



Fall 2007

University of Michigan

Center for **Korean
Studies**





Director's Note

Y. David Chung

As the incoming director of the Korean Studies Program, the greeting in this edition of our newsletter takes on greater meaning. It is my opportunity to officially introduce myself and talk about the new developments of Korean Studies at Michigan.

My name is Y. David Chung and I assumed the directorship of the Korean Studies Program on July 1. I have a joint appointment with the International Institute and the School of Art and Design where I am an Associate Professor. I teach in a broad range of media including of video, filmmaking, drawing, printmaking and digital media. Last year, I co-directed our documentary film, *Koryo Saram*, and I continue research work with our Archive of Diasporic Korea as well many Korea related projects around the country.

I have big shoes to fill, as Professor Meredith Jung-En Woo, has left me with a program poised to handle the new growth and programming. Her remarkable role with Korean Studies and her home department of Political Science has led Dean Terrence McDonald of the College of LSA to ask Professor Woo to take on new challenges as Associate Dean for Social Sciences. It is a position from which the college and the university at large will benefit. I would like to take this forum to congratulate Professor Woo on her new role and to thank her for her tireless work on behalf of this program.

I am proud to announce that after months of hard work, the Korean Studies Program will be known as *The Center for Korean Studies (CKS)*. This achievement is due to the dedicated efforts of many as well as to the singular generosity and vision of Elder Sang-Yong Nam, his wife, Moon Sook Nam and their family who helped to put Korean Studies on the map and have now given a historic donation. The Nams not only have given more than a financial gift, they have given their time and their spirit. We are thankful to the Nams and grateful that they love this university. We hope to build our program to become one of the best Korean Studies programs in the country. (Please read more about the Nam's gift later in this newsletter.)

This year the CKS will have many exciting events and programs including the reappearance of the Korean Film Series and a performance by musician, Jin Hi Kim. I plan to continue our colloquium series and our collaborative work with the Asia Library Collection and the Korean language program. I would like to welcome Jiyoung Lee (our new administrator); our new faculty, Youngju Ryu and Micah Auerback; visiting scholars and, most of all, our students. I would like to thank Kristy Demas for her many years of work on behalf of Korean Studies; and the Nam family, the Korea Foundation, the International Institute, the office of the Dean and all our supporters for their generosity.





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UM Delegation Travels to Korea

History was made when a delegation of University of Michigan leaders traveled to Seoul, Korea to attend a successful Korean Alumni event. The group consisted of: LSA Dean Terrence J. McDonald, Assistant Dean for Development Peggy Burns, Professor Y. David Chung, Professor Meredith Jung-En Woo, Alumni Association President Steve Grafton, Alumni Association Vice President for University Relations, Jo Rumsey, School of Social Work Dean, Paula Allen-Meares, Vice President for Research for the University, Stephen R. Forrest, and Vice-President for University Development Jefferson K. Porter.

U-M Alumnus Chairman Woon-hyun Lee (of SeAH Steel) invited the delegation to Seoul to attend a special banquet he hosted as president of the Korean Alumni Association of the University of Michigan. (Lee was integral to the Korea Gallery being included in the U-M Museum of Art's expansion project with his matching donation of \$500,000.) The dinner was a traditional Korean meal with impressive musical performances and many ceremonial touches.

Despite a whirlwind trip, the delegation was able to take advantage of a few hours to do some sight-seeing. Taken under the wing by Professor Jung-Suk Youn (a U-M Alumnus whose daughter is a graduate student at U-M) who acted as an official escort in Seoul, the group was able to see some of the city's sights. Highlights of the day included a visit to Kyongbok Palace, a place of great beauty and moving history.

The main Alumni Association reception took place the final night in Seoul and it was a rousing success. More than three hundred people were in attendance, many of whom were alumni but some, incoming freshmen who were anxious to connect with U-M officials and alumni. The delegation was very impressed by the number of folks at the event as well as the high level of enthusiasm of the alums. It was a wonderful opportunity for old friends to re-connect and new friendships to be made.

The Michigan Difference

In anticipation of the delegation trip to Seoul, Professors Woo and Chung decided it would be nice to highlight the unique relationship between U-M and Korea over the last 100 years. Thus the idea of creating a short documentary video was born. With help from work study employees, graduate students and staff, they were able to create a moving history of the strong connection Michigan has had with Korea since the 1800s. Starting with the Barbour Fellows and the first Korean woman to graduate from the University to today's growing population of Korean and Korean-American students, the history that binds the two is indeed moving and full-faceted. (Interested parties may obtain a copy of the production on DVD by contacting the Center for Korean Studies.)



