

INTERCULTURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM

The Korea Society engages Americans and Koreans in a multi-faceted effort to promote understanding and tolerance by building bridges of interaction across lines of race, culture and ethnicity.

The Intercultural Outreach Program (ICOP) was launched in 1993, as a response to the April 29 Incident (*Saigu*), the 1992 Los Angeles riots which riveted national attention on the need for greater tolerance and mutual understanding among Americans of different cultural and ethnic heritages. Envisioned as a long-term educational project, from its inception, ICOP has been focused on providing opportunities for young Americans to deepen their awareness and understanding of cultural and ethnic diversity, and encouraging them to play a leadership role in the efforts to overcome the stereotypes and resentments that foster intolerance and misunderstanding. As a first step toward the achievement of this objective, a study tour of Korea was organized in 1993 for a group of young African American from the inner city areas of Los Angeles and New York City where there had been major confrontations between the African and Korean American communities. From this modest beginning, with the support of a major four-year grant from the Federation of Korean Industries, the ICOP project gradually evolved a diverse array of programs with a Korea-specific focus which are addressed to young Americans of all cultural and ethnic backgrounds.

PROJECT BRIDGE

The Project Bridge program, which is centered around a study tour to Korea, remains the major activity of the ICOP project. Over 150 high school students from six major urban areas in the U.S. have participated in the program. In recent years, however, Project Bridge has been focused in the New York, Los Angeles and Washington areas where staff and other resources are available to foster its development into a year-long intercultural educational program.

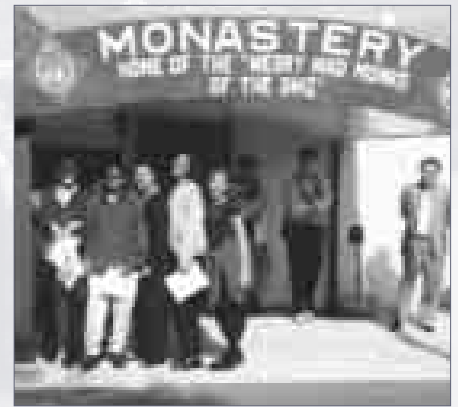


Victor A. Davis addressing an all-female English class at Kujung High School in Seoul.

7th Annual Project Bridge Study Tour

KOREA, October 2-14 – The Project Bridge '99 delegation was comprised of twenty four high school students from New York, Washington and Los Angeles. The delegation was led by the program coordinators from New York and Washington and four group leaders. As usual, the instructional component of the program was inte-

grated into the tour itinerary which encompassed a diverse array of historical, cultural and industrial sites throughout the Republic of Korea. Highlights of the program in Seoul included guided field trips to the official residence of the U.S. ambassador to Korea (Habib House), the National Assembly, the National Museum, the Blue House (the official residence of the President of the Republic of Korea) and an overnight homestay experience. Outside of Seoul, the



Project Bridge '99 participants touring the Joint Security Area of the DMZ. October 2-14.



A tour guide explains the 'female' and 'male' characteristics of two pagodas on the grounds of Pulkuk Temple in Kyongju.

delegation visited a working pottery village in I'chon, Shilla Dynasty archeological remains in the ancient capital city of Kyongju, the Hyundai automobile and industrial facilities in Ulsan, the POSCO Iron & Steel works in Pohang, the Samsung Electronics plant in Suwon, and the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ) marking the dividing line between North and South Korea. The program also afforded the participants numerous opportunities for both structured and informal interactions with their peers in Korea. Lastly, the participants were required to submit an essay describing what they learned through participation in the tour.

1999 Project Bridge Delegation

New York City

Students

Pollyanna J. Berroa, HS for Environmental Studies; Mageline Concepcion, HS for Environmental Studies; Julissa Gutierrez, Francis Lewis HS; Darryl Jenkins, Jr., Bronx Leadership Academy; Mei Ying Lai, Stuyvesant HS; Janet Merone, HS of Telecommunication Arts & Technology; Juanny Romero, Brooklyn Technical HS; Edwin F. Victoria, The New School for Arts and Sciences; and Jerry J. Won, The Bronx HS of Science.



Project Bridge '99 participants listening attentively to a presentation at the Hyundai Motor Company Plant in Ulsan.



