“The USC Korean Studies Institute exemplifies what is best about USC Dornsife. The KSI makes everyone and everything around it better: our students, our professors and our departments. Its mission of bringing Korea to the world also extends deeply into the local community. This is what a research institute should be.”

Steve Kay
Dean, USC Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences
A non-partisan research institute located at one of the world’s leading universities and in Los Angeles, which is home to the largest concentration of Koreans outside of Korea itself, is critical to addressing the variety of issues involving both Korea and the United States. The USC Korean Studies Institute (KSI) has forged a visible and impactful voice on current affairs by positioning itself as one of the only institutes concentrating on contemporary issues of business, politics and culture rather than solely focusing on Korean history and culture.

From providing insight and potential solutions to the North Korean nuclear challenge, to helping the vast Korean American community understand its place in the world, the institute’s research and teaching about Korea has an influence not only on USC students, but on the larger community. The KSI actively supports translational research that reaches beyond academia to help frame and explain the important issues of the day to leaders and policymakers.

With a profound sense of initiative, the KSI also sets an example for nurturing future generations of Korean studies scholars through an ambitious array of classes, programs and activities designed to further student interest in Korea and to influence the wider public discussion about Korea. For example, USC Dornsife’s minor degree program in Korean Studies provides knowledgeable and thoughtful information about Korea that rises above partisan rhetoric.

Part of the Dornsife College of Letters, Arts and Sciences at the University of Southern California, the Korean Studies Institute is located in the historic Dosan Ahn Chang-ho Family House on the University Park campus. The USC Korean Studies Institute has grown to be one of the most visible and active institutes in the country since its founding in 1995 and is poised to have an even greater transformative and lasting effect on Korean American relations. The potential impact and visibility of the institute is virtually unlimited; and it is with further financial investment that its mission and vision will be fully realized.

“By building a community through teaching and learning about Korea, the KSI is poised to have a meaningful and lasting impact not only on Korea and America, but on the links and people that connect these two countries.”
—David Kang, KSI Director
“The USC Korean Studies Institute has played a critical role in supporting my research on the future of the Korean Peninsula and in preparing me to become a global citizen in the Pacific Century.”

Matthew Prusak
Senior, international relations major

Celebrating the lunar new year, members of the Korean folk-drum group USC Haneulsori perform in USC’s Hahn Plaza.
EDUCATING FUTURE LEADERS

It is self-evident that today’s students will work in a world that is increasingly interconnected and diverse. Preparing tomorrow’s leaders to thrive requires readying them to understand and deal with complex cultural and social environments. The KSI actively strengthens student interest in and knowledge of Korea and East Asia through a series of innovative programs.

UNDERGRADUATE KSI FELLOWS
The KSI Fellows program is designed to encourage and engage undergraduates with the KSI. Each year, the institute selects a small group of USC undergraduates with unique qualifications and diverse perspectives on Korean studies to conduct research, assist with institute programs, host distinguished visitors, and act as liaisons between the KSI and the USC student body.

THE ANNUAL USC-MICHIGAN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE
The KSI actively promotes research and learning about Korea to USC students through an innovative conference that features undergraduate student research. The KSI and the University of Michigan’s Sang-Yong Nam Center for Korean Studies alternate hosting a conference that brings together their students to share their interests in Korea.

“RISING STARS OF KOREAN STUDIES” MENTORING WORKSHOP
As part of the KSI’s overall goal of mentoring and teaching, the KSI annually brings together senior and junior scholars for a two-day mentoring and networking workshop. The goal is to link members of this new generation with each other, provide feedback on their work from senior scholars, and in particular to mentor these younger academics through the challenging process of establishing themselves as leading scholars.

Joann Park, a communication major and international relations minor, hopes to work at a major media conglomerate in marketing or business development.
UNIFICATION OF THE KOREAN PENINSULA

Although typically considered in military terms, the collapse and subsequent unification of the Korean peninsula will raise a wide variety of challenges, from environmental degradation and public health, to legal and judicial issues. The KSI and the Center for Strategic and International Studies Korea Chair organized a three-year project to explore these implications and what can be learned from other cases of rehabilitating collapsed systems. The results were briefed at the highest levels of the U.S. and ROK governments, and compiled in a forthcoming book, After Unification: Planning for the Long Term in Korea.

