

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

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Professor Shelley Rigger of Davidson College speaks at "The Taiwan Presidential Election: Domestic, Regional and International Implications" on March 26.

Message from the Directors

Welcome to the new academic year at the Sigur Center for Asian Studies.

This newsletter brings you up to date on the Center's activities and some of the key accomplishments of our faculty and students during Spring and Summer 2008.

We bid farewell to Kirk Larsen as Director of the Center, who left to join

Brigham Young University. We want to thank him for his able stewardship of the Center and enormous contributions to students in Asian Studies. Shawn McHale, professor of Southeast Asian history, returns as Director after a year's sabbatical in Vietnam.

In the upcoming year, we

will continue our active schedule (last year the Center accounted for nearly a quarter of the Elliott School's events) and also work to strengthen two new efforts launched last year: our India Initiative and Korea Outreach.

Shawn McHale, Director, & Deepa Ollapally, Associate Director

Major Events

During Spring and Summer, the Sigur Center held **34 events**, attracting an **audience of 1,280**. **Some highlights include:**

Conference on Celebrated Korean Alumnus

In May, the Sigur Center, with generous support from the Korea Foundation, held a conference on **Philip Jai-sohn (So Chae-p'il)**, a noted **Korean reformer, activist and GW alum**. **He was the first Korean to receive a medical degree in the U.S.** The event coincided with the unveiling of his statue at the Korean Embassy in Washington, D.C.

Taiwan Presidential Election Series

During the spring semester, the Sigur Center examined the presidential

elections in Taiwan with a conference and roundtable **supported by the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office**.

The conference looked at the domestic and international implications of the elections, and featured GW professors **Harry Harding** and **Robert Sutter**, as well as **Shelley Rigger** (Davidson College) and **Hans Stockton** (University of St. Thomas).

This event was followed in June by a roundtable entitled "The Winds of Change: An Early Assessment of the Ma Administration," with GW Professor **Robert Sutter**, Elizabeth **Larus** (University of Mary Washington) and **Steven Phillips** (Towson University).

Korean Security Relations Conference

The Sigur Center **co-hosted a conference on "Korean Security Relationships Past and Future" with the National Security Archive**, sponsored by the Korea Foundation and the Japan Foundation Center for Global Partnership. Six papers were presented on topics ranging from Russian and North Korean relations to an examination of the future of U.S.-Japan-South Korea trilateral security cooperation.

Annual Gaston Sigur Memorial Lecture

This year's 12th Annual Gaston Sigur Memorial Lecture was delivered by Susan L. **Shirk**, University of California, San Diego. She spoke on "**The Foreign Policy Implications of China's Political Fragility**" based on her book, *China: Fragile Superpower*, to a large crowd from the D.C. area.

India Initiative

The Sigur Center continued to promote its India Initiative through a series of special events sponsored by the Initiative.

The first in the spring was a keynote lecture on March 12, titled “Reflections on U.S.-India Relations” by Ambassador Ronen Sen of India. It was followed by a panel with commentaries on the U.S. presidential election and its implications for India.

Amb. Karl F. Inderfurth of GW and Ashley Tellis of the Carnegie Endowment respectively put forth a Democratic and Republican perspective.

The luncheon event was attended by over 130, including many business and community leaders, and the story made headlines in nearly all major Indian newspapers.

In April, the Sigur Center partnered with the Asia Society to present “A Dhrupad Concert by the Dagar Ensemble.” The vocalist for the group, Ustad F. Wasifuddin Dagar, is the 20th generation of his family to practice this type of classical Indian music.

The event was made possible by the generous support of Rama and Arun Deva and Shabnam Arora. It was attended by more than 200 people. India Initiative members and other guests attended a private reception sponsored by the Embassy of India prior to the concert.

The India Initiative also sponsored two Brown Bag lectures within the Sigur Center’s Subnational Asia lecture series. The first was “HIV/AIDS & the Challenges

for India,” with Geeta Rao Gupta, President of the International Center for Research on Women.

