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From the President

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From the President

Happy Lunar New Year!

February of 2019 ushers in the Year of the Pig with numerous auspicious festivals and celebrations. It is no exception for CEAL. The February issue of *JEAL* highlights many exciting moments and achievements of our vibrant organization.

The 2019 CEAL/AAS conference is just around the corner. Thanks to the hard work of CEAL Executive Board (EB) members, committee chairs, and program organizers, we have prepared a rich agenda of activities and programs for CEAL members at the coming Annual Meeting and pre-conference. This year, the CEAL Annual Meeting will take place in the Sheraton Denver Downtown Hotel in the mile-high city of Denver, Colorado, on March 20 and 21. Thanks to the University of Colorado (CU) Boulder Libraries, the full-day pre-conference will be hosted on the campus of CU Boulder on March 19. It includes a cataloging workshop organized by the Committee on Technical Processing and OCLC CJK Users Group forum, two sessions of open house at the CU Boulder Special Collections, and the CEAL membership reception scheduled for 5:30 p.m.–7:00 p.m. The reception is free to all CEAL members. Tickets of \$40 each are also available at the reception for non-member attendees.

The theme of the CEAL annual meetings this and next year is “Strengthening the organization and empowering CEAL members to meet the challenges of the digital age,” and the focus for the 2019 meeting is on the “Roles of East Asian libraries and librarians in digital scholarship.” As detailed in the [2019 annual program](#), on March 20, the plenary sessions will feature the presidential panel in the morning following the business plenary, and the librarians’ panel in the afternoon. The presidential panel will have three keynote speeches: “Developing a Text Analysis Infrastructure for East Asian Languages: MARKUS, VISUS, and COMPARATIVUS” by Hilde De Weerd, Professor of Chinese history at Leiden University and Head of Leiden University Center for Digital Humanities; “The Shifting Roles of Academic Libraries in Supporting Digital Scholarship: Implications for East Asian Collections” by Peter Zhou, Assistant University Librarian and Director of CV Starr East Asian Library at UC Berkeley; and “Imagine, Align, and Prosper: the Roles of East Asia Libraries and Librarians in Digital Scholarship” by Betsy Wilson, Vice Provost on Digital Initiative and Dean of University Libraries of University of Washington. Each will speak respectively from the perspectives of library users/scholars, management of East Asian libraries, and top leadership of university libraries. Following the keynotes, there will be a panel discussion led by me as CEAL President on questions from CEAL members and research.

The librarians’ panel, designed and organized by a CEAL task force led by Tomoko Bialock, will discuss “Challenges and Opportunities of East Asian Libraries and Librarians in Digital Scholarship,” featuring a group of East Asian librarians of public, technical, and digital scholarship services. The panel will present various perspectives and tackle issues that front-line service librarians encounter in their daily work.

The plenary will conclude with a Poster Session presenting the latest achievements of CEAL members. It is exciting to read the abstracts of these posters, which showcase the energy and innovative spirit of CEAL members.

The first day continues into the evening, when there will be the Small Collection Roundtable and the special session of the Committee on Chinese Materials, entitled "Visions and Expectations: Librarians' Role in Digital Scholarship for Chinese Studies."

On March 21, the 2nd day of the Annual Meeting, CEAL committees will offer interesting programs. The Committee on Korean Material's program is entitled "The State of Field of Digital Heritage in Korean Studies," the Committee on Japanese Materials' program discusses "Web Archiving of Japanese Studies Resources," the Committee on Chinese Materials' program continues the discussion of its special session, the Committee on Technical Processing's program explores "Emerging Technical Services: Enhancing the Discovery of Unique and Digital Collections," the Committee on Public Services' program discusses "Public Services in the Digital Age: New Ideas and Traditional Roles," and the Library Technology Committee's program is on "Practicing Digital Scholarship with Emerging Technologies." In conjunction with the CEAL Annual Meeting, the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) will hold its annual open meeting and the Korean Collection Consortium of North America (KCCNA) will hold its membership meeting.

These content-rich and engaging programs will provide CEAL members an opportunity to explore and understand what is expected of us East Asian librarians, what we can do for our users, and what skills, tools, and support we need to better provide library services to meet the looming demand of digital scholarship. As president of CEAL, I warmly invite CEAL members and interested individuals and organizations to attend the 2019 CEAL Annual Meeting and Pre-conference.

During the Annual Meeting, CEAL Executive Board will also have full agenda for its business meetings. Committees and task forces will brief the EB regarding the progress of the projects and initiatives that we have launched since last summer, including the initiative on CEAL Organizational Handbook led by Yao Chen, the initiative on CEAL Leadership Institute in 2020 led by Xiang Li, and the initiative on CEAL Distinguished Service Award led by Hana Kim. While developing the 2019 annual program, EB has also identified areas of work for enhancement. I have issued a call for agenda items for the upcoming EB meetings to encourage EB members to identify issues and questions for discussion. All will enable us to further strengthen our organization and empower CEAL members.

As other February issues of the journal, this issue of *JEAL* publishes the 2018 CEAL Statistics in addition to peer-reviewed articles and reports. The detailed statistical data document the growth and strength of the research resources, the pillar that East Asian studies in North America rests on. The latest statistics indicates a trend of growth in digital resources and digital scholarship. It also reminds us, however, that the large and growing collections of print materials in research libraries are still a working horse for East Asian

studies, and we must continue maintaining the print collections while embracing the new digital world.

Last but not the least, I'd like to take this opportunity to express our deep appreciation to many for their contributions and support. I thank the CU Boulder Libraries for its generous co-sponsorship of the 2019 CEAL reception and for their hospitality in hosting the entire CEAL pre-conference at their library, providing free conference rooms and facilities, and offering Open House sessions at its Special Collections. I also thank our colleagues at CU Boulder Libraries, Xiang Li and Adam Lisbon, for their hard work in coordinating CEAL events on their campus to provide CEAL members with satisfactory and special conference experience. I thank each and every EB members for their dedication and hard work in meticulously preparing all the details, from conference programs to arranging AV support to ordering refreshments. Finally, I thank our donors for their generous support and contributions. All will help make the CEAL Annual Meeting a great success.

The 2019 CEAL election is in full swing. The balloting will end on March 11. I'd like to thank those members for standing for the election and to encourage all CEAL members to cast your votes.

Thank you and see you in Denver!

Zhijia Shen
CEAL President