



KASC JOURNAL

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE KOREA-AMERICA STUDENT CONFERENCE



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"Greetings from the Chairs of the 11th KASC! We are thrilled to share with KASC alumni, supporters and friends the Summer 2018 edition of the KASC Journal. We hope the relaunch of this newsletter serves as an opportunity to reconnect with the mission and people that make KASC special. On that note, we invite you to continue reading as we introduce the 11th KASC and celebrate ten years of bringing together Korean and American student leaders to build deeper relationships between our countries."

REBECCA ANDERSON, AEC Chair
HONGKYEONG KIM, KEC Chair

KASC 11 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE



Rebecca Anderson

American Executive Committee Chair
Yonsei University, Graduate School of International Studies
Korean Studies

Q: "How different was your life one year ago?"

A: "Incredibly different! One year ago, I was interning full-time in DC, had not yet participated in KASC, and had just found out that I was selected for a Fulbright grant to continue my studies in Korea."

Hongkyeong Kim

Korean Executive Committee Chair
Ewha Womans University
Business, Political Science

Q: "What makes a good life?"

A: "Absolutely, good people! Then traveling, music (and anything related to music), books, movies, and food. There are also some items I want to collect once I start to earn my own money, but I will keep this a secret until we meet and you can ask me in person."



Kathy Huang

American Executive Committee Vice Chair
Wesleyan University
Government, East Asian Studies

Q: "What's your favorite genre of book or movie?"

A: "Autobiographies. I find the real stories of real people to be more relatable but also more amazing because I know they happened in this world that I live in. They often inspire me in unexpected turns and reshape my view of the world in some way or another."

Jiyoung Park

Korean Executive Committee Vice Chair
Ewha Womans University
English Language and Literature, Business Administration

Q: "What is the best and worst piece of advice you've ever received?"

A: "The best is: I will be with you always. And the worst: A lot of people are having a harder time than you."



KASC 11 EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

Deborah Cain

American Executive Committee Treasurer
Coe College
Politics, Economics, History

Q: "What is your favorite season?"

A: "Winter is my favorite season. My birthday is on the last day of fall and I like to say I was born then so that I would not miss a single day of winter. The snow makes the season so beautiful and I love the cold. Winter is the perfect season for me."



Jiwon Hwang

Korean Executive Committee Treasurer
KC University
English

Q: "What hobby would you get into if time and money were not an issue?"

A: "If time and money weren't an issue, I would collect baseball team uniforms. I really like watching baseball games and I am a big fan of the Kia Tigers."



Haeun Lee

Korean Executive Committee Recruitment Chair
Konkuk University
Chinese Language and Literature, Real Estate

Q: "What are some small things that make your day better?"

A: "During the semester, some of my classes have lots of students so that if I do not arrive early, my seat is usually in the back which interrupts me with lots of noise. So recently, occupying the better seat in class makes me happy for a day!"



Sangmin Lee

Korean Executive Committee Communications Chair
Kyunghee University
Pharmacy

Q: "How often do you play sports?"

A: "Almost everyday? I swim twice a week, play basketball every Saturday, and I joined a soccer team that practices every Sunday. One of my friends tells me he is sometimes confused whether my major is actually being an athlete or not."



THE 11TH KOREA-AMERICA STUDENT CONFERENCE

The 11th KASC Executive Committee is working hard to organize and implement an exciting new model for the Conference. For the first time, KASC will cross the Pacific Ocean together as a delegation to visit two sites in the United States and two sites in South Korea. From July 20 to August 10, 2018, the 11th KASC will convene in Missoula, Montana; Seattle, Washington; Busan and Seoul, South Korea. The theme of this year's conference is: "Reflections on the History of the US-ROK Alliance and Prospects for Its Dynamic Future."