The second, co-sponsored by the U.S.-India Business Alliance, was entitled “Fighting Corruption in India: An Insider Account of Government Responses.” The talk was given by Madras Sivaraman, the former Permanent Secretary for India’s Ministry of Finance, responsible for all taxation departments, revenue, and customs intelligence.

Both of these lectures were well-attended and served to increase the focus on India at the Sigur Center as well as expand the Center’s outreach to the Indian community with important, timely topics.



Ambassador Ronen Sen (L) listens to Ashley Tellis of the Carnegie Endowment (R) at “Reflections on U.S.-India Relations” on March 12.

Friends of India and Korea Studies

The Sigur Center is inviting membership in two new groups: Friends of the India Initiative and Friends of Korea Studies. The Friends groups are designed to draw in high level business, community, NGO, academic, and government leaders with special briefings and networking events. **You may read more about these groups at**

www.gwu.edu/~sigur/indiainitiative.html and www.gwu.edu/~sigur/friendsofkorea.html

On Korea, our goal is to continue enhancing the Sigur Center’s reputation as one of the country’s leading policy research forums on contemporary Korea as well as increase the Center’s support for Korean studies throughout the University. Professor Young-Key Kim-Renaud (see Professor Profile) is taking a lead role in this effort.

On India, we want to build a program that places the Sigur Center at the forefront of scholarship and analysis

of U.S.-India relations and U.S. foreign policy on the subcontinent. This initiative is being directed by Professors Deepa Ollapally and Karl F. Inderfurth.

To make a contribution to either program, please go to https://www.gwu.edu/online_giving/ and be sure to select “Other” for the gift designation and type “India Initiative - Sigur Center for Asian Studies” or “Friends of Korea- Sigur Center for Asian Studies.”



Dean Michael Brown of the Elliott School attends the March 12th India Initiative event with Ambassador Ronen Sen, along with a large audience of over 130 people.

Lecture Series

Throughout Spring 2008, we continued our lecture series on Transnational and Subnational Asia. The Center also continued a new series called the Taiwan Forum, and a series of roundtables by our resident visiting scholars.

Transnational and Subnational Asia

"Security, Identity and the Rise of China," William Callahan, University of Manchester

"Fresh Impressions & Prospects for Afghanistan," Ahmad Nader Nadery, Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission

"Elite Politics and Inflation in China: Past and Present," Victor Shih, Northwestern University

"Economic Reforms & Democracy in Nepal," Prem Khanal, *The Kathmandu Post*

"The Truth & Reconciliation Commission in the Republic of

Korea: Confronting Massacres during the Korean War," Kim Dong-Chon, Truth & Reconciliation Commission, ROK

"Does China Have an Energy Diplomacy?: Reflections on China's Energy Security and its Impact on Foreign Policy," Linda Jakobson, Finnish Institute of International Affairs

Taiwan Forum

"Chinese Views of Taiwan's Elections," Bonnie Glaser, Center for Strategic and International Studies

"Electoral Interdependence Among Taipei, Beijing and Washington: The Security Implications," David Michael Lampton, Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies

"U.S.-Taiwan Relations in the Aftermath of the Taiwan Election," Randall Schriver, Armitage International

"Trapped in a Vise: Taiwan's Struggle for International Space," Christopher Griffin, American Enterprise Institute

"Identity Politics in China and Taiwan and Implications for Cross-Strait Relations," Stephen Yates, DC Asia Advisory, LLC

Visiting Scholar Roundtables

"A Conceptual Framework for Reconciliation in International Relations," Seung-hoon Heo, Graduate Institute of International & Development Studies, Geneva, Switzerland

"A Model for East Asian Civil Society in Reconciling History-Related Conflicts," Mikang Yang, Asia Peace and History Education Network, South Korea

"U.S. Renewable Energy Policy at the Crossroads," Sanghoon Lee, Korean Federation for Environmental Movements, South Korea



Professor Susan Shirk of the University of California speaking at the Annual Sigur Memorial Lecture on April 8th.

