

The Pulse

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To the KASY Alumni...

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As I questioned whether or not I should run for KASY Board again, I found myself pondering the question, "What does KASY mean to me? As my academic workload increases, will I really have the time?" Serving as Secretary my sophomore year I found it invigorating to be on Board and to have a voice in what went on around campus. But as the year carried on I became satisfied with committing just enough to get by and figured my attendance would be enough. However, as my sophomore year drew to a close, I began to reexamine myself as a person for a variety of reasons.

Sensing a need for seniority, I ran for and was elected Vice President. I knew my primary responsibility was this very event, the Alumni Banquet and looked forward to contacting alumni and throwing an event that displayed KASY's long standing history. As the semester passed and planning for the event began, I spoke with former board members and sought advice. It was through this process and the help I received that I realized what makes KASY so special was the passion and commitment to tradition.

Recently longing for nostalgia, I came across the Star Wars Series of DVDs in Bass Library (formerly CCL) and watched them again for old times' sake (I promise I'm not that geeky). As I played the movie in the background and worked on planning out this event, I was struck by a quote by none other than Master Yoda himself, "Do or do not. There is no try." At first it seemed harsh—better to try than not, right? That's when I realized I had the wrong mindset; it wasn't about whether you were trying or not, but about the manner in which one carries out one's actions. Do or do not. For me, this became the passion and commitment to tradition that KASY had shown me.

Still just an undergraduate and having yet to experience the real world, I am thankful KASY brought me to this realization. For all I had given to KASY, I had already been repaid. I neither expected it nor needed it, but through planning the Alumni Banquet I found the inspiration necessary in all aspects of life. I hope the same kind of inspiration has brought you back to this event today (besides beating Hahhvad).

In the big picture, KASY is about fostering the cultural, political and social interests of the Korean-American community here at Yale. Essential to raising awareness about the various aspects of Korean culture, the KASY pillars have been successful for the last 25 years. Nevertheless, none of this would have been possible without the foundation of passion and commitment to tradition that you all have laid. For this, I thank you and welcome back.



KASY 2009 FALL SEMESTER EVENTS

9/5 - Freshman BBQ

The pre-semester freshman BBQ began as a joint event idea between KASY and CASA but was soon picked up by the rest of the AASA community. The BBQ was a major success with over 100 freshmen showing up on Old Campus to meet new people, eat burgers and hot dogs, and play sports such as frisbee and football.

9/8 - 1st General Meeting

At the 1st general meeting of the semester, the board introduced itself and some of the major events that we had planned for KASY members. We also premiered the new and improved Pulse, took sign-ups for standing committees, families, and freshman liaison, and served ddukbokki from Seoul. Turnout was high enough to fill LC 101.

9/11 - Board Lock-In

A new addition to what we hope becomes a KASY tradition, the board lock-in was an occasion for former board members to unite with the current board and confer their wisdom in addition to answering all questions. Furthermore, it started the idea and creation of position specific binders to pass down to future generations to come.

9/17 - Naples Night

KASY's annual kick-off event in which older KASY members and newly joined members can socialize and get to know each other over delicious pizza at Wall St. Pizza (formerly known as Naples Pizza).

9/29 - 2nd General Meeting

There were two main agenda items for the 2nd General Meeting: freshman liaison elections and family assignments. After candidate statements and an extended Q&A session, members voted on one candidate—though we eventually took two—and then split off into their respective families to eat out at Yorkside or Ashley's.

9/30 - Movie Screening: "Samaria"

The first of this year's monthly KASY movie screenings highlighted one of Kim Ki-duk's most famous films, "Samaritan Girl," a work of art that received the Silver Berlin Bear Award at Berlin Film Festival.

The movie is a shocking exploration of prostitution, family relations, and human psychology. The event was open to everyone and attracted students from different cultural backgrounds to contribute to the discussion that followed the screening.

10/5 - Movie Screening: "Crossroads of Youth"

KASY tagged up with the Korea Society in NY, the Council on East Asian Studies, the Film Studies Department, the Yale Film Society and various Masters' Offices to sponsor a screening of the oldest surviving Korean film, Crossroads of Youth. This black-and-white silent film was accompanied by live music and narration was provided by renowned professionals from Korea. The audience of mostly non-Korean speakers enjoyed the performance throughout and gave a standing ovation at the end.

10/13 - 3rd General Meeting

The 3rd General Meeting was intended to raise interest in our major upcoming events, especially the NAKASEC Workshop, Blackout, and Adopted Friends. Judy and the Community Committee gave a presentation on the purpose and benefits of Adopted Friends and took signups, and we served pajun from Seoul afterwards.

10/21 - KASY/SAC Study Break

This study break event was co-hosted with the Light Fellowship Foundation at Yale in order to promote Korean language and cultural studies at Yale College. With delicious bulgogi and kimbob, the evening stimulated not only the taste buds of the participants, but also their interests in Korean culture and history.

10/24 - NAKASEC Workshop

We invited the DC Director of the National Korean American Service and Education Consortium to give us an overview of the health-care debate. She talked extensively about the various obstacles for immigrants, documented and undocumented, to receiving adequate and affordable healthcare. This interactive workshop included sharing personal stories and was followed by a discussion at Thai Taste afterwards.

11/7 - Blackout

A true KASY tradition. This is KASY's annual blacklight themed blowout dance party with guests attending from collegiate Korean-American organizations from all across the Northeast. With approximately 300 guests attending, Blackout was a huge success.

11/10 - 4th General Meeting

After a great Blackout success, the meeting served to remind members about Adopted Friends as well as the impending need for assistance on a KASCON bid. A presentation by the freshmen liaisons about their upcoming "Freshmen Fun Night" was made as well.

11/14 - Adopted Friends

Adopted Friends began many years ago with KASY members wanting to reach out to the community of Korean adoptees. Twice each year, we invite Korean adoptees and their families in the Tri-state area to Yale to learn about Korean culture while bonding with students who are assigned as Big Sibs. This year, we invited adult Korean adoptees to come talk about their experiences growing up, and again, we were able to realize how important it is for adoptees to learn about Korean culture and to be part of a supportive community.

11/14 - Asian American Leadership Conference

The Asian American Leadership Conference is organized by the Political Action and Education Committee, an affiliate group of the Asian American Students Alliance. In its 5th year, the conference attracted some 90 high school students from CT, NY, NJ and MA, many of whom were Korean. These students attended lectures and workshops led by Yale professors, fellows, law school students and leaders of the Asian American community. Over dinner, participants were able to meet and talk to board members of the various AASA affiliate groups.

11/19 - Freshman Fun Night

Presented by our freshman liaisons, this event was a night of fun, craziness, laughter, food, camaraderie, and mingling for freshmen of all cultures. Likely to be another new KASY trademark event.

