


Korea TESOL Happenings and News



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Member Spotlight: James Rush

Welcome to the first interview for the Member Spotlight column in its new home in the first issue of *KOTESOL Happenings and News (HAN)*. This issue's Spotlight zeros in on a mild-mannered man of Gyeonggi-do. You may have seen him at one of KOTESOL's main events that he has regularly attended, or you may have seen him leading meetings and events of the Yongin-Gyeonggi Chapter of KOTESOL. Here in this interview, we get James Rush to talk more about himself than he is used to doing. — Ed.

HAN: I'd like to begin by thanking you, James, for arranging time to do this very first Member Spotlight interview to appear in this inaugural issue of *KOTESOL Happenings and News*. And for our very first question, would you tell us a little about who James Rush was and what he did before he made that flight over the Pacific Pond to Korea?

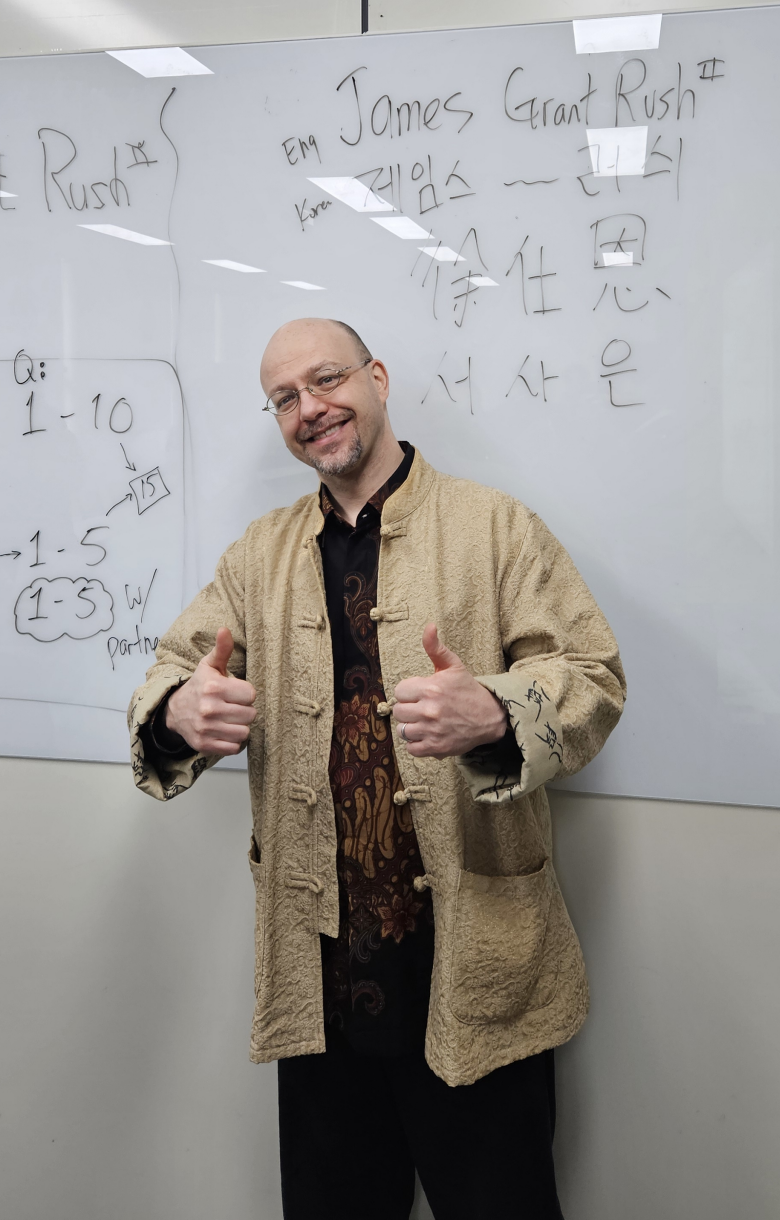
James: My pleasure. Thank you. Kamsa-hamnida. This is a great start because as I am sure you will find with each of your future Member Spotlight interviews, the true beginning of being in KOTESOL probably has a lengthy backstory leading up to finally arriving in Korea. First, there were my previous Asia callings: Taiwan (2005, 2010), Vietnam (2007), Japan (2009), Macau (2010), Shanghai (2012), and Shenzhen, China (2013). Just before coming to Korea, I worked as an English language learning (ELL) facilitator for a local school district in Michigan. My very limited knowledge about Korea was because my maternal grandfather was part of the U.S. Navy, serving here in combat during the early 1950s. He died before I was asked to take the leap, once again, over the Pacific Ocean. In August of 2016, because of my relationships built over the years 2005–2015, I was asked to teach for a semester. Ha, they asked if I could just help out for six months. Here I am many years later.

HAN: You're an assistant professor, I believe, at Luther University in Yongin. Would you tell us about your university and any characteristics it has that may set it apart from other universities?

James: Correct, I am an assistant professor. Our school is, in my opinion, an example of how South Korea has grown and developed. We started small, like, really small. At first, the school was considered a theology academy as part of Yonsei University's Underwood School of Theology. This was in the mid-1950s. Then, the school grew, and the government encouraged various institutions to start spreading further outside of the Seoul area. Eventually, in the late 1970s–early 1980s, the school became a formal seminary and eventually added university-level programs related to human services. We are one of the only schools in the Seoul metropolitan area to offer speech-language pathology as a four-year degree.



James Rush as KOTESOL representative at TEFLIN 2019.



HAN: Please describe your teaching situation at Luther University, and feel free to include any anecdotes that may be thought-provoking, richly revealing, or just jovial.

James: The situation here is quite similar and distinctly different than that of others I have talked to in KOTESOL. A major difference, I am the only L1 English speaker at my university. Yet, we have many of the same levels, abilities, and interests in our college students, and they can really be inspiring – or “interesting.” (We know that word is used for a variety of replies in our classrooms, right?!) I will share a common example based on the name of the school. The initialism “LTU” stood for “Luther Theological University” for the longest time. However, the school dropped the “Theological” part at some point but continued to use the letters “L-T-U.” The funny part is that many of the current students and staff think that LTU stands for “Lu-Ther-University” because of how Hangeul separates syllables in the name of the school.

On a more serious, richly revealing note, the founding members of the Lutheran Church in Korea were intentional about establishing a church and eventually LTU. The Koreans and missionaries from the USA did not want to be seen as sheep-stealing. They desired harmony with the already established church

communities. However, they felt strongly that the theology of Korean Christians needed more grace and Biblical foundations. There is no earning salvation, this is a lesson I am constantly learning. I try to be intentional and desire to work harmoniously in a country where I am obviously a guest. I “get” to do this vocation and recognize my privileged opportunity due to the many sacrifices made by those founders and patriots.

HAN: It was about eight years ago that you first got involved with KOTESOL, and now you are a lifetime member. How did you first learn about KOTESOL, and what induced you to get involved to the extent that you have?

James: Yes, fall of 2016. I found out about the Yongin Chapter Conference in November through Facebook and eventually the Leadership Retreat in December. Today that is called “Connections Day.” First, the people, relationships. Second, at the time, I was wondering how my vocational journey would turn out. I needed to sharpen my skills and experience new tasks as a professional. In short, I wanted to grow and needed help. With each event, genuine interactions included compelling conversations and often just basic “fun times.” A phrase I like to use, “professionally social and socially professional,” started to take shape. There are so many talented educators in KOTESOL who are inspiring, approachable, and helpful.

HAN: Until recently, when you stepped down from the position, you have served the Yongin-Gyeonggi Chapter as its president. How would you describe your tenure as chapter president? It seems to me that the chapter has become more and more active, culminating in hosting the 2023 national conference last fall.

James: Credit goes to the group of folks at Yongin who welcomed me in and gave me their support. If I named everyone and all the various ways they encouraged, challenged, and inspired, I would use up the rest of the day. I'll say this, people are busy. We have found a way to be truly inclusive and available. An area of focus I am proud of was welcoming spouses and families, including younger children.



James in class.

HAN: Aside from chapter president, what roles have you served KOTESOL in? And in what roles have you served your community?

James: For the chapter, as web editor, publicity officer, conference chairperson and committee member. For national, as International Conference publicity and as a representative to TEFLIN (2019) and PALT (2023). In the community, volunteering at a local soup kitchen that provides 100 meals for the elderly and a collaboration with the Sanggal-dong Community Center to have English classes on Friday evenings.

HAN: An interesting remark that you included in your bio to a recent article you contributed to *The English Connection* was that you cherish the opportunities provided at all levels of KOTESOL “because in the end, it’s all about relationships.” You also mentioned “relationships” earlier in this interview. Could you please expound on what you meant by that?

