

YOK Center *Newsletter*

Volume I ◦ Issue No. 1
NOVEMBER 2011

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

YOK Center Grand Opening & First Lecture

The Young Oak Kim Center for Korean American Studies at the University of California Riverside celebrated its Grand Opening on September 29, 2010.

Approximately 100 dignitaries from South Korea, China and Southern California, as well as donors, members of the Korean American community and UCR faculty including Chancellor Timothy P. White and Dean of the UCR College of Humanities Arts

and Social Sciences Stephen Cullenberg, observed the ceremonial ribbon-cutting and toured the center.

Since then, the YOK Center has been actively educating, researching and enriching the community with its activities and projects.

In April 2011, the YOK Center held its first Open House and hosted its First Lecture. Journalist K.W. Lee came to UC Riverside and lectured on the LA Riots to a class of about 50 students.



Participating in the ceremonial ribbon-cutting are: (Front row from the left) Olympic gold medalist Dr. Sammy Lee and Myung “Mike” Hong, president of Dura Coat Products Inc. (Back row from the left) Stephen Cullenberg, dean of the UCR College of Humanities, Arts and Social Sciences; UCR Chancellor Timothy P. White; Peter Hayashida, UCR vice chancellor for advancement; Ed Chang, center director and professor of ethnic studies.



HOW YOU CAN HELP

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 Campaign Leaders

The nonprofit Young Oak Kim Center for Korean American Studies at the University of California Riverside would like to recognize its generous supporters.

After the YOK Center received its founding funds in 2010 from the Overseas Koreans Foundation, it has been supported generously by 54 individuals; 37 in the United States, 14 in Korea, and 3 in China.

Dr. Myung “Mike” Hong, President and CEO of DuraCoat Products Inc. in Riverside and Jay Kim, a prominent Korean American and entrepreneur, are leading the campaign to raise funds for the YOK Center.

“Without their generous support and leadership, the YOK Center would not be where it is today,” said YOK Center Director Edward Chang. “I want to thank all of our supporters and let them know they are helping our community by supporting Korean American research.”



Dr. Myung “Mike” Hong, left, and Jay Kim, right, are leading the YOK Center fund raising campaign. Both have been invaluable supporters and leaders.

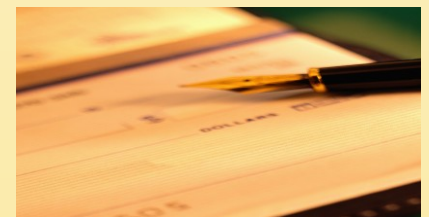
So far, the Center has successfully raised \$250,000 from private sources. The funds are being used to help support the Center’s numerous staff and student projects. YOK Center staff and student interns are working on various projects which include a documentary, research papers, books and more.

Through academic and social studies, the center hopes to raise awareness about the Korean American community and bridge the cultural and social gap between first and second generation Korean Americans.

If you would like to learn more about the YOK Center or to make a donation please visit the Young Oak Kim Center’s Web site at www.yokcenter.ucr.edu.

The YOK Center Thanks its Donors

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| Kim, Ok Suk | |
| Kim, Yeung J. | |



Overseas Koreans Foundation Support

On October 15, 2011 the Overseas Koreans Foundation Vice President Jong Wan Kim visited and toured the Young Oak Kim Center. OKF donated the Center’s starting seed money of \$3 million in 2010. The YOK Center is grateful to the Overseas Koreans Foundation and thanks OKF and Mr. Kim for their generous support and continued interest in our activities.





Congratulations Dr. Myung Hong

Please join us in congratulating Dr. Myung “Mike” Hong who was awarded Korea’s highest civilian honor in Korea on October 5, 2011.

Dr. Hong received the Mu Gung Hwa Medal of Honor from the South Korean government.

He was recognized for his community service and dedication to helping others.

A prominent businessman and a powerful leader in the community, Dr. Hong has dedicated his life to serving others and serves on numerous boards and foundations.

Once again, Congratulations Dr. Hong!

Director’s Message

By Edward T. Chang

Hello everyone and thank you for taking time to read the Young Oak Kim Center for Korean American Studies at UC Riverside’s first newsletter!

Since the Center was founded, we have completed and begun several projects and activities. The Center recently published *Unsung Hero: The Story of Col. Young Oak Kim*, available at www.lulu.com. An updated version of the book, the second edition, is now available.

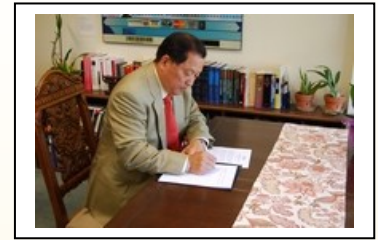
Journalist and author Woo Sung Han and I have also been working on a special project, a book on the Willows Aviation School.

