

# Cholla: Where KOTESOL Began

## KOTESOL's First Steps: The Birth of Chonbuk Chapter

By Jack Large

Posterity was not the focus of association concern as the 1990s got underway. People were studying ways of bringing KOTESOL into existence, but neither the name, nor the ways and means of doing it had yet been articulated. The primary motivation was to eliminate redundancy inherent in the existence of two similar organizations, with many members of each belonging to the other. Many English educators in Korea wanted a plausible, effective personal link to a credible international professional association that, taking English as its official language, embraced Korean and non-Korean members with equal ardor. The rapid growth and increasing popularity of the Korean Association of Teachers of English (KATE) in Daejeon made the need for a new paradigm seem more urgent. If it came, it should furthermore be one that was not Seoul-centric, but instead reflect professional and cultural values that were genuinely national and international. This awareness was the basis for what became KOTESOL's chapter system.

Six chapters were proposed initially: Seoul, Taejon, Taegu, Pusan, Kyongju, and Chonbuk (following the spellings used at that time). This was adopted, as it reflected the demographic and geographic realities of membership in the two parent entities at the time - KATE and AETK (Association of English Teachers in Korea). By then I had done most of the writing for, and about, the new approach including the original document, or "letter of intent" requiring the signature of 20 dues-paid members and a slate of elected officers for a local chapter to gain official recognition. My familiarity with the document, and the concept I had attempted to represent with it, gave me a natural advantage in the days following the joint conference,

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*"It was clear ... that KOTESOL was here to stay."*

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when local leaders returned to their home places to gather the required signatures, elect officers, and schedule their meetings.

Soon afterwards, *Language Teaching: The KOTESOL Journal*, the predecessor of *The English Connection*, reported that I had "introduced the 'letter of intent' to the group and explained the steps necessary to start a local chapter. This was very exciting to most of the membership and was one of the business issues that generated the most enthusiasm. It seems that many are

interested in starting up a local chapter. Let's do it!" And that's what we did.

The local chapter concept was a success from the very beginning, enabling teachers to find organizational support closer to home and providing a natural way for groups of teachers in their respective locales to meet conveniently, without having to travel great distances to do so. In less than a year, all six chapters had been granted official charters and the total number of KOTESOL teachers rivaled that of its precursors combined.

The Chonbuk group of teachers was the first to complete and file the Letter of Intent to form a chapter. The main reason was my admittedly egotistical determination to make it so. In less than a week after the October 1992 KATE-AETK joint conference, where the two associations formally joined to form KOTESOL, I had more than enough signatures on the Letter of Intent and my friend and colleague, Prof. Kim Hyung-su had been chosen, and agreed, to serve as President. Dr. Lee Yeon Hee became Vice-President, and I was chosen Secretary. A curious situation soon arose involving the treasurer position, which had, in the sometimes quaint and curious way of early KOTESOL doings, been made to reside in not one but two individuals, a married couple. Their estrangement soon after, posed a conundrum for the organization. The Chapter treasury survived intact, but the Treasurers' union, sadly, did not.

The chapter system proved to be invaluable. Monthly chapter meetings continued throughout 1993 at Chonbuk Chapter and the other chapters that soon followed Chonbuk in being formed: Taejon, Seoul, Pusan, and Taegu. These chapter meetings provided a solid foundation for the new organization and quickly became the focus of KOTESOL activity - until conference time rolled around.

I had sought a *quid pro quo* from the steering committee as a reward for my work on the foundation documents (and because I was determined that Chonbuk Chapter be the first chapter chartered). They had supported the designation of Wonkwang University, my employer, to be the site of the first KOTESOL Conference in 1993. Several hundred teachers from around Korea came to the city of Iri (now



Iksan), joined by guests from half a dozen other countries, and more than twenty exhibitors. Our first conference was a resounding success, and it remains

the fondest of KOTESOL memories. It was clear then to everyone present that KOTESOL was here to stay.

## **Cholla Chapter: From Fledgling to Full-Fledged**

*By Joo-Kyung Park*

The history of Cholla Chapter starts with the 1993 Korea TESOL Conference held at Wonkwang University in Iri in October. It was there that that I made my very first encounter with KOTESOL, and it was destined to be an intense love affair ever after. I was fascinated by the scale and quality of the conference program and wanted to become part of this charming but as yet unknown organization. Returning afterward to the Language Research Center (LRC) of Chonnam National University where I was teaching, I shared the excitement with my foreign colleagues, especially Scott and Claudia Payne. We laid the groundwork for what would later become Cholla Chapter (as it was romanized at the time), in which we would serve together as its first officers.

We three and several other foreign faculty wanted to join the nearest KOTESOL local chapter, Chonbuk Chapter, centered in Jeonju. However, as we were all based in Gwangju, it was not very convenient to attend the Chapter meetings in Jeonju, and so we discussed creating our own chapter. After talking with Chonbuk Chapter leaders, Kim Hyung-su and Jack Large, they suggested joining forces to form a Cholla Chapter, embracing all of the Cholla region, and asked if I would be willing to serve as its first president. With strong support and encouragement from my faculty colleagues and the Chonbuk Chapter officers, I agreed. Todd Terhune was elected Vice-President, Scott Payne would serve as Secretary, and Claudia Hett Payne became Treasurer in what would be a "dream team," thanks to their enthusiasm and professionalism.

Cholla Chapter had its first meeting on May 28, 1994, with a great turnout of 66 teachers. We decided to alternate the meeting venues between Chonnam National University in Gwangju and Chonbuk National University in Jeonju. That decision was an inevitable one back then but was problematic all along and eventually resulted in the 2003 split of the Chapter into two.

The word of this fledgling Chapter became more widely known through its very successful first mini-conference, held at the LRC of Chonnam National University. It was the very first national-level conference hosted by a local chapter, and Busan and Seoul-Gyeonggi Chapters subsequently adopted the model with success. The mini-conference brought the Chapter and KOTESOL to the attention of many local schoolteachers and supervisors. Above all they were attracted to the fact that KOTESOL had many native

English-speaking members, and all its activities and business were conducted in English.

Gwangju and South Cholla Province have a long history of English education and a number of leading ELT scholars and practitioners in Korea are from this region. There were quite a number of Korean teachers of English who wanted to uphold the tradition by developing their English skills, and they saw Cholla Chapter as an answer to their long-time wish. A number of the non-Korean members were holders of an advanced degree in TESOL, with teaching experience and the willingness to share their expertise with Korean friends and colleagues as well as to learn from them. In a nutshell, the launch of Cholla Chapter was blessed with so many of the positive, necessary elements for it to become a success that it seemed almost too good to be true.

Cholla Chapter grew so rapidly that in its second year, it became the second largest chapter, second only to

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*“We worked to establish... a close relationship with the local office of education...”*

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Seoul. This was made possible through our efforts as a team and through several systematic steps: First, we worked to establish and maintain a close relationship with the local office of education and the supervisors who were in charge of elementary and secondary English education and teacher education. We visited them at their offices and welcomed them to our meetings. Second, our liaison people took steps to link the Chapter with other, larger regional organizations of Korean teachers of English that were supported by the local board of education. They helped the Chapter greatly with recruiting new members, hosting joint events, and more. Third, and most importantly, Cholla Chapter had a nice balance in its combination of foreign and Korean members and officers. Their language and cultural proficiency, and their enthusiastic willingness to work together, ensured that the Chapter would thrive and grow.

As part of my chapter presidency, I became more and more involved in KOTESOL at the National Executive

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Council level. I was 2nd Vice-President (1994-95) and 1st Vice-President (1995-96), becoming President in 1996, and serving in many additional capacities at the National level afterwards. As a result, I was no longer a core worker for Cholla Chapter after 1995, but remained active as a mentor for my successors, who have regularly sought my advice. They, and their major contributions, deserve special recognition here.

