INAUGURAL ELDER SANG-YONG NAM MEMORIAL LECTURE

WEDNESDAY FEBRUARY 22, 2012 | 4 PM - 6 PM
HUSSEY ROOM, MICHIGAN LEAGUE
911 NORTH UNIVERSITY

FREE AND OPEN TO THE PUBLIC
Reception begins at 4 pm followed by the Sang-Yong Nam Award Ceremony and
lecture at 4:30 pm.

China’s Rise and the Future of the Korean Peninsula

CHUNG-IN MOON
PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS
YONSEI UNIVERSITY
FORMER AMBASSADOR FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SECURITY AFFAIRS AT THE MINISTRY OF
FOREIGN AFFAIRS AND TRADE, SOUTH KOREA

China’s amazing ascension in world politics has accompanied profound implications for the future of the Korean Peninsula. This lecture will address issues pertaining to China-South Korean relations, China-North Korean relations, inter-Korean relations, and the impact on ROK-U.S. alliance in the context of China’s rise and changing regional geopolitical configuration.

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This special lecture is co-sponsored by the Center for Chinese Studies, Department of Political Science, and the Korea Foundation. The reception is provided by the International Institute, College of Literature, Science, and the Arts.
THIS BOOKLET IS PRESENTED TO THE NAM FAMILY IN COMMEMORATION OF THE INAUGURAL SANG-YONG NAM MEMORIAL LECTURE AND AWARD CEREMONY IN GRATITUDE FOR ELDER NAM AND THE NAM FAMILY’S CONTINUOUS SUPPORT OF KOREAN STUDIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.
INAUGURAL SANG-YONG NAM MEMORIAL LECTURE

China’s Rise and the Future of the Korean Peninsula

Chung-In Moon

Professor of Political Science and International Relations
Yonsei University
Former Ambassador for International Security Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, South Korea

Wednesday, February 22, 2012
4 pm - 6 pm
Hussey Room, Michigan League

THE UNIVERSITY of Michigan
About Elder Nam Sang-Yong Nam and the Sang-Yong Nam Award

Elder Sang-Yong Nam arrived at the University of Michigan from Korea in 1964 with only $4 in his pocket as a graduate student in the College of Architecture and Design. He found few books about Korea in the U-M library and a lack of Korean art in the U-M Museum of Art. It became his dream to correct the disparity and make U-M a premier center for Korean Studies. Over the years, Elder Nam, president and CEO of Nam Building Management Co. in Ann Arbor, became the largest benefactor of the Nam Center for Korean Studies at the International Institute, pledging more than $4 million and making it one of the top programs in the country. In August 2010, the center was named in his honor. He also gave generously to the Asia Library, the U-M Museum of Art and the College of Architecture and Urban Planning. He was a member of the U-M Alumni Association and received the Distinguished Alumni Service Award in 2010. Elder Nam, 77, died of cancer at his home in Ann Arbor on March 29, 2011, surrounded by his wife Moon-Sook Nam, sons Andrew and Anthony, and their families.

Sang-Yong Nam Award Recipient 2012:

We would like to congratulate Cynthia Yoon for receiving the first Sang-Yong Nam Award. In 2007, Cynthia Yoon entered the University of Michigan. She led various Korea interest programs on and off campus and advocated greater student involvement and leadership in Korean Studies at various professional conferences. Her undergraduate research has led her to travel to Vietnam on a Fulbright research grant to further pursue her desire to bridge the understanding between Korea and Vietnam. In Vietnam, she is currently helping to create effective cultural understanding programs and working with various international NGOs and Korea-interest groups to support the Vietnamese women's transition to their lives in Korea.
Program

4:00 pm: Reception
4:30 pm: Award Ceremony
4:45 pm: Lecture by Professor Chung-In Moon

“China’s Rise and the Future of the Korean Peninsula”

The Sang-Yong Nam Memorial Lecture was established to remember Elder Sang-Yong Nam who passed away on March 29, 2011 and his dedication to Korean Studies. The memorial lecture will be held annually in the early spring and the Sang-Yong Nam Award will be given to one graduating senior or recent graduate of the University of Michigan, whose academic achievement, citizenship, service to the community, and commitment to Korean Studies exemplify the values to which Elder Sang-Yong Nam dedicated his life.

