

# Honoring a Pioneer Woman Asian Historian in the Twin Cities: Dr. Irene Khin Khin Jensen

*Editor's Note: Dr. Irene Khin Khin Jensen is being honored at the Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs (MCAA) on October 19, 2018, at Metropolitan State University. She is being awarded the Jackson and Caroline Bailey Public Service Award for 2018 from the MCAA for her work. This short memoir highlights her work and was written by her daughter, Dr. Maythee Jensen Kantar, a professor at Metropolitan State University, with indispensable assistance from Dr. Sumiko Otsubo Sitcawich. Drs. Jeanne Grant and Anne Aronson assisted with the editing and layout.*



RANGOON UNIVERSITY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE 1949-50. U BA NYUNT, HISTORY DEPT. HEAD SEATED CENTER, TO HIS LEFT DR. PAUL F. CRESSEY, TO HIS RIGHT KHIN KHIN MYINT. GIFT TO KHIN KHIN IN 1950.

Born in Burma (Myanmar) in 1925, Irene Khin Khin Myint was fortunate that her parents encouraged her academic studies; her father often said that “no one can steal your education from you.” All her brothers and sisters were sent to English speaking schools. Khin Khin attended the prestigious Methodist English Girls High School in Rangoon, which had a challenging and enriching curriculum and extra curricula activities such as elocution and athletics that prepared the multicultural students from different religious backgrounds for the national university exams and leadership.

Khin Khin began her university studies in mid-1941 at Judson College in Rangoon but the Japanese military occupation of the country during World War II (1941-45) closed the country’s colleges and universities her freshman year. After the end of the

war, upon their reopening, and despite the death of her father and a sister, loss of family property, and illness when she evacuated with her mother and seven siblings to the Northern China border to escape both Japanese and British bombing, she resumed her university studies in Burma at Rangoon University

which had a curriculum similar to Oxford University. At the time Burma was still a British colony so the curriculum was offered in the English language.

At Rangoon University Khin Khin passed exams for the Intermedia Arts Degree in 1946, received her B.A. in History, Political Science, and English in 1947 and in 1949 graduated with a B.A. First Class History Honors. During her time at Rangoon University she held many student leadership positions and was a History Tutor in 1949-50. Her experience in the History department was one of equality as her professors did not treat female students differently from the male students. Exams were graded without names and oral exams included outside members as part of the evaluation panels. Students selected for her Honors History cohort (a student took Honors after s/he achieved the B.A.) included two men and two women, with the women earning first class honors. Khin Khin studied Chinese History with the first Fulbright Professor to come to Rangoon University in 1949, Dr. Paul Cressey, who taught East Asian Studies.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE WOMEN'S ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION, KHIN KHIN, THE PRESIDENT, IS SEATED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE BOTTOM ROW.

DAY, NOVEMBER 9, 1950. NUMBER 8.

## National Recognition Given To Burma-Bucknell Weekend

by Don Ray

As a step towards bettering world understanding, Bucknell University will hold its third annual Burma-Bucknell Weekend on November 11 and 12.

Held under the sponsorship of the University Christian Association, the conference will bring together Burmese students from Harvard, Smith, Rensselaer, Yale, Columbia, Syracuse, Cornell, Fordham, Bradford-Durfee Tech, Lehigh, Maryland and Bucknell.

This year's program has been given special recognition by the State Department and the Burma delegation to the UN. The spokesman for the Department of State will be Oliver J. Caldwell, Chief, Federal Programs Branch, Division of the Exchange of Persons.

Distinguished Burmese educators who will be here include Dr. Ko Lay, President of the University College of Mandalay where Dr. Roy Tasker, former B. U. biology professor, is teaching this year; and U Ba, Director of Teacher Training at the University of Rangoon. Also present will be Dr. Frederick Dickason, former professor at Rangoon University, Mission Chairman, and wartime relief worker.

**Big Banquet**

The highlight of the weekend program will be the Burma-Bucknell Banquet, to be held at the Women's College on Saturday at 5:30. The Toastmistress will be Bucknell's Irene Khin Myint. Speakers will be Dr. Ko Lay, Dr. Dickason, Oliver Caldwell, Maung Hla Thwin and Dean William H. Coleman, who will bring the greetings of the University.

