

A scenic view of a river at sunset. The sky is filled with soft, golden light from the setting sun, reflecting on the water. In the background, there are rolling mountains and some buildings. In the foreground, a paved walkway with a metal railing runs along the riverbank.

Korea TESOL Happenings and News

Summer 2025

Korea TESOL

Happenings and News



Member Spotlight: Christopher Miller	2
Chapter News	6
Special Interest Group News	16
Committee News	20
National News	24
Member News	26

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Member Spotlight: Christopher Miller

You may not be familiar with our member featured in this installment of Member Spotlight – he’s a somewhat reserved guy – but he has been active in KOTESOL at the chapter and local level since 2011. In recent years, you may have seen his name and photograph in KOTESOL posters promoting reflective practice. He presented in two sessions at our recent international conference and moderated for another. And now he is the new president of the Seoul Chapter. We thought it was about time that we got to know more about Chris Miller, so we asked him for an interview. This is what we learned.



HAN: Hello, Chris, and thank you for agreeing to this interview. For our readers, would you begin by giving us some background information on yourself before you came to Korea?

Chris: Hi, thanks for reaching out. I spent most of my life in Illinois in the United States. I originally planned to be a social science teacher at the high school level, but Peace Corps made me aware of a few additional educational opportunities.

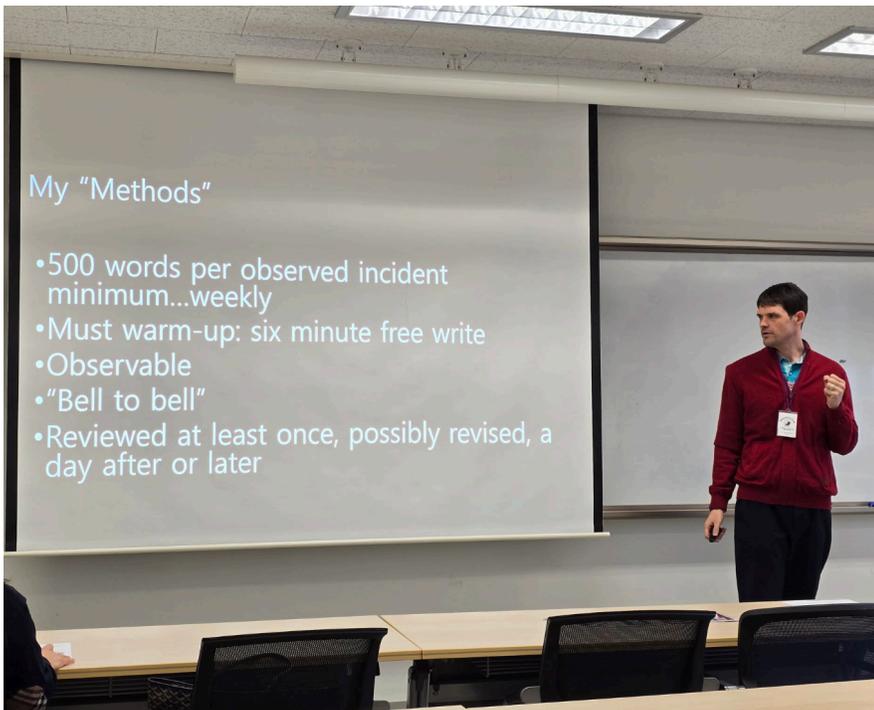
HAN: Yes, being an RPCV [returned Peace Corps volunteer] myself, I was aware that you also served in the Peace Corps. Again, for our readers, would you tell us what the Peace Corps is, where you served, why you served, and what that experience was like?

Chris: Peace Corps is a United States volunteer program that requires roughly a two-year overseas commitment. The services offered to a host country vary according to the needs of that country to some degree. I served in an Eastern European country called the Republic of Moldova. In Moldova, there was a TEFL program, as well as health education and agriculture development programs. I came from a working-class family and was the first one in my family to graduate from college. I didn’t make the wisest decisions when I was younger, but in my early twenties, I felt a strong desire to gain a broader perspective on life and acquire at least a spoken proficiency in a foreign language. Peace Corps was an excellent fit for those ambitions. The experience was great. I was in a small town with about 5,000 residents teaching English. I didn’t know a lot about teaching at that time (who does in their mid-20s?), but I had time to reflect on many things, study Romanian, and develop good relationships with other Peace Corps volunteers and Moldovans.

HAN: What was it that initially lured you to Korea, which has now been quite a few years ago? Did your time in the Peace Corps have any bearing on that?

Chris: I returned to America in August of 2009, thus at that time, I figured I would likely have to wait at least a year to obtain a decent full-time teaching job in America. I knew I could be in Korea working with the EPIK program by February, so I did a semester of grad school in an education-related field and then got ready to come here. The plan was to stay for two years and save up for a return to the homeland,

but this country can be very charming and kind to native English teachers. Thus, I decided to stay on a little longer than my initial plans.



Chris presenting at the Incheon Symposium.

HAN: You are teaching at a high school. Few expats teach at the high school level due to the curriculum being exam-driven. What is it that attracts to you teaching at this level?

Chris: Teaching high school was always my ambition – since I was about 18 years old. Since my late teens, I’ve always been somewhat bookish. Teaching high school seemed like a job that would allow me to engage with interesting ideas but not necessarily have to commit to having a narrow, specialized focus. As I’ve gotten more experienced with teaching, I now find the science of pedagogy satisfies my intellectual appetite quite well.

HAN: How does the curriculum at a foreign language high school differ from that of a general high school?

Chris: For one thing, I am required to teach learners basic writing composition – the oft-critiqued five-paragraph essay. It was quite a shock to me when I heard from colleagues that writing at the high school level in Korea is optional. Our students study the same things as they might at other high schools, i.e. similar levels of science and math. However, they do have eight hours in their major language weekly and, I believe, six hours in English minimum weekly.

HAN: I’m interested in what courses you teach and the teaching methods and techniques that you employ for high school students, who have the college entrance exam on their minds.

Chris: I only teach the first and second grades. For both grades, learners have to complete an essay in English and give a three-minute speech. That’s about half of my curriculum. The other half is decided in collaboration with my team of English teachers. In the second year, we build lessons focusing on various parts of American culture that our learners might be interested in, such as the American prom, and integrate a deliberate focus on select items from the Academic Word List for the “input” portions of the lessons. I’m personally a big fan of keeping learners engaged as much as possible and minimizing lecture on my part. Like every teacher, I use an eclectic approach. There are so many bits from so many theoretical paradigms, it is tough to name anything specific. Though, I suppose that sensitivity to cognitive load, “kinesthetic” approaches, and visual thinking strategies are at the top of the list these days.

HAN: Before moving to the capital area, I remember that you were a member – and an officer – in the Busan Chapter. Did you also teach high school students in Busan?

Chris: Yes, I worked at a technical high school for two years. It was actually a school for orphans. My teaching career has been at the poles of the educational world in many respects.

HAN: I'm interested in any anecdotes that you might have related to teaching EFL in Korea. And also, what have been most gratifying and most frustrating about teaching?

Chris: The silliest anecdotes probably relate to misunderstandings. I remember one time I made materials for a brief video about a woman who lives everyday as though it is 1953. In a short reading, I prepared for the lesson, students read the phrase "chocolate sundaes" and pronounced it as they would the Korean food *sundae* (순대, blood sausage). Moments like that have made me sensitive to the need to pre-teach certain terms and visually enhance my materials as much as possible.

