

Message from the Department Chair

This past year has been hard. What we thought would be a temporary fight against a virus turned into a long-term battle. Our students didn't sign up to spend a year of their college lives staring at the computer, nor did our faculty come into the profession to talk to a screen. We hear the word "resilience" a lot these days but behind this one word is persistent and creative work. And despite all the challenges, we've accomplished a lot.



Thanks to the redoubled effort of our administrative staff, Academic Coordinators, faculty and lecturers, we hosted a successful virtual Lunar New Year Festival in February. Pandemic or not, every year for 24 years, we have come together to celebrate the cultures of China, Japan, Korea and Vietnam. In June, we held a well-attended graduation party where faculty gave commendations to every senior present and students shared heart-warming stories about their UCI experience. The pandemic did not slow down our faculty either: major monographs were published and several colleagues explored creative venues such as zoom play and podcast to respond directly to current events (see links in the following pages). Our students have also accomplished much: four undergraduate majors received School of Humanities awards, and two were inducted into the Chinese National Honor Society. Two graduate students (Sara and Adam) received the Fulbright Scholarship and are on their way to Japan. And congratulations to Kristina who won the prestigious Faculty Mentorship Fellowship, the only one awarded in the entire School of Humanities.

We are now about to embark on a new academic year. Although there are still many uncertainties in the future, we have built up our muscles for flexibility and creativity in the past year. Our classes are fully enrolled and three new graduate students are joining us this fall. I look forward to welcoming new members to our community and celebrating the successes of everyone!

— Hu Ying

ABOUT US

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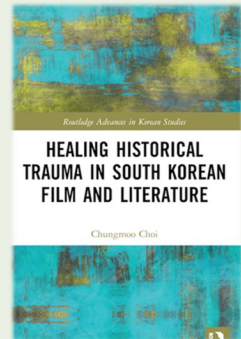
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Faculty Highlights

PROFESSOR CHUNGMOO CHOI published *Healing Historical Trauma in South Korean Film and Literature* in December 2020.

This book explores affect and ethics in the healing of historical trauma, as alternatives to the measures of transitional justice in want of national unity. Professor Choi also hosted a virtual conference "War, Women's Human Rights, and Comfort Women" in partnership with the UCI Center for Critical Korean Studies about comfort women and women who have been impacted by a variety of wars and violence. The conference featured professors and experts from around the world who discussed not only the legacy of comfort women but also issues of reparation, reconciliation, and rebuilding life.



ASSOCIATIVE PROFESSOR MARGHERITA LONG has been active in UCI's new Environmental Humanities Reading Group, learning from peers' work and recently presenting her essay "[COVID Cough and Fukushima Novel: On the Not-Bareness of Life in Environmental Humanities.](#)" The essay was published in the March 2021 issue of *Prism: Theory and Modern Chinese Literature* (Duke UP).



Faculty Highlights

PROFESSOR MICHAEL FULLER is retiring after 29 years at UCI (from 1992 to 2021, and nine years as the Chair of East Asian Studies).