One of our next big projects involves the 20th Anniversary of the LA Riots. Next year, on April 28, 2012, the YOK Center is leading a consortium and will host a day-long event in Koreatown commemorating the 1992 LA Riots.

At the YOK Center, we endeavor to promote and help raise awareness about the Korean American and Korean community and its historical, present and future significance in the United States and worldwide.

I want to thank the Overseas Koreans Foundation and all of the YOK Center’s generous supporters. Without them, none of the projects and activities we have undertaken here would have been possible.

Thank you!



YOK Center Thanks Mr. Jay Kim

The Young Oak Kim Center would like to thank Mr. Jay Kim for his generous \$150,000 donation! Mr. Kim has also indicated he will ultimately provide a total of \$250,000 to the Center!

Mr. Kim is a prominent businessman and president of Costar International Enterprises Inc. and Costar Group Inc. He is also vice chairman of the Los Angeles Korean Chamber of Commerce.

An entrepreneur and philanthropist, Kim has been a strong supporter of the Center since its beginning.

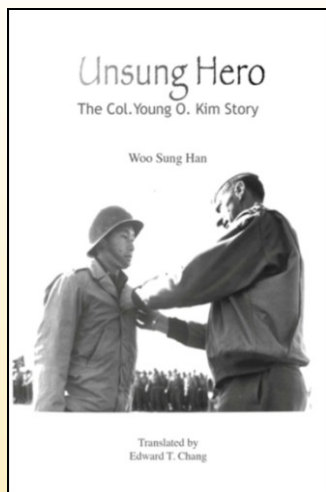
Thank You Mr. Kim!

Documentary on the 1992 LA Riots and the City of Compton by YOK Center Staff

The YOK Center staff and its team of interns is working on a 10 – 15 minute long documentary on the changes in the City of Compton since the 1992 Los Angeles Riots. We are looking to interview anyone who lived, owned or operated a business in the City of Compton during the riots. If you would like to help or participate in the documentary, please contact YOK Center Research Assistant Carol Park at 951-827-5661 or at Carol.Park@ucr.edu.



Second Edition Unsung Hero: The Story of Col. Young Oak Kim Now Available!



Second Edition Cover

The Second Edition of *Unsung Hero: The Story of Col. Young Oak Kim* is now available!

The redesigned cover and updated text can be ordered through the YOK Center at www.yokcenter.ucr.edu or at www.Lulu.com.

The book gives readers a glimpse into the life of Young Oak Kim, the namesake of the center.

Young Oak Kim was a Korean-American soldier and served during World War II and the Korean War.

He led the famous 100th Infantry Battalion in World War II and was awarded several

medals for his effort.

In addition to his contributions during World War II and the Korean War, Young Oak Kim was also a humanitarian.

He saw the importance of helping his community.

The YOK Center will be donating copies of the second edition to local libraries, schools and organizations.

If you would like to help or donate, please visit the YOK Center's [Web site](http://www.yokcenter.ucr.edu) or contact Edward Chang at 951-827-1825 or at Edward.Chang@ucr.edu.

Activities, Articles & Links of Interest

- [YOK Center Grand Opening](#)
- [K.W. Lee Discusses the 1992 LA Riots](#)
- [Publication of the First Edition of *Unsung Hero: The Story of Col. Young Oak Kim*](#)
- [Unsung Hero Book Signing Event at YOK Academy in LA](#)

YOK Center Interns

Andy Park, 5th Year
Anthony George, 4th Year
Hong Thomas, Graduate Student
Janine Nguyen, 2nd Year
Pearl Shinn, 5th Year
Sharon Lee, Graduate Student
Viet Trinh, 2nd Year

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 or Contact Director Edward Chang at 951-827-1825 or Edward.Chang@ucr.edu.

20th Anniversary of 1992 LA Civil Unrest Symposium Event Set

On April 28, 2012 a consortium of schools and organizations will gather for an event on the 1992 LA Civil Unrest. Speakers during the day-long symposium will examine the social, political and cultural implications of the riots.

The event will also evaluate the future of Koreatown. The event is set for 9 a.m. at the Garden Suites Hotel in Koreatown. Look for more information about the event in the next YOK Newsletter.

Newsletter Editor
Carol Park
Newsletter Designers
Pearl Shinn & Carol Park

The Young Oak Kim Center for Korean American Studies
University of California Riverside
4031 CHASS INTN
Riverside, CA 92521

