

# KOREAN STUDIES

at

## ARIZONA STATE UNIVERSITY

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences

Department of Languages and Literatures



- Newsletter No. 2, August 2001 -

### An Overview of the Year 2000

The Korean Studies Program has had an exciting and fruitful year. We have seen significant increases in enrollments, good attendance at guest lectures, the awarding of several grants, generous donations from the Korean-American community and visits by Korean dignitaries and scholars to our campus.

External funding in the form of grants and donations is always crucial to any academic program, but especially for a young program like ours. The year 2000 was very gratifying because of the great support we received from outside funding agencies and individual donors. The Korean instructor position held by Mr. Oh Young Kyun has been funded by the Korean Research Foundation since 1999, and we were able to secure the third year of funding from the KRF. Since we secured this third consecutive year of funding, the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences at ASU has made a commitment to continue to support the position after the KRF funding ends in 2002. In addition, we have been very fortunate to get a large book donation from the Korea Junior Book Foundation in Korea. Its President, Mr. Lee Sung Won, has pledged \$20,000 over the next five years to help ASU libraries acquire Korean language books and references. The grant from the Korea Junior Book Foundation will provide a solid foundation for our task of building up the collection of Korean materials in the ASU libraries. The first package of 480 volumes arrived in the summer of 2000. We are very grateful for the Foundation's support.

Our program also received a grant from the Korean Cultural Service in Los Angeles, whose generous funding enabled us to invite Dr. Park Chan Eung to campus to deliver a lecture and perform *Pansori* in February. This funding from the KCS was our second consecutive grant. Continuing their enthusiastic support for the Korean

Program at ASU, the Korean-American community generously donated funds, both individually and through organizations. Four major Korean American organizations in the Phoenix area--the Korean Dry Cleaners' Association, the Korean American Women's Association, the Korean Chamber of Commerce, and the ASU Korean Program Sponsoring Committee--donated funds to support our program.

On January 14, Dr. Lee Hong Koo, the Korean Ambassador to the United States, visited ASU and met with a number of ASU administrators and faculty members. In a luncheon speech, Ambassador Lee emphasized the close ties between the US and Korea in terms of economic, political and cultural exchanges, and pointed out the increasing significance of Korean studies programs in the US for disseminating knowledge about Korea and enhancing mutual understanding between the US and Korea.

We were very fortunate to be able to invite four distinguished scholars in the field of Korean Studies this year. In February, Dr. Park Chang Eung of Ohio State University gave a lecture on and performance of *Pansori*, the traditional Korean vocal music. Dr. John Duncan of UCLA offered a fascinating lecture entitled "Immigration and Assimilation in the Choson Dynasty" in March. In May, Dr. Wayne Patterson of Harvard University gave a lecture on Korean-Japanese relations in Hawaii in early 20th century, the subject of his recent book, *The Ilse: First-Generation Korean Immigrants in Hawaii, 1903-1973*. In the Fall semester, Dr. Donald Clark of Trinity University gave a lecture on the history of Korean Christianity and provided his insights into the "explosion" of Christianity in Korea.

Choi Hyaeweol, Assistant Professor

## Scholarly and Cultural Events

### -Annual Lecture Series-

To increase the profile of and promote interest in Korean Studies, we initiated an annual lecture series in the Spring of 1999. This year, with the cooperation of the Center for Asian Studies, the Department of History, the Department of Religious Studies at ASU and the Asian Pacific American Studies, our program has actively participated in inviting prominent scholars to campus to give lectures. These include the following:

**Dr. Park Chan Eung** (Ohio State University),  
"Song of Shim-ch'ong, Mistress of the Spiritual Domain". (February 21, funded by a grant from the Korean Cultural Service in LA.)

Using her unique talents as both a scholar and a performer of *Pansori*, Dr. Park sang portions of the *Simchongjon* and provided an English translation. The performance was deeply moving.