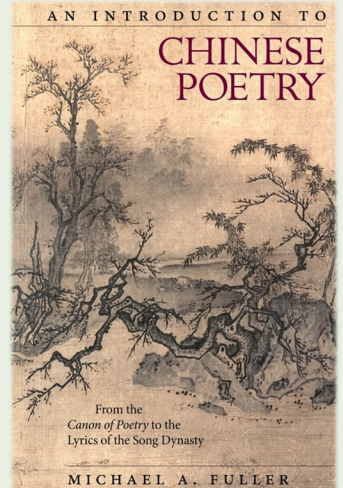
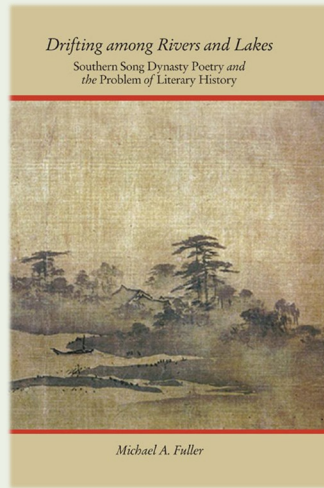
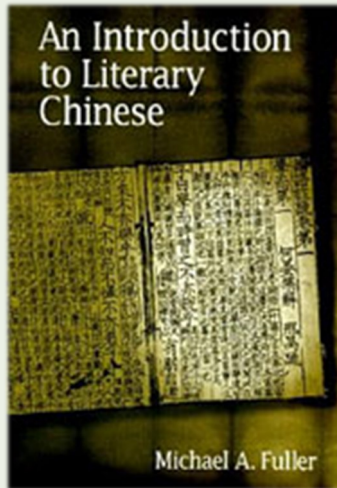
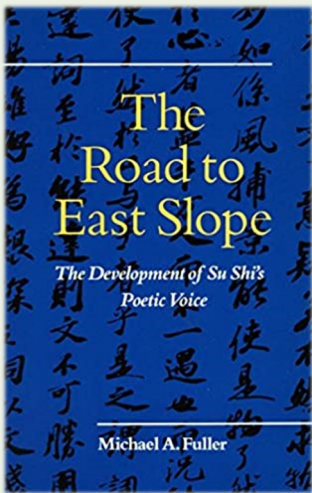


Beginning with a double-major in Biology and English Literature at Caltech, Michael went on to study Chinese and Japanese in Taiwan and Japan for many years, all the while developing his wide ranging interests in philosophy and the sciences. He received his PhD in Chinese Literature from Yale University and established his reputation with his first book on the poet Su Shi *The Road to East Slope* (Stanford UP, 1990). His monograph *Drifting Among Rivers and Lakes: Southern Song Poetry and the Problem of Literary History* (Harvard UP, 2013) is hailed as “a new model of literary history” that has generated an “epistemic shift” in the field of pre-modern Chinese literature. Michael is also a pioneer scholar on the intersection of philosophy, neuroscience and aesthetics. Happily ensconced in his sunny new study, Michael is now turning back to his first love, the study of perception, memory, emotion, and the self. His ambitious and innovative book project is titled *The Neuronal Self*.

For many years the only faculty member on the UCI campus who covers the long historical period of pre-fourteenth-century China, Michael regularly taught on over-load in order to meet students demand, especially from graduate students who needed training in pre-modern Chinese literature and intellectual history. His dedication to teaching is best represented by his two textbooks. His *Introduction to Literary Chinese* (Harvard UP, 1999) is widely adopted for the classroom in north America as well as Europe. His teaching expertise received its strongest validation when he was awarded the 2019 Franklin R. Buchanan Prize by the Association for Asian Studies for his second textbook *An Introduction to Chinese Poetry* (Harvard UP, 2018).

Aside from his scholarship and teaching, members of the Department will always remember him as the resident computer guru. Having had a rare background as a programmer, Michael was always at the ready to help with anyone’s computing problems. Many of us routinely called upon his expertise concerning software, hardware, or a particular font for Chinese characters. Even the Department letterhead bears his design!

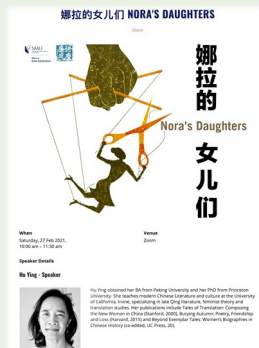
Michael’s contribution to our department, the UCI campus, and Chinese scholarship in general will be felt for many years to come. We are deeply grateful for his dedication to the educational mission of the university and wish him the best in future pursuits, intellectual as well as leisurely.



Faculty Highlights



PROFESSOR HU YING participated in the podcast 'Literature Out Loud' with Chinese author Xue Yiwei, whose book *Traveling with Marco Polo* she is translating. Check out the podcast [here](#). Professor Hu gave the keynote lecture on "Nora's Daughters" at the Lien-fung colloquium at the Singapore Management University. She was the co-organizer of the colloquium "China and the West" and was the discussant for "Adventure in Translating Between Cultures and Eras" and "China in One Village: A Conversation on Translation in a Changing World."



