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The PCI News



James T. Laney Professorship at Yonsei University

The Pacific Century Institute is pleased to announce Dr. Chung-in Moon as the new appointee for the James T. Laney Professorship at Yonsei University's Institute for North Korean Studies (통일연구원). "James Laney Lecture Series on America and the World" will be offered both online and offline on a monthly basis, covering a total of 12 diverse topics. These lectures promise to provide a multifaceted exploration of American foreign policy theory and practice. Dr. Moon Chung-in, who will facilitate these conversations, emphasized, "Our goal is to comprehensively address American foreign and security policies in the Korean Peninsula and East Asia through open discussions and Q&A sessions on U.S. strategy."

The inaugural lecture is scheduled for Tuesday, September 26th, at 10 am KST and will take place at the Medici Media studio. Dr. Chung-in Moon will be joined by Dr. Charles Kupchan, professor at Georgetown University and former senior director of the National Security Council (NSC) in the White House during the Obama administration, via video conference, engaging in a substantive conversation with Dr. Moon.

All lecture content will be translated into Korean and will be available through the Medici Media YouTube channel with Korean subtitles and other video editing processes.

List of upcoming lectures :

1. Is American Foreign Policy Failing? : (September 26, 2023)
Charles Kupchan (Georgetown University)
2. American Foreign Policy and the World: Conservative, Necon, and MAGA Perspectives (October 17)
Walter Mead (Bard College/ Hudson Institute)
3. Preventing Nuclear Catastrophe in Korea (Off-line, November 8, 2023)
Sigfried Hecker and Robert Carlin, Stanford University
4. America Foreign Policy and the World: A Liberal View (November 23)
John Ikenberry, Princeton University
5. China-US Strategic Rivalry: Is There a way-out? (December 15, 2023)
Susan Thornton (Yale Law School)

The James T. Laney Chair Professorship at Yonsei University was created in the fall semester of 2013 through the sponsorship of

the Pacific Century Institute at Yonsei University's Underwood International College (UIC) in an effort to honor the accomplishments of Ambassador James T. Laney, who has greatly contributed to Korean – American goodwill and to the promotion of specialized study in the fields of international diplomacy and peace on the Korean Peninsula during his ambassadorship to the Republic of Korea from 1993 to 1996. The program has since found its new home at the Yonsei Institute for North Korean Studies at Yonsei University. Since the beginning of the program, Yonsei has been recruiting Korean distinguished figures in diplomacy and government.

Past Chair Professors include former Ambassador to the U.S., Lee, Tae-sik; former Ambassador to the U.S. Choi, Young-jin; former Unification Minister Lee, Jong-seok; and National Defense Minister Suh, Hoon.

New Board Member



Sulgiye Park is a senior scientist at the non-profit Union of Concerned Scientists, where she specializes in North Korea and China's nuclear fuel pathway. Dr. Park received her B.S. in Earth and Environmental Sciences from the University of Michigan, and her Ph.D. in Geological Sciences at Stanford University, where her work focused on behavior of nuclear materials under extreme environments. After

her Ph.D., she worked at the Stanford Institute of Materials and Energy Sciences (SIMES) as a materials scientist, where her work involved fabricating nanodiamonds for various technological applications. She was a recipient of a Jamieson Award for her work at SIMES. Dr. Park then received Stanton and MacArthur Nuclear Security Fellowships at Stanford University's Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC). At CISAC, she worked on various projects, including looking at the front-end of North Korea's fuel cycle, monitoring North Korea and China's economic trade activities, as well as examining regulatory framework on nuclear waste management, particularly in regard to advanced nuclear reactors. While pursuing her fellowship, Dr. Park was also an accelerator for the Stanley Peace Foundation. Her other ongoing projects include understanding the U.S. strategic narratives around rare-earth elements and cooperation with China on resource management.