There are a lot of gratifying moments, some of the most gratifying are just the little insights I get through teaching. For example, in a recent lesson, I realized that I probably introduced a gap-fill listening task too early. Now, I understand that a scanning reading task prior to introducing the listening would allow students to have a better understanding of the material. These are tough to translate to an outsider, but those little microshifts to provide a little more clarity and a little more processing time of the material for learners give me hope that I can do my job just a little better the next time around. These little things make me excited about going into the classroom the next time.

HAN: You have just recently become the president of KOTESOL's Seoul Chapter. What plans do you have for the chapter as it has only been a little over a year since it came out of its Covid hibernation?

Chris: Right now, it is to just hold a steady stream of events both online and offline. Rhea, the immediate-past president, has provided me with a thorough list of excellent presenters. I hope many of them will grace the forum that Seoul KOTESOL can provide.

HAN: Also very recently, you have received KOTESOL's annual Reflective Language Teacher Award at the 2025 Korea TESOL International Conference. Congratulations! How did you get involved in reflective practice, and what have you been doing recently in that area?

Chris: It was somewhat randomly chosen as a topic for my MSEd research project in 2013. It was really the former president of the Busan Chapter, Brad Serl, who helped me understand the value of consistent journaling. It is something I have now done since 2013. Recently, I've gotten more interested in extended reflective writing using suggestions taken from the work of Gillie Bolton. Recording a lesson and engaging in self-observation has been a weekly fixture of my practice for the last year.



Chris with his son in Dubai.

HAN: What did you think of this year's international conference? What stood out? What were your take-aways? And you presented, didn't you?

Chris: AI is changing things. There was a wonderful presenter from Japan (I can't remember her name, presented at 12:30 on Sunday right before me in the same room). She [Toshiko Oda] gave very concrete strategies to limit plagiarism or to minimize the impact of AI-based plagiarism. For example, if students cannot smoothly read their written work, there is a basis for suspecting plagiarism or extending writing tasks into an in-class debate. Richard Rose's work on automated forms of feedback and error classification could potentially save teachers time and provide learners with more granular levels of feedback. Who knows, maybe our jobs will shift to training learners how to interpret feedback and to prioritize attention rather than merely indicating where their strengths and weaknesses lie.

HAN: What do you like to do in any free time you might have? And what plans might you have for the future?

Chris: I'm fortunate to live right next to an access point of Bukhan Mountain. Whenever I get the time, I try to hike in the area, though not as much as I used to. As for the future, I would definitely like to take my writing and presenting more seriously. My goal with both of those tasks is to improve my classroom teaching. The hope is that if the former two improve the latter is enhanced as well.

HAN: In winding up this interview, is there anything else that you would like to say to our readers?

Chris: I appreciate the opportunities and awareness that KOTESOL has provided me over the years. So, I'd just like to give a heartfelt thanks to all the volunteers for their many hours of service. Keep on doing what you've been doing!

HAN: And I would like to extend the same bit of encouragement to you: Keep on doing what you've been doing! And thank you for this interview.

Interviewed by David Shaffer



Chris receiving the KOTESOL's annual Reflective Language Teacher Award at the 2025 KOTESOL International Conference.

Chapter News

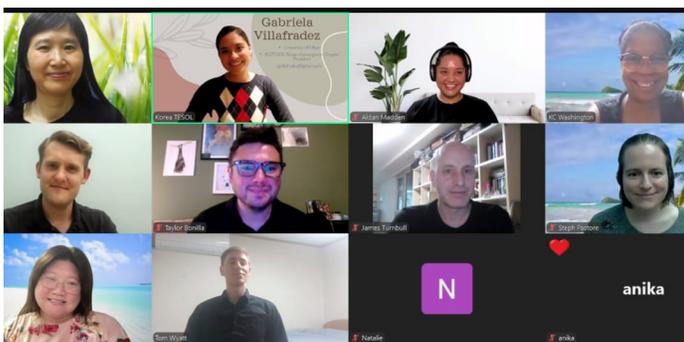
Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter

By Gabriela Villafradez, President

Hello, everyone. Here is a brief update on what the Busan-Gyeongnam (BG) has been up to this term.

As spring blossoms gave way to early summer, the BG Chapter of KOTESOL has remained a hub of activity, hosting a range of thought-provoking events, insightful academic talks, and meaningful community outreach. Here is a round-up of what has taken place so far this year, and what members can look forward to in the coming months.

April 2025 Recap: On April 5, Wesley Martin led an engaging online session titled “Using Humour and Metaphor to Discuss Global Crisis in the Classroom,” originally scheduled to take place in person but moved to Zoom in light of possible social unrest. The talk explored how educators might address complex global issues through creative, student-centred approaches.



On April 30, Mimi Lui, Taylor Bonilla, and Wesley Martin took the spotlight in “MA Talk,” offering insightful, and entertaining, glimpses into their academic journeys.

Later that month, on April 30, a trio of speakers, Mimi Lui, Taylor Bonilla, and Wesley Martin, shared their academic journeys during a session entitled “MA Talk.” The event offered guidance for

those considering postgraduate study, particularly in the context of distance learning and studying in English as an additional language. Lui and Bonilla reflected on how their degrees shaped their careers beyond Korea, while Martin discussed the relevance of an MA within the local teaching context.

May 2025 Moments: BG Chapter officers were active throughout May, participating in the KOTESOL International Conference (IC 2025) in Seoul on May 10.



BG Chapter officers represented their crew at the KOTESOL International Conference in Seoul on May 10.

On May 24, the chapter brought its energy to the local community with Global Gathering 2025 in Busan, a full-day event supported by the Busan Global City programme. This celebration of international connections welcomed both locals and members of the foreign community to a day of cultural exchange and friendly networking.

June 2025 Inspiration: Academic curiosity was center stage again on June 14 at the University of Ulsan with a comprehensive PhD Talk.

- Cenae Wilder opened the session with

Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter cont.

practical advice on selecting a programme and managing the initial stages of doctoral study.

- Dr. Lindsay Herron followed with a thoughtful discussion on completing a PhD and sustaining motivation through to the dissertation defense.

The event concluded with a live Zoom session from Stephen Schuit, who reflected on his transition from academia in Korea to a new life in Europe, discussing the challenges of relocation and adapting to change after the expiration of his academic visa.



On May 24, the chapter lit up the local scene with Global Gathering in Busan – a full-day celebration of culture and connection, powered by the Busan Global City programme.

On June 26, Melvin Dixon led an interactive workshop titled “From Respect to Representation: Growing Diversity, Inclusive Chapters in KOTESOL.” This timely event aimed to empower members and chapter leaders to foster inclusion and equitable representation their respective communities.

Looking Ahead: Summer & Early Autumn: July will serve as a well-deserved break, allowing members to reflect and recharge.

In August, members can look forward to two community-centred events in Busan:

- Beach Clean-Up on August 23 (exact location

to be confirmed)

- Beach Hop (date and location TBC)

September promises to be energizing, featuring a double event on September 20:

- A Networking Workshop (Theory) at Youngsan University
- A Networking Workshop (Practice) at the Busan International Film Festival

These workshops are designed to help members strengthen their professional networks and practice effective communication in real-world contexts.

The BG Chapter continues to blend professional development, academic engagement, and community involvement. Whether you are seeking to enhance your career, contribute to diversity and inclusion efforts, or simply connect with like-minded professionals, there is much to look forward to in the months ahead.

We hope to see you at one of our events. Do not let the distance stop you from joining us!

