

South Dakota State University
**Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional
Repository and Information Exchange**

Department of Economics Staff Paper Series

Economics

10-15-2000

Impressions of Korea

Larry Janssen
South Dakota State University

Follow this and additional works at: http://openprairie.sdstate.edu/econ_staffpaper

 Part of the [Economics Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Janssen, Larry, "Impressions of Korea" (2000). *Department of Economics Staff Paper Series*. Paper 151.
http://openprairie.sdstate.edu/econ_staffpaper/151

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the Economics at Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. It has been accepted for inclusion in Department of Economics Staff Paper Series by an authorized administrator of Open PRAIRIE: Open Public Research Access Institutional Repository and Information Exchange. For more information, please contact michael.biondo@sdstate.edu.

Impressions of Korea

by

Dr. Larry L. Janssen*

Economics Staff Paper No. 2000-14
October 2000

*Dr. Janssen is Professor of Agricultural Economics at South Dakota State University. He has teaching and research interests in agricultural finance, agricultural policy and economic development. Dr. Janssen recently participated in an SDSU faculty teaching exchange program to Chungnam National University, Taejon, South Korea, from March–June (spring semester) 2000.

Papers in this series are reproduced and distributed to encourage discussion on research, extension, teaching, and economic policy issues. Although available to anyone on request, Economic Department Staff Papers are primarily intended for peers and policy makers. Papers are normally critiqued by some colleagues prior to publication in this series. However, they are not subject to formal review requirements of South Dakota State University's Agricultural Experiment Station and Cooperative Extension Service publications.

Table of Contents

To the Reader.....	v
First Impressions of Korea: March 2-9, 2000.....	1
My Reasons for Participating in this Faculty Exchange.....	1
Apartment Life.....	2
Office Life.....	3
Campus Life.....	3
Korean Hospitality.....	4
Korean Money & Banking.....	5
Getting Around.....	5
Image of Chungnam University.....	5
Address Information.....	6
Impressions of Korea: March 10-19.....	7
Is This Heaven or What? Hiking Trip to Odeasan National Park.....	7
It's a Small World.....	8
Classroom Teaching at Chungnam University.....	9
Sights & Sounds in Downtown Taejon.....	10
The Lord Works in Mysterious Ways.....	11
Impressions of Korea: March 20-31, 2000.....	13
Housing in Modern Urban Korea.....	13
Forestry and Environment in Korea.....	14
Agriculture & Rural Life in Korea – First Impressions.....	15
College Life at Chungnam University.....	16

Travel & Cultural Highlight: Trip to Seoul.....	17
Impressions of Korea: April 1-12, 2000.....	19
Marcia's First Impressions of Korea.....	19
Life for Our Family in Taejon.....	20
Economics and Agricultural Economics at Chungnam University.....	21
Impressions of Korea: April 12-18, 2000.....	24
Agribusiness and Agricultural College Activities.....	24
Educational Systems in Korea.....	25
Cultural Activities.....	26
Impressions from Korea: April 19-May 6, 2000.....	28
Why You should come to South Korea.....	28
Visit with the New Dean of Chungnam Ag College.....	28
Korean Folk Religions.....	29
Korean Folk Village and Southern Seoul.....	30
National Forest Museum and Forest Recreation.....	31
Children's Day Holiday, Friday, May 5.....	32
Ginseng Production.....	32
Weekend Farming.....	33
Our Family Life in Korea.....	33
Impressions of Korean Agriculture: April – May 2000.....	35
Agricultural Product/Food Marketing Trip – Friday, April 28.....	35
Rural Development Trip (Tues., May 2, and Wed., May 3).....	36
Additional Remarks about Korean Agriculture.....	38

Impressions of Korea, May 7-16, 2000.....	40
Chungnam University Students and Sports.....	40
Education/Seminar Presentations.....	41
Home Schooling Education Activities.....	42
Family Trip to Downtown Seoul.....	42
Impressions of Korea with SDSU Group: May 16-29, 2000.....	44
Taejon Area and Chungnam University.....	44
Southwestern Korea.....	46
CNU President's Luncheon and SDSU Alumni Reunion.....	46
Trip to Cheju Island.....	47
Tour of Independence Hall and Songnisan Park.....	49
Trip to Seoul.....	49
Impressions of Korea, May 30 – June 12, 2000.....	51
Trip to Kyongju region in Eastern Korea (June 10-11).....	51
Trip to Puyo and Taechon Beach (Tues., June 6).....	53
Family Time in Taejon.....	54
Professional Time and University Work.....	55
Impressions of Korea, June 13-30, 2000.....	57
Work Tasks.....	57
Field Trip to Dairy Farms and Feed Processing Plants (Fri., June 16). ..	58
Visit to Independence Hall (Sat., June 17).....	60
Our Last Weekend in Korea (June 24-25).....	61
Family Time during our last days in Taejon.....	62

Back in the U.S.A.....	63
Cultural Trivia.....	63

October 24, 2000

TO THE READER from Larry Janssen


South Dakota State University (SDSU) has a wonderful exchange program with Chungnam National University (CNU) in Taejon, South Korea. I was fortunate to be able to participate in the SDSU faculty exchange program to Chungnam University for one semester from March 2 - June 30, 2000. My wife, Marcia, and my youngest daughter, Tiffany, were also with me in Korea. My responsibilities in Korea were to teach a graduate-level course in agricultural finance and to conduct guest lectures, workshops, or seminar presentations to various undergraduate and graduate classes, faculty seminars, and professional meeting presentations.

This publication entitled "**Impressions of Korea**" contains my journal notes of our experiences and impressions of South Korea based on our four month stay. These notes were originally sent as e-mail notes biweekly from Korea to friends and colleagues in South Dakota and other states. The notes are organized in chronological order with various topics covered in each two-week period. Some of the major topics / themes about South Korea covered in various sections are:

- educational systems (college, secondary, and primary) with special emphasis on programs and activities at Chungnam University.
- teaching classes at Chungnam University.
- field trips to farms, agricultural marketing, research, and development sites.
- agriculture production, marketing, policy, and research issues.
- rural economic development issues.
- daily living and family time; getting around in Korea.
- cultural / historical / recreation highlights including visits to various national parks and to Cheju Island, and
- visits and experiences with many Korean friends and with the SDSU travel / exchange group

Most sections are independent of each other; thus you can examine the topics listed in the table of contents and go to any section. Some of these notes will later be used for preparing materials on Korean agriculture and economic development. In the meantime, I hope you enjoy reading portions or all of these journal notes. These impressions of Korea are our own, but are dedicated to the many friends we made in Korea.

Sincerely,


Dr. Larry Janssen

Professor of Economics, South Dakota State University
and exchange professor of agricultural economics (March - June 2000)
to Chungnam National University, Taejon, South Korea

FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF KOREA: MARCH 2 – 9, 2000

Greetings to everyone from Korea. I have been in Korea for one week and I am doing well. I flew to Korea on United Airlines from Denver, CO via Seattle, Tokyo and final landing in Kimpo airport, Seoul, Korea. The entire flight including the two stopovers in Seattle and Tokyo was about 21 hours. I left Denver at 9:30 am, Wednesday, March 1. The time difference between Brookings, SD and Korea is 15 hours. Thus noon Thursday in Korea is 9 pm Wednesday in South Dakota.

The trip through immigration and customs in Korea was uneventful. Mr. Kioh Kim from Chungnam University met me at Exit 1 at the airport. Three hours later we were at the Foreign Professors Apartment, Room 204 at Chungnam National University in Taejon, Korea. This will be our home for the next four months. Marcia and Tiffany will complete the same flights and arrive at 8:40 pm. on Thursday, March 30.

Taejon, South Korea is about 120 miles southeast of Kimpo airport in Seoul. The first 40 miles is entirely city traffic while the remaining 80 miles is a mixture of rural and city traffic. Koreans drive on the same side of the road as the U.S. with freeway speed limits of 100 km/hr (62 mph) same as in Canada. Traffic is heavy day and night, because Korea has 10 million automobiles and 44 million people in an area the size of Indiana. South Korea is the fourth most densely populated nation in the world.

MY REASONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THIS FACULTY EXCHANGE

Why Korea? Five major reasons:

First, South Dakota State University has an excellent exchange program with Chungnam University. Many details are taken care of by the two universities which one must arrange in a traditional sabbatical.

Second, Korea is a developed nation with a 5000 year old culture and language that is drastically different from our own. It should be a great opportunity to experience a different culture.

Third, Korea is a major trading partner of the United States and is one of the top six buyers of U.S. farm exports. It will be very interesting observing Korean agricultural institutions (farms, coops, agribusiness, research and educational institutes).

Fourth, during the past 40 years South Korea has been transformed from one of the poorest Third World nations in Asia to a developed nation – one of the few Third World countries to emerge as a developed (First World) nation. It will be fascinating to observe how the most rapid economic development in the world is affecting their people.

Finally, international work / study programs are major opportunities for personal and professional growth along with all of the benefits of people to people relationships around the world.

The following impressions are grouped by major topics.

APARTMENT LIFE

I am living in a two bedroom modestly furnished apartment that resembles apartments I lived in as a student. I am on second floor with windows facing a hillside of pine trees. Pheasants are a common bird around the apartment – they are native to this region. The kitchen has a gas burner stove and a small refrigerator. All electrical outlets are 220 volts, thus an adapter is necessary for our 110 volt appliances.

The apartment has radiator heat and hot water about 3-4 hours per day. Thus an LP gas space heater is necessary and is furnished. There are no central forced air furnaces. Bath and shower use is limited to a few hours per day. It has been fairly cold in Taejon – about 20 –25 F at night and 35 – 45 F during the afternoon.

New items appear in my apartment each day as the apartment manager finds more items left by previous SDSU faculty. By now I have all of the dishes, silverware, and household items left by the Malo and Doolittle families from the past two years. Thank you very much, Doug and Jim. Yesterday, I received cable TV which increased channel selection from five Korean channels to nearly forty channels from Korea and other Asian nations. Five Asian channels are in English: Star World, Star World Sports (similar to ESPN), BBC – Asia, CNN – Asia, and CNBC – Asia. Two other channels have some American movies with Korean subtitles. It is good to receive Korean and world news in English.

Several of my apartment neighbors are American or European (France, Germany, or England). Most of my neighbors are full-time professors in the Language Institute programs at Chungnam University and also teach in the English or European language departments. I do not see them very often as most of them are teaching evening classes. Most of the other foreign professors have taught in Korea for a few years and/or have a Korean spouse. Thus they are much more acclimated to Korea than I am.

Life improved today. Suddenly a microwave oven appeared in my apartment at the request of my department head and not requested by me. Who knows what will appear next week!!

OFFICE LIFE

My office is located on third floor of Agriculture Hall and is in the Department of Agricultural Economics. The office space is larger than those at SDSU, except for Doug Malo's office. All offices have a couch and two padded chairs for guests. Hospitality is incredibly important in Korea and is reflected in the office layout.

Each office has a Windows computer with e-mail and internet capability. I am glad I brought English version software, as Korean language software was originally installed. The major limitation of the office is that my computer is not linked to any printer. Thus I need to save files on diskette and take it to another computer. It is very evident that paper is conserved in Korea universities, relative to SDSU.

The office temperature is COOL if one shuts the office door and quite COLD if you leave the door open. Energy costs are very expensive in Korea – at least 2.5 to 3 times as expensive as in South Dakota. Thus, persons dress in layers – sweaters are very helpful.

The faculty and students are very friendly and helpful. All of the department faculty can speak English fairly well and some have studied in the United States. The Agricultural Economics department has 160 undergraduate students (a quota of 40 students per grade) and 10 graduate students. The department normally has 6 professors, but currently has only four professors due to recent retirements and lack of college money to replace all positions for some time. Does this sound familiar? I found out this is one reason why their Ag Econ department was very interested in hosting me – they need some help and are desperate for someone (including an American that cannot speak Korean) to handle one of their courses.

I am teaching an Agricultural Finance course (in English) to graduate students. The course meets for three hours on Thursday morning. I will also be working with at least six graduate students on a conversational English class on Wednesday afternoons. I held my first Ag Finance class this morning and managed to “survive”.

CAMPUS LIFE

Korean faculty dress is professional – suit, sweater, and tie. American faculty are permitted to dress more casual, but no blue jeans or shorts are permitted. Female students are 30% of agricultural college students. Female student dress varies from elegant professional dress or pant suits to blue jeans and sweatshirts. Dress jeans/ pant outfits appear to be the most common. Most male students also wear dress jeans or pants, and some wear “grubbies”. It seems that every student has a cell phone and uses it between classes. Korea has one

of the highest rates of cell phone use in the world – more than 10 million cell phones for 45 million people.

Chungnam University has four student unions and each one has a cafeteria. Korean food in the cafeteria is very cheap – 1800 won (\$1.60) per noon meal. No one brings their sack lunch and everyone is expected to eat in the cafeteria. All meals include rice, kimchi (Korean fermented cabbage), soup, and many vegetables, especially peppers and onion. Korean food is quite “hot” to our taste buds and is seasoned differently than Chinese food. I have adopted Korean foodways for the noon meal, but eat a light breakfast (yogurt, fruit, juice, and sweet roll) in the apartment. The evening meal varies from typical “bachelor” food (like ham, hotdogs, canned veggies, shrimp chips, ice cream) in my apartment and all different types of food if I am invited out for an evening meal.

KOREAN HOSPITALITY

Koreans are more formal than most Americans and have not forgotten the meaning of true hospitality. It is important to be “introduced” to another person. Once the introductions are complete, most people want to keep talking (and talking) to you. They usually want to know my age and often want to know if our family practices Christianity. Korean cultural norms venerate older people and how you are treated is partly a function of your age. This is the first time I have found a benefit from being more than 50 years old!! Also more than 10 million people (nearly 25%) of Korean people are Christian – the second highest proportion among Asian nations.

I am glad that Harriet Swedlund, SDSU director of international programs, instructed me to bring business cards. Exchanging business cards is proper professional etiquette in Korea. Fortunately their business cards are usually printed in Korean and in English. They are handy for obtaining address, phone, and e-mail information. However, it is interesting that most business cards do not include an office room number or location.

Korean hospitality frequently includes meals at restaurants or cafeterias. If a person invites you to lunch or dinner they plan to pay for the meal and consider it an insult if you offer to pay. The custom of “dutch treat” is not practiced among the business and professional class in Korea. Of course, you are expected to reciprocate at a later date!

The Agricultural Economics faculty hosted a welcoming party for me on Monday night at an elegant Chinese restaurant at the Yusong International Hotel. Dr. O.J. Kim and Esther Shim from the Education Department hosted me at the Yusong Country Club – a beautiful golf club resort in the foothills overlooking Taejon. Dr. Choi from the English department hosted me at a Korean military officers restaurant. Kioh Kim and my department head, Yong-dae Kwon, hosted me at a traditional Korean restaurant – everyone sits on the floor. Everyone

laughs at me for using my left hand for eating and my misuse of metal chopsticks. However, they appreciate the fact that I keep trying!

Finally, Ms. Sung-hei Kim (exchange professor Kim's daughter) and her friend took me to Pizza Hut on the first night I was in Taejon – they wanted an excuse to eat western food.! She also helped me shop for household and food items for my apartment. Believe it or not she took me to the new Walmart Supercenter in Yusong – about 2 kilometers from the university! She told me that American (and Korean) men need to improve their shopping skills! I was grateful for her assistance as I cannot read Korean labels. Ms. Kim went to elementary school and junior high in the United States, while her father was working on his doctoral degree in the U.S. She was the most “American” oriented Korean that I have met to date.

KOREAN MONEY & BANKING BASICS

The Korea currency is the “won”. The current exchange rate is about 1110 won per dollar. The major bills are denominated as 1000, 5000, and 10000 won, while coins are 50, 100, and 500 won. Personal banking is much different in Korea. Checkbooks are not used, but instant cash cards are now used to secure cash from ATM machines. You need to carry a lot of won currency at all times. Major department stores and international/ western restaurants and hotels accept VISA credit or debit cards if purchases exceed 20000 won (\$18). I have a Chungnam University bank account and have exchanged most of my U.S. currency. I suspect personal banking was quite difficult before the use of cash / debit cards.

GETTING AROUND

I have done lots of walking and hiking on the campus. The campus has several hiking trails in the surrounding forested hills. I have walked around nearby Hanbit Plaza and the surrounding “college town”. This weekend I will try the public transportation (bus and taxi) system.

Most Korean middle class families have one car. Parking space is at a premium everywhere. Korean car companies are Hyundai, Daewoo, or Kia. The most common car sizes are compacts (similar to Chevy Cavalier or Corsica) or mincars (similar to Geo Metro). “Luxury” cars have V6 engines and are similar in size to a Ford Taurus. Gasoline prices are currently 1200 won per liter or about \$4.20 per U.S. gallon. Koreans are quite worried about rising fuel prices as they import most of their oil and gas.

IMAGE of CHUNGNAM NATIONAL UNIVERSITY

Imagine yourself in a university of 23,000 students located in the center of the Black Hills of South Dakota adjacent to a city of 1.4 million people where most people live in high rise apartments. Further imagine that few signs are posted in

English – except for signs on freeways. Finally imagine that you must try everything possible to communicate with Koreans as many of them do not speak English, although many professors can speak English. (The Lone Ranger macho American male approach of never asking for help or directions does not work in Korea!!) This will provide you with an image of this university and the surrounding city of Taejon.

