

KOREAN STUDIES PROGRAM

University of Michigan • Winter 2004

DIRECTOR'S GREETING



Professor Meredith Woo-Cumings, Director

Happy New Year! According to the lunar calendar, this should be the Year of the Monkey. Monkeys are said to be intelligent, purposeful, and unusually persistent—and they usually succeed in achieving the goals they set. In this Year of the Monkey, I hope that you, too, will achieve your long cherished goals.

I became the Director of Korean Studies Program in July 2003, succeeding Professor John Lie who left to join the faculty at the University of California at Berkeley. John was in Ann Arbor only too briefly, but he was an effective and collegial leader who was much loved and will be dearly missed. We wish him all the best as he continues his career at Berkeley. I myself am somewhat new to campus, having joined the faculty of Political Science in 2001. Prior to that, I taught at Northwestern University in Evanston, Illinois, for twelve years.

The New Year opens on an auspicious note for KSP. With the enthusiastic backing of the International Institute and its Director, Michael Kennedy, the KSP has been collaborating with the University of Michigan Museum of Art (UMMA) in an effort to acquire a substantial

Korean art collection and to establish a Korea gallery in the new wing being planned for the Museum. The effort is ongoing, and we won't be able to give you a full report on this until the next issue of the newsletter, but this initiative shows how different units on campus, local Korean-American community as well as Korean alumni, can collaborate to enrich the academic and cultural life at the university.

The New Year also brings new staff members to KSP. We are delighted to announce the return of Kristy Demas as the Program Coordinator. Before joining KSP, for the first time in 2000, Kristy spent nine years working in the DC and Dearborn offices of Congressman John Dingell. Her administrative excellence will once again serve us well, especially during these exciting times of growth and development at KSP. Marty Harms also joins us this year as the new Research Coordinator. Marty graduated from the University of Michigan this past spring, with a major in Political Science (with distinction).

I am happy to announce an important new addition to KSP, Hye-Seung Chung, who joined the faculty this academic year. Hye-Seung is a new Freeman Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow in Korean Studies. She is finishing her dissertation in Film Studies at UCLA, and this semester she is offering a course on films related to the Korean War. In addition, she has organized a Korean film series, to be shown to the university community this winter. We also have a new Korean Studies librarian, Yunah Sung. With a Masters in Library Science and more than ten years experience under her belt, Yunah is poised to turn the University of Michigan into one of the leading collectors of Korean materials. In fact, no sooner than she joined us, she has gotten the Asia Library to join the Korean Collections Consortium of North America, thereby expanding the library holdings of Korean language resources. In this newsletter we carry stories on both Hye-Sung's new film series, as well as Yunah's work on building the Korean Studies collection.

IN THIS ISSUE

- 2 Spotlight on Korean Film
- 5 News from the Asia Library
- 6 Korea Peace Day
- 7 2003-2004 Colloquium Series
- 8 Celebrated Korean Writers Visit U of M
- 9 Korean Language Program at U of M evolves into one of the premier language programs in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures
- Professor of Korean Studies to Conduct a Conference on Korean Buddhist Nuns this Spring
- 10 Calendar of Events
- 11 Helping the Korean Studies Program



KOREAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Among the exciting new developments in KSP, we plan to launch a new initiative this January entitled the UM Archive of Diasporic Korea. It is an interdisciplinary project that attempts to recast modern Korean history through the six million Koreans who are scattered outside of their homeland. The initiative will bring Korea scholars from around the world in an effort to merge modern Korean history in the stream of world history. In the initial stage, we will focus on the development of two multimedia projects for the Archive. The first one focuses on Stalin's 1937 deportation of Koreans from the Soviet Far East to Uzbekistan and Kazakhstan, in what was the first instance of ethnic cleansing in the Soviet Union. The consultant for this project will be Professor David Chung of George Mason University. A winner of the National Endowment for Humanities awards, he is a well-known media artist, and has been working for some time collaborating with historians and artists in Kazakhstan. The second project focuses on the little-known incidence of the 1905 shipment of Koreans to Mexico, for work in the sisal plantation during Yucatan's Golden Age. Professor Eun Yung Park of Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie will be with us for the month of January to research and develop this and other projects relating to the Korean Diaspora in Central and South America.

Lest you think that all is new at KSP, please note that we will continue the popular colloquium series, which in the past has brought to Ann Arbor Korea scholars from all over the globe. The list of the lectures in the winter is included in these pages, with the first of those lectures led by Professor John Ohnesorge at the University of Wisconsin Law School, on the "Rights" revolution in the Republic of Korea.

The activities of KSP are too many to list in this short "Director's Greetings," so read on for more details!

Meredith Woo-Cumings, Director

SPOTLIGHT ON KOREAN FILM

Feature: Postdoc in Korean Studies Seeks to Develop Korean Film at the 'U'

We all know of the excellent film series and festivals produced by the Centers for Japanese Studies and Chinese Studies each year, however, we will soon be hearing more about the wonderful film events from the Korean Studies Program. As part of our effort to expand, we have secured a postdoctoral fellow in Korean studies. Her name is Hye Seung Chung and she comes to us from UCLA where she studied film theory and history, specifically East Asian cultural identity and cinematic representation. As an award winning scholar of Korean film, she breathes new life into Korean film studies at the University of Michigan.