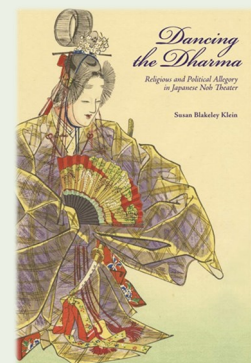
PROFESSOR KYUNG HYUN KIM wrote and produced a zoom play "The Mask Debate", (formerly known as "Pan-Damn-It!"). The play tries to re-capture the sense of nightmarish comedy that many people in Orange County actually lived and still living through during the pandemic. Watch the zoom play [here](#).



Professor Kim hosted many events for the UCI Center for Critical Korean Studies, including The Rise of K-Culture Webinar Series. The webinar offered a unique opportunity to hear directly from the leading experts and producers who are behind some of the best-known contents that together make up "K-culture" today. He also organized Lecture Recital and Panel Q&A: Korean Sensibility and the Double Reed in Korean Film Music, which invited professional guest artists, panelists and lecturers, who performed music, gave a lecture recital and answered questions from the audience as part of a panel.



PROFESSOR SUSAN KLEIN published *Dancing the Dharma: Religious and Political Allegory in Japanese Noh Theater* in April 2021, this book examines the theory and practice of allegory by exploring a select group of medieval Japanese noh plays and treatises. Professor Klein also participated in a podcast discussing her new book for the New Books Network: *New Books in Japanese Studies* podcast series hosted by Jingyi Li, PhD candidate in Japanese History at University of Arizona. Check out the podcast [here](#).



ASSISTANT PROFESSOR JON PITT created "Nature : Mono" podcast in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, devoted to the study of Environmental Humanities. Each episode of this season built around interviews with a range of academic scholars from a variety of disciplines who engage with the notion of "Oceanic Japan." Check out "Nature : Mono" podcast [here](#). Professor Pitt's translation of Itō Hiromi's essay "Living Trees and Dying Trees" was published in December 2020 by *Asymptote Journal*. (<https://www.asymptotejournal.com/nonfiction/ito-hiromi-living-trees-and-dying-trees/>).

Professor Pitt was also featured in a video as part of UCI's "Diving Deep Initiative," he had a conversation with Alyse Larkin of Earth Systems Sciences, explore human and non-human life, our relationship with the environment, and the importance of collaboration between the humanities and the sciences. Check out the video [here](#).

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR BERT SCRUGGS stepped down from his positions as chair of the J. Yang and Family Foundation, School of Humanities & Center for Asian Studies Faculty Committee and Director of Graduate Studies for the department in order to devote more time to his work as a co-editor of *Taiwan Literature: English Translation Series*. Professor Scruggs also wrote encyclopedia entries on the Hakka-Taiwanese authors Li Qiao, Song Zelai, and Gan Yaoming. "The Crises of Representation", a critical essay on nuclear power narratives from Taiwan that he first presented at the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London, was published in *National Taiwan University Studies in Taiwan Literature*. Currently he is working on a second book on place- and practice-based epistemologies, ontologies, and literacy in regional Taiwanese fiction and collaborating with Tāňa Dluhošová at the Czech Academy of Sciences on a social network analysis of the translation of Taiwanese Literature into European languages. On the latter, so far their dataset comprises 5,297 literary pieces that were included on the pages of twenty-nine different journals and 244 single-author and anthology volumes translated into Czech, English, French, German, and Italian.

Faculty Highlights



ASSISTANT PROFESSOR ELIZABETH TINSLEY continues to research the rituals to “King of Lust” (Aizen Myōō) and their icons for *The Oxford Handbook of Tantric Studies* (forthcoming). In times of threat from war or epidemics, premodern esoteric Buddhist priests in Japan performed rituals to the impassioned “King of Lust” (Aizen Myōō).