Daegu-Gyeongbuk Chapter

By Jake Kimball, Interim President

The Daegu-Gyeongbuk Chapter is in the midst of a lull in our rebuilding effort. It is disappointing to announce that we have lost our venue for monthly meetings; thus, we have not held face-to-face meetings in recent months and are in a kind of hiatus. Of course, we are grateful to UCC, in downtown Daegu, who had hosted our meetings. That short-lived experience was a particularly good one. Again, as always, we are thankful for the kindness and generosity offered by Jenny Yang at UCC, who offered us monthly classroom space, hot coffee, and a welcome smile.

Despite this setback, we plan to continue efforts to keep the chapter alive. However, given our low turnout and lack of a homebase, we intend to move online until we find a solution. Look for us online when fall rolls around. There are still

Daegu-Gyeongbuk Chapter cont.

teachers and ELT-related professionals in the Daegu-Gyeongbuk area who need our support.

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.

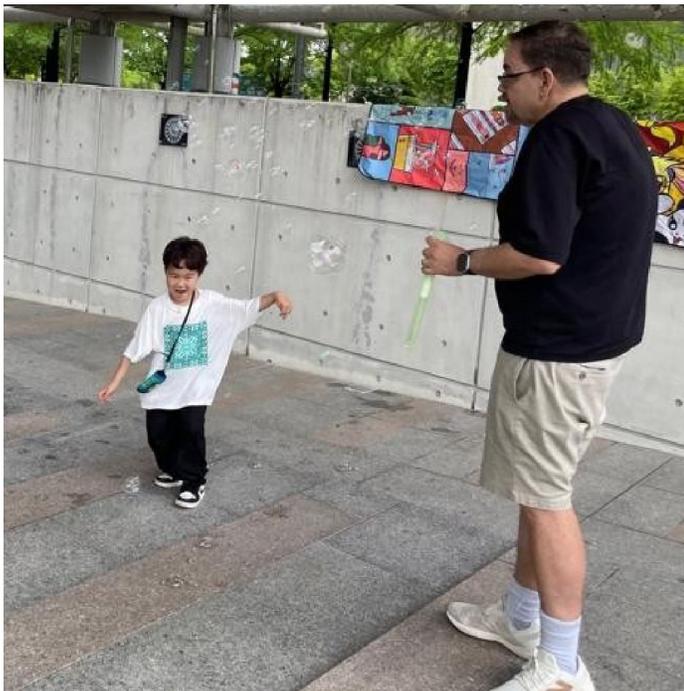
Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter

By Eric Reynolds, President

Hey KOTESOL Friends! A whirlwind of rain, reconnections, and responsible accounting! Here's what's been brewing in Daejeon-Chungcheong – and trust us, it's been more exciting than a classroom full of kindergartners on sugar.

What We've Been Up To (DCC on the Move!)

- **Hunting for Old Friends:** We've been on a mission – part detective work, part heartfelt reunion tour – to reconnect with former



Random bouts of breakdancing at the summer picnic.

members and institutions we've lost touch with. So far, we've reached out to five universities that were once DCC strongholds. Faculty liaisons are being gently wrangled (with coffee, mostly), and we've even knocked on a few high school doors. Next up: middle and elementary schools. Wish us luck – and send snacks.

- **Operation Lost Members:** We know – we're supposed to keep track of membership lists, but somewhere between COVID and committee turnover, some names vanished into the KOTESOL Bermuda Triangle. BIG thanks to Robert Dickey for tossing us a lifeline and helping us start our search-and-rescue mission for those missing names. We're on it!
- **Budgeting Like Grown-Ups:** Good news! We're not broke! Less-good-but-honest news: we are dipping into our reserves. So, we've decided to be responsible humans and get our financial records in order. Because spreadsheets are sexy, right?



Rainy summer picnic madness: soggy hot dogs and mountains of potato salad equals a total win!

Daejoen-Chungcheong Chapter cont.

What We've Been Doing (Yes, Outside the Office!)

- IC Lunch Meet-Up: We had a lovely lunch during the International Conference – ten members gathered, and it felt like a long-lost family reunion (with fewer awkward political debates). Some of us hadn't seen each other in years. We laughed, we networked, we remembered why we do this whole KOTESOL thing in the first place.
- Summer Picnic Madness: Yes, it rained. The whole. Dang. Time. Did that stop us? Nope! Hanbat Arboretum came alive with soggy sandwiches, chaotic water balloon fights, suspicious breakdancing, and heroic amounts of potato salad. We're calling it a win. Look at the photo.

Coming Soon to a Calendar Near You!

- Welcome Back BBQ & Workshop (Saturday, September 13) What's better than grilled meat and professional development? Nothing. Absolutely nothing.
- Thanksgiving Symposium (Saturday, November 15)

Get ready to feast on ideas (and maybe pie?) at our fall gathering of minds.

Want Us? Need Us? We Got You.

Got a KOTESOL initiative that needs extra muscle? A project looking for partners? A group chat that needs more gifs? Please let us know how DCC can support the broader KOTESOL family. Thanks for your support – and stay cool out there!

Gangwon Chapter

By Michael Free, President

Gangwon has been busier in the last while. Here's the scoop!

We hosted a meeting on June 10, co-organized with University of Birmingham, U.K. The group that attended was, in typical fashion, small but enthusiastic! We heard Prof. Crayton Walker discuss two approaches to vocabulary teaching:

“chunks” and “cores.” There was some interesting discussion, and we hope to have another event in the future.



Michael Free (right) joined Kara Mac Donald and Victor Reeser on the panel “AI and ELT: Balancing Humanity and Innovation in the Rhetorical Triangle” at IC2025.

Gangwon was well represented by its active members at the International Conference: Michael Free was part of the panel “AI and ELT: Balancing Humanity and Innovation in the Rhetorical Triangle,” alongside Kara Mac Donald and Victor Reeser. He also gave a workshop, “How *present* are you, teacher? Fostering Teacher Presence in Tech-Supported Classrooms,” which looked at teacher presence, a cornerstone of the Community of Inquiry framework. Claudia Tumba gave a workshop, “Cultural Connections: An Interdisciplinary Project for Global Awareness,” which was well-received!

Our next event is on July 9 and is something of a follow-up from the International Conference. Dr. Robert Stroud of Hosei University will dig a bit deeper into a portion of his main session with “Engagement in the AI Era: What Are We Missing?” Everyone is invited!



Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter

By Maria Lisak, President

Creative & Cultural Pedagogies Take Center Stage in Gwangju: On Saturday, April 12, 2025, the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter hosted an inspiring afternoon of professional development under the theme “Creative & Cultural Pedagogies.” Held at GNUE’s Room 802, the workshop brought together educators for a hands-on and thought-provoking exploration of art, fandom, and innovative teaching practices. Featuring two dynamic workshops, the first session, “Art in Language Learning,” led by Ide O’Connell, focused on integrating art into EFL classrooms to enhance young learners’ engagement and language acquisition.



Ide O’Connell leads “Art in Language Learning,” a hands-on workshop on using art to boost engagement and language acquisition in young EFL learners.

In the second workshop, “Fandom in the Classroom,” Courtney McLaren explored fandom as a meaningful pedagogical tool. This session examined fan practices, identity formation, and global citizenship. After the sessions, participants gathered for an informal dinner, fostering new connections and continued reflection.