Korea-America Student Conference

In July, the Sigur Center co-sponsored the first Korea-America Student Conference along with Brown University, the Institute of East Asian Studies and the Center for Korean Studies at University of California, Berkeley, and the Howard Baker Center for Public Policy at the University of Tennessee. This effort was organized by International Student Conferences.

This month-long experience was modeled after the long-standing Japan-America Student Conference. Forty students from the U.S. and South Korea traveled to the four sponsor schools and participated in academic roundtable discussions, cultural and social events, and visits to business enterprises.

The theme of the

conference was **"A New Look at the U.S.-Korea Alliance,"** and panels looked at **international issues, North Korea, technology, and security challenges.** Speakers included former National Security Council Asia Director Victor Cha and Ambassador Tom Hubbard.

More information about the conference can be found at www.iscdc.org.



Victor Cha, former National Security Council Director, speaking to the students at the Korean American Student Conference at the Elliott School.

Professor Profile

Young-key Kim-Renaud, *Professor of Korean Language and Culture and International Affairs*, currently serves as the *Chair of the East Asian Languages and Literatures Department*. She is a **leading expert on Korean language and linguistics**.

Her most recent work is a grammar reference of Korean for both a general audience and linguists. She is also **working on a major chapter on Modern Korean as part of an edited volume on Japanese and Korean linguistics**. Her paper on the vowel system and the Vowel Harmony phenomenon in 15th century Korean will be presented as a keynote speech at the inaugural conference of *Scripta*, a journal on writing systems. In addition, Professor Kim-Renaud is **writing a book on**

women who played a profound role in Korea's modernization.

When describing her scholarly activities, Professor Kim-Renaud says, **"Whether I do linguistic, literary, or cultural research, I am excited to think about and find answers to hitherto unquestioned or unanswered issues, or to challenge conventional wisdom**. I am also stimulated when researching new things because I feel I can test my current hypotheses and explanations as they are put in a broader context."

As head of the EALL Department, Kim-Renaud states, "I strive, and encourage others also, to be the best professionals we can be." She emphasizes

both research and teaching as fundamental for any professor at the college level.

After more than three decades, Kim-Renaud's Ph.D. dissertation on **Korean phonology remains one of the most frequently quoted works in Korean linguistics**. Her edited volume entitled *The Korean Alphabet: Its History and Structure* is considered a classic among texts on writing systems.

Professor Kim-Renaud is the **executive editor of *Korean Linguistics***, the scholarly journal of the International Circle of Korean Linguistics. She has been **honored by the Republic of Korea with its Order of Cultural Merit, Jade Class**.



Young-key Kim-Renaud, Professor of Korean Language and Culture and International Affairs, in front of the Kennedy Center.

"I have devoted my life to trying to understand and analyze Korean language and culture in a broader context. In the process, I have discovered that the deeper I study Korea-specific issues and problems, the more universal they have become." –Professor **Young-key Kim-Renaud**

Student Spotlight

Jana Kosarkova is an **MA candidate in the Asian Studies program**. She came to the Elliott School from the Czech Republic with a Masters degree in Chinese Philology from the Department of Asian Studies at Palacky University, one of the Czech Republic's leading academic institutions.

Although she remains fascinated by the diverse cultures and history of the region, she is mainly interested in the security challenges emerging from East Asia for the United

States, Japan, the E.U. and other allied countries. Kosarkova's interest in security was piqued by her **position as Development Manager of the Prague Security Studies Institute**. Her studies at the Elliott School have focused on the security dimensions of the Asia-Pacific region.

This spring, Kosarkova **received a grant from the Sigur Center** to pursue her study of Mandarin at the Mandarin Training Center at National Taiwan Normal University during the summer.

She notes, **"I have benefited greatly from this experience, particularly with respect to the traditional characters of the language and the opportunity to speak and correspond with new Taiwanese friends and colleagues on a day-to-day basis in this exotic and wonderful locale**. I have also learned to cope with intense heat, humidity and almost daily rain showers!"

Kosarkova will complete her degree in the spring of 2009.



Jana Kosarkova, an MA candidate in the Asian Studies program, with a friend in front of the Chiang Kai-shek Memorial Hall in Taipei, Taiwan.

