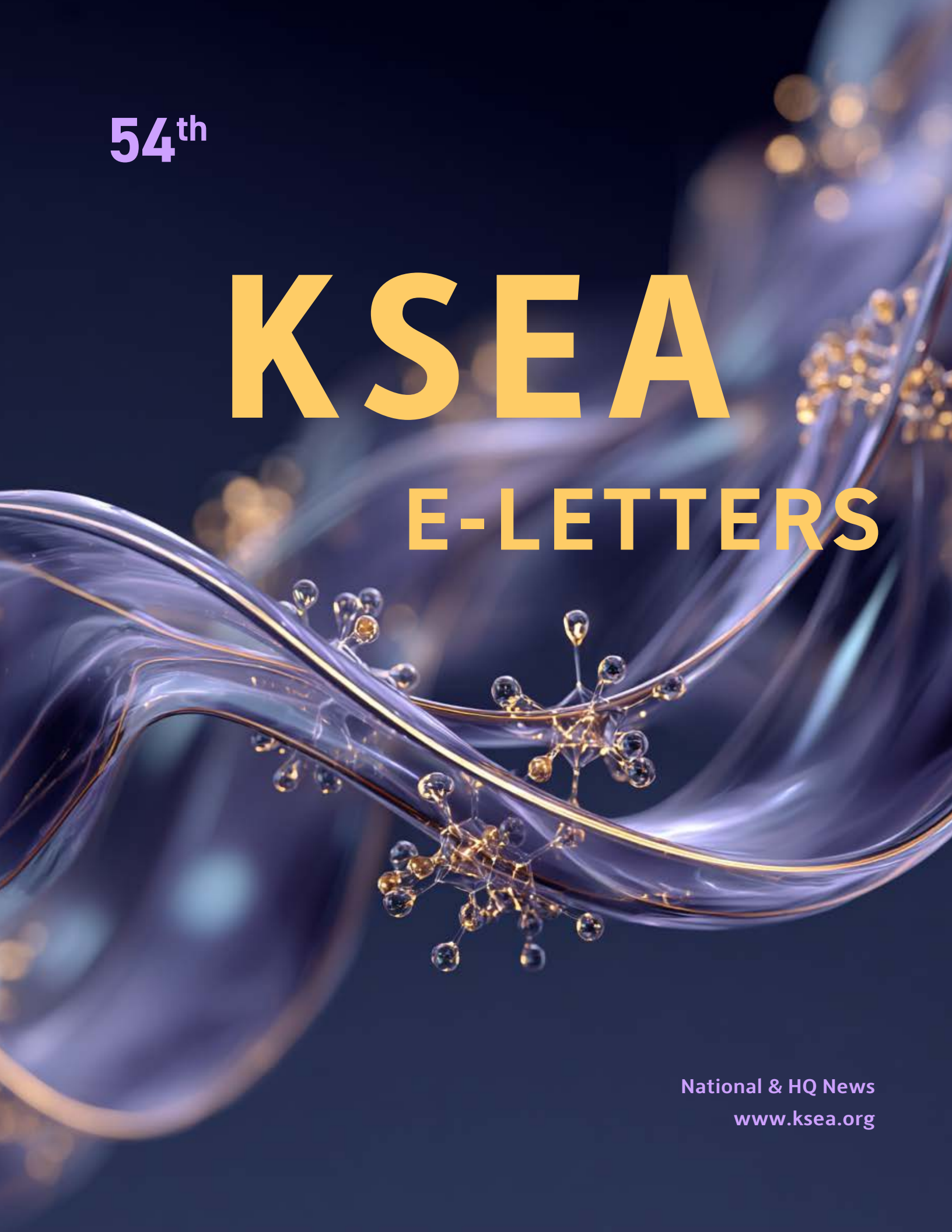
54th

KSEA

E-LETTERS



National & HQ News

www.ksea.org

Table of Contents

Chapter News

YG News

About KSEA

The Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA) was established in 1971 as a non-profit national professional organization. It welcomes those who are engaged in science, engineering or related fields to achieve its mission goals.

