



# Korea TESOL Happenings and News

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# Korea TESOL Happenings and News

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## Member Spotlight: Cheryl Woelk

*This interviewer came to Korea as a U.S. Peace Corps volunteer many moons ago, but any peacebuilding that we accomplished was only minor and tangential. This issue's interviewee in Member Spotlight came to Korea with a much more direct approach to peacebuilding and language teaching, and she is someone who should have appeared in this column ages ago. Recently, Happenings and News (HAN) was able to catch up with Cheryl Woelk to bring you this interview.*

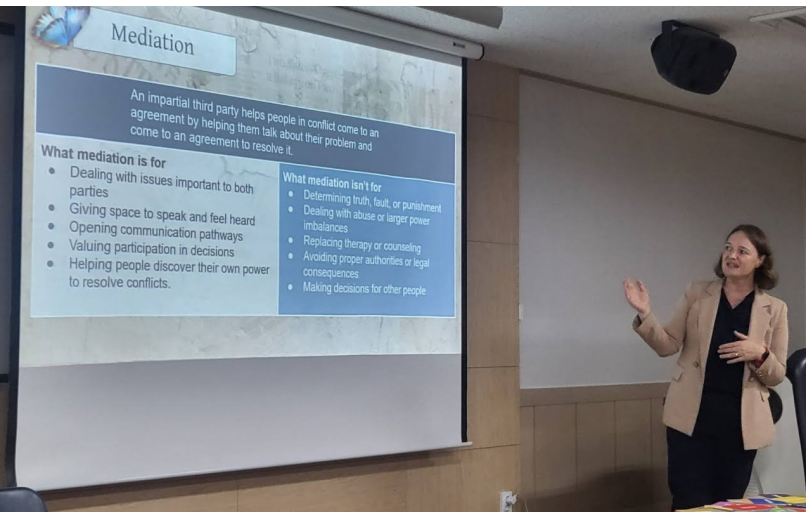
**HAN:** It's a pleasure to be able to do this interview with you, Cheryl. To start the interview off, would you give us a little background information on yourself before coming to Korea?

**Cheryl:** I grew up in a small city in Saskatchewan, Canada, and did my BA in English in Winnipeg, Manitoba. Although my major was English, I combined the many literature and language acquisition classes I took with electives on peace and conflict studies and language learning. After my second year, I participated in a cross-cultural student teaching program in Sichuan, China, where I fell in love with teaching English. Watching people learn how to express themselves and connect with others in a totally different language that had emerged from a completely different context from what they had known since childhood was exhilarating. When I returned to my university, I asked the ESL department if they needed any volunteers for English support for international students. They introduced me to several Korean international students and their families on campus who had asked for English language support. As I learned, I got to know these families, some of whom I'm still in touch with today, and I began to learn about Korean language and culture and my curiosity was piqued.

**HAN:** When did you come to Korea, and what was it that brought you to this side of the international dateline?

**Cheryl:** Because of my connections with Korean families on campus, I decided to do my final practicum in Seoul, South Korea. My project was to work with a local NGO to set up an English class on the topic of peace and conflict resolution skills for young people from South and North Korea to learn together. It was an incredible learning experience for me. Together we discussed all kinds of topics and, more importantly, built deep friendships. As I watched the group member's English skills, peacebuilding capacity, and friendships grow simultaneously, I felt the power of connection – even connection through conflict navigated well together – to activate our language learning abilities. My practicum complete, I was invited to stay on in Seoul to assist the organization in starting an English language institute that integrated peace education and English conversation training for young adults based in Gangnam. While continuing to teach, I was also in charge of program development and curriculum as the education coordinator. This experience gave me incredible practical learning about the depth of intersections of peacebuilding and language learning, not just in the classroom but also in the processes of curriculum development, teaching training, administration, and organizational leadership. These years solidified my interest in building a career at the nexus of language learning and peacebuilding, and I went on to do a MA in education combined with a graduate certificate in peacebuilding and conflict transformation.





**Cheryl gives a presentation on mediation.**

implement what we'd learned into our teaching. I even did my first presentation exploring the connections between peace education and language education at KOTESOL!

**HAN:** Your name is often associated with peace linguistics, peace education, and peacebuilding. Would you explain for us what these terms entail?

**Cheryl:** Peacebuilding generally refers to the work of preventing, reducing, transforming, and repairing harm from violent conflict. The purpose of peace education is to nurture attitudes, develop knowledge, and transform behaviors to resolve conflicts in nonviolent ways that build peace at intrapersonal, interpersonal, organizational, societal, and environmental levels. Peace linguistics is an interdisciplinary field that integrates both of these ideas with language as a way to study and teach how we use language in ways that promote peace and peacebuilding.

**HAN:** You are a co-founder of Collective Joy Consulting. Would you also explain what Collective Joy Consulting does and the types of clients that you serve?

**Cheryl:** Collective Joy Consulting offers intercultural communication and conflict resolution training, coaching, and consulting to individuals and organizations in Northeast Asia. We provide training for how to deal well with conflict, which includes building organizational capacities for healthy systems and developing communication skills required to navigate conflict across cultures. We also offer coaching and consulting for organizations or leaders who are currently navigating conflict to support them in finding healthy approaches that address core interests and needs of all the parties involved. Our clients are made up of both individuals and organizations: leaders, teachers, trainers, peacebuilding practitioners, or international workers ranging from small businesses to NGOs and cooperative organizations both domestic and international.

**HAN:** You are also an EFL instructor. Which consumes more of your time these days – English teaching or consulting? Do you tie peacebuilding work into your English teaching? Or maybe it is better to ask if peacebuilding can easily be built into an EFL course or curriculum?

**Cheryl:** These days about a third of my time is involved in English language teaching, usually in the form of coaching individuals or small groups in using English for international purposes. Depending on the client, I integrate peacebuilding into the curriculum either directly, if they're looking to learn conflict resolution, nonviolent communication, or mediation skills in English, for example, or indirectly through the kinds of topics, methods, skills, and relationship-building I support them to engage with. I think peacebuilding in curriculum has a wide range of possibilities. In some ways, we can think of it

as a lens through which to look at our teaching. People learn languages with the purpose of building positive connections with others across our differences, not disconnection and violence. So, I wonder whether we are really serving their interests if we're not intentionally teaching communication skills for peace.

**HAN:** In an earlier conversation, you mentioned that you were working on a big project. Could you tell us more about that?

**Cheryl:** In November, Collective Joy Consulting collaborated with the Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict's (GPPAC) Peace Education Working Group to host a series of webinars on restorative justice in education in Northeast Asia. Restorative justice in education looks at how we respond to situations in school systems where harm has occurred. The focus is on identifying who has been harmed and how to repair the harm to restore a healthy learning community rather than on assigning blame and punishment, which often results in continued harm. We had educators from seven different countries present about their work with restorative justice in educational settings over five sessions, with over 170 participants, some of whom were English teachers seeking to integrate these ideas into their programs. There's a lot of exciting work in this area in Korea and Northeast Asia more broadly, and it would be wonderful for KOTESOL teachers to learn more about these movements to see how ELT could support them.

**HAN:** You have been quite active recently in giving presentations at KOTESOL conferences and events. What plans do you have for future presentations?

**Cheryl:** I'm looking forward to presenting at the upcoming KOTESOL International Conference in May. My talk is called "The Gift of Messy Humanness: Transforming Conflict for Successful ELT," and I'll be talking about the role of conflict in developing communication skills in the context of relationships, looking at linguistic and emotional patterns of responses to conflict and how we can use these patterns to not only understand each other better and deal with conflict, but also to help our students to communicate more effectively.

**HAN:** You are also a book author. Please tell us about the book. Do you have any plans for future books or book chapters?

**Cheryl:** I co-authored a book with Jan Dormer titled *Teaching English for Reconciliation: Pursuing Peace Through Transformed Relationships in Language Learning and Teaching*. In the book, I shared many of my experiences and learning from trying to integrate peacebuilding into ELT over the years, including stories from different settings I've taught in and suggestions for how to integrate peacebuilding into new or existing curricula. I also wrote a book chapter for *Peace Education Evaluation: Learning from Experience and Exploring Prospects*, edited by Del Felice, Karako, and Wisler, that focuses on "Evaluating Language in Peace Education Through Reflective Practice." As for upcoming writing, I don't have any plans at the moment as I'm starting a doctoral program in education in March. I expect to be doing a lot more writing soon!

**HAN:** What would you like to see KOTESOL focusing on in the coming year?

**Cheryl:** I love to see the growing interest in peacebuilding-related topics within KOTESOL in the last few years. I think this is particularly relevant as we grapple with the gifts and challenges that AI language models bring us. We need to think beyond the basics of language now and connect with what we experience as humans through communication that can't be done with AI. I think how we use language to navigate our emotional and physiological experiences in conflict individually and collectively will continue to be an increasingly important aspect of language learning.

