As we greet 2020, we at ERI wish to send you our sincere appreciation for the various ways you have demonstrated your interest in and support for our mission to promote cultural understanding between the United States, Korea and beyond.

In this newsletter, we are delighted to share the highlights of our gratifying experiences over the past year, along with stories from visitors, and updates on the international collaborations that continue to bless us.

May I first share with you how meaningful it is to me, personally, to see how ERI’s work over the decades has continued to address the changing needs of multicultural society around the following three questions, each of which was challenging but relevant and significant in my own life:

1. Why are college students in leadership roles at ERI annual Korean American conference instead of the first generation adults?

In the 1970s, the longest run intergenerational conferences of Korean and Korean Americans for nearly 30 years had been organized by my late husband, Dr. Kwang Lim Koh, the founder of ERI and me, with the help of our American born children. At that time, many people raised two questions: “Why are you using English to conduct a Korean conference? Why are younger generation college students Session chairs and not the first generation adults?” Young leaders were first invited to moderate the students’ sessions and then a few years later were running the Conference as chairs. We at ERI have always insisted on the importance of collaboration with younger generation and on providing leadership opportunities for Korean Americans. Conferences in English improve cross-generational communication and collaboration.

2. Why does ERI work on the aging care issues instead of focusing on life of youth?

In 2007, I moved into Whitney Center, a superior continuous care retirement community near Yale University. I was asked to teach at the Institute for Learning in Retirement (ILR) upon my arrival. As the chair of the ERI board, I invited the incoming President of ERI, Dr. Christopher Park, to co-teach one seminar, and then launched over 30 cultural programs enhancing cultural competency among seniors and aging care research programs. I first published a book (“the meaningful aging” in Korean) which includes inspirational stories of retired seniors and the holistic wellness programs for seniors and aging care at the Whitney Center.

(Continues on page 3)
Findings:

Given the short time frame of the workshop, these theories, methods, and findings were only outlined, with the expectation that they will be further developed and applied by the participants through future events, research and discussions. The participants left with in-depth resources and new connections with colleagues that they can use as a basis for further exploration, study, discussion, and collaboration. Many have already expressed interest in future seminars to build on and deepen the concepts and themes in this introductory seminar.

Contributors:

Hesung Chun Koh, Heseung Song, Leah Stambler, Meera Choi, Terri Stangl, Christine YangHee Stopka, Kun-Yong Kim, Kyung Seo Park, Hyosun Park, Chi-Ann Lin

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In 2009, ERI, the Whitney Center, Yale School of Nursing, and Sungshin University in Korea signed a memorandum of understanding for the international collaborative project called Cross-cultural Ageing Initiative (CCAI). The aim was to promote exchange and cooperation between U.S. and Korean aging care professionals, policy makers and educators. With a Korean professor of public policy interested in Korean students’ leadership training as my key collaborator, we brought together University presidents, the mayor of a prosperous South Korean city, the governor of a Korean province, faculty members of Yale medical school, and leaders of an American and international association of aging care professionals, LeadingAge and Global Ageing Network (formerly IAHSA).

After organizing several international aging conferences, both in the U.S. and Korea, and with collaboration from Jeju National University, we are very happy and proud to announce two new developments: first, the Global Ageing Network-Korea has been established in Jeju, the historical longevity island of Korea, as the sequel to our CCAI program. Second, it was announced that on September 4-8, 2021, the GAN international conference will be held in Seoul and Jeju. ERI is helping to work on this conference in Korea.

3. Why doesn’t ERI conclude its international collaborations and concentrate only on Koreans in the United States?

When I launched the first Korean diaspora journal in 1984, called Korean and Korean American Studies Bulletin, I was often asked, “Why not just Korean Studies or Korean American studies?” Such interdisciplinary and intercultural approaches were considered strange, impractical and complex at a time when Korean and Korean-American studies were treated as distinct and separate, consistent with the widespread view that academics should be specialized. Nonetheless, ERI has chosen to serve all people related to Korea by birth, adoption, marriage and by choice, and that mission has influenced our approach to many issues.

Since its inception in 1952, ERI has been at the forefront of building bridges between cultures, generations and genders. We collaborate widely with leaders and partners in North America, as well as with Korea, Japan, China and diaspora Koreans. I strongly believe that ERI is the oldest and longest running non-profit organization bridging cultural understanding between the US and Korea. These connections and conversations continue to be fruitful, and my Authentic Leadership™ framework incorporates many of the lessons that I have gained from this multi-dimensional and syncretic approach.

