



Korea TESOL Happenings and News

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Korea TESOL Happenings and News

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Member Spotlight: KC Washington

Down in the south-central section of the peninsula, in the laid-back city of Jinju, resides a KOTESOL member who is anything but idle. You may have seen her at a Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter event, giving a presentation at the local or national level, or attending one of KOTESOL's many other events. In this issue's interview, *Membership Spotlight* focuses its glow on Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter's vice-president, KC Washington. — Ed.

HAN: Thank you, KC, for agreeing to do this interview for *Korea TESOL Happenings and News*. First of all, before we get into your activities in Korea, would you tell us a little about who KC Washington was and what she did before coming to Korea?

KC: Hello, and thank you so much for this opportunity. Before coming to Korea, I tended bar in New York City, was a substitute TESOL instructor at Brooklyn College, and taught freelance ESL classes to housewives and restaurant workers. I am also a novelist, travel blogger, and freelance writer.

HAN: What an array of experiences! What was it that most influenced your decision to come to Korea? I don't imagine it was Psy and his *Gangnam Style*.

KC: Ha! Not quite! What influenced my decision the most was the desire for a bigger life. NYC was and is awesome, but after 25 years, I was ready for a challenge. I have always admired people who live abroad and a friend suggested I try Korea. Despite extensive travel, I had never been to Asia. After some research, Korea seemed to offer the best perks and seemed like the best fit for me.

HAN: You're teaching at Gyeongsang National University in Jinju. Would you describe what your work, your courses, your students are like there?

KC: Yes, I teach reading, writing, and critical thinking at GNU. I'm currently wrapping up my third semester. I love my subject matter; it's interesting and dynamic. Every class is a little different. It can also be difficult. My students are bright, but teaching learners who are used to rote memorization – who are unused to questioning the material, much less the professor – has been tough.

HAN: What are the most rewarding aspects, in addition to the biggest challenges, of teaching English in your teaching context?



KC enjoying the Dongpirang Mural Village in Tongyeong.



KC spending some time with elephants in Chiang Mai, Thailand – a bucket list check-off.

Nancy Drew Mystery Stories. Since then, I have written literary fiction, as well as murder mysteries. I am in the process of trying to sell my Harlow Ophelia Jackson mystery series set in 1920s Harlem. I published the novella *Mourning Becomes Her* with the Harlem Writers Guild in 2006 and have written numerous freelance articles on feminism, travel, and African American culture and history. I write travel pieces for my blog *Feminist Footprints* and am currently a contributor to BlackPast.org, a well-respected online encyclopedia of the African American and African diaspora.

HAN: Your writing interests are quite broad. I wonder how you first got involved with KOTESOL. Was it also somehow related to writing?

HAN: To be frank, I joined KOTESOL initially because I wanted to transition from teaching in a *hagwon* to university instruction, and all of my research pointed to KOTESOL as a useful tool for learning about potential jobs, offering opportunities to add strong professional development programs to CVs, and general networking. I think these are common reasons for joining the organization.

HAN: I know that your involvement in KOTESOL is multifaceted. You are active in Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter events, you give presentations, your writings have appeared in *The English Connection* and in the *Korea TESOL Journal*, and you are currently Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter vice president. What keeps you so motivated, so energized? What is so rewarding?

HAN: Ha! I like the way all of that looks on paper! Moving to the ROK was a chance to change old patterns and get out of my comfort zone – sorry for the clichés – and even after seven years here, I am determined to make the most of it. Fortunate to have a significant amount of free time, I like to keep busy, and although I am not a people person, I like to be involved. Being VP gives me the opportunity to learn from others and make connections. It also satisfies my desire to explore the country by creating events that take chapter members throughout the Busan-Gyeongnam area.

KC: As I mentioned, bridging the cultural differences in instructional expectations and teaching methods has been the biggest challenge. Between cultural reticence, individual shyness, and varying levels of English proficiency (my students are not level tested), it can be a struggle to get students talking and engaged, to get them to express their own opinions. The biggest reward has been the students who approach me at the end of the semester or send an email thanking me for helping them improve their writing skills.

HAN: In your introduction and elsewhere, you have described yourself as “a novelist, travel blogger, freelance writer.” Please tell us more about the type of writing that you do.

KC: Aw, my first and one-and-only love: writing. I wrote my first “novel” when I was 9, *The Mystery of the Floating Skull*. It was an homage to the

Writing for the various KOTESOL publications naturally scratches my insatiable need to write and work out knotty pedagogy questions.

HAN: What does the Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter have planned for the coming months? The chapter always seems to have something interesting going – from EFL workshops to Haeundae beach hops.

KC: Yes, we're thrilled to spread our wings now that COVID-19 has abated. Due to our work schedules and personal commitments, we can't be overly ambitious, but our goal is to offer our members a professional development or social event every other month. Upcoming is the aforementioned First Annual Busan Beach Hop, where we will explore the lesser-known beaches of Busan; an adult learners volunteer day in Hadong; a symposium (topic still TBD); and a Christmas/holiday event.

HAN: In what area or areas would you like to see KOTESOL move, or put more emphasis on, in the future?

KC: Honestly, I am still new to KOTESOL overall, so I'm not sure about what could be improved. I do sometimes feel like everyone is spread too thin, so perhaps quality over quantity might be an area to be examined.

HAN: Going forward, what plans do you have for yourself within KOTESOL, in the field of education, and in life in general – in both the coming years and the more distant future?

KC: Wow, no pressure! Ha ha. Within KOTESOL, I would like to write more and take on an even greater communications role. In the field of education, I would like to develop a writing lab where students can come to work on course projects and possibly personal writing projects. I would also like to do more academic writing if I can find time in between grading endless student essays. Personally, I am looking forward to downtime where I can begin working on my new mystery novel set in Korea just after the Korean War. I also want to explore more of the country and improve my Korean.

HAN: Well, good luck with your Korean language goal. I know you're a very busy person – teachers always are – but what do you like to do when you have some spare time?

KC: I'm obsessed with Korean bathhouses, so I spend a lot of time steaming and soaking. I also enjoy exploring this beautiful country and trying new foods. The intercity bus system is cheap and safe, so I love to hop on and do day or overnight trips to a new city. I have been to 30 cities so far. And then of course, there are long walks, reading books, and watching movies.

HAN: In your time here in Korea, what has been the biggest adjustment that you have had to make?

KC: As an intrepid New Yorker and former bartender, I take pride in being unfazed by different cultures. I'm used to meeting new people from varying backgrounds and figuring out how to make a connection quickly. However, the hierarchical culture, showing of deference, and constant gift-giving have taken some getting used to, and honestly, I don't think I have mastered it yet. On the other hand, not working in a tipping culture, where you never know if people are sincere, has been awesome.

HAN: As we conclude this interview, is there anything else that you would like to say to our *Korea TESOL Happenings and News* audience?

KC: I think that's about it. Thank you again for the opportunity!

HAN: And thank you, KC, for sharing so much with us in this interview. I'm sure we will be seeing you at upcoming KOTESOL events and meeting your writings in print.

Interviewed by David Shaffer.

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KOTESOL International Conference 2024: Expectations Surpassed!

By Rob Dickey

What do you expect from a conference? Expectations can be misleading, even when they are based on past experiences. KOTESOL 2024 was a nice surprise!

The KOTESOL International Conference has been *THE* major event in Korean ELT since the early 1990s, and has a history extending back to the 1980s (under various names). I've participated in every KOTESOL International Conference since 1995, plus another three dozen "national" and "regional" conferences under Korea TESOL, and just as many events through other organizations. I've seen a lot. Conferencing is part of my professional development and social connections. KOTESOL 2024 was special, it surpassed my expectations.



A view of the Opening Ceremony.

