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AAJ: Asian American
Journal is an outlet
for Asian and Asian
American voices and a
vehicle to disseminate
information in order
to promote activism
in the community and
awareness of Asian
American issues.

Our first academic monthly issue, which came out toward the end of finals last semester, turned out to be a success. The hard work this year's new staff put in was well worth it as we received favorable feedback. We're excited about coming out more often. This month's Winter issue spotlights the Lunar New Year, which is celebrated in many Asian communities. It's considered one of the most important holidays for the Chinese, Koreans, Tibetans, Vietnamese and others, and their expatriate and overseas communities. I personally look forward to the Lunar New Year as it features many cultural and family traditions.

In this issue we also feature the opening of SUNY Korea. The new Stony Brook campus in Songdo will be limited to graduate students for now, but in future years will transition to add undergraduate programs. This is good news for students like me who want to study abroad without having to worry about transfer credits. It's great to experience our school's growth as it expands overseas!

Noah Kim
Managing Editor

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AAJ welcomes electronic submissions from students, alumni, faculty, staff. AAJ / AA E-Zine meet Fridays during academic year, Union 071, SBU. Check websites for dates and times or email for info. aajsbu@gmail.com

Lunar New Year

by Maria Ng

The Lunar New Year is an important annual celebration for more than a quarter of the world's population. Each year, the Lunar New Year falls on a different day according to the Western (Gregorian) calendar. This is because the Western calendar is based on solar, not lunar, movements. Each Lunar Year is associated with a specific animal for a cycle of twelve animals. This year, the Lunar New Year will fall on January 23, 2012. For China and the other countries which use the same animals, it is the start of the Year of the Dragon and the end of the Year of the Rabbit in China and Korea and the Cat in Vietnam. The Tibetan Zodiac uses the same animals as the Chinese zodiac except the Dragon is a Male Water Dragon. Vietnamese also use the same animals though the ox or cow of the Chinese is

considered the water buffalo. Like American Thanksgiving and Christmas combined, the Lunar New Year is when families come together for a magnificent feast. In many countries, midnight on New Year's Eve is celebrated

dedicated to family. It has many traditions and is highlighted with religious ceremonies that honor the gods and the family's ancestors.

Each zodiac animal has a different human trait. Dragons are the free spirits of the Zodiac. Uninhibited. Non-conformists.

Regulations and rules are not for them. Restrict them and you blow out their creative spark. Dragons are beautiful people, colorful, gifted,

flamboyant, extroverted, energetic, generous, and irrepressible, but also solitary and self-sufficient. Dragons do everything on a grand scale. But it's not acting or for show. It's their nature. They are confident, fearless, almost inevitably successful. Dragons are leaders. Parents try to have their children born dragons.



PHOTO BY
P. H. TUAN,
ARCHITECT,
WANG
CENTER

together with firecrackers, and red envelopes containing money are given out as gifts by parents and grandparents.

The Lunar New Year is a time

Chinese New Year

by May Wang

*Why is Chinese New Year
so important in China?*

The new year is on the first day of the lunar calendar. Actually, it's the longest festival in China since it lasts 15 days. The reason why it is so important to the Chinese is that our families gather to have our annual reunion dinner and to celebrate the New Year.

What do we do on Chinese New Year's Eve?

The elderly people in our families always make all of the New Year dishes for their children. Actually, my grandmother used to prepare the dinner two weeks before the New Year. She is the only person in my family who likes to make complex, traditional, and elegant dishes to keep traditions. I really love her Manto, which is a staple in northern China. It is made of flour, which makes it taste like bread, and my grandmother shaped the dough into things like fish, hedgehogs, peaches, dragons and other assorted figures.

We also have to completely clean the house to let bad fortunes go. On Chinese New Year's Eve, I used to help my old-fashioned uncle decorate doors or windows with red paper cuts-outs and traditional couplets. His main job is inviting ancestors to join us on Chinese New Year's Eve. At night he goes to the cemetery, which is close to our house, to invite our family's ancestors. He lets them come back home and celebrate the holidays with us. Unfortunately, I don't know the whole mysterious process. I still remember when I was a child, I tried to follow him on the sly to see how he invited "dead people". He found me and yelled, "You can't follow me! Go back home!" It was not fair that my cousin, who is his son, was allowed to go to the graveyard with him every time, but I could not go to invite ancestors with him. One day he actually told me, "You are not supposed to invite ancestors with me because you are a girl." It's totally gender discrimination.



PHOTO BY GANG HUANG

Children have a lot of fun on Chinese New Year. We were allowed to play with firecrackers in my grandmother's yard. There are a million types of firecrackers and my favorite one is "one sound" (I don't know its English name). It's a small cylinder and covered with red paper. Even though it's very small, it's powerful. I used to play a stimulating game with them and an iron cup. After I lit the fuse, I put the cup on it, and the cup would fly up with a loud bang. Actually, I broke my grandmother's windows several times doing this, but she never blamed me or hit me. She is the kindest person in my family and I love her!

I wish I could be a kid forever, because I would receive red envelopes every year. Receiving red envelopes is the only Chinese tradition that I love. My grandmother used to put 200 RMB in it; however, whether or not my mom gave me red envelopes or how much she gave me depended my behavior the past year. A few of my mom's friends gave me red envelopes with a lot of money. They were generous and awesome, but afterward my mom would put the red envelopes in her pocket. Her excuse always was, "I will help you save the money, and I will give all of your money back when you become an adult." When I was going to the US, I asked her for my money. She said, "I used it to pay your tuition fee." I think it's a good idea to spend your kids' money in paying tuition, instead of buying clothes for yourself.

At Chinese New Year's Eve, all Chinese people watch the New Year show which is more and more important in our lives. The Xiaopin (talk show) of Zhao Benshan is very popular in China. A lot of people are expecting his performance because he's so funny and brings surprises to us every year.



PHOTOS BY GANG HUANG

What kind of food do we cook on Chinese New Year?

In the north of china, people make dumplings. In the south, people don't eat dumplings. They make niangao, which are long rice cake rolls, in order to symbolize that they have more than they need for the coming year. Eight Precious pudding and spring rolls are also traditional dishes in the south. It doesn't matter if you are in Southern China or Northern China, we usually cook some traditional dishes for New Year's Eve dinner, such as braised fish, meat balls, spiced beef, roasted chicken, sautéed shrimp, etc. It seems that we have a lot less vegetable dishes for the New Year dinner. It's true because Chinese people would like to spend a lot of money on food for the lunar New Year. That means we will have more meat in the coming year.



PHOTO BY MAY WANG

Cooking Time: Here are a few secret recipes from my family I would like to share with you. I think it's easy to cook them if you are Chinese, and it's not hard to make it if you love Chinese food.

Sweet & sour spareribs (I love it!)