ADDRESS INFORMATION

Bye for now. I will try to send general (group e-mail) impressions of Korea every 10 to 14 days. Please respond to let me know that you are receiving this message. I am looking forward to hearing from you. Please copy or forward to other persons interested in reading about my impressions of Korea.

I have also included apartment and office postal address and phone number. If you write us by regular airmail, please PRINT the address. Do not write the address in cursive as Korean postal workers or scanner machines cannot read cursive letters. The letter may not reach us or it will be two weeks old, instead of the normal 6-7 days. Of course, e-mail is much faster.

The apartment address is:

Janssen family or person's name
Foreign Professors Apartment #204
Chungnam National University
220 Gung-Dong, Yusong-Gu
Taejon 305-764
KOREA

Phone: 82-42-821-6094 where 82 is country code and 42 is city code

My office address is:

Dr. Larry Janssen
Department of Agricultural Economics
Agricultural Hall, Room 1303
Chungnam National University
220 Gung-Dong, Yusong-Gu
Taejon 305-764
KOREA

Office Phone: 82-42-821-6740
College Fax: 82-42-825-5025

Sincerely, Larry Janssen.

IMPRESSIONS FROM KOREA: MARCH 10 - 19

IS THIS HEAVEN OR WHAT? HIKING TRIP TO ODEASAN NATIONAL PARK

Hello again, from Korea. On Saturday March 11, I had the opportunity to travel with a Chungnam University faculty hiking club to Odeasan National Park in northeast Korea, about 3 hours from Taejon. Nine faculty members including myself and my department head, who invited me to go along, went on this "special trip" which they repeat every few years. We met at 6 a.m. to get in a 12 passenger van. It was very cold (about 25 F) and no one would get into the heated van. When I asked why, I was told that everyone must wait until the most senior (oldest) faculty member got into the van and selected his seat. Then everyone else could get into the van. The oldest member was 72 years of age and had been actively hiking for 40 years including treks into the Himalaya Mountains! He was in better shape than anyone else on the hike.

The trip to Odeasan National Park is along their modern expressways that have been built in the past 25 years. These are similar to our interstate highway system except they are toll roads (average toll for a compact passenger car is about 5 cents per mile). The national expressway roads are in better shape than much of our interstate system. Traffic is fairly heavy, but most truck traffic runs at night instead of the day time – double length semi trucks are not permitted. We ate breakfast at a service center – similar to those found along U.S. toll roads like the Kansas turnpike. No eggs, bacon, or pancakes, however.

"San" is the Korean word for mountain. Thus Odeasan National Park is a mountainous park. The hike to the top of the mountain was 3.5 km one-way and a vertical rise of nearly 800 meters. Portions of this hike were VERY STEEP! Imagine yourself hiking the very steep Sunday Gulch trail and Harney Peak trails near Sylvan Lake in Custer State Park. Further imagine that Buddhist temple sites were along the trails. Finally imagine that the top of the mountain peak was a worship site for Buddhists. This should provide you some visual idea about this hike. The first 2.4 km was similar to hiking in the Black Hills and was thoroughly enjoyable – even though it was cloudy and the temperature was only in the low 30's.

However, the final 1.1 kilometers of the hike was more suited for mountain goats than people – a vertical rise of 500 meters. Snow and ice were present at this elevation and everyone had to wear ice clamps on their shoes. This was my first experience using ice clamps. This portion of the hike was extremely tiring and difficult for me and for some less experienced members in the group. The lone faculty woman on the hike told me that this was about the most rigorous hike that their club undertakes – due to the icy conditions on steep slopes. She told me that I was invited to find out if the visiting American professor had the stamina to complete the hike!!

The views from the top of the peak were incredible. It was the highest peak in the area – 1563 meters above sea level. Everyone had to drink a toast at the peak – one person brought a bottle of traditional Korea liquor for this purpose. Some of the faculty members were Buddhists and offered special prayers at this worship site. The entire hike, including return trip, was completed in about 5 ½ hours.

When I asked about financial support of the Buddhist temples I found out that park entrance fees are used to support these cultural heritage sights. Some of these temples have been here for several hundred years while others are fairly new. The rest of the park is modeled after U.S. national parks – including campsites, picnic areas, visitor centers etc.

Before we left Odeasan Park we visited the major Buddhist temple site in this region. The Woljunga site was probably 15 acres and contained 8 or 9 buildings including the main temple. Photo taking was allowed except in the temple – which, of course, had the most beautiful sculpture and art work. The paintings and carvings on each building were INCREDIBLE! At least one of the buildings was over 600 years old! Since this was a major tourist site as well as a worship site there were plenty of opportunities to purchase high quality souvenirs – unfortunately I had very little Korean money along with me and they did not take credit cards. In some respects the site reminded me of the modern day functions of the Spanish missions of Tucson, San Antonio, and California.

We returned to Taejon about 7:30 pm. Dr. Kwon, my dept. head, and I ate at a Chinese restaurant. I find I am able to use wooden chopsticks easier than the metal chopsticks. Overall, it was a day made in heaven for an American that likes to hike!

IT'S A SMALL WORLD

On Tuesday I met Dr. Seungmo Koo from the Korea Rural Research Institute. He obtained his Ph.D. in ag econ from Kansas State University and was a counterpart of Nicole Klein. His advisors were my friends, Penney Diebel, currently at Oregon State University and Jeff Williams at Kansas State Univ. It was fun swapping stories about all of these wonderful people.

This semester Dr. Koo is an adjunct professor of agricultural economics at Chungnam and teaches an economics principles course. I found out a professor retired in February who used to teach graduate agricultural finance and freshman –level econ principles, among other courses. Thus Dr. Koo and I met as we are “substitutes” until they are able to hire a replacement faculty. Dr. Koo lives in Anyang, a city located between Seoul and Suwon, and wants me to visit Seoul with my family as he needs an excuse to play tourist again!

CLASSROOM TEACHING at CHUNGNAM UNIVERSITY

Teaching classes is quite an experience. The rooms are equipped for whiteboard or chalkboard and overhead projector. However, computer projection rooms are generally not available. The graduate students can read and understand English, if I speak slowly. I prepare most notes for handout / distribution. I am glad that I already use many handouts in my senior level agricultural finance class at SDSU. I will cover the basic topics of financial management contained in chapters 2 – 11 of the SDSU textbook, plus three weeks of readings in international agricultural finance emphasizing eastern Asia and North America. The latter materials I have never prepared before so it is exciting to have time to prepare materials that can be used in a variety of classes back home. The Korean students seem to be quite capable in math and statistics, so I can use more of it than in my senior level class at SDSU. Our class meets 3 hours each Thursday morning.

Several graduate students are meeting with me for two hours per week (each Wednesday afternoon) on conversational English. I am asking the students to discuss very basic topics in English and suggesting ideas to improve specific pronunciation. Topics include: family members, describing their family house, favorite national park, favorite sports, best tourist sites in Seoul and their locality.

I also had the opportunity to present a 1.5 hour seminar on U.S. and South Dakota agriculture and about SDSU agricultural business / economics programs to a senior seminar class of 25 students – 8 female and 17 male. Their professor served as interpreter, as needed. I received about 30 minutes of questions from their students about U.S. agricultural policy, U.S. food customs, college student work life, ability of American agricultural students (especially female students) in getting jobs, and other items of importance to them. It was fun!

Teaching loads are high at Chungnam University. The standard load is 12 to 15 hours of classtime per week and may include 3 or 4 course preparations per semester. The minimum teaching load is 9 hours per semester. Their first semester is March 2 – June 28. Their second semester is early September – late December. All classes are required to have one midterm exam and final exam – as the majority of the course grade is based on these two exams. Chungnam has a required midterm exam period and a required final exam period – with no classes allowed to meet during those times. Most professors in the Agricultural College have research projects with various government agencies or with their Agricultural Experiment Station.

All of the professors and instructors in the foreign professors apartment, except for me, teach in a foreign language department (such as English, French, German, or Japanese). The professors usually teach composition and culture classes, while English instructors (without Ph.D's) teach quiz sections of the required English language class for most Chungnam University students. The instructors meet with 12 to 15 quiz sections of 30 students once per week and

have the same assignment in all sections per week. Their students also meet with a professor for two hours per week. Some of the instructors also teach English classes for one of the Language Institutes (private school tuition rates) in the Taejon area. Their total weekly classtime is 25 hours! The instructors (all American or British) told me that the effective demand for native English instructors is very high in Korea and China. They came to Korea for the experience and the “time of their lives”, but realize it is not a permanent job at any location. One instructor was a biology major at Michigan State and was only working on a Master’s degree in English education when he took a job in Korea for a few years.

Some things are the same everywhere. Students love to play intramural sports – especially soccer and outdoor basketball. Apparently, intramural teams are organized along student club and department lines. From my office window, I can watch the afternoon soccer games or other sports. Students also like to find any excuse to have class cancelled for “important festivities”. Last Wednesday night I went to campus town with several English instructors for an evening of pizza, pop, and beer. Based on my observations, night life is “hopping” as there are numerous coffee houses (which serve coffee and liquor or beer), campus pubs, Korean bars / discos, karaoke bars, and who knows what else? I was glad to be with the other English instructors who knew the “campus night scene”. They prefer to go to a pub that permits carry-in pizza and caters to English speaking people so they can swap stories about their homeland and their time in Korea. Some “tall tales” were told about life in upper Michigan, Scotland, merry olde England, California, and yes, South Dakota. As the saying goes, “some of it was even true”.

SIGHTS & SOUNDS IN DOWNTOWN TAEJON

On Saturday, March 18, my department head, and I rode the bus from Chungnam University to downtown Taejon. We visited several department stores and “traditional markets” in downtown Taejon near the main train station. The sights and sounds of traditional markets are something to behold! The side streets are very narrow (perhaps 12 feet wide) and outdoor shops are everywhere. Raw fish, live turtles, strawberries, veggies, music CD’s, shoes, blue jeans were literally sold in outdoor shops next to each other. The notion of segmented locations for products were limited to large departments. We also visited some beautiful and expensive traditional Korean dress/ clothes shops. The female student told me that these clothes were mainly for older people as young people preferred to wear dress jeans/pants or blue jeans, except for special holiday occasions.

We ate lunch at a traditional Korean restaurant – a large bowl of spicy soup containing pork, onions, many veggies, and mixed with rice. Their soup and rice dishes are delicious and don’t require me to attempt chopsticks. After lunch she left us to go “power shopping” for the afternoon.

Dr. Kwon and I went hiking to the top of Pomunsan (Pomun mountain) and Pomunsansong (Pomun Fortress built in 660 A.D) in the mountain park overlooking the Taejon metropolitan area. This climb was only 400 meters above the city skyline – much easier than Odeasan. Of course, what Korean mountain park would be complete without a Buddhist temple and an amusement park (called Greenland). There were many picnic areas and the mountain spring waters taste very good. We returned by another bus to Chungnam University.

Later that evening I was hosted by his family in their apartment home across from the Agricultural College. Hanbat Plaza has 33 high rise apartments complex each 12 to 15 stories high. His four bedroom apartment, located on the ninth floor, was very modern in all respects. His wife, Dong Hee, was a superb hostess and spoke English very well, based on their earlier years in Hawaii. Her meal was more of a feast (beef bulgoli, vegetable plate, soup, rice, seafood dishes, rice liquor, and strawberries) than a regular meal. Their other guests were a horticulture professor, Yong Soo Hwang and his wife Sunmi, and their two children. Dr. Hwang's family lived in Florida for several years while he obtained his Ph.D. The teenage girls (both 16 years old) were very interested in meeting and visiting with Tiffany and wanted to see our pictures of South Dakota.

At the conclusion of the meal I started picking up dishes and glasses to take to the sink and was promptly told by the hostess that it was not proper in Korea for a family man to do this! I couldn't believe it! Meal fellowship at a Korean home follows a definite pattern of hospitality and etiquette – something that is often forgotten in our busy American homes! It is important to bring a gift of appreciation to the family – the SDSU Jacks shirt was a "hit" with their teenage daughter and the SDSU chocolates were enjoyed by all. The Korean wives shared many interesting experiences of their time in the United States and how it is different from and similar to their life in Korea. As you may guess, Korean society has undergone incredible changes in the past 30 – 40 years and it is starting to affect the roles of men and women in their society.

THE LORD WORKS IN MYSTERIOUS WAYS

Last Friday morning was gorgeous weather, so I took an early morning hike in the hills around Chungnam and arrived an hour later at a street in the Research Park area. (Taejon has 30+ research institutes close to Chungnam University – the largest collection of research scientists and research companies in Korea). I walked along several streets and eventually came within 200 meters of Chungnam Ag College, but could not get there due to high fences. So I kept walking about ½ mile east until I found an open gate to the Hanbat Plaza area.

Lo and behold across the street was the Hanbat Presbyterian Church which advertised church services in English, but no time was listed. There were many women in front of the church preparing for a rummage sale – unfortunately none could speak any English. Finally an elderly Korean man came to visit with me

and asked how he could help me. It turned out he was the senior pastor of this church. He invited me to his office for coffee and explained that his church had four Sunday services, including a noon service translated in English and Chinese (via head phones). He and his mission assistant invited me to the Sunday noon service. The church service was similar to a Protestant church service in Brookings including a liturgy, choir music, congregation singing, sermon (30 minutes), prayers, and announcement of foreign guests. This church definitely practiced "intentional hospitality" and members went out of their way to make you feel at home.

After the service, all guests (several from England and China) were invited to a fellowship luncheon, plus a one hour discussion on east Asian politics, economics, and Christianity. The group included sixteen people from Korea, China, England, Ethiopia, and myself. Absolutely fascinating! Until next time, peace be with you. Larry Janssen.

IMPRESSIONS FROM KOREA – MARCH 20 – 31, 2000

Greetings from Korea. Marcia and Tiffany safely arrived late Thursday night, March 30. Kioh Kim, myself, and the van driver left for Seoul at 4 pm and arrived at the airport about 7:30 pm. The traffic was very heavy. The flight was in about 30 minutes early and Marcia and Tiffany were through customs about 9 pm. We got back to the apartment about 11:30 pm.

Tiffany was not feeling good for most of the flight and I had not been feeling very good on Thursday. Yesterday (Friday) was a day to sleep in, unpack, meet a few apartment neighbors, and walk around campus and nearby campus town. Today (Saturday morning) everyone feels much better.

All of the following impressions of Korea were based on my experiences from March 20 –30 prior to Marcia and Tiffany's arrival.

HOUSING IN MODERN URBAN KOREA

When you look through the patio window from our apartment you could easily believe you are in the center of the Black Hills. Pine forests on steep slopes is the view. Our apartment has to be one of the quietest places in the whole Taejon metropolitan area. In that sense, our living quarters are great – even though several conveniences are lacking, such as hot water 24 hours per day. The apartment is showing its age, wear, and tear.

Modern urban family living in Korea is primarily high-rise apartment living with a majority of apartments owned, not leased. Common apartment sizes in new apartment complexes are 2-3 bedroom, 90 – 100 square meters (about 1000 – 1100 square feet) and 3-4 bedroom apartments of 160 – 170 square meters (1800 – 2000 square feet). In western Taejon near the university, the smaller apartments cost between \$100,000 and \$120,000, while the later approach \$200,000. The apartments have air conditioning and floor based heating systems.

The apartment complex closest to my work has 33 high rise apartment buildings, each 15 stories high and usually 6 – 8 apartments per level. Two small elevators and stairways are in each apartment building and elevators open to only 2 –4 apartments, no major hallways. Thus 90 to 120 families live in each apartment building and nearly 3500 families live in the apartment complex. Average family size in urban areas is 4 people. Each cluster of apartments has elementary and middle schools, parks, parking lots, and neighborhood shopping stores. There is a lot of "life" around the apartments day or night, but the apartments seem to be well insulated (sound proofing).

Of course, it is easy to find the incredibly crowded older style housing (2 to 4 stories high) along narrow, winding streets often with a family business located at ground level with the house. One can also find some ritzy, expensive houses and some “country” homes. However, the description above characterizes middle-class housing in much of South Korea’s towns and cities. The primary reasons are extremely high land costs, high population density, and overall efficient design / layout.

FORESTRY AND ENVIRONMENT IN KOREA

On Thursday, March 23 I had the opportunity to visit the Korean Forest Service Ministry office in Taejon. I was invited to interview candidates for director-general of forest policy in Korea and assess their English speaking skills. I found out later that asking native English speakers to interview candidates for Korean government jobs is common place. Many management / policy jobs in Korean government require certain levels of proficiency in English.

Korea is 65% forest, one-fourth in public ownership and three-fourths in private ownership. Most of the forests are replanted new growth forest (planted in the past 40 years) as the original forest was largely destroyed during the Japanese occupation (1910 – 1945) and later in the Korean War. Pine trees have replaced many areas of deciduous forest.

Korea has a national holiday, Arbor Day, that emphasizes the continued important of planting trees and maintaining their forest resource. Korean forest policy is modeled in part on forest policy in Germany and in the United States. There seems to be many conflicts between logging interests and environmental / recreation interests. Given so many people and rising income levels, it is easy to see that recreation use is heavy in many Korean forests. Korean forest policy also includes securing adequate lumber via contracts or forestation projects in less populated nations, such as eastern Russia.

