

The Sigur Center for Asian Studies, The Elliott School of International Affairs

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## Message from the Directors

Autumn greetings from the Sigur Center for Asian Studies. We are delighted to bring you the latest edition of *The Asian Connection*, covering Spring and Summer 2007.

The Sigur Center represents a community of more than 50 full-time faculty whose work either focuses exclusively on Asia or has a substantial Asia component; a comparable group of adjunct, part-time and visiting faculty and

scholars; hundreds of students who learn from them via courses; and a much greater number of alumni, local experts and friends. All are devoted to the greater understanding of Asia.

To this end, the Sigur Center has hosted and sponsored some 46 events (attended by nearly 1,400 guests) during Spring and Summer 2007. It continues to oversee Asian Studies programs for

undergraduate and graduate students and facilitate research and dialogue on a variety of issues covering a geographical span that ranges from Afghanistan to Japan. We are confident you will share our appreciation of the importance of Asia in the world and our enthusiasm for studying and understanding it better.

*Kirk Larsen, Director and  
Deepa Ollapally, Associate  
Director.*

## Major Events

### Sponsored Conferences

In January 2007, the Sigur Center and Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, with funding from the *Luce Foundation*, held a conference entitled "Globalization, Migration & the State: East Asia's Evolving Landscape of Labor."

In April 2007, the Sigur Center, with funding from the *POSCO Foundation*, held a conference on "Korean NGO Activities & Perspectives: Peace, Human Rights, and Civic Participation." In partnership with Stanford University, the conference brought leading scholars and activists from Korea and the U.S.

In addition, in June 2007, the Sigur Center, with support from the *Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office (TECRO)*, hosted a roundtable discussion on "Transnational Collaboration & Taiwan's Challenges," with opening remarks provided by David W. F. Huang, TECRO's Deputy Representative.

### The Future of Democracy Initiative and Asia

The Sigur Center co-sponsored several Asia-related events this year with the Elliott School's new *Future of Democracy Initiative*: a January talk on "Election Politics in Bangladesh & the Crisis of Democracy;" a February lecture on "Civil Society &

Democracy in Vietnam;" an April discussion on "Comparing India & China: Market-Friendly Federalism & Democracy Links;" and a panel in April on "Making Democracy Stick: Lessons from Mature, Emerging & Transitional Democracies in Asia" (focusing on India, South Korea and Afghanistan).

### Sigur Memorial Lecture

The annual Sigur Memorial Lecture held during spring featured Han Sung-Joo, former Minister of Foreign Affairs, South Korea, who gave a talk on "The Korea Triangle: The Two Koreas Between China & the U.S."

*For photos of some of these major events, please turn to Page 6!*



*The Sigur Center's staff and work-study students (L-R): Anita Narayan, Ikuko Turner, Deepa Ollapally, Erin Robinson, Kirk Larsen, Grace Lim and Eunmi Kim.*

## New Developments

### Taiwan Forum

Edward McCord, Associate Professor of History and International Affairs and Director of the Taiwan Education & Research Program, established the Taiwan Forum in Spring 2007 to bring together visiting scholars, academics, journalists, students and members of the policy community for discussions on Taiwan's current affairs. The Forum hosted seven presentations, with support from the *Taiwan Foundation for Democracy*.

### Asian Studies Course

During the Spring 2007 semester, Kirk Larsen, Korea

Foundation Associate Professor of History and International Affairs, taught a new course on "Special Topics in Korean History: Korean Historical Controversies."

### Japanese Web Site

Shoko Hamano, Associate Professor of Japanese and International Affairs, has launched "Visualizing Japanese Grammar." This new web site provides 66 flash animations and 12 downloadable PowerPoint shows illustrating Japanese grammar. It has been listed as one of the very best sites in Charles Kelly's well-known Japanese resource site.

### Research Roundtable Series

### for Visiting Scholars

This new initiative brings advanced students and faculty in Asian Studies at GW together with Visiting Scholars from Asia hosted by the Sigur Center. The roundtables provide the opportunity to discuss the scholars' research in an informal setting.

### Conversational Language Tea Sessions

Aimed at Asian Studies students and others looking to brush up on their conversational language skills, the Sigur Center introduced a monthly tea session. In 2006-07, Korean and Japanese sessions were held. Chinese will be added in the coming year.



