GREETINGS FROM THE CHAIR AND PRESIDENT

As we look forward to another spring of gentler winds and milder temperatures, we want to thank you, our amazing supporters, for your generous contributions and continued support. Despite the many challenges of running a non-profit organization seeking to reach a global audience, we remain resolved to work further our mission every day and are pleased to report to you on recent accomplishments and upcoming events.

In February, the ERI Board was pleased to welcome Dr. Abraham Kim, Executive Director of the Council of Korean Americans (CKA), to New Haven. Several members of our Board had the opportunity to brainstorm with Dr. Kim about potential ways to collaborate. We are looking forward to continuing our dialogue with Dr. Kim and the CKA Board in the coming months.

ERI Board members Charles Smith and Christine Stopka joined Dr. Chang Hoon Ko and Dr. AeDuck Im of Jeju, and Mr. Michael Rambarose, CEO of our institutional partner the Whitney Center, at the Jeju Peace conference. It is gratifying that ERI’s decade-long Cross-Cultural Aging initiative (CCAI) with the Whitney Center, Yale and universities in Korea, and leading elder care organizations including Leading Age and the former IAHSA over has resulted in the expansion of the Global Ageing Network to Korea. This trip to Korea was made successful with the help by two long time ERI supporters, Dr. Yonggoo Kim and Ms. Youngae Kim.

We wish to congratulate four New Haven high school teachers and past attendees of ERI’s Annual Teach Korea Teacher’s Institute (now in its 12th year) – Maxwell Commando, Robert Rhone, Christopher Brennan, and ERI Board Member Robert Osborne - who introduced their newly developed “Power of Korean culture” curriculum to the New Haven World Civilization elective course.

It also gives us great pleasure to announce accomplishments of the ERI family. We are extremely proud of the Chair of ERI's Friends and Supporters in Korea, Dr. Wan Kyu Cho, who received the highest distinction for scientists from the Republic of Korea. Dr. Cho graciously met with our ERI board delegates during their trip to Korea this past year.

We also wholeheartedly welcome Prof. Hwansoo Kim to New Haven and Yale University. Dr. Kim is a leader in the area of Korean Buddhism and is the new leader of the Korean Studies Program at Yale. We look forward to working together in the future.

Finally, we are glad to renew friendships with ERI supporters and alumni in Connecticut, Philadelphia, and Washington, DC, by virtue of the numerous awards our Chair has received in the past year (please read on for more details).

We seek continued advice, encouragement and support from you. Please join us again!

Hesung Chun Koh and Christopher Park

ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 1, 2019: 12th Annual Teacher’s Conference on Korean Culture
This one-day workshop for educators will introduce participants to the political, social, and cultural forces that have shaped the changing roles of women in Korean society at Henry R. Luce Hall, Yale University.
More information on page 2.

April 26, 2019: Celebrate Korean Its Culture, Art and Cuisine
This Korean dinner and RISE team musical will be served to enhance cultural competency through Korean food, art and culture.

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BRIDGING CULTURES: KOREA, U.S. AND BEYOND
CELEBRATE KOREA! ITS CULTURE, ART AND CUISINE

Apr. 26 (Fri), 2019
5:00 pm
Whitney Center Cultural Arts Center
200 Leeder Hill Dr., Hamden, CT 06517

Purpose of this event is to enhance cultural competency through Korean food, art and culture. Sponsoring organization: East Rock Institute, Whitney Center, faculty members of Yale University, Jeju National University which focused on “World Peace through Korean Culture education, GAN-Korea, KMD globalization, the Korean American Society of Connecticut and CT Korean School.

Fee: $30 (R.S.V.P required)
Korean dinner will be served. Branksome Hall Asia Musical RISE Team will perform musical: A story of a woman.

THE 12TH ANNUAL TEACH KOREA CORPS (TKC) TEACHERS

May 1 (Wed), 2019
8:00 am—5:30 pm
Henry R. Luce Hall, Yale University
34 Hillhouse Ave, New Haven, CT

This one-day workshop for educators will introduce participants to the political, social, and cultural forces that have shaped the changing roles of women in Korean society, from ancient to current times. We will consider the social, religious, legal, and individual notions of womanhood throughout Korean history, and in doing so, introduce participants to the broader issues that have influenced Korean society throughout history. Such a discussion is also intended to spark a broader discussion about how similar forces have, or have not, shaped the status of women in other cultures.

This workshop is made possible with generous support from the Overseas Koreans Foundation as well as from the Yale Council on East Asian Studies.