Remembering Our Friend Tom Plate

By Gregory F. Treverton



(Tom Plate at the 2023 PCI Dinner, Los Angeles, CA)

I had the great good fortune a few years ago to write a letter of recommendation for Tom. That letter is my text for this tribute. I'm glad I found it because it was written with an edge of advocacy; my prose today about Tom will be tinged with more than a wisp of nostalgia. Tom's wife Andrea put it far better than I could, and I trust she will forgive me for quoting her: "Your letter of recommendation was better than any admission to any elite organization.

And he treasured it. He was proud to be your friend and associate."

And I was just as proud to be his friend and associate. Tom and I never got to see as much of each other as we would have liked, and that was wonderful in its own way, for it meant that we always wanted more; for too many people one encounters in life, less would be better. I would have loved to teach with him, for instance, but the closest we came was Tom's cameos on China in my class at the University of Southern California, and those were in the last few years via zoom. What we did manage was a few martinis at the Marina Yacht Club, which, lacking any other, Tom characteristically had turned into his own Loyola Marymount faculty club.

Tom always thought of himself as a journalist, or that's what he often said. No knock on journalists, but Tom was that and so much more. For their part, political "scientists" – to use that pretentious descriptor – tend to think of history as great waves driven by the power politics among great powers. Happily, observers like Tom understand that, in the end, it is people who not only ride those waves but also sometimes create them. And so he embarked on his "giants of Asia series," beginning with Lee Kuan Yew, who illustrates the power of individuals as well as anyone in our era. Think what Singapore, a city-state with no natural resources, would be like today without him, surely not one of the richest countries in the world. I know of no better book on Lee Kuan Yew than Tom's.

In addition to insight, Tom brought two other delightful traits

to what he would have called journalism, but I would call accessible scholarship or history. He wrote with a light and lively touch, and so his books are very readable, even inviting. Second, he was always on the lookout for upsides, for where things were going well or might. He was no Pollyanna, but his work is a nice antidote to so much of the scare mongering that seeks to grab our eyeballs these days.

Tom had a special ability to escape the usual straitjackets of our debates, and see foreign countries somewhat as they see themselves. On that score, Kishore Mahbubani's Foreword to Tom's *In the Middle of China's Future* got it just right, "The world's biggest story is the rise of China. The world's biggest media is the Western media. The world's biggest mystery is how the world's biggest media got the world's best story wrong. Tom Plate is one of the few Western journalists who have gotten the world's biggest story right." George Yeo, the former diplomat, also was right on the money, "Tom Plate is an atypical American commentator of Asian affairs. He was politically incorrect before political incorrectness became fashionable and remains so. He has a sense of China. More importantly, he has what is not in common supply and that is common sense."

What struck me when I returned to Los Angeles in 2017 from my latest stint in government, as chair of the National Intelligence Council, was his deep commitment to students and to mentoring. His enthusiasm for his subject was contagious, and his students saw it. Every time I met him, usually at the yacht club, he was surrounded by a group of his students. He created Asia Media at Loyola Marymount, where he hung his hat after many years at the Los Angeles Times and UCLA. It was a shoestring operation that laced up a role as a major voice on Asia and its connections to the rest of the world.

My visual memories of Tom always bring a smile to my face. That is because there was always a smile on his face. It is also because he didn't take himself too seriously, almost always turning up in some zany, slightly comical outfit, always full of self-deprecating humor. In that sense as well as others, he was a mentor to us as well as to his students. We will miss him dearly but remember him mightily. And that, in this life, is as good as it gets.

Gregory Treverton is Tom Plate's friend, associate and admirer. More prosaically, he is Professor of the Practice of International Relations and Spatial Sciences at the University of Southern California. He is also a member of the board of the Pacific Century Institute, which Plate served as Vice President.



Board Member's Opinion Editorial

This opinion piece featuring PCI board member, Dr. John Linton appeared in the Korea Times on August 02, 2023.

Miracle on Han River, no success without sacrifice

By John Alderman Linton

Around 20 years ago, I started visiting tuberculosis hospitals and sanatoriums in North Korea as part of a campaign to rid the country of that disease. I've been to the North countless times since then.

One night, I was returning to Pyongyang from the countryside in a run-down Toyota van. It was hard to hear much of anything over the whine of the engine, but one of the guides assigned to us by North Korea cautiously struck up a conversation with me.

