Director’s Message

Since its inception in 2007, the KLFC has developed greatly in terms of degree programs, curriculum, assessment, and recruitment. The KLFC is composed of degree programs (Flagship MA and Flagship BA) and non-degree programs (Flagship Certificate and Pre-College Honors Program). All programs, with the exception of the Pre-College Honors Program, include a one-year immersion component in Korea. We have enhanced the quality and quantity of the Korean Language Flagship Center programs. In addition to good program reputation, due to the Korean Flagship faculty’s dedication and students’ hard work and commitment to the Flagship program, an increasing number of highly-motivated students from all over the country are applying to the Korean Flagship program every year. The KLFC will continue to excel in its mission in order to yield a number of Korean Flagship certified professionals. According to The Language Flagship, Flagship certified professionals are highly qualified graduates who possess professional-level language proficiency in their chosen language, completed a one-year overseas component with advanced cultural skills, and experienced living and working in Korea. They also possess intercultural insights for careers in the federal government, global business and the private sector.

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In This Issue

- Director’s Message
- Korean Culture Day
- Student Recognition
- KLFC Graduates
- Capstone Students
- Student Reflection

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The Language Flagship

The Language Flagship leads the nation in designing, supporting, and implementing a new paradigm for advanced language education, through an innovative partnership among the federal government, education, and business. The Language Flagship graduates students who will take their place among the next generation of global professionals, commanding a superior level of fluency in one of many languages critical to U.S. competitiveness and security. (https://www.thelanguageflagship.org/)

UHM Korean Language Flagship Center

The Korean Language Flagship Center (KLFC) at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (UHM) is the first and only Korean Language Center in the United States dedicated to cultivating Korea specialists with professional-level proficiency in Korean. The KLFC’s goal is to prepare American students to be capable of functioning in Korean as professionals in their chosen academic or professional fields. The KLFC is part of The Language Flagship funded by the Defense Language and National Security Education Office (DLNSEO). UHM’s Korean Language Flagship Center operates in cooperation with the UHM’s Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures (EALL).
Ryan Tanaka awarded Boren Scholarship

KLFC is proud to announce that Ryan Tanaka was awarded the prestigious national Boren Scholarship to fund his one year capstone program in Korea. Boren Scholarships, an initiative of the National Security Education Program, provide unique funding opportunities for U.S. undergraduate students to study in less commonly taught languages in world regions critical to U.S. national security. Applicants must be a U.S. citizen at the time of application and must have an interest in U.S. national security and consider working in government service. All recipients are required to work in the Federal Government in a position with national security responsibilities. Ryan is one of many students who have been awarded the scholarship in the Korean Language Flagship Center. KLFC encourages all capstone-bound students to apply for the scholarship. For more information on the Boren Awards, please visit borenawards.org or contact the UH Mānoa Boren Award campus representative, Dr. Chizuko Allen, at chizuko@hawaii.edu.
12 Students Qualify for AY 2016-17 Capstone Program

This year twelve students qualified for the Korean Flagship Overseas Program (KFOP). Beginning in January, each Flagship student had to undergo an application process and several rounds of testing. To be accepted into the Overseas Program, students must score a minimum of Advanced Low on the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and on the online pre-capstone reading and listening assessments administered by American Councils. Congratulations to Ji Hyun Choi, Connie Chong, Elton Chun, Joseph Gaenzle, GiHyun Kim, YeaJin Kim, Dean Kira, Joanna Mills, Ga Young Park, David Suh, Ryan Tanaka, and Eun-Hae Whang.

20 Students graduate from KLFC programs

In the 2015-2016 academic year, 20 (graduate and undergraduate) students graduated from a KLFC programs. Each graduate completed domestic courses at UH Mānoa and successfully completed a one-year overseas program at Korea University. Congratulations to Tyler Miyashiro, Christopher Jones, Sean Madsen, Taylor Nichols, John Remis, Sehun Nakama, Elliot Oh, Jenny In, Ki Jung Kim, Michelle Ko, Nina Arata, Jai Eun Kim, Esther Yi, Misun Nakama, Alyssa Donovan, Bonnie Fox, Dean Jagusiak, Joseph Capano, Alden Kim, and Austin Nay.
This year, during the summer semester, I lived in Kangnam, right in the center of Kangnam, the entire 3 months. In Kangnam, there’s a unique food culture, fashion culture, and prime example of modern Korean lifestyle. First of all, the back streets are overflowing with traditional Korean restaurants, high class restaurants, and trendy cafes. Sophistication and upper class culture meets the entertainment capital of Korea. Also, the main boulevard is all endless clothing stores, accessory shops, and shoe stores. Personally, getting out of the city and experiencing traditional cultural was my favorite part. Mostly, these days, I enjoy listening to traditional Korean music. So this summer, I found myself in the majestic mountains of Korea, at the most pristine setting for a musical event to attend a pungmul festival. On the riverbed, up against the clear river water, surrounded by green trees, so many trees. In this forest, there is an enormous energy felt, a true natural power spot, and yet still, this fascinating energy of pungmul exceeds any natural power spot. It was absolutely captivating. Pungmul consists of several instruments such as drums, cymbals, gong, and janggu, and is considered a traditional Korean folk music and dance. It is highly representative of Korean culture. By witnessing pungmul firsthand, I was able to learn a great deal about Korean culture. The latest musical trends are just great and truly something to marvel at, no doubt, but pungmul is real authentic Korean music. For one, pungmul is truly exciting. At the pungmul festival, I was overcome by the warmth and love I felt from the people of rural Korea. Now, when someone mentions Korean culture, all I can think is pungmul.

 이번 여름 한국에 있을 때 나는 내내 강남 한복판에 거주했다. 강남에는 독특한 음식문화와 의류문화, 현대 한국생활이 다. 우선 먹자골목에는 맛집과 고급식당이 차고 넘진다. 귀족문화와 즐길거리도 많다. 또한 옷가게와 액세서리샵, 신발가게가 많다. 그렇지만 나는 도시를 벗어나서 전통 한국문화를 경험 하는 것을 제일 좋아했다. 따라서 요즘에는 나는 전통 한국 음악도 즐겨 듣고 있다. 그래서 이번 여름, 용장한 산에서 열리는 풍물놀이공연을 보러 갔다. 강변에 있는 풍물놀이터는 새파랗고 맑은 강물과 울창한 나무로 둘러싸여 있었다. 그 숲 속에서 나는 굉장히한 에너지를 느낄 수 있었다. 하지만 그 에너지보다 풍물놀이의 역동적인 에너지에 더 매료되었다. 풍물놀이 혹은 풍물굿이란 짧은 공연을 보러 갔다. 강변에 있는 풍물놀이터는 새파랗고 맑은 강물과 울창한 나무로 둘러싸여 있었다. 그 숲 속에서 나는 굉장히한 에너지를 느낄 수 있었다. 하지만 그 에너지보다 다도 풍물놀이의 역동적인 에너지에 더 매료되었다. 풍물놀이 혹은 풍물굿이란 짧은 공연은 대许可证서, 복, 장구, 짭 등의 여러 가지 전통악기로 하는 음악이다. 따라서 풍물은 한국의 문화를 보여 주고, 나는 풍물을 통하여 전통 한국문화를 잘 배울 수 있었다. 현대 음악을 들으면 재미있긴 하지만 풍물이 진짜 한국 음악이다. 예를 들면 풍물놀이는 한국의 풍을 담고있다. 나는 공연장에서 만난 사람들들에게서 정과 풍을 느낄 수 있었다. 쓰 한국문화 하면 풍물이다.
You can be a Korea specialist in YOUR major.

The next generation of global professionals.
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