



Public Affairs Section, U.S. Embassy Seoul

EXCHANGE ALUMNI NEWSLETTER

Spring 2015

Welcome to the Spring Edition of U.S. Embassy Seoul’s Alumni Newsletter. We hope you enjoy reading about some of our recent events and future activities. Please feel free to share this newsletter with other interested individuals.

International Exchange Alumni Website www.alumni.state.gov



Register today on the International Exchange Alumni website www.alumni.state.gov, an online community of alumni of U.S. government-sponsored exchange programs. Share ideas and network with exchange alumni, search for grants and funding; find jobs and volunteer resources and access more than 20,000 free publications and online research tools.

Upcoming Alumni Events

Alumni Project Launches School of Careers for Women “2.0”

The School of Careers for Women kicked off its second year of inspirational and practical workshops and mentoring sessions with presentations by Kang, Hyok Jin of Podcast MC, and Park Mi-kyung, a Director of Deutsche Bank. The speakers emphasized the importance of long term thinking about careers and the need to develop tolerance for mistakes and the importance of trial and error. The School of Careers for Women was created through a U.S. Department of State Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) grant in 2013. The success of the project has resulted in a public-private partnership between the School of Careers for Women 2.0 and JUMP, a foundation dedicated to corporate social responsibility. **The next session will be held at the American Center Korea in Namyoung Dong on Tuesday May 26th from 7-9 pm** and will be supported by a JUMP Fellowship from YBM Sisa.com, an English Language Service Company. Interested alumni, students, and professionals are welcome to attend. Please register through the Onoffmix page (<http://onoffmix.com/event/46840>) or email schoolofcareer4women@gmail.com for more information.



Regional Alumni Mentoring Program Wraps Up

The Office of Exchanges and Alumni will meet exchange alumni and university students for evaluation and awards ceremonies in **Busan (May 29) and Daegu (May 30)**. In the program, alumni mentored students on professional and personal development. If you want to take part in future mentoring programs, please contact us.



Congressional Youth Exchange Reception

The U.S. Embassy Seoul will host the annual U.S. – Korea Congressional Youth Exchange reception at the American Center Korea in later this summer. The reception brings together this year’s participants with alumni from previous years to renew old friendships and make new ones. We will send youth exchange alumni the invitation in nearer time. If you are an alum of the U.S. – Korea Congressional Youth Exchange program, please contact us if you are interested in attending.

Alumni Highlights



U.S. Embassy Seoul Supports Alumni Program on “Meeting North Korean Refugees in Class”

Busan, February 5 – Six North Korean refugees spoke about the importance of tolerance and understanding at the Sung So Elementary School and Yang Woon High School in Busan. Director of Exchanges and Alumni Richard Roberts participated in a role play session with the elementary school students and encouraged the high school students to show empathy for others. The program is being funded through a grant from the Public Affairs Section at U.S. Embassy Seoul.

“RAMPing” up Youth and Alumni in Busan and Daegu

Busan, February 27 & 28 – In partnership with alumni organizations, the Future Foundation and the Korea U.S. Vision Association (KUVA), the Office of Exchanges and Alumni conducted Regional Alumni Mentoring Programs (RAMP) in Busan and Daegu that promoted the personal and professional development of local university students. Representing several U.S. exchange programs like IVLP, Fulbright, the Study of U.S. Institutes (SUSI), and the Work, Study English, and Travel program (WEST), alumni led site visits, seminars, and small group discussions. The program also included opening remarks by Cultural Affairs Officer Margaret Hawley, and presentations by Director of Exchanges and Alumni Richard Roberts and Public Affairs Assistant Sunny Chang.



Career Talk at the Jeju Alumni Mentoring Program



Jeju, March 13 & 14 – The Office of Exchanges and Alumni brought sixteen university students from Jeju Island together for a two-day workshop on career development. The students discussed personal and professional development with alumni mentors from USG-supported exchanges, such as the WEST (Work, Study English, Travel) and Fulbright English Teaching Assistant program. The students also visited the HR departments of Neople, a video game start-up company, and the Sam Da Soo bottling company, which operates as part of a public-private partnership with the Jeju Special Self-Governing Province Development Corporation (JPDC). Even though the seminar is over, the students will continue to meet with their mentors.