LUNCHEON MEETING

WITH DR. ABRAHAM KIM, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE COUNCIL OF KOREAN AMERICANS

Dr. Abraham Kim, Executive Director of the Council of Korean Americans (CKA), visited Whitney Center, Hamden, CT, and joined ERI board members for a luncheon meeting on February 16, 2019, to discuss potential future partnerships between ERI and CKA. President Dr. Christopher Park and Chair Dr. Hesung Chun Koh shared the goals and mission of ERI and discussed its ongoing educational, cultural and social projects.

Dr. Hesung Chun Koh (left) explains ERI’s publications and projects to Dr. Abraham Kim (right). 

Attended by (L. to R.) Dr. Soyon Kim. Charles Smith. Dr. Heseung A. Song. Dr. Christopher Park. Dr. Hesung Chun Koh. Dr. Abraham Kim and Rev. Dr. Christine Stopka (Photo credit by Dr. Kyung Seo Park).
CONGRATULATIONS TO DR. WAN KYU CHO
For being one of the most outstanding Korean scientists

Dr. Wan Kyu Cho. Chair of the Friends and Supporters of ERI in Korea, former Minister of Education of the Republic of Korea, and Past President of Seoul National University, received the Outstanding Korean Scientist award from the Korean government to celebrate the 51st Science Day and the 63rd Information and Communication Day. This award recognizes his contributions to the promotion of science, technology, and the advancement of information and communication technology.

Photo credit: The Korean Academy of Science Technology

ERI IN PHILADELPHIA
Reception and board meeting at Penn Asian Senior Services (PASSi)

Several board members, including Chair Hesung Chun Koh, President Christopher Park, Secretary Charles Smith and Directors Heseung Song, Imja Choi and Christine Stopka traveled to Philadelphia for our October 13 reception at PASSi and ERI board meeting.

We are very grateful to Imja Choi, M.S., ERI Director and Chair, Development Committee, and Founder and CEO of Penn Asian Senior Services, and her staff, for hosting the activities of the day. The reception agenda included welcoming remarks by Director Choi and Chair Koh, an overview of ERI activities and plans by President Park, and further remarks by Chair Koh. An award was presented to Christine Seo for her contributions as a past ERI board member. Everyone was invited on a tour of the impressive facilities at PASSi. Guests in attendance included Dr. Youngmoo Kim, EXCITE Center, Drexel University, Michael Choo, Susanna Song, Dr. Ron Carnemolla, Myriam Siftar, and Min Seo, cousin and guest of Christine Seo.

Presenting “Diversity” art by Dr. Koh as gift to Imja Choi, the luncheon host.

Leaders of Philadelphia and ERI board members.

Passi mural and Charles M. Smith, Imja Choi with Hesung Chun Koh.
International Conference

World Peace through Cultural Education: Conference and the Global Ageing Network (GAN): A collaborative project with Jeju held at Whitney Center (April 18, 2018).

Participants included 14 delegates from Jeju and led by Professor Chang Hoon Ko and Dr. AeDuck Im of Jeju National University, as well as Dr. Yoshida Kunihiko, Professor, Hokkaido University Law School. Several ERI board members, Whitney Center Board Members, New Haven School teachers and New Haven Peace Council members, including friends of ERI from Connecticut were also in attendance.

Publication

High school curriculum book developed in 2017 as part of our collaboration and teacher exchange program with Jeju, Korea, this book was adopted for use in the New Haven School District in April 2018.

Contributors

Hesung Chun Koh, Ph.D.
Christopher Y. Park, M.D., Ph.D.
Peter Herndon, M.A.T.
Robert Osborne, M.A.
Maxwell Commando, M.S.Ed.
Christopher Brennan, M.A.
Robert Rhone, M.A.

Edited by:
Hesung Chun Koh, Ph.D.
Peter Herndon, M.A.T.
Cynthia Armijo
JEJU PEACE CONFERENCE IN KOREA

ERI Board Members Mr. Charles Smith and Rev. Dr. Christine Stopka visited Korea and met with supporters and collaborating organizations in Seoul prior to attending the Jeju Peace Forum as representatives of ERI’s Cross Cultural Ageing Initiative in June 2018. ERI’s collective efforts over the past decade have resulted in the development of the Global Ageing Network in Korea. Ms. Youngaiie Kim, ERI Korea protocol officer, accompanied Charley and Christine during their trip. (Photos courtesy of Charles Smith)

(Left) Meeting with Dr. Wan Kyu Cho, Chair of the Friends of ERI in Korea, former Minister of Education of the Republic of Korea, and Past President of Seoul National University.

With Mr. Haelyung Hwang (ERI Alumnus), President, Yale Club of Seoul.

With the Director and Senior Curator Yon-Hak Jung (far left) of the Korean National Folk Museum.