It appears that ERI’s efforts to address these three questions and challenges is influencing a new generation of educators and leaders. Over the past decade we enjoyed a growing number of visits from midlife leaders who are seeking the kind of nuanced and complex perspectives and solutions that cross-cultural and cross-generation inquiry inspires. Perhaps ERI’s integrated approach to the power of culture in human development and in achieving personal life satisfaction is now being recognized as highly relevant to our rapidly globalizing world.

In 2019 ERI celebrated our accomplishments and our alliances. We held the 12th Annual Teacher’s Conference at Yale in December, on the theme “What we can Learn from Korean and Korean-American Women: Lessons for a Globalizing World and the #MeToo Generation.” This event brought together a unique and diverse group of leaders and educators, many of whom are talking now with ERI about how to utilize and build on the research and teaching materials, as well as the conference experience. We also celebrated our partnership with the Whitney Center to form Global Aging Network and enjoyed many special visits.

In 2020 we anticipate more meetings to build on what we accomplished this past year. In April we look forward to a visit of Jeju collaborators related to our Aging work. We also are planning another conference with the theme, “A New Look at Korean Women’s Legacy and Gender Lessons for Contemporary Society.” It will build on the leadership concept and comparative cultural research methods we introduced in 2019 concerning Korean women and gender roles. It will also utilize relevant resources and materials from the Koh/ERI library and archives, and invite continued discussion among contemporary leaders and educators.

I also will be continuing my work organizing the Koh Family/ERI unique archives on Koreans and Korean Americans, this resource includes a cross-cultural comparison between the women of Korea and women of other East Asian countries, as viewed through components of Korean culture, e.g. clothing, foods, literature, art, family, kinship, social structure, law and cultural values. As Korean arts, politics, and culture are gaining greater recognition and appreciation on the world stage, it is exciting that ERI has many cultural and historical resources that can be used to build a deeper and balanced understanding of Korean culture, past and present.

We always love to hear from you, our valued friends and supporters, about how ERI’s programs and resources are relevant to you, and to explore new ways that our archives and expertise can support you. We look forward to another fruitful year of collaboration and conversation.

Hesung Chun Koh, Ph.D. The ERI Chair
A dynamic and active exchange of information, ideas and insights were shared among a select group of leaders and educators from a wide variety of specializations and professional fields.

The 12th Annual ERI Teach Korea Corps on Korean and Korean American women and Gender roles was attended by a small group, but attendees had an almost ideal balance of perspectives from both from Korean, Korean American and American cultures.

This workshop aimed to explore, to enlighten and to provide new insights related to Korean cultural values, balanced with a new understanding of Korean women’s role, status and contributions. Contrary to many negative and subordinated stereotypes about Korean women’s life, we looked into inspiring stories of Korean and Korean women with the Koh’s Authentic leadership™ framework to show that some Korean women can be role models for 21st century leaders anywhere in the world. Korea’s indigenous customs of kin distance reckoning system, which does not differentiate gender but only generations, the rule of residence after the marriage, wedding ceremonies and inheritance system show Korean women historically fared better than their sisters in China and Japan. A conclusion was that behind accomplished Korean women were men, be they their father, brother, lover, sons, husband. Thus we need to recognize the importance of networking across gender and generation to bring about changes in the current gender role dynamics.

December 7, 2019 East Rock Institute Leaders and Educators conference at Yale Campus

Supported by Overseas Korean Foundation, Yale Graduate and Professional Students Association and Mighty Engine

Ms. Julia Kim from Canada and Dr. Heseung Song from PA

Mr. Charles Smith, ERI Board of Director
**A RENEWED AND FRUITFUL COLLABORATION AFTER 40 YEARS**

When I was an undergraduate student at Yale back in the late 70’s, I had the privilege of taking a seminar taught by Dr. Koh on Culture, Gender, and Class. Dr. Koh’s nuanced and respectful views on these issues were inspiring to me. I was thrilled when she invited me to help her with a paper for the Human Relations Area Files which examined how low-income women in several cultures (including Korea) rely upon familial and community networks to improve their economic circumstances. This project was one of several factors that influenced me to pursue a career in Poverty Law in Michigan. The organization that I founded in 1996, the Center for Civil Justice, addressed many legal and policy issues, including improving governmental programs and services so they were more culturally sensitive and accessible to immigrants.

