian Studies and Computer Science Major

I first came to Wellesley intending to major in English and Psychology. However, after taking an introductory English course, I became slightly unsure of whether or not English was something I wanted to pursue—I loved literature, but the works taught in most English classes were so different from the works I enjoyed reading in my personal life. In Spring 2020, however, I took my first EAS/EALC cultural class, Professor Song's Chinese Popular Culture, and immediately realized that through the EAS major, I would be able to study East Asian literature and media instead of Shakespeare. For my final paper in that class, I wrote about the Chinese *danmei* fandom with a case study on my favorite author, Mo Xiang Tong Xiu. This was easily one of the most enjoyable finals I had ever written, and also marked the beginning of my EAS journey.



Above: Kiara at Tanner Conference

My sophomore year, during the height of the COVID pandemic, was dedicated to starting my CS major. Over the summer, I had taken an online Japanese course, which allowed me to skip two semesters of Japanese, and I continued to take advanced Japanese classes. In my free time, I also continued to pursue my hobby of literary translation and completed two novels. Professor Song's Chinese literature class was particularly enjoyable, as it was the first time I had taken a college-level literature course taught in Mandarin.

Junior year was both busy and fulfilling. It was during this time that I began two RA-ships. The first was with Dr. Akiko Mizoguchi, a Japanese visiting scholar at the Newhouse Center. As a research assistant, I not only learned more about global queer media and fandoms, but also made a lifelong friend whom I visit every time I travel to Japan. My second RA-ship was in the CS department, where I explored ways to combine computational techniques and literary analysis. Throughout this year, I also studied translation more academically and systematically in Professor Zimmerman's and Professor Rosenwald's classes, which not only helped me get over my fear of workshops and critiques but also led me to develop an interest in translation theory.

As I prepared to apply to graduate programs in my senior year, I began to ask myself what exactly it was that I wanted to research in the future. I applied to a wide variety of programs—CS, EALC, comparative literature, and mixtures of all three—because I did not know how I could possibly choose to focus on just one of my interests. After consulting many professors from the department, I ended up choosing Cornell's interdisciplinary Information Science program, which would allow me to minor in comparative literature and pursue digital humanities research that could unite my interests in both CS and literature. During this time, I had also been steadily working on my thesis, which involved translating one chapter from Egoyan Zheng's novel, *Zero Degrees of Separation*, and writing some analysis. In my thesis, I explored the themes of textual connectivity, hybrid identities, and the hope of coexistence through bridging differences. This was with no doubt the most daunting and yet rewarding task of my college career.

My time at Wellesley has been beyond memorable. Four years ago, I would never have imagined that I would be able to study and research a subject that I am so passionate about. I would like to sincerely thank Professor Mingwei Song, Professor Eve Zimmerman, Professor Ellen Widmer, Torii-sensei, Professor Robert Goree, and our dearest Anna Park for lending me their strength, warmth, and wisdom along the journey. I hope to continue my research in graduate school and beyond.

EMMA RUTKOWSKI '23

EALC: Japanese Concentration Major and Economics Major

I started my first semester at Wellesley College in the fall of 2019, planning to major in biochemistry and needing to fulfill the language requirement. Because continuing the language that I studied in high school—American Sign Language—was not an available option and I enjoyed Japanese cuisine and anime, I decided to begin studying Japanese. At the time, I had no idea how impactful this decision would end up being on my life. My first introductory Japanese class with Torii sensei led to a growing interest in the Japanese language and Japanese culture, and I eventually chose to turn away from biochemistry in order to major in EALC-Japanese (and economics).

Looking back over the past four years, my life at Wellesley has been filled with countless memories from my Japanese classes. The small class-size, characteristic of language courses at Wellesley, facilitated the creation of a close-knit community in my Japanese language classes. As we progressed through our first two years of Japanese language study, my classmates and I laughed together, developing our own inside jokes about the characters in our Japanese textbook, Mary and Takashi, clumsily attempted karate, and struggled through the challenges brought on by the pandemic and remote learning. In my third and fourth years of studying Japanese, we gave our first presentations in Japanese, learned the Japanese art of flower arranging, ikebana, and spent hours discussing Sayaka Murata's *Convenience Store Woman*. This semester, my 300-level seminar on Haruki Murakami's fiction even had the opportunity to speak to him about his work!



