

IGL Student Delegation to North and South Korea

Research Trip Report

May 28 – June 10, 2011



Itinerary

| | |
|--------|--|
| May 28 | Arrive in Pyongyang |
| May 29 | Wonsan |
| May 30 | Pyongyang |
| May 31 | Int'l Gift Museum |
| June 1 | Pyongyang |
| June 2 | Sariwon, Haeju |
| June 3 | Kaesong, DMZ |
| June 4 | Depart Pyongyang |
| June 5 | Seoul |
| June 6 | Yongsan, Kaisa |
| June 7 | Ministry of Unification, Korea University |
| June 8 | Korean War Museum, U.S. Embassy |

Inspired by the 2010-2011 EPIIC theme, “Our Nuclear Age: Peril and Promise,” several Colloquium students endeavored to gain a better understanding of one of the most bedeviling issues in international relations: a nuclear North Korea.

The students made contact with the Pyongyang Project, a Canadian non-profit organization whose mission is to forge greater academic cooperation and cultural exchange between North Koreans and Westerners. The Project’s leaders organized a two-week long trip to North and South Korea that aimed to give the seven participating EPIIC students a fuller understanding of the political, social, and cultural contexts of each country. Each student conducted individual research projects on issues affecting the Korean Peninsula, using information from interviews, meetings and observation during the two-week trip.



Getting to the DPRK

The group entered the DPRK via Shenyang, the capital of Liaoning Province in Northeast China. Our passports were not stamped, rather we received paper DPRK visas. For the duration of the trip, our passports were kept by our guides.



THE PYONGYANG PROJECT

Building Trust and Understanding through Knowledge Exchange

From the Project's website:

“The Pyongyang Project, founded in 2009, is a Canadian non-profit organization that pioneers a grassroots approach to engaging the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (North Korea) through knowledge exchange programs.

Our mission is straightforward: to forge greater academic cooperation and cultural exchange between North Koreans and Westerners. We firmly believe that peaceful engagement, dialogue and cooperation is the most direct way to build trust, promote mutual respect, and lay the foundation for peace and prosperity between North Korea and the global community.

We invite Western students and academics to North Korea to participate in short-term courses focusing on Korean language acquisition, consensus building and conflict resolution, as well as arrange cultural visits and student exchange activities in Pyongyang. In exchange, we facilitate targeted academic training programs in agriculture, food sustainability and medical science for North Korean professors and young scholars in the West.”

<http://www.pyongyangproject.org/>

Michael Spavor

“Michael is from Calgary, Alberta, Canada and completed his BA in International Relations focusing on Korea and East Asian Studies at the University of Calgary. During the past ten years, Michael has visited the DPRK for both travel and work. In 2005, he became the managing director of the Global Aid Network (GAIN), a Canadian NGO, instructing and overseeing graphic Design and English courses at the Korea Computer Center (KCC) in Pyongyang, DPRK. He also worked as an adjunct professor at the University of Calgary as an ESL and cultural integration instructor, specifically focusing on Korea and Korean language. Recently, Michael has worked as an international consultant in the tourism and convention industry and has been frequently published in the UNWTO's Asia Pacific Newsletter. Michael is well connected in both the diplomatic and international aid organizations communities in the DPRK. Michael is fluent in English, Korean and French.”

<http://www.pyongyangproject.org/>

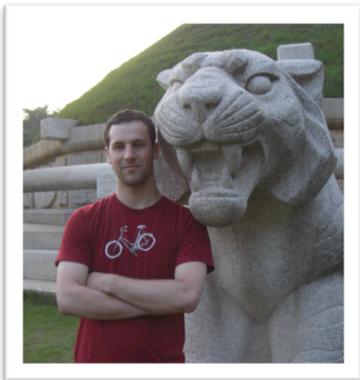


Student Profiles



Chelsea Brown

Chelsea graduated from Tufts in 2011, where she studied International Relations with a concentration in International Security. As an EPIIC “recidivist,” Chelsea was a member in both the 2008-2009 and 2010-2011 EPIIC colloquia, studying global cities and nuclear issues, respectively. During her years at Tufts, she was an active member of the ALLIES program (Alliance Linking Leaders in Education and the Services) and served as the co-chair of the National Security and Civil Liberties Project.



Bradley Harris

Born in Philadelphia, Bradley spent his early childhood living near London, England. His interest in politics and international relations grew out of the diverse places and cultures he was able to experience while living and traveling in Europe. After moving back to the Philadelphia area, Brad continued to pursue these interests. In high school he was the head of the Model United Nations club and a political forum discussion group as well as becoming an avid student of history. He also played varsity soccer and lacrosse. At Tufts Bradley has participated in the IGL's US-China symposium and in Tufts Republicans.



Ian Kelly

John (Ian) Kelly studies International Relations at Tufts University with a focus on the intersection of human security, economic security, and environmental security. He has traveled on research to North and South Korea, China and Colombia, and wishes to explore the Middle East and Africa. Ian enjoys surfing, playing the violin, and reading.



Daniel Lakin

Daniel Lakin is a recent graduate of Tufts, with a bachelor's degree in political science. He is interested in international relations, development, and security studies. In his last year at Tufts, he became involved in EPIIC, an amazing and challenging program focusing on breaking down boundaries in academic thinking and world problems. Through EPIIC, he heard about an amazing opportunity to travel to North Korea and conduct research in the South, and soon found himself helping to set up the entire trip. He had an amazing experience on the Korean peninsula, and hopes to head back there as soon as he can. He is currently living in Washington DC, interning for Senator Kay Hagan of North Carolina.



Alexa Petersen

Alexa Petersen is a rising junior at Tufts University, majoring in Political Science and Peace and Justice Studies. She is a 2010-2011 alumnus of EPIIC: Our Nuclear Age, and served on the Program Committee for the EPIIC symposium throughout that year. Her interests are focused on human rights and institution building in conflict or post-conflict zones-- which certainly applies to the DPRK's robust recovery and growth after the Korean War through socialism, in addition to possible plans for reunification. In the DPRK, Alexa became particularly fascinated with enemy creation, propaganda through primary and secondary schools, and the Public Distribution System.