Considering the relative dearth of academic output on Korean film, there are only a few English language books published on the subject, we are excited to have Hye Seung pursue her goals of becoming a pioneering scholar in Korean cinema at the University of Michigan, and we look forward to all the corollary benefits that KSP will accrue as she achieves her objectives. She is especially interested in examining the works of Korean and Korean American filmmakers in a transnational paradigm, and hopes to produce groundbreaking work on "transnational Korean cinema."

Hye Seung's current dissertation research on Philip Ahn, a pioneering Korean American actor in Hollywood and the son of celebrated national leader Tosan An Ch'ang-ho, has already received positive response on both sides of the Pacific. She is excited that her groundbreaking study was enthusiastically received by both Seoul-based film scholars and U.S.-based Korean Studies scholars when she gave two talks about the topic this fall: first at a Korean cinema symposium held in Yonsei University in Seoul, and then at a "Transnational Korea" work shop held at the University of Illinois. On both occasions, Hye Seung proved that it is possible

to reclaim the Philip Ahn legacy in the lens of Korean cultural and film history by spotlighting his unrealized ambitions to partake in the South Korean film industry as leader, actor, and producer as well as his many manifestations of diasporic identities within Hollywood texts.

Apart from her dissertation work, Hye Seung has written a plethora of essays on Korean cinema investigating a wide range of issues including "Comfort Women," sex workers for American G.I.s, the Kwangju Uprising, the IMF Crisis, modernity and postcoloniality, class and gender, and race and ethnicity. These highly regarded essays have appeared in Asian Cinema journal, *Selected Papers in Asian Studies New Series*, and *Address Unknown*, a collection of critical essays published in Seoul. More of her work will be published in upcoming anthologies on Korean cinema such as Frances Gateward's *Made in Korea: Cinema an Society* (Indiana University Press), Nancy Abelmann and Kathleen McHugh's *Gender, Genre, and National Cinema: South Korean Golden Age Melodrama* (Wayne State University Press), and Chi-Yun Shin and Julian Stringer's *New Korean Cinema* (Edinburgh University Press). In addition, she has spent countless hours conducting extensive archival studies on Korean cinema and historical backgrounds in the Library of National Assembly and the Korean Film Archive in Seoul, and has amassed a personal collection of over two hundred important Korean films on video and DVD that will serve as a wellspring of resources for her film classes.

We will get a chance to see Hye Seung's enthusiasm and knowledge of Korean film spill over the U of M community as she will be screening four films for the Korean Studies Program, open to the public, and teaching a new class entitled "Cinema, Popular Culture, and the Korean War." (You can read more about both the series and class as a part of our spotlight on Korean film)

In many ways, Korean Studies Program resembles/mirrors Hye Seung. KSP is beginning

to take off, hoping to hit new developmental strides, while Hye Seung is looking to make major strides of her own—for instance, becoming a groundbreaking authority in an area of study that has just recently begun to grow. The KSP, with its focus of becoming a center, is a perfect fit for this burgeoning scholar.

A Glimpse at Hye Seung Chung: Three Questions for the New Postdoc in Korean Studies.

When did you decide to pursue film studies?

I always knew that I wanted to study film. But when I entered my undergraduate program at Ewha Women's University in Seoul in 1990, film studies had not yet become a "legitimate" discipline. Of course, there were Film and Theater Departments in Korea (since the 1980s), but the focus was primarily on acting and direction, not theory, history and criticism. Instead, I chose to study English Literature. After graduation, I worked in the publicity departments of corporations like Hyundai and Tongyang, but quickly realized that cinema was my true passion, and decided to go to America, where film studies has been nurtured in academia since the 1960s.

Who were your major influences in regards to your love and study of film?

Like me, my father was a film buff when he was young. He was the one who first introduced me to great actors and actresses like Elizabeth Taylor, Ingrid Bergman, Vivien Leigh, Robert Taylor and Montgomery Clift. I still remember when I first saw Elizabeth Taylor on television (during a broadcast of the 1957 melodrama *Raintree County*), and my dad told me, "She is the most beautiful woman in the world." I was probably only ten years old at the time, but I shared his enthusiasm for this glamorous icon from the West. In terms of academic influences, Ella Shohat would have to be at the top of the list. When I started my Master's at the City University of New York (Cinema Studies Program), I took a "Race and Gender in American Musicals" course taught by her. She opened my eyes to the political and ideological issues sub-



Hye Seung Cheung, postdoctoral fellow in Korean Studies

tending mainstream Hollywood narratives—their normalization of the white male subject position and their marginalization (and /or fetishism) of women and racial minorities. I am greatly indebted to her for sparking my intellectual growth as a "postcolonial feminist," a position that I must admit is somewhat at odds with my earlier infatuation with Hollywood.

Which Korean directors do you most admire?

Among Korean directors, I like Hong Sang-su best. He is considered AS the most important art director working in Korea these days. He has made four films thus far—*The Day a Pig Fell into the Well* (1996), *The Power of Kangwon Province* (1998), *The Virgin Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors* (2000), and *Turning Gate* (2002). These films were all very successful in film festivals around the world, but unfortunately they have not been imported to the U.S. The only Korean films imported by U.S. distributors and studios are either exotic Oriental epics such as *Chunhyang* or action films such as *Shiri*. It is really too bad that American audiences don't have the opportunity to encounter a more diverse cross-section of Korean films: romantic comedies, bio-pics, war films, sci-fi, etc.. Hong Sang-su's films are very modernistic and experimental in terms of their narrative structures, but at the same time very realistic in their depiction of dysfunctional heterosexual and familial relationships among urbanites. I think his films

would appeal to many American intellectuals and students interested in class and gender.

