OUR MISSION  EXPLAINING KOREA TO THE WORLD
OUR VISION  TO BE THE WORLD LEADER IN RESEARCH AND TEACHING ABOUT KOREA
Dear friends of the Korean Studies Institute:

For this year’s annual newsletter, we are going to focus on our students. In the four years I’ve been director of the USC Korean Studies Institute, we have rapidly expanded our interactions with students of all types – undergraduates, graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, and those in the community who simply wish to continue to learn about issues relating to Korea. We have created a vibrant community for Korean Studies here at USC, and we want to welcome all of you to participate as much as you can.

One of our major goals is to increase undergraduate research and study about Korea. Our signature program was the creation of “KSI Fellows,” which selects outstanding undergraduate students to spend a year working with the KSI. This year, we also began an annual USC-Michigan undergraduate research conference, with the USC Korean Studies Institute and the Nam Center for Korean Studies at the University of Michigan taking turns hosting undergraduates from the two schools who present their research. You can find detailed updates on these and other programs.

The number of USC Ph.D. students interested in Korea continues to grow, as well. The KSI has embraced these future scholars with a number of initiatives. We formally affiliate these students with the KSI through a “Graduate Student Affiliates” program; we have started a graduate student conference to help professionalize these students during their time at USC, and we are creating a vibrant student community that feels welcome at the KSI.

Finally, we are actively increasing our efforts in K-12 teacher training about Korea. We are exploring ways to increase our collaboration with the Korea Academy for Educators, a wonderful organization that provides a valuable service by helping train teachers about Korea and helping expose them to Korean ideas and issues.

This year we have many exciting events and programs planned, and we hope to see you at the Ahn House or an event very soon.

Sincerely,

David Kang
The USC Korean Studies Institute was deeply involved in the 2013 USC Global Conference, held in Seoul, Korea from May 23-25. From hosting a panel on K-Pop, to organizing a visit to the U.S. Ambassador’s residence in downtown Seoul, the Korean Studies Institute was proud to be helping connect USC to Korea.
The day before the conference, KSI Director David Kang used his friendship with Sung Kim, US Ambassador to the ROK, to organize a visit to the ambassador’s residence in downtown Seoul. Ambassador Kim hosted the group for a briefing about current issues in Korea and a general discussion about US-Korea relations. The USC group included Provost Beth Garrett, Dornsife College of Letters, Arts, and Sciences Dean Steven Kay, and Viterbi School of Engineering Dean Yannis Yortsos. Also attending were Sejong Society members John and Sue Lee and Patty Yoon, along with USC Alumni Board of Governors member Jaime Lee (JD’09), and KSI Associate Director Elaine Kim. The ambassador’s residence is a hidden gem, a traditional Korean house located directly behind Doksugung Palace.

The Korean Studies Institute also hosted a panel exploring the influence of K-pop and worldwide interest in Korean movies, music, and television dramas. The panel featured Kahi, one of Korea’s most successful entertainers; Bernie Cho, a music industry executive with experience at MTV Korea before starting his own company; and Youngmin Choe, USC EALC professor with expertise in Korean cinema and media. More than simply a celebration of Korea’s increasing global visibility, the panel also explored the difficulties the industry faces, and the stresses it puts upon entertainers.

The USC Global Conference was a wonderful success, and allowed the KSI to renew old friendships, meet new alumni and parents in Korea. KSI was able to showcase many of the activities that have made the USC Korean Studies Institute such a vibrant and growing element of USC’s continued academic rise.
Our USC Korean Studies Institute supporter’s group, the Sejong Society, has continued to grow and expand. The Sejong Society engages in numerous enjoyable activities. For example, this past year we began an annual football game tailgate, had a reception for movie director Choi Dong-hoon when he visited USC for the KSI Film Festival, and we held a special dinner at the University Club on campus. The Sejong Society also holds regular dinners and lunches with special guests such as Robert King, U.S. Special Envoy for North Korean Human Rights.