Ingredients: 1.5 lb pork spareribs or back ribs, 2 T sugar, 1/3 tsp vinegar, 1/3 cup vegetable oil, hot water, 1/2 tsp salt, 1 T soy sauce, 1/2 T sesame seeds, 1/2 tsp green onions, 1 tsp ginger, 2 T cooking wine

Directions: 1. Place ribs in a big bowl and put ginger, cooking wine, soy sauce, salt and vinegar into it. Marinate it for 1 hour. 2. Pour some oil into a pan and lightly fry ribs until golden brown. 3 Add green onions, ginger, soy sauce, a little bit of white vinegar, and sugar. Fill with hot water and boil it 4. When there is only a little sauce left, it's almost done, and then just add some sesame seeds and stir.



PHOTO BY JA YOUNG



PHOTO BY MAY WANG

Tips: Actually, this was my first time to cook sweet and sour spareribs by myself. The original recipe called for 2 T of soy sauce, but it looked very black and tasted salty. So, be careful if you adjust the ingredients. By the way, if you would like sweeter ribs like they have in southern China, just add more sugar into it.



PHOTO BY MAY WANG

Braised crucian carp

Ingredients: 1 gutted crucian carp weighing about 1.5 lb, 2 T cooking wine, 1 T fresh cilantro leaves, 1/2 T chicken bouillon, 1 T ginger, 1/2 cup vegetable oil, 1/4 cup chopped scallions, 2 T soy sauce, 1 tsp sugar, 1/2 tsp salt, 1/2 tsp vinegar and 1 cup hot water.

Directions: 1. Clean and dry the fish well. Score both sides of the fish. 2. Lightly fry both sides until golden brown. 3. Add cooking wine, soy sauce, salt, sugar. Then pour hot water over it until it covers the fish. 4. When there is a little bit of water left, put in the chicken bouillon, vinegar and scallions.

PHOTO BY GANG HUANG



PHOTO BY GANG HUANG



Pork dumplings (about 40-45 dumplings)

Ingredients: 2 cups flour, 1 cup water, dusting flour

Filling: 1/2 lb white cabbage, 1/2 lb ground pork, 1/2 T chopped scallions, 1/2 tsp chopped fresh ginger, 1 T salt, 1/2 tsp brown sugar, 1 T soy sauce, 1/2 T Chinese rice wine, cooking wine, or dry sherry, 1 tsp sesame oil

Directions: 1. Sift the flour into a bowl, then slowly pour in the water and mix until the dough is firm. Knead until smooth and soft, then cover with a damp cloth and set aside for 25-30 minutes 2. For the filling, blanch the cabbage leaves in boiling water until soft. Drain and chop finely. Mix the cabbage with the remaining ingredients. 3. Lightly dust a work surface with flour. Knead and roll the



dough into a long sausage about 1 inch in diameter. Cut the "sausage" into about 40-50 small pieces and flatten each piece with the palm of your hand. 4. Using a rolling pin, roll out each piece into a thin pancake about 2.5 inch in diameter. (Actually, it's easier to buy dough in a Chinese grocery or natural food store.) 5. Place about 1 1/2 T of filling in the center of each pancake and fold into a half-moon-shaped pouch. 6. Pinch the edges firmly so that the dumplings are tightly sealed. 7. Cook the dumplings in about 2/3 cup of salted boiling water. When the dumplings float, they're done.

PHOTO BY MAY WANG



Traditions during New Year holidays

About clothing:

Actually, we wear completely new clothes on New Year's Eve, such as sweaters, shoes, coats, pants, long johns and even underwear. That means we will get a new start in the New Year. Furthermore, if the coming year is your zodiac, you are supposed to wear red. For example, women tend to wear red underwear and men prefer red belts. The reason is that red color is a symbol of luck. If you wear red in your zodiac's year, you will be very lucky. This year is the year of the dragon, if you were born in 2000, 1988, 1976, 1964, 1952, 1940, 1928, 1916, this is your year!

PHOTO BY MAY WANG



Yuan Xiao, or rice rolls, are favorite desserts.

About visiting relatives:

It's a tradition in my city that only your son's family can celebrate with you on New Year's Eve. If your daughter has married, she celebrates with her husband's family. On the 3rd day of the New Year, your daughter can visit you with her husband and kids. I think it's bad for married people because it's hard to get together with your brothers, sisters and parents to celebrate the New Year.



PHOTO BY MAY WANG

Lantern Day in China

Lantern Day marks the end of the Chinese New Year. On that day, we must eat Yuan Xiao which is made of rice. In Northern China, the filling usually is sesame, sweetened red bean or peanuts, but in Southern China, Yuan Xiao has meat filling.

Children also have a lot of fun on Lantern Day. I remember my grandmother used to make lanterns for me and my cousins that looked like candy, fish, butterflies and birds. We also put a riddle on each lantern. Actually, we were supposed to make traditional riddles, like Chinese old poems, but children cannot solve them because they're too hard. When I was young, one year the riddle I made to replace the hard riddle was "Who got an A in math last semester?" The answer was me! I let everybody know that I got an A in Math class. Then, I went out at night to show the lantern off to my friends and tell them I got an A in an indirect way. Children always have a lot of fun in festivals.

We also watch the lantern festival show on TV and it's less interesting than the New Year's Eve show though everything else is the same - we eat, chat and play cards. And of course my uncle has to invite ghosts to come back home again because he thinks if we do not invite them, we will be cursed in the new year.



PHOTOS OF HONG KONG, LUNAR NEW YEAR 2011

BY P.H.TUAN

Seollal

by Noah Kim

The Korean New Year, Seollal, is considered the most important holiday in Korea. Seollal is celebrated in different ways, but most consist of family gatherings. More traditional families wear a Hanbok to the occasion, but others tend to dress less formally. A common practice in these gatherings are bowing down to older generations to show respect and gratitude towards the elderly. The three day holiday features food, games, and celebrations.

Although there can be a variety of foods eaten at Seollal, Tteokguk (sliced rice cakes with soup) is one food that is almost always seen. Seaweed and eggs are commonly served with Tteokguk. Other than Tteokguk, Koreans tend to go with food that is popular not just during Seollal, but year around. Bibimbab is rice topped with mixed vegetables and chili pepper paste. The Bibimbab meal is unique due to the different ingredients used based on the maker's preference.



BIBIMBAB

PHOTO BY YOOLA KIM

Hwatu, a set of Korean cards that originated from Japan, is very popular during the Lunar New Year. They are also known as "flower cards" as each card is designed as a flower that represents the four seasons and different months of the year. The most popular game of Hwatu, "Go-Stop" is commonly seen at family gatherings and is even considered a tradition to play it during New Years. Yut-nori, a board game, and Kite-flying (Yeonnalligi) are also popular games to play during New Years.



HWATU

PHOTO BY YOOLA KIM

Each new year in Korea represents a different animal of the 12 zodiac signs. 2012 is the year of the dragon, which symbolizes courage. It is said that people born in the year of the dragon are not only brave, but carry with them an adventurous spirit that lifts everyone's spirits.

Tet - Tết Nguyên Đán Vietnamese New Year by Frank Chenjun Feng

The Lunar New Year is formally known as Tet Nguyên Đán, more commonly just Tet.

As the most important holiday, preparations for the Lunar New Year begin a month before. The week before house are cleaned, statues scrubbed, New Year paintings hung, and graves visited. Different areas of Vietnam have different customs for the Spring Festival. Many families insert a "Spring Pole", a large banyan tree branch, in front of their doors. Some sprinkle lime powder to draw a chessboard and an arrow outside the front door. All these are meant to drive out ghosts and misfortune.