New York Project Bridge '99 delegation.



Washington Project Bridge '99 delegation.

Group Leader

Roy H. Martin, ESL teacher, New York City Alternative High Schools Division.

Washington, DC

Students

Victor A. Davis, Benjamin Banneker HS; Tiffany S. Dildy, Calvin Coolidge HS; Lisa B. Haileab, Benjamin Banneker HS; Peter J. Hersey, Springbrook HS, (MD); Ashley P. Hylton, School Without Walls; Chelsea O. Richmond, Benjamin Banneker HS; Jeffrey D. Tate, Duke Ellington School of the Arts; Talia A. Thompson, Dunbar SHS; Nikea A. Williams, School Without Walls; and Dae-Kun Yi, Atholton HS, (MD).

Group Leaders

Angela Lee, assistant director, Academic Services Center for Minority Educational Affairs, Georgetown University; and Jesse Nickelson, social studies teacher, Benjamin Banneker HS.

Los Angeles, CA

Students

Marcus D. Rabb II, Lawndale HS; Shanell Reid, Valley Christian HS; Genesis Robinson, Westchester HS; Darrell Williams, Loma Los Angeles Christian Leadership Academy; and Nathan Q. Winston, Crenshaw HS.

Group Leader

Denise Burkhardt, counselor, Inner City Ministries.

Project Bridge activities in Los Angeles were coordinated by The Pacific Century Institute, which also provided financial support for the program.

Coordinators

Julie J. Park (Washington); Suzanne C. Lim (New York); and Jacki Lee (Los Angeles).

Project Bridge Orientation and Outreach Activities

The Project Bridge '99 program included a variety of orientation and outreach activities both prior to and in follow up on the tour of Korea. The objective of these activities was to foster individual growth through exposure to new ideas, insights, and cross-cultural experiences, while enhancing sensitivity and respect for cultural differences and similarities.

Introductory Workshop

NEW YORK, April 15/WASHINGTON, April 17/Los Angeles, July 23 – The *Project Bridge '99* participants gathered in their respective cities for a highly interactive orientation program. Through a variety of organized group activities, presentations and a Q&A session, the participants began the process of becoming acquainted with one another and got a general overview of the activities planned for the program during the coming year.

The Role of the Church in the Korean American Community

VIENNA, VA, April 25 – The *Project Bridge '99* participants in the Washington area met with Korean American students at the Korean Central Presbyterian Church for a day of fellowship and dialogue. They discussed the misperceptions and stereotypes that must be overcome to foster better communication and understanding across ethnic and racial lines.



The DC participants visit the Korean Central Presbyterian Church in Vienna, VA. April 25.

Journalism Workshop at Children's Express

WASHINGTON, DC, May 15 & NEW YORK, May 19 – The *Project Bridge '99* participants in the Washington and New York areas visited the Children's Express news bureaus in their respective cities to learn about ways in which young people can amplify their voices in today's media.



Bureau Chief Cliff Hahn gives a presentation during a workshop on journalism at the NY Bureau of Children's Express. April 25.

Intercultural Dialogue at the Latin American Youth Center

WASHINGTON, DC, June 19 - The *Project Bridge* '99 participants in the Washington area joined a group of their peers for an evening forum program at the Latin American Youth Center. Prof. William M. Liu, assistant director of Asian American Studies at the University of Maryland, gave a presentation on the ways in which Asians are stereotyped by the mainstream media.



The NY participants attend a performance by the Seoul Metropolitan Dance Theater at the American Museum of Natural History, June 19.

Dances of Korea: Creating with Tradition

NEW YORK, June 19 - The *Project Bridge* '99 participants in the New York area attended a Korean dance performance by the Seoul Metropolitan Dance Theater at the American Museum of Natural History.

Inchon City Dance Company Performance

NEW YORK, July 14 - The *Project Bridge* '99 participants in the New York area, and their parents and other family members, attended a performance by The Inchon City Dance Company at Town Hall. This program was presented as an expression

of gratitude to veterans of the Korean War and parents of adopted Korean children.