**Dr. John Duncan** (UCLA),  
"Immigration and Assimilation in the Choson Dynasty: An Inquiry into the Question of Ethnic Identity in Premodern Korea." (March 24, co-sponsored by the Center for Asian Studies and the Department of History at ASU)

Dr. Duncan provided a thorough examination of the general perception of "pure" blood of the Korean nation or "tanil minjok" in historical context.

**Dr. Wayne Patterson** (St. Norbert College, Harvard University)

"We are Opposed to Them in Everything": Koreans in Hawaii Confront the Japanese, 1903-1945." (May 24, co-sponsored by the Center for Asian Studies, ASU)

Dr. Patterson discussed how tensions between the Korean and Japanese immigrant communities played out in Hawaii at the turn of the 20th century.

**Dr. Donald Clark** (Trinity University),  
"The Appeal of Christianity in Korea." (November 9, co-sponsored by the Department of Religious Studies)

Dr. Clark discussed the growth of Christianity in Korea and related it to different historical periods.

**Dr. Sung-sil Sohng** (University of Washington),  
"Borderline Identities: A Liberatory Paradigm for Korean-American Women" (February 27, 2001, co-sponsored by Women's Studies Program and the Asian Pacific American Studies of ASU and by the Korean-American Women's Association of Arizona.)

Dr. Song's lecture focused on the formation of gender and cultural identity among Korean American women.

**Dr. Bruce Fulton** (University of British Columbia),  
"The Death of the 'Yoryu chakka': Women's literature in Modern Korea" (April 16, 2001)

Dr. Fulton's lecture was arranged in cooperation with the Korean Studies Committee of the Association of Asian Studies as part of their Distinguished Scholars' Lecture Series. Dr. Fulton presented women's literature in historical context and the changing status of women writers in the male-dominant Korean literary world.

### Courses offered in Spring 2000

Each level of language instruction begins in the fall and continues in the spring semester.

- Elementary Korean II (KOR 102)
- Intermediate Korean II (KOR 202)
- Advanced Korean II (KOR 394B)
- Korean Conversation (KOR 394C)
- Women of Korea (KOR 294A; WST 294; HUM 294B)

### Courses offered in Fall 2000

- Elementary Korean I (KOR 101)
- Intermediate Korean I (KOR 201)
- Advanced Korean I (KOR 394A)
- Korean Film and Literature (KOR 394B)
- Introduction to East Asian Cultures (FLA 150; KOR/CHI/JPN 194)

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## New Course

### *Korean Film and Literature* (Fall 2000):

This course introduces aspects of Korean history, culture and society through Korean films and literature. Cinematic and literary texts offer an expedient way to explore the unique thinking and lifestyle of the Koreans and to trace changes in politics, the economy, popular culture, religions, and national identity. Throughout the semester, students explore various themes and topics, including: the traditional values, customs and lifestyles of Koreans; the influence of various philosophies and religions, such as Confucianism, Buddhism and Shamanism; the colonial experience (1910-1945); the impact of being a divided nation since 1945; rapid economic growth and its influence on social classes and natural and human environment; changing gender roles; and Korean aesthetics.

## Faculty Accomplishments

### **Choi Hyaewool** (Assistant Professor)

Dr. Choi has published an article entitled "Women's Literacy and New Womanhood in Late Choson Korea," in *The Asian Journal of Women's Studies*. She has also contributed a chapter, "Kukdaean Padong (Controversies over the Issues of the Establishment of Seoul National University)" to a book, entitled *Nonjaenguro pon Hanguksahoe Paeknyon (Major Controversies in Modern Korea over the Past 100 Years.)* In addition, her article entitled "Missionary Zeal in a Transformed Melodrama: Gendered Evangelicalism in Korea," has been accepted for publication in the *Asian Journal of Women's Studies*, and her paper, called "Emancipation or Oppression in Diaspora?: Korean Women Academics and their Diasporic Experience," has been accepted for publication in an edited book that focuses on Asian women diaspora.