James: Sure. In life, our daily interactions with others make our life meaningful. Our family and closest friends are the ones we usually think about, but it is also the people in our community – bus drivers, GS-25 workers, and farmers who get us our food. At the end of each class, each work day, every event and conference – it will be the relationships that help true growth to take place.

HAN: Wise words. Wise words, indeed. Going forward, how would you like to see KOTESOL develop or change in the way it serves its members or the wider ELT community?

James: Getting more individualized and taking advantage of the technology to increase access, connections, and support for one another. I would also like to see the organization connecting and collaborating with other organizations. For example, maybe working with the Red Cross, Lions Club, Rotary, Toastmasters, and other similar organizations.

HAN: What plans might you have for yourself in the coming year and years, and what wishful thinking might you have for beyond those years?

James: Being on the human resources team for the upcoming International Conference. This will definitely take me through 2024. There will also be reflection and adjustments that will be needed to prepare for IC 2025. I wish for the organization to gain a reputation of being unmatched in having a service mindset towards everyone involved while clearly defining our brand. As an individual, my personal-professional goals are actually quite similar.

HAN: What do you like to do in any free time that you might have?

James: As I think of what is left after Luther University and Korea TESOL – Church. Some sports as interactions and exercise. Time with family and friends. Finding new paths through neighborhoods and getting to similar destinations.

HAN: Before we wrap up this interview, I'd like to ask you if there is anything else that you would like to say to our emerging *KOTESOL Happenings and News* audience?

James: This organization is a great way to better understand yourself as an educator, be it as an academic or as a practitioner. While serving others, you will find a wide range of personalities and no one is perfect, and no one desires to fail. Ask for help when needed. We all want to contribute to something bigger than ourselves.

HAN: Again, thank you, James, for providing this time for us all to get to know you even better. We wish you the best going forward. I think that's a wrap!

Interviewed by David Shaffer.



International Outreach

JALT International Conference Report, November 24-27, Tsukuba, Japan

By Joe Greenwood

Conference Chronicles: JALT 2023

There are multiple reasons to attend conferences in our industry: the chance to learn and be inspired, network and meet new people, explore an exciting new place, or see what the cutting edge of language teaching looks like. The Japan Association for Language Teaching (JALT) International conference 2023 offered all of these. Before I even departed for the airport, I was impressed by the conference app, a digital gateway that effortlessly guided me through the multitude of sessions available. The feature allowing me to mark my preferred sessions proved invaluable, ensuring I didn't miss any crucial discussions.



International Representatives at JALT 2023.

The theme of the 2023 conference was "Growth Mindset in Language Education," and the broad range of talks and discussions developed this theme from all angles. The conference started on Saturday morning with a bang: an inspiring plenary by Gary Barkhuizen. The talk discussed the interaction between teacher identity and teacher mindsets, and how we can use this to develop our practice. This set the tone for what was to follow. Another plenary speaker was Kathleen Kampa, who discussed planting the seeds of a growth mindset, which was an energetic display that elicited a standing ovation. Similarly, Judy Noguchi's plenary took on how to prepare students to learn how to take charge of their own learning experiences and thus develop a growth mindset. The plenary talks were well chosen and fantastically delivered, and really gave an anchor point to the conference.

There was much more going on besides the presentations and discussions. The multipurpose hall buzzed with anticipation as international partners gathered, each with their unique stand, creating a vibrant tapestry of ideas and collaborations. Food trucks and coffee stalls provided food for the mind as attendees took all they could from the experience.

I attended many excellent talks, with a few personal highlights. I learned more about publishing with JALT, which as an early-career researcher provided invaluable insight on the process of being published. A fascinating talk on developing critical thinking skills with authentic materials gave me new insight on how to adjust my approach to a subject I teach regularly. Another talk on how to facilitate the development of high-level academic writing skills in L2 learners was a huge success. This session subtly touched on the concept of criticality in academic writing, framing it within the broader context of research and cultural knowledge. As a teacher who taught academic writing for four years at a UK university, I learned a lot about how cultural background can impact a student's



Speaker Kathleen Kampa at JALT 2023.

approach to writing. For example, Chinese essays may include reference to folk tales and fables, which is an extremely different approach to western academic writing. I will certainly consider this the next time I am working with students from China. Every single talk I went to was delivered with energy and enthusiasm, and subsequent discussions played a key role in my learning. My notebook became extremely full!

What struck me about the conference was the multitude of valuable perspectives on the evolving landscape of language education. The

objective to broaden the impact and reach of practice to enhance inclusivity in the industry struck a chord. For example, there were a large number of discussions on bringing the students more actively in the learning process. This is a topic close to my heart, and I found this engaging and exciting. An example of this was a talk on Sunday on empowering students through student-led learning communities that had me making plans for similar projects at my university in Korea. It was inspirational.

The conference took place in the International Congress Centre in Tsukuba, Japan. The facility was a great choice, with excellent amenities. A cloak room, ample seating areas, clear signage and helpful volunteers ensured navigating the conference was a breeze. Tsukuba itself was fun to explore. Tsukuba's Science City, the Space Centre, and Botanical Garden were all highlights of my trip. Tsukuba is a city that seems to balance scientific progress with the tranquility of natural beauty, creating an indelible memory of a city that embraces both the future and the timeless allure of its surroundings. After the conference ended, I even found time to indulge in my favourite hobby: hiking. A climb up Mt. Tsukuba outside the city provided me with a day of reflection, and I was able to contemplate all the fascinating ideas I had gleaned from the conference, and was rewarded with some fantastic views!

The conference unfolded like a linguistic feast, leaving me pondering not just the wealth of information provided, but the broader mechanisms at play and the future of our industry. In the aftermath, the echoes of discussions, networking opportunities, and newfound insights still reverberate. The conference was more than an event: It was a convergence of minds, a celebration of language education's vibrant tapestry. As I reflect on the whirlwind of sessions, conversations, and the flavour of the food truck delicacies, it's clear that this conference was not merely an academic endeavor but a journey that transcended the boundaries of language and culture.



The Author

Joe Greenwood currently works as an assistant professor of English at Yeonsung University in South Korea, where his main responsibilities are teaching practical English courses and ESP and content-based courses to students across the university. Joe has been teaching English for ten years, as well as working in the HE sectors in both the UK and South Korea. Holder of an MA TESOL and (Applied Linguistics and a PG Dip TESOL, Joe is currently working towards his PhD by publishing works. His research centers around eliciting the student voice in HE to improve the efficacy of course design and delivery.

International Outreach

ThaiTESOL 2024 Conference Report, January 26-27, Chiang Mai, Thailand

By Andrew White

As the two large lobby doors to the Empress Hotel swung open by smiling concierges, I knew I was to be treated as a royal guest, both at the hotel and the adjoining Convention Center, where the 43rd Thailand TESOL International Conference 2024 was held January 26th and 27th. Being in Chiang Mai, in Thailand's northern region, in January proved to be a welcome respite from Korea's freezing winter temperatures, and through the three-day conference, the beautiful weather and mild temperatures proved to be strengthening bond which added high spirits to the conference theme "Reconnecting ELT Professionals for Glocal Sustainability."

It was my first time representing KOTESOL as an International Affiliate of the International Outreach Committee, but I had nary a worry in the world, being properly prepped by several seasoned veterans, namely Lindsay Herron, KOTESOL President; and Dave Shaffer, Publications Committee Chair. I had also had good exchanges with Athip Thumvichit. Athip was the ThaiTESOL International Affairs contact (similar to our Outreach Committee) and kept me up to date on events, accommodations, and answered questions before, during, and after the conference via email. Thanakorn Thongprayoon, the current ThaiTESOL President and Conference Chair, I also met on my first day. He made a point of checking in with all the international representatives himself. Both ThaiTESOL conference organizers were present at both dinners, and very visible at all events for discussions and if I was in need of help. It was a pleasure working with them over the duration of the conference. And if that welcome wagon and support wasn't enough, I had fellow KOTESOL member, and coincidentally International Outreach Committee Chair Victor Reeser supporting me. Technically my head honcho, Victor provided valuable expertise and camaraderie throughout the three days of the conference. The first event, the night before the conference started, was the welcome dinner, at a restaurant in the hotel, and was for invited speakers and guests only. Most people attended in casual clothing, and it was a great way to get to know the conference staff and meet my fellow international representatives. Reps from PELLTA, NELTA, MELTA, CAMTESOL, RELC, JACET, TEFLIN, KATE, and *China Daily* were in attendance, as well as many of the plenary and featured speakers. As it was the day prior to the conference, many guests were late (or perhaps didn't even attend) due to travel. Several round tables were served with delicious lazy susan-style Thai dishes, that I believe were all vegetarian.

Conference registration started bright and early at 7 a.m. on Friday the 26th, the first day of



International Affiliates Meeting, ThaiTESOL 2024.