During the last academic year she presented the papers “Young Scholars: the Origins and Administration of the Chigo Debates at Kōyasan,” for the American Academy of Religion, “Diaspora of Replicas: Stone Art, Japanese Buddhism, and British Zionism” for the College Art Association, and “Gods of Leather and Lilies: ancestral spirits and community leadership culture at Kōyasan” for the Harvard Buddhist Scholars Forum.

In her Asian Religions (RSB) course, she hosted for students DJ Ta2mi, a Japanese DJ who is also a Buddhist priest, and British film director Neil Cantwell, creator of *KanZeOn: The Magical Potential of Sound*, a filmic meditation on sound, Shinto, and Buddhism.

Picture on the right: Aizen Myōō, 14th century, The Metropolitan Museum of Art, (Purchase, Mary Griggs Burke Gift, 1966)



Lecturer News



HYUNJU CHOE is retiring after 20 years as Korean Language Lecturer (from 2001 to 2021). Her steady work and sunny presence gave the much needed stability to the Korean language program over the years as the program grew and changed. Her colleague Hyunyong Hyun says:

“Hyunju did her best at all times. It was truly lucky for me that I was able to work with her at the Korean language program.” Another colleague Kyung-Hyun Kim says: “Coming from Busan, the southern port city in Korea, Hyunju brought her Busan-style passion, humor, and warmth into her classroom that impressed generations of students at UCI. Before the pandemic, it was not difficult to find her former students in the hallways coming back to visit her, offering hugs and gifts.” A recent student recalls: “It’s very easy to tell that Professor Choe cares deeply about her students. Her enthusiasm is unparalleled and I could not have asked for a better Korean teacher.”

Another student enthused: “Every day of her class was enjoyable. I love her sooooo much!” We give her our heart-felt thanks and best wishes for the golden years ahead. She will be sorely missed!



RUOHMEI HSIEH, lecturer and academic coordinator of the Chinese Language Program, is the inaugural recipient of the Pedagogical Innovation and Development Excellence Award for 2020-21, a newly instituted award in the School of Humanities. In his award letter, Tyrus Miller, the dean of the School of Humanities, warmly congratulates Ruohmei and states that the award “recognizes an instructor for her contributions to curriculum development to enrich and re-envision the student learning environment and for innovation in teaching practices.”



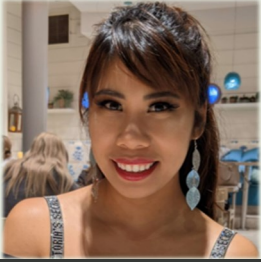
YING PETERSEN, lecturer in the Chinese language program, organized a face to face opportunity with a Chinese singer in her third-year Chinese zoom class.

On May 8th, 2021, Ms. Ma, a famous Chinese singer, was invited as a guest speaker to perform Chinese folk music in her third-year Chinese class via Zoom. Ms. Ma is a renowned vocalist in traditional Chinese music and a pioneer in playing Yuan, an old Chinese music instrument, to accompany solo Chinese singing. Students were very excited about enjoying Ms. Ma performing Chinese music “in front of them”, as well as having a dialogue with her in Chinese language about the innovation and current status of Chinese traditional music. To lead students to learn language beyond the classroom via task-based teaching is an ideal method of language instruction, and it was beautifully accomplished in Ying’s Zoom class. A follow up reflecting letter to Ms. Ma was also assigned as an essay exercise after the event.



