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## From the President

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## **From the President**

As the autumn is turning the colors to red and gold, our campuses are also waking up to the hustling footsteps and energy of new and returning students and faculty. Many have just come back from their travels for business, family, or leisure. I'd like to take this opportunity to wish that all CEAL colleagues have had a productive and re-energizing summer and will have a fruitful and rewarding 2019-2020 academic year.

Since the last CEAL annual meeting in March, the Executive Board (EB) and task force members have made significant progress on CEAL initiatives and in planning for the 2020 annual meeting. As you have heard from our vice president, Hana Kim, CEAL will present its first Distinguished Service Award at the 2020 annual meeting and the task force is calling for nominations. I invite CEAL members to participate actively and submit your nominations. As an organization, this award raises the flag for the values and mission of CEAL. The recipient will represent the highest quality and achievements of CEAL members.

The Task Force on CEAL Leadership Institute 2020 chaired by CEAL Membership Committee Chair Xiang Li has been working hard to organize the first in a long-time CEAL leadership training program. A survey has been distributed to CEAL members to collect ideas and suggestions for training topics. We are honored to have Maureen Sullivan, a past president of ALA and renowned educator in the library profession, to be our lead instructor. She has been working with the CEAL task force on planning and designing the training curriculum. The leadership institute will include a preconference of CEAL annual meeting at Harvard University on March 17 and three to four webinars all catered to meet the particular needs of CEAL members. In addition, the CEAL annual meeting will have a plenary session with outstanding library leaders as keynote speakers. The task force is also working with grant organizations and donors to raise funding to support the leadership institute.

The CEAL Organizational Handbook Task Force led by CEAL Secretary Yao Chen has made great progress putting together the first edition of the handbook. I thank all the past and present EB members for contributing to the entries of this important document, which will serve as a very useful tool to ensure continuity and development of our organization. This is a detailed and demanding task. I commend the leadership of Yao and her team for their dedication and encourage all CEAL officers to continue contributing to the handbook to make the document as complete as possible.

In July, CEAL submitted its annual report to AAS. We reported on the successful completion of the initiative by the Task Force on the 2019 CEAL Annual Program: Panel of EA Librarians, the progress of the other CEAL initiatives, and the significant achievements of CEAL committees, task forces, and affiliate groups. CEAL Treasurer submitted a detailed report on the status of CEAL finance. Our report has received very positive comments from AAS President and Executive Director. The report is now available to CEAL member upon request to CEAL Secretary.

CEAL EB has also been working on the 2020 CEAL annual program, which will continue the theme of “Strengthening our organization and empowering CEAL members to meet the challenges of the digital age.” Thanks to your responses to the 2019 post-conference survey, our programs in 2020 will focus on bringing top-notch speakers. The topics of the two plenary sessions in 2020 will be: challenges and opportunities of digital scholarship for scholars and librarians; and building leadership competencies for East Asian librarians to succeed in the digital age. CEAL committee chairs are also proactively planning for committee sessions and preconference. We look forward to presenting a rich repertoire of activities to CEAL member in Boston next March.

Last but not the least, I’d like to thank our *JEAL* Editor, Charles Fosselman, for his excellent and dedicated work to have put together another content-rich issue of *JEAL*. There are two peer-reviewed research articles in this issue discussing topics directly from our field of East Asian librarianship. Enjoy the reading!

Zhijia Shen  
CEAL President