Tet is the thirtieth day of the twelfth lunar month. It has two implications: first, to ring out the Old Year and to ring in the New Year and second; to expel ghosts and to bring blessings of peace. It is a big family dinner that lasts well into the night. At midnight there is drumming, singing, dancing and of course, firecrackers.

On the morning of New Year's Day, many households worship their ancestors at the family altar, which has been thoroughly cleaned for the three kitchen gods. The offerings generally include bánh chu'ng, braised fish, meat balls, roasted pork, pickled onions and beef. After the worship, children wish elderly adults a Happy New Year and the adults give them red envelopes with money known as Lì Xì.

Families eat bánh chu'ng, which is rice wrapped in reed leaves into a large square packet. It is meant to represent the Earth. There are two shapes, bánh chu'ng and bánh dầy: square and round, which means the sky is round and the ground is flat, though bánh chu'ng is far more popular and considered a national dish. It is stuffed with pork, bean paste or nuts and is made very large, around four to five pounds.

The most interesting aspect of New Year's

Day is the focus on the first visitor. It is said that one's whole year will be full of bad luck if an 'evil' person visits a home first. Many families ask an honest, kind person to visit their houses early so that everything will go well in the next year. New Year's Day also has a lot of other taboos: no quarreling, no redness, no borrowing, no collecting debts, no farm work, and no sweeping the floor as that sweeps the luck away.

There are a large number of attractive events during Tet such as dragon and lion dances and theatrical performances. The most popular activity to play is a type of chess, co tuong, which is more similar to Chinese chess than Western chess. As performance entertainment the chess pieces can be acted by real people and the chessboard is painted on the ground. Two chess players control and order the movements of live "chess pieces" and spectators beat drums to cheer the "chess pieces" on. This activity gives people a strong sense of reality, deeply loved by the Vietnamese. There is no doubt that the Lunar New Year in Vietnam is a joyful celebration.



Photo By Tigereye & Photo.com.vn

People eat the dough balls carefully to see what is in their next mouthful. They might contain salt, charcoal, wool, pepper, sugar, coins, stones or small sticks. Each has its own meaning. For example, wool indicates leniency, charcoal a black heart, and pepper means one is sarcastic. Eating the "Guthuk" signifies that the New Year is coming.

The day before Losar, Tibetans place a number of offerings on the table in front of their shrines. All the offerings are prepared to honor the harvest of the past year and to wish for a better harvest in the next year.

On the early morning of New Year's Day, people rise before dawn, put on new clothes, fire guns, light firecrackers, and welcome the New Year. Women hurry to fetch the first bucket of "auspicious water", which will be used to cook porridge. On the way home, they cannot turn back or speak to anyone they encounter; if they do, the luck in the "auspicious water" will go to the other person's bucket. The porridge is a very ancient Tibetan dish made of highland barley and wheat. It is said that Tibetans drink the porridge on the morning of New Year's Day to remember their forefathers.

Starting on the day after Losar and lasting for three to five days, Tibetans will visit friends and relatives. Many will watch Tibetan Opera and do traditional dances.

On the morning of the second day, the ceremony of renewing the sutra streamer is held. The cloth sutra streamer, known as a wind horse flag, can be the size of a simple flag or roof size. It is composed of five colors which have different meanings. The blue means sky, white clouds, red fire, green symbolizes water, and the gold stands for the earth. After replacing the old streamer with a new one, family members will eat, drink, sing and dance together to celebrate the ceremony.



PHOTO BY OLIVER HAO LI

What is Tibet? AAJ staff include Chinese students who believe China's treatment of Tibet is correct to Americans who believe Tibet should be free or the Dalai Lama allowed to govern under a Hong Kong arrangement. This series originally had no mention of politics. It was about new year customs in Asia and Losar is the most important Tibetan holiday. However, in research, we learned that China has closed off Tibet during Losar for the past five years over the self-immolations of protesting monks. Now Tibetans worldwide are hotly debating whether to celebrate Losar or treat it as a time of mourning. Thus this note. The article above is how Losar is celebrated by Tibetans who have the freedom and desire to do so. - JY



PHOTO BY OLIVER HAO LI

TIBETAN BUDDHIST PRAYER WHEELS

LOSAR : Tibetan New Year

by Frank Chenjun Feng

In the Tibetan combined lunar-solar calendar, the first month is the most solemn month of the year for the Tibetan people. It has more holidays than any other month. Among these holidays, the New Year Festival, also known as Losar, is the most valued one. It lasts 15 days and the first three days are the most important. The Tibetan New Year of 2139 will be celebrated on February 22, 2012 of the solar calendar.

Roughly a half month before Losar, every household makes "khabse" / "Karzai", golden crispy deep-fried twisted dough sticks of butter and flour in various shapes. At the same time, people prepare a "Qiema", an elaborately painted and carved wooden box divided into two parts and mounded with roasted barley, grains, beans, and ginseng fruit (sapodilla). The food is decorated with sun and moon signs and pieces of butter formed into flowers. Both foods are used as offerings to express the wish for a good harvest and fortune in the coming year. They also brew "chang", or barley beer. It is an indispensable part of all festivities.

Two day before Losar Tibetans clean their kitchens spotlessly to chase away bad memories from the previous year. They use flour to paint one of the "Eight Auspicious" Buddhist patterns in the middle of the kitchen wall. In the evening, every family eats "Guthuk", a soup made of beef, mutton, turnips and dough balls. What is interesting is that little articles are wrapped into the balls. These articles are used for fun.

Features

Perfect Chinese Restaurant for Campus

by Frank Chenjun Feng

During winter break 1089 Noodle House opened to excellent reviews. Located at 1089 Route 25A, it's a short walk from the SB train station. Students have complained for years, so who was finally smart enough to do this? What will 1089 serve? After eating many meals during its opening week, two AAJ editors interviewed owner and chef, Mr. Ge.

AAJ: Why did you decide to open here?

Mr. Ge: There are a lot of students here and I had inspected this area for two years. Before opening this I was the chef at Eastern Pavilion, which is a high class Chinese restaurant, not far from here. I got the news that there was a storefront available and after careful consideration, I took the opportunity.

AAJ: Compared to the food of other Chinese restaurants, what's your advantage?

Mr. Ge: Real Chinese style food. In many Chinese restaurants, Chinese food has been changed to fulfill American's appetites. Many Chinese students have told me that it's difficult to find a restaurant offering real Chinese noodles unless they go to Flushing or Chinatown. Now they can have all different kinds of real Chinese food right next to campus instead of having to travel far.

AAJ: How will your food compare to campus?

Mr. Ge: I have several friends who work on campus so I know the campus food is expensive and Chinese students never get used to the American food. I'm trying my best to keep my prices low while still guaranteeing good food quality so that all students can afford to eat here. I'm also willing to listen to any suggestion from students. Since my restaurant has just opened, I'm continuing to



PHOTO BY MAY WANG

change my food offerings to satisfy what students from different areas have asked for. The responses about the taste of my food from customers are good. Even Americans enjoy it.