Featured Alumnus

James Reilly (*Ph.D., Political Science, 2008*), is currently a post-doctoral research associate at Oxford University in both the departments of Politics and International Relations and History. Reilly wrote his **dissertation on “The Role of Public Opinion in China’s Japan Policy: 1997-2007.”**

Throughout the time he was a graduate student in political science, Reilly kept his foot in the real world—from 2001 to 2007, Reilly was the **East Asia Representative for the American Friends Service Committee (AFSC)**, a Quaker organization. He made history by opening their first office in China since 1949. With the AFSC, Reilly led programs on engagement with North Korea, regional security, China-Africa relations and rural-to urban migration in China. He also took five U.S. delegations to North Korea.

In 2007, Reilly was awarded a Fulbright-Hays Dissertation Research Grant. During that period, he was based at Renmin University in China while he conducted the research to complete his dissertation.

During his time at GW, Reilly served as a graduate teaching fellow for the Political Science Department, a graduate research fellow for Professor Mike Mochizuki, and was **awarded a Sigur Center Summer Field Research Grant in 2004. He worked with several Sigur faculty, including Professors David Shambaugh and Bruce Dickson. He continues to work closely with Professors Mochizuki and Daqing Yang** as a consultant to their Memory and Reconciliation in the Asia-Pacific Project.

About his tenure at GW, Reilly says, **“I spent a great deal of time at the Sigur**

Center, spending hours in the China reading room puzzling through Chinese academic and policy journals. I benefitted greatly from access to summer research funds provided through the Sigur Center, which offered me an invaluable opportunity to begin my research on China’s ‘history activists’ and their role in China-Japan relations.”

Reilly has already written a number of journal articles and book chapters, collaborating with GW’s Professor Yang on a chapter entitled **“Chinese Perspectives on Memory and Reconciliation with Japan,”** in a book Yang and Mochizuki are editing, as well as with Bates Gill on **an article entitled “The Tenuous Hold of China, Inc. in Africa,”** which appeared in *The Washington Quarterly* in the summer of 2007.



James Reilly shaking hands with his North Korean counterpart over the 38th parallel during one of his trips there as East Asia Representative for the American Friends Service Committee.

President Attends Korean Inauguration

In February, University President Steven Knapp traveled to South Korea to attend the inauguration of Lee Myung-bak as President of South Korea. **Lee was a visiting scholar at GW in 1999. President Knapp had the opportunity to congratulate President Lee and invite him to visit The George Washington University.**

This was President Knapp’s

second trip to South Korea since he became president last year. The first took place in December 2007.

In addition to celebrating President Lee’s inauguration, Knapp also utilized the trip to strengthen GW’s long-standing relationship with South Korea.

GW has had a number of distinguished South Korean

alumni, including Syngman Rhee, the first president of Korea, and Philip Jai-sohn, a well-known Korean reformer.

South Korea also has the largest GW alumni network outside of North America.

The second largest contingent of foreign students in the Elliott School’s entering MA class this year comes from Korea (after China).



Kirk Larsen, former Director of the Sigur Center (second from left) at the unveiling of the statue of Philip Jai-sohn outside the Korean Embassy in Washington, D.C.

The POSCO NGO Fellow Program

This September marks the **third year of partnership between the Sigur Center for Asian Studies and the POSCO T.J. Park Foundation** NGO Fellow Program.

This program brings members of South Korean non-governmental organizations to the United States and Canada to do research as fellows at various universities, including GW. The program is administered by Stanford University.

The POSCO NGO Fellow Program **aims to increase the interaction between members of the American, Canadian and Korean NGO communities.** GW forms part of a consortium that includes Stanford University, Columbia University, Indiana University, and the University of British Columbia.

Every year, the Sigur Center hosts two fellows from different Korean NGOs. **The incoming fellows are Hyunmo Choi and Gyung Lan Jung.** Mr. Choi will be

conducting **research on the existence of antagonism against migrants** and the activities of migrant advocacy NGOs to reduce it in the United States. Ms. Jung will be **exploring ways for women's cooperation among South Korea, North Korea, and the United States to help the peace building process on the Korean Peninsula.**

The 2007 scholars included Sanghoon Lee, who researched the determinants of national energy policy changes in the U.S., and Mikang Yang, who examined a civil society cooperation model for reconciling history in East Asia.

