

## Ceaseless Effort Brings Great Success GMUK Graduate Yulia Lee (Accounting, '17) Works at One of 'The Big Four'



Face of Yulia Lee/ Photo by Yulia Lee

Yulia Lee (Accounting, '17), one of the first George Mason University Korea graduates, landed a spot at KPMG in Virginia. Her story is splendid and fulfilling news for patriots, as KPMG is one of the top four companies coveted by Accounting majors. The Voice celebrates her achievement with an interview about her time at Mason Korea and her journey to KPMG.

Yulia entered George Mason University Korea in 2014 as one of the first batch of freshmen, and graduated Magna cum laude in Accounting, at the Fairfax campus in December of 2017. The opportu-

nity to work at KPMG was given when she was studying at Fairfax.

KPMG provides multidisciplinary firmware that delivers accounting, management and financial advice based on the world's highest level of information in the Audit, Tax and Advisory areas. It is known as one of the 'Big Four Auditors' that anyone majoring in accounting would dream of working at. Yulia mentioned that her goal was also to work at one of those companies, because she wanted experience in public accounting with a firm that can offer intensive training. Furthermore, she believed that an environment with like-minded people that are passionate and career-driven would be valuable. Therefore, she tried to find opportunities to have an internship at KPMG while she was studying at Fairfax.

With the submission of her resume and two interviews, she was offered an internship at KPMG that would start after she graduated in Virginia. During the

internship, she slowly built her skills in the tax department, working directly with people at KPMG Korea. In the last week of the four-month internship, she was offered a full-time position in the tax department, focusing on clients who are expats and in-pats of US companies that do business globally in KPMG.

However, the journey to this outcome has not always been smooth. Being the first generation of GMUK had made it hard for her to get necessary support for career development due to the lack of job educational systems. Especially, when she was in GMUK, the Accounting major was not offered yet. Therefore, she had to change her major to Accounting later as the necessary courses were lacking at that time. Despite these difficult conditions, she tried to study hard at GMUK and built her job experience by directly applying herself and her desires to internship positions when she was at the Fairfax campus. She could move one step closer to her

dream through passion and continuous effort.

In an interview with The Voice, she advised students in the business school that GPA can be a key point to impress employers. She emphasized that when searching for a job in America, looking for opportunities and seizing those is important. She states, "Updating LinkedIn, attending networking events are good ways to put your foot in the door." During her time at

Mason Korea, she was studying and preparing for her dream in a relatively infertile and unstable environment when compared to current students. She believed in her infinite potential and continuously challenged herself. "Knowing how to sell yourself and appeal to certain people is key to building connections and to walk out of a job interview with an offer. Just make sure to act confidently."



Yulia with her co-workers at KPMG Virginia/ Photo by Yulia Lee

**Haseung Jung** | Managing Editor  
hjyoung@masonlive.gmu.edu

**Ha Eun Choi** | Reporter  
hchoi34@masonlive.gmu.edu

## New Majors to Launch in Fall 2018



Two graduating seniors from GMU Computer Game Design, Noah Bowden and Ryan Kennedy, won a place in top 5 finalists to the E3 College Competition Game / Credit : GMU Game Design game.gmu.edu

As the Fall 2018 semester is right around the corner, GMUK has launched a new set of majors that may be remarkable on the job market and in the education field. These are Computer Game Design, an undergraduate program, and the Curriculum and

Instruction program, under the Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree.

**Computer Game Design, BFA**  
Computer Game Design, a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree, is centered around the integration of artistic talents and techni-

cal skills. The purpose of the department is to enable students to prepare for the job field by completing the required courses such as visual technology and humanities. The first step of the application requires two essays: a 250 to 300-word essay on "interest in computer game design," and a 500-word review on one of the following topics: game culture and video game. In the Fairfax campus, two of the graduating seniors had the opportunity to show their capstone game at the Electronic Entertainment Expo, winning a spot in the top 5 finalists in the country.

