Message from the Directors

Lunar New Year’s greetings from the Sigur Center for Asian Studies. We hope that the Year of the Rat proves to be a prosperous and dynamic one.

At GW, the scholars, students, alumni, and friends of Sigur will continue their efforts to better understand Asia and its place in the world.

This edition of The Asia Connection highlights many of the efforts of the Center’s scholars, the 24 events we have hosted and sponsored (attended by nearly 1,000 guests), and the activities of our students and alumni during the Fall 2007 semester.

We hope you will enjoy learning about these exciting activities and will continue to keep in touch.

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

Major Events

Conference on Worldviews of Major & Aspiring Powers

In September, the Sigur Center and the Elliott School’s Institute for European, Russian and Eurasian Studies held a conference on “Worldviews of Major and Aspiring Powers: Exploring National Identities.” This day-long event covered the United States, European Union, Japan, Russia, China, India, Association of Southeast Asian Nations, Iran, and Brazil.

Speakers included GW professors Harry Harding, Henry Nau, Deepa Ollapally, and David Shambaugh. Other participants were Ali Ansari, University of St. Andrews; Evelyn Goh, Oxford University; Nikolas Gvosdev, The National Interest; Hanns Maull, University of Trier; Riordan Roett, Johns Hopkins University; and Richard Samuels, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

Papers from this conference, which are available at http://www.gwu.edu/~sigur/publications.shtml, are being published as a Symposium in the March/April 2008 issue of The National Interest. The conference and publication are part of a multi-phase project.

Sponsored Events

During the Fall 2007 semester, the Sigur Center organized several events sponsored by organizations including the Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office and the Taiwan Foundation for Democracy:

In November, the Center organized a roundtable on “U.S.-Taiwan Economic Relations and Prospects for a Free Trade Agreement.” The following month, the Sigur Center co-hosted an international conference, “Can Democracy Survive Globalization? Lessons from Taiwan,” featuring a keynote address by Senator Bob Dole.

Other Programs

In October, the Sigur Center co-hosted a talk on “Negotiating with North Korea: Lessons and Challenges.” The following month, the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures and the Sigur Center held the 15th Annual Hahn Moo-Sook Colloquium in the Korean Humanities, focusing on “Korean Architecture: Past and Present.”
India Initiative

Expanding its repertoire on Asia, the Sigur Center launched a new India Initiative in October with an exclusive reception and discussion, drawing guests from academia, business, government, and the community. The panel discussion focused on “Opportunities for India as a Rising Power: Views from the United States and Japan,” featuring two Sigur-affiliated faculty members: Ambassador Karl Inderfurth and Mike Mochizuki, authorities on U.S. foreign policy and Japanese politics, respectively.

According to the Sigur Center’s associate director, Deepa Ollapally, the event was “to reach out to key friends and well wishers who want to see India studies advance in U.S. institutions.” Mochizuki, a former Sigur Center director, said that the incorporation of India into the Center was “a natural development.” Noting that “India’s rise is helping redefine what is Asia,” he added, “India-China relations and India-Japan relations are shaping the dynamics of Asia as a whole. Therefore, the Sigur Center’s India Initiative highlights the emergence of this new Asia.”

The Center’s unique cross-Asia intellectual approach in particular facilitates analysis of India’s growing role in Asia and beyond. There are over 20 faculty and researchers already doing India-related work at GW, drawn from a variety of disciplines including international affairs, business, public health, political science, law, anthropology, religion, and regional development. The Law School also has an India Project, the brainchild of GW alumnus Raj Dave.

The India Initiative hopes to have a range of scholarly and policy activities: high-level conferences, policy dialogues, student scholarships, visiting fellowships, specialized lecture series, and a professorship in India Studies. The Elliott School has already signed a memorandum of understanding for a student and faculty exchange program with Jawaharlal Nehru University in New Delhi, and the Indian American Education Foundation has provided seed funds to help establish student scholarships in India Studies.

The India Initiative was featured in India Abroad, the largest Indian-American community newspaper, in November. To read the article, please visit http://www.gwu.edu/~sigur/pubs/IndiaInitiative.pdf.

Korea Outreach & New Partnership

Korea Outreach

In December, the Sigur Center hosted an exclusive reception and commentary on the KORUS FTA for a select group of business, legal, government, and community leaders with an interest in Korean-American relations and Korea Studies.

Yoon Shik Park, GW Professor of International Banking and Finance and member of Samsung Corp.’s Board of Directors, and Jeffrey Schott, Senior Fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics, spoke on the FTA’s prospects.