On Saturday afternoon the guests

**Dr. Frederick Dickason**

**'Great Physician' Is Chapel Topic**

by Pat Wiley

Dr. Arnold E. Look, president of Eljis Country School, Newtown Square, Pa. yesterday, based his

THE BUCKNELLIAN, NOVEMBER 9, 1950

In 1950 Khin Khin came to the United States on a Fulbright Scholarship and a Bucknell University Graduate Scholarship to work on her M.A. degree at Bucknell University, where she was the first post-World War II Burmese female student to do graduate work. Bucknell is located in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania, about 50 miles from Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. Bucknell had a special relationship with Burma, as the first Burmese student to the United States, Shaw Loo, had studied there in the 1860s and later became a medical doctor. As a young graduate student Khin Khin spoke at conferences on campus, including serving as the "Toastmistress" at the Third Annual Burma-Bucknell Weekend in 1950 which received national recognition. She received her M.A. from Bucknell in 1951 with an American History major and Political Science and American Government minors. In 1998 she was invited back to Bucknell to deliver the keynote address at the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Burma-Bucknell Weekend. She has retained many lifelong friends from her time at Bucknell.

While speaking at a Baptist Conference in 1951 in Buffalo, New York, she met Reverend George "Shorty" Collins who was active with international student programs in Madison, Wisconsin. He encouraged her to accept an offer she had received to continue her doctoral work at the University of

Wisconsin-Madison. With the help of several graduate scholarships including the continuation of her Fulbright award she went to Madison upon completing her M.A. at Bucknell. The South Asian Center at UW-Madison had not started when she began her doctoral work, however, the East Asian program was active and she studied with Dr. Eugene P. Boardman (Harvard Ph.D.) who was a specialist in Modern China and served as her dissertation advisor. In 1956 she completed her Ph.D. in History (Modern Asian and European) with a minor in International Relations. Her dissertation, *The Chinese in the Philippines During the American Regime: 1898-1946*, was published in 1975.



KHIN KHIN IN 1950 RIGHT BEFORE SHE LEAVES BURMA FOR UNITED STATES

One of the programs that Rev. Collins and his wife coordinated was a summer national program for the North American Baptist Church called "Students in Industry" held in Minneapolis. This program selected a cohort of U.S. and international students who had to interview and work in summer industry jobs in Minneapolis. Khin Khin was hired by



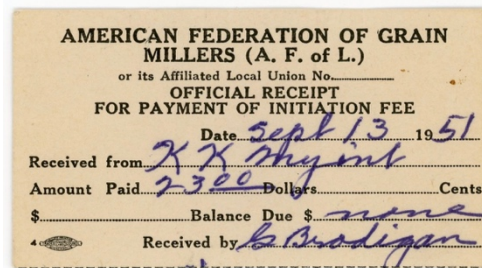
GLOBAL PRAYER CIRCLE—Young people from several nations join hands in a "friendship prayer circle" each evening at a worship service that follows their day's work in local industrial plants. A different member of the group leads prayer each night. The young people are engaged in the "students-in-industry" program of the American Baptist convention. Through 10 weeks of industrial experience, study and worship, they are attempting to "find the Christian answer to social and economic problems of our day." Included in the group are students from Burma, China, Korea, West Africa, Estonia, Hawaii, as well as the United States. The students are living cooperatively at the Delta Kappa Epsilon house, 1711 University avenue SE.

#### 1951 NEWSPAPER ARTICLE ABOUT STUDENTS IN INDUSTRY GROUP

University of Minnesota. Vernon became a tenured full Professor in the University of Minnesota's Department of Speech Communication spending, 42 years on the faculty. Khin Khin and Vernon celebrated their 64<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on June 12, 2018.

