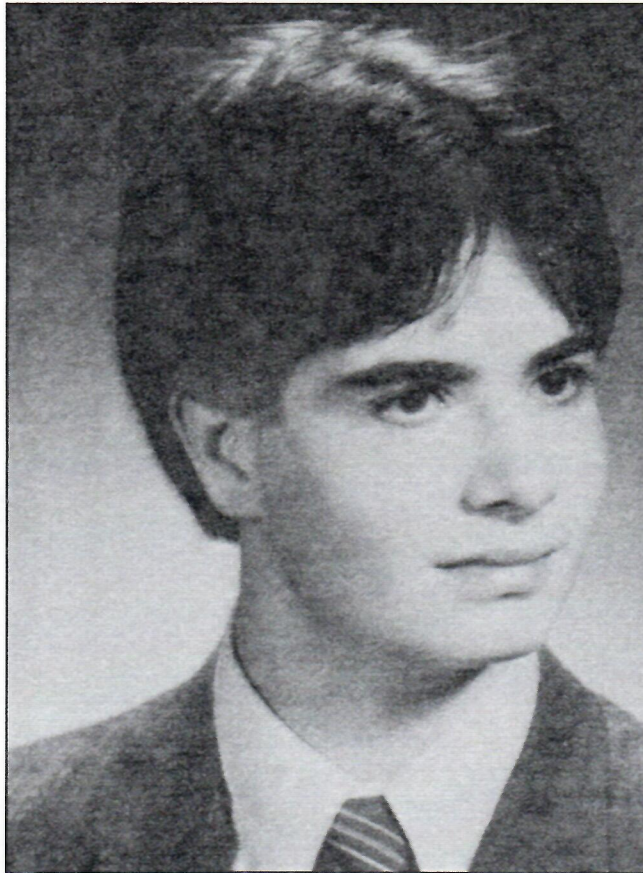


# Watchung Hills Regional High School Hall of Fame



**Robert M. Oppenheim**  
**Professor, Specialist in East Asian Studies**  
*Class of 1987*

Robert Oppenheim was a distinguished member of the Class of 1987. Among his credits: Salutatorian, National Merit Scholarship winner, Governor's School of Public Issues, member of the orchestra that played for "The Music Man." Robert even taught "introduction to PC Computers" at the WHRHS evening adult school. A person with many-faceted interests and abilities, he attended Princeton University and graduated in 1991 with a degree in anthropology, sharing the undergraduate thesis prize in that department.

Immediately after graduation, he participated in Princeton-in-Asia, a program which took him to South Korea for the next year to teach English, "an interesting time to be in that country, four or five years after its democratization," Robert commented. This interest in the country eventually led to acceptance into the PH.D program in socio-cultural anthropology at the University of Chicago in 1993, and another twenty months doing research in South Korea. (A Mellon Fellowship in the Humanities, a Fulbright and a Korea Foundation fellowship along the way helped).

Not unexpectedly, Robert was offered a position in the Department of Asian Studies at the University of Texas in Austin, and has since been tenured and promoted to Associate Professor in that department. He also serves as Director of the Center for East Asian Studies at the same university and teaches about six or seven distinct courses for undergraduate and graduate students. Robert publishes articles on a wide range of "diverse specialist topics" relating to Korea and has written a book titled *Kyongju Things*.