**Curriculum and Instruction, M.Ed. (IB or ESOL Specialization)**

Curriculum and Instruction, a Master of Education Degree, will give students an opportunity to have a concentration in "Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse (TCLDEL)." Training future K-12 educators, the flexible schedule and online asynchronous courses will facilitate students to connect with faculty from the main campus and gain hands-on experience.

Students can specialize in two areas, the first being International ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) Education. By taking courses such as Bilingualism, and Internship in Education, students will receive an ESOL PK-12 Virginia State Teaching License.

The second speciali-

zation is Advanced International Baccalaureate (AIB) Studies. It focuses on the pedagogy, research, and philosophy elements for the Primary Years Programme (PYP), Middle Years Programme (MYP), and Diploma Programme (DP). This program is officially accredited by the International Baccalaureate (IB) and the Council for the Accreditation of Education Preparation (CAEP).

To go into a detail, students will take face-to-face courses through summer sessions at Mason Korea Songdo campus, and online coursework during the semester, gradually applying all of these to the K-12 environment.

**Hyunseon Kim** | Reporter  
hkim204@masonlive.gmu.edu

# GMUK Student Interns at SK Innovation: Showing the Way to Korean Global Companies



Minseong Kang with SK Incheon Petrochem Mentors and Interns. /  
Photo by Munseong Kang

Minseong Kang, a Management sophomore, has recently finished his two-month internship at SK Innovation. SK Innovation is part of the SK group, one of the biggest conglomerates in South Korea. Minseong's experience brings hope and inspiration to GMUK students, as Korean students, who make up the majority of the student body, one day hope to find themselves working for one of Korea's globally renowned conglomerates. The Voice looked at what the internship was like to report on how students might be able to take part in what Minseong experienced.

Minseong's journey began in early June, after being discharged from 21 months of obligatory mili-

tary service. Returning to school as a second semester sophomore, he was wondering what he could do in the meantime till classes started again in the fall. Just in time, the Career Development Center (CDC) was looking for two GMUK students to work for SK Incheon Petrochem, an affiliate of SK Innovation. Without hesitating, he applied, hoping to test and stretch his abilities in one of Korea's biggest conglomerates.

Minseong's time at SK Innovation obviously came with hardships, as many male students would relate to their difficulties in returning to academic activities after their discharge. Especially, while working in the Finance team of the petrochemistry industry, he had to

learn on the spot how to carry out tasks concerning financial management, fund usage, and foreign exchange exposure, although his only education in finance has been the ACCT 200-level course. Yet, he praised the company's level of expertise and professionalism as he was able to learn in an environment with several talented Korean employees. Although his education before the internship was not sufficient to take him to a higher level in financial knowledge, he claims that he learned many soft skills, such as communications and how to socialize in a Korean company.

Each year, thousands of talented candidates from the most prestigious universities in Korea compete to work for the largest companies in Korea. It is common knowledge that most of the employees are chosen from Korea's SKY universities or from the Ivy League. What is more, it is becoming increasingly difficult for humanities students to win out over natural sciences or engineering students in the race to get a foot in the company door. Despite all of this discouraging news, there is still hope. Minseong realized that those who do not have the objective advantages in their field are equipped with other skills, such as foreign languages. His fellow SK Innovation interns even advised lower classmen to attain certificates and licenses affiliated with the natural science or engineering sector. Whatever brings

more skills to the table helps.

The lessons learned at SK Innovation from skilled employees taught him that while professional licenses and grades are most important, Minseong advises, borrowing the words from his senior employees, "what exceeds the physical qualifications is a serious thought about one's career. While what I desire to do is among the important criteria, examining to see if the career I hope to pursue is promising or sustainable is a significant factor to consider when looking into the future."



Face of Minseong Kang / Photo by  
Minseong Kang

**Seihoon Lee** | Secretary  
slee207@masonlive.gmu.edu

## Hye Rin Yoon's Global Story at Global Green Growth Institution



Hye Rin poses for a photo with her colleagues at GGGI / Photo by Hye Rin Yoon

Hye Rin Yoon, a GMUK Global Affairs and Psychology senior and currently working as an intern in the Global Green Growth Institution (GGGI), takes the front line for the Global Affairs students who aspire to be part of an inter-

national organization one day. A Global Affairs student working at a global organization shares her story of life at the GGGI through The Voice.