Undergraduate Program Updates

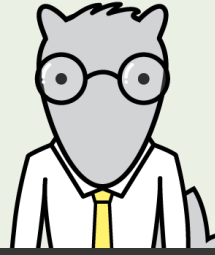
School of Humanities Undergraduate Awards



Leah Anne Balagot Flores
Chinese Studies



Crystal Sophia Diaz Lopez
East Asian Cultures



Douglas Mao
Japanese Language & Literature



Amaiya J. Smith
Korean Literature & Culture

2021 UCI Chinese National Honor Society Scholarship



Jenning Lai



Christy Oates

Undergraduate Alumna Updates



"I graduated from UC Irvine in 2021 with my degree in East Asian Cultures. Learning Japanese has been a part of my life, so I chose to continue studying East Asian Cultures in graduate school. In August I will attend Columbia University for my master's degree."

Yixi Wang
East Asian Cultures
March 2021 graduate



"I graduated from UC Irvine with degree in Korean Literature and Culture in 2021. Ever since taking my Korean language courses, I have been able to utilize my reading and listening skills to learn more about the Korean culture. I am particularly interested in Korean entertainment industry, so the skills that I have acquired in my Korean classes have been very useful. I am currently applying for jobs to gain work experience toward my career goal."

Shirley Truong
Korean Literature and Culture
Spring 2021 graduate

Graduate Program Updates



VANESSA BAKER, A sixth year Ph.D. candidate advised by Serk-Bae Suh and Margherita Long, was a Korean language TA in the fall and awarded a Japan Foundation Fellowship for winter and spring. Vanessa received a pedagogical certificate from UC Irvine, presented a paper at the 17th International Conference on Korean Language, Literature, and Culture at Yonsei University. She also participated in the Social Science Research Council Korean Studies Dissertation Workshop and the UCLA Center for the Study of Women's 31st Annual Thinking Gender Conference.



MONICA CHO, A fourth year Ph.D. candidate advised by Serk-Bae Suh, was a Korean language TA in the fall and East Asian Studies 55 TA in the winter and spring. Monica participated in DTEI fellow program in summer 2021 and is also teaching a summer session 1 course EAS 55/HIST 70A: Madness in Korean Society. Monica presented three different papers respectively at 17th International Conference on Korean Language, Literature, and Culture, the workshop on Queering the Straits: Unruly Subjects Across Modern Korean, and Japanese Studies and the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference.



ZACH GOTTESMAN, A fourth year Ph.D. candidate advised by Kyung Hyun Kim, was an East Asian Studies 55 TA in the fall and Korean language TA in the winter and spring. Zach taught EAS 40: Korean Animation during summer session.



KRISTINA HORN, A second year Ph.D. student advised by Kyung Hyun Kim, was a Korean language TA in the fall, East Asian Studies 116 TA in the winter and Religious Studies TA in the spring. Kristina presented at the 2020 Southwest Conference on Asian Studies Conference, the 2021 Interdisciplinary Humanities Graduate Student Conference at UC Merced, and at the 2021 UCI Associated Graduate Student Virtual Symposium where she won the Judges' Highest Score Award. During the summer of 2021, she worked as a Humanities Artificial Intelligence Research Intern at the CEO Leadership Alliance of Orange County through UCI's Humanities Out There Public Fellows Program. Kristina was also awarded the Faculty Mentor Program Fellowship from UCI Graduate Division for 2021-2022 academic year.



AMY LANTRIP, A second year Ph.D. student advised by Hu Ying, was a TA for East Asian Studies 55 TA in the fall, Religious Studies TA in the winter and Gender & Sexuality Studies TA in the spring. Amy presented a paper at the British Chinese Scholars graduate student conference in June called "The 'Yellow Peril' in early Chinese Science Fiction". Amy will TA for Religious Studies and East Asian Studies next year.



ADAM MILLER, a first year Ph.D. student advised by Kyung Hyun Kim, presented his paper "Zombies in the Anthropocene: Environmental Anxiety and Evolution in South Korean Cinema" at the University of Minnesota Graduate Conference Contagion: Method, Matter, and Medium on April 30-May 1. He also presented his paper "Failure as Existence in Queer Korean Literature" at the NextGen Korean Scholars (NEKST) International Conference at the University of Michigan on May 10-14. During Summer Session I he was a Teaching Assistant in the Department of Gender and Sexuality Studies for GSS 50A Gender and Feminism in Everyday Life. Adam will be a Teaching Assistant in the Korean language program next year.

