

Pioneers in Asian Home Economics: The Oregon State University connection

Moderator: Betty E. Hawthorne

Oregon State University has been uniquely privileged to make contributions to the development of home economics in Asia--and in turn has been greatly enriched by the associations with Asian students, professionals and leaders.

The "Connection" Briefly:

In 1921 Dean Ava B. Milam requested a leave from Oregon State for reflection, to gain new perspectives, and to contribute in a new environment. She was encouraged to go to China by an American woman who was teaching in Japan. Eventually arrangements were completed for service for herself and a graduate, Camilla Mills, under auspices of the Women's Foreign Mission Board of the Methodist Church with efforts to be focused at Yenching University in Peking. Up to this time Western U.S. colleges had relatively little influence in the Orient. It was predominately colleges of New England that were investing money and lives in Asia. Ava Milam and Camilla Mills sailed in September 1922.

The years 1922-24 were concentrated in China developing the background, support, and needed adaptations for a home economics program. This resulted in the initiation of the first classes at Yenching University in Fall 1923, taught by Camilla Mills and Ava Milam. More modest beginnings occurred at Gingling University in Nanking and Hwa Nan College in Foochow. During 1922-24 Ava Milam also visited and consulted in Korea, Japan, and the Philippines regarding women's education and possibilities

for home economics programs.

Returning to Oregon State in 1924, Ava Milam brought a deep sense of the need for a greater "awareness of the world:" 1) a broadened curriculum in the liberal arts for home economics students; and 2) the need to find support for students from the Orient and other parts of the world to assist in their education and to add breadth to the education of American students. Both occurred. Oregon State pioneered in broadening liberal arts requirements in home economics curricula. The first scholarship to an Oriental was awarded in 1925.

Ava Milam's other visits to the Orient occurred in: Summer 1931 visiting Japan, Korea and Yenching University in China with shorter stops in Manila, Singapore, Burma, Ceylon, and India: a Home Economics study tour to Japan, China, and Korea *in 1937*; and in *Spring 1948* visits to Korea, Thailand, and China and participation in a commissioned survey of the Philippines.

Other Alumni and faculty who served in the Orient include: Ruth Gill, an alumna, who taught at Lingnan University in Canton, 1930-32; Maud Wilson who consulted in the post-war years regarding housing in Japan; Dr. Margaret Fincke and Agnes Kolshorn, who assisted at Kesetsart University in Thailand in the fifties; and Georgene Barte and Phyllis Grant who served in Pakistan on a Ford Foundation program.

Sources of support for Asian students included: personal funds; home country governments; the generous Oriental Scholarship Program of the Oregon Federation of Business and Professional Womens Clubs; and the AHEA International

Scholarship Program. During the first year after Ava Miam's return \$750 was raised to bring Irene Ho from Mukden, China in the Fall of 1925; she received an M.S. in 1926. Ham Na Kim from Ewas University in Korea was the second student: she received a B.S. in 1927, an M.S. in 1928.

As time progressed Asian students went to increasing numbers of U.S. institutions and increasing numbers of students from other continents came to Oregon State. Even so, by 1966 Asian students had received degrees in Home Economics at Oregon State as follows: China, 17; Korea, 8; India, 7; Japan, Philippines and Thailan, 6 each; and Pakistan, Ceylon, Burma, and Viet Nam, 1 or 2 each.

Any listing of names is incomplets, but it is my privilege to have known many of those who came to Oregon State since 1946 and to meet some who had come earlier. Many are well remembered as pioneers:

E Soon Choi, Sang Won Woo, Sang In Park, Sookja Park, and Soojae Moon from Korea; Chiyono Matsushima, Masu Takeda, Kazuko Ugawa, and Nobuko Sudo Kishida from Japan; Caroline Chen, Mei-Ling Wu and Hsi Hsuan Yu from china; Ma Kin thi from Burma; Prachuabchitr Vadhansaevi ("Babbit"), and Pratin Kutranon from Thailand; Pramela Pandit Barooah from India; and Josephine Pescador from the Philippines.

