

Clarion, Dongguk universities sign ceremonial agreement

► The deal could result in an exchange program between the institutions.

CLARION — Clarion University Pres. Joseph Grunenwald and Il Chung Kim, dean of international programs and education for Dongguk University in Korea, have participated in a ceremonial signing of an agreement that could result in an exchange program between the institutions.

The agreement, signed in Carlson Library at the Clarion campus, is awaiting final approval from Pennsylvania State System of Higher Education legal counsel.

"We are very pleased to be able to enter into this exchange agreement with Dongguk University," said Grunenwald. "The ability for Clarion and Dongguk to have high achieving students and faculty from other cultures participate in academic programs greatly enhances

the overall high quality for both institutions. We are eager to grow our relationship into a significant part of Clarion's international program."

The contact between the universities started when Provost Valentine James and Jocelind Gant, assistant vice president for international programs, represented Clarion University in February during an educational mission to Asia by a Pennsylvania Education Delegation.

Also participating in the trip to Japan, South Korea, and Taiwan were Carnegie Mellon University, Chatham University, Drexel University, Penn State Allegheny University, and Thiel College.

They met with university officials from several universities in Seoul, South Korea, Tokyo, and Taipei, Taiwan as well as with parents, students, and agents to discuss student exchange, faculty exchange and partnerships.

The partnership agreement with

Dongguk is an initial result of the visit.

"We are hoping that the partnership with Dongguk University will enhance our efforts to internationalize our campus and expose our students, faculty and the entire university community to the globalization trends that are happening on many university and college campuses across the United States," said James. "We are anticipating the arrival of some Dongguk University students on our campus in the fall of 2009 if all the arrangements and paperwork go smoothly."

Gant explained that the preliminary agreement concentrated on three areas — exchange of students for study and research, exchange of professors and administrators, exchange of information and publicity on education and research, and implementing cooperative education and research programs.

"This exchange of delegations is

consistent with the international mission of Clarion University," said Gant. "It supports the attempts of Clarion University to promote global engagement by providing students and faculty with an opportunity to participate in faculty-led programs to Korea and for Dongguk to reciprocate in kind. During our visit in February, we found that Korean parents were very interested in Clarion because of its cost, quality of programs, and record of safety."

While the possibility of Dongguk University students arriving at Clarion rapidly is a possibility, Gant knows Clarion students have a challenge.

"Clarion's challenge is getting students to overcome their reluctance to participate in exchange programs where English is not the primary language," she said. "Because this would be a reciprocal agreement, our goal is to get more students interested in study abroad ex-

periences in a country for which English is a second language by supporting more faculty-led programs. Students are more inclined to pursue study abroad experiences in these countries if faculty is involved in the experience. Clarion has made efforts to motivate students to realize that a study abroad experience is the means by which they will understand that they are products of and participants in a global society."

Dongguk University, founded in 1906 by Korea's ecumenically minded Joeye Order, remains one of the few Buddhist affiliated universities in the world.

Yet its doors have always been open to students and teachers of all faiths and philosophies. It offers 103 undergraduate and 116 graduate programs on its two campuses in Seoul and Gyeonngju, and has an enrollment of 30,000 undergraduate and 3,750 graduate students.

Clarion County liquid fuels funding allocations OK'd

► The fund can be used for construction, maintenance and repair projects.

CLARION — Clarion County commissioners approved the allocation of about \$60,000 in liquid fuels funding Tuesday toward five area

In other action, commis-

sioners approved a consulting agreement between the county's emergency services office and MCM Telecommunications Consulting Group Inc. of McMurray for planning, acquisition, implementation, training and project management services at a total cost of

installation costs of \$77,868.

Clarion will then assume responsibility for payment of the monthly service charges for the length of the agreement.

Total costs are to be shared equally between the counties.

Sidewalk renairie

Oil City High School Class of 1955

The Oil City High School Class of 1955 will hold an organizational meeting at 7 p.m. Monday in the basement room of the Oil City Public Library. Anyone interested in help-

REUNIONS

ing plan the next reunion should attend.

Additional information is available by calling Tom Moore at 677-4948.

Clare and Francis Fike

The family of Clare and Francis Fike will hold a reunion

at noon Saturday, Aug. 1, at Two Mile Run County Park.

The meeting will be held in the lake area at the Mackie pavilion.

Attendees should take a casserole and dessert to share for lunch. Beverages will be provided.

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