



EAST ROCK
INSTITUTE

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ERI NEWS

Greetings from the Chair:

What a pleasure it is to see another issue of East Rock Institute News published with the help of such a cheerful, enthusiastic and able team of editors, staff and contributors!

Almost a year has passed since Dr. Christopher Y. Park took over the role of ERI President, succeeding the late Dr. Kwang Lim Koh and Dr. Hesung Chun Koh. After three and a half years of dedicated service, Interim Executive Director Dr. Eungsup Daniel Shim has honorably retired from his former role. This transition has also led to the restructuring of ERI operations. Ms. Eunyoung Jang has been appointed as Office Manager, and Ms. Young Aie Kim, Visiting Fellow at Yale University Library and East Rock Institute this past year, has been appointed as the ERI Archive and Library Project Manager.

Since hosting five dedicated summer interns from both Korean and American universities, ERI has been revitalized by the return of energetic Yale volunteers and interns this fall. They immediately plunged into roles like Editor/Managing Editor of *ERI News*, IT Expert/Web Manager and Archive Digitizing Assistant. With the devotion of our new President, Dr. Christopher Park, and continued involvement of the Chair, ERI has reached a new stage of development within a younger generation of active leaders and volunteers.

Following ERI's long tradition of voluntary service, Dr. Park now balances the task of serving as ERI President with his own demanding career, and his leadership position at the Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center in New York City. ERI board members have stepped up to actively support this heroic and dedicated new leader.

Meanwhile, ERI has been blessed with return of Ms. Jeanine Kim (MBA from Columbia, Yale '89), our enthusiastic and dedicated ERI alumni volunteer and current

ERI Director of Special Events. Jeanine, who lives in New Jersey with her husband Paul and her two adorable children, has begun planning the Opening Gala for the upcoming Third International CultureWear and Diaspora Museum Conference, which will be held in New York City in Fall 2011.

I am truly thankful for all our supporters and friends of East Rock Institute in Korea, Japan and the United States, for their continued attention and strong support for East Rock Institute.

My special gratitude goes to the organizer and the sponsors of the outstanding Second International Conference on CultureWear and the Diaspora Museum, which was held at the National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka, Japan this August. I am also thankful for the selfless generosity and dedication of the Supporters and Friends of East Rock Institute in Korea, who helped make Dr. Christopher Park, Dr. Mu Young Lee and my visit to East Asia so rewarding and memorable.

Last but not least, I wish to thank Ms. Song Mi Jin and Cho Hanbol of Joon-gAng Books, who helped to publish my 5th book in Korea, "Meaningful Aging." This and other books have been of benefit to ERI in many ways, and will continue to support its programs in the future.

For this issue of *ERI News*, I would like to briefly mention what I believe are some key developments for Korean American society and its future mission.

Koreans now comprise the fourth largest Diaspora population in the world. Those in America are the most numerous and materially blessed Korean population outside of the Korean peninsula. It has been over a century since the first Korean immigrants, with their proud cultural history and high hopes for the future, came to this land. Since then, we have made a remarkable transition into American society. This is a defining moment in our history. Never before have people of Korean heritage joined



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To search. To learn. To serve.

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the top ranks of national government and the White House staff as they do now in the United States.

Now, we are poised to serve the wider community as global leaders. Because it has been the crux of our common history, we continue to participate in this community, take pride in it and persist with it. We only need to reflect on the journey we've taken so far to realize that we can bring about even more positive change. Let us work together toward enhancing the image of Korea and Korean Americans in the world by becoming indispensable leaders and partners for world peace and prosperity.

Hesung Chun Koh, October 2010

President's Report

by Christopher Y. Park, M.D., Ph.D.

Since our last newsletter, ERI has been busy increasing its outreach to new audiences as well as rediscovering old friends.

ERI's 6th Annual Teach Korea Corps Teachers Conference, "Ancient Roots and Emerging Trends in Korean Culture: Language, Literature, Clothing and Music", was held on June 28-30, 2010, at the Yale Divinity School. The Conference attracted high school teachers from CT, MA, NJ, OR, and nearly half of our participants were Conference returnees. The participants joined our 11 faculty, which included 2 high school teachers who attended past TKC Conferences. We were particularly pleased to have the internationally-renowned komungo player and composer Jin Hi Kim lead the workshops on Korean traditional music. Ms. Kim is a recipient of the 2010 Guggenheim Fellowship for Music Composition and is currently Composer-in-Residence with the New Haven Symphony Orchestra for 2009-2011 (www.jinhikim.com). We received extraordinarily positive feedback regarding the quality of our faculty and the depth of knowledge and insight gained at the Conference. These comments have motivated us to grow the Conference significantly next year, and we have already begun to plan for next year's Conference in consultation with our teacher advisory panel, ERIK (Educators Reflecting on Instruction on Korea). Following a planning meeting at ERI held on August 13, we have established the dates and theme for next year's Conference.