Today the OSU College of Home Economics, Oregon State University and Oregon are all richer for the foreign students that have been among us. Asia has made tremendous progress in the profession inspite of many adversities in the intervening years and carries world-wide leadership in the International Federation of Home Economies (IFHE). The Asian Regional Association for Home Economics (ARAHE) has memberships from ten countries at present: Japan, South Korea, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia,

Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Sri Lanka, nd Thailand.

In China the programs in home economics were casualties of the Cultural Revolution. This past May I received a letter from a recent OSU Ph. D. Alum (Heather Emberson-Buys) who is in China for a year. She was asked to meet with a group of 15 Yenching University Home Economics Alumae in Beijing for an update on home economics in the U.S. Among those attending were Caroline Chen Yi, the first Dean of Home Economics at Yenching University, and Yu Xi-Xuan (Hsi Hsuan Yu). These aging professionals, many who were dietitians, regret there are no pregrams now and they do not see hope for restarting programs for the immediate future.

Introduction of Speakers:

We are honored to have with us today two modern pioneers in Asian Home Economics.

Chiyono Matsushima (B.S. 1952; M.S. 1961, Oregon State University; Ph.D. Cornell University, 1966). Professor, Kyoritsu Women's University (Home Economics Education) Tokyo, Japan. Executive positions: Japan Society for Home Economies; President, Asian Regional Association for Home Economics; Member Executive Committee, International Federation Home Economics. "Home Economics Today: Our Cultural Concern."

Soojae Moon (B.S. 1958, Ewha Women's College; M.S. 1960, Oregon State University; Ph. D. 1982, Tokyo University). Professor (Foods and Nutrition) Yonsei University, Seoul, Korea. Dean (3 terms) College of Home Economics, Yonsei University. Past President, Korean Home Economics Association. Member Executive Committee, International Federation Home Economics "Korean Home Economics and Oregon State University."

Milestones of Korean Home Economics and Oregon State University

Professor of Younsei University

Soojae Moon Ph.D

I am very honored to have been invited to this program, celebrating the centennial of College of Home Economics at Oregon State University. As a graduate of this University, I am very privileged to have the opportunity to present this paper. Looking back at the historical figures of the College of Home Economics at OSU and their relation with the field of Home Economics in Korea has been interesting and rewarding to me. I hope that it will be equally interesting to all of you.

Before I talk about the history of Home Economics in Korea, I would like to mention the cultural and social changes occurring in Korea and especially the women's roles and their present situation in society for the last 100 years. Korea, a country that has one language and unique alphabet of its own, takes pride in its history of over 5,000 years. Koreans belong to the Tungusic branch of the Mongolian and Turkish languages. The Chinese language and characters of ideograms have also influenced Korea to a certain extent. However, the system of Korean letters, a phonemic alphabet called Hangeul was invented in the 15th century. The Korean alphabet is easy to learn, to read, and write. As a result the literacy rate is very high, near 98% in our country.

The strongest influences in traditional Korean culture and family life were Confucianism, Shamanism, and Buddhism. Particularly during the 500 years of Korea's Yi Dynasty, Confucianism

dominated the value system and the educational field to such an extent that even today it remains the fundamental force in every aspect of Korean society. On the international level, Korea maintained an absolute closed policy to all nations except China for many centuries. As a hermit Kingdom, Korea was able to preserve its traditional social and cultural structure. Changes began to occur in the mid-to-late 19th century when Korea started to open to trade with industrially advanced nations.