The organization vision and mission are:

VISION

To excel as a leading Korean-American scientific, engineering, and industrial organization, we will

- Promote the application of science and technology for the general welfare of society
- Foster international cooperation especially between the US and Korea
- Help Korean-American Scientists and Engineers develop their full career potential
- Serve the Korean-American Communities

MISSION

To provide, in the areas of science, technology and entrepreneurship, opportunities for

- International Cooperation
- Career Development
- Community Service

Currently, the KSEA has more than 78 chapters/branches, 36 affiliated professional societies and 16 technical groups covering all major branches of science and engineering. Since its founding, it has been recognized as the main representative organization promoting the common interests of Korean-American scientists and engineers.

KSEA promotes awareness of the rapid advances in science and engineering occurring inside and outside the United States. Today, it is helping create opportunities for the young generation by establishing lines of communication with other talented scientists and engineers in the United States and Korea.

UKC 2026

UKC 2026 will be held from August 5–8, 2026, in Orlando, Florida, under the theme ***"From Imagination to Innovation – Into Reality."*** This year's conference will highlight how scientific and technological ideas move from imagination to practical implementation, while exploring the creativity, convergence, and collaboration required in the process. Areas such as artificial intelligence (AI), data-driven science, advanced simulation, digital twins, and automation technologies are rapidly transforming today's research landscape. In this changing environment, the knowledge-sharing, collaborative research, and networking opportunities provided by KSEA and UKC are more important and meaningful than ever.

The Editorial Board's Note

Greetings,

Welcome to the spring issue of the KSEA e-letter for the 54th administration. This edition offers a comprehensive look at recent HQ announcements, national events, regional conferences, and local chapter news from the past few months. We hope this content not only keeps you informed but also strengthens the bonds across our KSEA community.

In this edition, we share 2026 KSEA General Election announcement, celebrate the success of national event, specifically Korean-American Mentorship and Leadership Immersion for Young Scientists and Technologists (KATALYST). Additionally, we shine a spotlight on student events such as National Math and Science Competition (NMSC) 2026, National High School Physics Competition (NHSPC) 2026, and Art Contest 2026. Our coverage extends to local chapters, regional conferences, and Affiliated Professional Societies (APS) activities. Furthermore, we bring you the latest Young Generation (YG) news.

Those events showcase a diverse range of activities, from technical seminars to career development workshops. They not only serve as hubs for knowledge exchange but also strengthen the bonds among KSEA members. Your dedication to community engagement inspires the next generation of scientists and engineers.

Thank you for allowing us to be your trusted source for news and community stories.

Warm regards,

Hongsik Jake Cho
Publication Director 1

Minwook Kim
Publication Director 2

Clara Choi
Publication Director 3

Ashley Kim
Publication Director 4

Message from the Acting President

Stellar RH Kim
Acting President & Vice President 1
54th Executive Committee

Dear Members of KSEA,

As I reflect on this past quarter, what stands out to me is not just the number of programs we've delivered, but the shift in how our community is showing up—more engaged, more connected, and more intentional about supporting one another.

At KATALYST 2026, I saw this firsthand. What struck me was not the structure of the program, but the quality of the conversations—students asking sharper questions, mentors being more candid about their own paths, and connections forming that extended well beyond a single event. That level of engagement doesn't happen by accident. It reflects the strength of a community that is actively investing in its future.

That same energy is visible across KSEA. From national competitions to local chapter initiatives, we are seeing stronger participation and more meaningful collaboration across disciplines and career stages. These are not isolated successes—they are signals that the organization is becoming more connected and more effective as a whole.

We are also operating in a moment of rapid change. Advances in AI, data-driven research, and interdisciplinary work are reshaping expectations across industries. In this environment, the value of KSEA is not just in bringing people together, but in creating a network where knowledge, opportunity, and support move faster across boundaries.

Our priority is clear: we are building a community where talent is developed continuously—not just at the entry level, but across every stage of a member's career.

This only works because of the people in this organization—those who mentor, who lead, and who consistently invest their time and experience into others. That is what differentiates KSEA, and that is what will continue to drive our impact forward.

Thank you for your continued commitment.