Peter Radosevich

Peter Radosevich is an honors graduate of Tufts University from the class of 2009. He has been interested in the DPRK since he researched the Agreed Framework of 1994 his freshman year in college. His continued interest East Asia led him to conduct extensive research on China's water crisis and agricultural reforms, which prompted him to move to Beijing to learn Chinese after graduation. He is now proficient in Mandarin Chinese, working in a foreign enterprise in China and teaching United States history on the weekends. He also has had opportunities to present his research on China's water crisis through speaking engagements at TEDx events and at Renmin University in Beijing.



Emily Roston

Pending

Overview

By Emily Roston



After a bumpy flight from China on North Korea's national airline our two guides met us at the Pyongyang airport. They escorted us to our bus and bus driver and the ten of us remained a unit for the duration of our stay. In the morning we woke up, breakfasted at a restaurant in the hotel then loaded onto our trusty bus to begin the adventures of the day. Unless we were in our hotel or at a meal, one or both of our guides was with us at all times. In each of our three hotels our guides were one room down from ours. At meals, they ate in another room or just a few tables away.

Our day-to-day life was fairly mundane. The trip was arranged in advance by the Pyongyang Project and one of their employees accompanied us for the duration. Our entire schedule was designed and approved by the DPRK's tourism board weeks before we arrived. Everything from the destinations to the specific routes we traveled and the times we arrived were meticulously planned. As a result, it was very hard to make changes to fit our particular interests and goals.

Luckily for our group, our Pyongyang Project guide, Michael, knew his way around the sites and adjusted what he could on our behalves. Since groups generally do not find out to which tour guide they have been assigned, or have any way of contacting them even if they did, it is very hard to make most of these arrangements in advance. It is thanks to Michael that we were able to see the highly political Military Circus and tour the Kim Il Sung University. Our days were tightly scheduled and we tried to visit as many sites and cities as we could get permission to see.



All of our meals were a minimum of four or five courses. We feasted on dumplings filled with ground meat, soups, barbequed beef slices, eggs, fish, fried rice, noodles, french-fries, kimchi, rice and countless varieties of shredded, pickled or otherwise prepared vegetables which none of us recognized. We had to learn to pace ourselves in order to have room to try everything and there was no way we could finish the plethora of dishes placed before us each day.

The food was delicious and meticulously prepared almost without exception. It makes sense that a country experiencing a near-perpetual food shortage would treat cooking with a certain reverence and I had some of the most delicious meals of my life there. We all knew that we were experiencing an odd bubble of life in the DPRK – practically in the lap of luxury – but sometimes it was hard to reconcile our knowledge of the countless human rights violations and starving families just out of our sights with being treated like celebrities and leaving food on our plates. As much as we saw and learned, our experience of the DPRK was nothing close to the average resident's.



We wondered if being young and students endeared those we met to opening up to us more than they otherwise would. Despite the anti-“American Imperialist Bastard” propaganda everywhere, our guides told us that despite their country's war and hatred of the American government and armed forces, they did not blame the American population in general. Since we were students, they also explained their version of our countries' relations to us, and we did our parts by listening and politely restraining ourselves from challenging what we were told.

Architecture

The most important buildings in the DPRK are built on enormous scale and are very impressive and intimidating. They seem to have been designed to exemplify the supposed strength and longevity of the Workers' Party and Kim regime. The majority of the rest of the architecture falls into one of two categories: post-war Soviet-bloc styled apartment buildings or mud-walled huts with rusty metal roofs hidden from view from the road by low walls. There really is nothing in the world quite like driving through lush, verdant and untouched mountains only to come to a valley filled with rice patties and a handful of cement-block apartment buildings clustered to one side.



Apparently farmland is so precious that the Kim regime “suggested” that valley towns be demolished and the populations relocated to more land-efficient apartment buildings built on the hillsides.

Throughout the trip we drove absolutely everywhere on our little bus. Even if we were only going four blocks we climbed aboard and drove. In Kaesong we received special permission to walk about five blocks from our hotel and up a steep hill in order to appreciate one of the largest statues of Kim II Sung.

Kaesong was a stark contrast to the rest of the country. It is apparently one of the few cities left in the DPRK with pre-Korean War sections still standing. The area of town in which we stayed

was built in the centuries-old tradition of compound-style homes with courtyards in the middle. At our hotel we experienced “real” North Korean-style living with only one half hour of hot water, limited hours of electricity, and slept on reed mats.

Individual Reflections



Chelsea Brown, A'11

A quick search of “North Korea” Google Images will yield an array of photos of goose-stepping soldiers, satellite images of the darkened country at night, missiles, and Kim Jong-Il cartoons. This is where the majority of the world’s populations stands in its understanding of North Korea—a strange mix of sinister and menacing, degenerate and pathetic.

Over Thanksgiving break, I spoke to my relatives of my intention to travel to North Korea, this place of unparalleled obscurity. It didn’t help my case that merely two days before, the Western world awoke to news that showed columns of smoke rising from the Yeongpeong islands. While they were equanimous in their responses, their raised eyebrows communicated fear for my well-being (and perhaps an unspoken inquiry of my sanity). In one form or another, they all asked, “Is it worth the risk?”

My vague expectations of seeing military checkpoints and Potemkin villages and Russian-brand desolation were dispelled as we drove from the airport into the city of Pyongyang at dusk. In contrast to the industrial wasteland that greets visitors flying into most big-city airports, this drive was poetically beautiful: sun glinted of the water in the ample rice paddies while farmers lounged in the shade of the tall trees next to the fields. Pyongyang boasted wide avenues, large parks, a long winding river flanked by bike paths and willow trees. Compared to the bustle of Shenyang, our point of transit from China to this country, Pyongyang was the epitome of urban tranquility. I felt safe.



During our four-hour drive to Wonsan, a port city on the eastern coast, my most poignant reflections occurred. I have traveled through rural India, Indonesia, Africa, and Latin America, and I have never seen a countryside remotely like that of North Korea. The mountains were remarkably steep and verdant. Tucked away in the valleys were massive apartment complexes, I assumed the collective farms. I was stunned by how and why such large concrete structures could be built in the most remote locations.

