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When I arrived at Dartmouth the fall of my freshman year, I immediately noticed how foreign students stood out in our predominantly American campus. International students form, and always will form, a very close-knit community at Dartmouth by simple virtue of the binding experience of having to adapt and thrive in a new country.

When elections for International Student Association’s executive board were announced in February ’07, I saw the unique opportunity to contribute to the community that had become my new home at Dartmouth. I quickly persuaded a group of friends to run for the positions we thought suited their particular talents best: Anna Qi ’10 for Social Affairs VP, Kevin Mwenda ’10 for VP for Policy, Kevin Jackson ’10 for Treasurer, Imani Brown ’10 for Director of Communications and Advertising. We wanted the international community to have an advocacy group and a support network that could tackle issues affecting international students. We envisioned an organization that would plan the social events that international students longed for, events which would make the international community more prominent on campus.

We were an ambitious group of freshmen with big plans for ISA. At first, we struggled, but quickly learned. Our intention was to establish big-scale campus events that could become traditions. We hoped to lay a solid foundation on which the future executive teams could build easily and quickly. As such, in the fall of 2007, we put together a show called “Kaleidoscope: Experience the Colors of the World,” which featured a national-costume fashion show, choreography, musical and theatrical performances by international students, and a sit-down dinner. In the winter of 2008, ISA organized “The Mid-Winter Night’s Dream Ball,” which was attended by 160 students, administrators, faculty, and President Wright. The formal six-hour event was held at the Hanover Inn and included a four-course buffet, two a cappella performances, a student band and two popular student DJs.

One of the issues that began to galvanize the international community in the winter of ‘07 was need-blind admission for international students. At the time, because Dartmouth took international students’ ability to pay into consideration, the College could not recruit the foreign students with the most potential. We quickly decided to throw the whole weight of the organization behind this cause and to lobby the administration for its implementation. Finally, all candidates in the 2008 Trustee Elections were asked by Inter-Community Council to state their stance on universal need-blind admissions. All members were in favor. In January ’08, Dartmouth announced the phenomenal news that it was extending its need-blind admissions policy to all students. We will be forever indebted to President James Wright, Maria Laskaris, Dean of Admissions and Financial Aid, and Stephen Silver, for their efforts to make our dream a reality.

ISA has been a defining chapter of my experience at Dartmouth, allowing me to grow in ways I never thought possible. I am immensely proud of what ISA is today.

KEVIN F. JACKSON ’10
(VENEZUELA)

I did not know what ISA stood for when I first arrived at Dartmouth in the fall of 2006. The International Student Association was hardly visible on campus and comprised of very few active members. Nonetheless, I became Treasurer in winter 2007. In spring 2008, I took over as ISA President. By then, we had successfully organized great events, which were part of our strategy to carry out at least one big project each term, and were followed by the World Food Festival that same spring.

By fall, our executive board had grown from four officers to more than ten, all of them bright and com-

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College Endowment Created for International Students

STEPHEN M. SILVER
DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS, OPAL

Oscar Romero came to the U.S. from Peru at the age of 16 to begin his education at Dartmouth. Oscar was fortunate enough to befriend then-Economics Professor Colin Campbell and his wife early on in his Dartmouth career. Naturally, Oscar experienced many challenges in attempting to adapt to Dartmouth culture, and to American culture. However, as noted by his wife, Dena Romero, “Oscar loved Dartmouth. He had a deep appreciation of everything the College had done for him. He valued his Dartmouth education and the support the College gave him when he was a student here. He believed firmly in the importance of a liberal arts education and recognized that his Dartmouth education played a key role in his development.”

Oscar and his family ultimately volunteered through the Friendship Family Program to help a Dartmouth Peruvian student who recently matriculated. When Oscar passed away after battling cancer, his wife Dena thought that the most appropriate way to honor her husband’s life and his love for Dartmouth would be for friends and family to contribute to the fund that was established by Upper Valley resident, Carola Lea, at the New Hampshire Charitable Foundation (NHCF). “[The reason I chose to have the memorial donations sent to [NHCF],” Dena said, “[was] in gratitude and appreciation for everything Dartmouth had done for him as an international student.”