Above: Japanese Corridor Curry Cooking Night (in the yellow)

The Japanese corridor has been another significant part of my EALC experience at Wellesley. For the past three years, I have opted to live in the Japanese corridor, a residential community of Japanese language and culture students. Each week, the Japanese corridor hosts a cultural event for its residents. Some of my favorite events from this year included learning how to make curry and udon from scratch, folding origami kimonos, and singing karaoke with the Chinese and Korean corridors. It has been incredibly rewarding to live in a community that is committed to improving their language abilities and growing in their individual understanding of Japanese culture.

None of these wonderful memories would have been possible without the continual efforts of the EALC department. Thank you, Torii sensei, Maeno sensei, Professor Goree, and Professor Zimmerman for all your hard work over the years!

TIMOTEA GARCIA-MENDEZ '23

EALC: Korean Concentration and Biological Sciences Major

This year marks the 11th year since I became a proper fan of Korean dramas, which subsequently launched my interest into Korean variety shows, music, and anything else I could get my hands on. Ever since we were little, my parents always exposed my brother and I to films from all around the world. In fact, I can even remember watching Bong Joon-ho's *The Host* on the little TV in my mother's room when I was in elementary school. But there was just something about Korean pop culture and media that I gravitated towards all those years ago. A turning point in my life and a direction I have followed until this point.



Above: Timotea in traditional Korean costume posing in a palace in Korea

As a middle schooler, though I was trying to consume as much Korean media as I could, I hit a roadblock. 11 years ago, Korean media was not as popular as it is today so I was limited by content that was subtitled versus content that was not subtitled. After watching so much, I started to pick up a few recognizable words here and there but it was not enough. Frustrated by my own limitations and emboldened by a love of learning languages, I challenged myself to learn Korean on my own. I did well by myself but I yearned to learn properly in a formal setting. So when the time came to apply for and decide on colleges, the Korean language programs were high on my list of 'must-haves' for possible schools. As decision day neared, I was stuck between Wellesley and a couple of other schools. However, when I compared their Korean language programs, Wellesley was the most impressive by a long shot and became the deciding factor for my choice.

Although my time at Wellesley has been a wild ride, the one consistent charm and light in my life has been my Korean classes. I looked forward to my classes and enjoyed doing the work. I felt encouraged and supported by my professors and also that they truly wanted me to succeed.

One semester, when I experienced my most difficult Korean course, feeling ashamed and unsure of my abilities, the support from my professor allowed me to believe in myself once more and power through the course. The professors, as much as they were encouraging, also pushed me to be greater and accomplish more, even when I myself was not confident. With the Korean speech contests, I was able to not only become more confident with my public speaking abilities, but also learned how to write convincing and attention-grabbing narratives, all thanks to my professors. And of course, I could never forget my amazing trip to South Korea during my sophomore year that I was able to attend thanks to Wellesley. I still think about Seoul all the time and miss being there. In fact, it may have even been the best experience of my life. To finally be able to visit the place I had only ever seen through film and photos was like a dream come true and I hope to return someday.

Even though my path may diverge here at graduation to a completely different focus, I hope that I can continue to incorporate not just Korean but more East Asian culture into my life, school, and work. I am positive that the guidance from my professors, the joy I experienced in learning, and the tenacity of enduring until the end will never leave me. As I have done so through the past 11 years, I will continue to turn to Korean content through happiness and sadness. I find comfort in it like an old friend. Having grown up with the shows and stars I first encountered as a young middle schooler, I celebrate alongside the milestones of the industry and the people in it and mourn through the pain and heartaches. I could not imagine my life without Korean culture and my time with the EALC department. Thank you to everyone who made my time here at Wellesley so special.

SYDNEY JINWHA YI '23

EALC: Korean Concentration and Economics Major

Words could not explain how deeply ashamed I was to be Korean growing up. I was incapable of speaking Korean as a child, much to my parents' embarrassment because to them, ethnic identity meant linguistic proficiency. I carried the shame with me throughout most of my childhood, and for the longest time I didn't see myself as Korean—how could I, with my family's constant reminders? Nonetheless, at school, I was perceived as nothing but Asian. It felt like no one understood my position and, steeped in my frustration as I was, I felt helpless.