Todd Terhune became the president (1995-96) right after me and led the Chapter beautifully with his strong leadership and kind and humble personality. He was followed by Kim Jinwoo. After Kim's first term (1996-7), Mary Wallace became the president but she served for only a short period of time, leaving Korea for another job. Kim Jinwoo graciously returned to serve a bit longer as president. Throughout his presidency (1996-8), Kim and his council maintained the strong leadership and team spirit that were continued by Park Heejung, president during 1998, and his council. It is not common in Korean culture for a high school teacher to serve as president of an organization whose membership consists of both K-12 teachers and university professors. These two veteran high school teachers, however, proved by their exemplary leadership in service that what makes a good leader is not their social status but their professional capacity.

Rachel Philips took in hand the reins of the presidency in late 1998, having already served two years as Chapter Secretary. Brian Heldenbrand succeeded Rachel, and served for three years (1999-2002). Brian had organized and coordinated the Cholla Chapter Drama Festival successfully for many years, and he worked just as hard to strengthen the Chapter as President. Phil Owen then became President for 2002-

03 and, the "chapter split" discussion, which had been mostly dormant for years, was, of necessity, revived. After going through the decision-making process, the "re-formation" of Cholla Chapter into two separate chapters, one in the north, the other in the south, was made final by the National Executive Council in December 2003. The change, however, did not mean the sad separation of an unhappy couple but the exciting beginning of a new adventure of two individuals who had grown up to stand-alone. It is merely another event in the interesting life cycle of Cholla Chapter - born as Chonbuk (or North Cholla) Chapter, expanded to Cholla Chapter, and born again as two Cholla Chapters: Gwangju-Jeonnam and North Jeolla.

As of January 1, 2004, the two Jeolla chapters (reflecting the new romanization) became full-fledged, independent organizations under the leadership of Maria Lisak and Phil Owen for Gwangju-Jeonnam and North Jeolla, respectively. Allison Bill now leads North Jeolla. My best wishes go to both chapters as their journey continues!

**The Authors**

**Jack Large** is Vice-President of Seoul Chapter and the facilitator of the KOTESOL Global Issues Special Interest Group. As Finance Committee Chair, he wrote many of the fiscal policies still in use by KOTESOL, and credits (Mrs.) Aekyoung Large, National Treasurer for KOTESOL's first three years, with helping to put it all together.

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**KOTESOL, SIGs, and You  
Seoul SIG Day**

Sookmyung Women's University / May 21, 2005

**Collaboration: Building a Learning Environment  
Gwangju KOTESOL Conference**

Chonnam National University, LEC / April 9, 2005 / 12:30-5:00 pm

**ELT at the Crossroads: 40 Years of Research, Training, Service  
KATE Summer Conference**

Korea University, Seoul / June 24-25, 2005

# Taejon Chapter: The Early Years

By Carl Dusthimer

In the beginning there was the word, and the word was..... HELP! Seriously though, when KOTESOL all began, there was simply a group of people working towards a common goal that, at the time, was largely undefined. That group of people was an offshoot of an organization called AETK (the Association of English Teachers in Korea). Mr. Jack Large explained about this group, KATE, (Korea Association of Teachers of English) in his article appearing in the last edition of this publication (TEC, vol. 9, no. 1, p. 18), and I only touch on it as a means of continuing the story of how KOTESOL came into being and how it moved forward in its early years.

KATE was centered in Taejon (now romanized as “Daejeon”) and was formed to give English teachers outside of Seoul support in professional development. The main focus of KATE, and one that remains a focus of KOTESOL, was giving members practical, useful ways to improve language learning in the classroom. The people most closely involved in the creation and development of KATE were Margaret Elliot, Dr. Kwon Oryang, Jack Large, Dr. Nam-soon Kim, Demetra Gates, and myself. Looking to move forward and fulfill this focus, this goal, this core of people simply met regularly and tried to come up with ways to share

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*We always worked together...that was the key to our early successes.*

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activities, techniques, and methodology. Not being a trained teacher when I came to Korea, I just wanted to learn to be a better classroom teacher and look for ways for others to share their experiences and successes (as well as those infrequent failures).

To provide a little concrete, historical background to this description of the early years, I would like to paraphrase a chronological account of that period by Dr. Kwon Oryang. After a period of frustration with having to travel to Seoul for AETK meetings, teachers in the Taejon area, including Jack Large from Iksan (then called “Iri”), and myself from Jeonju (then spelled “Chonju”), as well as Margaret, Demetra, and Oryang, began getting together at Hannam University. It was a result of these meetings at Hannam that KATE was formed, selecting Margaret Elliot as its first president. Immediately, KATE began to thrive and soon became more active and prosperous than AETK.

KATE embraced the “chapter” system, and as Jack Large wrote, “enabled teachers to find organizational support closer to home by providing a natural way for groups of teachers in their respective locales to meet conveniently, without having to travel great distances to do so.” I believe this system was the backbone for the success of KATE, and later (and presently) for Korea TESOL.

## Chapters in History

Edited by David E. Shaffer

Back to the history of KATE for a moment. It should be noted that KATE had as its leaders/presidents, Margaret Elliot (1988-89), Jack Large (1989-90), Dr. Kwon Oryang (1990-91), and me (1991-92). I hesitate to put an order to it, or even a defining set of accomplishments to any one of these individuals. Rather, I would like to reiterate that the shared vision of better classroom teaching and assisting those who wanted to become better teachers guided these leaders during their tenure and was the very reason they accepted a leadership role in KATE. Furthermore, I can say with certainty that none of them was seeking recognition or notoriety. They simply, and gladly, accepted their role as leader through the election process. I would also like to note my belief that the success of KATE, and of KOTESOL in the early years, was more due to the camaraderie and shared goals of those early participants than any lofty goal of size, influence, or greatness.

Looking back on the early years, to give a little perspective to English language teaching in Korea, I would like to paraphrase a friend and respected scholar, Dr. Dwight Strawn, who, in his address at one of the early KOTESOL Leadership Retreats, said, “English language teaching did not begin when you landed at Kimpo Airport” (Seoul’s international airport at the time). I think that is something we all need to remember as KOTESOL continues to make a difference in English education in Korea. There is a very significant history to English language teaching in Korea, and we need, as an organization, to look at what has been done before in order to be more effective in the initiatives we choose to embrace to chart the future.

On a personal note, I should say that when I came to Korea, I was as green as the spring rice seedlings you see in the paddies in spring. I came into a new culture,

and I was new to teaching English. Luckily, I was provided a mentor, not by design, but by, shall we say, destiny. Her name was Margaret Elliot, and she was my real introduction to teaching English in Korea. She was also very instrumental in the formation of KOTESOL, and soon after, the Taejon Chapter. She was always a quiet, driving force for English education at Hannam University, and ultimately for KOTESOL and the Taejon Chapter during its infancy.

For me it began about the same time as the creation of the Cholla Chapter. It resulted from the same spirit of camaraderie, the same we-may-not-know-where-we're-going-but-let's-take-the-journey-together spirit that I believe defines this organization, especially in its early years. Perhaps the vision of KOTESOL is much better defined now, as well it should be, but back in the early 1990's the vision was more organic. It was built on relationships and a shared realization that we could improve ELT in Korea by sheer will and hard work. And that spirit did produce results. It produced the Cholla Chapter, and it produced the Taejon Chapter, as well. We always worked together, sharing teaching ideas, as well as developmental ideas for the fledgling organization, and that was the key to our early successes.

