



The Asian Connection

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

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Message from the Directors

A cherished memory of my childhood was the trip from home, in the rural Philippines, to Manila, at the time of the lunar New Year. At home, we had no television. Manila, however, was a place I could watch dubbed Japanese cartoons like Gigantor. But most fun was celebrating the Chinese lunar new year with family friends, replete with firecrackers, food, and enter-

tainment. — Asia has changed markedly since my childhood in the 1960s. It almost seems quaint to remind readers that there once was a world without television and that North America and Asia really did feel worlds apart. But some things endure. The lunar new year still is a time of renewal. We wish you all a Happy New Year: the Year of the Rabbit for most East Asians,

the Year of the Cat for Vietnamese.

The enclosed newsletter highlights recent Sigur Center, faculty, and student accomplishments. Read on! And feel free to stop by to welcome Josie Keller, the Center's new Program Coordinator. --Shawn McHale (with Associate Director Deepa Ollapally)

Major Events

The Sigur Center hosted 27 events in Fall 2010 on a variety of topics. These events were attended by over 1,250 people.

Hahn Moo-Sook Colloquium in the Korean Humanities

The Sigur Center continued its co-sponsorship of the Department of East Asian Languages & Literature's 18th Annual event this fall. The colloquium featured three sessions focusing on the history of medicine and mental health in Korea, especially in relation to reproduction and childhood. Top scholars in Korean studies discussed how, in the Japanese colonial



2010 Free the Slaves Freedom Award Recipient Roger Plant presents his work at the Human Trafficking Symposium

period, biomedical research in Korea on reproduction and women's health was conducted as a political tool for the empire; the role of the media in the 20th and early 21st century in decreasing the stigma of mental illness; and the growth of psychiatry, psychology, counseling, and cut-

ting edge research on human behavior.

2nd Annual Human Trafficking Symposium

This year's event focused on modern-day slavery in South Asia. Speakers included two 2010 Free the Slaves Freedom Awards recipients: Shivanna Puttaiah Survivor of Bonded Labor Slavery, Activist and Community Organizer, JEEVIKA, and Roger Plant Consultant to the Asian Development Bank and former head of the ILO special action program to combat forced labor, as well as Free the Slaves Partnerships Director Ginny Baumann. Over 70 people attended the event.



Associate Director Deepa Ollapally and Director Shawn McHale attend the conference on Perspectives on Current U.S.—Taiwan Relations along with an audience of 75 others.



Bernard Cole and Rupert Hammond-Chambers address a question from the audience at the December roundtable on Current U.S.-Taiwan Relations.



Director Shawn McHale takes a question from the audience.



Manny Teitelbaum presents his work on Political Representation and the Maoist Insurgency in India as part of the Sigur Center's Faculty Lecture Series.



Professor David Shambaugh meets with Chinese President Hu Jintao during his recent state visit

Taiwan Lecture and Conference Series

In Fall 2010, the Sigur Center continued its long-standing focus on Taiwan, hosting both a roundtable and a major conference on contemporary issues.

Taiwan's Search for International Space: Domestic and Regional Dynamics

The conference featured two panels: the first on the fascinating topic of "Taiwan's Soft Power Projection: Culture and Beyond," with Michael Yahuda, London School of Economics and GWU, Wei Chin Lee, Department of Political Science, Wake Forest University; and Yeh-Chung Lu, National Chengchi University. Thomas Gold, Professor of Sociology, University of California, Berkeley, Executive Director of the Inter-University Program for

Chinese Language Studies, gave a dynamic lunchtime keynote address on "Taiwan's Representation of Self in International Life". He underlined is the need to continue to train individuals in the United States who have academic and language learning experience in Taiwan. The second panel addressed traditional ways that Taiwan tries to expand its influence regionally in Asia, whether through international organizations and economic ties, with Thomas Bellows, University of Texas, San Antonio, Chyungly Lee, Associate Research Fellow, National Chengchi University; and Vincent Wei-cheng Wang, Professor and Chair, Department of Political Science University of Richmond. 95 people attended the full-day event.

Perspectives on Current U.S. - Taiwan Relations

Dr. Bernard D. Cole, Professor of International History, National War College in Washington, D.C, spoke on "US-Taiwan Military Relations since 2008," followed by Rupert Hammond-Chambers, President, U.S.- Taiwan Business Council, who gave a sober view of "Achievable Goals for Bilateral Relations in 2011." Concluding the presentations was Bonnie Glaser, Senior Fellow, Freeman Chair in China Studies and Senior Associate, Pacific Forum, Center for Strategic International Studies, who spoke on US-Taiwan political relations. This roundtable was a fitting and high-quality conclusion to the year's events on Taiwan, attended by 74 people.