Entering college just as the Hallyu Wave was beginning to sweep across America, I felt at the time that now, more than ever, was a chance for me to start anew. I was tired of carrying my anger. I wanted to redefine myself and my Korean identity on my own terms. Taking that first step, however, required me to overcome my bitter relationship with my heritage language, which is what led to me enrolling in a Korean language class at Wellesley.



Above: Sydney

Obviously, one class didn't grant me total fluency. Honestly, I'm still studying and working on further advancing my proficiency to this day. But it did introduce me to people who empathized with my background, who could hear my story and remind me that no matter how slow the progress in my language learning journey, I was exactly where I was meant to be. I found parts of myself reflected in all my peers' stories: growing up a third culture kid; feeling out of place everywhere; fearing rejection from both fronts—all ideas that I struggled with. But more than that, I found through them the strength to carry on. If there is one singular lesson that the EALC Department has taught me, it is that the liminal positions we occupy can become our greatest strengths and advantages, but finding happiness with ourselves is something wholly different. For me, it required the acceptance that while I will never totally belong in either the U.S. or Korea, the convergence of the two that I represent is its own unique place and perspective in this world. That is enough.

Countless conversations with peers and professors, alike, have helped me begin to unravel the complex feelings surrounding my own "identity crisis." It's been slow progress: contrary to my personality, the course of my growth is neither linear nor efficient. Unwinding the grief and emotion bound up with my understanding of self has been exhausting, and I've often caught myself dismissing my own feelings to avoid the work of unpacking it all. And that's okay—even if at just one step at a time, I will get there.

Looking forward, I carry with me my time and experiences in this department as I prepare to enter law school with a focus on international law. I aim to utilize my knowledge in Korean studies to more meaningfully broach topics of international cooperation, comparative law, and foreign diplomacy. Words cannot possibly capture how grateful I am to have spent the most formative years of my adult life with my Korean language professors and the EALC Department. As I prepare to leave Wellesley, I am overjoyed to reflect upon how much our family of a department has grown, and I look forward to hearing about all that the next generation of EALC students will accomplish in the years to come.

With everlasting gratitude,
Sydney Jinhwa Yi, '23

About Learning Korean and Korean Speech Contest

FARIDA MOUSTAFA '25, EALC: Korean Language and Culture Minor

I looked out into the crowd of unfamiliar faces, my heart pounding against my chest and my legs trembling. Just before I was about to drown in self-doubt and anxiety, my eyes met Prof. Hwang's. Her warm smile brought a wave of relief over me. Just like that, the speech I had spent hours practicing began to flow freely. At that moment, I looked back out into the crowd, and I knew, even if I had doubts in myself, I had trust in the time and effort put in by all the Korean professors to help me stand on that stage.

Upon returning to my dorm room that day, I couldn't help but shed a few tears. Not necessarily because I had won an award, but because in the few moments I had spent on stage, I realized how many amazing people that I had supported me.

Award or no award, I knew that my professors wouldn't have been disappointed in me. However, in receiving this award, I hoped that I could show my professors that in their effort of giving everything to teach me and my fellow classmates the beauty of the Korean language, nothing had gone in vain. This was not an award I won on account of my efforts alone, but because I have such an amazing team of passionate teachers and mentors supporting me. I hoped that in receiving this award, I could show just a fraction of my appreciation and gratitude, as well as my passion for learning Korean.

Although my time at Wellesley is limited, this experience with the Korean Speech Contest is something that will continue to stay with me forever. Now as I think about my future, I am happy that I have been able to experience learning Korean at Wellesley College. Although words could never fully express the amount of gratitude I have for the Korean Program in the EALC department, I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to Prof. Song, Prof. Hwang, Prof. You, and Prof. Lee for everything you all have done for me and for all the Korean language learners at Wellesley.

I will continue to diligently work hard to make each of you proud. Here's to another year of learning Korean, hwaiting!!



Above: Farida

Year in Review

Throughout the year, EALC and EAS majors, minors, faculty gathered many times to share and celebrate.



