NAM CENTER FOR KOREAN STUDIES



Dear Friends of the Nam Center,

he summer is typically a quiet season on university campuses, a time for rest, recharge, and reflection. Not so at the Nam Center for Korean Studies where summer brings a large number of guests for three of the Center's signature annual programs: International Conference of NextGen Korean Studies Scholars (NEKST), Michigan Korean Studies Summer Institute (MiKSSI) whose focus this year is "Democracy and Gender," and UM-Gyeonggido Summer in Michigan Program.



Amid all this bustle, I am sitting down to look back on the past year and to take stock of how the Nam Center is building "Korean Studies with a Michigan Difference." It is a truly gratifying task.

The key components of the Michigan Difference is community-building, agendasetting, and the pursuit of scholarship that is both critically relevant and transformative in its impact. The 2023-2024 academic year opened with our annual Chuseok celebration, a joyous event where nearly a thousand attendees from both the university and the local community experienced cultural traditions associated with Korea's most beloved

holiday. Celebration of Korean traditions continued at the Center's annual Perspectives on Contemporary Korea conference, superbly organized by Dr. Hilary Finchum-Sung. A renowned group of international scholars and practitioners of traditional Korean music came together, transforming the University of Michigan into a marvelous stage for experimentations and collaborations. Through its stable of established programs, including Undergraduate and Graduate Fellows Programs, Junior Faculty Manuscript Workshop, "Korea in Maize & Blue" Podcast, and the Big Ten Academic Alliance-Korea Foundation e-School, the Nam Center continued to deepen its mission of contributing to Korean studies field-building beyond U-M.

Bringing Korea's history in conversation with experiences in other parts of the world, the Nam Center also sponsored workshops, roundtables and symposia in collaboration with other Asia centers at the International Institute, the Wallace House for Journalists, and Departments of History and Asian Languages and Cultures. These events included "Freedom of Press in Asia." "A Festival of Asian Music," and "Concerned Asian Scholars, 55 Years Later." The last examined the achievements and legacies of the Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars, a group that launched the tradition of Critical Asian Studies in protest against the US aggression in Vietnam in 1968. The symposium

occasioned a heated discussion about the place and meaning of anti-imperialist scholarship at a time of campus encampments and renewed student activism surrounding the war in Gaza.

The spirit of collaboration extended to the Korean community beyond the university campus. In commemoration of the tenth anniversary of the sinking of Sewol Ferry, the Nam Center joined forces with Sewol Michigan to bring "The Talent Show," a moving documentary about the social power of grief, to Michigan Theater. With artwork, letters, and candles, members of Sewol Michigan transformed the theater into a space of memory, mourning and reaffirmation of life. The screening served as the finale to a memorable season of Korean Cinema NOW that focused on stories of the Korean diaspora. The series was also supported by the celebrated chef Jihye Kim, the owner of Miss Kim, who generously provided Korean refreshments, frequently in person.

Pulling off all of these events with professionalism and a touch of grace, the Nam Center staff has gone above and beyond every time. Indeed, the excellence of the Center's staff has been well recognized at U-M. In 2024, Evan Vowell, the beloved Academic Programs Coordinator for more than five years at the Nam Center, took up a promotional opportunity at the International Institute. In the ensuing reorganization of staff roles, Minyoung Song, who received her PhD in Education at U-M in 2013, joined the team as Outreach Coordinator. A couple of core faculty have departed U-M to take up posts at other institutions. Thomas Ryan, a postdoctoral fellow at the Nam Center for two years, will take up an assistant professor position in the Department of Korean History at Korea University. Joan Kee, a core member of the Nam Center since 2008 and the associate director of multiple Center projects funded by the Academy of Korean Studies over the decade, has been appointed the Judy and Michael Steinhardt Director of the renowned Institute of Fine Arts at New York University. They will be missed.

Looking ahead, I can feel a sense of excitement already building for Nam Center's rich slate of events and new initiatives in 2024-2025. The Center's collaboration with Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra under the artistic directorship of Earl Lee will feature the pianist Sunwoo Yekwon and composer Texu Kim. US Amb Philip Goldberg and Korean Amb Cho Hyundong will be holding a public conversation on Korea-US relations at U-M. An international conference on migration in and from Korea, and a history project on Koreans at the University are just two of the many academic events being planned. I invite you to join us. Thank you for your continued support of the Nam Center, and as always,

GO BLUE!

Youngju Ryu

TABLE OF CONTENTS Nam Center Faculty and S Faculty News Signature Programs Student Grou

lowships & Award

Library & Resources

About Us

5

8

12

13

15

16

The Nam Center for Korean Studies (NCKS) is the seat of Korearelated research, education, and public outreach at the University of Michigan, Established in 2007 and renamed the Nam Center in 2010, it is now one of the nation's most vibrant centers devoted to promoting a deeper understanding of Korea, past and present. At NCKS, we provide research support for faculty, award scholar-

ships and fellowships to students, and host leading experts in the field as guest lecturers and visiting scholars. We hold international conferences, manuscript workshops, and a graduate summer institute in interdisciplinary Korean Studies annually. We also



oversee a wide range of innovative programs tailored for different audiences ranging from K-14 educators to established scholars in the field, and sponsor public events in Korean culture and the arts, including exhibitions, film festivals, and performances. We coordinate collaborations with campus departments, schools, and academic units, and comprise one of the three centers that together make up the East Asia National Resource Center at Michigan, selected and supported by the Department of Education from a nationwide competition. NCKS' external collaborations include the Big Ten Academic Alliance Korean Studies e-School, which it has led over the last ten years. The Center's many initiatives are supported by major external grants from the Korea Foundation and the Academy of Korean Studies among others.

These programs encourage cutting-edge interdisciplinary research, cultivate historically situated knowledge, and facilitate nuanced conversations about Korea's traditions and transformations within the U-M community and beyond.