Project Bridge Supports the "2nd Annual Ellis Island Goodwill Clean-Up"

NEW YORK, July 24 - As a community service activity, the *Project Bridge* '99 participants in the New York area joined in the "2nd Annual Ellis Island Goodwill Clean-Up" day organized by y-KAN with the support of The Korea Society. Through their involvement in this activity, the participants were engaged in a discussion of the role of immigration in the history of the United States.

Project Bridge Retreat

BRYN MAWR, PA, July 30-August 1 - The *Project Bridge* '99 participants from the New York and Washington areas attended an intensive two-day program which included lectures on Korean culture, history and language, film screenings and presentations organized by the students. The program provided an opportunity for the students to form bonds with each other, both in preparation for the study tour to Korea and as a foundation for lasting relationships based on their common experiences as *Project Bridge* participants.

Tour of the United Nations

NEW YORK, August 4 - The *Project Bridge* '99 participants in the New York area were given a guided tour of the headquarters of the United Nations. The tour included the Assembly Hall, various conference rooms and the Library. Following the tour, the participants had lunch in the Unesco staff cafeteria with several interns who answered questions about the UN and their experiences working there as interns.

An Introduction to the History and Culture of Korea

Los Angeles, August 13 - The *Project Bridge* '99 participants in the Los Angeles area were given a guided tour of the Korean Cultural Center. The program also included a lecture on the history and cultural of Korea by led by Mr. Richard McBridge, who is a cultural consultant at the Korean Cultural Center.

Research Project Reports

ARMONK, NY, August 31 - During a picnic outing hosted by Amb. & Mrs. Gregg, the *Project Bridge* '99 participants in the New York area gave groups presentations reporting the results of research they had conducted on a major Korean or Korean American historical event.

Understanding the People and Culture of Korea

INGLEWOOD, CA, September 3 - The Hon. Mervyn Dymally, a former U.S. Congressman, shared his insights on Korea and the Korean people with the *Project Bridge* '99 participants in the Los Angeles area.

Impressions from a Recent Visit to Korea

INGLEWOOD, CA, September 28 - Dr. Debra Le Blanc spoke to the *Project Bridge* '99 participants in the Los Angeles area about her experiences as a visiting professor at Seoul National University.

Project Bridge '99 Community Presentations

Los Angeles, November 13/NEW YORK & WASHINGTON, February 2, 2000 - The *Project Bridge* '99 participants got together to share their perspectives on what they had gained through their involvement in the year-long program with their respective communities. Each group organized their own unique presentations—consisting of segments such as a parody of the popular television program "Who Wants to Be a Millionaire?", a series of skits portraying the cultural and personal challenges they had encountered during the two week study tour in Korea, and other games and entertaining activities—to highlight the cultural differences between Americans and Koreans in areas such as forms of greeting, dining habits and personal mannerisms in both private and public settings. In a final wrap up session, the participants offered personal and often amusing testimonials on how the program had taught them a great deal about their capacity for self-discovery, the importance of being open minded and accepting of others, the need to uncover and overcome stereotypes, and the countless other important life lessons they had learned through their participation in the *Project Bridge* program.

Project Bridge '99 Valedictory Ceremony

NEW YORK, March 2, 2000 - The *Project Bridge* '99 participants in the NYC area shared a final dinner together with their parents and invited guests to mark the successful completion of the program. The participants received the Project Bridge Intercultural Leadership Award in recognition of their successful completion of the program.

JOURNEY '99 'HOMELAND TOUR' PROGRAM

This program provides an opportunity for young Americans who were adopted from Korea to visit the country of their birth, in many cases for the first time since their adoption. Through guided field trips during a tour to major points of interest throughout the country, the adoptees get a broad exposure to many aspects of Korean culture, history, and contemporary society. Due to the extended homestay component of the program, which is one of its more unique aspects, the adoptees have ample opportunities for interaction with Koreans in typical, everyday situations that deepen their awareness of their dual identity as Koreans and Americans.

KOREA, June 7-19 - The twenty participants selected for this year's program hailed from eleven states representing the



Journey '99 participants



Andrea Bobick kneels on a rock formation that is alleged to show the effects of cannon fire by the Japanese forces that invaded Korea in the 16th century. Photo by Jung-ho Kwak, June 7-19.