Acting President & Vice President 1, KSEA
Stella RH Kim
March 2026

Katalyst 2026

Katalyst 2026: A National Undergraduate-Focused Conference

Reported by Ashley Kim (Katalyst 2026 Program/Admin Team Lead)

Katalyst 2026 was held in Los Angeles, CA, on February 27 - March 1, 2026. Katalyst (Korean American Mentorship and Leadership Immersion for Young Scientists and Technologists) is a national conference designed to support the leadership development, mentorship, and career exploration of undergraduate students pursuing STEM. Katalyst provides students with the opportunity to learn from mentors across academia, healthcare, and industry, with the goal of cultivating future Korean American leaders in STEM. The 2026 conference welcomed approximately 100 participants, mentors, VIPs, and organizers, bringing together students from across the country and strengthening the growing KSEA network.

The theme for Katalyst 2026 was ***"Project You: Prototype Your Professional Journey."***

This theme encouraged students to approach career development as a process of exploration and iteration rather than a single fixed decision. Just as engineers prototype technologies and scientists test hypotheses, students were encouraged to experiment with different opportunities and refine their professional goals through experience. Mentorship played an important role in this process by giving participants the chance to hear from professionals who had navigated similar decisions earlier in their careers. Through these conversations, students gained insight into the many possible directions their professional journeys may take.

Post-event survey results indicated a highly positive participant experience, with an overall conference rating of 9.07/10, and strong satisfaction across mentorship and presentation sessions, all rated between 1.59 – 1.98 (1 = extremely satisfied). The mentorship impact survey highlighted meaningful gains across all areas, with the largest improvement in networking with mentors (+2.20), followed by transitioning to next career stages (+1.72) and building peer connections (+1.67), along with growth in presenting as strong candidates (+1.65) and understanding career pathways (1.52). Overall, the conference effectively strengthened mentorship, networking, and professional readiness while delivering a highly positive participant experience.

Participant Demographics

Katalyst 2026 brought together undergraduate students from diverse geographic locations, academic levels, and fields of study. Participants traveled from various undergraduate institutions around the country, such as Stanford University, Brown University, University of Pennsylvania, UCLA, Northwestern University, etc.

Katalyst 2026 invited 13 mentors from industry, academia, and healthcare fields with less than 10 years of professional experience post-graduation. Please see the full list of mentors below:

Industry Mentors

SUNG MIN BAE
SENIOR PRODUCT MANAGER
META

RACHELLE CHA
FULLSTACK SOFTWARE ENGINEER II
MORGAN STANLEY

DANIEL YOUM
TUNABLES ENGINEER
LUCID MOTORS

CALIAH LIM
PROJECT ENGINEER
AMGEN

JAE CHO
SOFTWARE ENGINEER
DIRECTV

STEPHEN Y
PRINCIPAL MATH RESEARCHER
HEDGE FUND

Academia Mentors

DAVID KIM, PHD
ASSISTANT PROFESSOR IN CIVIL ENG
COOPER UNION

MIN KYU LEE
PHD STUDENT - CHEMISTRY
UCLA

ASUNG SHIN
DOCTORAL STUDENT RESEARCHER
LEHIGH UNIVERSITY

NOAH KIM
MASTERS STUDENT @USC - PETROLEUM ENG
WELLS ENGINEER @ CHEVRON

Healthcare Mentors

JUSTIN PARK, MD
RADIATION ONCOLOGY RESIDENT, PGY-3
USC KECK SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

SHINEUI KIM
4TH YEAR MEDICAL STUDENT
UCLA DAVID GEFFEN SCHOOL OF MEDICINE

JOSHUA HYUN
2ND YEAR DENTAL STUDENT
UPENN SCHOOL OF DENTAL MEDICINE

Friday, February 27

Friday Networking Dinner

Participants gathered for a networking dinner at Super Dumpling Culver City, providing undergraduate students and mentors with their first opportunity to connect.