ThaiTESOL 2024. I arrived a little before 9 a.m.. The venue added so much to the event, in my opinion, and The Convention Center at the Empress Hotel was indeed impressive and added a royal charm to the conference. It was a short one-minute walk from the Empress Hotel, part of the same facilities. The Convention Center has a very open and well-lit design; all three floors of the conference are visible from the large atrium style lobby accessible from the escalators. It was very easy to get a quick lay of the land and see where the majority of the presentations and ceremonies were to be held right off the bat. I immediately checked in and was shown the area for tabling, and allowed to pick a table and set up.



Thai Traditional Village Banquet, at the Reception Party. Empress Hotel, January 26.

I attended the opening ceremony, keynote speech, and a plenary talk, all back to back in the Empress Grand Hall from 9-11 a.m. Dr. Judy Sharkey spoke on “Community-engaged teaching and learning as globally sustaining practice. The curriculum is right here!” What is the definition of community, and the various shareholders? What does it mean to have a global impact? What are some community-engaged English lessons? (Quick answer: street signs, photos from around town, English [sic], talks from the local elderly.) She pragmatically mentioned that community-engagement may seem a romantic notion, but actually there can be conflict in position and policy. Her talk and slides were indeed engaging, with useful ideas for classroom teaching, and brought out active participation and discussions in the large crowd.

At 4:30 was the International Affiliates Meeting. The meeting consisted of simple introductions of affiliate reps (about 10), passing around a mic in a round chair-style dynamic. The ThaiTESOL President led the discussions, along with two prior presidents (distinguished ladies with long histories in ThaiTESOL). All members simply introduced themselves, and perhaps strongly urged attendance to their respective international conferences coming up. After the meeting, I was able to talk informally with the PAC representative, and Tae-Young Kim, the KATE representative who is also the editor-in-chief of *English Teaching*, the KATE journal. I congratulated him for achieving SCOPUS indexing, and said how KOTESOL is currently attempting the same.

The reception dinner, one of the highlights of the conference, was held at the hotel from 6-9 p.m. A traditional pathway was set up in a long hallway next to the banquet hall, lined with bamboo huts all containing various "street foods" representative of traditional Thailand. It seemed that each stall's dish was cooked and served by "real" chefs (i.e. middle-aged women, not volunteer conference students) which added to the authenticity of this themed dinner. This buffet style was very, very creative and a big hit with attendees. Several photo zones were set up, along with interactive mask dances, flower arranging, drum beating for attendees to do. Soft lighting and music helped create a very relaxing and traditional mood. (And I started thinking how KOTESOL could perhaps replicate such a unique dining experience for their IC reception party). One would then take their plate to the adjoining banquet hall for seating and eating. If conference attendees couldn't get away for a bit of Chiang Mai sightseeing, the reception dinner offered an authentic portrayal, beckoning weary attendees with a whispered promise of adventure, to step beyond the hours of presentation rooms and into the heart of Thai tradition.

I manned the KOTESOL table throughout the two days. Many people stopped by the table, and I was able to speak on KOTESOL and its events to anyone interested. I returned to Korea much lighter, having passed out all of the literature that I had brought. Coffee/tea breaks were 11-11:20 and 2:20-2:40 the first day, and 10:25-10:45 and 10:20-10:40 the second day. This allowed more attendees to mingle in the large lobbies, mostly socializing. Coffee stations were large and spread out, and everyone had access with little to no wait. There were plenty of tables and surface areas to drink, put down a backpack or the provided conference eco-bag, and peruse the conference handbook. This for me is a pet peeve: having my hands full and wanting to have a quick moment alone, yet not having a flat surface to get into my bag or check on a presentation time. Not a problem at the Empress Convention Center.

Presentation rooms were modern and well-equipped. I noticed that for some larger talks, like featured speakers, room dividers disappeared, making two rooms into one. I thought this was pretty slick. Computer screens in front of each room door were large and well visible, announcing the current or next presentation and its time. It was so much better than an A4 paper taped to the wall with the day's scheduled presentations, something everyone already has in the handbook.

My presentation was on Saturday, the second day of ThaiTESOL2024. It went off without a hitch, was well attended, and with several assistants to provide support. As my topic was related to *The English Connection* magazine, I passed out copies of the magazine to the eager crowd.

I will second what Victor Resser said about prior Thai conferences that he's attended as Outreach representative: The best feature of the ThaiTESOL International Conference is that everything was handled in the venue. Accommodations at the hotel included breakfast, and all attendees were provided a buffet lunch each day and dinner on the first night of the conference. Picking up a souvenir conference T-shirt for 200 baht (\$5) seemed like a popular choice with all conference goers, yet I was given one free as an invited speaker.

However, one cannot live on hotel food alone. Local meals were very cheap, and stores near the hotel had an excellent selection of things tourists often buy when they travel to Thailand without inflated prices. Grab Taxi app was a very convenient and cheap way to get around the city, including the airport. The Empress Hotel is located about a 20-minute walk from the East Wall of the old city, considered one of the touristy areas of Chiang Mai. A large night market and food market were even closer. The pursuits of academic achievement intertwined seamlessly with the pleasures of tourism leisure, enveloped in the gracious arms of Thailand's hospitality.

ThaiTESOL utilized their venue to the fullest and really delivered a great academic conference, with a venue worthy of royalty in the Empress Convention Center and Hotel. Along with the beautiful weather and delicious food, our Thailand ELT colleague helped build a sense of community among attendees, as exclaimed by the conference theme, and made ThaiTESOL2024 a special experience for everyone involved.



The Author

Andrew White is an Associate Professor in the Business English Department at Induk University, located in northeastern Seoul. He is also the editor-in-chief of *The*

English Connection, KOTESOL's ELT magazine.

Chapters

Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter

By Anika Casem

Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter started off the year with an online workshop on Saturday afternoon, February 3rd. The workshop was led by Assistant Professors Joe Greenwood and Nick Caballero from Hankuk University of Foreign Studies. They shared their wealth of knowledge on the topic of academic publishing by sharing common terminology, steps, and best practices, and answering questions.

On the morning of Saturday, February 24th, we held our Bye Bye to Winter Walk. The Winter Walk was a social networking event where participants met up at Nampo subway station, walked along the Jeoryeong Coastal Trail / 절영해안산책로 to Huinnyeoul Culture Village / 흰여울문화마을 and then headed back for lunch at Tofuga / 두부가. We enjoyed the fresh air, took in the beautiful views, had a tasty meal, and made connections with members old and new.



Attendees making their way along Jeoryeong Coastal Trail.

March has been a bit quiet with everyone settling into the new school year, new jobs, and new classes, but the chapter's president, vice-president, and secretary are heading off to the leadership retreat at the end of the month to network and learn alongside leaders from other chapters.

April, May, and June are shaping up to be eventful. On Saturday, April 6th, we have another social networking event: A Stroll Among the Blossoms. The mild and pleasant weather and the gorgeous floral landscape of Haeundae's Dalmaji-gil in Busan / 해운대구 달맞이길 will be our companions and are the perfect reason to spend the day together. After our pleasant stroll in April, Busan-Gyeongnam will have an in-person workshop on Saturday, May 18th from 3 p.m. to 5 p.m. We will have the opportunity to learn about the newest topic that is on the radar for many educators: AI. University of Ulsan's Cory Balderas will share his information and ideas with his talk AI Generation in TESOL: Tools, Techniques, and Trends. Vice-President KC Washington will also share her article ChatGPT and the Honor System with us. For June, plans are being put in place for our Beach Hop networking event, which will have us enjoying the sun and sea.

Besides the things we do as a chapter to help other teachers, our members also take the opportunity to contribute and enrich society through other facets of their lives. Vice-President KC Washington is a regular contributor to BlackPast, a website committed to sharing global Black history around the world. As of February 18th of this year, KC's most recent publishing has been a fascinating piece on Madam Yoko, an influential West African leader from the

Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter (cont.)

mid-1800s to the early 1900s. To enjoy the fruits of KC's hard work and research, check out this link: <https://www.blackpast.org/global-african-history/people-global-african-history/madam-yoko-c-1849-1906/>. In addition to KC going out and leaving her stamp on the world, Gabriela Villafradez, our chapter secretary, co-led an online event held by KOTESOL's Women and Gender Equality Special Interest Group (Women and Gender Equality SIG) and KOTESOL's Gwangju Chapter. On Friday, March 8th, for this year's International Women's Day, Gabriela helped lead attendees through discussion, sharing of memories, and blissful relaxation exercises. The online event was a relaxing way to wind down after a long week and to count our blessings in terms of the women who have come before us and the women in our lives now.



The *Bye Bye to Winter Walk* attendees.

Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter

By Andrew Griffiths

The Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter began 2024 in late February with its Executive Planning Meeting. As is customary, the chapter takes January and most of February off to allow its members a chance to relax and focus on their vacations and their families.

The executive committee for this year sees most of the 2023 committee returning: Mike Peacock as chapter president, Andrew Griffiths as vice-president, Eric Cebreiro as treasurer and Rosemary Sorg and David Allen as members-at-large. Sadly, Cole Bearden, a member-at-large last year and chair of our 2023 Symposium, has left Korea. However, we were glad to welcome two new committee members: Martin Sketchley as member-at-large, and Kathy Moon, a longtime helper (and former president) of the chapter, also as member-at-large.

The committee agreed on a number of steps for this year: firstly, that we wished to continue our Wednesday evening workshops on Zoom, which have proved very successful since we launched them in 2020. Our first event of the year will be having Aaron Shayne present for us on Wednesday, 20th March from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m. He'll be talking on the topic of speaking, vocabulary learning, and confidence building. We wanted to have Aaron present last year, but weren't able to, so we're really glad to welcome him to kick off our 2024 workshop series for us.

Looking ahead to the rest of the year, we're planning on having more workshops and more social events. We are planning to have our first social event in Sejong in April. And of course, we'll hold our summer picnic as usual when the weather gets warmer. As always, KOTESOL members of all chapters are welcome, as well as anyone else who wishes to join in! We'd also like to stress that anyone who wishes to submit a proposal for a presentation for our chapter workshops is very much welcome – we love hearing from new people.

As far as other chapter activities go, we're already looking ahead to our November Symposium and Thanksgiving Dinner

Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter (cont.)

(especially after the success of our 2023 event, which saw us return to having the Symposium in-person), and we're also focusing on the continuation of our podcast series, which our podcasting expert David Allen kindly arranges for us. His work, along with our recordings of our Zoom workshops, means that the chapter has built up an impressive library of resources which are available for our members to listen and watch whenever they please. In addition to this, we are also hoping to bring back our chapter newsletter, the *DCC Dispatch* – filled with teaching activities, articles, and chapter news. Watch this space!

The Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter is looking forward to 2024 a great deal. We hope to see you at one of our events!

Please contact the chapter at dcckotesol@gmail.com.

Gangwon Chapter

By Michael Free

Our most recent meeting was on March 2, we had a small but enthusiastic group who spent the afternoon with Kelly Pattison and Sandra Houghton from Circular Learning. We explored, discussed and learned about lesson planning with AI. We're hoping that this is but the first time we'll work with these wonderful educators from Down Under. It was nice to see Sonya Clarke, Lisa Maxwell, and Sunette Labuschagne there, as well as having Daniella Trinks drop in from the Yongin chapter.

Michael Free is currently working with Markita Session from the EPIK program to see if there is any possibility of creating a professional development program for EPIK teachers in the province. Prayers and positive thoughts appreciated!

Speaking of Michael, he continues to work on national and international initiatives. Presently he's program director for the upcoming International Conference.

We continue to look for members in Gangwon who are interested in leadership positions. We know you're out there, so please get in touch!
gangwon@koreatesol.org

Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter

By Maria Lisak

The Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL Chapter has been active in hosting educational workshops and social events aimed at promoting professional development and community engagement. Over the past two months, the chapter organized two regular workshops in February and March, each focusing on different themes and topics.



March workshop at Gwangju National University of Education.

In February, the workshop centered around the themes of peace and social justice. The chapter welcomed Mary Abura, a visiting scholar educator from Seoul, who presented her dissertation work titled "Empowering the Higher Education Learner Through Pedagogy." Abura's insights provided valuable perspectives on

Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter (cont.)

empowering learners in the context of higher education. Additionally, Lisa Casaus, an artist educator, facilitated a reflective practice session and hosted an art exhibit titled "Peace is a Forest," which offered attendees a unique opportunity to engage with the concept of peace through artistic expression.

In March, the focus shifted to celebrating children's book month. NeeNee Jo delivered a presentation titled "Reading Trends in South Korea for Young Learners: The Good, the Bad, and the Simply Expensive," shedding light on the evolving landscape of children's literature in the country. Furthermore, Jocelyn Wright conducted a facilitated discovery workshop titled "Exploring Peace Literature: Children's Books in Language Education," providing educators with brainstorming opportunities for incorporating peace literature into language teaching.



Art exhibit "Peace Is a Forest," engaging in the concept of peace through artistic expression.

In addition to these workshops, the chapter initiated various social functions to foster networking and camaraderie among members. Monthly coffee connections and evening cocktail gatherings provided opportunities for members to interact in informal settings. Exploring downtown Gwangju, starting with businesses such as The Alleyway, which offered discounts to

chapter members, further strengthened community ties and support for local establishments.

Moreover, the chapter embraced digital connectivity by co-hosting monthly Zoom sessions with different special interest groups (SIGs). These sessions facilitated engagement beyond the local community, allowing for collaboration and knowledge-sharing on a broader scale. Topics ranged from reflective practice (January, Reflective Practice SIG) and quiet study time (February, Social Justice SIG) to celebratory events (March, Women & Gender Equity SIG) such as International Women's Day, demonstrating the chapter's commitment to inclusivity and diversity.

The Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL Chapter's activities for the first quarter of 2024 exemplify its dedication to professional growth, community building, and global outreach. By providing a platform for meaningful discourse, collaboration, and social interaction, the chapter continues to enrich the educational landscape and empower its members in the field of language teaching and learning.

Daegu Chapter

By Jake Kimball,
Daegu Chapter Interim President

Great news, KOTESOL friends and colleagues. We are restarting chapter events in April 2024 – at least that is the plan. The Covid pandemic was especially difficult for our chapter and finding a home has not been easy. Luckily, we are fortunate to have partnered with UCC in downtown Daegu, just five minutes from the Jungang Subway Station. Our meetings are tentatively scheduled for the

third Saturday of each month. We are especially grateful to Jenny Yang at UCC for supporting Daegu Chapter.

The Covid pandemic hit our chapter leadership especially hard. Many officers returned home at that time, and we have not held face-to-face meetings since 2019. Can you believe it has been that long? At that time, our meetings were held at the Ecology Oriental Wellness Experience Center. Unfortunately, that venue closed, and we were left without a home base. We are grateful for their generous support and convenient location. We certainly made some great memories with friends and colleagues.

Moreover, we are indebted to past officers: President Kimberly Roberts, Vice-President Maninderpal Singh Saini, Membership Coordinator Deborah Tarbet, Treasurer Pat King, and Secretary Kelly Stukey. These chapter leaders were the glue that held Daegu Chapter together and made the chapter a vital means of professional development in the city and surrounding area.

Fast forward to April 2024, and we now have a supportive host, UCC. Our first meeting is Saturday April 20 at 3:00 p.m. As we ramp up our rebuilding efforts, we welcome new and returning chapter members. We need your support and enthusiasm, your curiosity and willingness to engage. Are you looking for opportunities to develop personally and professionally? What about networking and collegiality? Interested in honing your leadership skills and being part of a team? Then look no further.

To attend our first meeting of 2024, go downtown. If you know where Kyobo Bookstore is, you can find UCC. It is two blocks away. From the Jungang Subway Station, exit 5, 3, or 1. Walk straight ahead for about 3 minutes. It is the building next to the YMCA. UCC is on the 3rd floor. Gukchaebosang-ro 537, Jung-gu, Daegu.

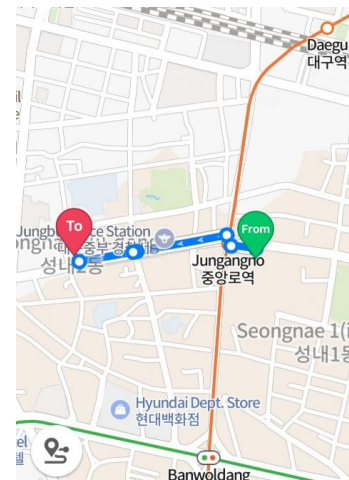
Once again: Current members and non-members alike are invited! Feel free to bring a friend and invite your colleagues, too.

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.

Date: Saturday, April 20

Time: 3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

Venue: Downtown Daegu, UCC.



Seoul Chapter

By Tom Wyatt

Greetings KOTESOL members! For those unaware, I am Tom Wyatt, KOTESOL Seoul Chapter membership coordinator. I would like to take this opportunity to send my greetings and summarize recent chapter events.

On January 16th, we had a games night at the Dice and Comics Cafe (DCC). For those unaware, the DCC, located at 428-3, Jangan-dong, Dongdaemun-gu, Dongwoo Building, 2f, is a board game cafe that has

a strong tabletop roleplaying game community and sells American comic books. We played a round of Ticket to Ride, which Melvin and I won by approximately a million points.

