

# YOK Center Newsletter

UC RIVERSIDE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA  
The Young Oak Kim Center  
for Korean American Studies

VOLUME 1 ◦ ISSUE 2  
MAY 2012

THE YOUNG OAK KIM CENTER FOR KOREAN AMERICAN STUDIES  
UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, RIVERSIDE

## Sa-I-Gu Symposium on April 28 in Koreatown Was Major Success!

The last few months have been busy! Our biggest event, the *Hope Out of Crisis: Lessons From Sa-I-Gu* symposium on April 28 was a major success!

About 200 people participated in the day-long conference. Three panels talked about the past, the present and the future of Koreatown and the Korean American community.

Students from schools that included Yale, USC, UCLA and UC Riverside attended the event and learned about ethnic peace.

Angela Oh gave opening remarks and spoke to the crowd about the LA Riots

and the need for continued growth. Korean American artist SKIM performed a powerful music show. The YOK Center also screened its documentary: *The LA Riots: Reflections on Our Future*.

As the day progressed, many tears were shed and much was learned. K.W. Lee closed the conference with a call to action. He urged everyone to raise their voices, to participate in community and coalition building.

The YOK Center sincerely thanks its sponsors including The Korea Foundation and the Consortium that helped put the event on.

Thank you!



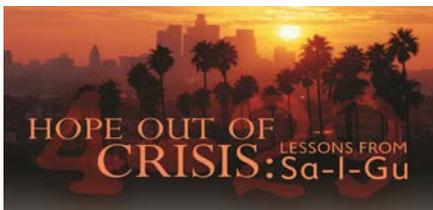
Panelists spoke to an audience of about 200 people on April 28, 2012 during the *Hope Out of Crisis: Lessons From Sa-I-Gu* symposium in Koreatown, Los Angeles at the Garden Suite Hotel.



### Help the YOK Center & Donate Today!

If you would like to help the YOK Center with a tax deductible donation, please feel free to contact Director Edward Chang at 951-827-1825 or visit [www.yokcenter.ucr.edu](http://www.yokcenter.ucr.edu) and click on Donations.

## YOK Center Thanks 4.28 Consortium/Sponsors



The YOK Center sincerely thanks the Consortium of schools and organizations that helped to put on the *Hope Out of Crisis* event. The Center also thanks Title Sponsor the Korea Foundation for its generous support.

### THANK YOU CONSORTIUM

Connie Chung Joe  
Jerry Kang  
Barbara Kim  
BongHwan Kim  
Do Kim  
Hyojoung Kim  
Edward J.W. Park  
Jung-Sun Park  
Kyeyoung Park  
Johng Ho Song  
Alexandra Suh  
David K. Yoo  
Grace Yoo  
Dae Joong Yoon

### THANK YOU SPONSORS

The Korea Foundation  
Koreatown Youth & Community Center  
Korean American Community Foundation  
Time Warner Cable  
Whole Foods Market  
Asian American Studies Center, UCLA  
Asian Pacific American Studies Program LMU  
Association for Asian American Studies  
Overseas Koreans Foundation  
Center for Korean-American & Korean Studies at CSULA

# YOK Academy Student Quiz Show 500 Middle School Children Participated!

On April 25, 2012 the YOK Center and its staff and interns helped the YOK Academy in Los Angeles host a quiz show on the life of Col. Young Oak Kim.

Students were encouraged to read *Unsung Hero: The Story of Col. Young O. Kim*. (The second edition is now available on [www.amazon.com](http://www.amazon.com) and [www.barnesandnoble.com](http://www.barnesandnoble.com)).

About 500 students participated in the quiz show as contestants and audience members. The top three winners won \$500, \$100 and \$50 gift card prizes.

### Winners of the Quiz Bowl:

1st Place Jorge Santiago Cruz  
2nd Place Christopher Ramos  
3rd Place Ivan Portillo

Parents of the students were also present during the show and had a chance to participate as well.