One of the most memorable successes, and one that

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### *Move forward with the spirit with which it began: adventure and camaraderie.*

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remains today, is the Drama Festival. It had its early, humble beginnings in Taejon. I can remember that the idea came up during one of our brainstorming sessions. You know, at one of those times when you are looking for something new, when you are reaching out for a new idea that will bring students and teachers together: an idea that can accomplish things that the classroom environment cannot quite capture. Well, as run-of-the-mill as that may sound now, it was an innovative idea at the time. And what an experience those first few festivals were! It was more of a challenge than you might think. Sure, it is a challenge now, but then it was truly an adventure. So many people gave their time and energy to make those festivals truly memorable. We even had a teacher from an island off Yeosu in Jeollanam-do who brought her students three years running. That is the dedication, that spirit, as teachers and as members of KOTESOL, that really defines what we are and what we do. If there is any single ongoing event that defines our organization, I believe it is the Daejeon Drama Festival. This event helped to get us going. It resulted from the original spirit that got the whole glorious thing started. Its spirit and energy remain today. That is testimony to KOTESOL's commitment to ELT in Korea.

One might be asking at this point, "Who were the

leaders of the Taejon Chapter in those early years?" Those personalities were Margaret Elliot, Carl Dusthimer, Demetra Gates, Kim Nam-soon, Joo Hyun-chul, Ju Yang-don, and a score of others. The names are certainly important, and I apologize if I have forgotten some of those who played a key role in the Taejon Chapter and its development. As a matter of record, I would be remiss not to include a list of the presidents of the chapter, as they have been instrumental in developing the chapter to its present level of success.

Carl Dusthimer	1992-1993
Sangdo Woo	1993-1994
Yangdon Ju	1994-1995
Andrew Perkins	1995-1996
Lori Roach	1996-1997
Kirsten Reitan	1997-1998
William Schmidt	1998-1999
Edith Swain	1999-2000
Eunjeong Kim	2000-2001
Kevin Parent	2001-2003
Oo-Sheek Seo	2003-2004
Aaron Jolly	2004-Present

But I think we need to understand that we are all a part of a larger picture: the KOTESOL picture. I guess what I am trying to get across is the importance of the "spirit" of KOTESOL. You can ask any of those involved: Jack Large, Demetra Gates, Dr. Kwon Oryang, Margaret Elliot, and others mentioned above. The essence of the beginning of the Taejon Chapter of Korea TESOL is the spirit that was there at the time - the spirit that understands that we may not be sure of exactly where we are going, but are confident that together we can make it happen.

In the end, there must be a group of people working together toward a common goal. Then it was the chapters (Cholla, Taejon, Taegu, Seoul, and Pusan) with largely undefined objectives. Now it is a larger organization, Korea TESOL, with better-defined goals. We have a mission statement: "To promote scholarship, disseminate information, and facilitate cross-culture understanding among persons concerned with the teaching and learning of English in Korea." In moving forward, we need a vision statement to better define ourselves and where we are going. My humble piece of advice, looking back on those formative years, is to move forward with the spirit with which it began: adventure and camaraderie.

#### **The Author**

**Carl Dusthimer** is currently Director of the Gyeonggi English Village at Ansan. He has a long history with KOTESOL having served as Conference Co-chair five times, as well as Co-chair for the Pan-Asian Conference in 1999. He also served as KOTESOL national president for two terms (1997-1999). His interests are in the areas of curriculum development and global and peace issues.

## Busan: A Chronicle since AETK

By Mike Duffy

As Busan prepares to consolidate its status as an international city by hosting the 2005 APEC conference, it seems an appropriate time to look back on the recent history of English teaching in the port city, and the role played in its development by Korea TESOL. One of KOTESOL's predecessor organizations, AETK (The Association of English Teachers in Korea), had been active in Busan going back to 1989 when, in collaboration with the Pusan Association of Language Teachers (PALT), it had put on a Conference and Bookfair with guest speakers supplied by publishing firms and by the Japan Association of Language Teachers (JALT). Among those attending were two future presidents of Busan Chapter, Michael Duffy and Sook-eun Cho. The following year, the same organizations joined forces with PETA (now the Pan-Korean English Teachers' Association, PKETA) to put on a conference at Pusan National University (PNU). The speakers included Kathleen Graves, author of the *East-West* series of coursebooks, and someone who was to become a frequent visitor to Korea, Jack Richards of *Interchange* fame.



In 1991, AETK held its national conference at PNU under the chairmanship of that university's Dr. Jung-hun Ahn, who, as the last president of AETK, was to see in the inauguration of

KOTESOL in the autumn of 1993. Compared with present-day conferences, the PNU event was a very modest affair, but it attracted some distinguished presenters such as Prof. Duk-ki Kim, Jack Martire, and David Kosofsky. David, author of the popular *Common Problems in Korean English*, provocatively recommended that teachers should dispose of all printed materials, including textbooks. (Luckily for KOTESOL's finances, this has not yet happened.)

When AETK and the energetic Daejeon-based group, KATE, decided to come together in the fall of 1992 to form Korea TESOL, it was resolved to set up regional chapters if a sufficient number of local members expressed an interest. There was considerable enthusiasm in Busan for the idea, and so it was that the chapter came into being. Its first meeting was held on March 20, 1993, at the Language Research Institute of PNU, and the first committee was elected. Mike Duffy

was president; Hyo-woong Lee, more recently the founding president of Asia TEFL, was VP; and Jeong-ryeol "Jay" Kim, a later KOTESOL president, was secretary. The inaugural presentation, "Future Directions for English Teaching in Korea," was given by Dr. Ahn, who had by then become the national president of AETK, and monthly meetings continued to be held at the same venue for the first year of the chapter's existence. Two of the outstanding early presenters were Chuck Mason, a long-time stalwart of teachers' organizations, who came down from Daegu to show ways of teaching feedback strategies, and Ji-sook Yeom, Korea's most famous practitioner of jazz chants.

### Chapters in History

Edited by David E. Shaffer

An important contributor to the Chapter's early growth was Nae-il Park. Mr. Park, who retired in 1997 as Vice-Principal of Pugok Middle School, was well-known in local English-teaching circles for many years, largely as a result of the TLF (Target Language Focus) group which he headed, and he introduced many members of his group to the Chapter. He also enabled the Chapter to reach an even wider public by initiating contacts with the city's Office of Education.

Mr. Dae-cheol Kim, the late president of Busan's oldest English institute, ESS, had long been an enthusiastic supporter of teachers' groups, and it was at his

### By 1995, monthly meetings were attracting well over 50.

invitation that the chapter moved its regular venue to the ESS building in downtown Nampo-dong for its first meeting of 1994. The move resulted in a considerable increase in attendance over the year. By the spring of 1995, monthly meetings were attracting well over 50 people, with many coming from as far away as Ulsan, Pohang, and Daegu. Workshops on listening and cooperative learning by Pusan University of Foreign Studies professors Ellen Bancroft and Scott Walters proved especially popular, as did various presentations by Dr. Ahn and by Peter Ackroyd of Fisheries (now Pukyong) University.

The move to ESS coincided with the election of Na-un

Hwang (formerly Pyong-young Hwang) as secretary-treasurer, and following the departure of Jeong-ryeol Kim to take up the position of national president at the end of 1994, Na-un began to devote more time and energy to the development of the Chapter. In May and June 1996, she organized its biggest events to date, two workshops given by David Paul of Japan, one on teaching adults and teenagers, the other on teaching children. The latter was an all-day affair and took place on a Sunday. Despite a fraught overnight trip from a fogbound Seoul, David managed to entertain and instruct the audience of over 150 teachers with his usual humor and flair.