Faculty Lecture Series

In Fall 2010 the Sigur Center began a Faculty Lecture series to highlight the achievements of our own GW faculty.

China's Soft Power: Fact or Fiction? David Shambaugh, Professor of Political Science & International Affairs, The George Washington University, co-sponsored with the Rising Powers Initiative, Sept 2010.

Political Representation and the Maoist Insurgency in India Emmanuel Teitelbaum, Assistant Professor of

Political Science and International Affairs, The George Washington University, Nov 2010.

Obama's Asian Journey: Prospects for U.S. Policy Deepa Ollapally, Associate Director, Sigur Center for Asian Studies; Alasdair Bowie, Associate Professor of Political Science and International Affairs; Gregg A. Brazinsky, Associate Professor of History and International Affairs; and Mike Mochizuki, Associate Dean for Academic Programs, Associate Professor of

Political Science and International Affairs, co-sponsored by Asia Society, Nov 2010.

State Capitalism and Foreign Direct Investment: Are Chinese and Indian Companies Buying up the World's Oil? Robert Weiner, Professor of International Business & International Affairs, The George Washington University, co-sponsored by the Rising Powers Initiative, Department of International Business, Department of Finance, and Asia Society, Oct 2010.

India Initiative

The Sigur Center's India Initiative began the fall semester with a book discussion on **"To Uphold the World: A Call for a New Global Ethic from Ancient India,"** with Bruce Rich, Author and International Environmental Attorney on October 6, 2010.

The India Initiative also worked closely with the Elliott School for International Affairs' Ambassadors Forum, and the Distinguished Women in International Affairs Series to host an assembly on **Indo-U.S. Relations: An Evolving Partnership**, featuring Ambassador Meera

Shankar, India's Ambassador to the United States on October 12, 2010. The Ambassador's comments were covered extensively in the media including the Times of India, Hindustan Times, Economic Times, People's Daily, and the GW Hatchet.



Ambassador Meera Shankar addresses an engaged audience in GW's City View Room (Photo by Poppy Lynch, GW Hatchet photographer)

Rising Powers Initiative

The Rising Powers Initiative hit the pavement running this fall with a policy briefing on **Worldviews of China, India & Russia: Power Shifts & Domestic Debates.** The panel consisted of experts on Russia, India, and China: Andrew Kuchins, Director and Senior Fellow, Russia and Eurasia Program, Center for Strategic and International Studies; Deepa Ollapally, Associate Director, Sigur Center for Asian Studies; David Shambaugh, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, and Director, China Policy Program. The event was attended by 155 people.

Worldviews of Aspiring Powers conference

Held in Moscow, Russia, the two-day conference included research presentations by project contributors at the Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO) and the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Center in Moscow. Approximately 200 experts,

academics, and students attended the conference. Presenters included: Farideh Farhi (University of Hawai'i-Manoa), Andrew Kuchins (CSIS), Narushige Michishita (National Graduate Institute for Policy Studies, Tokyo, Japan), Henry Nau (GWU), Deepa Ollapally (GWU), Rajesh Rajagopalan (JNU, New Delhi, India), Richard Samuels (MIT), David Shambaugh (GWU), and Igor Zevelev (MacArthur Foundation-Moscow, Russia).

The conference assessed the current state of foreign policy debates in China, India, Iran, Japan, and Russia. Special emphasis was placed on the debate within Russia. Prominent practitioners of Russian foreign policy making, along with key analysts, academics, prominent journalists, and graduate students of international relations provided important insights into the subject. The conference also addressed other policy relevant issues, such as whether Moscow should regard Iran

as a "good neighbor" or not, the implications of India's rise for Russia, and whether current cooperation between Russia and China on the world stage is likely to persist in spite of their strategic rivalry in Central Asia. Moscow was an exciting location for the conference, with its long history and its location at the center of Russian political life.

Rising Powers: Rivals or Allies?

RPI launched a pilot course in the Fall 2010 semester. Nikola Mirilovic, RPI's Post-doctoral Research Associate offered a unique comparative overview of the contemporary rise of China, India, Japan, and Russia. Some students had past experience working for the Department of Defense, the National Security Agency, and the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference. Many of the students plan to pursue careers in the government, non-profit sector and the media.

"We are the world's two largest democracies. Forged from different faiths and cultures, we embrace pluralism, celebrate diversity and define our nationhood on the basis of values and not identities."

-Meera Shankar



Henry Nau, David Shambaugh, and Deepa Ollapally discuss the current state of foreign policy debates with other regional experts at the Rising Powers Initiative Conference in Moscow.

Featured Alumnus



Wimar Witoelar, GWU BS, MS, and MBA in Indonesia

"Traveling to North Korea gave me a very good sense of how militarized the society is and how much of a time capsule North Korea is in. Even though the country is advanced with nuclear weapons, you don't realize that they're using very old technology."