What do we expect in a TESOL conference? Inspirational invited speakers and diverse options for sessions, with dynamic workshops, informative papers and posters, all offering intellectual stimulation. Plus enchanting meet-ups with acquaintances and friends old and new. This year offered all that, and more: tasty lunches, nice snacks, and the comfort of a well-known venue that is convenient to mass-transit in the heart of the nation's capital city.

How many invited speakers do you need? KOTESOL 2024 had more, plus insightful panel sessions led by recognized experts (even when we don't all agree with all the positions raised!). With nearly 200 sessions scattered across the two days, yet all in close proximity, there was something for everyone nearly every minute. The hallways were alive with voices!

Sometimes expectations are unrealistic. Teacher events have evolved a lot since I was managing conferences. Covid dramatically impacted how participants join: "where" and how much. We are no longer looking at 750+ attendees, 60+ display tables, and the classic "name" presenters (Nunan, Richards, Ellis, et al.) in full-day conferences. But numbers are seldom an indicator of quality. It was wonderful to be back to full-on face-to-face: The social-transition from a "mask-optional" tentative "mostly f2f" in 2023 to fully f2f in 2024 could be sensed by all. The handful of online sessions – but for one plenary – were all asynchronous and could be viewed at one's convenience. Okay, conferencing is evolving. There are now many teachers who prefer online webinars and symposia. For me, conferencing derives from the opportunity to "confer" with colleagues, something few online events really do well. Additionally, there has been an unfortunate and dramatic fall in participation from book publishers at scholarly conferences far and wide (including JALT, TESOL International, and IATEFL). We used to peruse potential coursebooks and select our own professional development resources while chatting with peers at dozens of display tables by all the big names – but there was just a single display at KOTESOL this year. Publishers observe that fewer books are sold annually (see Dogme and teacher-created materials, along with campus-developed resources and online learning), so conferences lose that revenue, and teachers lose opportunities. Disappointed.

KOTESOL's promotional displays have evolved too. Members now have the opportunity to share (and sell) their own private commercial activities – personal skills development, self-published ELT materials, sweets, and clothing! There were also two schools actively promoting employment opportunities in teaching. This along with schools offering MA- and PhD-level graduate studies.

I confess the conference theme did not impress me. “Players on a World Stage”? The subtitle was better: “From EFL Classrooms to Global Lives.” But beyond a few invited speakers, how many sessions really address the theme? To be fair, not many ELT conferences do much justice to their themes. On the other hand, KOTESOL does some things very well. The 101 Series is a great way to ease new teachers into tough realities in classrooms. Socializing spaces have been increasingly prominent in the KOTESOL conference, which is a very welcomed addition. I met more folks this year than at any other recent event, so I was quite pleased with this.

Sookmyung Women's University's Renaissance complex has been home for the KOTESOL International Conference for at least a dozen years. It's a wonderful location – central to the city and convenient for mass-transit from all parts of the metropolis, which is the rail and bus hub of the nation, a large-enough main floor to host our various displays and registration, a sufficient number of rooms for



Conference attendees line up for on-site lunch at the Sookmyung Women's University venue.

sessions, all close by and mostly under one roof, and rental rates much less than commercial spaces. It's too bad there aren't a few “tourist-class” hotels in walking distance that might encourage the “conference village” effect, where you can meet fellow participants for breakfast and late-night activities, planned or otherwise. While half of conference participants can sleep in their own beds, most of the rest of us are scattered across town, from mid-class hotels such as Seoul Garden (Best Western) Hotel to local *yeogwans* (motels), hostels, or couch-surfing with friends. Breakfast chats are sometimes the most insightful aspects of conferencing, and the emotional value of evening drinks with friends old and new can never be underestimated. I have former colleagues and longtime friends I seldom get to see face-to-face except at KOTESOL conferences. I wish more “out-of-towners” would stay in one or two central places, but there are personal budgets to consider.

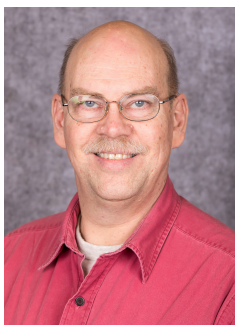
KOTESOL provided meals this year, and they were *EXCELLENT!* Good options, delicious, and no need to leave the venue to search for something in overcrowded shops. And a chance to munch and chat with friends, and possibly make new ones. This was an unexpected and joyous outcome. Expectation surpassed!

Technology can often be a challenge in conferences. I confess: I'm officially old (turned 65 last autumn). I was pleased that the event has moved past the "conference app" environment, refocusing on interpersonal interactions in the here and now, on the conference floor. Although it seems the world has moved away from printed full-program books, the availability of the full book in searchable PDF, plus printed mini-booklets on the scene, seemed to work well. I'm sure there are some who prefer the app technology for planning their days and reading abstracts, and they do have the advantage of allowing links to added resources along with the possibility of instant connections to other conference-goers.

The PDF book had excellent internal links this year, much better than past issues. I suspect KOTESOL will continue to experiment, as the meetings, incentives, conferences, and exhibitions (MICE) industry progresses in that direction. It was nice that free wifi was available, that internet connections and computers/displays worked in all the rooms (but for a few cases where presenters were doing something out of the predesignated norms), that seating and rooms were mostly uncrowded and comfortable, the weather was moderate, and everyone was sharing and helpful (i.e., humans' social "technology"). Can't really ask for more!

Representativeness: Two of the three plenary speakers were Asian women, and all of the invited speakers and panelists have spent the majority of their lives and careers in Asia. TESOL is now transglobal; there is no longer need to import a number of BANA (Britain, Australasia, and North America) experts. Similarly, roughly half of all presenters were Asian, and roughly half were women. The conference was awarded a Platinum EVE (Equal Voices in ELT) badge, recognizing parity of both gender and first language/second language speaker background among plenary and featured speakers. Since we know that there are more women than men teaching English in Asia, and far more Asians than expatriates, it's nice to see a conference that's a bit more representative of its stakeholders. However, even as KOTESOL conferences attract far more classroom teachers from East and Southeast Asia, the number of Korean participants seems very very low. We could all learn a lot from their insights... but it seems Korean teachers and scholars prefer the other dozen or so "Korean societies" for conferences. In this respect, KOTESOL is still seen as "foreign." My expectation is for KOTESOL to make progress in terms of Korean participation. Once upon a time 30 percent of KOTESOL conference attendees, and members, were Koreans.

KOTESOL conferences, like the organizations' leadership, are based on a few overachiever volunteers. I'm sure next year's conference chair (Rhea Metituk) will be calling out for more conference managers. I surely hope that some folks with new energy and fresh perspectives will offer to join and share their expectations along with their efforts to help more teachers through the KOTESOL International Conference. As for 2024, my expectations were surpassed in so many ways, mostly driven by the pleasure of interacting with the 2024 conference team.



The Author

Rob Dickey is a lifetime member of KOTESOL and has served in a number of elected and appointed roles for this organization (and others). Now retired, living in Miryang (Gyeongnam), he is editor of *ELT Classroom Research Journal*.

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Chapters

Busan-Gyeongnam

By Anika Casem

Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter has had several events since the last newsletter. We had notable events in April, June, and May. On Saturday, April 6, we held our social networking event: A Stroll Among the Blossoms. The beautiful weather, the delightful conversations, and the gorgeous sites of Haeundae's Dalmaji-gil in Busan (해운대구 달맞이길) were enjoyed by all who attended.

On Saturday, May 18 from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m., we hosted an in-person workshop featuring University of Ulsan's Cory Balderas and his talk *AI Generation in TESOL: Tools, Techniques, and Trends*. KC Washington shared her article *ChatGPT and the Honor System* with us, as well. The workshop was held at Union Station (유니언스테이션). We had a nice turnout, and it was heartening to see the new faces who chose to spend their free time with us.



May workshop at Union Station, featuring Cory Balderas (*AI Generation in TESOL: Tools, Techniques, and Trends*) and KC Washington (*ChatGPT and the Honor System*).