Na-un took over the presidency at the end of 1996 and launched an even more ambitious project, a modestly titled "mini-conference," which finally took place in May of 1997 at PUFFS. With three overseas guest presenters and more than 200 teachers in attendance, it turned into something of a mega-event, and set a high standard for Na-un's successors to emulate. However, over the following two years, the similarly energetic Cho Sook-eun and TJ Everest organized equally successful conferences, at PNU and Dong-eui University, respectively.

In 1999, the chapter inaugurated an innovation in the form of a joint Korean-Canadian presidency, the office being held by Zoe Im (Im Eo Kyung) and PNU

professor Marcela Jonas. They were followed by New Zealander Paul Mead, who made special efforts to attract Korean members, and Australian Jason Renshaw, who, coming from a YL background, put an increased emphasis on issues of teaching children. Jason also made the innovation of inviting a speaker from Japan, Miki Niiyama, Assistant Professor of Baiko

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## *The mini-conference turned into a mega-event.*

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Gakuin Women's Junior College in Yamaguchi Prefecture, who presented on peer feedback in an English writing class in what proved a very successful meeting. Since Busan is the closest to Japan of all the cities in Korea, this might be a pointer to the Chapter's future.

In 2003, a new president, Paul Robertson, moved the Chapter's meetings from its long-established home at ESS to Dongseo University. This also became, in April 2004, the venue for the Chapter's first conference since 1999, with guest speakers including old favorites like Marc Helgesen and the current star of EFL, Dave Sperling. The enthusiastic response showed that although the Korean EFL scene has undergone many, many changes during the past dozen years, Busan Chapter, now under the presidency of Craig Lutzer, continues to play an important role in the life of the city.

### **The Author**

*Mike Duffy has been teaching in Korea since 1988. He has held various positions in Korea TESOL and other teachers' organizations, and was president of Busan Chapter from 1993 to 1996. He is currently at the Korea National Railroad College in Gyeonggi-do. 🌐*

## **Busan Chapter Presidents**

1993-1996	Mike Duffy
1996-1997	Na-un Hwang
1997-1998	Sook-eun Cho
1998-1999	Terri-Jo Everest
1999-2000	Zoe Im (Eo Kyung Im), Marcela Jonas (Co-Pres.)
2000-2001	Paul Mead
2001-2002	VACANT (1VP: Roger Fusselman)
2002-2003	Jason Renshaw
2003-2003	Erik Newson
2003-2004	Paul Robertson
2004-2005	Patrick Guilfoyle
2005-Present	Craig Lutzer

## **A Quote to Ponder**

**"Does it always matter if the 'real world' is not being practiced in the classroom?"**

Jo McDonough and  
Christopher Shaw  
***Materials and Methods in ELT*** (1993)

## Daegu-Gyeongbuk Chapter: Since 1993

By Steve Garrigues

For Daegu, it all started in 1993. The previous year, in late 1992, AETK (the Association of English Teachers in Korea) and KATE (the Korea Association of Teachers of English) had decided to join forces to form Korea TESOL. Two individuals, Chuck Mason and Patricia Hunt of Yeungnam University, who had both been active in those parent organizations, were the motivating force behind the creation of the Daegu Chapter of the newly established KOTESOL. They were tireless in their efforts to gather potential members in the Daegu area, and it was probably their enthusiasm more than anything that attracted such a wide range of English teachers, both Korean and native speakers, to those first meetings.

A man whom many knew as the “grandfather” of English teachers in Daegu was also instrumental in getting KOTESOL started. Arthur McTaggart first came to Korea in 1953 with the US government and served as the Director of the USIS Center in Daegu until 1963. After a full career in the US Foreign Service, including a period in Vietnam, he retired and returned to Korea in 1973 to take up a teaching position at Yeungnam University in Daegu, where he remained for 22 years. Through him, the American Culture Center in Daegu agreed to provide the venue for KOTESOL meetings, and in June of 1993, the first official KOTESOL meeting took place there.

In October of 1993, a number of Daegu members attended the first KOTESOL National Conference held in Iri (now called Iksan), and they brought back new ideas and enthusiasm about the potential for the organization. In the fall of that year, the first Daegu KOTESOL Chapter “Board” was elected, with Dr. Chae Joon-kee as President, Steve Garrigues as First Vice-President, Hwang Tae-gun as Second Vice-President, and Oh In-sook as Secretary-Treasurer. The three other members of the Board were Ray Lafferty, Kari Kugler-Choi, and Kim Hae-yeon. Pat Hunt and Chuck Mason agreed to help as “assistants” but declined to be elected as Chapter officers. The following year Chuck returned to the US, but Pat remained as an active supporter and was elected as the National KOTESOL Second Vice-President.

For the first several years, KOTESOL in Daegu enjoyed a good relationship with the American Culture Center, and several of the Center’s Directors were invited as speakers at Chapter meetings, including Robert Ogburn, Dr. Sherril Davis, and Richard Huckaby. The facilities were comfortable and sufficient for our meetings, they were provided to us free of charge, and everyone knew exactly where the place was. There was, however, one drawback. During those days of budding

Korean democracy, the American Culture Center, as a very visible symbol of the American government’s presence in Korea, was often the focus of student demonstrations.

Gradually, security became tighter and access to the building began to be more and more restricted.

It was not uncommon to arrive for a KOTESOL meeting to find the building facade splattered with paint or the black burn marks left by petrol bombs. At other times, KOTESOL members and guests had to make their way through cordons of black-garbed and helmeted riot police. Several meetings had to be cancelled because of demonstrations, and once a meeting was unexpectedly prolonged because no one could leave until the student demonstrators had been dispersed. Sometimes attendance suffered as a consequence in those days, but the times were never dull.

It was in 1994 that we initiated our semi-annual KOTESOL Dinner and Social Evening, a practice that has continued to the present. After the July and January meetings, we all gather at a local *galbi-jip* (short ribs restaurant) for fun and food. It was at about that time that we also started our paperback book exchange. The original idea was to provide foreign teachers with a place to swap paperbacks, but we also saw this as an opportunity to encourage Koreans to read English other than just that found in textbooks. Anyone can bring in whatever they have finished, and

### Chapters in History

Series Editor: David E. Shaffer

### Meetings had to be cancelled because of demonstrations

everyone is free to take whatever looks interesting to them. This has turned out to be a useful and popular service, and we always end up with many more books than are taken. More than anyone, Rocky Nelson has been responsible for helping us maintain our stock of English “light” reading.

The year 1996 was a sad year for Daegu KOTESOL. Tragically, Pat Hunt was diagnosed as having a brain tumor and returned to the US for surgery and treatment. Thankfully, it turned out not to be malignant, but the damage was irreversible. Pat remains her cheerful self and is living with her parents in Texas. She fondly remembers her many friends in Korea, but can no longer communicate very well.



Two significant events took place in 1997. The first was the closing of the American Culture Center at the end of March, and the second was the holding of the KOTESOL National Conference at the Education and Cultural Center in Kyongju (Gyeongju) that October. The USIS was in the process of closing all the American Culture Centers throughout Korea (Busan, Seoul, Gwangju, Daegu), and so we were faced with the task of finding an alternative meeting place. The March meeting was the last one to be held in our old venue, and it was also one of the final events to be hosted by the Culture Center before it closed. Meanwhile arrangements were made to hold the next meeting at the Language Institute of Kyungpook National University. This was a fortuitous choice, and the relationship that has been formed between the KNU Language Center and the Daegu Chapter of KOTESOL has proven to be a lasting one.