About the Sejong Society

King Sejong is best remembered for promoting scholarship and education for all the people of Korea and for encouraging research in Korea’s cultural, economic, and political heritage. Emulating his example to create new knowledge, the members of the Sejong Society support the advancement of the Institute’s mission and vision with an annual gift of $2,000 or more. For more information about how to join the Sejong Society, please contact KSI associate director Elaine Kim at elaineek@usc.dornsife.edu.
For the fifth year in a row, the USC Korean Studies Institute will host the next generation of Korean studies scholars. As part of the KSI’s overall goal of mentoring and teaching, the KSI brings together senior and junior scholars annually for a two-day mentoring and networking workshop. Our goal is to link the 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 difficult process of establishing themselves as leading scholars. This year we begin a collaboration with UCLA’s Center for Korean Studies for this important event. The conference will still be held at USC, but having UCLA as a partner gives us wider visibility and helps deepen our vibrant relationship with our neighboring institution.
A centerpiece of the Korean Studies Institute’s efforts to support all forms of research that deal with Korea and create a culture of mentoring at USC is the manuscript review. Any USC faculty members working on a book that deals with Korea in some way are eligible for possible support. Rather than simply requesting individual reviewers to provide comments on the work, the KSI organizes a review seminar in which two invited external reviewers, USC faculty and staff, and the author can all interact with each other and respond to each other’s comments in order to collectively devise strategies for strengthening the final text. As an endeavor in collegial constructive criticism, the review seminar represents the best of academic enterprises. The program thus encourages a culture of faculty mentoring and interaction, as well as professionalization of graduate students, by expecting them to participate actively in the review.

This past year, we hosted reviews for KSI postdoctoral fellows Jooyoung Lee and Hyun Seon Park. This year we will host Youngmin Choe (assistant professor, East Asian Language and Cultures) and Jungsil Jenny Lee (Korea Foundation and KSI postdoctoral fellow).
This year the KSI is pleased to welcome two young scholars to the institute. As part of a grant funded by the Academy of Korean Studies, USC brings in two postdoctoral fellows each year. The arrival of these young scholars will bring energy and new ideas, and increase the sense of community for Korean Studies here at USC.

Dr. Lyong Choi is a Ph. D of International History who studied at the London School of Economics and Political Science. Choi successfully defended his thesis, “The Foreign Policy of Park Chunghee, 1968-1979: South Korea between the Cold War and Detente” in September, 2012. He is a former graduate teaching assistant and the column contributor of LSE IDEAS, a center for the study of international affairs, diplomacy and grand strategy. Before joining KSI, he taught undergraduate and graduate students at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies and Pusan National University in 2013. His research interests have been focused on issues of Modern and Contemporary Korea, East Asia, North Korean refugee issues in Europe, and International Relations.

Dr. Park received her PhD in Sociology from Cornell University in 2013. Her dissertation explored 19th century treaties in Asia, Europe, and Latin America. Her article with Danielle Kane, “The Puzzle of Korean Christianity,” was published in the American Journal of Sociology and was named the co-winner for Best Article from the American Sociological Association’s Comparative Historical Sociology section. She earned a BA in Sociology and History (magna cum laude) from the University of Pennsylvania and an MA in Quantitative Methods in Social Sciences from Columbia University. Her research interests include law and society, globalization, diplomacy, and immigration.

As part of our attempt to more closely work with and engage USC undergraduates, our KSI Fellows program is designed to facilitate greater student interaction with the KSI. Each year we select a small group of outstanding USC undergraduates who help us organize events and activities throughout the year. Our KSI Fellows are outstanding USC students who bring unique qualifications and diverse perspectives on Korean studies to KSI. They perform research, assist with KSI programs, host distinguished visitors, and act as liaisons between the KSI and the USC student body. These students will also have the opportunity to attend some private events, such as a special dinner for distinguished guests, or lunch with a Korean film director. We have two types of KSI fellows: Regular Fellows and Research Fellows. Regular Fellows participate in normal activities in a fellowship designed for younger students or those simply interested in participating in Korean events. Research Fellows are those fellows who also have a research project underway at USC involving Korea in some fashion. Research Fellows engage in all the regular activities, but also have the option of attending selected research seminars by faculty or postdoctoral fellows designed to help them further their research, and are also eligible to present papers at the annual USC-Michigan undergraduate student conference on Korea. Students interested in applying to become a KSI Fellow should contact the KSI at ksi@dornsife.usc.edu.
The USC Korean Studies Institute actively promotes research and learning about Korea to USC students through an innovative conference that will feature undergraduate student research. In collaboration with the Sang-Yong Nam Center for Korean Studies at the University of Michigan, the USC Korean Studies Institute will host a two-day conference in February 2013. The conference will feature KSI Research Fellows, as well as students from the University of Michigan. The two centers will take turns hosting the conference and bringing together students to share their interest in Korea.