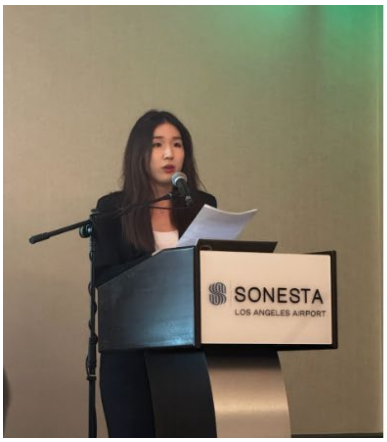
Saturday, February 28

Opening Ceremony

The conference began with opening remarks from Allie Yoon, Chair of Katalyst 2026. She welcomed participants and reflected on the importance of mentorship and community within the Korean American STEM network. Her remarks highlighted how programs like Katalyst help students build confidence as they begin to shape their professional identities.

Bo Park, President of the KSEA Southern California Local Chapter, also delivered welcome remarks on behalf of KSEA leadership. She emphasized the importance of building connections among Korean American scientists and engineers while supporting the next generation of students entering the field.

The opening ceremony featured a keynote address from Dr. Kevin Riutzel, D.O. of Kheir Clinic. Dr. Riutzel spoke about his journey in medicine and discussed how mentorship, persistence, and service shaped his career path. His remarks encouraged students to remain open to unexpected opportunities and to pursue work that creates meaningful impact in their communities.



Mentorship Session 1: Tech Ethics Showdown

The first mentorship session, titled *"Tech Ethics Showdown: Debate and Decide,"* introduced participants to the ethical challenges surrounding emerging technologies.

Students were divided into teams and assigned topics related to technology and society. Topics included questions about artificial intelligence regulation, social media access for minors, genetic editing technologies, and the future of space exploration. Each team prepared a short presentation outlining their position and supporting evidence.

Teams presented their arguments to the audience and engaged in a structured rebuttal round. Participants evaluated each presentation based on argument strength, clarity, and responsiveness to opposing viewpoints. The session encouraged students to think critically about how technological innovation can shape society and public policy.

Lunch

Lunch provided a relaxed setting for participants to continue conversations with mentors and fellow attendees. Students used this time to ask follow-up questions about research opportunities, internships, and graduate school preparation. The informal environment allowed discussions to move beyond the structured sessions and develop into more personal conversations about career interests.

Many participants also used this time to exchange contact information and build relationships with peers from other universities. These connections helped strengthen the sense of community among students who share similar academic and professional interests.

YG Group Leaders Session

The YG Group Leaders Session, titled “The Leadership Lab,” focused on leadership challenges that student organizations commonly face. Participants were divided into groups and assigned different leadership styles, including autocratic leadership, democratic leadership, and servant leadership. Each group worked through a scenario in which their chapter faced a major event planning challenge with limited time and resources.

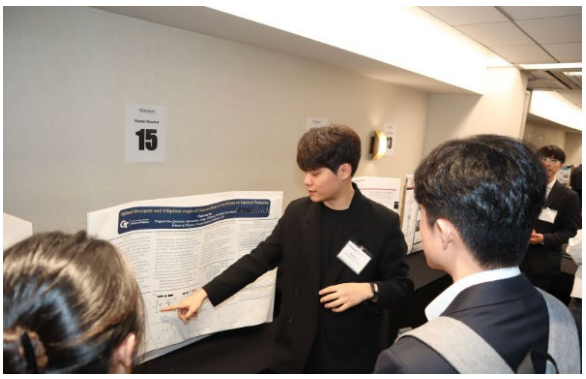
Groups developed strategies based on their assigned leadership approach and presented their solutions to the room. Participants then discussed the strengths and limitations of each leadership style before voting on the most effective strategy. This exercise encouraged students to reflect on leadership decision-making and teamwork within student organizations.

This session was open to undergraduate YG Group Presidents, Vice Presidents, and other key leaders within YG Groups.

Poster Session

The Poster Session provided attendees an opportunity to present a printed poster on a technical or non-technical topic of their choice, aligning with the Katalyst 2026 theme, ***"Project You: Prototype Your Professional Journey."*** Each poster highlighted an experience or idea that helped students reflect on how they have been experimenting, learning, and shaping their professional paths.

