



Korea TESOL Happenings and News

**Autumn 2024
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Korea TESOL Happenings and News

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Member Spotlight: Melvin Dixon

Our featured member for this issue is an individual who has managed to keep a low profile within KOTESOL although he has been attending KOTESOL events for close to two decades! Well, a relatively low profile until recent years, at least. He is now presenting workshops across the peninsula and serves as vice president of Seoul Chapter. Let us learn more about Melvin Dixon in this interview for *Happenings and News (HAN)*.

HAN: Hello, Melvin. Thank you for making time for this interview. Will you begin by telling us a little about yourself pre-Korea? I must admit that I knew nothing about you before you came to Korea in 2006 – and I only know that from a workshop bio that I read.

Melvin: Hello. I'm from North Carolina in the US. I studied professional and creative writing in university. I worked in banking, retail management, and coaching soccer, but most of my professional career has been in education. For the majority of that time, I taught middle school language arts and social studies.

HAN: So, in Korea, you're continuing that career in education. Of the 200 or so countries in the world, what was it that made you decide on coming to Korea?

Melvin: I first became interested in teaching abroad during my senior year in university. I went to an interview for jobs in Korea, but didn't make the move then. Years later, I decided to leave the teaching job that I had at the time, and before I applied to other schools in that area, I realized that I had a second window to try teaching abroad – this time, with valuable years of teaching experience behind me. Being from the southern part of the US, I was interested in working in warm countries. Thailand was attractive, but I had college loans to pay off, and doing so with baht would have taken quite a while. So I looked at countries with colder climates than I preferred, but with better exchange rates with the US dollar. In 2006, it felt like people around me knew more about Japan and China than they did about Korea. That made Korea more attractive to me. There was the opportunity to learn a lot about a new country.

HAN: So, in this “more attractive” country, you're teaching at Gyeonggi University of Science and Technology. What do you find to be the challenges as well as the benefits of teaching at the tertiary level – either specific to your institution or more general?

Melvin: In general, in teaching university students English, there is the chance that students feel they've already reached the finish line. When teaching grade school students, they often have the incentive to try to prepare to get into a good university. Early in my time at my school, I found more of that than I do these days, but sometimes I still have students who feel like English won't be meaningful for their future. It is a challenge to help these students find value in my class and English studies overall.

HAN: I believe that part of your teaching involves preparing students for study abroad. How does a syllabus or curriculum for such a program differ from that of a general English studies program?





Representing the Seoul Chapter at the 2024 International Conference.

Melvin: KOTESOL is a valuable resource. It offers opportunities for learning, networking, practical application of skills, and so much more. The variety of avenues for self-improvement, I feel, is the major strong point of the organization.

HAN: I would agree. You have recently led a workshop on building connections for better instruction. In a nutshell, could you tell us how an instructor can go about this?

Melvin: The idea for this workshop came from the feeling that sometimes I think more about the “mechanical” side of pedagogy and instruction than I do about the human side. It is very important to connect to students, colleagues, and other people who we encounter in order to best meet the needs of our students. As we nurture all of the relationships in our life, if we are conscious in these steps, we can apply similar techniques in our classrooms, and we can transform ourselves into the type of educators that do this naturally. One topic mentioned in the presentation is the value of acknowledging the interests of others. One benefit of this is that it motivates people, including our students.

HAN: Interesting! I’ll make it a point to be present when you talk on this topic in November at the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter meeting. Looking forward, what would you like to see KOTESOL focus on that it may not be doing now or that it could be doing more of?

Melvin: I’m interested in how we can find ways of engaging younger educators. We have a lot to offer them, but we also have a lot that we can learn from them as well.

HAN: How true! KOTESOL used to have a younger membership, but as KOTESOL ages, the mean age of its members is also increasing. What do you like to do when you find time away from your teaching duties?

Melvin: Our Global Education Center prepares students for overseas employment, workplace training, internships, language study, and academic transfer. There are several different programs for students through the center. The most intensive is the K-Move program sponsored by the Korean government. Students have intensive courses in job skills, English for traveling, working abroad, and conversational skills. Our school operates a Global Workforce Training Program and a Global English class. We also provide mentoring and support for students as they navigate their chosen program. It’s always interesting to practice with students for their visa interviews.

HAN: It sounds like a quite interesting and useful program. Let’s turn to KOTESOL now. In recent years, you have become more and more active in KOTESOL and now hold the position of vice president of the Seoul Chapter. What do you see as the strong points that KOTESOL has to offer its members – and the ELT community in general?



Receiving a gift for participation in a service project near Daedun Mountain.

Melvin: I first found out about KOTESOL in 2007, when I worked for the Gangnam School District. They paid for us to attend the International Conference. When I left that job, I was happy to pay to attend the annual conference and was happy to become a member. It has been an important resource in my career for many years now. It hasn't been long that I've been involved in a more meaningful way. "Teachers helping teachers" isn't just a slogan, it's a description of what happens. These days, I actively seek friends and acquaintances to explore what KOTESOL offers. If you're reading this, you likely already know what we have with KOTESOL. I'm happy for this opportunity to share my experiences and appreciation for KOTESOL.

HAN: Thank you for providing us with this interview, Melvin, and for allowing us to get to know you better. I'm sure we will be seeing you at upcoming KOTESOL events.

Interviewed by **David Shaffer**.

Melvin: I like to explore Korea. I am quick to hop on a train or bus to visit different cities and towns here. I've been known to play train station / bus station roulette, where I go inside, close my eyes and point to a random location on the ticket board and then go wherever my index finger leads me. I enjoy reading, writing, exercising, and taking pictures. It's also fairly easy to spot me in the Dongmyo flea market in Seoul on a weekend or at one of the smaller flea markets.

HAN: What are your plans for the future? Can KOTESOL count on your service well into the future?

Melvin: Ha. This seems like the opposite of the questions I hear from people at home about when I will return. I've spent many years as a KOTESOL member, lurking in the background. I feel like I have some years of service to pay back.

HAN: And "paying back" you have been doing! Before calling this interview a wrap, is there anything else that you would like to say to our *KOTESOL Happenings and News* audience?



