

STUDENT - ORGANIZED OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF YONSEI'S UIC

# UIC SCRIBE



Which “iPhone” would you choose?

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# MESSAGE FROM THE DEAN

February 2010

Dear UIC students,

2009 academic year comes to a close with UIC's very first commencement ceremony on February 22nd. The number of the graduating class may be small but the symbolism is quite significant. The graduates represent the first of many to follow who will no doubt assume positions of leadership both at home and abroad. Early indications appear promising. Nearly 30% of the graduates have already heard from some of the top conglomerates such as Samsung Electronics, LG Electronics, POSCO, Goldman Sachs, AIG, etc. Come March, many are expected to hear also from top graduate schools. All in all, I'm fully convinced that UIC 'products' are competitive in the global market.

2010 academic year also promises to be exciting. The addition of the study lounge, student center, a re-located student council office, as well as new lockers in the B1 floor provides much-needed relief to UIC's space problem. The creation of faculty offices as well as the faculty lounge also on B1 floor is expected to help in terms of student-faculty interaction. As was the case with the class of 2009, the 2010 class also comes from diverse countries and backgrounds.

UIC, apparently, is alive and kicking! And this UIC dynamism, I'm happy to say, is always nicely captured in the UIC Scribe. This edition is no exception to this rule. As always, it is a good read.

I look forward to seeing everyone when the semester starts. Meanwhile, my best wishes as always.

Jung-Hoon Lee  
Dean, Underwood International College  
Yonsei University

## EDITORS NOTE

As the UIC's student-organized official newsletter, The UIC Scribe welcomes the class of 10 as our new family members. From the interview with our first graduating 06 class members to the survey on the dreams that UIC students have, introduction to the creative writing program and so on, The WINTER 2010 issue of The UIC Scribe covers diverse articles showing the campus life in UIC. I believe this issue must be helpful not only to the UIC students but also anyone who is interested in UIC to understanding what it is like. Hoping people to enjoy this issue, I give my thank my fellow editors and writers who worked so hard to publish the best piece we've had ever, and the professor Michael Kim, Paul Tonks, Chad Denton, and Loren Goodman for caring us from the heart. Cannot wait to see you all in March!

Editor in Chief  
Yenie Won

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# *Our First Alumni*

Introducing students from UIC's first graduating class

UIC ACCEPTED its first students in the spring of 2006. Since their matriculation, they have witnessed the establishment of UIC, studied under its first professors and participated in creating the reputation of international vision. These students will be graduating in February of 2010, marking four years of education at UIC. As UIC's first graduating class, their voices bear historical resonance. In light of this, the UIC Scribe asked graduating students to reflect on their experiences at UIC.



Kang Min-Seong (IS)

**Q: What is one non-academic lesson you've learned during your years at UIC?**

A: Because it's a very international environment, students don't necessarily limit themselves just to Korea. They are able to see how other cultures and backgrounds view Korea as well as contribute to a more globalized atmosphere at UIC.

**Q: What is the most important characteristic to succeeding in college?**

A: It's about having responsibility. In terms of your career, it is important not to leave things to the last minute or to blame other people. Students mustn't wholly depend on other people and they should take

control of themselves. Once you graduate from high school, your decisions are largely your own. So being independent is important in my view.

**Q: What do you suggest for the future of the Student Council?**

A: Personally, I've never been in the Student Council. Whilst I agree that it's important to bond students, I don't think the social atmosphere functions to form the entirety of a UIC identity. I was really pleased with how the Student Council handled and fought against the Songdo matter. I think it's important to ask for more courses, better students and just make UIC better as an academic institution.

**Q: What attitude should freshmen have to college?**

A: I think every year counts and a good start is always important. Don't waste time. Sometimes, I see freshmen as not fully taking advantage of UIC. There are great professors, they will gladly help you, participate in class and do all your work. It helps for later.

**Q: What next? What are your future plans?**

A: I will be going to graduate school. Hopefully, I'll be contributing something to the world as well as doing my work.

Park Sae-Woong (LSBT)

**Q: Did you find anything particularly difficult being in UIC?**

A: Because I was there in the first year it was established, there weren't many professors and the level of the classes wasn't very comparable to other biotechnology courses in Yonsei.

**Q: What advice would you give to freshmen majoring in LSBT?**

A: It's important first of all to be clear about your goal. UIC actually established the LSBT department as a tradition to the medical school. Many students in LSBT are preparing to become doctors in the future. I would suggest that students who would rather not follow this path would probably benefit more from studying in the engineering department. I'm also planning to become a doctor.

**Q: What is one important characteristic to succeeding in college?**

A: Students should obtain information independently and be open to new opportunities. I was involved in the MBR Global Challenge and it was very rewarding for me. It also matters that you are prepared for the future early on. As there were no seniors when I entered UIC, it was especially difficult for me to be driven and ambitious.

**Q: What next? What do you plan to do after you graduate?**

A: I've been accepted into a medical school in Korea so I'm planning to become a doctor. I decided to study medicine last semester, after I passed the application exam. If I had had information, I would probably have prepared much earlier.



Park Irene (PSIR)

**Q: What was a difficult aspect of being one of the first students in UIC?**

A: In the freshman year when we began, not many people on campus knew who we were. So when we tried to join activities or even start them, there was a lot of introduction. There were even a couple of times on YSCEC when we had to ask why UIC wasn't listed. In this regard, I think it's become much better now.

**Q: What were some of the most rewarding aspects of majoring in PSIR?**

A: When the classes were first offered to us, they were actually very limited. There were some politics courses for IS students that could have been regular PSIR courses. However, one of the advantages of this was that we took a lot of classes from the same professors who really wanted us to succeed and we built quite a strong bond.

**Q: What is one goal that freshmen should strive for?**

A: I think personally learning a language is so crucial for UIC students. Most of us already know a second language or third language and learning another language will only make us much more globalized.

**Q: What is your experience of interactions between underclassmen and seniors?**

A: Underclassmen should be comfortable but I guess it's hard because our 06 class itself is very divided. Not in the cliquey sense but everyone seems to think that they're an outsider. There's no discrimination and we all have this sense of awkward commonality. In that sense, I enjoy it. But because we're so busy, the majority of us don't actually get many opportunities to interact with underclassmen. So I would have to suggest that underclassmen introduce themselves to seniors and then I think there will be good bonding.

**Q: What next? What will you be entering the job market or furthering your education?**

A: Neither. I don't want to go into the job market right now and I don't want to study immediately after college so I'm preparing to take a language study course together with an internship program in China and Japan. I plan to spend one year in each country. My decision was influenced by my experience during The Three Campus Exchange program. I participated in the first program recently and I really enjoyed it and thought it was a unique opportunity.

The UIC Scribes wishes the graduating class of 06 the best for their future.