In May, following her time in Fairfax, Hye Rin began her work at GGGI, an intergovernmental organization that works with developed and developing countries to deliver sustainable growth projects. As a senior who will be graduating this year, Hye Rin was looking for an internship that would spark her career in the international field. Just as she was doing so, the Career Development Center informed the students about an internship at GGGI, and helped with the application process. Nonetheless, the process came with hardships. Hye Rin had to overcome her fear of the in-person interviews conducted during application process. She had to make sure to know more about the organization in advance, so she

could present herself both professionally and authentically during the in-person interviews.

Winning through the tough interviews, Hye Rin now works in the human resources unit and Green Climate Fund Liaison Office. In the human resources unit, she helps her employer to brand the project by creating content for various media platforms. As for the liaison office, she assists in development project research and proposal organization for existing programs.

While most students find the Global Affairs major to be a broad realm, Hye Rin finds it depends on how one would narrow his or her concentration. In an interview with The Voice Hye Rin recommended, "Actively seek out for opportunities and research what is out there! Take advantage of all the resources around you – GMUK Career Center, your professors, your peers, job sites, online forums, etc.

It is very important to find out what you like. However, it is just as important to find out what you don't like. As you try different things, you get to learn about yourself more and more. Go at your own pace and enjoy the discovery process."

**Sungwon Mun** | Reporter  
smun5@masonlive.gmu.edu

### Quote of the Day

*"Only those who risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go"*

*T.S Eliot*

## Start the New School Year Off Right

### Four Tips to Hit the Ground Running in September

It's back-to-school time again. Whether it's your first semester in college or your last, transitioning from summer break to school can be difficult for any student. If you're one of the many students who struggle with readjusting to school after being away for months on summer vacation, here are some tips to help you get back on track this semester.

**Get your sleep schedule back on track:** For those who spent their summer relaxing and sleeping in, the adjustment from sleeping until noon to waking up for a 9 a.m. class can be difficult. One way to ease the transition is to set an alarm for slightly earlier than you're used to waking up a

few days before your first class. If you haven't done this, and you find yourself yawning through class, try going to bed earlier. You don't have to suddenly go from falling asleep at 1 a.m. to being tucked in bed by 8 p.m. Simply going to bed 15 to 30 minutes earlier each night can help you get a good night's sleep so you'll feel refreshed and alert for all of your classes.

**Keep track of your school work and other activities:** Now that school is back in session, it is only a matter of time before you get that dreaded first assignment. Before you know it, other assignments start piling in, and you can easily find yourself drowning in a sea of work. Add in any

jobs or extracurricular activities and you can become overwhelmed trying to keep track of it all. An easy way to stay on top of your busy schedule is to use a calendar or planner. Whether you use a physical planner or an app, having a system to keep track of your schedule can be helpful. As soon as you get your syllabus, take note of important dates such as test dates and due dates for major assignments. Update your calendar regularly to include your work schedule, homework assignments, and other activities so you don't fall behind.

**Figure out what study habits work for you:**

Once you know what your assignments are, the next step is to actually do the

work. It's best to figure out an effective study system early in the semester so you don't struggle later when your workload gets more intense. Does working in a neat, quiet environment help you focus? Perhaps doing your work in the library or a study room might be best for you. Do you work best when you have other people to talk to? Try forming a study group. Exchange phone numbers with a few people in your classes so you can study together or exchange any notes you may have missed. Start forming good study habits now to carry you through the semester.

**Get involved on campus:** School work is important, but it is also important

to have fun. Joining a club or student organization is a great way to meet new people and participate in fun activities. Clubs can also help you network and develop new skills. Mason has more than 350 organizations, so you're bound to find something you like. Events like the GetConnected Fair on Sept. 5, and The Source, a similar event that focuses on black student organizations, on Sept. 7, allow you to see what clubs Mason has to offer its students. Many clubs also hold interest meetings during the first few weeks of the semester. Getting involved on campus can help you have an active social life and form a community with other students.