### *We all gather at a local galbi-jip for fun and food.*

With the Kyongju National KOTESOL Conference of 1997 being held right in Daegu Chapter's "backyard," so to speak, there was heightened interest in KOTESOL among English teachers in the area. Although attendance at that Conference was rather small from a national perspective, it saw an unprecedented number of participants from Daegu and neighboring cities, and consequently, membership in the Daegu Chapter increased dramatically. This was followed three years later with the 2000 KOTESOL Conference, the first one to be called an "International Conference," being held in Daegu on the campus of Kyungpook National University. This was certainly a highpoint for the Daegu Chapter, both in terms of our public recognition and in the increase in membership.

Since the Daegu Chapter has had a significant number of active members residing in Pohang, Gumi, Gyeongju and other towns outside the Daegu Metropolitan area, it was decided in 2001 to change the name of the chapter to "Daegu-Gyeongbuk," in order to better represent the scope of our membership.

In the spring of 2005, the new director of the KNU Language Center, Dr. Lee Yaesheik, invited the Daegu Chapter to co-sponsor a planned international conference on the theme of *Globalization and Foreign Language Education*. A working committee was quickly put together, publicity and a call for presenters went out, and many KOTESOL members responded. The conference was divided into four interest sections to run concurrently, on Testing and Evaluation, EFL Teaching Approaches, Primary and Secondary Learners, and Second Language Acquisition. Ultimately, 16 presenters were selected (all but one of whom were KOTESOL members), and three speakers were invited from the US. The one-day conference was held on the 2nd of July, and in spite of torrential rain during the day, the attendance reached maximum capacity for the venue. Everyone was pleased with the outcome of the Conference, and it was decided to continue the cooperation on an annual basis. The next KNU-KOTESOL International Conference is now in the planning stage and is scheduled for July 2006.

#### **The Author**



*Steve Garrigues is a professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at Kyungpook National University in Daegu, where he has been teaching since 1986. His MA and PhD are both in cultural anthropology. He is a long-time member of KOTESOL and is currently the President of the Daegu-Gyeongbuk Chapter.*



## **National Council Members from Daegu**

A considerable number of National Council members have come from the Daegu area, including four of KOTESOL's thirteen National Presidents:

Scott Berlin	1993-1994	National President	Patricia Hunt	1993-1994	2nd Vice-President
	1994-1995	Imm. Past President	Jake Kimball	2005-	2nd Vice-President
Dr. Sangdo Han	1999-2000	National President		2003-2005	Nom. & Elect. Chair
	2000-2001	Imm. Past President	Yun-kyu Chung	1993	Chapter Representative
	1998-1999	1st Vice-President	Dr. Joon-kee Chae	1994-1996	Chapter Representative
	2002-2003	Research Chair	Dr. Steve Garrigues	1997-	Chapter Representative
Dr. Andrew Finch	2000-2001	National President	Kari Kugler Choi	1994-1995	Secretary
	1999-2000	Conference Chair	Heebon Park	1999-2001	Treasurer
	2002	Research Chair	Dan Grabon	2000-2001	Tech. Co-chair
Dr. Taeduck Hyun	2001	National President	Dr. Yong-hoon Lee	1999-2000	Dom. Rel. Co-chair
	2000	1st Vice-President			
	2000-2001	Conference Chair			

## Seoul Chapter: At the Center

Seoul Chapter's beginnings are intertwined with those of AETK (Association of English Teachers in Korea), the teachers' association of Koreans and expatriates that formed in Seoul a decade before KOTESOL. When AETK and KATE (Korean Association of Teachers of English, a younger Daejeon-based ELT organization) decided to join in forming Korea TESOL in 1992, Seoul Chapter was one of the earliest KOTESOL chapters to form. It was easy to organize because it already had a structure in place in the form of Seoul-based AETK, whose members formed the majority of the new organization's membership and officers. Seoul Chapter quickly gained in numbers and prominence, as it was at the center of ELT activity in Korea and activity in general.

The name was partly a misnomer, as the area covered by Seoul Chapter was not only the metropolitan area but all of surrounding Gyeonggi Province, Incheon, and sprawling Gangwon Province to the east. The chapter thus blanketed over one third of the land area of the country and nearly half of its population. Its first president was Greg Matheson, who had come to Korea in 1986 and been active in AETK since 1988.

From the beginning, the chapter emphasized monthly meetings as a major way to disseminate ELT information, and even in the early years, presentations provided hard-to-obtain information on the latest developments in the field of ELT. During 1993-1995, there were presentations by Oh Sung Sik, creator of the immensely popular *Good Morning Pops* English radio program; Min Byoung Chul of BCM Language Centers fame; Thomas S. C. Farrell (now an associate professor in applied linguistics at Brock University, Canada), who presented several times on reflective teaching; and



The annual Christmas Dinner - a Seoul Chapter tradition.

Seoul elementary school teacher Yeom Ji-sook, who introduced jazz chants for kids. An ESL CD-ROM display was prepared at Sogang University in 1994 (before many universities had CALL equipment), and in 1995 a guest speaker from Japan, Rachel Walzer, presented on active EFL activities, while another pioneering presentation was on the presently popular topic of content-based instruction (CBI). Location, then as now, has made high-profile presenter bookings easy. At Korea's center have been not only Seoul Chapter members but also national and occasionally international movers and shakers in ELT.

### Chapters in History

Series Editor: David E. Shaffer

The monthly meeting venue shifted frequently in the early years from the Fulbright Center in the Kohap Building in 1993, to alternating between the Fulbright Center and the Pagoda Language School in 1994, to Kim and Johnson's Bookstore in the Gangnam area in

### Location made high-profile presenter bookings easy.

1995. Attendance varied, of course, but was recorded at 45 for one meeting in March 1995. As the KOTESOL annual conference was often held in Seoul (1994, 1995, and 1996), Seoul Chapter members were expected to play a major role on conference organizing committees, and considered the chapter to be the conference "host."

After serving three and a half years as president, Greg Matheson stepped aside and Andrew Todd took over for the next year and a half, after which he moved to the position of British Council Liaison on the National Council. In the autumn of 1997, Thomas McKinney was elected president and served for a year. To facilitate dissemination of information, a chapter newsletter was started in 1996, the *KOTESOLetter*. Over the years its name changed to *SeoulBeat* (1998), to *English Beat* (1999), and finally to *About Seoul KOTESOL (ASK)* in 2003. It initially provided social cohesion through its combination of interesting EFL topics and item-specific information such as meeting times and speakers. Later it blossomed into a must-read publication, listing local, regional, and national

KOTESOL events, highlighting individuals and committees, and debating contemporary issues within the EFL community. It is now available in print and over the Internet, furthering its reach.

During the McKinney presidency (1998), chapter officers became more involved at the National Council level, with McKinney himself becoming Conference Committee Site Coordinator. Development of the chapter website also began, while the meeting site changed to Sookmyung Women's University (SMU) TESOL Resource Center. Noticeable growth occurred at this time, with attendance averaging around 70 by the end of his term. Also, the need to look outward for monthly presenters had markedly decreased, as more chapter members were prepared to take presenter

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### *The first chapter conference drew over 465 attendees.*

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roles.

Douglas Margolis assumed the presidency in Fall 1998, a period that experienced many changes in chapter activities. The new leaders, and members in general, bonded at the Christmas dinner at SMU, an event organized by Asif Siddiqui and remembered by those in attendance for its roast turkey with all the trimmings. The event has now become somewhat of a chapter tradition. Free advertising space in English-language newspapers was also used to inform members of current and planned events and to promote KOTESOL to non-members. Attendance was still high, occasionally with 70 to 80 people at a chapter meeting.

The first chapter conference, jointly sponsored with the newly formed Gyeonggi Chapter centered in Suwon, was held at SMU in March 1999. Plenary speakers were David Paul of David English House, Japan, and Lee Boyoung, the renowned Seoul TV and radio English instructor. It drew over 465 attendees, and was successful in large part due to the efforts of Conference Chair David Kim.