AAJ: What will the new dishes be? Future plans?

Mr. Ge: It will depend on sales of each dish. I'll only keep the favorable ones and add new ones. I also plan to provide box lunches that will contain three small dishes, rice and a cup of soup. There will be many different dishes and customers can choose any three. The box lunches will be cheap, convenient and save students waiting time.

AAJ staff were at SBU during break and ate at Noodle House daily, sometimes twice a day. A winter session student ate there daily too and when she didn't have classes, ordered it delivered. Here are some of the recommendations from Noah Kim, Adam Sue, May Hao Wang, Qilin Yang, Ja Young, and me, with 10 being perfect.

But remember, taste is individual. May, from Qingdao, thinks southern dishes are too sweet. She gave the roast pork a 6.5. Qilin gave it a 9. But when May ate southern Shanghai Style Sauteed Shrimp, she ecstatically gave it a 10 while Qilin gave it a 9 and Noah, an American not used to eating whole shrimp in the shell, only gave it 8.

Beef with mixed vegetables (8); Braised Tofu (8); Dried Sauteed String Beans (9 & 10); Eggplant with Garlic Sauce (9); Fried wontons (8); Hot and Sour Soup (9 & 10); Kung Bao Chicken (8), Mapo Tofu with Pork (8); Shanghai Noodles with Pork, Shrimp & Chicken (8); Shanghai Sauteed Shrimp (9 & 10); Shanghai Shrimp in Noodle Soup (8); Spring Roll (8); Steamed dumplings (8); Yangzhou/Yang Chow Fried Rice (10), Stewed duck (7); Wonton Soup (6 & 8).

The best deals are Rice Platters - entrée, rice, soy sauce hard boiled egg, and egg and tomato soup (9), and range from \$5.95 to \$6.95.



PHOTO BY JA YOUNG

Club Spotlight: Taiko Tides

by Melani Tiongson



PHOTO BY RICKY ZHU

Taiko Tides is what one would consider a *grassroots club*. It was founded back in 2001, when Joan Miyazaki, a professor at SBU, brought together a group of diverse students and staff from all corners of the demographic and academic spectrum to pay homage to the Japanese culture that they revered and respected so much. Originally starting out as a small cohort of amateurs, Taiko Tides has now burgeoned into a performing group that is sought after by groups from Alpha Epsilon Delta to CASB, the Chinese Association at Stony Brook, to administrators from the Wang Center and the Office of Multicultural Affairs. They appear annually at many events, such as TellabAsian, Japan Night, Asian Night, and Diversity Day, and have even been asked to perform off-campus at Brookhaven National Lab and the Bridgehampton School District.

Taiko Tides is one of the few

traditional cultural groups on campus. While many other clubs foster modern dance crews and social mixers for students to meet one another, Taiko Tides garners its growing membership without veering too far from traditional Japanese culture. Although some pieces performed by Taiko Tides are “modern” in the sense that they are written by

Americans and have subtle jazz influences, the traditional sounds emitted by the taiko drums themselves are far from overshadowed.

For the upcoming semester, Taiko Tides hopes to further expand its repertoire of songs by employing other styles of drumming. The group primarily performs with *chu-daiko* (big drums) made by members and advisors themselves, but aspires to learn other styles of traditional Japanese drumming as well. The goal of Taiko Tides, according to its members, is to showcase “the excitement and beauty of Japanese drumming, Japanese culture, and its philosophy.”

The essence of Japanese culture is emitted by the club not only through its performances, but also through its members' tenuous efforts. Instead of taking it easy on weekends, the club meets for practice every Friday night. The club encourages anyone interested in Taiko Tides to join them at the CMM Building from 6:45PM to 10:00PM - wear your sweats!

