The presidents of Seoul National University have been both the driving forces behind the University and lighthouses illuminating the direction of Korean society and education. From liberation and the establishment of the University, through war and reconstruction, conflicts over political engagement and university autonomy, and finally to comprehensive development and the relocation to the Gwanak Campus, each president administered the University while confronting the challenges demanded by their respective eras. The choices and decisions they made at every moment have become part of what Seoul National University and Korean society are today. We hope this exhibition will serve as yet another important question for the future of Seoul National University and Korean society.

Visitor Information

Opening Hours

Weekdays & Saturdays 10:00~17:00
*Closed on Sundays & public holidays

Admission

Free

Parking Information

Parking

There is no dedicated parking available.
Visitors are encouraged to use public transportation.

Address

Special Exhibition Room 1, Seoul National University Archives,
1F, Building 75 (Convergence Hall), 1 Gwanak-ro,
Gwanak-gu, Seoul, Republic of Korea 08826

archives.snu.ac.kr

서울대학교 개교 80주년
SNU 80 Years
1946–2026

서울대학교역사기록관
SEOUL NATIONAL UNIVERSITY ARCHIVES

The Presidents' Dreams

The Early
Presidents of
Seoul National University

Special Exhibition of
Seoul National University Archives

Special Exhibition
by the Seoul National University Archives

Seoul National University is a university that represents Korea. The history of Seoul National University can be said to form a central part of the history of Korean universities. The presidents who have led the University most clearly reflect its history. This exhibition examines the founding and development of early Seoul National University, and thus a cross-section of the history of Korean universities, through the eleven presidents who led the University for approximately 30 years, from the establishment of National Seoul University in 1946 to its relocation to the present-day Gwanak Campus in 1975.

"The President Is a Lighthouse"
-Shin Tae-hwan, 8th President-

Ⅰ Qualifications for the Presidency

Graduation Certificate

1947.7.11.



A National Seoul University Graduation Certificate No. 21, awarded by the University's first president, Harry B. Ansted.

Seoul Daehak Sinmun, No. 2



1948.3.8.

A commemorative address for March 1 Independence Movement Day published by the University's second president, Lee Chun-ho, the title "Building a Democratic University."

My Memoirs

1975.12.5.



The memoirs of the University's third president, Jang E-wook, documenting his tenure as president and his activities as an educator.

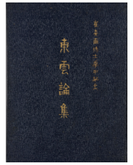
A Biography of Baeknong Choi Gyu-dong

2023.8.20.



A biography of the University's fourth president, Choi Kyou-dong, who was also the founder of Jungdong School.

Ⅱ Presidents and Responses to Crisis



Dongun Nonjib

1958.3.15.

A collection of writings reflecting the values and outlook of the University's fifth president, Choi Kyu-nam.

Important Documents

1957



A petition submitted to the University's sixth president, Yoon Il-sun, calling for he relocation of the Division of Science of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences to Cheongnyangni.



Ⅲ University Autonomy

Seoul National University Golden Key

1961



The golden key presented to President Kwon Joong-whi at the inauguration ceremony for the University's seventh president. A symbolic object handed from an outgoing president to an incoming president, the key currently in use was newly made in 2006.

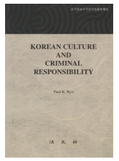
At the Crossroads of Contemplation



1976.7.20.

An essay collection bringing together writings published in newspapers and magazines by the University's eighth president, Shin Tae-hwan.

Korean Culture and Criminal Responsibility



2011

A book containing the doctoral dissertation in law that the University's ninth president, Ryu Kichyon, completed at Yale University in 1958.

Ⅳ The Mission of Revitalizing the University

A History of Modern Social Thought

1953.1.7



The University's tenth president, Choi Mun-hwan, was also well known for his research on nationalism. This work reflects his academic thought.

Looking Toward Gwanak



1981.8.30.

A memoir by the University's eleventh and twelfth president, Han Sim-suk, documenting the process of relocating to the Gwanak Campus during his tenure.