Given the opportunity to teach a class at Augsburg College in 1955-56, Khin Khin joined the Augsburg regular faculty in 1959 as an Assistant Professor of

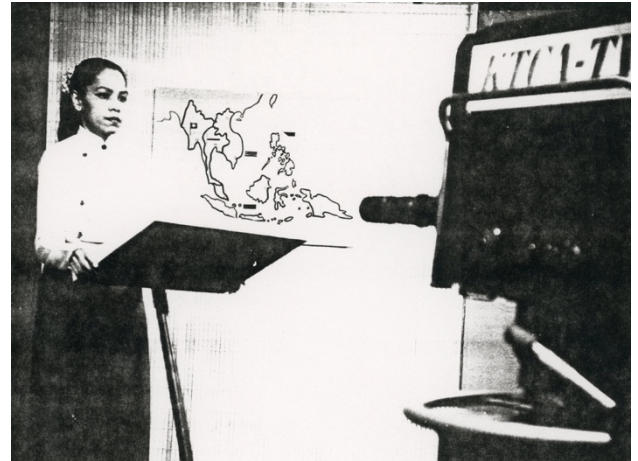
General Mills to work in the Minneapolis flour mill bagging flour, a job that required joining the American Federation of Grain Millers Union. The program sublet a fraternity house on the University of Minnesota campus for the students and study programs were held at night. One evening Vernon Jensen, a graduate student in Speech, covered for his friend whose job it was to moderate the group's evening programs. Vernon called Khin Khin that same week to invite her for hot chocolate in a nearby ice cream shop, and in 1954, after a three-year long-distance courtship between Minneapolis and Madison, and after passing all her prelims, Khin Khin married Vernon (with Rev. Collins officiating) and they moved to Minneapolis where he was continuing his doctoral studies at the



KHIN KHIN'S UNION DUES CARD, 1951

History rising to the rank of tenured Full Professor and retiring as Professor Emerita in 1994. Augsburg was a Lutheran Liberal Arts college in Minneapolis. Khin Khin was the first Asian Studies faculty member in the consortium of the liberal arts colleges of the Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities (ACTC, originally Hamline, Augsburg, Macalester, The College of St. Catherine and College of St. Thomas).

In November 1959, representing Augsburg College, she was selected to give a series of lectures on Southeast Asia on live KTCA Twin Cities public television. The weekly broadcast lectures were offered at 8:30 p.m. Monday evening and were well received as they began with a brief survey of Southeast Asia and the extension of European influence, moved to how the new nation-states in Southeast Asia achieved independence, discussed the status of overseas Chinese communities in the region, surveyed the impact of Christian missions in Southeast Asia, and ended with an exploration of the various festivals of the numerous religious and cultural groups in Southeast Asia.



NOVEMBER 1959, KHIN KHIN ON KTCA TELEVISION, MINNESOTA

In 1962 Vernon was awarded a Fulbright Teaching Lectureship to Burma, and when both he and Khin Khin were granted faculty leaves from their respective universities they took their two young children to Burma, where, in addition to his teaching at the State Training College for Teachers in Kanbe, Rangoon, they loved spending time with Khin Khin's family in Rangoon. They circled the globe on the return trip.



1961-62 CLASS AT THE STATE TRAINING COLLEGE FOR TEACHERS IN KANBE (SUBURB OF RANGOON). IN THE SECOND ROW, FIFTH AND SIXTH FROM THE LEFT ARE DR. IRENE KHIN KHIN JENSEN AND DR. J.V. JENSEN



JENSEN FAMILY PORTRAIT TAKEN IN MINNEAPOLIS IN 1962 UPON THEIR RETURN FROM BURMA

During her years on the Augsburg faculty Khin Khin taught modern European and Asian history courses, earning a reputation as a stellar teacher. She developed courses that had a special focus on Asia including:

Modern China; Modern Japan, The Modern Non-Western World; Modern Southeast Asia; and Asian and Asian American Women in Public Life in the 20<sup>th</sup> Century. Jensen also taught The Modern World (European History from the French Revolution to World War II) and developed courses on immigration such as Eastward to America Limited Hospitality and Immigration to the United States.