One of the most dominating values that Confucianism emphasizes is the importance of educating one's children. This strongly suggests the notion of wanting a better quality of life for the next generation. Therefore, parents tend to sacrifice anything for their children's education. There used to be village school houses and an institution of higher learning in the Confucian educational system. These school systems were only for male children from childhood to adulthood at this time. Some female children from noble families received private lessons where they only learned to read and write. Most of their education was the acquisition of household knowledge such as sewing, cooking, and managing a wise household learned from their mothers and grandmothers. There were many books that taught human relations, manners for daily living, home management, child rearing, and daily customs that had their foundation in Confucianism. Women were to

learn womanly virtues representing a wise mother and good wife. These books were hand written and handed down among family and only available to noble families and, limited to only those privileged people. Therefore, much of the education for women was handed down orally in the home rather than by books nor by formal education systems.

As the government applied the open door policy, western culture began to influence the thousands of years of traditionally pure culture of our society and brought about variety of ideas to the

existing concept of life. I have summarized the milestone of Home Economics along with the social structure of Korea in Table 1. You may read the table and follow my talk. At this same time, missionaries not only brought christianity but also western style educational systems into the country. A women missionary started a school to educate those women in Korea that had lacked the opportunity to learn. There are stories that tell how a poor widow who had no place to go was brought to this missionary and was taught to read and write in both Korean and English. They say

Table 1. Milestones of Korean Home Economics

Year	Social Structure	Year	History of Home Economics
1875	Traditional feudalistic society Value system strongly influenced by confucianism.		
1884	Open door policy applied : first encounters with Western culture.	1886	Ewha girl's school opened
1910— 1945	Annexed by Japan : increased national consciousness to counteract Japanese imperialism. Independence movement (1919)	1896	Sewing class offered : elective
		1910	Cooking class offered : elective
		1921	Harriet P. Morris was appointed as instructor at Ewha.
			Foods and Nutrition class offered.
	All education in Japanese language only.	1923	Dean Ava B. Milam (OSU) visited Ewha.
		1925	Ham Na KIM was sent to OSU to study Home Economics : obtained BS in 1925, MS in 1927, and returned to Korea.
	All Korean required to change their names to Japanese way.	1927	Miss Morris went to Columbia Univ. and obtained MS in Foods & Nutrition
		1929	Dept. of Home Economics was established at Ewha and received 32 first Home Ecs major student. ESoon CHOI was one of the students in that class.
		1929	Bun OK KIM went OSU and received BS and returned to Korea in 1930 Appointed as Home Economics Instructor
		1931	Dean Milam visited Ewha (2nd visit).
		1935	ESoon CHOI was sent to OSU. obtained BS in 1936 and MS in 1937
		1939	ESoon COHI appointed as instructor.
1945— 1960	Korea was liberated from Japan : Confusion of divided nation. Republic of Korean Government established.	1945	Official language became Korean ; All school system reorganized.
		1948	Dean Milam visited Korea (3rd visit).
		1952	First Master's Degree Program offered
1961— present	Industrialization : realization of high economic growth. the 1st 5 year Economic Development implemented in 1962	1964	4 year college of Home Economics has established at Yonsei University.

Table 2. The changing school system in this century : years in school and academic degrees

School	1900—1945 year	1945—present year	Degree
Elementary school	4—6	6	
Middle school	4	3	
High school		3	
Pre College class	2 (optional)	—	
College or University		4	BS or BA
Graduate school		2—6 or more	Master's degree & Doctor's degree

that this was the start of the present Ewha Womens' University in 1886. Within 10 years the concept of educating women was accepted and many families from higher society started to send their female children to Ewha. Now I would like to introduce to you the Korean educational system from a historical point of view (see table 2).

When education for women first began, there were a few subjects that were regarded as compulsory courses, such as sewing, cooking and home and household management. However, there were no instructors to teach these courses and therefore were only opened periodically when a missionary was available to teach them. The first sewing course to be offered was in 1896 by an American missionary. This sewing course consisted entirely of western clothing. As western culture became known to the public, this sewing class was greatly demanded among the students. The first cooking class was offered in 1910, quite a while after the first sewing class. The reason for this delay was not because the Koreans didn't recognize the importance of food, but rather because there were no appropriate instructors and facilities to accommodate these courses. Under these conditions, however, the desire to study these courses were very strong. This was because the acquired knowledge of cooking foreign foods was thought of as one of the keys to marrying a male student just returning from a foreign country.