On Sunday, June 9, KC Washington, Gabriela Villafradez, and Misook Catherine Shin, represented the Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter at a beach clean-up and outdoor market held by WeHOPE at Ilsan Beach in Ulsan. WeHOPE is much like KOTESOL in that it is a volunteer-driven non-profit organization. WeHOPE is based in Ulsan, South Korea, and its mission is to service disadvantaged youth and the local community.

As to approaching events and happenings, we have several things coming along. On Saturday, July 6, the BG Chapter will be hopping around some of the lovely, off-the-beaten-path beaches of Busan. We are hoping to beat the heat and beat the crowds (and hopefully the monsoon rains). We will start off by meeting at Songdo Beach at 12 p.m. We will be at Morundae Pebble Beach around 4 p.m. Finally, we will end the day at Dadaepo Beach at 5 p.m., where the day will be capped off with Dadaepo's *Sunset Fountain of Dreams*, a music show with synchronized light and water features.

Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter would like to volunteer and spend an evening in conversation with adult learners in Hadong in September. We are currently looking for volunteers. Please reach out if this interests you.

In the near future, KC Washington (vice-president) and Gabriela Villafradez (secretary) will be on the podcast *This Korean Life* to plug KOTESOL. *This Korean Life* has been in production since 2019 and is hosted by Nate Mandigo and Brian Girolametto. They interview different people to get a glimpse into the lives of people who call South Korea home, whether that is a temporary or a forever home. So, look out for that wherever you get your podcasts.

Our chapter members have been out and about enriching the world. Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter's Aulia Djunaedi has now been featured on the *This Korean Life* podcast twice this year, in May and June. Aulia knows the ins and outs of life in South Korea and shared her wealth of knowledge as an expat on these episodes. Gabriela Villafradez was

Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter (cont.)

honored with an invitation to speak at Seoul KOTESOL Chapter's symposium in May with her workshop *Creating Wellbeing at Work*. And KC Washington is featured in this month's Member Spotlight in *Korea TESOL Happenings and News (HAN)*. Our people continue to do great things and to make us proud!

Daegu

By Jake Kimball



Greetings, friends and colleagues. We are off to a great start. After a long absence, Daegu-Gyeongbuk Chapter finally has a place to call home. We partnered with UCC Daegu for our meeting venue, located conveniently downtown. It is only minutes from the Jung-ang Subway Station and Kyobo Bookstore. Again, we are especially thankful to Jenny Yang at UCC, who has offered us meeting space.

We started the spring semester with our first meeting, held on Saturday, April 20 at 3:00 p.m. Our first speaker was Jake Kimball. His workshop, *Mastering the Fundamentals of Classroom Management*, focused on how to better engage learners. As classroom management is a concept with a number of definitions, we discussed what CM means in practice. We then debated whether CM was more of an art and technical skill or whether its that Pied Piper charm and charisma that keeps students on task. Later, we looked at a teachers' needs hierarchy. And we closed with a think-pair-share activity, ranking CM tips for our individual contexts. After the workshop, we wandered outside in the rain and found a pub serving craft beer and fish 'n' chips.

On May 18, we welcomed Dylan Campbell, the academic director of the Daegu-Gyeongbuk English Village, who gave an informative presentation about the English village. We learned what kind of programs they offer and what students do when they stay there. He had taken a lot of pictures and showed how situational learning is implemented onsite. The session offered attendees the chance to ask a lot of questions about the type of instruction offered at an English village, especially on the issue of handling mixed levels and ages, and how to manage parents' and students' different expectations.

Dylan is also a master baker. To everyone's surprise, he brought homemade brownies to his session. Dylan has a master's degree in English (rhetoric and composition) and a TESL certificate from Cal State University Northridge. Additionally, he has earned an online learning certificate from Cal State East Bay. He's originally from sunny Ventura, California, and has been in Korea since 2022. In his spare time, he draws comic books and studies Korean. And of course, he's interested in researching effective methods of implementing situational language learning.



On May 18, Dylan Campbell gave an informative presentation on English villages and the kind of programs they offer.

Daegu Chapter (cont.)

Most recently, Stewart Gray came down south on June 22. He gave a performative workshop about storytelling. The focus of this session was how to incorporate storytelling into lessons to enhance student engagement and comprehension. Attendees encountered ideas for selecting (and creating) suitable stories for lessons on any topic and fitting them effectively into lesson plans. Also, Stewart offered suggestions about how to lend a coherent narrative structure to an overall lesson plan and how teachers can deliver stories in an impactful and entertaining way. Right after the workshop, the group headed to our new favorite pub for fish and chips.

Dr. Gray is a teaching fellow in applied linguistics at the University of Nottingham Ningbo China. Previously, he worked in Korea for 12 years, teaching EFL and training teachers. His academic interests include language and identity, creativity in the classroom, and reflective practice. He is a former president of the Yongin-Gyeonggi Chapter.

To attend our 2024 meetings, go downtown. If you know where Kyobo Bookstore is, you can easily find UCC. It is two blocks away. From the Jungang Subway Station, go out Exit 5, 3, or 1. Walk straight ahead for about 3 minutes. When you see the movie theater showing independent, foreign films, stop. Head up to the third floor. Gukchaebosang-ro 537, Jung-gu, Daegu. Once again, current members and non-members alike are invited! Feel free to bring a friend and invite your colleagues, too. As you can clearly see, we are a fun bunch who enjoy professional development.

About us: The Daegu-Gyeongbuk Chapter of Korea TESOL serves the ELT community in Daegu and the greater Gyeongsangbuk-do area with monthly meetings to share information about English language teaching, engage in professional development, and to socialize with like-minded folks.

We are off for the summer. Expect our return in September. See you then!

Daejeon-Chungcheon

By Andrew Griffiths

It's been a busy few months in the Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter. After our first workshop in March (reported on in our previous HAN update), we held our first social event of 2024, a "walk and lunch" meeting in Sejong City's Wondusan Wetland Ecological Garden for a walk, some food, and some socializing. We had around ten people attending, including several non-chapter members. Fortunately, the weather stayed pleasant and everyone was able to enjoy themselves. This was the first time that the chapter held an event of this kind – walking and being active as well as socializing – and the consensus was that it was a highly successful event, which we hope to repeat next year.



On June 22, Dr. Stewart Gray (center, kneeling) gave a performative workshop focusing on how to incorporate storytelling into lessons and how teachers can deliver stories in an impactful and entertaining way.

Daejeon-Chungcheon Chapter (cont.)

May saw our next Wednesday Workshop, which was presented by Kevin Nickolai on the topic of publishing. Aside from being an experienced teacher, Kevin also has extensive experience publishing through his employer and was able to provide a lot of advice to attendees about the processes and pitfalls of writing educational books. We had around fifteen attendees, many of whom were interested in publishing themselves. We were really pleased with the event and felt that Kevin was able to help our attendees with all manner of questions regarding his topic. We were also happy to have had a workshop on such a unique theme; it was not something we had ever seen presented upon before. We are grateful to Kevin for taking the time to help us.

In addition to the workshop, the chapter also published a podcast which contained an interview with Kevin, arranged by our executive committee member and podcast expert David Allen. We feel that our podcasts are now one of the strongest elements of the chapter's offerings; David's recordings are top-notch (not to mention his interview technique!) and provide a great insight into what our workshops offer. We strongly recommend you check out his work next time you're free!

Our other executive members have also been busy. In May, Mike Peacock (chapter president), Rosemary Sorg and Martin Sketchley (both members-at-large) led a roundtable discussion at Seoul Chapter's Spring Symposium on the topic of "Hagwon Life vs. University Life." This informal discussion allowed participants to reflect on the different experiences that educators have in two very different institutional settings in Korea.

Finally, last month, June, saw the return of one of our most popular events: the chapter's summer picnic, held on June 29 at our usual location of Hanbat Arboretum in Daejeon. As always, it was open to everyone – chapter members, non-chapter members, non-KOTESOL members... in short, everyone! And as always, it was a family-friendly event with food, drinks, games, and a good deal of talking.