Carola first established the “Alliance for Dartmouth International Students and Upper Valley Citizens Fund” in 2002, with a gift to the Upper Valley Community Foundation, which is a regional division of NHCF. According to Cindy Chaves, a Foundation Officer at NHCF, the purpose of the fund was to “create and enhance shared experiences for Dartmouth’s international students and residents of the Upper Valley by providing opportunities for cultural, social and recreational activities, and to assist the international students in adapting to life in the Upper Valley.” Carola hoped that this fund would better enable international students to take advantage of the Upper Valley’s many social and cultural opportunities with help from the Friendship Family Program. Close to 20 Upper Valley families gave to the fund in Oscar’s memory. In May 2006, Carola Lea had some ideas of her own on how NHCF could grow more rapidly. Carola believed that if the fund were to be transferred to the College endowment, it would garner a wider base of support. Carola also hoped that an endowed Dartmouth fund for international students would encourage involvement from the College’s international community—including international alumni and other prospective College donors who would be most interested in supporting programming and services with an international student focus.

[The donation] was in gratitude and appreciation for everything Dartmouth had done for him as an international student.”

Connecticut-based couple Bernie Groveman and Barbara Ancona had a similar goal. They were interested in funding Dartmouth programs that would enable international students to acclimate to, and thrive at, the College. They felt it was important to build bridges between American and non-American cultures, and that many Dartmouth students who were not international would have a greater understanding of the world if they interacted more with international students. These links would only complement Dartmouth’s extensive academic Study Abroad programs and overseas internships. In the winter of 2006, the Groveman-Ancona family made a wonderful pledge for the new Dartmouth fund that was jump-started by Carola Lea’s generosity via NHCF and then augmented by the financial support of Oscar and Dena Romero’s friends and family. The result was the February 2007 creation of a College endowment that is designed “to support a range of programs campus-wide and encourage the greater Dartmouth community to get involved in international events and cultural exchanges that promote a better understanding of the world in which we live,” and is now housed at International Student Programs within the Office for Pluralism and Leadership (OPAL).

For further information about the endowed fund for international students, please feel free to write or call me, or to send an email to my Dartmouth account.

Contact info: stephen.m.silver@dartmouth.edu (603) 646-2331
Michael Kim ’90 is Assistant Professor of Korean Studies at Yonsei University and is Associate Dean of the University’s Underwood International College. Kim also manages the Dartmouth College Club of Korea. In this interview he talks about The Dartmouth Club of Korea, a new Dartmouth exchange program, and life in Korea as a returned expatriate.

Q: Can you tell me about the Dartmouth College Club of Korea?

A: We have a somewhat vague governing structure, but essentially I’ve been in charge of running things for the past five years or so. The club is fairly active; we usually have three to four official events a year. Of course, we get together informally from time to time, once every month or two. In the spring we do interviews for prospective students and a recruiting dinner for all prospective students. We will have an event in the summer when students come back. We always have a year-end party and invite students and alumni to come. We did a gathering with Tuck [School of Business at Dartmouth] and with alumni from all different Dartmouth schools. We plan to hold similar events at least once or twice a year in future. We’ve been meeting regularly since the late 1990s. We started very small with half a dozen or a dozen [members]. But around the early 2000s we started to get much bigger.

Q: Is the function of the club mostly social?

A: We do have a nice little community going here. We all know each other. We also do our best to connect alumni to jobs. We do know people in various industries, so we do what we can. The whole purpose isn’t to get people jobs—most people do just fine by themselves.

Q: I noticed that you spent a significant amount of time at Harvard to finish your Master’s and Ph.D. What made you decide to return to Korea?

A: Actually, I’ve lived in the U.S. since first grade. I spent close to 10 years at Harvard as a grad student and came back to Korea in 1999 to do research and fieldwork for my dissertation. I liked it here and stayed on when I got a job, so I’ve been here for five years. This is where I want to be also because I can have access to historical material. I’m a historian, and my research is mostly colonial-period history: for example, the Japanese occupation of Korea.

Q: What was it like to return to Korea after such a long time away?