During a visit to the National Confucian Shrine in Seoul, Nathaniel Rice is ready to learn the proper way to bow when greeting the elderly. Photo by Kimberly Rogers, June 7-19.

major regions of the continental U.S. As in past programs, the participants in Journey '99 commented on how this experience filled a void in their lives by reinforcing their sense of identity and self-understanding. Visiting the land of their birth and discovering for the very first time the rich legacy of their native cultural heritage was a powerful and transforming experience. Most indicated that they are planning to visit Korea again and pledged to build bridges of understanding and dialogue between their birth country and their adoptive home country. In a second

annual collaboration with the Jinheung Munhwa Company. The Korea Society handled the recruitment and selection of the participants, and provided staff support and other logistical services during the tour. The Jinheung Munhwa Company made the tour arrangements in Korea and covered most of the associated in-country costs of the program.

Participants

Stephanie Joon Baasie, Edina, MN; Andrea K. Bobick, N. Merrick, NY; Lynne Ann Butkiewicz, East Brunswick, NJ; Sonja Carlson, Minneapolis, MN; Rebecca Caruso, Plattsburg, NY; Miya Erickson, Van Nuys, CA; Kimi Feehan, Westwood, KS; Kimberly Fier, St. Paul, MN; Joseph Jai Frank, Los Angeles, CA; Sara Sook-hee Jung, Madison, WI; Sara Morgan, Sioux Falls, SD; Kristy Yoon Pagel-Stumpp, Scottsdale, AZ; James Lee Phillips, Eldersburg, MD; David Lee Phillips, Eldersburg, MD; Nathaniel Rice, New York, NY; Roy Lee H. Robers, Utica, NY; Kimberly Rogers, Chevy Chase, MD; Caroline Spender, Las Vegas, NV; Amy Jo Thomassen, St. Louis, MO; and Karin Van Dongen, American Canyon, CA.

ICOP SCHOLARSHIP PROGRAM

Two scholarships for one term of Korean language study at Yonsei University's Korean Language Institute (KLI) are awarded on a competitive basis each year to currently enrolled undergraduate or graduate students, or recent college graduates who have demonstrated outstanding leadership in building links among diverse cultural communities. The scholarship includes tuition, international round-trip airfare, and a monthly maintenance stipend for the period of study.

1999 ICOP Scholars

Karen A. Falkenstrom is a poet, arts administrator and desktop publisher in Tucson, AZ. She received a master of fine arts in 1991 from the University of Arizona, where she was enrolled in the Creative Writing Program. Subsequently, Falkenstrom was a featured poetry reader for such distinguished organizations as The Chax Press Residency Program, San Francisco's Intersection for the Arts, and the Scottsdale Center for the Arts. She also is a former director of Among Other Things, a literary arts series, and a coordinator of the annual Young Writers Bilingual Poetry Contest for the Tucson Poetry Festival Committee, of which she was previously director for six years. In 1992, she co-founded the Korea Press, a feminist letterpress and book arts publisher, while serving as program coordinator for the University of Arizona's internationally acclaimed Poetry Center. Falkenstrom's poems have appeared in several literary journals including *The Colorado Review*, the *Prairie Schooner*, and the Asian American focus issue of the *Crab Orchard Review*.

Donna Ju-yun Lee is a doctoral student in the Department of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her academic interests are in the area of cultural studies, and she plans to focus her research on the cultural poetics of American culture as it is translated and transposed in Korean culture. In addition to her academic interest in Korean culture, Lee is exploring ways of facilitating an appreciation for Korean culture among young people in America through picture books. She plans to collect Korean folk tales, translate them into English, and illustrate them in traditional Korean art styles. As a long-term goal, Lee hopes to launch a magazine for Korean American children which would be a vehicle for promoting greater contact, familiarity and continuity in their exposure to Korean culture. Lee graduated from Stanford University in 1993 with a B.A. in English literature.

4.29 CENTER PROJECT

The 4.29 (Saigu) Center Project is a joint and collaborative program of the Korean American Coalition, The Korea Society, the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and the County of Los Angeles. The goal of the program is to provide avenues of intercultural conflict resolution for the ethnically diverse population of Los Angeles County and to improve human relations through mediation, conciliation, community education, and collaborative inter-agency efforts.