Vice-President Dennis Kim also played a vital role in chapter development, first serving under McKinney and later under Margolis. He was the main force pushing for the conference, and in 1998 took the lead in organizing the first leadership camp, ensuring that the next executive would be sensitive to members' needs and preferences. In Summer 1999, the chapter held its first softball game and picnic. Monthly attendance again rose, prompting the search for a meeting site with larger seating capacity. As a result, Konkuk University was selected.

For the following two years (1999-2001), the chapter was headed by Asif Siddiqui. It continued co-hosting

conferences with Suwon-Gyeonggi Chapter, including the Second Annual Seoul-Gyeonggi Conference in March 2000 at SMU, with David Kim again serving as Conference Chair. This was thought to have been the largest KOTESOL regional conference until then. In March 2001, the third joint conference was held at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, with presenters coming from as far away as the US and Japan. By popular demand, Lee Boyoung was again a plenary speaker.

Difficulty in securing a suitable and consistent meeting site affected monthly attendance. The opportunity to move back to SMU was therefore welcomed, not only for its superb facilities and central location, but also for the involvement of individuals there committed to the promotion of English and KOTESOL. Though attendance may not have been quite as high as in previous years, this circumstance may be viewed in a positive light - it reflected a dissipating of a nationwide dearth of ELT-related information. This period saw an increase in ELT publications of all kinds; ELT workshops, seminars, and conferences; and quality teacher training, as well as increased availability of materials and opportunities for language skills improvement.

Dr. Kang Myung-Jai was elected chapter president in Autumn 2001. As attendance had dropped at monthly meetings, the leadership sought to make the newsletter more constant and to reconstruct the chapter website. In addition, it co-hosted the Fourth Annual Seoul-Suwon/Gyeonggi Chapter Conference in May 2002 at the University of Suwon. This, however, proved to be the last, as the two chapters made the decision to each hold an annual conference in their respective regions.

When Dr. Yeum Kyungsook assumed the presidency in 2002, the chapter executive decided to concentrate its efforts on serving chapter members better and building membership. The two-presentations-per-meeting

## Seoul Chapter Presidents

Greg Matherson	1993-1996
Andrew Todd	1996-1997
Thomas McKinney	1997-1998
Douglas Margolis	1998-1999
Asif Siddiqui	1999-2001
Dr. Kang, Myung-Jai	2001-2002
Dr. Yeum, Kyungsook	2002-2004
Tory Thorkelson	2004-Present

format was revived, with high relevance as a focus; representative were presentations on motivation, CALL, and course design. The results were favorable, and by spring, there was standing room only for at least one meeting. The chapter newsletter was recharged and also given a new name, *About Seoul KOTESOL (ASK)*. In this effort, Editor Park Eun-Young deserves

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## *The Christmas Dinner has become a chapter tradition.*

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special mention for her role in producing a newsletter of exceptional quality. In September 2003, the chapter co-hosted with the Young Learners SIG (Special Interest Group) a well-attended Young Learners Symposium. The chapter website was also updated and given a new look.

In March 2004, Dr. Yeum was selected as National First Vice-President and therefore stepped down as chapter president. Tory Thorkelson was subsequently elected and has been leading the chapter since. That May, after receiving prior approval, the chapter sponsored a "national" conference, as distinct from the annual "international" conference held in the fall. In Spring 2005, it implemented a new concept: Seoul SIG Day, featuring presentations by each of KOTESOL's eight special interest groups.

Because of Seoul Chapter's location in the heart of Korea's population concentration, it has the resources - including vital human resources (members regularly comprise one third to one half of KOTESOL

membership) - to undertake large projects and try new ones that other chapters cannot do as easily. Aware of its unique position, in addition to serving its own members, it is to a limited extent serving all of KOTESOL. In this respect, the national conference and SIG events of the past three years have contributed greatly to KOTESOL's mission. While geography puts Seoul Chapter at the center, ongoing effort and accomplishment provide membership growth and the constant implementation of new ideas that lie at the heart of ELT in Korea.


**Editor's Note:** This article was a collaboration in research, writing, and editing by Alice Kim, Dr. Peter Nelson, and Dr. David Shaffer. They express their appreciation to all those who provided background information for the article.

### **The Team**



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## **Seoul Chapter Conference**

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## Suwon Chapter: ELT Hub

By Mijae Lee

**O**n the afternoon of April 15, 2006, a gratifying audience of approximately 100 English teachers gathered for the 49th meeting of the Suwon-Gyeonggi Chapter of KOTESOL. They had come to the University of Suwon for a presentation by Prof. Peter Kipp, entitled "Intercollegiate Debate: Classroom and Student Activity Models." It was a great meeting in which the audience involved themselves very actively with the presenter and with each other in fervent, yet positive, interaction. It was a moving experience. After the presentation, the officers and active members of the audience gathered for a group picture (see below). This event provided a good reference point from which to reflect on the Chapter's past and birth.

In the formation and development of the Suwon-Gyeonggi Chapter, I would like to especially mention four individuals who have been of great assistance: Dr. Steve Garrigues, Daegu-Gyeongbuk Chapter President; Mr. Janghun Choi, former Director of the Gyeonggi Institute for Foreign Language Education (GIFLE) in Pyeongtaek; Mr. Poyeol Ryu of the Gyeonggi Provincial Office of Education, who gave us outstanding help; and Dr. Boyce Fradsham, who served as Vice-President from the beginning to 2003 when he returned to Canada.

First, Dr. Garrigues invited me to present at his chapter's meeting in the spring of 1998. It was there that I talked with him about establishing a new chapter in Suwon. He was highly supportive and sympathetic in advising and encouraging me. He was my inspiration in founding the Chapter. Due to his support, I joined KOTESOL and acquainted myself with what it had to offer by participating in the National Conference at Kyunghee University in October of that year and by presenting at the PAC2 / KOTESOL Conference in October, 1999. In-between, I gave several presentations at Daejeon, Seoul, and Busan Chapters. After familiarizing myself with the inner workings of



Suwon-Gyeonggi Chapter members attending their 49th chapter meeting on April 15th.

KOTESOL and liking what I saw, Suwon Chapter appeared in *The English Connection* for the first time in November, 1999, with me named as President and the only officer. Suwon Chapter had sprouted from a seed. By spring, a full roster of officers had been finalized, and the Chapter began to bloom. At this crucial time, Prof. Douglas Margolis, Seoul Chapter President, was a

good partner in helping both chapters to grow. In all, we held four joint conferences with Seoul Chapter in our early years. In two short years after foundation, the chapter name was changed from "Suwon" to "Suwon-Gyeonggi," to represent our Chapter's expansion.

The second individual who I would like to acknowledge is Mr. Janghun Choi. While he was Director of GIFLE, he lent support to our Chapter to make a dream come

### Chapters in History

Series Editor: David E. Shaffer

### Founded in the autumn of 1999.

true - the dream of holding a KOTESOL conference at the University of Suwon. Under the theme "Reflecting on ELT in Korea," 350 teachers gathered at the University on May 18, 2002 - more than 100 of them coming from GIFLE. The University of Suwon provided handsome support in the form of free use of the facilities, free signage, and free lunches for all. It was mainly through the success of this conference that Suwon KOTESOL became known as a hub for English teaching in Gyeonggi Province. This was the fourth of our joint conferences with Seoul Chapter, the previous three being held in Seoul at Sookmyung Women's and Sungkyungwan Universities.

