

YOK Center *Newsletter*

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

VOLUME 2 ◦ ISSUE 1
FEBRUARY 2013

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

Census/Mapping Project on Korean American Growth Set for April Release

Census data is a blinding mass of data that most of us just don't want to look at. But here at the YOK Center, we are drooling over the most recent Census.

Under the direction of Prof. Edward Chang, a team of interns are putting together the project.

The project will include an interactive map of the United States which chronicles the growth of the Korean American and Asian American population from as early as 1980 to 2010.

The map will feature interactive data. Users will be able to click on a state and

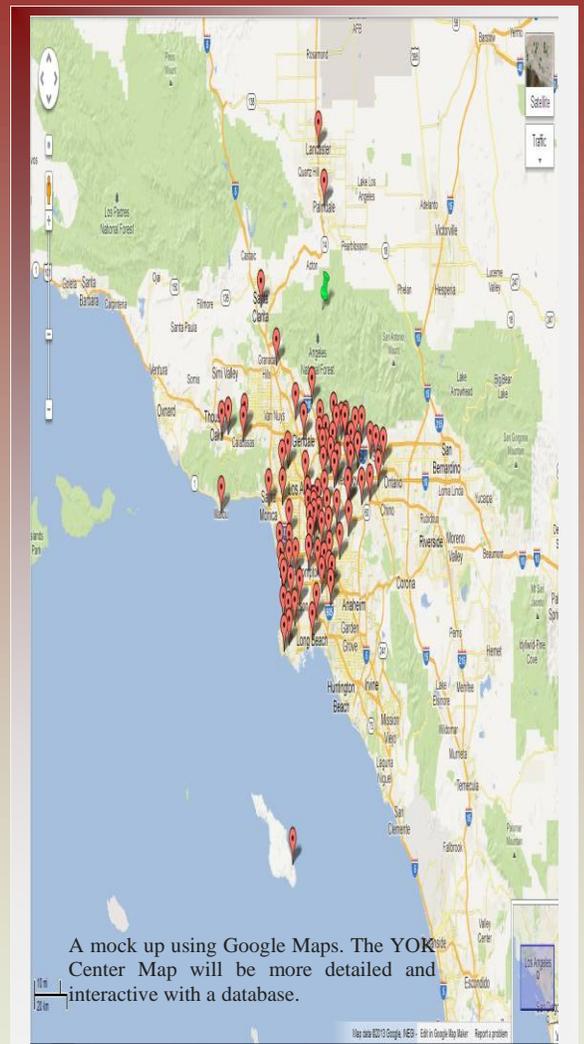
city and see a graph of the growth

A link to an online Access Database will also be provided. Users can search the database for specifics.

The Census/Mapping project will also include data on Korean American homicides in Los Angeles.

Prof. Chang is overseeing the project and is set to write a paper on the data.

A press conference will be held and the map, Census data, and PowerPoint presentation will be given to reporters in a booklet form. The project is set for release in April 2013.



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 and click on Donations.

YOK Center Visiting Scholar Program Grows

The Visiting Scholar Program at the YOK Center at UC Riverside has been successful!

Since center opened, it has offered overseas scholars a chance to come and study and research here. Many scholars have visited the center and developed noteworthy research projects. Below is a list of our past and present visiting scholars. For more information, visit: www.yokcenter.ucr.edu.

2010-2011

Cho, Nam Wook, Seoul National University of Technology
Han, Kyu Jung, Gongju National University of Education

2011-2012

Chu, Byung Wan; Dept. of Practical Arts Education, Chuncheon National University of Education

Park Byung Choon; Jeonju National University of Education
Shin, Hyun Woo; Department of Ethics Education, Cheongju National University of Education

2012-2013

Choi, Jun Young; Department of Political Science, Inha University

2013-2014

Na, Chae Sig; Ministry of Public Administration and Security, Republic of Korea

Yang, Jeonghye; Dept. of Practical Arts Education, Chuncheon National University of Education

YOK Center's LA Riots Documentary Screens in New York & Los Angeles

The YOK Center developed and produced a documentary called *The 1992 LA Riots: Reflections on Our Future* in 2012.