After I retired from practicing law, I relocated to Connecticut. I was delighted to discover that Dr. Koh is still very active in educating professionals and leaders about the value of a cross-cultural and syncretic perspective. I can see how her vision for ERI benefits from her unique insights and experiences as a Korean researcher, educator, wife, and mother living and raising a family in America.

At the most recent Teach Korea Corps workshop, Dr. Koh and I were once again able to collaborate. I was invited to present a short summary of our paper to generate discussion on how Korean women and indeed women in many cultures use different kinds of networks to exert influence and succeed financially. The TKC workshop provided participants with fascinating stories about the impact of Korean women in history, and the lessons from Korea that are reflected in Dr. Hesung Koh’s model of Authentic Leadership. Dr. Koh and I are continuing to work together on finalizing the summary and report from that workshop. (Article by Atty. Terri Stangl)

**CONFERENCE PLANNING AT ERI**

Hyun Jae Jung, President of Yale Korean Graduate Student Association (Yale Department of Architecture) and ERI staff Planning meeting of 12th ERI annual Teacher’s Conference.

(R. to L.) Dr. Kyung Seo Park, Managing Director, (Environmental Scientist), Hyun Jae Jung, Hyosun Park, ERI Research Fellow (Education) and Dr. Hesung C. Koh, ERI Chair.
On October 30, 2019, Dr. Robert LaCamera, who served as the Vice President of East Rock Institute for nearly 30 years since 1986 was recognized as the first Director's Emeritus of the ACES Education Foundation Board.

ACES is Area Cooperative Educational Services. ACES is dedicated to better service toward its community and is exemplified by the wide array of services and programs offered. These include adult and vocational programs, inter-district programs, Open and Magnet School Parent Choice programs, Minority Teacher Recruitment initiatives, behavior services for individuals on the autism spectrum, occupational/physical therapy, professional development, and technology services.

Dr. LaCamera has been a member since its beginning. He is the first to be awarded this honor. Several Board members including Peter Young, Judy Terrill, Tom Danehy, the current Executive Director of ACES and the President of the Foundation; and Cheryl Saloom, Founder of the Foundation and past Executive Director, sought to present this honor at Dr. LaCamera’s Whitney Center residence during an intimate setting of family and close friends.

To KAAGNY and its incoming president leading the community of estimated half million Korean diasporas in the greater New York Community.

As a longtime friend of both KAAGNY and Atty. Charles Yoon, ERI sends heartfelt Congratulations for their transition of leadership from the first generation to the 1.5 generation Korean Americans and successfully bridging culture and generations.

It was a privilege and pleasure to reunite with Mr. Jong Moo Cho, an eminent journalist/historian of Korean Diasporas. And other leaders of the Korean American community of the Greater New York Area.
CELEBRATING DR. KOH’S 6 DECADES VOlUNTEER WORKS

Cross-Cultural Ageing Initiative (CCAI) to Global Ageing Network-Korea (K-GAN)

CCAI was initiated by ERI chair Dr. Hesung Koh in 2009 with Whitney Center, Yale University School of Nursing and Sungshin University. It continued over the past 12 years, holding several international conferences both in Korea and in the United States involving wide range of policy makers, practitioners, scholars, and health professionals, University President, Mayor and the governor of Changwon, and leaders of national and international aging care organizations such as Leading Age and Global Ageing Network. CCAI contributed to the founding the GAN-Korea in 2018. Dr. Ae Duck Im and Professor Changhoon Ko are two dynamic leaders in Jeju of this project. We are proud to report that in September 2019, Global Ageing Network Toronto meeting announced the 2021 September Global Ageing Network International Conference will be held in Seoul and Jeju, Korea. Jeju is historically known as a longevity island and will be a unique place to provide time tested wisdom for aging care not to mention the world class level of convention facilities to take full advantage of its natural beauty. Thank you to so many who tirelessly worked for CCAI including Prof. Jungki Kim of Changwon National University who worked closely with Dr. Koh during his sabbatical year at Yale and ERI as Visiting scholar and Professor Changhoon Ko and Dr. AeDuck Im of Jeju National University who made numerous visit to ERI and Whitney Center to work closely on this program for the past few years. Drs. Im and Ko are the organizers of 2021 GAN international conference in Seoul and Jeju, Korea.
Dr. Hesung Chun Koh created an authentic Korean luncheon as her special thank you to both administrative staff, managers and residents of Whitney Center and the board members and staff of East Rock Institute, for their 12 years of unwavering cooperation, leading to the development of the Global Ageing Network - Korea. This festive party was held at her Whitney Center home on Thursday, Sep. 26th, 2019. The window and interior design by Hesung Koh are intended to recreate her prior home within a retirement community. Cultural competency enhancement and bringing home likeness to retirement community has been the heart of Hesung Koh’s cultural and education programs for the past 12 years since she moved into Whitney Center in 2007.
HAPPY 90TH BIRTHDAY, DR. HESUNG CHUN KOH!

