Welcome to the 2009-10 academic year at the Sigur Center for Asian Studies! As you will see from this Newsletter covering Spring and Summer 2009, the Center has continued an active slate of events spanning East Asia to South Asia.

We have once again been highly successful in funding student and faculty language study and research. We allocated a record $133,000 to send 27 students and faculty to Japan, South Korea, China, Taiwan, Indonesia, India, and Russia. We also received major grants this summer from the Carnegie Corporation and the MacArthur Foundation. The grants, led by faculty members Deepa Ollapally, Mike Mochizuki and Henry R. Nau, will support research over the next three years on power, identity and security in Asia and Eurasia. We will be launching these projects formally this Fall.

The Center is delighted that Erin Robinson continues to work with us on programming and that Matt Grieger has joined us to handle finance and assist with student advising. Matt received his B.A. in Political Science from GW in 2006. He spent the last two years in Mongolia with the Peace Corps.

We look forward to seeing you at our upcoming events—please visit our website [http://www.gwu.edu/~sigur/](http://www.gwu.edu/~sigur/) for more up to date information.

Shawn McHale, Director & Deepa Ollapally, Associate Director

In the spring and summer of 2009, the Sigur Center sponsored 35 events drawing over 1500 attendees. Here are some highlights:

**The Okinawa Question**

The Sigur Center continued its series of events on Okinawa with *The Japan-U.S.-China Triangle and the Okinawa Question: Toward Shared History and Common Security* which featured a number of essays produced as a book of the same title, supported by Nansui Shoto Industrial Advancement Center.

**Ambassadorial Lecture**

His Excellency M. Humayun Kabir spoke on *New Actors in Dhaka and Washington: Prospects for U.S.-Bangladeshi Relations.*

**Tokyo Trial Discussion**

In an event co-sponsored by the Project on Memory and Reconciliation and the Sasekawa Peace Foundation, the Sigur Center marked the 60th anniversary of the Tokyo Trials with *The Tokyo War Crimes Trial at Sixty: Legacy and Reassessment.*

**Globalization and Democracy**

Along with the Institute for International Economic Policy and the Elliott School’s Future of Democracy Initiative, the Sigur Center sponsored *Globalization and the Impact on Democracy: Lessons from India and Malaysia,* which featured Jomo K.S. of the United Nations, Kaushik Basu, Cornell University, and Bridget Welsh, SAIS.

**Farewell to Harry Harding**

For the 13th Annual Gaston Sigur Memorial Lecture, the Sigur Center invited outgoing professor and former Elliott School dean Harry Harding who spoke on *The United States and China: Still a Fragile Relationship?*
Lecture Series

Throughout Spring 2009, the Sigur Center continued its lecture series on Transnational and Subnational Asia, held a Visiting Scholar Roundtable and hosted a special event featuring Fulbright scholars.

Transnational & Subnational Asia


Caste and Affirmative Action: What Nepal Can Learn from India and Malaysia, Suvash Darnal, National Endowment for Democracy


Remembering Devotion: Oral Histories of the Pilgrimage to Mecca from Southeast Asia, Eric Tagliacozzo, Cornell University

Visiting Scholar Roundtable

“A New Approach to History Education: The First East Asian History Curriculum for Korean High Schools,” Byung-woo Ahn, South Korea

Fulbright Panel: A Glimpse of South Asia

“The U.S., Pakistan, and Afghanistan: A Troubling Triad and its need for Constructive Engagement,” Amina Khan, Georgetown University

“Ecotourism in India: Issues and Concerns for Global Travel Needs,” Seema Bhat, Center for Responsible Travel


China Policy Program Conferences

The China Policy Program, Directed by Professor David Shambaugh, hosted two significant conferences during the spring. The first was the Fourth Dialogue on U.S.-China Relations in a Global Context, with private sessions that convened experts from China and the U.S. to share their perspectives on areas of mutual interest such as Asia, the Middle East, Africa, the economy and energy security. The conference serves as a vital exchange between the U.S. and China. The conference was also sponsored by the China Institute of International Studies. Papers from this conference can be found on the Sigur Center’s website.

In June, the China Policy Program and the Sigur Center, along with the Asia Center at Sciences Po and the European Council on Foreign Relations hosted the 6th American-European Dialogue on China, which brought together scholars and government officials from the U.S. and Europe to discuss China. The two day closed conference was followed by a public event entitled Transatlantic Views on China, which featured commentary from Amb. J. Stapleton Roy, Michael Yahuda, Francois Godement of Sciences Po and Heinrich Kreft from the German government.
India Initiative and Friends of Korea

The Sigur Center’s India Initiative continued to sponsor unique and timely events on Indian politics and culture, while the Center’s Friends of Korea program extended special invitations to significant events at GW.

The Sigur Center and Asia Society co-sponsored an event titled New Coats on Old Tales: The Role of the Indian Epic in Modern Fiction, which featured readings and discussions by prominent Indian-American authors Chitra Banerjee Divakaruni and Manil Suri.