Chapters

Busan-Gyeongnam

By Anika Casem

Despite only being one month into fall, Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter has been busy. Our theme this season is sharing knowledge in all shapes, forms, and venues. To start the season of sharing, Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter's newsletter is always a bright spot in terms of communication and the sharing of knowledge with members and potential members. A new feature is Pet Power. This is a fun segment where chapter members can get to know members via their pets, as well as share news about their own furry pals. The newsletter also has undergone an exciting new change and now comes in an additional format besides text. The audio format opens another avenue to share the newsletter in a timely way for members on the go.

A new addition to our communications arsenal is Teacher Tuesday. Teacher Tuesday is our effort to share articles that highlight new research, experiences, and current conversations around education. We will share this useful segment across all of our social media platforms.

Keeping the theme going, Vice-President, KC Washington, headed to Jeonju to participate in the Jeonju Chapter's Pop-up Market and Teaching Workshop on September 21st. The market featured artisans selling a variety of beautiful handcrafted goods, such as jewelry and Christmas ornaments, and featured tasty homemade treats, ranging from the sweet to the savory. KC shared her experience and knowledge on listening with her workshop "Finding Clues + Connections with Active Listening." Our VP made connections with local vendors and strengthened bonds with the Jeonju Chapter.

The upcoming events for Busan-Gyeongnam continue the theme of sharing knowledge. Treasurer, Danny Jones, will be at the 2024 ESBB International TESOL Conference and KOTESOL National Conference happening on October 12th and 13th in Jeollanam-do Gwangju. Danny will be leading a workshop called "The Good, the Bot, and the Ugly: Wielding the Double-Edged Sword

of AI." At this workshop, Danny will share tips and tricks on how to make practical use of AI for educators and students.

Later in the fall, our Vice-President, KC Washington, and Secretary, Gabriela Villafradez, will be featured on *This Korean Life* to promote Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter and KOTESOL and share how the organization helps teachers. *This Korean Life* (no relation to *This American Life*) is a podcast that has been running for five years and is hosted by Nate Mandigo and Brian Girolametto. The hosts use their platform to highlight the lives of expats and Koreans across South Korea.

Finally, the last event under our theme of sharing knowledge is our 2024 symposium, Fostering a Love of Education in an AI World. The symposium focuses on how we keep the spark going in ourselves and our students in a world increasingly reliant on AI. The symposium will also explore the topic of motivating ourselves to keep learning and growing and the roles natural intelligence (NI) and artificial intelligence (AI) play in the desired motivational growth. This will be the chapter's first major event since hosting the 2021 National Conference. The event will be held at the University of Ulsan and take place in its International Hall. The symposium will be an all-day event with roundtables, panels, and workshops. We hope to see you there!

Daegu-Gyeongbuk

By Jake Kimball, Daegu-Gyeongbuk Chapter Interim President

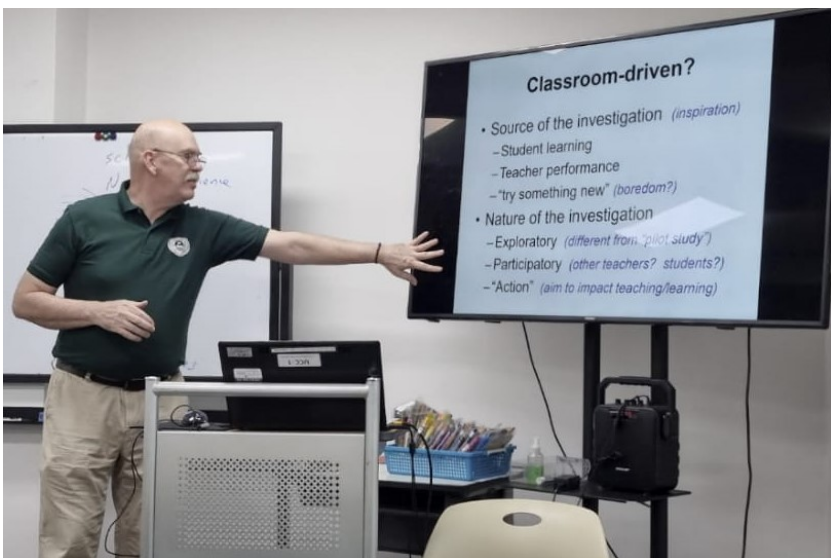
Daegu Chapter is slowly rebuilding. After a long period of not having meetings, we are convening once again. Daegu Chapter welcomes old friends and new members. Part of the reason for our dormant status has been the lack of a place to call home. While it is not the latest news, we are still excited to have partnered with UCC Daegu, found conveniently downtown. It is only minutes from the Jung-ang subway station and Kyobo Bookstore. Again, we are especially thankful to Jenny Yang at UCC, who offers us monthly classroom space, hot coffee, and a welcome smile.

Daegu-Gyeongbuk Chapter (cont.)

During the summer, we were on hiatus. It was hot and humid. Many members were away from Daegu or teaching at summer camps. Therefore, there is little news to report since the last *HAN* newsletter.

Our September chapter meeting was held on Saturday, September 19th. Rob Dickey gave a presentation on how to get started with action research: *Starting Your Publications Career with Action Research*. Why AR and why publish? Well, according to Rob, we teachers are looking for ways to show value to our employers. AR and publishing are ways to do so. Unfortunately, not everyone has the research background to get started. Therefore, Rob suggests classroom-based AR is a fine way to begin. After taking part in Rob's session, I can agree that classroom-based AR is a manageable place to start. He gave a succinct overview of AR, shared examples of AR, and encouraged attendees to roll up their sleeves and just do it.

For those of you who are not familiar with Rob Dickey, Rob taught English in Korea for nearly 30 years and is editor-in-chief for *ELT Classroom Research Journal*. He is a past president of KOTESOL and a past chair of the TESOL International Program Administration Interest Section.



In September, Rob Dickey gave a presentation on how to get started with action research: *Starting Your Publications Career with Action Research*.