- James Tetlow



Moderator James Person and Sigur Center Director Shawn McHale pose with James Tetlow and Debbie Kye after a presentation on the students' personal experiences in North Korea.

Wimar Witoelar's path from Indonesia to GW was not accidental. As a student at the Bandung Institute of Technology, he studied under Dr. Sudjana Sapi'ie, a GW Ph.D, who headed the Department of Electrical Engineering. When political conditions made study impossible, Sudjana recommended Wimar for further study at GW. Wimar took a complete break from his political activities, hunkered down to his studies, and completed three GW degrees in four years (BS in Electrical Engineering, MS, and an MBA).

Originally a supporter of Su-

Student Spotlight

While many Elliott School students leave Foggy Bottom during the summer months for work, internships, and study in their hometowns or destinations around the world, Elliott School junior **Debbie Kye** and graduate student **James Tetlow** traveled to North Korea to witness what life is actually like in the guarded nation.

Debbie and James traveled to the country with the **P'yongyang Project**, an initiative that aims to increase engagement and dialogue between Americans and North Koreans. Each spent five days in North Korea, arriving and departing through China, James in June and Debbie in August.

Both students said that many

Wimar eventually spent a month in detention for opposing his "reelection." An activist for democracy, Wimar became famous in Indonesia for his TV talk show, *Perspektif* that began airing in 1993. Suharto banned the show in 1995, but this made him even more famous. To meet public demand, Wimar took the show on the road. He is often described as "critical, incisive, outspoken, and full of humor." He began a radio talk show, *New Perspectives*, which is now in its 16th year in 100+ cities.

Wimar Witoelar once

dreamed of being President of Indonesia. After Suharto was driven from power, Wimar did perform a stint as the Spokesperson for then President President Abdurrahman Wahid (Gus Dur) of Indonesia in 2000.

In his long career, Wimar Witoelar has been a student, a political activist, engineer, political commentator, owner of a media company, talk show host, lecturer, professor, and even prisoner. It has been a full and eventful life so far. He is now again on TV, lecturing, blogging, heading two strong civil society movements.

North Koreans were cautious to speak to participants of the program and other foreigners. Debbie, who is minoring in Korean and has extended family in North Korea, found it a little easier to connect. She said that North Koreans were friendlier with her and often referred to her as a "comrade."

She also said that offering cigarettes to North Koreans sometimes opened dialogue. Once, it also enabled her to exit a closed gate of her hotel after curfew to take photos.

James said government propaganda was widely noticeable in the nation and that a painting of North Korean leader Kim il Sung was the first thing he saw when he got off the plane in P'yongyang.

"Traveling to North Korea gave me a very good sense of how militarized the society is and how much of a time capsule North Korea is in," said James. "Even though the country is advanced with nuclear weapons, you don't realize that they're using very old technology."

James noted how well planned and green the city of P'yongyang was, and Debbie added that Kaesong, a city in the south of North Korea, was significantly less developed.

The Sigur Center sponsored an event with Debbie and James in October 2010.

- Written by Nick Massella, Assistant Director of Public Affairs for Publications and Media

Professor Profile

Political Science Professor and founding Director of the Elliott School of International Affairs China Policy Program, David Shambaugh has written or co-edited 25 books and edited hundreds of articles, book chapters, opinion-editorials, and book reviews. He won a Fulbright award to China in 2009-10. The Ford Foundation recently awarded him a significant grant to convene policy dialogues and scholarly conferences on "Integrating China Globally: Bilateral and Regional Dialogues." But how did he first become interested in China?

Shambaugh's interest in Asia began at an early age. He visited his brother, stationed in Taiwan with the US military, in Taipei in 1961. He subsequently travelled through

much of East and South Asia during a 1974 college gap year. In Hong Kong he met a British man filled with stories of recently visited "Red China." Intrigued, Shambaugh took a train to the Chinese border and peered across the rice paddies. There he found "something enigmatic about this big land – land denied to Americans – and something about that stuck in my mind."

Shambaugh was in the first class of East Asian Studies majors at GW. The program, then part of the Institute of Sino-Soviet Studies, focused on Asia as a whole: students were not pigeon-holed into one country specialty in the way that many programs have evolved. Shambaugh was fortunate enough to study under Gaston Sigur, Franz Michael,

and Harold Hinton. He was also part of a small group of select students permitted to attend the Institute's "expert events." The Institute of Sino-Soviet Studies did a lot of programming, but their events were not open to the public as they are today. Shambaugh remembers "The Colloquium" in particular, a weekly series of well-known speakers which he was able to attend for credit. These undergraduate experiences "snowballed" and launched him on his academic path: doctoral studies at the University of Michigan, a faculty position at the School of Oriental and African Studies, editorship of the China Quarterly, and Directorship of the Sigur Center leading him to become an internationally known policy analyst.

