

제 2회 한국어말하기대회 San Antonio's 2nd Annual Korean Speech Contest



Group picture of participants



UTSA's East Asia Institute hosted San Antonio's 2nd Annual Korean Speech Contest on April 16, 2016 with generous support from the Houston Korean Education Center and Korean Community School of San Antonio.

In the past, Korean was not offered as a language course in UTSA. It was not until four years ago that it was offered as a non-credit course. Starting in the 2014 fall semester at UTSA, it was finally offered as a credited course. This advancement is due to the increasing popularity of the culture.

Many students from the San Antonio and Austin area participated in the competition including students from the University of Texas at San Antonio, the University of the Incarnate Words, and several high schools. Before the start of the competition, the competitors had time to review notes and practice.

Jin-Ah Castillo, ESL instructor of the Northwest Vista College and Mr. Heejun Woo,

linguistic host of the S.A. Korean Language Club judged the contest.

During the contest, the beginner students presented first and were followed by the intermediate/advanced students. Each student presented a three-minute speech relating to Korean culture and language. Some presented about Korean pop and traditional culture including TV dramas, coffee shops, and pansori while others spoke about why they started learning Korean. The participants were judged based on their presentation, content, and language proficiency.

One by one the students came up and gave their speech. Each judge watched and listened closely to the participants, checking to see if they met the criteria to place. Audience members included friends and family who came to show support.

After the presentations, the judges took a moment to deliberate about the winners. In the meantime, Sarah Moran, former TaLK scholar gave a presentation about the TaLK program and her

time in Korea teaching English to elementary school students. Under TaLK, college students from English speaking countries go to Korea and teach English in an after school program. In addition to teaching, scholars also have time to travel to other Korean cities and surrounding countries.

For the advanced level, Mei Li received 1st place for her speech entitled "The Charm of Pansori". Jasmine Campbell won 2nd place with "My Ideal Type" and Courtney Tenney won 3rd with "Yonsei Korean Language Program".

For the beginner level, Eunice Gurung won 1st place with her speech entitled "Moving from Nepal". Daniela Riedlova won 2nd place with "A 2 Year Transformation" and Minh Nguyen won 3rd place with "Korean Dramas".

All the participants received a Korean Speech Contest certificate and a participation gift. The winners who placed also received a gift card and a winner's certificate.

After the award ceremony everyone was welcomed to refreshments. The two judges spoke to the winners while the participants congratulated each other. Most of the participants said the speech contest was a great opportunity to showcase their knowledge of Korean culture and language. Many were hoping to participate again next year!

The UTSA East Asia Institute's mission is to promote appreciation and understanding of East Asian societies and cultures both on campus and in the community through research, outreach, networking, education, student/faculty exchange, and business development and corporation. The East Asia Institute organizes seminars, workshops, lectures, conferences, film festivals, visual art exhibitions as well as bringing in performing art groups from china, Japan, Korea, and other Asian nations.



Intermediate/Advanced level winners



Beginning level winners



Judges (from left): Ms. Castillo and Mr. Woo



Sarah Moran, former TaLK scholar's presentation on the TaLK Program