

# Korea TESOL: The First 17 Months

By Scott Berlin, KOTESOL's First President

English education in Korea could probably be traced back to some of the first missionaries in Korea. For those missionaries, the “association” they belonged to was the Church. Trace the line forward to 1992, and you will find not one, but two, associations devoted to English education in Korea: the Korea Association of Teachers of English (KATE) and the Association of English Teachers in Korea (AETK). In that year, members of these two groups, and a handful of other English teachers in Korea, thought it would be better if the two associations joined forces. That merger created Korea TESOL.

Dr. Oryang Kwon, Dr. Jung-hun Ahn, Prof. Jeong-ryeol Kim, Carl “Dusty” Dustheimer, Jack Large, Patricia Hunt, Elaine Hayes, Andy Kim, Chuck Mason, Sangdo Woo, Nam Soon Kim, Mike Duffy, myself, and about a dozen others formed a core group of the most active members of Korea TESOL. We were, so to speak, the “movers and shakers” at that time. Our first task was to set up... well, everything. The only thing we had was a name: Korea TESOL. We needed a constitution, bylaws, an executive council, rules for elections, rules for membership, a set membership fee, and there was the matter of a publication, a conference, a logo, and the list went on and on. This is where it all began - our “ground zero.” Fortunately, we had talented, motivated, and experienced people willing to volunteer their time to do the work at hand.

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For the constitution and bylaws, we used the TESOL organization’s constitution as a guideline. A rather loose guideline, I might add. Our constitution really did spring from the feelings and sincere conviction of all members involved. Our aim, our goal, our true sentiment: “to promote scholarship, disseminate information, and facilitate cross-cultural understanding among persons concerned with the teaching and learning of English in Korea” - that really was the spirit that I felt in those meetings.

Next up was to decide on an executive council. This brought about much debate. The challenge was that we didn’t want Korea TESOL to become an organization that was dominated by either native English speakers or Koreans. We needed balance and the synergy that resulted from that balance. But how were we to make

rules governing elections and the executive council so that we wouldn’t end up with an all-native-English-speaker or an all-Korean council? And how were we going to keep some sort of continuity between one executive council and the next? It took a while but finally it was decided that there would be two vice-presidents, one of them had to be a Korean. The First Vice-President would move up to the presidency the following year, and the President would become the Immediate Past President. This would keep the person elected First Vice-President in an executive position for three years to ensure continuity, share the work load, and pass on valuable experience learned.

We had officer’s positions but still no officers. It was time for elections, and there were two candidates for President in the first elections held in May of 1993. Well, the short story is that, since I am the one writing this article, there is no mystery as to who won that election. We did notice that just before the election, membership in Korea TESOL increased rather significantly. New members could, of course, vote in elections. Rounding out the election results were First Vice-President, Jeong-ryeol Kim; Second Vice-President, Patricia Hunt; Secretary, Elaine Hayes; and Acting Treasurer, AeKyoung Large. The term of office was set at one year, and elections would be conducted at the Annual Business Meeting. It was further deemed that the best time to have the Annual Business Meeting would be at the National Conference, thereby lengthening the term of office for the members of the first National Council to 17 months rather than one year.

In one of our early meetings, I remember Jack Large stood up holding a piece of paper and proposed a logo for Korea TESOL. At that time, nobody had given much thought to the logo idea, though we knew we needed one and would eventually get around to it. As testimony to all the people we had who were on the ball and moving forward to create a truly great organization, there Jack stood, with four or five graphics on paper of a Korea TESOL logo. We passed the paper around and in short order had chosen the familiar red and blue globe that is the basis for the present logo of this organization.

It didn’t take long for chapters to appear either. Cheonbuk Chapter was first to submit their paperwork and establish themselves. Seoul, Taejon, Taegu, Pusan,

## Presidential Memoirs

Series Editor: David E. Shaffer

and my own area, Kyongju, all got going right away. I was teaching at Kyongju National University (the university that can lay claim to two Korea TESOL Presidents) and knew a fair number of teachers in the area. Still, the Kyongju Chapter had a difficult time keeping up the required number of members to qualify as a chapter. Kyongju just wasn't one of those big urban cities with dozens of universities that provided teachers who became members.

It was inspiring to see that, in such a short time, Korea TESOL had gone from nothing more than a name to a well-defined organization. From there, it was time to put it all into action: a National Conference. It was Dusty (Carl Dustheimer) who took on the daunting task of Conference Chair, and Pat (Patricia) Hunt was Co-chair. It took a lot of work - organization, phone calls, invitations, publicizing, call for papers, and much more - to put it all together, but it came together very well. On October 16-17, 1993, the first Korea TESOL Conference was held at Wonkwang University in Iri (Iksan), Jeollabuk-do. The keynote speaker, Piper McNulty, addressed an audience of several hundred. Korea TESOL had a capable bunch of folks in it, but the organization didn't have much money. So how could we afford to attract from abroad some of the big names in the ELT world to our conference? The Japan Association for Language Teaching (JALT) in those days had a lot more money than Korea TESOL. JALT paid airfare and accommodations for their renowned keynote speakers. Our resourceful people found out when the JALT conference was, and who the keynote speakers were. Then we scheduled our conference for the week just before the JALT conference. Korea TESOL contacted some of these speakers and for just the extra cost for the round trip ticket to Korea from Japan, we were able to get some great keynote speakers at our conference.

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Another event that many Korea TESOL members participated in was Andy's English Fun Workshops. Andy Kim, a professor at Kijeon Women's Junior College in Jeonju, organized English workshops for building college student motivation and confidence. The weekend workshops were always held in some nice resort area like Namwon or Kyongju's Bomun Lake. Fifty or sixty students from all over Korea and ten teachers would gather for the weekend. Students were assigned to groups, each group was to create a skit around a given theme, and teachers were there to advise and assist. All this had to happen really fast. Everyone arrived on a Saturday morning, and we got started right away with ice-breaker games that were

lead by native-speaker teachers. After that, students were given their groups and the theme. Some supplies were available, but mostly it was up to the creativity of the students to put together costumes, props, and whatever else they needed.



▲ Scott Berlin (right) with Dr. Jeong-ryeol Kim at a JALT conference in Japan.

Though we teachers were there to advise, we were regularly drafted into the skits. I do recall a Three Little Pigs skit where I was humorously dressed up as one of the little pigs. These skits were performed on Sunday afternoon, followed by a quick awards ceremony for the performers. It was great fun, as well as educational.

The conferences and workshops were indeed a lot of fun. However, the accommodations were sometimes less than we would have preferred. I don't remember if it was a conference or a workshop, but I do remember that at one of these events, rooms were very limited so Dusty, Jeong-ryeol Kim, Chuck Mason, myself, and about three other teachers were all put in one room for the night. I was awakened by the loud snoring - really loud. All of them were snoring. The noise was so loud that dogs were barking outside our window!

The dedication and participation of Korea TESOL members went beyond the borders of Korea. Very often we would see numerous Korea TESOL members at conferences in other countries. JALT and ThaiTESOL both held very fine conferences each year (and continue to do so). It was without question that Korea TESOL would welcome exchanges and alliances with other like organizations. As President of Korea TESOL, I had the honor of signing official agreements with JALT and ThaiTESOL. There was no official obligation, but when possible, Korea TESOL, JALT, and ThaiTESOL would host the President and Vice-President of these organizations at their respective conferences. Jeong-ryeol Kim and I were graciously given a bit of a red-carpet treatment at a JALT conference one year (see photo). Since then, there have always been members of JALT and ThaiTESOL at our conferences. I can add that in those early days, at those early conferences, talk of putting on some sort of all-Asia conference began to circulate.

*Continued on page 15.*

## 'Round & About KOTESOL

### December

**Dr. Deron Walker** (California Baptist University, USA) has recently written a research paper appearing in *The Journal of Asia TEFL*, 3(4), 71-111. The article is entitled "Improving Korean University Student EFL Academic Writing with Contrastive Rhetoric: Teacher Conferencing and Peer Response Can Help."

Dr. Walker has also recently presented two papers at an international conference in Honolulu, Hawaii. He presented "Teaching the 'New' Grammar to the 'Old Dogs': Innovation or Dissemination?" at the 5th Annual Hawaii International Conference on Education on January 6th, 2007. Then on January 8th, he presented "New Directions for Contrastive Rhetoric Research: Pedagogical Practicality for East-Asian Writers."

### January

**Dr. Joo-Kyung Park** (Past President; Honam University) returned from a year's sabbatical leave at the University of Queensland in Brisbane, Australia. During her time there, among other things, she completed the recently published research paper, "Professionalization of TEFL in Korea: The Roads Behind and Ahead," *The Journal of Asia TEFL*, 3(4), 113-134.

**Phil Owen** (1st Vice-President; Kunsan Nat'l University) served as the official KOTESOL representative to the 2007 Thailand TESOL International Conference in Bangkok. While there, besides attending plenary sessions and workshops, he talked informally with conference-goers about KOTESOL and our own International Conference this October. Phil also represented KOTESOL at the meeting of our PAC partners. At this meeting, the Philippine Association for Language Teaching (PALT) was officially welcomed as a full cooperating member of the Pan Asia Consortium.

**Dr. Marilyn Plumlee** (KOTESOL President; HUFUS) spent a "joyful" time at ThaiTESOL 2007 attending some "provocative" invited speaker presentations and networking with local leaders and teachers, PAC partners, and international participants. She also signed the official KOTESOL-PALT partner agreement, attended the PAC meeting, and promoted KOTESOL throughout the conference. After-hours activities included temple touring, dining on Thai cuisine, reviving her rusty Thai language skills, shopping for Thai DVDs, and drooling over Thai silks. Her return worked in a five-day stopover in Taipei networking with linguists on collaboration for future research on Korean and Taiwan Sign Language.

**Dr. Robert Dickey** (OP Liaison; Gyeongju University) attended the ThaiTESOL 2007 Conference to present on how content-based instruction is viewed and used by teachers in Asia. He spent the two weeks prior to that accompanying his university students on a English travel/study tour of Southeast Asia, and used his free moments to record Oral Proficiency Interviews of university students in Malaysia, Vietnam, and Thailand for a research project he is presently engaged in.

### February

**Jason Renshaw** (Young Learners SIG Co-facilitator) sped around Korea on a five-city author tour with Pearson Longman promoting his new coursebook series *Boost!* The four-level series covering five strands is geared to upper-elementary- and middle-school-aged learners, and is scheduled to be published worldwide.

**Bradley Kirby** (Daejeon-Chungnam Chapter; Muju Education Office) is the recipient of the 2007 John Dobson Memorial Award in Adult Education at St. Francis Xavier University, Antigonish, Nova Scotia, Canada. The award recognizes excellence in international adult education, particularly in developing countries. Bradley received the award for his master's degree research involving implementing a community-based adult ESL learning center in rural South Korea.

**Soon-a Kim** (Suwon-Gyeonggi Chapter Treasurer) completed a month-long English teacher training program at the Gyeonggi-do Institute for Foreign Language Education in Pyeongtaek. Rather than rest during her winter vacation, she chose to fill it with professional development.

**Jake Kimball** (2nd Vice-President & TEC Editor-in-Chief) has received from Aston University,

Birmingham, England, the degree of Master of Science in Educational Management in TESOL (MSc. EMT). His thesis is entitled *Perceptions of Quality in a Young Learner Language Program in South Korea*. It deals with issues of language program quality and stakeholders' perceptions of service quality. "Quality" is determined from the perspectives of teachers, parents, children, and administrators of young learner language programs. At issue are the management and delivery of program services.

**Scott E. Jackson** (Seoul Chapter; GIFLE) and his wife, Min-Ju Kang, are very pleased to announce the birth of their second son, Justin Yul Scott Jackson, born at 5:05 p.m. on February 23. Justin was born a healthy 3.2-kilogram (6.4-lb.) baby. His, three-year-old brother, Alexander, is very excited and already is a great helper in taking care of Justin. There are no plans for another child yet, but there are no plans to the contrary either.

**Dr. Andrew E. Finch** (KOTESOL Past President) and Dr. Taeduck Hyun (KOTESOL Past President) have co-authored another book, *Bingo Games for English Language Teaching*. This 192-page book is aimed at teaching young learners and is published by Fencom Media.

**Dr. David E. Shaffer** (Treasurer; Chosun University) has published a book on Korea. *Seasonal Customs of Korea* introduces annual customs past and present - from ancestral rites to Earth Spirit stomping, soil pilfering, and *je-ung* dolls. The book is part of a series on Korea initiated by The Korea Foundation. Published by Hollym International Corp., 210 pages.

### March

**Dr. Andrew E. Finch** (KOTESOL Past President) has been appointed Head of the Department of English Education at Kyungpook National University in Daegu, where he has been a member of the faculty since 2001. Dr. Finch is the first non-Korean to head the department at KNU, and he is one of only a few non-Koreans to have headed an English or language-related university department in Korea.

**Dr. Marilyn Plumlee** (KOTESOL President) appeared on Arirang TV's 9:00 a.m. "In Focus" program broadcast on Saturday, March 17. She was featured as one of the two Hankook University of Foreign Studies' panelists discussing Korea's "Education Fever." The discussion included the nature of English fever and its causes and consequences. Marilyn also stressed the importance of implementing communicative teaching.

[Compiled by David E. Shaffer]

### Continued from page 13.

The red-carpet treatment for Jeong-ryeol Kim didn't last long. At the second Korea TESOL Conference in October of 1994, I passed on to him all the authority and responsibilities of the Presidency. By no means do I deserve an unduly amount of credit for the formation and foundation of Korea TESOL. The credit, or rather, the applause, cheers, and honorific bow, go to all the founding members, and all the hard work and sincere spirit that they put into Korea TESOL.

### The Author



**Scott Berlin** (MA-TESOL) lived and worked in Korea from 1990 to 1996. During this time, he taught at Gyeongju University and Kongju National University. He now lives in Japan and teaches at Tokai University. Next year, he will retire from teaching, and he and his wife will begin their new careers as travel photographers

and writers.



## KOTESOL's Presidents

Scott Berlin	1993-94
Dr. Jeong-ryeol Kim	1994-95
Dr. Oryang Kwon	1995-96
Dr. Joo-Kyung Park	1996-97
Carl Dusthimer	1997-99
Dr. Sangho Han	1999-00
Dr. Andrew Finch	2000-01
Dr. Taeduck Hyun	2001
Dr. Robert Dickey	2001-02
Dr. Sangdo Woo	2002-03
Dr. Myung-Jai Kang	2003-04
Dr. Kyungsook Yeum	2004-05
Louisa T.C. Kim	2005-06
Dr. Marilyn Plumlee	2006-

## Term 2: Membership Promotion

By Jeong-ryeol Kim, KOTESOL's Second President

**K**orea TESOL was created at the joint annual conference of AETK and KATE held at Hannam University in October 1992 by joining the Association of English Teachers in Korea (AETK) with the Korea Association of Teachers of English (KATE). These two organizations had had memberships consisting mainly of local native English speakers, the former based mainly in Seoul, the latter in Daejeon. It was truly a historic moment when representatives of these two organizations agreed upon a single, consolidated organization, Korea TESOL, whose mission was "to promote scholarship, disseminate information, and facilitate cross-cultural understanding among persons concerned with the teaching and learning of English in Korea." This event sparked numerous changes in membership, conferences, and international acknowledgement.