KOTESOL International Conference: Several Gwangju-Jeonnam members contributed to this year’s conference through presentations and volunteer roles. Highlights include Dr. David

Shaffer and his presentation “Mastering APA Style Citations and References,” Dr. Lindsay Herron and Dr. Ian Moodie speaking on “Professionalism in and the Professionalization of TESOL in Korea,” Dr. Moodie talking on “Escaping the Sandbox: Why Do Mid-to-Long-Term Educational Professionals Leave Korea?” and Valencia Epps on “Examining Well-Being with Expatriate English Teachers in Asia.”

The conference support team was vast. Our chapter was represented on the Registration team with Lindsay Herron as Registration director and Bill Mulligan and Courtney McLaren as team members. Dave Shaffer served as Invited Speakers director as well as Financial Affairs director. As national president, Lindsay Herron hosted the Friday evening VIP dinner at the La Lieto restaurant. As national Membership Committee chair, Lindsay organized The Social, the Saturday evening conference event. The Social was supported in part with financial donations from the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter, Dave Shaffer, and Lindsay Herron. Also at The Social, Lindsay was given a surprise birthday moment and gifts, which Dave Shaffer helped to organize.

Special recognition and a heartfelt shout-out go to Jocelyn Wright, who graciously stepped up as national treasurer though she was especially busy during the International Conference, a peak period in KOTESOL’s calendar. Taking on this role in the lead-up to the IC required exceptional coordination and commitment – thank you, Jocelyn, for your service and steady leadership!

June Workshop – Place, Poetry, and Professional Well-Being: Centering on the theme of place and identity in ELT, our June 14 event at the English Café Lounge in the Creativity Convergence Building at GNUE featured two engaging sessions. Workshop 1 was “Placeness in Relation to English and Humanistic Education: Focused on Mary Oliver’s Poetry” with Dr. Yeonseong Park presenting. This workshop explored how Mary Oliver’s poetry, rooted in Provincetown’s landscape, evokes emotional and ecological awareness. Workshop 2 was “Examining Well-Being with Expatriate

Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter cont.

English Teachers in Asia” with Valencia Epps as presenter. Sharing findings from her Fulbright-funded ethnographic study, Epps highlighted challenges and strengths in the professional well-being of native English-speaking teachers across Asia, touching on race, gender, power dynamics, and institutional culture. An optional dinner afterward provided a relaxed setting for ongoing discussion and networking.

Upcoming Event: We’re excited to welcome approximately 20 English teachers visiting from Mongolia! Join us for an Intercultural Connections Party featuring pizza and potluck dishes. Thursday, July 3, 18:00–20:00, GNUE English Café, Creativity Convergence Building (창의융합관), 3rd Floor.



Valencia Epps presents “Examining Well-being with Expatriate English Teachers in Asia,” highlighting the professional challenges and strengths of native English-speaking teachers.

We’ll be taking a summer break from workshops during July and August.

Closing Note: The Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter continues to grow as a hub for reflective practice, creativity, and professional connection. We thank all presenters, volunteers, and attendees for their contributions this spring. We look forward to more enriching dialogue and development in the months ahead. For event updates and community discussion, visit the [Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL Facebook group](#).

Gyeonggi Chapter

By André Jacobs, President

The Gyeonggi KOTESOL Chapter has been fairly busy the past few months. Most recently, we held our annual Summer BBQ, which was a great success despite a constant threat of rain. We welcomed back familiar faces as well as a few first-time attendees who joined in the fun and festivities. Greg Lewis and Kristina Kauss deserve a special mention for planning and executing two very enjoyable events, which included an exhilarating Treasure Hunt. Participants were rewarded with Kristina’s lovely Fairy Cupcakes, and everyone attested to having a splendid time.



Martin Todd can’t resist one of Kristina Kauss’ famous Fairy Cupcakes.

In the next few weeks, look out for our upcoming workshop organised under the Gyeonggi KOTESOL teacher training initiative titled “GKT Lantern: Lighting the Way for Teachers.” A panel of four presenters will discuss a range of issues faced by teachers of young learners and teens in Korean hagwons and public schools.

At the end of July, we will restart the Gyoko Podcast by traveling down to Jeonju for an in-person interview with Dr. Alvaro Fuentes, research professor of artificial intelligence at Jeonbuk National University. The topic of our

Gyeonggi Chapter cont.

interview is AI in education, since this is one of many interests Dr. Fuentes pursues with his trademark passion. So, keep your eyes peeled for a release date in August.



Bellies full, plates empty, and smiles aplenty – Gyeonggi Chapter members after the ultimate summer BBQ.

Incheon Chapter

By Madison Brand, Vice President

The Incheon Chapter started off spring by hosting a symposium in Songdo at the SUNY Korea campus on April 12. This symposium, titled *Classroom Tested, Educator Approved: Evidence-Based Practices for Student Success*, boasted 15 speakers from across the country presenting research and hosted panels on a variety of topics. (For a full list of speakers and their fascinating presentation topics, you can visit [this link](#)). As one of the first larger-scale events hosted by our chapter, we were extremely pleased by the excellent turnout and presentation quality, and we were happy to hear positive feedback from the event attendees as well.

Moving into May, our chapter was primarily focused on the KOTESOL 2025 International Conference, which took place on May 10–11. A week prior to the conference, we hosted a casual meetup at Coffee Bean in Triple Street so that conference attendees and presenters could get to know each other before the large event and discuss which sessions they might attend.



(From left to right) Chris Houghton, Elizabeth May, Corrine Spencer, Dr. Hyunju Kim, and Victor Reeser after their panel discussion at the KOTESOL IC2025.

The following members presented at the KOTESOL 2025 International Conference:

- Dr. Brandy Bippes, associate professor of Writing and Rhetoric Studies at the University of Utah Asia presented “Enhancing Writing Instruction with the GSE: A Theoretical Framework.”
- Victor Reeser, Chris Houghton, Dr. Hyunju Kim, Elizabeth May, and Corrine Spencer, teaching assistant professors at SUNY Korea in the English Language Program presented “Pen vs. Bot: Academic Writing in the Era of AI.”
- Elizabeth May presented “Is Less More?: Deep Learning Through Focused Tasks and Reflection.”
- Victor Reeser with Michael Free and Kara Mac Donald presented “AI and ELT: Balancing Humanity and Innovation in the Rhetorical Triangle.”
- Corrine Spencer and Elizabeth May presented “Fashioning the Future: A Makeover for Project-Based Learning.”
- Corrine Spencer presented “Beyond Language Proficiency: A Comprehensive Mentoring Approach for Korean Students Entering U.S. Study Abroad Programs.”

Following the conference, we hosted another coffee shop meetup on May 25. This meetup

Incheon Chapter cont.

allowed for local educators to not only chat about their recent teaching experiences, but also share their takeaways from the conference, from their favorite sessions to ideas that they plan to implement into their teaching.



Post-conference coffee shop meetup, May 25.

Chapter President Victor Reeser also participated in the Incheon Global Campus Research Showcase on May 16, presenting individually (“Comparative Analysis of Responses to AI Across Asian Education Institutions”) as well as on a closing panel (“The Present and the Future of AI in Education and Research”).

For our last spring event, Incheon Chapter hosted a fun bowling meetup on June 22 at DX Bowling Lounge, which allowed local educators to mingle and chat while also getting a bit of physical exercise. From gutter balls to spares, strikes, and great conversation, it was a fun opportunity to get to know each other better.

Moving forward into the hot and humid summer season, Incheon Chapter is in the midst of planning several more fun meetups and professional events. To stay up-to-date on all upcoming Incheon events, you can join our open chat on KakaoTalk by scanning the QR code below!



