A Big Year for EALC and EAS

Despite the absences of Professors Song and Zimmerman, we have had a strong year with our courses. Many were full to the brim, and a few were over-subscribed. All three language programs are enjoying good attendance, and our "content" courses have attracted students from outside the department. Elsewhere in our program, the language corridors have had good participation. They have scheduled movies, holiday celebrations, and other ways of enriching our offerings. The language tables, too, have been meeting regularly and helping students to develop their language skills. And we just hosted a dinner for our 19 senior minors and majors, an inspiring group of students.

In addition, we had activities that drew in participants from outside Wellesley. The biggest undertaking along these lines was the New England meeting of the Association for Asian Studies last October. Members of EALC and EAS joined forces with South Asian Studies to plan and host this event. Meeting in Pendleton East, about 23 panels addressed a range of topics in the Asian studies field. These varied widely. They covered such fields as history, literature, migration, philosophy, Buddhist studies, technology, the non-human, science fiction, and geography in China, Japan, Korea, and India, and in ancient and modern times. Students from our departments took part in facilitating discussion and in guiding participants around. Another major event was the visit of Peking Opera performer and expert Wei Hai Min in the fall. Other events that drew on outsiders were a series of talks in the spring: "Piercing to the Pit" by Rae Erin Associate Professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies at the University of Arizona on March 7, "The Chinese Philosophical Foundations of the New Academic Field of Contemplative Studies" by Harold D. Roth, Professor of Religious Studies at Brown University on April 8, and "Damnation and Salvation in the Visual Narratives of the Kumano Nuns" by Talia Andrei, Assistant Professor of Art History at Wesleyan University on April 24. These were sponsored by East Asian Studies. Lastly, we hosted a visit from scholars at the Harvard-Yenching Institute. Again students helped by serving as guides. The scholars were happy to have a chance to see our campus and to compare notes with our faculty on ideas about education.

Several faculty visitors helped to enrich our offerings, especially the three language assistants and Chelsea Ward. The three assistants provided crucial assistance to those teaching elementary language and added greatly to students’ experience in the classes. They are Seungmin Yang in Korean, Nao Tsutsumi in Japanese, and Jui-Yu Liao in Chinese. Our post-doc Chelsea Ward has taught well-received classes on Japanese and East Asian literature more generally.

Finally, our two theses should be mentioned: Clementine Starck on “Surveying the Anatomy of Breasts and Eggs through the Lens of Women’s Health and Inequality in Contemporary Japan” and Kexin Zhao on “From Hanshu to Jubensha: The Evolution of Chinese Crime Literature.” Clementine distinguished herself by writing her thesis in Japanese. Her adviser was Professor Maeno. Kexin wrote in English, although her native language is Chinese. Her advisers were Professors Mingwei Song and Ellen Widmer. In addition, three students wrote theses in other departments: Kexin Zhao and Emma Fraser in psychology and Lamees Rahman in Media Arts and Sciences.

Congratulations to the class of 2024!

Your college experience started with a year on-line. It was followed by two years of masks and other restrictions brought on by Covid. Finally, in your last year, we have returned to a more normal situation, with far fewer masks and more dialogue between students. We at EALC and EAS are proud of all that you have accomplished. We hope that you will stay in touch. We would be glad to offer advice and support any time you need it. You will leave campus soon, but you will always have a home at EALC and EAS.

Ellen Widmer, Chair of East Asian Languages and Cultures Department
East Asian Studies Sponsors Another Exciting Lecture Series

by Professor Robert Goree, Chair of East Asian Studies

In the spring of 2024, the East Asian Studies program hosted thought-provoking lectures by three visiting scholars on the broad theme of religious and spiritual practice in Tibet, China, and Japan. Held in Pendleton East, the talks were well-attended by faculty and students alike, a testament to the campus community’s interest in East Asia’s complex cultural traditions involving contemplative experience.

Rae Erin Dachille launched the series on March 7 with “Piercing the Pith,” a talk about a heated scholarly debate between two fifteenth-century Tibetan Buddhist monks regarding a ritual practice called body mandala. Professor Dachille is an assistant professor of Religious Studies and East Asian Studies at the University of Arizona, where she focuses on how esoteric Himalayan Buddhist sources can enrich understanding of the human body and its representation in the Humanities today. During her talk at Wellesley, she traced the meaning-making potential that emerged between tantric ritual and scholarly commentaries.

On April 8, Harold Roth held the attention of the audience with a talk titled “The Chinese Philosophical Foundations of the New Academic Field of Contemplative Studies.” Professor Roth is a distinguished professor of Religious Studies at Brown University, where he is also the founding director of the innovative Contemplative Studies initiative and major. In his talk, he discussed how his work on Daoist meditative practices have played a pivotal role in shaping the field of Contemplative Studies, which integrates diverse fields such as Theater Studies, Neuroscience, Philosophy, Sociology, Religious Studies, and Literary History around analytic study and experiential exploration of the human mind.

Assistant Professor of Art History at Wesleyan University, Talia Andrei rounded out the series with “Damnation and Salvation in the Visual Narratives of the Kumanon Nuns.” Professor Andrei discussed the pictorial sermons of the Kumanon bikuni, an order of itinerant nuns active in late medieval Japan, and the three paintings they used to hold forth on the promises of salvation and the agonies of hell. The lecture demonstrated how the paintings reflect worldly and otherworldly concerns, tapping into the hopes and fears of audiences for the purpose of fundraising.

