From the Director

Dear Friends of NCKS:

2009-10 was a busy and productive year. My first year as Director of the Nam Center for Korean Studies was full of exciting and encouraging learning experiences, thanks to many helping hands. In particular, the Nam Center’s staff, Byoung Lee (administrative) and Mitch Park (IT specialist), have been remarkable, putting long hours and best efforts, ever without forgetting warm smiles. In addition, Minsoon Lee, who worked as an outreach coordinator, was of great help.

There were several “firsts” last year. We had a first cohort of the Korea Foundation Graduate fellows, Youngchi Chang, Sun-jae Hwang, and Jin-yeon Kang, who each had a productive year and gave a public presentation of their research during the fellowship year. In August, the Nam Center offered a teacher workshop that was dedicated to Korea. Given that teacher education at Michigan has been designed as an East Asia- or International Institute-wise program, the center’s annual teacher workshop is expected to help teachers develop curriculum specifically on Korea and to complement the existing programs. On the outreach front, there were also notable initial attempts. For example, we switched the venue for the film series to the historic Michigan Theatre, generating significantly more interest and attendance than in previous years.

The cultural event that specifically aimed to reach out to students, Dynamic Korea with Korean b-boy dancers, demonstrated a possibility that popular cultural events could be an important gateway to Korea on campus.

The most important “first,” however, occurred on the 80th of August of this year. As highlighted in this newsletter, the center was re-born as the Nam Center for Korean Studies. Many students, faculty, friends, and supporters came to the inaugural ceremony and celebrated the beginning of the Nam Center. The naming was to honor Elder Dr. Sang-Yong Nam and his wife, Moon-Sook Nam, who had endowed the center with their generous gift. Following Elder and Mrs. Nam’s vision, the Nam Center, as the hub of Korean Studies at Michigan, will continue to foster cutting-edge pedagogical, intellectual, and cultural dialogue on Korea.

The Nam Center will be true to its mission in 2010-11. Its lecture series is featuring well-respected scholars of Korean Studies, including Professors Chon Hong Chung, Andre Schmid, Youna Kim, Karen Thornber, and Elaine Kim. The film series, Coming of Age in Korean High School, is screening a total of six films that address a variety of issues and anxieties that young Koreans encounter in this stage of life. In October, the center hosted the third annual North American Workshop on Korean Literature, a three-day workshop that was attended by 21 leading and emerging scholars of Korean literature from universities throughout the U.S. and Canada. In addition, several cultural events were held, including the Asian improvisation concert and lectures in early December, which were part of this year’s annual festival/conference of the International Society for Improvised Music.

This year’s Korea Foundation Graduate fellows are Mike Prentice (Anthropology) and Dam Hee Kim (Communication Studies). This year’s Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow (FLAS) is Sean Baxter (Architecture). The center is hosting two visiting professors this year: Woong Ki Park (Sonogol University, Korea) and SaangJoon Baak (Waseda University, Japan). Professor Baak is teaching Korean Economy in the Department of Economics during the 2010-11 academic year. From this year, the Korean Language Program will be led by Dr. Sangkyung Han, who was recently hired as Director of the program. Professors David Chung, Youngja Ryu, and Jongjin Kim, along with Korean librarian Yunah Sung and Dr. Han, will serve on the center’s executive committee next year.

Finally, I’d like to emphasize that the growth of the Nam Center would not be possible without the support and encouragement that all of you have extended to us. In particular, I would like to thank President Byoung-Kook Kim of the Korea Foundation, Chairman Woong-Hyung Lee, Chairman Chon-Hyung Lee, Chairman Yoon-Dae Euh, Madame Sochon, Young Hi Park, and Mr. and Mrs. Douglas Gross. The Nam Center and I are most grateful.

Sincerely,

Nojin Kwak

Elder Sang-Yong Nam’s Dream for Korean Studies Becomes a Reality

by Kristy Demas, LSA Development writer

A standing room only crowd gathered at the International Institute on Tuesday, August 31 when the Center for Korean Studies officially became the Nam Center for Korean Studies. Dignitaries from across the state and the nation converged to dedicate the center and honor the man who made it possible, Elder Sang-Yong Nam.