The first fellows housed at the Sigur Center were Woosik Cheong and Ilpyo Hong. Mr. Cheong looked at pathways to normalize relations between North Korea and the United States, and Mr. Hong examined policy formation in American think tanks and NGOs.

Besides the fellows, the POSCO Foundation also sponsors a yearly conference. This year's was held at the University of British Columbia. **The first took place at the Sigur Center in April, 2007.**

The 2007 conference focused on "Korean NGO Activities and Perspectives: Peace, Human Rights, and Civic Participation." Each POSCO NGO Fellow from the five universities spoke on a panel. Discussants included John Feffer, the International Relations Center, Laureen Laglagaron, Migration Policy Institute, and Nigina Bakhrieva, National Endowment for Democracy.

This year's conference was held on May 1, and was titled "Civil Society in North America: Lessons Learned." It featured papers from all 10 POSCO NGO fellows in the United States and Canada, including the Sigur Center's Sanghoon Lee and Mikang Yang.

Language Tea Times

Thanks to greater demand, the Sigur Center for Asian Studies stepped up its Language Tea Times in the Spring, holding them weekly. Each week featured Chinese, Japanese, or Korean.

Attendees were given the

opportunity to practice their language skills, meet with other students who study the same language, and work with native speakers on improving their skills, especially visiting scholars at the Center.

Some meetings focused

not only on that week's language but also on other skills such as calligraphy.

The Language Tea Times serve as good preparation for the language exit exam that every Asian Studies M.A. student must pass in order to graduate.




GW students Jane Lee (left), Jaime Oberlander (middle), Eunmi Kim (right), and Linda Yarr of the Program for International Studies in Asia (back) enjoy Korean food at a Korean Language Tea Time.

Sigur-Affiliated Programs

China Policy Program (CPP)

David Shambaugh, Director of the CPP, led the Second Washington Think Tanks China Specialists Delegation to Beijing at the invitation of China's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Chinese People's Institute of Foreign Affairs in June 2008. Delegation members came from GW, Georgetown, CSIS, Brookings, the Woodrow Wilson Center and the Carnegie Endowment.

In February 2008, in partnership with the German Institute of International & Security Affairs, the CPP organized the conference "Transatlantic Dialogue on China: Deepening the Cooperation."

The conference volume was co-edited by Professor David Shambaugh and is available at: http://www.swp-berlin.org/en/produkte/swp_studie.php?id=9218&PHPSESSID=5822eb4aa6d456dcdbf59a6c0ee4bbb1

Taiwan Education & Research Program (TERP)

In April, TERP co-sponsored with Gelman Library the opening of a new collection of Taiwanese opposition journals with an event entitled "Printing Democracy: Taiwan's Tang-wai Opposition Journals." Speakers included former journalists and a senior Taiwanese government official. The event and reception that followed saw

attendance by leading members of the Taiwanese-American community.

Legislative Exchange Program (LEP)

In January 2008 the U.S.-Japan LEP completed its 38th session, and the U.S.-Japan-South Korea Trilateral LEP held its 7th session in Tokyo, Japan. The 39th U.S.-Japan LEP meeting in May 2008 was postponed because of a pending government crisis in Tokyo. Nevertheless, the 8th TLEP between South Korean and U.S. members took place on May 1. The principle topics were the new Korean policy towards North Korea and the FTA.



Professor David Shambaugh outside Beijing National Stadium at the Beijing Olympics in August.

A View from Vietnam by Professor Shawn McHale

After stepping down as Director of the Sigur Center in August 2007, I accepted a Fulbright-Hays fellowship to work in Vietnam. My year abroad drove home an important lesson. Asia is (obviously) integrating and globalizing, but the view on the ground in Asia often differs from that in Washington. Nowhere is that lesson clearer than in Ho Chi Minh City (Saigon).