(Left to right) Martin Sketchley, Mike Peacock, and Rosemary Sorg lead a roundtable discussion at Seoul Chapter's Spring Symposium on "Hagwon Life vs. University Life."



Daejeon Chapter summer picnic at Hanbat Arboretum.

Gangwon

By Michael Free

Recent Gangwon Happenings

Gangwon Chapter held an online meeting, "Planning with AI," on March 2. We collaborated with the wonderful educators from Circular Learning, Kelly Pattison and Sandra Houghton. They were superb in leading the meeting, with evident expertise and a very friendly style. The online registration, as has become common, was low at 15, with 8 attending. Those who did come were very pleased with the content and style, and we hope to work with Circular Learning again!

Gangwon Chapter (cont.)

The Chapter represented itself well and supported the recent International Conference at Sookmyung Women's University: Reece Randall participated in a very well-received panel on edtech, and Michael Free returned as conference program director. The chapter also provided some financial support to the excellent Social event held on the Saturday evening of the conference!

Going Forward

We will hold our next meeting in late August. KOTESOL veteran Yuri Angie White will star, and Stephanie Ptak will also be joining us to talk about "grit." The meeting will be online, and we will be extending a special invitation to public school teachers – especially those in the EPIK program.

Incheon

By Victor Reeser

The Incheon Chapter is excited to announce its official establishment, having recently received approval from the National Council. This significant milestone marks the beginning of a new and exciting journey for the chapter and the Incheon community.

Upcoming Activities and Collaborations

The Incheon Chapter is set to hit the ground running with a series of events and collaborations. Talks are already underway with other regional chapters, such as the Jeonju-North Jeolla Chapter to host joint workshops and presentations. The inaugural event will be a workshop held at our new venue in Songdo. More information about the event will be posted once it is available.

Future Aspirations

The Incheon Chapter is excited about its future and the opportunities that lie ahead. It is committed to making meaningful contributions to the field of language education and supporting the professional development of its members.

Gwangju-Jeonnam

By Maria Lisak

The Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL Chapter has had a vibrant and dynamic second quarter in 2024, marked by a series of enriching workshops, social gatherings, and preparations for an exciting fall event.

April Workshop: Poetry and Nature

Our April workshop centered on the theme of poetry and nature, featuring Dr. Yeon-seong Park, a distinguished poet and researcher from Damyang. Dr. Park introduced us to the works of Joseph Brodsky, blending literary insight with an appreciation for natural beauty. Following the presentation, attendees embarked on an independent nature walk around the campus, which fostered a sense of rejuvenation. This immersive experience culminated in a shared discussion of reflections and thoughts inspired by the walk. Notably, Jocelyn Wright was so inspired by the experience that she composed a poem, capturing the essence of the day.

An Afternoon Stroll at GNUE

– Jocelyn Wright

Near the tennis court
I see swings
And things

Memories flow
And repeat
As the fall leaves crackle under my feet

The spring sun warms me
And the birds tweet
Messages so sweet

Then I encounter gingerbread men
At the library
And endearing elementary lads off to play
Come face-to-face with a stray tomcat
Who stares me up
And down
And interrupts my traveling thoughts
And reminds me it's time to
End my nature adventure
And get back to class



May Workshop: Integrating AI and Creative Expression

In May, our focus shifted to technology and creative expression with Bryan Hale's presentation, "Voicing with AI: Exploring AI-Supported Language Play in the Classroom." This

Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter (cont.)

session provided valuable insights into the integration of artificial intelligence in language teaching, exploring innovative ways to enhance classroom interactions, and student engagement through AI-supported tools. An exciting part of the workshop was writing lyrics for a rap battle, which AI transformed into audio files complete with musical backgrounds, demonstrating the potential of AI in fostering creative language play.

Social Functions and Community Building

Beyond the workshops, we continued to foster community connections through our monthly Coffee Connection and evening Cocktail Connection events. These informal gatherings have become a cherished part of our chapter's activities, providing opportunities for members to network, share experiences, and build lasting relationships.

Special Shout-Outs:

Events location facilitators: Lindsay Herron (GNUE), KeumJu Cheon for Dong-gu Humanities Institute.

Location Scout: Jude Carcedo.

Photographers: Marisha Lee, Jude Carcedo, Jocelyn Wright.

Workshop Set-Up: David Shaffer

Email Coordinator: Bryan Hale

Facebook & Website Promotion: Maria Lisak

May 2024

I smell something cheesy.
Mouse did you steal?
You're a little mouse you think you're small and so speedy

But I gotta say your whip ain't that speedy.
You revve your engine but I can catch you.
The next time you come around you'll be dead in a trap.
Don't be too confident.
Meow we're ready to beat you.



Einy meeny miney mouse
Hey there cat watcha doing in my house
I'm making nachos
What's your deal
I ain't gonna share so u gotta steal



Pictures from workshop and dinner after at Oroji Yeoneo-rang (오로지 연어랑). Text from rap battle.

June Workshop: Multilingual Cooking and Learning

June's workshop was an over-the-top special event held at Dong-gu Humanities Institute (동구 인문학당), where we had access to a kitchen to learn how to make Filipino lumpia. Led by lifetime member Marisha Lee and her sous chef, Jude Carcedo, this hands-on session combined culinary skills with multilingual language learning. Participants engaged in learning Tagalog, Korean, and English, emphasizing a multilingual approach that promotes inclusivity, access to meaning-making, and peace through language education. Sharing food together and participating in games, with prizes, ended this fun event. This unique experience highlighted the importance of integrating cultural elements into language teaching to create a rich, engaging learning environment.



Jude and Maria at Tequilaz for Cocktail Connections in April 2024.

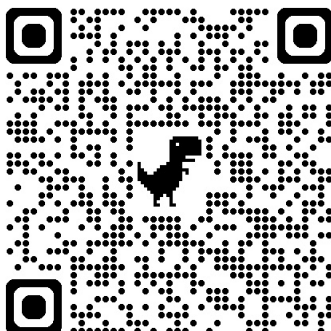
Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter (cont.)

Upcoming Summer Events

Looking ahead to the summer, we have planned engaging activities to maintain the momentum. In July, we will have a double presentation. Lindsay Herron will present on “Class Activities to Encourage Cosmopolitan Awareness,” offering strategies to cultivate global awareness and empathy in students, and Martin Sketchley will present on “Practical Techniques for Cultural Awareness.” August will bring our annual picnic, a much-anticipated event that promises relaxation and camaraderie in a casual setting, and we are researching how to co-host a mini freecycle at Gwangju International Center.

Fall and the National KOTESOL Conference

The fall season is set to be particularly busy, with regular workshops scheduled for September, November, and December. However, the highlight of our fall calendar is the prestigious 2024 ESBB International TESOL Conference & KOTESOL National Conference. Scheduled for October 12–13, 2024, with a special Culture Day on October 11, this conference will be held at Gwangju National University of Education in Gwangju Metropolitan City and will also feature online pre-recorded sessions. Under the theme “Transcending Borders, Building Bridges: Compassion, Connection, and Criticality in the 21st Century,” the conference aims to explore and promote critical issues in TESOL and language education. We are excited to host this significant event and encourage submissions, which are being accepted on a rolling basis through July 31.



Calendar

- September 7: Lisa MacIntyre-Park on “Modern Calligraphy.” The other half will be a participant discovery of the upcoming National KOTESOL Conference schedule. Location: GNUE.
- October 12–13: National KOTESOL Conference. GNUE.
- November: TBA
- December: TBA

In Closing

As we look back on a productive quarter and ahead to an eventful summer and fall, the Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL Chapter remains dedicated to providing valuable professional development opportunities and fostering a strong sense of community among our members. We look forward to continued engagement and growth in the months to come.