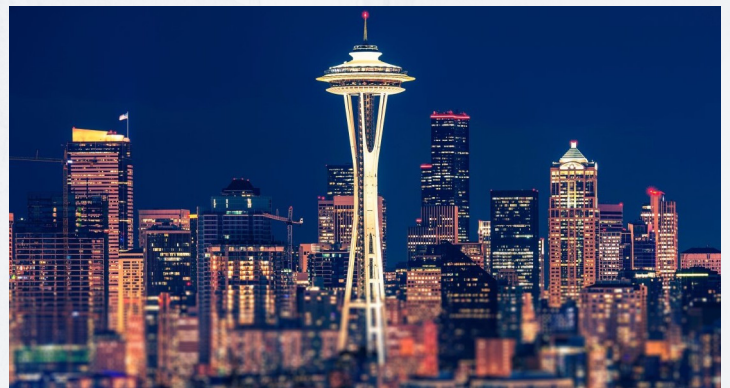
KASC 11 SITES



Missoula, Montana, USA

July 20 - July 23, 2018

The Conference will kick off in Missoula, where delegates will experience rural America while exploring far-reaching connections with East Asia across the diverse regions of the US.



Seattle, Washington, USA

July 24 - July 29, 2018

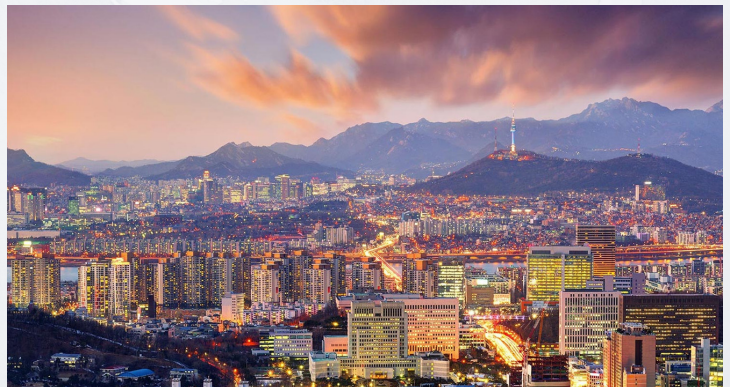
Delegates will closely examine trade relations and cultural exchanges between America and Korea in Seattle, which provides a stark urban contrast as the second and last US site.



Busan, ROK

July 30 - August 4, 2018

Busan, which carries major strategic significance to the US-ROK alliance, offers a distinctive mix of cultural sites and scenic nature to introduce the delegation to its time in South Korea.



Seoul, ROK

August 5 - August 10, 2018

The capital of South Korea, Seoul embodies the politics, economics, history and culture of the country and will serve as a fitting location for the conclusion of the Conference.

The 11th KASC Roundtables cover a broad range of topics relevant to the US-ROK alliance in its modern moment. In addition to the return of the International Relations Roundtable, the KASC 11 EC is excited to hold two new Roundtables exploring the intersections between business and the environment as well as media, culture and society. American and Korean delegates will discuss, co-create and propose creative solutions to challenges related to the following Roundtables at Final Forum in Seoul on August 10, 2018.

- Innovation at the Intersection of Business and the Environment •
- Examining the Interplay Between Media, Culture and Society in the 21st Century •
- International Relations: Now and the Future of the US-ROK Alliance •

The 5th US-Japan-Korea Trilateral Forum

"Serving as a student panelist and being able to share my personal stories was an unforgettable experience."

- JIYOUNG PARK (KEC VICE CHAIR)

From January 1 to 6, 2018, the KASC 11 and JASC 70 Executive Committees gathered for the 5th US-Japan-Korea Trilateral Forum in Washington, DC. The ECs participated in a joint program and interacted with policy experts, diplomats and media representatives from the three countries, allowing them to examine important trilateral issues from multiple perspectives. During the Trilateral Symposium on January 4, KASC and JASC representatives sat with senior experts to engage in productive dialogue on US-Japan-Korea relations. Rebecca Anderson (AEC Chair) and Jiyoung Park (KEC Vice Chair) participated in the "Digital Diplomacy" and "Challenges in the Workplace" panels respectively, the latter of which was also moderated by KASC 1 alumna Florence Maher. Following Trilateral, KASC ECs held their Winter Meetings in DC until January 8 to reconnect and plan moving into the spring.



KASC 11 EC members following the Trilateral Symposium at the National Press Club in Washington, DC



Jiyoung Park (KEC Vice Chair) representing KASC during the "Challenges in the Workplace" panel



ECs with 2018 Winter Olympics and Paralympics mascots Soohorang and Bandabi at the Korean Cultural Center

The Halls of State

by Florence Maher (KASC 1)



Florence (center) moderating the "Challenges in the Workplace" panel during the 5th Trilateral Symposium

"After an eighteen-month hiring process and untold years of dreaming, it actually happened. This West Coaster of modest means, graduate of no Ivy League institution and with no well-connected relatives, received... a job offer. Not just any offer: the chance to represent the American people overseas and work on the front lines of foreign policy implementation, acting on behalf of the U.S. government and living around the world. Job title: diplomat.