About Elder Sang-Yong Nam

The Nam Center for Korean Studies was created in 2010 with a generous gift from Sang-Yong and Moon-sook Nam. Sang-Yong Nam, from Daejeon, Korea, dreamed of rebuilding his war-torn country. After majoring in architecture at Seoul National University, he came to the US to study at the University of Michigan and received a master's degree in City Planning. He worked as a senior city planner in Washtenaw County for 13 years and built a successful business. A strong believer in community engagement, Nam was active in the Korean Church of Ann Arbor and Ann Arbor Rotary Club, and his gifts supported educational institutions in China and the Ann Arbor Korean School. He advised The National Unification Advisory Council, taught in China, and received an honorary doctorate from Chung-Ang University. His awards include Distinguished Service recognitions from U-M and the Rotary Club of Ann Arbor. At U-M, he was determined to build a world-class Korea center. He passed away a year after the establishment of the center that bears his name, leaving behind an enduring legacy of desire, dream, drive, and determination.

NAM CENTER FACULTY & STAFF

Director

Youngju Ryu, Associate Professor of Asian Languages and Cultures (ALC)

Nam Center Core Faculty

Juhn Ahn, Associate Professor, ALC

YuhJoo Byun, Lecturer, ALC

David Chung, Professor, Art and Design

Jeehyae Chung, Lecturer, ALC

Hunjin Jung, Lecturer, ALC

Joan Kee, Professor, History of Art

E. Han Kim, Professor, Ross School of Business

Hwa-Jin Kim, Professor, Law

Jaeeun Kim, Associate Professor, Sociology

Jiyoung Kim, Lecturer, ALC

Jong-Jin Kim, Associate Professor, Architecture and Urban Planning

Soyeon Kim, Director, Korean Language Program, ALC

Dae Hee Kwak, Associate Professor, Kinesiology

Se-Mi Oh, Associate Professor, ALC

Doo Jae Park, Lecturer, Kinesiology and American Culture

Thomas Ryan, Postdoctoral Fellow

NaRi Shin, Assistant Professor, Kinesiology

Jordan Siegel, Professor, Ross School of Business

Affiliated Faculty

Barbara Anderson, Professor, Sociology

Micah Auerback, Associate Professor, ALC

Benjamin Brose, Professor, ALC

Scott Campbell, Professor, Communication & Media

Kevin Carr, Associate Professor, History of Art

Pär Cassel, Associate Professor, History

Joseph Lam, Professor, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Donald Lopez, Professor, ALC

Julie Ma, Associate Professor, Social Work

Ramaswami Mahalingam, Professor, Psychology, Women's Studies

Abé Markus Nornes, Professor, ALC, Film, Television & Media **Matthew Thompson,** Assistant Professor, School of Music, Theatre & Dance

Library & Museum Affiliates

Bohyun Kim, Library Information Technology

Myung Hee Kim, Asia Library

Dawn Lawson, Asia Library

Natsu Oyobe, UMMA

Yunah Sung, Asia Library

Jungwon Yang, Stephen S. Clark Library

Jeong Hyun Eom, Korea Foundation library intern

Staff

Eva Fall, Center Administrator

Suyun Lee, External Relations Coordinator

Peggy Rudberg, Administrative Assistant

Minyoung Song, Outreach Coordinator

Evan Vowell, Program Coordinator

Podcast Host

Rory Walsh

Student Assistants

Jinny Kim, Office Assistant
Claire Yang, Graphic Designer
Leah Rose, Graphic Designer

New Staff



Minyoung Song, Outreach Coordinator "Creating meaningful experiences and memories deeply rooted in Korean history and culture has always been my passion. Since earning my Ph.D. from the University of Michigan School of Education, I have worked as a translator and community organizer,

focusing on social issues and people's narratives of Korea. I am thrilled to join the Nam Center for Korean Studies as the Outreach Coordinator and to reconnect with the University of Michigan community."



November 10, 2023 Britton Recital Hall Earl V. Moore Building

Organizers: Hilary Finchum-Sung (Nam Center for Korean Studies, University of Michigan/Association for Asian Studies)

Youngju Ryu (Department of Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Michigan)

he final event in this year's Perspectives on Contemporary Korea Conference, A Kaleidoscope of Sound: Korean Traditions and Collaborations, featured solo and group performances by world-renowned gayageum performer and recording artist Seulgi Lee along with nationally-recognized instrumentalists and performers Roman Barten-Sherman, Jeff Chan, Suwan Choi, DoYeon Kim, Hyunchae Kim, Yoona Kim, and Brandon Lopez with special guest artists Loren Kranz and Oliver Sung.

In keeping with the theme of the conference, the concert showcased the full spectrum of Korean music, from traditional gayageum performance to improvisational performances featuring elements of jazz and bluegrass. Held in the Britton Recital Hall, the performance was one of our best attended public events this year.









FACULTY NEWS



Juhn Ahn served as the director of undergraduate studies for the department of Asian Languages and Cultures for the past year. His translation of Sŏngch'ŏl's

sŭnim's Orthodox Path of Sŏn (Sŏnmun chŏngno) was published in 2023. He is currently traveling in Korea to conduct research for his second monograph on weather, wealth, and religion in early Chosŏn Korea.



Professor Y. **David Chung** received the Arts Research: Incubation & Acceleration (ARIA) grant from the university for his video project titled "Impossible

Conversations". In collaboration with British filmmaker, Pratap Rughani, Chung will create two video installations/documentaries exploring restorative justice through the stories of survivors and perpetrators of violence who engage in deep dialogue, aiming to chart a path toward reconciliation. The films showcase the challenging, yet transformative potential of creating connections and understanding in the wake of conflict and atrocity. The films are scheduled to be presented in Ann Arbor and London. In September 2024, Chung will participate in a group exhibition titled Legacies: Asian American Art Movements in New York City at New York University's Steinhardt Gallery. The exhibition will feature earlier work from Chung's "Seoul House" installation and performance. This past year Professor Chung was recognized

by the university for his directorship of the MFA Graduate Program with the Rackham Masters Mentoring Award.



Ji Yeon (Jean) **Hong** has received the 2023 Best Article Award from the Democracy and **Autocracy Section** of the American Political Science Association

(APSA) for her article titled "In Strongman We Trust: The Political Legacy of the New Village Movement in South Korea" published in the American Journal of Political Science in 2023. This award-winning article was coauthored by Sunkyoung Park at Korea University and Hyunjoo Yang at Sogang University and studied the longterm effects of the New Village Movement (Saemaul Undong) on the election of Park Geun-hye in 2012.