What about next month's chapter meeting in October? Well, October is a hectic month. KOTESOL is offering a great slate of events to engage in professional development. First on the schedule is the National Conference. It will be held in Gwangju on October 12th and 13th. We would like to encourage our small but growing membership to make the trip across the peninsula and attend the 2024 ESBB International TESOL Conference & KOTESOL National Conference, *Transcending Borders, Building Bridges: Compassion, Connection, and Criticality in the 21st Century*.

And if that is not enough CPD for you, then join us in Ulsan by supporting our neighboring chapter, the Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter. On October 26, they have a wonderful symposium lined up. The theme? *Fostering a Love of Education in an AI World*. Where is it? The International Building of University of Ulsan / 울산대학교 국제관 Ulsan, Nam-gu, Daehak-ro 93 / 울산 남구 대학로 93 Building 43, 3rd floor / 43동 3층 Ulsan / 울산광역시. For Daegu Chapter members, it would be a wonderful show of support by making the short trip down south. It is 10 a.m. - 5 p.m., a full day not to be missed.

To attend our regular meetings in Daegu, our next meeting will be held in November. Simply head downtown. If you know where Kyobo Bookstore is, you can find UCC. It is two or three blocks away. From the Jung-ang subway station, go out Exits 5, 3, or 1. Walk straight ahead for about 3 minutes. When you see the movie theater showing independent, foreign films, stop. Head up to the 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. As you can clearly see, we are a fun bunch who enjoy professional development.

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

Daejeon-Chungcheong

By Andrew Griffiths

It's been a relatively quiet period for the Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter, as we usually pause our events over the summer to allow everyone to have a rest. However, things have still been happening here and there!

Our annual Summer Picnic on the 29th June was a great success as always, and saw an attendance of around twenty to thirty people. The weather was good and it was nice to catch up with chapter members and meet new faces.

After our break over July and August, things got started back up again in September with our Wednesday Workshop, featuring John Breckenfeld. John has been a regular presenter for us since we moved online with our workshops a few years back, and he always draws a good crowd, this September being no exception. His topic of using classroom interviews to improve learners' communicative fluency was well-received, and attendees went away, as they always do, with a glut of new ideas for their classrooms.

In addition to teaching-related news, the last month or so has seen another great piece of news: our Member-at-Large, David Allen, has published his latest novel, *Night Noise!* It's available for sale at Amazon, and all of us at the chapter offer our congratulations to him on this latest chapter (poor pun, excuse me) in his writing career.

The chapter has also seen the addition of a new member to its Chapter Executive Committee: Eric Reynolds, a long time member of the chapter and former member of the committee. He's joined as our Membership Coordinator.

Now that the summer heat has broken, the chapter's attentions are turning to the last three

events of the year: our October Wednesday Workshop, being arranged by David Allen and Andrew Griffiths; our November Symposium, being arranged by Mike Peacock and Martin Sketchley; and our End-of-Year Party, being arranged by Rosemary Sorg. We're excited for what's coming up and hope to see various KOTESOL members at our events!



Promoting the Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter and KOTESOL at the Woosong University English Instructor General Faculty Meeting.

Gangwon

By Michael Free

Since the last edition of *HAN*, Gangwon had one main meeting: Classroom Management and Neurodiversity. Michael Free, Chapter Treasurer, organized the meeting and ran it while on vacation in Canada. The presenter, the inimitable Yuri Angie White, presented to a small but engaged crowd for over 2 hours! The chapter is going to be quiet for the next while: *de facto* president Reece Randall has moved to a different province (though he happily remains among us in Korea!); Michael Free has returned to graduate school at Boise State University doing coursework in educational technology while working full time. Thus, with a bit more urgency than usual, Gangwon Chapter reaches out to its membership for some help with organizing or presenting. Just send us an email or reach out to us on the Facebook group!

Incheon

By Victor Reeser

KOTESOL Incheon Chapter's inaugural workshop on Saturday, August 24th at State University of New York, Korea (SUNY) was a big success! A heartfelt thank you to our speaker for delivering an inspiring presentation on integrating modern calligraphy into EFL pedagogy. It is always wonderful learning new and interesting methods of language teaching. A big thank-you as well to everyone who joined us for this event. Your participation and enthusiasm made this first workshop a memorable one. We look forward to hosting many more events that continue to bring our community together!



Lisa MacIntyre-Park discussing calligraphy and pedagogy.



Attendees practice calligraphy using colored pens.

Gwangju-Jeonnam

By Maria Lisak

The Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL Chapter has maintained its momentum throughout the third quarter of 2024, blending professional development, social gatherings, and collaborative online events. These activities have not only enriched our members' teaching practices but also strengthened the bonds within our community.

July Workshop: *On-the-Ground Activities for Cultural Awareness*

On July 13th, 2024, we held a workshop titled "On-the-Ground Activities for Cultural Awareness" at Gwangju National University of Education (GNUE). Eleven people attended with 2 nonmembers joining. This event focused on culturally responsive teaching and cosmopolitan literacies, providing practical strategies for fostering global citizenship and cultural empathy in students. Key presentations included:



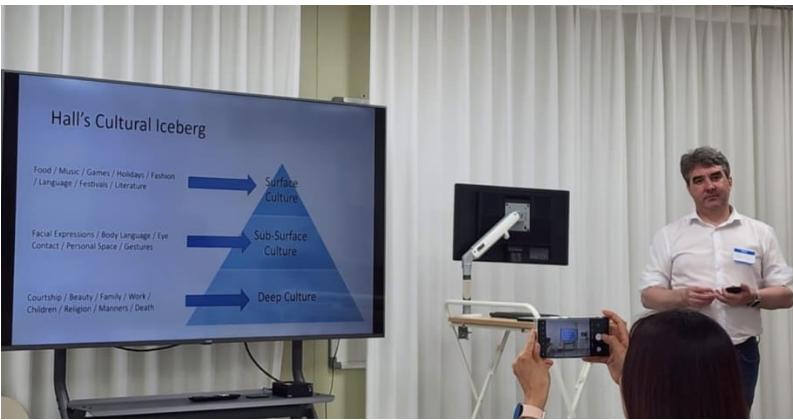
Lindsay Herron demonstrates methods to enhance students' cosmopolitan awareness by exploring activities.