Scott Berlin, KOTESOL's first president (1992-94), had done a remarkable job in hosting the first international conference, inviting big-name speakers on a limited budget. Also, Scott and the members of the first National Council refused to allow KOTESOL to become an exclusive association of expatriate NESTs (native English-speaking teachers) in Korea. They carefully crafted a constitution and bylaws to create a mix of NESTs and Koreans in both the membership and the executive council. We especially wanted to alternate Koreans and expatriate NESTs as president and 1st vice-president. (The 1st vice-president automatically assumes the presidency after serving a term as 1st vice-president) so that KOTESOL would become representative of both Koreans and NESTs, and would be an organization of collaboration and cooperation between Korean English teachers and NESTs. My presidency (1994-95) had a relatively easy start

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### *Making Korea TESOL known to Korean ELT professionals was the issue.*

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compared with that of Scott Berlin, who constructed the organization from ground zero. As the second president of KOTESOL, I had the constitution and bylaws to follow and an experienced National Council to support me in doing things I felt were needed for the growth of our organization. As soon as I finished appointing members to the second-term National Council, I wanted to brainstorm on the direction KOTESOL's leadership was to take. We all agreed that

KOTESOL needed to increase membership and balance the membership between Koreans and NESTs. We didn't want KOTESOL to turn into a union for expatriate English teachers. In the past, there had been such attempts in KOTESOL's predecessors, and they had always ended up in damage to the reputation of their organization, without achieving any fruitful results, and in the creation of serious division that always took many months to heal.

Our primary concern was to promote the membership, mainly that of Koreans. We had nearly 400 members and among them were very few Koreans. I found this an opportunity to grow KOTESOL. I noted that making KOTESOL known to the target population of Korean ELT professionals was the issue. I met individually with representatives of Korean academic organizations and inked agreements to exchange delegates to each other's conferences and publicize such events in each other's newsletters. We also had a great opportunity to attract Korean secondary school and private institute English teachers. To attract them, what we needed was to provide them with teaching-related workshops reasonably close to them. These workshops were thought to be the avenue to promote our conferences and the organization itself.

The National Council went to work to create more local units. The Changwon-Masan, Cheongju, and Wonju areas were targeted, and the Jeolla Chapter base was expanded to Gwangju. The needs of the already strong chapters in Seoul, Daejeon, Daegu, and Busan were not overlooked and the Seoul Chapter divided into two sub-chapters, Gangnam and Gangbuk. Basically, the majority of English teachers in Korea had access to a KOTESOL chapter monthly meeting within an hour's travel time. As one of their activities, chapters provided teachers with something they could immediately apply in their classes: activity swap, teaching materials, and language games. To do this more effectively, teacher training workshops were provided to chapters upon request. A special lecture series was also offered. To make it easy for chapters to find speakers, KOTESOL created a list containing speaker names, specialties, and contact information. A major effort was made toward constructing an infrastructure for chapters and members to gain access to needed information that was

### *Presidential Memoirs*

*Series Editor: David E. Shaffer*

scattered around the country.

Our efforts paid off handsomely because the membership skyrocketed from less than 400 to over 650. This number was based on 1995 conference figures, for which conference registration and membership were linked. If we were to include additional participants in local chapter meetings, that is, those who didn't make it to the annual conference, the number of people participating in KOTESOL in 1995 would be considerably higher. It was particularly notable that Korean membership grew to such an extent that KOTESOL was no longer regarded as an organization of NESTs.

KOTESOL became a good mix of Koreans and NESTs doing things more directly oriented to classroom application rather than esoteric theoretical research. Our organization started to be taken seriously by other domestic ELT associations because KOTESOL organized international conferences so efficiently and brought in internationally renowned scholars and authors whom locals had not had the opportunity to hear or meet before. This attracted more university professors as members. Local chapters reported that local college and university professors were joining KOTESOL voluntarily and their numbers were

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## *Korea TESOL was no longer regarded as an organization of NESTs.*

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constantly rising. This was important because we were able to acquire some very promising future leadership for KOTESOL from this group.

To attain prominent status within academia, KOTESOL attracted prominent scholars such as Drs. Oryang Kwon and Ju-Kyung Park, both of whom became presidents of KOTESOL and did wonderful jobs for the organization. During my term of office, as well as before and after, Carl "Dusty" Dusthimer was a truly devoted English teacher, not only for KOTESOL, but for English education in Korea as a whole. He was the second vice-president of KOTESOL during my term, and Dr. Oryang Kwon was the first vice-president. Dusty was full of ideas and had the courage to carry out what he promised to deliver by sorting out the most viable ideas and turning them into policy. Jack and Aekyung Large were also instrumental in growing KOTESOL at this time, being responsible for the financial affairs of the organization. Dr. Kwon became the president to the Korea Association for Teachers of English (not to be confused with the now-defunct association mentioned earlier), which is probably the largest English education society in Korea. Dr. Park is still active in giving talks, presenting papers, and taking leadership roles in various ELT associations. Dusty

served as president for two years before his career took another innovative path, that of becoming the director of Korea's first English village, an all-new experiential learning community.

My presidency concluded with the large and successful 1995 international conference at Yonsei University. The theme was *Into the World Through Language and Culture*, and it featured over 70 plenary presentations (including two by Jack Richards) and concurrent sessions (Michael Lewis, Della Summers, Thomas Farrell, David Paul) - more than ever before. I have Conference Co-chairs Byoung-chul Min and Dusty Dusthimer to thank for attracting so many internationally recognized speakers. With the close of this successful conference, the presidential torch was passed on to KOTESOL's next leader, Dr. Oryang Kwon.

### **The Author**



**Dr. Jeong-ryeol Kim** served as the 2nd KOTESOL president from Oct. 1994 to Oct. 1995. He received his Ph.D. in Applied Linguistics from the University of Hawaii. Dr. Kim taught at Korea Maritime University before moving to his present position at Korea National University of Education in 1996. He has published numerous books and papers on methodology, research methods, integrated education, and tasks. Currently he is serving as KOTESOL's Domestic Relations Committee Chair and as a vice-president of present-day KATE and of KAPEE. Email: jrkim@knue.ac.kr



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## Term 3: Concentrating on Conferencing

By Oryang Kwon, KOTESOL's Third President

As history would have it, I happen to have been involved not only in the birth and early years of Korea TESOL, but also in the birth and life of KATE (Korea Association of Teachers of English; 1988-1992), a predecessor of Korea TESOL. When I was the third president of KATE (1990-91), I proposed to Dina Trapp, the President of AETK (Association of English Teachers in Korea, the other predecessor of Korea TESOL) that we merge the two associations into a new larger association, which I tentatively named KOTESOL. Korea TESOL was formally launched a year later, on October 15, 1992. When KOTESOL was officially established, there were suggestions that I become the first vice-president. This, however, I had to decline, as I was busy adjusting myself to my new position, Seoul National University (I had just moved from Chungnam National University in March 1991). One year later, however, I did run for the position of first vice-president, in order to ensure that the president of Korea TESOL would continue to be from the academic sector in 1995-96, as the first vice-president ascends to the presidency the following year.

### Chapter activity began increasing at a hearty and healthy rate.

During my presidency (1995-96), Korea TESOL amended its constitution, to change its Korean name from "Daehan-yeongeo-gyoyuk-yeonguhoe" (대한영어교육연구회) to "Daehan-yeongeo-gyoyuk-hakhoe" (대한영어교육학회). This name-change was considered an upgrade, roughly equivalent to changing "Circle" in a scholarly organization's name to "Society." Korea TESOL was also registered as a formal academic association with the Korea Research Foundation, the official government-sponsored institution that supports and supervises all academic associations in Korea.

To ensure greater participation in the association by the Korean ELT community, the original constitution mandated that at least one of the two national vice-presidents be a Korean national. By the end of my presidency, it was apparent that KOTESOL had matured to such a degree that the constitution no longer required such an article. Accordingly, its removal from the constitution at the 1996 ABM became one of the first two amendments to the constitution.

One of the problems that the young Korea TESOL faced was that it did not draw the desired amount of

attention from Korean ELT professionals at the university level. At the time, there were only a handful of Korean professors who regularly participated in KOTESOL activities. I thought that KOTESOL and the Korean academic associations could benefit from each other through more cooperative relationships. With this in mind, prior to our annual conference in October 1996, I sent out conference invitations to all of the executive officers of CETAK (College English Teachers Association of Korea; CETAK adopted the new name, KATE, in 1999 at my suggestion.). Also invited were the presidents and councils of the other prominent ELT associations at the time: KOSETA, KAPEE, PETA in "Pusan," and HETA in the Honam area. Their conference registration fee was waived in order to get more Korean professionals interested in KOTESOL. Those officers who did attend were quite impressed by the well-organized and well-attended conference. This friendly gesture helped to change the misunderstanding of Korea TESOL that many Korean professionals held - from the misconception that it was just a small organization of "foreign teachers" to the realization that it was not so small and that there were many Korean school teachers among its members as well.

Since the beginning of the organization, KOTESOL had published a quarterly newsletter, *Language Teaching: The KOTESOL Journal*. An interruption in its publication at this time, due to an ailment afflicting the editor, was actually a blessing in disguise. The inclusion of "journal" in its name represented a desire by many for the publication to carry highly academic articles. When *Language Teaching* reappeared for its final issue, it looked much more like an academic journal than a newsletter. This led to two major publication changes: (1) *Language Teaching* being replaced with *The English Connection* and (2) the laying of the groundwork for the publication of the association's present-day academic journal, *Korea TESOL Journal*.

Chapter activity began increasing at a hearty and healthy rate. KOTESOL chapters were formed in the large cities of Seoul, Busan, Daegu, Daejeon, and Gwangju-Jeonju in the early years. By the end of the 1995-1996 period, local groups holding monthly meetings had materialized in the Ulsan and Changwon-

### Presidential Memoirs

Series Editor: David E. Shaffer

Masan areas. Lead by Carol Binder, the teachers in Jeju Province also had an organizational meeting in the fall of 1996 and began having regular meetings thereafter, attaining chapter status in 1997. In addition to their regular chapter meetings with presentations and workshops, chapter events included English drama festivals by both the Daejeon and Jeolla Chapters. In the spring of 1996 Jeolla Chapter was holding its second successful "mini-conference," featuring 21 presentations and a plenary session by Dr. Sangdo Woo, a future KOTESOL president. The chapter conference concept caught on and by the end of the year, the Busan Chapter was busy organizing its first conference, scheduled for the spring of 1997.

## The 1996 annual conference became the biggest ever.

The 1996 KOTESOL annual conference was the biggest ever up to that time. The theme was *Reflections on Practice*, and it was held at Sejong University in Seoul. Ninety-nine presentations and workshops were scheduled (a thirty percent increase over the previous year), 30 publishers participated, and attendance was estimated at approximately 700 participants. KOTESOL Conferences had become well known for their renowned invited speakers and for their ability to attract world-class presenters in the field of ELT. The plenary speakers for the 1996 conference were Kathleen Bailey and Mario Rinvolucri, and presenters included Jack Richards, Chris Candlin, Adrian Underhill, John Fanselow, Julia ToDutka, David Hall, and David Paul. Other VIPs attending the conference were the representatives of our newly formed (1994) Pan-Asian Consortium (PAC) partners, David McMurray, Immediate Past President of JALT, and Suntana Sutadarat, President of ThaiTESOL; William McMichael, President of TESOL Canada, and Madeleine du Vivier, President of IATEFL.

I was quite fortunate to have a highly dedicated group of Conference Committee members and National Council members involved in planning our memorable 1996 Conference. They included veteran conference organizer Carl Dusthimer and the ever active Andy Kim (Conference Co-chairs), Jeong-ryeol Kim (Immediate Past President), Joo-Kyung Park (First Vice-President), Ji-Sook Yeom (Treasurer), Sangdo Woo (Commercial Members Chair), Han Moon-Sub (Comptroller), and Demetra Gates (Public Relations Chair).

The first PAC Conference was scheduled for January 1997 in Bangkok. Throughout 1996, KOTESOL was busy putting together its PAC delegation, and by conference-time in October, we already had about 25 presenters committed to participating. Commitment to conferences, already strong at the national level, was expanding and becoming strong on both the local and international levels.

The early success of Korea TESOL owes much to the second president, Professor Kim Jeong-ryeol, whose enthusiasm and excellent administrative skills enabled the new organization to expand its horizons. Prof. Carl "Dusty" Dusthimer also contributed to the successful march of KOTESOL by serving as the conference chair for four consecutive years, from the first conference in 1992. Mr. Jack Large, a good friend since the old KATE days, also helped greatly with his unending support throughout my presidential term. I was also lucky to have Prof. Park Joo-Kyung as first vice-president. Her talent and passion have been demonstrated in many ways since that time. I also thank the many others who did not spare their time or energy for the development of KOTESOL in those early days.

### The Author



**Oryang Kwon** received his PhD in TESL from the University of Texas at Austin. His teaching career includes two years in a middle school and over 30 years at the university level. He has developed English textbooks for Korean primary and secondary schools and participated in developing Korea's 6th and 7th national curricula for English.

In addition to being the third president of Korea TESOL (1995-1996), Dr. Kwon has served as president of the Korea Association of Teachers of English (KATE; 2002-2004), and most recently as the president of the Korea English Language Testing Association (KELTA; 2000-2007). He has served or is currently serving on several advisory committees for the Ministry of Education and Human Resources, including the Committee for the Improvement of English Education, the Korean College Scholastic Ability Test Committee, and the Committee for Innovation in English Language Testing.

Dr. Kwon teaches undergraduate and graduate courses in English education and applied linguistics at the Department of English Education, Seoul National University, where he is the director of the Foreign Language Education Research Institute. His academic interest areas are language acquisition and testing. Email: [oryang@snu.ac.kr](mailto:oryang@snu.ac.kr)



## KOTESOL's Presidents

Scott Berlin	1993- 94
Dr. Jeong-ryeol Kim	1994- 95
<b>Dr. Oryang Kwon</b>	<b>1995-96</b>
Dr. Joo-Kyung Park	1996- 97
Carl Dusthimer	1997- 99
Dr. Sangho Han	1999- 00
Dr. Andrew Finch	2000-01
Dr. Taeduck Hyun	2001- 01
Dr. Robert Dickey	2001- 02
Dr. Sangdo Woo	2002- 03
Dr. Myung-Jai Kang	2003-04
Dr. Kyungsook Yeum	2004-05
Louisa T.C. Kim	2005-06
Dr. Marilyn Plumlee	2006-



## Term 4: Concentrating on Professional Development

By Joo-Kyung Park, KOTESOL's Fourth President

On October 27, at the closing of the 1996 Korea TESOL Conference held at Sejong University, I became the fourth president of Korea TESOL, making me the very first woman still in her thirties to become the president of a national ELT organization in the history of Korea. It clearly shows how unique Korea TESOL is: You can serve the organization in any position if you have the ability and the willingness to share it with others, regardless of your gender, age, regional background, or the many other factors that often function as stumbling blocks in Korea's traditional society. This openness, though initially quite unfamiliar within Korean society, drew to Korea TESOL many gifted and talented members and officers with diverse personal and professional backgrounds, many foreigners but Koreans as well.

Due to the great efforts made by my two predecessors, Dr. Jeong-ryeol Kim and Dr. Oryang Kwon, the reluctance of Korean ELT professionals to participate in Korea TESOL's unfamiliar openness had been minimized, yet increasing Korean participation remained one of the biggest challenges facing the organization. As the new president, I therefore wanted to make a breakthrough in this particular area by setting three goals for Korea: first, to support individual member's professional development; second, to pursue organizational development; and third, to contribute to the nation and our profession, TESOL in Korea. The three goals are interrelated hierarchically, as the first is a prerequisite to the success of the second, which in turn leads to the third. Most of all, I believed that it was the way to grow Korea TESOL as a truly professional ELT organization that any committed ELT professional would desire to join.

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*The first issue of TEC was published with very impressive content and style.*

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The first goal, individual members' professional development, was achieved very successfully through varied activities, meetings, and conferences held at the chapter and national levels. During my term, we had six chapters - Seoul, Jeolla, Busan, Daejeon, Daegu, and Jeju, and two national special interest groups (Global Issues SIG and CALL SIG), as well as a teacher

development group within the Seoul Chapter. The monthly meetings hosted by the Chapters and SIGs nurtured members by providing hands-on teaching tips and skills, along with intercultural understanding - indispensable ingredients for professional English teachers. Two "mini-conferences" hosted by Jeolla and Busan Chapters in February and May, respectively, were even greater intellectual feasts - in terms of both quality and quantity of their offerings for the participants. At the Jeolla Chapter Mini-Conference held at Chonnam National University, I emphasized in my plenary talk that KOTESOL is the only open forum in Korea for Korean and foreign teachers to work together for their own individual professional development and cultural sensitivities. KOTESOL was indeed a place where teachers from all teaching levels, including elementary, middle and high school, university, and private institutes shared and exchanged their experience and expertise. Korea TESOL was also perceived by many people to be the most active and "alive" organization for English teachers in Korea.