Alumni Highlights

Alumni Mentoring Program Empowers Youth in the Regions

Gwangju, March 20 & 21 – The Office of Exchanges and Alumni held its fourth and final Regional Alumni Mentoring Program (RAMP) in the city of Gwangju, wrapping up a successful program designed to connect university students in the regions with local USG-sponsored exchange program alumni. Director of Exchanges and Alumni Richard Roberts led a seminar on resume and interview skills, and alumni served as speakers and mentors to empower youth in their professional development. This program series has included site visits to major companies and in Gwangju, participants visited the Environmental Corporation of Gwangju (ECOG).



IVLP Alumni Launches Group for LGBT Families

Seoul, March 23 – Alumni of a recent International Visitor Leadership Program (IVLP) that focused on LGBT issues recently shared their experiences in the US with other human rights activists in Seoul. Based on their meeting with members of the New Orleans chapter of PFLAG (Parents, Family and Friends, of Lesbians and Gays), several of the alumni are now creating a nation-wide support group for Korean parents and other family members of LGBT individuals. To get started they have already submitted a proposal to 2016 Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) competition.



WEST Alumni Lead the Way

Seoul, April 29 – The WEST (Work, English Study, Travel) Program is known for its role in creating young global leaders from Korea. Recently winners of a US Embassy Seoul-sponsored WEST Alumni Competition took the story of their WEST journey around the country in order to inspire the next generation of Korean youth. These WEST alumni showcased how an international exchange experience like WEST is not only personally rewarding, but also builds résumés and enhances skills employers are seeking in a global economy. Through workshops, TED talks, and assemblies, WEST alumni shared the spirit of WEST with more than 2,000 Korean high school and university students.



International Exchange Alumni



U.S. Embassy Seoul



Please contact us if you want to update your personal information or have any suggestions about alumni activities.

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Alumni Spotlight

Lee Han Sang Global UGRAD Alum



Two words that are most precious in my life are “challenge and thankfulness.” After having frustration that I had to quit studying in a U.S. High School and came back to Korea, my life was filled with anger and confusion. In order to change the situation, I started working and studying at the same time. Such endeavors eventually paid off. I became a student at the Mokpo National Maritime University and was accepted for the (Global UGRAD) program. Through the exchange program, I experienced many things and studied economics at the University of Hawaii. I knew this was a once in a life chance, so I kept challenging myself. After the countless challenges and grateful memories in Hawaii, I started

thinking that my life resembles to the words "Challenge and Thankfulness" and so if I live up to those words, I would have joyfulness and least regret in my life. After the program, I kept studying hard and had opportunities of working in Japan, U.S. and Germany. These are the results of me always “challenging” myself. Due to such “challenges,” I met many amazing people that I am so “thankful” of to have met.

Lee Hwa Jong Global UGRAD Alum

Kyungpook National University student Lee Hwajong wrote a column in the Journal of the Korea America Friendship Society (KAFS) named, “New Challenges Make for Fresh Perspectives.” In the article, Mr. Lee writes about his life-altering experience as a participant of the Global UGRAD program. You can read his column [here](#).



Exchange Alumni Associations

- ❖ **Korea-U.S. Vision Association (KUVA)**
 - Members: Open to all U.S. government-sponsored exchange program alumni
 - To join the association, please email the Association Administrator kuva@hanmail.net
 - ❖ **Fulbright Alumni Association of Korea:** To become a member, please contact chuntj@fulbright.or.kr .
 - ❖ **Eisenhower Alumni Association:** For information, please contact KSS@state.gov .
 - ❖ **Humphrey Alumni Association:** For information on the Humphrey program and alumni association, please contact the Korean-American Educational Commission <http://www.fulbright.or.kr/contact.html>
- Work, English, Study, Travel (WEST) Alumni Association** www.facebook.com/groups/westalumni/