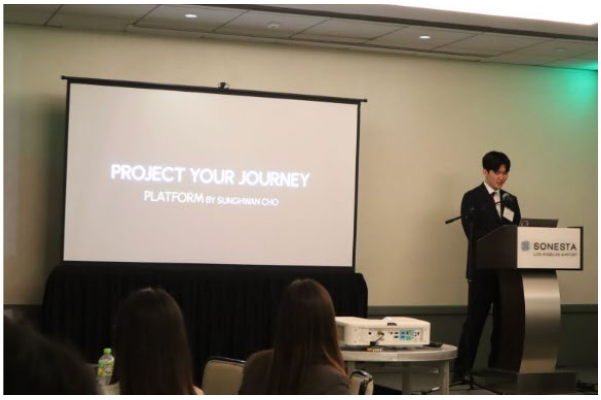
Topics ranged from academic research projects and internship experiences to leadership roles and personal passion projects. Posters were organized into categories including academic research, industry or internship experiences, leadership and personal growth, and passion projects. During the session, mentors and participants circulated throughout the room to ask questions, exchange ideas, and provide feedback.



Project Ur Journey Pitch Session

A new addition to the conference was the "Project Ur Journey" pitch session. During this session, selected participants delivered a three-minute pitch sharing a defining moment in their personal or professional journey. Each presentation highlighted a moment that influenced the presenter's direction, such as pursuing a research opportunity, reaching out to a mentor, or taking a risk that led to new opportunities.

Through this format, students practiced communicating their stories with clarity and confidence while reflecting on lessons learned and next steps in their professional development. The session reinforced the conference theme by emphasizing how exploration, iteration, and curiosity play an important role in shaping one's career path.



Mentorship Session 2: Career Pathway Breakout Session

Mentorship Session 2 focused on career exploration through small group discussions with mentors from different professional backgrounds. Participants rotated between tables representing career pathways in academia, industry, and healthcare. Each mentor shared insights about their professional journey and answered questions from students interested in similar paths.

The rotation format allowed students to interact with several mentors in a single session. Participants gained practical advice about graduate school preparation, career transitions, research opportunities, and professional development.


Dinner

Dinner was held at Rock & Brews, where participants were encouraged to engage with one another and the mentors in an open seating format. This relaxed setting offered an opportunity for participants to socialize and network informally while enjoying food. This dinner was in collaboration with the Socal K-Group.


Sunday, March 1

Mentorship Session 3: Career Skills Workshop

Held on Sunday morning before the Closing Ceremony, Mentorship Session 3 offered participants hands-on guidance in key professional development areas, including resumes, networking, and interviews. The session was structured into four interactive stations, each focused on a specific career skill: MD Applications, Graduate School/PhD Applications, Resume Review (attendees brought physical copies for feedback), and Interview Skills & Elevator Pitch.

Participants were encouraged to move freely between stations to seek personalized advice from mentors. Mentors reviewed individual resumes and applications and provided tailored suggestions. The dynamic, station-based format created an engaging environment where participants could gain practical insights and refine their career preparation strategies.


Closing Ceremony

During the closing ceremony of Katalyst 2026, participants gathered to reflect on the experiences and insights they gained throughout the conference. The final session allowed attendees to consider how the mentorship discussions and workshops influenced the way they think about their academic and professional journeys. Participants also completed a short survey to evaluate how their networking, communication, and professional storytelling skills developed during the program.

Several awards were presented to recognize outstanding participation. 1st Place Poster Presentation was awarded to Keonhoo Park for his poster titled "Beyond GLP-1: Elucidating the Neurobehavioral Mechanisms of Cagrilintide-Mediated Weight Loss." 1st Place Project Ur Journey Pitch was awarded to Christopher Kim for his presentation "*It's Okay to Ask for Help.*"

The conference concluded with closing remarks from Tommy Cho, Co-Chair of Katalyst 2026. He thanked the mentors and participants who contributed to the program and recognized the organizing team for their work behind the scenes. He also shared ways students can remain involved with the KSEA Young Generation network through scholarships and national events. With those final remarks, Katalyst 2026 officially came to a close.