Thursday (March 23) was also a windy “yellow dust alert” day – as yellow dust filled the air and it was getting difficult for many people to breathe. I found out from the forestry officers that the yellow dust was blowing from the Gobi Desert of Mongolia and from Manchuria, due to desertification and deforestation in those regions. Korea is investing in reforestation projects in those regions to (hopefully) reduce the incidence of yellow dust pollution. According to the newspapers, Korea is expected to get 6 – 10 “yellow dust” days this spring, due to drought conditions in Manchuria and Mongolia.

AGRICULTURE & RURAL LIFE IN KOREA – FIRST IMPRESSIONS

This past week I finally got away from the Taejon area to visit nearby rural, agricultural areas in Korea. On Tuesday, March 28, Professor Lim and I went to

the northern edge of Korea's rice bowl region near Kimje, about 1 ½ hours southwest of Taejon. This is a relatively flat region that looks much like the Missouri River bottoms of western Iowa, except it is used for rice production instead of corn and soybeans.

Farmers were starting tillage operations, mostly with agricultural power tillers which look much like large garden cultivators in the U.S. However, small tractors are becoming more common and I saw many small Ford tractors (40 – 60 horsepower) tractors operated. Dr. Lim told me that all farms have had electricity for the past 15-20 years, almost all farms are mechanized with agricultural tillers, and most larger farms in this region have small tractors. Average farm size is extremely small (only 4 acres), but very rapid consolidation of farms is occurring and there is a growing number of farms above 15 acres in size. It is important to remember that quoted farm size in Korea refers to arable cropland only. A majority of farms in this region use double cropping systems. Rice is transplanted into the fields in late April and May and is harvested in October. Another crop is planted in early November and harvested before rice is transplanted.

In the Kimje region, almost all farmers lived in villages of 10 to 100 houses and villages were about 1 km apart. Most rural roads were paved, but only 12 – 14 feet wide, while rural highways were two-lane narrow width roads (similar to old highway 14 from Brookings to Volga).

Only 20% of Korea's area is arable cropland, averaging 1/10 acre of cropland per person – the second lowest amount of cropland per person in the world. Korea has very little grazing land, except mountain forest areas. For comparison purposes, the U.S. has about 1.5 acres of cropland per person and at least 2 acres of rangeland per person. Korea's food self-sufficiency is about 40%, which means the nation imports a majority of their food requirements. The U.S. is often the main supplier of grains, soybeans, and many processed products.

Consequently, Korea faces terrific pressure for "space" as urbanites want more land for housing, parks, recreation, industry, etc. Thus, many agricultural areas and many forest areas are subject to urban land conversion. However, conversion of agricultural land to urban land is subject to a 20% tax on the differential value (urban, unimproved minus farmland value). The tax money in turn is used for land conservation and land reclamation projects, including tidal land reclamation project.

I had the opportunity to visit one of the world's largest tidal land reclamation projects called the Sae Man Keum Agricultural Development Project, located on the Yellow Sea. This area is subject to a lot of flooding of existing farmland and housing from the Yellow Sea. This multi-purpose project is similar in scope to the Zuider Zee project in the Netherlands and consists of a 33 km sea dike that will enclose 100,000 acres of freshwater and agricultural lands. More than 2/3 of the sea dike is built, with completion of the sea dike scheduled for 2003. Then, nearly

50,000 acres of tidal lands will be converted to rice paddy fields, 10,000 acres for industrial sites, and 40,000 acres for freshwater uses, wetlands for migratory birds, and fish farms. We talked to the project engineers and managers and toured a portion of the sea dikes. Most of the sand used for the project are dredged from the Yellow Sea and originally came erosion in China.

All tidal land reclamation projects are managed by the Korean Agricultural and Rural Infrastructure Company (KARICO) - a government sponsored agency which in turn subcontracts the construction work to various private companies. Most of the funds for the project are supposedly from the 20% tax on urban land conversion in Korea. This company is also responsible for many public sponsored rural infrastructure projects in Korea. My impression is this government company is a combination of our Tennessee Valley Authority, Army Corp of Engineers, and Bureau of Reclamation in the U.S.

We also visited an "agricultural heritage" museum near Kimje, Korea. The focal points of this museum were the changes in rice cultivation practices during the past 5000 years and irrigation development projects in Korea from 300 A.D. The museum is located on the remains of what was once a 25,000 acre irrigation development project constructed in the fourth century (more than 1600 years ago). It was Korea's earliest irrigation development project! In my view, this would be a wonderful 2 hour stop for SDSU visitors to Korea!

COLLEGE LIFE AT CHUNGNAM UNIVERSITY

Chungnam University just published their first English version catalog, so it was finally possible for me to make some sense of the undergraduate program requirements. Most undergraduate courses are 3 credits and meet 2 times per week, while graduate courses usually meet for 3 hours, one time per week. The semester term is 16 weeks including time for final exams. Midterm exams and final exams are strictly required, with a majority of the grade determined from these two exams.

Most classes above the freshman level (in economics and ag economics) have required projects. The undergraduate students must complete 140 credits of coursework, compared to 128 credits at SDSU. According to the revised requirements, a MAJOR field consists of 54 credits (in most colleges) and a MINOR field is 21 credits. Students are now encouraged to obtain a MAJOR and minor or second major. Students are admitted into a specific major department at Chungnam and are only allowed to change major fields ONCE in their college career. This is a major difference from our experience with SDSU students.

ALL freshman / sophomore students at Chungnam must successfully complete one year of Korean language and composition, and one year of English language and composition. Some colleges require modest proficiency in a third language of the students choice (Japanese, Chinese, French, German, Russian etc). In

general, Korean students entering Chungnam University have had 6 years of English in middle school and high school.

The English instructors tell me that freshman college students at Chungnam can read English fairly well, but most cannot speak or write it very well because our language structure is very different from their own. Also their education system, in the past, was geared toward teaching reading proficiency needed for business communications and reading English edition textbooks. A casual visit to the campus bookstore and visits with economics students revealed that nearly half of their textbooks are written in English!

Campus student life is highly organized by their department including intramural sports activities and many festivals. I attended the agricultural economic department's MEMBERSHIP TRAINING program for their students located at a campus retreat center in the mountains near Taejon. This training program includes "freshman initiation" activities, many games (some form of kickball was prominent), some speeches by dept. head and student club president, kareoke style singing (required from all professors), student skits, and late evening drinking (pop or beer). More than 100 students were present at the afternoon and evening event.

Fortunately, some of us came back to Taejon around 11 pm – I am sure most students partied through the night! However, all students returned by bus around 11 am the following morning and seemed to be in good shape except for lack of sleep. Korean group solidarity is very prominent – thus students would be "shunned" if they really got out of line! Somehow, I doubt that SDSU will be instituting department sponsored Korean style membership training programs for our students!

TRAVEL & CULTURAL HIGHLIGHT: TRIP TO SEOUL

Another travel highlight during this period was an all-day Saturday (March 25) trip to Seoul, Korea. We left at 6:30 am and returned about 10:30 pm. The Korean Culture trip was sponsored by several Christian churches in the Taejon area. The cost per person (bus ride, admissions, lunch, and dinner) was about \$25. Nearly 90 people went on the trip in two different buses. Citizens from at least 8 nations were on the trip (China, Korea, Russia, Canada, United States, India, Australia, and South Africa). Tour guides were conversant in English, Chinese, and Korean. The bus trip to and from Seoul was about 2.5 hours each way, with 9 hours spent in Seoul. It was a very long day!

Most of the foreigners had one of the following jobs: (1) teaching English or Chinese in Korean schools, universities, or language institutes, or (2) research scientists and engineers in one of Taejon's 30 research institutes – especially Russians and Chinese. For the first time since arriving in Korea I saw and visited with blonde women from Canada and Russia and a black woman from California.

Every Korean person has brown or black hair while older people have some gray hair. Believe me, blondes are VERY NOTICEABLE in Korea! All of them said they were having a pretty good time in Korea, but the “culture shock” is even greater for women than for men, due to cultural norms in Korean society.

The first stop was a tour of the largest church in Korea and one of the largest in the world – Youido Full Gospel Church. This huge church is located a few blocks from the national Congress building of Korea’s government. The church has several sanctuaries with one time seating capacity of 12,000 people. It has seven services each Sunday and some on Wednesday, with more than 100,000 people attending services per week. Services are translated via headphones in Chinese, Russian, and English with some other languages available on request. This remarkable church has been heavily involved in mission work throughout Korean and other nations. It is the first church I have ever seen with an instant cash machine in the entrance doorway! I guess there is no excuse for not bringing your offering to church!

The second stop was a trip to the top of the 63 story Korea Life Insurance Building known as the 63 Building for fantastic views of the Seoul metropolitan area and of Incheon. According to tour guides we could see one-third of Korea’s population within view from this building. The next item was a riverboat cruise and Korean lunch on the Han River, the main river in Korea, which separates northern (original) Seoul from the rapidly growing southern suburbs.

In the afternoon we visited Changdokkung Palace, adjacent to downtown Seoul. This main palace of Korea’s Choson dynasty was originally built in 1405. Most of it has burned down and been restored several times as a result of Korea’s conflicts with Japan and due to internal conflicts. The most interesting items was the main gate (Tonwhamun) and the 70+ acre secret gardens (Piwon). Unfortunately, we arrived too late and missed the English interpreter guide and had to go with a Japanese tour group and guide. Of course few people in our group could speak Japanese. Fortunately the main attractions were signed in English. The gardens should be beautiful in another month, when our family will probably get the opportunity to visit Seoul again.

The last stop in Seoul was a one-hour shopping rush of a nine story department store – Doosan Tower in downtown Seoul. It was interesting going to the floor level where traditional Korean costumes and dresses were sold. My wife could spend days at this department store, but one hour was fine for me including time to purchase my first 100% American hamburger and french fries at a fast food (Burger King) café. I didn’t realize how much I missed burgers and fries! The final stop was a Korean buffet restaurant.

IMPRESSIONS OF KOREA – APRIL 1 – APRIL 12

MARCIA'S FIRST IMPRESSIONS OF KOREA

Hi, Tiffany and I made it to Korea. We flew from Denver to Seattle, where we changed planes to fly to Tokyo. In Tokyo we changed planes again and flew to Seoul, Korea. Larry and Kioh Kim met us at the Seoul airport and drove us to Taejon, a distance of about 120 miles. We were in the air for about 17 hours. Tiffany got airsick, so it made the trip even seem a lot longer.

It has been quite a culture shock for us, but we are adjusting. It is really strange to see all the neon signs in a foreign language and to be the minority race. At times we have found it hard to communicate. However, at the university there are many people that speak English. The people seem to be very friendly. Most of the people in Taejon live in high rise apartments \ condos. Some are very nice. We are living in a small very simple two-bedroom apartment in the Foreign Professors apartment building located on the Chungnam University campus. It is O.K. for three months, but I would not want to live forever in this apartment! However, we now have a sofa couch in our apartment, which is the same as the other apartments in the building.

We have seen several neat things here already. We went to the Expo Center in Taejon, which is where the World's Fair was in 1993. It had about eight different pavilions, which featured different high tech things of the future. It also had an IMAX that was showing a film about Alaska in the Korean language. It was all very interesting, but unfortunately it looked like that they were not getting enough business to maintain the grounds etc. around the buildings. There were very few people there. It was rather sad to see. Next to it was an amusement park that we also went to and spent several hours. It had quite a few people.

Arbor Day is a national holiday in Korea. On Arbor Day we went to Kyerongsan (mountain) National Park near Taejon. The entrance area is Korea's version of Estes Park. However, no private cars are permitted in this main section of the park. We hiked up to a very beautiful Buddhist temple, Tonghaksa, where we saw both Buddhist monks and nuns. We hiked further to a waterfall over a very steep rocky and rough trail. Unfortunately, there was very little water running due to extremely dry weather conditions.

We have had dinner a couple of times at the homes of some of the people we have met at the university. We also have eaten at a traditional Korean restaurant. Some of the Korean food I like, but I'm not real crazy about some of the spicy foods and of course I'm not crazy about seafood. They do have McDonald's, Burger King, KFC, Pizza Hut, and even a Baskin-Robbins. Good beef is hard to find in the grocery stores and is very expensive, more than twice as expensive as beef at HyVee.

It is interesting observing the people here. Most are dressed very neatly. Some of the young people dye or color their hair. We have seen people with blue, green, yellow, orange, and purple hair. Some of the better dressed people wear high platform shoes and/or very pointed shoes that are a few inches longer than where their toes end.

Some of the Korean kids are so CUTE. They see us and they just stare or laugh at us, because we look so strange to them. Several times people have come up to us and said "hi", just wanting to practice their English on us.

The Taejon area is a very high technology area of Korea. It seems almost everyone here has a very small cell phone they carry around with them. Very few people have clothes dryers or regular ovens. Actually most of them have no need for an oven, because they do very little baking.

I am sending you several pictures that we took with a digital camera. One of them is when we first got to Seoul, one eating at a Korean restaurant, and last one shows the flowering trees and bushes near our apartment. The cherry trees and forsythia bushes are really beautiful here now. Bye, Marcia

LIFE for our FAMILY in TAEJON

Marcia and Tiffany seem to be adjusting pretty well to our (temporary) life in Korea. Tiffany works on her school work several days per week and sends some materials to her school and friends by e-mail. She is taking piano lessons from a Korean undergraduate music student who wants to improve her English speaking capabilities.

A majority of evenings we eat dinner at a local restaurant or at someone's home. We have had traditional Korean dinners at Kioh Kim's family home and at my department head's home as well as Korean restaurant meals with Korean professors and their families. We have gone to pizza and spaghetti restaurants by ourselves or with non-Korean couples. I don't think many people are going hungry in the Taejon area as Korean food (except for beef) is quite low price by U.S. standards. Lunch prices for Korean food (excluding beef dishes) vary from about \$1.50 to \$5.00 and evening meal prices vary from \$3.00 to \$7.00 per person. However, American-style food is usually more expensive than we pay in Brookings or Sioux Falls for comparable items. Of course, it isn't easy to find many foods that we eat in the U.S., especially ham, meat loaf, or beef steaks.

Korean meals always include rice, kimchi, and soup. Bread or milk is not included in a typical home meal or restaurant meal. Restaurant dinners usually include many cold fruits, vegetable, and seaweed side dishes. I like most of the soups that I have tried, but Korean soups are highly seasoned and unfamiliar to

my taste. Concerning ingredients in some soups, my motto is “don’t ask because I don’t really want to know!”.

Red peppers and onions are mixed into many food items. However, they do not use much tomato sauce or tomato paste in their cooking. They seldom bake breads, cakes, or pies. However, bread and pastries can be purchased at numerous small bakeries. Lowfat or skim dairy products are fairly difficult to find, except at Walmart which definitely caters to domestic and international tastes.

Very few families use tap water for drinking water as the water has so many minerals in it and has an off taste. Bottled water is sold everywhere for \$0.60 per 2 liters. We also obtain drinking water from springs located near the university.

Korean taxi rides are always interesting; the drivers can change lanes that are impossibly crowded and can stop on a dime. Parking spaces are almost anywhere on side streets and in parking lots, with cars facing any direction. However taxi service is widely available and bus service is frequent and good.

ECONOMICS and AGRICULTURAL ECONOMICS at CHUNGNAM UNIV.

The continuing merits of a joint department of Economics at SDSU becomes more evident each day that I observe the split department situation at Chungnam University. The Ag Econ Department is housed in the College of Agriculture, while the Economics Department is in the College of Economics and Management, their equivalent of a business college. The Ag Econ department has 160 undergraduate students and 5 Ph.D. faculty members. The Economics Department has 13 Ph.D. faculty members and 340 undergraduate students. Both departments have small graduate programs – Master’s and Ph.D.

The stated minimum teaching load is 9 hours per week, but the actual teaching load is often higher. The faculty contract includes a discretionary clause stating additional duties may be assigned by the University President as deemed necessary (of course, it is often necessary for the good of the university!).

Consequently, many foreign language teachers are assigned 15 hours of class instruction per week and some economics / ag economics faculty members have 12 –15 hours of classes per week. Some professors have 3 to 4 class preparations each semester and 5-6 different class preparations each year. Graduate faculty professors are expected to obtain research grants and write professional publications including journal articles, professional papers, or books.

Department heads are treated the same as faculty members and are also assigned the minimum teaching load of 9 hours per week. Department heads tend to be younger faculty – typically associate professors. Some department heads may advance to administration but many are happy to return to teaching / research contracts. Due to the extent of their teaching / research commitments, a

department head is a candidate for “burnout” if they stay in the position too many years.

However, the external commitments of the department are lower. There is no formal university extension service as this function is handled through various ministry of agriculture offices. The agricultural econ department has no secretarial support staff; all of the support staff work is performed by students with some assistance available at the college level. Some larger departments may have secretarial staff.

The Korean Agricultural Economics Society consists of faculty and graduate students in 10 –12 universities, researchers at the Korean Rural Economic Institute, and agricultural economists in various government agencies, cooperatives, and large agribusiness firms. This society meets during summer and winter break periods (August and February). Meetings are usually 1 ½ to 2 days in length. The Korean Economics Society has many specialized groups (regional economics, econometrics, international economics, etc) each with their own set of meetings.

About 3 weeks ago, I was hosted by the Economics Department for a luncheon and informal meeting. Most economics professors obtained their Ph.D. from major universities in the United States, Canada, Germany, or Japan. A few obtained their Ph.D. from Seoul National University - the premier university in Korea. A majority of the economics professors have been visiting scholars to major U.S. universities (Harvard, Texas A & M, and others). In general the English speaking capabilities of the Economics professors is very good. I am expected to provide a seminar to the Economics department faculty and guest lecture in 1-2 classes.