"I'm told South Korea is a little ahead of us. If that's true, can you tell me about it?" The question caught me completely off guard.

During the Gwangju Uprising, I was framed as one of the agitators behind the demonstrations there simply because I did some interpretation for the citizen committee one day. During the rule of Chun Doo-hwan in the Fifth Republic, I spent two painful years under the watchful eyes of plainclothes policemen.

So for a moment, I was worried that speaking favorably of South Korea in the North might lead to me being jailed or deported. Eventually, I asked the young guide if he wanted a real answer. He seemed sincere in his curiosity, so I decided to humor him.

The first reason South Korea is doing so well, I told the young guide, is thanks to Park Chung-hee.

I'd grown up in Jeolla Province (in the southwest) and picked up regional prejudices as a child. In all honesty, I used to regard people from Gyeongsang Province (in the southeast) as being almost as bad as the Japanese. Of course, when I was a little older, I learned about the accomplishments of Park Chung-hee, a native of Gyeongsang Province.

Park was an autocratic president who rammed through the unjust Yushin regime and perpetrated many undemocratic acts, including the infamous emergency measures. But he still deserves credit for being the first Korean leader in 5,000 years to prioritize the private sector instead of the public sector.

When I asked my young guide if he knew about Hyundai founder Chung Ju-yung, he said he knew about Chung's donation of 1,001 cows to North Korea. But I pointed out that Chung wasn't the only figure of his kind in South Korea — there was also POSCO founder Park Tae-joon, Samsung founder Lee Byung-chull, Daewoo founder Kim Woo-choong and LG cofounders Koo In-hwoi and Huh Man-jung.

Park Chung-hee's greatest accomplishment, I explained, was choosing talented people from the private sector to receive government backing and laying the foundation for the South Korean economy's rapid development. He also launched the Saemaul Undong (New Village Movement), which helped Koreans shake off the victim mentality left by the Korean War. The president made a point of sharing a bowl of rice wine with farmers on the edge of a rice paddy, inspiring all Koreans with hope and the idea that they could prosper.

The second reason South Korea prospered was because of the immense sacrifices made by its workers. Overseas, there were the nurses and miners who took jobs in Germany and the construction workers who worked in sweltering 50-degree weather in the Middle East. And at home, there were the workers at Guro Industrial Park who remained seated at their sewing machines for 16 or more hours a day.

I enthusiastically explained how it was those workers' sacrifices that enabled exports to the United States. That was how South Korea brought in the precious foreign currency that paved the way for national development.

That's not the half of it. The records show that more than 5,000 of the 300,000 South Koreans who were sent to the Vietnam War died in the fighting. That tally would rise above 10,000 if those who died later from complications of trauma were included.

In short, South Korea's development was built on the sweat of its workers and the blood of its soldiers.

Third, I told my young guide that South Korea's strength derives not from men but from women. The country's development was due to our mothers. It was made possible by the value they placed on diligence, thrift and education, and their willingness to sacrifice themselves for the success of their husbands and children.

The mothers of that time are the grandmothers of today. I think the majority of South Korea's grandmothers should be honored for their contribution to the nation.

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PCI Programs—Junior Fellowship

PCI Junior Fellow Paul Lee shares his experience at the recent 2023 Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Initiative.

“Thanks to the support of the PCI Junior Fellowship, I was able to travel to Mongolia for the first time this past August to participate in the 2023 Northeast Asia Regional Peacebuilding Initiative (NARPI). Since discovering NARPI in 2019, I had resonated deeply with its mission to “transform the culture and structure of militarism and communities of fear and violence into just and peaceful ones by providing peacebuilding training, connecting and empowering people in Northeast Asia.” Started in 2011 by a South Korean scholar-practitioner of restorative justice named Jae Young Lee, NARPI has taken place every summer in a different city in Northeast Asia, such as Hiroshima, Nanjing, and Jeju. This year, the training was held in Terelj National Park (about an hour outside of Ulaanbaatar), which is surrounded by rocky hills, emerald green pastures, and far more horses than people.