Let us not forget, on February 7th in cooperation with the KOTESOL Research SIG, we hosted a Zoom session where Colin W. Campbell, Ryan Hatcher, and Daniel Bailey discussed their views about AI, ChatGPT, and EFL pedagogy. By all accounts, it was an informative session.

On March 13th, we had the pleasure of inviting Dr. Curtis Runstedler, a postdoctoral researcher from the University of Stuttgart virtually present thought-provoking topics on AI in current literature and film, and consider how AI and human emotions fit in the context of the ELT classroom. Are you a techno optimist or techno pessimist? Check out his talk on the KOTESOL Youtube channel so you can decide.



Rhea Metituk, Seoul Chapter president, briefly introduces Barrie Henderson, before his reading from his book *Messy Bessie's First Pet*, at the Teachers of Young Learners and Teens Symposium March 23rd.

reputation as a welcoming and supportive chapter for all KOTESOL members by hosting three exciting and engaging in-person events in the first quarter of the year. The chapter was grateful to see many jovial smiles and many fruitful exchanges of knowledge and support as a result of these gatherings and was thankful for all who attended and participated in our gatherings.

The first of these events was a Board Game Day event held at Pumpkin Language Academy in Yongin on January 20th, in which both chapter members and students of English alike got a taste of game-based English teaching, as well as the Yongin-Gyeonggi chapter's hospitality. Snacks and drinks were shared and board games were played fiercely and friendlily, and the informal atmosphere allowed for a chance for the 26 attendees to relax and expand their sense of strategy, as well as their social networks.

The second of these major events was a *baduk* workshop held at Myongji University's Yongin Campus on February



Organized by Membership Officer Tom Wyatt, Seoul Chapter holds Game Night on January 16th.

Yongin-Gyeonggi Chapter

By Wesley Martin

After hosting the 2023 KOTESOL National Conference and Connections Day in the fall, the Yongin-Gyeonggi Chapter worked to carry on its

Yongin-Gyeonggi Chapter (cont.)

17th, which was led by Dr. Daniela Trinks, a scholar of the game (who is also the current Yongin-Gyeonggi Chapter President). Up to 20



Board Game Day at Pumpkin Language Academy.

people were in attendance, including married couples and children. The attendees were introduced to the deep cultural significance of *baduk*, also known as “Go,” and Dr. Trinks also drew parallels between playing *baduk* and teaching English. The attendees were then allowed to try out their strategies against each other in games of *baduk*, continuing the spirit of the Game Day event.



Finally, the third event was a Teacher of Young Learners Symposium, held in collaboration with

the newly founded SIG, the Seoul, Suwon, and Yongin Chapters at the Gyeongin University of Education in Ansan on March 23rd. Three featured speakers gave extremely informative talks for the 30 attendees, the first being a seminar on "Cambridge's Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT) for Young Learners," delivered by Nee Nee Jo. The second speaker, Tom Wyatt, prepared a much-discussed presentation entitled "Help, They Can't Read," which gave a deep dive into the neuroscience of reading, the significance of teaching phonics to ELLs, and several classroom reading activities. The third speaker was Barrie Henderson, who through an informal and friendly dialogue with Seoul Chapter President Rhea Metituk detailed the process of writing and publishing children's books, and gave a reading of his first book, *Messy Bessie's First Pet*.



Attendees of the Teachers of Young Learners and Teens Symposium held March 23rd at Gyeongin University of Education in Ansan.

Of course, all of these wonderful events could not have been possible without the dedication of the Yongin-Gyeonggi chapter's volunteers, who worked

Yongjin-Gyeonggi Chapter (cont.)

industriously to organize and promote them. The chapter would also like to extend its most sincere thanks to the event organizers, including Rhea Metituk, André Jacobs, and Tyler Clark, the venues at which these events were held, and the Seoul and Suwon-Gyeonggi- chapters for their hand in organizing the Young Learners Symposium. Our chapter is looking forward to the next quarter of the year with great anticipation and hopes to see many smiling faces at all of our future events.

The 31st Korea TESOL International Conference

Players on the World Stage

*From EFL Classrooms
to Global Lives*



KOTESOL 2024
April 27-28, Sookmyung Women's University (Seoul)
Attendee Pre-registration: March 1 - April 15
koreatesol.org/ic2024




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Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Social Justice SIG

By Jocelyn Wright

Will you help us to regenerate the Social Justice SIG? In the first quarter of 2024, the KOTESOL Social Justice Special Interest Group (SJ-SIG) has not been very active due to a lack of new leadership. Past leaders, Maria Lisak and myself, have been trying to sustain discussions related to relevant SJ topics, such as language and trauma, rights trends in South Korea, ending the Korean tradition of dog meat consumption, the Israel-Hamas war on our Facebook group, Social Justice (Critical Educators in Korea) SIG (<https://www.facebook.com/groups/1695951900638611>).

Maria also facilitated a Quiet Study Time: Educators' Accountability Circle in February. According to her report, it was a small but productive Zoom meeting. The event featured a unique twist as participants gathered together to work in silence on goals in an online space made for scholars and teachers across South Korea, from the coast, to the countryside, to the city. Attendees checked in with each other, announced their goals for the hour of quiet time, reconvened for accountability, and checked in at the end of the Zoom. Dr. Yeonseong Park summarized with this bit of poetry: "murky water to dark-green water. The stream of Damyang I watched today. My grant writing was murky, but it will be dark-green perhaps tomorrow." Maria felt these words resonated deeply, symbolizing the transformative journey from uncertainty to clarity, mirrored in both personal and professional endeavors. For her, KOTESOL silent moments in community are a way to support life and learning goals together. During the meeting, Maria shared her hopes to have another self-care-focused Zoom in March on International Women's Day, and an attendee, Gavriela, stepped up to help foster this event in

conjunction with the KOTESOL Women and Gender Equality SIG.

Looking forward to the upcoming KOTESOL International Conference at the end of April, we will also maintain a small presence. Maria will lead a workshop on critical literacy frameworks to investigate key dimensions in the classroom regarding circulation (meaning making), silence, and resistance while Cheryl Woelk and I will facilitate one related to peace linguistics, an area we are both passionate about, and shame/shaming in language education. We also plan to host a poetry sharing Zoom in May to encourage and support members interested in writing poems related to peace and social justice.

Quiet Study Time: Educators' Accountability Circle

*Social Justice SIG
KOTESOL*



Our continued efforts to keep the SJ-SIG active stem from the beliefs, values, and dreams which led me to found this group and Maria to develop it, which are stated in our 2018 mission statement, an excerpt of which follows:

Through its Facebook group and member-driven initiatives, this SIG aims to provide a forum for discussion and exchange of a wide range of social justice issues connected to language and education. Some key issues we seek to address

SJ SIG (cont.)

pertain to inequality and injustice, and the ways these affect diverse individuals in society.... The scope... ranges from individual/local concerns to more collective/global ones, as they relate to a vision for a more harmonious/sustainable future for all.

In the spirit of heart and hope, members of this KOTESOL SIG will attempt to promote positive and pacific transformative social outcomes through teaching and learning.

However, sustainability is not enough. It seems, now more than ever, we need regeneration! Please join our SIG to help raise awareness of and engage in the promotion of the triple top line in English language teaching in and through KOTESOL! We welcome fresh ideas for discussions, activities, and events that are win-win-win!

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

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

Email: sjsig@koreatesol.org

Reflective Practice SIG

By Jake Kimball (RP SIG Interim Facilitator)

The Reflective Practice SIG is a space for professional development. We encourage teachers to recall, share, and discuss their successes and difficulties and consider future directions for teaching practice. It does not matter if you teach young learners or adults. It does not matter whether you teach in the public or private sector. Whatever your specific situation or context, you can make critical reflection a part of your routine. Here is what we do:

Ask questions about teaching & learning

Look objectively at our teaching practices
Evaluate classroom procedures
Develop strategies for change
Seek to understand the complexities of our experience

2023 was a productive year for the Reflective Practice SIG. We offered regular Zoom meetings on Wednesdays. We are very thankful to our KOTESOL members who attended meetings often and regularly. We are also mindful that time is a commodity, so we hope our time together was productive and enjoyable. Heidi Nam has been instrumental in publicizing events and generating interest. We also appreciate Patrick Conway from Busan Chapter for stepping up and leading a workshop.

The RP SIG has been quiet so far compared to last year, but that does not mean we have been inactive. We communicate via Facebook. At the new year, we had brief conversations about 2024 goals and reflected on areas for personal or professional improvement.