Last week (Tuesday, April 4) I attended a college-wide special seminar sponsored by the Economics Department on the topic: “Globalization and the Global Economy: Implications for Korea”. Approximately 90 faculty and students attended the 3 hour event. The first half hour consisted of welcoming speeches (in English) by the University president and various research institute directors, with time for several photo opportunities.

The main speaker, Dr. Park from Free University-Berlin, Germany, provided a 75minute seminar on the topic. His paper and transparencies were written in English, but most of his speech (at the request of his audience) was in Korean. After the coffee break, there was a one hour discussion and critique session. I did not stay for the discussion session which was conducted in Korean. I learned that the speaker, Dr. Park, was a classmate of the University President, a fact that is important in Korean society. This personal relationship may be responsible for the “ceremony” and publicity associated with his seminar.

Yesterday (Tuesday, April 11) I had a lengthy visit with Dr. Jin Park, an agricultural economist faculty member of their Economics Department. He teaches a sophomore course in agricultural economics, and senior-level courses in agricultural policy and in economic development for his department. Most of his students are from the economics and management college, not the agricultural college. He told me that prior to the late 1970's a majority of Korea's general economists took some classes in agricultural economics, due to the important role of agriculture in the early to middle phases of economic development. Even today, most economics students at Chungnam University take one or two classes in agricultural economics subject matter. His empirical research interests were primarily village field studies in economic development,

In closing, I am doing a lot of reading on international agricultural finance, Korean agricultural economics and economic development for use in my classes at Chungnam and when I return to SDSU. This Friday, Marcia and Tiffany are presenting materials to Chungnam University Education majors on preschool and public schools in South Dakota. Tiffany will have her first college presentation before she completes her first college course! Until next time, good bye.

IMPRESSIONS OF KOREA – APRIL 12 – 18

This is the season of cherry blossoms and forsythia blossoms at Chungnam. The blossoms have been gorgeous since early April. The blossoms are now appearing on cherry trees in the higher elevations. People who have been to Washington D.C. during the spring tell me the scenery is similar. The street near our apartment is crowded in late afternoon and on weekends because this is the location of the prettiest tree. We often have an after supper game of badminton near the apartment so we can enjoy the beautiful weather and scenery. The main weather problems are the extremely dry conditions and some windy days of yellow dust blowing in from China and Mongolia. I am writing this shorter report because the next few weeks promise to be very busy for all of us. We will write a family report on our impressions in early May.

AGRIBUSINESS and AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE ACTIVITIES

On Monday, April 17, Dr. Chang Sung from the Food Science Dept. at Chungnam University took me to the Seoul Food Exposition 2000 – the largest food industry trade show in Korea. The annual Food Expo is held in the COEX Seoul World Trade Center Building in southeast Seoul. More than 330 Korean and international business firms from more than 40 countries around the world were at this trade fair. Familiar names to Americans included Nescafe, Del Monte, Wells Blue Bunny ice cream, Tyson chicken, Farmland Industries, U. S. Meat Export Federation, U.S. Beef Producers Assoc. and the corresponding beef associations from Canada, Australia, and New Zealand. This trade fair lasts four days and is very well attended.

One of the most interesting displays was by 3M – featuring various products made at the Brookings 3M plant – according to their Korean marketing representative who has visited Brookings various times. It's a small world!

Dr. Sung is an NDSU alumnus and studied with a microbiologist trained at SDSU. In response to the IMF sanctions on Korea's economy, various Korean universities encouraged some of their research professors to start some high tech venture capital firms. His small company, DBIO Co. Ltd., produces a food additive from mushrooms for the health food and "mainstream" food markets. Nine researchers and business people are involved with the start-up company.

On Friday, April 7, Dr. Yong Hwang from the horticulture department gave me a tour of the horticultural research and exhibition facilities next to Ag Hall. He is an avid home gardener so we swapped stories about vegetable gardening in South Dakota and South Korea. The greenhouse facilities are very modern with numerous operations controlled by computer. I observed various experiments (indoors or outdoors) conducted with chinese cabbage, strawberries, roses, and Korean vs. western lawn grasses. They also have small orchards for grapes,

apples, oriental pears, persimmons, and peaches where they conduct tree-grafting experiments.

The horticulture department has a training building for student use and area farmer demonstration use, with farmer classes held every Tuesday. This department has a strong graduate program, more than 30 students, as there is considerable industry and research institute demand for their Master's students.

Today, I toured Dr. Doug Chung's agricultural chemistry laboratories and had a good visit with him. He is a very busy person, supervising a research program for 5 graduate students and working with many undergraduate students. Dr. Chung was host to Dr. Malo and Dr. Doolittle during their respective visits to Chungnam. I saw Jim Doolittle's famous office room. Doug provided me with my first experience of eating cold noodle soup. It was very tasty.

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEMS in SOUTH KOREA

Marcia and Tiffany developed and presented lecture materials about preschool and K-12 education in our local community to an Education class of doctoral students at Chungnam University. Dr. O.J. Kim was their professor. He has hosted several SDSU professors, including Dr. Carl Edeburn, and some visiting SDSU student groups. He is quite familiar with the educational system in the U.S., but thought a presentation from an American preschool teacher and junior school student would have greater impact on his students. Tiffany and Marcia were asked many questions. Marcia used video material she had filmed at First Lutheran Preschool in Volga. In May, Marcia will be giving a preschool presentation to a class of 20 – 30 Masters of Education students.

Based on our discussions with the doctoral education students, we discovered some interesting facets of Korea's education system. Korea's provincial government is responsible for providing elementary school to all children. Average class size of 40+ students per teacher is considerably higher than found in most South Dakota schools. Classes meet from 9 am to 3 pm, Monday – Friday and 9 am to 1 pm on Saturdays. The academic year begins in February and concludes in December, with 6 – 8 week summer break in July and August.

Middle school and high school are partly tuition support with limited subsidy by the government. Middle school tuition rates are about 300,000 won (\$275) per semester. High school tuition rates around Taejon are 600,000 won (\$550) per semester. By contrast, public university tuition rates are 1.2 million won or \$1100 U.S. per semester. At the public university level, tuition supports about 2/5 of instructional costs.

Another interesting feature is the emphasis on language education. Today, all Korean middle schools and high schools require English language as a core subject in addition to the usual science, math, social studies/history, and Korean language studies. Many schools also require students to obtain some training in

Chinese or Japanese. Many parents send their children after school to a language institute for additional training in conversational English (or other language).

High school students have very little time to themselves. After school is another round of extra classes or study groups until supper time and sometimes until late evening. Students are expected to meet with their study groups during a portion of the summer or winter break period. High school sports and social activities are not as important in the Korean system as in South Dakota schools.

My own assessment is that many high school students are “burned out” from all of the emphasis on schooling and national examinations as the primary means of entering universities. A student's national exam score is critically important in determining their future. The only parallel I can think of in the U.S. system is the importance of exam scores for entrance into elite graduate, medical, and law schools.

Thus Korean parents have considerable financial obligations to get their children through high school and, if possible, through the university. Despite the financial burden on families, most Korean children graduate from high school. The emphasis that Korean families place on formal education as the ticket for “success” is almost unbelievable!

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES: Election Day, Songnisan Park, Palm Sunday

Election Day, April 13, is a national holiday in Korea. On this day, South Korean's voted for members of their national assembly (congress). The opposition party won more seats than the governing party, and both parties gained seats at the expense of a major third party. About 55% of eligible voters cast their ballot and then headed for the mountains for their holiday!

Dr. Myung Yeom, Economics Dept. head, and his family picked us up after they voted and took us to a mountain park near Kongju for a picnic lunch. During the afternoon, we went to King Muryong's tomb site and to a national historical museum about the Paekche Dynasty, which prevailed from 18 B.C. to nearly 600 A.D. King Muryong was the greatest king of this dynasty. The treasures from the tomb were on display in the museum.

On Saturday, April 15, Dr. Lim and Mr. Song from the Ag Econ Department took us to Songnisan National Park, about 50 miles northeast of Taejon. This is the third national park we have visited in Korea and is the most beautiful one that we have seen. Again, no cars are allowed inside the park. We walked nearly 6 miles round trip. The main site is the Popchusa temple grounds which contains the largest Buddha statue, 80 feet high, in eastern Asia. The various temple buildings were constructed in 553 A.D.

We saw one of the largest wooden temple structures (Daewungbojon) in Korea and the five story roof pagoda (Palsungjon) building which is 65 feet high. The only way to effectively describe this temple site is by showing pictures after we return. After the temple visit we hiked along a lovely forest trail to a Buddhist hermitage site and returned to the local village for a traditional Korean meal. Late afternoon we visited Taechong Reservoir site for impressive views of the lake and mountains. This reservoir is the main water supply for the Taejon metropolitan area.

The SDSU tour groups will go to this park in May. It should be a major highlight.

On Palm Sunday, we went to Taejon's only church service conducted entirely in English. The interdenominational Protestant congregation was about ½ Korean and ½ American, Canadian, and other nationalities. This church is affiliated with the Taejon Christian International School, which was started in 1958 by Presbyterian missionaries. This K-12 school has 300 students and teaches all subjects in English. A majority of the students are children of Korean-American families, but a minority are students from many nationalities. The school is accredited in Korea and in the United States.

Have a wonderful Easter holiday. We will write our next one in early May. Bye, Larry Janssen.

IMPRESSIONS FROM KOREA, April 19 – May 6

Greetings again from Korea. The weather has finally warmed up, the trees have their new leaves, and the azaleas are in full bloom. It feels like late spring in South Dakota. Today is graduation day at SDSU and final exams are next week. It hardly seems possible!

WHY YOU SHOULD COME TO SOUTH KOREA

We are looking forward to the arrival of the faculty and student visitors from SDSU. I have seen the itinerary and it looks like your Chungnam University hosts have made some wonderful plans. I hope each SDSU visitor enjoys their time here. Your 12 day stay in Korea will be enhanced if:

- You like to meet a lot of friendly people. Korea has so MANY people in such a small area and the people are very friendly.
- You like to try a lot of foods that you have most likely never tried before. It also helps if you like to eat rice, which is a staple at every Korean (or Chinese) meal.
- You like beautiful forest and mountain scenery and the sights and sounds of large urban areas. Three fifths of Korea's area are forests and mountains, while 80% of Korea's 45 million people live in cities. Nearly 12 million people live in Seoul, the nation's capitol city, and another 8 million people live in the province surrounding Seoul. You will spend half of your time around Taejon which only has 1.4 million people!
- You can laugh at yourself a lot and appreciate the many times your hosts will try to assist you.

Overall, we will be happy to meet all of you and hope that you will have a great time in Korea.

In the rest of this letter, we will focus on education, family time, recreation, and cultural events that we have experienced in the past few weeks. In the next letter I will include a section on IMPRESSIONS of KOREAN AGRICULTURE that summarizes the numerous agricultural related trips and farm visits that I have experienced in the past few weeks. This letter will be sent after the SDSU group has safely arrived in Taejon.

VISIT with the NEW DEAN OF CHUNGNAM AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE

Dean's are elected by faculty vote at Chungnam University and serve a fixed term of 2,3, or 4 years. Dr. Woo-Young Choi of the Agricultural Chemistry Dept. was elected as the new dean of the Agricultural College and began his service on May 1. Dr. Choi knows Doug Malo and Jim Doolittle quite well as they were

hosted in his department during their exchange program semester. On Thursday, April 20 Dr. Choi took myself, Dr. Yong dae Kwon - my department head, Dr. Yong Kook Kim from Dairy Science, and Dr. Hyung Song from Forestry Resources to lunch at a resort restaurant along the river drive to Kongju. (Dr. Kim obtained his Ph.D. at SDSU while Dr. Song was a visiting professor at SDSU). It is traditional for a newly elected dean to take various faculty to lunch and he wanted a chance to meet another SDSU faculty member even if he wasn't in soil science! Winemaking is one of the dean's hobbies – so he brought along one of his finest homemade wines.

After a 2 pm lunch, the dean took us to the Kapsa temple region on the west side of Kyeryongsan Park for a 2 ½ hour visit of this beautiful temple site. This temple was constructed in 420 A.D. and contains many historical treasures. The Dean is Buddhist and spent a short time worshipping in the temple. He explained some of the religious rites of Buddhism and compared them with some Christian beliefs. We had an afternoon herbal tea and rice cake break at the tea house located by a beautiful stream. Except for the Buddhist temple, I could have been in the mountains of Colorado as this is surely the prettiest location in this national park!

KOREAN FOLK RELIGIONS

On Saturday afternoon, April 22, Dr. Kwon and his wife took our family to a Korean folk religion celebration near the Sinwon temple region on the south side of Kyeryongsan Park. We watched various colorful dancing and drum ceremonies with people in colorful traditional ceremonial dress. The participants were calling on the mountain spirits for another good season for planting crops and for the health of the people. Dr. Kwon explained that Korean folk religion predates Buddhism, which has been in Korea since the 4th century! Many Koreans combine elements of folk religious beliefs with Buddhism, while others have retained the folk religion (referred to as shamanism) and have not adopted Buddhism or Christianity. We viewed the ceremonies as interesting cultural events, but it was evident that many believers in shamanism were also present. The nearby Buddhist temple grounds also had one adjacent section devoted to worship of the local mountain gods.

The shamanist ceremony was quite a contrast to our next day attendance of the Easter church services at the Christian International Center in Taejon. Of course, Easter is celebrated by members of Christian churches in Korea, but there is no secular counterpart such as Easter egg hunts or similar activities. Also, there is no Korean school holiday for Good Friday or Easter Monday. However, there are some national holidays for Buddhist ceremonies including Buddha's birthday celebrated on Thursday, May 11 of this year.

Our Korean Christian friends remind us that Buddhism is a major part of the dominant culture and still has a plurality of followers in Korea. However, more than 25% of Koreans are now affiliated with Christian churches. The churches

seem to have strong outreach and mission programs in Korea and in other parts of Asia. Christianity became a significant presence in part due to active opposition of early church leaders to Japan's occupation of Korea from 1910 to 1945 and due to many Korean schools and hospitals initially established by Christian organizations.

KOREAN FOLK VILLAGE and southern SEOUL

In my view, the Korean Folk Village is a definite tourist stop for international visitors and it is included in the itinerary for the SDSU travel / cultural exchange group visitors. The 240 acre Korean Folk Village, located in Suwon, is a celebration of traditional rural folk culture and performs a role similar to Colonial Villages in the eastern United States.

Our family traveled by express bus from Taejon to the bus terminal in southern Seoul on the weekend of April 29 and 30. We were hosted by Dr. Seungmo Koo, who went to Kansas State University with Dr. Nicole Klein. Dr. Koo, who lives in a large city (Anyang) close to Seoul, said he needed an excuse to play tourist and visit the Korean Folk Village in Suwon, located about 30 miles south of downtown Seoul. However, it is a continuous urban landscape of apartment buildings and industrial centers from Seoul to Suwon. We arrived at 11 am and stayed until 5:30 pm.

Highlights of our visit to the Korean Folk Village included:

- Watching a traditional Korean farmer's dance ceremony.
- Our family picture with us dressed in traditional Korean noble family costume.
- Viewing many 18th and 19th century farmers homes from all regions of Korea. Homes and farm yards in northern Korea were much more substantial and enclosed compared to farm homes in the much warmer southern regions.
- Visiting a provincial governors home and courtyard which included a public whipping ground for punishment of criminals.
- Visiting a 99 room noblemen's mansion, and
- Visiting a traditional marketplace for purchasing traditional Korean food, rice wine, and many souvenirs.

We spent the evening at a hotel in Anyang, a "small city" of 500,000+ people about 20 miles from Seoul! The next day we went to the National Assembly grounds on Youido island. The National Assembly is Korea's one-house legislature with a total of 270 elected legislators.

Next we went to the top floor (observation tower) of the 63 Building on the same island for terrific views of the Seoul metropolitan area. We also went to an IMAX theatre movie on the Amazon and to a huge sea world aquarium in the same building. Total cost for all three events was \$15 per person. The 63 Building is the tallest building in Korea with 3 basement floors and 60 above-ground floors. Youido island, located in the Han River which is the main river through Seoul, is Korea's financial center (Manhattan Island, Wall Street, etc). It even has a Manhattan Hotel!. Dr. Koo's family lived on this "Manhattan island" for several years. After undergraduate school, he visited Manhattan Island, New York and lived in Manhattan, Kansas for several years! He said it must be "fate".

We spent the afternoon in the Lotte World shopping and entertainment complex in southeastern Seoul. Marcia went shopping for several hours while Tiffany and I went on rides in the world's largest indoor amusement park – similar to Camp Snoopy at the Mall of America in the Twin Cities. Dr. Koo went to a baseball game at the nearby Seoul stadium. Late evening, we returned to Taejon by express bus.

Baseball and basketball are popular in Korea, but soccer is the national sports passion as it is in most nations of the world. Korea and Japan are jointly hosting the World Soccer Cup in 2002. All of the major cities including Seoul, Taejon, Suwon, and 7 other Korean cities are currently building soccer stadiums for this mega-event in 2002. This event is currently advertised all over Korea.