Jeonju-North Jeolla

By Lisa MacIntyre-Park

The Jeonju-North Jeolla Chapter has been bustling with events this spring aimed at enhancing professional development and fostering a vibrant community of English educators. Here’s a look at what we’ve been up to and what lies ahead.

We organized our usual workshops but added some untraditional meetings that have been quite enjoyable!

In April, we escaped the classroom to take a revitalizing and healing walk at Gijijae Waterside Park. Despite the damp weather, all those who participated were refreshed and felt the event provided a much-needed break and an opportunity to connect with nature and each other.

Jeonju-North Jeolla Chapter (cont.)



Spring walk at Gijjae Reservoir.

The May highlight was our chapter's online workshop on the 16th. Dr. Crayton Walker from the University of Birmingham presented "Sense Verbs and Patterns in English," offering insights from his corpus-based research into the discrepancy between how verbs, like *draw*, are taught and how they're used by native speakers. This online format allowed for broader participation and engagement, and we welcomed attendees from as far afield as Egypt.

Our June chapter workshop on the 15th was highly successful. The workshop featured two exciting programs: the first by Claudia Tumba, from Chuncheon National University of Education and Kangwon National University, had us rapping along with her for "Rap as a Catalyst: Motivating Students, Enhancing Pronunciation, and Fostering Relatable Learning Experiences." Then Melvin Dixon from Gyeonggi University of Science and Technology spoke to us about "Building Connections for Better Instruction: Strategies to Enhance Learning." These sessions were particularly inspiring and provided practical strategies for enhancing classroom experiences. Looking ahead, we have several events lined up. On July 20, we will host a team-building program for officers and other interested members to reflect on our spring events and chapter business. In August, there will be a luncheon on the 17th to discuss further plans for the autumn season.

On September 21, we're hoping to hold a handmade craft market along with our usual chapter workshop, which will feature programs on active listening and learning tasks to encourage speaking and thinking from different perspectives.

We remain optimistic and committed to continuing to provide valuable resources and support to our members. If you'd like to participate in the meetings or get involved in the planning, please drop me a line here: jeonju@koreatesol.org

We look forward to an exciting and productive remainder of the year.



June held an inspiring workshop with two exciting programs.

Seoul

The Seoul Chapter has been buzzing with a whirlwind of social, professional, and academic events over the past three months. Here's a snapshot of our lively activities and community events.

April

Hiking Social! On Saturday, April 13, several members of the Seoul Chapter took a leisurely hike up Inwang Mountain, a moderate climb taking about two hours. Christopher Miller organized the jaunt, and North Korean cuisine was had after the wild journey amongst the historical stone walls of the old capital city.

Seoul Chapter (cont.)



Melvin Dixon, Christopher Miller, Rhea Metituk, and unidentified fourth conquer Inwang Mountain.

On April 17, we had an online Zoom session with an expert in English language teaching through storytelling, entitled “Teaching English Through Korean Folktales.” Seung Ah Kim, a renowned figure in Korea, shared with our membership her experiences teaching English, her evolution as a storyteller, and how she links them both through her current passion, which has become a career. Seung Ah Kim is a K-storyteller and the CEO of Arirang Storytelling, founded in the memory of her grandmother, who told her stories as a baby. She has performed in 18 countries on five continents. After the event, Seung Ah praised the attendees, saying, “It was a great pleasure to share my stories with you. It was another kind of storytelling performance, which I believe is heart-to-heart communication.”

May

Our chapter's premier event of the year, the 2024 Seoul Spring Symposium, held on May 18 at Sookmyung Women's University, was a resounding success. Veteran and emerging educators gathered to share their expertise, network, and enjoy delicious pastries alongside thought-provoking discussions. This spring event will serve as a catalyst for new connections and inspiration throughout 2024 and beyond. Special thanks go to the Seoul Chapter leaders Melvin Dixon, Christopher Miller, Bilal Qureshi, John

Wyatt, Haewon del Toro, Ryan McCurdy, and Rhea Metituk, as well as the SMU staff for their seamless execution of planning, set-up, and take-down. The event brought together talented educators from Seoul, Daejeon, Jeonju, Ulsan, and other regions to exchange effective strategies and insights with the attendees.



Prof. Annami Jo presents her session “Principles and Techniques for ELL for Learned Helplessness” at the Seoul Spring Symposium.

June

On June 13, the Seoul Chapter was treated to an engaging presentation that offered frameworks for reflection and practical classroom takeaways. We were fortunate to have Dr. Alesa Durgaryan from the Armenian State Pedagogical University deliver an ELT webinar on “Teaching Critical Thinking Skills.” You can watch it here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbPmYc-SnE4>

On June 15, Melvin Dixon (Gyeonggi University of Science and Technology) took part in the Jeonju-North Jeolla Chapter's workshop, giving his presentation titled “Building Connections for Better Instruction: Strategies to Enhance Learning.” This was a presentation he had previously given at our own chapter, and we are glad to see him spread his expertise outside Seoul. He spoke on how to enrich relationships and connections with others and create positive learning environments.



Seoul Chapter (cont.)

And on June 27, we celebrated the start of summer with the Start-Off Summer Social! Members and non-members met at The Southside Parlor, a social hotspot in downtown Seoul, to network, share tales of the semester past, and connect with fellow educators in a relaxed social environment, engrossed in the serene rooftop views of the early-summer twilight skyline of Seoul.



The June Start-Off Summer Social started off summer with drinks, rooftops views, and shared stories.

The second half of Seoul Chapter's year looks to be equally bustling and community-focused, packed with a mix of academic and social events. Keep an eye out for particular events and join in on the EFL teaching, sharing, and camaraderie!

Yongin-Gyeonggi

By Ji-Myoung Park, Joseph Steven Van Dorn, and Daniela Trinks

Member News

This summer we bid farewell to members Maria Teresa Martinez-Garcia and Daniela Trinks. Maria has completed her successful career in Korea with the 2024 Utah University Asia Campus Excellence in Research Award. Congratulations, well deserved! Maria was a plenary speaker at the 2023 National Conference and has been a frequent presenter at our workshops and conferences, sharing her expertise in

neuroscience and linguistics. Daniela has been contributing to maintaining and growing our chapter over the past 1.5 years in her roles as vice-president, national conference co-chair, and current president. She also presented frequently at workshops and conferences on her passion for teaching the board game Go. We wish them both all the best and hope to meet them again at future online or hybrid events.



Daniela Trinks and Maria Teresa Martinez-Garcia (center) presented together at the 2024 International Conference.

Chapter Events

In mid-April, we enjoyed a leisurely walk along Giheung Lake. The sunny weather and calm breeze made for a pleasant outing under trees beginning to bud and blossom. Conversations touched on topics such as vocabulary acquisition during childhood and the influence of media. We discussed how different generations have a unique vocabulary, with older expressions like "You kumquat" and "It's a cakewalk" sometimes being unfamiliar to younger native speakers. As we neared a cluster of stores, we spontaneously decided to visit a brunch café. The dimly lit café with its ambient mood provided a perfect setting for further discussions about the challenges of learning Korean while teaching in Korea, even after many years of residence. This discussion showed the need for intentional effort and practice to achieve language fluency. The outing was a delightful experience.

Yongin-Gyeonggi Chapter (cont.)



Yongin-Gyeonggi members enjoyed a leisurely walk in April along Giheung Lake, discussing generational differences and practicing English to achieve language fluency.

Following the KOTESOL International Conference, our chapter hosted an invigorating hike at Hambak Mountain and a workshop by Dr. Stewart Gray, titled “Teaching as Storytelling,” who discussed how stories can enhance lessons by utilizing the power of schemata within learners. His workshop included captivating presentation slides, engaging discussion questions, and activities that participants could bring directly into their classrooms. His slides were concise yet charming, featuring GIFs and quirky examples of AI art. Participants were challenged to consider



Yongin-Gyeonggi’s Summer Picnic and BBQ put smiles on everyone’s faces and strengthened their community.

everyone and share such a wonderful feast. Our youngest attendee, Jay, helped us get a great deal of exercise by encouraging stair climbing to the roof and a hike beyond the path. Thank you all for making the event fantastic.