**HAN:** What are your plans for the coming year or years?

**Cheryl:** As I'm beginning my doctoral studies, I expect that will take much of my focus over the next few years. Of course, my area of research will be integrating language and peace education, with a focus on the role of language and culture in international training programs for peace practitioners. I hope to keep exchanging learning with KOTESOL throughout!

**HAN:** Well, thank you, Cheryl, for this quite interesting interview. We wish you well with your peacebuilding endeavors as well as with your doctoral studies.

Interviewed by David Shaffer.

## A Review of the 2024 KOTESOL National Conference

**“The people who make up KOTESOL are some of the most welcoming, kind people I’ve had the pleasure of meeting.”**

By Courtney McLaren

Admittedly, my background is not in TESOL. Despite this, I began dabbling in the more academic side of EFL teaching about a year after I came to Korea and found the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter of KOTESOL to be wonderfully welcoming. It was, of course, Lindsay Herron who told me about the conference and suggested that I share my work on cosmopolitan fandoms, so I have her to thank for the opportunity.

My background is in fan studies, specifically Korea-based transnational K-pop fandom (aka fans who are not Korean living in Korea). While not my first conference, the KOTESOL National Conference, held on October 11–13 in Gwangju, was my first non-fan studies conference. I'm much more used to presenting and mingling with people who share the same academic language as I do, so the chance to present some of my master's work outside of fan studies was a learning opportunity – and I learned quite a bit! Translating one's work to be understandable by a variety of audiences is, in my opinion, an important part of being a researcher, and after fielding a number of questions from audience members long after my presentation that would be considered common knowledge in fan studies circles, I was reminded that the theoretical and practical circles we spend the most time in become increasingly insular without our notice. I had some wonderful discussions with other attendees about what fandom is and does, and why it would be important to students both inside and outside the classroom. We bring our own experiences to our learning, and the experience of being a fan can shape and influence how we learn about and interact with the world – fans bringing K-pop lightsticks to the recent impeachment protests earlier this month is a testament to that.

Speaking of attendees, the people who make up KOTESOL are some of the most welcoming, kind people I've had the pleasure of meeting. As an outsider looking in, so to speak, I was nervous to be at a conference so out of my comfort zone, especially after recovering from some debilitating burnout

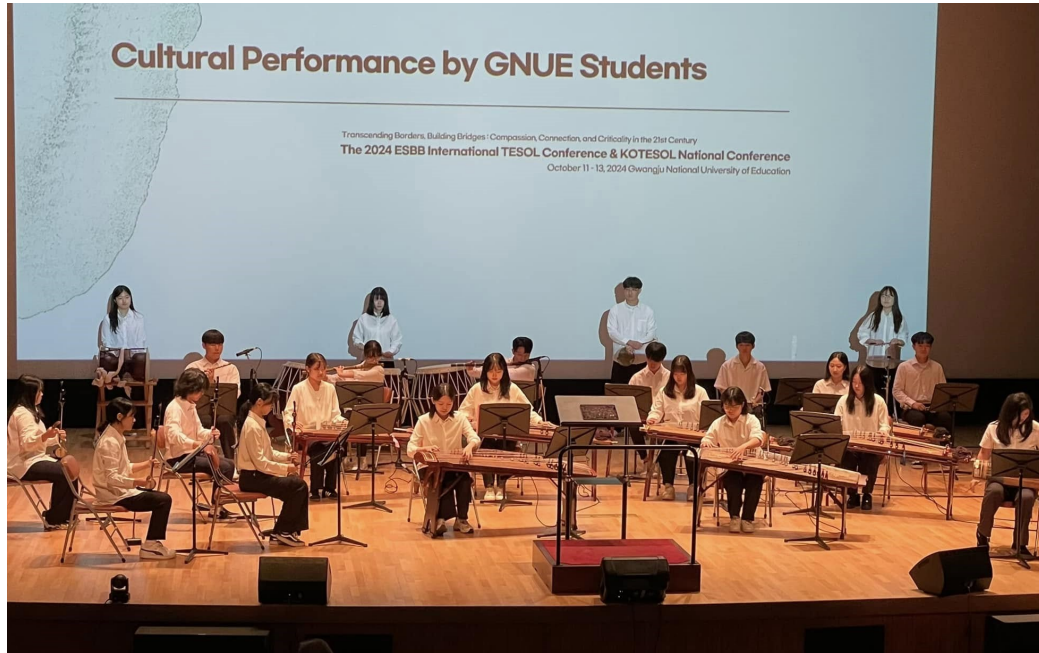


post-master's. In hindsight, I had no reason to worry, as everyone I spoke with at the conference talked to me as if we had known each other for years. Everything was organized to a "T," the volunteer team was consistently on the ball, and the overall atmosphere was very relaxed and welcoming. My past conferences saw me surrounded by like-minded nerds, so it was fun to watch and get to know nerds from a different field in their element. While I didn't attend many panels, the ones I did get to see were fascinating, and really broadened my perspective on the kinds of work possible surrounding language teaching and learning.

When talking about my proposal with Lindsay, she often mentioned her desire to broaden the scope of the conference to be welcoming to all kinds of works, perspectives, and methods of sharing knowledge. The variety of presentation formats was refreshing, and I owe my own presentation to her bending the conventional rules to allow for unconventional perspectives. I was also struck by the small group of booths run by attendees sharing the fruits of their lives and hobbies outside of the classroom, which added to the relaxed, welcoming atmosphere that I felt throughout the weekend.

My favorite part of the conference though was the opportunity to socialize. Academia is full of interesting personalities, and the realm of TESOL is no different. I connected with a number of

people from the Busan, Seoul, and Jeonju-North Jeolla Chapters, and made a number of new friends. Thanks to my participation in the National Conference, I finally gave in, and after much encouragement and some attempts at poaching by different chapters, became a KOTESOL member, and I am greatly looking forward to the upcoming International Conference in May this spring. The National Conference was a great introduction to the broader world of TESOL and introduced me to a great circle of people across Korea who I am pleased to call friends and colleagues.



### The Author

**Courtney McLaren** is an independent researcher from Ontario, Canada. With a bachelor's in sociology and a master's in communications from Simon Fraser University, her research focuses on transcultural K-pop fandom, cosmopolitanism, and authenticity discourse. She has been teaching at a middle school in Jeollanam-do, Korea, since 2021.

## ETA-ROC Conference Report

### Conferences, Cuisine, and Camaraderie: My Taipei Story

By Victor Reeser

In November, I had the opportunity to represent KOTESOL at the English Teachers' Association-Republic of China (ETA-ROC) 33rd International Symposium in Taipei, Taiwan. My trip to Taipei began early on a Friday morning as I headed to Gimpo Airport for a quick and easy flight to Taipei Songshan Airport. The journey itself was smooth, and I arrived in Taipei feeling excited for the weekend ahead. Songshan Airport, being centrally located, made for a convenient entry point into the city. From



**Victor joined some of the other conference attendees for a memorable first evening in Taipei.**

there, I made my way to the conference venue and settled into my accommodations, which ended up being conveniently located in the next building over from where the conference would take place.

After getting settled, I joined some of the other conference attendees for a memorable first evening in Taipei. We headed to Hai Ba Wang, a restaurant known for its regional seafood dishes, and I enjoyed some of the best local cuisine the city has to offer. The restaurant was packed with customers and rightfully so. The food was fantastic – a true introduction to the flavors of Taiwan. What made the evening even more special was reconnecting with my international colleagues, including George Maclean from JALT and Takahiro from JACET, whom I hadn't seen in quite some time. We had a wonderful time catching up over dinner.

After dinner, I explored the nearby Shilin Night Market, a quintessential Taipei experience. The market was alive with energy and filled with stalls offering everything from street food to handmade goods. I tried a variety of local delicacies, including freshly steamed pork and vegetable bao buns and some unique sweet treats. The vibrant atmosphere and delicious food made for the perfect way to immerse myself in the culture and set the tone for the days ahead. By the end of the evening, I was thoroughly impressed with Taipei's charm and hospitality. It was the perfect start to what promised to be an engaging and rewarding conference weekend.