NATIONAL FOREST MUSEUM and FOREST RECREATION in KOREA

Korea's landscape is mostly forests and mountains. Arbor Day is a national holiday in Korea as a reminder of continuing efforts to replant forests in Korea. Most forests are privately owned and managed, but nearly 30% are in the public domain for recreational, wilderness, or timber use. Korea has 20 national parks and 20 provincial parks, largest modeled on the U.S. concept of national and national parks. However, noticeable differences between Korean and U.S. parks are much greater restrictions on private automobile use in the park system. Private cars are banned in some parks and must be parked in entrance parking lots. However, bus and taxi service is very good throughout much of rural Korea. The parks are made for walking and hiking!

On Tuesday afternoon, April 25, forestry professor Hyung Song took our family to the National Forest Museum located about 20 miles southwest of Chungnam University. The forest museum was a large two-story structure with several exhibition halls. The forest museum grounds contain a botanical garden, a greenhouse of subtropical plants, wild flower garden, small zoo, several viewing sites, cabins and tent sites, and recreation parks. The museum grounds were crowded with young children on school field trips. Of course, many children

would come to us and practice their beginning English speaking skills. Overall, it was a delightful 4 hour visit and Professor Hyung Song was a wonderful host. Dr. Song was a visiting professor for one year to the Horticulture, Landscape, Forestry, and Parks Department at SDSU. He often talked about his time at SDSU with Dr. Stubbles, Dr. Schaefer, and other SDSU colleagues. He thoroughly enjoyed his time in South Dakota!

CHILDREN'S DAY HOLIDAY, FRIDAY, MAY 5

Korean's have more holidays than we have in the U.S. and this may be the reason. Korea is one of the few developed countries with a 5 ½ day workweek and school week. Average required work time for most full-time jobs is about 50 hours per week. Saturday school from 9 am to 1 pm is universal in Korea. A major change in the past 15 – 20 years is the large and growing number of married urban women in the work force.

Children's Day is a special day for parents (and grandparents) to provide gifts to their children and to take them to amusement parks, festivals, etc. However, teenage children prefer to "do their own thing" so Tiffany went shopping with two of her Korean friends. Dr. Kwon, Marcia, and I took a bus to Kapsa temple area of Kyeryongsan Park and went sightseeing for about 2 hours. Then we hiked over the mountain ridge to the main Tonghaksa temple region of the Park. It was a beautiful, but rugged 5 km hike with several water falls, ancient Buddhist pagodas, and a lot of forest scenery. The hike took nearly 4 hours and portions were better suited for mountain goats. However, many Korean families and student groups were hiking this trail on Children's Day.

On Friday evening we went with several families to a Korean steak BBQ at Dr. Hwang's rural home. An increasing number of Taejon residents are trying to buy rural acreages to escape the city. However, rural open-country residences are not very common at this time. Dr. Hwang has a beautiful ranch style home with a traditional Korean floor heating system. His home is located on top of a terraced ridge and has a commanding view of the countryside. He stated that he is one of only three non-farm families in this village. The rural farm road to reach his home is paved and only 10 to 16 feet wide. This type of road is common in rural Korea and is only meant for local travel. The county roads are paved two-lane roads similar to those in Brookings county, but much more heavily traveled.

GINSENG PRODUCTION

The most unusual agriculture we have observed is the production and marketing of ginseng, which is used in many teas, health remedies, and oriental medicines. Ginseng is produced in only three regions of the world: China (60%), Korea (30%), and the U.S. / Canada (10%). Wisconsin is the Ginseng Capital of the U.S., but it took a trip to Korea's Ginseng Exhibition Hall in the city of Kumsan, about 20 miles southeast of Taejon, to obtain this information!

Marcia and I visited a ginseng research farm and the ginseng exhibition hall, along with Dr. Kwon and Dr. Yong Kook Kim (dairy science professor) on Saturday, May 6. We also toured the national distribution center for ginseng products in the same town – referred to as the “Walmart” of ginseng wholesale-retail marketing. I have never seen so many different products made from one item (ginseng root) in my life! Ginseng takes 5-6 years to produce and yields only one root (tuber) crop. It cannot be replanted in the same location for some time. The ginseng plant prefers shade and Korean’s use a black fabric that provides 80% shade cover for the plants. It is a labor-intensive crop and is produced without chemical fertilizers or pesticides.

Ginseng has been produced in Korea for more than 1,500 years. Kumsan is the center of ginseng production and marketing in Korea with more than 40% of county residents employed in some aspect of the ginseng industry.

WEEKEND FARMING

Part-time farming is universal in all industrialized countries and Korea is no exception. After three hours of touring ginseng facilities, Dr. Yong Kook Kim took us to his “weekend farm” which he purchased in the 1980’s. We had wonderful grilled gourmet hamburgers for lunch. He and his wife enjoy western food and she is a fabulous cook! He and his wife plan to live there permanently after he retires from the university. He has built all of the buildings located on this small farm.

He currently raises goats, deer, and rabbits for sale. The deer are mainly raised for their horns. Dogs are used to protect the farm during their absence. His upland farm (no rice paddy) hugs the mountainside and is about one-third mile long and 100 – 150 feet wide. He has pasture for his goats and raises many fruits and vegetables including mulberries, strawberries, and corn. He uses organic fertilizer from his livestock, but normally does not use chemical fertilizers or pesticides.

OUR FAMILY LIFE in KOREA

In our e-mails we have tried to emphasize highlights, instead of a daily diary. During this 18 day period (April 19 – May 6) we have discussed events from seven days. The remaining times have been work days for Larry, homework and school for Tiffany, and volunteer projects and supervising home work for Marcia.

Tiffany is trying to get a lot of her school work completed before the SDSU group arrives. I work with her on math, while Marcia works with her on English and social studies. We both supervise Tiffany on her Korean projects, but actually she does most of the work without our prompting. She has been e-mailing her teachers about one time per week, while Marcia and I send back her homework

and exam grades on a weekly basis. Tiffany also takes music (piano) lessons twice per week from a Chungnam University music student and uses the music building facilities for practicing piano.

Home school works pretty well with the use of e-mail. However, I am sure that Tiffany will have newfound respect for her teachers at Sioux Valley after home schooling by her parents! We greatly appreciate the extra efforts made by Sioux Valley administrators and teachers for making this distance learning possible! We hope they are making use of some of Tiffany's or our e-mails in their programs.

Marcia did volunteer work for 5 days during a two-week period at an English-speaking international school in Taejon, while Tiffany attended some music, art, and bible classes on an audit basis. It was an interesting experience with many benefits (especially conversing in English), but Tiffany decided it detracted too much from time needed to complete her required studies.

IMPRESSIONS OF KOREAN AGRICULTURE, April – May 2000

This note records my impressions of Korean agriculture based on field trips with agricultural economics department students in late April and early May. Field trips to farms and agribusiness sites are conducted twice per semester in the agricultural economics department. I had the opportunity to go along on both trips. The professors believe in field trips as an experiential teaching device. All ag econ majors will have the opportunity to take both trips as these trips are offered in required courses.

AGRICULTURAL PRODUCT / FOOD MARKETING TRIP: Friday, April 28

This one day trip began at 6 a.m. with a tour of the fruit, vegetable, and fish wholesale produce market in Taejon. This is one of 18 public wholesale auction markets for agricultural products in Korea. This market place opens at 2 am and auctions are conducted in the early morning hours until 9 am. The market facilities are open for shipping until early evening.

Agricultural cooperatives collecting produce from small farmers and individual farmers are the main sellers, while buyers for family retail groceries and supermarkets are the main buyers. According to Korean agricultural marketing statistics, about 45% of Korea's agricultural products are sold through the public wholesale markets, 11% are sold via direct marketing, and another 44% are sold in various private markets.

I observed the auction sale of crates of strawberries, kiwi, oranges, and white radishes (about the size of large carrots). The market is quite large and crowded with people. It is a very noisy place and lots of activity in the early morning hours. The facilities are somewhat dated and scheduled for replacement in a few years.

Our group of 24 undergraduate agricultural marketing students, two graduate students (who interpreted the events in English for my benefit), Professors Chul Kim and myself ate a large breakfast of rice, kimchi, soup, and other Korean foods at 7:30 am. It was provided courtesy of the wholesale marketing company. I am amazed how much Korean students can eat so early in the morning.

Our next stop was the largest agricultural cooperative market in Korea located in southern Seoul. It contains the largest food retail market store in Korea and is larger than any giant retail supermarket that I have seen in the U.S. It also serves as a central wholesale distribution point for 115 food coop retail stores in Korea. This is an extremely modern wholesale/ retail marketing facility.

Most Korean farmers belong to one or more cooperatives, which provide input supplies, credit, and help market their products. The cooperative system is the main form of organization for Korean farmers. Coops are divided into livestock

coops and crop, fruit, and vegetable cooperatives. Most of Korea's agricultural product sales and value added are from rice (30%), barley and other grains / oilseeds (15%) and from fruits and vegetables (30%). Only 25% of Korea's agricultural product sales are livestock products, predominantly pork with some chicken, beef, and dairy products. Korean livestock agriculture primarily depends on imported grain and feed from the U.S., Australia, and South America.

Field trips usually include one tourist stop per day. An introduction to the Korean Folk Village was included as a 2 hour stop on this trip. A major feature of this folk village were the many farmers houses representing Korean rural life in the 18th and 19th century. We only had enough time to see the highlights of the Folk Village on this trip. However, the graduate students, Professor Kim, and I managed to find time to go to the traditional market for traditional Korean vegetable pizza and a carafe of rice wine – which is very good to drink on a warm day!

The return bus trip was memorable due to the kareoke singing the entire time. Professors and student officers are required to sing their song on these trips. My song was “Take me home – country roads” by John Denver. Fortunately, no one was asked to sing a second song!

RURAL DEVELOPMENT TRIP (Tuesday, May 2 and Wednesday, May 3)

Tiffany and I went on a two-day field trip in western Korea in the surrounding Chungnam province. Three professors (including myself), three graduate students, and 17 undergraduate seniors and juniors participated on this trip. Marcia did not go along as she was sick from a bad head cold.

This tour emphasized farm production and processing facilities, some cultural stops, and a wonderful overnight stay at a motel next to the Yellow Sea. Some general impressions from the two day tour include:

- Straight roads do not exist in rural Korea which is mostly hilly and mountainous forests with valleys of rice paddies and some upland agriculture.
- Road construction and repair / maintenance is occurring everywhere causing traffic jams and travel delays.
- Ag land use has shifted heavily toward intensive vegetable, flower, and fruit production and away from barley, soybeans, and small grains. However, one-half of Korea's agricultural land is used for rice production.
- Korean agriculture is mostly small-scale mechanization using all purpose farm power tillers or small tractors. All farms have electricity. Land use keeps changing within a small area. Green house farms and orchards may be next to rice paddies or livestock confinement farms.

Field trip highlights on the first day included visits to an apple marketing coops, tomato greenhouse farm, and rice milling / processing facilities. The apple coop is open about 180 days each year and is used to market many different varieties of apples grown in western Korea. According to the manager, the best quality apples were exported to southeast and south Asian markets, while the lowest quality apples were sold to the Korean military!

Six farmers were involved in an ultra-modern glass house tomato farm of nearly 10 acres. Vines were strung over 8 foot poles and had enormous production volume. Professor Lim's economic project study of this farm indicated this high technology farm was not feasible from an economic viewpoint without subsidies for construction. Most farmers use plastic greenhouses and associated higher labor requirements instead of the ultra-modern glass greenhouses.

The rice milling plant has production contracts with numerous local farmers and packages 10, 20 and 40 kg. of rice ready for sale to restaurants or supermarkets.

During the late afternoon, we arrived at the Daeho tidal land reclamation project with 7000 hectares (17,500 acres) of tidal lands reclaimed for rice paddy production. This project has several kilometers of sea dikes that separates the rice paddies and fresh water lakes from the Yellow Sea. This is one of the most open areas in Korea as there are few homes located in the reclaimed tidal land. Medium to large size rice farms are encouraged in these newly reclaimed areas. We viewed two videos about the tidal land reclamation projects and toured a small museum on Environment and Tidal Lands Agriculture.

Our overnight stay was on the sixth floor of an interesting hotel with wonderful views of the Yellow Sea and of the tidal land reclamation area. This hotel was located on a small island village that was connected to the main island by the sea dike. All of us had a great time in the early evening hours viewing the sea shortly before sunset.

The second day highlights included visits to the Daeho Farm Mgt. seedling farm, a rose farm, a pine tree resort next to the sea, and the Hyundai tidal land corporate farm. The seedling farms was in a high-tech computer controlled greenhouse and provided tomato, red pepper, and other seedlings for sale to farmers who transplanted them for production. This farm could be very profitable if it was selling to the consumer retail garden market, but profit margins were thin in sales to other farmers.

According to Prof. Lim , the rose farm which used plastic greenhouse system was very profitable. Gross sales volume was nearly twice the production costs (including labor costs). A bundle of 12 roses sold for an annual average farm-level price of 3500 – 4000 won (\$3.20 to \$3.60) but varied from 2000 to 10,000 won depending on season.

The largest farm in Korea is a 12,000 hectare (30,000 acre) farm of rice paddies reclaimed from tidal lands by Hyundai Corporation – one of the largest conglomerate corporations in Korea. (Hyundai is best known for its cars and trucks and has a majority of auto market share in Korea). According to Dr. Lim, this corporate farm employs 100 farmers, uses airplanes for seeding the rice paddies, and harvests rice with large scale modern equipment. Rice production per hectare is lower, but production costs are much lower than traditional Korean farming methods. This sea dike was completely built by Hyundai to make use of equipment and people idled by the Persian Gulf war in the early 1990's. It was built with private funds. This corporate agricultural farm is the complete opposite of contemporary small scale family farms in Korea.

ADDITIONAL REMARKS ABOUT KOREAN AGRICULTURE

Many American visitors to Korea, including myself, are fascinated by the major differences between agriculture in Korea and in the U.S. A few facts about Korea's agricultural development can place what I have observed in perspective.

First, Korea and Japan have the lowest amount of arable cropland per person in the world. Only 20% of Korea's land can be used for cropland – roughly 5 million acres or one-third the amount in all of eastern and central South Dakota. Thus, Koreans make use of every inch of space and try to reclaim additional lands (such as tidal flats) when possible.

Second, South Korea in 40 years has transformed from an impoverished Third World nation (similar to Haiti's current level of economic development) to a First World developed nation. Korea's relative purchasing power (standard of living) is about 50% of the U.S. and is similar to Spain. This level of economic development means that Koreans are well fed with little absolute poverty, meat consumption is increasing, and cereal (rice) consumption is starting to decline. The farm population was 60% of Korea's total population in 1960; today it is about 10%. This is the most rapid farm to non-farm migration of any nation in the 20th Century.

Third, Korean agriculture consists of small-scale family farms with a 2000+ year history of rice culture. Rice is traditionally eaten three times per day in Korea and the nation's foodways and much of its culture is centered on rice. Korean agriculture policy is built around self sufficiency of rice production, imported feeds for their livestock, and shifting nonrice production to high value crops, fruits, and vegetables. If labor costs are considered, Korea is a relatively high cost producer of most agricultural products.

Except for rice and some fruits/ vegetables, Korea's food self-sufficiency is only 30%, one of the lowest self-sufficiency ratios in the world. This means that Korea is a major importer of agricultural products from the U.S., Canada, Australia,

Brazil, New Zealand, Chile, and other nations. It is a major exporter of electronic and other high value manufactured goods to the U.S. and to the rest of Asia. Korea is usually one of our top 10 customers for U.S. agricultural exports including corn, wheat, and soybeans.

I have already written about other visits to rural Korean agricultural area. I hope this more detailed discussion helps you to understand how different the agricultural situation is in Korea compared to the Midwest. It has been an EYE OPENER to have first-hand observation of these differences.

IMPRESSIONS OF KOREA, MAY 7 – 16

Greetings from Korea in this beautiful month of May. Temperatures are in the 70's during the day and in the low 50's at night – perfect sleeping weather. We are also getting more rain, but it is still very dry. Today we met with the SDSU group of nine faculty and students that arrived in Taejon late last night. We met in the Chungnam University President's office and later watched a very well done 15 minute promotional video about Chungnam University. Last years reception of SDSU President Elliot at Chungnam is included in their video.

This e-mail contains our impressions of life in Korea during the May 7 – 16 period. The next group e-mail will be sent in late May after the SDSU group has left. We will be spending a lot of time with the SDSU exchange group during their 12 day visit to Korea. The digital photo of our family and the SDSU group was taken about one hour ago.

CHUNGNAM UNIVERSITY STUDENTS & SPORTS

Chungnam University has an active intramural program for student athletics. However, intramural teams for various sports (soccer, basketball, volleyball, kickball, etc) are organized by academic departments. Initially intramural teams from each department compete with each other. Then the best players are selected for competition with other departments. During the past week, the agricultural college inter-department games were played on the athletic field next to my office. The games usually start about noon and continue until 5 or 6 pm. It is very noisy and I wonder how anybody else in the building can get any work done.

Group solidarity and developing team spirit amongst students in the same major field of study seem to be the reasons for forming departmental teams. Also each team has their own built-in cheering squad as department students are expected to be present for team games against other departments. I observed about 100 to 150 students in the cheering section for each team – complete with specific cheers, drums, and the department student president leading the cheers.

At the end of the game each team had ritual greetings to their classmates before they left the field. If the team lost the freshman students (not the players) were called down to the edge of the field by the student president for a "little talk". One of the graduate students said the freshman were the "fall guys" and "blamed" for any team losses. It was part of the "traditional rituals" at the agricultural college at Chungnam. The Ag Econ Department students won earlier rounds of soccer and volleyball competition, but lost in the later rounds.