Top and left of the second row: The faculty of EALC and EAS welcomed majors and minors

Right of the second row: Faculty and seniors of the Chinese Program

Left of the third row: Faculty and seniors of the Japanese Program

Right of the third row: Faculty and seniors of the Korean Program



Above:
JPN 101 students in Japanese Flower Arrangement Workshop

Flower Arrangement on Dec 8, 2022

JPN 101-01 & 02 students enjoyed the opportunity to learn Ikenobo Style Flower Arrangement from the master teacher, Ms. Tanaka (a mother of Wellesley Alum).

Each student made an arrangement, and after the workshop, they brought the flowers back to their rooms to enjoy. Ms. Tanaka was very pleased with the beautiful arrangements that our students made!

Below: JPN 101 students in Japanese Flower Arrangement Workshop



Japanese Tea Ceremony on Feb 9, 2023



JPN 102 & JPN 232 students welcomed Ms. Katakura and her son for a tea ceremony demonstration and a workshop. Each student had a chance to be a host to make and serve a bowl of green tea (macha) to a fellow classmate while enjoying being a guest to drink tea and sweets. We had a very relaxed afternoon.



Above: JPN 102 and JPN 232 students in Japanese Tea Ceremony

The 21st Boston Area Japanese Speech Event on November 12, 2022

Both Jennifer Long and Lucy Liversidge (who was enrolled in my JPN201) from Wellesley College gave great speeches, and the audience LOVED their speeches. The Consul General of Japan in Boston (Mr. Kotaro Suzuki) was there as a special guest. We are very proud of Jennifer and Lucy that they both spent a lot of time preparing and practicing their speeches in Japanese, in spite of their busy schedule with their courses.

It's been over 20 years since Yoshimi Maeno sensei started this Boston Area Japanese Speech Event at Wellesley College back in 2001 with Harvard Univ., MIT., Tufts Univ., Brandeis Univ., Boston Univ., Boston College., Northeastern Univ., Williams College (later withdrew), and UMass Boston (later joined). We are proud to report that it's been very successful all these years, and we will keep on having this event as long as we are able.



Left: Jennifer Long, Middle: Torii sensei, Lucy, Maeno sensei, Jennifer, Yurie Moriwaki, and Kurata sensei, Right: Lucy Liversidge,

Kimono Workshop on December 2, 2022

On December 2, 2022, my JPN201-01 and JPN201-02 classes welcomed the guest lecturer, Ms. Shimada, for Yukata (summer cotton kimono) and Obi (Kimono sash) Workshop. For this workshop, Ms. Shimada brought 15 sets of Yukata and Obi. She taught the students how to put on Yukata, tie Obi, and fold Yukata after they took it off. The students were helping each other and thoroughly enjoyed this workshop.



Above: JPN 201 students in Kimono

Below: JPN 201 students in Kimono



Hangeul Day on Sep 20, 2022

On September 30th, the Korean program hosted a Hangeul Game Day where students enjoyed various Korean rice cakes, tried on Korean traditional clothes Hanbok, and played games such as Gonggi Nori and Dalgona Candy making.



Kimchi Making on Nov 22, 2022

KOR 231 had fun making Kimchi. It was hot and spicy, but delicious!!!



Jae Young's Baby Shower on Apr 7, 2023



New England Korean Speech Contest on Apr 8, 2023



From left: Farida, Geeta, Takami

Three Wellesley students participated in the 4th New England Korean Speech Contest, which took place on April 8th at Boston College. Big congratulations to Farida Moustafa, who won 2nd place in the Intermediate level category!

Minhwa (Korean Folk Painting) on Apr 14, 2023

On April 14th, KOR102 students took part in a special class on Minhwa (Korean Folk Painting). Korean Folk artist In Sun Cho was invited to teach students about Korean Folk art, and students displayed their enthusiasm and art skills as they painted peony flowers.