New Course Announcement

Cinema, Popular Culture, and the Korean War

Winter 2003

Asian Studies 380

Instructor: Hye Seung Chung

Lecture: M & W 2:30-4:00

Screening: M 5-7:30

Often dubbed the "forgotten war," the Korean War generated less than one hundred Hollywood films and only a handful of literary fictions in the United States. In South Korea, however, the Korean War remains an indelible national trauma that has been constantly revisited and commemorated by writers, filmmakers, and artists for the past fifty years. This course aims to help students gain historical, political, and socio-cultural understanding of the Korean War as depicted in selected cinematic and literary texts produced on both sides of the Pacific. Rather than present a one-sided perspective on the "facts" of the Korean War within a conventional historiographical lens, the course will focus on investigating the ways in which popular culture and mass media have reflected divergent historical interpretations of the war and were instrumental in shaping the cultural memory of the Cold War era. A balanced set of inquiries will be made about the U.S.'s role in the war by counterpoising Hollywood's mainstream narratives with South Korean counter-narratives. Cultural representations of the Korean War will be examined in relation to various historical and social issues such as anti-Communism, American POW debates, the Vietnam War, the U.S. military domination in South Korea, the question of divided families, the desire for reunification, and the North Korean nuclear crisis.



KOREAN STUDIES PROGRAM

KOREAN FILM SERIES, WINTER 2004

History, Memory, Modernity: Twentieth Century Korea Seen through Korean Cinema

Throughout the past century, Korean society has endured radical changes: colonization, modernization, division, civil war, militarization, development, democratization, and globalization. The following four films are selected not only for their stylistic and aesthetic merits, but also for their significant focus on themes and settings germane to twentieth century Korean history and culture. Encompassing diverse genres and periods (from a sports comedy set during the turn-of-the-century Chosŏn era to a postmodern love story set in contemporary Seoul), this series spotlights the ways in which history has been remembered and represented in narratives concerning the desires, dreams, losses, and failures of Koreans.

January 29, 2004
YMCA Baseball Team
(YMCA Yagudan, Kim Hyŏn-sŏk, 2002)

Set between 1905 and 1906, when Chosŏn-era Korea was undergoing a transition with the arrival of Western modernity as well as Japanese imperial forces, this popular sports comedy offers a rare, ethnographic look at turn-of-century Hwangŏng (Seoul). Assisted by a "New Woman" named Min Chŏng-rim, American missionaries teach Koreans how to play baseball, in the process turning a ragtag group of men from different social affiliations (scholars, offspring of the ruling-class, peasants, peddlers) into a unified team called YMCA—the first in Korean history. By the end, our unlikely heroes emerge as a symbol of hope for Korea, even as the nation was facing Japanese annexation.



YMCA Baseball Team

February 5, 2004
The Stray Bullet
(Obalt'an, Yu Hyŏn-mok, 1961)

Based on a celebrated short story by Yi Pŏm-sŏn, *The Stray Bullet* is often voted by critics and scholars as the greatest South Korean film of all time. The film tells the story of a destitute refugee family from the North. The bed-ridden, demented matriarch repeatedly wails "Let's go! Let's go!"; her eldest son silently bears the burden of supporting the family with his meager wages as an assistant accountant; his jobless brother—a Korean War veteran—plots a bank heist out of desperation while his sister works as a prostitute for U.S. soldiers. Directed by Yu Hyŏn-mok, a legend of Golden Age cinema (1950s-60s), this bleak social drama realistically portrays the poverty and anxiety of postwar Seoul, where Korean tradition clashes with American G.I. culture.

March 25, 2004
Peppermint Candy
(Pakha sat'ang, Yi Ch'ang-dong, 2000)

Few films in recent years address Korean modern history so powerfully as *Peppermint Candy*, the much-anticipated sophomore film of one-time novelist (now Minister of Culture and Tourism) Yi Ch'ang-dong. This narratively complex film centers on the mystery of the middle-aged male protagonist's sudden suicide in the opening sequence. As the film's seven chapters unfold, time gradually regresses twenty years in reverse-chronology, providing glimpses of his tragic life



Peppermint Candy

against the backdrop of pivotal events—from the 1997 IMF Crisis and 1980s democratization movements to the Kwangju Massacre of May 1980 and Spring of Seoul in 1979 (following President Park Chung Hee's assassination).

April 1, 2004
Virgin Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors
(Oh! Sujŏng, Hong Sang-su, 2000)

Directed by internationally acclaimed filmmaker Hong Sang-su, this beautiful black-and-white film is divided into five overlapping episodes, two of which focus on the contradicting memories of Chae-hun and Su-jŏng, a bickering romantic couple whose anticipated sexual consummation is continuously being delayed. While Chae-hun's memory recalls their encounter as an accident, Su-jŏng's perspective reveals her shrewd manipulation of the rich yet naïve bachelor and the desire for upward mobility through marriage. Hong's innovative storytelling technique turns this potentially tired battle of the sexes into a profound, Rashomon-like meditation on memory and truth.