Scheduled for June 27-29, 2011, at the Yale Divinity School, the conference was tentatively entitled, "Beyond Words: Korean Culture through Literature, Film, and Storytelling." Please look for forthcoming news regarding this exciting Conference.

In order to increase the visibility of ERI among teachers and to foster our "master teachers" of Korean culture and history, a member of ERIK, Chi-Ann Lin, a high school teacher in Westport, CT, presented the lecture she gave at this year's Conference entitled "Dynamic Korea" at the CT Social Studies Conference at Southern Connecticut University in New Britain on October 29. In addition, ERI sponsored an exhibit table at the Conference to increase awareness about the TKC Conference. Dr. Sandra Wirth, ERI board member, represented ERI at the Conference.

Dr. Heseung Chun Koh and I are increasing awareness about ERI in the Greater New Haven area by co-teaching a course on Korean culture that is part of the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) of Albertus Magnus College. Held at the Whitney Center in Hamden, CT, on successive Fridays Oct. 15-Nov. 5, these sessions on Korean culture covered topics including Korean traditional arts, clothing, religion, literature, and history. We were fortunate to be joined by Jan Hill, an attendee of the Teach Korea Corps Teachers Conference, member of ERIK, and English teacher from the McDuffie School in Springfield, MA, to introduce Korean culture to a group of participants drawn from area retirement living centers. Also as part of our efforts to increase the visibility of ERI locally, I will be presenting a lecture on Nov 22, 2010, at 7:45 PM at the Whitney Center, Hamden, CT, entitled "Stem Cells in Health and Disease". This lecture will cover some of the controversies and advances in stem cell research as well as some of my own

research on stem cells in the blood system and in cancer.

During the past several months, I have been working to find ways to be a resource for, and provide opportunities for, Korean American Students at Yale (KASY). This would be a logical step, given the historical connections between KASY and ERI (Mu Young Lee and I, both ERI Board members, are former KASY officers and became ERI volunteers while students at Yale). Current KASY members actively volunteering at ERI include Judy Park, Chris Lee, Andy Kang, and Mindy Gee. Despite their very busy schedules, these volunteers have been critical to supporting various ERI projects including the Kwang Lim Koh archive digitization project, editing and typesetting the ERI newsletter, computer hardware and software installation and up-



Internationally-renowned komungo player and composer, Jin Hi Kim.



From the Teach Korea Corps Teachers Conference, June 28-30, Yale Divinity School.

grades at ERI, ERI website updates, and translation work.

I was fortunate to be invited by KASY to speak to parents participating in KASY's big sib-little sib program for adoptee families on Nov 6. Dr. Koh also gave a history of ERI's involvement with adoptive families as well as her vision for the future. We hope to connect KASY students to ERI alumni and supporters in the future.

I am thrilled that we are connecting with teachers, local residents, adoptive families, and Yale students. Through these interactions, I am confident we will strengthen ERI's ties to the community, as well as find new collaborators and ambassadors for ERI.

ERI ARCHIVE DIGITIZATION PROJECT

Memorandum of Understanding between Korea National Library and ERI



ERI and the National Library of Korea's Memorandum of Understanding was signed on June 25, 2010.

On June 25, 2010, a Memorandum of Understanding was signed with the National Library of Korea encompassing a period of three years in order to co-utilize ERI Materials for public use. This included the collection and preservation of ERI's archival and bibliographic materials, including the Koh family photographs and other archival materials. The agreement would

also provide access to these materials as research data, allowing an exchange of information on Korean culture and Korean society.

This is the first time that KNL has developed an agreement for the digitization and development of research cooperative systems with a non-profit private institution outside of Korea.

Since 2008, KNL has identified a need for cooperation in order to advance and enhance the provision, visibility, and application of ERI research outputs. The outputs include a comprehensive bibliography of Korean collections in American academic libraries and ERI collections in East-Asian Culture, Arts, Social Sciences, Women, Food, diaspora research, and the ERI Education Module on Korean culture. They also document ERI's conference and seminar materials, as well as materials on the Koh family's leadership in Korean American and American communities.

KNL and ERI decided to work together to promote the creation, adoption, use, dissemination, and preservation of electronic resources, moving from traditional paper-based educational files to digitized forms, in order to develop intellectual outputs that are more visible and accessible on a local and global use.

By taking advantage of Dr. Hesung Chun Koh's special expertise in the development of cultural information systems, KNL—through the ERI /Koh family Archive digitization project--can develop a firm foundation for its Korean Diaspora and Korean Studies database.