On February 22, 2013, the USC Korean Studies Institute hosted the first annual USC-Michigan conference. Featuring five undergraduate presentations by Michigan students, and four by KSI Fellows, the day-long conference culminated in a dinner at the Ahn House. The event was a rousing success, with spirited discussion about a diverse set of issues ranging from the role of women during the Japanese colonial era to changing informal Korean speech. Professor Nojin Kwak, director of the Nam Center for Korean Studies at the University of Michigan, summed up the event nicely when he commented that “the level of intellectual discussion spirited by respectful debate was truly impressive, at a graduate level for sure.”

GRADUATE STUDENTS

Graduate students whose research interests involve Korea may choose to affiliate with the KSI. GSAs are nominated by their faculty advisor, or in special circumstances may be nominated by the KSI director. GSAs are expected to actively participate in institute activities. Research stipends may be made available for GSAs on a competitive basis, amount determined annually.

2ND ANNUAL USC-MICHIGAN UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH CONFERENCE
co-hosted by the USC Korean Studies Institute and the Sang-Yong Nam Center for Korean Studies (University of Michigan)

Hosted by the University of Michigan, February 8, 2014

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2ND ANNUAL KSI GRADUATE STUDENT SYMPOSIUM, JANUARY 2014

The USC Korean Studies Institute organizes a graduate student symposium as part of our broader set of annual KSI events that puts special effort on the cultivation of young scholars of Korea and Asia, and the creation of a culture of mentoring among faculty and students here at USC. The annual graduate student symposium is organized by and focused on Ph.D. students who are affiliated with the KSI. The purpose is to professionalize graduate students, nurture their scholarship, have them actively participate in the organization and running of the symposium, and introduce them to other Ph.D. students from other universities in the area. Each year’s theme is designed to be broadly inclusive, we hope that graduate students from many disciplines and universities in Southern California will attend. Research papers on any part of East Asia will be considered, although particularly encouraged are research papers that include Korea in a larger comparative or theoretical framework.

Look for a formal call for papers and discussants in Fall ’13.

For further information about this year’s symposium, please contact co-organizers Tse-min Fu and Ming-min Yang, at tseminfu@usc.edu or mingminy@usc.edu.
SHOWCASING OUR STUDENTS

UNDERGRADUATES

CAROLINE KOO
(SENIOR, EALC/PHILOSOPHY, POLITICS, LAW)
One of the events I attended and helped with for the Korean Studies Institute this semester was the KSI Undergraduate Conference with University of Michigan. At this event, undergraduate students from USC and Michigan shared their respective research projects pertaining to Korean studies. It was an opportunity to meet students with similar interests in Korean studies from a university all the way on the other side of the country. From this event, I found that students can learn so much from one another by discussing our fields of interest, and students can do so even better when there is a common basis—in this case, Korean studies. It was an academically stimulating yet safe environment; any criticisms were constructive and highly supportive. I did not present a research paper, but participating in this event encouraged me to attempt working on one for the next conference. I think that actually attending the conference made me realize it was more fun than intimidating (as I had originally imagined it to be). Being an undergraduate KSI fellow has aided in broadening my understanding of not only contemporary and historical Korea but the United States from a global perspective while providing valuable experiences I do not think I would have been able to find with any other organization on campus.