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By Gail Flynn

LSA Development, Marketing & Communications



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Nam gifts to U-M total \$4.3 million for Korean Studies

Elder Sang-Yong Nam, president and CEO of Nam Building Management Co. in Ann Arbor, has made it a lifelong mission to build recognition and respect for the history and culture of his homeland.

His recent gift of \$2.3 million to the Korean Studies Program, combined with his earlier gifts of \$500,000 and \$1.5 million, will provide the resources to propel Korean Studies in LSA to national prominence, and ultimately will upgrade the program to a Center for Korean Studies. This gift is part of LSA's fundraising effort for the \$2.5 billion Michigan Difference Campaign.

"When I came to the University of Michigan as a graduate student in 1964, I found 760,000 books on Asia in the library. Most were about China and Japan—less than 100 were about Korea," Nam says. "In the University Museum of Art, there were 1,400 items in the Chinese collection and 1,300 in the Japanese, but only 45 in the Korean collection, including broken pieces."

"The U-M Center for Chinese Studies and the Center for Japanese Studies were highly regarded, but Korean language and culture were not studied at all. I was shocked by the total lack of interest in Korea. I wanted to correct this disparity and upgrade the status of my country in the intellectual landscape of Asian studies."

Nam has overcome many hardships in his life, so he was ready to take on this challenge. As a high school student during the Korean War, he witnessed his father's abduction, which left him and his older brother to provide for their six siblings. He later graduated with a degree in architectural engineering from Seoul National University, then worked for the U.S. Operations Mission to Korea, which eventually led him to Michigan.

After earning a master of city planning degree from the College of Architecture and Design in 1966, Nam and his wife, Moon-Sook Hong, built a successful real estate management company and worked to organize University and community support for a Korean Studies Program.

"I asked my sons, Andrew and Anthony, to attend U-M so that they would share my vision for Korean studies and carry on my philanthropy and mission," he says.

Both sons attended the University and were active in the Korean Student Association. When Anthony Nam was president of the KSA, he spearheaded a petition campaign to create a Korean Studies Program. Several years later, through the support of many people at the University and in the Ann Arbor and metro Detroit communities, the Korean Studies Program was established in 1995. Today it produces some of the finest scholarship on Korea in the nation.

"Elder and Mrs. Nam have been instrumental in getting the Korean Studies Program started at U-M," LSA Dean Terrence McDonald says. "Now, through their tremendous generosity, the program is positioned to move to the forefront of its field. Their gifts will enable us to recruit world-class scholars, provide unparalleled learning opportunities and fund innovative research that will contribute significantly to the depth and breadth of new scholarship on Korea. The Nams' gift will create a legacy for decades to come."

1. Elder Sang-Yong Nam, Mrs. Nam (seated, center) and their family, LSA Dean Terrence McDonald (third from right) LSA Associate Dean Meredith Woo (second from right) and Vice President for Development Jerry May (right). *Photo by Martin Vloet, U-M Photo Services*
2. Elder Sang-Yong Nam and LSA Dean Terrence McDonald signing the agreement.
3. Official signing ceremony of the Nam Family Gift, July 13, 2007



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Madame Park's Gift

As founder and president of the Sochon Foundation, Madame Park made a rare visit to the United States this May to attend the official signing ceremony of her scholarship pledge for Korean Studies students. She created the Sochon Foundation with funds her mother was leaving her as an inheritance. Together they decided that the funds should be allocated for the betterment of others and in this regard, education was the obvious answer. If they could help a few students further their studies and reach their educational goals by offering scholarships, it would be the best use of the money.

Madame Park, a retired teacher, volunteers her time teaching computer classes to the elderly in her hometown. Her love of education is strong and her desire to help young people is inspiring. She truly lit up in the presence of current scholarship recipients who attended the signing ceremony and the luncheon.