Seoul National University and ERI Kwang Lim Koh Memorial Digitization Project

The Seoul National University Kwang Lim Koh Archive Digitization project was launched with the strong support of Dr. Cho Wan Kyu, Chair of the Friends and Supporters of ERI in Korea and immediate past President of Seoul National University Dr. Jang Mu Lee. Dr. Cho was also former President of SNU and also Former Minister of Education of Republic of Korea.

In September 2010, ERI and Seoul National University Library launched the Dr. Kwang Lim Koh Memorial Archive Project for the purpose of cooperation on the collection, preservation, utilization and digitization of the late Dr. Kwang Lim Koh's materials. The documentation will include Dr. K. Koh's handwritten class notes at Harvard Law School from the early 1950's, as well as his lecture notes, research notes, research articles, and publications. Seoul National University has been interested in Dr. K. Koh's achievements for many years. The fact that he had been an alumnus and the youngest faculty member at SNU Law School (before coming to America in 1949 to study) is not the only reason for their interest. Dr. K. Koh was also the first Korean to receive a Harvard Law School Master of Law Degree (LLM) along with a Doctor of Juridical Science degree (S.J.D.) in the early 1950s, the first Korean to teach at a U.S. East Coast law school, the first Korean to receive doctorates both in common law (Boston College Law School 1960) and continental law (Seoul National University Law School 1945), and the first Korean to receive both doctorates



Outstanding service award presented to University Librarian Professor Jongsuh Kim at ERI dinner, August 31, 2010

in Law and Political Science (PhD. Political Science, Rutgers University 1953, and S.J.D. Harvard Law School 1955).

This Agreement will be effective for a period of six months, from September 1, 2010 to February 28, 2011. Dr. Hesung Koh and ERI Project Manager YoungAie Kim are in charge of this joint project.

CultureWear and Diaspora Museum Movement

Globalization is a cultural phenomenon. Since the technological boom at the dawn of the century, the world has reaped the cultural as well as economic benefits of a more international market. As new multicultural communities grew at astounding rates, the globe witnessed waves of cultural interaction in film, music and literature.

But perhaps the most symbolic, concrete change has come more subtly, and with less noise – clothing.

Fostering interaction between various cultures, fashion has almost become a means of cultural diplomacy. From heads of state to newborn children, culture-specific clothing acts as a powerful symbol of identity and acceptance in an increasingly homogenizing world. As cultural identity becomes redefined by interaction between different races, ethnicities, and nationalities, traditional clothing has become crucial to a self-awareness and independence that may have once been taken for granted.

At East Rock Institute (ERI), we believe that clothing is a useful and effective means of cultural communication and identity. By studying fashion through traditional clothing from around the world, we can build our “cultural competency”: our ability to live within and communicate with people between more than two cultures. As increased migration and intermarriage leads to a growing number of multicultural families, this study of fashion could become part of a greater study on the societal and cultural impact of global diasporas.

To do this, ERI has pioneered a new approach towards raising ethnic consciousness and developing the study of cultural clothing materials in modern anthropology. Through our “CultureWear” and “Diaspora Museum” movements, we seek to build the foundation for greater cultural competency as we near the dawn of a new decade.

What is CultureWear?

CultureWear is an international collaborative effort, comprised by academic conferences on its theoretical aspects and fashion shows on the redesigning of traditional children’s clothes. By combining ethnic flair with modern design, it serves as a fashion-forward, cultural exchange.

The redesign is a creative venture. Our designers do this by delineating the essence of beauty in ethnic attire and the symbolic values they represent for each respective culture. By taking apart gently used clothing and using the material to create new children’s clothes, this is also an affordable green movement.

CultureWear was conceived and started by ERI in December 2007 in the city of New Haven, CT. It was inspired by the clothing remodeling project at Sungshin Women’s University (SWU), which involved the actual design and implementa-

tion of ethnic motifs. This project was run by the students and faculty of the Department of Textiles and Clothing at SWU in Seoul, Korea. This new movement was made public in Japan by the Japanese National Museum of Ethnology (NME), as part of its commemoration of the 40th anniversary of the Japan World Expo in August 2010.

CultureWear has gone global in other ways as well. The Girl’s Friendly Society, an international organization with 22 chapters worldwide, adopted CultureWear in the arts and craft classes for their US branch. As a result, children 5 to 13 years old are now learning to design their t-shirts and jeans with ethnic flair.

In fact, ERI, SWU and Parsons New School of Design signed a memorandum of understanding in September 2009. The institutes agreed to organize three international conferences, aimed at expanding CultureWear as an international, interdisciplinary forum on the intercultural essence of beauty and the development of a new museum on the Korean Diaspora and other ethnic diasporas.