EDUCATION SEMINARS / PRESENTATIONS

All of us have been asked to give guest presentations to different classes. In April, Marcia and Tiffany gave a presentation on preschool and K-12 schools in our community to a graduate class of education majors. I have given a few guest presentations to undergraduate agricultural economics classes.

Last week, I gave a presentation on “Wetland Economics and Policy Issues in the U.S.” to a class of 30 senior students in Environmental Economics. Wetland issues are also controversial in Korea, but the issues are much different than in the U.S. In Korea the main controversial issue affecting wetlands is tidal lands reclamation. The two-hour class included a 70 minute presentation and 30 minutes for questions. I was surprised that the entire question time was used for student questions. It was a good experience!

Last Saturday afternoon, Marcia gave a presentation on preschool teaching to a graduate class of 25 kindergarten teachers. This graduate class is held on Saturday afternoon as teachers have regular classes on Saturdays until 1 pm. Again, Marcia’s presentation time was 70 minutes with 30 minutes for questions. She received many questions from the Korean teachers who explained some of the differences in the Korean classroom setting. Dr. O.J. Kim and his doctoral student Esther Shim have worked closely with Marcia on the presentations to his class. Both of them are truly “gems” to work with.

Yesterday (Monday, May 15) I gave a seminar to agricultural economists at the Korean Rural Economics Institute (KREI) in Seoul. I was sponsored by Dr. Se-ik Oh, senior fellow at KREI. Dr. Oh was initially contacted by Dr. Han Kim at SDSU. Thanks, Han! My topic was “Agricultural Land Conservation Management in the U.S. and their Impacts”. My emphasis was on the CRP (Conservation Reserve Program) research conducted by the regional committee (NC-214) that I served on for many years.

The seminar presentation to 20 people was about 70 minutes with another 30 minutes used for questions. Then I had a chance to ask the audience about Korean agricultural issues for 40 minutes. In addition I visited with Dr. Kang, the President of KREI, and with Dr. Se-ik Oh for a much longer time period. This day was truly a “highlight” for me and I cannot adequately express my appreciation to the people at KREI !

KREI is the largest organization for agricultural economic research, policy analysis, and agricultural outlook information in Korea and is similar to the Economic Research Service in the U.S. Dept. of Agriculture. KREI employs 50 Ph.D agricultural economists and many Master’s degree people in their staff of nearly 150 people. Nearly two-thirds of the Ph.D. level staff received their Ph.D. from universities located in the U.S., Canada, or Japan. For example, Dr. Oh received his Ph.D. from the agricultural economics department at Washington

State University, while the President of KREI obtained his graduate degrees from the University of Kentucky. It was apparent that many of the KREI staff have a good overall knowledge of U.S. agriculture and economic policies, especially trade policies. Their library is stocked with USDA, United Nations, European, and Asian publications related to agricultural economics.

HOME SCHOOLING / EDUCATION ACTIVITIES

Tiffany has been busy working on her required school work. She has completed all of her social studies requirements and has two math chapters and two English short stories to complete all requirements in those classes. She continues with piano lessons and practice and sends weekly e-mails about her impressions of Korean life to her teachers. She, like Marcia and I, misses home and friends but is also having a great experience in Korea.

Last Thursday on Buddha's Birthday, another national holiday, we spent the afternoon visiting the National Science Museum in Taejon. Korea's 10,000+ Buddhist temples are very crowded on this holiday, but many other tourist sites are not crowded. The National Science Museum is about a 2 mile walk from our apartment. It has exhibits on most science subjects with emphasis on their application in Korea. The physics, biology, transportation, agricultural, and energy power exhibits were very interesting. In each case, early Korean science from about 300 A.D. to the 18th century was portrayed along with the 19th and 20th century scientific developments in the Western world. Tiffany is preparing comments about the exhibit to send to Mrs. Larson, her science teacher.

FAMILY TRIP to DOWNTOWN SEOUL

Our travel highlight during this time period was our family trip to Seoul. On Saturday evening (March 13) after Marcia's class presentation, we took the passenger train from Taejon to Seoul. Korea has excellent and moderately priced passenger train and express bus service throughout the country. We arrived at the Seoul Central Train Station after 8 pm and took a taxi to the President's Hotel across from City Hall. Our room was on the 29th floor with wonderful views of downtown Seoul facing the Seoul Observatory Tower on the top of Namsan Mtn. This tower is the most recognized landmark in the Seoul metropolitan area. We spent some time walking through the downtown outdoor markets close to the hotel. It is amazing how busy (and crime free) the downtown areas are in large Korean cities compared to large American cities.

Sunday was our day for SERIOUS SHOPPING and some sight seeing. Our first stop was the Toksugung palace across the street from our hotel. However, since the street is 16 lanes wide we have to go to the underground level of shops to cross the street. We spent 1 ½ hours at this royal temple and museum of the Chosun dynasty from the late 1300's to 1910. It has a huge

statue of King Sejong, the most famous king of this dynasty. During his reign, the modern Korean alphabet and several inventions were developed.

Next we traveled by taxi to the famous Itaewon shopping district for four hours of ALL OUT SHOPPING! This one-mile street of shops caters to English speaking foreigners and is located next to a U.S. military base. We saw more Americans in four hours in this district than anywhere else we have been since we arrived in Korea. We purchased many small gift items and some items for ourselves.

After resting in the hotel for more than an hour, we took the cable car (gondola) to the top of Namsan mountain and a 30 story elevator to the top of the Seoul Tower for wonderful views of the entire metropolitan area. We walked back to the Myongdong shopping area near the hotel and had a Mother's Day meal at T.G.I.Friday's!

Yesterday (Monday, March 15), Marcia and Tiffany shopped for 3 hours in the Namdaemeun traditional market district near the hotel and then went to their first movie during our stay in Korea. Larry negotiated the subway system to and from the station closest to KREI. The only surprise was an intermediate stop (before my final destination stop) where everyone got off the train, except me. Nobody had told me that some subway trains stopped at this location and then reverse direction, while other subway trains continue above ground to my final destination. After going back one subway stop, I got off and crossed the overhead stairs to get on the correct train.

We spent early Monday evening in Seoul leaving for Taejon at 9 pm with Dr. Kwon, my department head. He and his wife had spent the weekend visiting her family and their son in Seoul. On Monday, he visited his friends and former students at KREI, attended my seminar, and we came back together on the subway system to get his car in southern Seoul. He had an evening dinner meeting with his school (University of Hawaii) alumni at the Korean Press Club near our hotel. School alumni meetings are very important fellowship gatherings in modern Korea's culture and are used to maintain a network of close professional / business contacts.

Closing

Good-bye for now. It is great to meet the SDSU group. They look very wide awake, but I suspect jet lag will catch up with them tonight or tomorrow. Until next time. Sincerely, Larry Janssen

IMPRESSIONS OF KOREA with SDSU GROUP, May 16 – 29

Greetings from the Janssen's in Korea. The SDSU visitors have returned to South Dakota and may be very tired and exhausted from their trip. We had a wonderful time with all of them. Last Sunday was high school graduation day in Volga. Congratulations to all of the graduates and to their parents and teachers. Also, we hope you had a great Memorial Day weekend.

Korean weather is in an early summer pattern of 75 - 90 F daytime highs and 55 – 65 F lows. It is quite humid compared to South Dakota. It rained on Friday evening and on most of Saturday. Today it is clear and windy.

This report is primarily about our time with the nine SDSU visitors from Tuesday afternoon, May 16 until they left from Kimpo Airport in Seoul on Saturday afternoon, May 27. The four faculty SDSU visitors were: Harriet Swedlund, SDSU director of international programs, Dr. Virgil Ellerbruch – Dean of Engineering College, Dr. Reza Maleki from the Engineering College, and Dr. Carol Cumber from the Economics Dept. The five SDSU students on the trip were: Keith Kostinen, Leah Armstrong, Kathleen Graupman, Megan Dombeck, and Molly Lefholz. Each of them will have many stories to share and memories to treasure of their visit to Korea.

My stereotype of women as the “power shoppers” was completely shattered by this group as Reza and Keith were the SHOPPERS EXTRAORDINAIRE in this group!

Marcia, Tiffany, and I are fortunate to have accompanied them on most of their travels in Korea. We had a great time with them and with the Korean hosts accompanying us on the Chungnam University (CNU) 20 passenger bus. The Korean hosts traveling with us are Mr. Kioh Kim, assistant director of international programs at Chungnam and two graduate students: Ms. Jaerim Kim and Mr. Seon Pyo Hwang.

TAEJON AREA and CHUNGNAM UNIVERSITY: May 16 – 18

The SDSU group arrived in Taejon on Monday evening, May 15. We met them at the University President's welcoming reception in his office at 1:30 pm. After exchanging formal greetings and listening to the President's message we went to an elaborate conference room to view the CNU promotional video which included a picture of last years visit of President Elliot's visit to CNU.

We met the SDSU group for a Korean beef dinner at a restaurant near the Hotel Riviera , which is where the group stayed. This is the nicest hotel in Yusong and is within walking distance of the University entrance. This traditional dinner involves sitting on cushions on the floor, using metal chopsticks and spoons, and

having rice and soup as the final (main) course. Many side dishes (kimchi and numerous vegetables are served initially, followed by grilling the meat at your table. Each meat slice is picked up by chopsticks and wrapped in a lettuce leaf and eaten. However, Koreans do not consider meat as the main dish. The final bowl of rice and soup is the MAIN dish. Many of us were so full from the vegetable and meat dishes that it was difficult to eat all of the rice and soup. Korean food is also very spicy with lots of red peppers and other hot spices mixed into various dishes.

The next morning (Wednesday, May 17) all of us met at the Riviera Hotel for breakfast before starting our tour of the Taejeon area. The first tour stop was EXPO park, site of the world EXPOSITION fair in 1993. The EXPO tour included three stops: Materials pavilion which presented construction materials, Earthscape pavilion with an IMAX show about Alaska: Spirit of the Wild, and Technopia pavilion which presented a futurist vision of technology changes in the next 100 years. A lot of Korean school children were visiting the park for field trips and many wanted autographs or pictures with the SDSU students, especially blondes. A blonde woman is a rarity in Korea!

After a fabulous lunch at Here's Today restaurant, the SDSU group toured an art museum and the downtown Taejeon area.

On Thursday, May 18, each student and faculty member visited a host department closely related to their major field. For example, Kathleen visited the horticulture department, Molly visited the sociology department, Megan visited the education department, Keith visited the veterinary science department, while Leah visited an engineering department. The SDSU students (and faculty) gave informal or formal presentations to various classes.

Larry went to Dr. Carol Cumber's seminar to the Economics and Management departments on the topic: Technology in the Classroom. Earlier in the day, he taught his regular classes and went with Kioh Kim to the Korean immigration office to apply for an extended stay beyond 90-days. We have to surrender our passports for the 7-10 day processing period.

All of us had a fabulous Korean feast for the evening meal at Kioh Kim's home. We met his parents, his wife and children, and several of his married sisters who must have spent 2-3 days preparing this feast! After we finished eating, Kioh's family invited several neighbors over to help eat the food. It was a marvelous evening. It will be great to have Kioh, his wife, and two children living in Brookings, South Dakota beginning this fall semester. Kioh will be a graduate assistant in our College of Education and Counseling.

SOUTHWESTERN KOREA: Friday, May 19

Friday's schedule involved travel to the Hyundai Motor Plant near Chonju and the Biennale Festival in Kwangju, located in southwestern Korea.

Hyundai Motor Co. was started in the late 1960's and currently has capacity for 1.2 million cars and trucks in Korea. We visited the truck and bus plant, which produces up to 100,000 vehicles per year. Four sizes of trucks and passenger busses are produced. Hyundai vehicles are sold in more than 100 nations and the company has other plants in Asia and Africa. This company is the GM of Korea, with a dominant market share of trucks and cars. Hyundai's Sonata is the most popular car sold in Korea. It is a mid-size 5 passenger car, similar in size to a Ford Taurus.

Kwangju, capital city of Chollanam province, is the host site of the Biennale Festival from March – June, 2000. The park grounds contained four major buildings including a folklore history museum and a huge art gallery showing contemporary art from Korea, eastern Asia, Europe, Latin America, and North America.

The folklore museum had dioramas that traced the agricultural seasons and the stages of life for a traditional Korean family from birth, 100 day old celebration, early childhood, coming of age, education, marriage, 60th birthday festival, and death. The most interesting portion of the art museum for Marcia and I was the artistic portrayal of 20th Century massacres in Korea and China. For example, the Korean Cheju Island massacre of 1947/48 involved the slaughter of more than 30,000 Koreans in a major conflict between government and various anti-government forces!

The highlight for Tiffany and several students was their portrait drawn by local artists.

CNU President's Luncheon and SDSU Alumni Reunion: Saturday, May 20

We started the day by going to the National Currency Museum in Taejon. This told the history of the making and use of money in Korea. It had examples of coins, which have been used through out Korea's history. It also had on display coins and currency from all over the world. Unfortunately, they did not offer any free samples.

At noon we joined the SDSU group for a formal six-course dinner at the Riviera Hotel, hosted by Chungnam University President Dr. Yoon. It was a fabulous dinner and President Yoon is a gracious host! Dr. Moon, director of international programs, does a great job of arranging these events.

After lunch we rode to Pomunsan, a mountainous city park next to downtown Taejon, where we took a cable car up to the Evergreen Amusement Park. We tried to work off some of the calories from lunch by hiking to the overlook of Taejon. The view of the city and surrounding mountains was beautiful.

The SDSU Alumni were guests at a banquet at the Yusong Hongin Hotel hosted by the visiting SDSU group. A total of 62 people were present, including alumni and their families, exchange professors, our family, and the 9 visitors from SDSU. The program included brief talks by Harriet Swedlund (director of International Relations at SDSU) and by Alumnus Yong Kook Kim (CNU banquet organizer), a video about SDSU, and introductions of everyone. This was the first SDSU Alumni Banquet to be held in Korea. V.J. Smith, SDSU alumni director, should be very proud of this event. Many Koreans are proud of their ties to SDSU and the quality time that was spent in Brookings.

TRIP to CHEJU ISLAND: Sunday May 21st-Tuesday May 23rd

Cheju is an island province of Korea and is located south of the mainland. It is a major tourist center and has a culture that is somewhat different from mainland Korea. This was a top of the line experience for us.

We went on the bus from the Riviera Hotel to the airport at Kunsan about 1 hour southwest of Taejon. We flew from Kunsan to Cheju Island, which is an island located south of the Korean peninsula. About 60% of the island's income is generated by tourists, especially people on their honeymoons. Cheju island is not heavily forested and has many farms, pastures, and ranches. The population is 550,000, which is much less densely populated than the rest of Korea. Cheju Island is known as the island of "strong women", because about 30,000 men were massacred on the island in 1947-48 during an anti-government/communist demonstration. Because of the massacre the women were left to perform traditional male roles and polygamy was practiced for a period. Today 90% of the Cheju women work outside of the home compared to 50% in the rest of Korea.

Cheju Island is volcanic in origin and is noted by lava rock fences separating rural field plots. Mt. Halle is the highest peak at 6000 feet above sea level. The island has two major cities: Cheju (275,000 people) the commercial / government city and Sogwipo (85,000 people) the main tourist centre. We stayed two nights at the Sunshine Hotel, near the city of Cheju, on the north shore facing an ocean bay.

The tour on Sunday afternoon included two botanic gardens (Hallim Park and Cheju Bonsai Park), a lava cave, and the Folklore and Natural History Museum. The botanic gardens featured many subtropical trees and plants and reminded us of some botanical gardens in New Zealand.

Early Monday morning was “free time” at the beach by the hotel. Tiffany got up before sunrise to go to the beach and had her parents awake by 6 a.m. We admit that it is beautiful early in the morning. By mid-morning most of the students and faculty had been to the beach.

Monday’s tour sites were on the eastern part of the island and emphasized Sungsan (Sunrise) Park and an ocean cruise near Sunrise Peak. It was a wonderful hike to the top of Sunrise Peak which is the most eastern point of the island. This peak is an extinct volcanic crater covered by grass and containing many pheasants. It would be an impressive hunting preserve, but fortunately is reserved as a major tourist site with incredible views of the ocean, the town of Sungsan, and the surrounding countryside.

We returned to Cheju city by 4 p.m. to view a 70 minute traditional dance performance. This performance was our cultural highlight of this trip. The dances included folk dances, royalty dances, and terrific gymnastic dance performances.

Our noon lunch was a meal of red snapper fish with Korean rice, soup, and vegetables. The evening meals were Korean BBQ beef on Sunday night and a Chinese dinner on Monday night. I have really learned to like Korean and Chinese cuisine.

Tuesday’s tour started by travel to Cheju Folklore Village. This is a living village of 350 families who live in traditional homes and practice traditional crafts, but obtain most of their income from tourism. This village is an example of government backed rural tourism projects. We were shown several traditional country homes to observe their livestock, farming, and craft projects.

The visual highlight was the Yaktung temple, which is the only four story Buddhist temple in Korea. This new temple (only 9 years old) is located close to the ocean in Sogwipo and has many beautiful gardens and ocean views. We were able to take pictures (no flash) of the golden Buddha statues inside the temple from the second and third floors. We also went to a Buddhist tea ceremony where we were shown proper tea drinking etiquette and given an explanation of its religious significance by a monk.