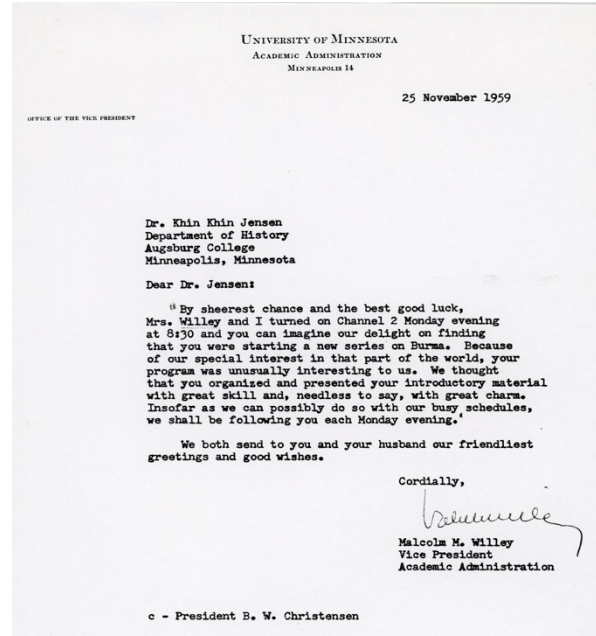
In 1975 with the East Asian Consortium, Khin Khin was part of the first faculty/student group from Minnesota to go to the People's Republic of China. During her time at Augsburg she encouraged students to study abroad if they could. She also connected students to community opportunities by supervising student independent studies on a variety of projects and coordinating internships for students who worked with the Midwest China Oral

History and Archive Collection.

For the January Augsburg Interim, she created

unique courses such as the 1976 offering called, Japanese American Experience: Relocation and Redress Issues. Khin Khin felt that “during the bicentennial year we acknowledge the contributions and experiences of various ethnic groups.” Other Interim offerings included: Jawarharal Nehru: A Man of Two Worlds; Major Historical Novels Related to Asia; and The Nehru Family of India, just to name a few. In the early 1980s she took students to Hawaii during Interim to learn about the Pacific Islands and Asian Immigration to Hawaii.

Dr. Jensen notes that students in her classes who were not History majors were usually double majors in Business, International Relations, or Education. Her classes offered students depth and breadth and included rigorous readings and well selected textbooks, novels (as teaching tools), films and videos, field trips, map study, and detailed lectures. From her first days on the faculty she regularly invited students in her History classes to her home for dinner so they had exposure to Asian artifacts and could enjoy Asian food. In addition, she brought guest speakers that included journalists, authors, politicians, and musicians to Augsburg campus forums and conferences, usually with the greater community invited to attend.



NOVEMBER 1959 LETTER FROM UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA VICE PRESIDENT DR. MALCOM WILEY TO KHIN KHIN ABOUT THE KTCA LECTURES

By LYNN NELSON  
Staff Writer

Interim '76 was a time for learning, experiencing, and pursuing new directions, depending upon how fortunate you were in securing the interim course of your choice.

The students who registered for the Japanese-American Experience course offered by Dr. Khin Khin Jensen this last January achieved each one of their objectives. Students who took the class because it was one of the few left to choose from when they registered were pleasantly surprised, and those who took the course because the course description appealed to them or because it filled a requirement were also enthusiastic about their interim.



AUGSBURG ECHO  
NEWSPAPER MARCH 5,  
1976, PAGE 6, "INTERIM  
CLASS DISCOVERS  
JAPANESE-AMERICAN  
CULTURE" BY LYNN NELSON.  
AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

Khin Khin later developed the Augsburg East and Southeast Asian Studies Program and served as Director from 1982-1994. She was the Augsburg representative to the Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities East Asian Studies consortium group and served as Director of the Consortium Program for many years. The consortium administered the intercollegiate interdepartmental major in East Asian Studies which enabled students in the five colleges to acquire a broad exposure to China and Japan. Components of the program included language, history, cultural specialization, comparative studies, and seminar work or independent studies. The study of the Chinese language for students was facilitated by agreements she developed with the University of Minnesota Language Department.

During her time teaching on the Augsburg faculty she was the only woman teaching history and the only faculty member teaching about Asia. There were a few other women faculty in different departments. As more women joined the Augsburg faculty as a whole, Khin Khin hosted gatherings at her home to create connections among women faculty from various disciplines. As other faculty with expertise in Asian studies and language joined the other ACTC colleges, faculty members such as Dr. Jerry Fisher, who taught at Macalester, were important colleagues, and Khin Khin worked with other college representatives to the ACTC East Asian Studies programs to share resources and collaborate on projects and events.