Koryo Saram The Unreliable People

Previews for the premiere of the film *Koryo Saram* (co-directed by Y. David Chung and Matt Dibble) were held at the Smithsonian Sackler Gallery of Art in October, 2006. More than 400 people came to a standing room only screening at the Meyer Auditorium attended by the film's Executive Director, Meredith Woo, which was followed by a gala reception at the Cosmos Club hosted by Kent Calder, Director of the Edwin O. Reischauer Center for East Asian Studies at Johns Hopkins University. In November *Koryo Saram* was the featured event here at the Michigan Theater in Ann Arbor as part of the Institute for the Humanities' conference "Routes into the Diaspora". Additional screenings have been held at Stanford University, San Francisco International Asian American Film Festival, Chicago Asian American Film Showcase, Northwestern University and the School of Oriental and African Studies at the University of London. This summer, David Chung returned to Almaty, Kazakhshtan to present the film at the International Conference of Korean Diaspora sponsored by the Kazakh National University named after Al-Farabi and the film was also shown at a special screening for the subjects in the film and their families. For further information on the film please visit: www.koryosaram.net.



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1. Madame Park at the official scholarship pledge for Korean Studies
 2. Y. David Chung and Matt Dibble at the *Koryo Saram* Michigan Theater, Ann Arbor premier. 3-6. Students from the Korean Language Program

Korean Language Program

The academic year 2006-2007 has been fruitful for the Korean Language Program (KLP). Two Korean classes (Korean as a second language and Korean as a heritage language) were implemented successfully in the fall, with favorable reviews from students, instructors and administrators on campus. Due to the success of KLP's online placement project, students may plan their schedules in advance of school beginning. Placement test information can be found at the KLP website (<http://www.lsa.umich.edu/asian/language/korean/>).

Congratulations to Julie Badowski, Christina Cohen, Joseph Kim, Mi-Hae Kim, and Tiffany Lambert who received an internship from LG Electronics. LG is one of the largest companies in Korea and well-known world wide. LG's Human Resources Planning Group noted that interested students must want to learn about Korea, its history, and have an interest in understanding its changing business world. Of the 12 students involved in the internship program, five are students who studied Korean at the U-M.

Another KLP student currently in Korea is Mike Walsh who received a Fulbright scholarship to teach English in Korea. He finished his orientation and will be teaching English at a high school in the city named "Masan". It is truly gratifying to see the KLP students make use of opportunities to develop their careers and to enrich their experience due to their knowledge of Korean language and their interest in Korea.

The KLP held its annual end-of-semester party on April 17, 2007 in conjunction with the 2007 Elder Nam Essay contest awards ceremony. Students presented their skits and self-produced Korean movies, and experienced Korean culture by learning a popular Korean song and enjoying Korean food at the celebration. Approximately 80 students and several invited guests attended the annual event. The 2007 Elder Nam's Essay contest awardees were Sarah Yi, Kuei-Yu Chang, Rachael Tillison, Johnson Ben Mark, Cher Yang Tan, Jennifer Ko, Julie Badowski, Joseph Shiejay Lang, Justina Jiyun Kim, Michael Eugene Holda, Terrence Yang, Kihyun Kim, Grace Cho, Jullia Lee, Brad Yi, Dan Klenotic, Haemin Kim, Weihan Chen, Joon Gyu Kim, Jonathan Kim, and Eunmi Lee. Four essay judges selected Sarah Yi's essay titled "Retrace" as the Grand Prize. In her essay, she eloquently describes how she comes to understand her grandmother through her grandmother's Alzheimers, which makes her travel between Present and Past, revealing her old memories.

Faculty, Staff and Student Updates

Meredith Jung-En Woo

Meredith Jung-En Woo became the Associate Dean for Social Sciences on July 1, 2007 after an incredibly busy and productive year as the Director of the Korean Studies Program, in addition to her professorial duties in the Department of Political Science. Some highlights from the last few months include being interviewed by 20/20's Diane Sawyer about the state of North Korea, serving as a panelist for the Asia Business Conference at UM, completing work on the *Koryo Saram* documentary and attending its debut screenings. She also spent long hours working with Y. David Chung to produce the Center for Korean Studies historical video.