# *Have you heard of The Creative Writing Program?*



GREGORY JEONG  
PHOTOGRAPHY

MANY PEOPLE have been curious about the innovative creation of an independent liberal arts college within Yonsei University – Underwood International College (UIC) – in Seoul, Korea. Many students who were interested in applying for Yonsei University were intrigued by how the academic programs provided by UIC were different from those of ordinary departments found in the Humanities, Social Science and Engineering Colleges. In order to resolve people's curiosity, I visited room 209 in New Millennium Hall, to observe one of the many uniqueness of UIC --- the Creative Writing Program.

When I opened the door, I was shocked by what I saw; it was not a scene where around hundred people were sitting in the class room listening to the professor delivering the lecture. There were around ten students sitting in a circle, discussing fiercely about the class's topic, how they thought about Ann Beattie's *A Vintage Thunderbird*. Students in the class were exposed to a unthinkably diverse collection of unique books, movies and literary journals that they would not have been exposed to in other classes. More surprisingly, the blackboard was utilized by the students, not the professor. Professor Gabe Hudson, former professor of creative writing at Princeton University and Brown University, was fully engaged in the debate by helping students formulate their own answers by throwing thought-provoking questions. Amazed at what was going on, I had an interview with Professor Gabe Hudson.

**Q: I see how different Creative Writing Program is from other writing classes; would you like to explain more about what Creative Writing is for the readers?**

**A:** Put simply, a Creative Writing Program -- as it exists at Princeton, Columbia, Brown, and America's other elite liberal arts universities & colleges -- is a constellation of related courses in which students -- under the guidance of a writer of international repute -- learn the craft of producing original literary art. Typically, Creative Writing Programs consist of workshops/courses in writing poetry (we have the award-winning poet, Professor Loren Goodman), literary translation (we have the award-winning translator, Professor John Frankl), and fiction writing -- which is what I teach. At Princeton and Brown, their Creative Writing Programs are flagship components of their curriculum, and recently both Harvard and Princeton instituted massively funded arts initiatives -- stating that producing original art should be an integral part of an elite education. Fortunately, Yonsei has sophisticated and cosmopolitan professors such as, Hong Won Suh, and, Hye-Joon Yoon, who had the original vision to bring Creative Writing to Yonsei, because these Yonsei Professors wanted to insure that UIC students receive an education that is competitive with the best universities in America. I think we should all be proud of the fact that UIC has the first English-language Creative Writing Program in Korea (and with its award-winning

making UIC a liberal arts institution that will be competitive with the best universities in the world.

**Q: I bet teaching in Princeton and Brown University must have been interesting and satisfying; what was the motivation for you to come to Korea and more specifically, choose UIC?**

A: My mentor, the Korean-American novelist, Chang-rae Lee -- also a professor at Princeton -- first notified me about the position at UIC. Also, I serve as the Korea Adviser for Princeton-in-Asia, whose MO is Service, which is probably a simple way of stating why I came to Korea -- that is, service to the imagination. I suspected there might be some students at Yonsei who were eager to express themselves through writing fiction, and I wanted to be a catalyst for that event. I am intrigued by a certain cultural dialogue between the East and the West, and I thought coming to teach at UIC would allow me to contribute to this in some way. As for why I came to UIC, aside from the obvious allure of being surrounded by wonderful colleagues and students, I was also excited at the prospect of being a part of a pioneering project that is helping start the first Creative Writing Program in Korea.

**Q: What are the differences between UIC's creative writing program and the ones offered in the U.S.? (Princeton/Brown Univ.)?**



A: Well, obviously Yonsei, Princeton, and Brown are wonderful schools, but I would say the principal difference is my students at UIC seem to me to be more international. That is, my UIC students have lived in more places around the world, and I feel that the influence of various cultures informs their lives more urgently. I enjoy the fact that most of my UIC seminars are comprised of international students from different majors, and that, since none of my classes are required, can be quite rigorous. These students enroll in my courses because they believe deeply in the value of what transpires in our classroom. I should mention that the benefits of Creative Writing can enhance the undergraduate experience of all students, and that many of my former students from Princeton still keep in touch, and these former students have gone on to diverse careers -- whether it be on Wall Street, or in law, journalism, film, academia, politics -- the list goes on. Aside from the obvious benefits of attaining some mastery over narrative and language (and the world and everything in it is constructed of narrative and language), there are certain qualities my creative writing courses aim to cultivate within each student: mental flexibility and strength, eloquence, courage, empathy, sophistication, and integrity. The expectation is that even if my students don't go on to become novelists, these courses will give my students the tools to live a more meaningful and graceful life.

**Q: How do you see the future of Korean literary art and how would you like to contribute to it to make a change?**

A: This is a wonderful question! However, I do not have the answer (nor does anyone), which makes it exciting. In my creative writing course, The Future of Korean Literary Art, the UIC students ask and answer a multitude of questions regarding the future of Korean literary art, and they achieve this through the process of writing original prose fiction. Ultimately, I believe the UIC students will answer that question in the future -- because the students are in fact the future of Korean literary art -- and I am simply grateful and humbled to be a part of that process.

After the interview, I saw students discussing their works passionately even late in the afternoon. I was impressed by how students were motivated to work because they want it, not because they were forced to do so for grades. Seeing both the professor and students' passion for an innovative way of teaching and learning creative writing, I was glad to see the bright future of Korean literary art within UIC.

# FAKE Products in China

The “iPhone” on the left of the front cover is the phony version.  
(notice the sim card door on the side and not the top)

Don't get caught using one of these if you want to maintain your status-quo.



SMART M89(iphone 3G style)

FAKE PRODUCTS are a craze in China: electronics that are not composed of all the parts necessary for function; or that do not have the quality for it to last a certain period of time for customer satisfaction. This phenomenon is not limited to manufactured goods, but also food products such as beef, eggs, honey, and even processed foods like ramen. These foods are made from different ingredients to create a texture that is indistinguishable from the real thing.

Though some are made for so-called, "art and creativity," the overwhelming majority of counterfeit brands are made to be sold in the black market. Such famous brands as Starbucks and Samsung are copied almost to the last detail, changing only the name of the product such as "Harbucks" or "Samsung". Others include "Dolce and Banana", "Relax", "sdidsa", and Converse Shoes' "Ballstar Classic". Such poorly made products have a very limited lifespan, but they are a serious breach of copyright laws the Chinese government does not enforce (or perhaps does not take seriously).

Article II of the Copyright Law of the Peoples' Republic of China states that, "Any work of a foreigner or stateless person which is eligible to enjoy copyright under an agreement concluded between the country to

which the foreigner belongs or in which he has habitual residence and China, or under an international treaty to which both countries are party, shall be protected in accordance with this Law." Article III specifically defines 'work' with a list that clearly mentions: (7) drawings of engineering designs, and product designs: maps, sketches and other graphic and model works; and (8) computer software.

Some brands are designed to be real, but do not function at all. For example, electronic products when inspecting its external components, is virtually impossible to tell whether it is fake or real. However, when broken down, it does not contain any of the components its external design claims it has.

Other products are impossible to distinguish. Fake honey is known to be indistinguishable from real honey. Fake beef has the same texture and taste, but when scientifically examined, it has none of the nutrition real beef contains. Fake eggs are fried just like real eggs, but when analyzed are found to contain no protein whatsoever.