The first morning of the conference started with a wonderful opening ceremony. The opening ceremony itself was truly unique – a clown show! In all my years attending conferences, this was a first, and I must say it was quite impressive. The two performers, students from the National Taiwan College of Performing Arts, put on a highly entertaining and engaging act that set a positive tone for the event. Next up was the opening plenary session, a talk by Dr. Yuen Yi Lo from the University of Hong Kong. Dr. Lo delivered an engaging presentation on the intersection of assessment and technology within EMI and CLIL. I spent the next part of the conference attending presentations by my fellow international affiliate representatives. I enjoyed the opportunity to see which topics are popular outside of Korea, and I had a wonderful time supporting my fellow international colleagues.

One notable feature of the conference venue was a central café, conveniently located between the





**Connecting with the many international attendees who had traveled to the conference.**

various conference rooms. It was a perfect spot to grab a hot coffee or a cup of one of the local teas, which I found to be consistently excellent throughout my time there.

Next up was lunch, so I grabbed some fresh oolong tea from the cafe and headed into a meeting with all the affiliate representatives and ETA-ROC President Andy Leung. The conference organizers prepared boxed meals for us, and mine consisted of Taiwanese-style fried chicken served over vegetables and rice – a flavorful and hearty meal. The luncheon discussions focused on common challenges faced by each organization, including membership growth, conference attendance, and budgeting. Each representative shared their experiences, and we worked collaboratively to explore ways to support one another moving forward.

That evening, all attendees were treated to a dinner at the iconic Grand Hotel in the Yuan Shan area of the Zhongshan District in Taipei. It was about a 20-minute uphill walk from the conference venue – a bit of a trek but a nice way to get some exercise before the evening festivities. The dinner was nothing short of spectacular. Held in a grand dining hall, it featured a fully stocked buffet with an incredible variety of options. From an unlimited supply of king crab legs to every type of meat you

could want, it was a feast to remember. The dessert selection was equally impressive with dozens of choices to satisfy any sweet tooth. On top of that, there was an unlimited supply of red wine and beer that contributed to a relaxed and celebratory atmosphere.

The setting was perfect for capping off a productive day of meeting new people and building relationships. The evening shifted from professional discussions to a more social vibe with lighthearted conversations and plenty of laughter. Business cards were exchanged throughout the night, and the event offered a wonderful opportunity to connect with the many international attendees who had traveled to the conference, myself included. I truly appreciated this thoughtful and elegant event that brought everyone together in a memorable way.

The last day of the conference began, once again, with a wonderful breakfast at the venue. Afterward, I made my rounds to some of the publishers present, including Kinseido Publishing from Japan who was enthusiastic about the prospect of returning to Korea soon. One of the main speakers at the conference was Dr. Charles Brown from Meiji Gakuin University in Japan. He was, of course, one of the plenary speakers at KOTESOL's 2024 National Conference. While our schedules didn't align much during his last visit to Korea, this conference provided plenty of time to connect. We had a great conversation about his future involvement in KOTESOL events as well as a new series of global ELT conferences he is organizing.

In reflecting on my experience, I can wholeheartedly say that Taipei is an incredible city to visit. Representing KOTESOL at this conference was a privilege, and I'm grateful for the opportunity to connect with so many wonderful people on both a professional and personal level. The culture, food, and welcoming atmosphere of Taipei left a lasting impression, and I look forward to the chance to return in the future.

## Chapter News

### Busan-Gyeongnam

By **Gabriela Villafradez**, Chapter President

Happy festive seasons, KOTESOL friends. We wish you a wonderful end of the year and beginning of 2025! These past months have brought significant changes to the Busan-Gyeongnam (BG) Chapter. October started strong with Aulia Djunaedi (member-at-large) and Danny Jones (treasurer) presenting at the KOTESOL National Conference 2024. The event was also attended by Anika Casem (immediate past president) and supported by Gabriela Villafradez (current president), who volunteered her time.

Following the conference, we hosted BG's Fall Symposium 2024, "Fostering a Love for Education in an AI World," at the University of Ulsan. The event had an excellent turnout, attracting both KOTESOL and members and non-members. It featured a diverse range of presentations on topics like photography, calligraphy, AI, and tourism, among others. We hope to organize another symposium in the near future. Our event was even featured on *Ulsan Online*, where KC Washington wrote a fantastic article about it – great work, VP! You can read the piece [here](#).

As we progressed through November, we held our chapter elections. We bid farewell to our outstanding president, Anika Casem, who has made remarkable contributions to BG and KOTESOL. We are incredibly grateful for her dedication and wish her the best in her future endeavours. The results of the elections are as follows:

**President:** Gabriela Villafradez (formerly BG secretary)

**Vice President:** KC Washington (continuing role)

**Treasurer:** Danny Jones (continuing role)

**Member-at-Large:** Catherine "Minsook" Shin Marcus (continuing role)

**Member-at-Large:** Aulia Djunaedi (formerly BG membership officer), who actively promotes

our chapter within her other social groups and is a passionate advocate for KOTESOL.

Later in the month, we held two officers' meetings to plan for the year ahead. Here's what's coming up:

**December – Christmas Brunch in Busan:** A wonderful opportunity to reflect on 2024, connect with fellow members, and share ideas for the Chapter's future whilst eating pizza and looking out at the sea.

**January – Dr. Alvaro Fuentes: *Frontiers of AI in Education (Part II)*:** This Zoom event will explore AI's transformative role in education, including adaptive assessments, automated administrative tasks, and strategies to enhance student engagement. It is a continuation of Dr. Fuentes's presentation from our Fall Symposium 2024.

**February – Christina Savvidis and J. Tom Wyatt, *Rice or Lice? Phonological Deafness and You!*:** A Zoom session focusing on the challenges of teaching phonology, followed by an interactive workshop.

**BG Members' 2025 Meeting:** This Zoom meeting will allow members to connect with officers, learn about the 2025 BG calendar, and participate in social activities.

**March – Launch of Project Dual-Purpose Initiative:** Led and designed by our VP, KC Washington, this initiative will begin with an event at Youngsan University. The launch will include an introduction to the program, talks from inspirational figures, and a networking session. Stay tuned for more details.

**Well-Being Meeting:** A Zoom event to kick start the new academic year on the right foot and in zen.

In December, our President, Gabriela Villafradez, delivered a presentation at the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter Year-End Workshop held at Gwangju National University of Education. Her talk, *All Work and No Play Keeps Well-Being at*

## Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter (cont.)

*Bay: A Practical Guide to Taking Charge of Well-Being for Busy Professionals*, provided valuable insights and practical strategies for enhancing well-being in demanding professional environments.

We look forward to seeing you at our events!



Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter Symposium, October 26th.

## Daegu-Gyeongbuk

By **Jake Kimball**, Interim Chapter President

The Daegu-Gyeongbuk Chapter is active. Rebuilding is a slow process, though. We welcome old friends and new members, too. UCC, in downtown Daegu, is our new home. It is only minutes from the Jung-ang subway station and Kyobo Bookstore. As always, we are especially thankful to Jenny Yang at UCC, who offers us monthly classroom space, hot coffee, and a welcome smile.

October was a busy month for conferencing. KOTESOL offered several opportunities for professional development; therefore, we postponed our monthly meeting to support other activities. First on the schedule was the National Conference. It was held in Gwangju on October 12 and 13, so a bus ride to Gwangju is quick and easy. I found the conference to be a success: the 2024 ESBB International TESOL Conference and KOTESOL National Conference, with the

theme “Transcending Borders, Building Bridges: Compassion, Connection, and Criticality in the 21st Century.”

We also asked Daegu-Gyeongbuk Chapter members to support the Busan-Gyeongnam Chapter. On October 26, they held a wonderful symposium. The theme? “Fostering a Love of Education in an AI World.” Where was it? At the International Building of the University of Ulsan. What a wonderful day to meet friends and learn something new. Well done, Busan Chapter!

Getting back to business, we held our next chapter meeting on Saturday, November 18. Jake Kimball led a workshop titled *Crafting Prompts for Gen AI Success in ELT*. In this session, Jake navigated the ins and outs of creating more useful prompts when asking AI (ChatGPT) for help with our teaching projects. This was a beginner-friendly workshop introducing EFL educators to the fundamentals of crafting effective prompts for use with generative AI tools. He covered key areas, including essential prompt types, best practices, and common pitfalls to avoid. Through hands-on activities, participants experimented with creating clear and impactful prompts for lesson planning, vocabulary building, or feedback tasks. Realtime results were then shown and discussed with members in attendance. It is safe to say that attendees left the meeting with hands-on practice with refining AI prompts to generate more fitting output.

To attend our regular meetings in Daegu (our next meeting will be held in March 2025), simply head downtown. If you know where Kyobo Bookstore is, you can find UCC. It is only two or three blocks away. From the Jung-ang subway station, go out Exit 5, 3, or 1. Walk straight ahead for about three minutes. When you see the movie theater showing independent, foreign films, stop. Head up to the 3rd floor. Address: 537 Gukchaebosang-ro, 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.