This is the second year the East Asian Studies program has brought top-notch scholars to campus to share their research and insights. Once again, the lectures offered valuable opportunities for students and the broader community to engage with important issues with relevant relevance right now, this time in pre-modern contexts from the perspective of the humanities. If you’re ever planning a visit to campus, try to time your travels so you can attend one of these stimulating lectures in the future.

Congratulations, Class of 2024!

Celebrating Achievements! On May 2, 2024, EALC united to honor the accomplishments of the Class of 2024. From majors to minors, faculty to staff, we gathered in the lively ambiance of Founders Common Link, sharing in a moment of pure joy.

Seniors with faculty in the Chinese program

Seniors with faculty in the Japanese program

Seniors with faculty in the Korean program
Special Events

Wei Hai Min

In September 2023, the most celebrated Peking Opera singer (in the Dan role), Wei Hai Min 魏海敏, visited Wellesley and gave a talk titled “Wei Hai Min and Her Persona: Jingju in Our Time.” Wei Hai Min’s visit to Wellesley was part of her U.S. tour as the 2023 Asian Cultural Council Fellow, which brought her to a dozen American universities, with Wellesley being one of the first colleges to host her. As an opera singer, Wei Hai Min is widely recognized as a Peking opera superstar. She is the first student of Mei Baojiu 梅葆玖, who was one of the most well-known Peking opera masters in the world.

As an inheritor of the traditional Peking opera dan (旦) role, Wei Hai Min not only features traditional characters in Peking opera but also adapts many Western operas into the form of Peking opera. Famous adaptations that she played include Cleopatra, Medea, Orlando, and The Kingdom of Desire (Macbeth). In the talk that she gave at Collins Cinema at Wellesley, Wei Hai Min demonstrated a few roles of her famous opera roles, including one speech and movement from The Kingdom of Desire and a monologue from Medea. These demonstrations showcased her culturally sensitive adaptations and creative approaches to opera characterization. Wei Hai Min’s talk at Wellesley was a resounding success, drawing a large and enthusiastic audience. Many of the students who attended were captivated by the insights into traditional Peking Opera, sparking a newfound interest in this rich cultural art form.

2023 New England Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference

On Saturday, October 14, 2023, Wellesley College welcomed scholars, students, and enthusiasts of Asian studies from around the world as it proudly hosted the New England Association for Asian Studies (NEAAS) annual conference. This prestigious gathering, organized by the East Asian Languages and Cultures (EALC) department, East Asian Studies, and South Asian Studies, served as a platform for intellectual exchange and exploration of diverse aspects of Asian societies.

The conference attracted a diverse array of participants, with 75 panelists and 20 chairs/discussants representing not only various states across the U.S. but also countries such as China, Korea, Taiwan, Norway, the United Kingdom, and Canada. With 23 panels spanning an array of disciplines and topics, the event promised a rich tapestry of discussions and insights into Asian cultures and histories.

At the heart of the conference was the highly anticipated keynote speech delivered by Jean Oi, President of the Association for Asian Studies. Oi’s address, titled “A Perfect Storm: COVID, Collapse of the Property Sector, and Local Government Debt in China,” delved into pressing issues shaping contemporary China, providing attendees with valuable insights and food for thought.

The NEAAS 2023 conference, hosted by Wellesley College, was a resounding success. It brought together scholars, students, and enthusiasts to celebrate the richness and diversity of Asian cultures. Through engaging discussions, insightful presentations, and collaborative interactions, the conference served as a testament to the enduring relevance and importance of Asian studies in academia and beyond.
Faculty Updates

Mingwei Song

Professor Mingwei Song published three new books during the academic year 2023-2024. In September 2023, his monograph *Fear of Seeing: A Poetics of Chinese Science Fiction* was released by Columbia University Press. This book concluded Professor Song’s decade-long research on the new wave of Chinese science fiction.

The Choice review gave it a very high recommendation: “A leading scholar and promoter of this flourishing literary tendency, Song sees it not just as a popular genre with scientific and futuristic themes, but as a highbrow postmodern counter-discourse that critiques China’s mainstream realist writing, global conceptions of the universe and China’s position in it, and ‘posthuman’ existence. “Fear of seeing” indicates not reluctance to see, but the frightfulness of hidden, often dystopian realities that only this speculative, alt-reality writing can make visible. Fearing intellectual confinement, much as China’s canonical writer Lu Xun did a century ago, contemporary writers are the Sinophone avant-garde, Song maintains—evermore transnational, stylistically neo-baroque, and attentive to gender fluidity. This monograph is philosophically intricate.” (Jeffrey Kinkley)

Professor Mingwei Song’s second book published during this academic year is an edited volume, *Chinese Science Fiction: Concepts, Forms, and Histories* (co-edited with Hua Li and Nathaniel Isaacson), which was published by Palgrave Macmillan in April 2024.