These fakes cause a significant profit reduction of the legitimate products that compete in the market. The Chinese government must enforce copyright laws, or pass acts that can tighten control of the fake products that are



**It looks, cracks, and cooks just like a real egg. Fake egg are much cheaper to produce than actual eggs.**

**The cost of fake egg is only 0.55 Yuan/kg, while the true eggs' market price is 5.6 Yuan/kg.**



<http://bestofmails.com/2009/12/fake-eggs-wat-r-the-chinese-gonna-think-of-next/>

sold profit. The Korean beer brand Cass, will lose significant revenue in the Chinese market if its fake counterpart (or many counterparts) such as Casb, Casp, or Casd continue to sell in the market.

Since South Korea's largest trading partner is China, the Korean economy is deeply affected in the long run, from loss of possible revenue. To continue economic interdependence or improve it, it is time for the Chinese government to enforce copyright law for patents on products, and logo designs.

So why does the Chinese government not enforce copyright laws? First and most arguably, the government does not have any incentives to enforce them in the first place. The laws do not necessarily benefit the government either economically, or politically. Second, many developed countries such as in Europe, the United States, Japan, and South Korea rely on China for cheap labor and its mass availability. China has a reputation especially in East Asia as a country full of fake products that are manufactured or pirated and sold for profit. This negative reputation I argue, has existed in China for such a long period of time that the government does not feel

the need to change it. In order for China to enforce its laws, it must first change its identity as a haven for pirated production, to a reliable and low-fraud market economy foreign investors are willing to make a safe bet on.

The sales of fake brands overseas has caused Korean exports to lose around US\$14.2 billion, approximately 5 percent of Korea's annual exports of US\$ 284 billion.

Chinese counterfeiters have sold their copies to third world countries for profit, gaining a foothold on the mainstream market, and building a competitive advantage against the legitimate players in the economy. If Korea is going to push for a policy that eliminates counterfeit brands, it will desperately need the cooperation of the Chinese government. Acquiring the Chinese government's cooperation is another difficult step.

Manufacturing fake brands must be stamped out in China to ensure business reliability and acknowledgement of China's integration into the world economy. If economic growth is to be improved, copyright law enforcement is definitely one way to achieve it, especially between China and South Korea.

# A 21st Century Black Death



APRIL 2009, North America and Mexico panicked over the unexpected deaths from the mystery flu, first mistaken for the swine flu. Eight months later, it swept away the lives of more than ten thousand people worldwide. The World Health Organization reported that although the spread of H1N1 influenza has passed its peak, the rate of deaths from the influenza has not slowed down. In fact, the number of patients is still increasing in later affected areas, especially in south-eastern and central Europe and central and south Asia. South Korea had more than 150 reported deaths from the flu, and dozens of more patients are in “critical condition” from the flu. Given the situation, a few news agencies have reported about a possible collective panic for the pandemic. Is the H1N1 pandemic really a 21st century black death? Or has it been “hyped” by the media?

On December 18th, the WHO announced the updates for H1N1 pandemic: there has been at 10582 reported deaths worldwide. During the second week of December, Korea faced a total of 4710 patients, 46 among whom were in critical condition, and 16 additional deaths—summing up to 148 deaths in total.

Analysts are divided in their interpretations for the novel influenza. Some worry that the “pandemic” might lead to a “disaster,” just as the Spanish Flu, also known as the 1918 flu pandemic, which killed about 50~100 million people worldwide—3~7 times more than the casualties from the First World War. Approximately 3% of the world’s population died of the flu, and 1/3 were infected.

Furthermore, the Korea Economic Research Institute analyzed through its report, “Economic Consequences of the Pandemic Novel Influenza,” that in the worst case, where the influenza continues to spread for more than one year, the effects of the influenza might decrease Korea’s GDP by 5.6%. They explained that a worsened pandemic of influenza may bring about a decrease not only in the supply aspect with a weakened labor force, but also in the demands aspect with more people being “isolated.”

On the other hand, others view the influenza more optimistically, stressing that 99.99% of the patients who suffered from the H1N1 influenza in Korea fully recovered. They consider the influenza not much different from the common cold. Some point out that it is the “collective panic” or the “paranoia” over the influenza that is more serious than the influenza itself. In addition, the actual mortality rate of the influenza is lower than the seasonal flu, which takes away the lives of a quarter to half a million patients every year.

A few British and French newspapers are even publishing articles on how H1N1 has been “hyped.” Le Parisien, a French newspaper, wrote that the medical researchers and pharmaceutical companies are exaggerating the dangers of H1N1 in order to get more research grants or sell more medicines. Britain’s Independence published

an article titled, “Pandemic? What Pandemic?” arguing in similar lines with Le Parisien.

In response to these arguments, many scientists say that although H1N1 won’t be as serious as the 1918 flu pandemic since we now have antibiotics and much better medical treatments, it is still too early to call it a “mild” flu. Fred Hayden, an influenza research co-ordinator at Wellcome Trust and a former WHO expert, said “I wouldn’t characterize this as a mild pandemic at all. We are seeing some very unfortunate loss of life. It’s a bit early to make that judgment.”

On December 9th, the South Korean Ministry of Health and Welfare has lowered the status of the pandemic to Code Orange. Yet, the public still seems concerned for the flu, especially with the additional reports about celebrities who suffered from the flu—including Lee Seung Gi, Kim Nam Gil, Lee Byung Hun, and Park Jung Ah.

Yonsei University has posted a list of guidelines for the H1N1 influenza and placed hand sanitizers in every building as precautionary measures. It has sent out emails to students about the number of students with the influenza in September, but has not announced recent updates yet. The school is “excusing” students from classes if they have the symptoms of H1N1, leaving it up to students to make the judgment. Yonsei’s measures only partly satisfy suggestions given out by WHO in September, titled, “Reducing transmission of pandemic (H1N1) 2009 in school settings.” In this report, WHO recommends: promoting hand hygiene and respiratory etiquette, isolating students and staff who become ill while at school, reducing crowding, proper cleaning and ventilation, disseminating relevant public health messages, guaranteeing essential services and supplies, and assessing the role of class suspension and/or school closure, and so on. So far, the Yonsei Administration seems to be leaving students responsible for not only “protecting” themselves from the influenza but also with the aftermath of suffering from the flu, including the catch-up work from the “excused” classes.

With proper medication and vaccines, the H1N1 influenza may not become a 21st century black death, as some people fear. However, considering the possibility that the economy may be adversely affected and the risks to the victims of the disease, more timely efforts seem urgent to minimize the consequences of the H1N1 virus worldwide.