How is this possible? If I have said it once, I have said it a thousand times: KASC. Foreign affairs professionals must demonstrate strong communication, interpersonal, leadership and managerial skills in inter-cultural or international settings. As you might imagine, KASC provided compelling examples! Communication? Try working in a roundtable with two distinct linguistic and cultural groups! Interpersonal? How about sharing close quarters with a stranger from halfway around the world who does not share your cultural assumptions and expectations! Leadership and managerial? Would organizing a month-long, four-city conference with an international team located on three continents count? I successfully translated my experiences with KASC into applicable skills for an international career.

For many, myself included, KASC is an intense experience conjuring fiercely mixed emotions. Group and cultural dynamics are heightened by the hectic schedule and lack of privacy. The balance between Korean and American delegates results in two cultural norms, two languages, two natural groupings which simultaneously (and chaotically!) coexist, compete, merge and reform. The process is stressful and exhilarating, and rare is the delegate who emerges unscathed. I learned a lot from my fellow delegates about myself – as a leader, as a group member, and as a social being. In the months following KASC, I reflected on and tried to integrate these lessons into my life. So, when the U.S. Foreign Service invited me in for a day-long interview, I was ready.

Given the nature of international relations, it was no surprise to find an emphasis on cross-cultural communication, teamwork and project management in the interview questions, all of which I could answer from my rich stable of KASC anecdotes. However, the real moment of truth came during the simulated negotiation exercise. When discussing with the other candidates how to allocate hypothetical resources, I knew that my goal was not to speak the loudest or the longest. Instead, from my KASC experience, I viewed my real objective as moving the group to consensus through teamwork. This is diplomacy: not the rough imposition of your will, but rather the creation of common ground from contradictory positions. During KASC, our "common ground" of mutual interest and good will is considerably wider, but the idea is the same: we have differences. How can we work together?

Many of us applied for KASC looking for a fun summer of making friends and improving language skills. What KASC teaches, however, goes far beyond verb conjugation. Teamwork in an international context, cross-cultural communication – these assets cannot be captured in a vacation snapshot. And I would not have entered halls of the State Department without them. Thank you, KASC!"

KASCmas and 10th Anniversary

On December 23, 2017, KASC alumni and 11th KASC Korean Executive Committee members gathered for the annual KASCmas celebration in Seoul. It was also an opportunity to celebrate ten great years of KASC as old and new faces of KASC met and participated in an exciting wine class. Special thanks to National Advisory Committee member Gi-Wook Shin for helping sponsor the event, Sarah Henriët of Soo de Vie for hosting, and of course to all of the alumni who joined that night.



A message from:

Sarah Henriët



"Hi KASCers! Some of you may know me, some of you may not... I used to be the Program Manager for 5th, 6th and 7th KASC. Thanks for letting me share my story via the KASC Journal. Can't believe it's already 2018 and we're celebrating 10 years of KASC. What an achievement!"

After departing ISC in 2014, I moved to Hawaii to work for a foreign policy research institute. While Hawaii was beautiful, I was itching to start my own business. What's funny is that, my motivation to start a business stemmed from my experiences with KASC. I loved creating and building ideas from scratch with the ECs and putting them into action. It wasn't easy, of course, but incredibly rewarding. I learned a lot about myself during that time and realized that I wanted to be an entrepreneur.

I moved back to Korea last fall to start a wine startup called 수devie (Soodevie), meaning "Water of Life." My French dad's family being from Bordeaux, I've always had a special heart for grapes and wine. The wine market in Korea is growing rapidly, but wine remains a luxury item that is difficult to approach for the majority of Koreans. I founded Soodevie to change this – through fun Korean food & wine pairing salons and a wine channel, I seek to be the bridge between importers and consumers; helping the former better market wines, and helping consumers better understand and appreciate wine. The best part about this is that I'm doing it with a KASCer – Bella Kim, the 6th KASC Chair and my partner in crime. Hope to see KASCers in Seoul at our wine salons! Santé!"