It was expected that a Home Economics

Department would be established in order to provide knowledge to the women of Korea and improve the quality of Korean family life. But, even under the urgent demand of society, there were few human resources to educate these needy students. In 1921 Miss Harriet Palmer Morris who had majored in Home Economics at Kansas State University and had taught for 2 years at high school level and then came to Korea just in time to be appointed to Ewha as a missionary. While Miss Morris taught Food and Nutrition and English, she urged the school to establish a 4 year course of Home Economics in Ewha. The biggest problem on hand though was that they did not have the financial support to start a new department or the teachers to teach the many courses in Home Economics.

While Korea had encountered this kind of problems, in 1923, Dean Ava B. Milam was touring the Christian College in the East, she came to Korea and visited Ewha, the only college level womens' school at that time. In the history of 50 years of Ewha Home Economics, there is a quote that says "another person that helped establish and develop the Home Economics department at Ewha, I should explain that not only for Ewha but for Korea, was Dean Milam, an American professor and at Oregon State University." While Dean Milam was in Korea for one week she discussed and went over possibilities for the establishment of the Home Economics department with Miss

Morris. After Dean Milam returned to the United States she started to raise funds for an International Home Economics Scholarship for Asian countries in an effort to provide the opportunity to help train talented and mission oriented students to take on the task of Home Economics education for their country.

With this scholarship a graduate of Ewha, Ham Na Kim was selected in 1925 to study at OSU. She received her MS in Housing and Home Management. On the other hand Miss Morris herself went to Columbia University and received her Master's degree qualifying her to teach at the college level. The two of them returned to Korea at some time in 1928 and worked together to establish the Home Economics department. After putting the curriculum together and building laboratories, they finally received permission to open the department of Home Economics from the Ministry of Education in 1929. In April of that year they accepted their very first enrollment of students consisting of 32 girls who were to become the pioneers of the Korean Home Economics. Among those students, ESoon Choi was one of them.

By 1915, many public and private middle girls' schools were established all over the country. There were Home economics classes for the girls but they were limited also to teach sewing and cooking. Besides the department at Ewha, a Home Economics department was included at Sookmyong Juniro College when it opened in 1939. The need to educate women and provide them with an appropriate curriculum was in great demand. But there was a severe shortage of instructors. Latter more courageous women went abroad to Japan to study at teacher's Junior college and came back to teach at the middle and high school level as Home Economics teachers.

A student named Boon Ok Kim, a graduate of Ewha also went to OSU in 1930 through the help of Dean Milam where she received her BS and

returned to Korea and taught at Ewha. In 1931, Dean Milam came back to Korea to visit and to see how the Home Economics programs were at Ewha. She was very pleased with the improvement and especially the fact that an OSU graduate, Ham Na Kim was working very hard teaching and administering. Unfortunately, Han Na Kim in 1932 and Boon Ok Kim in 1933 had to leave the school because they are married. At that time in Korea, a student was able to be married but a teacher had to leave the school to become a full-time mother and wife in the home if she was to ever marry.

Ewha's Home Economics department again was faced with a serious shortage of instructors. Of course there were Shin Young Bang, Maebul Kim, and a few other instructors, but it was not sufficient to accommodate the need. In order to solve these problems, schools made decisions to train more students for future professors. With this effort, from the first graduates of Home Economics department, ESoon Choi was selected to receive the Oriental Scholarship from OSU. She was the 3rd recipient of that scholarship. ESoon Choi had left Korea in 1935 and received her BS and MS in Child studies in 1937. Japan at this time was already putting restriction on activities of the graduates from the United States. Therefore, ESoon Choi went to Japan for an extra year to receive Japanese education in order to be able to get a teaching job in the college. In 1939, she came back to Ewha to Korea and finally was able to teach at Ewha.