## Daegu-Gyeongbuk Chapter (cont.)

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

We are off for the winter. Expect our return in March. Hope to see you then!

## Daejeon-Chungcheong

By Eric Reynolds, Chapter President

Hey everyone, here is an overview of the events we have held since the last time we shared with you!

On November 13, 2024, KOTESOL's Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter hosted an inspiring online workshop featuring the renowned Stewart Gray. Known for his creative and practical teaching insights, Stewart presented on "Designing Tasks and Materials," showcasing fresh ideas from his recent work. This unique opportunity marked his first DCC presentation since moving to China. His innovative approach and practical tips energized attendees, making it a memorable session. If you missed it, don't worry – more engaging workshops will come! Stay tuned and join us for future events to connect, learn, and grow together as educators!

The 2024 DCC November Symposium, held on November 30 at Woosong University, was an inspiring gathering of English educators united under the theme of "Reflective Practice: Looking Forward, Moving Forward." Organized by the Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter of Korea TESOL, the event featured dynamic sessions, engaging workshops, and lively networking.

Kicking off with Joan M. Kuroda's keynote, attendees explored how reflective practice enhances teacher resilience, well-being, and alignment with professional values. The day unfolded with practical and innovative sessions, from Jocelyn Wright's exploration of book clubs for professional growth to Jake Kimball's forward-looking goal-setting workshop for 2025.

Interactive workshops like Lisa MacIntyre-Park's modern calligraphy session added a creative twist, linking mindfulness to language teaching. Teachers left inspired by the closing plenary on reflective study groups, gaining strategies to sustain growth and spark classroom innovation.



**"Looking Forward, Moving Forward," at the 2024 November Symposium, November 30, at Woosong University, Daejeon.**

The DCC Annual Business Meeting (ABM), held on December 15, 2024, at Starbucks Cheonan, was a productive and engaging event that brought together key members of the Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter. The meeting reviewed executive reports from outgoing officers, highlighted accomplishments from the past year, and set the stage for an exciting 2025 under the leadership of the new president, Eric Reynolds.

Attendees discussed plans for the upcoming year, including the budget, member engagement strategies, and retreat scheduling. The collaborative atmosphere ensured that all voices were heard, and the group left energized to continue their work. We encourage everyone to get involved in future DCC activities – it's a fantastic way to shape the chapter's direction and connect with fellow educators!

As the last event of the past year, the DCC KOTESOL End-of-Year Party on December 15th at Ashley's Queens Buffet in downtown Cheonan was a heartwarming celebration! Twelve members, friends, and family – plus a very special guest, a grandson – gathered to enjoy an evening of great food and even better company. Don't miss out on future DCC events – they're a fantastic chance to connect, celebrate, and

## Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter (cont.)

create lasting memories!

Looking to the future, Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter is excited to announce its upcoming leadership retreat in late January or February – late winter of 2025. This annual retreat promises a refreshing blend of relaxation, collaboration, and professional growth against Korea's stunning natural beauty. Hosted at a cozy pension nestled in a serene area, the retreat offers participants the perfect opportunity to enjoy crisp, fresh air and unwind in a peaceful environment. The retreat will also focus on setting a clear vision for the upcoming year, with dedicated time for planning events, initiatives, and professional development opportunities. This retreat is more than just a planning session – it's a chance for chapter leaders to recharge, bond, and grow as a team.

That wraps up our activities from October to December. All the best from DCC Chapter!



The End-of-Year Party, on December 15th, at Ashley's Queens Buffet in downtown Cheonan, was a heartwarming celebration!

## Gangwon

By Michael Free, Interim Chapter President

Our next event will happen across the first week of February (tentatively), i.e., the month before university teachers start the new school year, with at least three webinars that might be of interest: Kara Waggoner will help you get your teaching life in order with *Sorting Through Class*. She'll be

talking about how to get organized for the semester. Michael Free will tackle the useless/useful and ubiquitous LMS in *LMS: Friend or Foe?* Love it or hate it, it's good to know what it can and cannot do. We'll also have Ron Morraine piped in from Europe where he'll lead a hands-on session *AI in the Language Classroom*. Stay tuned for more details!

## Incheon

By Victor Reeser, Chapter President

The Incheon Chapter is excited to announce a new Vice President, Madison Brand. Additionally, we are currently working on establishing presentation proposals for the upcoming 2025 KOTESOL International Conference. Currently, the chapter is set to host a roundtable discussion on academic writing practices and looks forward to engaging with the community on the subject. The chapter's current long-term goal is to host a larger event in 2025, a symposium on pedagogical practices and language education.

## Gwangju-Jeonnam

By Maria Lisak, Chapter President

As we approach the end of 2024, the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter of KOTESOL reflects on a vibrant year filled with professional development, networking, and community engagement. From workshops to social gatherings, our chapter has worked hard to support educators in their professional journeys and build a sense of community.

### A Year of Growth and Connection

Our 2024 calendar was packed with diverse events that enriched both teaching practices and cultural understanding. The fourth quarter included:

- **Major Conference:** The ESBB International TESOL Conference and KOTESOL National Conference in October brought attendees to Gwangju. This well-received event not only strengthened professional networks but also turned a profit, thanks to the careful planning of Dr. Lindsay Herron and the National Conference Committee.

## Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter (cont.)

- **November Workshops:** Melvin Dixon and Dr. David Shaffer delivered engaging sessions on instructional strategies and Korean history, sparking interest and discussion among attendees.
- **Triumph Through Turmoil: The Unyielding Spirit of Palestinian Educators.** This zoom hosted in November by the Social Justice SIG was well-attended by Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter members.
- **Gratitude and Reflection Zoom:** Co-hosted with the Christian Teachers SIG, this December session invited educators to reflect, share stories, and express gratitude. Special thanks to facilitators Heidi Nam and James Rush.
- **Year-End Workshop & Elections:** Gabriela Villafradez from Busan Chapter facilitated a wonderful workshop focused on well-being and reflection. Vegan cookies, snacks galore, and elections were also held.
- **Social Gatherings:** Events like Coffee Connections and Cocktail Connects provided relaxed spaces for educators to unwind and connect.



Cocktail Connections at Carabella, with David Shaffer, Maria Lisak and Judith Carcedo.

### Member Achievements

We are proud to celebrate the academic milestones of two of our chapter members:

- **Lindsay Herron:** Successfully completed her EdD.
- **Maria Lisak:** Successfully completed her EdD. Congratulations to both on this remarkable

accomplishment!

### Featured Articles

Our chapter's efforts and expertise were highlighted in the local English-language magazine, *Gwangju News*, through the following articles:

**"How Languages Are (and Aren't) Learned"** by Dr. David Shaffer (July 3, 2024)

**"International English Teaching Conference Comes to Gwangju"** (August 1, 2024)

**"A Transformative Journey: Peacebuilding in Northeast Asia"** by Jocelyn Wright (November 1, 2024)

**"Teacher, Trainer, Researcher: Interview with Dr. Ian Moodie"** (November 29, 2024)

These publications showcase the dynamic contributions of our members and events to the broader community.

### Acknowledgments

A special thank you goes to:

- Dr. Lindsay Herron and the National Conference Committee for their outstanding work organizing a successful and profitable conference.
- Marisha Halli, lifetime member, for acting as our elections officer for our December annual elections.
- Gwangju National University of Education for generously hosting our workshops and the national conference at no cost.
- Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter members and attendees for sharing their talents and gifts so generously with our chapter.

### New Officers for 2025

We are pleased to announce the new officers for the upcoming year:

- **President:** Maria Lisak, EdD
- **Vice-President:** Dr. David E. Shaffer
- **Treasurer:** Dr. Lindsay Herron
- **Officer-at-Large:** Jocelyn Wright
- **Member-at-Large:** Dr. YeonSeong Park
- **Immediate Past President:** Bryan Hale

### Looking Ahead

With your continued support, the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter will strive to provide even more opportunities for growth, collaboration, and connection in the coming year. Stay tuned for

## Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter (cont.)

updates, and thank you for being part of our community!



Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter in December.

### Jeonju-North Jeolla

By Ingrid Zwaal, Chapter Treasurer

October saw the JNJ Chapter on hiatus, as our president was presenting at the National Conference. But Lisa MacIntyre-Park, Allison Bill, and Ingrid Zwaal went to a fundraising event for an orphanage that was also a popup market. JNJ sold some KOTESOL branded items and Ingrid had her Dragon's Hoard jewelry open for business.