The final stop was a visit to the Daeloo Hunting Reserve for a lunch of pheasant (thinly sliced) and dumplings. It was the best pheasant I have ever tasted! Of course, Koreans claim the ringneck pheasant is originally from their nation and Cheju Island offers many pheasant hunting opportunities for those hunters with lots of money! The trip from Daeloo to the Cheju airport was through many miles of open space and some forests with many views of cattle and horses. For a moment, we thought we were in mountain ranch country of the western U.S.

The Cheju Island tour was very well organized and hosted by a superb tour guide, Ms. Kim. She spoke excellent English and was very knowledgeable about

the various sites, culture, history, and economy of Cheju Island. She told us that she only conducts tours for English speaking groups which permits her some time off as the island's tourists are mostly Koreans and Japanese. However, more Americans, Australians, and British people are discovering this wonderful island!

**TOUR of INDEPENDENCE HALL and SONGNISAN PARK:
Wednesday May 24th:**

Independence Hall is located one hour north of Taejon and celebrates Korea's independence from Japan and its long history of conflicts and alliances among Korean regions along with Japan and China. Our first stop was at Independence Hall, which is dedicated to remembering the many conflicts Korea has had in gaining independence.

It has a Grand Hall and seven pavilions that review various time periods in their struggle for independence, with major emphasis given to the conflicts with Japan. Because of our tight schedule, we were only able to see only two of the pavilions: the Japanese Aggression Hall and the Korean Provisional Governance Hall. Our family hopes to return to Independence Hall, so we can tour the other pavilions. Tiffany found all of this to be very interesting because she was reading a book called The Year of Impossible Good-byes, which is a story about a girl growing up in North Korea, during the Japanese occupation of Korea before independence was won in 1945.

Next we took a two hour bus ride through rural Korea to Songnisan Park to see the Grand Bronze Buddha statue. We reported on this park in an April e-mail. The SDSU group members really enjoyed this park, but the time was too short.

In the evening the whole group were served a delicious oriental meal at Dr. Yong Kook Kim's. Dr. Kim is an SDSU alumnus and also has two daughters attending SDSU. We had a great time sharing stories about SDSU. We are looking forward to Dr. Kim's family arrival at SDSU in December when he and his wife will attend their daughter's graduation.

TRIP to SEOUL: Thursday May 25th-Saturday May 27th

Our first stop on Thursday was to the Korean Folk Village near Suwon. We had a guided tour of the various types of traditional Korean houses of the 18th and 19th century. We saw a traditional farmer's dance performed and a traditional Korean wedding ceremony. We also visited the market place in the village. We have a more extensive report of this village in the April 19 - May 16 section of this report and in the Impressions of Korean Agriculture section.

From Suwon we traveled on to Seoul, where we stayed at the Metro Hotel in the downtown area. That evening we shopped in the Namdaemun Market area.

Friday we visited two palaces in the Seoul area. The first was the Kyongbokkung Palace (currently under major repair), originally built in 1395, destroyed by Japan in 1592, and rebuilt in 1865. The second palace we visited was Changchangbok, including the Piwon Secret Garden. This palace was used by the royal family until the mid-1900s.

In the afternoon Larry gave a professional paper at the Korean Society of Soil and Environment at Seoul National University. The paper was entitled: The application and use of land quality ratings in the valuation of agricultural land: an evaluation of the South Dakota experience. It was co-authored with Professors Doug Malo, SDSU and Doug Chung, CNU. The paper was also published in a proceedings issue of the society meetings.

The rest of the SDSU group had a guided tour of the Korean Daily Newspaper facility. Friday evening was spent in the Tongdaemeun shopping district of Seoul.

On Saturday morning we went to the top of the 63 Building, which is the highest building in Seoul. Unfortunately it was a very foggy day, so the view of Seoul was not very good. This is one of the few high rise buildings that we have visited in Korea where all floor numbers are present. In the hotels, all floor numbers ending in 4 are usually missing (4, 14, 24 etc are missing). The ending number 4 is some kind of "bad luck" symbol!

Next we went to the airport to say our final good-byes to the SDSU group. We had a GREAT time with them and we are looking forward to seeing them again when we return to South Dakota in July.

IMPRESSIONS OF KOREA, May 30 – June 12, 2000

Greetings again from the Janssen family in Korea! It is early summer with a varying pattern of high temperatures, high humidity, and hazy days followed by an evening of rain and clear skies and cooler temperatures for a few days. Temperatures (in Fahrenheit) have varied from the low 90's, with similar high humidity levels, to the upper 70's in the day time, and to the upper 50's to mid 60's at night. Today is an absolutely gorgeous day of clear skies, low humidity, and 80 degree temperatures.

Our time is becoming limited in Korea as we return to the U.S. within 3 weeks and back to SDSU on July 6 or 7. We intend to send one more group mailing about Korea before we return.

TRIP to KYONGJU REGION in eastern KOREA: June 10 - 11

The highlight of the past two weeks was our weekend trip to Kyongju area of eastern Korea with Kioh Kim and his family. We traveled by train (Korean National Railroad) from Taejon to Kyongju. We left the Taejon Central train station at 9 am and arrive at Kyongju at noon. Kioh's nephew, a policeman in Kyongju, furnished him with his own family cars - a compact Elantra and a mini-car Matiz. Family connections are an important way around the very high rental car fees of \$90 U.S. per day for one mini-van.

Kioh Kim has been the assistant director of international program office at Chungnam University for several years. He is the person in charge of day-to-day arrangements for many of the various out-of-country university professors and student/faculty groups that visit Chungnam. He has been absolutely wonderful to me and to my family. He and his family will be a great addition to the SDSU and Brookings community when they come to Brookings in mid-August so he can pursue a Master's degree in English education. Kioh and his wife, Pong Nyon, are probably in their early 30's. They have two delightful children, a 6-year old boy – Chuhyun and a 3-year old girl- Hyeyon. Both of their kids were very well behaved and a lot of fun on the trip.

The Kyongju area is the tourist mecca of Korea, outside of Seoul or Cheju Island, with 8 million visitors annually. It is listed as a top 10 World Cultural and Historical Heritage sight by the United Nations. Kyongju was the capital of the Shilla Dynasty, a kingdom that existed from 57 B.C. to 935 A.D. – one of the longer dynasty periods in world history. The city and surrounding countryside is often called the “museum without walls” and is filled with numerous historical sights. We were able to see only a few highlights.

Our first visit after lunch was Tumuli Park, next to downtown Kyongju, which contains 23 burial mounds of royal tombs. The mounds were between 20 and 40 feet high and covered with grass. We were able to go into one tomb and observe

the carefully preserved burial artifacts. Across the street from Tumuli Park was another park with several historical sites including, the Chomsongdae Observatory, the oldest astronomical observatory in eastern Asia. This bottle shaped stone structure was built in the 7th century. Astronomy originally developed in Korea as a science in support of agriculture.

Anapchi Pond, a delightful park and playground for the royal dynasty more than a thousand years ago, was the next stop. The pond and three of the 23 buildings was restored in the 1970's based on archeological and written historical evidence. Each open-air palace building was located next to the pond used in earlier times for boating, bird watching, and other pursuits. It was a BEAUTIFUL park!

Close to Anapchi Pond was the Kyongju National Museum, which contains many artifacts from Anapchi Pond and other historical sights from the Shilla Dynasty. The most impressive sight was the Divine Bell, a 23 ton bronze bell that is 11 feet high! It is the largest bell in Korea and one of the largest bells in Asia.

Our evening time was spent at the Pomun Lake resort near Kyongju. We stayed at the Kyongju Education and Culture Center hotel. Since Korean faculty pension plan money provided major funding to build this hotel, faculty members receive a 40% discount from the \$110 - \$120 per night room rate. Pomun Lake resort is comparable to many resort centers in the United States or Canada and is located in a beautiful setting of lakes and forested mountains. After eating at a very good Korean restaurant and coffee shop, our family walked to the outdoor amphitheatre for an 80 minute performance of traditional Korean music and dancing performance. The Hwa-mu (dance with flowers) and Puchae-chum (fan dance) performances were outstanding! We hope the video camera recorded these wonderful performances.

Sunday's highlights were visits to the Pulguksa temple and Sokkuram Buddhist grotto. It seems like we have saved the best Buddhist temple sights for our later journeys. Pulguksa temple, located in the forested mountains less than 10 miles from down town Kyongju, was originally built in 535 A.D. and enlarged in 751 A.D. All of the stone bridges, stairways, and pagodas are ORIGINAL construction! (And we think 50 – 100 years is the useful life of church buildings!) This architectural masterpiece, surrounded by a forest canopy, is nearly impossible to visually describe. It contains two large stone pagodas and four major buildings. The inside temple buildings are not as impressive as some others we have seen at Cheju or Songnisan, but the outside entrance to the temple complex is truly magnificent! We were surprised that non-Buddhists were allowed into the worship area of one temple where many Buddhist souvenir items were also sold while people were worshipping. Ah, The power of tourist money – but no VISA or other credit cards!

Next we drove into the clouds to the parking site for our walk to the Sokkuram grotto. This Buddhist shrine was a 30 minute walk and is located near the top of a mountain. The building housing the great Buddha is a granite dome and is an amazing architectural feat. Since we were often above the low hanging clouds it was almost a mystical sight of ancient legends!

The remainder of our day was spent at the Kyongju Folk Craft Village, paddle boating at Pomun Lake, and traveling back by train to Taejon. We were back in our apartment at 10:30 p.m. after a WONDERFUL two days with Kioh Kim and his family.

TRIP to PUYO and TAECHON BEACH: Tuesday, June 6

June 6 is D-Day for Americans and Europeans, but is the Memorial Day holiday for Koreans. Dr. Lim and his grandson took our family to Puyo, second capital of the Paekche dynasty, and to Taechon beach, located on the Yellow Sea. We started at 9 a.m. and returned at 7 p.m. Dr. Lim is the senior faculty member of the Ag Econ department and is my "walking encyclopedia" of Korean agricultural economic development!

Dr. Lim's daughter, son-in-law and three grandchildren just returned from 10 years in the United States to permanently live in Korea. He stated the Asian finance crisis in 1997-1998 made it very difficult for overseas Korean families to find jobs back in Korea. He seemed very happy to have his grandchildren living in Seoul, Korea instead of Philadelphia, USA. His grandchild is fluent in Korean and English and occasionally translated our conversation to his grandfather.

Puyo is located about 40 miles southwest of Taejon and is a one-hour drive along back roads. We went to the Royal Tombs park to view tombs of the Paekche dynasty, which existed from 18 B.C. to 660 A.D. Next we took a boat ride to the Pusosansong temple and fortress area which is the oldest fortress of this dynasty. We hiked up the river cliffs to the Nakwa'am Rock, (rock of falling flowers) site of the terrible ending of the Paekche dynasty in 660 A.D. According to legend, nearly 3000 court women of the Paekche dynasty jumped off the cliff to their death instead of being captured during the final battle with the Chinese invaders. What a movie script this story would be!

During the afternoon we drove to Taechon Beach located on the Yellow Sea. The main tourist season is July and August, so the beach area was not terribly crowded. The ocean water was cool and the scenery was quite beautiful. Most Koreans were wearing jeans or jean shorts and shirts instead of swimsuits. The beach scene ranged from swimming, beach walking, horse back riding, jet skiing, water-ski airplane rides, and boat rides. Due to traffic jams it was a three hour return drive to Taejon.

FAMILY TIME in TAEJON

Tiffany finished her home school classes on May 31. She continues her piano lessons, two times per week, as she really enjoys being with her student teacher. Sometimes, after her lessons, they go to eat or play in campus town.

Tiffany and Marcia have gone to two movies - Cider House Rules and Mission to Mars - at the new cinema in Lotte. Taejon, a city of 1.4 million people, has very few cinema theatres – certainly fewer than in Sioux Falls. About one-third of the movies shown are from the U.S. and the rest are from eastern Asia, especially from Korea or Japan. The U.S. movies are spoken in English and subtitled in Korean. However, there are numerous “video houses” where people rent private rooms for showing video movies on a large TV screen along with plenty of snack food and alcoholic or non-alcoholic drinks.

On Saturday, June 3, our family spent the day in downtown Taejon and nearby Pomun Park. Public bus service is quite good for getting around Taejon if you can figure out when to get off! At Pomun Park we took a morning hike up to Pomunsansong Fortress built around 600 A.D. This fortress has commanding views of the Taejon area and was a major military installation in ancient times. The thick stone walls, 2 – 3 meters, high have been well preserved. We hiked down the steep mountain to the Greenland amusement park where we rode on bumper car rides, small roller coasters, and other rides. This amusement park was constructed in the 1970's and is starting to show its age! The amusement park was not crowded on early Saturday afternoon as most children are in school until 1 p.m. and Saturday is simply another working day for a majority of Koreans.

We went to the downtown Taejon shopping district around 3 p.m. and stayed until 8 p.m. It was crowded with college-age students and many families shopping. You can select items from large modern department stores, sidewalk level stores, open markets, and underground street markets. The crowds are everywhere! Larry purchased a light-weight spring suit as he doesn't ever wear suits in the summer around home, but needs to more often in Korea.

We suspect the 5½ day school week and 6-day workweek is the major reason for relative lack of commercial entertainment facilities in non-tourist areas of Korea. The issue of a 5-day workweek is currently a major discussion issue between labor and management groups in Korea. I suspect this change in work week won't happen without a corresponding change in the school week to a 5 days.

On Sunday, June 4, we finally had a chance to attend church services again at the English speaking Christian International Church near Hanum University in eastern Taejon. The church had a potluck dinner in celebration of one year of ministry by the pastor, Benny Gresham. The pastor's family is from southern Oklahoma, which provides me an opportunity to swap Okie stories with the pastor based on my 2 years of living in Stillwater, Oklahoma.

We also met an American missionary who has lived in Asia for 19 years emphasizing ministry to Korean families. His last ministry to Korean families was 5 years in the central Asian, mostly Islamic, republic of Uzbekistan. He stated nearly 200,000 ethnic Koreans are Uzbek citizens and were deported there by Stalin in the late 1930's from the Russian border regions next to North Korea. Finally, we met Don Porthoff who has family connections with some people from Volga, SD. What a small world!!

PROFESSIONAL TIME and UNIVERSITY WORK

During the past few weeks I have been very busy with my own classes, giving seminars to faculty and graduate students, guest lectures, and participating in meetings / dinners with Chungnam faculty with various connections to SDSU. My seminar (Thursday, June 1) to the Chungnam Economics faculty and grad students was on "Economic and Environmental Implications of Conservation Reserve Programs in the U.S.". This topic led to interesting discussions of Korean environmental conservation efforts. A travelogue seminar on South Dakota and western U.S. national park and forest sites was given to some Agricultural College faculty.

Based on this travelogue presentation, two faculty members asked me to show these slides to their classes along with a 30 - 45 minute academic presentation of Midwestern agriculture. Students from Dr. Chang Sung's Food Science class and Dr. Pyon's Rice Production class had never visited the United States nor had they ever had a class presentation from an American faculty member. These students have only seen a few TV pictures of the Grand Canyon, Yellowstone, and the Black Hills but had never talked to anyone who had been there. Several students from the Food Science class kept asking questions about traveling in the U.S. and U.S. food customs for 45 minutes beyond the class period!

I have had several office conversations and one family lunch time meeting with Dr. Pyon, former director of the International Programs office at Chungnam, about the status of the SDSU – Chungnam exchange agreement. Dr. Pyon has also shown me his rice production trials and discussed the changing technology of rice production in Korea. He pointed out that most rice production and harvesting operations are mechanized, albeit small scale mechanization, which makes part-time farming feasible for many Korean farmers unable to expand their meager land holdings.

Our good friend and SDSU alumnus, Dr. Yong Kook Kim, was recently appointed department head of Dairy Science and Animal Science. He asked me to give a seminar on "Recent trends in Agriculture and Animal Industries in the U.S. and South Dakota" to some undergraduate classes jointly meeting on Wednesday morning, June 14. Dr. Kim also wants to augment his slides about South Dakota agriculture that he and other Ag College faculty can use for their own class presentations.

As a side note, my son Matt visited briefly with Dr. Kim's daughter during his registration day (Sat. June 10) at SDSU. Dr. Kim's daughters attend SDSU and one of his daughter's works with incoming students. What a small world!

We have also spent some office time and meal time with Dr. Chung from the Philosophy Dept. He was an exchange professor to SDSU, fall semester 1997, and was hosted by Prof. David Nelson and Dennis Bielfeldt. He speaks very highly of his SDSU experiences and extends his greetings to all SDSU people that befriended him during his stay in Brookings. He fondly recalls his many discussions with Drs. Nelson, Bielfeldt, Bahr, and Burns. He likes to visit about the factors influencing Korean philosophical thought, including Confucianism, various strands of Buddhism, and various Western philosophers. I could learn a lot more from him if I only knew more about his subject!

One Wednesday evening (June 7) Dr. Chung and his friend, Dr. Kim Jeen from the Art department, took us out to their favorite Korean restaurant which was also their favorite spot to take out the Malo's and Doolittle's during their exchange visits to Korea. Dr. Kim Jeen was an exchange professor to the SDSU Visual Arts department.