SBUTaikoTides@gmail.com



PHOTO BY ROY RUBIO

PHOTO BY HUI LIU



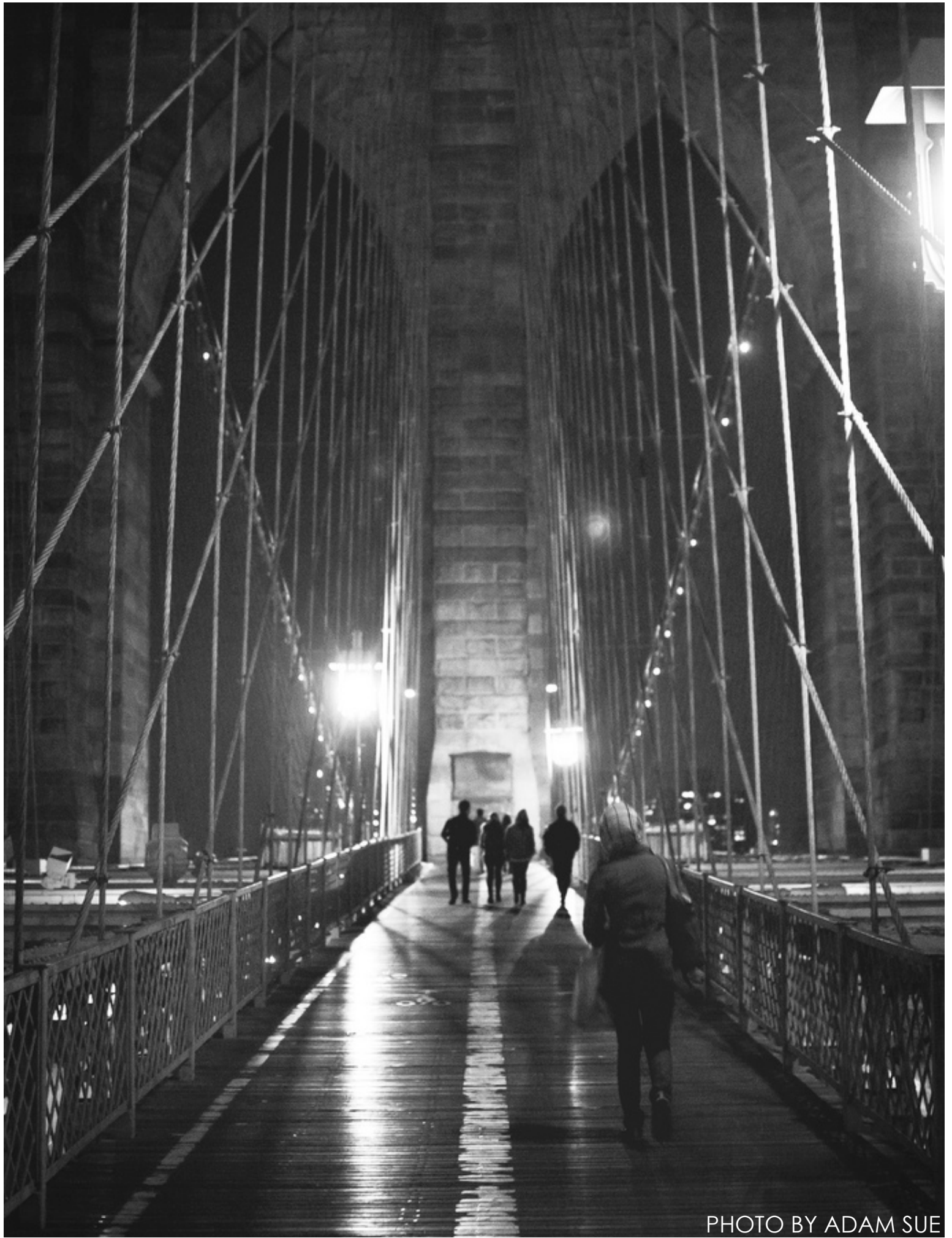


PHOTO BY ADAM SUE

SUNY Korea

Opening in Songdo, Incheon, Korea
Spring 2012



PHOTO : SUNY KOREA

CONVENSIA AND NORTHEAST ASIA TRADE TOWER



PHOTO : IFEZ

Curriculum at SUNY Korea will follow Stony Brook University programs, and students will receive Stony Brook degrees upon graduation. SUNY Korea will grant students valuable opportunities and a uniquely diverse educational experience by offering a combined American and Asian education, preparing students for work in an increasingly international oriented world.

Located in the Songdo Global UniverCity in the Incheon Free Economic Zone in Korea, a brand new hub in industry and technology, SUNY Korea's grand opening is set for Spring 2012.

SUNY Korea will be the first American university in South Korea. It will offer high quality programs with extensive research opportunities at CEWIT Korea.



INCHEON-BRIDGE

PHOTO : IFEZ



PHOTO BY KEYOUNG KIM

SUNY Korea has brand new dorms and faculty housing. Residence rooms will cost \$1,200 - \$1,800 USD per semester, about one third of what they are in NY.

PHOTO BY SUHYUN LEE



BRAND NEW RESIDENCE BUILDING

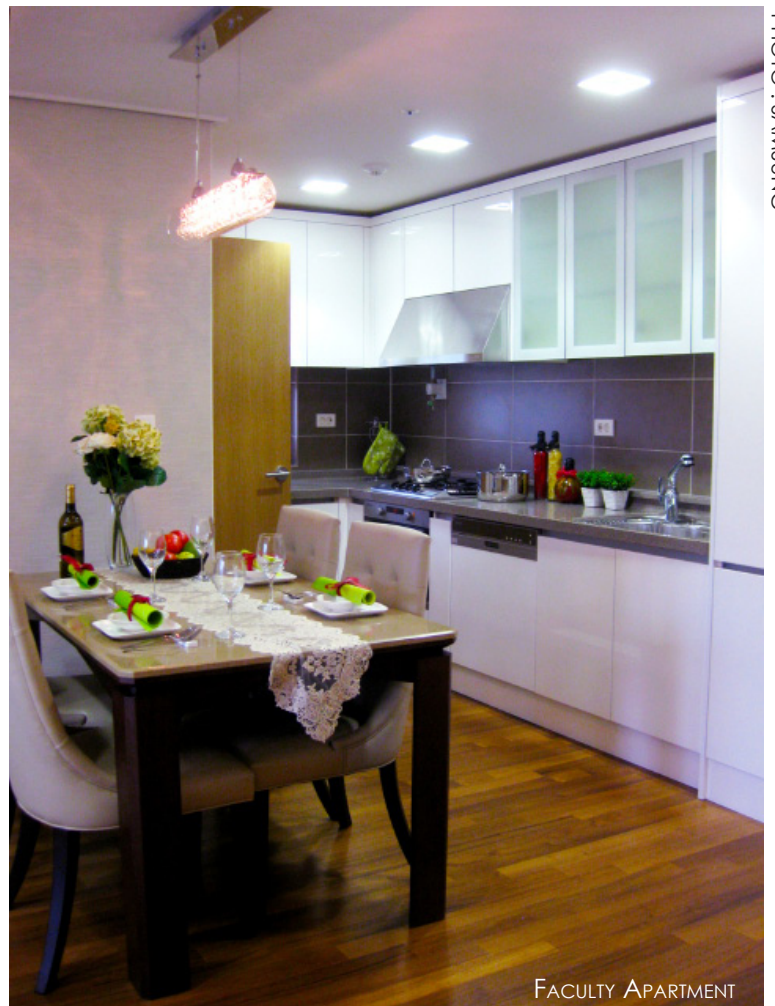


PHOTO : SAMSUNG

FACULTY APARTMENT

SUNY Korea's facilities are fully equipped to foster a learning environment. The academic buildings come with lecture halls, classrooms, as well as twelve state-of-the-art labs for research and to help students gain real world experience.



SUNY KOREA ACADEMIC BUILDING

PHOTO BY SOONAM KAHNG

With the completion of the multi-complex UniverCity in 2012, which will later include other American and European universities, SUNY Korea will gain use of a library, student activities center, sports complex, and theater as well as additional housing for faculty and staff. SUNY Korea is equipped with mutiple cafeterias, adding to the convenience and accessibility of campus living and working.



LECTURE HALL

PHOTO : SAMSUNG



PHOTO BY KEYOUNG KIM



PHOTO BY SOONAM KAHNG



SUNY KOREA ACADEMIC BUILDING

SUNY Korea will initially offer two graduate programs in Spring 2012. Undergraduate programs will be added in the near future.

Photo essay was compiled by Adam Sue, SBU AA E-Zine Editor, long distance with the attentive help of the SUNY Korea staff. While print has its own special attributes, it is confining. This special series on SUNY Korea has enlarged photos and extended articles online at www.aaezine.org/SUNYKorea

Programs offered Spring 2012
College of Engineering and Applied Science (CEAS)

- Computer Science (M.S. & Ph.D.)
- Information Systems (M.S.)
- Technological Systems Management (M.S.)
- Technology, Policy and Innovation (Ph.D.)



SUNY KOREA ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF

PHOTO : SUNY KOREA

President Choonho Kim

On the Philosophy Behind SUNY Korea

by Paul Huynh

In high school, I would arrive home to find my sister listening to Korean pop. To this day I can't understand why she likes it. It's in a foreign language she can barely understand. Then at SBU, I was amazed that my sister was not alone - even some of my non-Asian friends listen to K-pop bands like SNSD, SS501 and ShinEE.

But what does K-pop have to do with SBU? Even President Sam Stanley knows K-pop. Coincidentally, two years ago Dr. Stanley had a photo of Girls Generation in his office which then future SUNY Korea President Joshua Choonho Kim quickly identified. It turns out one of Stanley's daughters is a huge K-pop fan. Luckily, Dr. Kim was friends with a Girls Generation producer and arranged a meeting between them. He even got Girls Generation to record a video, now on YouTube, congratulating SUNY Korea!

Korean influence is not just limited to music. South Korea is a leader in technological innovation. In 2009 Hyundai won North American Car of the Year - and its head of R&D is SBU alumnus Dr. Hyun Soon Lee. Samsung and LG produce phones, electronics and appliances that are top brands in the US. But to build on its success, Korea needs to churn out skilled students from its universities.

SUNY Korea will be one of them. It will also give SBU students a springboard not only into Korea but all Asia. SUNY Korea will admit its first class this March, offering majors in CS and Management Systems at the graduate level. Undergraduate majors will begin within two years.