Jaeeun Kim, Korea Foundation Associate Professor of Sociology and Professor of Law (by Courtesy), published a piece, titled "Illiberal Origin, Liberal

Future? Pledges of Allegiance for Native-Born and Naturalised Citizens in South Korea," as part of the Global Citizenship Working Paper Series of the Robert Schuman Centre for Advanced Study at European University Institute (https://hdl. handle.net/1814/76823). Her essay, "Seeing like a Church, Seeing like a State: The Church-State Relation in Religious Asylum Adjudications," has also been published in Canopy Forum: On the Interactions of

Law and Religion, published by the Center for the Study of Law and Religion at Emory University (https://canopyforum. org/2024/05/23/seeing-like-a-churchseeing-like-a-state-the-church-state-relation-in-religious-asylum-adjudications/). She received the Jack Shand Research Grant from the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion for her new book project. Lastly, she accepted the invitation to serve as the non-resident permanent fellow (PF) position at the Wissenschaftskolleg zu Berlin (Institute for Advanced Study, Berlin) where she was a fellow in AY 2020 -2021. PFs play a key role in selecting fellows and running the institute. She will hold the PF position from 2024 to 2029.



Dae Hee Kwak. Associate Professor of Sport Management and Director of the Center for Sport Marketing Research, has published several papers

and currently serves as the Graduate Program Director in the Sport Management program. He co-authored an article with NaRi Shin, a core faculty member at the Nam Center and lead author, on the status of scholar activism in South Korean sport. This paper originated from a seminar session organized by the Korean American Association for Sport Management. Kwak also co-authored a paper on assessing social desirability biases in sport consumer research. Additionally, he gave an invited talk at Brown University about sport betting promotions and their impact on consumer behaviors.

Se-Mi Oh spent the year in Korea as a Fulbright scholar to conduct research for her monograph on the Han River.



Doo Jae Park. Lecturer of American Culture (Asian/Pacific Islander American Studies) and Kinesiology (Sport Management) authored an article

published in Cultural Studies <-> Critical Methodologies. The article, titled "Reflection as a Method: Asian Racialization in White Sport," explores Asian racialization in ice hockey through reflexive autobiography that problematizes whiteness, and the transnational racialization of Koreanness. He also co-authored (with NaRi Shin) a book chapter, "Doing Gender in the Neoliberal, Global Context of Sport Management," articulating how gender ideologies in Korea are racially constructed through globalized sport. At U-M, he was invited to speak at the Spring Formal, organized by KLG (Korea Leadership Group), KSEA (Korean American Scientists and Engineers Association), and LiNK (Liberty in North Korea), on "Imagined Koreanness and Identity Politics."



Ryu was promoted to Full Professor and was selected as one of the three professors in the College of Literature, Science, and the Arts to

In 2024, Youngju

be honored with the John Dewey Teaching Award. The John Dewey Award recipients are selected each year by the College Executive Committee for having demonstrated "long-term commitment to the education of undergraduate students."



NaRi Shin published several peer-reviewed articles including "Are we (in) visible? Toward a critical understanding of Asian women faculty experiences in

U.S. sport management" in the European Sport Management Quarterly, and "The status of scholar-activism in South Korean sport: Challenges and implications for advancement" in the Journal of Global Sport Management.

The proposal that DooJae Park and NaRi Shin submitted to the Academy of Korean Studies for their Korean Studies Grant 2024 was selected as one of the recipients. The title of the project is "Master's New Land: Taekwondo-Based Korean Diaspora and Its Impact on Taekwondo Development in the U.S." They conducted archival data collection in South Korea and interviews with Taekwondo masters in the US for further data collection. They will present the preliminary findings of this project at the European Sport Management Association annual conference in Paris, France, in September.

In December 2023, Shin gave an invited talk at the College of Educational Science at Yonsei University in Seoul, South Korea, titled "Understanding Sport and Diaspora Through Qualitative Inquiry." Shin also gave a presentation, with DooJae Park, titled "The Making of an Intersectional Safe Space Through Sport: Exploring the Experiences of Immigrant Women's Sport Teams in the U.S." at the North American Society for Sport Management annual conference. In this presentation, they shared the motivation and experiences of

the members of Korean women's soccer teams in the U.S. Northeast, which they identified through conducting multiple fieldworks and interviews.



Nam Center **Postdoctoral** Fellow

The Postdoctoral Fellow enriches the Korean studies community at U-M by engaging in research

and leading the Nam Center Undergraduate Fellows program. The fellow also serves as faculty advisor for the annual **UM-USC Korean Studies Undergraduate** Exchange Conference and the International Conference of NextGen Korean Studies Scholars.

2023-2024 Postdoctoral Fellow: **Thomas Ryan**

"My second year as a postdoctoral fellow at the Nam Center has proven even more productive and rewarding than the first. During the 2023-2024 academic year, I taught my own special topics course in Korean humanities and advised the wonderful research projects of our Nam Center Undergraduate Research Fellows. This year, we hosted the annual UM-USC Korean Studies Undergraduate Exchange Conference, which like the NEKST Graduate Student Conference, was a great success. I have also been able to turn professional relationships established through our other events-Perspectives, the Colloquium Series, the Summer Institute, among many others—into various successful conference panels, roundtables, and forthcoming special issues. I tell everyone who asks that there is no better place in the world to be a postdoctoral researcher in Korean Studies than the Nam Center. " - Thomas Ryan

KOREAN LANGUAGE PROGRAM

Korean Language Program Faculty

Soyeon Kim, Director YuhJoo Byun Hunjin Jung Jiyoung Kim

Jeehyae Chung

Language Tables

Hosted by KLP faculty and student staff, language tables help students deepen their experience of the Korean language, culture, and society in a participatory setting. This year's language tables included two movie nights, a game night, and a ramen night, as well as seven conversation tables covering various topics.

Seoul National University Exchange

KLP students engage in online exchanges with students at Seoul National University (SNU) throughout the year. In 2023-2024, students enrolled in Accelerated Korean, Third-Year Korean, and Media Korean participated in these exchanges. The KLP expanded its partnership with SNU in Winter 2024 to pilot a new exchange model with their Department of Korean Education. The pilot sessions were smoothly run by YuhJoo Byun in her Accelerated Korean II class. Additionally, SNU hosted their 4th studyabroad program on the UM campus in July 2024, for which KLP provided curricular and logistical support as a partner program.