The short film received excellent coverage and raised awareness about Korean Americans and the traumatic events of the 1992 Los Angeles Riots.

The film was screened at several events and locations including at two film festivals!

UCR is also placing a link to the film for public view online.

The film premiered in April 2012 at the "Riots, Uprisings, and Unfinished Business" event where reporters from various Asian and American newspapers covered the event.

Attendees of the *Sa-i-Gu Hope Out of Crisis* event in Los Angeles on April 28, 2012 were also shown the film during lunch.

Students at UC Irvine were also shown the film in Julie Cho's Asian American Studies Film and Media Studies class in May 2012; at the Museum of Tolerance during the "Conversation on Art & the '92 riots" event in May 2012; at the UCR Master of Fine Arts Creative Writing residency program during an hour long presentation/lecture by YOK Center staff in June 2012; at the Korean American Film Festival in New York in June 2012; at the Korean American Film Festival Los Angeles in August 2012.

The film received praise for its beautiful cinematography, its short and concise length



Cover of *The 1992 LA Riots: Reflections on Our Future*

which told the story from an objective point of view, and for the message of hope and peace: "It's in our hands."

The film headlined the 1992 LA Riots documentaries and movies during the Korean American Film Festival in Los Angeles.

During the screening of the film at the festival in Los Angeles, film Director Root Park attended the event and was interviewed by Korean media.

Also during the LA screening, YOK staff was present during a panel discussion and question and answer session.

The discussion drew a room full of curious and interested community members from various ethnic backgrounds.

Questions about how Koreans suffered were answered. Some audience members were shocked to hear the statistics about how Korean Americans suffered 40 percent of the entire economic loss! That's \$400 million!

The film has been doing well in its goal to educate the community about Korean Americans.

Overall, the film has been accepted well. The 10 minute and 30 second film is available for free to interested parties. If you would like a copy, please contact the YOK Center at carol.park@ucr.edu.

YOK Center's Intern Program Flourishes

The intern program at the YOK Center is flourishing.

Last year one of our interns – Anthony George – graduated and is applying to law school.

Another intern, Viet Trinh, is in UCR's honors program, is applying to graduate school, and leading other interns on the Center's mapping project.



Intern Viet Trinh is a third year history major at UCR and is the YOK Center's very first intern.

The YOK Center has five interns. In return for their hard work, students in the program can earn four units of credit toward their degrees and receive letters of recommendation from Prof. Chang.

The YOK Center Thanks its Interns

Viet Trinh; Kristy Yuwan Wei; Marie Estrada; Evelyn Martinez; Jonathan Yongchul Lyu

If you know of a student who would be interested in interning over the summer or in the spring, please contact us.

Director's Message

By Edward T. Chang

Last year was eventful, full of projects, and successes!

This year promises to be just as busy and full of success. The YOK Center is doing well and has several projects in the pipeline.

By August 2013 the Willows Aviation School book will be published in Korean! By 2014 the book will be published in English.

The book will reshape and shed new light on Korean aviation history. Woo Sung Han and I have been working diligently researching the many new facts in the book.

Also this year the YOK Center is continuing its Korean American lecture series. Students at UCR and interested community members will have a chance to listen to these distinguished Korean Americans.

We're also working on a Census data and mapping project.

The map will be interactive, complete with an Access database and graphs comparing Korean American and Asian American population data from 1980 through 2010.

The Center is also producing another documentary, this time on the life of Col. Kim.

Most recently, the American Studies Institute Seoul National University published one of my articles in its *American Studies Journal*. The article was published in English on November 2, 2012 in a pamphlet.

Last year's successes were highlighted by the *Sa-i-gu Hope out of Crisis* event in April, the premiere of our LA Riots documentary and more.