The event was part of a stepped-up outreach effort to a wider community with interest in Korea. GW has played an important role in U.S.-Korea relations, beginning with the studies of prominent Korean figures including Philip Jaisohn and Syngman Rhee (see article on “GW’s First Asian Students” in this issue). Korea’s president-elect, Myung-bak Lee, was a visiting scholar in 1999.

New Partnership

The Korea Foundation selected the Sigur Center as its Washington, DC partner for the new Global Speakers Forum, inaugurated in October.
Special Fund Drive

The Sigur Center launched a fundraising drive in December, the William R. Johnson Fund, to support student scholarships and program activities in honor of the Center’s co-founder and former associate director, Bill Johnson’s passion for teaching Chinese history, devotion to students, and tireless stewardship of the Center prompted the creation of this special fund.

Johnson distinguished himself in many ways as Chair of the Department of History, Acting Director of the Institute for Sino-Soviet Studies, and Director of the East Asian Studies Program from its inception in 1975 until his retirement in 1995. He is especially remembered for his concern for students—whether it was setting up a special Chinese language course for MA students or personally arranging student internships in Asia.

Leading alumni who studied with Johnson have high praise for him. David Shambaugh, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs at GW, described him as “one of the most demanding and rewarding classroom teachers I experienced during my university education.” Paul Heer, National Intelligence Officer for East Asia at the National Intelligence Council, calls him “the foundation of my knowledge and understanding of Chinese history.” Bruce Babcock, President of Broadridge Financial Solutions Ltd.’s ICS International division (see “Featured Alumnus” in this issue) singles Johnson out for “special thanks.” Pitman Potter, Director of the Institute of Asian Research at the University of British Columbia, remembers that Johnson “combined rigor with compassion, alternately inspiring, guiding, and more than infrequently correcting my initial efforts to build understanding about China.”

We are reaching out to alumni and friends of the Sigur Center to help establish this fund. Your contribution may be made via our home page, http://www.gwu.edu/~sigur. Thanks for your support!

Lecture Series

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

Transnational Asia

“Implications for China in Hosting the 2008 Beijing Olympics,” Xiaoping Li, CCTV International, China Central Television

“Breaking More Naan with Delhi: The Next Stage in U.S.-India Relations,” Ambassador Karl Inderfurth, John O. Rankin Professor of the Practice of International Affairs and Director, Graduate Program in International Affairs, The George Washington University, and Bruce Riedel, Senior Fellow, Saban Center for Middle East Policy, The Brookings Institution

“Unearthing the Secrets of a Mass Migration to North Korea: The Forgotten Victims of East Asia’s Cold War,” Tessa Morris-Suzuki, Professor of Japanese History, The Australian National University

“Challenges for Japan’s Defense Policy,” Robert M. “Skipp” Orr, Chairman of the Board, Panasonic Financial Solutions Ltd.’s ICS International division

Subnational Asia

“The Vanishing Village: Policy Implications for India in the Era of Globalization,” Dipankar Gupta, Professor of Sociology, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

“Integrating Wealth and Power in China,” Bruce Dickson, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, The George Washington University

“The Vanishing Village: Policy Implications for India in the Era of Globalization,” Dipankar Gupta, Professor of Sociology, Jawaharlal Nehru University, India

“Challenges for Japan’s Defense Policy,” Robert M. “Skipp” Orr, Chairman of the Board, Panasonic Financial Solutions Ltd.’s ICS International division

Xiaoping Li, a Senior Producer at CCTV International, China Central Television, speaks on October 3, 2007, during a lecture on “Implications for China in Hosting the 2008 Beijing Olympics.”
Professor Profile

Jiawen Yang, Professor of International Business and International Affairs, is a leading expert on exchange rates, capital flows, and economic sanctions, with a particular focus on China. His current research on Chinese currency valuation should have important policy implications given the ongoing debate on this topic in the U.S. This research, which is partially funded by the Sigur Center, broadly compares China’s development path with that of Japan and Korea, which also experienced large appreciation of their currencies and accumulation of international reserves.

As to whether the Chinese currency is undervalued, Yang asserts that “the answer depends on the models and data selected.” The pressure for the renminbi (RMB) to appreciate comes from China’s huge international reserves. According to Yang, “A big increase in the RMB’s value will have a significant impact on global trade and investment flows and change the landscape of the international financial environment.”

Many Chinese companies have listed their stocks in the U.S. capital market in the form of American deposit receipts (ADRs). Yang’s joint research with Hui He, a Ph.D. student, finds that Chinese ADRs are more inclined to price to the U.S. stock market rather than being moved by the Chinese stock market—a puzzle he intends to research further. His previous research has looked at inward investment in China, Sino-U.S. trade ties and China’s economic integration.