Lindsay Herron explored activities to enhance students' cosmopolitan awareness in her presentation, "New Perspectives, New Possibilities: Class Activities to Encourage Cosmopolitan Awareness."

Martin Sketchley presented "Practical Techniques for Cultural Awareness," offering practical strategies to help students confidently share their cultural backgrounds.

The workshop concluded with a social dinner at Tequilaz, allowing participants to continue their discussions in a relaxed environment.

Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter (cont.)



Martin Sketchley gave a presentation entitled "Practical Techniques for Cultural Awareness."



The workshop concluded with a dinner at Tequilaz.

July Zoom Event: MCALL SIG - Mystery Box: Surprise and Delight

On July 31st, 2024, our chapter co-hosted a Zoom event with the KOTESOL Multimedia & Computer-Assisted Language Learning (MCALL) Special Interest Group (SIG). Three people attended. The event, titled "Mystery Box: Surprise and Delight," featured a virtual spin wheel to randomly select unconventional teaching resources brought by participants. This interactive session offered creative ideas and tools to enhance classroom practices, making it a delightful and educational experience for all.

August Zoom Event: Research SIG - Writing Accountability

On August 14th, 2024, we partnered with the KOTESOL Research SIG to host a "Writing Accountability Zoom." Three people attended. This session provided members with a structured

environment to set writing goals and focus on their academic work. After an hour of independent writing, participants celebrated their progress together, fostering a supportive atmosphere for tackling research projects.

August Social Gathering: Dinner and Drinks

Although there was no formal chapter meeting in August, four members gathered for an informal social event on August 17th. The evening began with a delightful dinner at BuukGan, followed by churros at Pablo's and drinks at Nirvana. This spontaneous gathering allowed members to connect in a casual setting, further strengthening the sense of community within the chapter.

September Event: Semester Start Potluck and Workshop

On September 7th, 2024, the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter hosted a "Semester Start Potluck and Workshop Event" at GNUM. This event kicked off the semester with a blend of community building and professional development. Ten people attended. The afternoon featured two workshops:

- *Creative Language Learning: Enhancing EFL Pedagogy with Modern Calligraphy* by Lisa MacIntyre-Park. This session introduced participants to the integration of modern calligraphy into EFL pedagogy, emphasizing creativity and cultural appreciation. Attendees learned basic calligraphy strokes and made greeting cards, with a focus on mindfulness and engagement in the language classroom.

- *ESBB/NatCon Conference Prep Session*. This session provided a detailed walkthrough of the upcoming 2024 ESBB International TESOL & KOTESOL National Conference, covering the schedule, venue, and volunteer opportunities. Featured presenters Jocelyn Wright and David Shaffer shared about their upcoming sessions. Participants engaged in discussions to explore interesting sessions and brainstorm how to apply the knowledge gained at the conference to their work and personal growth.

Wesley Martin came down from Yongin Chapter and introduced opportunities to volunteer for 2025's KOTESOL International Conference as well.

Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter (cont.)



Lisa MacIntyre-Park's session introduced participants to the integration of modern calligraphy into EFL pedagogy.

Finally, we feasted! From homemade cookies and 1970's-style salads and puddings to vino and Pepsi Lime, we dug in. We were even treated to Jeonju moon pies by Aida Park. But! The most amazing dishes-to-pass were too heavy to lift! Huge platters of Filipino food, pancit, and spring rolls, were contributed by Marisha Lee and Jude Carcedo. Many thanks to everyone for making this so special.

Fall and the National KOTESOL Conference Preparations

As we approach the fall season, our chapter is focused on finalizing preparations for the 2024 ESBB & KOTESOL National Conference, scheduled for October 12-13th, 2024, at GNU. The conference theme, "Transcending Borders, Building Bridges: Compassion, Connection, and Criticality in the 21st Century," promises to address key issues in TESOL and language education. Over 133 presentations and workshops are confirmed in hybrid form. Our vice president obtained an article in the *Gwangju News* to raise awareness about this event. We are excited to host this major event and anticipate a significant turnout from both local and international attendees.

Upcoming Events

Looking ahead, we have several key events planned:

-October 12-13th: 2024 ESBB International

TESOL Conference & KOTESOL National Conference at GNU.

-November 9th: Building Connections for Better Instruction: Strategies to Enhance Learning by Melvin Dixon. Workshop 2: TBA

-Looking for a November weekday evening opportunity to Zoom with a SIG.

-December 14th: Final workshop of the year focusing on reflective teaching practices, with opportunities for members to share their experiences and insights from 2024 (details TBA).

-Looking for a December weekday evening opportunity to Zoom with Christian Teacher SIG on end-of-the-year gratitude session.

Year-end Elections in December as well for our chapter!

In Closing

The Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL Chapter continues to be a vibrant hub for professional development, cultural exchange, and community building. Our recent activities, both online and in-person, have provided valuable opportunities for growth and connection. As we move into the fall, we look forward to the challenges and opportunities ahead, particularly with the upcoming national conference.

Photography & Graphics: Jude Carcedo, Lindsay Herron, Marisha Lee, Lisa MacIntyre-Park, Jocelyn Wright.

Jeonju-North Jeolla

By Ingrid Zwaal

September 21st saw our first meeting since the summer break. A popup market was held in conjunction with our meeting, opening early to welcome shoppers and attendees. We had silk bags and clothes and sweets, jewelry, Turkish-Arabic food, Hanji ornaments and accessories, crocheted art, and calligraphy. After a short time for shopping we had our first presenter. KC Washington showed how to use active listening to make connections between students, which increases interest and helps develop conversation. A good conversation is like a tree because one sprout can have many varied branches in every direction. She also stressed that active involvement enhances learning and listening skills.

Jeonju-North Jeolla Chapter (cont.)

We practiced several activities to help find connections between participants which can ease the language challenges of conversation through shared knowledge and interests.

We took a break to visit the vendors and make some more purchases as well as partake in the refreshments.

