



**Dr. Jinmei Yuan - Lecture Topic: "Literature as A Way of Seeking for Truth"**

**Lecture Abstract:** Using my practicing Chinese literature as a case study, I shall argue that if Truth can be pursued by questioning, and if a good literary work questions the core of humanity and human conditions, then doing literature can be one of ways in seeking for Truth. While logic uses forms and patterns to prove the validity of thoughts, literature uses images to bridge realities and thoughts. "From the beautiful bodies to beautiful practices, and then to beautiful thoughts until he comes to understand the absolute beauty, and know what the essence of beauty is" (Plato). Fun is in the process.

**Dr. Jinmei Yuan**, philosophy professor at Creighton University in Omaha, is the 2003 winner of the Unitas Literature Award, the highest in the field of Chinese literature. Many of Yuan's essays, stories, and novellas have appeared in literary journals and she has also authored and coauthored many books and papers in the area of philosophy. Her novel *The Moon is over the Parapet* was the second in a new fiction series under the general title *Overseas Wanderers: Exciting Stories*. Her most recent novella, *Village Luokan*, won the 2009 Maotai Cup People's Literature Award from the Chinese Writers' Association, which ranked it as one of the two best novellas published in China that year. The novella was first published in the December 2008 issue of *People's Literature*, China's first literary journal and one of the two most prestigious in the country. The novella has been reprinted seven times since it won the award. Early this year, the Association of Chinese Novel Studies recommended Dr. Yuan's new book, *Hustlen Hazel*, as one of the five best books of the year 2015 in China. The literature column of *People's Daily*, the most popular national newspaper in China also recommended Yuan's *Hustlen Hazel* as one of the best books of 2015. The chief editor of *People's Literature*, remarks of Yuan's book that, "You see the author's sense of humor in the details, and precise reasoning informs the plot of the story. It is an excellent novel in which one can discover the elements of a masterpiece."

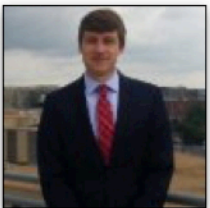


**Dr. Matthew Crosston - Lecture Topic: "THAAD MAD BAD: The Battle of Competing Narratives over the South China Sea"**

**Lecture Abstract:** It will focus on the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense anti-ballistic missile system as a backdrop for animosity and misperception between America and China in the South China Sea. The germination for this talk stems from a newspaper interview Dr. Crosston gave to a major China news daily approximately two weeks ago, when his expert opinion was sought to explain to the Chinese people why there were "American attitudes of hostility towards China in the South China Sea."

**Dr. Matthew Crosston, Professor of Political Science at Bellevue University**, is the Miller Endowed Chair for Industrial and International Security, and Director of the International Security and Intelligence Studies program. He has authored two well-received books, several book chapters and over two dozen peer-reviewed articles in venues like the *International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*, *Journal of Strategic Security*, *International Politics*, *Journal of Military and Strategic Affairs*, *Comparative Strategy*, *Journal of Conflict Transformation and Security*, *Strategic Studies Quarterly*, *Central Asian Survey*, *Journal of Global Analysis*, and *Democracy and Security*. His research agenda continues to address counter-terrorism, intelligence analysis and education, failed democratization, global gender violence, and cyber war/ethics. His works have been translated into Russian, Arabic, Chinese, Hebrew, Spanish, Turkish, Farsi, Greek, and Uzbek.

In 2015 Crosston won the Bellevue All-Faculty Research Prize for Outstanding Scholarship and in 2013 was named the Outstanding Instructor by the International Association for Intelligence Education (IAFIE) while also receiving the Commander's Coin for Integrity, Service, and Excellence from the 97<sup>th</sup> Intelligence Squadron for facilitating foreign language study for airmen at Offutt Air Force Base in Omaha. In the past few years he has been invited to speak at such diverse venues as the U.S. Department of State, the Defense Intelligence Agency, Oxford University, and University College London, as well as being asked to give interviews for Japanese, Chinese, Russian, Iranian, and Saudi news services. He has a BA from Colgate University, MA from the University of London, PhD from Brown University, and finished a Post-Doctoral Fellowship at the University of Toronto.



**Griffen Farrar - Lecture Topic: "The Untold Story: Nebraska's Japanese"**

**Lecture Abstract:** The photos for the exhibit come from both the Nebraska State Historical Societies archives as well as donations from families around the state. A few of the images come from the Lincoln County Historical Society as well as the Church of Our Savoir in North Platte Nebraska. They span the time period from about 1920-1980 and are a good cross section of the state with the majority coming from North Platte or Scottsbluff which were the two largest concentrations.

**Griffen Farrar** is a senior double major in Political Science and History with a focus in East Asia and in particular the Sino-Japanese relationship post WWII. He has worked for the Nebraska State Historical Society for the past four years and is currently the chief researcher in the Historic Preservation Department. His piece, "An Issei on the Plains: The Story of Richi Ugai" was published in the Winter 2015 edition of *Nebraska History*. He has given talks at a photography exhibit that was held at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln as well as being the Keynote speaker at the Japanese in Nebraska conference which was held at the Legacy of the Plains Museum in Gering, Nebraska. He will be speaking at the Nebraska Museum Association annual conference in Alliance, Nebraska about including underrepresented populations in Museums later this month.