Meeting Mr. Kwangsoo Han of the Overseas Koreans Foundation.

(Continues on page 6)
Meeting with President Suk Un Song of Jeju National University.

3 US delegates at the Kim Manduk Museum, Jeju, with its Director. ERI Chair, Dr. Hesung Chun Koh, was the Kim Manduk awardee of 2017.

ERI REPRESENTED BY DR. SOYON KIM TO JEJU

Drs. Hesung Chun Koh and Soyon Kim presented “Power of Culture in Aging and Healing: Lessons from East Rock Institute” at the 18th Peace Island Forum Joint Conference that was hosted by the 6 Party Talks Plus Culture Forum (6+1), Peace Education and Social Healing in the Asia Pacific Context, cohosted by World Environment Island Institute, Jeju National University, World Association for Island Studies, 6 Party Talks Plus Culture Forum Committee, and the Global Ageing Network-Korea Committee in December 2018.

(Left) ERI scholars also visited Dr. Won-Kyu Cho at the International Vaccine Institute (IVI) located in Rak-song-Dae, Seoul National University campus area for New Year’s greeting on January 6, 2019. Dr. Seong Lee (Center for Neuro regeneration research at Yale), Dr. Younggu Kim, Dr. Won-Kyu Cho and Dr. Soyon Kim.

With other local participants, teachers and public school administrators in Korea.
JEJU FORUM FOR PEACE AND PROSPERITY

(Left) Group photo of participants in 2018, (right front) Prof. Chang Hoon Ko (Director of World Environment and Island Institute; center), with Prof. AeDuck Im (President of GAN-Korea; second from left), Mr. Michael Rambarose (CEO, Whitney Center; second from right), and ERI Board members Mr. Charles Smith and Rev. Dr. Christine Stopka.


(Left) Mr. Michael Rambarose (center), Whitney Center CEO, was a speaker at the Global Ageing Network Conference. Mr. Charles M. Smith (left) and Rev. Dr. Christine Stopka (right) represented ERI at the Jeju Peace Conference.

At the Aesuhwon Center, Jeju, with Dr. AeDuck Im. Founder and Director, to celebrate Tol, 1-year birthday party for babies of single mothers.

DR. HESUNG CHUN KOH - KEYNOTE SPEAKER
For the Korean American Society of Connecticut

The grand opening of the Korean American Society of Connecticut’s new office at 2073 State Street, Hamden, CT took place on June 16, 2018 on its 60th birthday celebration.

Heartfelt Congratulations and Best Wishes!

Keynote speaker, Dr. Hesung Chun Koh (ERI Co founder and Chair), has been its member since 1961 and Board member since 1989 to date. Late Dr. Kwang Lim Koh, Founder of ERI served the society as its 7th president (1963-64) and board member for twenty four years.

Photo credit by Jean Tuve
ERI FOUNDERS INDUCTED
Into the 2018 Immigrant Heritage Hall of Fame

The Koh family was inducted as the first Asian American family to the Immigrant Heritage Hall of Fame on September 27, 2018. “for their monumental contributions in the fields of international relations, health and human rights since moving to New Haven in CT.”

Prof. Harold Hongju Koh, Sterling Professor of International Law and former Dean of Yale Law School, and former Legal Adviser and Assistant Secretary for Human Rights at the U.S. Department of State, served as the keynote speaker at the IHHF ceremony. (The photo is of the late Dr. Kwang Lim Koh, ERI co-founder and posthumous awardee).

40 Koh family, friends from CT, Whitney Center, Yale Law School, Central CT State University, FSUMC and ERI Board members attended.
LIFETIME ACHIEVEMENT AWARD
To Dr. Hesung Koh from the Council of Korean Americans

When introducing her to the stage, Howard K. Koh, Dr. Koh’s eldest son and current Harvey V. Fineberg Professor of the Practice of Public Health Leadership at the Harvard T. H. Chan School of Public Health and the Harvard Kennedy School, offered two more apt award names: the “Many Lifetimes Lived in One Life Award” and the “How Many Lives Can One Human Being Possibly Live in One Lifetime Award.”

He then went on to describe all of his mother’s incredible achievements as a pioneering scholar, world-class painter, and cultural ambassador who has literally redefined the Korean American experience for us all.

It was even more perfect that Dr. Hesung Chun Koh—matriarch to six children, eleven grandchildren, seven great grandchildren and two Senate confirmed appointees—was then led onto the stage in our nation’s capital by her grandson, Dan Koh, last year’s primary candidate for the Massachusetts 3rd Congressional District.

But true to form, it would be Dr. Koh’s own words that would continue to resonate through the following day’s packed schedule of presentations and panel discussions.