Towards the end of World War II, Ewha being a christian college found it difficult to continue its functioning and in 1943 finally had to close the whole college. When World War II was over many teachers that had been scattered all over the country came back to the schools. As Korea became independent from Japan, many enthusiastic young people were demanding a fast recovery,

especially in education. In 1945, when Ewha opened the school again, many girls came to school and the urge to learn was even greater than ever before.

Ewha became a 4 year college and ESoon Choi appointed as head of the Home Economics department, concentrated on training girls to become able leaders that Korean society was seeking. However, she felt that at this point she greatly needed the help of her alma mater, OSU, and wrote a long letter to Dean Milam requesting

further scholarships to educate the students to prepare themselves to become qualified professors in order to be able to teach at the University level. In 1948, Dean Milam made another tour of the Christian colleges of the orient and visited Korea, interviewed students and met with OSU graduates. In her book "Adventures in Home Economics", chapter 19 'Ambassador'⁽¹⁾, she describes the situation at that in detail.

Sang In Park, Sang Won Woo, and Young Sook Cho were sent to OSU to study but right before

Table 3. OSU graduate, visiting scholar, attendance & their activities in Korea

Name (degree) Year Attended	Activities
Ham Na KIM (BS, MS) 1925-27	Founder of Dept. of Home Ecs, Ewha
Bun Ok KIM (BS) 1929-30	Instructor, Ewha
ESoon CHOI (BS, MS) 1935-37	* Prof., Head, Dept. of Home Ecs, Ewha * Dean of women, Yonsei Univ. * Dean, College of Home Ecs, (Founder) Yonsei Univ. * President of KHEA * vicepresident of Red Cross
Sang In PARK (MS) 1950-52	Prof., Dean, College of Home Ecs, Ewha
Soojea MOON (MS) 1956-59	* Instructor, Ewha * Assistant prof., Mount Martyr College, USA * Prof., Dean, College of Home Ecs, Yonsei Univ. * President of KHEA, Executive member IFHE Korean Dietary Improvement Organization, Executive Dean & Prof., Ewha Univ.
Il Wha PARK 1960-61	
Sung Sik SHIM (MS)	Lectureor, Ewha
Jas Soon KIM (MS)	Assistant Prof., Chungbuk National Univ.
Min Ja KIM (MS)	Associate prof., Seoul National Univ.
Sook Ja LIM (PhD)	Associate prof., Duk Sung Womees' College
Hyun Suh PARK (PhD)	Associate prof., Kyunghee Univ.
Jae Yun LEE (PhD)	Associate prof., Sook Myung Womens' Univ.
Shie Yun CHANG (MS)	Assistant prof., Kae Mueyng Univ.
Bok Hee CHO (PhD)	Associate prof., Kyunghee Univ.
Mi Kyung CHA (MS)	Assistant prof., Kyunghee Univ.
Yoon OK CHO (PhD)	Assistant prof., Duk Sung Womens' College
Kyung Hee SHON 1981-82 (visiting Scholar)	* Prof. & Head of Dept. of Food & Nutrition, Dean of Women Yonsei Univ. * President of KHEA
Chung Soo Lee 1984-85 (Visiting Scholar)	* Prof. & Head of Dept. of Child & Family Study & Prof. of Ewha.
Unhai RHEE 1988-89 (Visiting Scholar)	* Prof. & Head of dept. of Child & Family Study * Dean of women, Yonsei Univ. * President, society of child & Family Study

they were to return, the Korean War broke out. Sang Won Woo married a Chinese student and remained in the United States. She was disappointed that she was not able to return to Korea and contribute to the development of the Home Economics in Korea. Sang In Park returned to Korea in 1953 and is still teaching at Ewha. ESoon Choi taught at Ewha until 1956. Then she moved on to Yonsei University as the Dean of Women and offered Home Economics courses to all the female student body. She had started to work her way of establishing a Home Economics program at Yonsei University, and she continued to train scholars in this field.