A: It was quite a challenge at first to get re-cultured into Korean society, but I realized one day that I had the ability to be active in two different societies, which has a lot of benefits. I had to completely relearn Korean. I didn’t speak [the language] much and Dartmouth didn’t have a Korean language program, so I had to start when I went to Harvard. Now my Korean is fine. I think coming back to Korea really has allowed me to have access to certain opportunities that I may not have had were I employed in an American institution. I’m able to do things here that I wouldn’t have been able to do at the same point in my career in the U.S. During the past four years, I’ve done lots of administrative work. I ran a summer school, an exchange program, a four-year degree program as Associate Dean... I would not be doing this kind of work as a brand-new hire at a university in the U.S. But here there were all these things to do as soon as I got hired. But it’s [still] definitely a trade-off.

Q: I also heard that Dartmouth and Yonsei University are working on an exchange program?

A: Yes, we just started a Dartmouth exchange program, and I’m actually involved in setting that up. Starting this fall we’re going to send two students from Yonsei to Dartmouth, and several Dartmouth students will come out to Korea. We’re looking forward to it. I was just talking to the two Yonsei students; they are excited about going to Dartmouth. Yonsei is one of the most international campuses in Korea. There are a lot of programs run in English, and [there is also a] very famous Korean language program that I’m a graduate of.

Q: Thanks for talking with us! Do you have anything you would like to add?

A: I’d just like to say that I think because of the new Dartmouth president coming in, it’s raised the profile of Dartmouth in Korea. International connections are very important. It’s a very interconnected world. I hope that having students and alumni interested in traveling abroad or working abroad will be a good experience for a lot of people.
“Yes, I am from Nepal and no, I have never climbed the Mount Everest or met Cat Stevens.” This is my reply to the most frequently asked questions every time I tell someone that I am from Nepal. I don’t blame people for asking such questions; I cannot expect the whole world to know about a tiny country sandwiched between China and India. However, there is much more in Nepal than just Mount Everest and Cat Stevens’ undying love for Kathmandu: the capital of Nepal. For example Gautam Buddha, the founder of Buddhism, was born in Nepal, but that is not as interesting as the fact that there is a living Goddess in Nepal.

The people of Nepal believe in a living Goddess called Kumari, which literally means “virgin” in Nepali. Although there are several Kumaris worshipped in different cities, the most important Kumari is the Royal Kumari of Kathmandu. Until the Kumari menstruates, she is believed to be the bodily incarnation of Goddess Taleju, the goddess of power. A Kumari is selected at a very young age and the current Royal Kumari is three years old.

It is believed that the tradition of Royal Kumari started around the 13th century. However, the tradition of virgin worship as a source of supreme power has always existed among the Hindus of Nepal. According to a popular legend, King Jayaprabha Malla of Kathmandu secretly used to play dice with Goddess Taleju in secret. One day the queen found him out. The disclosure of the secret angered the Goddess Taleju, and she decided to never come back. Upon the king’s request, she decided to incarnate in the body of a girl from the Shakya caste so that she would still be able to protect the country. Ever since then, a girl from the Shakya caste of Kathmandu valley is chosen as a Kumari and installed in the Kumari Palace at the heart of Kathmandu.

The Kumari selection process is a rigorous process. The candidate for a Kumari is supposed to have the 32 features that define a perfect girl, as mentioned in the Hindu scripture. For example, she must have jet-black hair, dark brown eyes, eyelashes like that of a cow and a neck like a conch shell. Most importantly, she must be from the Shakya caste of the Newar community. After all this criteria is met, the priests make her undergo a tantric, secretive form of selection. If the girl passes the test, then she can be the Kumari.

Once a girl becomes a Kumari, she has to live isolated from her family, in the Kumari palace. She lives with her caretakers and receives education through her private tutor. Her playmates are pre-selected, and belong to the same caste as the Kumari. The playmates have to surrender to all of Kumari’s wishes, as all of her wishes must be granted.

The power of Kumari is believed to be very strong. Until Nepal became a republic in 2008, even the king used to receive blessings from her and kiss her feet. Common people typically wait outside the Kumari palace, hoping to catch a glimpse of her.

Due to her fancy and powerful life, the Kumari does not get to have an ordinary childhood. She is deprived of the experience of going to school and mingling with other children, so she does not learn the social etiquette that the rest of the children learn in their early childhood. The entire time a Kumari lives in her palace, she is a goddess, so all her wishes and commands are fulfilled. However, as soon as she menstruates, she has to go back to the real world. She is not acquainted with the norms of the real world, which makes it harder for her to adapt to society once she leaves the palace. In the past, it was also believed that anyone who marries a Kumari would die immediately after the marriage because she is so powerful. Though this concept is slowly changing, it is still difficult for Kumaris to get married.