Community Connection

In Winter 2024, students enrolled in "Teaching Korean in the Community" led two hands-on workshops for the community under the supervision of two KLP instructors, Jeehyae Chung and Hunjin Jung. Both the "Lunch and Learn" event, held at the NCKS, and the Korean Food Workshop, held at the UM South Quad Kitchen, were successfully conducted, attracting over twenty community members from the campus and beyond.



Virtual Reality Project

KLP's Extended Reality (XR) project, "Virtual Interactions in Seoul," led by Jiyoung Kim and Dr. Soyeon Kim and sponsored by the NCKS and the Center for Academic Innovation, was invited to present a poster at the 2024 American Association for Applied Linguistics Conference in Houston, Texas, and at the UM's

Language Resource Center Showcase and Open House. The project is also in the final stage of production to be published in a book titled "Innovative Methods in Korean Language Teaching" (Routledge).



Nam Speech Contest

The contest honors the memory of Elder Sang-Yong Nam, a benefactor whose generosity and personal dedication helped create momentum for KLP's establishment in the early 1990s. After more than twenty years of successfully running the Nam Essay Contest, the contest transitioned to a speech format this year. KLP students participated by submitting videos of their speeches on topics of their choice. The best speeches were recognized with scholarship awards of up to \$300 at the Sang Yong Nam and Korean Language Award Night in April.

2023-2024 Awardees:

Beginner Level

1st Place: Margaret Elfring
2nd Place: Serenity Moore, Changle Liu
3rd Place: Ishrat Khan, Luna Pava, Caroline Lohse

Intermediate Level

1st Place: **Brooklyn Emuakhagbon** 2nd Place: **Savini Gamhewage**

Advanced Level

1st Place: **Eden Yu**

2nd Place: Brian Georgis, Matthew Jeong



News

Hunjin Jung has been honored with the title of Teaching Professor. With this honor, the University recognizes Jung's dedicated service as an innovative educator and accomplished instructor. Congratulations!

Test of Proficiency in Korean (TOPIK)

UM serves as the only testing center in Michigan for TOPIK, a standardized exam administered by the Korean government. KLP successfully hosted the annual exam for the fifth time in April.



Midwest Speech Contest

With generous support from the NCKS, KLP students are fully funded to participate in the Midwest Speech Contest. At the 2024 Midwest Speech Contest, held at Northwestern University in April, three students participated as contestants at different levels. Serenity Moore, Savini Gamhewage, and Matthew Jeong gained a valuable opportunity to compete and network with other learners of the Korean language and culture from across the Midwest.



he Nam Center Colloquium Series is supported by the US Department of Education Title VI National Resource Center grant. The series brings to Ann Arbor scholars from around the world conducting cuttingedge research on Korea. The 2023–2024 series was held in-person as well as virtually. The speakers also participated as featured guests in the center's podcast series "Korea in Maize & Blue," discussing their scholarly journeys in an information of the content of the con

COLLOQUIUM SERIES



Stephan Haggard

discussing their scholarly journeys in an informal, intergenerational conversation with Nam Center Undergraduate Fellows.

October 10, 2023 **Sonja Kim,** Chair, Department of Asian and Asian American Studies, SUNY Binghamton; "Reproductive Desires in Colonial Korea"

November 14, 2023 **Chuyun Oh,** Associate Professor of Dance Theory, San Diego State University; "Teachers Who Made K-pop Dance"

December 5, 2023 **Christine Hong,** Professor of Critical Race and Ethnic Studies (CRES) and Literature, UC Santa Cruz; "'War Is the Force That Gives Us Meaning': Militarized Queerness, Racial Masking, and the Korean War Mascot"

February 13, 2024 **Sang-Seok Yoon,** Associate Professor of Instruction, Department of Asian and Slavic Languages and Literatures, University of Iowa; "Social Meanings of Korean Honorifics Beyond Politeness Markers"

March 12, 2024 **Myoung-Sun Song,** Assistant Professor, Department of East Asian Languages and Cultures, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign; "From South Bronx to Seoul: The Making of Hip Hop in South Korea"

March 26, 2024 **Stephan Haggard**, Lawrence and Sallye Krause Distinguished Professor of Korea-Pacific Studies, University of California San Diego "Political Polarization in Korea: Prelude to Backsliding?"

April 2, 2024 Matthew Thompson, Assistant Professor, School of Music, Theatre & Dance, University of Michigan; "Accessing Korean Art Song: An Under Appreciated Gem"



STUDENT NEWS

Nam Center Graduate Fellows Program

Connected by a common interest in Korea, graduate students from across different departments and schools at UM come together as a community through the Graduate Fellows Program. The fellows meet monthly throughout the academic year and serve as the organizing committee for NEKST Graduate Student Conference. The group is now a registered student organization.

Yeon-ju Bae, Committee Chair, Anthropology

Bo-Kyung Byun, Higher Education

Kelsi Caywood, Sociology

Hojung Joo, Political Science

June Kim, Law

James Kiselik, English

Jane Lee, Asian Languages & Cultures

Gerald Sutton, Asian Languages & Cultures

I-Lun Shih, Sociology

AKS Graduate Student Fellowship

Recipient: Yeon-ju Bae

"The generous support I received from the Academy of Korean Studies throughout my nine years of graduate study as a Nam Graduate Fellow was pivotal in the development and completion of my dissertation research.



The discussions and inspirations I gained from colleagues, many of whom were also Nam Graduate Fellows, were indispensable in developing my research ideas and fostering friendships and networks. The completion of my dissertation on a Korean Buddhist return-to-the-farm movement was greatly aided

by the generous guidance of Nam faculty, the attentive assistance of Nam staff, and the supportive funding from the Nam Center, all of which propelled me towards a successful defense. One of the most memorable experiences of my graduate years was serving as chair for the 2024 NEKST conference. I focused on cultivating inclusive communities among student and faculty participants by introducing new roundtable formats, ensuring that NEKST could become a central platform for emerging scholarship in Korean Studies."