The new "Visualizing Japanese Grammar" site can be found at <http://www.gwu.edu/~eall/vjg/vjghomepage/vjghome.htm>.



Han Sung-Joo, South Korea's former Minister of Foreign Affairs, speaks during the Sigur Memorial Lecture on March 28, 2007.

## Lecture Series

During Spring 2007, we continued our lecture series on *Transnational Asia* and *Subnational Asia*:

### Transnational Asia

"The Yomiuri Project on War Responsibility in Japan," Takahiko Tennichi, Editorial Writer, Yomiuri Shimbun

"China's Global Activism," Phillip Saunders, Senior Research Fellow, Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University

"The Experience of a World War Two 'Comfort Woman': A Dutch Survivor Discusses Her Story," Jan

Ruff O'Herne

"The Making of the 'Rape of Nanking': History and Memory in Japan, China, and the U.S.," Takashi Yoshida, Jennings Randolph Senior Fellow, U.S. Institute of Peace

"New Developments in China's Foreign Policy," Qin Yaqing, Executive Vice President & Professor of International Studies, China Foreign Affairs University

"Challenges for U.S.-Japan Relations," Ellis Krauss, Professor of Japanese Politics and Policymaking, UC San Diego

### Subnational Asia

"The New Indian Middle Class?," Sonalde Desai, Associate Professor, University of Maryland

"China's Muslim Minority: Xinjiang Province in Historical Perspective," James A. Millward, Associate Professor of Intersocietal History, Georgetown University

"Indonesian News Post-Soeharto," Janet Steele, Associate Professor, George Washington University

"Why Do Koreans Have Their History Backwards?," Mark Peterson, Head, Korea Section, Brigham Young University

## Sigur-Affiliated Programs

### China Policy Program (CPP)

This program, directed by Professor David Shambaugh, co-hosted three international conferences concerning China in Spring and Summer 2007. With funding from the *German Marshall Fund*, CPP co-sponsored the Fourth U.S.-EU Dialogue on China with the Asia Centre at Science Po in Paris. CPP also sponsored a delegation of Elliott School faculty to Beijing and Shanghai for conferences with the China Institute of International Studies and the Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences.

### Memory & Reconciliation in the Asia-Pacific Program

In Spring 2007, this program, co-directed by Professors Mike Mochizuki and Daqing Yang, received support for their work from the *Japan-United States Friendship Commission*. The two co-directors also helped organize a workshop at the Salzburg Seminar (Austria) in June to discuss problems and prospects of Sino-Japanese reconciliation.

### U.S.-Japan-South Korea Legislative Exchange Program (LEP/TLEP)

This program, led by Professor

Henry Nau, conducted its semi-annual legislative exchange meeting in May 2007. The meeting consists of both a bilateral session between members of the U.S. Congress and Japanese Diet (LEP) and a trilateral session that includes members of the South Korean National Assembly (TLEP). The LEP/TLEP brings high-level leaders together twice a year to discuss informally the major issues of domestic and foreign affairs. The *Japan-United States Friendship Commission* has funded the program since 1989.



During Spring 2007, the China Policy Program sponsored a delegation of Elliott School faculty to Beijing and Shanghai (L-R): David Shambaugh, Martha Finnemore, David Shinn, Cynthia McClintock and Karl F. Inderfurth.

## Sigur-Funded Research

The Sigur Center provided Summer 2007 support for Asia-related research to 11 faculty members. Funding was made possible via our continuing status as a Center for Academic Excellence at GW.

The awardees and projects included:

**Alasdair Bowie** (Political Science & International Affairs), "The Changing Role of Government in the Economy in Vietnam and Indonesia"

**Gregg Brazinsky** (History & International Affairs), "The Korean War: A Transnational History"

**Elizabeth Chacko** (Geography & International Affairs), "Migration &

Development: Labor Flows from South Asia to Malaysia"

**Joel Kuipers** (Anthropology, International Affairs, & Human Sciences), "The Language Ideologies of Indonesian Islamic Piety"

**Thomas Michael** (Religion & Honors), "Shamanism in China"

**Henry Nau** (Political Science & International Affairs), "Why Has Japanese Security Policy Expanded?"

**David Shambaugh** (Political Science & International Affairs), "The Party School System in China"

**Janet Steele** (Media & Public Affairs), "New Media

in Malaysia & Potential Challenges to Government Authority"

**Emmanuel Teitelbaum** (Political Science & International Affairs), "Does Successful Reform Require a Race to the Bottom? Evidence from the Indian States"

**Daqing Yang** (History & International Affairs), "History of Japan's Relations with China in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century"

**Jiawen Yang** (International Business & International Affairs), "The Economic & Financial Linkages of China, Japan & South Korea"



Professor Elizabeth Chacko, a recipient of Sigur Center funding, conducted research this summer on labor flows. Pictured is Lucky Plaza in Singapore, where Filipino workers regularly gather to relax and use banking facilities to remit money home.