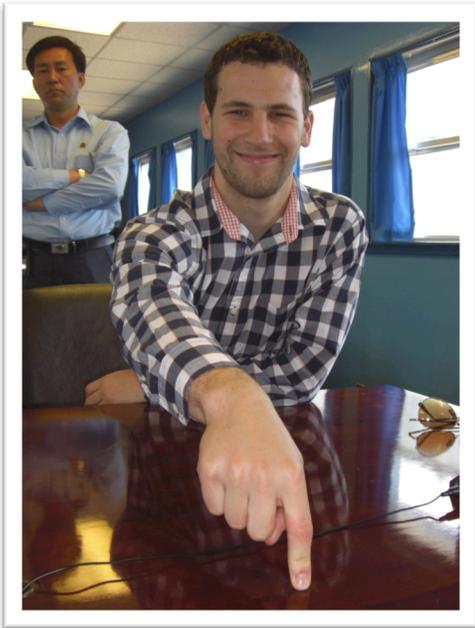
It made me think about the benefits of a socialist system in which, ostensibly, the baseline needs of the masses are provided for. The alleged downside of such a system is that people do not have the right or opportunity to choose their own fate. But what of those mired in poverty in the rest of the world? Can they choose their fate? Race and class is as almost as much a determinant of one's destiny as government decree. Is it not cruel to dangle the illusions of capitalist wealth above the heads of those who, by birth, cannot hope to achieve it?



North Korea was presented to us as an embattled socialist utopia, encircled by hostile powers and uncertain allies. It is a country struggling to move forward, while working to correct the tragic digression of history—the bifurcation of the Peninsula. By the end of the trip, I had a much better understanding of North Korean foreign and domestic policies, and came to deeply respect the resilience and bravery of the North Korean people. Was I brainwashed? No. I would say “brain-filled.” If EPIIC taught me anything, it was to learn about issues from all possible angles, to embrace ambiguities and multiple truths, to analyze events in their historical, strategic, and emotional contexts, and to understand the maddening breach between theory and practice. It is possible to praise the tenets of Juche ideology, while condemning its damaging externalities. It is appropriate to maintain hope for better relations between North Korea and the US, while acknowledging the myriad issues that obstruct lasting peace. Most importantly, I think, it is vital to be aware of North Korea’s contraventions of international law, but to not let those abuses alone define the country’s identity and aspirations.

Bradley Harris, Tufts '13

This tour of Korea was a 360 degree view of an international conflict. Not only were we exposed to views in all of the relevant countries, but we got a glimpse of the conflict through many different lenses. Each new person we met talked about the same events and issues, but their differing backgrounds gave a different perspective and therefore each conversation was unique.



Over the course of two weeks we heard from the North Koreans, American Military analysts, American Military soldiers, American journalists, international journalists, South Korean government officials, NGO leaders, academics, a consultant on North Korean issues, North Korean watchers, South Korean students, an international student studying in Seoul, and a South Korean businessman. We also had many conversations amongst each other, which was equally interesting given that all the students on the trip came from different academic and personal backgrounds.

Hearing so many contrasting opinions compressed into such a short period of time was utterly bewildering. I especially remember one dinner where I was listening to an American military official during my first bowl of Makgeolli (Korean rice wine), a military analyst during my main course, and finally an international journalist during my second bowl of Makgeolli. Swiftly jumping between different points of view meant constantly challenging any opinions or conclusions I had previously come to.

Ultimately, I learned a tremendous amount from this trip. Before this trip, I felt confident that I knew how to solve many of the problems on the Korean peninsula. Of course, I knew that this confidence stemmed out of ignorance. The problems seemed easy to solve because I simply knew too little about the conflicts. Well after this trip, I humbly admit that I am no longer confident that I know the solution to Korea's problems.

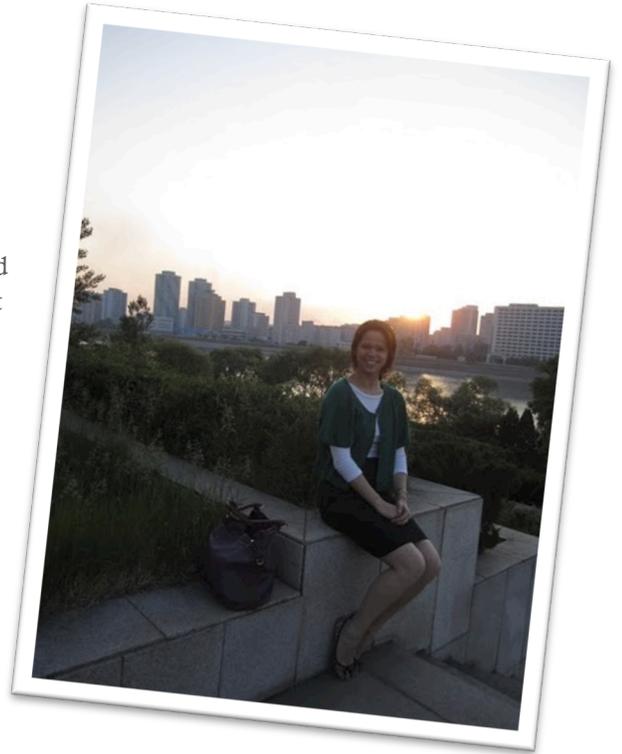


Alexa Petersen, Tufts '13

The way in which the DPRK was described—perhaps demonized—in the American media made the trip a surreal experience. In our minds, we could not even imagine how a country like this might seem, might operate, might look like. What we came to realize was far different than what we were told. We realized that before ever establishing dialogue, we must truly recognize and appreciate the other point of view. By doing this for our guides, we were welcomed with an outstretched hand, sober dialogue, and, most importantly, friendship.

The relationship that we formed with two DPRK citizens necessitated the same kind of respect that a relationship between our countries might need. We came to recognize that the foundation for a dialogue with the DPRK may not be espionage, scape goats, trigger events, nuclear capability, or the like. It was respect for the other point of view. It was recognition.

After talking to our military guide at the De-Militarized Zone, one of the most highly contentious and highly guarded regions of the world, he said to us “we have only known each other a few minutes, and we already understand each other. Why can’t our countries do the same thing?” We continue to ask ourselves the same question.