*Film synopses by Hye Seung Chung,
Postdoctoral Fellow in Korean Studies*



KSP Sponsors Asian Business Conference

The Korean Studies Program is proud to cosponsor the 14th annual Asian Business Conference to be held February 6-8 at the University of Michigan Business School. The theme for the conference is "Asia: Miracle Maker or Heartbreaker," which embodies the paradox commonly found in Asia, of seemingly miraculous macroeconomic performance and highly challenging business conditions. The 2004 Conference will provide a forum for discussing the factors that separate the winners from the losers in Asia, and explore tactics for turning Asia's economic promise into business success.

NEWS FROM THE ASIA LIBRARY

This past March, we were able to hire a Korean Studies Librarian to fill the vacancy left by Hea-seon Whang, who moved to New York with her husband last year. We are delighted to have Ms. Yunah Sung with us, and she has been hard at work carrying on the achievements of past Korean Studies Librarians, as well as making major improvements.

Ms. Sung received her Master of Library Science from the University of Alabama, and has spent the last ten years as the Asian Bibliographer at the Cleveland Museum of Art developing and cataloguing Chinese, Japanese, and Korean language materials. Needless to say, we are fortunate to have someone with her level of experience and expertise as the new Korean Studies librarian.

Ms. Sung has been actively seeking to expand the Korean collection. Her efforts have born fruit in two separate projects, membership in the Korean Collections Consortium of North America and acquisition of six new Korean Studies online databases, both of which are discussed in detail below.

Ms. Sung also traveled to South Korea in September as part of the Annual Meeting of the Korean Library Association. Among the many interesting events and activities, she explored cooperative purchase arrangements of Korean online full-text database services for UCLA, UC Berkeley, Columbia University, and University of Michigan, visited the two biggest book vendors in Korea, Panmun and Eulyoo, met with contacts at the Korea Foundation for Consortium activities, and visited university libraries and research centers related to Korean Studies. Overall, the trip was a great success. The Korea Foundation approved the grant proposal, and Ms. Sung made a whole host of contacts from which to acquire valuable resources.

Korean Collections Consortium of North America

The Korean Collections Consortium of North America started out in 1994 with six members: Harvard University, the University of Washington, UC Berkeley, the University of Hawaii, Columbia University, and the University of Southern California. Between 1995 and 1997 three other members joined the program; University of Chicago, UCLA, and University of Toronto. The Consortium members have been receiving grants (\$20,000 per year) from the Foundation for the acquisition of general Korean publications and reference materials. Also, each library has to intensively collect Korean materials in designated fields of specialization as a consortium member.

In late September 2003, The Foundation finally approved a grant proposal submitted by Asia Library and signed the agreement. The UM Asia Library became the 10th member of the Korean Collections Consortium of North America and is going to receive the Foundation's contribution, which will be US\$60,000 over a span of 3 years from 2003 through 2005. The grant will be spent for the purchase of primary reference sources for Korean Studies faculty and students (including bibliographies, handbooks, catalogs & indexes, dictionaries & encyclopedias, and statistics), in addition to the purchase of Korean materials in designated fields of specialization (Auto industry, Historiography, Korean in Japan, Korean Unification, Immigration and Emigration, Labor Relations, Human Rights and Student Movement).

Korean Studies online databases

Ms. Yunah Sung has acquired 6 Korean studies online databases, which have been offered through the Asia Library on a free trial basis since June, 2003 (the official contract with each database vendor for the subscription will be made this January). These resources are restricted solely to current faculty, staff and students of the University of Michigan and access to them requires a University IP address. Anyone seeking assistance on how to use the databases



Korean Studies Librarian, Yunah Sung

should contact Ms. Sung—she has already given over 30 tutorials to students and faculty—by email (yunahs@umich.edu) or phone (734-936-2357). For additional information and a direct link to the sites, please go to <http://www.lib.umich.edu/asia/dblist.htm#korean>.





KOREAN STUDIES PROGRAM

KOREA PEACE DAY

First Annual Korean Peace Day Observed

The Korean Studies Program commemorated the First Annual Korea Peace Day November 6, 2003, with the screening of *The Game of Their Lives*, a film documenting the World Cup soccer success of the 1966 North Korean team, the first from Asia ever to reach the World Cup quarterfinals. The event was orchestrated by Korean Studies Professor Henry Em who co-founded the Alliance of Scholars concerned about Korea (ASCK), the organization that established Korea Peace Day.

It was after a KSP colloquium lecture at the University of Michigan that Professor Em and Professor Charles Armstrong of Columbia University, both of whom teach modern Korean history, decided to form a scholarly organization that would educate the American public on Korea issues and encourage a call for peace. After several months of planning, several dozen Korean studies scholars from around the United States met at Columbia University on March 29, 2003, to officially form ASCK. The creation of a Korea Peace Day was part of the ASCK's efforts to garner support for a peaceful solution to the North Korean Nuclear Crisis.

The first Korean Peace Day kicked off with over 30 universities around the world holding a wide range of events, from seminars and panel discussions to film viewings. As one of the participating universities, we screened the outstanding documentary, *The Game of Their Lives*. Director Dan Gordon and his crew were given broad access to North Korea, enabling them to capture a rare, human view of the Democratic Peoples Republic of Korea. For many in the audi-

*Korean Students Association
President, Glara Cha,
welcomes everyone
to the event*



ence, the film was their first exposure to North Korean society from an independent point of view.

The event, which was a great success, was co-sponsored by Korean undergraduate and graduate student groups, including the Korean Graduate Student Association, the Korean Students Association, Korean International Student Association, and Sinaboro.