The guest of honor, Elder Nam, and his wife, Moon-Soik Nam, were surrounded by their sons, Andrew and Anthony Nam, their wives, and seven grandchildren. Joining the festivities were U-M president Mary Sue Coleman, College of LSA Dean Terrence J. McDonald, NCKS director Nojin Kwak, Consul General of Korea from Chicago, Chul Huh and two undersecretaries. Also attending were past and current Korean Studies faculty and former NCKS directors, Professor Meredith Jung-En Woo, and Professor Y. David Chung.
Elder Nam’s support for Korean Studies at Michigan stems from the program’s fledgling days in the mid-1990s. Moved by a desire to see Korean Studies grow on campus, Elder Nam was at the forefront of building the program which, at the time his sons were students at Michigan, was non-existent. Back then there were no Korean Language classes and only a handful of Korean books in the University Library.

Today students can take four levels of Korean Language, the Korean Collection at the University Library rivals the best in the nation, the University of Michigan Museum of Art’s Korea Gallery holds more than 200 pieces of Korean ceramic art, there is a Korean Graduate Fellowship program, and Korean cultural groups on campus perform numerous times throughout the year.

Elder Nam has been committed to the program’s development and has been nurturing its growth from its beginning. In 1997, he inaugurated the Nam Essay Competition, encouraging students to write essays in Korean at each level of instruction. In 2003, he underwrote the purchase of the Nam-Hasenkamp Korean Ceramic Collection. Today, the Nam Center for Korean Studies’ inauguration reflects Elder Nam’s overall commitment, which will eventually total more than $4 million in support.

“My goal is, and has always been, to make Michigan’s Center for Korean Studies the best in the nation. Today, I feel as though we have reached this goal.”

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“My goal is, and has always been, to make Michigan’s Center for Korean Studies the best in the nation.” Elder Nam said. “Today, I feel as though we have reached this goal.”

The dedication ceremony was begun with speeches from visiting dignitaries and campus leaders culminating in Elder Nam addressing the room, which drew a standing ovation. After his remarks and vow to further increase NCKS’s stature, each of his seven grandchildren presented him with a flower.

As NCKS director Nojin Kwak noted in his opening remarks, it was a joyful day, perfect for honoring Elder Nam who made it all possible.

“There is one hero, the hero, whose dream, energy, and dedication make our celebration today possible. We are here today to honor and thank Dr. Elder Sang-yong Nam, whose vision, legacy, and humor will always be vibrant in coming years with the Nam Center for Korean Studies.”

Dean McDonald presented Elder and Mrs. Nam with a specially commissioned glass plaque featuring the new logo of the Nam Center for Korean Studies. Similar smaller mementos were presented to Andrew and Anthony Nam.

The dedication was followed by the ribbon cutting outside the center’s suite conducted by Elder and Mrs. Nam, President Coleman, Dean McDonald, Consul General Huh, Professors Woo and Kwak, and Vice-President Jerry May. After the ribbon cutting, Dean McDonald hosted a dinner at the Michigan Union for the Nam family and their guests.

A happy crowd—including Elder Sang-Yong Nam’s guests, family members, and university officials—gathered to view the naming ceremony and celebrate Elder Nam’s contributions to the center. Consul General Chul Huh, right, joined in the celebration.
An Interview with Madame Park

Earlier this year, the Nam Center interviewed Madame Sochon Young Hii Park, the founder of the Sochon Foundation, which awards scholarships to those pursuing Korean Studies at the University of Michigan and other universities around the world.

What influenced your decision to offer scholarships to students by establishing the Sochon Foundation?

Madame Park: In the early 1950s, I found myself a college student amidst the ruins of the city of Seoul, which had been devastated by three years of war. However, I considered myself lucky, as I was able to successfully complete my studies through my mother’s burning dedication for my education, as well as a generous scholarship which allowed me to attend the university. I have thought about this scholarship quite often over the years, and one of the thoughts that I have acted on is my desire, as a student, to grow into an adult who would be able to give scholarships to students with financial difficulties in their pursuit of education.