1999 Program Highlights

Community Outreach

The Center staff made nearly 60 presentations and met with over 3,600 clients and other individuals during the year. The presentations were mainly directed to Korean American merchants, and addressed cultural diversity issues and other issues related to their work environments. The outreach activities primarily involved making regular visitations to Korean-owned stores in the South Central Los Angeles

and Compton areas for consultations on issues related to their community relations. The groups and organizations with which the Center has developed working relationships include: the Los Angeles Police Department, 77th Division (South Central Los Angeles); the California Korean American Grocery Retailers Association; the Korean Swap Meet Owners Association; the NAACP; the Urban League; the Martin Luther King, Jr. Foundation; the National Association of Latino Elected and Appointed Officials; the Western Justice Foundation; the South Central Neighborhood Block Clubs; the south Central Community Service Center; Southern California Korean College Students Association; the Central American Resource Center; the Salvadoran American Leadership and Education Fund; the Asian Pacific American National Labor Alliance; the Asian Pacific American Legal Center; and the Black Chamber of Commerce in Orange County.

Mediation/Dispute Resolution Cases

The 4.29 Center staff opened 338 cases involving disputes between merchants and consumers, and successfully resolved 233 cases during 1999. By mediating these disputes, the Center was instrumental in preventing what often were petty issues from developing into significant inter-ethnic conflicts.

Mediator Training

The 4.29 Center staff trained twelve new volunteer mediators, including three African Americans, three Hispanic Americans and six Korean Americans. Each trainee completed forty hours of in-class instruction and sixteen hours of supervised mediation practice.

Media Outreach

Many presentations and outreach activities were covered by the local Korean American media. The staff also appeared on talk shows and were interviewed on television.

Korean-Hispanic Dialogue

The Center convened exploratory meetings with Hispanic community leaders to explore ways to resolve the increasing number of disputes arising between Korean small business owners and their Hispanic employees. The objective is to establish a formal and on-going relationship with the Hispanic community in Los Angeles to avoid a further deterioration of a potentially explosive situation.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

Unity Retreat 1999

WARWICK, NY, February 15-18 – In a second annual collaboration with the Urban Youth Alliance, The Korea Society co-sponsored this program which brought together 175 students of Hispanic, African, Korean and other ethnic backgrounds from forty schools in New York City. Each student participated in a *Developing Multicultural Friendships* workshop, and received an additional five hours of training in other large and small group sessions. The objective of the program was to teach the critical multicultural skills that help to minimize the potential for conflicts along racial and cultural lines in schools and communities.



1999 Unity Retreat participants. February

Samulnori Workshops

FORT LEE, NJ, April 19-23 – In collaboration with the Fort Lee Korean Parents Association, The Korea Society provided support for a week-long series of workshops which introduced *samulnori* techniques to students at both the middle and high school levels. The workshops were led by an experienced practitioner of this unique Korean musical genre. The students received both individual and group instruction in *samulnori* theory and practice.

The 34th UNESCO International National Youth Camp (IYC)

I'CHON, July 15-24 – In an on-going collaboration with the Korean National Commission for UNESCO, The Korea Society nominates the American participants for this annual program. This year's program on the theme "Bridging the Gap Toward a Millennium of Peace" brought together 120 young people, including 40 from Korea and 80 from abroad, for a series of lectures, workshops, tours, group projects and an international culture night. Living and working together, the participants experienced many opportunities for self-development, physical conditioning, and intellectual stimulation to gain a better understanding of each other, themselves and the world.

1999 IYC Participants

Christine Gregory is an attorney in Silver Springs, MD. As the product of an inter-racial marriage, with an African American father and a Korean mother, Gregory has gained a unique perspective on the strengths and weaknesses of the interaction and relationships between the two cultures. She shared her experiences with other IYC participants while deepening the connection with her Korean heritage. Gregory received her B.A. from Hampton University and her J.D. from the University of Michigan Law School.

Jacqueline Vorhauer is an International Studies major at The American University in Washington, DC. Her interest in Korea developed when she was in boarding school, where she became best friends with her Korean roommate. Through participation in the IYC program, Vorhauer gained a better understanding of how to promote diversity and understanding in her school community. After graduation, she is considering teaching English in Korea for a few years.