In 1978 Dr. Jensen received the Outstanding Achievement Award in Education at the first annual Leader Lunch awards program of the Minneapolis YWCA which recognized women leaders in Minnesota in a variety of areas (including government, law, media, etc.). She was recognized for her many years of work in the classroom, her speaking at workshops, especially her sharing observations and insights into the changing role of Asian women and increasing community understanding of other ethnic groups in the state. In August 1994 Dr. Jensen was awarded the WCCO Radio Good Neighbor Award for serving as Director of Augsburg's East and Southeast Asian Studies program, helping establish a strong Asian program in the Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities and organizing many community conferences at Augsburg.

## January Journey Into China

by Dr. Khin Khin Jensen,  
Associate Prof. of History

On a cold, crisp January 1, 1975, at 8 a.m., a group of 15 students and four faculty members from Augsburg College, Hamline University, Macalester College, and the College of St. Catherine, checked in at the ticket counter of Northwest Airlines to start the first phase of their exciting journey to mainland China. This five-college January interim was led by Dr. Chung-tai Lu, Economics Professor at Hamline, who was instrumental in successfully negotiating with the China International Travel Service of Peking, Luxinghe, the only organization which deals with travel into China, for our 21-day historic tour.

*To our knowledge, we were the only student-faculty group of the Midwest to receive permission to visit the Peoples' Republic of China, so it was a rare opportunity. We were allowed to take pictures of many people, places, and events in the various cities we visited, which made the tour even more memorable.*

Our flight to China was via Seattle, Tokyo, and Hong Kong on a Boeing 747. Having lost a day crossing the international date line, we arrived in Hong Kong on January 2nd. Hong Kong weather was mild compared to Minneapolis, and a day of rest in this busy Chinese city of 3 million (still under British rule) was a pleasant way to overcome jet-lag before we entered China.

Our group crossed into China by train on January 4th, near Canton. It was an exciting moment for me to enter China, after so many years of studying and teaching Chinese history. If someone had told me last summer that I was to get an opportunity to visit Peking in January 1975, I would have felt that it was an impossible dream! *How did it feel to step behind the "Bamboo Curtain"? Were the Chinese people friendly? Did you get a chance to see communes, factories, universities, nurseries, primary and secondary schools, schools, cadre schools, refineries, resorts, palaces, museums, etc.?* So many questions have been asked of me since my return from China. We saw these and much more. Our visit involved thousands of miles of travel by plane, train, and bus into the interior of China. Throughout our travels we were treated courteously, stared at curiously, and warmly greeted (by clapping) when we entered schools and factories for special visits. Treated like V.I.P.'s, we were somewhat self-conscious.

We made our entrance and exit into China via Canton, where we enjoyed the first of many Chinese concerts, operas, and acrobatic performances. These evening events were open to the public and the tickets cost only 30-50 cents each (and no fancy dress)! *A foreigner soon discovers that one does not clap for the performers; instead, at the end of the show, the performers come out and clap for the audience!* While at Canton, we spent a day at a large nearby commune, where we were initiated into the lifestyles of such an organization. This particular commune was comprised of 92 villages with a population of 86,300 people, and had its own schools, factories, rice mills, irrigation systems, hospitals, barefoot doctors and stores. We also had an opportunity to visit some of the homes and ask questions.

The 3-hour flight from Canton to Peking was in a Chinese commercial plane—Russian made. Peking was very cold but there were radiators in our rooms at the famous Peking Hotel, which was about 3 blocks long. Climbing to the Great Wall was a memorable event. It was about a two-hour bus ride from Peking. An afternoon at the Ming Tombs revealed all the splendor and wealth of a by-gone dynasty. Peking is

a fascinating city of 8 million, with many large, tree-lined, clean avenues. *Huge photographs of Mao Tse-tung, Lenin, Stalin, Marx and Engels and the Monument to the Peoples' Heroes dominate the Tien An Men square. Close by is the entrance to the Forbidden City, where, with other Chinese tourists, we toured the various palaces of former Chinese dynasties. Throughout Peking, young and old, male and female, were earnestly jogging and exercising early in the mornings.*

Other cities visited were Yenan, Sian, and Loyang in northwestern China. The rugged cave dwellings of Yenan, where Chairman Mao Tse-tung lived between 1935-1948, were most interesting. The hot springs resort in Sian, a city where Chiang Kai-shek was kidnapped in 1936, was a beautiful and historic area. Loyang is a city famous for the Luning Grottoes, where there are giant and miniature Buddhas carved into the rocks.

