

Intercultural Outreach Program (ICOP)

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



Project Bridge participants at the Korean War Museum, Seoul, Korea.

INTERCULTURAL OUTREACH PROGRAM (ICOP)

PROJECT BRIDGE 2002-2003

September 30 • New York, NY

October 15 • Los Angeles, CA

Eight high school students and one group leader from the greater New York City area, and eight high school students and two group leaders from the Los Angeles area, were selected as participants in the Project Bridge program, which lasted from September 2002 to June 2003. Participating students attended workshops and other activities as preparation for an intensive study tour of Korea held in April 2003. After the tour, participants gathered for a workshop to review their experiences. The program coordinators in New York, assisted by a consultant, plan and implement the study tour to Korea each year. Project Bridge activities in Los Angeles are funded and coordinated by the Pacific Century Institute, Inc. (PCI), which is The Korea Society's counterpart organization for this program in Los Angeles.



Project Bridge 2002-03 participants at the Institute of Royal Cuisine in Seoul, Korea

Participants' List:

Students (New York City)

Ebony Blue, 12th grade
Frederick Douglass Academy

Danielle Harris, 11th grade
Young Women's Leadership Academy

Hoang Nhu Hua, 12th grade
Abraham Lincoln High School

Lina Lee, 11th grade
Townsend Harris High School

Nhi Ma, 12th grade
Herbert H. Lehman High School

Fitzgerald Restituyo, 12th grade
Bronx Leadership Academy

Jorge Rodriguez, II, 11th grade,
Riverdale/Kingsbridge Academy

Susan Vargas, 11th grade
John Bowne High School

Group Leader (New York)

Sean P. McManamon, Social Studies teacher
Fashion Industries High School

Students (Los Angeles)

Nicole Ayala, 10th grade
Downtown Business Magnet High School

Andrea Chang, 12th grade
Glen A. Wilson High School

Connie Chung, 10th grade
Gabrielino High School

Denice Gonzalez, 11th grade
Downtown Business Magnet High School

Varanda Ron Khy, 10th grade
Gabrielino High School

Andrew Korner, 10th grade
Downtown Business Magnet High School

Nicholas Li, 11th grade
Gabrielino High School

Leneve Ong, 10th grade
Gabrielino High School

Group Leaders (Los Angeles)
Lecia Brooks, education consultant
Diversity Matters

Amy Tien, coordinator
National Conference for Community & Justice

Program Coordinators

HanNa Kim, program associate
The Korea Society

A. Naomi Paik, program associate
The Korea Society

Jungho Kwak, consultant
The Korea Society

NEW YORK ORIENTATION — ARTIFACTS AND MAPS: CHARTING OUR LIVES

November 13 • New York, NY

An orientation workshop was held to kick off Project Bridge 2002–03. Meeting each other for the first time, the participants introduced themselves to one another through a “show and tell” involving objects of special significance in their lives. Most of the objects had a unique cultural significance for them.

After the introductions, the program coordinators reviewed the expectations and commitments of the program and worked with the participants to establish ground rules. The group then exercised their creative capacities by designing maps of their lives and using them to tell the stories of their lives by noting key influences that define who they are and who they would like to become. They presented their maps to each other, explaining the meanings of the different symbols and thereby conveying the story of themselves to each other. While each participant presented her/his life map, all the others wrote down one word that they felt best described the presenter. These words were then given to the presenter, who used the words to compose a poem about him/herself. The mapping activity not only gave the students the opportunity to “flex their creative muscles,” it also provided the group with an enjoyable means of get-



Participant Fitzgerald Restituyo

ting to know one another better, a particularly important feature at the early stage of the program.

LOS ANGELES WELCOMING RECEPTION AND ORIENTATION SESSION

November 13 • Pasadena, CA

A welcoming reception and orientation session was held at the Arirang Restaurant in Pasadena for the newly selected Project Bridge 2002–03 participants from the Los Angeles area. The program was hosted by Mr. Spencer Kim, chairman of the CBOL Corporation and a member of the board of directors of The Korea Society, on behalf of the Pacific Century Institute. Mr. Hosei Maruyama, who was a group leader for the Project Bridge 2001–02 program, also attended the session.