Madame Park graduated from Seoul National University from the School of Education with a major in math, and continued my studies with a graduate program in education at Yonsei University. Due to the extensive traveling required of my husband’s job, I lived in many countries around the world. I was highly impressed by the volunteer and community service culture in those countries, and when I returned to Korea, I started devoting myself to volunteering for national and local organizations.

Since its inception in 2007, the Sochon scholarship program at Michigan has provided scholarships for undergraduate students in Korean Studies in LSA. What made you consider Michigan for the scholarship program?

Madame Park: Recently, the University of Washington in Seattle suffered from financial difficulties. I heard of their difficult situation from Dr. Young-Sook Park and established a foundation at the University of Washington-Seattle. Furthermore, the Sochon Foundation now offers a post-doctorate fellowship, which has helped the center to thrive. Afterwards, Dr. Young-Sook Park introduced me to Dr. Meredith Wise, then director of the University of Michigan Korean Studies Program, and after exchanging many e-mails with her, I decided to establish the Sochon Scholarship Program at the University of Michigan.

What was your first impression of Michigan when you visited Ann Arbor for the signing ceremony for the Sochon Scholarship Gift Agreement? Is there anything you would like to say to students?

Madame Park: The impression that I got of the University of Michigan was that it was a beautiful institution with nearly perfect facilities and an environment for learning. I was highly impressed by the volunteer and community service culture in those countries, and when I returned to Korea, I started devoting myself to volunteering for national and local organizations.

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Notes from the Field: Son Dong-hyun and Contemporary Korean Ink Painting

By Assistant Professor Joan Kee, Department of History of Art

Son’s Munjado series includes the depictions of the logos of the two athletic shoe giants Nike and Adidas.

by assistant professor joan kee, department of history of art
The Korean Library has undergone some significant changes over the past year. We have completed a thorough renovation of the Korean Library reading room, greatly improving the comfort and usefulness of the space with new furniture and carpet. The library has also returned its reading room and is available for use. The newly refurbished space also includes a seminar room, which will be available for classes starting this fall. Faculty interested in using this room should contact the library's public services librarian, Brian Vivier.

The renovated space has been given to the library administration despite the financial crisis in Michigan and the U.S. The library will continue to fully support the collection in a variety of ways, including newness from faculty and students. The collection has increased by 215% since 2003 and become the fastest growing library collection in the university. This rapid growth couldn’t have been accomplished without strong financial support from the Koreana Foundation, which has been a key supporter of the library community over the past decades. The Koreana Collections Consortium of North America was designated to develop in-depth collections on North Korea, as well as in Korea-Japan relations. The Korean Studies Collection provides users with comprehensive collections of electronic resources, such as databases, articles, e-tools, indexes, web resources, and e-books, in addition to printed books and journals. Users have seamless on- and off-campus access to major Korean full-text electronic resources, which are also available at the prestigious academic libraries in Korea. Most frequently accessed e-resources at UM include DPPIA, RISS4U (RISS International), and KISS. Detailed information on the collection can be found from the Korean Studies Research Guide at http://guides.lib.umich.edu/koreanstudies.

The Korean Studies collection has increased in size by 215% since 2003. The collection is now over business. Recently, part of his collection was donated to and exhibited in a special gallery in honor of his gift at the National Museum of Korea. He has also opened the YooGeum Museum in Seoul with his wife, Mrs. Key-Sook. Yunah Sung and staff welcome suggestions for increasing support of Korean studies.

Korean Studies Librarian Yunah Sung gives a tour of the Asia Library located at the Hatchet Graduate Library.

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Additionally, the Korean Library is looking to expand its program of public services. We would like to work more closely with teachers to find ways to better use the Korean Library resources to support classroom instruction, and we eagerly welcome suggestions for library instructional sessions and opportunities to better support ongoing courses in Korean studies.