From left: Genesis, Cameron, Yohana



From left: Emma, Patience, Saniya, Cheynie

Ajaeng (Korean Traditional Music Instrument) Apr 14, 2023

KOR 202-01 and KOR 202-01 classes celebrated Korean Culture Day on April 14, 2023, with a special focus on Korean Traditional Music. Yoona Kim, a versatile artist from Seoul, Korea, known for her exceptional skills in Ajaeng, composition, and improvisation, was invited to this event. During the event, Yoona performed a piece of Korean traditional music using Ajaeng, a Korean stringed instrument made of twisted silk strings, and played using a slender stick of forsythia wood. The students not only enjoyed the performance but also learned about the three main types of Korean Traditional music and their major instruments: Tapyongso (태평소), Geomungo (거문고), Gayageum (가야금), and Ajaeng. Students also explored how Korean popular music groups such as BTS and Blackpink have incorporated traditional music elements into their pop music. We had the opportunity to touch the Ajaeng and take photos, making the experience even more memorable.



Above: Yoona Kim is playing Ajaeng.



Above: KOR 202 students with Yoona Kim

Alumnae Spotlight

Sydney Yi '23 of the EALC Department is delighted to interview *Phuong Ngo* (she/her) on her post-graduate career journey for this edition of *Brushstrokes*. Ms. Ngo is a member of Wellesley's Class of 2011 and currently works as a Visiting Assistant Professor of Japanese at Bard College.

Having been born in Vietnam, coming to Wellesley was Ms. Ngo's first time coming to the U.S. In her first year, she had prioritized filling course load with her requisite Astrophysics major courses but on a whim decided to fill her last slot with a Japanese language course. Growing up, she had become well-versed with Japanese popular media and entertainment and, though she had studied some Japanese as a personal hobby, Ms. Ngo saw Wellesley as her first opportunity to receive a formal education in the language.

Under the guidance of Professor Eve Zimmerman, Professor of Japanese, and former Professor Carolyn Morley, Emeritus Professor of Theatre Studies and Japanese, she came to foster an intense academic interest for the country. All across campus, Ms. Ngo found herself engaging with Japanese language or cultural study in various forms. She regularly attended Japan Table (a program still highly popular today), reveled in the annual Yuki Matsuri festivities, and became a founding member of Wellesley's only taiko performance organization, Aiko. Four years later, she graduated with a double major in Astrophysics and Japanese Language & Literature. Immediately after graduating, she began a Ph.D. program in Astrophysics only to shortly realize that such studies were not where her true passions lay. She promptly re-enrolled in a different Ph.D. program—this time, in Japanese literature—at Columbia University. Upon graduating in 2021, she began looking for professorial work.

It is over the course of this search that Ms. Ngo came to realize just how invaluable and influential Wellesley has been in her life. The community, she described, was especially close and the faculty much more readily accessible and engaged with the student body. Particularly after attending Columbia, where such was not always the case, she deeply appreciated the bond she shared with her Wellesley professors' mentorship. She felt understood beyond just her capacity as a student in ways irreplicable elsewhere. Furthermore, she described the "infectious" sort of energy Wellesley faculty bring to class. In her words, they have a true passion for what they teach, which they use to fuel and encourage their own students. When comparing those two different pedagogical paradigms, Ms. Ngo realized that Wellesley was the kind of environment she wanted to develop her career within. After beginning work at Bard College in Fall 2022 professor, she found many similarities in the culture and environment of the two institutions and decided to apply for—and got—the tenure-track assistant professorship in Japanese that newly opened up at Bard.



Above: Phuong Ngo '11

The experience of being at Wellesley continues to inform her approach with her own students and classes. She feels that her time at Wellesley fostered within herself an open-minded appreciation for the great diversity of experiences and backgrounds students bring to the class, and as such she approaches every student with generosity and empathy for their differing circumstances. In many ways, she strives to become the very sort of professor she enjoyed while at Wellesley.

Ms. Ngo will begin her tenure-track appointment in Fall 2023. Her scholarship focuses mostly on premodern (10th and 11th c.) Japanese literature and, more broadly speaking, how female writers navigated their socioeconomic and political landscapes through writing. Next semester, she will be teaching a course on Japanese girlhood—inspired, she noted, by Professor Zimmerman's own class here. She is also in the early stages of writing and publishing a book, yet untitled. We look forward to hearing about and celebrating all of Ms. Ngo's accomplishments in the near future!

EALC and EAS alumnae, we want to hear from you! If you would like to be featured in our next issue, please write to Anna Park at hpark12@wellesley.edu

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