Mr. Kim opened the session with an

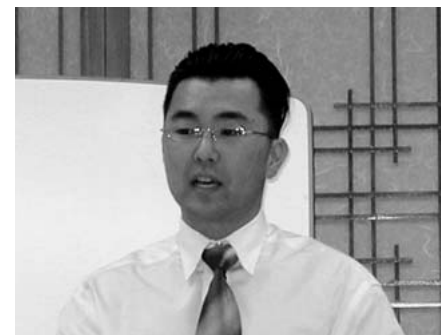
informal presentation on the history and objectives of the Project Bridge program. He also spoke about the overall goals of The Korea Society's Intercultural Outreach Program (ICOP), and stressed the continuing need for efforts aimed at promoting greater understanding among Americans of different cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Following Mr. Kim's presentation, the participants were invited to introduce themselves to one another. The evening ended with a presentation by Mr. Maruyama highlighting the experiences and insights he had gained from his involvement in the program.

SAIGU: A CASE STUDY

December 11 • New York, NY

Project Bridge participants met at The Korea Society to learn about and discuss Saigu, the L.A. Incident that began on April 29, 1992. The workshop began with a screening of the documentary

David Ryu, special projects coordinator of the 4.29 Center in Los Angeles, CA



Sa-I-gu by Dai Sil Kim-Gibson. The film presents interviews with Korean immigrant women directly affected by the uprising. David Ryu, special project coordinator of the 4.29 Center, facilitated the remainder of the workshop. Ryu began by discussing the roots of

the conflict among the communities involved in the uprising. He then gave the participants the opportunity to participate in role-play scenarios, which illustrated the friction between Korean merchants and Black and Latino consumers at that time. Ryu rounded out

the workshop by identifying the ways the 4.29 Center and other organizations are attempting to address the issues at the root of Saigu. On an individual level, he encouraged the participants to be proactive, not just reactive, in addressing the issues raised.



Participants in stereotype exercise

of the lesson, the students were able to perform a short piece, interspersed with many moments of laughter.

KOREA APPROACHES: RETREAT FOCUSING ON KOREA

February 7–9 • YMCA Camp Bernie Port Murray, NJ

Project Bridge headed out to the YMCA Camp Bernie in Port Murray,

New Jersey for a retreat that focused intensively on Korea—its culture, history and contemporary issues—while leaving time for everyone to have fun and become better acquainted with each other. During the first night of the weekend, the participants played ice-breaker games and reviewed the expectations and guidelines for the upcoming study tour to Korea. The majority of the weekend was spent in

BACK TO BASICS: SAIGU, PART II

December 18 • New York, NY

Because the previous workshop on Saigu raised many complex questions, Project Bridge participants met to review and further expand on the issues that sparked the L.A. Incident. This workshop focused primarily on group discussion and hands-on activities to delve deeper into the fundamental issues at hand, such as stereotypes, racism and interracial relations in American society.

Participants learning the Sogo Ch'um



SEOUL TRAIN: SOGO DANCE LESSON

January 24 • New York, NY

Project Bridge met at the Lotus Multi-Cultural Music and Dance Studio in New York City to learn the Sogo Ch'um, a small drum folk dance traditionally performed by farmers. Song Hee Lee, a long-time performer and instructor of traditional Korean dance, facilitated the energetic workshop, leading the students step-by-step through the elements of the choreography. By the end





Korea Approaches: Retreat Focusing on Korea
Top (l-r): Nhi Ma, Jorge Rodriguez, Fitzgerald Restituyo, Hoang Nhu Hua

2nd from top: Ms. Joy Kim

3rd from top: Shin-Hark Suk

Bottom: Group leader Sean P. McManamon

workshops that covered various areas of Korean culture, history and society. Ms. Shin-Hark Suk, an instructor of Korean at Queens College and The Korea Society, taught the basics of the Korean language, including the alphabet. Ms. Joy Kim, a Ph.D. candidate in East Asian Languages and Cultures at Columbia University, facilitated a discussion on modern Korean history, a conversation that merged with a more specific focus on the current state of relations among South Korea, North Korea and the United States. While the remaining workshops focusing on etiquette, food culture and the education system were lead by the coordinators and group leader, the students also gave presentations on topics such as Korean arts, family structure, and Japanese colonization and the issue of "comfort women." After this grueling day of learning, the students were rewarded with a viewing of the Korean blockbuster, Joint Security Area (JSA), as well as outdoor activities, such as ice skating and snow tubing.