The second goal, organizational development, was achieved through three projects that were being carried out during the years 1996-97. First, *The English Connection* (TEC), then a bi-monthly newsletter, was born in 1997. The first issue of TEC was published in May with very impressive content and style, followed by the July, September, and November issues. Under the strong leadership of Dr. Jeong-ryeol Kim, Editor-in-Chief, the wit, talent, and passion of the publication staff flourished on each page of the newsletter. The staff included Robert Dickey (Articles, Calendar), Carl Dusthimer (Chapter Reports), Demetra Gates (National Conference), Jeanne E. Martinelli (Cultural Corner, Name That Member), Kari Kugler (Pan Asia), Kiama Robinson (Techniques), Steve Garrigues (FAQs), Gina Crocetti (Book Reviews), and Greg Wilson (layout).

Just prior to the appearance of TEC, the final issue of our former newsletter and very much wannabe journal was published in January 1997. Volume 4, Number 1 of *Language Teaching: The Korea TESOL Journal* looked very little like any of its previous issues. Though

### Presidential Memoirs

Series Editor: David E. Shaffer

light in weight and spindly in appearance, the publication had transformed into a simple academic journal within a newsletter format. It consisted of three research articles written by Susan L. Niemeyer, Susan Truitt, and Thomas Farrell, one report of an interview with Dr. Oryang Kwon on the soon-to-begin primary school English instruction, and a summary of global issues resources by Kip Cates. This newsletter gave birth to two KOTESOL publications: *The English Connection*, whose first issue came out in May, and our first full-fledged academic journal finally appeared in 1998 as *The Korea TESOL Journal*, with Editor Thomas Farrell at the helm.

### *Korea TESOL was perceived as the most active and “alive” organization.*

The second organizational development project was to strengthen our existing chapters and SIGs and establish new ones. In addition to existing chapters in Seoul, Busan, Jeolla, Daejeon, and Daegu, Jeju became an official chapter of Korea TESOL in May 1997. Among the SIGs, the Teacher Education and Development SIG was actively at work, thanks to its ever-passionate facilitator Greg Matheson.

The last project was to make our annual conference a success and to do some groundwork for hosting the 2nd Pan-Asian Conference (PAC2) to be held in Korea in 1999. The 1997 Korea TESOL Conference was held at the Education and Cultural Center in Gyeongju on October 3-5 with the theme *Technology in Education: Communicating Beyond Traditional Networks*. Despite all the worries about taking our annual showcase out of Seoul and out of a university, the Conference in the ancient capital of Shilla was a huge

success due to the hard work and efficient coordination of Co-chairs Kari Kugler and Demetra Gates. It featured 132 presenters from 12 countries and attracted close to 700 participants. The invited speakers included Alan Maley, David Nunan, Jack Richards, Carolyn Graham, Julia ToDutka, Tim Grant, and Angela Llanas. Among the guests attending were our PAC associate representatives from JALT, ThaiTESOL, and ETA-ROC, and quite a number of presidents and council members of Korean ELT associations, including KATE, KOSETA, KAPEE, PETA, HETA, and KAMALL, whose participation greatly helped to strengthen their relationship with Korea TESOL.

In order to achieve the last goal I set - contributing to the development of Korea and our profession, TESOL - I suggested that we identify major issues and problems concerning ELT in Korea and find ways in which Korea TESOL could serve in solving them. The problems included teaching English as a means of passing the college entrance exam, students' perception of and motivation to learn English, teaching English to children, and teacher education for both Korean and foreign English teachers. We as an organization, and as individual TESOL professionals, have served this nation and our profession by sharing our thoughts, skills, and visions with others through conferences and publications. In this sense, there is no doubt that the last goal was also successfully achieved, though it should be continuously pursued.

The year 1997 was one of the busiest and most productive years of my life, as I had the privilege of serving as the president of Korea TESOL, an organization whose scope and activities within and beyond Korea had expanded in leaps and bounds in such a short period. I presented at major international conferences as a Korea TESOL delegate, including the 1st Pan-Asia Conference, held in Bangkok, Thailand, on January 5-7; TESOL '97, held in Orlando, Florida, USA, March 11-15; and the 2007 ETA-ROC International Symposium, held in Taipei, November 14-16; as well as at various meetings and conferences held in Korea.

The success story retold here was created by a highly energetic, enthusiastic, and efficient group of people that I am grateful to have been able to work with. They included Profs. Kari Kugler and Demetra Gates (Conference Co-chairs), Dr. Oryang Kwon (Immediate Past President), Prof. Carl Dusthimer (1st Vice-President), Dr. Sang-Do Woo (2nd Vice-President), Prof. Rachel Phillips (Secretary), Dr. Young-Mi Kim (Treasurer), Dr. Jeong-ryeol Kim (Pan-Asian Conference Chair and Publications Chair), Prof. Jack and Mrs. AeKyoung Large (Membership Coordinator and Finance Committee Chair), Tony Joo (Associate Member Liaison), and Profs. Robert Dickey and Greg Wilson (program layout). Chapter presidents and all the members also deserve my sincere thanks. The success story goes on, and will continue to go on, as old and new love affairs with Korea TESOL continue.

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Dr. Robert Dickey	2001-02
Dr. Sangdo Woo	2002-03
Dr. Myung-Jai Kang	2003-04
Dr. Kyungsook Yeum	2004-05
Louisa T.C. Kim	2005-06
Dr. Marilyn Plumlee	2006-07
Philip Owen	2007-

### The Author



**Joo-Kyung Park** received her PhD in Curriculum and Instruction, specializing in ESL/Bilingual Education from Texas A&M University. She has taught for over 20 years at the university level, and since 1993, she has been involved with teacher education programs as program coordinator and teacher trainer. Having developed an English immersion program for secondary school teachers, the English Experience Learning Center at Honam University, and the first Korea-Japan English camp in the Gwangju-Jeonnam region, she has been promoting English immersion programs that can cater to the specific needs of Korean learners and teachers of English.

In addition to being president of Korea TESOL (1996-1997), Dr. Park has served as Pan-Asia Journal Korea editor,

Korea TESOL Journal Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Board Member, and KOTESOL Research Committee Chair. She has also served on several committees and councils for other ELT organizations in Korea, including Asia TEFL, KATE, HETA, PKETA, KAFLE, KAPEE, STEM, and ETAK.

Dr. Park has presented at major ELT conferences held in the US, the UK, Canada, Australia, and many Asian countries and has frequently been an invited speaker at the conferences held in Korea. Her professional interests include teacher education, teaching pronunciation/speech, and intercultural communication. Recent interests include critical pedagogy and English immersion program development for Asian learners. Currently, she is an associate professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at Honam University. Email: english58@hanmail.net



## KOTESOL Kalendar

Compiled by Jake Kimball

### Conferences

**Mar 15 '08** Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter & 21st Century Association of English Language and Literature Joint Conference. Honam University, Gwangju. Contact Dr. Joo-Kyung Park: (Email) english58@hanmail.net

**Mar 29 '08** Seoul Chapter Annual Conference: "Share Your Expertise: Teachers Helping Teachers." Contact Bruce Wakefield: 019-808-5332, (Email) bruce\_wakefield@hotmail.com

### Calls for Papers

**Ongoing.** Korea TESOL Journal, Vol. 11. (Email) wsnyder7@gmail.com

### Chapter Meeting/Workshops

**1st Saturday of the month:** Daegu-Gyeongbuk Chapter.

**2nd Saturday of the month:** Gwangju-Jeonnam, North Jeolla, and Gangwon Chapters.

**3rd Saturday of the month:** Seoul, Busan-Gyeongnam, Jeju, and Suwon-Gyeonggi Chapters.

**4th Saturday of the month:** Daejeon-Chungnam Chapter

**Last Saturday of the month:** Cheongju Chapter.

□ For monthly meeting details, check individual chapters' event schedules at [www.kotesol.org/chapters.shtml](http://www.kotesol.org/chapters.shtml)



## Corea Calendar

Compiled by Jake Kimball

### Conferences

**Dec 1 '07** Global English Teachers' Association (GETA) Annual Conference: "Theory and Practice in Vocabulary Learning and Teaching." Chonnam National University, Gwangju. Plenary Speakers: Paul Nation, Rob Waring. (Web) <http://www.geta.re.kr>

**Dec 8 '07** The Korea Association of Foreign Language Education (KAFLE) Annual Conference: "Current Situations and Desirable Future Directions in Foreign Languages Education in Korea." Soongsil University, Seoul. (Email) pjeon@ssu.ac.kr (Web) <http://www.kafle.or.kr/>

**Jan 19 '08** The Korea Association of Primary English Education (KAPEE) 2007 Winter Conference: "Literacy and Evaluation in Primary English Education." Daegu National University of Education, Daegu. (Email) kapee2007@gmail.com (Web) <http://www.kapee.org/>

**Jul 4-5 '08** Korea Association of Teachers of English (KATE) 2008 International Conference: "Incorporating Global Issues in English Education: Contents, Methods, and Materials." Busan. (Web) <http://www.kate.or.kr> **Call for Papers: December 31 '07.**

**Jul 21-26 '08** The 18th International Congress of Linguists: "Unity and Diversity of Languages." Korea University, Seoul. (Email) cil18@cil18.org or ihlee@yonsei.ac.kr (Web) <http://www.cil18.org>

### Submissions

All information on upcoming conferences or other teacher-related events should be sent at least three months in advance to: TEC Calendar (Email) KOTESOL@asia.com



# 1997-1999: Tandem Terms and Dual Foci

By Carl Dusthimer, KOTESOL's Fifth President

My predecessors had the daunting tasks of forming Korea TESOL into a viable, functioning organization with the recognition as a valued educational entity by other academic and teaching associations. We should recognize the risks taken by former KOTESOL presidents Dr. Jeong-ryeol Kim, Dr. Oryang Kwon, and Dr. Joo-Kyung Park in taking the helm of a teachers' organization widely perceived to be a "foreigners" organization. Thanks to their efforts, KOTESOL was able to forge positive working relationships with many Korean organizations, which have proven mutually beneficial. And thanks to this foundation and the international network many of us in KOTESOL have developed and nurtured, I was able to have a dual focus during my two years as president (Oct. 1997 - Oct. 1999).

Being a part of KOTESOL afforded me a myriad of opportunities for personal and professional growth. And it had long been my view that most important within an organization is its people, and most important within the people is their attitude. Bearing this in mind, as president, I wanted to build upon what my predecessors had begun and take the next logical steps. Specifically, I wanted to continue the professional development effort that Joo-Kyung Park emphasized and simultaneously continue the effort Jeong-ryeol Kim championed in attracting more Korean teachers to complement the native English-speaking members. This first focus resulted in the creation and development of KOTESOL Teacher Training, which continues to pursue its original mission through its ten-plus trainers lead by Tory Thorkelson. The second focus was to continue building international relationships through our commitment to the Pan Asian Consortium (PAC), culminating in KOTESOL hosting PAC2, the Second Pan Asian Conference, at the Olympic Parktel on October 1-3, 1999.

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*The first focus resulted in the creation of KOTESOL Teacher Training (KTT).*

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## **The First Major Focus: KTT**

The concept for KOTESOL Teacher Training (KTT) started before the 1997 leadership retreat. I had been brainstorming with some of the National Council members, including Sangdo Woo (1st VP), Jeanne Martinelli (2nd VP), Joo-Kyung Park (Past Pres.), and

Jeong-ryeol Kim (PAC2 & Publications Chair), and with Gavin Farrell (first KTT Coordinator), on how to best reach out to the broad community of Korean English teachers. We decided to start a "roving workshop" project. It was a somewhat nebulous idea before the leadership retreat and needed to be more focused, but by the end of the retreat, it had taken a definite shape.

The basic premise was to create a team of teacher trainers that would conduct workshops designed according to the needs of the participants. The early workshops included presentations on topics such as SLA, classroom management, action research, and lesson planning. The goals of KTT were, and still are, to reach out and provide training support to Korean teachers, to build bridges between KOTESOL and other teachers' organizations, and to attract Korean teachers to Korea TESOL. The early success of KTT was largely due to the organizational efforts of Gavin and Terri Jo Everest (Busan Chapter), and to the raw enthusiasm of the early trainers.

## **Coping With IMF**

Before moving on to the second major focus of my presidency, I would like to mention a couple of important items that should not be overlooked. These items were directly or indirectly related to the Asian financial crisis (locally referred to as "IMF") that engulfed Asia from late 1997 through the middle of 1999. Before the full effect of the financial crisis was realized, I had pushed for the creation of a Korea TESOL head office. It was approved by the National Council, and with the help of Tony Joo (who did an amazing job as General Manager and as Organizational Partner Liaison) and Young-jip "Jeff" Kim, we established the office in Daejeon. The office served as a central location for information dissemination (including the printing and distribution of *The English Connection*), document storage, and a place for meetings other than the official National Council meetings. Unfortunately, the effects of IMF caused budgetary issues for Korea TESOL, and we closed the office in early 2000.

Aside from the financial effects IMF had on Korea TESOL, the crisis initiated an exodus of native-speaking English teachers from Korea. This affected

*Presidential  
Memoirs*

Series Editor: David E. Shaffer

the overall membership of the organization, causing us to lose some key members of the National Council, including 2nd VP Jeanne Martinelli, who was a very dynamic KOTESOL enthusiast. Later in 1998, we also lost 1st VP Sangdo Woo, who was called away to the US. This vacancy resulted in me assuming the presidency for a second term. (Fortunately for KOTESOL, Dr. Woo returned in 2000 and served as president in 2002-2003). These losses caused some tremors within the organization, but everyone came together in a galvanized effort to carry on, though with fewer friends and colleagues and less funding.

On the positive side, KOTESOL had already embarked

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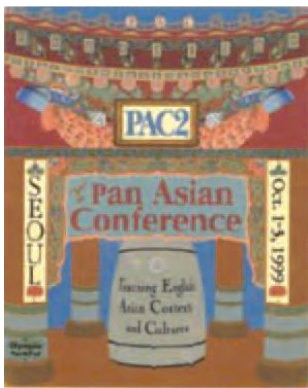
## *The PAC concept became a multi-organizational project.*

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on a book-writing project. We began the project to provide the ELT community, new and old, with a brief history of ELT in Korea and to give teachers new to Korea a foundation for their tenure here. Entitled *The KOTESOL Handbook: Teaching English in Korea*, the book included chapters on professional development, a history of ELT in Korea, culture shock, classroom management, classroom culture, and teaching activities that have proven successful and timeless. The project was helmed by Gina Crocetti as Managing Editor and Rod Gillett, our resident coordinator. Gina and Rod did an excellent job of keeping everyone on task while showing that reserve of patience so characteristic of good project leaders. Through the historical chapter of the book, we were able to address an issue that Dr. Dwight Strawn brought up at a leadership retreat years earlier: "Everyone thinks that English teaching in Korea started when they stepped off the plane."

### **The Second Major Focus: PAC**

Let us now look at the second major focus of my period as president. I believe Korea TESOL is a very strong national organization, made so by the selfless dedication of hundreds of hard-working educators. I also believe that Korea TESOL has been made stronger by and benefited immensely from our international relationships. KOTESOL embarked on one grand undertaking that exemplifies this kind of cooperation: the Pan-Asian Consortium (PAC). The PAC concept started with David McMurray in JALT and became a multi-organizational



▲ The PAC2 Conference Poster

project with the signing of an agreement in 1995 between Korea TESOL, JALT, and Thai TESOL. The fundamental purpose of the Consortium is to advance English teaching and learning in Asia through a Pan-Asia series of Conferences (also PAC), publications, and research networks. Creating the theme and focus for the first PAC event was a collaborative effort, but I attribute its clarity to Marc Helgesen (long-time KOTESOL and JALT member based in Japan). To fulfill its mission, PAC encouraged and supported collaboration among educators from different countries. There was a major push for this in the first three PAC events (PAC1, Thailand; PAC2, Korea; and PAC3, Japan), with presentation slots reserved at each conference for PAC partners to highlight their collaborative research projects.