With the encouragement of ESoon Choi, I, too, received the oriental scholarship and had the opportunity to study at OSU and received master's degree under the supervision of Dr. Howthorne. I went back to Korea and taught at Ewha for several years. With the opening of the College of Home Economics at Yonsei University, ESoon Choi successfully established the very first 4-year College of Home Economics in Korea. At present, College of Home Economics at Yonsei has 4 departments which offer under graduate and graduate degrees at the master's and doctorate levels.

As the status became "College of Home Economics" the system also changed from training good future homemakers and middle and high school teachers to University level educators, researchers, and community service workers. When the College of Home Economics graduated its first students, Dean Milam was gratefully recognized for her contributions to the development of Home Economics in Korea. We will always remember her as the torch in the history of Home Economics in Korea.

In 1964, ESoon Choi received the OSU distinguished Service Award for her dedication and devotion toward the education of Korean women and

Table 4. OSU graduate teaches at various universities & colleges in Korea

* Ewha Womens' University
* Yonsei University
* Seoul National University
* Chungbuk National University
* Duk Sung Womens' college
* Kae Myung University
* Sook Myung Womens' University
* Kyunghee University

the improvement of Korea's quality of life. ESoon Choi retired in 1975 as Professor of Home Economics at Yonsei. Even after her retirement she was actively involved with various volunteer work until she passed away last year.

Many Korean women have studied at OSU, but I would like to especially acknowledge and introduce those who have returned to Korea and are actively working in their fields (see table 3, 4). There are also many students at OSU at present, and I am sure there will be many more wanting to have the opportunity to study here to prepare themselves to be able to contribute to their country.

I strongly believe with the handful of students OSU had planted in the Home Economics field, made possible the establishment of Home Economics department and colleges from 1929 in our country. I would like to emphasize and acknowledge all the help OSU has given to the Korean Home Economics. I am also planning to present this paper in Korea too, as not many Koreans are aware of this fact, either.

The start of this all was by the dedication of a few devoted people. Now in most all Korean Universities we can find a place where not only degrees are being given out but a place where knowledge is sought, research is active, and scholars are discovering new ideas in their fields. From 1960's the colleges of Home Economics has definitely found its place in most

Universities. Seventeen public or private universities have a college of Home Economics. As of 1986, among all 4-year universities, 14 had a general Home Economics department, 40 a Food and Nutrition Department, 27 a Home Management and Consumer Economics Department, 24 a Clothing and Textile Department, 2 a Housing Department, and 4 a Child Studies Department.

Since it was immediately after the Korean War that I was studying at OSU, I have been one of the privileged students to receive financial support for education greatly needed at that time. I hope that I will be able to continue to work for the improvement of the Korean Home Economics. The professors at OSU not only gave me outstanding training in the field but were also outstanding models as teachers. I have learned so much from every single professor during my younger learning years. Now that I am teaching myself I am even more grateful for their wisdom and support. I am especially grateful to Dr.

Hawthorne, my thesis advisor, Dr. Fincke, Storvick, professor Charley, Dean Scholl, Mrs. Morgan, BPW scholarship chairperson, Eva Blackwell, Francis Spring, Helen White, and many more I am not able to acknowledge for there are so many. Thank you.

(1) Clark-Milam Ava and J. Kenneth Munford. *Adventures of a Home Economist*. Oregon State University Press 1969.

본 원고는 한국의 가정학의 뿌리를 내리게 하는데 공헌이 지대한 미국의 Oregon 주립대학교 가정대학이 가정대학 수립 100주년의 기념행사의 일환으로 "Pioneers of the Future"라는 일련의 Symposium의 한 Program 중 "Pioneers in Asian Home Economics:" The Oregon State University Connection이라는 주제하에 문수재 교수가 연사로서 초빙되어 발표한 내용이다. 이는 한국의 가정학의 역사적 발자취의 일면이기 때문에 한국의 여러 가정학자들에게 이러한 정보를 같이 나누고자 하는 의도에서 대한가정학회지에 게재하는 바이다.