The second presenter was Kristina Kauss who also stressed the importance of making connections but this time through roleplays of a fun, nontraditional sort. We used animals because it is easy to give human characteristics to them without the limits of being human. She talked about Aesop's story about the mouse saving the lion in return for sparing his life. Each group member chose an animal – hamster, tiger, giraffe, cat, or elephant. Each participant had to take on one role per group and write and perform as the animal, then switch their chosen animal with the others.



September 21st saw our first meeting since the summer break.

Both presenters showed us how to do this with a class and had complete participation from each attendee. We enjoyed ourselves and were quite happy to share our answers. For both the time went too quickly.

We are not having a workshop in October because of the National Conference but we may do something else, like a fall walk. Our next workshop is November 16th. One presenter is unusual – we are having a lawyer come to answer

any legal questions you may have free of charge! We are taking questions to give him beforehand in case they are complicated, so please send us any questions you have early, and then come to the meeting for free advice and legal help. The other presenter is Wesley Martin on leveraging humor and metaphor when discussing a global crisis in class.

December brings us a year-end party and elections, but we are short a presenter, so if anyone is interested in joining our festivities and presenting, please contact us.

Seoul

The Seoul KOTESOL Chapter partnered with the Northeastern Language Exchange (노원역교환) on Sunday, July 21st from 3 p.m. - 5 p.m. at Raeng Study Cafe, Nowon Branch. We came and studied together! The Northeastern Language Exchange helps its members learn Korean or English, using partner activities, games, and small presentations. The language exchange in Nowon proved to include fun conversations in a mix of English and Korean. We shall periodically have such events, in case you want to catch the next one.



Seoul Chapter members Ryan and Rhea in the Northeastern Language Exchange.

The Seoul Chapter held the Fall Presentation & Reflective Practice session, 2 p.m. - 5 p.m. Sunday, September 29th at Sookmyung Women's University Injaegwan. We had a presentation on being a successful YouTuber

Seoul Chapter (cont.)

by Martin Sketchley and a reflective practice session facilitated by Christopher Miller.



On September 29th, 2-5 p.m., the Seoul Chapter hosted the Fall Presentation & Reflective Practice session at Sookmyung Women's University Injaewan.

Yongin-Gyeonggi

By Daniela Trinks

Practical AI Solutions for EFL Teachers

The workshop "Leveraging AI in EFL Teaching" led by Prof. Duane Henning from Yonsei University was held on September 7th as a hybrid event. Eight participants attended on-site at Yongin University, while 13 joined online via Zoom. Prof. Henning expressed his enthusiasm for ChatGPT, describing it as a skilled co-worker whose outputs he customizes to fit his teaching needs. The interactive workshop featured hands-on group activities, allowing participants to practice writing AI prompts tailored to EFL teaching scenarios. The discussion was enriched by attendees sharing their own experiences during group work. Topics covered included using AI for class and course planning, enhancing student engagement, and personalizing learning, while addressing concerns about data privacy and over-reliance on AI.

Special thanks go to Prof. Duane Henning for delivering such a practical and insightful

workshop, and offering excellent ideas for teachers to improve their teaching practices while reducing workload. We also extend our gratitude to Martin Todd for organizing the venue, Yongin University for generously providing the room free of charge, James Rush for moderating the event, and André Jacobs for providing refreshments and managing the Zoom broadcast. Lastly, a big thank you to everyone who participated, both in person and online. Your engagement and contributions made the workshop more enjoyable and meaningful.



The workshop "Leveraging AI in EFL Teaching," led by Prof. Duane Henning was held on September 7th.

Member News

Yongin Chapter member-at-large Gregory Lewishas two reasons to celebrate: he recently completed narrating the award-winning book *Unhinged in Ethiopia* by George Balarezo and was appointed professor emeritus at Hyupsung University. Congratulations on both excellent achievements!

Furthermore, Rhett Burton commented on a special event (see report below): "Big shout-out to André Jacobs for presenting about KOTESOL and the Young Learners and Teens SIG to a hagwon owners group. It is the second time in the past 10 years that KOTESOL has made a point to open up a conversation."

Upcoming Events

In October, our chapter plans to join a social event hosted by the Suwon Pickleball Association, while in November the annual Yongin Chapter Conference (see conference poster) will be held. Stay tuned for more details soon.



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

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

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

5 REASONS TO JOIN KOTESOL TODAY



#5: A voice in the organization

Only members can **run for office**, **participate** on national committees, and **vote** in KOTESOL elections!



#4: Special discounts

Members get a variety of discounts, including on online courses at Bridge TEFL and iTDi, IATEFL membership, subscriptions to various ELT-resource providers, tickets to partner organizations' conferences, and more!



#3: Exclusive opportunities

Publish in KOTESOL publications; **represent** us at events, apply for **grants** and **awards**, attend **members-only** events, earn co-branded **credentials**, **connect** with other members, and more!



#2: KOTESOL publications

Members receive **immediate online access** to all our publications, including *The English Connection* and the *Korea TESOL Journal*!



#1: KOTESOL needs you!

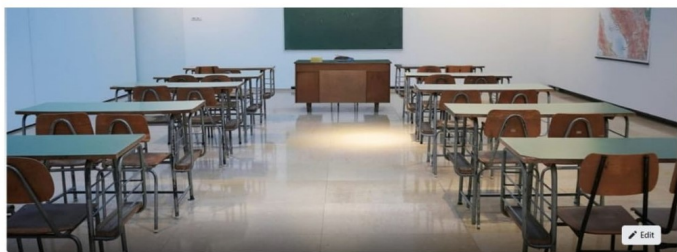
KOTESOL is an **all-volunteer** organization funded largely by **membership dues**. Join or renew your membership today to help us continue offering outstanding programming and opportunities!

JOIN OR RENEW TODAY!