In November 2011, ERI and Parsons will co-host the 3rd annual CultureWear conference in conjunction with SWU, NME and the Smithsonian Institution.

What is the Diaspora Museum?

The Diaspora Museum is a movement toward 22nd century cultural educational organization, and serves as the end goal for ERI’s CultureWear movement. Through this project, we hope to make education in cultural competency available for all age groups, with an emphasis on the young. One of our immediate goals is to create a virtual diaspora museum, which would document the dynamic cultural contributions of diaspora communities as well as the rapid growth of multicultural families.

We envision that this virtual approach will use the latest communication technology to be more inclusive towards both young and old. We see this virtual museum keeping in pace with cultures around the world as they evolve over time.

Although this idea is still under development, it has gained significant exposure through SWU’s International Conference in October 2009 in Seoul, Korea and NME’s CultureWear program in August 2010 in Osaka Japan. It has also been featured on the Museum’s public program and NHK Kansai TV.

We hope that you will share in our efforts towards building a more culturally harmonious world. Thank you.

Hesung Koh, Founder and President Emerita of East Rock Institute and Christopher Lee, Yale University 2012

Cultural Fusion in Diaspora: Ethnic Costume, Fashion, and CultureWear

Second International Conference on CultureWear and the Diaspora Museum

East Rock Institute's Second International Conference on CultureWear and the Diaspora Museum (August 26-29, 2010) was organized and funded in conjunction with the Japanese National Museum of Ethnology, the Japan Expo Foundation and Sungshin Women's University. Dr. Hesung Koh of ERI, the originator of the idea, was specially recognized on the program with her bio and ERI was prominently featured at this conference. This was one of the 40th anniversary commemorative activities of Japan's World Expo, which gave birth to NME.

CultureWear and Diaspora Movement, especially its fashion show, received attention from the national educational television station, NHK TV.

This conference was comprised of two parts: 1. a two-day academic conference entitled, "Cultural Fusion in Diaspora: Ethnic Costume, Fashion, and CultureWear" (on August 27-28) and 2. The CultureWear Fashion Show at the Auditorium of National Museum of Ethnology (8/29/10). The latter was open to the public, and its opening was announced by NHK Japanese Public Television.

Drs. Hesung Koh, Christopher Park and Mu Young Lee from the East Rock Institute all presented their respective papers at the conference and Dr. Koh, in addition to being the keynote speaker at the conference, was one of the speakers at the fashion show who gave a presentation in Japanese.

At the conference, the papers presented a broad scope of topics, including but not limited to the cultures currently involved in the CultureWear project. The papers came from a diverse group of contributors including museum experts, designers, anthropologists, sociologists, physicists, medical doctors and experts on textiles and clothing. The authors were not just from Japan and Korea, but from India and the United States as well. In their papers, the authors engaged in both culture specific (Asian, African American) as well as cross-cultural research. Among these scholars, the delegation from the United States included Professor Donald Dickson of Texas A&M, African American Curator Dr. Diana Baird N'Dainye of the Smithsonian Institution, Fashion Marketing and Management Professor Jin Sook Erin Cho of Parsons New School and Ms. Delores M. Alleyne of Girls Friendly Society USA (who could not attend but sent her paper).

The papers studied how CultureWear could become a tool for increasing cultural competency and education, and how the Diaspora Museum could become a tool for exploring the globalized interaction of youth, culture and technology.

The show featured clothing of Korean, Japanese, Chinese, Indian, Thai and Filipino origin. The show also included 30 garments produced by students and faculty at Sungshin Women's University's Clothing and Textile Department, who put ERI's ideas into practice by designing these garments with the traditional motifs of the six different Asian countries featured at the Osaka CultureWear conference.

Dr. Koh was moved by the fact that her colleagues in Korea and Japan made ERI's initial dream a reality. She was also most



Pictures from CultureWear and the Diaspora Movement's conference and fashion show.



grateful for the active and dedicated support and contributions of Professors Hirochika Nakamak, Asakura Toshio, and Deputy Director Dr. Siro Sasaki.

Aside from the cross-cultural, multidisciplinary dialogue, the most exciting and rewarding aspect of this conference was that it worked together with international collaborators, creating a modest but concrete plan of action to meet the challenges of harmonious living in an increasingly multicultural society.

Ultimately, the 2nd annual conference was a major success. It continued the growth and development of CultureWear as both a social and academic movement, and paved the way for its introduction to the mainstream fashion scene at Parsons New School in November 2011.

Seoul Reception and Koh Book Signing Dinner

HOAM HALL, SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Given the recent release of Dr. Hesung Koh's new book, *Meaningful Aging*, the annual ERI dinner this year included her book-signing event. In Korea, it is customary to donate money at a book-signing event. Thus, the dinner also turned into a fundraising opportunity.