It makes me ashamed to realize that I did not know Dr. Chung was an exchange professor during Fall 1997 in the same building where I work! It would have been a great experience to have met him at SDSU. I hope I can be more sensitive to incoming faculty and student visitors to SDSU when I return. Chungnam University faculty with any ties to SDSU truly go out of their way to make you feel welcome in Korea. Most also speak fondly of their "quiet times" at SDSU away from the big city crowds, noise, and traffic of Taejon.

As you can probably surmise, it is the quality time spent with Korean people that makes this such a great exchange program. It also helps us cope with the inevitable disappointments. Bye for now.

IMPRESSIONS OF KOREA, JUNE 13 – 30, 2000

This is our final set of e-mail notes on our impressions of Korea based on our experiences during this exchange semester. The weather is getting hot and steamy and not as cool at night. We borrowed a fan from a friend so we could be more comfortable in the apartment. The summer monsoon season started on June 21, which is earlier than usual. It rains every day and night. The high humidity is constant and the temperature cools down when it rains. Korea gets a majority of its rainfall during the two month rainy season.

After several days of continuing rainfall and very humid conditions, I decided it is time to head home to South Dakota. Warm, rainy, humid weather for extended periods of time is not for me!

WORK TASKS

Final exams and papers are the major items for students and faculty during the week of June 19 – 23. My last Ag Finance class session was on Thursday, June 15. The 3-hour class period was used to discuss similarities and differences in the agricultural credit systems and financial policy issues in Korea, Japan, India, United States and some other Asian countries. The final exam is a short take-home exam (2 essay questions) plus an in-class student presentation on an agricultural finance article related to Korea.

Graduate students are not accustomed to making major class presentations (especially in English) so my department professors felt this would be an excellent opportunity for them instead of a traditional exam or research paper. The students did an excellent job of preparing and explaining their presentation materials on Thursday, June 22. It never ceases to amaze me how most students will finally come through at the end of the semester! Some things are the same in both cultures!

I am also working on literature review of Korean agriculture and economic development that I hope to incorporate into class presentations and a collaborative article with a Chungnam ag econ faculty member.

I gave my last seminar presentation at Chungnam University to faculty, grad students, and senior undergraduate students in the Ag Econ, Dairy Science, and Animal Science Departments. The topic requested by the department chairmen was "Recent Trends in U.S. / South Dakota Agriculture and Animal Industries". The seminar was simply an overview of U.S. agriculture that would be given to an introductory animal science or farm management class in the U.S. However, most of their students had not been exposed to this topic before. About 80 students and 10 faculty attended the seminar held in the Ag College auditorium on Wednesday, June 16 from 11 a.m. to noon.

Following their GREAT tradition of faculty seminars at Chungnam, it was time for faculty, grad students, and my family to go to a Korean restaurant for lunch! Faculty seminars at Chungnam are almost always scheduled before lunch or evening dinner. At the conclusion of the seminar, faculty and grad students that attended the seminar are invited to lunch (or dinner) with the seminar presenter. It is the "Korean incentive system" to encourage seminar presentations and faculty attendance!

**FIELD TRIP to DAIRY FARMS and FEED PROCESSING PLANTS:
Friday, June 16**

Dr. Yong Kook Kim – head of dairy / animal science department - took my family, Dr. Kwon, and feed company representatives on a field trip to feed processing plants, dairy farms, and milk processing plants located in the Nonsan region, 1 ½ hours southwest of Taejon.

The first stop was the Woosung Feed plant at Nonsan. This company, headquartered in Taejon, has three plant locations in Korea and a 6 – 7% market share of the commercial feed industry in Korea. Three fourths of their feed production is for the pork and beef industries, one ninth is for the Korean dairy industry, and the remainder is for fish and shrimp production and for pet food. The company mixes more than 100 complete feed mix ratios, using panel controls or computer control systems. During the tour of this very modern plant we observed the processing of feed mixes for their fish and dairy industries.

The modern livestock feeding and dairy industries of Korea are almost completely dependent on imported feedstock from the United States, China, Australia, and Canada. This plant imports 95% of their feedstock (corn, sorghum, soybeans, cottonseed, oats, rye, etc.) from these four nations, with 5% of feedstock (barley and byproducts of rice) from Korea. Most of the imported feedstock is delivered to the seaports of Incheon or Pusan and shipped by truck to the plants.

Much of the plant equipment, storage facilities, and lab equipment were from the U.S. or Canada including York grain bins and an extruder from a company in Sabetha, Kansas. I found out that one of the plant managers had completed the grain industry short courses offered at Kansas State University and became familiar with equipment from various North American companies. Just another reminder of the payoff from having international students attending U.S. universities! In reality, international students returning from an American university to their home country are one of our nations leading "exports".

Our tour group and the plant managers ate lunch at a wonderful Korean restaurant specializing in smoked duck and grilled duck meat.

The first afternoon stop was at TMR Farms, a small feed plant company located in a rural area and owned by 10 dairy farmers. This feed mixing plant provides total mixed rations for the dairy cattle on the 10 farms, which average about 100 milk cows per farm. We observed cottonseed and hay imported from Australia, corn and soybeans imported from the U.S. and sometimes from China.

Our next visit was to a modern 120 cow dairy farm located one-half kilometer from the TMR plant. Due to very expensive land and lack of pasture, most Korean dairy farms are dry lot operations with cattle housed in pole sheds. This farm had a fixed stanchion parlor system and could milk 12 cows at one time. The farmer reported production of 8000 kg/cow per year (17600 pounds per cow) which is similar to U.S. standards. Most of the farm labor was extended family member labor, but they used a "dairy farm helper" system of hiring milking laborers 3-4 days per month so they can have some time off! According to Dr. Kim, this "helper" system of a milking labor crew that contracts 3-4 days of labor per month is fairly common in Korea.

The location of their farm house within 30 feet of the dairy feedlots and the absence of odors or flies on a hot and humid day were interesting features of this dairy farm. This dairy farm was located next to a rice farm and a ginseng farm. None of the farm fields exceeded 5 acres in this locality.

The second farm visit was to a 50 – 60 dairy cow farm located a few miles away. This farmer imported most of his feedstock from the United States including some good quality bermuda hay. He used SURGE milking equipment! His cows were in a drylot open air shed with a partly screened roof that permits sufficient drying of the animal wastes. He sells the manure to a natural fertilizer company that packages the waste and sells it to fruit farms!

We were invited into their modern farm house for a cup of delicious milk.

The final stop was to the Moguchon milk plant located on a hillside a few kilometers from any town. This plant produces fluid milk and yogurts and is owned by the National Livestock Cooperative Federation. This ultra-modern plant was built in 1997 with imported equipment from Sweden.

We returned to Taejon about 8 p.m. after a long and enjoyable day.

Based on further conversations with Dr. Kim and various reading materials, I found out that the Korean dairy industry and animal feed industry was developed in the late 1960's and early 1970's. The Korean dairy industry was started with modern technology and commercial family farms that specialized in dairy production. The average number of cows milked per Korean dairy farm in 1997 is 31 cows, with rapid increase in the number of dairy farms of 100+ milk cows. The

Korean dairy cow inventory is about 550,000 milk cows, compared to 1.9 million native beef cows. Korean dairy farms supply their nation's fluid milk and yogurt needs, but the country imports most of their cheese and some butter.

Dairy product consumption per capita in Korea has greatly increased but is low relative to North America or Western Europe. Few adults drink milk as it is considered to be a beverage for children. In grocery stores, we have noticed that it is difficult to find low fat or skim milk or any kind of brick cheese, while yogurt and whole milk is easy to find. Ice cream selection at a grocery store is minimal.

VISIT to INDEPENDENCE HALL: Saturday, June 17

Dr. Kwon, his wife, and our family took a day trip to Korea's Independence Hall, located one hour north of Taejon, near Chonan. Independence Hall, built entirely with private funds, is a national memorial to Korean independence from Japan in 1945 and earlier conflicts with the Chinese or Japanese. The memorial is located on beautifully landscaped grounds of 100+ acres. The main buildings are the impressive Grand Hall and seven exhibition halls. A few weeks ago we visited this memorial with the SDSU group but this time we had a chance to really see it at a leisurely pace.

The National Heritage Hall has exhibits that chronicle the major conflicts in Korea's 5000+ year history, including the world's first use of armored ships by Admiral Yi in the 1500's and one battle against Chinese invaders where more than 200,000 troops were killed! The Korean armored ships destroyed the Japanese navy at that time and would have been a formidable match for the English or Spanish navies of that time period.

Most of the remaining halls contain displays of Korea's conflicts with Japan from the mid-1800's, their colonization by Japan from 1910 to 1945, the Korean War, and post-war governance and economic development. Korea celebrates their independence day on March 1 that coincides with their March First Independence Movement that started in 1919. The Korean government in exile was scattered across China, eastern Russia, and North America. Several exhibits showed the atrocities committed during the Japanese colonial period. One of the exhibits emphasized the bitter disappointment of the Koreans when their nation was divided into the Russian and American zones after World War II and remains divided to this day as North Korea and South Korea.

Visiting this memorial at the conclusion of the North- South Korean Summit Conference was an important reminder of the geopolitical and economic situation of the Korean peninsula. Korea was a unified nation-state with one language and culture from the 7th century to the end of WW II. Portions of Korea were periodically occupied for relatively short time periods by Mongolian, Chinese, or Japanese conquerors but their 20th century colonization by Japan was the most ruthless attempt to eliminate their culture.

Korea has followed Japan's lead in economic development matters, but there remains considerable resentment of Japan among Koreans.

Korea remains a divided nation officially at war but a people longing for peace and reconciliation. South Korea has armed forces of at least 600,000 people in uniform. Military service is required for all male Koreans and the current minimum period of required service is 26 months. Korean male college students usually enlist in the military after their sophomore year and return after military service to complete their junior and senior year.

The Korean news media contains many reports of the recent summit and, in my view, is accurately reflecting the hopes of so many Koreans for reuniting families separated for 50 years and perhaps, eventual reunification of both countries. In my visits with many Koreans, most want to retain close economic and military ties with the U.S. as a counterweight to growing military or economic power of their larger neighbors. In general, the United States is respected in Korea and many Koreans have expressed to us their thanks for U.S. (and United Nations) military and economic support during and after the Korean War. Since this is the 50th anniversary of the Korean War, it is a conversation topic in Korea.

OUR LAST WEEKEND in SOUTH KOREA: June 24 - 25

On Saturday afternoon Dr. Yeom, Economics Dept. head, took our family to several places in Taejon including the National Government office building complex, National Currency Museum, and outdoor dance performances at the Taejon Art Museum. Korea's national government is decentralizing some of their ministry offices from Seoul to Taejon and Pusan. The office buildings have been constructed within the past 3 years. Inside this government complex were traveling exhibits of Korean traditional pottery and crafts.

On Saturday evening, we were invited for dinner at Prof. Sung-lai Kim's home located on the top (17th) floor of their Expo apartment building complex. Prof. Kim, his wife, and son (6th or 7th grade) will come to SDSU in mid-August. He will be hosted by the SDSU Mathematics Dept. After a wonderful Korean-style roast beef dinner, we were asked many questions about SDSU and living in Brookings. Their main concern was about their son's ability to adapt to middle school in Brookings. His son can read English pretty well, but has not had much opportunity to speak English. However, the whole family is looking forward to the exchange.

On Sunday morning, we went to our last English church service at at Christian International Center in Taejon. It has been a very interesting experience meeting with other Americans and Canadians at this church. Some of those attending this church are also on sabbatical or exchange programs with various universities in the Taejon area. Many others are language teachers at various schools and

language institutes, while some are teachers at the American / English school in Taejon. We wished we had found this church before Palm Sunday in mid-April.

Sunday afternoon was recreation time for us and was the only afternoon of no rain. Marcia and Tiffany took Dr. Yeom and his daughter to Expo Amusement Park for six hours of roller coaster rides, bumper cars, and many other fun rides. Dr. Kwon and his wife, Hong Lee, took me along on their hiking trip to Shikchisan Mtn., the highest peak in the Taejon metropolitan area. Ms. Lee told me that she used to hike with a group of women each week for many years. However, obtaining full-time work in recent years has changed her recreation program. The 6 mile hike was easier than other mountain hikes I have completed in Korea and took about 3 hours. We had some gorgeous views of Taejon and a small Buddhist temple tucked into a mountain cliff.

Sunday evening was spent at a Korean restaurant with Dr. Yeom and his family. Dr. Yeom is a public utility economist and spent some time discussing how telecommunications and internet was changing in Korea. He and Dr. Lamberton would have a great visit about utility economics and pricing!

FAMILY TIME DURING OUR LAST DAYS IN TAEJON

Our family time has been spent on many “good bye” activities including the mundane activities of getting items packed for shipping to the U.S. and preparing to pack our suitcases for the return trip home. We have spent several evenings with various friends at different restaurants – the modern Korean method of saying “goodbye”. Our weekday / evening activities have included:

- Thursday afternoon trip with Dr. Chung, Philosophy, and Dr. Kim Jeon Visual Arts, to a rural village next to Kyeryongsan Park where several artist make traditional Korean pottery and ceramics. We visited with an American art student (from New York) who was living in the village and learning how to make Korean pottery. We concluded with a Korean outdoor BBQ picnic at a park near Chungnam with these two professors and their families along with several families from the Management Dept. including the current and past dean of CNU’s Economics and Management college. This is the same family groups that hosted picnics for Jim Doolittle and Doug Malo.
- Monday evening reception of our family by our host department of Agricultural Economics at a Korean restaurant specializing in various duck dishes (smoked ducked, braised duck, and Peking duck). We had a delightful time.
- On Tuesday evening we went to the CNU Ag College reception which has been moved indoors due to the continuing rains. We said good-bye to many of the friends we made during our stay.

- Wednesday and Thursday included a lot of time with final packing and meeting many people who stopped at my office or our apartment to say good bye. Wednesday evening was spent with Kioh Kim and his family.
- Our last evening (Thursday, June 28) in Taejon was spend with Dr. Kwon's family and Dr. Hwang's family. We went to a favorite Korean restaurant near Dr. Kwon's apartment in the "campus town" and we had dessert at Baskin-Robbins. It was difficult saying good-bye to such very good friends.

BACK IN THE U.S.A.

On Friday morning, June 29, we left Taejon at 10 a.m. Friday morning for Kimpo Airport in Seoul. Kioh Kim and his assistant took our family to the airport. We left Korea at 4:50 p.m. and arrived in Denver at 7 p.m. on the same day, but more than 19 hours of real time later. We went through customs in San Francisco.

It was great to meet Marcia's sister, Janet Parsons, at Denver International Airport. She took us to her home in Aurora, Colorado where we rested for a few days before coming back to South Dakota. It was a great feeling to be back in the United States which has so much space compared to South Korea.

We have had a wonderful experience in Korea primarily due to the friends we have made. Korean families are wonderful hosts and have a lot of respect for SDSU exchange families. This faculty exchange trip is a wonderful opportunity to expand one's professional and personal horizons. I am so thankful that Harriet Swedlund, Doug Malo, and Jim Doolittle presented this opportunity with me and urged me to apply. I recommend this exchange trip to any SDSU faculty member.

We conclude our remarks with some cultural trivia.

CULTURAL TRIVIA

We have spent a lot of time absorbing Korean foodways and cultural habits. We have discussed their emphasis on education (including English language training) and family life. More everyday lifestyle and habits that we will remember for many years to come include such items as:

- Public transportation systems with frequent schedules, low cost, and on-time. We will really miss the ease of obtaining train, bus, or taxi transportation as found in South Korea. We will quickly adjust to driving cars to most locations but have not greatly missed our automobiles.
- Cell phones – Korean society is totally inundated with 25 million + cell phones for 46 million people! We feel like we are the only family in Taejon without a cell phone. Most students wear a cell phone around their neck and are often using it between classes.

- Business cards are important in first-time formal meetings with Koreans. University business cards contain all of the key information – phone numbers, e-mail address, home address - except the office building and office number location of the faculty member or staff person. Most Koreans cannot remember their office room number as it is not important to them. Their system makes it difficult for any outside person to find an office location without asking one or more people.
- U-turns are legal on Korea's busy city streets with many 6-8 lane streets having special U-turn lanes.
- Absence of street addresses for finding any location. The entire location reference system is quite different from the U.S. or Canada.
- Lack of parking spaces and the ability of Korean's to find a parking space where none exists.
- Bottled water or spring water is used by most urban families for drinking water supplies. We will be glad to return to drinking household tap water.
- Friendship between people of the same sex is often shown openly by holding hands or linking arms. One of the main reasons this is done is because it would be easy to lose someone in areas where there are many people.
- Koreans value education a lot. We know this because the high school students are up to about 2 a.m. every night studying. After the high school students get out of school they usually have one or two tutor sessions. Then after their tutor sessions they do their homework. Most of the high school students do not have much free time. When they are seniors they have to take a test that determines whether they can attend college and also which ones. Once they get into college they have a lot more free time. They actually start to have a life. Almost all of the people that start college finish it. Because of the time spent studying in their high school years, Korea students have not reached the social maturity level of American college students.
- Koreans tend to like boys better especially as their first child because they will provide for their parents as they age. That is beginning to change though.
- Wedding houses are used most of the time to hold weddings. They aren't usually a religious ceremony. Anymore, most couples do not have arranged marriages or the use a matchmaker.
- Women's roles are rapidly changing in Korean society primarily because so many more married women are now employed in Korea's businesses. Today, 50% of non-farm women are employed outside of the home compared to 80% of men over the age of 18.