

An early morning takeoff, an afternoon landing, before me is my home for the next six weeks. Nervousness inevitably appears, yet its twin brother excitement arrives alongside it. As I pass through the streets of Seoul, I gaze through window, peering at a world so different yet so familiar to what I know. People walk to their destinations, deliveryman rush through their route, through it all there is simply a sense action that one cannot define but can easily be observed. Having landed a few days ahead of move-in, I begin the process of orientation, by watching the river of time flow before me. I sit in cafés, read guides, and try to understand the new place which I am situated. With these few days of time, I found myself walking through the Kwangjang Market taking in sights and smells. Tasting the wonderful cuisine, new flavors, yet familiar all the same. Cementing my love for this country, its culture, and its people. I clearly was unable to speak a single word of Korean, yet every person I encountered patiently waited as I tried to communicate through a translator. Eventually arriving to the intended conclusion, the friendliness never wavered. The warmth never faded.

The program began a few days later, and after struggling with my suitcases to find the dorm. I eventually found it, Anam International Dormitory. Situated upon a somewhat elevated hill, each walk was an exercise in of itself. Reflecting the terrain of the region, one realizes the natural beauty that exists here surrounding the gorgeous Korea University campus. I would come to enjoy my

walks to the dorm as they became a calm period of meditation to digest what had occurred that day. As well as reflect what that new information spelt for the future.

I took three classes for the summer campus, Intro to Machine Learning (ML), Intro to Artificial Intelligence (AI), and Beginner Korean I. Each class was wonderful, and I have no regrets in any of my selections. My day would begin with Professor Song, who would expound upon the capabilities and techniques of Machine Learning. How Machine Learning can be used in a variety of situations, especially its power when it comes to the classification of data. Analyzing examples such as firm looking at its investment of resources into advertising and what affects it might have upon its revenue. Or in the sports world predicting the performance of players in the upcoming season based on their previous statistics. Machine Learning is an extremely flexible tool which is becoming more and more widespread in our ever-advancing world, and Professor Song excellently illustrated its power.

Following my morning of enrichment, would be an afternoon of enlightenment with Professor Silva. One might think that Machine Learning and Artificial Intelligence are merely synonyms for each other. However, in Professor Silva's class we learned that in fact Machine Learning is merely one example of a technique to make an "AI". That, AI as field not only encompasses emerging technologies such as Deep Learning Neural Networks, but also philosophically

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John D. Valencia

what it means to be an intelligent being. Over 70 years ago Dr. Alan Turing proposed a test to serve as a benchmark on whether a system has the capabilities to be considered “intelligent”. In the present day, there are a multitude of systems which can now pass the Turing Test, however, many of us would agree that though they are capable, they have yet to achieve what many of us would consider to be “human”. It is these types of questions and ideas our class discussed together. Responding, critiquing, and supporting each other’s thoughts and ideas, learning together as students of the new world. Facilitated by the ever patient and thoughtful Professor Silva.

These new ideas, beliefs, and friendships made here in South Korea. Would not be possible without the environment which nurtured this period awakening within us all. I made memories and developed skills which I will carry with me for the rest of my life. Making myself not only a better student in university, but also a better learner of life.