The oft-repeated reminder from rising Korean American leaders was Dr. Koh’s wise words about the time-tested ideas of authentic leadership: “Never let your skill exceed your virtue. What must remain superior to our talents is our compassion, humanity and honor.” And with these words, Dr. Koh once again demonstrated how she continues to lead and embody ERI’s mission to humbly teach, learn, and serve empowering greater cross-cultural understanding in the world.

By Heseung Song, Ed.D. (ERI trustee who got to accompany Dr. Koh to the CKA celebrations)
Yale Class Visit to ERI

As the culmination to the 2018 fall course Religion and Culture in Korea of Professor Hwansoo Kim, I alongside with twenty of my Yale peers joined ERI director Dr. Koh for Korean culture, the Asian-American identity, and the state of East Asian Studies in America on December 3, 2018. Discussion of a changing Korea ultimately emphasized the importance of self-cultivation, community support, and leadership development skills and tasks that Dr. Koh has brought to made central to ERI. It was enlightening to hear her perspective on harnessing identity, individual or cultural, to create success. Visiting the center was an absolute joy—Dr. Koh is a precious resource to the New Haven community.

By Dale MacLean, Yale Class of 2020

ERI/Yale Alumni News

Dr. Hesung Chun Koh’s Visit with Father Paul D. Lee (Shrine of St. Jude Catholic Church, MD)


(Right) Paul Kyumin Lee (Yale class of 2018) had dinner with Father Paul Lee in Maryland and really enjoyed meeting him. Kyumin said, “Father Paul is quite impressive and wonderful, and I want to thank Dr. Koh for making that connection.”

(L. to R.) Haesoon Hahn, Dr. Hesung Chun Koh and Father Paul D. Lee.
ERI/YALE ALUMNI NEWS

ERI/Yale alumna, Eunju Namkung received Public Relations Society of America Award

We are proud to announce that a friend of the ERI community, Eunju Namkung, was the recipient of two Public Relations Society of America (PRSA) awards for her work at the American Benefits Council (the Council) on October 18, 2018. The PRSA National Capital Chapter held its annual Thoth Awards event at the National Press Club in Washington, DC. The Council won the top award for Events and Occasions Lasting More than One Week for the year-long recognition and celebration of its 50th anniversary. Separately, the Council won for Nonprofit Communications Team of the Year (Jason Hammersla, Vice President, Communications, and Eunju Namkung, Manager, Communications & Social Media) for their efforts related to the Council’s 50th anniversary activities in 2017. Namkung spearheaded the award application committee for the Council.

ERI New Year’s Celebration

On Saturday, January 5 2019, three generations of ERI friends and board members ushered in the new year by celebrating with each other at ERI's New Haven office on Dwight Street.

Attendees included ERI Chair Hesung Chun Koh, President Christopher Park, his wife Bomin and their daughter, Madeleine. Charles Riley. Prof. Albert and Delphine Ko, the Rev. Byunghoon Kim. Mrs. Hyosun Park and her children, ERI Director of Administration, Eunyoung Jang and her children, Prof. Hwansoo Kim and his daughter, Secretary Charles Smith. Wanda Harris. Director Christine Stopka and her husband Walter and their daughter, Colette, Doug Black, and Director Sandy Wirth. Everyone enjoyed spending time together and playing the Korean traditional board game Yut Nori.

We are extremely grateful to ERI Director of Administration Eunyoung Jang, Hyosun Park and Dr. Koh for their planning and coordination of this annual intergenerational celebration!
Thanks for your generous support, ERI has been able to pursue its goal of cultural exchange between the U.S. Korea and the world.

Sponsoring Organizations
Overseas Koreans Foundation
Community Foundation for Greater New Haven
Changwon City
Changwon National University
Geochang Province
Sejong Library of Korea
The Mighty Engine
Whitney Center
Jeju National University WEEI
Penn Asian Senior Services

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Hahn, Haesoon
Hwang, Haelyung
Im, AeDuck

Please join the ERI Endowment Fund
You and your family can either establish your own named endowment fund for East Rock Institute or add to existing funds. The Kwang Lim Koh and Hesung Chun Koh Family Fund and Dr. Chuwon Kim Family Fund were established to support ERI at the Community Foundation for Greater New Haven (CFGNH) in 2009.

Established in 1928, the CFGNH is the largest philanthropic institution in its region and one of the largest in the United States. Contributors to the ERI Endowment Fund can be assured that the foundation has the experience and expertise to manage the assets prudently for long-term growth.

Please contact ERI (eastrock3@gmail.com) or the Community Foundation (www.cfgnh.org) for more information.