Jeonju-North Jeolla Chapter

By Ingrid Zwaal, Treasurer

Jeonju-North Jeolla and its members have had a very busy second quarter with exciting workshops, a new home, and a new beginning.

Jeonju-North Jeolla’s meeting on April 5 brought us a full house and a request to watch our presenters, Aaron Snowberger and Eve Kim, remotely, so Facebook Live was used to broadcast to the world. Aaron’s presentation, “Smarter, Faster, Better: ChatGPT for Fun and Profit,” was probably the best I have ever seen on this topic. Eve Kim came to Jeonju from Gwangju to help us by “Keeping Your Lesson on Track: Managing Behavior for Smooth and Effective Teaching.” She instructed us on how to manage a classroom by staying on track with the lesson while keeping order in the classroom. Her secret is to organize the lesson into 10-minute pieces to make the class effective and keep moving along.



Aaron Snowberger shares insights on ChatGPT in his talk, “Smarter, Faster, Better: ChatGPT for Fun and Profit,” at the April 5 Jeonju-North Jeolla meeting.

We did not meet in May for any workshops because four members were involved with the International Conference. JNJ is always well represented at the IC. Lisa MacIntyre-Park had a new position on the Sponsorship Committee as Marketplace manager. She helped members

Jeonju North-Jeolla Chapter cont.

sign up and set up their businesses at the conference. She was also involved in the Special Activities Room with “Calligraphy in Action” and on Sunday she had her own vendor’s table selling calligraphy cards. And keeping things in the family, her daughter, Heidi, volunteered as a conference associate and did a great job of helping out at the conference.



Pausing in front of the pavilion during our spring campus walk in May, exploring the site of our new venue.

Another member pulling double duty was Dr. Natalie Thibault. She presented at the conference with “Towards Meaningful Student-Faculty Interactions in Higher Education.” She also had a table in the Marketplace, HanjiNaty & Halfmoon Moggies. We were represented by another presenter, Yuying Kang, who presented on “Perception Experiment of China English Accent.” In addition, Yuying helped manage the Financial Affairs desk all day Saturday. The fourth person from JNJ was up to her usual tricks as stage manager and logistics manager. But this year, Ingrid Zwaal also joined the Marketplace with the Dragon’s Hoard, jewelry made from silver and Austrian crystal.

No workshop in May, but instead there was an informal meeting at Jeonbuk National University, which will be JNJ’s new home. We had a wonderful few years at “I Can” Academy (Thank you, Lisa!), but it is time to move to a bigger venue and stop making Lisa do so much work. At JBNU, people met to see our new meeting place

and got a tour of the campus. We ended with a nice dinner. A thank-you goes to Hyunhwa for arranging all of this for us.



At our June 7 workshop, Gabriela Villafradez inspired attendees with her talk, “Beyond the Classroom: Teaching English Through Cooking and Art.”

On June 7, we had our first official workshop at Jeonbuk National University in the education building. We had new people attend and a large room. Gabriela Villafradez presented “Beyond the Classroom: Teaching English Through Cooking and Art.” She feels that students need human interaction to learn languages, so she experimented using British ads and cooking to create group-based interaction, and both verbal and nonverbal communication. Our second workshop had Yuying Kang’s “How to Use PRAAT Software for Research and Teaching,” which is a research application used to record voices. Her demonstration included many people speaking English, which we listened to and then had to guess ethnic origins and countries.

In other exciting news, we plan to have our first regional conference since we hosted the National Conference in 2019, so get your presentations ready for our call for papers later this fall for our conference in March 2026.



Seoul Chapter

By Christopher Miller, President

Seoul KOTESOL has been quite active recently. A plurality of members contributed to a successful International Conference in one way or another – most significantly by our immediate past-president, Rhea Metituk, and IC co-chair, Meerbek Kudaibergenov.

On April 19, we hosted two KOTESOL all-stars with Dr. David Shaffer providing an overview of the changes in South Korea from the time of his arrival (1971) until the present day. Dr. Lindsay Herron provided a variety of strategies to create more cosmopolitan, globally aware learners.



Capping off an informative session on April 19 with a group photo.

On May 29, our membership officer, Meerbek Kudaibergenov, organized an online zoom event featuring Nathanael Rudolph and Hyun-Sook Kang about the challenge and promise for academic publishing for ELT professionals.

On June 7, Dr. Janna Ballod of Seokyoung University provided an illuminating discussion about recent shifts in the Korean university system, including the rise of micro-credentialing and consolidation. Christopher Miller facilitated a discussion about teacher metaphors.

Upcoming

- July 2 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom: Stewart Gray will deliver a presentation entitled “AI Cheating: How to Respond as Teachers and as Institutions.”
- July 12 at 10:00 a.m.: Christopher Miller will be facilitating a reflective practice session on personal paradigm shifts.



On June 7, Dr. Janna Ballod and Chris Miller headline discussions at Seoul National University of Technology, Seoul.

Further details for both events will be available on koreatesol.org in the near future.



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Special Interest Group News

Christian Teachers SIG

By Heidi Vande Voort Nam, Facilitator

The Christian Teachers SIG has been meeting online each month to discuss a chapter of *On Christian Teaching: Practicing Faith in the Classroom* by David I. Smith. In April, we examined a sample first-day activity that was designed not only to support language learning but also to build relationships among the students and the teacher. A particular point of interest was an incident in which the teacher intentionally created discomfort for the students. We debated about whether the strategy was helpful and whether explaining the strategy to the students would help them make sense of the experience.

Our May discussion focused on the goals that we have for our students beyond language acquisition. Many of us want our students to experience curiosity, joy, and self-reflection in our classes. The June meeting touched on the tensions we sometimes experience between systemic pressures (such as mandatory grading curves or assigned curricula) and our values as teachers. We also shared incidents about navigating cultural differences and how these experiences might relate to language teaching and learning.

Our summer book club meetings will be on July 2 (Chapter 5) and August 13 (Chapter 6). Newcomers are always welcome to drop in (even if they haven't had time to catch up on the reading). Those who want to join future CT SIG book discussion meetings can register to receive the Zoom link at <https://forms.gle/ZLRZuaPpuZJcERzQA>.

Classroom Management SIG

By Jake Kimball, Facilitator

Our special interest group (SIG) has been quiet during the last quarter. As a result, there is little to report currently.

The Classroom Management SIG has a Facebook page where we can interact more effectively with members, post videos, initiate discussions, upload files, engage in book reading or discussion circles, and explore various other professional development opportunities.

For those of you unfamiliar with classroom management, it is worth defining our mission: The CM SIG addresses the classroom as an ecological space. We aim to explore classroom interaction, coursebook/content selection, error correction, teaching approaches and techniques, as well as motivation and engagement. The core of what teachers do in the classroom, the moment-by-moment decisions we make – that is classroom management. And that is why this SIG exists. Furthermore, we are a platform to spark your professional development by sharing your expertise, asking questions, and engaging with our teaching community.



In August, we plan to host an online event. The authors of *21 Top Tasks for the Language Classroom and Beyond*, Joshua Wedlock and Christopher Binnie, will join us to discuss the ins and outs of implementing the TBLT approach, evidence for using tasks, and how to accelerate the learning process with students. Join us before the new semester begins for this informative online seminar on TBLT. Look for more information as the date gets closer.

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

Multimedia and CALL SIG

By **Victor Reeser**, Facilitator

The Multimedia and Computer-Assisted Language Learning (MCALL) SIG continues to engage educators in meaningful conversations about technology in ELT. This quarter, we hosted a standout tech talk and have begun preparing for an exciting international event in August.