The Kumaris live a good life until they are stripped of their title. Then all they get is a small stipend for the rest of their lives. The life of Kumari after the withdrawal of her title makes me wonder if being a Kumari is really worth it.

Hopefully, the next time I tell someone that I am from Nepal, the question they ask would be whether it is worth preserving a tradition that puts a person’s happiness at stake.
Senior Profiles

Avnish Gungadurdoss & David Ong

MUHAMMAD ZAIN-UL-ABIDEEN ‘12 (PAKISTAN)

Avnish comes from Mauritius, and is interested in development economics and has done research at Dartmouth related to his field of interest. He has been accepted to London School of Economics and Oxford University, and plans to pursue a master’s degree at LSE.

**Future Plans:**
As of next year, Avnish will be working in the world-renowned MIT Poverty Action Lab, a consulting group that works globally in tandem with locals to provide constructive suggestions on how to use different techniques to fight poverty, drugs, and illiteracy. As a lab associated with an academic institution, it offers novel ideas and solutions that are cognizant with the conditions and cultures of different communities. Most of these suggestions are forwarded to NGOs, local government officials, and are used for academic purposes.

After graduating, Avnish will be working in India with two MIT professors to study the impact of educational incentives, specifically the benefits of offering incentives to parents who agree to send their children to school. The project is based in Uttar Pradesh where Avnish will work as a field researcher, overseeing the project and reporting data results to the professors in charge.

**Best Memory:**
2010 international orientation
Avnish enjoyed being a mentor to underclassmen international students, especially during the ’10 international orientation. Avnish remembers how he struggled freshman year, and how the mentoring program came as an opportunity to help people in similar situations. As a mentor, he was able to offer the support and advice to his mentees that he himself had sought as a freshman but not received.

**Advice to incoming freshmen:**
Avnish thinks that many internationals have preconceived notions about America, and that they don’t want to mix with Americans because of their own insecurities and private opinions about American life. On the contrary, Avnish believes that students can stay true to their own identity and still “be proud and hold themselves straight and share with each other, because that is the purpose of the Dartmouth Experience.”

In addition to the need for more social interaction, Avnish emphasizes the importance of discovering new opportunities while at Dartmouth: “Dartmouth has money for everything,... and that makes it awesome for undergraduates,” he says.

from Malaysia/Australia

**What are your future plans?**
My short-term plan is to look for a job, possibly in management and consultancy. In the long run, I see myself either in business school, or running my own business.

**What organizations were you involved in at Dartmouth?**
I held a position at the Dartmouth Rainbow Alliance, organized two drag balls, and was involved with GDX and Pride Week.

I also joined the International Students Association and ran for treasurer my sophomore fall. My objective was to convince the Dartmouth administration to push a policy of need-blind admissions for international students. Along with other students, I campaigned vigorously to convince the Student Assembly, many alumni, and the Board of Trustees. Finally, in junior year our efforts paid off, as Dartmouth became need-blind for international students, as
Who's the bigger bully?

MARY CROMWELL ’12
(US VIRGIN ISLANDS)

Negotiating with North Korea is like tiptoeing through a minefield. The country has notoriously remained under the international radar, away from the prying grip of Western domination after the Korean War armistice was signed on July 27, 1953 which led to isolation of the country. It has been reported that the majority of its civilian population lives in dire poverty; but in spite of these reports, North Korea attempts to mask all evidence of its own weakness. How exactly do the established world powers deal with the loose cannon that is North Korea?

A country that is willing to allow most of its civilians to live in squalor clearly governs by a set of principles unrelated to liberal Western political ideals. There was talk of imposing sanctions on North Korea as a means of bullying the country into compliance with international law after it attempted to launch long-range missiles in 2006. However, North Korea is not afraid of the West. Bullying of any sort will only provoke the country to act sporadically and in an internationally threatening way. It cannot be assumed that North Korea will put the safety of its non-elite civilians first when it makes military decisions. In fact, it is more likely that self-appointed Western defenders of morality and social justice consider the effects of North Korea’s actions on its civilians more than North Korea does. As such, the West is probably less likely to engage in military confrontation with North Korea, despite the West’s military supremacy. Kim Jong-Il knows this. He understands the game he is playing. If he feared military action, perhaps he would broadcast his military technological developments less than he currently does.