**Monica Echols** |  
Culture Editor

## Right Wing Demonstrators Outnumbered by Counterprotesters for Unite the Right 2 Rally

On the anniversary of the infamous Aug. 12, 2017 rally in Charlottesville that left one dead, hundreds of counterprotesters gathered around Foggy Bottom-GWU Station and prepared to march to Lafayette Square. They expected the arrival of 400 self-proclaimed Neo-Nazis and other demonstrators, popularly known collectively as the alt-right movement. Though the number of alt-right supporters was actually closer to 20, it did not dent the palpable surge of anger from counterprotesters.

Counterprotesters from several organizations lined the streets, holding signs and yelling insults at the alt-right members. Only two alt-right supporters could be seen, one male and one female, and were heavily guarded by police. The two declined to comment.

A representative from the Act Now to Stop War and End Racism (ANSWER) Coalition, who declined to give their name, passed out flyers promoting their group's "anti-hate" message and commented on the importance for people to attend similar demonstrations, "not just today, but every day."

Before the scheduled rally of alt-right sup-



40 activist groups organized demonstrations in DC to protest the second unite the Right Rally/ Photo by Dana Nickel and Tisha Herrera/Fourth Estate

porters, there was a large crowd of counterprotesters outside the White House.

Gabriel Tello Salas, the cultural chair from the Hispanic Student Association at Mason, was among the crowd of counterprotesters as he demonstrated with other Mason Latino organizations in opposition of the alt-right supporters. Tello Salas stated his reason for being at the counterprotest was "for support—I'm completely against what the [Unite the Right 2] rally stands for."

"The millennials' generation still gets talked down to because we're young," Tello Salas said. He adds that millennials are treated like "we don't have an opinion," but if they do,

"[we] have bad opinions, or our opinions are too much or something."

He stated that students can make a difference at Mason by "getting involved on campus and advocating for the minority communities—giving back to communities and getting involved in marginalized communities that are being attacked," but emphasized that "the first place to start [advocating] is at Mason."

A group of three student protesters from Antifa, a conglomerate of anti-fascist militant groups, drove from Connecticut and spoke about their views of what they hoped to accomplish at the Unite the Right 2 rally.

The Antifa protest-

ers—Victor, Jess, and a third who declined to give his name—attended the counterprotest, as Victor put it, "to stomp out white supremacy." The three noted how symbolic and powerful it was that counterprotesters were all able to attend the rally in unity in front of the White House.

The protesters also noted the importance for people of all ages to "educate [themselves] on the topics [in the news]," and "to be aware of what's happening and speak out against hateful speech, speak out against hateful groups that are trying to gain a foothold in the public's view."

Lafayette Square is often the site of protests and rallies, either in support

of or in opposition to the current federal administration. Amitzah, a 61-year-old woman who donned a homemade shirt which read "I love Trump Reelect President 2020 [sic]," told Fourth Estate that she sits on a bench facing the White House in Lafayette Square every morning to show President Trump that she supports him.

Amitzah stated that she supports the president, and opposes Muslims entering or residing in the U.S. as she "was a victim of a Muslim" from her former husband. She declined to give any further comments.

Though she declined to give her last name, Amitzah was vocal about her beliefs that Trump had done a good job in his presidency thus far, "no matter what many people may believe."

Amitzah was in the minority opinion that day. Only about 20 alt-right members came to D.C. in support of their rally, though it was originally scheduled for 400 attendees. The counterprotest had an estimated 1,000 protesters in attendance.

**Tisha Herrera** |  
News Editor

**Dana Nickel** |  
Longform Editor

# The Voice, Striving Toward Innovation

Since its establishment on May 23, 2015, The Voice has developed with the title of being “the only media of George Mason University Korea (GMUK)” and “the only English newspaper of the Incheon Global Campus (IGC)”. However, after receiving results of declining circulation rates of newspapers and stagnant participation rates of readers, The Voice was forced to take time to reflect on its journey. In this vein, The Voice wants to check this crisis and the constantly changing fate of newspapers, as well as the process of innovation that The Voice has undergone within these circumstances.