The third book is *Around the World in 80 Books* (Chinese edition), which Professor Song translated into Chinese from an English version by his former teacher, David Damrosch, a Harvard professor who launched this project during the early years of the pandemic. Professor Song organized and designed the Chinese version, which has been released in China by Shanghai Translation Press.

Congratulations!!!

In May 2024, *Fear of Seeing* won the 2024 SFRA Book Award, which is given to the author of the best first scholarly monograph in science fiction each calendar year.

Fear of Seeing has also received a considerable amount of attention among reviewers and scholars, who have commented on the intricate nature of the text’s philosophical contemplations. This book can also be consulted as a companion to the many recent translations of Chinese science fiction into English, including the stories by Liu Cixin, Han Song, and Chen Qiufan.

Sun-Hee Lee

We’re delighted to welcome back Professor Sun-Hee Lee to campus after her leave during the 2023-2024 academic year. While away, Professor Lee extended her influential work in Korean language education and research. She is currently serving as the president of the New England Association of College Korean Educators and as a board member of the American Association of Teachers of Korean. This summer, Professor Lee will share her expertise at conferences in Seoul and Italy. She will highlight Wellesley’s innovative Korean curriculum as well as her research applying corpus linguistics methodologies. We look forward to her continued academic leadership and contributions.

From left: Sun-Hee Lee, Jae Young Song, and Eun Ha Hwang
Jae Young Song

Jae Young Song took a parental leave in the fall of 2023 but returned to Wellesley in the Spring of 2024. She tried to create a student-led classroom environment while teaching the KOR102 class. Her efforts aimed to foster a more interactive and engaging learning experience, allowing students to take more ownership of their education. In her personal life, she tries to spend more quality time with her son.

Eun Ha Hwang

Eun Ha Hwang served as the Korean Language Coordinator in the 23-24 academic year, teaching KOR 201, 202, and 232. She was invited to present her paper on community-based language learning at an international conference and give special lectures on multiliteracies and language education at graduate schools in Korea. One fun thing is that she had the opportunity to showcase her artwork in a local gallery for the first time!

Chelsea Ward

EALC is pleased to welcome Chelsea Ward, a new member of our community. Ward joined EALC as a Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow in Japanese after she completed her B.A. at Columbia College and Ph.D. studies at the University of California, Berkeley. She is excited to spend two years at Wellesley.

Her interest in Japanese media, culture, and literature started in middle school when she got into Zen Buddhism and books. In college, she enjoyed reading The Tale of Genji and had a wonderful time in the world of East Asian cultures and literature.

In terms of research, she specializes in Japanese literature and media. Her research covers a wide range of topics - Films, anime, video games, pop music, and literature. The first article she wrote was about the karaoke music of Japan in the 1960s and the technical, industrial, and cultural history behind it. Translation is another primary focus of her research - how we present our senses to each other. As a premier non-western empire in the 1920s and 30s, Japan holds its own understanding of how we represent our senses in a cultural, medical, and scientific context, such as the intense connections between scent and vision in classical Japanese culture. She goes on to link Japan’s representation of national, cultural, and self-identity under the Western colonial influences in film and other media of communications with the differences in translation from English to Japanese.

Alongside those amazing research projects, she is also passionate about teaching her interest in introducing the “myths” of Japanese culture and modernization through the history of modern media and literature. She is excited about teaching a new course in the fall semester - Remaking East Asia: Pop Culture Genres across Japan, Korea, and the Sinosphere - it is a course introducing different pop culture genres circulating around East Asia and how they change in history.

When she is not teaching, you can find her running around Lake Waban or enjoying herself at her office, which has a secret map of her favorite places in Kyoto.

Scholarships for Studies in East Asia

**Mayling Soong Scholarship:** Summer scholarships that support language and culture studies in East and South Asia. If you have completed one year of EALC’s language studies, you can apply for this scholarship.

**Ted Wang Fellowship:** Students interested in international careers spend a semester at one of our partner institutions in China, Japan, or Korea, gaining advanced knowledge of the culture and language. Fellows receive a stipend to cover the expenses of networking with professionals in their host country.
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. Juiyu Liao (Mandarin), Nao Tsutsumi (Japanese), and Seungmin Yang (Korean) speak about their experiences as teaching assistants in the EALC Department.

My Life at Wellesley by Juiyu Liao

I still remember when I first came to Wellesley College, I needed to use Google Maps to navigate, and I had to leave the dorm as early as possible so that I would have enough time to find my destination. However, it wasn't long before I became familiar with our stunningly beautiful campus and could explore it without getting lost. I enjoyed the picturesque scenery of Wellesley College so much that whenever I had free time, I usually grabbed a book and coffee, headed to the lake, and just spent my time there, immersing myself in its peaceful atmosphere.

One of my most memorable moments was introducing myself to my students in our first speaking class. This was my first time being in charge of an entire class, and I worried about whether I could lead it properly. I tried my best to create an environment where my students felt comfortable speaking Chinese and were not afraid of making mistakes. Over the semester, we tried role-playing, discussed various issues, shared personal experiences, and learned about each other's cultures during class. Teaching these students has brought me immense joy, and I've learned so much from them in return. Having never attended a women's school before, Wellesley College has provided me with a unique experience. As the oldest daughter in my family, I feel like I have many sisters here! Students in my class invited me to their club performances and cultural shows, and I was always stunned by how amazing they were on stage. I started my first class unsure of how it would go, and I'm ending the semester so proud of what I achieved with my students!