Over 70 people attended the dinner, and we received nearly a dozen bouquets and large flower wreaths. The total contribution almost doubled that of last year. The dinner was made possible by the generous donation of Mr. Harry Nam (ERI Board member and Yale-ERI alumnus) and Professor Aie Kyoung Choi (professor at Ewha Women's University and new ERI board member). Professor Choi organized this dinner with the help of Ms. Young Aie Kim.

Many prestigious ERI advisors, ERI alumni and their parents attended the dinner. Several businessmen who were friends of the late Dr. Kwang Lim Koh also came with cash donations and flowers. These men attended the Business Executives Seminar in the summer of 1979 at Central Connecticut State University, where both Drs. Kwang Lim and Hesung Chun Koh actively served in leadership roles.

There were two warm and friendly congratulatory remarks from Congresswoman Nak Kyun Shin and Former Ambassador to Russia Dr. In Ho Lee, longtime friends and supporters of ERI. Representatives from ERI's partner institutions, including Seoul National University, the Korean National Library, and Sungshin Women's University, reported on the current status of their respective projects with East Rock Institute. Friends of ERI who could not attend sent large flower bouquets and wreaths, which lent the dining room and hallway a festive and friendly atmosphere with their enticing aroma and vivid colors. Similar gifts came from the Chair of the Academy of Korean Studies, the President of Seoul National University, the Librarian of the Korean National Library, the President of the Yale Club of Korea, a CCSU business executive seminar participant, Mr. Tanaka Yoshio from Japan, the President of PyongTaek University and Executive Director of UNESCO.

In the midst of a sluggish economy, we are particularly grateful to Dr. Chuwan Kim and Dr. Yoongu Kim, who contributed to the ERI endowment fund.



The annual ERI dinner was attended by over 70 guests. This year, the dinner also included Dr. Koh's book-signing event.

In addition to serving as moderators for the evening, Mr. Harry Nam, Drs. Christopher Park and Mu Young Lee, and Dr. Koh (author) had their own opportunity to offer their own greetings at the meeting.

Special music for the event was arranged by Ms. Soo Yeon Lee, (Voice and Piano), who performed with Ms. Hana Lee (Viola) and Ms. Chaewon Choi (Violine). This was indeed a loving gift from our young supporters. This special musical program, produced and presented by graduates of the Yale School of Music and Yale Institute of Sacred Music, was very much appreciated by our guests. In this way, this dinner also provided an opportunity for ERI young professionals to show their diverse talents and excellence to our first-generation supporters.

Hesung Koh's new book *Meaningful Aging* also serves as a progress report for the Healthy Aging project, which was established by ERI, the Yale School of Nursing, the Whitney Center, and Sungshin Women's University. (See ERI News, Vol. 12, no. 1, p. 5.).

Obituaries

Please join us in extending our sincere condolences to the Jeon and Umesao families, as well as the members of the National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka, Japan.

Dr. Umesao Tadao

A Renaissance man and a dynamic anthropologist in Japan passed away on July 3, 2010. Dr. Umesao Tadao was a highly revered founder of the Japanese National Museum of Ethnology and long-time advisor and honorary board member of ERI. Dr. Umesao's memorial service was held on October 20th at the National Museum of Ethnology in Osaka, Japan.

Mr. Dong Yeong Jeon

Our heartfelt condolences to Mrs. Dong Yeong Jeon and their daughter, Su Yeone Jeon, of Columbia University Graduate School for the passing of Mr. Dong Yeong Jeon on September 30, 2010 in Seoul Korea. His memorial service was held at Samsung Medical Center. Mr. Jeon was a dedicated member of the board of directors of East Rock Institute.

Dr. Koh's Book Release Celebration at the Whitney Center



The celebration was held at the Whitney Center on October 22, 2010.

Changwon City Visits ERI for the Second Summer

Changwon City Continues its Cross-Cultural Education Program

Changwon City serves as the provincial capital of Kyongsang Namdo and is a major industrial hub near the southern sea of Korea. Since last year, it has rewarded its most promising and talented 2nd year high school students with a college tour across the Northeastern seaboard of the United States. Since the program's inception last year, this annual tour has served some of Changwon's top students with an opportunity to explore the world outside of Korea.

Professor Kim Jung Kee of Changwon University designed the program as an alternative to a cash scholarship, out of a desire to reward Changwon high school student leaders in a more meaningful way. The City of Changwon believes that it is imperative for its students, as future leaders, to gain a more worldly perspective on Korea's role as a leader in the global community.