In January 2022, I was able to visit the NARPI office (which it shares with the Korea Peacebuilding Institute and the Korea Association for Restorative Justice), which is housed at the “Peace Building” in Namyangju, South Korea. Though I had been coordinating and facilitating peacebuilding trainings for young people in Latin America, Africa, the Middle East, and South Asia through programs such as the United States Institute of Peace’s Generation Change Fellows Program and Seeds of Peace, I had been longing to find similar spaces in Northeast Asia. That same month, I was able to co-facilitate an online workshop for NARPI on “Rethinking National Identity,” which gave me a taste of the open, critical, and self-reflective dialogue that NARPI encourages.

Also thanks to the support of PCI, I had spent the two months preceding NARPI traveling across the US collecting video messages from elderly Korean Americans to their family members in North Korea, which motivated me to take this particular course. Unsurprisingly, seventy years of separation from family members and restrictions on returning to their hometown in North Korea had been a traumatic experience for many of my interviewees. Thus, though NARPI offers an array of five-day courses throughout its two weeks, ranging from peacebuilding and climate change to exploring gender and sexuality through an arts-based approach, I chose to take the course on “Optimizing Peacebuilding by Addressing Traumas in the Body.” As the one listening to these stories – some of whom were being shared for the first time – I felt both a sense of privilege and gratitude as well as a heavy weight in my heart. Learning not only about frameworks of resilience according to somatic psychology, but also practicing literally hands-on methods of engaging my breath and body helped me to rec-

ognize and address tensions in myself and others. One phrase from the course – “healed people heal people, and healing people heals” – will be a mantra that I will hold on to as I continue this story archive project and my peacebuilding journey.

While I gained many valuable practical insights inside the ger (traditional Mongolian tent) where the course was held, the most meaningful part of NARPI was the relationships that I was able to build with peacebuilders from various ages and backgrounds, such as artists, interpreters, students, and educators. I was also able to reunite with friends that I had met through Strait Talk, a civil society dialogue that brings together young people from Taiwan, Mainland China, and the United States, as well as with friends from the American Friends Service Committee (which along with PCI is supporting my project on recording video messages of elderly Korean American divided families). Thanks to our gracious hosts and guides from the National University of Mongolia, I was also able to expand my understanding and exposure to Northeast Asia through field trips to cultural sites such as the Chinggis Khaan Statue Complex, the Gandan Monastery, and the National History Museum, as well as a meeting with a nomadic family.



(Paul Lee (C) with other NARPI participants inside the ger, Mongolia)

As a closing activity for the course, we had to select six words or characters that represented our experience at NARPI (in any language). I chose the characters 貴/真한 人間味, to reflect the precious, genuine human warmth that I felt throughout the training and hope to share with others. In this period of transition, uncertainty, and discernment in my life, NARPI helped me find a sense of affirmation and belonging in this community of peacebuilders in Northeast Asia. I hope to stay involved in NARPI trainings, especially as I share the founder’s hope that in my lifetime, participants could include people from North Korea. I would like to express my sincere appreciation to PCI for this opportunity, and I sense that there can be synergies in the future with NARPI to build bridges of understanding between peoples and countries in Northeast Asia.”



Sponsored Programs—Concordia Villages

Each year upon PCI board approval, two Project Bridge Youth Ambassadors are awarded a full scholarship to attend the Concordia Villages—Korean Language Village’s high school credit camp. This year, Perla Solano and Iverlyn Alicon embarked on their four-week journey to Bemidji, Minnesota. Perla Solano shares her experience at the camp.

On the way to Concordia I was nervous for this new experience. As well as because the Concordia camp has no electronic rule, it was going to be a struggle for me. We had a red-eye flight and were expected to arrive at the camp at 2 pm. Once we arrived at the camp we had to check in and I was surprised that the counselor and staff started to speak Korean right away. At the time I did not understand what they were asking me but they used hand gestures that helped me understand what they were asking. They were asking what my name was. I said my English name and after they asked what my Korean name was. I didn’t know what I should choose so they gave me a name **희진** (Hee-jin). Afterwards we went to the table to choose what bunk we want and what camp we are in. Both Iverlyn and I were in the Busan cabin. After we went inside the main building where we could paint our name tag that we got with our name written in. As well as getting our schedules which shows when we have our class and what we would do on a day to day. Although everyday was unique they followed the schedule.