In the same year as our fourth conference and the following year, we made good use of the media in publicizing the international conference as well as our Chapter. I initiated contact with Arirang TV, which then reported on our conference on their nightly news and featured short interviews. *The Korea Times* and *The Korea Herald* also ran articles on KOTESOL, the international conference, and our Chapter. I must also mention our Chapter's relationship with Gyeonggi English Teachers Association (GETA) and its presidents, Gyunhyon Suh and Jaehyon No, with whom we held two joint conferences in May and July, 2004. These joint conferences were followed by our

first solo conference on November 19, 2005. Under the theme "Commitment to Diversity in EFL English Education," twelve presentations in concurrent sessions were offered while we had the honor of featuring two plenary speakers, Dr. Ikjung Whang, Director of NEST Management at the Gyeonggi Provincial Office of Education, and Dr. Robert Dickey, past president of KOTESOL. This was possible only through Mr. Choi's unwavering encouragement and advice to forge a close relationship with the Gyeonggi Office of Education.

The third influential person in growing our Chapter was Mr. Poyeol Ryu, now Vice-Principal of Suwon Susung High School. When he was a supervisor for the

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### *Supported by the provincial office of education and teacher training center.*

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Office of Education, he never hesitated to send out formal announcements of our Chapter meetings to English teachers in every corner of the province. After him, Mr. Taesuk Kim, now Shinjang High School Principal; Mr. Sunkwon Jung, now Sungnam Foreign Language High School Principal; and Mr. Heebong Kang followed in blazing the trail for the betterment of English education. My tie with the Gyeonggi Office of Education, as a supervisor myself, has helped make the relationship between our Chapter and the Office of Education a solid one.

The fourth person of merit was Dr. Boyce Fradsham, who served as Vice-President from the beginning until 2003. He was always present at meetings, and made presentations and publicized KOTESOL and our Chapter to local English teachers. Prof. Vernon Moors, a poet and novelist, was our interim president from

May to July 2001, until he relocated to a job in Busan. Also, Prof. Scott Miles, Vice-President for three years, 2003-05, was a great donator of his valuable time and passion to our Chapter. All the invited presenters to our Chapter, including Prof. Peter Kipp, Dr. David Shaffer, Prof. Kilbride, Prof. Kevin Landry, Prof. Gabrielle, and Prof. Zora, as well as several school principals always sitting in the audience with their English teachers, have provided real nourishment for the growth of our Chapter into what it is today. In addition, we have been fortunate to have several University of Suwon undergraduate students volunteer each year to prepare the facilities for the Chapter meetings and clean up afterwards.

Very instrumental in making our Chapter strong have also been our chapter officers both past and present. The format of our meetings, I believe, has also contributed to chapter growth. Meetings are scheduled for 3:00 to 5:20 pm at the University of Suwon. After the two one-hour presentations, twenty minutes are always set aside for formal discussion and debate, which is often quite lively and enjoyed by all. Very importantly though, between the presentations and before they begin, time is allotted for attendees to mingle over refreshments for networking and socializing. After the meeting, the customary dinner follows for all who are a part of the Suwon hub of English language teaching.



*Dr. Mijae Lee is a Professor of English at the University of Suwon. In addition to founding the Suwon-Gyeonggi Chapter, she has been its President for much of its seven-year existence. She is also very active in teacher training as a supervisor with the Gyeonggi Provincial Office of Education. Email: [mjlee@suwon.ac.kr](mailto:mjlee@suwon.ac.kr)*



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## Cheongju Chapter:

By P. Hwang, E. Newson, and M. Parker

**K**orea TESOL was founded in 1992 and quickly expanded to six active chapters throughout the country. For Chungbuk Province, however, the closest venue available to attend a local meeting was across the border in Daejeon. Although Korea had more than a half-dozen larger chapter-less cities, by 1997, growing interest and motivated members in the Cheongju area spearheaded a move to form an independent chapter under the guidance of Rodney Gillett, considered the chapter's founder.

Since expansion was a relatively new idea, forming a new chapter was a significant step for KOTESOL. This was before either the Gangwon or Suwon-Gyeonggi Chapters had formed and at a time when a single Jeolla Chapter was serving two provinces. By the fall of 1998, Erik Newson, Brian Fingler, and Kent Zado, had successfully organized a new chapter that had received formal recognition by KOTESOL. The new executive consisted of these three men, all serving in the capacity of co-chair to direct a thriving, community-based educational society serving and supporting EFL teachers of all ilk, both Korean and expatriate.

In late 1998, the Chapter's first elections were held. Erik Newson became President; Brian Fingler, Vice-President; and Kent Zado, Secretary-Treasurer. The chapter planned ELT presentations for each meeting and was blessed to have well-known speakers both from within and outside of KOTESOL. Exemplifying this was Andrew Todd who presented at the inaugural meeting on interactive games in the classroom, keeping in mind basic tenets of child psychology. This set the tone for the group for the coming year - packaging serious learning in a fun wrapper. Many local members have also contributed to this theme with presentations of their own over the years.

By the beginning of 1999, two of the Chapter's founding members were gone - Gillett to Fiji, Zado to Gwangju - and Laura Dominguez stepped in to take an active role in Chapter activities. (Laura's untimely death in 2001 was a devastating loss to the Chapter and the community.) That year was filled with interesting and informative presentations at the monthly Chapter meetings; attendance averaged about 15 people per meeting.

In 2000, the Chapter took the show on the road by holding a monthly meeting in the other major city of

Chungbuk Province - Chungju. The highlight was Holger Nord giving a stimulating presentation on how advertisements can be implemented as a teaching tool. That year, Paul Hwang became active in the chapter as Treasurer, and in the fall elections found himself elected as Chapter Vice-President. Regular meetings continued to be held at Cheongju University. In early 2001, Hye-ran (Nicole) Kim was added to the Chapter executive as Treasurer and Larry Hoffarth as the Chapter's first Webmaster. Under Larry's stewardship, the Chapter's web site dramatically improved, becoming a main source of Chapter information for the first time. This was, in part, responsible for chapter meeting attendance increasing to 30 attendees!

### Chapters in History

Series Editor: David E. Shaffer

The year 2002 saw Chapter President Erik Newson leave for a position in Busan. Paul Hwang took over as President and Larry Hoffarth volunteered to take on the position of Vice-President in addition to that of Webmaster. Larry's web designing skills and indefatigable effort to collect pertinent data and relevant content for the Chapter web site facilitated a more accessible source of information for our members in the province and attracted many newcomers - it also earned him the position of National Webmaster. People even inquired about positions in the area from abroad and became Chapter members upon arrival in Cheongju.

The web site had really become the keystone to a successful year in many ways. Interested participants could read about what KOTESOL was, and what was scheduled for the month and beyond. Photos of Chapter members and Chapter events were posted. Helpful tips for new teachers and foreigners to Korea were available, including factoids of the country, province, and city, with maps and popular stores. Links to our National web site directed people to all things KOTESOL. Larry had gone beyond the call of duty by maintaining a discussion board and creating an online book exchange program. The web site had become the face of the Chapter. As 2002 came to a close, Larry said good-byes and prepared for a return to Canada. Paul Hwang was urged to serve another year as

President and Hye-ran Kim became Vice-President/Treasurer. The year closed out with a Christmas Dinner rather than the regular December meeting. The following year, 2003, went well for the new executive, though they were lacking a webmaster. The Chapter meetings were booked with another year of outstanding presentations that engrossed and informed. At the end of the year, Paul Hwang announced his retirement from the Chapter presidency and an incoming president was designated.

The year 2004 started with a fresh Chapter executive led by Maureen Parker. Though lacking in experience, they brought with them the drive that began the Chapter. Many new changes were tried: a members-only raffle, a needs analysis, and even an emphasis on social networking. Some were more successful than others in regaining the membership numbers that had dipped so drastically with many of the old guard going on to new chapters in their lives. Attendees saw immediate benefits for becoming a member beyond simply attending the free meetings. One of the most effective tools was an appreciative inquiry into the actual professional needs of the members. From that survey, a good fit was created between the list of speakers and the presentation topics offered, and membership levels came back to what they had been at the inception of the Chapter.