East Rock Institute has been a key destination on this tour. For this year's scholastic tour, 80 students were selected out of a competitive pool from Changwon's high schools. The trip was led by Professor Kim and staffed by two high school teachers (Lee Sun Hun and Lee Sung Yul), as well as two members of the Changwon municipal government (Kim Sung Nam and Lee Kyung Bong). On a mission to educate Changwon's student leaders, the tour group, totaling 89 individuals, spent 10 days and 8 nights in the US Northeast region.

Arriving in the United States on July 20th, the tour group visited a few top colleges in New York and Boston. It then arrived at Yale University in New Haven, CT, where it visited East Rock Institute (ERI) - the definitive research institute on Korean, Korean American, and global Diaspora issues. At ERI, the students had the special opportunity to visit ERI's New Haven headquarters and meet with Dr. Hesung Chun Koh. Dr. Koh briefly touched on issues of Korean identity, and spoke about her visions and hope for their future. Her main message for the students stressed the importance of virtue over skill. She called on them to become ethical and culturally competent leaders, dedicated to a life of service and stewardship to the local, national, and global community they belong to. This talk was preceded by an introduction from current ERI President Dr. Christopher Park, who presented East Rock In-



Changwon's high school students, led by Professor Kim Jung Kee, visit ERI.

stitute's mission and major footsteps over lunch at local Chinese restaurant.

The tour then continued to Philadelphia to visit the statue of the Korean national patriot, Philip Jaisou (also known as Seo Jae Pil), then returned to New York to visit the United Nations headquarters. Despite the hectic nature of the trip, the experience was surely an educational and memorable one for all participants.

Korean Community Center of Princeton's

Chuseok Gala

BY JUDY PARK, YALE '12



Dr. Koh makes her keynote speech in Princeton.

One weekend in October, I attended the KCCP's (Korean Community Center of Princeton) Chuseok Gala with Dr. Koh. The gala was held as a fundraiser to support the future construction of the Korean community center in Princeton, New Jersey.

As soon as we arrived in Princeton, we were warmly greeted by Dr. Lee, co-chair of the gala. My first impression of the gala was one of amazement and wonder at how the Korean traditional elements blended in with the spacious banquet hall of Rider University.

Outside the hall, there was a selection of hors d'oeuvre

of Korean pojangmacha food such as soondae, ddukbokki, and odeng. I was introduced to various types of people: lawyers, doctors, businessmen, representatives of non-profit groups and students. The positive energy flowing from all these successful people gathered to make a positive impact on the Korean community inspired me. Every person that I talked to eagerly presented new ideas for the improvement of the Korean community and how Korean culture and ideas must survive in a rapidly transforming "American" society.

As a keynote speaker Dr. Koh discussed why enhancing the American image of Korea was important and how the East Asian values could uniquely contribute to the diverse American community. I believe that she inspired the KCCP member to always bear in mind the original purpose, choshim of the organization and that the resources will follow where there is a firm purpose.

The morning after the Chuseok gala, the KCCP board members invited Dr. Koh to a small group discussion during which the enthusiastic members and Dr. Koh exchanged opinions, criticized certain approaches, and motivated each other to better serve the community. This gathering was not a formal board meeting, but rather a get-together that encouraged personal interactions and a mutual exchange of ideas filled with warmth and laughter (and amazing food of course!).

Personally, I was moved by the tenacity of these first-generation Korean immigrants who were striving to create a community center, through which the upcoming generations of Koreans could build a tighter community. Each member had his or her demanding work schedule and family life, but everyone seemed to really enjoy participating in this colossal project. Although I gave up a weekend of cramming before the dreary midterm season to participate in this event, my sacrifice seemed insignificant in light of the insight I acquired from this occasion.



JEANINE JEO-HI KIM

ERI DIRECTOR OF SPECIAL EVENTS
Yale '89, Columbia Univ. MBA '95

Jeanine JEO-HI KIM worked as an Editor, Researcher, and Speechwriter for the Deputy Prime Minister of Korea and has worked as an Editor and Speechwriter for The Presidential Secretariat of the Republic of Korea. She helped prepare speeches in English for the President of The Republic of Korea including those presented at the US Congress and the first official Korean-Soviet diplomatic meeting with Mikhail Gorbachev. She also worked with UBS in both New York and Hong Kong, where she was involved in deals in China, Indonesia, and other Asian countries. Additionally, she has worked with other global institutions such as Goldman Sachs, JP Morgan, and the World Bank. She received her B.A. from Yale University in 1989 and completed her M.B.A. at Columbia University in 1995. She has traveled and worked extensively throughout Europe, Asia, and the United States, and speaks French, Spanish and Korean. She is currently the Director of Special Events for East Rock Institute, where she interned as a student at Yale. Jeanine also serves as the Secretary of the Yale Club of Central New Jersey. In the past, she had also served as Co-Treasurer of the Yale Club of Hong Kong. She is now also a writer and sculptor and is Founder of The Metropolitan Arts League. She is married to Paul J. Donohue, an entrepreneur and investor, and Co-Founder of Wire Image and MediaVast Inc. Together they are busily raising two young boys.