Dr. Choi received two research grants to support her ongoing project on the Korean diaspora. She received a Summer Research Grant from the Women's Studies Program at ASU to conduct research on Korean women intellectuals in the diaspora. She was also awarded a grant from the Association for Asian Studies. This grant will enable her to travel to Korea to continue her project on gender and cross-cultural experience.

She presented several papers at international, national, and regional conferences, including the

International Conference on Women's Studies: Asian Connections at the University of British Columbia, the Annual Conference of the Association for Asian American Studies, and the Western Conference of the Association for Asian Studies. Dr. Choi was invited by the Religious Studies Department at ASU to give a talk on her project on American women missionaries in Korea at the turn of the 20th century.

### **Oh Young Kyun** (Instructor):

Most of the research hours of Mr. Oh are centered on his Ph.D. dissertation ("Pre-Tang Sino-Korean Phonology and the Linguistic Contact between Chinese and Korean") at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. He has presented papers at conferences, including "Hanja, Korea's *Kanji*: Should we teach them in classrooms?" to the Arizona Language Association (AZLA) annual conference. Also, his paper, "The translation of Chinese philosophical texts in Korea: the next generation" (presented to the American Association of Chinese Comparative Literature in 1999), has been selected to be published in *One into Many: Translations and Classical Chinese Literature in Diaspora* (edited by Dr. Leo Chan, forthcoming). Mr. Oh has continued to develop his web site (<http://www.learnkorean.com>), where one can learn Korean interactively, through grammar- and strategy-centered lessons, along with downloadable sound files.

In the summer of 2000, Mr. Oh taught in the ASU Summer Program in Beijing, China, staying at Renmin University with 35 students from ASU and from other US universities. He also has made a complete set of audiotapes to accompany the course materials of Elementary and Intermediate Korean courses.

## Student Awards

### **Year 2000 John & Sandra Koo Scholarship**

#### **Awardees:**

Sunshine Jisun Yoon  
Michael Robinson  
David Webster

### **Year 2001 John & Sandra Koo Scholarship**

#### **Awardees:**

Erin Clement  
Jake Monninger  
Michael Robinson

Congratulations!!!

## Acknowledgements

The establishment of the Korean Studies Program and the progress it has made would not have been possible without the help and encouragement of many people from the ASU community and the local Korean-American community. We would like to express our sincere appreciation for their unfailing support in the growth of the program.

**The Korea Research Foundation** has granted funds to continue an instructor position in the Korean Program.

**The Junior Book Foundation** has pledged to provide \$20,000 worth of Korean books over the five years.

**The Korean Cultural Service in Los Angeles** has offered a grant to fund one of the annual lectures.

**The ASU Korean Studies Program Sponsoring Committee** (Kim Kwangtae [President], Sandra Koo, Choe Sangho, Kim Hee Joong, Yang Nam Chu, Hyun Miyoung, Baek Kwanghyun, Woo Mojun, Im Iksung, and Rhee An-il) has provided enormous support through their advice, time and financial contributions.

**The Korean Dry Cleaner's Association in AZ** (President, Kim Wonbok) has given the program a generous donation of \$2,500. Donors include: Kim Wonbok, Lee Chuljae, Kim Hongsik, Lee Hong-Chul, Kang Yong S., Kim Sung-Hee, Lee Ho-Jin, and Yoon Tae-Yon.

**The Korean American Women's Association of Arizona** (President, Hyun Miyoung) has donated \$500 to the program.

**The Korean Chamber of Commerce in Arizona** (Lee Kun Young) has offered a scholarship of \$1,000.

**Dr. Timothy Wong** (Director, Center for Asian Studies, ASU), **Dr. David Foster** (Chair, Dept. of Languages and Literatures, ASU) and **many colleagues in Asian Studies at ASU** have provided substantial administrative and moral support for the continuing development of the program.

Thank you all for your support and your faith in our program.

## The Korean Studies web site

Find out our course listings, past and upcoming events, and an extensive list of links to fabulous web sites of Korean culture and society. It even links you to an on-line Korean classroom!

<http://www.asu.edu/clas/dll/kor/korean.html>.

## Further Information

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