The parents were asked true/false questions about Col. Kim and whoever answered correctly, won a copy of the book!

Students who were just watching the show and did not participate as contestants also had a chance to win copies of the book.

Author Woo Sung Han was present for the show and was greeted by students afterward. He graciously spoke to them and offered them words of kindness.

Also, a representative from the Korean American Veterans Association was at the Quiz Bowl.

He expressed his gratitude for raising awareness about Korean Americans. He also offered to provide next year's Quiz Bowl prizes!



(From Left to Right) Prof. Edward Chang; 3rd Place Winner Ivan Portillo; 1st Place Winner Jorge Santiago Cruz; 2nd Place Winner Christopher Ramos; YOK Academy Cybrarian Marina Duff.

The top 100 students who participated in the event received a pen and notepad. The top 50 students also received a trip to The Young Oak Kim Center for Korean American Studies on May 24, 2012. The remaining top 10 students received copies of the book.

YOK Academy Cybrarian Marina Duff was instrumental in organizing the event. Ms. Duff and Principal Edward Colacion encouraged students to participate in the Quiz Bowl. The YOK Center sincerely thanks Principal Colacion and Ms. Duff for their dedication and commitment to educating students.

YOK Center would like to also thank its interns Chris Watkins, Viet Trinh and David Lee for their help.

The event is set to be an annual Quiz Bowl! We look forward to next year's quiz!



## Koryo Saram Film Screening and Lecture

More than 100 students watched a film about Korean diaspora on March 5, 2012 at UC Riverside.

*Koryo Saram — The Unreliable People* is a documentary film about the Korean diaspora in Kazakhstan.

The film was screened and followed by a question-and-answer period with film director Y. David Chung.

“It’s wonderful to know that students are interested in learning about Koreans,” said YOK Center Director Edward Chang.

The 60-minute film was released in 2007. The film documents Stalin’s 1937 campaign of ethnic cleansing and forcible deportation of 180,000 Koreans living in the coastal provinces of Russia near the border of North Korea to the unsettled steppe country of Central Asia 3,700 miles away.

Y. David Chung is an associate professor at the School of Art and Design.



A screenshot from the film *Koryo Saram — The Unreliable People* which was screened at UC Riverside on March 5, 2012.

# Director’s Message: Our Busiest Season Yet!

By Edward T. Chang

Thank you for taking a moment to read this newsletter! We have been very busy at the YOK Center!

Over the last two years, the YOK Center has worked hard to raise the profile of Koreans in America.

Since our last newsletter, we have successfully organized several events.

On April 19, the Center helped organize the YOK Academy Quiz Bowl in Los Angeles. More than 500 children participated in the event.

On April 25, the Center also helped to commemorate the 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the 1992 LA Riots at UC Riverside and held a symposium; *Riots, Uprising and Unfinished Business*. The event attracted American, Korean and Chinese media.

On April 28, the YOK Center and a Consortium of schools and organizations held a larger event surrounding the LA Riots anniversary. The *Hope Out of Crisis: Lessons from Sa-I-Gu* symposium was held in Koreatown, Los Angeles.

The consortium arranged for a day-long symposium that featured 17 speakers, a photo display, and a performance by a Korean American artist named SKIM.

About 200 registrants, walk-ins, speakers, moderators, media and volunteers attended the event at the Garden Suite Hotel in Koreatown.

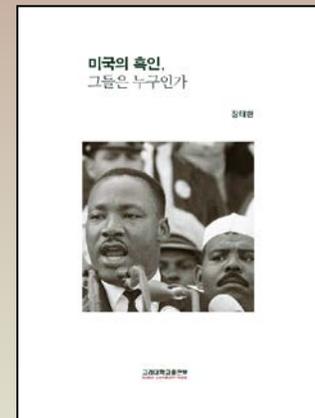
The event was covered by American and Korean media including MBC, KBS, Los Angeles Sentinel. I also interviewed with the Wall Street Journal, LA Times, VH1, Seoul Newspaper, NPR and had op-ed pieces published in the Korea Daily in Korea and the LA Times.