As a language assistant, we are neither students nor professors; it's a position in between. However, I appreciate how inclusive Wellesley College is. Here, I have never felt left out. We are encouraged to attend clubs, events, and organizations, and every time I join, I feel welcomed. I have volunteered in CSA and TCO to help organize events, and working with these students was so much fun. Additionally, I joined the big/little program in Freeman Hall, where I was paired with a student majoring in Chinese. Together, we've created cherished memories, celebrated holidays and shared experiences around campus. These moments are among the most precious to me.

I am grateful to Tang-laoshi, Chen-laoshi, and Zhao-laoshi for their caring support. Despite being far from home, I always feel warmth when I meet them. Working with Tang-laoshi and Chen-laoshi has been a blessing; they supported me, provided suggestions on my lesson plans, and allowed me to observe their classes, which I could then apply in my own teaching. Additionally, I had the opportunity to audit Professor Du’s class, which was an amazing experience analyzing Chinese classic works in English. Professor Song and Ms. Anna Park have also provided us language assistants with great support. We have been able to attend department events, and I am especially honored to have had the opportunity to host Peking opera singer Ms. Wei Hai Min with Professor Song. It was a wonderful experience!

My time at Wellesley College has been absolutely amazing. Working with incredible professors and students, attending campus activities, events, and music concerts, exploring Boston during free time, and even traveling to Washington DC and New York City—even every moment has been unforgettable. This year has truly been a wonderful adventure that I will cherish forever.

Right: Movie night in the Chinese Corridor
What I learned from teaching at Wellesley by Nao Tsutsumi

When I came to Wellesley as a Japanese language assistant, I had no experience teaching the language, so this year was a big challenge. As I started teaching, I realized how difficult the Japanese language can be. Because Japanese is my mother tongue, I never think about the grammar, conjugation, or difference between hiragana, katakana, or kanji. Some grammar points surprised me because I didn’t know they were something students had to learn. As the class went by the class became more difficult, but I was impressed to see how students learned and used the language properly and communicated with each other in Japanese. I’m very proud of them.

Outside the classroom, I hosted a corridor event at Freeman Hall every week. At the event, we cooked, watched animes or movies, studied, danced the Mai dance, and did karaoke too! I enjoyed hosting these events as I could share Japanese culture with corridor members and see the culture from many perspectives. Just like the realization of language, seeing the culture from a different perspective is difficult, so the fresh view gave me new perspectives. Moreover, it was my joy to share snacks that I liked with corridor members, I’m glad they liked Senbei!

During winter break, I took an Arabic winter session which was the busiest but also the most exciting 3 weeks I spent as a student at Wellesley. Monday to Friday from morning to night, my days were filled with Arabic. In this Arabic winter session, I learned not only the Arabic language but also the teaching method and style. I bring that teaching style to spring semester classes. It was a valuable experience for me.

I want to say thank you to the EALC department for supporting my language assistant year at Wellesley, Maeno sensei, Torii sensei, and Anna without your support I couldn’t finish this year, thank you so much. Lastly thank you to the students studying Japanese with me, it was great to see you all in and outside class. I hope you will continue to study Japanese in the future!
Life as a K-Language Assistant by Seungmin Yang

Hello 😊 I’m Seungmin Yang from South Korea. As a masters student at Yonsei University, majoring in Korean education, I’ll be returning back to graduate after this program! It was an honor to work at Wellesley as a K-Language Assistant for two semesters! I’ll miss all my students and the vibe of the School. Thank you all for always giving me your best energy and finding me during office hours! I want to give special thanks to the Korean department for allowing me to have this wonderful opportunity and always advising me to grow further as a Korean teacher!

During my first semester I taught three times a week and I was incharge of all the 101 Day 2 classes. I was also able to help Professor Lee with different paper works for the class too and had discussions with her nearly everyday. This gave me more responsibility and I was able to fully experience a life as a Korean teacher, making me more excited about becoming a Korean teacher as I really enjoyed it. Also I want to give another appreciation to her for taking me to different events, lectures and meetings, and taking care of me even during her leisure time. During my second semester I was able to work more closely with Song and Hwang Seonsangnims, and sometimes would go to their classes and teach together with them. I want to thank the two professors for always advising me and taking care of me as well.

I also audited ‘Educating English Learners’ and ‘The Politics of Multilingualism in Schools’, which gave me a lot of insight into what I want to do in the future. Even though I was just an auditor I went to all the classes, did all the readings and followed them to their field trips as well. It was very nice to give a final presentation in the Politics class, sharing my takeaways and making the learning more meaningful. I want to thank the two professors for always welcoming me to their classes and the students for always having me in their discussions. I also taught at Korean Saturday School in Newton, which gave me another insight by teaching elementary Korean American students.

Overall, I really enjoyed my experience here at Wellesley. I think I spent it very valuably focusing my experience on developing myself, work and also enjoying the different events at the college and Boston. It was SO WORTH the TIME. 👍

K-Corridor (우리동네)

This year we met 2-3 times a month, usually in the Freeman Hall TV room. Starting with our first meeting from September 6th to our last meeting on April 30th, as a K-Language Assistant I was able to share the different cultures of Korea, through different activities.