Greetings from the 2010 Shanghai Expo



Congratulations, Yeosu!

**JIHYE YOO, 2009 ERI INTERN,
YALE M.A.'09, FOX FELLOW**

During an East Asian studies masters program at Yale, I joined the ERI as an Intern. Upon completing my master's program, I came to Shanghai as a Fox international fellow to perform in-depth research on Chinese NGO activities. Recently, while doing an internship at 2010 Shanghai Expo Korea pavilion, I used to remind myself the lessons learned from the ERI such as importance of protecting and keeping various cultural heritages alive.

The Korea pavilion aims to inform Korean traditional culture combining with its future development strategy. The pavilion is one of the most popular pavilions at the Expo, so people have to stand in a line 4-5 hours to enter the pavilion.

When I grew up in Korea, I did not think seriously about my cultural identity. However, in the US, I was exposed to new culture and at the same time, I refreshed my mind toward my own culture and found its unique and distinctive values. Participating activities at the ERI and Conn Saturday Korean School deepened my knowledge on Korean culture and motivated me to learn more about it with great interest. Through these experiences, I was prepared to introduce Korean culture to others who are not familiar with in the Expo. I believe that the 2010 Shanghai Expo's main theme "Friendly City, Colorful Life" only can be achieved by creative innovations based on various cultural heritages.

Happy Halloween!

From the Kim family



Dad was little old Dracula's latest victim. Don't know if you can see the vicious bite marks on his neck. Mom, just batty (about the count)!

Dr. Hesung Ann Song-Kim is one of the longest serving ERI alums and current board member.

Greetings from Beijing

HAYEON LEE, 2008-2009 ERI INTERN, YALE '10, LIGHT FELLOW

I graduated from Yale College in May and I am currently a Yale Richard U. Light Fellow, studying Chinese at Tsinghua University in Beijing. When I look back on my time in New Haven, I always remember, with the fondest memories, working with Dr. Hesung Chun Koh and the East Rock Institute. Dr. Koh and ERI have meant more to me than I can easily put to words. The house on Dwight Street was like a little piece of home and ERI was like family. And now, wherever I may go, its noble mission and philosophy stays with me and empowers me.

ERI is a unique organization that deals with, among many other subjects, comparative studies, history, East Asian studies, Diasporas, leadership, identity, gender studies, aesthetics, religion, education, and even cuisine. The common ground between these diverse fields is that they are all platforms on which ERI builds concepts of bridging cultures. In an increasingly globalized world, ERI urges us to build bridges connecting individuals, societies, cultures, and generations.

ERI's mission resonates with me very deeply. I have moved every three years of my life since I was born – so far, I have lived in five different countries and on three different continents. My identity is not limited to my Korean heritage, but rather, is a multicultural one encompassing aspects of Asian, European, and American customs and values. Although it is not always easy

to reconcile the cultural differences, I have always sought to find commonalities that link these cultures to understand them separately and as a whole. I have always believed that multicultural people are in a unique position to offer insight into multiple worlds and find ways to communicate with others. ERI has solidified such beliefs, by encouraging multicultural individuals to embrace their identities and offer their insight to others.

ERI teaches us that a deep understanding of our own heritage allows us to understand the world around us. We must delve deep into our culture, our history, and ourselves and use our knowledge of self to recognize commonalities with people from other cultures. Through this process, each and every one of us – student, educator, artist, politician, parent, or child – can help people connect; each and every one of us can build cultural bridges.

And of course, above all, I am incredibly grateful to have had the privilege to meet Dr. Koh, who is a mentor and a loving grandmother figure in my life. She truly sets an example for all of us, to be lifelong learners and to cherish our own heritage and those of others. Furthermore, Dr. Koh embodies passion, compassion, vision, and eternal optimism.

Time and time again, I witnessed Dr. Koh using her amazing qualities to build bridges between worlds. Bringing together different groups for a common cause is challenging. However,

Dr. Koh perseveres by continuously reaching out and converting hearts and minds. She has started numerous projects and continues to create new ones today. She told me that although a project may be small at its beginning, as long as there are those who believe in it, it will grow over the years and eventually be seen and heard by the world. Therefore, I often picture Dr. Koh lovingly planting seeds in the garden of humanity. Like her, I have faith that ERI's endeavors will continue to be fruitful and that it will reach more

and more people in the years to come.

