



**Friends of Korea**

Dedicated to fostering cultural awareness and  
friendship between Americans and Koreans

## **Biographical Sketches of FOK Board of Directors, 2018 - 2019**

### **Thomas Byrne**

Tom Byrne joined The Korea Society as its President in August of 2015. Prior to joining the Society he worked for Moody's Investor Services, where he was Senior Vice President, Regional Manager, Spokesperson, and Director of Analysis for the Sovereign Risk Group in the Asia-Pacific and Middle East regions. Before moving to Moody's in 1996, he was the Senior Economist of the Asia Department at the Institute of International Finance in Washington DC. Tom has an MA degree in International Relations with an emphasis on economics from The Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies. Before his graduate work, he served in South Korea for three years as a Peace Corps volunteer serving in tuberculosis control programs in Changwon County, Kyungsangnam-do and the Korean National Tuberculosis Association's branch office in Cheongju City. Tom also teaches as an adjunct professor, at Columbia University's School of International and Public Affairs in New York City (Fall Semesters) and at Georgetown University's Graduate School of Foreign Service (Spring Semesters) in Washington, DC.

### **Greg Caldwell**

Greg Caldwell served as associate dean of students and director of international students and scholars at Lewis & Clark College in Portland, Oregon. As a Peace Corps volunteer, he taught at Jeongeub Boys Middle School Jeollabuk-do. In 1982-83, Greg was awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to teach at Kangwon National University. In 2014, he was selected by Korea's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to serve as honorary consul for the Republic of Korea in Northern Oregon.

### **Suzanne Crowder Han**

Suzanne Crowder Han has served as a writing consultant for the Korean Ministry of Culture and Information and later for Korea Telecom. Since 2005, she has been the director of the CIEE Study Center in Seoul (Council on International Educational Exchange). She serves on the Council of the Royal Asiatic Society, Korea branch, and has published several books about Korea. As a Peace Corps volunteer in Korea, Suzanne worked in tuberculosis control, then in maternal and child health.

### **Christy Gavitt – Director**

Christy Gavitt was a K-32 PCV from 1974-76, returning to *uri nara* for another year as an intern with CARE-Korea. She then worked overseas in international relief and development programs for 32 years, 19 of those years with CARE. Her assignments included emergency programs nine countries, mostly in East Africa. In 1998-99, she did a six-month consultancy in North Korea

during the famine. The program focused on the repair of embankments that had been damaged by the previous years' floods. From 2000, she managed HIV/AIDS and mother-child health programs in Mali, Togo, Namibia and Tanzania.

After returning to the US, she worked for over five years as the Senior Health Coordinator with the American Red Cross' international program unit in Washington DC. She is currently a global health consultant.

### **Jenna Gibson**

Jenna Gibson was the director of communications for the Korea Economic Institute of America until the fall of 2018. Her duties include handling KEI's media profile and outreach along with managing KEI's online presence. She is interested in public diplomacy and cultural exchange, particularly between the United States and South Korea. Before joining KEI, Jenna lived for two years in Cheonan as a Fulbright English Teaching Assistant. There, she taught weekly English lessons to more than 700 middle school students. Jenna earned a Masters of Science in Foreign Service degree from Georgetown University in 2015. She graduated with a degree in journalism and international studies from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln in 2011. She is currently in a PhD program at the University of Chicago.

### **Robert Ichihana**

Robert Ichihana is an employment counselor for the New York State Department of Labor and an adjunct instructor of psychology at Mohawk Valley Community College, where he serves people with multi-cultural backgrounds. He also is certified as a global career development facilitator and trained as a distance credentialed counselor. The cross-cultural counseling skills he uses in his past and current work were developed from the years he served as a Peace Corps volunteer in South Korea. As a Peace Corps volunteer, he taught at Euisong Girls Middle School.

### **Nancy Kelly**

Nancy Kelly served as a maternal child health volunteer in Korea and was in one of the last groups to serve in Korea. Upon returning home in 1981, she enrolled in Johns Hopkins University and completed graduate studies in public health in 1984. She became the first executive director of Health Volunteers Overseas in 1986. In addition to her service on the Friends of Korea Board, she serves on the boards of Global Impact and Humanity and Inclusion (formerly Handicap International – US).

### **Bruce Kim**

Bruce Kim was born and raised in Hawaii. He graduated from Wittenberg University in Springfield, Ohio with a BA in history and joined the Peace Corps after college serving two years as a TESOL middle school volunteer in Sam Chun Po. Bruce attended law school after the Peace Corps, graduating from Seattle University School of Law with a JD in 1978. He practiced law in Honolulu for the next 32 years concentrating in civil litigation. He was appointed Executive Director of the State of Hawaii Office of Consumer Protection in July 2011, where he served until February 2015. In March of 2017 he was appointed the Chief Disciplinary Counsel in the Office of Disciplinary Counsel prosecuting cases of lawyer misconduct. He served in that position until October 2018. Bruce is married (Katherine) with three adult children (Kara, Mariel and Kelsey) and a new grandson (Kalono'eha).

**Joy Kim**

Joy Kim is the Curator of the Korean Heritage Library (KHL) at the University of Southern California (USC). A graduate of Ewha Woman's University (BA, Library Science) and UCLA (MLS), she has held various leadership positions, most notably the President of the Council on East Asian Libraries (CEAL) of the Association for Asian Studies. A member of the USC faculty, she has published numerous books, book chapters, and articles on Korean librarianship and has also consulted for Yale, Vassar, Emory, and Duke University. In 2011, she was awarded the Order of Civil Merit from the Korean Government for "outstanding contributions to advancing awareness of Korean culture abroad" through her work at USC KHL and CEAL and her passionate work promoting the understanding of Korea. Personally, her background makes this position especially meaningful. She was born and raised in the countryside near Chonan and was a student at the middle school where two Peace Corps volunteers taught.