Facebook has been helpful in promoting our second teacher challenge. We initiated a journaling challenge in 2023. That was successful, so we created a foreign language learning challenge for 2024, The Rosetta Challenge. This challenge has been

REFLECTIVE
INQUIRY

HOME

ACADEMIC PAPERS

BOOKS

CHAPTERS

PRESENTATIONS

BOOK SERIES



Welcome to Reflective Inquiry

RP SIG (cont.)

a fantastic activity for stepping into our students' shoes. The Rosetta Challenge is a reminder to become more aware of the hurdles our students face. Since we have not been students ourselves for some time, teachers might have forgotten what it is like to learn a language. Being mindful and reflective of our language learning efforts hopefully makes us better teachers.

The RP SIG has assembled a panel discussion at the International Conference in April. Shout out to our panelists: María Joao Amaral, Maria Teresa Martinez Garcia, Roberto Vega Labanda, and Tom Wyatt. Our session is titled "Reflections on Teachers' Language Learning and Classroom Practice." In this panel discussion, we will focus squarely on how one's language learning efforts comport with our classroom practice. Please join us at the conference on April 27-28.

Also, the RP SIG exists in no small part to Thomas Farrell, who is a well-known authority on RP and supports KOTESOL. It is worth noting that Dr. Farrell sponsors the annual Reflective Language Teacher Award. And this year is no different. Each active KOTESOL chapter and the Reflective Practice SIG may make nominations. Standards or benchmarks for the award are as follows:

What reflective practice has the nominee done for personal and professional development?

How has the nominee's reflective practice impacted their teaching and classes? What the nominee has done to promote reflective practice within KOTESOL and/or the greater language-teaching community?

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. 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.

Christian Teachers' SIG

By Heidi Nam

Established in 2004, the Christian Teachers' SIG is celebrating its 20th anniversary this year. Over the last 20 years, the Christian Teachers' SIG has sponsored symposiums, social networks, a blog, and a newsletter. Information about events for Christian teachers and past issues of the CT SIG newsletter are available on the CT SIG page of the KOTESOL website: <https://koreatesol.org/content/christian-teachers>. The CT SIG held online meetings once a month during the spring of 2023, and we plan to resume monthly online meetings in the summer of 2024. The group currently hosts online discussions via Facebook, which can be accessed at <https://www.facebook.com/groups260260984047578>. A recent online discussion addressed appropriate teacher considerations and responses when elementary school students bring up religion in class at a secular academy. In all our discussions and meetings, the Christian Teachers SIG welcomes teachers who would like to fellowship with other Christian English teachers and to explore the relationship between their faith and their work.

Classroom Management SIG

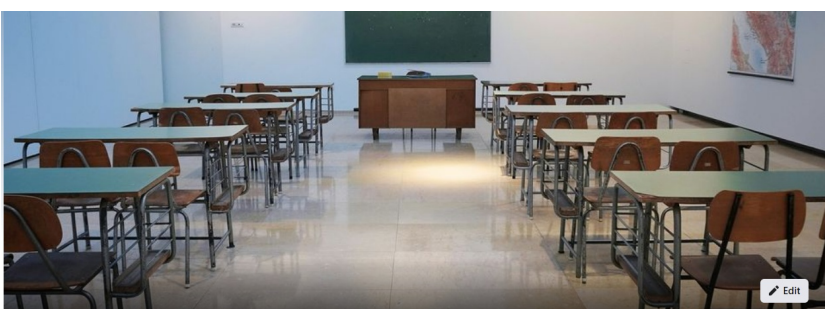
By Jake Kimball, Facilitator

Our special interest group (SIG) has been quiet during the winter season. In 2023, we had an active SIG, with monthly meetings online via Zoom. Thank you to those of you who participated in the activities. They were useful and focused on how to keep

Classroom Management SIG (cont.)

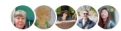
students on track, monitor interaction, write lesson plans or lesson reports, and more. We also targeted teachers' awareness of the classroom environment and how something as simple as recalling learners' names facilitates the smooth running of a classroom and increases engagement.

Up until now, we have had no platform for discussion and publicizing events. I am pleased to report that the CM SIG now has a Facebook page where we can better interact with members, post videos, initiate discussion, upload files, engage in a book club, or many other professional development opportunities.



KOTESOL Classroom Management SIG

Private group · 5 members



+ Invite

Discussion Members Events Media Files



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. Many North American institutions center on behavior management and the skills and techniques to deal with disruptive behavior. However, our SIG adopts a more 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."

Multimedia and CALL (MCALL)

By Victor Reeser

The Multimedia and Computer-Assisted Language Learning Special Interest Group continues to put effort into staying at the forefront of integrating cutting-edge technologies and pedagogical strategies. Over the past quarter, our Facebook Group has served as a platform for engaging discussions, idea exchange, and sharing information on events for professional development and improving teaching practices.

Creative Classroom Resources: Our members delved into the art of leveraging available resources to foster more engaging and interactive learning environments. This discussion underscored the importance of creativity in utilizing digital tools to enrich the language learning experience.

Elevating Presentations: Another hot topic was the creation of compelling slideshows. The conversation centered on best practices to avoid common pitfalls like focusing too much on visual aesthetics as opposed to creating media with information that is accessible to our students.

AI in Education: Perhaps the most forward-looking discussion has been on the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) in the classroom. Educators shared insights and discussed the potential of AI to personalize learning, automate administrative tasks, and provide real-time feedback. The issue of using AI to create artwork and the ethics of using AI-generated materials sparked debates on how to implement the AI-based tools in class.

In addition to our engaging online discussions, the MCALL SIG has made a

MCALL SIG (cont.)

notable impact offline. On March 16th, SIG Facilitator Victor Reeser represented our SIG at the Jeonju-North Jeolla Workshop delivering a presentation titled "Transforming Writing Classes with AI." The presentation offered insights on integrating AI tools in writing classes and discussed practical strategies for relieving teacher workload and improving students' writing.

Looking ahead, the MCALL SIG is excited to announce its panel discussion at the upcoming 2024 KOTESOL International Conference titled "Bridging the Gap: Blending Online and Offline Teaching in Language Education." This event promises to be a highlight for educators seeking to navigate the challenges and opportunities of digital integration in teaching. Five members from around the globe will share their expertise on effective language instruction in the digital age covering a broad spectrum of topics from online engagement techniques to the integration of technology in physical classrooms.

As we continue to explore the intersections of technology and language learning, the MCALL SIG remains dedicated to supporting educators in their quest to stay ahead of the curve. Join us as we shape the future of language education together.

Young Learners and Teens (YLT) SIG

By Andre' Jacobs

The reactivation of KOTESOL's dormant Young Learners and Teens SIG was formally announced at the Yongin KOTESOL Year-End Party hosted at Myongji University in Yongin, on December 16th, 2023. The introduction of the SIG was welcomed by all participants who were eager to share ideas and advice on how best to serve teachers of young learners. Lively discussions followed at the dinner that left all revelers relaxed but invigorated and ready to

take up the YLT SIG's New Year's challenge.

On March 23rd, a joint venture born of Heidi Vande Voort Nam's inspiration, fueled by Rhea Metituk's boundless energy, and realized by Tyler Clark's organizational prowess, saw the recently resurrected YLT SIG host its first symposium at the picturesque Gyeongin National University of Education's Gyeonggi campus, on a sunny Saturday afternoon in late March. The symposium was a shared project brought to fruition by the efforts and support of the Seoul, Suwon, and Yongin KOTESOL Chapters.

The speakers, in order of appearance, were Nee Nee Jo, esteemed director of Assessment Korea, Tom Wyatt, a full-time student in Yonsei's Korean Language Program, and Barrie Henderson, veteran teacher and published author.

23
MARCH
2PM TO 5PM

GYEONGIN NATIONAL
UNIVERSITY OF EDUCATION
GYEONGGI CAMPUS

KOTESOL
TEACHERS OF
YOUNG LEARNERS
AND TEENS
SYMPOSIUM

Nee Nee Jo
Tom Wyatt
Barrie Henderson

A joint event by the
Seoul, Suwon & Yongin
KOTESOL Chapters

The debut of the newest, trending
KOTESOL Special Interest Group!

Topics by veteran teachers include:
attaining certifications for teachers of young learners,
teaching phonics, and publishing children's books.

YLT SIG (cont.)

Nee Nee educated the listeners in the wide array of education courses provided by Cambridge but focused specifically on the Teaching Knowledge Test (TKT) Young Learner's certificate, which could prove invaluable to practicing teachers looking for a recognized qualification. After a short break, Tom Wyatt led the audience on an insightful journey through the linguistic brain and many oddities of dyslexia until gently rolling into the station of the "how-to" of learning phonics. The final course on an already delectable afternoon menu was an interview-style introduction to Barrie Henderson by Rhea Metituk, followed by Barrie's reading of his first book *Messy Bessie's First Pet*. The event was a roaring success with the energetic active participation of all educators present.

On a late Tuesday evening, March 26th, exhausted teachers from both Korea and Japan gathered in the online world of Zoom to discuss a project called Verbal Classrooms.