NEKST Graduate Student Conference



he 11th International ■ Conference of NextGen Korean Studies Scholars (NEKST) was held in Ann Arbor on May 24-25, 2024. The conference organizing committee, comprised of nine students at the University of Michi-

gan, was led by committee chair Yeon-ju Bae. The conference featured panel presentations, workshop sessions for dissertation chapters and advanced papers, a graduate student networking session, and a professional development workshop on the elevator pitch. Panel themes included visual de/ construction: attention and gaze in Korean society, interborder issues between the two Koreas, domestic and international politics, and the ethics and praxis of futurology. Faculty discussants were: Suzy Kim (Rutgers), Penny von Eschen (UVa), Dafna Zur (Stanford), Yoon Sun Yang (BU), Eilin Perez (Cooper Union), and Kyunghee Eo (Yale).



Left: Eilin Pérez, The Cooper Union; Middle: Kyunghee Eo, Yale University; Right: Kelsi Caywood, University of Michigan





he Nam Center hosted the 12th annual Korean Studies ■ Undergraduate Exchange Conference on April 6, 2024. Students from The Korean Studies Institute at the University of Southern California and Research Fellows at the University of Michigan presented their research findings while competing for best paper and presentation awards. Panels covered topics such as violence, empire, politics, media, language, health, and urbanism. Students received feedback on their research from faculty discussants and their peers from both USC and UM.

Best Paper Award:

Skyla Park, University of Michigan

"Torture in South Korea: Justice and Healing as a Dual-Pillar Approach to Reconciliation and Rehabilitation"

Michael Delphia, University of Michigan

"Korean Collaborators and the Manchurian Incident: Opportunity and Failure within Empire"









Skyla Park, Dionee Simmons, Michael Delphia & Blake Levins receive best paper and presentation awards at the 12th annual UM-USC Korean Studies Undergraduate **Exchange Conference.**

Abigail Park

Leah Phillips

Maevis Rosengart

Nam Center Undergraduate Fellows Program

The Nam Center Undergraduate Fellows join a tightly knit community of students committed to advancing their understanding of Korean history, society, and culture while gaining firsthand experience as intercultural ambassadors and global citizens.

Research Fellows: Outreach Fellows:

Michael Delphia Toby Buckfire Skyla Park Daniel Kim Michelle Wu Annabelle Kwon

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS



Sang-Yong Nam Award

he Sang-Yong Nam Award is a \$3,000 scholarship given **L** each year to graduating seniors. The award honors students whose academic achievement, citizenship, service to the community, and commitment to Korean Studies exemplify the values to which Elder Sang-Yong Nam dedicated his life. The recipients of the 2024 Sang-Yong Nam award were Ken Park and Jinny Kim.

Jinny majored in Psychology with minors in Translation Studies and UX (User Experience) Design. She has been a part of the Nam Center for Korean Studies since 2021 as an Office Assistant, and was an Outreach Fellow in the NCKS Undergraduate Fellows 2022-2023 cohort. Jinny will be pursuing a Master's of Science in Information on the UX Design track at the University of Michigan.

Ken majored in Asian Studies and wrote an honors thesis analyzing South Korea's roofing transformation in the 1970s under the guidance of Dr. Juhn Ahn. He is planning to pursue graduate studies, and aspires to unravel the intricacies of modern Korean history with a continued focus on environmental history.

SeAH Haiam Arts & Sciences Scholarship

The SeAH Haiam Arts and Sciences Scholarship promotes academic research on Korea by supporting undergraduate and graduate students' research travel, data collection, or fieldwork.

2024 Recipients:

Bo-Kyung Byun, Higher Education

Jane Lee, Asian Languages and Cultures

Summer in Korea

A gift from an alumnus, Dae-Won Moon (MBA, '78), provides annual awards to support summer study in Korea. The funding covers travel expenses, and tuition and fees for UM undergraduates to attend Yonsei International Summer School.

2024 Recipients:

Jaeryeong Kim, Biopsychology, Cognition and Neuroscience Leah Phillips, Molecular, Cellular and Developmental Biology Brian Georgis, Chemistry/Asian Studies Brooklyn Emuakhagbon, Communications and Media

Sarafina Chea, Information Science/Communication and Media

Conference Travel Grants

The following students received funding to present at or attend conferences during the 2023-24 academic year:

Yeon-ju Bae, Anthropology, Paper:"Modern as individual, modern as institutional: The politics of address among old and new Korean female villagers"

Hojung Joo, Political Science, Paper:"Difficult to Bend: Prewar Resistance and Violence against Civilians during the Korean War"

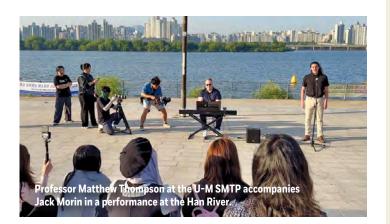
James Kiselik, English, Paper: "COMMONS: A Note on the Transliteration"



Jack Morin's Trip to Korea as a Winner of 'Korea Invites U'



"In May, I was invited to Seoul by the KOREA InvitesU program ▲ for my performance in K-art song, a concert of 가곡 performed at UMMA in 2022! There I met other foreigners that had a deep appreciation for Korea from around the world. This small group of six hailed from the U.S., Japan, Mexico, Colombia, Germany, and Tunisia. I had the most incredible time being pushed very far out of my comfort zone, visiting 경복궁 (Gyeongbokgung Palace) in Hanbok, bathing in a 찜질방 (Korean spa), and trying 산낙지 (live octopus). I sang the songs 봄처녀 and 비목 on the Han River, and the experience along with the reception to K-art song inspired me to apply for the Fulbright program to South Korea this upcoming year. I plan to research Korean lyric diction and create a guide for Korean art songs' pronunciation focused toward native English speakers."