A Journey Into the North Korean Subway System

By Alexa Petersen

When we went into the Subway station, we were ushered right through without paying. It's possible that no one pays at the subway, as all amenities the DPRK are a gift from the General. We were in some of the deepest subway systems in the world—rumored to be intended nuclear shelters for citizens, if the DPRK were to be attacked.

When we got down to the subway vestibule it was nothing short of grand—large chandeliers, beautiful paintings, and magnificently decorated ceilings. For something that looked so different from the New York subways I was used to, the people seemed to be doing quite the same thing that we do back in America. They were going to work, reading newspapers, talking to their friends, and escorting their children. And besides the fact that we were the main attraction on the subway—its not often that you see Americans riding the subway in the DPRK—the subway ride seemed to be very similar to what we did back home.

The biggest opportunity we got there was to go to a third station, while most other tourists only get to see two. There was no doubt a difference in grandeur between the first two “tourist” stations and the third, but there were still some beautiful murals to admire and a grand stature



Wonsan Agricultural College

By Bradley Harris



Our visit to the Wonsan Agricultural College could best be described as a visit to the museum at the college. We were shown pictures and maps in Korean, while the guide spoke about how the Great Leader, Kim Il-Sung, decided that the farmers must be educated so that they could provide the nation with food. The museum was primarily concerned with the Great Leader and his comrade's contribution to making the college a valuable asset to the nation. Information about crop production was clearly mixed with communist ideology.

Outside of the greenhouse, our guide proudly announced that the red triangles and lines on the ground noted where the Great Leader had posed for a picture. After she was done explaining how the greenhouse was a gift from the Great Leader himself, a few of us needed to use the restroom and were led into a different wing of the university. On this short walk we got to see, from a distance, parts of the college that were not prepared for our visit. The other buildings at the college were undecorated concrete that looked ready to collapse.

Finally we walked past the college's athletic fields where a few students were playing soccer. I asked our guide if it would be possible to join them for a quick game. She went and asked the coach who was more than happy to let us play. The dirt field had only a few patches of grass, the goalposts had no nets, and the ball looked like it had seen better days. The students had never received formal coaching, and the quality of the soccer was quite poor. Yet, everyone involved had a fantastic time. A small group of workers and students even stopped working to watch the Koreans and Americans play the world's sport.



Outside of the museum, we saw students tending to the plants. The students were all wearing full suits in spite of the fact that they were working in the dirt. The shrubs, flowers, and trees that they were tending to were beautiful and immaculately kept. In front of the greenhouse, our guide proudly announced that the red triangles and lines on the ground noted where the Great Leader had posed for a picture.





International Children's Day

By Alexa Petersen

International Children's Day became one of our group's favorite days of the entire trip. The DPRK came alive in a big field just outside Pyongyang, all the Kindergarteners from each school in the capital came together for a day of dancing, singing, and games. We watched as the children enjoyed their day off and we even helped facilitate some of the games!

We all really enjoyed being able to interact with some of the diplomats who came to the celebration with their children. Because the DPRK has few foreign embassies, it was really intriguing to get the perspective of these diplomats, many of which have lived there for decades.

Most of all, we all loved interacting with the teenagers who were sent to the festivities to talk to foreigners in order to practice their English. For lack of a better phrase, we slowly began to realize that young people are young people—behind the guarded walls of the DPRK or not. Young people have a unique and specific language and, no matter the upbringing, there is something about our collective energy that never ceases to bring us together.



The Demilitarized Zone

By Chelsea Brown



I had heard the border between North and South Korea was the most heavily defended in the world, but true to its name, it appeared—for the most part—demilitarized. We crossed the DMZ in stages, starting at the gateway on the North Korean side. Two huge works of propaganda stood near the concrete pillars: the image of a hand signaling the number “one” and two smiling children, both set against the background of a united Korean peninsula. Given the physical and political barriers that stretched out before us, this propaganda was many things: a dream, a menace, a chimera.

The land in the DMZ was grassy and wild. The sites of battles, both ancient and modern, have always intrigued me. In places like DMZ, Gettysburg and Alsace-Lorraine, it is always an interesting exercise to superimpose images of horror and bloodshed over the reality of wildflowers and long grasses.

Our next stop was at Panmunjom “village,” consisting of two buildings, one big and one small, nestled in the surrounding greenery. The small one was sparsely furnished – sturdy wooden tables and slim chairs. We sat at the same table where endless negotiations about the armistice had transpired. Again, it was surreal imagining pounding fists and raised voices in a place where only our footsteps and distant bird chirps were heard. We sat at that green felt table where history was made, listening intently to our guide, a colonel in the North Korean army, tell the story of the conclusion of the war.

We continued to the next building, a massive, parking-garage-like structure, where the Armistice Agreement had been signed between the DPRK and United Nations. Along the back wall, photos, documents, and captured soldier paraphernalia was on display. Though less triumphalist than, say, the Great Fatherland Liberation War Museum that we would visit later that day, this display showed many images of American defeat.





The Pyongyang Amusement Park

Our first night in Pyongyang, we had the opportunity to visit the Amusement Park, where interacted with locals and shared in their fun. The park was described as a gift from Kim Jong-Il to the people, and it was filled with Italian-made rides, games, and food.

Continued (DMZ)

Inside the blue house, we took seats around the table where negotiations between the North and South still occur. A microphone cord that stretched down the center formed the official border between North and South—an almost comical nod to the battle line that both sides had bled themselves to defend and to try, unsuccessfully, to abolish. Better that than barbed wire, perhaps.

Before leaving the JSA, we stopped in the restrooms of the North Korean security building. There were no lights and no toilet paper. As we used a keychain flashlight to illuminate the tiny bathroom, I sighed. North Korea can have as big of an army as it pleases, but the grandeur of its armed forces cannot hope to conceal the country's pervasive and crippling backwardness.



A Once in a Lifetime Opportunity...

...for us as well as the locals. In order to attend the park, citizens of the DPRK must sign up months, even years, in advance. The special nature of the occasion made for a very festive atmosphere.