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Special Interest Groups (SIGs)

Classroom Management SIG (CM SIG)



KOTESOL Classroom Management SIG

Private group · 5 members



Invite

By Jake Kimball, Facilitator

Our Classroom Management Special Interest Group (CM SIG) has been quiet during the sweltering summer months. We have not had any online seminars recently, so here is our call for interest. KOTESOL members interested in giving classroom management presentations or workshops can contact me. There is a need and an interest to discuss CM issues, particularly Willingness to Communicate (WTC). KOTESOL also maintains a blog, Scribes Square. Entries are welcome.

On our Facebook page, we will have a Book Club activity. We have posted a PDF of a brief journal article, *Demotivation in L2 Classrooms: Teacher and Learner Factors*, by Chong, Miao Yee Clare; Renandya, Willy A.; Ng, Qiu Rong. Demotivation is a universal experience for learners and teachers. Tackling a short journal article is a terrific way to check off at least one PD opportunity this autumn. During the upcoming months, please feel free to join us in reading the article and discussing background theory and pedagogical implications related to motivation/demotivation. Scribes Square blog posts or articles on the topic are also welcome.

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

pound of cure.

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

Multimedia and CALL SIG (MCALL SIG)

By Victor Reeser

KOTESOL MCALL SIG Zoom

🎲 Mystery Wheel of Resources

Theme: Sharing unexpected or unconventional resources.



Wednesday, July 31, 2024. 7:30-9:00pm

SIG member and Gwangju-Jeonnang Chapter President Maria Lisak hosted a Zoom workshop on July 31st where attendees shared and discussed unconventional online and tech-related resources used in their classrooms. The event, themed "Sharing Unexpected or Unconventional Resources," encouraged participants to bring surprising tools, apps, or websites to explore collaboratively. The workshop provided a great opportunity for educators to exchange ideas and inspire one another with creative strategies. While still in the early stages, the MCALL SIG is in talks with the International Conference Committee to assist with next year's conference.

Reflective Practice SIG (RP SIG)

By Jake Kimball, Interim Facilitator

Greetings, friends and colleagues. Welcome to another edition of *HAN*. On the Reflective Practice front, things have been a bit quiet. The sizzling summer weather kept us from contemplating more cognitively demanding subjects that occupy our hearts and minds. Now that autumn is just around

Reflective Practice SIG (RP SIG)(cont.)

the corner, indeed, we are more in the spirit of collaborating. In short, we have no news to report from the summer holidays.

On the other hand, we do have news to report concerning RP in general. First, the Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter will host a symposium on Saturday, November 30th. The theme for the event is *Reflective Practice: Turning Defeat into Success*. This annual event is a not-to-be-missed gathering. And luckily, the workshops and presentations are all tailored to RP. How great is that? Sessions will be held from 10-6 p.m., with a dinner afterward. The deadline for proposal submissions is October 7th. So, get that proposal in.

A shout-out goes to Christopher Miller. On Sunday, September 29th, he gave a workshop for the Seoul Chapter. The topic of the day was *Examining Critical Incidents in the Classroom*. Christopher asked the participants a series of guided questions. The objective was to recount any memorable incidents while also connecting these experiences to our larger personal values and “theories of teaching.” Well done, Chris, and thank you for promoting RP to Korea TESOL members.

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



On Sunday, September 29th, Miller gave a workshop for the Seoul Chapter on "Examining Critical Incidents in the Classroom."



Social Justice (SJ SIG)

By Jocelyn Wright

The Social Justice SIG took a break over the summer. As a result, no special events have been held since the spring poetry workshops. However, there has been some activity on the SIG's Facebook group. Maria Lisak, Mel Watkins (still active in our circle although no longer in Korea), and myself have posted on various social justice issues, including:

- Abortion in Korea and a loophole in the law
- Bureaucratic literacies
- Gender inequality in ELT
- Forthcoming opportunities for women and international researchers in Korea, and
- Climate optimism

These covered a range of issues both locally and globally relevant, some with direct implications for education and the classroom and others which might be more contextual.

We are grateful to all members near and far who took part in the discussions, and we invite other members to join us and initiate or engage in dialogue. If interested in getting involved, please get in touch! We are open to feedback and new ideas. We are also on the lookout for new (co-) facilitators!

[KOTESOL Social Justice SIG](#)

Email: sjsig@koreatesol.org

[Social Justice \(Critical Educators in Korea\) SIG Facebook Group](#)

Young Learners and Teens SIG (YLT SIG)

By André Jacobs



**Aaron Rahlfs, EBY
Talking Club Hapcheon.**

On September 26th, a pleasant Thursday morning at the beginning of a much-anticipated fall, Rhett Burton and André Jacobs joined the monthly meeting of Elite Education Operations. This unique group, organized by Aaron Rahlfs, owner-operator of

Young Learners and Teens SIG (YLT SIG) (cont.)

EBY Talking Club in Hapcheon, consists of foreign hagwon owners who meet every month to learn from each other.

This meeting would be a little different though. Rhett Burton, of Burton's English, has been a regular participant in these meetings, but André Jacobs, who has recently been invited, would have his inaugural presentation on this day. And nobody was sure what to expect.

The presentation featured KOTESOL's Young Learners and Teens SIG. However, instead of a mono-directional information session, the meeting turned into an interactive workshop, harvesting insights and opinions from veteran hagwon owners. Industry issues were discussed, and possible areas of focus for YLT were proposed, all of which resulted in a rich learning experience for all participants.

Rhett and André, both involved in the YLT SIG, had a follow-up discussion regarding potential ways in which to incorporate, and address, the issues mentioned in the presentation. Possible YLT areas of assistance were identified as teacher training, practical teaching workshops, active input from hagwon owners regarding school issues, as well as raising cultural awareness and improving communication strategies in case of a dispute.

The YLT SIG aims to incorporate what we have learned into our activities and will remain in contact with Elite Education Operations to foster mutually beneficial relations with such a valued partner.