The chapter was back to regular business in November with two presenters. Wesley Martin presented on how to teach climate change and make it real without getting political. He focused on using humor and metaphors to get the message across. Our other presenter was a local lawyer who answered legal questions on work, contracts, and other personal concerns regarding the law.



Wesley Martin spoke in November on how to teach climate change with metaphor and humor.

December saw the Christmas party, elections (of sorts), and a final presentation from Allison Bill. Allison presented on a number of activities that can be used in class. Allison is leaving Korea after many years of dedicated service to KOTESOL and Korea. She has been a very active member of KOTESOL, including being the chair of the International Conference, JNJ president for a number of years, as well as IOC chair, and program chair for the IC. Last year, she was named one of the Korea TESOL 30 @ 30. Allison's was the first name on the list; the last name was mine, so despite being one of the smaller chapters, we covered the list from beginning to end, from A to Z. Allison was also a very involved and well-known member of the Jeonju community among both foreigners and Koreans. We wish you the best of luck for your future, Allison!

Any of the chapter officers can be contacted at [jeonju@koreatesol.org](mailto:jeonju@koreatesol.org)



December saw a final presentation from Allison Bill (in red) before she leaves Korea.

### Seoul

On October 19, Seoul Chapter had a reflective meetup in a cafe in bustling Gangnam.

On November 2, at Seoul National University of Science and Technology, the chapter had two presenters sharing content: presenting research titled *How Race, Nationality, and Marital Status*

## Seoul Chapter (cont.)

*Create Privilege and Disadvantage in ELT* and facilitating a discussion titled *Understanding Generation MZ in English Language Teaching*.

Also in November, Seoul Chapter elected eight chapter officers.

On December 21, the 2024 Winter Holiday Social Event was held at Monk's Butcher in Itaewon.



On October 19, Seoul Chapter had a reflective meetup in a cafe in bustling Gangnam.

### Yongin-Gyeonggi

By Gregory Lewis, Member-at-Large

What a long, strange trip it's been! First, in early autumn conversations within the chapter about a Young Learners and Teens SIG (YLT-SIG) began to take shape after a meeting with the EBY Talking Club in Hapcheon. Second, our dear president, Daniela Trinks and her husband moved to Germany midterm and VP Andre Jacobs stepped onto the helm. But let's break it down:

In October, YoKo (Yongin KOTESOL) was trying to manage life with its president living abroad. I'm sure it's been done before but for us, it was a first. Luckily, Daniela Trinks is an awesome person and as president kept tabs on all our activities, contributing guidance and reminders from afar with relative ease.

A large YoKo contingent attended the KOTESOL National Conference with ESBB at Gwangju National University of Education on October 12–13. I personally was part of a road trip trio that attended, and I can report with a straight face that food, fun, and foolishness were involved. It was great to see so many YoKo folks participating and attending.

The following weekend, several brave YoKo members worked up a sweat at the first pickleball practice hosted by the Suwon Pickleball Association. This event gave us a good workout that culminated in a dinner and suggestions that the chapter consider forming the first KOTESOL Pickleball Challenge (KPC?). Talks continue. Unfortunately, we were kept quite busy chasing after errant pickleballs and failed to take photos. However, next time, when we are better prepared and have had more time to practice and look good, we will take photos.

On the afternoon of November 10, YoKo members gathered in a massive greenhouse cafe in Yongin called the Urban Leaf Cafe and Bakery. There were pools, fountains, and plants galore, all helping to give the year in review and plans for the future a lush green hue, including strategies and networking ideas for KOTESOL promotions and opportunities. Also, there were seeds planted that we hope will flower into a colorful and fragrant new version of the YoKo online chat in 2025. We left the greenhouse atmosphere late in the afternoon. And so, with a few of us still hungering for more, a little dinner was had before heading home in the early evening.

December saw the FINAL Yongin Chapter Conference, December 19, featuring golden oldies like Stewart Gray (he's not going to like that!), Tip Lindoll, and Greg Lewis; and younger faces, like Tina Tsoy and Daniel Moonasar; and a delightful new face, Claudia Tumba, present their research and add to the conversation about young learners, language education, and technology.



## Yongin-Gyeonggi Chapter (cont.)



**December 19 saw the FINAL Yongin Chapter Conference.**

Home-cooked food was provided by our very own Samantha Petersen and included mutton samosas and a couple other delicious South African delicacies, the names of which I am at a loss to recall.

A new executive council for 2025 was elected December 22, which includes representation from both of the former Suwon and Yongin chapters and promises a solid start to a brave new chapter: the new “Gyeonggi Chapter” starting in 2025.

In summary, it was a year of wins and losses. We lost a chapter but gained a new one. Plus, Claudia Tomba and her husband Dogara welcomed a new baby boy on Christmas Eve. A Christmas baby just came into the world! How cool is that?!

The circle of life continues unabated here in Gyeonggi-do; a life we value and make the best of by helping each other thrive as educators, colleagues, and fellow travelers on this pale blue dot.



**Group at work reviewing the year and planning for the future.**

## Special Interest Group News

### Book Club SIG

By Professor Chae Kwan Jung, Facilitator

We are excited to announce our plans to establish a Book Club Special Interest Group (SIG) within Korea TESOL. This SIG will serve as a platform for discussing various activities, research, and teaching methodologies related to reading in English education. Our aim is to foster both academic and practical exchanges among members who are passionate about this area.

#### 1. Statement of Purpose

The proposed Book Club Special Interest Group (BC SIG) aims to foster a community of English language educators who are passionate about integrating extensive reading and discussion-based learning into their teaching practices. The SIG will focus on promoting English language teaching (ELT) methodologies that emphasize reading comprehension, critical thinking, and cultural understanding among learners.

#### 2. Proposed Activities for the First Year

During its inaugural year, the BC SIG plans to undertake the following activities: regular Book Club meetings, webinars and workshops; a resource-sharing platform; professional development programs; collaborative research projects; and an annual symposium. All online activities will be conducted via Zoom, and all offline activities will be held at Incheon National University (Songdo campus). We plan to organize hybrid online and offline activities to attract more members who are interested in the Book Club SIG but cannot participate in person due to their locations.

For further information or inquiries, please contact Professor Chae Kwan Jung (SIG facilitator), ckjung@inu.ac.kr, or please go to the link below.

[Digital Endorsement for the Establishment of the KOTESOL Book Club Special Interest Group](#)

### Christian Teachers SIG

By Heidi Vande Voort Nam, Facilitator

The Christian Teachers (CT) SIG joined forces with the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter on Tuesday, December 10, to host a Zoom discussion on Gratitude and Reflection. James Rush and Heidi Nam from the CT SIG led a time of sharing on the theme of gratitude in our work as English language teachers. Participants celebrated the events, students, and colleagues who have encouraged and supported them in their work. The CT SIG would like to express its gratitude to Maria Lisak and the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter for proposing, publicizing, and hosting the event. Several participants in the meeting expressed an interest in forming a book club in 2025. Look for further developments on the [KOTESOL Christian Teachers SIG page](#) or in our [Facebook Group](#).

### Classroom Management SIG

By Jake Kimball, Facilitator

Our Classroom Management Special Interest Group (CM SIG) has 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 Miao Yee Clare Chong, Willy A. Renandya and Qui Rong Ng. Demotivation is a universal experience for learners and teachers. Tackling a short journal article is a terrific way to check off at least one PD opportunity this winter. During the upcoming months, please feel free to join us in reading the

## Classroom Management SIG (cont.)

article and discussing background theory and pedagogical implications related to motivation/demotivation. Scribes Square blog posts or articles on the topic are also welcome.

Daejeon Chapter held their annual Thanksgiving Symposium on Saturday, November 30. This year was once again a wonderful chance to meet like-minded members and discuss interesting subjects. This year's theme was reflective practice, and the sessions were open to all KOTESOL SIGs. The CM SIG held a workshop on *Enhancing Willingness to Communicate in the EFL Classroom*. The turnout was impressive, and attendees contributed their own experiences regarding quiet or silent students, considering why this is an issue and how to improve it. It proves the point that regardless of how long we have been teaching in the classroom, we all face similar challenges.

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."

### Reflective Practice SIG

**By Jake Kimball**, Interim Facilitator

Greetings, friends and colleagues. On the Reflective Practice (RP) front, things have been going full speed. This past November 30, with the support of Daejeon Chapter, a Thanksgiving Symposium was held. The word of the day was "reflective practice." There were many workshops and presentations all aimed at promoting reflection.

The morning started with a Reflective Practice Roundtable. Thanks go out to David Bae, Anika

Casem, Chris Miller, and Martin Sketchley. They were instrumental in getting started with personal interventions in RP. Daejeon Chapter sponsored a speaker from Japan: Joan Kuroda. She talked about *Practicing Reflection in the Classroom: The Process of Meaning Making for Teacher Well-being*. To close the symposium, she also gave the closing plenary and discussed *Beyond the Classroom: Cultivating Reflective Practice in Study Groups*.

