JUNE 2024 NEWSLETTER, VOLUME I

THE HANDONG TIMES

Handong International Alumni Association



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Welcome, Dear Alumni!

From the Handong International Alumni Office (HIAO)

The Handong International Alumni Association is back and better than ever! A warm welcome to our community for those of you who are new! After a pause, we are overjoyed to rekindle our connections with international alumni and create bonds beyond your time at Handong.

As you flip through this newsletter, perhaps with a warm cup of coffee in hand, we hope it brings back wonderful memories of your time at Handong.

Each edition will feature a spotlight on an alumnus, allowing us to share in the joys and challenges as one united community.

Read More! ✦

Handong International Alumni Association



Greetings from OIA

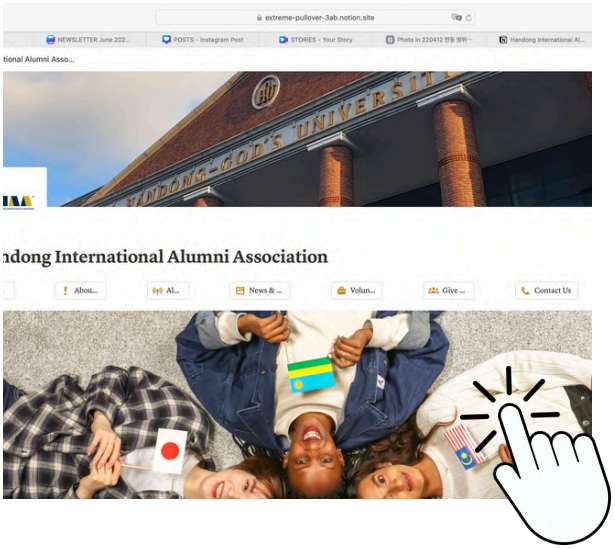
by Professor Scott Lincoln

The community spirit at Handong is one of my favorite things about working here and I am always happy to hear from alumni about what is going on in their lives. I have heard about all kinds of successes like new jobs, graduate degrees, marriages, children, and I have even been blessed by quite a few alumni visiting the campus again after many years. Handong has been changing as well so I hope this newsletter can help keep you informed about some of the special things that are happening here. Hopefully, it will inspire you to come back for a visit and see all the ways Handong has grown since your time here.

HIAA & CAMPUS UPDATES

1. Website Launch

We are glad to announce the official launching of the Handong International Alumni Association's website! This platform aims to create a stronger sense of community among our alumni worldwide by providing an accessible point for reconnection, event updates, and engagement possibilities. Visit hiaa.notionlinker.com to explore all the amazing alumni spotlights to events and university updates. Join us as we build our bonds and create a thriving network of alumni!



2. CAMPUS UPDATES

2.1 Handong Global University Establishes “Genesis Lab” for ESG Startups in Pohang

On September 20, 2023, Handong Global University led by the university President Dosoung Choi held a groundbreaking ceremony for Genesis Lab which is dedicated to startups. The lab aims to support ESG-related businesses and technological innovations, fostering an integrated entrepreneurial environment.

Through its partnership with Pohang City, the university made significant progress toward becoming an ESG startup hub in August of last year. They signed agreements to develop human resources in the secondary battery industry, alongside the establishment of a Carbon Neutrality Support Center.

President Dosoung Choi emphasized Genesis Lab's contribution to the creation of an ESG startup innovation park at the event, urging entrepreneurs to lead the way in developing solutions that benefit both the environment and people.



Photo 1. Groundbreaking Ceremony



Photo 2. Groundbreaking at the Genesis Lab construction site

Deputy Mayor Namil Kim pledged support for the university's initiative while emphasizing the significance of ESG management in addressing local extinction and climate change.

As a pre-selected university for the Glocal University 30 Project, Handong Global University is committed to innovation-driven regional development, aiming to establish the sustainable ESG Pohang Cluster.

Reference:
www.handong.edu/eng/connect/news/

2.2 The “Voice of Heaven” Silent Prayer House

April 24, 2023 - Handong Global University proudly announces the completion of the "Voice of Heaven" Silent Prayer House.