During the first semester, we had our first meeting with Professor Lee. The following meetings we decorated our name tags in Korean and did some 종이접기 (Paper folding) of 무궁화 꽃 (Korean traditional flower) etc, we cooked 백반미 [tteokbokki], watched Korean movie [엑시트] and had a EALC Karaoke corridor night. We were also able to celebrate 추석 [Chuseok] (Korean Thanksgiving Day) on the day of the 추석, which was amazing! We ate 숭편 [Songpyeon] (rice cake), and we played some 웃놀이 (a Korean traditional game).

During the second semester, we played some Korean alcohol games (OF COURSE! Without alcohol ;D). I also taught some background behind 태권도 [Taekwondo] and the moves. We also danced to some K-pop music and took some videos. We did another light cooking and talked about our endless meetings. We also did the EALC lunar New Year’s night, and each language assistant was able to share their own culture and a collaborative study break with KSA, providing different K-snacks and games.

🌟🌟 Special shout out to Professor Lee for holding K-Cooking night on April 26 with K-Corridor students and some of the students taking the Korean classes.

*Fun Fact: This year we started calling K-Corridor as K-Korridor ;D Double K!!!
Please check out the messages below from the K-Korridor students! 🎉

안녕하세요, my name is Mia Rivera! I enjoyed being able to connect with my friends old and new in the context of Korean culture. I learned so many new things about Korean culture and had lots of fun doing so! My favorite activities were game nights and kpop dances because I had fun while learning about a new and interesting culture! (especially the activities where we had snacks because they were delicious!). 😊✨

Hello! This is 정민 (Mia)!
It was an enjoyable experience each time with 양쌤 :) As an international student who constantly misses Korean food, I particularly enjoyed our cooking nights (Because we all know Wellesley fresh does NOT hit the spot, we love them tho) Kpop dance night and taekwondo night was fun as well. Even as a native speaker I learned a lot. Overall, I enjoyed meeting fellow sibs who enjoy and appreciate Korean culture, and would 100% recommend!
Thank you and we will miss you 양쌤!

Hi, this is Geeta / 기타 / 전아, I loved all the activities that we had but I think my favorite was when we learned KPop dances. I also loved eating all the 한과의 과자 :) It was so nice to be able to learn parts of Korean culture that are not as easily learned through the internet like games or cooking. 양쌤 고맙고 사랑해요 (♡‿♡)

Hi, this is Lauren :) My favorite was Korean movie night and traditional game night! It was nice to connect with friends from different backgrounds who are interested in Korean culture. Huge thanks to 양쌤 for organizing all the fun events!

This is Claire :) I absolutely loved spending time with everyone and learning more about Korean culture. My favorite activities were karaoke and cooking night. Special thanks to 양쌤 for organizing all the events. Please join K-corridor! We promise you’ll have a good time.

This is Vivi (태영) :D My favourite was the Yotnori, cooking night and Noraebsang. Spending time with my friends and 양쌤 and immersing in Korean culture was a great experience. It was especially worthwhile to learn the customs and games that are part of my friends’ backgrounds and helped me feel closer and more connected to them. This was also good exercise for practicing my language skills!!

I really enjoyed living in Freeman Hall with the students! I felt very welcomed whenever they greeted me in the hallways and I really enjoyed our conversations as we got closer! I also enjoyed sharing the cultures of Korea and hopefully the Korridor students were able to learn some K-culture through this program and enjoyed them! 여러분 보고 싶을 거예요!! 너무 즐겨봤어요! 고마워요! 💖 -양쌤

Playing YutNori at the Korean Corridor

Seungmin with the Korean Corridor residents

Korean Cooking Event at the Korean Corridor
Highlights from the Chinese Program

**Calligraphy Workshop on Oct 3, 2023**

Calligraphy workshop with artist Dr. Du Wei at the Book Arts Lab, organized as part of Professor Heng Du’s new course EALC/CPLT346 "The Chinese Script: A History of Writing in East Asia and Beyond"

![Dr. Du Wei teaching calligraphy in EALC/CPLT346 class](image)

**Field Trip to Harvard Art Museums on Dec 5, 2023**

Field trip to Harvard Art Museum led by Curator Yuhua Ding (Davis Museum), organized as part of Professor Heng Du’s new course EALC/CPLT346 "The Chinese Script: A History of Writing in East Asia and Beyond"

![EALC/CPLT346 class at Harvard Art Museum with Curator Yuhua Ding](image)

Highlights from the Japanese Program

**Japanese Majors and Minors Meeting on Feb 29, 2024**

On February 29, 2024, majors and minors of the Japanese program gathered for a lunch meeting with faculty. As students and faculty enjoyed their bento boxes, lively conversations ensued, covering a wide range of topics. This informal setting provided an excellent opportunity for deeper interactions and the strengthening of relationships within the program.