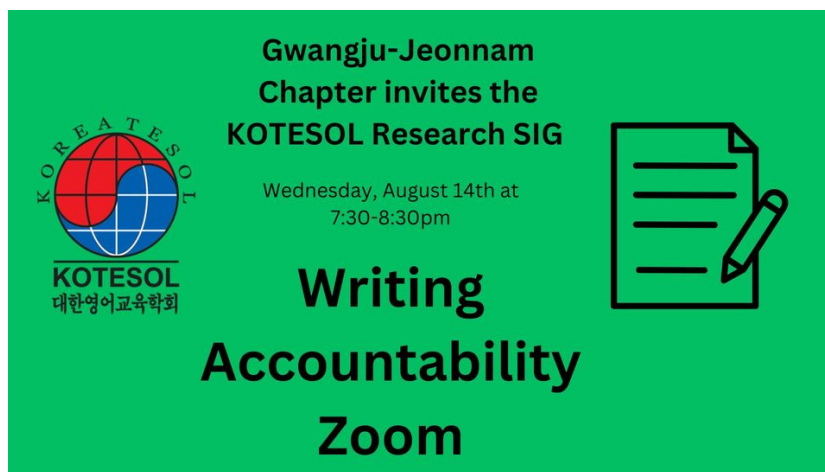
Perspectives - KOTESOL & Hagwon Owners



Image by Rhett Burton

Research SIG

On August 14th, 2024, the KOTESOL Research SIG collaborated with the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter to host a "Writing Accountability Zoom" session. Three participants joined, using the structured session to establish writing goals and focus on their academic tasks. After an hour of independent writing, attendees shared and celebrated their progress, creating a positive and encouraging environment aimed at supporting research and academic productivity. This initiative helped foster collaboration and accountability among members working on their writing projects.



Committee News

International Conference Committee (ICC) 2025

By David Shaffer, Invited Speakers Director and Financial Affairs Director

The International Conference (IC) is still seven months away, but the conference committee (ICC) is quietly orchestrating plans for next spring's conference. ICC Chair Rhea Metituk is busy conducting all sections of the "orchestra." The ICC now has a budget to work with, approved at the September National Council meeting. Its emphasis is on a cautious, thoughtful approach to IC 2025 conference planning, mindful of the post-pandemic landscape.

The ICC is actively arranging a lineup of plenary and featured speakers for the conference's main sessions. Several speakers have recently been confirmed, additional invitations have gone out, and numerous others are being considered.

This year's conference theme is "Embracing Humanity in the Age of AI: Enhancing ELT Through Emotional Intelligence, Creativity, and Innovation." The theme aims to celebrate and integrate the irreplaceable human qualities that educators bring to the classroom while, at the same time, leveraging AI to enhance English language teaching. In line with this, the ICC is reaching both inside and outside the box to incorporate interdisciplinary perspectives. As our roster of invited speakers for IC 2025 solidifies, we will be sharing updates with the community.

Although the official call for papers has not yet been released, it's never too early to start planning your presentation proposal. If you're considering submitting, we encourage you to begin organizing your ideas now. And if you haven't thought about presenting yet, we urge you to do so – your insights and expertise can greatly benefit your colleagues.



International Outreach Committee

By Victor Reeser, IOC Chair

KOTESOL President Lindsay Herron represented KOTESOL at the ELTAM International Conference 2024 in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia. In line with our commitment to international collaboration, we are actively pursuing new partnerships, including discussions with the Japan Association of College English Teachers (JACET) and outreach to contacts in Vietnam. With the confirmation that this year's JALT2024 International Conference will serve as the PAC conference host, KOTESOL has selected Michael Free to accompany Rhea Metituk as representatives at the event from November 15th to 18th.

Membership Committee

By Lindsay Herron, KOTESOL President

The KOTESOL Membership Committee is pleased to announce the arrival of new branded merchandise! Our supply of name-card cases has been replenished with a wide range of new options, and we've also got new mini-notebook/pen/sticky-note sets available in red and black. Our retail prices are just slightly above what we paid to have them made, so they're very affordable but also support the organization.

Membership Committee (cont.)

Membership perks this fall include discounted registration for the JALT international conference, discounts on KOTESOL regional conferences and symposiums throughout Korea, and a considerable discount on registration fees for the 2024 ESBB International TESOL Conference & KOTESOL National Conference, in addition to our standard benefits.

Nominations and Elections Committee 2024

By **Anika Casem**, N&E Chair

As of Friday, September 27th, the nomination period for KOTESOL's National Elections have closed. The candidates seeking to lead us through 2025 are as follows:

Lindsay Herron for President
Mike Peacock for First Vice-President
Wesley Martin for Second Vice-President
Heidi Vande Voort Nam for Secretary
David Shaffer for Nominations and Elections Committee Chair

The 2025 IC Co-Chair and Treasurer offices are without candidates running in 2024. These positions will be filled in accordance with the provisions of the KOTESOL Bylaws. To read about current candidates, please go to the Nominations and Elections Committee Page > Nominees > Attached PDFs.

You can expect to see ballots in your email inbox on October 6th. Voting will open until October 27th. Happy voting!



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<https://koreatesol.org/elections>

Publications Committee

By **David Shaffer**, Publications Committee Chair

It has been another busy three months for the Publications Committee. We have been working tirelessly on all four of our major publications: *The English Connection (TEC)*, our quarterly ELT magazine; the *Korea TESOL Journal (KTJ)*, our semi-annual scholarly journal; our annual *KOTESOL Proceedings* of the international conference; and this newest addition, *KOTESOL Happenings and News (HAN)*, which is also quarterly.