# The Nobel Peace Prize: A Prize Given to the Worthy?

THE MOST renowned prize in the world, which is given only to the best and the most adept: is the Nobel Prize. Founded in 1900, the Nobel Prize was first bequeathed through the will of Alfred Nobel, a Swedish industrialist and inventor. He requested that five prizes be given, among which, the Nobel Peace Prize was included. The prize is awarded by a committee of five people elected by the Norwegian Parliament. The other prizes, such as chemistry and physics, were conspicuous choices, as Nobel himself was a trained chemical engineer. Yet, his intention in incorporating "peace" as one of the prizes was not so obvious. He left a will which explains to whom the prize should be given: "during the preceding year... shall have done the most or the best work for fraternity between nations, for the abolition or reduction of standing armies and for the holding and promotion of peace congresses." These were his only instructions, leaving copious room for debate; the reason why, perhaps, so many controversial candidates arose. As a result, the question of their worthiness was born. The zenith of this controversy, however, occurred recently—the award to President Obama. Were his accomplishments, despite having been the president for only nine months, reputable enough? Was it a mere act of politics or possibly a congratulatory

gesture for becoming the first African American president? Or, hopefully, was it a prize given as an impetus, a burden, maybe, so that he may truly pursue his affirmations and efforts for peace?

Compare, then, the achievements of those considered to have deserved the prize with those of President Obama. Yearly, a Nobel Peace Prize is awarded to some individual around the world. Many of them deserve such

recognition and honor; for others, it may be questionable. President Theodore Roosevelt was the first American president to be rewarded the prize. His accomplishments were well worthy of the prize as his significant efforts to mediate the heinous war between Russia and Japan proved to be successful. The reasons why the prize was given to the other winners have also been obvious. Just a few years ago, Mohamed ElBaradei was given the prize "for his efforts to prevent nuclear energy from being used for military purposes and to ensure that nuclear energy for peaceful purposes is used in the safest possible way." Furthermore, former South Korean President Kim Dae-jung received the prize "for his work for democracy and human rights in South Korea and in East Asia in general, and for peace and reconciliation with North Korea in particular." In 1998, John Hume and David Trimble received the prize "for their efforts to find a peaceful solution to the conflict in Northern Ireland." These candidates all have something in common: they had taken action in a specific region to create peace, or at least, had improved relationship between nations for the purpose of peace. Yet, the reason stated for the award to President Obama is different: "for his extraordinary efforts to strengthen international diplomacy and cooperation between peoples." This does not, by any means,

sufficiently explain the accomplishments of President Obama. It does not list what he has done nor does it state where and how he has generated peace. Why? Perhaps, because there are no genuine achievements to list. The statement, "and cooperation between peoples" illustrates even greater evidence of his lack of achievement. Who are the "peoples" and what cooperation has he fostered? Again, a question is raised.



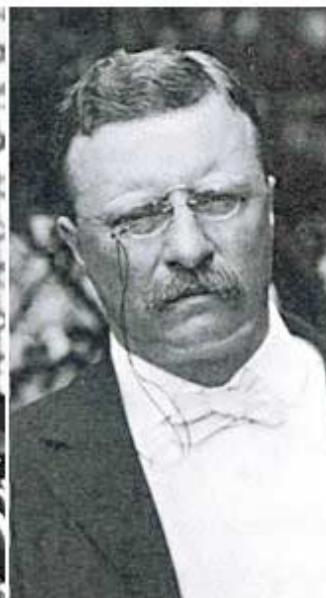
What, then, has President Obama done that is so extraordinary as to have received such an honor? It was merely nine months into his presidency when the president won the Nobel Peace Prize. Moreover, the voting on the candidates began only a few weeks into his administration. War was still going on in

Iraq and Afghanistan and decisions on whether to place tens of thousands more troops into Afghanistan were being made. It seems incongruous that the president had been awarded the prize despite these circumstances. Politician John Feehery cynically states, "Mr. Obama hasn't even been able to get a peace deal between Nancy Pelosi and Harry Reid, who continue to snipe at each other over the health care public option and Afghanistan." Though stated cynically, this clearly shows how much some believe that the president does not deserve the prize. Nobel prizes are supposed to be given to those with very notable accomplishments. Yet, from a national perspective, it is difficult to see that Obama has accomplished anything notable thus far in the Obama presidency. Peace takes time. To many, it seems that President Obama won the prize not for his accomplishments but for his ideology, his status, and the image that he had created for himself. He is, needless to say, the first African American president of the United States. This historical achievement is, however, deficient of the honor of receiving this prize. Again, another possibility arises: that he was given the honor merely because he is not President Bush. Europeans could not wait, as Bush himself acknowledges, to bid farewell to a man they saw as a cold warrior at heart, to a president who had led the world into a disastrous intervention in Iraq, and to a president who refused to take action concerning the global climate change. For many around the world, the chief concern in the election was that the result should give them anyone but Bush. Unusually, then, the president was rewarded not due to his accomplishments but for solely representing a new beginning. He was given the award as a "hope" for a change in the international climate. This falls conspicuously short of the worthiness one must achieve in order to receive the prize.

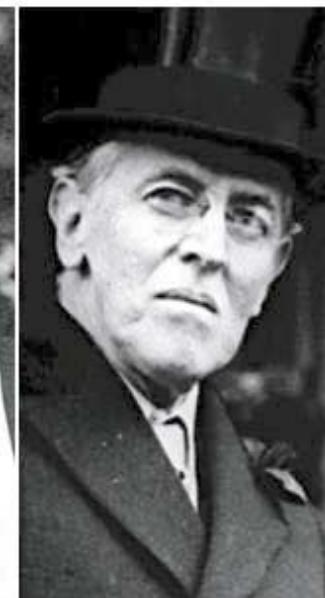
Looking into the history of the Nobel Peace Prize, it can be analyzed that there were, generally speaking, two manners in which the prize was given. The first was



Jimmy Carter



Theodore Roosevelt



Woodrow Wilson

awarding due to settled accomplishment, an example being, as aforementioned, President Theodore Roosevelt. He had successfully mediated the war between Japan and Russia and had patently heightened international peace. Yet,

another type exists: a prize given not for a settled accomplishment, but a vision. In other words, political intervention so that the awardee may be motivated truly to strive for peace in the world. An example of such is President Woodrow Wilson. He was awarded the prize for settling the effects of the First World War. It was, however, but a process; he had not completely succeeded. The prize was awarded to push the peace towards the idealism of Woodrow Wilson. Similarly, giving the award to President Obama was a political intervention. A political intervention in a sense that the Nobel Peace Prize has often been given for aspirational reasons, for potential achievements in the future as much as actual achievements. The Peace Prize, unlike the other four Nobel Prizes, sometimes goes beyond recognizing past accomplishments. It is the possible positive effects of its choices that are also taken into account—bluntly, it is a political act. Simply put, will President Obama be able to dispatch more troops in Afghanistan as a winner of the Nobel Peace Prize? It is a burden, in other words, to succor him and to pressure him to truly strive for peace. It is no longer a question of who has brought the most change. Rather, it is a question of who is able to bring the most change.

This event came as shock, even to President Obama, when he was informed about winning the Nobel Peace Prize. Questions and criticisms rose incessantly regarding his worthiness. Despite the controversy, the president accepted the prize, promising to regard it as "a call to action." Truly, the president has given hope to many nations and has made calls to transform the international situation. No matter the reason, President Obama has already been awarded the Nobel Peace Prize. Whether the prize will prove to be detrimental or to be a catalyst to his successful future accomplishments is all up to him. It is best to hope, then, that he truly will allow himself to be worthy of the title and that he truly will bring peace to the world.

