The Institute for Asian Studies (IAS) sponsored and co-sponsored a wide array of public lectures and events in 2012-2013, featuring scholars, presenters, and performers from Portland State, around the U.S., and abroad. The 2012-2013 quarterly PSU faculty lecture series included: Drs. JungHee Lee and Lew Bank (Social Work); Dr. Priya Kapoor (Communication); and Dr. Sridevi Nair (Women, Gender & Sexuality Studies).

Lectures by nationally-known scholars included: Dr. Peter Bol, Harvard University; Dr. Shane Barter, Soka University; Dr. Hyung-il Pai, UC Santa Barbara; Dr. Sherman Cochran, Cornell University; and Dr. Jeffry Kinkley, St. John’s University.

Together with the PSU School of Music, the Institute for Asian Studies co-hosted a 2-night East Asian concert series in February 2013 showcasing Asian zithers and musicians from China, Japan & Korea.

Businessman Pete Nickerson was featured as the inaugural speaker in April 2013 for the Institute’s newest lecture series: “Engaging Asia: Lessons and Perspectives,” a twice-yearly series showcasing successful professionals with local connections whose work encompasses Asia. The series aims to inspire PSU students and draw support from a wide range of community members. Lectures are transcribed with the eventual goal of producing a published volume. Videos of lectures in the “Engaging Asia” series are available on the IAS website.

Ms. Merril Keane, an international law attorney with Miller Nash LLP, who has worked in China, will headline the fall 2013 “Engaging Asia” lecture series.

Additionally, through strong community partnerships with the Portland Art Museum-Asian Art Council, NW China Council, American Education Center, Portland Chinese Garden, and volunteer organizers of the First Saturday East Asia Program Series, the Institute for Asian Studies co-sponsored numerous events throughout the year. View a complete list of past events at: www.pdx.edu/international-affairs

2013-2016 Leadership

PSU Professor Sharon Carstens was re-elected to a second three year term as the 2013-2016 Director of IAS. During Dr. Carstens’ sabbatical year in 2013-2014, Dr. Suwako Watanabe, Professor of Japanese in the World Languages and Literatures Department, will serve as Interim Director. Dr.Watanabe has taught Japanese at PSU since 1990. Her research interests include discourse analysis, interactional sociolinguistics, ethnography of communication, and language assessment. She has conducted numerous workshops on language assessment and administered hundreds of the ACTFL Oral Proficiency Interviews to candidates from the US and overseas. Her recent research focuses on the differences between oral and written Japanese language. She is originally from Yokohama, Japan. Aside from schoolwork, she practices and teaches Japanese tea ceremony.

Suwako Watanabe
2012-2013 was a busy year of collaborative projects and various achievements for the Institute for Asian Studies, especially with regards to Korea-related projects.

In 2011-2012, $7300 was raised with support from the Oregon Korea Foundation to fund two new courses in Korean Popular Culture over the next two academic years.

In August 2012, the Institute played a key role in PSU President Wim Wiewel’s trip to Korea to attend a special seminar sponsored by the Korea Foundation. A new Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between PSU and the Seoul Metropolitan Government and a year-long training program for Seoul government officials at PSU resulted as an outgrowth of the trip. The visit concluded with PSU's largest-ever Korea Alumni & Friends Gathering in Seoul, which drew over 100 attendees and has since launched an active PSU Korea Alumni Network.

Collaborative work with a 2012-2013 visiting scholar from the Korean National Archives Office resulted in a new database connection between PSU and the Korean National Library Database.

A 3-way collaboration between the PSU Institute for Asian Studies, UCLA's Korean Studies Program, and PSU's Department of History has resulted in a new PSU Korean Civilization course for Fall 2013, offered through a UCLA Distance Learning arrangement, with the possibility of additional Korea-related courses in the coming years.

The Institute for Asian Studies is pleased to announce the establishment of a new scholarship—the Peter and Christine Nickerson Scholarship for Asian Studies—which provides funding for one to two PSU students to travel to China during the summer to enhance their academic studies or participate in an internship. The scholarship will be administered jointly by the Institute for Asian Studies and the Education Abroad Office. Details can be found later this fall on the IAS and Education Abroad websites.

A new Certificate in Asian Studies to complement a B.S. or B.A. Degree has been approved by PSU, and will be offered beginning Fall 2013.

In April 2013, the Institute for Asian Studies was selected by the Institute for International Education to receive a $99,000 grant to host a 4-day Fulbright Leadership and Re-entry Enrichment Seminar for 68 graduate-level international Fulbright students from Pakistan.