(Perla Solano (L) with camp staff (C) and co-participant, Iverlyn Alicon, Bemidji, MN)

The first day was hard because we could not understand much of what the staff were saying. As well as fellow campers understood more as everyone was at different levels. I am thankful for the fellow campers who helped both of us along the way and helped translate for us when we couldn’t understand. The first few days were just to adjust to our surroundings for the next few weeks. The first day there was also a

celebration for the person who spoke the most Korean that day—although at first I didn’t know that. I was confused and thought that it was that person's birthday but someone who has been to the camps before told me that it was for the person who spoke the most Korean that day.



(Co-participant, Iverlyn Alicon receiving the Sejong medal of the day, Bemidji, MN)

The second day during breakfast we were separated into our “families” which we would eat breakfast, lunch, and dinner for the week. These “families” would be switched every week so that not only we can talk to the camper but also to the staff. I really enjoyed switching because it meant that I could talk to new people and improve my Korean. When starting the classes I was excited but nervous as it is a new language. I was also nervous about the way it was going to be taught. I learned that there is a lot more than I thought to be in the grading. There is community life, weekly reflections, community life reflection, choice activity reflection, artifacts, tests, and much more. Although I was nervous about not being able to do the assignments as it is difficult learning a new language. As time went on it was easier as the class size is smaller and you are able to not only collaborate with your fellow classmates but also ask help from each other. At first I didn’t notice but as the time went on I started to understand more. The way that the camp is set up to only speak Korean—unless there is an emergency. Helped to improve my Korean. Before the camp I only knew how to say hello, thank you and goodbye. In the camp I was able to improve my Korean. I was now able to read, be able to say numbers, time, ask simple questions, and much more.

Although learning was an important part of this whole experience one of my favorite things was the different activities

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Project Bridge



(2022-2023 Project Bridge Youth Ambassadors, Los Angeles, CA)

The Los Angeles based Project Bridge program graduation took place at PCI Headquarters on Saturday, June 17, 2023. The event started with a welcoming remarks by Angie Pak followed by congratulatory remarks by PCI Chair, Ambassador Kathleen Stephens, Friends of Korea (FoK) Chair, Dr. Gerard Krzic, and Los Angeles District 12 Councilmember John Lee. The program proceeded with the eight Youth Ambassadors' final presentations on the following expert topics:

- Social Classes in Pre Modern Korea by Alonzo Flores
- Music and Dance by Perla Solano
- Religions by Sasha Sengelmann
- Gender Roles in Korean Society by Jenny Tran
- Korean War & the DMZ by Iverlyn Alicon
- Government and Politics by Andrea Taubkin
- Economic Development by Alexander Xie-McCarthy
- Education in Korea by Isabella Li

The program concluded with a Q&A session, award presentation along with lifetime membership to Friends of Korea organization and closing remarks by Spencer Kim, co-founder, Pacific Century Institute. Please visit www.pacificcenturyinst.org/recent to view the pre recorded greetings.



(Youth Ambassadors on a field trip to the LA City Hall, Los Angeles, CA)

The Youth Ambassadors were invited to sit in at the Los Angeles Council Meeting that took place on Friday, June 16, 2023. They were also recognized by Councilmember John Lee of Council District 12 and were given a private tour around the Los Angeles City Hall.



(Sherill Davis (Left), Dan Strickland (Left Center), Joy Kim (Center), Ricardo Rocio (Right Center), Annabel Chung (Right), Los Angeles, CA)

The Project Bridge program celebrated its 30th anniversary on Thursday, September 7, 2023 at the Korea-US Friendship Night hosted by Consul General Kim, Youngwan of the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea at his Residence located in Los Angeles.