Chung-in Moon is a professor of political science at Yonsei University and the former Ambassador for International Security Affairs at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, South Korea. He served as Dean of Yonsei’s Graduate School of International Studies and as Chairman of the Presidential Committee on the Northeast Asian Cooperation Initiative, a cabinet-level post. He has published over 40 books and 230 articles in edited volumes and such scholarly journals as World Politics, International Studies Quarterly, and World Development. He was also appointed as a member of president-elect Roh Moo-hyun’s high level delegation to the U.S. in 2003. Professor Moon has been a fellow of the Woodrow Wilson International Centre in Washington, D.C.
About the Nam Center for Korean Studies

The Nam Center for Korean Studies at the University of Michigan International Institute encourages economic, political, and cultural understanding of Korea in the U-M community and beyond. Through its student and faculty support and ambitious public programming, the center seeks to increase the depth and breadth of resources devoted to Korean studies. The Nam Center provides a historical context for the campus community and public to better understand current social and political challenges in Korea. With a history spanning more than 5,000 years, Korea boasts one of the world’s oldest cultures. The Nam Center works to raise interest and awareness about this fascinating and ancient civilization. The center supports student and faculty research and recruitment, new curriculum development, and an active colloquium series at the university, bringing eminent Korean Studies scholars from around the world to speak on diverse and complex issues. Additionally, the center provides funding for public programs such as art exhibitions, film festivals, lectures, and conferences.

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Hello Nam Center for Korean Studies and friends,

I hope this video finds everyone doing fantastic. I’m very honored to have received this award.

Ever since I first met Elder Nam, I was captivated by his passion and energy in building Korean Studies and in starting multitude of Korea-related communities. Among many inspirational quotes from Elder Nam, I would like to share two with you today. The first quote is, “Repeat after me, I’m beautiful!” Elder Nam would ask the students to stand up and confidently say “I’m beautiful!” And it works! The second quote from Elder Nam is, “It doesn’t matter what you have or what you are if you don’t use what you have to serve your community.” I always carry these words in my heart and they have been a source of guidance throughout my journey to find my life’s calling.

I’m ultimately tied to communities around me, especially Korea-related communities. And understanding my communities has helped me better understand myself. By serving my communities, I benefited greatly as I found much joy in utilizing my abilities for the greater good of others and myself.

With much influence from Elder Nam and the Nam Center faculty, staff, and fellow students, during my undergraduate years at Michigan, I was heavily invested in Korean Studies on and off campus. Two of my highlights, the first one is Korean Student Association’s Korean Children Arts Festival where I shared my knowledge about Korean culture with adopted Korean children and their families from Ann Arbor area. The second highlight is participating in a one-month student-led program called Korea America Student Conference, which brings 25 Korean students and 25 American students together to engage in diverse mutual cultural understanding discussions and activities. The year after I participated in KASC, I had the opportunity lead KASC. And I realized how powerful student activism can be in building Korean Studies.

In the same year, I traveled to Korea and conducted a fieldwork on Vietnamese foreign brides’ experiences in Korea. I felt that the growing Vietnamese foreign bride population in Korea needed more voice and support. I worked with various NGOs and after
analyzing many cases of spousal conflict counseling records, I found that miscommunication due to language and cultural misunderstandings were top sources of conflict.

Today, I’m in Hanoi, Vietnam, on my 10-month Fulbright grant. A large part of the work that I’ll do in Vietnam focuses on building an understanding between the people of Vietnam and Korea. I am especially interested in serving the Vietnamese foreign bride population and adding to Korean government’s efforts to help these mothers of Korea have a smoother transition into their lives in Korea.

There are many other responsibilities that I have in Vietnam such as assistant teaching a class in Civil Societies and NGOs, engaging in student activism projects, traveling to various poor rural towns in Vietnam to speak with the women and their families on the issue of foreign marriage, and helping NGOs become more active and effective -- especially those related to education, health, and women’s rights.

10 months --- seem so short to accomplish all these goals. But I’ve learned from Elder Nam that when one dreams big and supplements one’s dreams with endless effort and passion, those dreams can come true.

What I have accomplished so far seems so meager to be entitled to receive recognition under Elder Nam’s name. But I know that this award is more than just a reflection of my previous accomplishments. As big of an honor as it is, I am taking with it a sense of renewed responsibility to better serve the Korean Studies community.

Upon receiving this award, I am reminded of those who had a tremendous impact on my life. My academic and personal growths were heavily impacted by the Nam Center. In some ways, it’s a bit ironic to be receiving this award for the Nam Center has contributed much to the shaping of who I am today.

And most of all, I want to thank Elder Nam for inspiring so many young minds and providing them with both visible and invisible support, and for allowing us to share his legacy and to continue to be inspired by him.

Thank you,

Cynthia Bohm-Eh Yoon