ASIA LIBRARY & RESOURCES

Asia Library

Yunah Sung, Korean Studies librarian/project manager Myung Hee Kim, Korean Cataloger Soojin Lee, Korean Acquisition Specialist Jisu Han, Korea Foundation library intern

Staff Updates

- In January 2024, Dawn Lawson retired from her role as Director of the Asia Library, following nearly 9 years of service. Dawn curated a digital collection titled "Seoul 1969: Photographs by a Peace Corps Volunteer", consisting of more than 200 images digitized from slide photographs taken by Dr. Margaret Condon Taylor.
- In March 2024, Liangyu Fu became the Director of the Asia Library, following more than 10 years of engaged service as the Chinese Studies Librarian.
- After several years of vacancy, the Korean Acquisition Specialist position was filled by Soojin Lee in September 2023. Thanks to her hard work, the entire process of acquiring and processing Korean materials runs very smoothly.

KOREAN Collections Consortium of North America



Korean Collection Consortium of North America (KCCNA)

The Korea Foundation has been financially supporting 14 member libraries of the KCCNA (https://guides.lib.umich. edu/koreanstudies/KCCNA). The U-M Library became the 10th member in 2003, which was a pivotal moment for the rapid growth of the Korean Collection. To celebrate its 30th anniversary, over 70 librarians, library administrators, book vendors, and Korea Foundation representatives held an event during the AAS CEAL meetings in Seattle, WA, in March 2024. It was a great opportunity to review past KCCNA accomplishments, assess the present status, and explore future directions in the fast-evolving fields of Korean Studies and information technology.

13



he Nam Center ♣ held its thirteenth annual conference on contemporary Korea: "Eolssigu, Jota! Sinmyeong Nanda! The Creative and Transformative Spirit of Korean Music." The event was co-organized by Dr. Hilary Finchum-Sung, executive director of the Association for Asian Studies and Youngju Ryu.

A hybrid conference with presentations both online and offline, the conference featured a wide range of panels, artist talks, and performances from twentyseven presenters on two continents. Participants explored the many notions of Korean music on and beyond the Korean peninsula, through space and time, and reimagined



NOVEMBER 9, 2023

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

via multiple encounters and experiences. Topics included the music of long-standing traditions, new creations on the Korean peninsula, musical performance in the Diaspora, and collaborations drawing and expanding upon Korean musical aesthetics. The conference culminated in a final performance, A Kaleidoscope of Sound: Korean Traditions and Collaborations.

Korean Studies e-School

In 2023-2024, the Big Ten Academic Alliance (BTAA) Korean Studies e-School program entered its eleventh year and Phase V with the support of the Korea Foundation(KF). In this program, member universities, comprised of fourteen universities that make up the Big Ten consortium, share Korea-related courses across campuses in real time, using video conferencing technology to eliminate barriers of distance. The program diversifies course offerings and expand enrollments in Korean studies across the Midwest, while providing opportunities for collaboration in teaching and curricular development.

Fall 2023 Courses:

Contemporary South Korean Culture, John Finch, Indiana University

The Korean War: A Local and Global History, Alyssa Park, University of Iowa

Korean Languages and Contemporary Pop Culture, Sang-Seok Yoon, University of Iowa

Translating Korean Poetry: Theory and Practice, Youngju Ryu, University of Michigan

Language and Society of the Two Koreas, Hangtae Cho, University of Minnesota

Performing Korean Diasporas: Korean and Korean American Experiences from the 20th Century to the Present, Hayana Kim, Ohio State University

Spring 2024 Courses:

Discourse in Everyday Life in Korea: Shaping Culture, Ideology, and Identity, Susan Strauss, Penn State University

From Sijo to K-Pop: Art Form as literary Genre, Young-mee Cho, Rutgers University

Introduction to East Asian History: Korea, Charles Kim, University of Wisconsin

Korea and the US Since 1882, David Fields, University of Wisconsin

[Graduate] K-Pop: Genre, Identity, Industry, Fandom, Pil Ho Kim, Ohio State University

This year, the Korean Studies e-School scholarship was resumed for the first time since the pandemic. Three students enrolled in e-School courses were selected as fellowship recipients to attend Yonsei International Summer School

2023-2024 Korean Studies e-School **Fellowship Awardees:**

Sabrina Wong, Penn State University Dianthe Gordon, University of Maryland

Jun Hyeong Park, Michigan State University

Michigan Korean **Studies** Summer Institute

second Michigan Ko-



"The institute reminded me of the value of interdisciplinary thinking and how much I stood to learn about even familiar topics by thinking alongside people with perspectives and experiences different from my own. I walked away feeling encouraged to expand my scholarly network and to reach out to scholars outside of my immediate circle." - MiKSSI participant

versity of Michigan, and Nam Center Director Youngju Ryu.

Summer in Michigan

he Summer in Michigan Program in English Language (Su:M) ran for the second year under a partnership with the Youth Ladder Program of the Gyeonggi Province government. The program is an intensive four-week academic English and American cultural experience for 30 Gyeonggi-do



residents. The program is offered jointly by U-M's English Language Institute and the Nam Center for Korean Studies, and enriched by the participation of ten U-M students who serve as cultural liaisons, providing peer mentoring in language practice and university life. The program features a curriculum focusing on developing students' communication skills, art and performance, and culminates in a performance by students. In addition, students experienced student life at the University of Michigan, while participating in cultural and volunteer activities in and around Ann Arbor and Detroit, including volunteering at the Detroit Public Library.

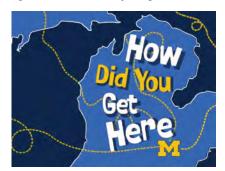
2024 Cultural Liaisons:

Toby Buckfire Sami Hoang Katherine Ni Raven Brown Daniel Huang Daniel Kim Hyunjung Kim Sophia Sarno



Podcast

The Nam Center published the third season of its podcast series, "Korea in Maize and Blue: How Did You Get Here?" This podcast focuses on the journey that leads scholars to Korean studies. The series is hosted by Dr. Rory Walsh, who is joined by an undergraduate fellow to interview an established scholar. The informal, intergenerational conversations that result trace the guests' lives as researchers and highlights their advice for younger scholars.