![Japanese majors and minors with Robert Goree, Yoshimi Maeno, Eiko Torii-Williams, and Chelsea Ward](image)
Japanese Presentation (Nihongo Happyoukai) at Boston University on Nov 4, 2023

Yoshimi Maeno Sensei started this gathering as a Japanese Speech Event with the students learning Japanese from Harvard, MIT, Tufts, Brandeis Univ., Boston Univ., Boston College, Northeastern Univ. back in 2001 hosted at Wellesley College. We take turns hosting every year, and this past event was at Boston University. This year’s participants included Harvard Univ., Brandeis Univ., Boston Univ., Boston College, Northeastern Univ., UMass Boston., Brown Univ., and Wellesley College.

This year we changed the format, and decided to accept not just a speech but also presentations with slides, original short video, original novel, original poems, original Haiku, comic storytelling, and others. It was a huge success. There were short films, presentations with slides, Haiku, poems, short stories, and comic storytelling. They were all quite entertaining and educational. Some were very serious, and others were hilarious, and everyone was laughing so hard and thoroughly were entertained.

From Wellesley College, Annette Bellemar made a presentation about "Japanese Abacus (Soroban)" with slides. Clementine Starck made a presentation on "History of the Japanese cranes and their protection" with slides. Both presentations were historically significant and the audience learned a lot.

There was a reception afterwards, and all the participants and teachers were able to socialize with each other. Among the guests was the Consul General of Japan, Kotaro Suzuki, from the Consulate General of Japan in Boston.

Kimono Workshop on Dec 1, 2023

JPN201 class welcomed two Kimono teachers (Mrs. Yumiko Shimada and Mrs. Ryoko Nagamiya) and had a Kimono Workshop at Acorns House. The JPN201 students learned how to put on kimono (Yukata, summer kimono), took many photos, and learned how to fold kimono before putting them away. The students had a fabulous time trying to figure out how to put on kimono, how to tie Obi, and how to fold kimono.

From left: Eiko Torii Williams, Clementine Starck, Annette Bellemar, Yoshimi Maeno, Nao Tsutsumi, and Lucy Liversidge at Japanese Presentation

JPN201 Class in Kimono with Yoshimi Maeno, Mrs. Shimada, and Mrs. Nagamiya

KEEP UP WITH US THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

Follow us on Facebook and Instagram for events, photos, updates, and more!
@wellesleyealc on Facebook and Instagram.
website: www.wellesley.edu/ealc
www.wellesley.edu/eas
Highlights from the Korean Program

Traditional Game Day- Celebrating the Anniversary of Hangeul Invention

On October 6th, the Korean program hosted a Hangeul Game Day where students enjoyed various Korean rice cakes, made 삼각김밥 [Samgakgimbap] (Triangular Gimbap), decorated Korean traditional bookmark, tried on Korean traditional clothes Hanbok, and played traditional Korean games such as Gonggi Nori and Tuho. It was the first official gathering with all Korean learners on campus!

Big congratulations to Monica Mohamed, who won 1st place in the Intermediate level category, and to Vivi (이태영), who won 2nd place in the Beginning level category! Another special shout-out to Monica, Vivi, and Aiquana for your efforts and participation! Next year’s Korean Speech Contest will be held at Wellesley in celebration of the 20th Anniversary of the Wellesley Korean Program!!

Global Engagement & Empowerment for Sustainable Development Speech

On April 12th, Professor In Han Song, Director of Yonsei’s Ban-Ki Moon Center for International Cooperation, presented on the United Nations’ Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and Yonsei University’s related activities. The event, organized by the Korean Program and KSA, welcomed Professor Song as part of the Wellesley-Flame Symposium on Undergraduate Research, where two Yonsei undergraduate students gave a fabulous presentation in the Ruhlman Conference. A special thanks to KSA for all the support. Looking ahead, the Korean Program plans to collaborate with Professor Song on a workshop focused on Global Engagement and Leadership for the SDGs, scheduled for Spring 2025 in Seoul. Additionally, a special language lab course will offer Wellesley students the opportunity to travel to Seoul next academic year. Stay tuned for more details!

New England Korean Speech Contest

Three Wellesley students participated in the 5th New England Korean Speech Contest on April 6th at Boston College, an event organized by the New England Association of Korean Educators and the Boston Korean Consulate.

Right: In Hang Song presenting at Acorn House
Exploring Korean art and culture in Korean classrooms

Minhwa (Korean Folk Painting) Feb 9, 2024

On February 9th, Professor Song’s Korean 102 class had a minhwa (traditional Korean art form) artist, In Sun Cho led a special session with students. You can see the beautiful pictures students drew.

Korean Ceramic Session at Davis Museum Mar 27, 2024

On March 27, 2024, the students explored the beauty of Korean ceramics at our own Davis Museum. Through observation and a lecture, students learned the brief history and method of making Korean ceramics. It was our first attempt at co-teaching with Yuhua Ding, a curator at Davis. One fun thing is that, on that day, students of KOR 202 took a vocabulary quiz at the Museum for the first time!

Ajaeng (Korean Traditional Music Instrument) Apr 12, 2024

On April 12, 2024, Professor Hwang’s KOR 202 and 232 students had a culture day with Korean traditional music. For this special event, Yoona Kim, a versatile artist from Seoul, Korea, came and gave a lecture. The students learned about three types of Korean Traditional music and its significant instruments: Taepyeongso (태평소), Geomungo (거문고), Gayageum (가야금) besides Ajaeng. In addition, it was interesting to see how popular Korean music groups like BTS and Blackpink have incorporated traditional elements into their pop music. We all enjoyed learning and experiencing Korean traditional music and its influence. Singing a traditional folk song from Seoul and Jeju Island in Korea was fun and a great experience!