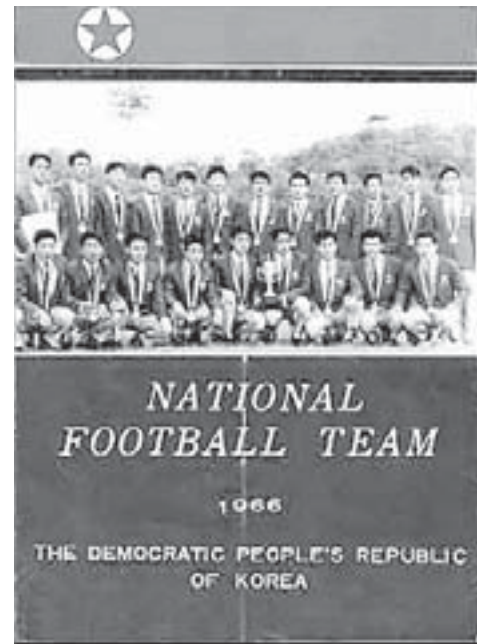
The Game of their Lives The Beauty of Sport Crossing Cultural Barriers

North Korea's 1-0 defeat of Italy at Middlesbrough in 1966 was by far the biggest shock in World Cup history – 1000-1 outsiders against the best players on the planet. Yet, due to the inaccessibility of North Korea to Westerners, it's taken over 35 years for the players to be put in the spotlight once more. Daniel Gordon (Director) of VeryMuchSo Productions and Nicholas Bonner (Associate Producer and North Korea specialist) of Koryo Tours, have spent the past five years making the film *'The Game of Their Lives'*.

The Game of Their Lives, tracks down the eight survivors of that great side of 1966 as well as giving an insight into modern North Korea. The film captures the incredible relationship that developed between the North Koreans and the fans of Middlesbrough who adopted the players as their 'home side'.

The film also traces the preparation of the North Korean team, their philosophies and their deep belief in teamwork. Rising from the devastation of the Korean War and with their "Chollima" inspired recovery effort, the players and the people share an obvious and fanatical love of their country and their Great Leader Kim Il Sung. As *The Game of Their Lives* introduces us to a group of people we haven't heard from in 36 years, the film is one of

*Professor
Henry Em gives
some opening
remarks at the
Korea Peace
Day Event*



The eight surviving members of the 1966 North Korean Football Team

struggle, success, surprise and football transcending political and cultural boundaries.

With color footage obtained from the North Korean film crew in 1966, the film shows the three games at Ayresome Park, the former ground of Middlesbrough FC, and the quarter final at Goodison Park, home of Everton FC. It also shows how the North Koreans were adopted by the Middlesbrough people and especially its Mayor at the time. This culminates in 3,000 Middlesbrough supporters following the North Korean team 150 miles to Goodison Park for their quarter final clash with Portugal, lead by the mighty Eusebio.

It is perhaps Pak Do Ik, the man who scored the winning goal against Italy, who best captures the spirit of the whole project:

"The English people took us to their hearts and vice versa. I learned that football is not only about the winning. Wherever we go . . . playing football can improve diplomatic relations and promote peace."

Alliance of Scholars Concerned about Korea

The Alliance of Scholars Concerned about Korea (ASCK) is dedicated to promotion of mutual understanding between the people of the United States and the people of Korea, both North and South. The goals and activities of ASCK include:

1. Helping scholars, students, policy-makers and the general public learn about Korea, both North (DPRK) and South (ROK), through accurate, historically informed analysis.
2. Contributing to the constructive and peaceful development of US-ROK and US-DPRK relations
3. Facilitating the exchange of scholars and students between the US and the DPRK.

ASCK believes that current problems on the Korean peninsula and between US and the two Koreas can only be solved through dialogue, cooperation, and the active pursuit of peace. ASCK feels the responsibility to speak out against policies that increase tensions in Northeast Asia and may lead to another catastrophic war in Korea. ASCK wishes to add its voice to a constructive discussion on how to achieve a peaceful, unified Korea existing in harmony with its neighbors, including the United States. To learn more about ASCK, go to www.asck.org.



June 7, 2003 meeting of ASCK steering committee at Stanford University

Front row (from left to right): Henry Em, Charles Armstrong, James Palais, Katharine Moon. Back row (from left to right): John Feffer, Martin Hart-Landsberg, Jae-Jung Suh, Gi-Wook Shin

2003-2004 Colloquium Series

The Korean Studies Colloquium Series has continued to grow in popularity, with the fall lectures receiving a diverse audience from around campus.

The fall series kicked off with a lecture presented by **Elaine Kim**, Professor of Asian American Studies in the Department of Comparative Ethnic Studies at UC Berkeley, entitled "These Bearers of a Homeland': Comments on Some Contemporary Korean American Writing and Visual Art." The core of her discourse centered on how Korean American writing and visual art for the past several decades has been instrumental in providing critical resistance to the dominant U.S. culture through shaping alternative cultural identities in dialogue with the homeland. Professor Kim surveyed a broad range of cross-media examples—from Theresa Hak Kyung Cha's canonized autobiographic novel *Dictee* and Y. David Chung's installation arts to Lela Lee's animation and Margaret Cho's stand-up performances—to show the diverse yet communal concerns of Korean American diasporic subjects.