# KOREA INTERNATIONAL STUDIES ASSOCIATION

## Interview with Prof. Maass



DESPITE THE ever-growing global consciousness, due to language barriers, it is still difficult to have a forum with non-Koreans or English speakers on international issues. Thus, one of UIC's professors, Matthias Maass and his colleague, Brendan Howe of Ewha University, have founded the Korean International Studies Association (KISA). KISA would serve as a medium for communication and the exchange of information and research for students and professionals in the field of international studies.

The launch of KISA was hosted by Ewha Womans University, at the Ewha Campus Complex on October 8-9, 2009. The inaugural conference featured sessions of panel talks with professors and graduate students from many different institutions such as Seoul National University, International University of Japan, Beijing Foreign Affairs University, Ajou University and of course, Yonsei University. Representatives from organi-

zations such as the European Commission were also in attendance.

With the establishment of a new organization, many questions arise. How does KISA plan to carry out the objectives that the organization has outlined? Professor Maass took the time to sit with the UIC Scribe to discuss the intentions, agenda and the future of KISA.

**Q:** Why was KISA established?

Initially, the idea centered around the foreign faculty of international studies in the broader concept, but that is in many ways an awfully odd concept, almost by definition a non-inclusive concept. It is clearly not what we meant. It slowly dawned on us that what we really had in mind was an international studies community meaning professionals, students and scholars who work in the field of international studies but whose language of study and expression is totally in English. There is a Korea Association of International Studies that is very well established and highly regarded. I'm actually a proud member of that association. The only problem I have as a non-Korean is that I cannot really participate because the website and all the information are all in Korean. Now in any country, there is nothing wrong with using the local language, but given the dynamics of globalization and internationalizing, there is now critical mass of foreigners and international scholars in the field of international studies here in Korea. We felt there was room for a forum that would allow them to participate, but in English. The use of English as the official language has the added benefit in that anything that is produced in terms of knowledge, papers and conferences is easily exported without the need to be translated. We give the group of foreigners here a forum that can link up and bring in foreigners where the only requirement is to be fluent in English.

**Q:** In the opening launch, many of the issues focused on Asia. Will there be a specific focus of KISA? (ie. relations with North Korea, east Asia, etc.)

International studies is the focus. Now obviously, if you are located in Korea, it is logical to focus on more



International studies is the focus. Now obviously, if you are located in Korea, it is logical to focus on more regional issues. If anyone does anything or is interested in international studies but happens to be in Korea, they are very welcome as a member. Korea is where the association is located, international studies is the focus. If someone is interested in Mexican-American border issues, that's cool. Most of the time, not exclusively, most people that live on this side of the world have a regional specialty. That's the nature of things.

Q: How can other people get involved with the association and what are the main activities on the agenda?

In any organization, the easiest way to participate is to become a member. We will have a couple of events and conferences and workshops and bring in people. Most of this will be customized according to the funding we can secure. There is not a particular schedule. We want to do this on a case by case basis.

Q: What is in the future of KISA? Will you still be here in ten years?

I personally will be here. There's no way of knowing the future, but I intend to be here. We would not have founded an association if we did not want it to last. You set up an institution if you want it grow beyond a little effort. If we simply wanted a conference, there is no need to launch KISA. The intention is to maintain it and make sure that KISA takes roots and ultimately becomes independent of one or two individuals. Now, what it is supposed to do is to be a forum for English-language international scholarship, link to the outside world, and push the study of international studies in Korea with specialized conferences, workshops and publications. We have endorsed the Ewha journal and our PEAR journal to channel publications to them. This is the core – accumulating and distributing knowledge and I think that will be the focus of the immediate future. There might be something else, and you could add other dimensions such as short term training programs if there was interest. Who knows, maybe in the future, we can receive grants and hand out scholarships. We have to look at the future as it arises. If KISA takes roots and contributes to international studies in Korea, then it has fulfilled its purpose.

# Revolution in Progress



UIC OFFICE

YONSEI UNIVERSITY is proud of its status as an elite institution with large banners all around its campus displaying the slogan ‘first and the best’ and is at the heart of a true revolution in the Korean educational system, distinguishing itself from its peers by possessing the first college taught solely in English. The exceptional vision that the university has shown in creating Underwood International College has allowed it to be mentioned alongside with the best institutions of higher education in the world. However, despite its efforts, the practices within UIC remain distinctly Korean, with the ideas and actions of students largely reflecting Korean culture. Despite being an English language college, communication between the majority of students is done in Korean, leaving international students at a disadvantage, as they are often unable join in directly in with the activities led by Korean students, and they also have difficulties in understanding the Korean point of view. As UIC is moving past its novel stage, it is imperative that the college further its efforts to establish itself not as a mere community of Korean and international students with an English based education, but as a school whose diverse population of students portray the same world view – and are able to unify, regardless of where they come from. Although challenging, this enterprise can be successful through incorporation of foreign culture, such as fund raising within the arena, exposing students to familiarly unfamiliar activities that make up international culture.

Through innovations such as UIC, Yonsei University is at the forefront of a movement to revolutionize and globalize Korean higher education. Among its many pros, the prospect of global interaction has featured in many students decisions to attend such a newly established college. During this blossoming period at UIC, many student organizations have taken part in the endeavor to integrate, unify, and create a community that embraces many different nationalities. With the help of foreign influences Such as international staff, students, administrations, and unions, the community is slowly being able to dispel the segregated clicks that have made

up UIC. Recently, UGC (Underwood Global Community) – a club largely composed of international students – reached out and was able to give domestic clicks a taste of the world. Through its talent show and fashion show, students were brought together to support an event that quietly strengthened student bonds. The efforts of the UGC were able to bring out Korean students who would not have otherwise engaged with many of the non-natives that are a part of the UIC community. Furthermore, UICC (Underwood International College Student Council) has also contributed to bringing together people with a charity fundraising event in the form of a bake sale. The concept of fundraising has always been around, and it exists in many forms in Korea, such as sponsorships. However, practices such as bake sale – although familiar to a majority of people – has not been the subject of immense practice. Traditionally a very western concept, the bake sale was viewed favorably by UIC students, teachers, and administration alike. These success stories at UIC show Korea society that its differences won’t prevent it from reaching its goal of integration. In fact, through the difficulties it has faced, as well as its triumphs, UIC has become a front runner in actualizing the dream of globalizing and revolutionizing the Korean educational system. UIC is leading the revolution, but its voyage is only at its middle stages. Fulfillment of the dream where differences are put aside will determine UIC, whether it will represent a truly diverse student body, a unified group that also respects and embraces diversity. Should Underwood International College continue its positive trajectory, there is little doubt that it will accurately reflect of the famous ‘first and the best’ slogan.

Success in such a revolutionary movement towards globalization is the only way UIC can truly affirm its goal of creating students who promote democratic citizenship and who take part in global leadership. While it is common to gain knowledge in the classroom, UIC students are undertaking a rare mission to actually accept and embrace the practices of many different cultures. The success of this miss will signify the success of UIC.