JANET LEE
(CLASS OF 2013, BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES – GLOBAL MEDICINE, EAST ASIAN AREA STUDIES)
By being a KSI Fellow on the pre-medical track, I believe I have a unique and broader take on health and culture. Intellectually, studying various fields allows me to be both more accepting and critical of cross-disciplinary ideas. A good example of this was when I was invited to present my South Korean lung cancer mortality rate research paper at the annual USC -University of Michigan Korean Studies conference. The topics ranged from language to nuclear power to the internet. Yet, I was able to give and receive constructive criticism on the different topics due to my own knowledge base and past experiences abroad. The ability to have intellectual discourse on a variety of subjects is crucial in the ever-more globalized society. No matter what field I enter, I know that having a breadth of knowledge and being able to effectively communicate it to others will be essential.

Ph. D GRADUATE STUDENT PROJECTS

CAROLYN CHOI
(SOCIOLOGY) “POPPING THE STUDY ABROAD BUBBLE: A COMPARATIVE STUDY OF SOUTH KOREAN EDUCATIONAL MIGRANTS IN MANILA AND LOS ANGELES”
South Korea’s latest “study abroad bubble” has seen a rising number of South Koreans venturing abroad to acquire English language skills. My research compares the motivations and experiences of South Koreans studying abroad in the developing city of Manila and the developed city of Los Angeles. Specifically, I ask: What are the factors that lead some to study in a poorer country rather than a wealthier one? What are the labor and leisure practices of Koreans in developed and developing destinations? In doing this research, I employ both ethnographic and interview methods to understand the differences in the migratory experience at each destination as well as the breakdown across class and gender lines.

CHAD WALKER
(EALC) “ANALYZING KOREAN LANGUAGE USAGE”
The goals of my fieldwork are twofold: 1) to determine whether a Korean learner’s native language (linguistic factors) and socio-cultural background (non-linguistic factors) influence the use of Korean evidential markers (e.g., -telia) when recounting hearsay or past events 1) in Korean conversation, and, if so, 2) to suggest more effective strategies for teaching Korean evidentials to Korean learners so that they can use them in situations that are socio-culturally appropriate in various Korean discourse contexts. My hypothesis is that Korean learners will exhibit different (less frequent) use of Korean evidential markers compared with native Korean speakers.

CRYSTAL BAIK
(AMERICAN STUDIES) “THE AFTERLIFE OF THE COLD WAR & KOREAN DIASPORIC MEMORYSCAPE”
My summer fieldwork research primarily focused on site visits to memorials, monuments and museums associated with Korean “comfort women” and the post-1945 history of Cheju-do. During my three week stay in South Korea, I conducted open ended interviews with key academics, artists, activists and filmmakers who are reputable in the interrelated fields of modern Korean history, Japanese imperialism and Cold War politics.
KSI FACULTY AND STUDENTS WIN AWARDS

Two graduated KSI Fellows have won distinguished awards in conjunction with research they presented at last spring’s USC-Michigan Undergraduate Conference.

• **Andrew Ju** has been awarded a Fulbright fellowship and will study Korea’s nuclear energy industry while living in Korea for 10 months.

• **Janet Lee** was 1 of 10 students to win the USC Provost’s Global Scholar Prize which contributes $10,000 toward graduate education.

• **KSI Core faculty member, Professor Jacques Hymans** won the 2013 Don K. Price Award from the American Political Science Association for his book *Achieving Nuclear Ambitions: Scientists, Politicians, and Proliferation*, for being the best book on science, technology, and politics published in the past three years.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

KSI PROMOTES K-12 CALIFORNIA TEACHER TRAINING ABOUT KOREA

Korea Academy For Educators (KAFE) is the only national organization that helps K-12 educators learn about Korean history and culture. The USC Korean Studies Institute has expanded its involvement with KAFE and is actively seeking to further our relationship with them. For the past four years, KSI Director David Kang has lectured at their events, and the KSI helped organize a fundraising dinner for KAFE last year. This year we are hosting a number of teacher training events at the KSI, and hope to make our relationship permanent in the coming year.

a) USC Hanuelori instructor Dae Seung Kang and Hyun Sook Lee kick-off KAFE’s summer program with traditional Korean drumming and dance

b) KAFE Executive Director Helie Lee (R) with teachers from Connecticut at the Ahn House