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**Winning Nam Essay by Linda Hyunjin Lee**

During the academic year of 2009-2010, the Korean Language Program (KLP) has put a special emphasis on various opportunities for students to be engaged in learning Korean language and culture. In addition to regular meetings in the classroom, KLP offered "Conversation Tables," where students at all levels could meet and have a free discussion on many topics. Hence, students had opportunities to communicate with each other despite limited proficiency in the Korean language.

As another highlight, KLP had their first annual Hangeul (Korean Script) Day celebration on October 9, 2009 as a campus wide event. Hangeul Day is a Korean national holiday which is unique in that it is a language related holiday. This event was a good chance to introduce the Korean language to attendees, and they learned about the creation of Korean script and participated in competitions of calligraphy in Hangeul, as well as a Korean-related quiz show.

Thanks to the support of the Nam Center for Korean Studies and Elder Nam, KLP awarded the 1st NCKS Korean Language Scholarship and the 16th Nam’s Essay Contest Award to students enrolled in Korean language courses. The award for learning Korean language encouraged the interests and efforts of students taking courses from KLP at the University of Michigan.

The winners of the Korean calligraphy competition with Insung Ko (KLP lecturer) and Nojin Kwak (NCKS director) during the Hanguel Day celebration on October 9, 2009.
**Korea Foundation Graduate Fellows 2010-2011**

**Michael Prentice**

is a first-year doctoral student in Linguistic Anthropology. He lived in New York City for the previous three years where he worked as a brand strategist. He graduated from Brown University in 2007 with a bachelor’s in Linguistic Anthropology, Italian and Classics.

**Dam Hee Kim**

graduated with Great Honor from Korea University in 2008, double majoring in Journalism and Mass Communication and Business Administration. She received her M.A. in Journalism and Communication from Korea University in 2010. Her primary research interests reside in the transforming media effects under the new multi-media environment. Specifically, she is interested in the topics of media diversity and media multi-tasking in Korea.

**Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellow 2009-2010**

**Seun Bae**

studied International Law and Diplomacy and Mandarin Chinese at the University of Oregon, receiving a B.A. in 2003. He spent a year in Beijing, China and 3 years in Busan, South Korea, studying Language and teaching ESL. He is now in the Masters program at the UM Taubman School of Architecture. He plans to establish an architectural practice in Korea and study traditional Korean architecture.

**Dismantling social expectations**

One of the women we interviewed suffered from constant physical and verbal abuses from both her husband and her mother-in-law. Her husband seemed unhappy, always coming home late drunk and abusive. While she is a victim of domestic abuse, the husband is a victim of social expectation. Although he did not want a marriage or a family, he was pressured into having a family by the societal expectations of a Korean man. His mother especially played a prominent role, by selecting the bride and paying for the marriage costs. Giving voice to the women

The Korean government and various Korean support centers are running and developing great programs to support migrant women in Korea. However, the Vietnamese women we worked with often felt that their voice is ignored and hence that there is no reason to express their opinions. In front of Korean program managers, they simply agreed with new program ideas, even though they believed that the projects were pointless. Korean organization leaders often talk about the women as ignorant children who need to be protected by Koreans. The goal of these centers is to empower the women, but many women felt silenced and disempowered within these organizations.

Writing the results of this research is important, but acting on them and working to improve the rights and protection of migrant women is even more important. Alex and I will continue to work closely with organizations in Korea and connect with those in Vietnam, and share with them our suggestions on how they can create a more effective program.
NAM CENTER FOR KOREAN STUDIES     THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN

for the University of Heidelberg.

NCKS Colloquium Series 2010-2011

NCKS welcomes all students, faculty, and the community to attend its annual colloquium series. Thirteen eminent Korean Studies scholars from the U.S., South Korea, and France will present various topics of Korean Studies. All our colloquia will be held at 4 p.m. at Room 1636, School of Social Work Building unless specified otherwise; it is located on 1080 South University Ave., Ann Arbor, 48109.