K.W. Lee closed the symposium with comments to the Korean community. He called Koreans to action and implored our community to continue raising its voice.

We have been actively adhering to K.W. Lee’s wise words. The Center also hosted a screening of the documentary *Koryo Saram* and a Q&A with the film’s director Y. David Chung. The Kazakhstan Embassy contacted the YOK Center and expressed interest in the film.

The YOK Center has also produced its own documentary: *The LA Riots: Reflections on Our Future*. The documentary was screened at UCR; during the *Hope Out of Crisis* event; at UC Irvine and will be shown in June at the UC Riverside MFA Residency Program. The film may also be screened at the upcoming Korean American Film Festival in New York.

Also, recently, I have updated my book, *Africans Americans, Who They Are*. The book was published by the Korea University Press.



As we look to the rest of the year, I hope to keep working on projects that will continue to help raise the Korean American voice.

Some of the research projects that I have slated for the year are an LA Riots archive project.

The project will include a bibliography, maps, oral history and other creative ways to document and secure these precious documents and stories for our future generations.

Thank you for your generous support.

## Check Out Our New Web Site!

The YOK Center's new Web site is up and running! Go to the site at [www.yokcenter.ucr.edu](http://www.yokcenter.ucr.edu) to check out the redesign.

New features include Korean translation links and an online donation form.

You can even sign up to receive this email newsletter via email on the Web site!

Take a look at the new design and let us know what you think!



### About the YOK Center

The YOK Center is dedicated to understanding what it means to be Korean American and more. For more info. visit: [www.yokcenter.ucr.edu](http://www.yokcenter.ucr.edu).

You can also Contact Director Edward Chang at 951-827-1825 or at [Edward.Chang@ucr.edu](mailto:Edward.Chang@ucr.edu).

# YOK Center to Establish Student Scholarships at UCR

The YOK Center is dedicated not only in raising the voice of the Korean American community and improving ethnic relations; it's also committed to the students that are our future.

Students become our leaders, our teachers and community activists. At the YOK Center, students have the opportunity to intern and learn about Korean American culture, issues and activities.

Interns volunteer their time and work hard. Some earn class credit for their work.

But at the end of the day, interns and students still have to pay for tuition, books and housing costs.

It is the YOK Center's hope to establish the Endowed "Col. Young Oak Kim Scholarship at UC Riverside."

We hope to raise a minimum of \$25,000.

Interest earned on the funds goes directly to the students as a scholarship. The principal founding / designated funds of \$25,000 or more will never be touched by the university or any other institution.

Once the scholarship is endowed, it will be available to students FOREVER!

We hope to establish the scholarship based on academic achievement and interest in ethnic studies and the creative arts.

The YOK Center will match the starting donation of \$500 from Centaur Public Relations, LLC and



start the scholarship at UC Riverside.

Once established, the scholarship will be open to all; there will be no gender or ethnicity requirements.

A nonpartisan board of scholarship reviewers will take applications and award the scholarship annually.

The YOK Center hopes that by establishing this opportunity, students will become more aware of who Young Oak Kim was and what he stood for and believed in: peace and equality.

"Many students struggle to do their homework and hold a job," said Prof. Edward Chang. "By offering this scholarship, I hope that some students will be able focus on their studies, learn about ethnic peace and become strong leaders."

If you would like to be part of this endeavor or would like to donate to the scholarship fund, please feel free to contact the YOK Center or Prof. Chang at 951-827-1825. You can also reach Prof. Chang at [Edward.Chang@ucr.edu](mailto:Edward.Chang@ucr.edu).

To donate to the YOK Center, please visit [www.yokcenter.ucr.edu](http://www.yokcenter.ucr.edu) and click on the donations tab.