## Professor Profile

**Alfred Hildebeitel**, Columbian Professor of Religion, History & Human Sciences and Chair of the Department of Religion, brings his primary work on Sanskrit epic literature to try to rein in the Indian concept of *dharma* by proposing a new historical narrative. His current project will lead to a short book for undergraduates on *dharma*, to be published by the University of Hawaii Press.

Subsequently, he will undertake a more ambitious scholarly treatment of *dharma* in history. Hildebeitel says that “the general idea behind both books is to introduce a new way of looking at *dharma* beyond its

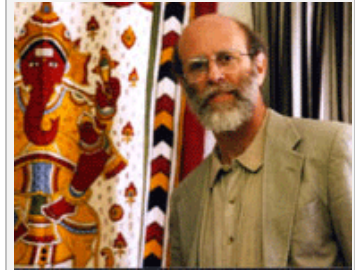
specialist usages to its emergence as a term of civil discourse.” He has already published five books, most recently, *Rethinking the Mahabharata: A Reader’s Guide to the Education of the Dharma King* (University of Chicago Press, 2001). He has also edited three books and published over 65 articles.

Professor Hildebeitel is Chairman of the Board of the South India Term Abroad (SITA) Program, an immersion experience offering opportunities for students to observe and participate in the cultural environment of South India. From 2003 to 2006, he received Sigur Center support for travel and field

work in Tamil Nadu.

Hildebeitel has received numerous awards, including a National Endowment for the Humanities award, a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship and a Guggenheim Fellowship. He received the first Oscar and Shoshana Trachtenberg Prize for Research in 1993, the first winner of this annual research award established by former GW President Stephen Trachtenberg.

In 1988, he was appointed GW Columbian Professor, the first recipient of this new appointment in the Humanities division. Hildebeitel holds a Ph.D. in the History of Religions from the University of Chicago.



*Alfred Hildebeitel, Chair of the Department of Religion, is currently researching the Indian concept of “dharma.”*

*“Not until recently has there been satisfying work on ‘dharma’ in history, and no one has found a good way to work out the implications of its uses across a broad spectrum.”*

## Student Spotlight

**Brooke Dean**, a second year Master’s candidate in Asian Studies and recipient of a Sigur Center Grant for East Asian Field Research, spent the summer in Beijing, where she completed a paper on China’s energy security. “I am very grateful for this experience provided through the Sigur Center,” Dean noted. “Researching in China greatly enriched the knowledge I gained in the classroom.”

Regarding her research, Dean says, “From the Chinese perspective there is a belief that the U.S. is out

to exploit China’s energy weakness. Chinese companies feel that in a market dominated by the U.S., they have few options but to access uncontested oil supplies, regardless of the political implications.”

Dean’s paper concludes that as the PRC relies on countries like Iran, Iraq and Sudan for energy, the U.S. will increasingly view China as an international security liability.

Within the MA program, Dean is concentrating on modern Chinese history and Chinese foreign policy

and security. She became interested in China following her missionary service in Taiwan from 2001 to 2003. A year later, she accepted a scholarship from the Chinese Scholarship Council to study at Beijing’s Tsinghua University. She also interned in the Consular Section of the U.S. Embassy in Beijing.

Since October 2005, Dean has served as a Research Associate for the Center for Intelligence Research and Analysis, where her work focuses on Chinese science and technology research and development.



*Brooke Dean, an MA in Asian Studies candidate, used a Sigur Center Summer Grant for East Asian Field Research to travel to Beijing and study China’s energy security.*

## Featured Alumnus

**Paul Heer** (Ph.D., History, 1995), currently the National Intelligence Officer for East Asia, is the U.S. government's top expert within the intelligence community's cadre of analysts who work on East Asia. Heer oversees the production of National Intelligence Estimates—the intelligence community's premier interagency analytical assessments—on East Asian issues. He was appointed to this position in May 2007.