Community Engagements of KOR 232

Students visited a local Korean language weekend school as part of their community engagement initiative. On Jan. 27, they conducted an anthropological observation, and on April 27, they returned to the school and led classroom activities. Two teams taught a lesson on Korean numbers and noun counters, and one team delivered a lesson on stress management in Korean.
Student Spotlight

Clementine Starck '24, EALC Major - Japanese concentration

The title of my thesis is “日本における女性の健康、男女平等の視点からの「乳と卵」の分析” with the alternative, English title of "Surveying the Anatomy of Breasts and Eggs Through the Lens of Women’s Health and Inequality in Contemporary Japan". Under the supervision of Professor Maeno, my thesis uses the Japanese novel Breasts and Eggs by Mieko Kawakami to shed light on current research into women’s health and inequality in Japan. Specifically, through analyzing the intergenerational stories of the novel’s three main characters – Natsuko, Makiko, and Midori – I connected these women’s experiences to current events and prominent studies on the legal, social, economic, and political ways in which women continue to be marginalized in Japan today.

I started this project for personal reasons, particularly as a result of the conversations and experiences I had with women in Japan throughout my time studying abroad from August 2022-2023. During that time I had the opportunity to intern at both a Japanese community center serving mothers and children and a connected Japanese preschool thanks to the Ted Wang Fellowship. Through my time at the preschool, 椎の実子供の家 (“Shiinomi Children’s Home”), and the intergenerational community center, 椎の実ハウス (“Shiinomi House”), I was able to interact, converse, and support many mothers and their young children.

And lastly, because I chose to write my Honors Thesis in the Japanese language, I would like to acknowledge my fantastic advisor Professor Maeno and the department’s beloved language assistant Tsutsumi-sensei for helping me transform my drafts into a completed work. I am also very thankful to Professor Goree for encouraging me to turn this project into a thesis, and to Professor Torii for laying the foundation of my Japanese language skills during my sophomore year. I have loved being an EALC-Japanese major and could have never dreamed of accomplishing such a fulfilling endeavor without the encouragement, discernment, and support of the department and my professors, so thank you! 大変お世話になりました。ありがとうございます!

Kexin Zhao '24, EALC Major - Chinese concentration

My name is Kexin Zhao, ‘24, and I’m a double major in Psychology and EALC - Chinese. In my senior year, I ventured into the world of Chinese crime literature by writing an honors thesis in EALC - Chinese. My thesis project was titled From hanshu (漢書) to juben sha (剧本杀): Understanding Modern Chinese Crime Literature. By tracing how humans, ren, participated in contemporary Chinese crime literature, I outlined three branches of contemporary Chinese crime literature, using a comparative framework set up by discussing older texts for analysis.

As someone who has grown up immersed in crime fiction, crime podcasts, and forensic science, exploring Chinese crime literature is not just an academic pursuit but a passion that has shaped my understanding and appreciation of literature in general. To this day, I still firmly believe in the potential of this deeply intriguing genre. In writing this thesis, I was not only indulging myself with my favorite books and games but also aiming to bring a largely unstudied field to public and scholarly attention. For those of you who wish to read it, it will be published in the Wellesley College Digital Repository, and I hope you enjoy it.

Farida Moustafa '25, EALC Major - Korean concentration, Ted Wang Fellow in Korea

안녕하세요!
Hello! My name is Farida Moustafa, I am pursuing a major in Architecture and a minor in Korean and I am honored to be this year’s Ted Wang Fellow in Korea!

Before starting my semester at Seoul National University, I had the privilege of interning at the Seoul National University Office of Social Responsibility(SNUSR). This experience provided me with deep insight into the diversity of different ethnic groups and nationalities living in Korea, as well as a glimpse into what it means to be a foreigner living in Korea. I also had the opportunity to travel to Gyeongju as part of a volunteering mission with the office in partnership with a local community center. Throughout my time at SNUSR, I have met so many amazing people who helped me feel comfortable and helped me really settle into my new life in Korea.
Now as I find myself halfway through the semester, I’ve had the pleasure of meeting even more amazing people. While most of my coursework revolves around architecture, something I’m well acquainted with, the experience has been refreshingly unique due to the unfamiliar environment. Everyday brings new discoveries, not only from my professors but from my classmates alike. I’ve also had the opportunity to build meaningful relationships with my classmates as we come together in a studio environment to support each other and watch as our projects develop. We’ve spent many long nights together and have daily trips to the local convenience store. I have truly been overwhelmed by their kindness and will forever cherish the memories I have made here.

Now that the weather has gotten warmer, I am looking forward to going out on more excursions as I also hope to venture outside of Seoul to see what else Korea has to offer. And with school festivals coming out, I am looking forward to seeing some of my favorite artists perform. The last few months have been absolutely amazing, and I am so grateful for this opportunity. I look forward to the rest of my time here and can’t wait for what’s yet to come!

Yours truly,
Farida.