Yang has received several awards, including a research professorship (1997-99), two grants from the GW Center for the Study of Globalization (2001, 2002), and appointment as a research scholar at the GW Institute for Public Policy (2003-05). He has led several study abroad programs in China since 1997. Yang is a member of the Sigur Center’s Executive Committee. He holds a Ph.D. in International Business/Economics from New York University’s Stern School of Business.

Of the recent global market downturn, Yang says, “The U.S. interest rate cuts make it more difficult for China to adjust its monetary policy to control inflation.”

Student Spotlight

Jeffrey Hornung, a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science, is currently writing his dissertation on Japanese foreign policy decision-making. His focus is on the Toshiki Kaifu and Junichiro Koizumi administrations, during the 1990-91 Gulf War and 2003 Iraq War, respectively.

Hornung’s interest in Asia began in 1997, when he was accepted by The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) Program to teach English at four schools in Chiba, Japan.

Hornung entered GW’s doctoral program in 2002 and worked for two years as a research assistant for the Sigur Center’s Memory and Reconciliation Project, for which he received Academic Excellence Funding from Sigur.

He notes, “I was fortunate to be funded by the Sigur Center to do research work on issues relating to memory and reconciliation between Japan and countries it warred with during World War II. This work serves as a valuable base from which I can better understand the contemporary issues I am examining in my own doctoral research.”

In 2005 Hornung received a three-month Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship from the Elliott School to study in Yokohama. He stayed in Japan for an additional 15 months on a Fulbright Fellowship to conduct doctoral research at the University of Tokyo. Hornung is currently a teaching assistant for a comparative politics course.
Featured Alumnus

Bruce Babcock (MA, East Asian Studies/International Business, 1987), currently President of Broadridge Financial Solutions Ltd.'s ICS International division, is a leading authority on global corporate governance and proxy voting solutions. He is the former President and CEO of Institutional Shareholder Services, which according to a 2006 New York Times profile, issues opinions that affect the governance decisions of professional investors controlling $25 trillion in assets—half the value of the world’s common stock. Now based in southern England, Babcock manages the London office of Broadridge (formerly known as ADP Brokerage Services), overseeing the company’s international expansion.

Maintaining a busy travel schedule, Babcock is actively involved in business development around the world, focusing particularly on Asia and Europe at the moment. He has set up several offices in Japan, designed his company’s approach to entering China and Taiwan, and is in discussions with Thai and Singaporean authorities. Babcock says that he is “proud to be doing this as our services help improve the overall financial infrastructure in these markets, as well as their corporate governance structures.”

He has fond memories of GW, noting, “My time at the Sino-Soviet Center [the precursor to the Sigur Center] was very rewarding and helped deepen my personal and professional desire to live and work in Asia.” Most recently, Babcock set up a company in Japan, a joint venture with the Tokyo Stock Exchange, to provide an electronic proxy voting system in Japanese and streamline the existing international process. Babcock is fluent in Japanese and has conversational Mandarin Chinese skills. He is the co-author of a book, Structural Imbalances in Japanese Corporate Governance (1993), and his GW graduate thesis, “The Japanese Economy After Endaka,” was re-published in several journals.

According to Babcock, “My studies [at the Sigur Center] helped establish the well-rounded base of skills in cultural understanding, economic analysis, and critical review that have been key factors in enabling me to function effectively in Asia and elsewhere in the world.” He singles out Professors Bill Johnson and Richard Thornton with “special thanks for providing a particularly stimulating and rewarding educational environment.”

An American Pioneer in Asia

Eleanor Hadley, a longtime GW economics professor with deep ties to Asia, died from natural causes in June 2007. She served in General Douglas MacArthur’s staff in Tokyo, helping to dismantle the zaibatsu, the industrial and financial conglomerates dominating Japan’s economy.

Prior to this post, Hadley was selected for a student fellowship at Tokyo Imperial University. She traveled extensively in Japan and China between 1938-40, becoming one of the first Westerners to visit Nanjing following the Nanjing Massacre.

After completing her Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University, she planned to join the newly created Central Intelligence Agency; however, the job offer and her security clearance were withdrawn. She learned years later she had been labeled a Communist and was blacklisted by MacArthur’s chief of intelligence. It took 16 years to clear her name.

In 1986, Hadley was awarded Japan’s Order of the Sacred Treasure for meritorious service. Her autobiography was published in 2003.
GW’s First Asian Students

An article by Professor Shawn McHale, former Sigur Center director, appeared in the Fall 2007 edition of GW Magazine, a publication for alumni and friends. Entitled, “From Asia to America,” it focuses on the remarkable history of GW’s first Asian students.

Asian students started coming to GW at the end of the 19th century, with the Japanese being the first group to arrive. According to McHale, “more than 90 Japanese, Chinese, Filipinos, and Koreans attended the University before 1930, at a time when segregation shaped the daily life of DC.