Verbal Classrooms is the brainchild of José Domingo Cruz, creative producer at Goldfish365 and English instructor at Kyushu Institute of Technology in Fukuoka, Japan.

The idea behind Verbal Classrooms is that students will never become comfortable speaking English unless they actually speak, so the method maximizes speaking time through a student-centered interactive approach.

José is currently applying his teaching method to his university classes, but the challenge that was addressed on Tuesday was how one would go about adopting this method to young learners. The input was as varied as the attending teachers and their respective backgrounds, and by the end of the meeting, we had decided to meet again in a few months in order to evaluate our individual classroom solutions. I will keep you posted!



Speakers and attendees of the YLT Symposium, held March 23rd at Gyeongin National University of Education.

Committee News

Publications Committee

By David Shaffer, Publications Committee Chair

The Publications Committee has in its charge the major publications of Korea TESOL: *The English Connection* (TEC), *Korea TESOL Journal*, and *KOTESOL Proceedings*. To this list, we can now add our newest publication, *KOTESOL Happenings and News*, “HAN” for short. Like TEC, HAN will be a quarterly publication coming out midway between publication dates for TEC. While TEC focuses on articles on ELT, HAN will focus on activities and other information related directly to KOTESOL, as its name suggests.

As for TEC, the first issue of this year, Volume 28 Issue 1 – the Spring 2024 issue – came out in early March. It is labeled “The International Conference Edition,” as it is almost totally devoted to the upcoming conference. It contains five interviews and three articles contributed by invited speakers coming to our April conference, as well as an article by our conference chair. If you haven’t read these yet, they are available on the KOTESOL website under Publications >> The English Connection >> The English Connection (TEC 28-1). Work is, of course, underway on the Summer 2024 issue of TEC, due out June 1. Consider submitting a contribution to a future issue of TEC; it would be beneficial to first discuss your potential article with the editor-in-chief.

The *Korea TESOL Journal* (KTJ) is a semi-annual publication. The most recent issue, Volume 19 Issue 1, came out in October in both print and digital versions. It contains six full papers, including one by the renowned William Littlewood; three brief reports; and three book reviews. Members can still request a hard copy or read it online at Publications >>

Korea TESOL Journal >> Korea TESOL Journal 19-1. Consider making a submission to KTJ; article length ranges from 5,000 to 8,000 words.

KOTESOL Proceedings is an annual publication. It is a post-international conference compilation of articles deriving from presentations made at the spring international conference. In addition to research presentations, Proceedings papers can be based on conference workshops, demonstrations, symposia, poster presentations, and even pecha kucha. *KOTESOL Proceedings 2024* came out in February this year. It is a thick volume consisting of thirty-two papers (x + 359 pages), including two co-authored by George Jacobs. Members can access the most recent issue via the Publications landing page. If you are presenting at the 2024 International Conference, consider submitting a paper to *KOTESOL Proceedings 2024*. The submission deadline is June 30, and manuscript length is 2,500–5,000 words.

To promote scholarly research and writing, the Publications Committee has created three annual awards: the KTJ Research Paper of the Year Award, the TEC Article of the Year Award, and the Proceedings Best Paper Award. The recipients of this year’s awards will be announced at the international conference in April.

HAN’s goal is to touch on all aspects of KOTESOL: chapter events, special interest group (SIG) events, our conferences, and partner conferences, as well as other KOTESOL events and member milestones. Consider volunteering to write a short article on one of these that interests you.

Publications Committee (cont.)

Another, quite underused, writing opportunity available on the Publications webpages is Scribes Square, a low-stress publication venue for ELT articles starting at just a few hundred words. You can find it also in the Publications menu.

In addition to archiving all issues of TEC, KTJ, and Proceedings, the Publications webpages houses the monthly KOTESOL e-newsletters, chapter newsletters and podcasts, SIG newsletters, *KOTESOL Voices*, numerous popular columns compiled from past issues of TEC, and more. Hundreds of hours of reading material is available. We invite you to take advantage of them.

The Korea TESOL Journal

By Kara Mac Donald, Editor-in-Chief

The *Korea TESOL Journal* is about to publish Issue 19-2. The issue consists of six full research articles, three brief reports, and two book reviews. As always, the articles address a range of topics relevant to and impacting English language teaching (ELT) in Korea and similar Asian ELT contexts, with authors from a variety of teaching contexts worldwide. While waiting for the upcoming issue, please enjoy the articles in [Volume 19-1](#). Also, submissions to the *Korea TESOL Journal* are not solely for educators with experience in research and *publishing*— or with extensive careers in ELT. The *Korea TESOL Journal* welcomes submissions from all members. If you are not yet ready to contribute a full research article, consider contributing a brief report or book review. You can find more information about contributions to the journal [here](#).

Looking ahead, KTJ editors will award the annual Korea TESOL Journal Research Paper of the Year in April. Research articles published in Issues 18-2 and 19-1 are eligible for consideration by the editorial board for this

year's award. As is our practice, the 2023 Research Paper of the Year will be announced at our International Conference on April 27–28.

KTJ's ongoing project is Scopus approval. Scopus is an abstract and citation database. Journals in the Scopus index benefit from enhanced credibility in the field. When KOTESOL obtains this approval, we expect our journal to receive more visibility and, in turn, more submissions. Members may be wondering about the process for applying for a Scopus ranking. Scopus approval requires several stages to be granted approval. At this point, the Scopus team has completed the paperwork for self-assessment. This preliminary stage determines eligibility for Scopus ranking. The team drafted the rationale and text that goes into completing the initial Scopus review application. We have also established our DOI address. This stands for “digital object identifier.” You may have seen this used with journal or book references. KOTESOL secured its own DOI. As soon as the new computer system goes live, we will be ready to advance to the next stage of the Scopus index process.

Membership Committee

By Lindsay Herron

The KOTESOL Membership Committee has been busy orchestrating more perks and benefits of membership, especially in conjunction with the 31st Korea TESOL International Conference! New this year are a 15% discount on all ZenKimchi tours (valid until 30 days post-conference); three free months of Twinkl Ultimate for conference participants; and new, innovative ways for members to promote their personal small business, including complimentary booth space at KOTESOL

Membership Committee (cont.)

2024. Featuring a variety of services, handicrafts, baked goods, and more, the members' booths are sure to delight conference participants.

The Membership Committee will have its own table at the conference, as well. At the Membership desk, participants can purchase KOTESOL merchandise for reasonable prices (perfect as souvenirs or gifts; cash only) or pick up free KOTESOL promotional items such as multicolor pens, copies of the conference issue of *The English Connection*, magnets, and more. Finally, the Membership team has also been working hard on The Social @KOTESOL2024, a great opportunity for members and conference attendees to meet and mingle. As with last year's event, The Social is a ticketed event catered by Spoon Seoul and open to both members and nonmembers, with no conference participation required. This year, though, it will be a full dinner, passed hors d'oeuvres style, with half the menu comprising promising vegan options (plus some vegan treats the committee chair brought back from the United States!). Plenty of wine and a selection of non-alcoholic beverages will also be available throughout the two-hour event. The ticket prices are 25,000 KRW for KOTESOL members and 35,000 KRW for nonmembers, and we anticipate around a hundred attendees, as we had last year. Members can purchase tickets in advance through April 20, and a limited number of tickets will be available for purchase during the conference at registration or the Membership desk (cash only).

International Outreach Committee (IOC)

By Victor Reeser

The International Outreach Committee (IOC) has had an eventful and productive start to the year. The IOC continues to support and strengthen KOTESOL's presence in Asia and



KOTESOL tri-color pens will be available.



KOTESOL merchandise will be available for purchase at the Membership booth.

around the world.

In January, Andrew White carried the KOTESOL banner to the 43rd Thailand TESOL International Conference 2024. Representing our association with distinction, Andrew managed a table where he engaged with attendees, provided information about KOTESOL, and promoted the upcoming 2024 KOTESOL International Conference. He also gave a presentation on his work for KOTESOL titled, "My Duties as Editor-in-Chief of *The English Connection*, Korea TESOL's ELT."

IOC (cont.)

In this session, Andrew shared his experiences and insights with conference goers interested in setting up similar publications for their respective organizations.

February brought KOTESOL with International member John Baker representing our organization at the 20th Annual CamTESOL Conference. In a moment of pride for KOTESOL, John accepted a special participation plaque recognizing our unwavering support and meaningful contributions to the ELT field. This distinguished honor not only highlights KOTESOL's dedication to ELT development but also strengthens our international reputation and commitment to excellence in the field of language education.

Looking ahead, KOTESOL is set to make its mark at the 33rd International Symposium on English Language Teaching and Learning hosted by ETA-ROC in Taiwan this November. Victor Reeser has been selected to represent KOTESOL, another great opportunity to demonstrate our ongoing commitment to international outreach.