On October 16, **Corina Courtis**, a PhD candidate in anthropology at the University of Buenos Aires, gave a stimulating discussion on the representation of Korean immigrants in Argentine media and society. Her dialogue specifically explored the ways in which Korean immigrants have become victims of the ethnicization of class conflict in Argentina. Ms. Courtis analyzed media discourse and everyday conversation to show how the economic status attained by many Korean immigrants, in contrast to the rapid pauperization of local middle class sectors due to neo-liberal reforms, has placed the Korean population in a precarious position vis-à-vis the host society in that media outlets and the public displace the actual causes of class struggle on to the Korean community by constructing racist images of them.

We look forward to the featured speakers in the upcoming winter series. On January 15, Assistant Professor at the University of Wisconsin Law School, **John Ohnesorge**, will present a talk on "Interpreting South Korea's

Corina Courtis, Ph.D. candidate in anthropology at the University of Buenos Aires



'Rights Revolution.'" February brings **Ramsay Liem**, Professor of Psychology at Boston College, speaking on "Still Presents Past: Korean Americans Remember the Korean War." In March, we are delighted to have Professor **Richard Kim** of UC Davis, who will discuss "U.S. Sovereignty and Diasporic State-making: Creating a Korean American Nationalism." Also in March, we have Professor **Insoo Cho**, from the University of Southern California, talking about Korean portraits in the early Chosun Dynasty. Rounding out the winter series is **Katharine H. S. Moon**, the Jane Bishop Chair of Political Science at Wellesley College, lecturing on "Korean-American Identities and South Korean 'Anti-Americanism.'" For dates and times, please consult the calendar of events on page 10.





KOREAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Celebrated Korean Writers Visit U of M

Eunsu Cho
(Asian Languages and Cultures)

On October 13th, a group of Korean writers visited the UM campus and held a much anticipated literary event for the Korean Studies community. The visitors were renowned novelist Seok-yeong Hwang, the popular poet Ji-woo Hwang, and Ki-wook Han, a literary critic and a professor of English literature at Inje University. Sponsored by the Korean Studies Program and the Daesan Cultural Foundation under their "Korean Writers' Reading Series in America" tour, the event received a packed house of enthusiastic attendees, who did not want to leave even though the event stretched more than three hours.

Seok-yeong Hwang (1943 -) is considered to be the most celebrated novelist in contemporary Korea – readers and critics alike agree that he is the best writer in modern Korea. His major novels, now called masterpieces of Korean literature in 20th century, include *A Strange Land*, *Chang Kilsan* (in 10 volumes), *The Shadow of Arms*, and most recently *A Guest*. Receiving a wide readership outside of Korea, his novels have been translated into French, English, Chinese, and Japanese. One of his most recent novels, the two volume, *Old Garden* came out in 2000 breaking many years of silence after his release from prison. After a well publicized visit to North Korea and meeting with then leader, Kim Il-Sung, Mr. Hwang was arrested and sentenced to a seven year prison term for having violated national security law. *Old Garden* was emotionally welcomed by



Ji-woo Hwang and Seok-yeong Hwang engage the audience in a question and answer session.



Literary critic, Ki-wook Han, introduces the speakers at the Korean writers event.

many people who had been waiting for his recuperation from prison. As a triumph of human survival, his work became praised more for its lucidity and concerns for humanity.

Mr. Ji-woo Hwang could be considered as one of the most beloved poets by the younger generation. Like Mr. Seok-yeong Hwang, Ji-woo had spent much of his early career in 1970s and 80s engaging in democratic movements of Korea opposing the military regimes, and his blood-boiling poems were cited by student demonstrators at that time.

The event was divided into two parts: First, an introduction of the writers by Ki-wook Han, the literary critic, at which time the writers came to the floor and read excerpts of their work for the audience. The second part consisted of a dialogue among the writers, with Professor Han as an interlocutor, which was followed by questions from the audience.

During their visit to Ann Arbor, the writers were able to spend some time taking in the beauty of mid-West fall colors in a sunny afternoon stroll through metro park. They were also entertained with dinner, tea, and good conversation by the leaders of the local Korean community, for which they were appreciative.

A Letter of Appreciation to KSP and the Korean Language Program

Dear Korean Studies Program,

As a parent, I would like to thank the faculty of the Korean Studies Program for teaching my son Korean. My son is a sophomore and has just finished his third semester of Korean language training. You can imagine my delight and surprise, when he started speaking Korean on recent visits home. At this writing, I am pleased to note that he speaks the language with the proper pattern and tense. I congratulate the faculty for not only designing courses that cover the basics of Korean, but providing an environment conducive to building confidence in its nascent language speakers. This confidence comes from encouragement from the faculty and class mates, opportunities to practice and make mistakes, and having fun in the process. From the progress I have observed, I'm convinced that all of these are offered in the program. I'd say the icing on the cake, no pun intended, was when, on my 60th birthday, my son wrote me a two page birthday card in Korean. I want to express my gratitude to both the Korean Studies Program and especially the language program, for it brings me great joy to see my son speak the language of his ancestors.

Sincerely,
Shin Joh Kang, Ph.D. 78'
Civil/Environmental Engineering
University of Michigan

Intensive Korean Language Courses Offered this Summer

Summer Intensive first- and second-year Korean courses will be offered!!

Intensive Korean language courses will be offered this summer for the first time since 1997. The courses will be equivalent to the regular eight month two semesters' Korean courses offered at UM. Not only UM students but Non-UM students are eligible to take the course for 10 credits.