Our recent events have strengthened our community and provided valuable professional development opportunities. We thank all members, family, and friends for their participation and contributions, and we look forward to our next gathering on July 13!



Dr. Stewart Gray’s (second from left) theatrical workshop, “Teaching as Storytelling,” discussed how stories can enhance lessons through the power of schemata within learners.

Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Classroom Management SIG

By Jake Kimball

Our Classroom Management Special Interest Group (CM SIG) has been relatively quiet during the spring semester. While 2023 experienced a flurry of monthly meetings online via Zoom, early 2024 proved not to be as active. We will certainly resume Zoom sessions by the end of summer as we gear up for the new semester.

On our Facebook page, we will have a Book Club activity. We have posted a PDF of a brief journal article *Demotivation in L2 Classrooms: Teacher and Learner Factors* by Miao Yee Clare Chong, Willy A. Renandya, and Qiu Rong Ng. Demotivation is a universal experience for learners and teachers. Tackling a short journal article is a terrific way to check off at least one PD opportunity this summer. Please feel free to join us in reading the article and discussing background theory and pedagogical implications related to motivation/demotivation.

For those of you new to classroom management, it is worth clarifying our mission because there is some disagreement about classroom management in ELT teacher education. The CM SIG adopts a preventative care model of classroom management, one more attuned to the classroom as an ecological space. That ol' idiom comes to mind: An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.

Join the Classroom Management SIG this year and upgrade your teacher toolkit. Better yet, embody the KOTESOL motto: Teachers helping teachers.

MCALL SIG

By Victor Reeser

The MCALL SIG hosted a highly engaging panel discussion at the 2024 KOTESOL International

Conference in late April. The panel brought together five distinguished educators from diverse cultural and professional backgrounds facilitating a truly inclusive discussion on the current state of integration of technology into language education.

The discussion consisted of several topics. The first major theme was blended learning, a hybrid approach combining traditional face-to-face classroom methods with online educational materials and interactive online activities. The panelists explored various strategies for implementing blended learning effectively, emphasizing the flexibility it offers both educators and learners. Additional topics included working with offline and online teaching modes and a discussion on the future of the educational technology industry.

KOTESOL MCALL SIG

**BRIDGING THE GAP:
BLENDING ONLINE AND OFFLINE
TEACHING IN LANGUAGE
EDUCATION**

Join us for a discussion on effective language instruction in the digital age! Hosted by KOTESOL's MCALL SIG, this panel discussion will explore transitioning between online and offline modes, blending technology with tradition, and preparing for the future.

PANELISTS

 RHETT BURTON Owner & Founder Burton's School	 DR. MAITE MARTÍNEZ GARCÍA Assistant Professor University of Ulsan, Asia Campus	 REECE RANDALL Instructor Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology
 SARAH SLAOLE Assistant Professor of English Pusan National University	 DR. DANIELA TRINKS Professor Myongji University	 VICTOR REESER Assistant Professor State University of New York - Korea

The panelists shared their experiences and best practices for integrating multimedia tools into early language education. They discussed how technology can be used to create engaging and interactive learning environments that cater to the developmental needs of young children. The discussion further covered how AI-driven tools, such as large language models, are being increasingly utilized across all age levels.

MCALL SIG (cont.)

Overall, the panel discussion was a successful event for the MCALL SIG. It provided a platform for sharing insights, sparking new ideas, and fostering a collaborative spirit among educators dedicated to enhancing language education through technology.

Reflective Practice SIG

By Jake Kimball

This past spring, April 27–28, the Reflective Practice (RP) SIG hosted a panel discussion at the International Conference titled *Reflections on Teachers' Language Learning and Classroom Practice*. Sincere thanks go out to Maria Teresa Martinez Garcia (University of Utah Asia Campus), Maria Joao Amaral (Hankuk University of Foreign Studies), Roberto Vega Labanda (Daegu Catholic University), and T. Wyatt (full-time student of Korean) for participating in a lively discussion.

At the start of 2024, the RP SIG initiated a challenge. This foreign language learning challenge was meant to encourage teachers to regain that feeling of what it is like to study a foreign language, to reacquaint themselves with what it is like to be a student once more. More specifically, we encouraged members to study a foreign language and reflect on the pedagogical implications of their personal language learning journeys. The central focus of reflection? How has your own personal language learning journey impacted how you teach? Do you follow your own advice as a teacher? Our panel initiated an interactive conversation about how one's language learning efforts comport with our classroom practice.

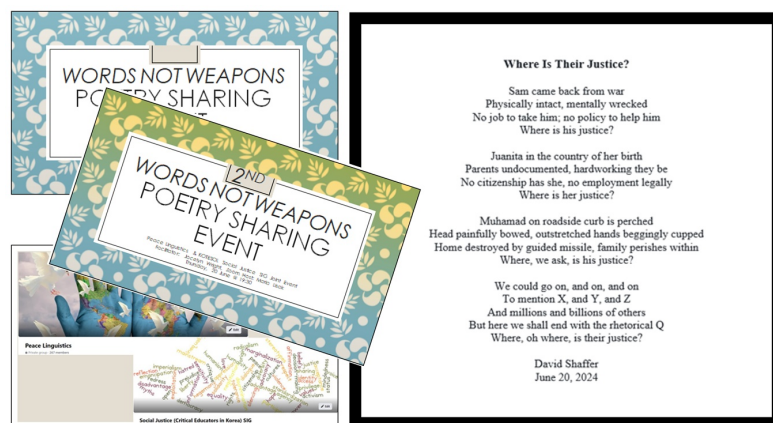
And speaking of Dr. Farrell, he has recently published a short book on RP, this time with the British Council. He has graciously offered this for free on his website (Reflective Inquiry, Thomas S.C. Farrell, PhD, Professor, Department of Applied Linguistics, Brock University) and on other platforms. Throughout the summer months, we are using this as part of a reading club activity, where we will read and respond to prompts. Join

us for what is sure to be a lively, entertaining, and educational project.

Social Justice SIG

By Jocelyn Wright

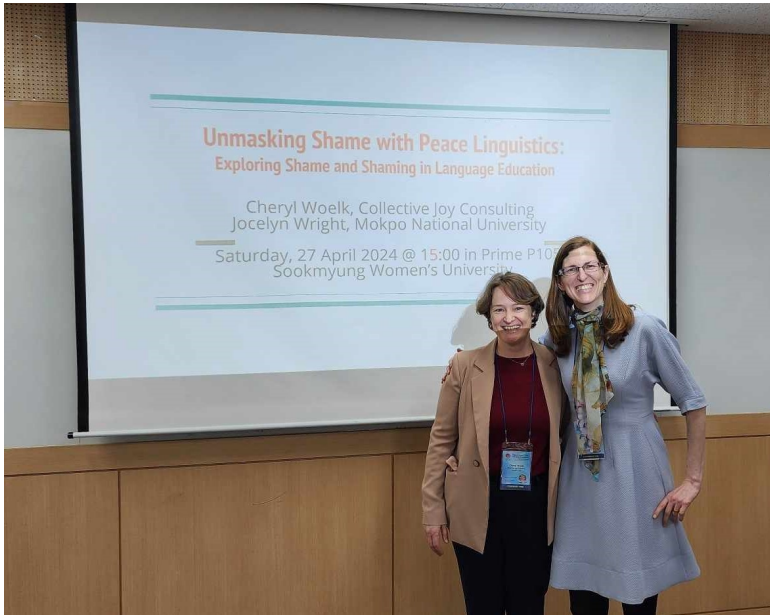
In the second quarter of 2024, the KOTESOL Social Justice (Critical Educators in Korea) Special Interest Group (SJ-SIG) held two online events in conjunction with the Peace Linguistics group, both related to poetry. Facilitated by myself and hosted by Maria Lisak, both 1.5-hour evening sessions in May and June focused on sharing poetry related to peace and social justice. Participants, mostly active KOTESOL members, but not all, brought poems – their own and others' – to the Zoom-o-sphere. Some recited work that inspired them, others shared pieces they had previously published or works in progress. Some even composed poems on the spot! In the first meeting, we explored what brought members to the event and in the second each participant's relationship with literature. I think all experienced peace through the process, and it is with great pleasure that we can also share a poem by a long-time KOTESOL leader that was written for the follow-up event:



Aside from these meetings, Cheryl Woelk and I facilitated an interactive workshop on shame/shaming in language education from a peace linguistics perspective at KOTESOL's International Conference in April. Due to a scheduling issue, we actually delivered the workshop twice, thereby benefiting more participants. Moreover, as we are

Social Justice SIG (cont.)

working to develop this into a research project on teacher narratives, we will be hosting the workshop again. Stay tuned for more information, and please contact us through the SIG if this topic sounds interesting!