DAVID KANG
KSI DIRECTOR
David Kang is professor of international relations and business. He has published extensively on issues about Korean politics and business, and the foreign relations of East Asia. He is the author of several books, including East Asia Before the West: Five Centuries of Trade and Tribute and China Rising: Peace, Power and Order in East Asia. A regular consultant for U.S. government agencies, Kang has written opinion pieces for such outlets as the New York Times and the Financial Times, and has appeared regularly on CNN, BBC and NPR. He received an A.B. with honors from Stanford University and a Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley.

UNDERSTANDING K-POP

Korean television, movies and K-pop are wildly popular around the world. Professor Youngmin Choe is investigating how K-pop captures the imagination of youth from diverse cultures and the impact of increasingly globalized popular culture. Rather than simply celebrate the popularity of K-pop, Choe challenges notions of unchanging cultural identities.

SUNYOUNG PARK
In On the Eve of the Uprising, professor Park offers English translations of six classic Korean stories. She researches modern Korea’s literary and cultural history, including how debates during the colonial legacy have shaped Korean literature and film.

KYUNG MOON HWANG
In A History of Korea, professor Hwang explores the richness of Korean civilization from the ancient era through to the jarring transformation that resulted in two distinctive trajectories through the modern world.
By linking social scientists, policy experts and humanists working on issues related to Korea, the KSI is uniquely suited to conduct cross-disciplinary research, experiment in the arts and develop new forms of professional practice. Continuing to be an intellectual leader and having a positive impact on U.S.-Korea relations will require not just expanding our faculty and attracting the best students, but also working with the larger community to provide innovative and relevant programming.

**ENGAGING SCHOLARS AND STAKEHOLDERS**

**KSI MANUSCRIPT REVIEW**
The KSI created the manuscript review to support all USC faculty working on research related to Korea and to foster a culture of mentoring. Through a review seminar, which includes two invited external reviewers, as well as USC faculty and graduate students, authors actively engage in a collegial constructive review to devise strategies for strengthening their work.

**K-12 TEACHER EDUCATION ABOUT KOREA**
The USC Korean Studies Institute is deeply involved with informing K-12 educators about Korea and how Korean studies can be integrated into their curriculums. Twice a year, the KSI offers Korea Academy For Educators (KAFE) programs through lectures and workshops for more than 100 American teachers from 30 states.

**U.S.-KOREA RELATIONS**
Educating the world about Korea includes helping to shape public knowledge of and discussion about important issues in U.S.-Korea relations. KSI faculty and postdoctoral fellows are regular commentators in the media around the world, including making public appearances and writing opinion pieces.
"I owe what I am today to America. After contemplating how I could contribute to American society, I thought supporting USC’s Korean Studies Institute would be one way to give back."

Peter Y.S. Kim
Donor
Korea does not exist by itself, but instead is increasingly globalized and interconnected with the United States and other countries. Whether it is the threat from North Korea’s nuclear weapons program, Samsung or LG’s global business impact, or the popularity of Korean culture such as K-pop or Korean movies, Korea — and the large Korean diaspora — affects not only Koreans but also the U.S. and indeed the world.

Helping students and the larger community understand and address important and rapidly changing issues requires new thinking, deep scholarship and visionary investment. Already an established intellectual leader in Korean studies and an extraordinary locus of interdisciplinary scholarship, the USC Korean Studies Institute is ideally poised to have an even broader impact on research, teaching and outreach in the critical decades ahead. With your support the USC Korean Studies Institute can become a world leader in explaining Korea to the world.

Investment in the USC Korean Studies Institute could include:

**Endowing faculty chairs** to strengthen our expertise in the business, culture, religion, politics and history of Korea.

**Establishing new scholarships** for exceptional undergraduate and graduate students from diverse fields who seek to study with USC Korean Studies Institute faculty and use the Dosan Ahn Chang-ho Family House as an intellectual and social center in which to launch their own professional aspirations.

**Supporting pioneering research efforts** that address issues arising from the unification of the Korean peninsula; how Korean Americans understand and live in a Korea that is increasingly multicultural and globalized; and how best to manage the important Korea-U.S. relationship.

**Creating postdoctoral fellowships** that nurture the next generation of scholars who will teach and speak to important issues about Korea and Korean American relations.

**Developing community programs** that engage citizens from all areas and foster an understanding of Korea in the world, such as our K-12 teacher-training program.
“This is the Age of the Pacific. With the technology and innovation coming from Korea, it’s incredibly important to understand Korean culture and what influences people around the world.”

Jaime Lee ’06, JD ’09  
alumna and donor