Our journey from Loyant to Nanking all across China was in a comfortable luxurious sleeper car. This train ride provided an unusual opportunity to see the countryside and farmers working in the fields. *At Nanking we were amazed at the famous Yangtze River bridge, an accomplishment by the Chinese people without foreign help.*

The journey to Shanghai, one of the largest cities in the world, was half a day's train ride from Nanking. Our hotel, located along the famous Shanghai bund, gave us ample opportunity to watch ships, large and small, and to observe Chinese of all ages at work and play. After three memorable days in this fascinating city, where I visited the site of the first Communist Congress, we flew back to Canton.

Memories of my China visit are many and varied. Among them would be Chinese women working alongside men in all areas, children looking well-fed, happy and well-cared for in nurseries, and observing how proud the Chinese are of their industrial and engineering accomplishments. Among some of the disturbing elements were the stress on the martial arts in the schools, and the uniformity of political and social philosophy which pervades everything.

Photographs and copy reprinted by permission from Dr. Khin Khin

AUGSBURG ECHO NEWSPAPER APRIL 1975, PAGE 3, ARTICLE BY KHIN KHIN JENSEN. AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES



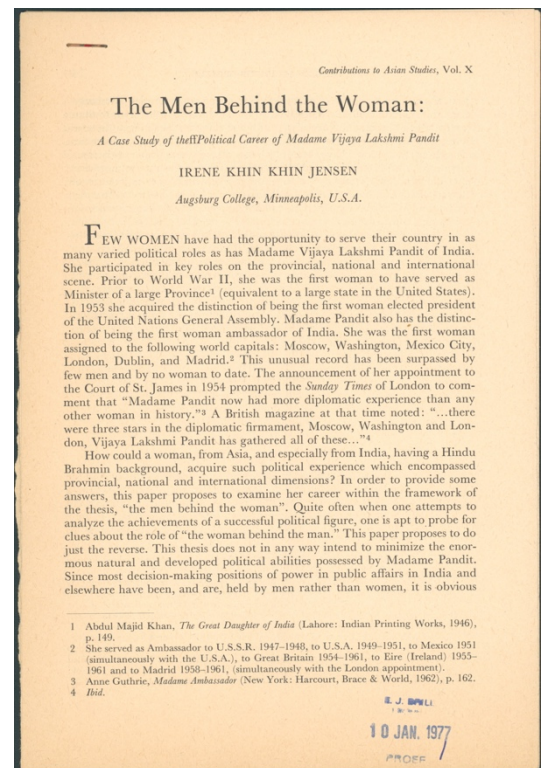
BROCHURES FOR AUGSBURG CONFERENCES AND STUDENT MATERIALS

throughout the years also included women's colleges in Asia and Burma's eighteenth-century encounters with Italian missionaries and French traders.

As a scholar Dr. Jensen actively presented at or attended local, national, and international History conferences and Women's conferences. Dr. Jensen wrote articles for academic journals; for example, "The Men Behind the Woman: A Case Study of the Political Career of Madame Vijaya Lakshmi Pandit," published in *Contributions to Asian Studies*, Vol. X in 1977, and public publications, for example, "Asian American Women Agenda Unfinished" in *Response* in May 1988. Together with her husband she co-authored "Cross Cultural Encounters: The Newly Arrived Asian Student," found in the Volume 17, No. 4, Winter 1983 Issue of *College Student Journal*. Her research



EAST ASIAN STUDIES NEWSLETTER, FEBRUARY 1981, KHIN KHIN JENSEN, EDITOR.