THE 10TH KASC

From July 23 to August 13, 2017, the 10th KASC successfully convened in Washington, DC; Dallas, Texas; and San Francisco, California. Conference highlights included: a Six Party Talks simulation led by the Korea Economic Institute; a conversation with Dr. Victor Cha at the Center for Strategic and International Studies; a visit to NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center; and a Gender Box Activity led by Barbara Rodriguez and Elizabeth Silva of the Asia Foundation. Final Forum was hosted at the Asia Foundation in San Francisco, where delegates jointly presented before expert panelists their policy recommendations related to business, social inequality, environmental technology and international relations. Below, several delegates reflect on their KASC experiences.



The KASC 10 Opening Ceremony held at Catholic University of America in DC



Delegates conversing with Dr. Victor Cha about the work of Beyond Parallel at CSIS



The Social Inequality RT presenting their policy recommendation at Final Forum

KASC 10 Reflection: Minseok Gong

"I am a pharmacy student with interests in the health care industry. The reason why I applied to KASC was to experience different cultures by forming networks with delegates from various backgrounds. Because I hope to work at a global pharmaceutical company in the future, it was really a great opportunity for me to experience different cultures and work on global issues.

Personally, I was impressed by a skit activity where delegates introduced Korean and American cultures through a short performance. Our team introduced historical events in South Korea to show the collective spirit of Korea and the American delegates showed their college lives. Through this activity, we got to understand the different cultures. Also, though it was a tight schedule overall, we were able to take advantage of our free time to explore American cultural spots or restaurants. Living in a university dorm and communicating with delegates also helped me learn more English.

Through the roundtables where every delegate was assigned to one of the global issues, I was able to develop problem-solving skills by actively working on the project. In this three-week project, the problem we had to solve was: "How could these two countries cooperate in the fields of science and technology to solve environmental problems?" Our team had to research, discuss, and work around this issue and it was not easy at first. However, we did not give up. We used research tools such as surveys and contacted professionals to ask for opinions. The project progressed rapidly and our team was able to produce high-quality results in a limited amount of time. At Final Forum, the expert panelist said our team's ideas were creative and innovative. That was a really great experience for me to present in front of a renowned panelist and discuss with them. (continued next page)

If you ask what is the most valuable thing that I gained from KASC, I would say it is 'network.' KASCers are smart, capable, and have something different from other students. We could solidify our friendships from continuous discussions and preparation. Even now, I still communicate and debate with them to build up our knowledge and discussion skills. Overall, from KASC, I got confidence in my language abilities and it spurred me to challenge myself into other global activities. If you are interested in international relations or global issues, I believe KASC is definitely a good choice."



Minseok at NASA's Goddard Space Flight Center near Washington, DC



Delegates after the Talent Show in Dallas



Haelee after Final Forum



Delegates at a Texas Rangers baseball game

KASC 10 Reflection: Haelee Jo

"At the time that I first heard about KASC, one thing that inspired me to apply was the conference format run by students from America and Korea together. Also the roundtable topics reflecting social issues of those days attracted me, so I didn't hesitate applying for it. Of course, I felt excited about the fact that all activities were taking place in three different major cities in the US.

There were many things that I learned and experienced, for instance how to interact with students during the conference, how to communicate with speakers, and much cultural learning. Through those lectures, I gained new knowledge from various sessions that I had never experienced before such as business, international politics, human rights, and even the arts field. The greatest things were the opportunities in meeting new people that I could not meet with closely in Korea and of course in America. New places, people. and the new lifestyle made changes for me culturally and intellectually.

The best thing was the fact that all things were new for me. Before this kind of activity, I didn't have the opportunity to make relationships with students from America and even Korea. And during the conference in three weeks, literally we had to do everything all together as if we were family. This means we have been through a lot together. Since I was in college, the only thing I went through with someone before was through group projects. But during KASC, we had to eat, sleep and study together at the same place. This became a unique and unforgettable memory for me. Most of times in KASC have reminded me of many friends and many moments.

Because we were close, we could build strong bonds and learn many things in both personal and academic ways by closely interacting. The one thing that I can be sure of is that everyone learned something new that they hadn't thought before KASC, which is the best thing I suppose."