Katalyst 2026 Sponsors

재미한인과학기술자협회 KSEA Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association

KUSCO KOREA - U.S. SCIENCE COOPERATION CENTER

KITEE Innovation to Business

SOCAL K GROUP

Individual Sponsors

Soolyeon Cho, Sung-Hee Kim, Dongheon Lee, Chan M. Park, Kang-wook Lee, Myung J. Lee, Yongho Sohn, John Lee, Kyungjae Myung, Deok-Ho Kim, Eugene Yoon

Katalyst Organizing Team

Allie Yoon
Chair
PhD Student
USC Mann

Tommy Cho
Co-Chair
Software Engineer
BNY Mellon

Ashley Kim
Admin/Program Team Lead
Undergraduate Student
UCLA

Riky Bae
Sponsorship/Marketing Team Lead
Manufacturing Engineer
PECNA

Minjun An
Admin/Program Team
Post-Bac Research Fellow
National Institute of Health

Michael Kim
Admin/Program Team
Masters Student
Johns Hopkins

Wonhee Lee
Admin/Program Team
MS ECE Student
Northeastern University

Alison Park
Admin/Program Team
Bioinformatician
Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai

Lanette Choi
Sponsorship/Marketing Team
Graduate Student
Rush University

Minjoo Kim
Sponsorship/Marketing Team
Undergraduate Student
UC San Diego

Clara Kim, PharmD
Advisor (Chair, Katalyst 2025)
Medical Impact Lead
Boehringer Ingelheim

STEAM Art Contest 2026

Reported by KSEA Art contest committee
(Chair Wooram Park)

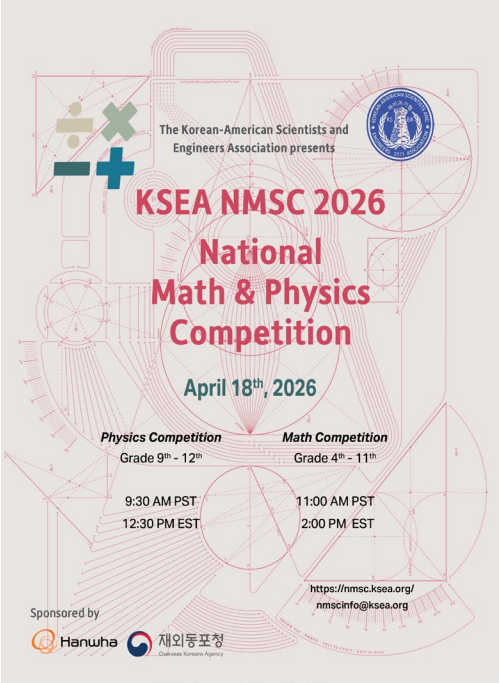
We are pleased to announce that we are hosting 2026 KSEA Art Contest! This contest is for young students in K-12 grades and is a great opportunity to show their passion, imagination, and interests in science, engineering and technology using their art skills. Please read the following for more details regarding artwork theme, contest rules, and submission requirements.

Theme: Connecting the Dots
Every discovery begins as a small dot — a spark of curiosity, an idea, a moment of inspiration. Science and technology help us connect these dots, linking people, places, and possibilities in ways that once felt impossible.

For the 2026 KSEA Art Contest, students are invited to imagine what happens when these dots are connected. What will you connect? Humans and AI? Earth and the universe beyond? Nature and technology where tradition meets tomorrow? Or dots no one has ever imagined before? Show your creativity and excitement for science, engineering, and technology as you create artwork that reveals the future you can build by connecting dots.

Although this year's competition deadline is at the end of March, we would greatly appreciate your continued interest and participation next year as well.

National Math and Science Competition (NMSC) 2026



Official Poster

We are excited to announce the 2026 National Mathematics Competition (NMC) and National High School Physics Competition (NHSPC) as an in-person event in 2026 again. Both competitions will be held on Saturday, April 18, 2026. Top-scoring 2026 NMC participants will be invited to the Hanwha Math Olympiad (HMO) in May 2026.