Celebration hosted by ERI President

Dr. Christopher Park, President of ERI, his wife Mrs. Bomin Kim Park and their daughter Madeline hosted this intimate 90th birthday party for Dr. Hesung Chun Koh in July 2019.

Some of the board members, ERI staff members and their children provided a memorable event. Little girls quickly bonded together and Yang and Kim family children provided joyous musical programs and presented congratulatory poetry.

Dr. Koh was particularly pleased with the intergenerational celebration! Dr. Koh’s life time work on intergenerational cooperation were held in many different ways through ERI annual conferences, retreats and intimate parties.
HAPPY REUNION WITH ERI/YALE ALUMNI

From Japan
RETURN VISIT TO ERI BY JAPANESE SCHOLAR COUPLE AFTER 20 YEARS!

Whitney Center, Saturday August 10, 2019

Welcome dinner hosted by Drs. Koh and LaCamera at Whitney Center for ERI

(L.to R.) Dr. Robert G LaCamera, Ms Patricia LaCamera, Prof. Yoshiyuki Takeuchi, Dr. Hesung C. Koh, Prof. Izumi Mitsui and Mrs. Shirley Dobihal

On Saturday August 10, 2019, a reunion and publication celebration of ERI and New Haven colleagues and friends from Japan took place at Whitney Center, home for both ERI Chair Dr. Koh, and Vice Chair emeritus Dr. LaCamera. Visiting were Professors Izumi and Takeuchi, former Koh’s fellow members of the Japanese Business Anthropology Association during 1996-1999. Professors Izumi and Takeuchi were gracious hosts to Dr. Koh when she was a visiting professor in Japan.

They were very busy with ERI, and at the Yale School of Management as well as the Yale Department of Economics. It was a joyful reunion after 20 years! Professor Izumi just published Cultural Translation of Management Philosophy in Asian Companies: Its Emergence, Transmission, and Diffusion in the Global Era (Published by Springer.com/2020) This is a companion volume to, Enterprise as an Instrument of Civilization: An Anthropological Approach to Business Administration (2016) (Editors: Nakamaki, H., Hioki, K., Mitsui, I., Takeuchi, Y.)

Prof. Izumi is professor and Director of Administration, College of Economics, Nihon University, Tokyo (the largest university in Japan) and Professor Takeuchi is Associate Professor of Applied Statistics and Econometrics, the Graduate School of Economics, Osaka University. Dr. Hesung Koh during her sabbatical in Japan (1996-1999) joined Keiei Jinrui Gakkai (Society of Economic Anthropology) and developed a close ties with Professors Izumi and Takeuchi who were gracious hosts together with three other co-editors of the above series. Upon Koh’s return, Professors Izumi and Takeuchi came to ERI and Yale as visiting scholars and further cemented ties with ERI. Drs. Koh and LaCamera in turn became their U.S. hosts. During their sabbatical year 20 years ago, they attended the New Haven United Methodist Church and actively volunteered with the New Haven Downtown Interfaith Care Givers, then headed by the late Reverend Edward Dobihal. Ms. Shirley Dobihal, now resident at Whitney Center and Patricia LaCamera, eldest daughter of ERI vice-chair emeritus Dr. Robert LaCamera all had joyous reunion.

This kind couple also was a host when Pat visited them in March 2000 in Nara and Kyoto on the way back from her Korea trip with Dr. Koh. What an emotional and happy reunion this was, and which further strengthened ERI’s ties to Japan.