President Kim summed up SUNY Korea when he said "plus 1". As a part of the educational philosophy, he wants to merge Asian thinking with Western technology as a way of modernizing Korea's educational system. He plans to have a diverse incoming class to give students different perspectives on culture and modes of thinking. For Asians, it's Asian education plus Western. For Americans, it's Western education plus Asian. +1

But Dr. Kim doesn't stop there. His vision for SUNY Korea extends to business in Korea as well. He wants to combine the best of Korean management with Japanese and American styles to create a new, superb style of management to teach students. At the same time, he wants to instill in students good ethics and views business as a key agent of change for the 21st century.

As the past president of KETI, Korean Electronic Technology Institute, he knows that cutting-edge research and special programs, like the collaboration



DR. RONG ZHAO, DIRECTOR, SOFTWARE SYSTEMS, CEWIT AND DR. CHOONHO KIM, PRESIDENT, SUNY KOREA AT CEWIT 2011 CONFERENCE, NY PHOTO BY PAUL HUYNH

with POSTECH in a \$50 million USD, ten year grant they won together, are crucial in achieving this goal. SBU has another sphere of influence here - CEWIT Korea. It will yield incredible research opportunities for students as well as faculty who go to teach at SUNY Korea. The campus location, thirty miles west of Seoul, has a distinct related advantage. Songdo is a technological hub based on an initiative to promote green business development. Korea has an \$83 billion dollar stimulus package to promote green energy here, known as the Incheon Free Economic Zone (IFEZ). But it gets better:

- It has a modest price tag. Students from Asia will pay out-of-state tuition. No way around that since it's still a SUNY public university, but living expenses are one third and transportation costs will be far less. That will make it less expensive for Asian students to go there rather than here for the same degree. For NYS students, it will be in-state tuition so it will cost the same as staying here, maybe less, since reduced living expenses there cover airfare. As a part of SUNY, not a foreign university, students are still eligible for US federal and state aid, loans and scholarships. For CS PhD students it's even completely free for the next ten years thanks to the grant won with POSTECH.

- South Korea paid to build SUNY Korea and will continue to pay the facilities operating expenses for five years. SBU provides faculty and runs it. Meanwhile, SBU expands in a booming Asian economy, generating study abroad opportunities with cutting edge research.

I met Dr. Kim at CEWIT 2011. I was excited by how much I had learned at it. I felt that same excitement about SUNY Korea from him. SBU will be the first US university in Korea and he wants to make it one of Korea's best. With all the resources Korea is giving, the plans to make it cutting edge, not just in research but teaching, when fully open, it should be a vibrant place to be. (Dare I say more exciting than here on the main campus?)



'72 SBU Alumnus Dr. Myung Oh His Dream Became SUNY Korea

by Noah Kim and Ja Young

Myung Oh, one of South Korea's guiding forces in its technological transformation, was also the force behind SUNY Korea. An Electrical Engineering PhD graduate, he brought his idea to Yacov Shamash, SBU VP and Dean of Engineering. Together as they led it through years of approvals in the Korean Ministry of Education and SUNY systems, he never gave up on his dream becoming reality. In March 2012, SUNY Korea will finally open to its first class of CEAS students. Many will have had the honor of meeting Dr. Oh too. So enthusiastic is he about SUNY Korea, he joined SBU Provost Dennis Assanis to greet the first 100 potential students.

But SUNY Korea is really the 2nd step, and hopefully not the last, in this SBU/Korea collaboration. The first was CEWIT Korea. The Center of Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology was created by CEAS in 2002. Dr. Oh, as Anjou University President, signed an agreement with SBU to create a similar facility, the Wireless Internet Research Center. WIRC grew into CEWIT Korea and is now based on the new SUNY Korea campus.

Dr. Oh began his connection to SBU in 1966 when he arrived as a graduate student. Born in 1940, he had graduated from Korea Military Academy, the equivalent of America's West Point, and then received his BS in EE from Seoul National University, ranked as Korea's best.

In 1972, PhD in hand, Dr. Oh returned to Korea to teach at Korea Military Academy. He was tapped by the government to become Presidential Secretary for Economic and Scientific Affairs, then Vice Minister of Communications where he rose to become Minister.

Dr. Oh played a pivotal role in the explosive growth of Korea's technology industries, the foundation of its "economic miracle." Their development was the base for South Korea to become a leading global IT powerhouse. It is widely believed this was made possible by Dr. Oh's leadership. He is known as "the 'godfather' of the telecommunications revolution" in his country.

Dr. Oh was called into

government service with each new administration. Minister of Transportation. Minister of Construction and Transportation when two ministries merged. Minister of Science and Technology. Deputy Prime Minister. In between he organized Korea's first EXPO, ran one of its most popular newspapers, and was President of two universities.

"Dr. Oh's appointment to the cabinet in 1994 was somewhat surprising but made an emphatic statement about the broad public respect for his skills, vision and leadership capabilities. The surprise came because he was the only member of the new cabinet to have served at a high level in the prior military governments..." (Korea's Amazing Century: From Kings to Satellites)

Given what Dr. Oh is currently doing, let's hope his next dream is AERTC Korea. SBU's Advanced Energy Research and Technology Center is doing research into cutting edge energy solutions. Dr. Oh is now Chairman of Woongjin Energy Polysilicon. It is investing \$700 million USD into a new plant to become one the top 10 photovoltaic cell producers in the world.

Dr. Oh was named "One of the seven most remarkable public figures of post-war Korea" by faculty at Korea University. To read more of his amazing life story, this article is expanded at www.aaezine.org/SUNYKorea.

In 1997 Dr. Oh returned to SBU to be awarded an Honorary Doctor of Humane Letters at commencement. He spoke to *Statesman* and said he had fond memories of Stony Brook, among them marrying his wife.

Dr. Oh wrote: "The single greatest asset my experience at Stony Brook afforded me... was the ability to work confidently and comfortably with people, allowing me to participate in a broad spectrum of activities... I was provided with an invaluable set of skills and strategies which has allowed me to pursue a diverse and rewarding career at public and private levels in Korea..."

Speaking of Dr. Oh's role, as Provost Assanis said, without him "we would never have been able to get where we got." Thank you Dr. Oh!

CEWIT KOREA GRAND OPENING: L-R: DR SATYA SHARMA, DIRECTOR, CEWIT; DR BRENT LINDQUIST, ASST. PROVOST, SBU; DR YACOV SHAMASH, VP ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND DEAN, COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING, SBU; DR SAM STANLEY, PRESIDENT, SBU; SANG SOO AHN, MAYOR, INCHEON; DR MYUNG OH; PYEONG OH KWON, DIRECTOR, MINISTRY OF KNOWLEDGE ECONOMY; YONG MAN LEE, CHAIRMAN, EAST WEST MANAGEMENT GROUP AND BOARD, CEWIT KOREA; HYUN GIL CHOI, VICE COMMISSIONER, INCHEON FREE ECONOMIC ZONE (IFEZ)



Dr. Hongshik Ahn

Vice President, SUNY Korea

He Bridged Asia & America - Now He's Helping Build a University Whose Graduates Will All Create That Bridge

More than 25 years ago Hongshik Ahn left Seoul National University in Korea for his Masters in Statistics at UC Berkeley, charting a new path that he never expected to come full circle. Four years after finishing his Ph.D. at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, he arrived at Stony Brook's Department of Applied Math and Statistics (AMS), currently ranked #10 in the US for its graduate programs by the NRC (and #1 in diversity), to begin the long trek in becoming a full professor.

