



Newsletter of the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter of Korea TESOL

Spring 2025

What Is This?

The Gwangju Communicator is a resurrection of the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter's earlier news publication. Our older members will remember in pre-pandemic years of receiving a four-page, folded sheet as they entered the monthly meeting room and signed in. That was the original *Gwangju Communicator*; its contents were mainly an abstract by each of the presenters to be featured that day as well as a short biosketch. There was a chapter officers' page and an upcoming events page. (Back



issues of the *Communicator*, from 2010 to 2020, can be accessed on the chapter website.) [[🌐 Chapter Newsletter Library Archive](#)]

The revived *Communicator*, as currently envisioned, is to be somewhat similar yet somewhat different from what it was before. To begin with, it will be a digital publication, made available in PDF format rather than having a hard copy handed out at chapter meeting times. It is planned to be produced quarterly, appearing in the same months as *The English Connection* (i.e., March, June, September, and December) rather than when a chapter meeting is held. As a newsletter, it will continue to focus on upcoming chapter events but also include KOTESOL national events as well as other events that might be of interest to our chapter members.

Monthly Chapter Meetings

Chapter meetings for 2025 are planned to be held monthly, except in the school vacation months of January, February, July, and August. Meetings will continue to be scheduled for our regular meeting date of the second Saturday of the month (unless some important holiday supersedes). Therefore, our first chapter meeting for 2025 will be held on Saturday, March 8. The venue is still the Gwangju National University of Education (GNUE; Lindsay Herron's workplace), but the building has

changed from the pre-covid location. The meetings are now held in the Creativity Convergence Hall (창의융합관), next door to the former meeting place, in the English Cafe, on the third floor. It is located next to the large Punghyang Cultural Hall [[🌐 Map and Location Details](#)]. Attendees often go to an area restaurant for dinner after the meetings.

March Meeting

- Date: Saturday, March 8, 2–5 p.m. [[🌐 Meeting Details](#)]
- Presentation 1: The Finer Points of Organizing Students into Pairs and Groups (Bryan Hale)
- Presentations 2: The Unfolding of Careers: Why *Some* Expatriate English Teachers Leave the Profession (Dr. Ian Moodie)



Bryan Hale is an instructor at the Jeonnam Foreign Language High School in Naju. His area of expertise is in teaching young learners and teens. Bryan has a master's degree in applied linguistics (TESOL) from the University of New England (Australia). He has served KOTESOL in a variety of positions, including chapter president, national president, and international conference chair.



Ian Moodie is a professor at Mokpo National University in Muan. He has a PhD in linguistics and an MA in applied linguistics. Dr. Moodie's research areas of interest are language teacher cognition, language teacher commitment, language teacher professionalism, and language teacher development. He is currently KOTESOL's Research Committee chair.

April Meeting

- Date: Saturday, April 12, 2–5 p.m. [[🌐 Meeting Details](#)]
- Presentation 1: Art in Language Learning (Ide O'Connell)
- Presentation 2: Fandom in the Classroom (Courtney McLaren)



Ide O'Connell has been teaching since 2002, with experience in Korea, Russia, Spain, and Hong Kong. She holds a master's in applied linguistics from Macquarie University and specializes in English for specific purposes. Currently teaching at a private elementary school in Korea, she integrates creative approaches into language learning, drawing from her passion for art and a recent certificate in early childhood education with a focus on art.

Courtney McLaren teaches at Baegun Middle School in Gwangyang and holds a master's degree in communications from Simon Fraser University. A dedicated fan and scholar, her research focuses on transcultural fandom, cosmopolitanism, and fan grief.

May

- No chapter meeting is scheduled for May due to the May 10–11 Korea TESOL International Conference to be held in Seoul at Sookmyung Women's University. Hope to see you there!

KOTESOL International Conference

The Korea TESOL International 2025, our 32nd annual international conference, will be held over the weekend of May 10–11 at Sookmyung Women’s University in central Seoul. If you haven’t been to any of our international conferences before, it is something you will want to experience. If you have been to one before, you will want to return. We are expecting a dozen plenary and featured speakers, and 280 presentations of various formats and on a variety of ELT and applied linguistics topics.

The pre-registration period for the conference is from March 15 to April 30. You may also register at the conference, but the entrance fee is less if you pre-register. The pre-registration fee is also cheaper for KOTESOL members. [[🌐 Registration Fees](#)]



Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter is well represented among the presenters participating in the conference. Ian Moodie will be giving two presentations, both related to professionals in education: “Escaping the Sandbox: Why Do Mid-to-Long-Term Educational Professionals Leave Korea?” and “The Unfolding of Careers: Why Expatriate English Teachers Leave the Profession.” Lindsay Herron will be participating in a panel discussion on “Professionalism in the Professionalization of TESOL in Korea,” and David Shaffer will be leading a 101 workshop: “Mastering APA Style Citations and References for Research Reports.”

Preparations for the 2025 conference began more than a year in advance of the conference itself. Several of our chapter members are on the conference committee: Lindsay Herron, Registration director; Jocelyn Wright, Human Resources team; Phillip Schrank, Registration team; and David Shaffer, Invited Speakers director and Financial Affairs director.

Membership

If you are interested in teaching and learning languages, Korea TESOL is the organization for you to be involved in. It provides professional development, networking opportunities, and occasions for socializing.