Seoul, South Korea

By Chelsea Brown

We arrived in Seoul on the night of the June 4th. Somewhere between checking our emails using the free airport WiFi, watching a South Korean soap opera on the bus's flat screen TV, and gliding through Seoul's brightly lit sky-scrapers, we all knew we were in for a vastly different experience. In the next few days, our group crisscrossed Seoul from meeting to meeting, traversing vast intellectual distances and ideological divides as we did so. We had back-to-back meetings with meetings at the Yongsan U.S. Army Garrison, South Korean Ministry of Unification, the American Embassy, and various other governmental and non-governmental institutions. Lunches, dinners, and even late-night drinks were spent heatedly discussing Korean affairs.

In these discussions with deeply experienced and knowledgeable professionals, we were constantly forced to consider and reconsider our experience in the North. I found it challenging to try to hold on to—and make sense of—the empathy I had developed for the DPRK, especially in many discussions in Seoul that were critical at best and derisive at worst.

In a matter of days, we gained a thorough understanding of the multifarious, multifaceted opinions of South Koreans towards North Korea, opinions that generally varied according age, profession, and personal background. We spoke with journalists, professors, NGO workers, government officials, American military personnel, and South Korean student; all had somewhat different views on the state of affairs on the Korean peninsula.

One idea became especially clear: while the North remains bent on reunification, the South seeks to move boldly ahead into the 21st century on its own. Reunification looms in the background of the national conscience, like an invitation to Thanksgiving from obnoxious relatives. Maybe one year, just not this one please.



Yongsan Military Base

By Daniel Lakin



I remember not knowing at all what to expect of the base. I had never been on any sort of U.S. military compound before, and had no idea what I would see when I arrived. When we visited, I was struck by the style of the buildings within the compound, as many of them were relics from the Japanese occupation of Korea. The group was escorted from the outskirts of the base to the "White House," where the commander of U.S. forces in Korea has his office.

Once in the White House, we were ushered into the same room they use to brief visiting dignitaries, diplomats, and congressmen, and given the same presentation. Our hosts told us about the history of the U.S. mission in the ROK, its structure, and the reasons a strong U.S. presence there was still necessary.

One really interesting tidbit that sticks out in my mind is that our briefers were sure that in the event of a war on the peninsula, the ROK forces could hold their own against the North Koreans, without any American support.

I got the impression that although we were getting the standard briefing, the presenters opened up to us a bit more than they might have for their average guests. All of us had really done our homework on the U.S. presence in Korea and its history, and so were able to move rather quickly past the generalities that our hosts might have stuck to otherwise.



That, more than anything else, brought home to me that the U.S. force in the ROK is there solely as a deterrent against attack. If a war broke out tomorrow, and didn't bring in the Chinese or anyone else, South Korean soldiers would do the majority of the fighting and dying. They have taken up the burden of their own defense, leaving us as the guarantors of last resort.

On the whole, our time at Yongsan base was very pleasant and informative. We got along well with our hosts, joined them for lunch after the official briefing, and got into pleasant conversation with them. It was a really great way to start off the "official" portion of our time in the ROK, and left us hungry for more.

**Note: These photos are of the neighboring War Memorial, not the base itself

Korean War Museum

By Chelsea Brown

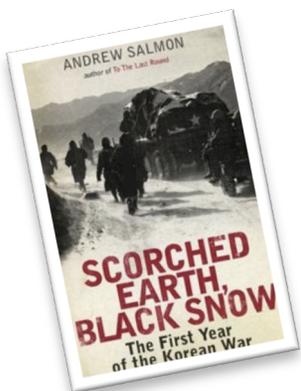


The War Memorial of Korea contains informational museum displays of Korea's wars throughout its history. Our group was given a private tour that focused on the Korean War. This museum's depiction of the war was less distorted than the North Korean War museum, but there were discernable partisan undertones. The mini-documentaries emphasized South Korea's status as the underdog, especially in the beginning stages of the war.

The time we attended the museum seemed to be prime field-trip season for the South Korean school system. We saw scores of children eating their packed lunches under the shade of massive bombers outside and even more being led through the museum. Some were so small that they had to walk down the front steps one at a time. For me, this reinforced the notion that the indoctrination of children occurs on both sides of the DMZ. The Korean conflict has endured many generations as prejudice, misunderstanding, and fear is passed from father to son and teacher to pupil.



Lecture by author Andrew Salmon



Andrew Salmon, a journalist and Korean war historian, gave us a presentation on the content of his new book, "Scorched Earth, Black Snow: Britain and Australia in the Korean War, 1950," which follows the 27th Commonwealth Brigade and 41st Commando, Royal Marines in their offensive against the North Korean army, and their slaughter as they retreated from Mao's 300,000 strong army. Salmon painted a riveting and thoroughly horrifying picture of the first year of a conflict that would consume the lives of thousands and thousands of both combatants and noncombatants in its three-year duration.