As a young person, perhaps I'm just beginning my journey of life. However, ERI always reminds me to be charged with a mission to serve and to learn. ERI has given me the strength and courage to join the global dialogue of humankind's joint pursuit of harmony. I hope that generations to come will also find what I have found at ERI.

News from an Alum in Atlanta, GA

BY CHOONY KIM, YALE M.A. 2008, PH.D CANDIDATE AT GEORGIA TECH

kimchykorea@gmail.com / 404-626-2524

Degree Program: PhD., Public Policy, Joint Program Georgia State University and Georgia Institute of Technology

Choony Kim, a volunteer at East Rock Institute from 2006 through 2007 during her time at the Yale School of Forestry and Environmental Studies (FES), began her doctoral studies in the fall of 2010 in a joint program offered by Georgia State University and Georgia Tech School of Public Policy. After earning the Master of Environment Management (MEM) at Yale FES, she went back to the Korea Federation for Environmental Movement (KFEM), the first environmental NGO in Korea. Her work is aimed at conserving the Kamchatka peninsula as a wildlife sanctuary from oil drilling and local indigenous inhabitants, trying to raise the issue of climate justice under the name of "We are all Tuvaluans" to conserve Korea's ecosystems. Her work in Tuvalu from May 25 through June 3, 2010 was broadcasted through Arirang TV, with visual production by Mr. Jinho Bok.

Choony has 13 years of work experience at KFEM / Friends of Earth Korea as the Director of International Affairs. She has dealt with many environmental issues, including climate change, ecosystem conservation, and sustainable development through regional and international cooperation. She has been the lead organizer between the United Nations and Korean non-governmental environmental organizations like World Summit on Sustainable Development (WSSD), and has served as a delegate to many international environmental gatherings organized by NGOs, GOs and international entities.

Choony's current research interests include social enterprise for environmental conservation, climate justice, sustainability, and international environmental policy.

The first time I set foot in East Rock Institute was back in January of 2006. I had just returned from 14 days of field work through Guatemala and El Salvador, and was still in awe of the vibrant Mayan culture and ardent environmental conservationism that I had encountered there. Having just seen and soaked in a series of inspiring experiences in the yet battle-scarred land that is Guatemala and El Salvador, I was somewhat doubtful that I would experience anything so extraordinary for at least the rest of that year.

Then I stepped inside the historical ERI house to be greeted by shelves and shelves of dust-laden books.

Perhaps it was because I had been a Korean Language and Literature major in college—just by looking at the titles on the books, I could feel the passion and care of their collector. The books spanned a breadth and depth of topics, including a 1st grade Korean language textbook, the Korean classical novel *Chunyang*, and even a historical analysis of Korean architecture in Buddhist temples.

As I sorted through these books and archives at ERI, I couldn't help but pause at times to breathe it all in, with waves of gratitude swelling up inside me. I was thankful for those who had taken the effort to bring these books together—maybe this too had its roots in my studies during college...

Regardless, it was at that moment I realized that while I had been going about my daily life or advocating for environment conservation, another had also been working hard, patiently organizing and collecting the books that I had come to cherish so

dearly.

The humble soul silently, patiently, and diligently assembled this collection with the singular hope that those in need of these resources in the future would be able to find them here—their untold story overwhelmed me with emotion.

And to have this moment of revelation in a dusty room of a historical house in a rather quiet, inconspicuous neighborhood! Surely, my brief adventure in Guatemala was a life-changing moment, but my experience at East Rock Institute was something else—something even greater.

My time at ERI was a period of rediscovery, one of a history I had once lost but now had found. Sifting through the texts about Buddhist temple architecture, Korea's majestic mountains and cultural artifacts, I marveled at the depth and breadth of the knowledge that ERI had preserved over the years.

My brief stint at ERI was personally significant in two major ways. It gave me the chance to reaffirm my national and cultural identity as a Korean. Just as importantly, however, it reminded me of a universal truth: the truth that history would not exist were it not for the patient, dedicated efforts of those scholars willing to take the time to gather the knowledge and wisdom of the ages, one book at a time.

In light of this truth, perhaps it is right to believe that the progress of civilization, and of humankind itself, relies on the noble stewardship of ordinary citizens who are not preoccupied with power, money or fame. Perhaps it is their daily honest endeavor that is the true history of our world.

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EDITORIAL ASSISTANT
Eunyoung Jang
eastrock3@gmail.com

EDITOR
Christopher S. Lee
christopher.lee@yale.edu

MANAGING EDITOR
Mindy Gee
mindy.gee@yale.edu

ADVISER
Dr. Hesung Chun Koh
hesung.koh@yale.edu

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251 Dwight Street
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Tel: (203) 624-8619
Fax: (203) 624-7933

Homepage: www.eastrockinstitute.org

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