



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 twelve 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: *\$5,000 annually*
- Research grant for honors thesis or scholarly projects on Korea: *\$7,500 annually*
- Summer internship in Korea: *\$10,000 annually*

“My Korean professors recognized my passion for the language and culture, which helped cultivate my knowledge of everything I have accumulated over the years. The time I had at the University of Michigan and the Nam Center was short, but will forever have a positive impact on me. It will continue to push my passion for searching for new knowledge and opportunities for my future career.”

–Brian T., Double Major in Computer Sciences and Asian Studies

NEXTGEN KOREAN STUDIES INITIATIVE

The NextGen Korean Studies Scholars Initiative will feature a variety of programs and fellowships 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:

- Scholarships to cover tuition and fees for Korean Studies graduate students in financial need: *\$100,000 annually*
- Hosting an annual international graduate student conference in Korean Studies organized by a graduate student conference committee: *\$20,000 annually*
- A variety of workshops that benefit graduate students, including intensive research seminars, career mentoring workshops, dissertation workshops for individual research projects, and publication workshops: *\$10,000 annually*

KALEIDOSCOPE: KOREAN TRADITIONS AND COLLABORATIONS

The Nam Center is seeking support of \$50,000 annually to launch a new arts initiative that brings together artists trained in traditional Korean music, performance, and art to engage in sustained formal experimentations and innovative collaborations with US-based artists. Building on the great success of a pilot program launched in 2022-2023 called “Kaleidoscope of Sound: Korean Traditions and Collaborations” which featured Korean *kugak* practitioners in collaborations with jazz and bluegrass musicians, the Kaleidoscope series will focus on a different genre of Korean arts every year. An artist residency combined with teacher and student workshops, concerts, artist talks, media interviews will round out the program. The goal of the program is to establish U-M as the place for creative dialogues and impactful partnerships that revitalize traditional Korean arts and allow them to become the repertoire for the world.

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 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 partnership connects the college's rich past to a boundless and bright future. You can change lives with gifts of cash, pledges, or appreciated securities, and create a meaningful legacy through your bequest, trusts, gift annuities, and other planned gifts. Your generosity makes an impact on what's next, for a better tomorrow.

for what's next ▶

Look to Michigan

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