This sanctuary offers a serene space for personal meditation and group prayer, enriching the spiritual life of our campus. The prayer house features two distinct rooms: Prayer Room A, which is open anytime for personal meditation and prayer, fostering quiet reflection, and Prayer Room B, which is available for group prayer meetings and PRS gatherings by reservation.

Dedicated by Elder Young-Hwan Kim and Deaconess Kyung-Sook Moon from Onnuri Church, this house honors their parents' legacy of love and service. They hope that all who worship here will hear God's voice and commit to a life of prayer.



Photo 3. Thanksgiving Service on Opening Day

Situated at the heart of campus, the "Voice of Heaven" features a unique cross-shaped skylight and a contemplative path leading to its high and narrow entrance, ensuring tranquility. Designed by ITM Yoo Ehwa Architects, this prayer house symbolizes faith and divine connection. The "Voice of Heaven" invites the Handong community to experience its peaceful embrace, whether for individual meditation or group prayers.



Photo 4. Drone View of “Voice of Heaven”



Photo 5. “Voice of Heaven” Prayer Room

Reference:
www.sarang.handong.edu/news/notice
www.handong.edu/handongin/98/

3. Founding Members 1st Online Homecoming Meeting

We are excited to extend an invitation to all Founding Members to join us for our first virtual meeting (invitation via email), where we will go over important updates and progress in our association. This meeting will be a great chance to connect, share ideas, and collaborate on future initiatives.

What is a Founding Member?



As a HIAA Founding Member, your primarily role will be to support the HIAO by connecting us with other alumni. Your involvement may include, but is not limited to:

- **Promote and Represent**: Attend events and represent the association to support its mission and values.
- **Engage and Recruit**: Network with international alumni around the world to attract new members and stay involved in association and activities.
- **Support and Mentor**: Offer guidance to fellow alumni and students and advocate for their needs within the university community

WANT TO BE A FOUNDING MEMBER? EMAIL US!



Alumni Spotlight: Yana Ibragimova

- **Name:** Yana Ibragimova
- **Nationality:** Uzbekistan
- **Year of Graduation:** 2007
- **Major(s):** MBA Global Management & Business
- **Works As:** English School Teacher

Yana Ibragimova: A Journey of Faith and Education

It has been nine years since Yana Ibragimova completed her MBA in management and business at Handong Global University, yet, she still fondly recalls her memorable experiences as a student. Currently pursuing a career in education as a full-time teacher at Handong International School, Yana's journey with Handong is a testament to the transformative power of education and faith.

Discovering Handong Global University

Yana's path to Handong was serendipitous. Having earned a bachelor's degree in Oriental Studies, Yana found her path to Handong through her work at the Korean Embassy in Uzbekistan, where she was inspired by applicants' desire to study there. Intrigued by Handong's strong Christian values, she felt it was her calling to pursue further education at Handong Global University.





Academic and Spiritual Growth

At Handong, Yana pursued an MBA, blending rigorous academics with Christian principles, which shaped her perspective on setting life priorities based on faith. Yana cherished the supportive community at Handong, especially among international students, which strengthened her resilience and independence.

Professor Dae Yeon Cho gave Yana one of the most valuable lessons she had ever encountered: the value of setting priorities for the important things in life. She found great resonance in the idea that larger rocks should be placed in a jar before smaller ones which matched Matthew 6:33, "Seek first the Kingdom of God," which she used as a compass in her life. This lesson is a helpful reminder for everyone, particularly in a demanding field like teaching. Teachers may keep their jobs clear and purposeful by concentrating on what matters.

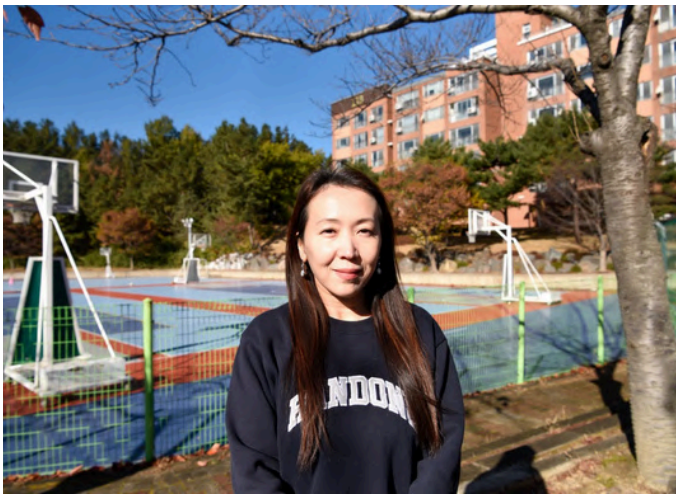
Making the Shift to an Education Profession