Heer describes his doctoral studies at GW as “the foundation for my academic expertise on East Asia, since my previous studies had focused on the U.S. side of diplomatic history.” He commends “the impressive faculty” for

broadening his understanding of East Asian history and the international politics of the region.

While conducting research for his dissertation on “George F. Kennan and U.S. Foreign Policy in East Asia,” Heer recalls that he had the opportunity to interview or correspond with several key figures in American foreign policy—Kennan himself, Dean Rusk, Paul Nitze, and John Paton Davies.

During his career at the Central Intelligence Agency, which began in 1982 and continued until his recent move to the National Intelligence Council, Heer served as the political and foreign policy

manager for China and Southeast Asia. In this capacity, he was a member of the staff of the President's Daily Brief.

Heer participates in many of the Sigur Center's conferences. Most recently, he delivered the keynote speech at a conference on “International Relations in Asia: The New Regional System,” co-sponsored by the Sigur Center and the China Policy Program in September 2007.

Heer was a Visiting Intelligence Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations from 1990 to 2000 and was later elected a Life Member of the Council.



*Paul Heer, National Intelligence Officer for East Asia, has ties to the Sigur Center that predate its establishment. During his career at the Central Intelligence Agency, he often provided intelligence support directly to Gaston Sigur while the latter was Assistant Secretary of State for East Asia and the Pacific in the Reagan administration.*

## Featured Visiting Scholar

**Toyomi Asano**, Sigur Center Visiting Scholar (2006-07) and Professor at Chukyo University in Japan, completed a book manuscript on the Japanese colonial legal system during his stay at the Sigur Center. His book, *Teikoku nihon no Shokuminchi Hosei*, will be published by Nagoya University Press in 2008; an English translation is envisioned.

His work covers the period from Japan's successful rise as a sovereign state in 1894 through the American

occupation after World War II and looks regionally at Taiwan, Korea and Manchuria. As part of his manuscript preparation at the Sigur Center, Asano gave a lecture in May 2007, “Between the Collapse of Japanese Empire and Normalization with East Asian States: Repatriation, Reparations and Memories Reconsidered.”

Asano credits his time at the Sigur Center for completing his book. According to him, access to several unique documents at the Library

of Congress and the National Archive in Maryland was critical for enhancing the book's historical analysis. “I remember how surprised I was when I found out that many precise documents and photos about the Japanese empire were written down and collected by American officials in those days,” he noted.

In addition to his forthcoming book, Asano has edited or co-edited four books and published numerous articles.



*Toyomi Asano, Sigur Center Visiting Scholar from 2006-07, is pictured here with his daughters Nina (L) and Hinako (R).*



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**Edited by:**

Deepa Ollapally & Anita Narayan

# Faculty & Student Accomplishments

**New Books by Faculty**

*Nation Building in South Korea: Koreans, Americans, and the Making of a Democracy* (UNC Press, 2007), Gregg Brazinsky, Assistant Professor of History and International Affairs

*Unstrange Minds: Remapping the World of Autism* (Basic Books, 2007), Richard Roy Grinker, Professor of Anthropology, International Affairs, and Human Sciences

*Japan in International Politics: The Foreign Policies of an Adaptive State* (Lynne Rienner Publishers,

Inc., 2007), Mike Mochizuki, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs (co-edited with Thomas U. Berger and Jitsuo Tsuchiyama)

**Teaching Award**

Kirk Larsen won the 2006 Bender Teaching Award, which "honors GW educators for their work towards the development of faculty activities in addition to their role as outstanding educators."

**Student Awards**

The Sigur Center provided language and area studies

grants to the following students during Summer 2007:

*Chinese Language Study in Taiwan:* Jessica Chen, Alexander Hart, Anita Narayan, Erin Robinson

*East Asian Field Research:* Brooke Dean, Enze Han, James Person, Emily Weaver

*Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS):* Jeffrey Becker, Grace Lim, David West

*Korean Language Study in Korea:* Christopher Hammill, Dexter Kim



*"Comparing India & China: Market-Friendly Federalism & Democracy Links," April 5, 2007*



*"Korean NGO Activities & Perspectives: Peace, Human Rights, and Civic Participation," April 26, 2007*



*"Transnational Collaboration & Taiwan's Challenges," June 22, 2007*