The crisis of newspapers has been a consistent problem not only within the student media but also the established media. People are now able to access the

news using various media platforms such as the Internet and Social Media, and obtain high-quality information without having to pay for it.

As the major readership are university students, the crisis has come even bigger for the student media. In the past, the student newspaper was a powerful form of media that dealt with not only issues in universities but also social issues from the perspective of the youth. However, now student newspapers that have not changed with the trends are facing a discontinuance of publication due to the huge amount of information coming from other various media. In addition, a number of student media which failed to produce independent capital due to financial difficulties are suffering from publication and

content interference from the school and the negative perception of students.

Change is essential for student media in this situation. As a major target of the student newspaper is the young generation, who are making good use of social media, the digitalization of news is needed. More important, however, is the need to develop practical digital capabilities based on fundamental platform changes. Rather than just making a PDF file of newspapers, the student media should understand how to operate and use social networking services. They should diversify contents such as card news, blog postings, and videos while accelerating the system of distribution through continuous training within the organization.

The Voice has been emphasizing the digitalization of news following the reorganization in the second half of 2017. It has renewed the online form of newspaper, and launched an official card news team and photo team to distribute articles using Facebook. Based on an online survey, The Voice was able to know the students' interests while signing contracts with various advertising outlets and delivered news regarding them through card news. Moreover, WIX blog, a site linked to Facebook, was used to upload monthly articles and The Voice continued to actively work inside the online format. At the same time, The Voice worked to gain the trust of its readers by carrying out fair and objective reports on important issues in school, including the resignation

of the president, arguments regarding English Zones, employment of graduates, and town-hall meetings.

The innovation of The Voice began with a fundamental purpose of hearing the voices of readers and representing them. No matter how diverse and high-quality information is, The Voice believes it would be meaningless unless it is effectively communicated to the reader. We think one of the most important roles of school media is to adjust to the changed environment since it is an organization that tells the truth and delivers issues. The Voice would like to extend its gratitude to its readers for their trust and support, and promises that innovative changes will continue in the future.



## ✉ Letter From FairFax

Dear students of Mason Korea,

My name is Alex, and I'm the Editor-in-Chief of Fourth Estate, the student paper at Mason's main campus in Fairfax. I'm very excited to introduce our newspaper to you all this year in our new collaboration with The Voice!

As student journalists, expanding our horizons is one of the most important things we can do. Student journalism is about finding every perspective in our university, understanding

them, and learning from them, even if those perspectives are all the way around the world. Truly, collaboration between our two campuses represents the very essence of what being both a journalist and a student at Mason is all about.

Throughout this year, you will see our stories in The Voice, and we will share theirs in our newspaper over here. Through this joint effort we hope to raise the quality and the awareness of both publications, celebrate our vastly different experiences across

the globe, and create more content for you all to enjoy!

If you're interested in student journalism, don't be afraid to reach out to your editors. Student newsrooms are a great way to get practical experience going into any field involving writing, or just have a great experience learning what it's like to work with other people in a professional environment. And if you're coming back to Fairfax, stop by Student Media and introduce yourself!

Alexander Shedd  
Editor-in-Chief,  
Fourth Estate

## The Voice

*Focusing on Delivering the News with Honesty*

**Publisher:** The Voice  
**Supervisor:** Claude Drolet  
**Editor-in-Chief:** Heasu Lee  
**Managing Editor:** Haseung Joung  
**Secretary:** Seihoon Lee  
**Designer:** Youjin Cho  
**Associate Editor:** Jinseong Choi  
**Email:** gmukvoice@gmail.com  
**Facebook Page:** www.facebook.com/VOICEofGMUK  
**Homepage:** https://gmukvoice.wixsite.com/voiceofgmuk/blog

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