After the embarrassing failure of his first missile attempt, Jong-Il repeated his efforts in April of 2009. And once again, talk of imposing sanctions has arisen. North Korea has stated that any sanctions imposed upon the country will be taken as a declaration of war, and the Western powers are now dealing with the same challenges they were facing three years ago. The only difference now is that North Korea is getting stronger. Every failed project shows North Korean scientists what needs to be improved, and these scientists are working with all of the technology available to them to make these improvements.

The last thing the world needs is another war. So while the Western powers, particularly America, cannot afford to appear weak and overly concerned when dealing with North Korea’s dictatorship, they also cannot afford to be arrogant and ignore the possible threat. What is the West to do? Giving North Korea what it wants is not an option, as that would allow it to bully the strongest powers. Perhaps there is a way to approach North Korea diplomatically?

If the West were to stop presenting itself to the rest of the world as the absolute moral authority and cease conveying an air of superiority when dealing with volatile nations, maybe then more effective strides toward a more cooperative global community could be made.

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- mitted students. This spring we celebrated the first ever International Week, which showcased all that the international community has to offer. Our World Food Festival was transformed into “Cruise the World,” an international fair with food, activities and performances organized with the support of more than ten different campus groups.

Since Vlad’s initiative to bring us all together in 2007, the executive committee members have become experts at carrying out international events on campus. More importantly, we have also managed to establish ISA as a solid student organization. We’ve secured yearly funding from the Dickey Center and re-launched this newsletter that you are now holding in your hands. We have also designed a revamped website (www.dartmouth.edu/~isa). We now look forward to creating the Dartmouth International Alumni Network in the near future (see alumni article).

I strongly believe that in this increasingly globalized world it is important to connect with people from all over the globe. On a local scale, ISA aims to connect international students with each other and with the campus as a whole, and I hope our work during these last two years has fulfilled that mission.

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- ers deal with the loose cannon that is North Korea?

Do you have any advice for the incoming freshman class?

Be an international mentor. It will be one of the most rewarding experiences at Dartmouth.

Join a fraternity or a sorority, but never feel pressured to do anything that conflicts with your morals.

Bear in mind that you have four years at Dartmouth. This means you do not have to go to everything and be a part of everything in freshman fall.

Care about your GPA, but do not let this stop you from figuring out the direction you want to go in life.

Don’t assume that you will stick with the major you have.

Dartmouth.
Join the International Alumni Network!

KEVIN F. JACKSON ‘10 (VENezUELA)

Did you come to Dartmouth as an international student? Are you an American alumnus living overseas? Are you just interested in connecting with internationals and expats? If you answered yes to any of these questions, then we encourage you to join the newly created Dartmouth International Alumni Network (DIAN).

The purpose of DIAN is to strengthen connections among Dartmouth international alumni worldwide, alumni pursuing careers or continuing their education abroad, and current international students. Our main goal is to provide additional opportunities for alumni and students with common geographic, social, and professional interests to

International Advising

STEPHEN M. SILVER
DIRECTOR OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENT PROGRAMS, OPAL

After nine years of directing the International Office, I was able to return to my passion- to what brought me to Dartmouth in 1991 - the opportunity to work with a most talented international student population. Moving to the Office of Pluralism and Leadership, I took on my new role as Director of International Student Programs in August of 2008, and immediately began working with international students on a host of issues, concerns, and programming. With my first year in my new position nearly completed, I can look back on the previous ten months with a feeling that much has been accomplished. Yet so much more must be done.

Several programs and projects moved with me to OPAL. The Friendship Family Program links new

Dartmouth international students and Upper Valley families. International Student Mentors provide valuable advice and assistance to our new international undergraduates. I continue to serve as advisor to ISA, and this role alone could be full time if time permitted! Students living in McCulloch International Residence experienced a successful inaugural year. The English Conversation Group is a resource valued by international graduate students, staff, and faculty and their spouses and partners.

Working individually with international students in an advisory capacity is at the heart of what I do. Adjusting and adapting to the U.S. and Dartmouth while maintaining one’s culture is far from easy. Many internationalals confront hurdles beyond acclimating to their new environment and coping with “culture shock.” Homeland Security regula-

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