Fall 2010

9.22.2010 Hyun Jeon Park, Professor of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania “De-mystifying Stereotypes on Korean Education”


10.6.2010 Rachael Joo, Assistant Professor of American Studies, Middlebury College “Asian American Woman in Hollywood and Beyond: Race, gender, and representation 1966-2010”

10.20.2010 John Duncan, Professor of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of California, Los Angeles “Divided Loyalties: Korean Literati between the Yuan and Koryo” (Cancelled)

11.4.2010 (Thursday) Andre Schmid, Associate Professor of Buddhist Studies, University of Toronto “Domesticity Across the Cold War Divide: the postwar reconstruction of the two Koreas”

11.10.2010 Youna Kim, Associate Professor of Global Communications, The American University of Paris “Korean Women, Media and Transnational Mobility”

11.17.2010 Darcy Paquet, Independent scholar/ film critic “Pay No Attention to That Man Behind the Curtain”

Winter 2011

1.12.2011 Richard McBride II, Associate Professor of History Department, BYU Hawaii “The Royal Monk Ulick and the Golden Age of Koryo Buddhism”

1.26.2011 Saangjoon Baak, U-M KCS Visiting Professor of Economics, Waseda University “Exchange Rate Issues in Korea and East Asia”

2.2.2011 Karen Thomber, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, Harvard University “Changing Emotions: Ecological Devastation and Modern Korean Literature”

Special Events in Winter 2011

April 5, 2011 Drawing Exhibition and Special Lecture at the Institute for the Humanities Professor David Chung will present a new drawing exhibition titled “Pyeongyang,” and Professor Bruce Comings from the Department of History, University of Chicago, will give a special lecture.

April 2011 Teacher Workshop: Korean Art in Action This workshop for educators offers an opportunity to study cultural change in Korea by exposing them to both contemporary Korean culture and its historical roots.


NCKS Faculty, Scholar & Staff News

New Faculty

The Nam Center for Korean studies and the Department of Asian Languages and Cultures welcomes a new director of the Korean Language Program, Dr. Sangkyung Han. He received his master’s degree in TESOL at Arizona State University and was honored with a Ph.D. degree in Educational Linguistics at the University of Pennsylvania. He taught various levels of Korean language for over 10 years at the University of Pennsylvania and Princeton University. Dr. Han’s research interests are second language acquisition, pragmatics and teaching Korean as a foreign language.

Seoul National University in Korea, and his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research fields are Macro-monetory economics, Heterogeneity and Economic Dynamics, and East Asian Economies. While at NCKS, Professor Baak will be teaching Korean Economy during the fall and winter 2010 and researching on East Asian exchange rates and global imbalance.

Faculty

David Chung, Associate Professor at the School of Art and Design, completed his fellowship year at the Institute for the Humanities where he was a Michigan Faculty Fellow. Professor Chung continued research work on a drawing and video project, part of which will be exhibited at the Institute for the Humanities Gallery in April 2011. Titled “Pyeongyang,” the project depicts life in the North Korean capital, from photographs and video Professor Chung recorded on a recent trip to North Korea.

Joan Koo finished two articles, one on the relationship between commodification and copyright law for the Journal of Law, Culture, and the Humanities, and another on contemporary ink painting for Art Journal. Her review of leading Korean artist Yang Haegue was also featured in the April 2010 issue of Artforum, widely considered to be the world’s most prestigious magazine of contemporary art.

New Staff

Younghwa Kim started her three year appointment in May 2010 as an Information Resources Assistant Senior at the Asia Library. She has previous experience working as a Korean Language Acquisitions Assistant at the Asia Library. Her responsibilities include technical processing of Korean language materials. Also, she will help extend the Korean collections at the Asia Library and strengthen service to faculty and students in the Korean studies area.

The Nam Center welcomes Do-Hee Morsman as its new Outreach Coordinator, beginning in May 2010. She is working as a Korean Language Acquisitions Assistant at the Asia Library. Her responsibilities include technical processing of Korean language materials. Also, she will help extend the Korean collections at the Asia Library and strengthen service to faculty and students in the Korean studies area.

