French President François Hollande Visits Ewha

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Notable Rankings of Ewha in 2015

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President Hollande's visit to Ewha is particularly meaningful as it marks the very first visit to a Korean university by a French head of state ever since the establishment of ties between Korea and France in 1886.

Roundtable Discussion with Cherie Blair, Chancellor of Asian University for Women

Cherie Blair, Chancellor of Asia University for Women (AUW) and spouse of former British Prime Minister Tony Blair, visited Ewha to attend a roundtable discussion on September 2. Under the theme of “Women, Education & Leadership”, the discussion was joined by Young Joon Kim (Chairman of AUW Support Foundation), Kathy Matsui (Director of AUW Support Foundation & Chief Strategist at Goldman Sachs), Hye-Kyung Lee (Director of Korea Foundation for Women), Ewha President Kyunghee Choi and many other role models for women's education.

Ewha students including five AUW alumni who are currently pursuing their master's degree at Ewha also participated in the discussions to share their thoughts about women empowerment for transition and development.

President Choi Delivers Special Lecture at Harvard University

From October 30 to November 4, President Kyunghee Choi visited the U.S. to attend the plenary session of Ewha’s North America Alumnae Association, the Annual Meeting of Board of Directors of the International Foundation for Ewha Womans University (IFEWU). With the purpose of reaching a broader consensus on supporting Ewha's sustainable development, the Ewha stakeholders have agreed to raise funds for the construction of new dormitories and Ewha's second medical center following Korea's first women's hospital built in 1887.

President Choi was also invited to a Leadership Forum* held by the Korea Institute at Harvard University, where she delivered a special lecture on “Challenges and Opportunities Faced by Korean Universities: With References from the Past, Present and Future of Ewha Womans University.” (*The Leadership Forum is a prestigious academic venue that hosts leaders from various fields such as UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, President of South Korea Park Geun-hye, former President of South Korea Kim Dae-jung, and former U.S. Ambassador in Seoul Kathleen Stephens.)

Notable Rankings of Ewha in 2015

Under the slogan, "Innovation Ewha: Leading Global Excellence," Ewha Womans University has pursued endless changes with the aim of placing amongst the top 100 ranks in the world over the past year. Some of the achievements of 2015 are:

- Ranked #1 among Korean Universities in Leiden University Ranking for Three Consecutive Years (2013-2015)
- Acquired Level A in the College Structural Reform Evaluation by the Ministry of Education
- Ranked #4 in Producing Successful Candidates for 2015 National Bar Examination (15 Ewha alumnae out of 153 successful candidates)
Humboldt Colloquium “Research Beyond Borders”

Ewha hosted the Humboldt Colloquium entitled “Research Beyond Borders – interdisciplinary, cross-border and intergenerational” in cooperation with Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology and German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) during November 27-29. About 200 participants including Korean and German scholars and young promising researchers met during the three-day colloquium. The colloquium offered opportunities for networking among Humboldtians and for poster presentations by junior researchers who sought to become new members. Interdisciplinary workshops consisted of 5 sections in Culture, Society and Languages / Economy, Politics and Law / Health and Life Sciences / Materials Science and Energy / Natural Sciences.

Kyunghee Choi (President of Ewha), Helmut Schwarz (President of the Humboldt Foundation), Rolf Mafael (German Ambassador to Korea), and Moon-Hyuck Ho (Humboldt Research Fellow and President of the KAIST) and Martin Bodo Plenio (Alexander von Humboldt Professor).

Ewha-JAX Joint Symposium and Research Center for Cancer Immunotherapy

Ewha hosted the “EWHA-JAX Joint Symposium on Genomic Medicine” on October 2, the first joint initiative of Ewha and the Jackson Laboratory (JAX) in genomics-based medical research. With the emergence of precision medicine, researchers are taking an innovative approach to disease prevention and treatment based on each patient’s unique genetic makeup.

The Ewha-JAX International Research Center for cancer immunotherapy, which will be established in 2017, was recently endowed by the National Research Foundation of Korea and the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology. The research directors include Professor Jaesang Kim, Professor Sang-hyuk Lee, and Ewha’s Distinguished Professor Charles Lee who is a Scientific Director of the Jackson Laboratory for Genomic Medicine. The Center has plans of exchanging researchers between institutions and providing education and training programs.

The 15th Kim Okgill Memorial Lecture by Le Clézio

The Ewha Institute for the Humanities held the 15th Kim Okgill Memorial Lecture on November 25. It is an annual event that has been held since 2001 in memory of Kim Okgill, the 8th president of Ewha who devoted her life to women’s education and social justice. For this year’s lecture, Jean-Marie Gustave Le Clézio, the 2008 Nobel Laureate in Literature, was invited to give a lecture under the theme of “Seeds and Fertility: Migration in Culture and World Literature.”