We hope to continue this track record of community service, academic research, and more.

Last year I was also actively lecturing, teaching, and writing. In

April 2012 I wrote several articles about the LA Riots for the LA Times, New York Times and other publications.

In April I also traveled to Washington where I spoke about the LA Riots during a three-day conference.

Throughout 2012 I worked hard to raise the Korean voice. I traveled to Korea where I spoke on "Higher Education in the U.S." at Seoul Tech University, Seoul, Korea in November, and about Col. Kim and his humanitarian work and helping others.

From November 29- December 2, 2012 I also participated in the Korea Foundation Global Forum as a Fellow and Group Leader.

Also, I participated in the "Confronting Sa-i-gu: Twenty Years After the Los Angeles Riots" 2012 International Conference American Studies Association of Korea in Seoul at Seoul National University.

Finally, on October 16, 2012 I was honored to meet with Chang Hee Kang, Speaker of the House, Korean Congress at the Young Oak Kim Academy in Los Angeles.

During the meeting I gave a short presentation on the legacy of Col. Kim.

As we look forward to the coming year, I will endeavor to continue working toward raising the Korean and Korean American voice, serving the community, and helping others.

If you have any questions, suggestions, or comments, please feel free to contact me anytime.

The YOK Center will continue its mission to educate, help, and raise the voice of our ethnic community.

I hope your New Year is full of joy, success, and happiness. Thank you for your support! You make the Korean voice strong!

YOK Thanks its Donors

Through your generous support and dedication in raising the Korean voice, the YOK Center has been flourishing and growing.

In this issue, we'd like to highlight Mr. Yeung Kim. He has been a generous & strong supporter of the YOK Center.



Mr. Yeung Kim is CEO of Tekmar & Associates Inc.

He passionately believes that now is the time to raise the Korean voice

“Young Oak’s spirit soared; we can look up to him as our role model,” Kim said. “Our children can look to him as an example.”

The YOK Center Thanks

In Hwan Bae; Biho Cha; Han Yeul Cha; Yun Suk Chae; Bong Jin Chang; Charles Chin; Mike Hong; Jay Kim; Johnny Park; Steve Ro; Ricky Seung; Hyun Shik Shim.

YOK Center Developing Film Based on Col. Young Oak Kim’s Life

The life of U.S. Army Colonel Young Oak Kim has been celebrated, written about, and talked about for years. Here at the YOK Center at UC Riverside, we hope to add to that pool of knowledge with our own documentary.

Professor Edward T. Chang, his team of interns, and YOK Center staff, are working on producing a feature length film on the life of Col. Kim.

The film will include interviews of World War II veterans, footage of Col. Kim, interviews with other community members who knew him, and more.

The documentary will chronicle Kim’s life and not only highlight his work as a military genius but most importantly as a humanitarian.

Through the film, the Center hopes to educate others about Col. Kim and what he stood for; helping others.

The Center also hopes the film will raise important questions about why Col. Kim has never received the Medal of Honor from the U.S.

Col. Kim’s actions during World War II and the Korean War were recognized by France, Italy and Korea. He received the highest medal of honor from each of those countries and yet, has never been given the U.S. Medal of Honor.

The film is in development stages. Interviews of World War II veterans during the 100th Battalion Reunion in Las Vegas last October have already taken place. Plans for



interviews with more veterans are in the pipeline.

The Go For Broke National Education Center in Torrance, CA has generously donated footage of Col. Kim to the YOK Center for use in the film.

The footage includes Col. Kim talking about various topics including the Korean War.

Interviews of other key individuals – including Woo Sung Han, author of *Unsung Hero: The Story of Col. Young Oak Kim* – are also being planned.

If you know of anyone who knew Col. Kim well and would like to be included in the film, please contact the Center.

Once the film is finished, it’s the Center’s hope to enter it into several film festivals.

The Center will also make the film available for free to anyone who requests a copy.