**Gerry Krzic**

Gerry Krzic is the director of the ESL and International Training & Development Programs in the Department of Linguistics at Ohio University. Prior to joining Ohio University, he was a Peace Corps Volunteer in Korea, a Fulbright Scholar in former Yugoslavia and a university faculty member in Japan. He has written grants and conducted workshops for educators and students from the Middle East, Asia, Africa, and South America. His advanced degrees are in linguistics and intercultural communication. In 2014, he was awarded a Global Engagement Award by Ohio University for his dedicated service to international education.

**James Mayer**

James Mayer spent 34 years overseas working for the U.S. government: for Peace Corps as country director [Korea, Philippines, Fiji, Kenya, Papua New Guinea and Tanzania]; for the Agency for International Development [Niger, Botswana, Burundi, Rwanda, Ivory Coast, Kazakhstan, Georgia, Ethiopia and the Congo]; and in assignments in Washington, D.C. He also worked as manager of AirTran Airways in Los Angeles and Hallmark Aviation Services in Southern California. Jim has received a number of awards, including Civil Honor Award from the Republic of Korea. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the LAX Kiwanis Foundation as well as a trustee of the Orange County World Affairs Council.

**Timothy O'Brien**

Timothy O'Brien has worked for many years as a lawyer and consultant in international firms with a focus on Korea. His work takes him back to Korea several times a year. Prior to his legal career, Tim was a Peace Corps Volunteer at Gunsan Commercial High School and South Middle School and an advisor to the Ministry of Education in Seoul. As a Peace Corps staff member, he served as regional director for Chungcheong-do and Gyeongsang-do and as program officer for Peace Corps Korea in Seoul. Tim's wife Hyon O'Brien is an op-ed columnist for the Korea Times, writing a monthly column on personal topics. Tim also serves on the board of directors of the International Foundation for Ewha Womans University, his wife's alma mater.

**Janice Gow Pettey**

Janice served as a village health volunteer in rural Korea in the late 1960s. Her subsequent career has been in the nonprofit sector, primarily in development and executive positions for institutions like United Way, The Asia Foundation, Sacramento Region Community Foundation

and Palo Alto University. She earned her doctorate degree in the School of Education at University of San Francisco, where she has taught as an adjunct professor for 25 years. She also teaches for the Lily Family School of Philanthropy at Indiana University, Indianapolis. Janice is the author/editor of books on diversity and ethics in the nonprofit sector. Korea is a country close to Janice's heart. Beginning as a Peace Corps volunteer her interest and work have developed over the decades. Janice lives in San Francisco with her family.

### **David Roden**

David Roden has a thirty year career in corporate banking, primarily focused on supporting Asian-owned companies in their US operations. Notable early clients included Hyundai, LG and others as they established US operations. Mr. Roden served as a Board Member of Halla Visteon Climate Control Corporation (Daejeon, Korea) and as audit committee chair. As an Honorary Consul, he has served as Vice Dean of the Consular Corps of Michigan, Treasurer and Executive Director. Mr. Roden has supported numerous events of the Korean Community in Detroit. He has mentored foreign students as interns and as a senior adjunct professor at Henry Ford College. Most recently he was named to the FOAA (Friends of Asian Art) at the DIA and is a legacy member of the Freer House in Detroit where has raised funds in support of Freer and Korea programs at the Freer House and closer engagement with Freer Gallery at the Smithsonian. Mr. Roden served as a Peace Corps volunteer in South Korea from 1977-1979. David holds a Master's in International Management from Thunderbird and a B.A. in Political Science from Upsala College. He has also studied at the Institute for International Studies and Training, Shizuoka, Japan

### **Dan Strickland**

Dan Strickland has spent many years working as a public health practitioner, specializing in epidemiology. His career included not only working as an epidemiologist, but also as a medical researcher and teacher, particularly of medical and graduate students, and later, medical residents and post-graduate fellows. His passion for the health care field began during his service as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Korea, where he worked as a TB control worker in Hwasoon Gu pogonso in Jeollanam-do. Presently, he is enjoying his retirement in Southern California and finds time to make regular trips to Korea to visit relatives and old Peace Corps friends. He still practices taekwondo for exercise.

### **Linda Tobash**

Linda Tobash served as an English teacher and trainer with the Peace Corps in Korea in Cheongju, Chungcheongbuk-do. Upon returning to the US, she completed graduate studies in TESOL and intercultural communication. Throughout her career she has been involved in international education: directing intensive English and continuing education programs in the City University of New York system; directing admissions office in NY area colleges; and working at the Institute of International Education, where she assisted Korean graduate students who received Fulbright foreign student scholarships. She also had the pleasure of working with the Fulbright Commission in Seoul, whose leadership worked in the Peace Corps office when Linda was a Peace Corps volunteer.

### **Todd Wilkinson - Director**

Todd joined the Peace Corps after graduating from Harvard. He served as an English teacher in K-3, (1967-69) in UmSung, ChoongCheongBukDo and in Seoul. Having been inspired by a

Korean doctor, upon returning from Korea, he attended Vanderbilt Medical School in Nashville where he met and married Hei Sook Park, an Ewha graduate, who had worked in the Peace Corps Seoul office. After Vanderbilt, Todd went into practice in the Detroit area, joined the staff of a large hospital, William Beaumont, taught hundreds of medical students, and eventually served as Chief of General Internal Medicine. Sook became a clinical psychologist. Together, they have been involved in many Korea and Asia related organizations and have visited family in South Korea regularly.