Henry Em

Although Henry Em left the university at the end of 2006 to teach in Korea, he has kept in close touch and returned for the summer, this time as a Visiting Scholar. It has been a busy year for Henry. He wrote the Introduction to and was the guest editor of the Seoul Journal of Korean Studies, vol. 19, no. 1, published by the Kyujanggak Institute, Seoul National University (December 2006). A book he co-edited on Christian missionaries and the democracy movement in South Korea also came out in December, 2006. Entitled *More Than Witnesses*, an English-language edition and a Korean-language edition were published by the Korea Democracy Foundation. In March, Henry began his appointment as associate professor in the Department of Korean History at Korea University. In June he presented a paper on the emergence of modern Korean historiography at Leiden University for the conference the Writing of History in 20th Century East Asia. In late June, an international conference that Henry organized, *Crossing National and Disciplinary Boundaries in Korean and Japanese Studies*, was held at Korea University. Fourteen scholars from twelve universities in the U.S. and Korea took part in this conference, and the conference volume will be published in Korean later this year. Henry's book, *Sovereignty and Selfhood in Modern Korean Historiography*, is under contract at Duke University Press and will come out in 2008. Henry is also under contract to write the chapter on modern Korean historiography for the *Oxford History of Historical Writing*, a new five-volume history of historical writing to be published by Oxford University Press.

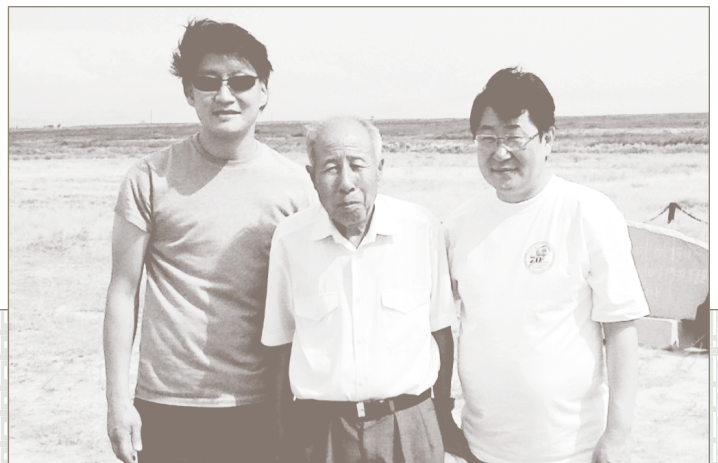
Y. David Chung

In addition to taking over the leadership of the Center for Korean Studies, Y. David Chung has had an active year, finishing the *Koryo Saram* documentary, teaching in the School of Art & Design and producing the Center for Korean Studies historical video. In addition, he's been traveling to Vienna, Virginia to continue the design work he's been commissioned to do on the Korean Bell Pavilion located at the Meadowlark Botanical Gardens.

He is also busy screening *Koryo Saram* at film festivals around the globe and is collaborating on a folklore project with the Fabric Workshop and Museum in Philadelphia. His time during the academic year will be divided to include teaching in the School of Art & Design, directing the Center for Korean Studies and serving on the executive boards of the School of Art & Design and the Institute for the Humanities.

Insung Ko

Over the summer Insung Ko presented a workshop session with Ok-Sook Park titled "Using movies and other visual materials in teaching Korean" at the 2007 Workshop for Teachers of Chinese, Japanese, and Korean, held at Michigan State University in June, 2007. He was a conference chair on Using Multi-media to Teach about Language and Culture at the 12th Annual Conference of the American Association of Teachers of Korean at the University of Chicago in June. Also in June, he participated in a course preparation workshop for distance learning titled as Pedagogical Strategies for Using Technology in Language Classes, which was supported by New Initiatives/New Infrastructure (NINI) grant that the department of Asian Languages and Cultures applied for and received funding for four faculty members specializing in Korean, Indonesian, and Tibetan language instruction.





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Haewon Cho

Haewon Cho will be promoted to Lecturer II starting in Fall 2007 after passing her review and for attaining excellence in teaching. Happily she will remain at the KLP along with Insung Ko.

Kyeong-min Park

Kyeong-min Park joins the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures as a lecturer of Korean. She comes to Michigan from Michigan State University's Less Commonly Taught Languages center. She has an MA in Linguistics and will be teaching first and third year Korean courses.