Tech Talk with Clare Kaneko: Empowering Students with Digital Literacy: On April 2, the MCALL SIG welcomed Clare Kaneko, president of JALT and associate professor at Niigata University, for a special online Tech Talk event. Clare presented her innovative Digital Literacy course that she designed to equip university students in Japan with practical tech skills for both academic and professional use. She carefully curated each activity in the course to encourage critical thinking and digital literacy. Participants appreciated the practicality of the talk, and Clare’s materials, including rubrics, policies, and sample student projects, are available for free on her [resource site](#).

Upcoming International Event: AI and English Education Across East Asia: On Tuesday, August 12, 2025, there is an international online event titled “AI and English Education: Sharing Practices Across East Asia.” Featured speakers include Masaru Yamada (Rikkyo University), who

will present ideas from his book *English Learning Skill with ChatGPT*, and Victor Reeser (SUNY Korea), who will discuss AI integration in Korean university classrooms. Breakout sessions will follow to promote open dialogue on classroom practices and challenges.

Reflective Practice SIG

By **Jake Kimball**, Interim Facilitator

As the summer season rolls around, it is worth reflecting on the state of reflection over the past few months. While the RP SIG Facebook page has been somewhat quiet, the number of RP workshops and presentations has been in full swing, primarily due to the International Conference on May 10–11 at Sookmyung Women’s University in Seoul. Reflective Practice and Emotional Intelligence was one of the core themes of the weekend, so thoughtful sessions were plentiful. This just goes to show that reflection as a tool for professional development remains timeless.

Each year, KOTESOL offers the Reflective Language Teacher Award. This award is supported by Dr. Thomas S.C. Farrell. This year, the award was presented to Christopher Miller, head teacher (English) at Daeil Foreign Language High School, Seoul. Christopher has made RP a priority in his professional life. Over the past year, he has been seen at various conferences, delivering RP-themed presentations and participating in discussions with others. And online, too. The RP SIG would like to extend its congratulations to Christopher for his steadfast commitment to reflective practice.

How about you? Where are you in your use of RP in examining your ELT pathway? Why not join us so that we can share in your journey? Who knows, maybe *you* will be the next recipient of KOTESOL’s Reflective Language Teacher Award.

We do have a Facebook Group. Join us and contribute to the conversation. We would love to

meet you! We are planning a more active autumn program, so be sure to follow our Facebook page for upcoming events.

Social Justice SIG

By Jocelyn Wright, Facilitator

In this second quarter, the KOTESOL Social Justice (Critical Educators in Korea) Special Interest Group (SJ-SIG) was not very active. We are still seeking a current KOTESOL member who has time and energy to commit to national leadership.

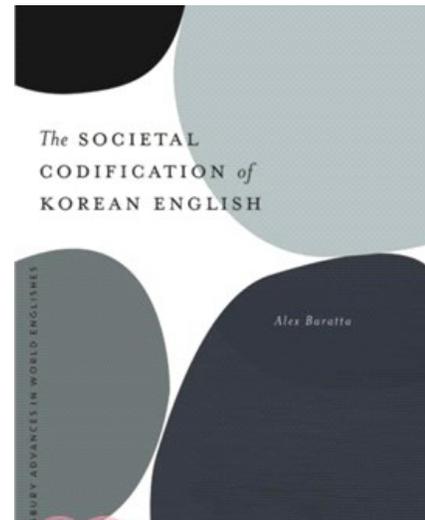
Nevertheless, there were exchanges on the Facebook page including discussions related to the following topics:

- Gender equality in ELT
- Strategies and resources for helping students to recognize and respond to social injustice
- The deepfake crisis in schools
- Recent teacher deaths
- AI systems and the English they are mostly built on

We thank all members who shared their viewpoints and experiences!

In addition, continuing our last vacation activities on the general topic of World Englishes, we plan to host another book club over the summer. This time, we will focus specifically on Korean English. Individually, we will read chapters of *The Societal Codification of Korean English* (Baratta, 2022, Bloomsbury), then hold evening weekly or bi-weekly discussions via Zoom. We are still discussing the meeting day and time.

We were also happy to publicize an upcoming Zoom meeting on representation with KOTESOL's Diversity Committee chair, Melvin Dixon, on June 26, which will explore how to navigate and foster diversity, equity, inclusion, and belonging at the chapter level. The position of Diversity chair came about as a result of this SIG.



If you wish to get in touch, our contact information follows:

- 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>

We are always looking for members to get involved in this SIG, both on- and offline.

Well-Being and PD SIG

By Gabriela Villafradez, Facilitator

We are pleased to announce the formation of a new special interest group (SIG) within Korea TESOL: the Well-Being and Personal Development SIG. This initiative was created in response to the growing need to support educators not only in their professional development but also in their personal well-being. Teaching is an inherently demanding profession, and this SIG aims to provide ELT professionals across Korea with opportunities to recharge, reflect, and reconnect, both with themselves and with a wider community.

The SIG is grounded in three core pillars: movement, mindfulness, and community. It offers educators access to stress-reducing

physical activities, wellness-focused networking, and practical tools for promoting well-being both inside and outside the classroom.

This new initiative is designed to provide a nurturing space for ELT (English language teaching) professionals to prioritise their physical, mental, and emotional health. With a warm and welcoming community spirit, the SIG encourages connection, reflection, and self-care.

Why join the Well-Being and Personal Development SIG? Members can:

- Engage in physical activities to reduce stress and prevent burnout.
- Connect with like-minded educators through wellness-focused networking
- Discover budget-friendly, English-led wellness spaces in Korea.
- Learn practical well-being tools that support both teacher well-being and classroom focus.

Activities offered include yoga, meditation, hikes, beach walks, swimming, dance, conscious cooking, and workshops that bridge wellness and ELT practice.

The group has already hosted a variety of events this spring. On April 16, members joined from across Korea for “Online Yoga – Letting Go,” a calming Zoom session combining breathwork, yoga asanas, and meditation. Later that month, on April 26, members gathered in Ulsan for a morning hike at Ulsan Grand Park, followed by outdoor yoga and a shared lunch at a local vegan-friendly spot, Tori’s. The balance of movement, nature, and conversation created the perfect setting for both relaxation and connection.

May started with our SIG facilitator, leading yoga, Pilates, and breathwork at the International Conference on May 10 and 11. On May 14, the SIG hosted a film and discussion night featuring *Eat, Pray, Love*. Educators gathered virtually to reflect on themes of personal growth, with discussion centred on whether travel is essential to self-development.

International Yoga Day

The SIG celebrated International Yoga Day in collaboration with Busan-Gyeongsang Global. The event took place on Saturday June 21 and had a full day of wellness for the teaching community, including a sound bath led by Aneel of Nepal Sounds, and a group lunch at a



Members are cleansed in a sound bath led by Aneel of Nepal Sounds.

local restaurant (self-pay). This free event was open to KOTESOL members and Well-Being SIG members. It was a unique chance to take a mindful pause, share space with fellow educators, and soak in the beauty of Gyeongnam’s nature.



On April 26, members laced up for a morning hike through Ulsan Grand Park...then swapped boots for mats with some refreshing outdoor yoga.

Committee News

Diversity Committee

By Melvin Dixon, Chair

For the past few months, the Diversity Committee has largely been engaged in behind-the-scenes activities. These include planning and strategy meetings soliciting new members at the International Conference (IC), and informal Q&A sessions with members concerning the committee's objectives and direction. We are growing in numbers and interest. As a result, we are poised to launch a few new initiatives and activities over the summer.