The application deadline is April 1, 2004. For further information, check <http://www.umich.edu/~iinet/sli/>

Korean Language Program at U of M evolves into one of the premier language programs in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures

A command of the Korean language is integral to teaching and research on Korea, which is why we have made it a priority to develop the language program at Michigan. The formal Korean language program started in 1995 in conjunction with the founding of KSP—prior to this, volunteers from the community taught a small number of language courses. At its inception, the Korean language program consisted of one lecturer and several graduate student instructors offering courses in first, second, and third year Korean. Since then the program has expanded to the point of becoming the third largest language program in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, right behind Japanese and Chinese. A key to this success, of course, has been the dedicated faculty members of KSP. Professor Eun-su Cho, the coordinator of the language program, has sought out experienced and energetic instructors to carry the program to new heights. She also coauthored *Intermediate College Korean*, a book recently published by the University of California press that has already become a standard in intermediate Korean language instruction.

The Korean language classes are currently taught by two full-time lecturers, Drs. Ju-Hee Park and Ok-Sook Park. Dr. Ju-Hee Park, who teaches first year Korean, joined the program last year and has made some innovative changes in audio instruction. She received her PhD from Michigan in Russian literature and has several years experience in teaching foreign language. Dr. Ok-Sook Park, a PhD from Michigan State, taught Korean language at various institutions before joining the faculty here. She teaches second and third year Korean. Both lecturers are supported by a group of trained graduate instructors, who help give the students the personal attention they need.

Aside from 1-3rd year Korean, the program is now offering an advanced level, equivalent to 4th year, Korean language course of reading Korean literature and texts on culture, and after a few years of absence, intensive 10-week Korean classes, in both first and second years, are being held for the Spring and Summer semesters starting June 7-August 13, 2004.



Professor Cho attending a conference of Buddhist nuns in Taipei

Professor of Korean Studies to Conduct a Conference on Korean Buddhist Nuns this Spring

After receiving a grant from Han Maum Zen Buddhist Center in Korea, Eunsu Cho, Professor of Korean Studies in the Asian Languages and Cultures Department, has organized a major international conference to be held in Seoul, Korea, this coming May, inviting more than 26 scholars of East Asian Buddhism from various countries. The conference will focus on the life and culture of Korean Buddhist nuns and laywomen.

Serious studies of the history of Chinese, Taiwanese, and Japanese Buddhist nuns have already been undertaken, but there is a curious lack of scholarship on Korean Buddhist nuns. The conference thus aims to break fresh ground and shed light on this heretofore neglected area of Korean history in the hopes of gaining attention from those in the broader academic community already focusing on the topic of women and religion. Professor Cho will present a paper for the conference showing how Korean Buddhist nuns have built a viable monastic community that has not only survived near obliteration, but has also shown a power of re-generation that has been reflected in the order's sheer numbers, its social activism, and its meditation programs, making them one of the most flourishing female monastic communities in the Buddhist world today.

The papers presented at the conference will be edited for publication as a volume on Korean Buddhist nuns, the first group effort of its kind identifying and appreciating the unique tradition of women in Buddhist monastic communities.



Professor Eun Yung Park: Visiting Researcher

The Korean Studies Program welcomes Professor Eun Yung Park, who will be conducting research for the Archive of Diasporic Korea project for the month of January. Professor Park comes from Brazil where she teaches journalism at the Universidade Presbiteriana Mackenzie and occasionally lectures at the Universidade de Sao Paulo. She will be researching the first known immigration of Koreans to Latin America, which was the 1905 shipment of Koreans to Mexico for work in the sisal plantations. Professor Park speaks four languages including Korean, English, Spanish, and Portuguese, and we look forward to her invaluable contributions to this exciting new project. Please feel free to stop by the Korean Studies Program at the International Institute to introduce yourself to our new visitor.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS IN KOREAN STUDIES

Korea Foundation Scholarship for Graduate Study

This year the Korea Foundation and the AAS were able to award twenty scholarships in the Korea Foundation Korean Studies Graduate Scholarship Program in North America, and we are pleased to announce the continuation of the program for another year.

The application deadline for the 2004-2005 competition will be January 31, 2004.



KOREAN STUDIES PROGRAM

Inquiries concerning the program may be directed to the Fellowship Program Team of the Korea Foundation, by e-mail at scholar@kf.or.kr, or by telephone at 82-2-3463-5614.

This program seeks to promote Korean studies and foster young scholars in this field by providing graduate students majoring in Korean studies in North America with scholarships for their coursework and/or research while enrolled at their home institutions. It covers students only through the year that they are advanced to candidacy (not Ph.D dissertation research or writing grants) and only if they are in residence (not overseas research). Please refer to the Korea Foundation Fellowship program for research abroad funding possibilities. For a copy of the application form, go to www.kf.or.kr

Foreign Language Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowships

Deadline: July 31, 2004 for the 2004-2005 academic year

Fellowships are available on a competitive basis to graduate students in Korea Studies who are taking Korean language classes. Only U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are or will be enrolled in full-time degree programs are eligible. FLAS fellowships are not given to study first year Korean except to "professional school" applicants. In addition to FLAS awards for the academic year, which provide full tuition and stipends, summer FLAS fellowships also are available. For more information, contact: KSP, University of Michigan, 1080 S. University Ave., Ann Arbor, MI. 48109-1106

Past Recipients of the Korea Foundation Graduate Studies Fellowship

Jennifer M. Lee, the 2001-2002 fellowship winner, is a Ph.D. student in the School of Information concentrating on colonial Korea.