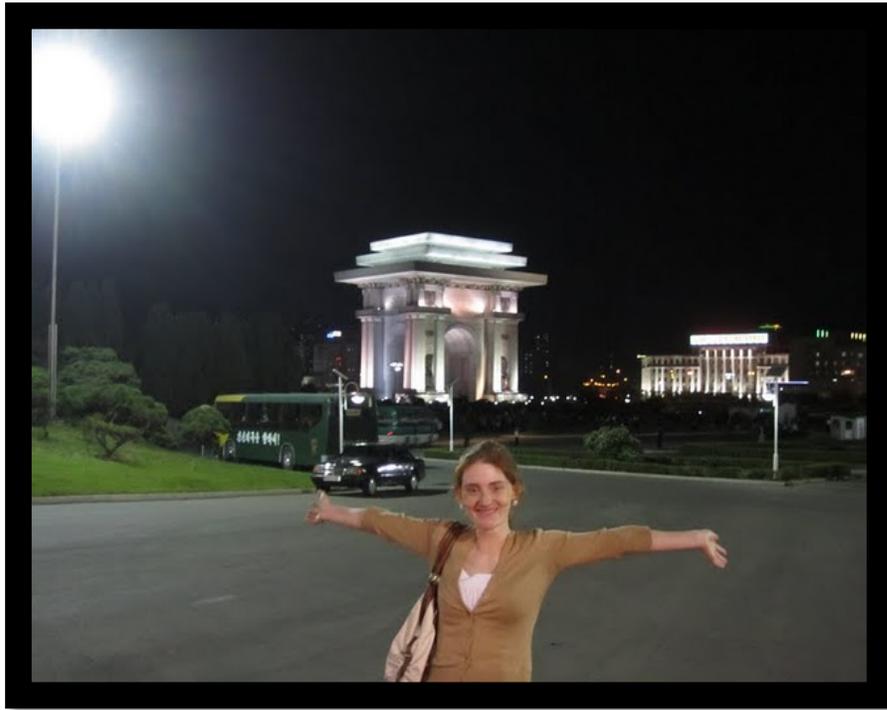
Photo Gallery



Delegation at the birthplace of Kim Il-Sung



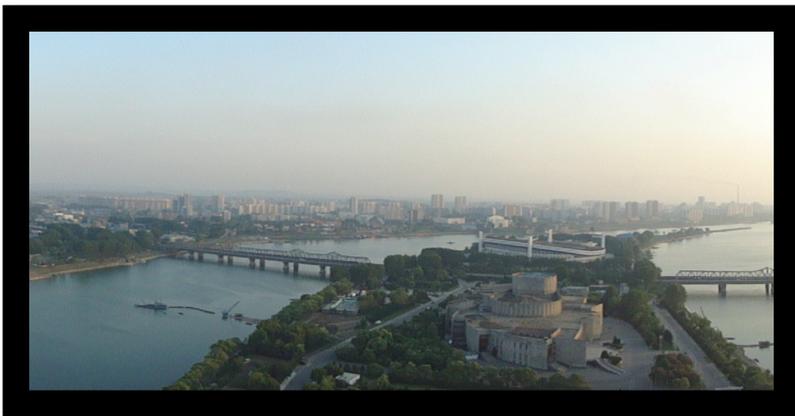
Brad, Peter, and Mr. Han at the U.S.S. Pueblo, a U.S. Navy spy ship captured by the North Korean army in 1968.



Emily in front of the Kaeson (“Triumph”) Arch on our first night in Pyongyang.



Propaganda painting near Kaeson square

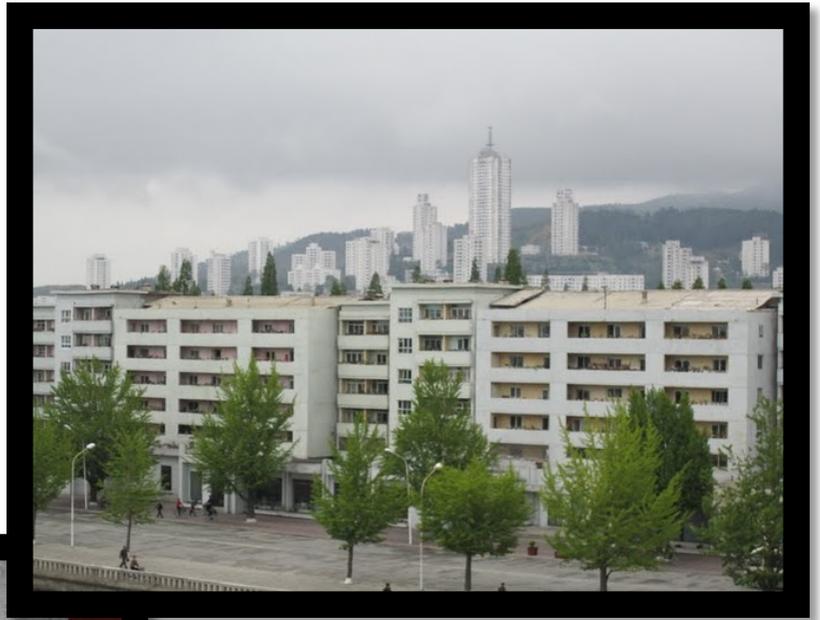


View from our hotel



The valiant few who braved the drop tower

The Wonsan skyline



Chelsea and Alexa near the entrance to Wonsan Agricultural College. Behind them is a quote by Kim Il-Sung about the importance of study.

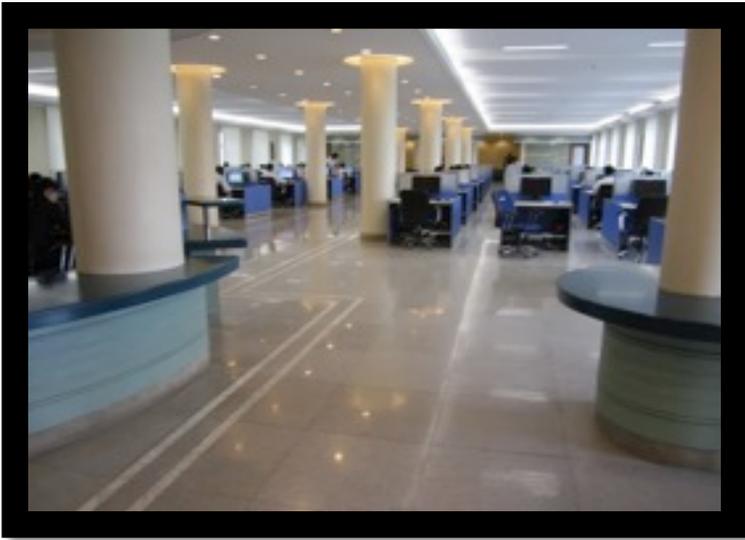


Artwork in the lobby of our hotel in Wonsan



A chilly day at the beach

Kim Il-Sung University



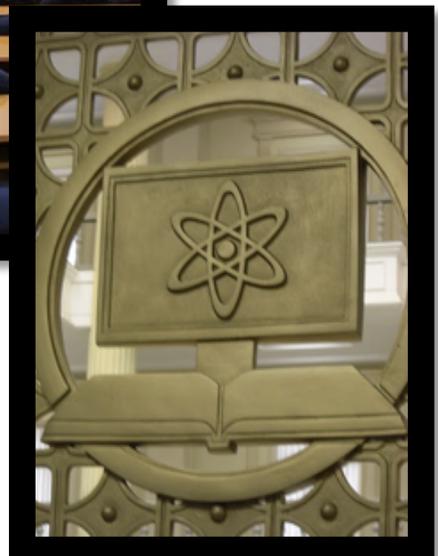
State-of-the-art computer lab and e-library