And a well liked professor at that. While Rate My Professors is viewed with disdain by faculty, it is rare when a student doesn't check it. Aside from getting a 'hot chili', Ahn's high ranking (4.1 out of 5) is not from being an 'easy A' (3.5) but rather for "clarity" (4.5). Students write of how he can take a boring subject like statistics and make it interesting and worthwhile, breaking the tedium of calculations with his sense of humor. Which fits perfectly with why he left his first job at FDA's National Center for Toxicological Research, he missed teaching, and why he has won many Outstanding Teacher Awards!

Ahn married Hyesun, who immigrated to the US as a child, and raised daughter Suejin, a senior at Duke, and Andrew, a freshman at Northwestern. Serendipitously, it was his desire to be home until his son graduated high school that put him in a position to become V.P.. He had delayed his sabbatical and upon submitting his application to do research at KAIST, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology, the Dean of Engineering suggested research at CEWIT Korea too. So last summer Ahn added the Center of Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology to his itinerary.

While at CEWIT Korea the Korean government approved SUNY Korea. A concept in the works for years had finally come to fruition. While purposely named SUNY Korea, not SBU Korea, to give faculty from all SUNY the opportunity to teach there, it had been SBU's brainchild. Two E.E. Ph.D. minds had melded to spearhead its creation, CEAS alumnus Dr. Myung Oh (SBU '72), former Deputy Prime Minister and considered the "godfather" of Korea's telecommunications revolution, and VP and CEAS Dean Yacov Shamash, (Imperial College, '73).

SUNY Korea's President, Dr. Choonho Kim, realized Ahn would be a perfect partner. As a bi-lingual American university graduate, SUNY professor and researcher, Ahn exemplifies exactly what SUNY Korea wants to create - a truly global university that blends the best of Eastern and Western educational systems and research opportunities and whose graduates bridge multiple cultures. Returning to NY they asked Shamash for his blessing and the new position was created.

Ahn has high hopes for what he will be able to help accomplish in two years. "I would like to try my best to really establish the programs. SUNY Korea is planning to add more CEAS graduate programs such as AMS, Mechanical Engineering, a Quantitative Finance certificate program, and start the undergraduate program in the near future. I hope all this expansion can be made successfully while I am there."

Dr. Dennis Assanis, SBU's Provost, regards Ahn as "the primary contact between SBU and the academic programs at SUNY Korea. His role is to ensure SBU's academic standards and qualities of excellence are maintained."

While Ahn had to give up research this past semester, research, like teaching, is where his heart is. While you may not have heard of Ahn's name, you have heard of a study he was involved in as it made international news. Are laptops dangerous for male sperm? Yes. Men using laptops get scrotal hyperthermia, temperature increase in their testicles.

This can damage sperm, decreasing fertility. There are ways to lesson the damage but the safest protection is put it on a desk and forget it's a laptop at all.

At Northport Veterans Administration Medical Center he is collaborating with Dr. Atul Kumar on a Clinical Decision Support System to help doctors deal with patients who have gastrointestinal bleeding. It will classify patients in emergency situations where a doctor must make rapid decisions before a patient dies.

At InSPIRES, NYU's Institute for Social and Psychiatric Initiatives - Research, Education, and Services, he's involved in research on PARS, paternal age related schizophrenia. They have already determined that the older a father is when his child is conceived, the higher the likelihood of schizophrenia due to sperm mutation.

In Korea he will work with the Highway Traffic Agency to predict traffic volumes and behavior. Working with CEWIT Korea researchers, they plan to develop a web application to help motorists.

by Ja Young



SUNY Korea Interview

Dennis N. Assanis

Provost

Stony Brook University

by Wilson Jiang

In December, Stony Brook University Provost, Dennis N. Assanis, gave a wide-ranging interview on SUNY Korea, study abroad, his history with Korea and China, and his plans for the future. An expressive speaker with an easy, unforced smile, he emanates Old World warmth and charm. From this interview, I was able to grasp the breadth of decision-making that went into the SUNY Korea initiative, as well as gain insight into Provost Assanis' interdisciplinary and collaborative ideas for study abroad programming at Stony Brook.

SUNY Korea, a limited liability corporation authorized by the SUNY Chancellor and Trustees, allows SBU to offer graduate degree programs in Korea. According to Provost Assanis, "this is an extremely important initiative for Stony Brook, as well as for SUNY, because it sets us on a course that is more aligned with our future globalization strategies and further positions Stony Brook on the international higher education stage."

Funded by the Ministry of Knowledge Economy, the Incheon Free Economic Zone and the Metropolitan City of Incheon, SUNY Korea, LLC will offer graduate degrees - with a strong focus on research - in Computer Science, Information Systems and Technology Systems Management. Faculty in Songdo will comprise a combination of faculty that reside in Korea and faculty from Stony Brook University. SUNY Korea facilities, which include residence halls, classrooms, a library, laboratories, etc., are already completed and can accommodate approximately 2,000 students. Academic programs begin in March 2012 with a target enrollment of up to 200 students in the first year.

SUNY Korea is a very natural next step in fostering Stony Brook's academic relationship with Korea. SBU currently partners with 15 Korean universities to offer its students a broad selection of international exchange programs. SBU has established CEWIT Korea; and now, the graduate degrees in Engineering and Technology & Society that will be offered at SUNY Korea will enable Stony Brook to advance even further this highly successful international academic and research partnership. For example, SUNY Korea, in collaboration with the Pohang University of Science and Technology (POSTECH), has been awarded a 20 percent allocation of \$50 million over 10 years under a Ministry of Knowledge Economy grant for "Fostering Premium IT Professionals."

From this interview with Provost Assanis, I was able to discern the ways in which his past experience at the University of Michigan with two similar initiatives - one in China and one in Korea - gives him a unique perspective on SUNY Korea. As Chair of the University



of Michigan's Department of Mechanical Engineering, Dennis Assanis promoted the systematic exchange of faculty and students with strategically selected global partners, notably with Shanghai Jiao Tong University and the Korean Advanced Institute for Science and Technology. For example, Dr. Assanis played a significant role in expanding the University of Michigan-Shanghai Jiao Tong University Joint Institute (UMSJTUI). It had started as a small program with faculty exchanges in his Mechanical Engineering department, and while he was Chair, this initiative grew into a campus-wide program and, eventually, a joint institute matriculating more than 800 students.

As the Director of the Michigan Memorial Phoenix Energy Institute (MMPEI), Dennis Assanis developed strong international partnerships with first-class peer institutions with the strategic objective of tackling global energy and sustainability problems. For instance, MMPEI has significantly contributed to the expansion of the UM-Shanghai Jiao Tong University educational collaboration to encompass joint research in renewable energy. With Tsinghua University and other Chinese and U.S. partners in academia, industry and national labs, MMPEI, under the leadership of Dennis Assanis, won the competition for establishing the highly visible U.S.-China Clean Energy Research Center on Clean Vehicles funded with over \$50M over five years.