Professor Le Clézio began his lecture on recent global issues of refugees and immigrants and pointed out that immigrants from African, Islamic, and Arab nations can actually enrich European cultures by sowing new cultures, intelligence, and creativity. Especially, literature is a forum where readers, regardless of their nationality and race, can open up their minds to different cultures without prejudice, and we should open our hearts to immigrants and embrace their cultures to achieve hope for genuine mutual peace, he stressed.
Nine Students Selected for the 2015 Global Ph. D. Fellowship

9 Ewha students in the combined master-doctoral program and the doctoral program have been selected for the 2015 Global Ph.D. Fellowship program, supported by the Ministry of Education and the National Research Foundation of Korea. This year, a total of 9 Ewha students from different fields of study became recipients of the fellowship. Launched in 2011, this program provides students in doctoral programs in Korea with an annual support of 30 million KRW for 2 years.

Groundbreaking Ceremony for New Hospital

A groundbreaking ceremony for Ewha’s new hospital and a new College of Medicine building was held on November 23. The new hospital will be a 10-story building with 5 underground levels while the College of Medicine will be a 12-story building with five levels underground. Both constructions are anticipated to be completed by late 2018.

In the congratulatory speech, President Kyunghee Choi stated "The new hospital and College of Medicine campus, equipped with world-class education, research and clinical practice facilities, will contribute to accelerating a path to realize the vision: Innovation Ewha, Leading Global Excellence." In the following welcoming remarks, Seung Cheol Kim, President of the Medical Center mentioned, “This new institution will represent a breakthrough for the Medical Center to establish itself as a medical herb in Northeastern Asia.”

Ewha School of Medicine and the College of Pharmacy have educated women leaders in health, medicine, and pharmacy since their establishment in 1945, and celebrated their 70th anniversaries in 2015.

International Conference on White Porcelain of East Asia

Ewha Womans University Museum held an international conference of “White Porcelain of East Asia” on September 11, as part of an exhibition of White Porcelain in the Joseon Dynasty which was held to commemorate the museum's 80th anniversary. Many history scholars from China, Japan and Korea participated in this seminar and shared their research about the characteristics of White Porcelain, and how white porcelain and traditional skills were exchanged throughout East Asia.
13 Ewha students participated in the Summer Academy Reunification (SARU) at University of Rostock, Germany from July 1 to 15. SARU was established by the German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) to celebrate its 25th anniversary of reunification. The program is designed to share Germany's experience and social change of reunification with university students from all over the world. Participating in various lectures and seminars, students had an opportunity to discuss legal, economic, regional, cultural, social and demographic factors of reunification with German students, who share a similar history of living in a divided country. The 2nd Ewha-Rostock program will be held in 2016 at Ewha campus and will discuss the application of Germany’s reunification case to the Korean peninsula.

Ewha-Rostock 2015 Summer Academy Reunification (SARU)

Ewha overseas Program

30 Ewha students, led by 2 faculty members, participated in the Ewha Overseas Program and visited various international organizations, world-top universities, and broadcasting companies located in France and England. The program participants first visited the headquarter of the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), attended lectures regarding the role of international organization at the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and the International Energy Agency (IEA). Additionally, they visited University of Paris 1 Pantheon-Sorbonne, University of East London, Cambridge University and the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC).

Since its launch in 2008, this program is offered twice a year during summer and winter breaks. It has now grown to one of Ewha’s most popular global programs as it provides students with opportunities to experience various fields overseas and expand their perspective and knowledge.

Ewha Volunteer Team Meets Korean Adoptees in the U.S.

Ewha’s volunteer team participated in a two-week volunteer program in the U.S. They visited Camp Lakamaga and the Korean Heritage House in Saint Paul, Minnesota to meet with Korean adoptees in the U.S., and taught them Korean language, culture, food, art, dance, etc. Ewha volunteers shared the children’s difficulties and motivated them to learn about their mother country. The Ewha volunteer team was first founded in 2000 and has volunteered in educational, medical, various other services to put Ewha’s spirit of sharing and helping to practice.
Ewha Korean Traditional Music Orchestra, the very first women's Korean traditional music orchestra in Korea newly founded in December 2015, had a successful first recital on December 8. The Ewha Korean Traditional Music Orchestra consists of 40 undergraduate, graduate, and doctoral students majoring in Korean Traditional Music at Ewha. Under the motto of “The beauty of Korean music blooms through Ewha”, the Ewha Korean Traditional Music Orchestra hopes to show the beauty and harmony of Korean traditional music to the world.

In the women’s visually impaired category, Korean paralympian Jae Rim Yang and Un So Ri Ko, both undergraduate students of Ewha, won gold medals in two of the competitions at Southern Hemisphere Cup hosted by 2015 International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Alpine Skiing. This event took place at Coronet Peak in New Zealand in August 24-27, 2015.

These two champions took glorious honor of winning gold medals in both women’s slalom and giant slalom at the event as well as another additional gold medal at 2015 IPC Alpine Skiing New Zealand National Championships on August 26-27.

Ewha Language Center Holds its 24th Korean Language Speaking Contest

The Ewha Language Center held a Korean Language Speaking Contest for international students on October 6. The theme of this year’s contest was My Dream and My Goal, Tips on Enjoying Korea to the Fullest and Beautiful Korea. Bitschene Jennifer, student from Germany, was awarded the winner of the best speech. In addition to the speeches, international students showed off their dancing and singing skills as they danced to their favorite K-pop music. Wei Ran from China performed Chinese traditional dance and Ewha’s very own Chocolate, a string ensemble, played a Gayageum trio, adding festivity to the contest.