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HAPPY REUNION WITH ERI/YALE ALUMNI

From Japan

Congratulations on the publication of multi volume books co-edited by Professors H. Nakamaki, K. Hioki, I. Mitsui, and N. Sumihara, to which Prof. Takeuchi also contributed. See www.springer.com

This is the work of the Japanese Business Anthropology Studies group that recurrently met when Dr. Hesung Koh was a visiting professor in Japan and regularly participated as a member.

Drs. Nakamaki, Hioki and Sumihara are also ERI collaborators. Dr. Nakamaki co-sponsored the 2nd International CultureWear Conference at the National Museum of Ethnology in Japan in 2010, and again in 2011. Dr. Nakamaki was a keynote speaker along with Dr. Hesung Koh at the 3rd Annual International Conference on CultureWear held in NYC. A brainchild of Dr. Koh, CultureWear is an innovative method to explore culture and strengthen self-identity, especially for children. Dr. Hioki was a co-leader of the ERI, U.S. and Japan Forum on Japanese and American Management Style: A comparison, 1997. Dr. Sumihara published an article “A little Giant: East Rock Institute” in Kosmos, Vol.20, 12,2012 (International Center for Regional Studies, Tenri University, Nara) based on his interview of Dr. Koh at Whitney Center.

Here is the information about the two published, English-language books:


One book edited by Prof. Izumi is titled “Cultural Translation of Management Philosophy in Asian Companies” (Springer, 2019) and one is “Invitation to Keiei Jinruigaku, Anthropology of Business Administration” (Springer, 2019). In an email, the authors commented, “We are pleased that Dr. Koh’s long participation with the group led to these fruits.

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**HAPPY REUNION WITH ERI/YALE ALUMNI**

**From Korea**

PROFESSOR HYUNAH YANG OF SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

On October 14th, 2019 I had a reunion with Dr. Hesung Chun Koh. Since I left New Haven in 1995, it took me more than two decades to return to New Haven. This in itself explains how memorable the meeting with Dr. Koh was. She has not changed at all over decades! I came to know Dr. Koh as a part-time worker at the East Rock Institute around 1990, assisting her in writing proposals and shaping ideas for ERI researches and projects. I was then a graduate student in sociology at Seoul National University. Later, I entered a graduate program in New York for my doctoral degree. I remember Dr. Chun-Koh having always been passionate about activities & education programs for Korean Americans, especially younger generations, through the reinterpretation of ‘Korean culture’ in comparative and global perspectives. She has indeed been a path-breaker!

I have been a professor at the School of Law at Seoul National University since 2003. As a sociologist of law and a feminist scholar, I have been engaged in many socio-legal issues: the abolition of ‘Family-Head Systems(戶主制度) through the Constitutional Court of Korea; the research of the testimonies of the victim-survivors of the former Japanese military sexual slavery as crucial ways of documenting memories and seeking reparation; currently leading a joint project with U.C., Irvine to translate a testimony book into English; having raised issues of ‘reproductive rights’ so that criminalizing abortion is against reproductive rights of women and men in Korea. The Constitutional Court of Korea held the pertinent criminal codes ‘incongruent with Constitution of Korea’ last April (regarding this decision, refer to my article at Reproductive Health Law, https://reprohealthlaw.wordpress.com/2019/06/3/, entitled “Punishment for Abortion to Vanish from Korea’s Criminal Code: the April 2019 Constitutional Court Decision. “All these legal, gender, and human rights issues are still ongoing in a very dynamic society of South Korea.

Currently, I am on a sabbatical, travelling around the United States to meet my mentors and colleagues from my years in the States and thereafter. These associations have led me to see the world, explore history and Korea, and to see how my mother and I are fundamentally different. I hope on this journey or pilgrimage, if possible, I can reconnect my present self with my past or less-flawed self so that I can further envision new opportunities for the future.

(Article by Prof. Hyunah Yang, Seoul National University, Law School)

**From North America**

(Photograph Right) Michelle Kim, Yale Divinity School, MDiv. 2019. Leaving for the North Western University Law School. She is the author of an article “Dr. Koh as Curator of Living Museum of Korean Diaspora: 2018”

(Photograph Left) Julia Kim, Canadian American financial leader, 2019 Harvard Global Leadership Fellow Visiting Dr. Koh at Whitney Center office
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Founded 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.
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Watercolor by Harry H. Wasserman, Eugene Higgins
Professor of Chemistry, Yale University