EXPLORING KOREAN HISTORY

March 14 • New York, NY

Frederick F. Carriere, executive director and vice president of The Korea Society, led an informal workshop on the history of Korea. The workshop centered around three main points: Korea possesses a very complex and

ancient history; Korea was heavily influenced by interaction with neighboring countries; and Korea is still developing today. The workshop concluded with a succession of maps showing how Korea has changed geographically since the time of Ancient Choson, the first Korean state.



J.T. Takagi

TWO NATIONS, ONE PEOPLE

March 28 • New York, NY

Filmmaker J.T. Takagi screened her documentary, *Homes Apart*, in a workshop on North Korea/South Korea relations. Focusing on separated families on both sides of the 38th parallel, *Homes Apart* gave a more humanitarian and personal perspective on the highly politicized issue of relations between the two countries. Rather than concentrating on the tension existing between North and South Korea, *Homes Apart* emphasized the shared history and heritage of the people. The workshop ended with an active discussion on the possibility of Korean unification.



Frederick F. Carriere

ARTICULATING ONE'S VOICE THROUGH FILM

April 11 • New York, NY

During a Project Bridge workshop, filmmaker Yunah Hong facilitated a screening and discussion of her documentary film, *Between the Lines: Asian American*



Yunah Hong

Women's Poetry, comprised of interviews with and readings by Asian American women poets. Hong briefly

introduced herself and her film, stating that she wanted to explore the ways in which these women's life experiences were reflected in their work and how the written word could be translated into her medium of film. Hong also led the students through a reading of several of the poems presented in the film.

INFORMATION SESSION FOR PARENTS

April 12 • New York, NY

An information session was held at The Korea Society for the parents of the Project Bridge student partici-

pants. As in past years, the session started with a brief overview of the Project Bridge program by Frederick F. Carriere, executive director and vice president of The Korea Society. HanNa Kim and Naomi Paik, co-coordinators of Project Bridge, reviewed various aspects of the trip, including logistics and the study tour itinerary, as well as rules and responsibilities. The Q&A session was extremely active this year as many parents were concerned about the SARS virus in the Asia region. All the parents were relieved to hear that no SARS cases had been reported in Korea and the risk of contracting the virus in Korea was minimal.

STUDY TOUR TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA

April 18–28 • Republic of Korea

The New York and Los Angeles Project Bridge participants met in Seoul for a ten-day, intensive study tour of South Korea, during which they had the opportunity to visit many sites of historical and contemporary significance, stay with a host family, and engage in open dialogue with Koreans. Some highlights of the tour included: a visit to the Demilitarized Zone (DMZ); a cooking lesson held at the Institute of Royal Cuisine; the opportunity to meet Korean youth at Banpo High School in Seoul and at the Seoul Youth Factory for Alternative Culture (Haja Center), an alternative high school; a tour of historical and cultural sites in Kyongju; an educational discussion on "comfort women" by The Korean Council for Women Drafted for Military Sexual Slavery by Japan; and a cultural performance at the Chongdong Theatre. Furthermore, the youth ambassadors were able to acquaint themselves with each other and form cross-continental friendships.

REFLECTIONS: DEBRIEFING OF THE STUDY TOUR

May 16 • New York, NY

After returning from their study tour, the New York Project Bridge participants convened to reflect as a group on their experience in the Republic of Korea. The coordinators of the program led the workshop by positing general questions to the participants. The questions focused on the students' preparation for the experience, highlights and disappointments, issues that may have arisen, and the ways they planned to continue their education about what they had learned in Korea. After sharing their reflections, the participants were given essay questions on different aspects of the tour. The questions covered a broad range of subjects, from the effects of industrialization on the economy and society to the strong points and drawbacks of the Korean educational system. The workshop concluded with participants sharing photos and memories from the tour.