ARTICLE COVER FOR "THE MEN BEHIND THE WOMAN: A CASE STUDY OF MADAME VIJAYA LAKSHMI PANDIT" JANUARY 1977

Her leadership in the field of history and with community organizations included (just to name a few):

- 1963, The Christian Century (Protestant Weekly) sought names of women speakers who could share their career stories on college campuses. Khin Khin was selected as one of six Minnesotans (and one of 61 women in the country) from reader nominations from across the U.S.;
- 1973-76, served on the Midwest China Study Resource Center Board of Directors;
- 1975-76, served on the World Affairs Center Board of Directors;
- Served on the Board of Directors of the 1984 Asian Business and Community News;
- Served as member of the Committee of 75 of the National Asian Women's Institute;
- Served as Board member of Women Historians of Minnesota (WHOM);
- Was a Charter Member of the Upper Midwest Ethnic Studies Association;
- Served on the planning committee for the 1990 Asian American Women's Institute Ford Foundation Minnesota project, "Incorporating Feminist Scholarship Concerning Gender and Cultural Diversity into the Curriculum";
- Was a member of the Schools Outreach Program Committee for the Midwest China Study Resource Center and participated in the Minnesota Humanities Commission 1997 Teaching Institute "The Sleeping Dragon Awakens: The Emergence of China as a Superpower" for K-12 Teachers.

Dr. Jensen was always looking to make connections with the study of Asia and Asian Americans and the community. The following is a list of highlights of major symposiums, conferences, and special programs that Dr. Jensen coordinated at Augsburg on topics still relevant today.

- She organized campus wide college programs on China for Augsburg, 1976-78.
- She was the featured speaker at the annual Minnesota United Nations Rally Tea in 1977. Dr. Jensen's speech was called, "Voices of Modern Asian Women," in which she said, "Education is power for women. Education is the first frontier where Asian women can exercise their power to effect change."
- She coordinated three state-wide China Seminars for the American Lutheran Church of Minnesota, 1978-79.
- She coordinated a community-wide conference at Augsburg on The Family: Asians in Minnesota (with funding from Augsburg, Hennepin Ave. United Methodist Church, and The Minnesota Humanities Commission). This symposium, held on October 7, 1981, focused on Indo-Chinese Refugees and included speakers actively involved in

## Augsburg hosts 100th anniversary celebration

By BARB ARVESON

Dr. Byung Loun Lee smiled as he looked out at the audience that filled Sateren Auditorium and flowed out into the hallway. "I feel right at home here," remarked Lee, president of the Minnesota Korean Association. "I grew up in Korea, and Korea is a crowded country, too." The over-capacity crowd warmed to his humor as he welcomed them to the opening performances of the Centennial Conference commemorating 100 years of diplomatic relations between Korea and the United States.

The conference was the kick-off event for the East and Southeast Asian studies program of Augsburg College, directed by Dr. Khin Khin Jensen. The Republic of Korea has designated 1982 as the Year Friendship. Celebrations throughout the Korean Republic are commemorating the centennial of U.S. - Korean diplomatic relations. Augsburg College sponsored the first such event in Minnesota with this conference.

Lee stated one of the recurring themes and goals of the conference in his welcome Friday evening: "It's pretty easy to tell who's who in this audience. The Koreans have black hair and black eyes." After a warm round of laughter and applause, Lee added, "I hope by the end of this conference each one of you will know who each of the other individuals in the audience is."

The conference offered a variety of opportunities to discover more about each other. It opened with a buffet dinner on Friday evening, Sept. 17.

Blue jean clad youths, Korean women dressed in traditional floor length gowns of many colors, and men in business suits mingled in the procession from the College Center to Sateren Auditorium for the evening performances.

Young Nam Kim, Associate Professor of violin and chamber music at the University of Minnesota, began with a violin performance. Students from the Korean Institute of Minnesota followed with presentations of the Flower Fan Dance, the Korean Drum Dance, and



Dr. Khin Khin Jensen speaks before a crowd commemorating 100 years of diplomatic relations between Korea and the U.S.

—ECHO Photo by Bart van der Boer

AUGSBURG ECHO, VOL 89, SEPT. 24, 1982, PAGE 1,  
KOREAN CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION. AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY  
ARCHIVES

refugee resettlement and a panel on Korean orphan adoption in Minnesota with social work professionals and counselors.