After earning her MBA, Yana returned to Uzbekistan, ready to put her newfound knowledge to use. She soon discovered, though, that the local labor market was not well equipped for her level of expertise. This obstacle didn't stop her; on the contrary, it strengthened her will to have a significant influence in the field of education. Currently, Yana teaches Bible, math, and science to 5th and 6th graders at Handong International School. She balances a diverse curriculum with pastoral support, emphasizing continuous learning and staying updated with educational trends. Aspiring educators should recognize the importance of lifelong learning to remain effective and relevant.

Embracing the Role of an Educator

For Yana, being an educator is about becoming the ladder for her students, helping them reach their full potential. She advises aspiring teachers to seek both spiritual and professional support, highlighting the fulfillment that comes with faith and a strong support system. Yana's story is a reminder that true education shapes not just the mind but also the character, fostering compassionate and driven individuals ready to make a positive impact on the world. Yana has left an example of love, faith, and devoted service through her unwavering dedication to her students and her faith.



"As a teacher, you don't climb the ladder; **you are the ladder. You let students climb up over you and go up.** That is a teacher's job."

YANA IBRAGIMOVA

Handong News:

HGU School of Law Wins Jessup Int'l Law Moot Court Competition

Handong Global University's School of Law achieved a remarkable milestone by winning the Philip C. Jessup International Law Moot Court Competition National Rounds on February 16, 2024. This victory not only signifies a significant moment in the university's history but also underscores its prowess in the realm of legal education. The winning team secured first place in the national competition, advancing to the international finals in Washington, D.C.

The Jessup Competition, renowned in public international law, saw participation from 700+ institutions globally. Handong's undergraduate team excelled, with Young Won Kim named Best Oralist and Ariel Judarta as Second Best. Under Professor Semee Kim's guidance, the team showcased resilience and sportsmanship.



Photo 1. Jessup team and Professor and their advisor, Semee Kim

Hadam Jung, a team member, expressed gratitude for the transformative experience. Handong's School of Law, known for its English-language programs in international and Korean law, boasts a 21-year legacy and 589 American alumni making significant impacts worldwide. This triumph cements Handong's reputation as a leader in legal education, emphasizing its role in American and international law studies in Korea.



Bundang Central Church Commemorates a Decade of Support for HGU

Senior Pastor Jong Cheon Choi of Bundang Central Church donated one billion won to Handong Global University under the "Cornerstone Scholarship Agreement of Bundang Central Church based on Humanitarian Practice." This donation commences a ten-year partnership to nurture the next generation of leaders from developing countries through education to change the world. With students from 60 different countries, Handong Global University is dedicated to promote an inclusive and diverse learning community. Currently, 38 outstanding students representing the university's global mission come from Nepal, Laos, Honduras, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, the Philippines, and other nations to receive the Cornerstone Scholarship.



Prayer Requests:



The English Handong Discipleship School (EHDS) is back for training and mission trip to Tuguegarao, Philippines. EHDS's mission is to spread Christ's message of love and hope through acts of kindness and sharing the Gospel worldwide.

1. Pray for the EHDS team's **spiritual strength and wisdom** as they prepare for the mission trip.

2. Pray for unity and support among team members, so that they may work together harmoniously.

3. Pray for **protection and provision** for the team's well-being throughout their time in Tuguegarao.

Others:

For any inquiries, contact us at:

- **Email:** ialumni@handong.edu
- **Instagram:** @hgu_alumni
- **LinkedIn:** Handong International Alumni Association
- **Facebook:** HGU International Alumni Association

Want to be our next Alumni Spotlight or a Founding Member? Let us know!