The Korean Language Speaking Contest started all the way back in 1991 to encourage and support international students who have come to Ewha to learn Korean language.

Vision Impaired National Skiers Win 3 Gold Medals at 2015 International Paralympic Committee (IPC) Alpine Skiing

Korea’s First Korean Traditional Music Orchestra by Ewha
Ms. Daniela Schadt Pays a Visit to Ewha

On October 12 President Kyunghee Choi had a luncheon meeting with Daniela Schadt, the First Lady of Germany at Aryeong-dang. Mrs. Christina Mafael, spouse of the Ambassador of Germany to Korea, Mrs. Ok-Kyung Han, spouse of the Ambassador of Korea to Germany, and Mrs. Isabel Lorenz, First Secretary of Embassy of the Federal Republic of Germany in Korea also joined the meeting. Discussions followed on the role of women today and the importance of education to nurture global woman leaders. This visit was made during Ms. Schadt and German President Joachim Gauck’s state visit to Korea from October 11 to 14.

Enhancing Collaboration with China

President Kyunghee Choi visited Beijing to accelerate international cooperation with Chinese education and research institutes. On December 7, President Choi had a meeting with Cao Shihai, Deputy Secretary General of the China Scholarship Council (CSC), a non-profit institution affiliated with the Ministry of Education of China and discussed ways to increase opportunities for more Chinese students to study at Ewha through the CSC. As a special guest, she attended, “Sound of Peace: Korea-China Joint Concert” held at the National Center for the Performing Arts. Ewha Orchestra composed of students from the College of Music was also invited by the Korea-China Association for cultural exchange and performed during the concert.

On December 8, President Choi visited Peking University and discussed with President Lin Janhua to further strengthen collaborations between the two universities. The discussions covered expansion of student exchange programs, academic exchange in various fields, and a joint project among Korean, Chinese, and Japanese universities.

Meeting with Members of French University Presidents

On October 13, President Kyunghee Choi welcomed a delegation from the Conference of University Presidents (France) including President of Paris Diderot University - Paris 7, Christine Clerici and President of Paris 13 University, Jean-Loup Salzmann and H.E. Fabien Penone, the new Ambassador of France to Korea. At the meeting they explored ways to develop more active exchange and to build up a closer mutual friendship, and also reached a common understanding on the need for cooperative efforts to resolve difficulties caused by different school systems between French and Korean universities.
Strengthened Partnership with Rhode Island School of Design

A delegation led by President Rosanne Somerson of Rhode Island School of Design (RISD) visited Ewha and met President Kyunghee Choi on October 26. It was President Somerson's first international visit since her inauguration in 2015. Ewha and RISD have a longstanding partnership since 1999, and in 2015 they have jointly presented a creative model of collaborative global education named Slice of Life: Dwelling, Thinking, Making. This cross-disciplinary studio/seminar/apprenticeship courses took place at Ewha with the participation of 8 students each from Ewha and RISD, taught by RISD Architecture Professor Peter Tagiuri and Ewha Anthropology Professor Younghoon Kim. President Somerson and President Choi have agreed to further strengthen the ties and to expand the collaborative program in 2016.

Vice Presidents of Xiaomi Visit Ewha

On November 11, Vice Presidents of Xiaomi visited Ewha. Xiaomi's Vice Presidents showed interest in Ewha's achievements of nurturing many global woman leaders and invited President Choi to Xiaomi's upcoming foundation anniversary ceremony. They explored broader schemes of cooperation and President Choi suggested collaboration in IT, design, internship, and co-research between Ewha and Xiaomi.

Mark Taylor, Director of Production TV at DreamWorks Animation, Delivers Speech on “Animation and Dream”

Mark Taylor, the Director of Production TV at DreamWorks Animation, visited Ewha on March 26 to deliver a special lecture "Animation and Dream" as a part of Ewha Film and Animation Forum hosted by the College of Art and Design. Mr. Taylor is one of the most influential leaders in the global animation market who has produced Nickelodeon's biggest hits, "Sponge Bob", "The Fairly Odd Parents", and "The Rugrats", making it the #1 kids broadcasting network in the world. During his speech, Mr. Taylor introduced DreamWorks, discussed the process of making cartoons, careers in animation and the potential of Korean animation designers whom he described to be talented in design and animation skills such as 2D, CG.

Integration of International & Korean Students

At the beginning of 2015 fall semester, the Ewha PEACE (Professional Ewhaians At Cultural Exchange) Buddies hosted a farm experience for international students. They enjoyed harvesting sweet potatoes, pounding rice cake, cooking Korean pancakes, and trying on Hanbok (the traditional Korean outfit). 2015 fall marked the highest number of international exchange and visiting students at Ewha with 471 students from 28 countries. With the evergrowing number of international students on campus (471 international exchange and visiting students, 823 degree-seeking international students from 69 countries), efforts are being made to foster the integration of international and Korean students. This includes Get it Global 2015, where Korean students who have or are interested in studying abroad had the chance to interact with international students on campus.