Youna Kim, Independent scholar/film critic “Pay No Attention to That Man Behind the Curtain”

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Visiting Scholars

Woojo Park graduated from the University of Michigan with a bachelor’s degree in Communication Studies. He worked at Barson- Marsteller PR agency and BBDO advertising agency in Seoul, Korea and worked with many international clients such as Nike, Gillette, and AMD. He received his master’s degree in Advertising/PR at Soegang University in Seoul, Korea and his Ph.D. in Mass Media and Communications from Temple University, PA. He taught at University of Southern Maine, Portland as an assistant professor for two years. He is now an associate professor at the Department of Journalism, PR and Advertising at Sogang University in Seoul, Korea. His main research is on new media effects, media psychology, and online communications.

David Chung, Associate Professor at the School of Art and Design, completed his fellowship year at the Institute for the Humanities where he was a Michigan Faculty Fellow. Professor Chung continued research work on a drawing and video project, part of which will be exhibited at the Institute for the Humanities Gallery in April 2011. Titled “Pyeongyang,” the project depicts life in the North Korean capital, from photographs and video Professor Chung recorded on a recent trip to North Korea.

Joan Koo finished two articles, one on the relationship between commodification and copyright law for the Journal of Law, Culture, and the Humanities, and another on contemporary ink painting for Art Journal. Her review of leading Korean artist Yang Haegue was also featured in the April 2010 issue of Artforum, widely considered to be the world’s most prestigious magazine of contemporary art.

Fall 2010

9.22.2010 Hyun Jeon Park, Professor of Sociology, University of Pennsylvania “De-mystifying Stereotypes on Korean Education”


10.6.2010 Rachael Joo, Assistant Professor of American Studies, Middlebury College “Asian American Woman in Hollywood and Beyond: Race, gender, and representation 1966-2010”

2.16.2011 Yong Jin Won, Professor of Comparative Literature, Harvard University “Changing Emotions: Ecological Devastation and Modern Korean Literature”

2.2.2011 Karen Thomber, Assistant Professor of Comparative Literature, Harvard University “Changing Emotions: Ecological Devastation and Modern Korean Literature”

NCKS Colloquium Series 2010-2011

“Coming of Age in Korean High School” 2 p.m. Saturdays at the Michigan Theatre 600 East Liberty Street

just as films about high school students have a long tradition in Holly-wood, high school films are an important sub-genre of contemporary Korean cinema. Nonetheless, the significant differences that exist between U.S. and Korean high schools mean that such films inevitably differ from their Hollywood counterparts. Through six films of various genres we explore the issues and anxieties faced by young Koreans in this memorable stage of life.

New Staff

Myunghee Kim started her three year appointment in May 2010 as an Information Resources Assistant Senior at the Asia Library. She has previous experience working as a Korean Language Acquisitions Assistant at the Asia Library. Her responsibilities include technical processing of Korean language materials. Also, she will help extend the Korean collections at the Asia Library and strengthen service to faculty and students in the Korean studies area.

Once upon a Time in High School

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Title</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9.11.2010</td>
<td>밀육거리 진속사 (Once upon a Time in High School, 2004)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.25.2010</td>
<td>평행로 (Conduct Zero, 2012)</td>
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<tr>
<td>12.15.2010</td>
<td>날 아쉬운 음악 (The Harmony In My Memory, 1999)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.15.2011</td>
<td>징풍물들 (Walking with the Wind, 2009)</td>
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<tr>
<td>1.21.2011</td>
<td>월광의 아리 (Our School’s F, 2008)</td>
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NCKS Film Series 2010-2011

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<th>Date</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.12.2011</td>
<td>“Coming of Age in Korean High School” 2 p.m. Saturdays at the Michigan Theatre 600 East Liberty Street</td>
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Saangjoon Baak is Professor at the School of International Liberal Studies of Waseda University in Japan. He received his B.A. and M.A., both in Economics, from Seoul National University in Korea, and his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Wisconsin-Madison. His research fields are Macro-monetory economics, Heterogeneity and Economic Dynamics, and East Asian Economies. While at NCKS, Professor Baak will be teaching Korean Economy during the fall and winter 2010 and researching on East Asian exchange rates and global imbalance.
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