Throughout the day, there were concurrent sessions featuring Lisa MacIntyre-Park (*Creative Language Learning: Enhancing EFL Pedagogy with Modern Calligraphy*), David Bae (*Filling In the Reading Comprehension Gap of EFL Students*), Jocelyn Wright (*Opening the Book on Book Clubs*), Maria Lisak (*Fostering Reflective Practice Through Writing Accountability: An On-site Write-a-thon*), Christopher Miller (*Adding More R and R in Your Classes: Recording and Reflection*), and Heidi Nam (*Rethinking Routines*). Many thanks to these RP stalwarts. Their sessions were well-attended and well-received, all providing commentary and insight.

A delightful after-symposium Thanksgiving dinner was available at a local restaurant. We all hiked down the street in the cold. Waiting? A turkey dinner with all the trimmings. Again, the RP SIG is appreciative to the Daejeon Chapter and their individual members who spent the day arranging the event and supporting the community. They not only managed all the minute details that day but arranged the holiday dinner. I know it left lasting memories with those who attended.

We do have a Facebook group. Join us and contribute to the conversation. We would love to meet you!

### Social Justice SIG

**By Jocelyn Wright**

This quarter, the KOTESOL Social Justice (Critical Educators in Korea) Special Interest Group (SJ-SIG) hosted one main online event thanks to Lindsay Herron's coordinating. It was a post-National Conference Zoom. The interactive presentation by a professor and a director of a

## Social Justice SIG (cont.)

language center, both Palestinian women, entitled *Triumph Through Turmoil: The Unyielding Spirit of Palestinian Educators*, was held on 23 November 2024. The facilitators discussed their approach to educating in their occupied country during the ongoing Israeli-Palestinian conflict. This event was well-attended by Gwangju-Jeonnam KOTESOL Chapter members.

Otherwise, exchanges on the Facebook page facilitated by Jocelyn Wright and Maria Lisak have included the following topics:

- Multilingual leadership
- Critical autoethnography
- Decolonizing education
- Community-building
- Activism in language teaching
- Technology and cultural bias
- Social justice education
- AI and inequality
- Han Kang's Nobel Prize
- Linguistic racism
- ChatGPT


These appeared in addition to some relevant conference postings, book launch recommendations, and resource sharings, including one by David Shaffer.

Following a workshop on book clubs facilitated by Jocelyn Wright at the 2024 Daejeon-Chungcheong Chapter November Symposium, a move was also made to initiate a winter vacation book club for SIG members on *World Englishes*. However, others in the KOTESOL community who are interested are welcomed to reach out to us for information. Our contact information follows:

- KOTESOL Social Justice SIG:  
<https://koreatesol.org/content/social-justice-critical-educators-korea-sig>
- Email: [sjsig@koreatesol.org](mailto:sjsig@koreatesol.org)
- Social Justice (Critical Educators in Korea) SIG Facebook group: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1695951900638611>

The KOTESOL *Social Justice Special Interest Group* presents ...

**The Early Birds' Winter Vacation Book Club**




**World Englishes**  
The Local Lives of a Global Language  
Bertus van Rooy

EDINBURGH TEXTBOOKS ON THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE – ADVANCED

Sundays, 9:00 AM KST  
Starting 5 January 2025

**Will you read with us?**

For more information about the SIG:



## Multimedia and CALL SIG

By **Victor Reeser**, Facilitator

The MCALL SIG has recently partnered with members of JALT for an inter-organizational research project focused on establishing an understanding of the current level of acceptance of generative AI in higher education in Asia. The collaborative group will have its first in-person meeting at the upcoming 2025 KOTESOL International Conference to discuss their findings. This marks an important step for the SIG in reaching beyond the borders of South Korea to work with international partners on a complex topic.

## Committee News

### Diversity Committee

By Melvin Dixon, Chair

After a period of inactivity, the Diversity Committee has returned for 2025 and beyond, with a continued commitment to celebrating the beauty of culture, language, accents, race and gender relations, education backgrounds, nationalities, identities, opinions and all other unique traits that make each of us special. We are moving forward with the following goals as anchors for the growth and vitality of the committee:

- Building Awareness and Education
- Community Building
- Resource Development
- Advocacy
- Celebration of Diversity

Please join us as we embark on a renewed journey to celebrate differences, foster understanding, and promote equity in English education in South Korea.

### International Conference Committee (ICC) 2025

By Martin Sketchley, PR Director

The International Conference (IC) appears to be edging closer. With just four months remaining, the International Conference Committee (ICC) has been hard at work with Rhea Metituk at the helm as ICC Chair.


Since the last update from the invited speakers director, David Shaffer, in HAN, we are now accepting proposals, with many presenters having confirmed for the IC. Furthermore, there is a [dedicated IC website](#) for the International Conference with much information available to review.

In terms of publicizing the event, there is a small team within PR that is responsible for marketing, and recently many posters have been prepared and shared on social media. Despite being five months away, the responsibility for PR is to establish awareness of the International Conference and to garner interest.

There are other teams involved in organizing the conference, and we are always on the lookout for motivated volunteers to help out before, during, and after the IC. If you feel like you are able to contribute, then there is a dedicated page on the IC website: <https://ic2025koreatesol.org/join-us/>.

Finally, the theme of the conference is “Embracing Humanity in the Age of AI: Enhancing ELT through Emotional Intelligence, Creativity, and Innovation” with the conference aiming to balance both humanness and technology in the classroom to enhance English teaching. As we are now accepting proposals, and if you feel like presenting at one of the biggest TESOL conferences in Korea, then get your skates on – there is more information on the IC website.

We look forward to seeing you at the 2025 International Conference in May!



## CALL FOR PROPOSALS

### The 32nd KOTESOL International Conference

**May 10-11, 2025**

**Sookmyung Women's University,  
Seoul + online**

*Embracing Humanity in the Age of AI:  
Enhancing ELT through Emotional  
Intelligence, Creativity, and Innovation*


**Regular Proposals Accepted:**  
October 31, 2024 – January 15, 2025

**Early Acceptance Notification:**  
December 15, 2024

**Regular Proposal Acceptance Notification:**  
February 15, 2025

**Graduate Student Showcase Proposals Accepted:**  
October 31, 2024 – January 15, 2025


**Registration for Accepted Presenters:**  
February 15, 2025 – March 15, 2025




**Creative Theme  
Poster Contest &  
Creative English  
Video Contest**

Check our website for  
details and updates!

[ic2025koreatesol.org](https://ic2025koreatesol.org)



**Check our website  
for tips on proposal  
submissions &  
possible grant  
opportunities:**



## Membership Committee

By Dr. Lindsay Herron, Chair

The KOTESOL Membership Committee would like to thank everyone for their support of KOTESOL this past year! We hope you took advantage of our many membership benefits, from discounts to KOTESOL and partner events to special invitations. In 2025, you can look forward to a similar assortment of membership perks, such as new KOTESOL-branded merchandise, a special price on displays at the international conference, our usual amazing discounts on KOTESOL events, and more!

## Nominations and Elections Committee

By Dr. David Shaffer, Chair

Korea TESOL National Elections were held online in October and the results were announced at the November 1 annual business meeting. Elected were

- President: Dr. Lindsay Herron, Gwangju National University of Education
- First Vice-President: Michael Peacock, Woosong University, Culinary Arts College
- Second Vice-President: Wesley Martin, OZ International Language Institute
- Secretary: Heidi Vande Voort Nam, Chongshin University
- Nominations and Elections Comm. Chair: Dr. David Shaffer, Gwangju Intl. Center

There were no candidates running for the positions of treasurer and International Conference Committee co-chair. However, at the December 8 National Council meeting one name was put forward for each position and those two individuals were approved by the Council:

- Treasurer: Jocelyn Wright, Mokpo National University
- International Conference Committee Co-Chair: Dr. Meerbek Kudaibergenov, Seoul National University of Science and Technology

The above positions are the seven National Council positions that are open for elections annually. The other members of the Council are

the chapter presidents (elected by the chapter's members) and the remaining committee chairs (nominated by the Council president and approved by the Council).

How do you plan to serve KOTESOL in 2025? You may wish to volunteer to serve in a role on your chapter's council. Or you may consider serving on one of the national committees. You can find all the committees listed on the KOTESOL Directory webpage (<https://koreatesol.org/content/directory>).