The committee was approached by the Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter to offer a presentation/workshop. The title is "From Respect to Representation: Growing Diverse, Inclusive Chapters in KOTESOL." It is scheduled for June 26. The workshop is designed for chapter leaders and members as well to discuss and collaborate to make actionable plans to combat challenges to inclusion in our chapters. Also, look out for us on social media.

International Outreach Committee

By Victor Reeser, Chair

The International Outreach Committee (IOC) has continued to make strong progress in building and maintaining international partnerships these past few months. Later this year, representatives will participate in the ELTAM conference in Mongolia (Lindsay Herron), JALT in Japan

(Gabriela Villafradez), ETA-ROC in Taiwan (Lindsay Herron), and the PALT and PAC Conference in the Philippines (Meerbek Kudaibergenov and Rob Dickey).

International Conference 2025 Recap: Our recent KOTESOL International Conference in May welcomed representatives from eight of our



Attendees at the International Affiliate Luncheon during KOTESOL IC2025 on May 10, 2025. From left to right: Bolormaa Batsuuri (Mongolia TESOL / ELTAM), Dr. Wayne Finley (JALT), Nur Hidayah Safarudin (Malaysia, MELTA), Jerome Su (ETA-ROC), Stephenie Busbus (PALT), Mintra Puripunyanich (Thailand TESOL), Dovchin Narmandakh (Mongolia TESOL / ELTAM), and Victor Reeser (KOTESOL IOC chair).

partner associations both in person and virtually. These associations included ELTAM, ETA-ROC, JALT, MELTA, PALT, ThaiTESOL, ELTAI, and HAAL. After the conference, representatives left very positive feedback about their experiences. Many said they plan on participating in KOTESOL events in the future.

Developing New Partnerships: One exciting development is movement toward a potential partnership with JACET (Japan Association of College English Teachers) as well as potential partners in Vietnam and China. The International Outreach Committee is looking for feedback from KOTESOL members related to their experiences

with ELT organizations in these countries. We look forward to connecting with more organizations in the region.

Membership Committee

By Lindsay Herron, Chair

The Social @KOTESOL2025 was held on Saturday, May 10, at the 32nd Korea TESOL International Conference. Around ninety participants enjoyed a passed hors d'oeuvres dinner catered by Spoon Seoul; copious libations; delightful raffle prizes, including a 100 USD credit for iTDi online courses, handicrafts donated by artisans at the Marketplace @KOTESOL2025, KOTESOL merchandise, and more; a surprise birthday celebration for the KOTESOL president; and hours' worth of camaraderie. The event was sponsored by the Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter, the Gangwon Chapter, the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter, the Incheon Chapter, the Seoul Chapter, lifetime member Dr. David Shaffer, and the KOTESOL president.



Selling KOTESOL merchandise at the Membership desk at IC2025.

Also at the conference, the Membership Committee's booth was quite popular, with many people purchasing the new 350-ml tumbler (which came with complimentary coffee all weekend at the KOTESOL Café) or other merchandise. KOTESOL's reprinted magnets and tri-color pens were also popular with attendees.

Nominations and Elections Committee

By David Shaffer, Chair

Now that the fervor of the 2025 KOTESOL International Conference is behind us, the Nominations and Elections Committee is gearing up for the annual election of elected national officers. The committee has begun by asking members in leadership positions what their interests or intentions might be concerning running for an office in the 2025 elections, as well as asking for suggestions for possible candidates. This will continue throughout the summer months.

Running for an elected office, however, is not limited to contacts that might be made by the committee. The positions are open to anyone who has been a KOTESOL member for 12 full months (except for the office of president, which requires two full years of membership, one full year of Council service, and TESOL International membership) as per the Constitution. The six elected offices are president, 1st vice-president, 2nd vice-president, secretary, treasurer, IC Committee co-chair, and Nominations and Elections Committee chair.

The National Council has confirmed these election-related dates: Nomination Period – September 1–21, 2025; Voting Period – October 1–19. Nomination procedures and voting information will be made available on the KOTESOL website.

For inquiries, additional information, candidate suggestions, etc., contact David Shaffer at elections@koreatesol.org or chosunu@yahoo.com.

Consider what your role might be in KOTESOL leadership in the coming year.



Publications Committee

By David Shaffer, Chair

In this past quarter, as in every quarter, the KOTESOL Publications Committee has been busy preparing our various publications for our readership. Between the publication of our 29-page Spring issue of *Korea TESOL Happenings and News* (HAN) and this Summer issue, we have also published the Summer issue of *The English Connection* (TEC), featuring seven articles, three regular-column articles, and a book review, in addition to Editorial and President's Message pieces. Thank-yous go out to all the contributors as well as to the hard-working staff of each of these publications. Submission deadlines are July 7 for the Autumn issue of TEC and September 25 for the Autumn issue of HAN. We invite your contributions.



Gratitude is also extended to Dr. Maria Lisak for her two contributions this quarter to our much under-used *Scribes Square*. Maria's April contribution is entitled "Why Some EFL Teachers Stay Relevant (and Others Disappear): Lessons from Hollywood," and her June contribution is "Are You Just Tired, or Is It Something Deeper? Naming and Navigating Expat Social Fatigue in Korea." We encourage you to read them both, and we encourage you to contribute your own ELT ideas, experiences, and assessments to this online resource for all KOTESOL members.

What's in the works? Number 21-1 of the *Korea TESOL Journal* (KTJ) is a collection of nine full articles, three book reviews, and a brief report. The manuscripts have all been copy-edited and

has now entered the layout stage. Look for this first digital-only issue on our website by the end of summer. We are currently receiving submissions to KTJ 21-2, to be published this winter. We thank the KTJ staff for their meticulous work, and we encourage you to consider making a submission.

Our other major publication project, *KOTESOL Proceedings 2025*, is also in the production process. We are now receiving submissions ahead of the July 15 deadline and beginning reviews. We are expecting to be able to accept about thirty manuscripts in addition to up to ten pledged by our International Conference invited speakers. Look for this volume to be published and available online before the forecast for the first snowfall. And much before that, look for the Autumn TEC to be online by September 1.

Research Committee

By Dr. Ian Moodie, Chair

The Research Committee is ready for KOTESOL Research Grant proposals for 2026. Any KOTESOL member may submit a proposal. The committee will award up to two research grants, one for 250,000 KRW (action research) and another for 750,000 KRW (original research). Applications will be considered on a rolling basis, but the final deadline will be March 31, 2026, unless the grants are awarded early. In order to receive a grant, the applicant(s) must commit to publishing a research paper in the *Korea TESOL Journal*. For more information on KOTESOL's research grant program, please visit <https://koreatesol.org/research-grant>.

Sponsorship Committee

By Robert Dickey, Chair

The most visible aspects of the Sponsorship Committee's year-long work was on display at the 2025 KOTESOL International Conference, where 31 commercial vendors purchased 59 "days" of displays (most vendors bought display

areas for both days of the weekend). All displays also received a web-banner with a link on the Displays page of the conference website. Three organizations purchased premium web-banners that were displayed on three of the conference webpages. All these links are still active from <https://ic2025koreatesol.org/displays/>.

since before Covid. A follow-up survey of Marketplace participants indicated some areas we may wish to reconsider next year.

In addition to conference activity, the Sponsorship Committee continues year-round our sales of various other marketing

KOTESOL



International
Conference

Marketplace



The #Marketplace was the major innovation in conference displays, where 27 artisans, crafts, and microbusinesses showed their wares during the conference – arts, jewelry, clothing, and foods, to name just a few.