Graduate Program Updates



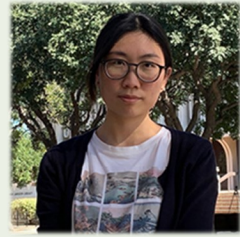
SARA NEWSOME, A fifth year Ph.D. candidate advised by Margherita Long, participated in DTEI fellow program in Summer 2021. Sara received Fulbright Fellowship in 2021-2022 academic year and will head to Japan in the fall.



ADAM REYNOLDS, A fourth year Ph.D. candidate advised by Susan Klein, advanced to candidacy in Summer 2021. Adam received Summer Language Award and Fulbright Fellowship in 2021-2022 academic year. He will spend next year in Japan.



ANAT SCHWARTZ-MERON, A sixth year Ph.D. candidate advised by Chungmoo Choi, participated in DTEI fellow program in Summer 2021. Anat will be a Graduate Student Researcher with School of Humanities next year.



YEE KWAN (VANESSA) WONG, A first year Ph.D. student advised by Bert Scruggs, worked as Graduate Student Researcher in Summer 2021 and Vanessa will TA for Chinese language and East Asian Studies next year.

-Welcome-

New Graduate Students in *Fall 2021*



SOOJIN JEONG—Soojin received her B.A. in Communication from Purdue University and M.A. in Asian American Studies from San Francisco State University. Her research interests are communication studies, Asian-American studies literary studies and gender studies in Korea and Japan.

Advisor: Chungmoo Choi



SOPHIE WHEELER—Sophie received her B.A. in East Asian Studies from Princeton University. Her research interests are travel photography, ethnography, food studies, environmental politics, and multimedia storytelling.

Advisor: Margherita Long



XIAOYANG YUE—Xiaoyang received his B.A. in English from Zhejiang International Studies University and M.A. in Film Studies in Waseda University. His research interests are Japanese literature and cinema and film studies.

Advisor: Jon Pitt

Graduate Alumni Spotlight



Dr. HYONHUI CHOE, 2013 graduate advised by Serk-Bae Suh, is an assistant professor of Korean Studies at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies in Yongin-si, South Korea. Hyonhui published “Sasangŭi T’onggukkasŏng” [A Thought of the Transnational: Kim Yoon-shik’s Late Thoughts on Modern Korean Literature], *Sanghŏ Hakbo* 60 (October 2020): 15-52 and he is currently working on a book manuscript with tentative title *The Purloined Names: Colonial Modernism in Modern Korean Literature*, hope to publish in a book form in 2022.



Dr. SSU-FANG JESSIE, 2018 graduate advised by Bert Scuggs, is an award-winning fiction writer currently living in Brooklyn, New York. Ssu-Fang’s short story, “Four Swans,” won the most prestigious literary award in Taiwan in 2020. Her latest short story, “London Fog,” portraying transnational and transgenerational romance in New York City, was serialized in the literary magazine, *Unitas Literature*, in Taiwan in the summer of 2021. Her essays about NYC’s arts and cultural scenes appear in the *Youth Literary Magazine* since January 2021. In her spare time, she teaches language and literature at Hunter College and the International Flagship Program.

Department Events

Virtual Lunar New Year Festival February 12, 2021

The Department of East Asian Studies hosted a virtual Lunar New Year Festival to celebrate the year of the ox. A 40-minute video was put together by students and instructors in Chinese, Japanese, Korean and Vietnamese language programs.

The **Chinese language program** presented a Chinese New Year song, paper cutting activity, dumpling making and tasting, and a short story about Chinese New Year traditions.

The **Japanese language program** demonstrated a beautiful tsugaru-shamisen solo performance by student performer Naoki Atkins.

The **Korean language program** presented a Korean New Year song, explained Korean New Year traditions, and had a lovely rice cake soup making demonstration with instructions.