KOTESOL Social Justice SIG:
<https://koreatesol.org/content/social-justice-critical-educators-korea-sig>

Email: sjsig@koreatesol.org

Social Justice (Critical Educators in Korea) SIG Facebook Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1695951900638611>

Peace Linguistics Facebook Group:
<https://www.facebook.com/groups/peacelinguistics>

Young Learners and Teens SIG

By André Jacobs

The Young Learners and Teens (YLT) SIG has been a little quiet recently with only some exploratory meetings aimed at establishing connections. On June 13, I participated in a foreign hagwon owners meeting after being invited by Rhett Burton of Burton's English fame.

The group is called Elite Education Operations, and if you are interested in joining their monthly meetings to discuss issues in the industry, please contact me at andrepjacobs@gmail.com for me to arrange an introduction. The next planned event related to Young Learners and Teens is Yongin KOTESOL's November conference, which is themed "Empowering Tomorrow's Global Citizens." If you are interested in participating, please let me know, and I will keep you in the loop.

Empowering Tomorrow's Global Citizens: Innovative Strategies for Teaching Young Learners

- Saturday, November 9, 2024
- Yongin, Gyeonggido
- KOTESOL Yongin Chapter

[LEARN MORE](https://koreatesol.org/yongin)

<https://koreatesol.org/yongin>

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<http://koreatesol.org>

Committee News

International Outreach Committee

By Victor Reeser

The 2024 KOTESOL International Conference was a great success with participants joining from several of KOTESOL's international partner organizations. Representatives of these eight organizations attended in person:

- English Language Teachers' Association of Mongolia (ELTAM)
- English Teachers' Association-Republic of China (ETA-ROC)
- Thailand TESOL (ThaiTESOL)
- Japan Association for Language Teaching (JALT)
- Philippine Association for Language Teaching, Inc. (PALT)
- Hong Kong Association for Applied Linguistics (HAAL)
- Malaysian English Language Teaching Association (MELTA)
- Association for the Teaching of English as a Foreign Language in Indonesia (TEFLIN)

Additionally, a representative from the Bangladesh English Language Teachers Association (BELTA) participated online.

Here is the list of current 2024 partner conferences and selected KOTESOL representatives attending them:

- 43rd Thailand TESOL International Conference: January 26–27, Andrew White
- 20th Annual CamTESOL Conference: February 23–25, John Baker
- 32nd MELTA International Conference 2024: September 21–22, Joff Bradley
- ELTAM International Conference 2024: September 27–29, TBD
- 70th TEFLIN International Conference: October 23–25, John Baker

- 2024 ETA-ROC Conference: November 8–10, Victor Reeser
- 50th JALT International Conference: November 15–18, Rhea Metituk

The following list of upcoming conferences will be updated with more information as it is received:

- ThaiTESOL: January 24–25, 2025
- Cambodia TESOL (CamTESOL): February 2025 (TBD)
- TESOL International Convention & Expo: March 18–21, 2025
- IATEFL Conference: April 7–11, 2025
- HAAL: Summer 2025 (TBD)
- PALT: Winter 2025 (TBD)
- TESOL 2025 Virtual Convention & Expo: Winter 2025 (TBD)

Partnership with JALT

JALT Special Interest Groups (SIGs) are looking to collaborate with KOTESOL SIGs, which presents a significant opportunity to enhance the activity and engagement of KOTESOL SIGs.

The International Outreach Committee remains committed to fostering international collaboration and representing KOTESOL at global events.

Membership Committee

By Lindsay Herron

The Social @KOTESOL2024 was a smashing success! Approximately 115 participants attended this event, which was held on the evening of Saturday, April 27, during the 31st Korea TESOL International Conference. Catered by Spoon Seoul, the hors d'oeuvres were delectable and satisfying; the wine flowed copiously; and the new venue, a spacious reception room on the seventh floor of Centennial Hall, provided both amazing nighttime views and a festive, welcoming atmosphere.

Membership Committee (cont.)



The members' booths at the conference, meanwhile, were a welcome new addition this year. Two members took advantage of the offer to promote their personal small businesses, and their booths were warmly received by conference participants. Thanks to ZSJ Silks, ZSJ Sweet Treats, and Collective Joy Consulting for their enthusiasm and lovely displays! The membership desk at the conference also received a lot of attention, giving away hundreds of pens, bookmarks, and magazines and selling 210,000 KRW worth of KOTESOL-branded merchandise.

Membership perks to look forward to this fall include discounts to partner organizations' conferences, discounts on KOTESOL regional conferences throughout Korea, and a considerable discount on registration fees for the 2024 ESBB International TESOL Conference & KOTESOL National Conference, in addition to our standard benefits.



Hors d'oeuvres proved to be a smashing success with conference participants at The Social @KOTESOL2024.



Publications Committee

By David Shaffer

The Publications Committee is happy to add *Korea TESOL Happenings and News* to its ensemble of regular publications, which includes *The English Connection* (quarterly), the *Korea TESOL Journal* (twice-yearly), and *KOTESOL Proceedings* (annual). In this update, we bring you the latest happenings with these publications and additional news.

[KOTESOL Happenings and News \(HAN\)](#)

Our stepping out to take on this new project was a bit of an apprehensive one – not being sure of the response we would receive from those asked to contribute nor what the reception would be from its potential readership. The inaugural issue resulted in 34 pages of content, far surpassing our original goal! Hats off to editor Andrew White and his team, as well as to the content contributors on the launch of *HAN*! The mission that *HAN* has taken on is to gather in one place the activities of KOTESOL's chapters, special interest groups, national committees, and its individual members. The next issue of *HAN* 1(3) is scheduled for publication in mid-October. The submission due date is September 25. For inquiries, submissions, and additional information, contact Dr. White at kotesolteceditor@gmail.com

[Korea TESOL Journal \(KTJ\)](#)

The latest issue of the *Korea TESOL Journal*, 19(2), went online May 1. At over 200 pages, it contains seven research papers, two brief reports, and two book reviews. If you would like, as a KOTESOL member, to receive a hard copy at no cost, send a request and a complete mailing address to publications@koreatesol.org. *KTJ* 20(1) is scheduled for publication in September. This year will be the last that *KTJ* publishes a print version of the journal. It was decided at the recent National Council meeting (June 23) that beginning with *KTJ* 21(1), which will be published in the first half of 2025, *KTJ* will be a digital-only publication.