There were also a number of advertisements sold in the conference online full program book and printed booklet. Additionally, there were four sold “promotional sessions” during the conference days, where conference participants could hear set presentations on various activities, such as studies for higher degrees and AI services in education. More than nine million won was generated from Sponsorship sales at the International Conference this year, the most

opportunities, such as sold ads on the website and in Enews and print/PDF publications, displays and ads in mini-conferences/symposia, and sponsored events such as webinars.

Sponsorship Committee: Rob Dickey (chair), Lisa MacIntyre-Park, Rhett Burton, David Shaffer, and President Lindsay Herron (more than just ex-officio!). As always, there are opportunities for others to assist in revenue-generation for KOTESOL. We are especially seeking a fluent speaker of Korean!

National News

National Council Meeting

By Heidi Vande Voort Nam, Secretary

The KOTESOL National Council made several decisions at its June 22 online meeting. To support the 2026 International Conference, the Council approved 200,000 KRW funding for promotional posters and postcards. In another development that strengthens KOTESOL's publicity arm, Lisa MacIntyre-Park has assumed the role of our new Publicity chair. Lisa has previously worked on publicity for the Jeonju Chapter and for the Marketplace at the 2025 KOTESOL International Conference this Spring. Looking ahead to the fall, the Council also approved the Incheon Chapter's bid to host the 2025 KOTESOL National Conference. The conference will be held at the Incheon Global Campus of SUNY Korea in Songdo. Finally, the Council approved a proposal that specifies that official KOTESOL awards involving KOTESOL funds are reserved for KOTESOL members.

The National Council also heard updates from national and ad-hoc committees, including the final report of the chair of the 2025 KOTESOL International Conference, Rhea Metituk. The Council officially recognized and expressed gratitude for Rhea's dedicated service. Other departing volunteers recognized at the meeting included the chair of the national Publicity Committee, Christina Tsoy, and our bookkeeper, Vivi Gallo.

President's Corner

By Lindsay Herron, KOTESOL President

The 32nd Korea TESOL International Conference was an unmitigated success! Gratitude and kudos to all the conference volunteers – especially conference chair Rhea Metituk, whose scrupulous leadership led to a

widely praised event that also turned a profit. Rhea's term of office officially ended at the closing of the conference, and the incoming chair, Meerbek Kudaibergenov, is already hard at work on the 2026 event. I'd like to thank them both for their service!

Did you enjoy the conference? I certainly did! One of the highlights for me was presenting a KOTESOL Patron Award to one of the most warmhearted people I know, Dr. Kara Mac Donald, in recognition of her significant contributions to our organization. Most recently, this included her creation and generous sponsorship of a presenter travel grant for this year's conference. Another highlight for me was hosting our annual pre-conference VIP dinner. This event included twenty international and domestic partners, invited speakers, and several longtime patrons of our organization.

And of course, I can't forget The Social @KOTESOL2025! Always delightful, this year's gathering was particularly meaningful to me because it was a chance to spend my birthday with some of my favorite people in the world. I hope everyone enjoyed the surprise birthday cake that appeared at the end of the evening, thanks to the party elves that slyly coordinated this treat!

I hope your summer is off to a great start! You deserve a break; I hope you can relax and find some well-deserved rejuvenation. See you in the fall!





Conference Chair Rhea Metituk delivers opening remarks to welcome attendees to the international conference.



Dr. Kara Mac Donald and travel grant recipient Thanh-Huong Dang.



Raffle winners Rhett Burton and Dr. Robert Stroud at The Social.



President Dr. Lindsay Herron hosts the annual pre-conference VIP dinner, welcoming partners, invited speakers, and longtime supporters of KOTESOL.



Member News

Awards

KOTESOL 2025 Patron Award

At the opening ceremony of the 32nd Korea TESOL International Conference, KOTESOL President Lindsay Herron presented a rare KOTESOL Patron Award recognizing the ongoing contributions of Dr. Kara Mac Donald, a lifetime member who founded and funded a new presenter travel grant. The new grant, awarded earlier this year to two in-person presenters and one online presenter, was designed to help presenters with financial need participate in the 32nd Korea TESOL International Conference. The grants included waived registration fees, a one-year international membership, and up to a million won for travel expenses to and from the conference.

Korea TESOL 2025 Publication Awards

Korea TESOL Journal Research Paper of the Year Award:

- **Maria Teresa Martinez Garcia**, *Bridging the Gap: Leveraging Neurodivergence to Enhance Teaching Methodologies*. *Korea TESOL Journal*, 20(3), 3-25.



Maria Teresa Martínez García of the Gyeonggi Chapter receiving the Research Paper of the Year Award.

KOTESOL Proceedings Best Paper Award:

- **I-Jiuan Ting**, *Grammar and Vocabulary in Making Inferences: A Contributory Exploration of Reading Comprehension*. *KOTESOL Proceedings*, 2024, 31-40.

The English Connection Article of the Year Award:

- **Micheal Duddy**, *Strategies to Implementing Task-Based Language Teaching in the Korean Context*. *The English Connection*, Autumn 2024, 28(3), 14-17.



Christopher Miller of the Seoul Chapter receiving the Reflective Language Teacher Award at the 2025 KOTESOL International Conference

Reflective Language Teaching Award

- **Christopher Miller**, who has not only self-practiced reflective techniques throughout the past year and more, he has also presented on reflective practice at various chapters' events and at KOTESOL's international conferences. See his recent article, "Enriching instruction via sustained self-observation," in the [ELT Classroom Research Journal](#).



Lifetime Members

KOTESOL is delighted to welcome the following new lifetime member:

Kara Waggoner

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!

Presentations and Publications

Christopher Miller (Seoul Chapter) recently published an article for the *ELT Classroom Research Journal* about his experiences with self-observation, “Enriching Instruction via Sustained Self-Observation”.

Meerbek Kudaibergenov (Seoul Chapter) recently presented at the 9th Academic Studies Congress at Istanbul Gedik University, Istanbul, Turkiye as a keynote speaker and talked about intersectionality, Korean ELT, and transnational teaching.

Dr. David Shaffer (Gwangju Chapter) contributed a column titled “Teacher 365: Juggling a Multitude of Roles” in the May 2025

issue of *Gwangju News* magazine. Read it online here. Dr. Shaffer also revived our chapter newsletter with the *Gwangju Communicator 2*.

Dr. Maria Lisak (Gwangju Chapter) contributed two blog posts to *KOTESOL Scribes Square*:

- [Why Some EFL Teachers Stay Relevant \(and Others Disappear\): Lessons from Hollywood](#)
- [Are You Just Tired, or Is It Something Deeper? Naming and Navigating Expat Social Fatigue in Korea](#)

Dr. Ian Moodie (Gwangju Chapter) recently published two articles:

- Moodie, I., & Kim, S. Y. (2025). The breakdown of co-teaching: stories from multiple dyads of English co-teachers at different grade levels. *Teachers and Teaching*, 1–14.
- Whitehead, G. E., Moodie, I., & Al-Hoorie, A. H. (2025). “I’m going to stay...”: Exploring Factors Impacting English Language Teachers’ Occupational and Organizational Commitment. *English Teaching & Learning*, 1–22.

Dr. Yeonseong Park (Gwangju Chapter) published a new poetry collection: *솔고양 이야기*.



Happy and helpful student volunteers at the Korea TESOL International Conference, May 2025.