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**Taylor Woody ’24, EALC Major - Korean concentration**

As I sit in my room, putting the final touches on my application to Master’s programs in Korea, I cannot help but reminisce on what brought me here. Starting from a young age, I had experiences with Korean culture, mainly through the food my parents exposed my brothers and I to — 김치찌개 (kimchi-jigae), 만두 (mandu) and of course 불고기 (bulgogi). Learning about Korean culture through the eyes of my parents as they spoke of their time in Dongducheon on the military base planted the seed of interest in me. And with every visit to our favorite Korean restaurant and every Korean song I heard on the radio growing up, that seed began to slowly grow into a sprout.

The first petals began to show when I began studying Korean by myself while in high school. These petals were not as pretty as I would have liked them to be — they were a direct representation of how my studying was going. Although I was dedicated, I simply was not fully prepared. For the first 4 years, the petals would appear and fall, almost as if following the rise and fall of my confidence in my Korean skills. But upon coming to Wellesley, I was given the exact environment I so needed. From my first encounters with Professor Lee, Professor Song and Professor Hwang, I knew that I was in the right place, a place that would give me the space to flourish.

Over the past four years, I have been given countless opportunities to experience Korean culture and improve my language skills both in the classroom and out on the streets of Korea. From my first experience in Korea as a first-year student to my time competing in my first and only Korean speech contest to my most recent time in Korea as a Ted Wang Fellow at Seoul National University, I have taken every opportunity with open arms and I have not regretted any of it. This is not to say that these experiences were not difficult at times. As I grew as a student, more petals appeared, and as I faced hardships, more petals fell. Jokes in Korean that went over my head, translations that never seemed quite right, entire lessons in class that were lost in translation — all of these resulted in a lost petal, or two, or 10. But with every new friend I made at SNU, with every assignment in Korean I got complimented on, with every opportunity where I could show that my hard work has paid off, the petals grew back tenfold.

I know that I still am short a petal here and there; there are still countless words I don’t know and many 뭐어쓰기’s I’ll get wrong. And I know that my time in graduate school will see many more petals drop. But this new experience will also cause entirely new flowers to bloom and new interests to develop. Interests in literature, in history, in policy making — the possibilities are endless. And even though mistakes will be made, they will only help me, pushing me to improve and become an even better version of myself.

And now, as I graduate with a degree in Linguistics and Korean, with 8 years of Korean under my belt, I am tasked with removing the roots that have been so firmly planted in Wellesley. I am leaving behind the faculty that so patiently and warmly taught me, that held my hands and walked with me, leading me to the many doors I never knew were open for me. Leaving the safety of Green Hall where I knew that my mistakes would be accepted and gently corrected in order to help me improve. I will dearly miss the space that I was able to bloom in while I was a Korean major. But in my place, I hope to see new students gain an interest in the Korean language and culture, to see their interests grow and bloom the same way that mine did. I wish that future students can receive the same nurturing and help that I received from the Korean department and can have their lives be changed for the better in the same way that mine has been.

While it is a difficult task, I look forward to placing my roots in Korea, even if only for two years. I look on with excitement for what I will experience and who I will become. I know that I am prepared for this experience, thanks to the Korean department. And I know that the knowledge I have gained and the experiences I have had while at Wellesley will accompany me on my journey. I will look back on my time here with fondness but will look forward to my future, knowing that it will be one that I can always connect back to the roots I planted 4 years ago at Wellesley College.
EALC Majors at Tanner Conference on Nov 14, 2023

The Japanel: Scrutinizing and Celebrating International Spaces in Japan

Clementine Starck '24, EALC (Shinomi Kodomo no Ie & International Christian University, Tokyo, Japan) and Alexis Marin '24, EALC (Shinomi House, Tokyo, Japan)

You may have heard that it’s difficult to live as a foreigner in Japan, where 97.9 percent of residents are ethnically Japanese. Cultural differences stand out starkly against a background of ethnic homogeneity. Within international communities, these differences can be heightened and celebrated in turn. The panelists returning to Wellesley after extended stays in Japan will critically examine their lived experiences in five international spaces: a Japanese preschool, a Zen Buddhist temple, a global school situated on an organic farm, an Evangelical church for college students, and a community center funded by the Nippon Foundation. Gaikokujin mesen no Nihon nitsuite hanashimashou! “Let’s talk about the experiences of international students in Japan!”

Ted Wang Fellowship: Beyond the Tourist’s Gaze: Exploring Taiwan and Korea

Audrey Sun '24 and Bernice Sun '24, EALC - Chinese (National Taiwan University Human-Computer Interaction Lab, Taipei, Taiwan)
Taylor Woody '24, EALC - Korean (Seoul National University's Institute for Social Global Responsibility (SNUSR)

When you think of Taiwan and Korea, what’s the first thing that comes to mind? In present-day pop culture, East Asia is often known for its food and media. During our time studying abroad in Taiwan and Korea, we went past the boba and boy groups and explored the student life and work culture of our respective countries. We integrated ourselves into the cadences of everyday life in Asia by challenging ourselves to utilize our language skills and cultural knowledge. Throughout our internships and time studying abroad, we developed our understanding of healthcare, technology, and linguistics on a global scale. Our presentation hopes to expand your knowledge of East Asia, taking you through the busy cities of Seoul and Taipei to truly experience life in Asia.