In May, the Sigur Center, Asia Society, and the Indian Embassy, sponsored a concert by renowned musician Vishwa Mohan Bhatt, master of the Mohan Veena. Bhatt performed with Samir Chatterjee on the tabla. This event included a special reception with the musician for India Initiative members and other VIPs prior to the concert. This event was well-attended and received a glowing review in the Washington Post.

Members of the Sigur Center’s Friends of Korea received special invitations to see GW President Steven Knapp present South Korean President Lee Myung-Bak with an honorary Doctor of Public Service degree. Guests included U.S. Ambassador to Korea, Kathleen Stephens, and Korea’s Ambassador to the U.S., Han Duk-soo. President Lee has long-standing ties to GW, having been a visiting scholar at GW’s Business School in 1999.

Taiwan in the World

During the spring, the Sigur Center hosted a series of four events on Taiwan. These events focused on Taiwan’s position in the region and beyond.

Cross-Strait Relations

The Sigur Center hosted a conference on New Actors and Factors in Cross-Strait Relations, which focused on the changes wrought by the elections of Ma Ying-jeou and Barack Obama. The first panel looked at political change in Taiwan and its impact on cross-Strait interaction, and the second examined strategic and economic drivers.

The Taiwan Education and Research Program (TERP), along with CSIS, sponsored Approaches to Cross-Strait Relations with Democratic Progressive Party Chairwoman Tsai Ing-wen, who provided the opposition view of current cross-Strait relations.

TERP also held a session of its Taiwan Forum on Cross-Strait Economic Relations: Are the Binding Ties a Constraint? with Charles W. Freeman from the Center for Strategic and International Studies.

Taiwan and the U.S.

The Sigur Center and the Formosa Foundation co-sponsored a conference on the Future of U.S.-Taiwan Relations which featured Congressman Ed Royce (R-CA), in addition to panels on Change and Continuity in U.S.-Taiwan Relations and Analyzing Cross-Strait Détente: Implications for Taiwan’s Relations with the U.S. and the International Community. Professor Henry R. Nau gave the luncheon keynote on “Obama’s Foreign Policy: Is He Neglecting Asia?”

Taiwan’s International Role

Featuring former Director of the American Institute in Taiwan, David Dean, Jacques deLisle of the University of Pennsylvania, and Bonnie Glaser of CSIS, the Roundtable on Taiwan’s Quest for International Space examined Taiwan’s expanding role in the international community, its relationship to China, and the prospects for continued expansion of its global role.

“I don’t think many Americans understand Taiwan’s role in the world. If you consider that Taiwan is the 26th largest economy on this globe; that it’s the 9th largest trading partner with the United States; it has one of the largest ports in the world; that it has strategic position along the commercial lanes, you realize that Taiwan is a major player.”

-Rep. Ed Royce (R-CA)
Professor Profile

Elanah Uretsky, (Ph.D., Columbia) Assistant Professor of Global Health and Anthropology is a medical anthropologist whose research focuses on the impact of current trends of masculine culture and sexual practices in urban China on the incipient HIV epidemic there.

Professor Uretsky spent 15 years conducting field research in China. Of her research, Professor Uretsky says: “Contrary to standard public health models, which see disease as the result of individual high-risk behaviors, my research helped me see how current trends in work and traditional Chinese networking practices have led to the many ‘high-risk’ behaviors that urban Chinese men currently engage in.”

Her goal is to create public health education and programs that help to translate global health strategies into programs that can be effectively implemented in China. She began working towards this aim while researching her dissertation in China, where she helped found a grassroots organization that educates local ethnic minority communities about drug use and HIV/AIDS through traditional song and dance.

Professor Uretsky earned an MA from the Elliott School in 1997, and says of her time here: “I credit the way I think about contemporary public health in China with many of the lessons I learned from professors like Ed McCord, who taught me to think very critically about the important role that Chinese history plays in shaping the contemporary Chinese landscape.”

In addition to teaching, Professor Uretsky also coordinates the joint MA/MPH program between the School of Public Health and the Elliott School. She is currently working on her first book, *Mixing Business with Pleasure: The Politics of Work, Sex, and HIV in Post-Mao China.*

Student Spotlight

Christin Kjelland is a second-year M.A. candidate in International Affairs focusing on trans-boundary environmental issues in Asia.

Christin recently returned from studying Korean at Ewha Woman’s University and Yonsei University in Korea on a Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) summer fellowship from the Sigur Center, which allowed her a chance to study the language in-depth before the start of her second year.

Christin’s interest in Asia developed during her undergraduate years at Knox College, from studying South Korean President Kim Dae Jung’s “Sunshine Policy” towards North Korea, and deepened after teaching and researching in South Korea on a Fulbright ETA Scholarship from 2005-6.

During her first year, Christin worked as the Program Assistant for Professor Henry R. Nau’s U.S.-Japan-South Korea Legislative Exchange Program (LEP), which brings together members of the U.S. Congress, the Japanese Diet, and the South Korean National Assembly. This experience gave Christin a good insight into the importance of candid discussion between decision-makers and the impact of personal relationships on the making of foreign policy.