### **AYF at PAC2**

The first PAC conference, held in Bangkok, was a glowing success, and even received the support of the princess of Thailand. Naturally, Korea TESOL wanted to continue and build upon the success of PAC1, so the KOTESOL PAC Conference Committee, in preparation for hosting PAC2, decided to add a parallel event. A group of people that included Kip Cates from Japan,



▲ Carl Dusthimer (right) at PAC2 with Lady Brown, wife of the British Ambassador to Korea.

Peggy Wollberg, Lynn Gregory, Demetra Gates, and myself from Korea, got together to search for the seamless complement to what PAC stands for: We opted to hold the first Asian Youth Forum (AYF). It was a major undertaking, especially during the

IMF period, but we were able to bring together over 50 university students from eight countries around Asia.

The ideas driving AYF are at the heart of what we are and what we do as teachers and why we come together at conferences and other international educational events like PAC. Think for a moment about a conference for teachers. One of the events scheduled for the AYF students was to give presentations and lead panel discussions about their language learning experiences - an ideal opportunity for teachers to learn from the students. It was a "conference within a conference," with students giving academic and cultural presentations, and having breakout sessions and roundtable discussions on current social and environmental issues. Indeed, it is an excellent example of what the PAC conferences are all about: collaboration, talking across borders to find solutions beneficial and applicable to all involved. AYF has been held at each subsequent PAC conference, with coordination by dedicated KOTESOL colleagues like Jack and Aekyung Large.

PAC2 was a great success. In addition to AYF, there were the 3km, 5km, and 10km Fun Run for Asian

Youth marathons. Outstanding plenary presentations at the three-day event were given by Penny Ur, Michael McCarthy, Claire Kramsch, Kathleen Bailey, and Kensaku Yoshida. Also participating were TESOL President David Nunan, Jack Richards, Marc Helgesen, Anne Burns, Gillian Wigglesworth, Horace Underwood, and David Paul. In all, there were 201 presentations scheduled and an estimated attendance of nearly 900. No previous KOTESOL conference had equaled these numbers. However, the 1998 Conference, chaired by Kirsten Reitan, came close. A total of 117 presentations complemented plenary sessions by Donald Freeman and Carol Numrich for the estimated 700 conference-goers.

*It is ultimately the people involved that make an organization what it is.*

### Publications

Another important contribution to Korea TESOL that occurred during my watch was the creation of the *Korea TESOL Journal*. It was the natural next step from our increasingly academic newsletter, *Language Teaching: The Korea TESOL Journal*. We were lucky to have Thomas Farrell, who was actually teaching in Singapore at the time, take the reins and see the first edition through to publication. In addition to the *Korea TESOL Journal*, Tom also volunteered to take on the creation and development of the *PAC Journal*. This was the culmination of research resulting from the collaborative projects championed by the PAC conferences.

As mentioned above, it is ultimately the people involved that make an organization what it is. And it is

in those people and in those relationships that the value is found. I appreciate the contributions in the early days of KOTESOL by the Daejeon-centered group of individuals: Margaret Eliot, Jack Large, Demetra Gates, Oryang Kwon, Nam-soon Kim, Patricia Hunt, Scott Berlin, and Greg Wilson. Theirs was a naive enthusiasm that gets lost in organizational growth. I would also like to thank Steve Garrigues for being a constant pillar of the Daegu-Gyeongnam Chapter, Jane Hoelker for her tireless effort in bringing people and organizations together, Everette Busbee for his amazing conference posters, Andrew Todd for bringing cohesion to the Seoul Chapter at a time when it was needed, Robert Dickey for knowing too much and the advice that springs from that knowledge, and David Shaffer for his behind-the-scenes dedication over most of the years that I have been involved with KOTESOL. Finally, I would like to recognize Patricia Hunt for being a tremendously talented educator, a wellspring of enthusiasm for KOTESOL, and an inspiration to all who know her.

### The Author



**Carl Dusthimer** served as Director of the Gyeonggi English Village at Ansan and is now the Director of Education at the Paju English Village. He has a long history with KOTESOL, having served as Conference Chair or Co-chair five times. He served as Co-chair for the Pan-Asia Conference in 1999 and in other National Council capacities in addition to his terms as President. He was a founder (1988) and president (1991-92) of KATE, a forerunner to KOTESOL, during his years of teaching at Hannam University in Daejeon. His interests are in curriculum development, and global and peace issues, as well as Led Zeppelin, whose song title inspired a candidate for this article's title: "What Was and What Should Always Be" (i.e., a passion for teaching and professional growth among KOTESOL members). Email: [cq\\_dust@yahoo.com](mailto:cq_dust@yahoo.com)

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Dr. Marilyn Plumlee	2006-07
Philip Owen	2007-

### A Quote to Ponder

“One of the most invigorating things about teaching is that you never stop learning.”

**H. Douglas Brown (2001)**  
*Teaching by Principles* (p. 426)

## Term 6: Strengthening Relationships

By Sangho Han, KOTESOL's Sixth President

My task in this article is to introduce the vision, policies, and activities of the millennial-year presidency of Korea TESOL. This I am so happy to do, as I see KOTESOL develop year after year as the result of the unceasing efforts of committed officers and members of the organization. Different from other presidents, I will begin my memoirs with a description of my introduction to and bonding (Korean: *inyeon*) with KOTESOL. This bonding started in 1996, when I was attracted to Daegu Chapter activities, then organized by two great English educators in the area, Dr. Steve Garrigues and Dr. Chae Jun-kee of Kyungpook National University. Both of them taught me English while I was an undergraduate student at KNU.

It was when I was fresh out of my doctoral program that Dr. Chae invited me to work for the organization as I had been attending the Chapter meetings. (Incidentally, Dr. Chae was the officiator of my wedding ceremony as well as academic advisor for my master's thesis in TEFL.) I started out as "Letterman" for the Chapter. Whenever it was time to send out Chapter newsletters, I visited Dr. Chae's office to put copies of the news flyer, which was edited by Dr. Garrigues, into envelopes for mailing to members.

As years went by, I became more and more involved in KOTESOL activities on both the local and National level, thanks to Dr. Chae's kind mentoring into the professional society. Dr. Chae is still serving the Daegu-Gyeongbuk Chapter as an active Advisor, even at the age of 80.

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### *Wearing the hat of National President was such an honor.*

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Wearing the hat of National President was such an honor for me on my personal pilgrimage of teaching English in Korea. My term as president began with the successful hosting of the Pan Asian Consortium's (PAC) second conference (PAC 2), held at Olympic Parktel in Seoul's Olympic Park on October 1-3, 1999. Soon after the Conference, I had the annual KOTESOL Leadership Retreat scheduled to take place in Daegu to integrate KOTESOL's central and regional functions. This was done with the 2nd Vice-President, Gerry Lassche, doing the coordinating.

On the occasion of the Leadership Retreat, I emphasized (a) the importance of relations with other domestic professional/academic organizations in Korea as well as with those outside of Korea, (b) the importance of a membership drive, and (c) that of providing professional teacher training service. For domestic inter-organizational relationships, the Domestic Relations Committee was organized with Wonmyong Kim of Daejeon Chapter and Yonghoon Lee of Daegu Chapter appointed as Chair and Co-chair, respectively. On the international side, Jane Hoelker of Seoul National University served as International Liaison Chair and worked in close collaboration with the National Secretary, Kirsten Reitan, who had been deeply involved with PAC in its earlier stages of development during Carl Dusthimer's presidency (1997-1999).

With the Domestic Relations Committee functioning as intended, we reached associate agreements with KOSETA (Korea Secondary English Teachers Association) and with KAMALL (Korea Association of Multimedia-Assisted Language Learning). These partnerships are thought to have encouraged greater communication with specialty groups and the general membership of KOTESOL. On the international side, we continued our participation in PAC, and with our individual PAC partners, JALT, ThaiTESOL, and ETA-ROC. Representatives from each of these organizations visited us at our International Conference to strengthen collaboration. Moreover, we began to establish formal relations with FEELTA (Far Eastern English Language Teachers Association) of Russia for them to become a part of PAC. Their representative came to our International Conference in 2000 to finalize the associate agreement for mutual benefit.

As for the proposed membership drive, the Membership Development Committee was organized with Eunmi Seo and Jisook Yeom appointed as Chair and Co-chair. It is due to their initial efforts and their commitment that more Korean elementary, secondary, and language institute teachers have since taken part in KOTESOL activities. Finally, as for the strengthening of teacher training, KOTESOL Teacher Training (KTT)

### *Presidential Memoirs*

*Series Editor: David E. Shaffer*

was reactivated both within and beyond Korea TESOL. Under the leadership of Douglas Margolis, it offered organized special training programs for teachers of TEFL, both at our Chapter and at the International Conferences.

As for chapter-level activities, there were several mini-conferences and an English drama competition taking place along with the usual monthly workshop activities that each chapter organized. We witnessed the successes of the Cholla and Pusan Chapter Mini-conferences, the Seoul-Kyonggi Joint Conference. It was also exciting to see the fruits of the Taejon Drama Festival. [Chapter name spellings are those of the period.]

Finally, we had a very strong Conference Committee under the leadership of Andrew Finch. The Conference Committee met often to ensure everything progressed well along the proper timeline, putting forth their best efforts for the successful hosting of KOTESOL 2000. One thing that should not be overlooked when it comes to the 2000 Conference was the securing of a conference grant from the Korea Research Foundation. It was something that would have been almost impossible to obtain without close Korean- and NEST-member collaboration in the application process because it involved a huge amount of time and effort. I cannot thank those involved enough for their committed service to the grant preparation project, the members of the Conference Committee and the Domestic Relations Committee.

## The 2000 International Conference was outstanding in several respects.

The 2000 International Conference at Kyungpook University in Daegu (Sept. 30 - Oct. 1). With the theme *Castling the Net: Diversity in Language Teaching*, it was outstanding in several respects. First, Dr. Leo van Lier's plenary session touched the depth of our intellect with his practical and investigative ideas. Next, Dr. Dick Allwright's plenary address took us to the idea that language learners very much behave idiosyncratically. Third, Dr. Andy Curtis's special workshop shed light on the practicalities of language teaching. In terms of presentations, this conference was the biggest KOTESOL event ever held outside of Seoul. The 146 concurrent sessions included panel discussions, presentations of research results, practical reports, and hands-on workshops, providing the essentials for teaching English effectively in classrooms throughout Korea.

With the hosting of the International Conference, I passed the gavel of my presidency to Dr. Andrew Finch whose committed dedication to the success of the Conference was so great that he became the next

KOTESOL president. After finishing my term and looking back on my presidency, I tend to think that we may not have enjoyed the strongest integration of Korean and NEST expertise during those difficult "IMF" days. However, I also tend to think of my term as a time of strengthened relationships with other ELT organizations within and outside of Korea, along with more prominent recognition of Korea TESOL by the Korean government and the Ministry of Education.

As depicted above, KOTESOL has been an important part of my destiny. I hope that I have chronicled it well.

### The Author



**Dr. Sangho Han** has been teaching English in the Department of English at Gyeongju University since 1996. He obtained his PhD in English Education from Korea National University of Education. He served as Korea TESOL National President (1999-2000) and currently serves as Vice-President of Pan-Korea English Teachers Association (PKETA). Other professional organizations he has been involved in are the Korea Association of Teachers of English (KATE) and the Korea Association of Foreign Languages Education (KAFLE). His primary research interest has been second language acquisition/learning. Recently his interest has become more critical than functional and instrumental, more political than pedagogical, making him more of an activist in the praxis of teaching English in the Korean context. His recent articles include "Teaching English as an international language and English teacher as Dharma" (2005), "A wavelike argument on glocalization of research-practice in English education" (2006), and "A critical alternative to teaching English for overcoming native speakerism" (2007). Email: [singhap@kyongju.ac.kr](mailto:singhap@kyongju.ac.kr)



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Louisa T.C. Kim	2005-06
Dr. Marilyn Plumlee	2006-07
Philip Owen	2007-



## Term 7: The Finch & Hyun Year, 2000-01

By Andrew Finch & Taeduck Hyun, KOTESOL's 6th & 7th Presidents

How is best to begin on this journey into the past, looking back from a different time and place? The years 2000 and 2001 were seminal years for both of us, Dr. Andrew Finch and Dr. Taeduck Hyun, and were full of memorable events. These all occurred eight years ago, and the mists of time have washed over them. Nevertheless, this reflection takes memories and impressions as its starting point, since they form the basis of most realities. Our impressions can be contested for accuracy, but they can also provide a glimpse of the psychological and affective processes that were at work when we shared the KOTESOL Presidency of 2000-01.

To start slightly before the beginning, Andrew was honored to be invited in March of 2000 to be Chair of the 2000 KOTESOL International Conference and immediately asked Dr. Hyun to be Co-chair. The venue, Kyungpook National University (KNU) in Daegu, had already been chosen by the time we arrived on the scene, so our task was to make sure that everything ran smoothly in this outside-of-Seoul conference site. This takes our journey up to the 2000 Conference and its Annual Business Meeting on October 1. It had been suggested that, in the absence of a 1st Vice-President to succeed to the presidency, Andrew run for the position of KOTESOL president for 2000-01. But since the Constitution specifies that the 1st Vice-President be elected and succeed to the presidency, Andrew was elected 1st Vice-President and immediately ascended to the presidency to fill the vacancy that had been created there. Dr. Hyun was soon elected as the new 1st V.P. to fill the position that Andrew had vacated.

### Call for Research

Andrew was concerned at this time that KOTESOL was perceived by academics around the world as "a bunch of backpackers," unqualified (or unwilling) to do research in one of the largest TEFL environments in the world. In his acceptance speech at the 2000 Conference, therefore, he called for more research to be done by KOTESOL members. This would not only raise the profile of KOTESOL as a professional organization, but would benefit KOTESOL members and TEFL in Korea. This theme was repeated in his first President's Message in *The English Connection*, (TEC; Nov. 2000), of which the following is an excerpt:

*You (KOTESOL members) are the people doing the work at ground zero. You are observing what works and what doesn't work. You are the ones doing distance degrees and basing them on direct action research. The profession needs you, and KOTESOL needs you. Here is my call for action: (a) Observe your classrooms, make notes, and write them up. (b)*

*Send your observations to TEC or to the KOTESOL Journal (or other journals). Tell the world about your experiences - they are totally valid. (c) Take a look at the list of national officers, committees, and chapters. We need you.*

### Reflection on Research

It is worth reflecting upon this issue, some eight years later, and asking whether anything has changed. To what extent are KOTESOL and its members satisfying this important professional responsibility? First of all, it must be recognized that the distance degree market has ballooned

## Presidential Memoirs

Series Editor: David E. Shaffer

since 2000, along with increased requirements for employment in teaching institutions in Korea. These two factors have meant that KOTESOL members now have the need and the opportunity to pursue professional development, and as a result, the number of master's and doctoral degrees in the organization has increased greatly.

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*Dr. Finch called for more research to be done by KOTESOL members.*

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Secondly, KOTESOL is lucky to have a core of dedicated people who continue to take on the majority of tasks that need to be done. Thanks to these people, *The English Connection* and the *Korea TESOL Journal* (KTJ) are published, the web site offers valuable information and resources, local and international conferences are held, Special Interest Groups (SIGs) flourish, and the KOTESOL Teacher Training group (KTT) continues to offer its excellent services.

While being very glad to see these positive trends, the 2000 call for research still rings in one's ears. Korea offers a significant and unique TEFL research area, with enormous enthusiasm for learning on the part of students, tremendous support from parents, and official government recognition of the importance of English. In such an environment, there is enormous potential for research into every aspect of language learning. The KTJ, however, has not been able to keep its deadlines over the years, and so has not been given adequate status by the Korean Research Foundation

(KRF). This is largely due to insufficient input from KOTESOL members. As a result, many academics in Korea, and overseas, choose not to publish in the Journal.