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### *The web site really became the Chapter keystone.*

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Vice-President Nicole Kim took over the leadership role in 2004 due to Maureen's departure to China. With a change in leaders, the resulting loss of the meeting space dealt a blow to meeting attendance and Chapter activity. This crisis resulted in using a meeting venue which was independent of a president's worksite. A subsequent change in venue caused membership to drop to dangerously low levels once again.

The fall of 2005 saw the return of Maureen to Korea and to the Chapter presidency. Along with this came a change of the Chapter meetings to a new location. An emphasis on rebuilding the Chapter became a

necessary goal. The following summer saw the departure of long-time secretary Eva Szakall and the arrival of many new faces on the Chapter executive as well as a vast band of volunteers ready and eager to help out. Some of the Chapter highlights for the spring of 2006 were a family picnic and a publisher's day. Cheongju Chapter has a reservoir of potential, and with eager bodies and events such as this spring's, the Chapter hopes to expand Chapter activities and member benefits - and packaging them in a fun wrapper.


## **Cheongju Chapter Presidents**

<b>1998 - 2000</b>	<b>Erik Newson</b>
<b>2001 - 2003</b>	<b>Paul Hwang</b>
<b>2004</b>	<b>Maureen Parker</b>
<b>2005 - 2006</b>	<b>Hye-ran (Nicole) Kim</b>
<b>2006 -</b>	<b>Maureen Parker</b>

### **The Authors**

**Paul Hwang** hails from Southern California and graduated from the University of California, Irvine with a major in English Literature and a minor in Film Studies. He began teaching English in Korea in 1996 and has taught at Juseong College, Seowon University, and Cheongju University. Email: posang@hotmail.com

**Erik Newson** is a founding member and first president of Cheongju Chapter. He has been in Korea for twelve years and is currently teaching at Pusan National University. He also served as Busan Chapter President for about a year. At present, he is completing his MSc. TESOL dissertation with Aston University. Email: erikshin@hotmail.com

**Maureen Parker** went to China in 2004 to do teacher training at a university there. Since then she has received TESL certification and is working toward an Adult Education Diploma from the University of Victoria (Canada). She truly loves teaching in the kindergarten classroom of the Sogang Language Program Institute in Cheongju. Email: maureenparker@hotmail.com 

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# Gangwon Chapter: Meeting in the Mountains

By Ryan Cassidy and Chris Grayson

## Beginnings

Using Canada Day as an excuse, some of the members and friends of Gangwon KOTESOL recently got together on the east coast for an informal gathering. A good-sized group of people braved the bad weather to share a barbeque and an opportunity to get together between semesters when workloads are customarily lowest. Though not a typical meeting, the crowd on the weekend included skilled chefs, an accomplished brewer, musicians, singers, and storytellers.

Gangwon KOTESOL has come a very long way since its establishment in 2002. What Gangwon KOTESOL has become is a very refreshing reminder of what can develop when things are allowed to happen. Though not a large group, it comprises people keen to share ideas related to the work of teaching English in Korea as well as making a happy life in this country. It has evolved from focusing strictly on topics related to teaching towards something more easy-going and diverse. It is a place where Korean English teachers feel comfortable to speak up and share ideas. Most of all, it is a group of really good people.

For a long time, Gangwon Province was one of the dark places on the KOTESOL map. Unless you lived in the westernmost areas of Gangwon, attending a chapter meeting was simply not practical. Though at the time I was a member of the Cheongju Chapter of KOTESOL, I had never been to a chapter meeting and had no real contact with KOTESOL, except through its publications. Working in Gangneung for the EPIK program left me isolated from regular contact with other teachers. In a province with small pockets of population spread over a wide area, this was common among foreign teachers here. An interest in sharing ideas and an interest in furthering my own professional development inspired me, my wife, and a friend to inquire into the possibility of establishing a chapter in Gangwon Province.

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## Gangwon Province struggles with geography.

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After some initial inquiries, we were invited to attend the Leadership Retreat in December 2001. Although somewhat overwhelming, the experience was very positive. We were given a “start-up grant” to plan a

meeting aimed at exploring the possibility of a chapter in Gangwon. That start-up meeting was held in May 2002. The response greatly exceeded our expectations, with over 70 people attending from all over the province, as well as Paul Mead and Robert Dickey from the National Council. A second, much smaller meeting was held in June to plot a course. The challenge was to direct initial interest into something lasting. A challenge indeed.

Gangwon Province struggles with geography. There is no central location that provides easy province-wide accessibility. Nevertheless, in the early months, meeting attendance was often over 20 people. To accommodate the distances, the chapter adopted the idea of alternating meetings between two locations, at first, Gangneung and Chuncheon; later, Sokcho and Chuncheon.

At that time, it was the hard work of a small group of people that kept our group stocked in name tags, posters, presenters, coffee, and snacks, and in meeting attendees to consume the latter. Over time, however, geography seemed to win, and it proved difficult to maintain momentum when there were only two meetings per semester being held in either city. Meeting attendance waned and for some, burn-out set in. At this point, the presidency changed and the group focused on maintaining a single base in Sokcho.

## Up to the Present

The last couple of years have been somewhat of a roller coaster ride for our chapter, but we are still on track. The first decision of the new executive in 2004 was to create a permanent home base for our meetings. The need for consistency was evident, and as most of our regular attendees were from the east coast, Sokcho seemed a logical choice. That decision came at a cost though. I still hold hopes that a sister chapter might one day form to more conveniently serve the interests of western Gangwon Province.

Our first series of meetings in the fall of 2004 went well. We averaged 30 or more participants each month,

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half of them Korean teachers - an optimal blend. At the same time, our member base underwent a shift from mostly university instructors to a predominance of public school teachers, and we accordingly altered the tone and themes of our meetings. We also started

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### *Though the Chapter is small, the mood is entirely positive.*

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including presentations on purely cultural, as opposed to academic, topics. Enthusiasm ran high.

Unexpectedly, the bottom fell out the following spring. We brought in and promoted dynamic speakers on useful topics, but attendance consistently dwindled. Evidently, our shine had worn off. Aside from the stress of finding appropriate presenters, I found it increasingly embarrassing to coax speakers to travel hours cross-country to address us and then have just 10 or 12 show up.

Our first meeting last September had one question on the table - is this chapter even viable? Among the ten of us present, consensus was strongly in the affirmative, and we decided to alter course: "Let's just continue to meet once a month." "Let's draw on the strengths of this core group for in-house presentations." "Let's abandon broad promotion and trying to be everything to everyone - just bring a friend." "Let's see if this thing can grow organically."

It seems to be working. We have now had a couple of semesters of casual productive meetings. Our group is small, but the mood is entirely positive. Each month, we agree on a theme for the next meeting to bring ideas and materials to share. We have graduated from coffee

mix and store-bought cookies to fresh-brewed coffee and homemade snacks. We have initiated an active book exchange. Visitors commend us on our easy welcome.

We have gone our own way in establishing a unique little organization with a laid-back meeting style that suits our members, but KOTESOL is still a useful umbrella for our activities. The Sokcho Office of Education kindly accommodates our meetings as official functions and KOTESOL's larger conferences are of interest and value to all of us in the Chapter. If geography discourages us from greater participation in national activities, we nevertheless appreciate the association. Ultimately, we have developed into the group described in the opening paragraph - a mix of sincere individuals with a common interest in teaching, and regarding our chapter, just letting it happen. We look forward to the natural and modest expansion of our group into the future.

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## ***3rd KOTESOL-KNU Conference***

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