There are a number of visionaries at SBU and in Korea working on SUNY Korea and CEWIT Korea. This endeavor not only builds on Stony Brook's already notable reputation in the higher education sector, but also further advances the institution's international academic and research partnerships and allows SBU to stimulate economic development in another region of our global community. This initiative is a significant achievement for SBU and for SUNY.

US TOO! Undergraduates Impatient for Their Turn at SUNY Korea

by Ja Young



As the Fall semester ended, Provost Dennis Assanis sat in his office talking of a new beginning, in high gear about SUNY Korea and its future role for undergraduates, his words far outpacing his PowerPoint presentation. "So why are we doing it? ... It's going to enhance our excellence. We're doing it because globalization is important... Right now, about 4% of our students study abroad. My goal is to have 20% in five years. Students need to know how to operate abroad, how to live abroad, study abroad, or they're not going to be able to operate as global citizens. So for us it is extremely important to have a hub in Asia. Korea makes a lot of sense... it has good logistics... we have strong alumni... and I think we can attract students not only from Korea but from many countries in Asia and that again will build our reputation of excellence... It's our global strategy that's driving it..." "Bachelor's programs are on the horizon but it's more complicated... given the options that you have to give the undergraduate students... so it's moving, it's moving fast."

But not fast enough for some students. Writing a series on SUNY Korea, we assumed students like sophomore Journalism major Noah Kim, AAJ's Managing Editor, who plans to study in Korea, would wish SUNY Korea was open for undergrads now. No hassles with credits being transferred. Stony Brook here, Stony Brook there, wildly different cultures to live in but identical courses - best of both worlds. We weren't expecting his excitement. "They should start now if they want SUNY Korea to be a success. Lots of undergrads will want to go if it means classes are the same as here. What are they waiting for! If I hold off until I'm a senior, will it be open by then?"

OK, Noah's Korean American. He was going anyway. We weren't expecting the same enthusiasm from others. Wrong. Many Chinese international students are in high gear about it too. Identical degree, two campuses. "I want to go, it's not fair," said CS freshman Hao Wang. "Why is it only for graduate students?" Junior Qilin Wang, a pre-law Philosophy major, said the same. "I would go right now if it was open." It turns out that in Asia, Korea is "in" - Asia's fashion world, K-pop is hot, and not only Chinese but Asian Ams watch Korean dramas.

Business/Info Sys major Chenjun Feng would have done SUNY Korea if he was a freshmen but felt it would be too difficult as a transfer student to transfer again. Mengxing He, a junior Electrical Engineering major wasn't enthusiastic. "The reason to come to the campus in New York is to experience American culture and New York City," she said. But her roommate May Wang, disagreed. A 2 plus 2 or a 3 plus 1 attracted her.

She could study in Korea and the US and still get a job in the US after graduation before returning to China. Again - best of both worlds. "Please tell them to do this before I graduate so I can go," she said.

Current SUNY Korea tuition for Asians is out-of-state since technically it's still SUNY, but it would cost far less. Dorms at SUNY Korea are \$1200-\$1800 per semester. In NY, they are \$800 - \$1000 per month! Korean priced food not a meal plan! Airfare would be cheaper too. Nothing for Koreans. For others, Qingdao is a 45 minute shuttle flight; Beijing, Tokyo and Shanghai 2 hours vs. 13; Bangalore and New Delhi 6 hours. Even less than the 7 hours from LA to NY. It's no wonder SBU international students think SUNY Korea is a great deal. And it seems that Korean students are just as enthusiastic. At SUNY Korea's first Open House, 300 students came, most interested in getting an undergraduate degree. In Korea over 80% of high school grads go on to college.

NYS students will pay in-state tuition. That means for residential students here, SUNY Korea will be cheaper than SUNY Stony Brook! No meal plan. Lower cost of living. No expensive dorms. What they save in living expenses will be more than what airfare will cost.

Asian Americans were divided between SUNY K or their heritage country, but even that is complicated. Filipino American Psych major Melani Tiongson studies Japanese and drums in Taiko Tides. "I haven't been to the Philippines enough and would go there if I had the means," she said, but "I think students should explore cultures outside of the ones they were raised in and seize the opportunity to pursue things they enjoy, at least in college... So I completely support SUNY Korea."

For non-Asian Americans, SUNY Korea is ideal. White American Alexandra Freytag is a perfect example. With a double minor in Japanese and Korean, she thought SUNY Korea was a great option. She could do classes in Korea and on breaks take a short flight to Tokyo. She saw it as the best of both worlds too.

SUNY Korea graduates will get a Stony Brook degree but their resumes will show a global education. Classes in English so GPA's will remain intact for Americans while language and culture are learned outside of class. Asians will be learning in the language of the global business world. Most professors will be from Stony Brook. SUNY Korea has tremendous advantages. As we enter the "Pacific Century", named for the clout that Asian countries will wield in the world economy - to be able to list SUNY Korea on a resume as part of a Stony Brook degree will be a definite plus in the job market of tomorrow's graduates.



Departments of Computer Science and Technology & Society

January 12, 2012

An Open Letter to Leaders in the Asian American Community:

A unique opportunity exists for college graduates to get a free M.S. or Ph.D. degree in Computer Science from Stony Brook University's College of Engineering at its Asia campus.

This March will begin the inaugural graduate classes of SBU's Computer Science Department at SUNY Korea. Computer Science at SBU has always made a strong showing in the National Resource Council (NRC) rankings, considered the gold standard for graduate schools, claiming a consistent spot in the top 20 of the nation's Computer Science departments. Students at SUNY Korea will be taught by SBU faculty and their degrees will be identical to those issued in the US.

SUNY Korea won a competitive grant from the Korean government to help produce the next generation of creative computer scientists. In order to let Korean students fully interact with their international peers, the grant allows us to provide free tuition, housing and a \$900 per month stipend to Ph.D. applicants for ten years, and to give free tuition scholarships to qualified M.S. applicants this semester.

I left Korea to do my graduate work in the US. Now for the first time the reverse is possible. I hope many Asian American students are in the position to take advantage of this incredible learning experience - to be submersed in Asian culture while getting an American degree from a prestigious university and working with cutting edge researchers at SUNY Korea and CEWIT Korea, SBU's Center of Excellence in Wireless and Information Technology (www.cewit.org).

The window of opportunity, however, to reach out to eligible students to have them apply by early February in time to get a visa is very narrow. We hope you will spread the word among your constituency. All the information prospective students need is on the SUNY Korea website: www.sunykorea.ac.kr.

We think you will agree with us that for the students able to attend, it is the opportunity of a lifetime.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Hongshik Ahn".

Hongshik Ahn, Ph.D.
Vice President, SUNY Korea
Professor, Applied Mathematics and Statistics
Stony Brook University



長幼年持安慶宮打那共行

PHOTO BY HAO LI



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