View of the campus from the main building



Lecture Hall, remodeled in 2010



The atomic symbol and an open book in the foyer

3 Revolutions Park



Flags symbolizing the 3 Revolutions: Cultural, Ideological, and Technical



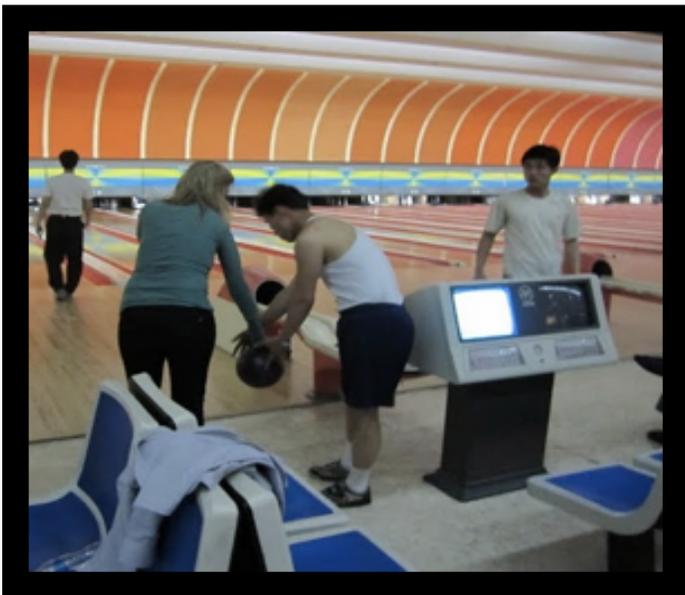
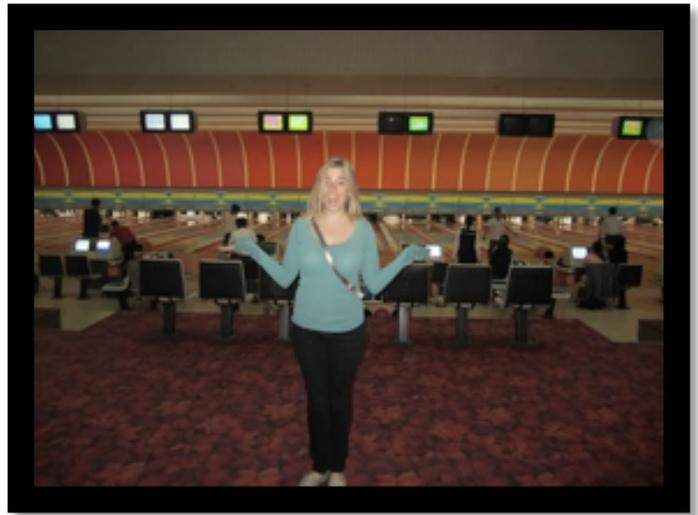
Emily on the stairs of the Technology building



A view inside the Agricultural Exposition



Bowling surprise!



Chelsea receives bowling guidance from a new friend

International Children's Day



Chelsea, Brad, Alexa and Peter with students of Foreign Studies from Kim Il-Sung University





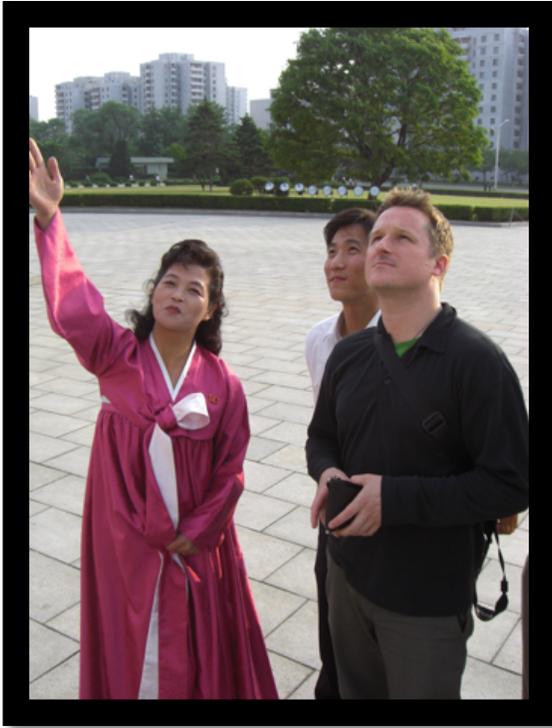
Delegation in front of the DPRK Foreign Ministry

Tower of the Juche Ideology—an iconographic monument in Pyongyang

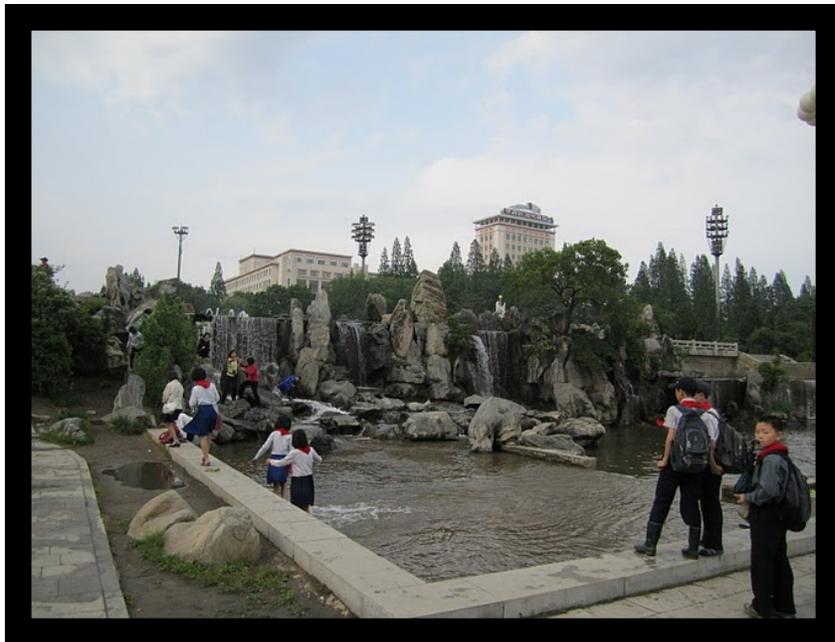


The Grand Study Hall





Michael, Mr. Han, and a guide giving us a lecture about the Monument for the Party Founding