This season's episodes include interviews with:

Dr. Catherine Ryu, Associate Professor at Michigan State University

Dr. Sonja Kim, Associate Professor at SUNY Binghamton

Dr. Chuyun Oh, Associate Professor at San Diego State University

Dr. Christine Hong, Professor at the University of California Santa Cruz

Dr. Matthew Thompson, Assistant Professor at the University of Michigan

Dr. Stephan Haggard, Distinguished Professor at the University of California San Diego

OUTREACH

Korean Cinema NOW: **Diaspora Edition**

ach winter term, the Korean Cinema Now series brings the best of contemporary popular Korean cinema to Ann Arbor, showcasing films released in Korea over the past few years. Screenings take place in Korean with English subtitles at the historic Michigan and State Theaters. The 2023-2024 Diaspora Edition series drew an impressive audience of over 1,200 attendees. This year, the local Korean restaurant Miss Kim generously provided Korean-style snacks to movie-goers, promoting the screenings of Korean Cinema Now. The final film in the lineup, "The Talent Show" (장기 자랑), was screened in remembrance of the 10th anniversary of the Sewol Ferry disaster.

January 13, 2024 패스트 라이브스 (Past Lives, Celine Song, 2023)

January 20, 2024 리턴 투 서울 (Return to Seoul, Davy Chou, 2022)

February 3, 2024 해피 클리너스 (Happy Cleaners, Julian Kim & Peter S. Lee, 2019)

February 10, 2024 라이스보이 슬립스 (Riceboy Sleeps, Anthony Shim, 2022)

February 17, 2024 미나리 (Minari, Lee Isaac Chung, 2020)

March 9, 2024 프리 철수 리 (Free Chol Soo Lee, Julie Ha, Eugene Yi, 2022)

April 13, 2024 장기자랑 (The Talent Show, Sohyun Lee, 2022)





Ji Hye Kim of Miss Kim Korean Restaurant providing Korean snack at the Korean Cinema NOW screenings



Yellow paper boats and a painting created in memory of the Sewol Ferry victims displayed in the Michigan Theater

Korea from a **Single Shard**

he "Korea from a Single Shard" program is based on the novel A Single Shard by Linda Sue Park. The program provides Michigan teachers with the opportunity to expose their students to Korean culture through literature and art. Students take a field trip to the University of Michigan Museum of Art for a docent-guided tour focused on Korean celadon located throughout the Woon-Hyung Lee and Korea Foundation Gallery. The trip also features a hands-on "Shipwreck" dig activity, where students work in teams to excavate model shipwrecks, putting together clues to track the ancient trading routes of celadon. The activity brings the life and travels of Tree-Ear, the main character of the book, into reality for the students.







SPECIAL EVENTS

Chuseok Party

he thirteenth annual Chuseok Party was held on September 24, 2023, to celebrate Fall Harvest in traditional Korean style. With nearly 1,000 attendees including UM students, faculty, staff, alumni, and community residents of all ages had the opportunity to experience Korean culture, cuisine, and arts through various hands-on activities. The highlight of the festivities was the performances by student groups ranging from traditional drumming to K-pop cover dances.





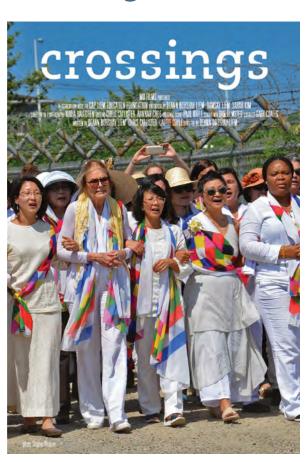






SPECIAL EVENTS

Special Screening: Crossings



October 17, 2023

State Theatre

Tn 2015, an international ■ group of women activists turned their own bodies into vehicles for peace by crossing the last remaining border of the Cold War: the Demilitarized Zone dividing North and South Korea. The film, directed by Deann Borshay Liem, documents this remarkable journey. On October 17, 2023, the Nam Center invited the director for a special screening at the historical State Theatre. Following the event, the audience had an opportunity to engage in a dialogue with the documentary filmmaker and director, moderated by Dr. Tiffany Marra, Director of Center for the Education of Women+ at University of Michigan.





Fireside Chat & **Performance** with Kim Kwangjin



n September 22, 2023, Kwangjin Kim (MBA '88) was invited to the "Fireside Chat and Performance," a homecoming event hosted by the Ross Business School and sponsored by the Nam Center. In this one-hour program, Kim discussed his successful career in the finance sector and the K-pop music industry with the Nam Center core faculty Juhn Ahn as the moderator, and performed five of his iconic songs, including "Magic Castle," "Lady in the Rainy Night," and "The Letter."



on the Violin

September 30, 2023 Stamps Auditorium

Violinist: Soh-Hyun Park Altino, Wheaton College Janggu: Junho Jeong, National Gugak Center, Seoul

Soh-Hyun Park Altino, Associate Professor of Music at Wheaton College and a classically trained violinist, first crossed paths with traditional Korean music in 2019 while investigating distinctive musical elements in Sanjo for Violin and Piano (1955) by La Un-Yung (1922-1993), her maternal grandfather. Since then, she has pursued a new line of study of interpreting traditional ajaeng sanjo on the Western violin.

Her September performance began with a short lecture, which included information for the audience on the genre of Sanjo, as well as the artist's personal history and connection to the traditional Korean folk art music. Following the lecture, she performed the world premiere of Sanjo for Violin and Piano accompanied on the janggu by Junho Jeong, from the National Gugak Center in Seoul.



SPECIAL EVENTS

Knight-Wallace Fellows Visit Seoul



very year, up to 20 accomplished journalists from around the world are selected as Knight-Wallace Fellows to take up residence in Ann Arbor and spend an academic year at the University of Michigan. Lynette Clemetson, Director of the Wallace House Center for Journalists, led this year's cohort on a week-long trip to Seoul in late February.

"Seoul's rapid rise to become an economic force and global influencer across several industries is breathtaking, but it is also a catalyst for intense social pressure," remarks Clemetson. "From the K-drama and K-beauty industries, to gender inequality and low

birth rates, to political instability and presidential impeachments, to China, North Korea and the changing geopolitics of the region, we covered a tremendous amount of ground in one week. From beginning to end our encounters challenged our thinking. The week pushed our fellows to question their assumptions on a range of consequential issues."



Lynette Clemetson and Gyeonggi-do governer Dongyeon Kim

Concerned Asian Scholars, 55 Years Later: A Symposium

he Committee of Concerned Asian Scholars (CCAS) was founded in 1968 in response to US aggression in Vietnam. Its critique of Asian Studies' complicity to US imperialism began a tradition of critical Asian Studies that has had an enduring impact on the field for more than half a century.