# LUXURY in Recession



IT HAS been one year since Lehman Brothers, a global financial-services firm, filed for bankruptcy—representing the largest casualty of the global credit crisis. The magnitude of this collapse was so enormous that the year 2008 could be called “financial crisis”. The worst seems to be over, but the world economy is not out of the woods yet. Recently, in his visit in Korea, Professor Paul Krugman, the 2008 Nobel Prize winner in Economics, warned of a potential ‘double dip’ in the recession (a second leg to the economic downturn) once the impact of the American stimulus package has dissipated. And we can see signs of this in the stagnation of the stock market, as well as in the fact that the price of gold has skyrocketed from \$887 to \$1114 per ounce this year, leading many experts to be ‘quite sure’ gold will hit \$2000 in the near future. When people do not trust the money or currency, they start buying gold which leads to the rise in gold price.

Undoubtedly, Korea was one of the most alarmed country by subprime mortgage crisis from America because it worried of another ‘IMF incidence in 1997.’ However, amidst the recession, Korean marketers have been selling high-priced products and have made great profits. Market-O premium snacks are sold in every store, expensive touch phones are being snatched up, and espresso machines have become a ‘must’ among newlywed couples. This phenomenon contradicts common sense: how could there be such demand for luxury items in the midst of this financial crisis? Are the prevailing analyses or the current economic situations erroneous? Here are a couple of explanations for this trend:

#1 Price is not Everything. According to National Statistical Office of Korea, despite the increase in the number of cheap products during a recession, people tend to not buy them. Instead, they will purchase a product with a higher price by a reliable brand. While they don’t make frequent purchases, consumers would rather spend more for a quality product which will last for a long period of time. In other words, Koreans’ preference for particular brand names is greater during a recession. This mentality was expanded in the recent issue on China’s imitation



products and junk food. Problems and risks of the goods are aired and sparked repercussion throughout Korea to think about safety and quality over price.

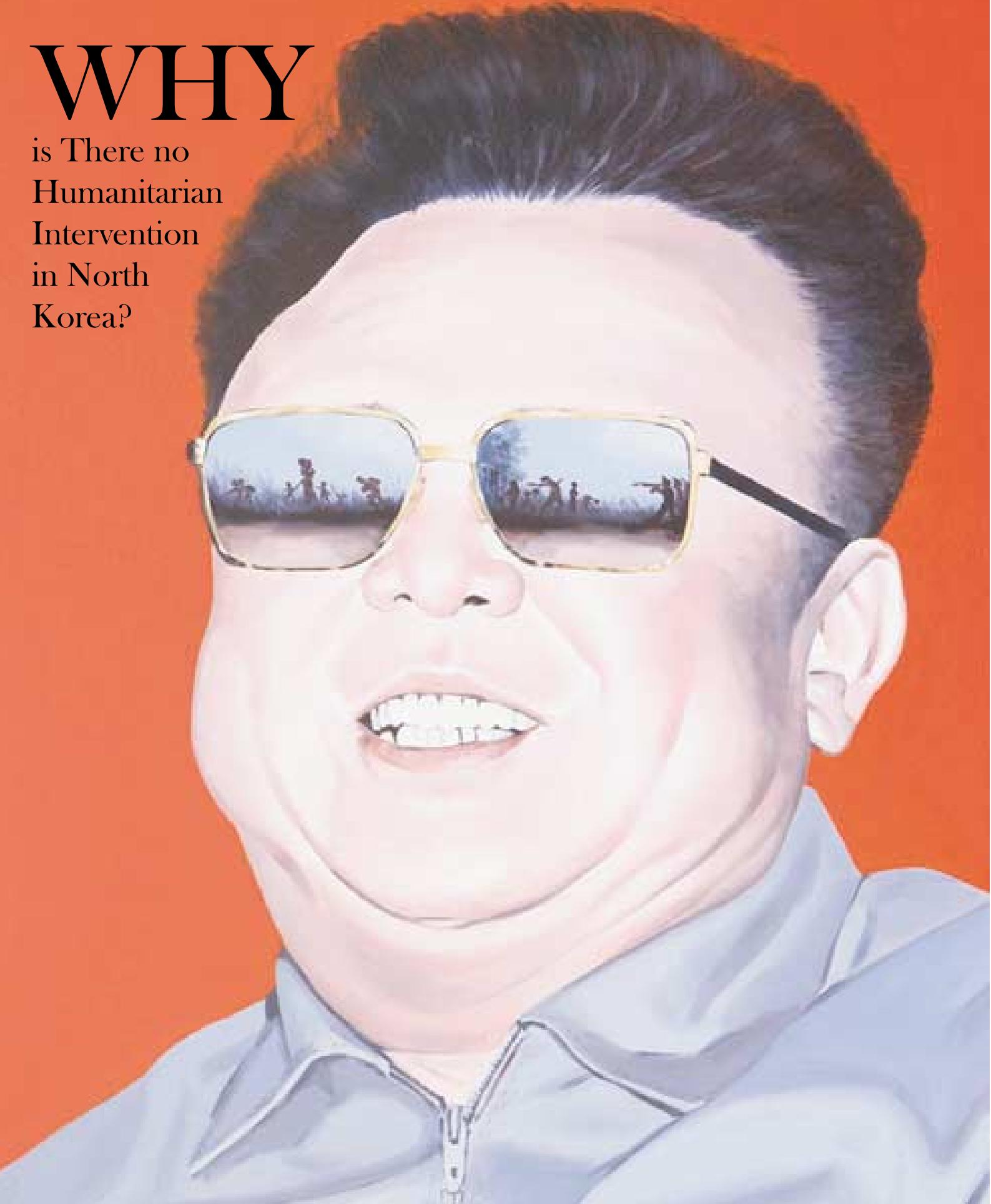
#2 Can’t give up. Poor economic conditions do not affect two groups as much as others: the upper-class and youths in their twenties. At the start of a recession, the upper class may reduce their consumption; however, based on the analysis done by Cheil, the rich do not suddenly lower their standards and buy low-price products. The younger generation, too, is likely to keep up with their style no matter what. In a survey done by Hankyung Business Weekly, while only 38% and 41% of the Koreans in their thirties and forties responded positive in the statement, “I cannot give up my style during recession”, over 64% of those in their twenties reacted affirmatively. These two groups, who continue to spend steadily, constitute a large proportion of Korean consumers of luxury goods.

#3 As a reward. As the Korean proverb says, ‘The rat bites the cat when it’s cornered’, people tend to act impulsively when they’re repressed. Since they are not able to spend their money as they wish to, their ‘self-solace’ consumption increases. That is, when consumer confidence is shaken by harsh economic conditions, people attempt to alleviate their stress by purchasing expensive appliances, cosmetics, or accessories. The “lipstick index,” coined by Leonard Lauder, chairman of the board of Estee Lauder, explains this mentality well. He says: lipstick sales could be an economic indicator, in that purchases of cosmetics - lipstick in particular - tend to be inversely correlated to economic health. The speculation was that women substitute more expensive purchases like dresses and shoes for lipstick in times of economic distress. Sales on cosmetic products in Korea have actually increased during the financial crisis which proves Lauder’s claim.