You may also wish to consider running for one of the seven National Council positions in the 2025 elections. More information on these positions can be found on the website in the KOTESOL Constitution and Bylaws (<https://koreatesol.org/content/bylaws>). It's never too early to start thinking about how you may wish to serve KOTESOL in the coming months and year.

Policies and procedures for the 2025 National Council elections will closely follow those of 2024: The nominations period will be in August-September, the voting period will be in October, and election results will be announced at the annual business meeting. Consider how you may wish to take a step up in the contribution that you are making to KOTESOL.



**Korea  
TESOL**  
KOTESOL · 대한영어교육학회

**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE  
NEWLY ELECTED OFFICERS  
FOR 2024-2025!**



## Publications Committee

By Dr. David Shaffer, Chair

The Publications Committee, as usual, has been busy over the past three months preparing reading materials for our membership. In addition to this newest quarterly issue of *Happenings and News*, our editors have been busy with the production of *The English Connection*, the *KOTESOL Proceedings*, and the *Korea TESOL Journal*.

### Recent Publications

On November 1, we published *KOTESOL Proceedings 2024*. This 330-page volume includes 29 papers based on presentations given at the 2024 KOTESOL International Conference. It is available to members on the KOTESOL website in PDF format.

On December 1, the Winter issue of *The English Connection* (TEC 28-4) was made available online. Later in the month, this 32-page quarterly should have reached the mailboxes of members requesting print copies. This issue is devoted to articles on a variety of aspects of young language learners in the Korean context. The content is informative to all EFL instructors, not just young learner teachers.

By the time you read this, Issue 20-2 of the *Korea TESOL Journal* (KTJ) will be published and available both online and in print (print copies available to members upon request). This will be the last issue available in a hard-copy version. Beginning in 2025, with *KTJ* 21-1, the journal will become a fully online publication.

### What to Look For

Before the next issue of *HAN* comes out in mid-April, be on the lookout for the Spring issue of *TEC*. This issue will be the Pre-Conference Edition, featuring articles by and interviews with our 2025 International Conference plenary and featured speakers. It is scheduled to be available on March 1.

### Consider Contributing

It is member support in the form of contributed writings that makes our KOTESOL publications

possible. If you are a teacher-researcher, consider writing up your research findings (qualitative or quantitative) and submitting them to the *Korea TESOL Journal*. You do not need to hold a doctorate or be a tenured professor to make a submission. Submissions are evaluated on content, and the journal can also provide mentoring support.

If you are presenting at the 2025 International Conference, consider submitting to *KOTESOL Proceedings 2025* a write-up of your research presentation, your workshop, or other type of presentation that you may be making. *Proceedings* is a post-conference publication, giving you time to reflect on feedback from your presentation and incorporate that into your written submission. Any conference presenter may make a submission to the *Proceedings*, so consider making your conference session more widely available by contributing to *KOTESOL Proceedings 2025*.

Formal research writing is not your cup of tea? Then, consider writing an article for *The English Connection*. *TEC* caters to much shorter and practical-based writings with classroom applications. This is an excellent way to get started with publishing in ELT and to add to your list of professional publications.

Still hesitant to write on ELT? No need to be. Pubs Comm has something for everyone. Are you familiar with Scribes Square? Scribes Square is our online forum for writing on any aspect of ELT or education that you wish. Articles may be quite informal in style and article length may be as short as somewhere around 500 words. Scribes Square offers a more relaxed approach to stepping into ELT writing or an opportunity for any ELT professional to express what is on their TESOL mind. Check it out: <https://www.koreatesol.org/articles>

### Interested in Editing?

There are two sides to writing: One is creating it; the other is improving upon it. Our various publications are always interested in discovering talented volunteers interested in editing submissions. We are looking for individuals with a

## Publications Committee (cont.)

meticulous eye, a solid grasp of grammar, and a firm command of APA Style (which KOTESOL follows in general). Experience in editing serves to improve one's own writing mechanics, organization, and confidence. We would like to hear from you at [publications@koreatesol.org](mailto:publications@koreatesol.org)

### This and/or That

— If you are not currently receiving your expected print copy of *TEC*, access your KOTESOL profile and check whether your mailing address is correct and complete (preferably in Hangeul for Korean addresses). Also confirm that your profile is set to “Send (Postal) Mail.” If neither of these is the problem, contact [publications@koreatesol.org](mailto:publications@koreatesol.org)

— If your chapter or committee would like to receive a different number of copies of *TEC* than that which you are presently receiving, or wishes to change their delivery address, place your revised request to [publications@koreatesol.org](mailto:publications@koreatesol.org)  
KOTESOL publications: By KOTESOL members and for KOTESOL members!

## Research Committee

By Ian Moodie, Chair

The newly revived Korea TESOL Research Committee is responsible for organizing (and advertising) the KOTESOL research grants. These grants are available to members undertaking research that focuses on English language teaching, English language learning, and TESOL teacher education relevant to the Korean context (but not necessarily wholly focused on Korea).

The Research Committee is happy to announce the KOTESOL Research Grants for 2025. The committee will award up to two research grants, one for 250,000 KRW and another for 750,000 KRW. The deadline for applications is March 31, 2025, and we invite all members to submit proposals. In order to receive the grant, the long report must demonstrate the grant recipient's progress and commitment to publishing a full paper in the *Korea TESOL Journal*. For more information on KOTESOL's research grant program, please visit <https://koreatesol.org/research-grant>.

## Other Committees

**The Financial Affairs Committee (FAC)** gave their official 2023 audit report at the annual business meeting on November 1, indicating they had found no major irregularities. The FAC's review of the 2024 financial records is already well underway.

**The Technologies Committee** is in the final stages of website development, with productive meetings between the developer, the TechComm team, and the ad-hoc website committee leading to thoughtful decisions on design and functionality capitalizing on our new platform.

**The Sponsorship Committee** is finalizing prices for advertising and displays at the 2025 international conference, including new opportunities for “micro-businesses.” Sponsors for the 2024 ESBB International TESOL Conference and KOTESOL National Conference, meanwhile, included Seed Learning, Sung An Dang / Cambridge University Press, and the University of Birmingham. A number of publishers have indicated they will be returning after an absence driven by Covid; this will give conference participants more opportunities to inspect materials for the classroom and their own professional development.

## International Outreach Committee

By Victor Reeser, Chair

The International Outreach Committee (IOC) has had a successful quarter with representatives attending multiple international conferences. President Lindsay Herron attended the ELTAM/ Mongolia TESOL 2024 Conference in Ulaanbaatar in September, Chair Victor Reeser attended ETA-ROC's 33rd International Symposium in Taipei in November, and members Rhea Metituk and Michael Free represented us at this year's JALT Conference in Shizuoka. We are currently working on welcoming our international partner representatives who will be attending this year's KOTESOL International Conference and look forward to meeting our affiliates at the event.



## National News

### National Conference 2024

Around 210 people of 24 nationalities participated in the 2024 ESBB International TESOL Conference and KOTESOL National Conference this fall. Held on October 12 and 13 at Gwangju National University of Education (plus a pre-conference “Highlights of Jeonnam” tour on October 11, joined by nearly 40 participants), the conference included 81 in-person sessions and over sixteen hours and 37 asynchronous online sessions (video playlist available on the KOTESOL YouTube channel). The plenary speakers were Charles Browne (sponsored by Seed Learning), Jack C. Richards, and Naeema B. Hann, while KOTESOL was well represented by our own invited presenters, Kevin Kester, Kara Mac Donald, Jocelyn Wright, and David Shaffer. The conference team would like to offer special thanks to our host university, GJUE; our co-host organization, English Scholars Beyond Borders (ESBB); the conference volunteers; the Gwangju-Jeonnam Chapter; and all presenters and attendees!



At the Seed Learning booth, 2024 KOTESOL National Conference.

### National Council Budget Meeting

By Heidi Vande Voort Nam, National Secretary

The KOTESOL National Council met on December 8 to prepare for 2025. Along with approving an operating budget for the coming year, the Council appointed Jocelyn Wright as

national treasurer and Dr. Meerbek Kudaibergenov as International Conference Committee co-chair. Likewise, the National Council approved the following incoming committee chairs:

- *Diversity Committee*: Melvin Dixon
- *Financial Affairs Committee*: J. Tom Wyatt
- *International Outreach Committee*: Victor Reeser
- *Membership Committee*: Dr. Lindsay Herron
- *Publications Committee*: Dr. David Shaffer
- *Publicity Committee*: Christina Tsoy
- *Research Committee*: Dr. Ian Moodie
- *Sponsorship Committee*: Rob Dickey
- *Technologies Committee*: John Phillips

The Council voted to recognize the [Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers](#) as a new international partner, approve the creation of a Book Club SIG, and create a single Gyeonggi Chapter to serve Yongin, Suwon, and the surrounding areas.