### **Leadership Retreat**

December of 2000 saw the annual KOTESOL Leadership Retreat. The prevailing theme of the Retreat was “reconstructing KOTESOL as a vital force in Korean education.” The main sessions of the two-day Retreat were regional and national conferences, SIG workshops, leadership, membership, fundraising and visibility, and policy. Research, promotional activities, and future directions were seriously discussed. The final objective was for participants to carry back to their Chapters concepts for future courses of action. These included setting up a network of membership coordinators at the chapter level and developing an array of special interest groups. From this initial thrust, almost all of our Chapters have created the position of membership coordinator as an executive office, and KOTESOL has developed numerous and varied SIGs for member participation.

### **Change of Responsibilities**

It was just after the December Leadership Retreat that Andrew was offered a post in Hong Kong, working with Liz Hamp-Lyons and Tom Lumley. Though only a six-month testing consultancy, this was an exceptional post-doctoral opportunity, and Andrew handed over the position of presidency to the 1st V.P., Dr. Taeduck Hyun. Andrew was happy that KOTESOL would be in good hands for the remainder of the presidential term, since he had every confidence in Dr. Hyun, knowing him as a good friend, a notable academic, and an extremely competent administrator. With Andrew's departure and Dr. Hyun's ascension to President, the vacancy in the position of 1st V.P. was filled by Robert Dickey.

As president, Dr. Hyun stressed that “the most important role of Korea TESOL is to advance English education and teaching in Korea.” Within KOTESOL, he stressed professionalism and scholarship, and put forward the idea that a research committee be formed (which became a reality within a year). He promoted cross-cultural understanding by calling for the facilitation of understanding rather than merely focusing on misunderstandings. Dr. Hyun also emphasized the dissemination of information through chapter meetings and local and national conferences, as well as through KOTESOL publications.

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## *Dr. Hyun called for the facilitation of cross-cultural understanding.*

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### **Spring Events**

To contribute to Dr. Hyun's and Andrew's goals, the spring of 2001 hosted two conferences and a drama festival. The Seoul and Gyeonggi Chapters started off the season with their second joint conference on March 18. Held at Sungkyunkwan University in Seoul, the theme of the full-day conference was “Educating Global Citizens.” This was followed by the 7th Jeolla Chapter Conference on April 21 with the theme “Upgrading the English Classroom.” The venue was Chonnam National University, and with the TV English teacher Bo-young Lee as plenary speaker, the Conference was a great success. Daejeon Chapter hosted the 10th Annual Daejeon Spring Drama Festival on May 19, attracting teams from elementary through university level. Jeolla Chapter also had their annual drama festival, scheduled for October 27. This tradition of chapter events continues and has expanded over the years.

### **KOTESOL 2001**

The 9th Annual Korea TESOL International Conference was again the highlight of the autumn calendar. Under the leadership of Dr. Hyun and Craig Bartlett, the 2001 Conference, held at Sungkyunkwan University, proved to be the biggest ELT event of the year in Korea. Under the theme of “The Learning Environment: The Classroom and Beyond,” the Conference attracted over 130 presenters from over a dozen countries. Nearly half of the 125 presentations were made by international presenters. The invited speakers included Janet Willis, Dave Willis, David Nunan, and Michael Rundell.

### **Future Directions**

Getting to the end of the path less traveled, it is good to see promising trends in KOTESOL. These encourage us to offer some suggestions for future development. These are offered with the benefit of hindsight, and with the experience gained through membership (and

## **KOTESOL's Presidents**

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Dr. Marilyn Plumlee	2006-07
Philip Owen	2007-08

leadership) of similar organizations. They are offered constructively, in the hope of stimulating positive (and critical) discussion.

1. *Professionalism*: The prime criterion for everything and everyone. KOTESOL needs to establish and enhance a professional reputation worldwide, and its members need to act professionally at all times, collaborating for the good of KOTESOL and the profession.
2. *Korea TESOL Journal*: The utmost effort needs to be put into making the Journal meet all its deadlines, eventually making it four issues annually and a KRF (Korea Research Foundation) accredited journal, listed in places such as the Web of Knowledge, the AHCI, the SSCI, and COPAC. This process could be prompted by contacting aspiring academics around the world, or asking KOTESOL members to write papers based on their distance master's degrees.
3. *Members' Benefits*: It would be desirable if KOTESOL members could be offered professional discounts on items like research software and teaching materials, and possibly even reduced rates on things such as hotel rooms at Conference time.
4. *Involvement in Local Education*: The majority of native speaker teachers in Korea are not KOTESOL members and are poorly qualified as teachers. Even the government-run English Program in Korea (EPIK) accepts people on the basis of citizenship, without requiring any teaching qualifications. Rather than shaking our heads at this, KOTESOL needs to become active in the field of educational policy, helping projects such as EPIK to find and train suitably qualified and experienced applicants.

### Conclusion

These Presidential Memoirs describe events and issues, along with suggestions, that hopefully, might spark a re-appraisal of the role of KOTESOL in a profession that is changing very rapidly. This is our wish and our intention. We both desire only the best for KOTESOL and look forward to the day when it will be fully respected worldwide, based on an excellent research record and the enthusiastic professionalism of its members.

### The Authors



**Dr. Andrew Finch** is currently on sabbatical leave from Kyungpook National University, where he is an Associate Professor in the Department of English Education. Dr. Finch is presently in the UK as Visiting Fellow in the TESOL Department of the Graduate School of Education at Bristol University. While there, he is researching into alternative models of language teaching and Korean heritage language learning. He has just completed two more books in the Longman Series Active English Discussion. Email: [aefinch@gmail.com](mailto:aefinch@gmail.com)



**Dr. Taeduck Hyun** is teaching in the English Education Department at Andong National University. Since 2001, Dr. Hyun has been Vice President of the Korea Association of Teachers of English (KATE) and is presently in his second two-year term as President of the Modern English Education Society (MEESO). He was appointed Dean of the School of Education in Andong National University in 2007. Dr. Hyun has co-authored a number of student-centered CLT books with Dr. Finch. Email: [hyun@andong.ac.kr](mailto:hyun@andong.ac.kr)



## 2009 National KOTESOL CONFERENCE CALL FOR PAPERS



**May 16, 2009** Korea National University of Education

Submissions are invited for 50-minute presentations and workshops, and 30-minute poster sessions on the theme of:

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT:  
IMPROVING LEARNING BY IMPROVING TEACHING**

Email title, abstract, and author biodata to: [national2009@gmail.com](mailto:national2009@gmail.com)

**Deadline for submissions: December 31, 2008**

Conference presentation research grants available: [disin@chosun.ac.kr](mailto:disin@chosun.ac.kr)

# Recharging the Batteries: 2001-2002

By Robert J. Dickey, KOTESOL's 8th President

Sometimes you need to slow down and catch your breath. To get organized, refocus, recharge. To figure out who you are, and where you are going.

In the fall of 2001, KOTESOL had been through a tumultuous whirlwind two years, with nearly one-third of all senior officers failing to complete a term of office. Remember, this was the time following the Asian Economic Crisis of 1997 (the so-called "IMF" period in Korea). Over 50% of all expatriate teachers left Korea, KOTESOL membership plunged from nearly 800 to a bit over 300, and revenues fell so severely that KOTESOL seemed in danger of bankruptcy. To the public, not much had changed, perhaps, but the future of the organization was in doubt.

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*I wasn't so much worried about the "now" as the "future."*

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The country was entranced with World Cup possibilities, and like the sporting venues, KOTESOL

had a lot of groundwork to do. Prior to the Autumn 2001 national elections, I looked around for people who would help make KOTESOL work. I asked James Gongwer (may he rest in peace) to serve on the National Council because of his "calming" influence. We needed that; the past two years had seen too much conflict. Sangdo Woo, who became the next president, had experience with KOTESOL pre-IMF, and he too was a quiet yet influential voice. Paul Mead, 2nd Vice-President, had served with distinction as Busan Chapter president; here again, he was one who tended to listen more than speak.

These were the qualities I thought KOTESOL especially needed at this difficult time.

There were of course others with experience and a variety of skills: Dave Shaffer had been Treasurer for only a few months, but had been "around" KOTESOL since its founding, and Kirsten Reitan, John Phillips, Trevor Gulliver, and Joseph Nicholas had all been serving in the trenches for quite some time. I was sure we had the people to move forward - it was the direction that was unclear!

My opening speech at the 2001 Annual Business Meeting outlined my vision, and it was simply "Leadership Development." KOTESOL had a few skilled hands, but IMF had stolen many other experienced leaders, and, more importantly, we seemed to have lost many of our "up-and-coming leaders." I was not so much worried about the *now* as the *future*. So in the Leadership Retreat KOTESOL schedules each December, we talked about "Who we (KOTESOL) are" and "Where we are going." A variety of membership development campaigns planned during the previous two years had fizzled, and no one was quite sure where to go next, since the teaching community was very different in 2002 compared to that of early 1998.

The progress of KOTESOL during this presidential term is hard to measure. There were changes, to be sure. Some were more of a struggle than others, though, in retrospect, we might wonder why. This is the proof of an association of true colleagues - discussion and ultimate consensus despite differences. It was a

## Presidential Memoirs

Series Editor: David E. Shaffer

### KOTESOL's Presidents

Scott Berlin	1993-94
Dr. Jeong-ryeol Kim	1994-95
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Dr. Myung-Jai Kang	2003-04
Dr. Kyungsook Yeum	2004-05
Louisa T.C. Kim	2005-06
Dr. Marilyn Plumlee	2006-07
Philip Owen	2007-08
Tory Thorkelson	2008-

jelling process that we needed. For example, in 2002 KOTESOL adopted the contemporary Romanization scheme. (You wouldn't believe how contentious this was at that time!) A fiscal audit was presented to members for the first time in years. A new Chapter was born (Gangwon Chapter; largely through the efforts of Ryan Cassidy, who became the first Chapter president), new SIGs were founded (Global Issues SIG, Young Learners SIG, CALL SIG, Writing & Editing SIG) and others became more active (e.g., Teacher Development and Education SIG).

At the chapter level, things hadn't changed much from 1997. We now had eight chapters, with the addition of Gangwon. Most carried on regular chapter meetings with little fuss. Membership was down, so finances were somewhat tight, but quality programs continued, including regional conferences in Jeolla, Seoul, and Suwon Chapters, and drama festivals hosted by Jeolla and Daejeon Chapters.

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### *The groundwork of prior presidents began to pay off.*

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KOTESOL began our association with Sookmyung Women's University for the International Conference. As one would expect, the 2002 conference was a hit. The difference this year was that the committee worked together smoothly and in harmony; we could sense that it was a team instead of a few individuals. Craig Bartlett and Dr. Yangdon Ju were Conference Committee Chair and Co-chair, and had a lot to do with forming a close-knit team. The theme was, quite appropriately, *Crossroads: Generational Change in ELT in Asia*, and it attracted well-known speakers, including Andy Curtis, Martin Bygate, Pauline Rea-Dickens, and David Carless.

The groundwork of prior presidents began to pay off, when KOTESOL became a recognized partner with other Korean ELT societies and governmental bodies. KOTESOL obtained a Korea Research Foundation grant, exchanged conference publicity with other societies (such as KATE), and I, as KOTESOL president, was offered high-visibility roles at other conferences. This was an honor directed at KOTESOL, not at me personally.

"Human Resource Development" was the ongoing theme of the 2001-2002 presidential term, and I am happy to note that a number of people who started their involvement in KOTESOL leadership during that era are still involved, still promoting the cause. Those who have moved on found others to take their place. These 2001-2002 KOTESOL managers are the true legacy of that term. All the good from that term came of their work. Much of the strength of KOTESOL 2009 belongs to the efforts of those in 2002 who struggled to rebuild an organization that wasn't broken, but simply lacked a few key parts.

#### **The Author**



**Rob Dickey** has been teaching and learning in Korea since 1994. At his second KOTESOL conference (in 1996), he and a friend told KOTESOL managers, "We can do that better," and thus began his career in KOTESOL. He holds higher degrees in law and public administration. After four years of teaching in Korea, he was invited to a "potential tenure track" job at Gyeongju University where he remains ten years later, now with tenure, as an Associate Professor in the English Department. He does research in a variety of ELT fields; though he is most focused on content-based instruction, the bulk of his recent work has been in oral proficiency assessment. Email: [rjdickey@content-english.org](mailto:rjdickey@content-english.org)



## A Quote to Ponder

**"I touch the future, I teach."**

**Christa McAuliffe (1948-1986):**

**US astronaut and first teacher in space; perished in Challenger shuttle explosion.**

## Focusing on Member Services: 2002-2003

By Sangdo Woo, KOTESOL's 10th President

Before I stepped into the job of president in October 2002, I had served in Korea TESOL in various positions since the formation of the organization - Daejeon Chapter President, National 2nd Vice-President, and 1st Vice-President. But still, the job of president required a lot more time and effort than I had expected. For my trip down memory lane to 2002-03, I read the messages I had written for *The English Connection*, especially the first one. In that first message, I stated that I would like to focus on providing better services to our members and announced three projects to be launched in my term of office. Even though the projects did not reach complete realization within the year, the initiatives bore fruit in the years to come.

The first project was the development of a computerized system for membership management on the Internet. Joining KOTESOL and renewing membership involved a lot of red tape, and management of membership data involved many hours of burning the midnight oil. Kevin Parent was selected to head the data management programming project, while Larry Hoffarth was given the task of upgrading the KOTESOL web site. Membership records were updated to a very high level of accuracy due to computerization of many of the processes. With that initial dedication of these members and the on-going dedication of other key members, KOTESOL now has an efficient online membership management program, where one can join, renew, and check his/her membership status, and the web site has developed to also offer members a wealth of useful information. I am sure that KOTESOL is in the lead among English education-related associations in the area of up-to-date online membership data management.

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*Though difficult and challenging, it taught me a lot professionally and personally.*

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The second project that I proposed was to upgrade our regional events, such as chapter conferences and drama festivals, to make them more national in scope. National KOTESOL encouraged chapters in that direction by making financial support available. This initiative has strengthened our regional conferences, with Seoul, Gwangju-Jeonnam, and Jeonju-North

Jeolla Chapters now holding conferences each spring and Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter hosting several symposia annually. Also developing from this initiative is the spring National Conference, hosted by a chapter at a venue outside the capital. The annual National Conference has been a great success, complementing the October International Conference in terms of date and location, and reaching English teachers who might otherwise not be reached. This has helped, I believe, to keep our chapters strong. Offering monthly meetings and workshops to meet the needs and interests of our members is a service unique to KOTESOL in Korea.

The third project was to support the creation of new Special Interest Groups (SIGs) and develop the existing ones. At the time, we had several SIGs in their initial stages of development, but with the additional support given in 2003, and the continuing interest in them over the years, we now have seven SIGs: Young Learners & Teens, Extensive Reading, Global Issues, Christian Teachers, Science and Spirituality, Research, and Business English. SIGs were once merely online forums with varying degrees of activity. Now, in addition to the online forums, they have face-to-face meetings to discuss books and even partner with chapters to host symposia in their area of specialization. The first SIG symposium was the Young Learner SIG symposium in the fall of 2003, which offered an initial model for other SIGs to follow.

Throughout the year, chapter activity was high with monthly meetings/workshops being held by all, and annual conferences and drama festivals by some. Likewise, the SIGs were being activated. But likely, the busiest of all was the Conference Committee. Committee Chair, Dr. Yangdon Ju, put together a talented team to plan and prepare for the 11th Annual Korea TESOL International Conference. KOTESOL conferences have traditionally stood out among ELT conferences in Korea in several ways. The first that I would like to mention is the use of English. The language of our conference was English, and all presentations were delivered in English, differing from other conferences, where some of the presentations were given in English and others in Korean. I think KOTESOL has assisted in developing a standard for

### Presidential Memoirs

Series Editor: David E. Shaffer

international conferences in the English education field in Korea, as other associations have switched to English as the presentation medium. Second, the KOTESOL conference has also shown that a conference can strike a good balance in the programming of academic and commercial presentations. No KOTESOL conference is complete without the ELT books and materials exhibition, and the 2003 conference, like many others, had one to boast of.