Member Benefits include discounts on ticketed events, such as registration for the international conference and for the Saturday evening Social at the conference. Member benefits also include research grants to support member research, travel grants to international partner conferences, and more [[🌐 Benefits](#)].

Local Member Benefits: In addition to the benefits mentioned above, KOTESOL members can receive discounts on purchases at Top ELT Book Center and at the Alleyway. [[🌐 Local Benefits](#)].

It is membership dues that fund chapter activities. One half of a member's dues goes to national KOTESOL; the other half goes to the chapter that the member selects. If your KOTESOL membership has expired or if you have not yet become a member, you can renew or join online. [[🌐 Join/Renew](#)]

Chapter Elections

Our annual chapter elections were held at our December chapter meeting for the offices of president, vice-president, and treasurer. Elected for an additional term of office were the following:

- **President:** Maria Lisak, Chosun University, Division of Public Administration and Social Welfare.
- **Vice-President:** David Shaffer, Gwangju International Center, Chosun University (rtd).
- **Treasurer:** Lindsay Herron, Gwangju National University of Education, Department of English Education.

The following round out the members of the 2025 chapter council:

- **Immediate Past President:** Bryan Hale, Jeollanam-do Foreign Language High School, English Department.
- **Officer-at-Large:** Jocelyn Wright, Mokpo National University, English Language and Literature Department.
- **Chapter Advisor:** Yeon-seong Park, Independent Researcher; Former Professor at Chonnam National University.

National Council

Our chapter is well represented on the current 23-member KOTESOL National Council:

- Maria Lisak: Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter President
- Lindsay Herron: National President, Membership Committee Chair
- Bryan Hale: Immediate Past President
- Jocelyn Wright: National Treasurer
- Ian Moodie: Research Committee Chair
- David Shaffer: Publications Committee Chair, Nominations and Elections Committee Chair

Upcoming National Events

In addition to the International Conference, KOTESOL has two nationwide events happening soon: KOTESOL Connections Day 2025 and Chapter Leaders' Retreat.

Connections Day: All KOTESOL members are invited to attend our annual KOTESOL Connections Day! At this March 15 event in Seoul, members can discover KOTESOL's committees, learn about current perks and projects, propose ideas for the coming year, and – most importantly – build connections to other members similarly interested in improving and contributing to our organization in personally meaningful ways. Take a look behind the scenes, and discover how you can step up as a leader in KOTESOL! [[🌐 KOTESOL Connections Day](#)]



Chapter Leaders Retreat: “Retreat” is somewhat of a misnomer, as this is a roll-up-your-sleeves and get-down-to-work meeting where chapter representatives come together to discuss chapter-related concerns, put forth fresh ideas to inject more vitality into chapter activities, and provide solutions to problems that chapters might be facing. Piggy-backing on Connections Day, the Retreat will be on March 16 (Sunday) in Seoul at Sookmyung Women’s University. [[🌐 Chapter Leaders Retreat](#)]

KOTESOL Publications

In addition to this small-scale newsletter, KOTESOL produces a variety of publications dealing with activities and events, professional development, and ELT research:

Korea TESOL Happenings and News (HAN): This online, quarterly publication focuses on the goings-on of chapters, special interest groups (SIGs), and the various committees within KOTESOL. This popular 20-plus-page quarterly is now starting its second year of publication. [[🌐 HAN](#)]



KOTESOL News: This is a digital, monthly publication delivered to your inbox via email. It focuses on upcoming events of chapters, SIGs, and national KOTESOL, as well as our domestic and international partners’ conferences. Sign up for your copy if you haven’t done so already. [[🌐 KOTESOL News](#)]

The English Connection (TEC): This quarterly print and digital publication provides short ELT articles focusing on ELT research and practical applications for the classroom. Consider submitting your own article. The Spring issue features articles and interviews with our invited speakers to our May international conference. [[🌐 The English Connection](#)]



Korea TESOL Journal: This semi-annual scholarly journal publishes research articles in ELT and applied linguistics pertinent to the Korean ELT context. In addition to reading these articles, consider submitting your own book report, brief research report, or full-length article for publication. [[🌐 Korea TESOL Journal](#)]

KOTESOL Proceedings: This is an annual publication of select articles based on presentations made at our international conference. It is a compilation of about 30 articles covering a wide range of ELT-related topics. [[🌐 KOTESOL Proceedings](#)]

Language Teaching: This is a long-running column in the *Gwangju News*, the monthly English language magazine published by the Gwangju International Center. Though not a KOTESOL publication per se, the column's content is provided by chapter members. Recent articles include an interview with Dr. Ian Moodie in the December issue, an interview with Dr. Maria Lisak in the February issue, and an article on grouping students according to proficiency levels by Bryan Hale in the March issue. [[🌐 Gwangju News](#)]

Additional Sources of KOTESOL Information

Facebook: For the most up-to-the-minute information and events of relevance to chapter members as well as providing a place for discussion and asking questions, the chapter manages a Facebook group. [[🌐 Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL](#)]

Chapter Webpages: For detailed information on chapter meetings, venue directions, officers, elections, etc., go to the chapter pages on the KOTESOL website. [[🌐 Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter](#)]

KOTESOL Directory: Here you will find a complete list of current national, chapter, and SIG officers and their positions. [[🌐 KOTESOL Directory](#)]

Calendars of Events: These pages hold chronological lists of upcoming ELT-related events. They are divided into KOTESOL events, domestic events, and international events for easy access. [[🌐 Calendars of Events](#)]



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