Sigur Affiliated Programs

Program for International Studies in Asia (PISA)

Linda J. Yarr, Director of PISA, recently returned from Vietnam where she and Deputy Director Suzanne Kelly-Lyall collaborated with the Institute of World Economics and Politics of the Vietnamese Academy of Social Sciences to present an 8-day Leadership Institute on Creative Responses to Global Climate Change.

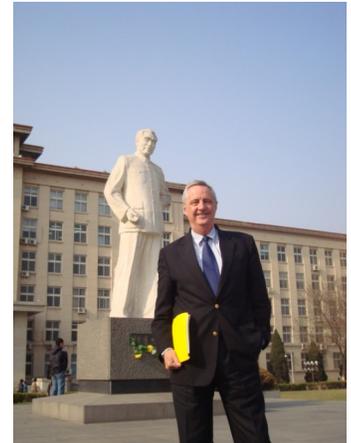
Thanks to financial support from the Ford Foundation and the Chino Cienega Foundation, as well as in-kind con-

tributions from ESRI Vietnam and Spot-Image, Inc., forty participants from diverse ministries, universities and the private sector took part in an interdisciplinary study of the anticipated impact of global climate change in Vietnam.

Professors Ryan Engstrom and Elizabeth Chacko of the Department of Geography were among the eight international and Vietnamese lecturers who addressed the group. Participants also visited Xuan Thuy National Park for a close-up look at a coastal habitat.

Legislative Exchange Program (LEP)

The 44th session of Professor Henry R. Nau's U.S.-Japan Legislative Exchange Program took place February 1-2 in Tokyo, Japan. The principal topics for discussion included regional security issues with North Korea and China, domestic politics and economic issues. The meetings were held at the Japanese National Diet office building. In 2010, the LEP had 13 U.S. Congressional Members participate, along with eight Japanese Diet Members and two S. Korean National Assembly Members.



Professor David Shambaugh, in front of a statue of Zhou Enlai at Nankai University in Tianjin

For those students interested in pursuing a career in Asian Studies, Professor David Shambaugh first advises language competence and a structured degree program. Beyond that he suggests simply getting out there, particularly for post-graduate work. "You have to get your ducks in a row before you go, but just go work there!"

- David Shambaugh



Linda Yarr joins other participants from the 2010 Northeast Asia Women's Peace Conference on a visit to the demilitarized zone between North and South Korea.



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Organization of Asian Studies

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The Sigur Center bid farewell to Filipino Visiting Scholar Ricardo Jose with an event highlighting his and his wife Lydia's research on "The Legacy of World War II on Philippine-Japan Relations." The Sigur Center will be continuing to hold Visiting Scholar Roundtables this spring.

Edited by:

Josie Keller & Shawn McHale

The Organization of Asian Studies (OAS) is a new student group based out of the Sigur Center. OAS meetings and events provide an opportunity for students interested in Asia and Asian affairs to meet and socialize with other GW students who share similar interests.

Last semester OAS hosted a film series featuring titles from a different Asian country each week. The OAS Fall Film Series included *The Warlords* (China), *Mother* (South Korea), *Ghajini* (India), and *Looking Back, Looking Ahead* (Cambodia). OAS is continuing with a Spring Film Series and a week-long film festival this semester.

In addition, OAS hosted a larger event featuring Liliane Willens, author of *Stateless in Shanghai*, and frequent



Liliane Willens describes her experience of WWII under the Japanese occupation of China, December 6, 2010

attendee of Sigur events.

Liliane's presentation **Eye-witness Account: Two Years Under the Red Flag, 1949-1951** described her first-hand account of the demise of the Kuomintang, the peaceful arrival of the People's Liberation Army, the societal changes in the new government, the outbreak of the Korean War and subsequent virulent anti-American propaganda and increasing political repression in China.



Henry Nau introduces speakers David Shambaugh, Deepa Ollapally, and Andrew Kutchins at the Rising Powers Initiative's Policy Briefing on Worldviews of China, India and Russia: Power Shifts and Domestic Debates



The Sigur Center celebrated the holidays by trimming the office with lights and paper.

New Staff Member

Josie Keller joined us in September to take over Erin Robinson's position as Program Coordinator for the Sigur Center. Josie holds a BA from Middlebury College in Chinese Language & Literature and Sociocultural Anthropology. She spent 7 months studying abroad in Hangzhou and Beijing, China and wrote her senior thesis on "Re-creating the Exotic: China's Changing Representation in The New York Times and National Geographic."



Summer 2010 Research Grant recipients presented their work at a roundtable discussion on October 18, 2010.