Looking ahead, the National Council is seeking proposals to host the 2025 KOTESOL National Conference. The 2025 KOTESOL Connections Day and the next National Council meeting will be announced in the spring.

### Productive Fusion: Two Chapters Merge

At the National Council meeting on December 8, 2024, the Council approved a proposal to merge the Suwon-Gyeonggi and Yongin-Gyeonggi Chapters into the new Gyeonggi Chapter. The proposal was submitted on behalf of both chapters and with the support of a vast majority of members. The chapter’s new officers were elected via online voting that wrapped up in mid-December.

### New Domestic Partner: KASEE

KOTESOL is pleased to announce a new domestic partnership with the Korea Association of Secondary English Education (KASEE)! KOTESOL president Dr. Lindsay Herron and KASEE president Chae Kwan Jung signed a memorandum of understanding (MOU) on

### New Domestic Partner: KASEE (cont.)

October 12 in Gwangju, in the midst of events during the first day of the 2024 ESBB International TESOL Conference & KOTESOL National Conference. The MOU pledges mutual promotion of events, a presentation slot and fee-waiver for a representative to each organization's international conference, and an interest in other forms of cooperation. Learn more about KASEE here: <http://kasee.org/>



**KOTESOL president Dr. Lindsay Herron and KASEE president Chae Kwan Jung with signed MOU.**

### New International Partner: SPELT (Pakistan)

In November, KOTESOL president Dr. Lindsay Herron met online with representatives from the Society of Pakistan English Language Teachers (SPELT), a TESOL International affiliate in Pakistan, to discuss the possibility of a partnership. Connected by KOTESOL lifetime member and International Outreach Committee member John Baker, the two organizations expressed mutual interest in further collaboration. The memorandum of understanding (MOU) promises mutual promotion; a pre-vetted, complimentary presentation slot in each respective organization's conference; an exchange of publications; and the option of pursuing other types of collaboration. Learn more about SPELT here: <https://spelt.org.pk/>

### New Grant for LMIC Presenters

KOTESOL is pleased to announce a new grant for up to two presenters from low- and middle-income countries to attend the 32nd Korea TESOL International Conference in person! Sponsored by KOTESOL lifetime member and

*KTJ* editor-in-chief Kara Mac Donald, the grants will cover up to one million won worth of travel expenses per person. The grants are designed to support accepted presenters who would not otherwise be able to participate in the conference in person. Interested applicants should submit a proposal to the conference before applying for the grant; selected grantees will be notified in February shortly after conference acceptances are sent and long before the presenter registration deadline, giving applicants plenty of time to adjust their participation plans accordingly.

### Mongolia TESOL / ELTAM 2024

KOTESOL president Dr. Lindsay Herron was a featured speaker representing our organization at the 16th National TEFL / 12th Mongolia TESOL International Conference. Held at the University of the Humanities in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on September 27-29, the conference boasted 230 participants (90 presenters and 140 regular attendees). Among the highlights were two plenary sessions on Friday afternoon, one by TESOL International past president Dr. Deborah Healey ("Culturally Responsive Universal Design for Learning") and one by NELTA's immediate past president, Dr. Motikala Subba Dewan ("Professional Well-being of English Language Teachers"), with 44 45-minute concurrent sessions, five 90-minute sessions, and 19 posters being presented in the day and a half that followed. The other partner organizations sending representatives to the conference were MELTA (Malaysia) and NATE (Russia). KOTESOL's table at the conference included magnets, membership bookmarks, copies of *The English Connection* and *Korea TESOL Journal*, and postcards advertising the upcoming ESBB-KOTESOL National Conference.



## Mongolia TESOL / ELTAM 2024 (cont.)



Opening ceremony at the ELTAM 2024 International Conference.

### President's Corner

By Dr. Lindsay Herron, KOTESOL President

This last quarter of the year has absolutely flown by, closing 2024 with a bang! Our national conference was tremendously successful, turning a profit, exploring opportunities to engage our global visitors, and bringing our organization a little extra international renown. Two of our chapters, Suwon-Gyeonggi and Yongin-Gyeonggi, merged into a single Gyeonggi Chapter, bigger and stronger than ever. We have new partnerships to celebrate, including a new domestic partner, KASEE, and a new international partner, SPELT (Pakistan); gratitude to lifetime members Chae Kwan Jung and Dr. John Baker, respectively, for the connections! Chae Kwan Jung is also the facilitator of our new special interest group, the Book Club SIG. Thank you, Professor Jung, for your enthusiasm! Speaking of enthusiastic lifetime members, Dr. Kara Mac Donald has generously offered to fund two grants of up to a million won each to support the travel expenses of two presenters coming to our international conference from low- and middle-income countries (LMICs). What tremendous generosity – and an amazing opportunity!

Another member who needs recognition here today is Allison Bill, a long-time member whose

many roles in KOTESOL have included Jeonju-North Jeolla Chapter president, International Outreach Committee chair, International Conference Committee chair, and more. I recently learned Allison is returning home to Canada in February after nearly a quarter-century in Korea, and our organization – and many of us who consider her a friend – will definitely miss her! I would like to take this opportunity to recognize Allison's extensive history of dedication and leadership by presenting her with a Lifetime Service Award. Thank you, Allison, for all you've done for our organization!

Another lifetime service award, presented to Robert J. Dickey and initially announced in the inaugural issue of *HAN*, was formalized at the annual business meeting (ABM) on November 1. Also at the ABM, I announced many other service awards, which you can see in the Awards section of *HAN*.

Many thanks to everyone who volunteered, joined, and supported KOTESOL in 2024! You're all amazing, and I look forward to seeing you in 2025. In the meantime, I hope you have a relaxing, rejuvenating winter break!

### Lifetime Members

There were no new lifetime members added this quarter.

### Awards

#### KOTESOL Service Awards

At the conclusion of Korea TESOL's annual business meeting on Friday, November 1, KOTESOL President Dr. Lindsay Herron recognized a variety of volunteers for their exceptional service to the organization between November 2023 and October 2024.

#### "Stepping Up" Award

Victor Reeser

#### Meritorious Service Award

Bryan Hale

James Kimball

Rhea Metituk

Heidi Nam

Mike Peacock

## Awards (cont.)

**Outstanding Service Award**

Robert J. Dickey  
 Dr. Kara Mac Donald  
 John Phillips  
 Dr. David Shaffer  
 Dr. Andrew White

**Lifetime Service Award**

Robert J. Dickey

**Dr. Kevin Kester is awarded the 2024 A. Noam Chomsky Global Connections Award**

In early November, the STAR Scholars Network proudly announced the winners of the 2024 A. Noam Chomsky Global Connections Awards. These distinguished awards honor scholars for their exceptional contributions to advancing transnational research, scholarship, and collaboration that promote a more humane and interconnected world. The award recipients' groundbreaking research reflects a shared commitment to creating impactful knowledge for humanity.

Dr. Kester was awarded the Shining Star Research Award and was recognized during the STAR Global Conference hosted by Kathmandu University in Dhulikhel, Nepal, on December 12.

Dr. Kester was previously unaware of the award, as well as his secret nomination by one of his students. He states on his Facebook page, "I am deeply honored and humbled. Thank you to all the students in the Education, Conflict and Peace Lab, and to my colleagues in the Department of Education and Global Education Cooperation program for all your support. It's a pleasure to learn and work with you all each day!"



## Membership News

Doctorate degrees earned! **Maria Lisak** and **Lindsay Herron** are now both "Dr." Both completed the Literacy, Culture, and Language Education program at Indiana University this past summer and fall, respectively. Congratulations on completing your Doctor of Education degree! Your research has the potential to change lives for the better, and we at KOTESOL are excited to see where this achievement takes you in your career and life. Onwards to greater heights, Dr. Lisak and Dr. Herron!

**Michael Free**, in addition to keeping the Gangwon Chapter pilot light on, travelled to Shuizuoka, Japan to present his paper *Community of Inquiry and the Future of ELT Professional Development Organisations* at the Japan Association for Language Teaching's 2024 International Conference. He is also back in the classroom as a student, taking graduate courses at Boise State in educational technology.



**Reece Randall** had a couple of notable happenings: An invited KOTESOL presentation *Integrating AI and SDGs in Language Education for Sustainable Curriculum Design* at the ALAK International Conference on October 12. He also had some professional development and training as a CEFR interview specialist contributing to job interviews and assisting with English proficiency assessment for KOTRA.

**Claudia Tumba**, one of Gangwon Chapter's newest members, is officially a mom! Her son was born on Christmas Eve, and she can't wait to teach him the ABCs with a little rap flair.