Obituary

EDWARD REYNOLDS WRIGHT (1931-88)

Edward R. Wright died last year of cancer in San Francisco. He had taught since 1978 at Dōshisha University in Kyoto after serving as executive director of the Korean-American Educational Commission (Fulbright Commission) in Korea from 1967 to 1978.

Wright earned his B.A. in 1952 and his M.A. two years later from Emory University. After graduate study at the University of Chicago and in Strasbourg, he studied political science at Duke University and received his Ph.D. in 1961. He taught at Midwestern State University in Wichita Falls, Texas, from 1960 to 1967 and also served as a visiting professor at Seoul National and Sogang universities in Korea in 1965. In early 1966 he conducted research at Van Hanh Buddhist University in Saigon, Vietnam.

After his appointment as director of the Fulbright program in Korea in 1967 Wright continued his research and teaching at Seoul National University. He instituted the Fulbright Forum lecture series and an interdisciplinary journal of studies on Korea, both of which continue under the auspices of the Fulbright Commission in Seoul today. Wright published articles on Korea, Vietnam, and United States foreign policy, and he edited Korean Politics in Transition (Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1975).

Although Wright spent the last decade of his life teaching American studies at Dōshisha, his contributions to Asian studies through his own scholarship and through the scores of persons he assisted at the Fulbright office are innumerable.

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