CLOSING DINNER

June 13 • New York, NY

The New York Project Bridge participants met at the Kang Suh Korean and Japanese Restaurant in Manhattan for the closing dinner. Family members and friends also attended to celebrate with the student participants. The students were very familiar with traditional Korean food by this point and were teaching their family and friends how to use chopsticks to eat *pulgogi* and *tolso* *pibimbap*.

This dinner substituted for the community presentation of past years and provided the participants with the opportunity to share their experiences with their family and friends in an informal and intimate setting. The dinner concluded with the presentation of certificates of merit to each participant who had completed the rigorous program.

KOREA AND THE KOREAN AMERICAN COMMUNITY: AN INTRODUCTORY OVERVIEW

April 12 • New York, NY

Supervisory personnel of the New York City Police Department attended a

STUDY TOUR TO THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA



Top: Danielle Harris, Jinny (Hyundai tour guide), Ebony Blue at a Hyundai plant

Middle: Jorge Rodriguez at Banpo High School; Participants at Yangdong; (l-r) Andrea Chang, Nhi Ma, Nicole Ayala at the Institute of Royal Cuisine

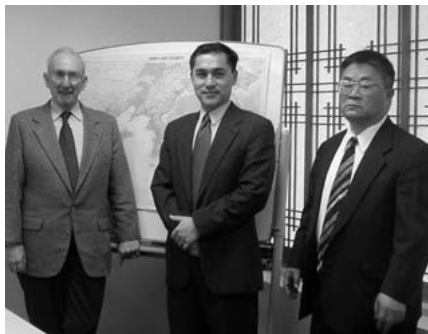
Bottom: Nicholas Li at Minsokchon



Top background photo: Butterflies at the Haja Center in Seoul
Bottom background photo: Poongmul demonstration



half-day seminar at The Korea Society. The objective of the program was to familiarize them with the background and issues of the Korean American community in New York City. The presenters were Gari K. Ledyard, King Sejong Professor of Korean Studies (emeritus) of Columbia University; Charles Armstrong, assistant professor of history and director of the Center



Gari Ledyard, Charles Armstrong and Sung Soo Kim

for Korean Studies of Columbia University; and Sung Soo Kim, president of the Korean American Small Business Service Center of New York.

In his broad overview of Korean culture and history, Ledyard stressed the point that Korea, despite its small size, has succeeded in maintaining its independence throughout a long and sometimes turbulent history by forging strategic alliances with larger neighboring countries. In his presentation, Armstrong focused primarily on the enduring ramifications of the division of the Korean peninsula. He also discussed the evolution of the two politically opposed states on the Korean peninsula, which have developed divergent economic systems despite the shared cultural and linguistic heritage of their people.

Kim began his presentation with the

history of Korean immigration to the U.S. to provide context for his discussion of the current status of the Korean American community. According to the 2000 census, one million Koreans currently reside in the U.S. Kim described the Korean American community as being very isolated. However, Korean Americans have been galvanized to learn more about the U.S. political system and to work with other people in their communities by the boycotts of Korean-owned businesses in New York and the L.A. incident. Moreover, the L.A. incident compelled many members of urban communities to identify inner-city poverty as a problem for everyone. Yet, problems still exist between the Korean American community and the larger society.

YMCA FACE-2-FACE SUMMER PROGRAM

July 26 • New York, NY

In response to a request from the YMCA Face-2-Face summer program, Homer Williams, the director of web and print publications at The Korea Society, gave a presentation about Korea to Face-2-Face participants, a group of children between the ages of 10 and 12. The presentation included a video, Families of South Korea, and a map exercise where the children, working in teams of two or three, constructed a map of Korea using labels for political divisions and yarn to mark boundaries, mountains and rivers. Each team was given two maps of Korea for reference, one showing terrain and the other showing political divisions, including cities.