



Professor William J. Cunningham

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William J. Cunningham is a retired United States Foreign Service Officer and Associate Professor Emeritus of International Studies at the University of St. Thomas in Houston, Texas. His diplomatic career included assignments to Prague, Paris, Seoul, Tokyo (twice), Sapporo, Saigon, Phnom Penh, Taichung (twice), Taipei, the Department of State (three times), and USUN, New York. He was a member of the Fourteenth Senior Seminar in Foreign Policy and Deputy Director of the Fifteenth Seminar. He is a China specialist and a former Director of the U.S. Foreign Service Institute Field School in Taiwan. His role in U.S.-PRC relations is noted in Henry Kissinger's White House Years. He served in the U. S. Navy during World War II, including one year in the Pacific Fleet after hostilities, and was released to the Inactive Reserve at the rank of LTJG.

Cunningham was Director of the University of St. Thomas's Center for International Studies from 1982 to 1993. During the 1990s he served as a volunteer Department of State recruiter in Southeast Texas for the U.S. Foreign Service, and in 2004 he organized the first American Foreign Service Association/Elderhostel program on American diplomacy conducted in Houston. He has also served as Board Member and President of the Mid-Atlantic and Southwest Conferences on Asian Studies, as Chairman and CEO of the Houston World Affairs Council, as President of the Houston-Taipei Society, as Board Member of the Japan-America Society of Houston, and as a member of the Asia Society/Texas Center's Advisory Board. He is a life member of the Association for Asian Studies and of the American Foreign Service Association, a member of DACOR (Diplomatic and Consular Officers Retired), a member of the Houston Advisory Board of the U.S. Fund for UNICEF, and an alumnus of Leadership Houston (Class XII). He has lectured at the University of Houston, Rice University, Texas Southern University, and Louisiana State University, Shreveport. His current principal research projects are the history of the U.S. Department of State's 109 year-old program for training American diplomats in Chinese; an updated assessment of "Ping Pong Diplomacy" with China; the history of the International Studies program at the University of St. Thomas; and a personal family history.

Cunningham is a native of California, earned his B.A. and M.A. at the University of New Mexico, and has done post-graduate work at the U.S. Foreign Service Institute; Jochi (Sophia) University, Tokyo; The American University, Washington, D.C.; and Columbia University, New York City. He is married to Patricia Ann Sloan of Connecticut and New York City, a graduate of Smith College and

l'Universite de Lille, formerly of the Voice of America (Spanish Branch) and of the United States Information Service. The Cunninghams have five children, eleven grandchildren, and two great grandchildren. They are members of St. Anne's Catholic Community, Houston.