Whether the tendency to buy luxury goods during a recession is detrimental or beneficial to a country is difficult to decide. On one hand, this spending widens the gap between the rich and the poor. On the other hand, continuous consumption can help shorten the period of recession. Korean economy is said to be recovering but it is reported that the lives of the working classes are still harsh. What we can say for sure is that human minds can never be fully penetrated or understood. People will always have the capacity to contradict reality and Koreans are no exception.

# WHY

is There no  
Humanitarian  
Intervention  
in North  
Korea?



ACCORDING TO THE British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), over 100,000 people in North Korea reside in prison camps reminiscent of Nazi Germany. In an atmosphere of uncompromising repression and torture, public executions and forced labour is the norm and

freedom of speech or thought is denied outright. Whilst the majority of the population live in abject poverty and suffer prolonged deprivations linked with food shortages, the country itself is endowed with vast mineral resources controlled by the authorities; the exploitation of the

ordinary people has become the pernicious prerogative of the ruling elite. To make matters worse, North Korea's recent successive nuclear missile tests in 2006 and 2009 have caused the UN to further economically and commercially sanction the reclusive state, counter-effectively deteriorating the lives of people already in destitution rather than punishing the relevant circle of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Albeit such patent corroboration of abysmal human rights violation in a country that former US President George W. Bush labeled as 'an axis of evil', almost scandalously, actions by the international community and the usually robust United Nations have been negligible. In fact, far from any talk of humanitarian intervention, the international community, including the US and South Korea, have simply rhetorically condemned the East Asian nation for its atrocities.

With the promulgation of the International Criminal Court on July 1, 2002, human rights groups arduously advocated and dearly anticipated, despite little precedence, the prosecution of Kim Jong-Il by the UN-backed tribunal. More realistically, the United States' aggressive foreign policy in Iraq and Afghanistan confirmed its potential to physically intervene in North Korea where human rights and nuclear tests are simultaneous problems to be solved. Yet unfortunately for the diverse organizations opposing the regime, neither indictment nor military intervention has ensued; and a myriad of reasons can explain such an outcome of non-intervention. First and foremost, the recent illness of North Korea's leader Kim Jong-Il has prompted the international community to be cautious in their diplomacy. The potential abdication or even death of the tyrannical leader has incited relevant nations to engage in a policy of deliberate obscurity upon rumours that Kim Jong-Eun, the third son of Kim Jong-Il and the most likely successor of his father, is an advocate of a much more democratic political system. The international community may believe that it is not too late to intervene after a change in the regime.

The preoccupation of the international community with the nuclear disarmament of North Korea is another possible reason why intervention is not materializing. The impetuous nuclear tests have diverted attention from North Korea's aberrant human rights record to the seemingly more urgent matter of denuclearization of the peninsula. Yet is this a ploy by the ever-deceitful and manipulative North Korean leader? Evaluating from precedence, it most likely is, yet the experienced US Secretary of State Hilary Clinton would not fall for such an amateur diplomatic trap. More likely is the possibility that the U.S. likewise wants to preserve diplomatic ties with the East Asian nation; isolating the country will only lead to deteriorating relations as illustrated by North Korea's nuclear tests after President Lee Myung-Bak abandoned his predecessors' 'Sunshine Policy'. In turn, an introverted North Korea would needlessly endanger

the region due to Kim Jong-Il's aggressive tendencies. In addition, to preserve stability in the region, the U.S. would not want to aggravate the major powers of Russia and China, arguably two of the most powerful nations in the world, second only to America. China possesses unprecedented perpetual entente with North Korea, corroborated by its decision to reject the Proliferation Security Initiative, which was aimed at halting potential nuclear development by Kim Jong-Il's regime. Furthermore, both China and Russia are North Korea's largest trading partners as well as following similar political beliefs. Thus confronting North Korea on its human rights record may anger China and Russia who have equally notorious human rights records, already criticized by the international community several times. Without China and Russia's cooperation on international matters, it would be impossible for the U.S. to obtain its objectives of denuclearising North Korea.

Last, but certainty not least, is whether military intervention or prosecution by the International Criminal Court is de jure legal. The Peace of Westphalia of 1648 asserted the integrity of the need to respect each other's sovereignty; domestic affairs were now up to each sovereign ruler and the international community could not intervene. This principle has had profound influence on subsequent treaties to this day and is a fundamental exemplar for international agreements. Hence such an antecedent event may have had a substantial impact on the leaders of the relevant countries, who unequivocally think it illegal to interfere with another's domestic matters. As Omar Al-Bashir, the President of Sudan affirmed when indicted by the tribunal, the International Criminal Court has no genuine legal force - the reason why it has been rejected by India, China, Russia and the United States. Moreover, military intervention, as clearly manifested by the war in Afghanistan and Iraq, is not only highly costly and unpopular, but impossibly difficult to obtain legal consent for - is it really acceptable for a country to use physical force in the name of humanitarianism? As shown by the disclosed minutes of the British Parliament on the discussion of whether to intervene in Iraq and Afghanistan, it is extremely difficult to determine the actual legality of intervention.

Putting things succinctly, due to the astute diplomacy involved, the UN and the United States are unwilling or unable to interfere in North Korea in spite of its dire humanitarian situation. Yet it is of paramount importance that the international community hastens to officially prosecute Kim Jong-Il for the abhorrent human rights violations he has hitherto committed. Although the Peace of Westphalia affirmed that domestic affairs should be left to the respective leaders, it was on the fundamental basis that human rights be preserved. Without such respect for human rights, North Korea has no right to its sovereignty, and the international community must intervene to rescue the poverty-stricken population.

# MAJOR INFORMATION SESSION

IT IS ALREADY almost the end of yet another year and this is the time when most of the freshman students put their heads together to figure out what majors they should take – for the remaining three years at UIC. In UIC, there are five majors: Comparative Literature and Culture, Economic, International Studies, Life Science and Biotechnology, and Political Science and International Relations. All majors have different merits and attractions. The students need to figure out what majors interest them the most before the next semester begins.



Therefore, the Academic Affairs of the fourth UIC Student Council (ROOT) has proudly hosted the Major Information Session Fall 2009 on Monday, November 23 6pm in the Millennium Hall Main Auditorium to answer numerous questions students have. This time, as compared to the previous major information sessions, the Council decided to change the session program format and details.

First of all, the session opened up with the introductory remarks from the Student Council, introducing the professors and the upper class students who participating the session. Then, the President and the Vice President of the Student

Council introduced the newly established and official Major Advisory Professor System. This system was established by the Student Council, as one of their pledges to better facilitate the students with each major, providing them with advices, career path planning and details and how to have more productive relationships with the professors. About five professors per major gladly volunteered to help out with the program. This year was the first year to have the UIC students ranging from freshmen to seniors, to attend the session. In other words, some seniors from each major were invited to offer words of wisdom to the freshmen and other ‘hoobae’. They mainly discussed why they picked certain major, what kind of career paths they are taking at the moment and what kind of ways there are to achieve one's dreams and goals. Then, the student body was divided into each major to further listen to the details of the major, presented by each Department Chairs and also to ask questions to the professors and upperclassmen.

