



NAM CENTER FOR KOREAN STUDIES

Increasing the Depth and Breadth of Resources

Korea's geopolitical significance in Asia, the long history of diplomatic alliance and trade partnership between the U.S. and South Korea, South Korea's recent economic and technological advances, and situations in North Korea, are among the many reasons that Korea has gained significance on the world stage. The mission of the Nam Center for Korean Studies is to foster teaching and research on Korea across disciplines and to use the academic resources of the university for cultural, social, and political understanding of Korea.

Officially founded at the University of Michigan in 1995 as the Korean Studies Program, the Nam Center for Korean Studies was inaugurated in August 2010, thanks to a very generous gift from U-M alumnus Elder Sang-Yong Nam and his family. The Nam Center strives to cultivate global citizenship and leadership among U-M students, cultivate the next generation of scholars of Korean Studies, enrich campus life by helping internationalize academic curriculum and cultural programming at Michigan, and continue to build Michigan's leadership in the field of Korean Studies.

The Nam Center provides competitive fellowships for undergraduate and graduate students conducting research related to Korean Studies. Through its student and faculty support and ambitious public programming, the center seeks to increase the depth and breadth of resources devoted to Korean Studies. The center supports student and faculty research and recruitment, new curriculum development, and an active colloquium series at the university, bringing eminent Korean Studies scholars from around the world to speak on diverse and complex issues. Additionally, the center provides funding for public programs such as art exhibitions, film festivals, lectures, and conferences.

Gifts to the Nam Center are used to support the full range of our scholarly, academic, and community activities, which include funding for undergraduate and graduate fellowships, support for faculty research, hosting visiting scholars, enrichment of Korean language library resources, public lectures, and resources for student organizations.

UNDERGRADUATE FELLOWS PROGRAM

With the increasing profile of Korean contemporary culture on the global media landscape, the Center is committed to encouraging young scholars to pursue dynamic research-based inquiries into Korea. We seek support to establish an innovative Undergraduate Fellows Program, in which eight to 12 competitively selected undergraduate fellows are awarded funding to pursue research and various other activities that prepare them to pursue graduate work including:

- Undergraduate Fellow Award/Scholarship: \$10,000 annually
- Participate in annual Undergraduate Korean Studies Conference with faculty and undergraduate fellows at partner universities: \$10,000 annually
- Organize an annual Undergraduate Fellows Lecture Series, invite a speaker of interest to the fellows and the larger student body at Michigan: \$7,500 annually
- Research grant for Honors thesis or scholarly projects on Korea: \$7,500 annually
- Travel to academic conferences to present research: \$5,000 annually

NEXTGEN KOREAN STUDIES INITIATIVE

The NextGen Korean Studies Scholars Initiative will feature a variety of programs through which U-M graduate students will have valuable opportunities to deepen individual research and prepare for the next stages of their scholarly career. Gifts for the initiative will enable the Center to establish activities such as:

- Hosting an annual international graduate student conference in Korean Studies organized by a graduate student conference committee: \$20,000 annually
- Carrying out graduate student exchange programs with international institutional partners, such as Seoul National University in Korea and other foreign universities: \$10,000 annually
- Offering a variety of workshops that benefit graduate students, including intensive research seminars, career mentoring workshops, dissertation workshops for individual research projects, and publication workshops: \$15,000 annually

KOREAN JOURNAL OF COMMUNICATION AND MEDIA

The Nam Center is seeking support of \$50,000 annually to launch a new scholarly journal that will be distinct from other established Korean Studies journals because it will specialize in contemporary Korea and feature research grounded in both social science and humanities traditions, rather than on a broad range of historical periods. We envision the research in this journal bridging the divide between area studies and disciplinary scholarship and strengthening the visibility and impact that U-M has in Korean Studies in conjunction with other fields, such as communication studies, cinema studies, and cultural studies.



“A class on the history of the United States’ and Korea’s relations opened my eyes to my own heritage. I was surprised by how much both of my identities have been intertwined even before I was born. Both of my countries have a long, complicated history that has allowed me to gain more insight into what the world was like for my parents and my ancestors. Because of [the Center for Korean Studies] I was able to connect with my heritage in a way that I could not have imagined before.”

—Esther K., LSA student majoring in biopsychology cognition, and neuroscience, with a minor in Korean language



POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

The Nam Center is seeking support for a postdoctoral fellowship program. Each year, one postdoctoral fellow will be selected to teach two to three courses per year in Korean Studies, as well as conduct research in her or his subject area. Through this program, we seek to encourage and support up-and-coming scholars in Korean Studies, helping them prepare for tenure-track positions by providing time to conduct lengthy and time-consuming research that they would not normally be able to do with a full teaching load. These fellowships would also increase the strength of young Korean Studies scholarship in individual disciplines. The program, costing \$1.5M endowed or \$70,000 annually, will enhance Michigan's reputation as a destination for rising stars in the field. Also, fellows will mentor and inspire younger generations of Korean Studies students by assisting the center with undergraduate and graduate student programming.

WAYS TO FUND YOUR GIFT

Your gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities change lives. Wills, estate, and planned gifts allow you to create a lasting legacy that will enable the best and brightest minds to experience a liberal arts education, solve problems in a changing world, and yield ideas and innovations that will make a difference in Michigan and around the globe.

CONTACT INFO

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