When I first arrived in Vietnam in 1989, the country was cut off from the rest of Asia. Vietnam, one of the poorest countries in the world, had no relations with the United States.

Today, despite recent economic turmoil, Vietnam is still an investment magnet – foreign direct investment there rivals that of India. And the lion's share of that investment is flowing into one place – the area in and around Ho Chi Minh City. That region is changing before our eyes.

Today, Ho Chi Minh City absorbs hundreds of thousands of new arrivals each year, mostly Vietnamese from the northern and central parts of Vietnam. Among expatriates, Asians predominate. Singaporeans, Taiwanese, and Japanese can be found. Most noticeable are the large numbers of Koreans, who have

invested in everything from factories to high-rise hotels. Vietnam is integrating to an extent not experienced ten years ago, but it is an Asian-inflected process. Asian influences shape everything from musical tastes to clothing styles. Integration and globalization bring prosperity. Yet rapid change is also leading to social dislocation, worsening inequality, and new challenges – such as traffic jams.

This experience abroad reminded me forcefully of how dynamic Asia can be – and of the important role the Sigur Center can play in helping us understand this "great transformation."



Sigur Center Director Shawn McHale in a boat along the Mekong River in Vietnam during his sabbatical there from 2007-2008.

Notes on Faculty & Students

Recent Books

Wealth into Power: The Communist Party's Embrace of China's Private Sector (Cambridge University Press, 2008) **Bruce Dickson**, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

The Politics of Extremism in South Asia (Cambridge University Press, 2008) **Deepa Ollapally**, Professorial Lecturer and Associate Director, Sigur Center.

China's Communist Party: Atrophy and Adaptation, (University of California Press, 2008) **David Shambaugh**, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs

Traditions, Treaties & Trade: Qing Imperialism & Choson Korea, 1850-1910 (Harvard University Asia Center Press, 2008), **Kirk Larsen**, Korea Foundation Associate Professor of History & International Affairs

Other Publications

To see the list of other publications from Sigur faculty, please visit:

<http://www.gwu.edu/~elliott/research/publications.cfm>.

Grants

The Sigur Center's annual summer grants were distributed in the spring. **The Taiwan Language Grant was given to Alexander Hart, Jana Kosarkova, and Lance Noble. The Korean Language Grant went to Harold Olsen and Courtney Rowland. Field Research Grants were given to Colm Fox, Jeffrey Horning, and Diana Xiong.**

Faculty research grants went to **Alasdair Bowie, Gregg Brazinsky, Bruce Dickson, Joel Kuipers, Shawn McHale, David Shambaugh, Robert Shepherd, Ronald Spector, Janet Steele, Emmanuel Teitelbaum, Jiawen Yang, and Daqing Yang.**

The Foreign Area Language Studies Grant for the academic year went to **Eric Concha, Matthew Hallowell and Christin Kjelland.**

Jane Lee won a Fulbright scholarship to teach English in Korea.

Alumni Relations

Elliott School **Dean Michael Brown** visited Tokyo, Seoul, and Hong Kong in February, meeting with alumni and representatives of our partner universities. He gave talks at Waseda University, Ewha Women's University, and the University of Hong Kong.

Honors

Elliott School Professor **Karl F. Inderfurth** was made a trustee of the Asia Foundation in March of 2008. The Asia Foundation is the premier non-profit organization devoted to Asia's development since 1954.

GW Alumna **Suzanne Basalla**, who earned her M.A. in Asian Studies from the Elliott School, was honored with the first **Ambassador and Mrs. Ryozo Kato Award** for her important contributions to U.S.-Japan relations. The Kato Award was established by a consortium of U.S. research institutes (CSIS, Brookings, CFR, Stimson, and the Center for New American Security). Ms. Basalla currently works for the Department of Defense.



Dean Michael Brown (front left) along with the Sigur Center's Ikuko Turner (back left) and the Elliott School's Kelly McCaskill (2nd from right) in Japan meeting with representatives of Waseda University.



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www.gwu.edu/~sigur/

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