The Nam Center for Korean Studies co-sponsored "Concerned Asian Scholars, 55 Years Later: A Symposium" on May 10, 2024. The occasion brought together founding members of CCAS and later generations of Asianists for an intergenerational dialogue on the lessons of CCAS' scholarly activism for our present.

Speakers:

Joseph Esherick **Bruce Cumings** Laura Hein Tom Grunfeld Gareth Porter Tom Fenton

Moss Roberts Ardeth Thawnghmung

Mark Selden Tani Barlow Martha Winnacker (virtual) Suzy Kim Paul Pickowicz Fabio Lanza





Visiting Scholars

The Nam Center offers affiliation to scholars and fellows visiting the University of Michigan for an extended period. Visiting scholars and fellows participate in various Nam Center events and present their research at 'Faculty Maru,' a monthly luncheon attended by a community of scholars at U-M interested in Korea. During the 2023-2024 academic year, Nam Center hosted three scholars from Korea.



WooJoo Byun, Professor (Ph.D. in Law), School of Law, Dong-A University Research Topic: "A Comparative Study on the Legislation of Real Estate registration system in the United States and Korea"

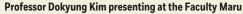


Taehun Jung, Professor (Ph.D. in Economics), Department of Economics, Kyungpook National University Research Topic: "The Portrayal/ Perception of Economic Policy Uncertainty (EPU) in Media and Its Impact on Macro Economy"



Dokyung Kim, Associate Professor (Ph.D. in Sociology), Department of Chinese Education, Korea National University of Education Research Topic: "To Whom Does Hanbok Belong? - A Narrative of Nationalism in Korea."







Luke Kang Makes a Generous Gift to the Nam Center

uke Kang (BA, History '95), president of Disney Asia Pacific, is an active alumnus and proud Wolverine. He knows first-hand how an experience in Korea and a connection to its people, can alter a person's life, and attributes his own personal success to a pivotal visit to Korea during his senior year. With his first gift to the Center, Kang hopes to make it possible for more U-M undergraduates to encounter Korean history for themselves and to experience firsthand the transformative power of Korean society's dynamism.

With this gift of \$50,000, the Kang Korean Studies Experiential Learning Fund will be used by the Nam Center to support undergraduate experiential learning in research and outreach in Korea. This gift cements the Center's commitment to undergraduate education, and ensures that students' learning about Korea is innovative in both approach and rigor.

21

STUDENT GROUPS





Daebak 3 is all-male K-pop/Hip-Hop dance crew at the University of Michigan. They actively perform in major dance and cultural events around campus year-round and occasionally create dance covers.

Korea is currently a world-renowned country for its progress and achievements in breakdancing. **Element 1** is the only breakdancing club at U-M.

Female Gayo is a female K-pop dance team under the Korean American Student Association.



The Korea Leadership Group aims to connect the various Korean communities at the university of michigan by increasing interactions with alumni, hosting social networking events, and serving as a stepping stone for those interested in developing professional skills and personalized career opportunities. They focus on spreading awareness of Korean culture and the recognition of influential Korean leaders in and out of Michigan through various career fairs and an annual leadership Summit.

Konnect is a co-ed K-pop dance group that aims to provide a space for all those interested in dance to come together and have fun. They provide opportunities for all interests and levels to showcase dance. They host K-pop dance tutorials at the mason hall posting wall, post member spotlights on instagram, and have a performance subunit that performs at various events around campus.

The Korean International Student Association is an organization that promotes the unity and well-being of Korean students at U-M. KISA organizes a series of cultural and social events that bring incoming and current students together.



K-motion is a Korean pop dance group that performs at various events held on campus. Their purpose is to create lasting relationships through dance as they participate in these events. The group specializes in popular Korean pop songs.

The Korean American Student Association promotes Korean and Korean-American awareness and culture through academic, political, and social activities by interacting with surrounding communities.

The Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association was established to give young, intelligent students opportunities to connect with professionals and develop a broader career foundation as scientists and engineers.

The Korean Student Association - Graduate is for Korean graduate students, visiting scholars, research fellows, and the faculty community on campus to generate greater interaction within the community and to increase awareness about the Korean culture outside the community.

The Korea Business Club at Ross School of Business is a graduate student organization open to all MBA students who are interested in Korean cultures, communities and businesses.

Liberty in North Korea's purpose is to foster leadership development through the understanding of refugees and the North Korean people.

Seoul Juice is a Korean American singing and instrumental cover group.





Michigan Taekwondo Club is a studentrun club that teaches the fundamental aspects of taekwondo. The team competes across the country as well as locally.



Sinaboro is a Korean traditional drumming group, founded in 1998. Its members from diverse backgrounds come together to learn and perform *samulnori*. Through their performance, Sinaboro also shares Korean culture with the university community and beyond.



2024 Pungmul Fellowship Program

I his summer, the Nam Center supported students to participate in the inaugural Pungmul Fellowship Program. The aim of this program is to nurture student leaders, who are expected to take an active role in cultivating a flourishing pungmul/samulnori culture at the university after their participation in the program, particularly through their participation in Sinaboro. This year, selected students participated in a 1-week training camp that took place at Imsil Pungmul Training Camp in Jeollabuk-do, South Korea, with their tuition and travel covered by the Nam Center.



Sunhong Kim, a PhD candidate in ethnomusicology, worked closely with the Nam Center to make this program possible. With her help, three undergraduate students were able to participate in this year's training camp:

Sharon Gim, Biology, Health and Society

Yisang Moon, Biology, Health, and Society & Statistics

Mason Miller, Computer Science



Mason Miller, Yisang Moon, pungmul teacher Oh Hyuntaek, Sunhong Kim, and Sharon Gim



You Can Help!

Gifts to the Nam Center for Korean Studies help support research, teaching, the Korean Language Program and the Korean Collection in the Asia Library. The Center also helps student organizations, provides graduate fellowships, and sponsors visiting scholars, public lectures, our film series and many other special events. Your gift will also help us recruit and retain the finest students and faculty.

For information about ways to support the Nam Center for Korean Studies, please scan the QR code:



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