Debora Soloman, received the 2002-2003 fellowship award and is currently a Ph.D. student in the Department of History where she studies colonial Korean history.

Matthew Wegehaupt, recipient of the current academic year fellowship, is a Ph.D. student in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures focusing on colonial Korea.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS



- September 18** **Elaine Kim**
Professor, Asian American Studies, Department of Comparative Ethnic Studies (UC Berkeley)
"These Bearers of a Homeland": Comments on Some Contemporary Korean American Writing and Visual Art"
- October 13** **Daeson's Writing Group**
"The Korean Reading Series in America"
This Lecture will be given in the Korean language.
- October 16** **Corina Courtis**
PhD Candidate—Anthropology; University of Buenos Aires (Argentina), National Council for Scientific and Technological Research
"Reaching the Antipodes: Notes on the Korean Immigration to Argentina"
- November 6** **Korea Peace Day**
The Korean Studies Program presents: *"The Game of Their Lives"*

January 15 **John Ohnesorge** **4 to 6pm**
Assistant Professor, University of Wisconsin Law School
"Interpreting South Korea's 'Rights Revolution'"

January 29 **KSP Film Series** **7 to 9pm**
Film: *"YMCA Baseball Team"* Directed by Kim Hyôn-sôk, 2002

February 5 **KSP Film Series** **7 to 9pm**
Film: *"The Stray Bullet"* Directed by Yu Hyôn-mok, 1961

February 19 **Ramsay Liem** **4 to 6pm**
Professor, Psychology Department, Boston College
"Still Presents Past: Korean Americans Remember the Korean War"

March 8 **Insoo Cho** **Monday 12 to 2pm**
Assistant Professor, Department of Art History, University of Southern California
Professor Cho will be speaking on the topic of Korean portraits in the early Choson Dynasty. Title to be determined.

March 18 **Richard Kim** **4 to 6pm**
Assistant Professor, Asian American Studies Program, UC Davis
"U.S. Sovereignty and Diasporic State-making: Creating a Korean American Nationalism"

March 25 **KSP Film Series** **7 to 9pm**
Film: *"Peppermint Candy"* Directed by Yi Ch'ang-dong, 2000

April 1 **KSP Film Series** **7 to 9pm**
Film: *"Virgin Stripped Bare by Her Bachelors"* Directed by Hong Sang-su, 2000

April 8 **Katharine H.S. Moon** **4 to 6pm**
Jane Bishop Chair, Associate Professor of Political Science, Wellesley College
"Korean-American Identities and South Korean 'Anti-Americanism'"

All events are at the International Institute 1080 S. University, Room 1636.





KSP staff, Kristy Demas and Marty Harms

New Staff

The Korean Studies program welcomes back Kristy Demas to the position of Program Coordinator. Kristy began working for KSP in 2000, but left after two years to concentrate on raising her two young sons. After a year and a half away, she has returned to the program to continue her excellent work. KSP would also like to introduce Marty Harms, who has joined the program as Research Coordinator. Marty comes to us fresh out of graduation from the University of Michigan, where he studied philosophy and political science. He will be helping the program with various projects throughout the year.

Helping the Korean Studies Program

As the Korean Studies Program continues to grow, it becomes necessary to ask for assistance from our community of supporters in order to reach our goals and set new ones. Some of the objectives we have set for the program include:

- The expansion of Korean language instruction in the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures.
- Recruitment of additional faculty in Korean Studies.
- The continued expansion of the Korean collections in the University Library.
- More support for faculty research, graduate and professional school training.
- Visiting faculty positions in Korean Studies.
- The continuance of Korean conferences, colloquia, workshops and lectures on Korea.
- More outreach to the wider community.

The realization of these initiatives requires the development of a substantial endowment fund in support of Korean Studies at the University. We hope you will agree to support the development effort through a donation. Please fill out the form below and return it to:

The Korean Studies Program
International Institute
1080 South University, Suite 3663
Ann Arbor, MI 48109



KOREAN STUDIES PROGRAM



I have enclosed a gift in the amount of \$ _____



My check number _____



Or charge my gift to: Visa MasterCard Discover
 American Express



Credit Card number: _____



Signature _____



Name (please print) _____



Address _____

Telephone _____

Address Changes, Updates

KSP is updating its mailing list database. If this newsletter has been forwarded to you, if you have moved or are planning to move, please let us know. Send a note with your new address to:

Korean Studies Program
International Institute
1080 S. University, Suite 3663
Ann Arbor Michigan 48109-1106
USA

Or email the program coordinator,
Kristy Demas, at kdemas@umich.edu



Korean Studies Program University of Michigan

1080 S. University, Suite 3663
Ann Arbor, MI 48109-1106
TEL: 734. 764. 1825
FAX: 734. 763. 9154

WEB: <http://www.umich.edu/~iinet/ksp>

*Regents of the University of Michigan:
David A. Brandon, Laurence B. Deitch,
Olivia P. Maynard, Rebecca McGowan,
Andrea Fischer Newman, Andrew C. Richner,
S. Martin Taylor, Katherine E. White,
Mary Sue Coleman (ex officio).*

KSP Newsletter Editor: Martin Harms
KSP Newsletter Design: S² Design
KSP Newsletter Production: Print-Tech

Korean Studies Program

University of Michigan
1080 S. University, Suite 3663
Ann Arbor Michigan 48109-1106