Youngju Ryu

Making a cross-country journey from California, incoming Modern Korean Literature Professor Youngju Ryu is getting a glimpse of the nation's rugged landscape and perhaps finding inspiration for her own story. She'll take her place amongst the growing Korean Studies faculty at Michigan. Ryu was a speaker for the Korean Studies Program Colloquium Series last year. Her talk was entitled, "Literature on the Eve of Revolution: The Question of Politics in 1970s' South Korean Fiction." While Ryu eloquently described the complexity of the word "neighbor" and its divergent connotations, she also explored the politics and economic disparities of 1970s Korea that helped mold the literature and vice versa. She will join the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures and begin teaching in Fall 2007. Youngju Ryu received her PhD in Literature from UCLA.

Micah Auerback

Micah Auerback will also join the faculty of the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures in September 2007. Auerback will be teaching courses on Japanese and Korean Buddhism. He received his PhD from Princeton University in 2007.

Mimi Nelson

Mimi Nelson began her new position at the Asia Library on August 2 as the Information Resources Cataloging Specialist for a one-year term. Mimi will be a welcome addition to the Korean Collections at the Asia Library and she will strengthen service to Michigan faculty and students in the Korean studies area.

Ok-Sook Park

Ok-Sook Park has taken a new position at Michigan State University as Assistant Professor at the Department of Linguistics and Germanic, Slavic, Asian, and African Languages. Park's primary responsibilities include developing the Korean Language Program and serving on the Language Assessment Development team, in addition to teaching Korean. Ok-Sook was a tireless worker on behalf of the Center for Korean Studies and as language coordinator for ALC, she contributed much to the department. Her innovative efforts have resulted in some vast improvements such as revamping the placement testing process, and developing teaching materials for Korean verb conjugations.

Nora Hawk

The Korean Studies Program Fellowship Committee unanimously agreed that incoming Anthropology PhD student Nora Hawk should receive the Center for Korean Studies / International Institute student fellowship for the 2007-2008 year. Hawk's area of research is the missionary movement in Korea, which first was a "receiving" nation and has since become a "sending" country with more than 12,000 Korean missionaries worldwide today. Having spent two years in Korea on a Fulbright scholarship, living with a family for one year of that time and working at a high school as a means of doing research, Nora gained first hand experience with Korean culture and strengthened her resolve to include Korea in her graduate school plans.

Jonson Porter

For PhD student Jonson Porter life has been hectic this summer but fun while studying in Korea. He's been focusing most of his time and energy on his Korean Language studies and looks forward to returning home to Ann Arbor later this month.

Sharon Heijin Lee

Sharon Heijin Lee is moving to Hawai'i to begin work on her dissertation prospectus on Korean/American women and the beauty industry. Having just completed the Community of Scholars fellowship with the Institute for Research on Women and Gender, Sharon will be back in Ann Arbor in March of 2008 to present the paper on representations of Korean women and plastic surgery that she worked on with her fellowship cohort this past summer.

1. David Chung returned to Kazakhstan in July 2007, he visited Ushtobe with historian German Kim and deportation survivor Mikhail Chun.
2. Meredith Jung-En Woo
3. Youngju Ryu



Visiting Scholars

Minister Kim

Former Minister of Justice for Korea Jung-kil Kim spent much of the 2006-2007 academic year as a visiting scholar with the Law School. An accomplished attorney, published author and high ranking government official, Minister Kim admirably decided to take on the challenges of living in a strange, new city; attending classes in a language that wasn't his own; and making friends with people less than half his age. He succeeded brilliantly on all counts. While here, he attended classes of interest to him professionally such as International Law, Criminal Law and Taxation. During this time, he became close friends with Law School faculty, in particular Professor Reuven Avi-Yonah, and even participated and presented a paper at a tax conference in the fall 2006.

German Kim

During the Fall 2006 semester, Professor German Kim of Kazakh National University named after Al-Farabi was the Mellon Global Fellow at the Institute for the Humanities. During his stay, Professor Kim worked closely with the Center for Korean Studies and presented lectures at Ohio State University and University of California at Berkeley. As the historical consultant on the *Koryo Saram* documentary film project, Professor Kim accompanied David Chung at the film presentations around the country. Professor Kim has returned to Almaty where he is the Head of Korean Studies and recently organized an International Conference on Korean Diaspora.

Hyung Nam Moon

Hyung Nam Moon and e-business expert, spent the year in Ann Arbor with his wife and son. The trio quickly acclimated to life in Ann Arbor and became regular fixtures at the CKS lectures and events. A dedicated teacher, Moon returned to Korea in late July to attend the graduation ceremony of some of his students from Sookmyung Women's University.