From the Executive Director's Desk:

Linda Butcher

Dear KASCers and Supporters,

2018 marks so many great milestones: 10 years of KASC, the 5th US-Japan-Korea Trilateral Forum and the first year KASC will visit both countries! I joined International Student Conferences (ISC) in 2016 and must say the past two years have been rewarding and eye-opening. Rewarding in that we have had the privilege to meet, interact with and hear stories from our amazing alumni, delegates and ECs. We have seen them grow through their KASC experiences and continue to serve as a bridge between the US and Korea. Eye-opening in that we don't just say our unique programs prepare and empower the next generation, but that our programs really do. Upon traveling with KASC, I witnessed the Conference's amazing impact and saw firsthand how the program truly transforms our delegates into ambassadors.



Linda with KASC 11 ECs and Ambassador Mark Lippert

2018 is also a time when we need KASCers and KASC supporters more than ever. Due to our growing reliance on technology and social media, it has become far too easy to defer to online posts and headlines when attempting to understand complex situations abroad or why a country adopted a particular stance. Yet, in doing so, we distance ourselves from the thousands of other voices that a single article may claim to speak on behalf of. As KASC has shown us time and time again, we gain the truest and most nuanced understanding of our international counterparts by building lasting relationships with our peers. Whether it be during late-night discussions in the dorms or when walking from one location to another in the summer heat, the conversations that KASC welcomes are ones that you carry with you for the rest of your life. This is why our mission to promote peace by furthering mutual understanding, friendship, and trust through international student interchange has become so important and why it will continue to have a positive impact on the individual and the greater global community alike.

As we enter this new chapter of KASC, we look to you - the alumni, delegates, ECs and supporters - to continue the KASC legacy by staying in touch and continuing to serve as Ambassadors who are dedicated to strengthening the ties between the countries. We are incredibly thankful to the 11th KASC Executive Committee for re-starting the KASC Newsletter / Journal and to our KASC Alumni Committee, many of whom are featured in this Journal. Their support and guidance has helped usher us into this new and exciting chapter! If you are interested in becoming more involved, please contact us at info@iscdc.org and if you are ever in the DC area, be sure to stop by our offices to say hello!

On behalf of ISC, we look forward to hearing from you and seeing the many ways KASC has impacted you personally and professionally!

Sincerely,
Linda

A special welcome: **Audrey Happ**



"Hello, everyone! My name is Audrey Happ and I am so excited to be joining ISC as the Communications & Events Associate. As I have always been passionate about facilitating cross-cultural exchanges and U.S.-Asia relations in particular, I am thrilled to support this year's KASCers as they prepare for their upcoming conference. In my brief time with ISC, I have already seen firsthand the enthusiasm of the KASC 11 Executive Committee members. Their around the clock hard work and dedication to making this year's Korea-America Student Conference a success has been nothing short of inspiring, and I look forward to meeting the rest of KASC's exceptional delegates and alumni over the coming months. In the meantime, please feel free to contact me at ahapp@iscdc.org with questions, ideas for ISC social media, or to simply introduce yourself!"

K A S C E R N O T E S

Sung Yeon Kim (KASC 10)

"After KASC, the whole world seemed different. Definitely nothing has physically changed, but I was pretty sure that I was perceiving my world quite differently. Maybe it was because now I became to think of many things around me in different aspects: KASC gave me such an invaluable opportunity to meet brilliant thinkers all over Korea and the U.S. Such an ability of critical reasoning has been developed by sharing those brilliant ideas with them. After the 'mid-summer night's dream', I went to grad school to pursue the study of Linguistics, particularly Phonetics and Phonology. We all know that study of language involves understandings external to language, and I am sure that KASC provided me with quite many of them."



Sophie Osborn (KASC 9 & 10)

"Since completing my stint as American Vice Chair for 10th KASC this past summer, I've begun my final year of undergrad at UC San Diego. With the real world looming around the corner, I've become more grateful for my experience with KASC and the real leg up that it has given me in terms of my career search. KASC challenged me professionally and exposed me to many different fields of work. It also inspired me to continue engaging American students to learn more about international affairs, and so in my senior year I've joined the executive board of the UCSD International Studies Student



Association as the Vice President. I've had the opportunity to apply the skills I learned in KASC here on campus, and I'm also excited to share that I'm currently working with the Korea Economic Institute to bring their Six Party Talks simulation (which we participated in during 10th KASC) to UC San Diego next quarter! As for what's in store for me post-June, I'm currently planning to take a gap year or two to work before going back for my Masters in either International Affairs or possibly International Law. Let me know if you know of anyone hiring!"



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