Starting this fall, Christin will be interning at the U.S. Department of State in the Bureau of Oceans and International Environment and Scientific Affairs while continuing study at GW.

On her studies here at GW, Christin says, “Whether it is language exchange during ‘Korean Tea Time’ or intensive language study abroad, the Sigur Center has always been incredibly supportive of my passion to study the language and to learn more about the Asian region.”
Featured Alumnus

Keith Weller Taylor (BA, History, 1968), a recognized leader in the study of pre-modern Southeast Asian history, is currently Professor of Vietnamese Studies in the Department of Asian Studies at Cornell University, where he has been teaching since 1989. He received his Ph.D. in history from the University of Michigan in 1976, and studied the Vietnamese language at the Defense Language Institute and served in Vietnam with the U.S. Army.

Professor Taylor graduated from GWU in 1968, a tumultuous year that shaped his recollections about his time at GW. “When parts of the city broke out into riots after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., I have vivid memories of DC under curfew with troops patrolling the streets.” Professor Taylor also has fond memories of GW’s location in the center of it all. He says, “I have pleasant memories of taking the bus to Capitol Hill and spending hours in the Library of Congress researching my term papers. I thought GWU was the best place to be: wonderful teachers and the most exciting place in the world with a ringside seat for national and world events.”

Professor Taylor has served as a mentor for a variety of students of Southeast Asia. He teaches history courses on Vietnam, China, Japan and Korea, the U.S.-Vietnamese War, and Vietnamese Literature, among others.


Sigur Affiliated Programs

Partnerships for International Strategies in Asia (PISA)

PISA, formerly the Program for International Studies in Asia, has recently renamed itself to reflect the growing emphasis on developing strategic partnerships with academic, research, civil society and government institutions.

Thanks to grants from the Ford Foundation and the China Cienega Foundation, PISA held its Summer Institute on Global Climate Change from July 6-29, which hosted 12 Vietnamese policy makers, researchers and academics.

PISA also hosted a high-level delegation from the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences to meet with Dean Michael Brown and other faculty members. In addition, PISA co-sponsored programs with the Asia Society and the Center for Global Education and Leadership of DC Public Schools.

Legislative Exchange Program (LEP)

The 41st LEP took place on April 29-30, 2009 in Washington, D.C. Altogether 16 U.S. Congressional Members participated (8 Republicans, 7 Democrats, one Independent) -- one of the largest per day attendance in the program’s history. Five Japanese Diet Members made the trip to Washington.

The 10th TLEP meeting was postponed at the last minute because the Korean National Assembly Members were unable to attend the meetings, facing a possible budgetary crisis at home. Nevertheless, the Japanese representatives traveled to Washington and participated in a full day of meetings with U.S. Congress Members. The principal topics of the 41st LEP were global economic crisis and regional security issues with North Korea and China.
Faculty, Student & Alumni Accomplishments

Student Summer Fellowships and Grants
The Sigur Center awarded over $87,000 to students to support language study or research over the summer.

Precious Cain, BA
Lance Noble, PhD
Aaron Shraberg, MA
Bobak Tavangar, BA
Summer Language Study Grant
Steven Glinert, BA, Urdu
Field Research Grant
Colm Fox, PhD
Huang Yeu Jye, MA
Ajay Verghese, PhD
Diana Xiong, PhD
Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowships – Summer
Eric Groff, MA/MBA
Jared Hall, MA
Christin Kjelland, MA
Thomas Phillips, MA
Leah Seskin, MA
FLAS – Academic Year Fellowship
Alan Campana, MA
Yan Chen, MA
Leslie Grothaus, MA
Kahn Lee, MA
Alice Ming, MA
Christine Parsons, MA

Videtto Award for Study at Waseda University
Richard Ashman, BA, School of Business

Faculty Summer Research Funding
Steven Balla, Political Science
Alasdair Bowie, Political Science
William Cummings, International Education
Joel Kuipers, Anthropology
Henry R. Nau, Political Science
David Shambaugh, Political Science
Robert Shepherd, Anthropology
Ronald Spector, History
Janet Steele, Media & Public Affairs
Daqing Yang, History

Alumni Honors
Brian Harding (MA) has joined the Office of the Secretary of Defense as Country Desk Officer for Australia, New Zealand, and the Pacific Islands.

Jordan Heiber, (MA Asian Studies), a Foreign Affairs Officer at the U.S. Department of State, was awarded the Mike Mansfield Fellowship, a two-year, government-to-government exchange established by Congress in 1994 to build a corps of U.S. government officials with substantial Japan expertise.

Des Walton (MA) is now Southeast Asia Director at the National Security Council.

Membership Drives
The Sigur Center is inviting membership in two groups: Friends of the India Initiative and Friends of Korea Studies, providing a new avenue for outreach with special briefings and networking events. Read about these groups at http://www.gwu.edu/~sigur/about/india_initiative.cfm and http://www.gwu.edu/~sigur/about/friends_korea.cfm.

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."