The theme of the 11th international conference was "Gateways to Growth: Exploring ELT Resources," and the venue was the Seoul Education Training Institute (SETI). It was only the second time that a KOTESOL conference site was not a university facility. SETI's spacious lobbies provided ample room for our Organizational Partners' displays, and our list of invited speakers was enticing. It included David Nunan, David Sperling, and Donald Freeman, who helped draw 800 attendees, almost twice as many conference-goers as the previous year. Approximately eighty display tables, laden with ELT materials, greeted our conference participants over the two days of the event.

Over the years, the KOTESOL October conference has developed into an internationally recognized conference in which you can listen to world-renowned scholars' presentations as well as your colleagues' presentations and workshops, review and purchase the latest books and materials from the Organizational Partners' exhibits, get employment information on jobs available and schools, and even have job interviews. The KOTESOL international conference has become the largest in Korea in the field of ELT in terms of the number of presentations and attendees.

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### *I announced three projects to be launched in my term.*

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For writing this article, I have checked through my old files and folders, and the aging issues of TEC and conference programs on my bookshelves, as well as a huge number of files in my computers. Writing this article has taken me back to 2003 and reminded me of the many people I worked with, especially executive council members, conference committee members, and chapter officers. Among the Council members, Dr. Myung-Jai Kang, Dr. David Shaffer, and Prof. Robert Dickey deserve special recognition for their dedication and hard work. For the success of the International Conference, Dr. Yangdon Ju and Prof. David Kim did a super job. I do miss all the people I worked with in KOTESOL and have such great memories from that vibrant period.

The job of president was difficult and challenging, but it taught me a lot professionally and personally. The opportunity to record these memoirs has given me a chance to look back at what Korea TESOL was like in

2003 and how it has developed since then. Also, it certainly has made me think about where I was then and how I have changed over the years. What a great chance to reflect this has been after being away from KOTESOL!

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## *Our international conference has become the largest in Korea in the field of ELT.*

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I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to all the people I worked with in KOTESOL over the years. I am sure that KOTESOL will continue to be a leading association in the field of English education in Korea.

### **The Author**



**Sangdo Woo** is professor and chair of the English Education Department at Gongju National University of Education. Dr. Woo has served KOTESOL in various positions over the years. He was Daejeon Chapter President in 1993-94, National 2nd Vice-President in 1996-97, and 1st Vice-President in 1997-98 and 2001-02, as well as President in 2002-03. He received his doctorate degree in English Phonology from Chungnam National University in 1993. He spent sabbatical years at The Pennsylvania State University (USA) in 1999 and at Christchurch Polytechnic Institute of Technology (NZ) in 2006. His research interests include elementary English education, pronunciation, and World Englishes. Email: woosd@gjue.ac.kr



## KOTESOL's Presidents

Scott Berlin	1993-94
Dr. Jeong-ryeol Kim	1994-95
Dr. Oryang Kwon	1995-96
Dr. Joo-Kyung Park	1996-97
Carl Dusthimer	1997-99
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Dr. Myung-Jai Kang	2003-04
Dr. Kyungsook Yeum	2004-05
Louisa T.C. Kim	2005-06
Dr. Marilyn Plumlee	2006-07
Philip Owen	2007-08
Tory Thorkelson	2008-

## Implementing the Mission Statement: 2003-2004

By Myung-Jai Kang, KOTESOL's 11th President

Reflecting on my days of serving KOTESOL as a volunteer with a lot of enthusiasm brought forth feelings of both joy and lament as I reminisced. Time sure does fly like an arrow! I personally joined KOTESOL in 1998 as a curious conference-goer, and a little over a decade has passed since then! As a Seoul Chapter member, I volunteered as volunteer coordinator for PAC-2 (the 2nd Pan-Asia Conference) in 1999 and became Seoul Chapter President a couple of years later. In 2003, I was privileged and honored to step up to the presidency of National KOTESOL after one year of serving as National First Vice-President. Now, what transpired during my year as President?

Here is an excerpt from my presidential message appearing in the Nov./Dec. 2003 issue of *The English Connection*: "Our distinguished past presidents have continually striven to implement KOTESOL mission statements through leadership development and better service. Many of their goals have been achieved, but others await implementation. Given this progress, I will continue to apply our mission statements, and will do my best to upgrade KOTESOL both in quality of output and number of active members."

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*"I will continue to apply our mission statements."*

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As you are probably aware, our mission statement is: "To promote scholarship, disseminate information, and facilitate cross-cultural understanding among persons concerned with the teaching and learning of English in Korea." To promote scholarship, I tried to put more emphasis on research by encouraging our members to submit research papers for the *Korea TESOL Journal* and to give presentations at our regional, national, and international conferences. The KOTESOL Research Committee (Dr. Joo-Kyung Park, Chair) was given a 2004 budget of two million won to award as research grants for the purpose of promoting research among our members. For the first time, five conference presentation research grants were awarded to members with outstanding proposals for the International Conference.

Regarding information dissemination, we continued to successfully implement this mission through our quarterly publication *The English Connection*, Chapter meetings, SIG forums and meetings, and KOTESOL Teacher Training (KTT) as KOTESOL has traditionally done. At the end of 2003, KOTESOL's eight chapters

increased to nine with the separation of Jeolla Chapter into two new chapters: North Jeolla Chapter and Gwangju-Jeonnang Chapter. Jeolla Chapter had been one of the most vibrant chapters, with many active members at that time. The ability of a chapter to divide into two demonstrates the growth of KOTESOL chapters at the time.

KTT was also operating actively under the leadership of Dr. Peter Nelson. Half a

dozen volunteer teacher trainers were providing presentations and workshops upon request at chapter meetings and at various conferences during my presidency. During 2004, KOTESOL's Special Interest Groups increased from six to nine. The three SIGs that were newly launched were the Global Issues SIG, the Games in Education SIG, and the Christian Teachers SIG. This too points to the increased activity taking place within KOTESOL at the time.

In trying to further facilitate cross-cultural understanding, KOTESOL provided appropriate presentations and seminars concerning cross-cultural issues at our conferences and other events like the Drama Fest to enhance our mutual understanding on different cultures. The Culture Corner column was begun in *The English Connection*, but our efforts to create a Culture SIG were not realized.

Our biggest event of all was the 12th KOTESOL International Conference. It was held at Sookmyung Women's University on October 9th and 10th under the theme of "Expanding Horizons: Techniques and Technologies in ELT," which was very successful in both quality and quantity. Invited speakers Paul Nation, Joy Reid, Kathleen Graves, and Boyoung Lee headlined our 149 presentations, more than ever before for a KOTESOL conference. Attendance of over 800 participants was also higher than it had been in recent years, thanks to hardworking conference committee members including David Kim, Conference Chair; Sharon Morrison, Conference Co-chair; Dr. David Shaffer, Conference Treasurer; Phil Owen, Program Chair; Louisa Lau-Kim, Publicity Chair; and Dr. Yangdon Ju.

Another big KOTESOL event was the convening of the first National Conference (in addition to our annual international conference) hosted by Seoul Chapter and

### Presidential Memoirs

Series Editor: David E. Shaffer



supported by the National KOTESOL. This historic conference was well organized, attracted many attendees, and paved the way for future national conferences. The Drama Fest organized by the Daejeon-Chungnam Chapter, the Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter Conference, and the Gwangju-Jeongnam/North Jeolla Joint Conference, all of which I attended, were also beautifully organized and successfully held. In addition, Suwon-Gyeonggi Chapter co-hosted a two-day conference with the Gyeonggi English Teachers' Association in December and a one-day conference in May.

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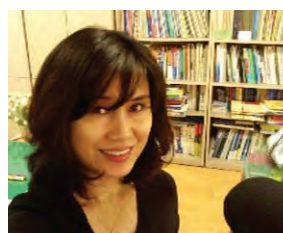
*This historic conference paved the way for future national conferences.*

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Two unforgettable events that I attended during my presidency were international conferences organized by our PAC Partners. ThaiTESOL 2004 in Khon Kaen, Thailand, and FEELTA 2004 (the PAC-5 Conference) in Vladivostok, Russia, broadened my horizons through fruitful, enlightening, and rewarding experiences and left me with many joyful memories. I shall not forget that at the 24th Annual ThaiTESOL International Conference, titled "Prioritizing Teacher Development," I learned a lot about leadership, network-building, and organizing skills.

During my 2003-2004 presidency, everything went smoothly and peacefully in general, thanks to all the talented people around me. Those KOTESOLers whom I would like to recognize and give heartfelt thanks for their advice and hard work are Dr. David Shaffer, Dr. Sangdo Woo, and Dr. Kyungsook Yeum, as well as Dr. Peter Nelson, Kevin Landry, David Kim, Tory Torkelson, Dr. Joo-Kyung Park, and Robert Dickey. They encouraged and helped me in so many ways to make my presidency another good year for Korea TESOL.

**The Author**



Past President Myung-Jai Kang in her study.

*Myung-Jai Kang has been a professor in the Business English Department at Yeoo Institute of Technology since 1998. She stepped into KOTESOL in 1998 as a conference-goer, and then volunteered on various conference committees. On the Seoul Chapter executive, Dr. Kang served as Vice-President and then President of Seoul Chapter. She went on to serve as National First Vice-President and then became National President in 2003. She received her doctorate degree in English Language and Literature from Hongik University in Seoul after she finished her master's degree at the University of Wisconsin-River Falls in the U.S. Her research interests include language acquisition, learning strategies, multiple intelligences, syllabus design, and English for Specific Purposes. Email: mj kang5@hotmail.com*

**KOTESOL's Presidents**

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Dr. Sangdo Woo	2002-03
<b>Dr. Myung-Jai Kang</b>	<b>2003-04</b>
Dr. Kyungsook Yeum	2004-05
Louisa T.C. Kim	2005-06
Dr. Marilyn Plumlee	2006-07
Philip Owen	2007-08
Tory Thorkelson	2008-

**A Quote to Ponder**

"Our experience teaching in foreign countries, where language and culture might be unfamiliar and life especially stressful, has helped teach us that anxiety and exhaustion can be turned into something fruitful if we can step outside the trap periodically and seek space and solitude."

**Christine Pearson Casanave & Miguel Sosa**  
*Respite for Teachers* (2007, p. 141)

## The 2004-05 Presidency: Reflections and Vision

By Kyungsook Yeum, KOTESOL's 13th President

While stepping down from the presidency about four years ago, I remember having mixed feelings. I had a sense of accomplishment for what we had achieved, a sense of regret for unfulfilled dreams, and a sense of release from the responsibilities of being president. Looking back on my 2004-05 term as president, I think of it as a challenging year, but overall, a productive year, due to the dedicated and competent work of the National Council and the tremendous support from our members. Most of all, personally, it was a great learning opportunity to serve as the president of KOTESOL.

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### *My major goal was the expansion of membership benefits.*

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First of all, I will give an overview of my year as president. The major goal I wanted to accomplish during my tenure was an expansion of membership benefits. One outcome of this emphasis, both physical and symbolic, was the provision of membership cards and certificates for the first time in KOTESOL history. This project's goals were realized that summer, thanks to superb work of Membership Chair David Kim and the support of the National Council. Also, KOTESOL brand items - shirts, pins, and backpacks - were prepared as sales items for purchase at places such as the membership booth at the KOTESOL conferences. I believed that these brand items would remind us of our KOTESOL identity and publicize KOTESOL to potential members and supporters. In addition, our first-ever online membership application became available in August. This was made possible by the collaborative efforts of Database Manager Stephen Bew and Technologies Committee Chair John Phillips. I am still truly appreciative of their efforts and accomplishments.

Regarding professional development, chapter meeting/workshop and other professional development event dates throughout the nation almost doubled on KOTESOL calendars. These included five regional conferences and symposia in different locations throughout the nation. I was nearly disowned by my family for not being at home on weekends due to my

commitments to these weekend KOTESOL meetings and "intellectual festivals." Definitely, all chapter presidents and event organizers at that time deserve recognition, as do our members who participated in these events and enabled them to be so meaningful. Also, our first SIG Day was successfully hosted by the Seoul Chapter in May. This was the start of a KOTESOL tradition of SIG symposia, serving to provide meeting opportunities for members while strengthening our professional core. The National Council also reached a consensus concerning a KOTESOL national conference, to complement our annual international conference in October. It was agreed that the national conference would be held in the spring at a venue outside of Seoul with a KOTESOL chapter as its primary organizer. This was in part due to the proactive national conference support of Dr. David Shaffer, our National Treasurer, and his devising of the newly adopted "grants system" for a national conference and other KOTESOL events.

Our publications continued to grow in stature and quality, and *The English Connection* (TEC) deserves recognition for its professional quality and content. Editor-in-Chief Jake Kimball, associate and column editors, contributors, and passionate readers, also merit acknowledgement for their efforts and support. Also sent out to readers was the 2004 KOTESOL

### *Presidential Memoirs*

*Series Editor: David E. Shaffer*



▲ Dr. Yeum with Rod Ellis.

*Proceedings*, for which David Shaffer, David Kim, and others spent untold hours in compilation, editing, and layout.

The highlight of KOTESOL's collective efforts for professional development was the 2005 International Conference, held on October 15-16 at Sookmyung Women's University in Seoul. Among the record eleven invited speakers were Mario Rinvoluceri, Brock Bradey (TESOL's incoming President), and JoAnn Crandall. Over the two-day period, more than 150 presentations were given under the theme "From Concept to Context," and conference attendance rose to over 900 for the first time. Special thanks should go to Conference Chair Sharon Morrison and Co-chair Sean Coutts, to Program Chair Phil Owen, and to all the other conference team members.

As President, I considered nurturing leadership skills as one of the top priorities of my term. I strongly believed that KOTESOL should provide this opportunity. One factor contributing to the involvement of more members in the decision-making process was the newly developed, online voting process for the National officers, which complemented onsite voting available at the 2005 International Conference. My core belief regarding KOTESOL is straightforward: Our leaders should share their vision while they provide inspiration and create a mosaic of common goals. I remember how excited I felt at the possibility of achieving that vision at the annual business meeting

(ABM) of the TESOL convention that I attended as a representative of KOTESOL. Being able to stroll down San Antonio's renowned Riverwalk and sample the local Texan cuisine was more than enough compensation for the hectic TESOL Convention schedule for March 30-April 2, 2005. The TESOL Convention was a huge "intellectual festival," accommodating seven thousand people from over a hundred Affiliates from all around the world. Above all, at the TESOL ABM, I met with role-model TESOL leaders, whose vision and challenges brought changes to the organization. There was mutual respect between the officers on the stage and the general members in the audience, based on a balanced group dynamics. There was an apparent on-going dialogue between the outgoing and incoming officers since they were sharing a common mission. Decorum and tradition were observed throughout the meeting. Briefly, the ABM itself looked like a happy reunion among TESOLers for the creation of a better vision of the TESOL world.

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## *Nurturing leadership skills was a top priority.*

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I wish we KOTESOL members were able to share more vision, and I wish we had the courage to implement more new ideas as well as communicate better. At the same time, I wish more opportunities could be provided to facilitate leadership within the membership of our organization. The KOTESOL membership should be fertile ground for the development of new leaders for our organization. Hopefully, more forums to enhance future combinations of "new faces" and "institutional memory" will be developed to direct KOTESOL on the road of progress into the future.