International Studies: Sohn Yuhl (department chair) Rm 104  
Mi-Jin An, Min Seung Kang, Min Young Choi (06)

Political Science: Haans Schattle Rm 112  
Yon Jong Yoon, Irene Park(06)

Life Science and Biotechnology John Solderholm Rm 107  
Jen Young Cho, Se Woong Park, (06)

Comparative Literature and Culture: Hong Won Suh Rm 106  
Tongkun Kim, Dan Bee Moon, Sun Hyung Kim (06)

Economics: Jihong Lee Rm 101  
Ji Hye Hong (06)

The professors offered details about major curriculum with power point presentations and the seniors offered insights into the realistic issues such as internships and the career paths that they are taking at the moment.

The freshmen said that they enjoyed the session very much because the seniors participated to give them advices on the practical, real life carrier paths they could take.



# *Racing to the Summit*

EVERYONE IN the world has—or at least had—a dream or a goal in life that they wished to achieve. The students of UIC are no exception; being a select few of promising potential. The reasons for having a dream are infinite; there is no single answer that can explain one's wish to gain something. It could be in order to secure a stable future, to pursue personal interest, or simply because of one's curiosity. The outcomes of dreams are as myriad as the reasons for having them; one could be successful and become a famous figure in society. Then again, that person may not stand out in society as much and yet be satisfied with his/her own life. Leaving that aside, what dreams do the students of UIC wish to achieve? How do they intend to make the best out of their lives?

A majority of people outside UIC respond that they aren't so sure of what kind of place UIC is, or its purpose. All they are aware of is the fact that UIC courses are taught in English, and that there are more foreign students. Courses taught in English are not uncommon in Yonsei; if there were to be a difference between normal Yonsei students and UIC students, it would simply be the fact that UIC students take more courses in English. This leads to the assumption that UIC is simply a separate division within Yonsei for students who wish to take more courses in English. However, UIC is more than a separate division; it is a distinctive college which offers various fields of study, and not all students of UIC come simply seeking to attend more courses in English. The students come to UIC because they believe their goals can be achieved within it.

A random survey was conducted to see what dreams the students of UIC desired to fulfill. Those who were surveyed were not given any information on what the survey was about. The participants were asked three simple questions. They were asked if they could strongly say that they decided their major because they really wanted to pursue something within that major. These first two questions were asked in order to draw out what the students truly desired, regardless of major concerns or constraints of reality. Finally, they were asked to specifically mention what their dream was. A majority of the participants had a specific and special dream in mind. Their dreams ranged beyond any presuppositions; students showed that their dreams were completely distinctive and unique.

The specific details of the dreams turned out to be diverse; nearly everyone who was willing to share their dream had a peculiar aspect compared to others. They ranged from joining international organizations, funding

environmental and science organizations, improving the public opinion of their nation, becoming a creator of great literature and so on. The most peculiar dream was becoming a respected husband. These dreams seemed very simple and common at first, but the mindsets of the students who held them had their own color; each dream stood on its own and kept true to its course of action. To sum it all up, the dreams of students were so diverse that it seemed everyone in UIC had their own separate goal in mind.

One UIC student was interviewed to explore the depths of her dream. Her response was as follows: "I always loved nature since I was young. I was fascinated by the documentaries about wildlife, which I still find interesting today. I believe it is necessary for us humans to preserve natural habitats, since it is us who are invading the animals' territories. Also, we are the ones who have the ability to mediate the conflict between humans and animals; humans can prevent the destruction caused by development by slowing it down." "I find science also a fascinating area," she continued, "Scientists are the people who seek answers to questions posed by mankind since ancient times, and they are trying to find ways to explain all the natural phenomena we encounter in life. However, a scientist I know told me that research was becoming difficult due to the lack of sponsors. I believe a lot can be done if scientists had enough sponsorship; I trust that science will find a cure for the HIV virus and possibly AIDS. Because of this, I want to make a lot of money in the future and provide these organizations with what they need."

One student said he wished to help create a world of ideals. . "The way I've been raised," he stated, "was one where I was told to enjoy my life more than anything. Having fun, meaningful conversations, fulfilling goals, that's the kind of life I want. Life isn't about money or power, as people nowadays believe. I want to join the international stage and influence others with my beliefs; I want them to know that money and power isn't everything in life. I especially want Korean students to enjoy their lives more, not lead lives constrained by GPA's and all that."

Because UIC is relatively new, and has yet to prove itself, one might cast doubts on its capabilities. However, judging from what dreams UIC students have, the students who graduate in the future will most likely promote a society where the possibilities are unlimited. As long as they hold on to their dreams, UIC students can realize their goals, and perhaps that will be the first step towards creating a new era.

# UIC EVENTS



*Underwood Vision Ensemble Cherry Concert*



*Underwood Global Community Talent Show*

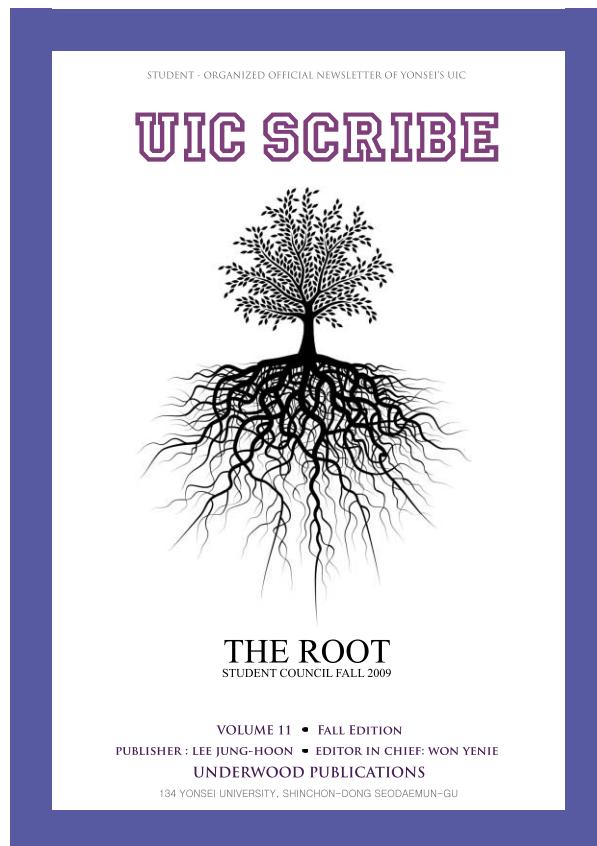


*NODAJI 6th Concert*



*We hope to see more events like this in the year of 2010. Keep up the fantastic work UIC students!*

# SCRIBE CORNER



Please send us your feedback, comments, or questions about our last edition as well as our current edition to:

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