The program was started by the Mistress of Ceremony, Faith Chang (PB 2020), then with a Welcoming Remarks by the Consul General Youngwan Kim followed by Congratulatory Remarks by Mr. Spencer Kim, PCI co-Founder. The event included a special photo presentation by former Peace Corps volunteer Ed Haugh (K-25) showing beautiful photos from his time in Korea. The highlight of the evening was a panel discussion on, "My experiences with Korea and life after," with two former Peace Corps volunteers, Sherill Davis (K-25) and Dan Strickland (K-18), two graduates of Project Bridge, Ricardo Romero (PB 2012) and Annabel Chung (PB 2022). The discussion was moderated by Joy Kim of the USC Korean Heritage Library.

The event concluded with a cultural performance of gagu and traditional Korean fan dance.



Concordia Villages—BOD Op-Ed - Cont.

Perla Solano's report

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available. The camp had a variety of activities throughout the month which were all so fun and if I could try all of them I would have. Because there was only 4 weeks we could only do 4 activities. The activities I chose were painting, calligraphy, kayagum, and bug catching. Apart from the various activities there were also evening activities. My favorite was the presentation on North Korea as I was able to use the information and knowledge that I learned from Project Bridge and incorporated it into real life. This was also one of the most interesting days as we were able to learn about the personal experiences of two of the staff at Concordia. We learned about a more personal experience of the difference between North and South. Being able to talk to different people of different backgrounds helped a lot. Everything in the Korean camp had a name that has meaning behind it. Which I did not know about at first but as the camp went on I learned not only Korean but also the significant meaning behind each building and cabin. Although it was a struggle to adjust at first it was a great opportunity and I was able to understand and comprehend what people were saying to me a lot more than at the start of the camp.



(Perla Solano (Top Center) and co-participant, Iverlyn Alicon (Bottom Center) with other camp participants, Bemidji, MN)

다희 언니 (Dahee Eonni: Unnie) has done a wonderful job with the camp. She not only has provided a wonderful experience for all the campers but also includes important information. Everything she has chosen has helped the students better understand Korean. She includes informational presentations—North Korean—that impacts the people but the staff and the campers. It was a wonderful experience to participate in this year's Concordia camp scholarship.

Miracle on Han River, no success without sacrifice

(Continued from page 3)

Those three things, I concluded, were the driving force behind the "Miracle on the Han River."

After listening to my account, the young guide countered with a theory of his own. "That's not how I see things. I think you just chose the right side. We sided with Russia, with the Soviets, and South Korea sided with the United States. That's why you're so well off."

He seemed to think South Korea's strength was not its own, but only borrowed from the United States.

When I train medical students, I often pose questions to help them realize the errors in their thinking. That's the approach I took with my young guide.

"You know about the Philippines, right? While we were at war with you North Koreans, the Philippines helped out by sending a lot of soldiers to the battlefield. Even after the war, they helped us economically by building Jangchung Gymnasium in Seoul."

"The Philippines has been aligned with the United States for a century now. Now you tell me why they're not prosperous today."

My young guide didn't have an answer for that.

That put an end to our conversation, and we remained silent for the hour or so that remained of our drive back to Pyongyang.

While I'd offered a logical rebuttal to my young guide's idea, he seemed unwilling to give up his misconception. But I appreciated his question nonetheless, since it allowed me to ponder the nature of the Miracle on the Han River and how exactly it came to be.

John Alderman Linton, an American-Korean whose Korean name is Ihn Yo-han, is a director at Yonsei University Severance Hospital International Health Care Center.

PCI Board Members, Founders and Fellows often contribute to the media. The opinions expressed are solely those of the individuals involved and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Pacific Century Institute.



Upcoming Events



Prospective Youth Ambassadors are invited to apply for Project Bridge. The goal of this unique program is to "bridge" the gap among cultures through cultural awareness and leadership training, with Korea as its case study. Please visit www.pacificcenturyinst.org/project_bridge for more info.

SAVE THE DATE!

William J. Perry Lecture Series

Date: Tuesday, November 7, 2023

Venue: Ewha Womans University



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