Children play in a fountain after school

International Friendship Exhibition





Buddhist Temple



Children's Palace





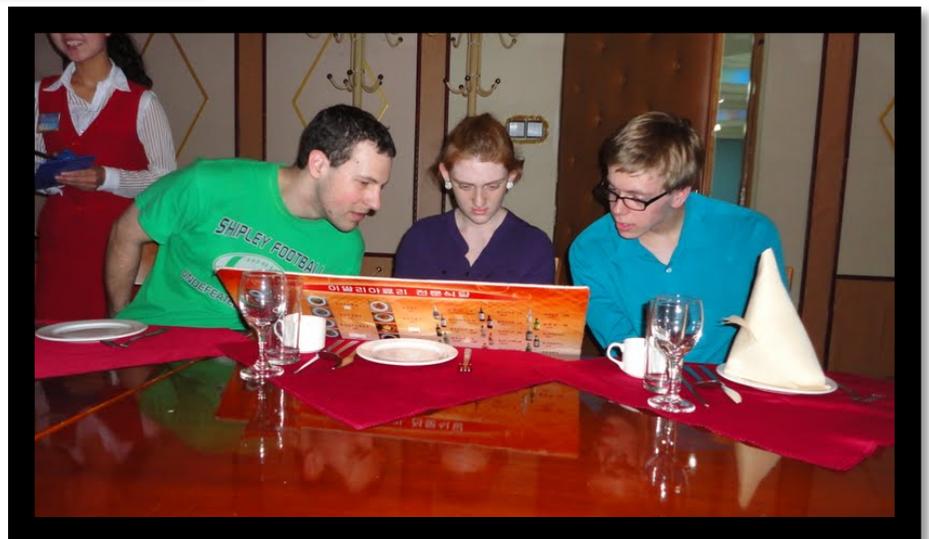
Lunch in Kaesong



Breakfast in Wonsan



Inside the Revolving Restaurant



Making big decisions at an Italian restaurant in Pyongyang

Inside a farmer's home



Emily at a rest stop on the road to Sariwon



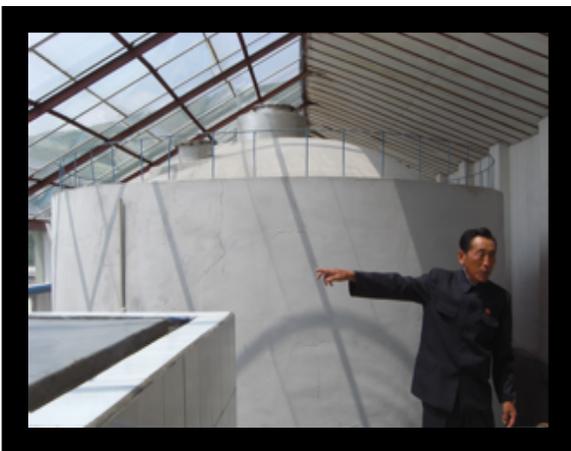
Delegation with a farmer and his granddaughter



Picnic in the park on the way to Haeju



A pig farm near Haeju



A methane tank used to power the pig farm



A mosaic displaying the layout of farms in the valley below

An “ideal store”



Tufts students looking at Kim Jong-Il looking at things in the museum for the “ideal cooperative farm.”



Propaganda



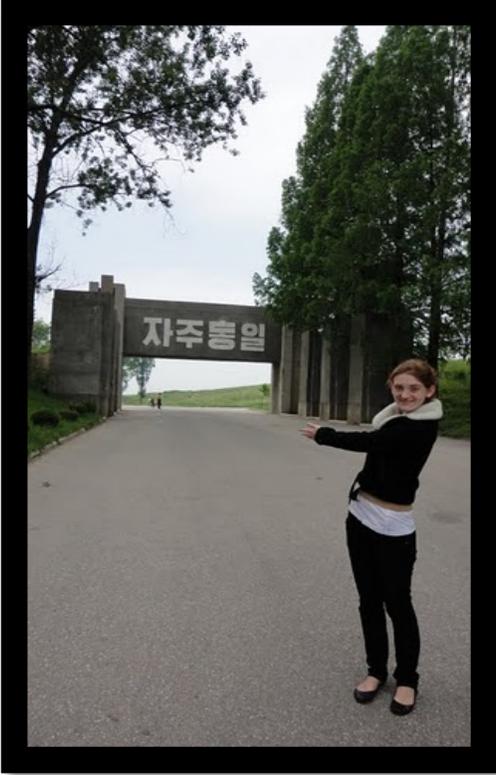


The southern portion of the country boasts the most arable land. There were many workers in the fields as it was rice-transplanting season.





A map of the Demilitarized Zone



Emily (left) and Chelsea (right) near the gates of the DMZ



Panmunjom village





Armistice House





The Great Victorious Fatherland Liberation War Museum



North Korean (Russian-made) aircraft



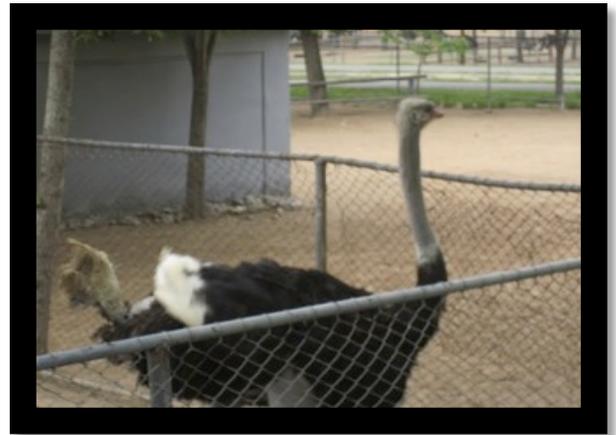
American aircraft crashed on North Korean territory



Painting depicting American retreat



Ostrich farm



The End