### **The Author**



**Dr. Kyungsook Yeum** has been working as administrative professor of the TESOL programs at Sookmyung Women's University for over 10 years. She also did her undergraduate and graduate studies at Sookmyung and received an MA TESOL from the University of Maryland (USA). For the betterment of the English education in Korea, she has actively participated in organizing conferences and forums to address both the global and domestic issues related to ELT. Dr. Yeum served as the president of KOTESOL in 2004-05, as 1st Vice-President the year before that, and as Chair of various National Council Committees. Additionally, she has served as President of KOTESOL's Seoul Chapter (2003-04), as Vice-President of the Applied Linguistics Association of Korea (ALAK), and as Publicity Officer of the Korea Association of Teachers of English (KATE). She is presently serving as PAC 2010 Conference Chair for "Advancing ELT in the Global Context," and is willing to take on another enjoyable challenge in the future. Email: yeum@sookmyung.ac.kr

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Philip Owen	2007-08
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## 2005-06: Connecting National Council & Chapters - A Year of Harmony

By Louisa Lau-Kim, KOTESOL's 13th President

Before becoming President, I served as First Vice-President for a year. It was the normal course of progression back then. I was 27 and heavily pregnant with my daughter when I was elected. I was a business (MBA/MIB) graduate and was not an English professor or doing any teaching at the time. I was, in many ways, more an outsider than an insider to an English teaching society. Some questioned my ability, my age, my professional affiliation to run an association such as KOTESOL. Little did the naysayers know, however, that at business school, one of the first things we were taught was that regardless of the kind of organisation, once you knew how to manage one, you pretty much knew how to manage them all. Having obtained my postgraduate degree at 23, I also knew that age was not going to stop me from achieving what I perceived to be completely within my capability. I also think I am a classic example of how reverse psychology works perfectly well on a person - the more you think one cannot do something, the more they prove that they can.

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*I continued to attend as many Chapter meetings and events as I could.*

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Being relatively new to KOTESOL - I was on the Conference Committee for two years and one year on the National Council prior to running for 1st VP - I knew that I had to get to know the Chapters and the workings of the organisation better. During my year as 1st VP, being trained by a most nurturing President, Dr. Kyungsook Yeum, I visited the Chapters to learn what KOTESOL was all about. By this time, my daughter was born, and she went everywhere with me.

My year as 1st VP was an eye-opener - I learned that there was a real "them and us" mentality within the Chapters. Being a people-person, I knew then that my main goal had to be to change this way of thinking within our membership. During the year, I visited as many Chapters as I could and explained to them how I envisioned KOTESOL. These visitations worked well, as almost all the feedback I received was positive.

When I became President, I continued to attend as many Chapter meetings and events as I could. In fact, I

went to all the local conferences, delivered congratulatory addresses and mingled with our members. I made sure Chapters knew that the National Council was behind them 100% in their quest to better serve our members. In addition to KOTESOL events, I also represented our association at events that were hosted by our sister organisations. When I couldn't attend in person, my strong team members stood in for me. This brings me to mentioning a few key people, without whose guidance and assistance, my year as President would probably have been less satisfactory.

### Presidential Memoirs

Series Editor: David E. Shaffer

First and foremost is Dr. Marilyn Plumlee, who was elected to become my successor. Marilyn and I both shared the same ideas on how to better KOTESOL. What I could not do, she did for me and continued during her presidency. Marilyn was always friendly and helpful, and I was grateful for her infinite wisdom. Dr. David Shaffer, whom I consider amongst my best friends both within KOTESOL and Korea, extended help beyond his call of duty. I tried hard not to overload him with too many things, but as he had already been in KOTESOL for many years, and knew Korea inside out, I could not but seek out his knowledge! I remember the welcome I received from Dave when we first met, and he was one of the main



Louisa Lau-Kim at the opening ceremony addressing the International Conference.

factors in my becoming as active as I had in KOTESOL.

Dr. Robert Dickey: He is one for whom it is easy to form love-hate feelings, but once you get to know him better, you find that he is just being straightforward and does not beat around the bush. Rob was a real mentor to me. He explained the constitution and bylaws to me, the history of KOTESOL, and how it came to be what it now is. Rob would never hesitate to point out wrong turns and set me straight. He was patient, and most of all, he always listened. Jake Kimball: He always smiled and always had a kind word. Both Jake and Dave knew I could be just what KOTESOL needed and encouraged me to run for offices. If it were not for them, I do not think I would be writing this memoir now. Jake had always taken a back seat in KOTESOL, shying away from the limelight. People who did not know the operation of the organisation well might not have even known who he was or the work he was doing, though he was 2nd VP for two years and Nominations and Elections Chair for another two.

My presidency owes a lot to my predecessor, Dr. Kyungsook Yeum. I remember saying in my inaugural speech that she was like a mother to me. While she did not literally hold my hand, she was always caring and kind. Our relationship was beyond professional. She enquired after my family, my daughter, my health - and continues to do so. Being an expatriate in Korea meant

that I had no family of my own, except the one I married into, and having someone like Dr. Yeum, whom I could look up to professionally and personally, was very encouraging to my own professional growth.

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## *A highlight of my year was the introduction of the National Conference.*

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Part of my "legacy" as President was shorter Council meetings. Before me, these meetings were known for their extreme length. The first one I attended began at one o'clock and lasted until seven, and with some of the agenda items still to be considered! When I became President, I promised that I would keep the meetings to a maximum of four hours: We would start at one and finish at five. This I achieved with ease - thanks largely to the wonderful Council we had that year. I have entitled this memoir "A Year of Harmony" for this very reason. We really did get on splendidly. There was a real sense of unity, and we all wanted to work towards a better KOTESOL. I could not have shortened the meetings without the help of Dr. Steve Garrigues. He would hold my daughter Letty, who had just turned one, as she slept during the meetings, making sure she was comfortable, so that I could focus. Taking my daughter to meetings and events was a necessity because of her age. It was all a part of the joy of motherhood I came to cherish, and I was happy to have been able to spread this joy around by having her by my side wherever I went.

A highlight of my year as President was the introduction of the National Conference, which was organized by the then Daejeon-Chungnam Chapter. The idea of the National Conference was generated after some discussion to serve our members better. It was felt that the International Conference, which was held primarily in Seoul, could not meet the needs of many members that did not live in Seoul, as they found it difficult to get to Seoul to attend that conference. The National Conference was a success with very encouraging results to ensure future conferences. The Daejeon-Chungnam Chapter officers did a fabulous job organizing the event, which set a high bar for the next organizers to follow!

The other major highlight of the year was our annual international conference: Advancing ELT: Empowering Teachers, Empowering Learners. It was a great success by all accounts. We had a full dozen of high-powered invited speakers, including heavyweights Dr. Jack Richards, Dr. Andy Curtis, Dr. Nina Spada, and Dr. Chris Candlin. In addition to having more invited speakers than ever before, we had the most-ever presentations on offer with just over 200. These speakers and presentations attracted an audience for the two-day event (October 28-29) that approached

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Dr. Marilyn Plumlee	2006-07
Philip Owen	2007-08
Tory Thorkelson	2008-09
Robert Capriles	2009-

1,000. The entire International Conference team, chaired by Allison Bill, is to be thanked for their accomplishment.

With my “can-do” attitude, I believe my year as president was a success. I have talked to a few people who remember my tenure, and they agree that it was possibly the most peaceful Council they have experienced. They also agreed that my age and lack of an English teaching background did not take away from being a good leader. I remember, however, that even the best leader requires the support of her followers, and I am truly grateful for the support and encouragement I received. I hope that you will continue to give KOTESOL the support it needs for its continuous growth.

Korea TESOL has and will always be an organisation that I am proud to be a part of, and I hope that you feel

the same way.

### **The Author**

**Louisa Lau-Kim** is currently the Chair Professor of the Department of Global Business at Linton Global College, Hannam University in Daejeon. Born in Hong Kong, Louisa spent some of her childhood in her home city before being sent to Derby, England, for her education. After completing a post-graduate degree and feeling bored, Louisa accepted the invitation of a Korean venture business to come and work here. Originally intended for only one year, it has now stretched to nine. Louisa started her KOTESOL “career” as the Conference Publicity Chair, becoming National Publicity Chair shortly thereafter. One year later, she ran for 1st Vice-President. The rest is in these memoirs. After holding two of its most important positions in KOTESOL for five of the last seven years, Louisa is taking a step back to enjoy some quality time with her daughter, but still remains an active member by being the Business English Special Interest Group (SIG) Facilitator. Email: [louisakim\\_kotesol@yahoo.com](mailto:louisakim_kotesol@yahoo.com)



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# Reflections on the Plumlee Presidency: 2006-07

By Dr. Marilyn Plumlee, KOTESOL's 14th President

Steering any organization is a daunting and sobering task, and more so if it is publicly recognized as one of the players in a society such as Korea, where the organization's focus overlaps with issues of paramount interest to that society. In the case of KOTESOL, I am referring of course to the teaching of English. But leadership of KOTESOL is a two-fold task; beyond the public eye, there are challenges at another level, at the level of the membership. Leading an organization composed of several hundred members from a multiplicity of cultures with extremely divergent life experiences, professional goals, and expectations from the organization brings its own challenges.

Contrary to some earlier presidents who took office after long years of service to KOTESOL at both the chapter and national level, I was a relative newcomer to a leadership role in KOTESOL when I was elected as 1st Vice-President and first served on the National Council

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## *One of my primary goals was to nurture emerging leaders.*

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in 2005, before moving up to the office of President in 2006, following KOTESOL protocol at that time. I had been a "typical" KOTESOL member up to that point, in that I was first attracted to the organization by its international conference. In fact, I attended the international conference in the late 1990s as an overseas presenter while still a Ph.D. graduate student at the University of Hawaii. After accepting a teaching position in Korea in 2000, I began attending the annual conference on a regular basis, and it was there that I met some KOTESOL leaders who asked me to serve as a SIG leader. Around that time, I became active on the organizing committee of the International Conference, thanks to the persuasive powers of Sean O'Connor, our long- and valiantly serving technical director for the conference. Serving on the dynamic, 50-member-strong "ConComm" amply demonstrated to me that KOTESOL has a large pool of talented volunteers just waiting to be asked to lend their time and expertise to KOTESOL's mission, and I realized that this large, task-oriented committee was an ideal place in which to cultivate the committed, visionary

leaders with practical skills so needed by KOTESOL to keep the organization healthy.

As I began my presidency in the fall of 2006, one of my primary goals for my term in office was to nurture emerging leaders and leadership skills in our members. To do this, I brought in some new faces as committee chairs to serve on the National Council, and I actively worked to encourage more Korean participation in the local chapter meetings as well as on major committees such as the International Conference Committee.

## *Presidential Memoirs*

*Series Editor: David E. Shaffer*

In the years prior to my presidency, there had been a history of tensions between some members or factions within KOTESOL. Another major goal during my presidency thus became the defusing of these tensions by developing a spirit of common cause and by stimulating a culture of pragmatism in the pursuit of KOTESOL's main mission: promoting professional development among people involved in the English teaching profession in Korea. Onsite or behind the scenes on the phone, I spent many hours counseling and advising KOTESOL members at meetings, workshops, and conferences. I actively tried to encourage respect for the diversity in backgrounds, teaching situations, and individual stages of personal and professional development. For the most part, this resulted in smooth collaboration between active members and leaders throughout my tenure.

Many traditions of KOTESOL were maintained and several new initiatives were brought to fruition in 2006-07, all due to the dedication of many KOTESOL members working at both local and National levels. Among these initiatives, both old and new, can be mentioned the exceptionally large number of conferences organized that year, offering numerous opportunities for professional development to KOTESOL's members. Seoul, North Jeolla, and Gwangju Chapters all organized conferences in their area. In addition to several concurrent presentations by KOTESOL members, Seoul's March 2007 conference

featured an international speaker from Japan, Kip Cates, a regular invited speaker, speaking to the conference theme of “Global Education and Bringing the World into Our Classrooms.” The Daegu and Busan Chapters combined forces under the leadership of Todd Vercoe, Steve Garrigues, and Andrew Finch to hold the Second National Conference in June 2007 on the campus of Kyungpook National University in Daegu, with three international guest speakers. The Daejeon-Chungnam Chapter, under the leadership of Aaron Jolly, organized the 2006 Autumn Symposium, which featured Richard Graham, a speaker on young learners based in Japan, as well as a live webcast from Carnegie-Mellon University in Pennsylvania, USA. The highlight of KOTESOL’s year was, as always, the international conference held in Seoul. In 2007, Gye-Hyoung Yoo was the International Conference chair, a year when the number of attendees surpassed 1,000, to reach a total of 1,050. During the two-day event, 130 academic papers and workshops, and 56 sponsored presentations were given

Another major development during my presidency was that the Jeju chapter was re-activated, due in large measure to the vision, commitment, and hard work on the part of a newly arrived EPIK teacher on Jeju, Calvin Rains. I appointed Joshua Davies as National Webmaster and thanks to his dedication, perseverance, and willingness to answer innumerable questions from chapter webmasters as well as members at large, we were able to launch the groundwork for a system which has allowed KOTESOL to upgrade its web presence substantially over the past three years. Numerous documents of interest to KOTESOL members are now available online. Scheduled upcoming events organized by each chapter are readily accessible as soon as they are posted by the chapter webmasters. Members can join and update their personal data individually without going through a data manager. This upgrade has been done in close collaboration with technical advice and guidance from John Phillips, another loyal and long-serving member, who has been KOTESOL’s



▲Marilyn Plumlee (center) at the 2007 TESOL Convention with Puerto Rican representatives.

Technologies Committee Chair for a number of years.

At the Annual Business Meeting in October 2006, after a rather long and contentious debate, it became clear that certain points of the organization’s constitution and by-laws needed clarification in order to eliminate future confusion and controversies. Drafting these changes and analyzing their implications became another major initiative of my presidency, and Robert Dickey contributed substantially to drafting the wording of those revisions, which were submitted to the KOTESOL membership and approved in October 2007. One of the major changes instituted was that of direct election of the KOTESOL president to a two-year term, a change that I proposed while in office because I felt that a one-year term of office for busy educators serving the organization in a purely volunteer capacity did not give a president enough time to settle into the role nor to implement changes in line with their vision for the organization, even when that year of presidency was preceded by a vice-presidential year as “president-in-waiting.” Another argument in favor of the two-year presidency was that comparable Korean organizations

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*Many traditions were maintained and several new ones were brought to fruition.*

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have two-year terms of office, and KOTESOL’s limited one-year term had the effect of diminishing the prestige of the organization, or at least the stature of its president, among these peer organizations.

Among the active and productive committee chairs or department heads during my tenure, I must mention Jake Kimball, Editor-in-Chief of *The English Connection*, who labored many hours to maintain the quality of TEC, one of our most important publications. David Shaffer served as National Treasurer, and in many other capacities, lending his seemingly boundless energy, considerable linguistic talents, and institutional memory to the stewardship of KOTESOL. Phil Owen was First Vice-President during my tenure, and he was an invaluable sounding board on many occasions. Tory Thorkelson was the Nominations and Elections Chair that year. He was able to institute, at the National Council’s direction, a workable, trustworthy system of online voting for national officers that had been unsuccessfully attempted in the past. Allison Bill was Chair of the International Affairs Committee and did an excellent job of liaising with our institutional partners in the Asia-Pacific region as well as with TESOL in the U.S. and IATEFL in the U.K. Immediate and recent past presidents, Kyungsook Yeum and Louisa Kim, were also important sounding boards to me as president, and both generously offered guidance and support to me throughout my year as president.



While serving as President of KOTESOL, I was often asked to contribute remarks to newspapers or other public fora when issues arose related to English teaching policy or the role of English teachers in Korea. This public role of the KOTESOL president in the eyes of Korean society as an authoritative resource on English language teaching and as a spokesperson for the English teaching profession is not often seen by the members at large, but in the year of my presidency, it took up a rather substantial amount of my time, as several English language issues arose in the political sphere which were of deep concern to Korean society. One statement to the press regarding discriminatory practices in language institutes that I made drew particular attention for several months, most of it quite positive. I was asked by a columnist to comment on the issue of language institutes being reluctant to hire native English speakers who were either of Korean heritage or who were not of “white, European heritage,” due to parental pressures on their directors to hire English teachers based on stereotypical ideas of what English teachers should look like. My suggestion was that language institutes should pursue more inclusive hiring practices and that they could take a pro-active stance in doing so, justifying their decisions as their contribution to the globalization and multiculturalism of the students.