- She planned and hosted at Augsburg the Centennial Conference: Commemorating the Opening of Diplomatic Relations between Korea and the United States 1882-1982. This conference, held September 17-18, 1982, featured numerous statewide Korean arts and community organizations and the “Asians in Minnesota exhibit” from the Minnesota Historical Society.
- She coordinated the conference on “The Two-Career Couple: Opportunities and Challenges East meets West,” held on October 6, 1982.
- She coordinated a community-wide conference at Augsburg on Uprooted People: The Response of the Church and Community to The Japanese American Experience in World War II. This conference, held October 4-5, 1983, was free and open to the public and featured first hand internment camp speakers and academic presentations. Panels were videotaped for classroom use.
- She hosted speaker Dr. Gordon Hirabayashi from the University of Alberta, who delivered a talk titled, “World War II and the American Constitution: Challenge by a College Nisei to the Internment of Japanese Americans Executive Order 9066” on April 10, 1984.

#### Uprooted People

A conference on “Uprooted People: The Response of the Church and the Community” was held this fall on the Augsburg campus under the sponsorship of the college and Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church. The program topic focused on the Japanese relocation experience during World War II. Khin Khin Jensen, center, was the conference coordinator and a moderator for the event. She is a professor of history at Augsburg and director of the East and Southeast Asian Studies Program. Conference participants included Gladys Wright Brooks, former Minneapolis alderman and now chair of the World Affairs Center, and Dr. Arthur Naftalin, professor of public affairs at the Humphrey Institute and a member of the Augsburg Board of Regents. (Photo by Keith Rickabaugh).



AUGSBURG COLLEGE NOW, FALL 1983, PICTURE SHOWS GLADYS WRIGHT BROOKS, FORMER MPLS. ALDERMAN AND CHAIR OF THE WORLD AFFAIRS CENTER, DR. ARTHUR NAFTALIN, U OF MN AND AUGSBURG BOARD OF REGENTS AND KHIN KHIN, HISTORY PROFESSOR AND COORDINATOR OF UPROOTED PEOPLE CONFERENCE (JAPANESE AMERICAN RELOCATION EXPERIENCE). AUGSBURG UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

In her retirement Khin Khin was active on the national and international scene. From 1988-1996 she was elected to and served on the Board of Directors of the New York based Women’s Division and World Division of the General Board of Global Ministries of the United Methodist Church. In that capacity she visited church-related schools and Women’s colleges throughout Asia, worked on issues related to the Asia/Pacific region, was the delegate for the Women’s Division at the First African Women’s Conference on Higher Education in Zimbabwe in 1993, and represented the Board in many other countries (India, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Singapore, Brazil, China, Japan, Korea) and at international conferences including the United Nations Fourth World Conference on Women in Beijing in 1995. In September 1995 she wrote the Myanmar Field Report for the World Methodist Church after being allowed back in the country for the first time since 1962 when the military takeover of Burma (Myanmar) suspended visits by former citizens.

An active member of Hennepin Avenue United Methodist Church (Minneapolis) since 1954, Khin Khin also held numerous local and statewide United Methodist Women leadership positions and was a highly sought after study leader for the nation-wide United Methodist Women’s School of Missions summer conference schools where she gave week-long courses across the country from 1995-2012 on many topics

including: India and Pakistan, Korea, Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos; Indonesia, The Pacific Islands, and The United Nations. She also offered multi-session courses at the University of St. Thomas Center for Senior Citizens Education including the popular Fall 1998 series on China: Monarchy to Republic. She was a long-time Board Member and Lecturer (1999-2014) for the Augsburg College of the Third Age and offered more than seventeen popular courses throughout the Twin Cities community, many focused on Asia. She was president of the University of Minnesota Twin Cities Women's Club 2009-2010.

Dr. Jensen is truly a pioneer in bringing the study of Asia and Asian Americans to her students at Augsburg College, students in the East Asian Studies program of the Associated Colleges of the Twin Cities, the broader Twin Cities and Minnesota community, and national and international organizations.

Khin Khin says, "I am grateful for the opportunity I had to interact with college students and members of the larger community, including seniors, to introduce people to parts of Asia and areas of study that were new to them. In reflecting on my years of teaching at Augsburg, I am especially grateful to Dr. Bernhard Christensen, President of Augsburg, who in 1955 interviewed and hired me to teach a course in European History at Augsburg; that opportunity opened the doors for my teaching career that eventually would focus on Asian History."