Our previous issue of *HAN*, just the second issue since publication began, was a plump 29 pages of information on activities of KOTESOL's various chapters, SIGs, committees, and members. We wish to thank everyone for their contributions. Without them, *HAN* would be no more than a masthead. We hope you are enjoying this current third issue. Three months from now, our fourth issue will be coming out; we ask that contributors submit their news items by the Christmas holidays. As an overview of quarterly "soft" deadlines, we ask that reports be sent in by March 25th, June 25th, September 25th, and December 25th, respectively. Send contributions to kotesolceditor@gmail.com

The most recent issue of *KTJ* (vol. 20, iss. 1) was published in digital and print formats on August 1st and contains six research papers, one of which is "Perceptions, Integration, and Learning Needs of ChatGPT Among EFL Teachers." Remember that members need to log in to access the digital copy. Members who would like a print copy may make their request to journal@koreatesol.org and include their complete mailing address (Hangeul script preferred for Korean addresses). At present, we are working on the next issue of *KTJ* (vol. 20, iss. 2). It will be our last journal issue to have a hard copy version and is expected to be published in December. Consider it as the Publication Committee's holiday gift to you. Also consider submitting an article to *KTJ*. Send inquiries or manuscripts to journal@koreatesol.org

The English Connection (vol. 28, iss. 3) was published on September 1st in digital and print

Publications Committee (cont.)

formats. Its 32 pages of content include six ELT articles, three regular columns, and a book review, in addition to the Editorial and President's Message. Of special mention in this issue is "Reflections on Guy Cook's Plenary at the 2024 KOTESOL International Conference," contributed by none other than William Littlewood. If you wish to read *TEC* only online, you may opt out of receiving a hard copy in the mail by logging in to your KOTESOL profile, selecting the "Edit" tab, and checkmarking the "Don't Send (Postal) Mail" box. Give some thought to contributing your own article to *TEC*. Send inquiries and submissions to tec@koreatesol.org

KOTESOL Proceedings

Twenty-nine papers originating out of presentations given at IC 2024 have been accepted to *KOTESOL Proceedings 2024*. Two of the contributions are by invited speakers David Kellogg and Guy Cook. The Cook contribution is a transcript of his interview for the conference. We are expecting a November-December publication date and hope you will enjoy the wide variety of articles contained within its 300-plus pages. For next year, consider both presenting at the 2025 KOTESOL International Conference (May 10–11th) and submitting a related paper to *KOTESOL Proceedings 2025*. Send inquiries to publications@koreatesol.org

This and That

If you are not currently receiving your expected print copy of *TEC*, access your profile and check whether your mailing address is correct and complete. Also confirm that your profile is set to "Send (Postal) Mail." If your chapter or committee would like to receive a different number of copies of *TEC* than you are presently receiving, place your revised request to publications@koreatesol.org

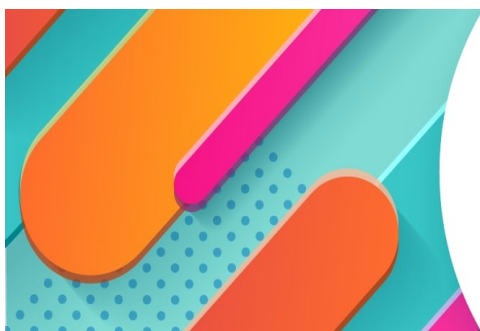
Other Committees

The **Technologies Committee** and Web Services team are working hard on a new KOTESOL website, currently scheduled to launch after the national conference.

The **Financial Affairs** team has concluded most of the audit for 2023 and found no irregularities; the team's complete audit report will be shared at the ABM.

The **Sponsorship Committee's** proposed rates for 2025 were approved at the most recent National Council meeting, and the team has started approaching potential sponsors for the coming year. You can see the results of their hard work at the upcoming 2024 ESBB International TESOL Conference & KOTESOL National Conference; don't miss the booths and sponsored sessions.

The **Publicity Committee** is still looking for a chair and volunteers; if you enjoy social media, writing press releases, and designing cool ads, consider stepping up! Contact the KOTESOL president at president@koreatesol.org.

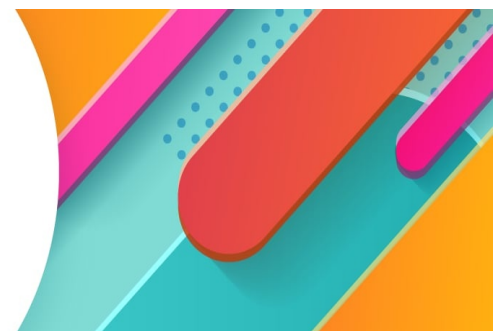




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Member News

National Conference 2024

The 2024 ESBB International TESOL Conference & KOTESOL National Conference is happening in Gwangju on October 12th & 13th. It's going to be an impressive and truly global event! With 82 in-person sessions and 37 online (pre-recorded) sessions confirmed as of this writing, the offerings promise to be diverse and intriguing, representing the perspectives of presenters residing in 22 countries and of 27 different nationalities. This conference will truly exemplify its theme, "Transcending Borders, Building Bridges: Compassion, Connection, and Criticality in the 21st Century," and we hope KOTESOL members will take advantage of this exceptional opportunity!



National Council Meeting

Highlights of the National Council meeting on September 8th included invited reports from several ad hoc committees, approval of the 2025 sponsorship rates proposed by the Sponsorship Committee, and approval of the 2025 KOTESOL International Conference Committee budget. The next National Council meeting, a very brief meeting to appoint new committee chairs, will be held after the ABM on November 1st, and the national budget meeting will be held in December.

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

President's Corner

By **Lindsay Herron**, KOTESOL President

Save the date: our annual business meeting (ABM) will be held on November 1st! The ABM will feature a retrospective of the past year, election results and service awards, and a vote on any proposed amendments to the Constitution and Bylaws. All members are welcome to attend, and members are also eligible to vote on amendments. We hope to see you there!

New Lifetime Members

KOTESOL is delighted to welcome the following new lifetime members:

- **Chae Kwan Jung**
- **Po-Han Lin**
- **Maria Teresa Martinez-Garcia**

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!



Member's Corner

Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter Executive Member David Allen has written a new book, *Night Noise*.

Fans of horror and fantasy will enjoy this compelling novel set in a fantastical Native American setting. As explained on his blog, *The Blog of Author David Allen*, "if you have ever struggled with fear, and wonder what role prayer and a relationship with God can play if confronting the monsters in your life, then you will want to read this book...It came out September 27th, and is my first dark fantasy/horror, which is set in a Native American backdrop, where many of the world's indigenous tribes are represented on one vast and wild continent teeming with dangers mythological and colonial. Names have been changed so we can worry less about being 100%

Member's Corner (cont.)

politically correct, and spend more time having an absolute blast of a time in a world I hope I can share with you more.”

Check out the book from September 27th on [Amazon](#).