The IOC is also involved in the preparations for the upcoming 2024 KOTESOL International Conference. This year, we are supporting ten representatives from our partner organizations including BELTA, ELTAI, ELTAM, ETA-ROC, HAAL, JALT, MELTA, PALT, TEFLIN, and ThaiTESOL. Their participation is not just about sharing knowledge and experiences; it's about strengthening the bonds that unite us with these leading ELT organizations. Their experience at the conference will foster a more interconnected and collaborative global ELT community.



Partner Award presented at CamTESOL, recognizing KOTESOL's contributions to the ELT field.



Andrew White (right), with Victor Reeser (middle), attends ThaiTESOL in January.

Sponsorship Committee

By Robert Dickey

Although a voluntary organization, KOTESOL has real financial needs. Typically, about one third of the organization's budget comes from membership dues, another one third from conference registration fees, and the remainder mostly from sponsorships and advertising. The Sponsorship Committee seeks to sell marketing opportunities in our media and events to ELT books vendors, teacher training programs, and others. The international conference is a major focus, but other conferences and events, as well as the website and publications, are also attractive promotional placements.

The Sponsorship Committee has been working hard to generate funds to enable more activities and services for members despite massively downsized marketing budgets in the ELT sector. Long-term supporters such as the University of Birmingham and recurring occasional advertisers provide a foundation, but working back from the Covid-era marketing cutbacks has been a real challenge. (It is important to remember that these organizations see their support of KOTESOL as an investment, not charity!)

Committee members Rob Dickey (chair), André Jacobs (incoming chair), and Lindsay Herron (ex-officio) work with requests across the organization, including chapters, SIGs, and publications, to support revenue generation for their specific needs, as well as general support



The poster features a large, colorful, illuminated bridge structure against a dark sky. In the top right corner, there are logos for KOTESOL (Korea TESOL), ESBB (English Scholars Beyond Borders), and Gwangju National University of Education. The main text reads: "2024 ESBB International TESOL Conference & KOTESOL National Conference", "Transcending Borders, Building Bridges: Compassion, Connection, & Criticality in the 21st Century", "October 12 & 13, 2024 (Culture Day: October 11)", "Gwangju National University of Education, Gwangju Metropolitan City, Korea", and "Proposals accepted on a rolling basis through July 31". The website "http://koreatesol.org/nc2024" is prominently displayed at the bottom.

to national operations.

Visit the website and open the E-news: more views lead to more advertisers and more money for KOTESOL!

Suggestions, especially contacts, for new potential sponsors to KOTESOL are of course very welcomed!

sponsor@koreatesol.org



News

KOTESOL NC

The 2024 KOTESOL National Conference Is Almost Ready to Roll!

KOTESOL is partnering with English Scholars Beyond Borders (ESBB) this fall to present the 2024 ESBB International TESOL Conference & KOTESOL National Conference. With a theme of “Transcending Borders, Building Bridges: Compassion, Connection, and Criticality in the 21st Century,” this year’s event will be held October 12 & 13 (with an optional culture/tour day on October 11) at Gwangju National University of Education in Gwangju Metropolitan City. Lunch will be provided for everyone who pre-registers, and tickets will be available for a special dinner and performance on Saturday evening. Proposals are being accepted on a rolling basis through July 31—but quite a few have already arrived from around the globe, so we recommend submitting your abstract soon! Postcards with additional

information will be available at the Membership desk at the 31st Korea TESOL International Conference.

New Lifetime Members

KOTESOL is delighted to welcome the following new lifetime members:

- John Baker
- Megan Ivey Beard
- Daniel Dusza
- Minkyung Kwon
- Rosemary Sorg

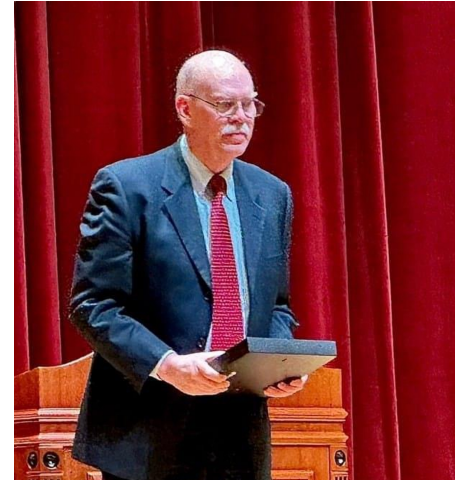
We offer our heartfelt gratitude for your ongoing support and dedication. Thank you for choosing KOTESOL—and welcome to a lifetime of perks, privileges, and opportunities!

President’s Corner

By Lindsay Herron

As our annual international conference draws near, I’d like to take a moment to thank the hundreds of volunteers, presenters, and attendees who make this event such a resounding success. The team spends thousands of hours preparing, starting at least a year in advance and literally investing blood, sweat, and tears in the event. I have high hopes this year’s conference will start to return to pre-COVID levels of participation—but with new perks, privileges, and participation options we have developed over the past several years. Personally, I’ll be welcoming our invited speakers and representatives of our partner organizations at a special pre-conference dinner on Friday night, and then I look forward to chatting with everyone at The Social @KOTESOL2024 on Saturday night. Have you seen the menu? It looks delectable! I also recently had the privilege of facilitating a session at an “unconference” in Vietnam, where I made some wonderful friends and connections and also encouraged attendees to consider participating in our international and/or national conferences. We might have some new international partners coming out of this meeting, as well. My fingers are crossed for some new relationships—and possibly new members—for our organization! Much appreciation to lifetime member John Baker for thinking of KOTESOL for this opportunity.

On the topic of relationships and gratitude, I'd like to thank Robert Dickey for his many years of involvement in KOTESOL. A true cornerstone of our organization, Rob is officially retiring this semester—and while I'm sure he'll keep a finger or two involved in KOTESOL, this is an ideal turning point at which to recognize his lifetime of service to KOTESOL. Rob has earned the President's Award, the highest award in our organization, seven times—each time well merited. He has served as an exceptional mentor and leader in KOTESOL almost since its inception, routinely stepping up with alacrity to serve in any role needed, including as president, secretary, conference chair, treasury assistant, and as the current Sponsorship Committee chair. He has been an invaluable asset to our organization in a plethora of ways, and we are very fortunate to count him among our volunteers—just as I feel very fortunate to count him among my friends. For Rob's dedication, support, and enthusiasm over the years, I am pleased to present him with a Lifetime Service Award. Congratulations, and thank you, Rob!



Finally, we're excited to announce that our new Incheon Chapter is almost ready to be officially founded. If you live in Incheon and would like this to be your new chapter, please contact Victor Reeser (vreeser@duck.com); once we have enough names, the chapter can formally begin.



Lindsay at Unconferencevn, March 15, 2024.



Chapter Leader's Meeting

By Mike Peacock

On March 30th, KOTESOL chapter presidents and members of their executives met for the Chapter Leaders Meeting in Daejeon. Chapters shared examples of the events they hold, what has been successful for them, and what has been a struggle. Other topics discussed were KOTESOL terminology, how to fill out KOTESOL forms, using Canva, recruiting volunteers for this year's international conference, and, finally, pet projects promotion from André Jacobs and Melvin Dixon.



KOTESOL Chapter Leader's Meeting in Daejeon on March 30th.



Martin Sketchley contributes a chapter to the book *More Than A Gap Year Adventure*.

Martin Sketchley, Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter, has been teaching English for nearly 20 years, with teaching experience in South Korea, Romania, and the UK, and is currently working as assistant professor at Woosong University in Daejeon, South Korea. He was approached by Martin Hajek to contribute a chapter to his book, *More Than A Gap Year Adventure*, to write about his experiences of creating YouTube videos about English teaching. Over twenty other English teaching professionals also contributed, with the publication being available on Kindle or to purchase as a physical book. Other than his chapter, which focuses solely on creating video content as an English language teacher, there are a range of other chapters that also highlight the importance of focusing upon a niche as a teacher-entrepreneur, experiences of blogging, and writing for ELT magazines by highly experienced professionals.

More Than A Gap Year Adventure is available to purchase on a range of platforms such as [Amazon](#), [Apple Books](#), [Payhip](#) or [Gumroad](#). There is more information on [Martin Hajek's website](#) about this unique and insightful publication.

Jocelyn Wright receives literary award for French poem publication.

Jocelyn Wright, Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter member and associate professor at Mokpo National University, received the Kyeongmaek Literature Award on March 27th, from the Kyeongmaek Writers Society. Her poem, written in French, entitled “La Paix pour Toustes,” is a solemn voice of sharing joys and sorrows amongst the biodiversity of a planet with eight billion lives. It was published last year in Kyeongmaek Literature, of the International PEN Literary Society.