Ahn Hongseon

Ahn Hongseon spent two weeks in Ann Arbor conducting research on the educational system of the United States. While here, Ahn managed to tour the Asia Library, visit the Art Fair and do a bit of traveling in the state.

Film Series

In the upcoming year, among its many projects, the Center for Korean Studies will continue its research on the Korean diaspora as well as its support for visiting Korean scholars to the University of Michigan. One of the highlights of the 07-08 academic year will be the sponsorship of a new Korean film series which will look at the postwar reconstruction era through recently restored films of the period as well new films which look back at one of the most pivotal and dramatic times of modern Korean history. Titled, "Reconstruction/Deconstruction", the film series is being guest curated by Smithsonian Film Programmer, Tom Vick. Tentative film selections are:

- *A Flower in Hell* (Shin Sang-ok, 1958, 87 min, b&w)
- *A Single Spark* (Park Kwang-su, 1995, 92 min., color and b&w)
- *The President's Last Bang* (Im Sang-soo, 2005, 102 min.)
- *A Petal* (Jang Sun-woo, 1996, 96 min.)
- *Chilsu and Mansu* (Park Kwang-su, 1988, 107 min.)
- *The Road Taken* (Hong Ki-seon, 2003, 103 min.)
- *Iodo* (Kim Ki-young, 1977, 110 min.)
- *Silmido* (Kang Woo-suk, 2003, 134 min.)

These films will be shown Thursday nights at 7pm beginning late September at a venue to be decided. Tom Vick will be in town for the kick-off of the series on Thursday, September 27 at 7pm at Lorch Hall Auditorium. Please visit www.ii.umich.edu/cks for dates.



GM Scholarship

David Chung recently met with the president of the Ann Arbor Korean-American Society about General Motors providing financial awards to outstanding Korean students attending the University of Michigan as full-time students and who are majoring in fields of interest to the automotive industry. The program will award three of \$2500 scholarships in December, 2007. Scholarships are awarded for the full academic year, not by semester. Application forms will be available at the Ann Arbor Korean-American Society website, <http://www.aakorean.org/> and the University of Michigan Korean Student website, <http://www.umich.edu/~ksa/board.html>.



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Colloquium Series

The Center for Korean Studies has again received support from the Korea Foundation for the colloquium series which brings leading academics to the university for thought provoking lectures. Last year's roster was filled with speakers from a variety of disciplines. Speakers included: Ted Hughes, East Asian Languages and Cultures, Columbia University; Theodore Jun Yoo, Department of History, University of Hawai'i at Manoa; Youngju Ryu, Korean Literature, UCLA; Balazs Szalontai, Department of History, Central European University; Joan Kee, The Institute for the Arts, New York University; Min Suh Son, History, UCLA; Jungwon Kim, Harvard University; Joerg Plassen, Ruhr-Universitaet; Sonja Kim, Korean History, UCLA; and, Albert Park, Visiting Professor from Oberlin.

In collaboration with Center for Japanese Studies, CKS hosted a workshop entitled "Compiling/Editing and Critically Evaluating Western-Language Bibliographies on Japan and on Korea: A Bibliographer's Perspective and Personal Experience," with Frank Joseph Shulman, Bibliographer, Editor, and Consultant for Reference Publications in Asian Studies. This event was very popular among graduate students and faculty and the workshop ran well past its original end-time.

The first colloquium of the year will take place on Wednesday, October 17 at 5pm in room 1636 School of Social Work Building. The speaker is Owen Miller, Centre for Korean Studies, School of Oriental and African Studies, London.

Administration Updates

Jiyoung Lee

The Center for the Korean Studies is delighted to welcome Jiyoung Lee as its new administrator. Jiyoung joined the Center on September 4, 2007. After obtaining her Master's degree in TESOL from Eastern Michigan University in 2003, she taught English as a second language at Oakland Community College and tutored ESL students at Ann Arbor Public Schools. In addition, she has been working as an interpreter at the University of Michigan Hospital since 2000.

Kristy Demas

Kristy Demas has accepted a new position at the LSA Office of Development. Everyone involved with Korean Studies here at the university knows Kristy and is deeply grateful for her hard work and dedication. She was the heart and soul of Korean Studies.

CKS is updating the mailing list database. To update your address, please email or mail a note to administrator Jiyoung Lee (jiyoung@umich.edu).

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*)

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