Consider making a contribution to *KTJ* 20(2) or a later issue. Send your inquiries and submissions to journal@koreatesol.org

[The English Connection \(TEC\)](#)

The English Connection 28(2) was published on June 1 in digital and print formats. Its 32 pages of content include five ELT articles, two ELT book reviews, and three regular columns, in addition to the editorial and president's message. New to this issue is our third regular column, The Classroom Connection, penned by Jake Kimball. If you wish to "save a tree," you can opt out of receiving a hard copy in the mail by logging in to your KOTESOL profile. Give some thought to contributing your own article to *TEC*. Send inquiries and submissions to tec@koreatesol.org

[KOTESOL Proceedings](#)

We are now accepting submissions to *KOTESOL Proceedings 2024* from those who gave presentations at the 2024 Korea TESOL International Conference. If you presented at the conference, there is still time to submit a paper, as the deadline has been extended to July 15. We are expecting this year's volume to contain about 30 papers and to be published in December. Send inquiries and submissions to: 2024.kotesol.proceedings@gmail.com

[Scribes Square](#)

Interested in writing on an ELT topic but not ready to do a full research paper? And are a bit anxious about submitting to *TEC*? Consider *Scribes Square*. It's a great place for both the early-career and veteran writer to have their voice heard. A no-stress publication with article length varying from a few paragraphs to a few pages. Members can directly upload their writing to the website. The most recent article was published on April 10, discussing [The KOTESOL Logo and Its Evolution](#).

In the coming three months, be on the lookout for an additional two publications coming off the press: *TEC* 28(2) on September 1 and *KTJ* 21(1) also scheduled for September.

Research Committee

By Dr. Ju Seong Lee

The Research Committee has recently completed its evaluation of the 2024 KOTESOL Research Grant applications, which were due on March 31. Of the two applications received, one has been selected for funding. The approved proposal focuses on integrating purposeful generative AI into ELT classrooms through teacher education in Korea. A grant of 400,000 KRW has been allocated to Yu Jung Han, currently at the University of Rochester, to support participant recruitment and rewards for participation in the research project. The timeline for the draft of the research paper has been set for this coming February 25. We anticipate receiving updates on the progress of the research prior to that date.


Any KOTESOL member may consider submitting a research proposal for KOTESOL funding for 2025. For more information on KOTESOL's research grant program, please visit <https://koreatesol.org/research-grant>.

This or That?

KOTESOL Membership Edition

<i>The English Connection</i>	<i>Korea TESOL Journal</i>
Branded Tumbler	Branded Water Bottle
Materials Development Microcredential	Teaching English Using Video Microcredential
Reflective Practice SIG	Social Justice SIG
Research Grant	Travel Grant
Attend the Conference in Person	Watch Videos from the Conference at Home
Publish Your Research	Present Your Research
Run for Chapter Office	Run for National Office

#allthisandmore #lovekotesol
#joinkotesol



Korea
TESOL

KOTESOL · 대한영어교육학회

News

NatCon2024

The deadline for proposals for the 2024 ESBB International TESOL Conference & KOTESOL National Conference is quickly approaching! Submit an abstract by July 31 to be considered for this momentous two-day event, which will be held in Gwangju on October 12–13.

As of this writing, we're expecting presenters from Iran, Japan, Korea, Malaysia, Oman, the Philippines, Serbia, South Africa, the United Arab Emirates, and more. Our partner organization, English Scholars Beyond Borders (ESBB), will be featuring a variety of speakers from around the globe, while KOTESOL will be represented by featured sessions from Jocelyn Wright and Kevin Kester, whose work beautifully epitomizes the

theme of the conference, "Transcending Borders, Building Bridges: Compassion, Connection, and Criticality in the 21st Century." We're also hoping to offer our international guests a glimpse into Korean culture and education through a Culture Day before the official start of the conference and student sessions throughout the weekend. If your students would like to introduce Korean high school or university life, pre-service teacher training, or an aspect of Korean life/culture, please reach out to our conference chair (natconfchair2024@koreatesol.org). Registration will open later this summer, and KOTESOL members are entitled to a large discount on registration fees. We hope to see you in Gwangju in October!



National Council Meeting

On June 23, sixteen voting members of the National Council and five non-voting members met via Zoom for a regular meeting. In addition to receiving reports from all Council members, the highlights of which can be seen in this issue of *HAN*, the Council passed several key motions:

1. That this Council approve the establishment of an Incheon Chapter.
2. That the *Korea TESOL Journal* become a digital-only publication beginning with Volume 21, Number 1, which is scheduled to be published in 2025.
3. That this Council establish an ad hoc committee to update the Code of Conduct.
4. That this Council create an ad hoc committee to follow up on the development of the new website.

The next National Council meeting will be held in October, prior to the ABM. National Council meetings are always open to all current KOTESOL members (though they can't vote on motions); just send a request to the KOTESOL president at least 48 hours prior to the meeting or by the deadline posted in the event description online.

President's Corner

By Lindsay Herron, KOTESOL President

Congratulations and gratitude to the International Conference Committee for organizing a wonderful

event boasting 400-plus participants from about 25 countries! I hope everyone who attended found inspiration, rejuvenation, connection, and community throughout the weekend.

One of my favorite duties as president is to host KOTESOL's annual reception for VIPs at the international conference. On Friday, April 26, our organization welcomed twenty-four guests – including invited speakers and partner organizations' representatives and presidents – to an intimate dinner at La Lieto, a small, charming, reasonably priced Italian restaurant near the conference venue. It was a lovely evening and a great opportunity for our guests to form new connections (and renew old ones!).



One of Lindsay's favorite duties: hosting invited speakers and partner organizations' representatives at the IC2024 VIP reception held at La Lieto.

There's more great stuff to look forward to in the coming months: Our national conference (which will be quite international, actually) will be held in Gwangju in October, many chapters are hosting social events and/or regional conferences in the second half of the year, and nominations for KOTESOL's national elections will be opening soon. In addition, please save the date: Our annual business meeting (ABM) will be held on November 1. At that time, we'll announce election results and service awards, and we'll vote on any proposed amendments (due September 30). All members are welcome to attend; more information to come!

President's Corner (cont.)

Finally, please join me in welcoming our new Incheon Chapter! Acting chapter president Victor Reeser presented a very promising plan for this new branch of our organization at a recent National Council meeting, and we're looking forward to many outstanding events. If you live in or near Incheon, you're welcome to change your chapter designation anytime. Just visit the "Edit" tab in your online profile and adjust the chapter selection; then remember to save your changes. Congratulations, Incheon Chapter!

New Lifetime Members

KOTESOL is delighted to welcome the following new lifetime members:

Madison Brand
Lindsay Dennison
Lucinda Estrada
Christopher Houghton

We offer our heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support and dedication. Thank you for choosing KOTESOL – and welcome to a lifetime of perks, privileges, and opportunities!

Awards and Accolades

At the recent opening ceremony of the Korea TESOL International Conference, the Reflective Language Teacher Award for 2024 was announced. This award, established by Dr. Thomas S. C. Farrell in 2019, was given to **James "Jake" Kimball**, an assistant professor at Semyung University in Jecheon.

In addition, each year the Publications Committee announces awards for outstanding contributions to its three major publications: *KTJ*, *TEC*, and *KOTESOL Proceedings*. The awards for 2023 were announced at the opening ceremony of the Korea TESOL International Conference on April 27. The Publications Committee heartily congratulates the following awardees for their outstanding research and writing:

Research Paper of the Year Award

(Korea TESOL Journal)

Nicolas E. Caballero & Meghan Yu.

Using Self-Determination Theory to Examine Motivations of Korean EFL College Students Informed by Korean Studies.

Yeonsung University, Anyang, Gyeonggi-do

Best Paper Award

(KOTESOL Proceedings)

Yutaka Fujieda.

Analyzing the Felt Sense of Writing in English.

Osaka University of Economics, Osaka, Japan

Article of the Year Award

(The English Connection)

Steven Adoranti.

Value the Process: Writing in the Age of ChatGPT.

Hankuk University of Foreign Studies, Seoul



Maria Teresa Martinez-Garcia of Yongin-Gyeonggi Chapter has completed her successful career in Korea with the 2024 Utah University Asia Campus Excellence in Research Award. Congratulations, well deserved!