Summing up, I can say that issues and initiatives needing to be addressed during my presidency were substantial

and numerous, and at least good progress was made on nearly all of them, thanks to the collaboration of talented, enthusiastic members and the support of numerous steadfast KOTESOL leaders. Most of these initiatives are still works-in-progress that the current leadership and current members will no doubt need to pursue, taking them on board as their own challenges. Among these are supporting the nascent Jeju Chapter as well as all local chapters in their efforts to offer quality workshops and conferences in their local areas, constantly upgrading the web site, initiating constitutional and bylaws changes as the needs become apparent, and maintaining the high number and high quality of regional, national, and international annual conferences. Also of importance are maintaining the high quality and regular frequency of TEC (and improving the frequency of publication of the *Korea TESOL Journal*), continuing to seek out active participation of members, encouraging more Koreans to take leadership roles in the organization, increasing the relevancy of the organization within Korean society and the English language learning profession, maintaining the international visibility of the organization. KOTESOL is a large and dynamic organization serving a diverse audience. I am confident that the interests and professionalism of its members will continue to steer it in ways that best serve the interests of those members.

**The Author**



**Marilyn Plumlee** began her career in language education with a B.A. in Education from the University of Kansas, double majoring in the teaching of French and German as foreign languages. After pursuing multiple career paths in international educational exchange and cross-cultural communication, she received her Ph.D. in Linguistics from the University of Hawaii. Her dissertation topic was on the use of prosody as a linguistic resource in English language narratives of long-term Korean immigrants.

In 2000, Dr. Plumlee moved to Korea to teach at Hankuk University of Foreign Studies (HUFU), where she is Associate Professor in the Department of Linguistics. She teaches English and linguistics courses at the undergraduate level and linguistics, applied linguistics, and bilingual education courses at the graduate level as well as courses in the TESOL certificate program. She also serves as Director of HUFU's International Student Office and as Director of the International Summer Session in Korean Studies.

Dr. Plumlee's publications and primary research interests are in discourse analysis, second language acquisition, socially situated linguistics, contact language phenomena, and sign language linguistics. She speaks French, German, Spanish, Arabic, Korean, and American, International, and Korean Sign Languages. In addition to KOTESOL, she is an active member of numerous professional associations in Korea and abroad in the fields of linguistics, American Studies, and Korean Studies. Email: [mariplum@yahoo.com](mailto:mariplum@yahoo.com)

## KOTESOL's Presidents

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Dr. Kyungsook Yeum	2004-05
Louisa T.C. Kim	2005-06
<b>Dr. Marilyn Plumlee</b>	<b>2006-07</b>
Philip Owen	2007-08
Tory Thorkelson	2008-09
Robert Capriles	2009-

# “Change” Was the Theme: 2007-08

By Philip Owen, KOTESOL’s 15th President

Change was a big theme in my year as president. Shortly after I became president of KOTESOL, Lee Myung-bak became president of the Republic of Korea. Early in his term, President Lee made the teaching of English in the school system a priority. The good points, bad points, and possible changes to English education in Korea were a public and heated topic and have resulted in several programs.

One spin-off from this nationwide discussion was the Joint Symposium on Public English Education held in Seoul in April 2008. The Symposium brought together representatives of all of the major ELT organizations in Korea. It was arranged by Dr. Lee Hyo-Woong and others at Asia TEFL and underwritten by Credu. Not only was this the first time representatives of the various organizations had gotten together to talk about English education, but it was also the first time we were able to meet with a high-ranking official from the Ministry of Education, Science and Technology.

Through a series of formal presentations and some informal chat, we discussed our concerns about the state of public English education. This was not a venue for decision making, but representatives of the various groups did voice concerns, and I think Dr. Seok-hwan Oh, from the Ministry, heard and understood the concerns which were raised. It was certainly good to see so many folks gathered to discuss the future of our students and our profession in this country.

One of the great changes which occurred during this time was the dissolution of Cheongju Chapter and its incorporation into the Daejeon-Chungnam Chapter. For over two years, Cheongju Chapter had been experiencing turnover in leadership and problems holding successful meetings. In the spring, I, along with two or three others, went to Cheongju to meet the members in the area, offer some workshops, and help them determine the best way for the Chapter to proceed.

After discussion, it was decided by the Cheongju members that they could not realistically expect to revive the Chapter without some support. Therefore, at the next National Council meeting, it was decided to dissolve the Cheongju Chapter. The Daejeon-Chungnam Chapter was authorized to work with the members in Cheongju and count them as members. In light of this change, the Daejeon-Chungnam Chapter changed its name to Daejeon-Chungcheong to reflect its role in the whole of that part of Korea. This was the first time a local chapter of KOTESOL had been

dissolved. It was not a move anyone took lightly, but it was necessary to provide the best possible service to the members in Cheongju.

On a happier note, 2007 saw the revival of the Jeju Chapter of KOTESOL. This chapter had lain dormant for some time, but, spurred on by leaders such as Calvin Rains and Jamie Carson, it rallied to help the teachers of Jeju develop. This started earlier in 2007 when I was still the First Vice-President. In the spring, I went to Jeju along with Allison Bill to present workshops for the teachers there. A few of the local leaders had rounded up about 50 teachers. We held the workshops, and Dr. Changyong Yang addressed the whole group. Out of this effort, the local teachers got a taste of KOTESOL and have kept the ball rolling.

In 2008, KOTESOL received an invitation to participate in the Franklin Global SpellEvent to be held in 2009. The SpellEvent was hosted jointly by Franklin Electronic Publishing and TESOL, Inc., and would spotlight some bright Korean middle school students by inviting them to participate in a spelling bee. The winner would eventually go on to compete in the finals held in New York City. With the help of Sookmyung University and a few dedicated KOTESOL members, most notably First Vice-President Tory Thorkelson, we accepted the invitation and started the ball rolling,

*Presidential  
Memoirs*  
Series Editor: David E. Shaffer



Phil Owen presenting at an organizational meeting of the Jeju Chapter.

though the spelling bee would not occur until after I had left the presidency. Incidentally, the Korean schoolboy who won the Korean competition went on to take second place in the Global SpellEvent. The Franklin SpellEvent now promises to be an annual event for KOTESOL.

Another milestone was reached when the Global Issues Special Interest Group and the Daejeon-Chungnam Chapter cooperated in putting on a symposium in November at Sun Moon University in Asan. The symposium brought in Dr. George Jacobs from Singapore, who spoke on *Putting a Participation Element into Global Education Activities*, and brought together KOTESOL members from around the country to share their insights and experiences on introducing important issues to their classrooms.

The spring of 2008 was quite active at the chapter level. Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter started things off with a mid-March joint conference in Gwangju with the 21st Century Association of Language and Literature. At the end of the month, Seoul Chapter held their annual conference, inviting Mario Rinvoluceri as their plenary speaker. In mid-May, North Jeolla Chapter held their regional conference in Jeonju. The local conferences were all well attended and provided excellent professional development opportunities for member and non-member teachers throughout the country.

On a warm Sunday in August, KOTESOL hosted a reflective afternoon with Dr. Thomas Farrell of Brock University (Canada). At the cafe complex in Seoul's Shinchon area, Dr. Farrell talked for three hours on *Re-energizing Teaching Through Reflective Practice*. The event was well attended and very well received, becoming the first of several KOTESOL events that Dr. Farrell has been invited to.

Absent from KOTESOL's spring calendar was a national conference, but we worked to keep that from happening again. The Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter submitted a proposal to hold the 2009 National Conference at the Korea National University of Education near Cheongju, and the proposal was approved at our August National Council Meeting.

The term as KOTESOL president ends with the annual International Conference. In 2008, the theme of the conference was about responding to a changing world, and it could hardly have been more relevant. Conference Chair Rob Dickey also broadened the scope of the International Conference by including a futurist as one of the featured speakers. Plenary speakers included Scott Thornbury and David Graddol. In addition to the thirteen invited speakers, there were 169 parallel sessions, and the attendance was record-setting, at nearly 1200 attendees. We were reminded throughout the Conference of the importance and inevitability of change and of being prepared for that change.

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### The Author



**Philip Owen**, MEd, MDiv, majored in French and minored in Linguistics, served in the US Air Force as a Russian Language Specialist, and finished his Masters Degree in Education with the University of Southern California while on active duty. After the service, Phil entered UCLA and left two years later with a TESL/TEFL teaching certificate.

Phil's first teaching job was in Omaha, Nebraska, working with refugees from the war in Vietnam. This left him with enduring interests in Indochina and in refugee issues. He also taught in various other programs in the United States.

In 1999, Phil journeyed to Gunsan, Korea, where he taught in the Language Education Center of the national university there. A year later, Phil joined the English Department of Kunsan National University as a visiting professor and continues to hold that position. Since coming to Korea, Phil has been active in Korea TESOL, giving presentations and serving in many leadership positions. He has held several offices both within the Jeonju-North Jeolla Chapter, including president, and at the National level. He was National President in 2007-08 and has been the Program Chair for five KOTESOL international conferences.

Phil currently teaches undergraduate English conversation and writing, and teaches classes at the graduate level for English Education majors. He tries to broaden students' horizons by addressing issues of importance to our world in many of his classes. He works his Moodle site into all of his classes and tries to brighten his classes with lively, communicative activities. Email: philkotesol@yahoo.com

# KOTESOL 2008-09: Growing and Thriving

By Tory S. Thorkelson, KOTESOL's 16th President

I often begin my writings with a quotation. For these memoirs, one by Douglas Adams humorously comes to mind: "Anyone who is capable of getting themselves made President should on no account be allowed to do the job." This conjures up a story I once heard when I was young about a farmer who takes his son out on the farm one day and asks him what he sees. The boy lists off the animals, crops, etc., and when the boy is done, the farmer says, "That's right, but what you have listed are the things not the spirit or the legacy. Remember to respect the land and leave it better than you found it for your offspring." I think this sums up what I most wanted to accomplish during my time as both National 1st Vice-President and President. Of course, my legacy to KOTESOL is not for me to decide, but let me review what I see as the highlights and accomplishments of my 2008-09 term as President.

We started the year with probably the most "presidential" National Council ever, with many past presidents agreeing to take committee chair positions on my team. Dr. Marilyn Plumlee (International Affairs), Dr. Kyungsook Yeum (Domestic Relations), and Louisa Lau-Kim (International Conference) were always willing to offer their experience and input as past-presidents and were invaluable during my presidency. Of course, their presence on Council was probably primarily due to their untiring devotion to KOTESOL. The other past presidents on the team were Phil Owen (Immediate Past President) and Dr. Myung-Jai Kang (Publicity).

All but two of the Council positions were filled within a short time of my taking over as President, and most of them volunteered their services rather than waiting to be approached, for which I am grateful. People like John Phillips (Technologies), Joshua Davies (Webmaster and KTT), and many others were always there when KOTESOL needed them, and have worked with many Presidents along the way without a fuss. To them we are also beholden.

The elected officers were also very supportive and willing to get the day-to-day business of KOTESOL done. Special mention goes to my right hand man, Tim Dalby, who, as my 1st Vice-President, took many of my ideas for both updating the website and setting goals for our administration, for example, far beyond what I had expected to accomplish when setting them. Many of these form the basis of the Policies and Procedures Manual that is currently being developed by Aaron Dougan and his committee. Thanks also to Sherry

Seymour who, as Nominations and Elections Chair, worked tirelessly to recruit the best slate of candidates for the national election in the history of our organization. Dr. David E. Shaffer and Phil Owen also deserve my gratitude for always reminding me of previous practices and KOTESOL precedents when I was unaware of them or of their possible relevance to what I was doing as President. I hope that the efforts of all the council members, past and present, are recognized by us all.

## Presidential Memoirs

Series Editor: David E. Shaffer

Both the Seoul Chapter Conference and the National Conference of 2009 had over 300 people in attendance - a true testament to the work of both Seoul Chapter's executive and the Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter's efforts to publicize and put on quality events. These events highlighted that chapters and national could work together effectively to organize and build up both regional and national events with broad appeal. They also proved that focusing primarily on the October International Conference at the expense of other local and regional events is no longer a productive direction for KOTESOL.

Thanks to the superior efforts of the Publications Committee, *Proceedings 2008* and the previous two years were made ready to go to press, and work on



President Thorkelson (center) at KOTESOL 2009 with Dr. David Nunan (right) and Past President Louisa Lau-Kim.

*Proceedings 2009* was started earlier than usual. Maria Pinto and her team deserve kudos for their unrelenting hard work on *Proceedings* preparations, which has continued this year as well. Thanks to Dr. Kara MacDonald and her tireless efforts, *TEC* has never fallen behind in publication date or quality. Further, the *Korea TESOL Journal* may finally be getting back on track as I write this.

During my office, KOTESOL hosted the first-ever Global Spellevent, a preliminary round of the international spelling bee organized by Franklin Electronic Publishers in cooperation with TESOL, Inc. It was held in May 2009, and the Korean middle school student who won the event went on to the finals in New York to take second place there. The event was hosted by KOTESOL again this spring, and once again, it was a huge success - even larger and more successful than last year. This event strengthens our relationship with TESOL as well as the local community. This is, in fact, one of only two events on our busy calendar of events that directly benefits and involves students rather than teachers - which is a major reason that I think we should continue to host it. And indeed, it seems destined to be an annual KOTESOL event. The other event which focuses on students rather than teachers is the annual Drama Festival held by Jeonju-North Jeolla

Chapter in the autumn.

Thanks in part to my efforts to lobby for the Pan Asian Consortium (PAC) as well as Dr. Yeum's enthusiasm and willingness to be an organizer, PAC 2010 is being hosted by KOTESOL this October for only the second time in our organization's history. Despite what has been a rough couple of years economically for much of the world, KOTESOL did not lose a significant number of members during 2008-09; generally stable at around 660 members, it broke the 700 mark in the summer of 2009.

On the international front, we re-signed the KOTESOL-JALT agreement for another three-year period over the summer as well as renewing our TESOL affiliation paperwork. This brought us up to date on all our agreements with our partners at home and abroad. Also international in nature was our annual October conference, which is a fitting end to a president's term of office. Again, the international conference was a great success, breaking attendance records and attracting luminaries in the field of ELT such as David Nunan, Rod Ellis, Scott Thornbury, John Fanselow, Kathleen Bailey, and Tim Murphey.

While not everything done during 2008-09 was as successful as we may have wished - we still need better communication with our chapters, SIGs, and general membership and more sensitivity to their needs - I definitely feel that, on the whole, KOTESOL is in better shape than it was when I took over the helm as President. How my presidency will be viewed by posterity is not for me to decide, but I do know that all the sleepless nights were not in vain if KOTESOL continues to thrive and grow to meet the evolving needs of the EFL community in Korea as it has done for the past 18 years.

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Philip Owen	2007-08
<b>Tory Thorkelson</b>	<b>2008-09</b>

### The Author



**Tory S. Thorkelson** is a proud Canadian who has been active in KOTESOL since 1998. Before coming to Korea he received his M.Ed. TESL/TEFL from the University of Manitoba. He was Research Coordinator for Hanyang University's PEEC Program before moving to their English Language and Literature Department in 2007. There he teaches skills courses and advises the UAHA Drama Club. Tory is now an associate professor and received a merit award for educational excellence earlier this year. While his background is in English, Social Studies, and ESL/EFL, he is also a stage actor with 30 years of experience. He created and taught CBI and ESP-focused courses in acting, the history of English, tourism English, and presentations and interview skills. He has co-authored research studies and a university-level textbook, *World Class English*, with fellow KOTESOL members. He has been an active KTT member, delivering presentations throughout Korea, most recently for the GEPIK and TaLK programs. He is also on the editorial boards of both the *CamTESOL* and *Daegu-Haany TESOL* journals and has been a certified examiner for both locally produced and international tests of English for nearly a decade. Email: thorkor@hotmail.com