Here are a few examples of the accomplished Asian trailblazers who attended GW and are profiled in McHale’s article:

Philip Jaisohn (MD, 1892) was a Korean nationalist who was the first Korean to receive a medical degree in the U.S. He established the first Korean newspaper using the Korean alphabet (as opposed to Chinese characters). He also set up the Independence Club, which hosted lectures and discussions on topics like democracy and modernization, actions that are widely recognized as key developments in the Korean reform movement.

Kenkichi Kodera (BL 1900, LLM 1900, Doctorate in Civil Laws 1901) earned three degrees from GW, which formed the foundation for his extensive understanding of international relations, politics, history, and law. On returning to Japan, Kodera became an entrepreneur, a millionaire, and a politician who later established a school. He occupied a seat in the Imperial Japanese Diet until 1926, and from 1947 until his death in 1949, he served as mayor of Kobe.

Masuji Miyakawa (LLM 1903), a civil rights pioneer, was the first known Japanese student to be admitted to the U.S. bar. After graduating from GW, he continued his education at Indiana University School of Law, where he became a lecturer, and later, a noted author and prolific speaker. He was a key player in a pioneering 1906 civil rights case in which Japanese in San Francisco were forced to attend segregated schools, acting as an attorney for some of the excluded students.

José Abad Santos (LLM 1909) was one of the earliest Filipino students at GW. In 1919, he joined the first Independence Mission from the Philippines to the U.S., which was tasked with accelerating the transfer of sovereignty to the Filipinos. He later served as chief justice to the Philippines Supreme Court. On leaving the country, he was designated as the de facto head of the Philippine government. The Japanese military arrested him in 1942 while he was traveling, charging him with a trumped-up crime and sentencing him to execution. GW honored him in 1958 with a special citation.

President’s Trip to Asia

In December, GW President Steven Knapp visited Seoul, Beijing, and Hong Kong to meet with alumni, parents, friends, supporters, and academic partners. This marked Knapp’s first international trip since becoming president in August 2007.

Asia was strategically chosen because GW has its largest alumni base outside of the U.S. in this region. Eight of the top-20 countries for GW alumni are in Asia (South Korea, Japan, Taiwan, Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia, Indonesia, and China).

The GW delegation included Knapp and his wife Diane; Laurel Price Jones, Vice President of Development and Alumni Relations; and Venilde Jeronimo, Executive Director of International Development.

José Abad Santos, LLM 1909 (upper far left), is commemorated on this Philippine currency. To read Professor McHale’s article on Abad Santos and other Asian trailblazers who attended GW, please visit http://www.gwu.edu/~magazine/2007_fall/docs/feature_asia.html.

GW President Steven Knapp visited Asia in December, marking his first international trip since assuming the presidency in August 2007.
Sigur-Affiliated Programs

China Policy Program (CPP)
In September 2007, the Sigur Center and CPP, directed by Professor David Shambaugh, held a conference on “International Relations in Asia,” which assembled globally distinguished experts on the subject. A book of the same name, edited by Shambaugh and Professor Michael Yahuda, is being published this spring by Roman & Littlefield, for use as a university textbook and for policy practitioners.

Taiwan Education & Research Program
In December, this program held a timely roundtable on “Taiwan’s Upcoming Elections,” part of the Democracy and Security Seminar Series, offered in partnership with The Taiwan Foundation for Democracy. This event featured a visiting Taiwan delegation sponsored by The Cross-Strait Interflow Prospects Foundation.

Notes on Faculty

Recent Books
China Watching: Perspectives from Europe, Japan and the United States (Routledge, 2006), David Shambaugh, Professor of Political Science and International Affairs (co-edited with Robert Ash and Seiichiro Takagi)

China-Europe Relations: Perceptions, Policies & Prospects (Routledge, 2007), David Shambaugh (co-edited with Eberhard Sandschneider and Zhou Hong)

Other Publications
To see the list of other publications from Sigur faculty, please visit: http://www.gwu.edu/~elliott/scholarship/archived.html.

Award
Edward McCord, Associate Professor of History and International Affairs, received a prestigious fellowship to be a visiting member of the School of Historical Studies at the Institute for Advanced Studies in Princeton, New Jersey.

He will be working on a book project on “Militia and State Power in Republican China,” which studies the role of militia in, and their effect on, Chinese state-society relations in the Republican period (1912-49).

Support the Sigur Center! Visit our home page to make your gift to support student scholarships and core activities.

Edited by:
Deepa Ollapally & Anita Narayan


“Shaping Taiwan’s Politics 20 Years After the Lift of Martial Law,” September 27, 2007