The **Vietnamese language program** presented Vietnamese New Year traditions, which including food, activities and decorations to celebrate Lunar New Year.



Check out the video [here](#).



Department Events

End-of-the-Year Party June 11, 2021

To celebrate the East Asian Studies graduating seniors and scholarship/award winners, the Department held a graduation party over Zoom attended by students, faculty, lecturers, and staff. During the party faculty and lecturers spoke about their students and students had the opportunity to share their experiences in East Asian Studies. The event also included Jodaiko performance and Hansori performance, a brief presentation slideshow highlighting graduating seniors and recent updates to the Department, a Kahoots! game testing the party guests' knowledge of UCI and East Asian Studies trivia, and a virtual scavenger hunt allowing participants to find specific objects and share stories.

Congratulations again to our graduating seniors!

Chinese Studies

Qiaohui Chen
Kelly H. Chen
Tiffany Chin
Amanda Marie Clark
Naoki Hamaguchi
Christine Ji-Young Kim
Sophia Yanzi Lee
Sydney Rae Leong
My Co Thoai Phan
Qiuyan Song
Changtai Tang
Bei Ye

Korean Literature and Culture

Aalima Khadija Brown-Malika
Nicole Gabrielle Darvin
Destiny Virginia Estacio
Steven C. Kuo
Amy Jane Liu
Julian Jr. Luna
Zhavierre Vashti McGowan
Monica M. Nunez
Huizi Piao
Shirley A. Truong
Shuk Hang Tse

East Asian Cultures

Brenda Yvonne Arellano	Kanokkorn Pisadsurakun
Cinthia Denise Arellano	Thipprapa Pothipong
Yelin Chen	Chuqi Renyu
Lianyi Cong	Claudia Rubio
Jacklyn Lee Heaton	Yun-Shan Tai
Johnathan Michael Hong	Yixi Wang
Robert Andrew Leshner	Sisi Yi
Cory Scott Lynde	Bingxuan Yu
Stacey Morales	Xunyi Jason Zhu
JiHyun Park	

Japanese Language and Literature

Akina Ishimoto
Tina Killeen
Saki Kimura
Alberto Martinez
Michelle Mai Nguyen
Nikolas Arvin Sani
Mai Katharina Schweizer
Jayden Davaughn Thomas
Ian Alan Thomas
Yuyi Wang

**Congratulations,
you made it!**
CLASS OF 2021

Join us for a celebration honoring the EAS graduating seniors and award winners! All EAS students are welcomed!

To: Seniors & Award-winners!
You're invited to make a short, 2-3 minute video message! Make it yourself or do a buddy video with friends and pick a theme such as...
🎓 My most memorable EAS Moments
🎓 Advice I Wish I knew as a Freshman
🎓 3 Reasons to Major in EAS
Please send your video to kristine.wang@uci.edu by Monday, May 31 at 12pm noon

**JUNE 11, 2021
1:00-2:30 PM**
Access the Zoom meeting by clicking below!
<https://uci.zoom.us/j/92901147103>
Meeting ID: 929 0114 7103

Come win amazing prizes through...
🌸 Creating a song or artwork (Only eligible for Seniors & Award Winners)
🌸 Scavenger Hunt & Kahoot Games!
🌸 Voted for best Dressed or Virtual Background!

The Department of East Asian Studies at UC Irvine brings both theoretical sophistication and scholarly rigor to the study of the literatures and cultures of East Asia. The department focuses on China, Korea, and Japan but also stresses the larger regional and global dynamics of transformation in which these cultures participate. We hope that you will consider making a tax-deductible donation to the Department of East Asian Studies at UC Irvine. Your donation will be used to help the department enhance its educational and scholarly mission. Please make your check payable to UCI Foundation indicating support for the Department of East Asian Studies (EAS) in the memo section of the check.

Please include this form with your gift and mail to the address below.

Enclosed is my tax-deductible gift of \$ _____ payable to UCI Foundation.

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