Event Details

Event Format: On-site event (no online participation)
Event Website:https://nmsc.ksea.org
Competition Date: April 18, 2026

Competition Time:
Physics (Grades 9th - 12th): 9:30 am - 10:45 am PDT / 12:30 pm - 1:45 pm EDT
Math (Grades 4th - 11th): 11:00 am - 1:00 pm PDT / 2:00 pm - 4:00 pm EDT

Registration
Please follow the instructions below to register:

Open the registration page: https://nmsc.ksea.org/nmsc-2026-registration

Find your local chapter.
Fill out the student information.
Pay the registration fee online.
Check your email for the registration confirmation. If not received, please contact your local chapter or send an email to nmscinfo@ksea.org.

NMC National Awards
In each grade category, cash prizes totaling $1,000 will be distributed among the top three performers. In addition, top-scoring 2026 NMC participants will be invited to the Hanwha Math Olympiad (HMO) in May 2026. HMO awards up to 10 students with various scholarships.

Questions?
Please email nmscinfo@ksea.org.

Thank you!

故 이기준 총장님을 기리며

故 이기준 서울대 총장님께서 2008년부터 과총회장직을 역임하시며 재미과기협의 학술행사인 US-Korea Conference (UKC), 특히 UKC2008, UKC2009와 UKC2010을 당시 과기협회장들과 함께 개최하시며 물심양면으로 큰 도움을 주셨음을 잊지않고 있습니다. 故 이기준 총장님과 함께했던 UKC2008, UKC2009와 UKC2010을 기억하며 재미과기협의 세 전회장들이 각자의 글을 삼가 영전에 드리옵니다.

UKC2008에의 기여

37대 회장 이강욱

故 이기준 총장님과 저의 만남은 의미 있었고, 결과도 좋았고, 과정도 아름다웠습니다.

제가 2007년 11월 과기협 차기회장으로 한국을 방문했을 때 이 총장님은 과총 차기회장이셨습니다. 다음 해 봄에 회장 취임을 앞두고 있었습니다. 그러므로 2008년 8월에 개최되는 UKC의 co-chair가 되는 것이었습니다. 당시 저의 한국 방문 목적이 UKC fund-raising 이었습니다. 만나뵙기 전 부터 이메일로 도움을 달라고 부탁드렸습니다. 2007년 11월 20일 강남 르네쌍스 호텔에서 처음으로 만나뵈었습니다.

첫 인상은 키 크시고 몸매 좋으시고 미남이시고 미소짓는 모습이었습니다. 서울공대 대 선배님이시라 처음에는 어색하기도 하고 어렵기도 하였습니다. “이태리 음식 좋아해?” 하셔서 “매주 좋아합니다”라고 저는 대답했습니다. “와인 좋아해?” “매우 좋아합니다.” 호텔 지하층에 있는 이태리 식당으로 갔습니다. 서로 좋아하는 와인과 식사를 하니 저의 마음도 편해지고 분위기도 좋았졌습니다. 서울공대 교수들 중에 저의 고등학교나 대학 동기동창 이야기를 하며 친근감을 느끼기 시작하였습니다.

저의 방문 본래 목적인 fund-raising을 위하여 몇몇 기업들의 사장이나 부사장 그리고 산업부 차관을 연결해 주시겠다고 하였습니다. 이 총장님 소개가 아니면 저의 힘으로는 연락도 할 수 없고 더욱이 만날 방법이 없는 고위직 분들이었습니다. 처음 만남 후 며칠간 총장님과 여러 번 전화하며 소개받은 분들을 만날 수 있었고 즉각적인 결실도 있었습니다.

결과가 좋았던 한 예를 들겠습니다. 산자부 고위공무원 판단에 서로 도움이 될 것이라 여겨진 기관이 한국에네지 자원기술기획평가원 (KETEP)이었습니다. 2007년 당시 막 창설되었던 산자부 산하 기관이었습니다. KETEP을 방문하는 등 여러 협의를 거쳐 KETEP 에서 UKC2008 Energy R&D Workshop과 Renewable Energy and Sustainability Symposium을 후원하게 되었습니다. KETEP의 후원 level이 제일 높은 platinum 이었습니다. 재정적으로도 학술대회 질적 측면에서도 큰 도움이 되었습니다.

당장 UKC2008에 후원을 받은 것도 중요하지만 재미과기협에 더 도움이 된 것은 KETEP이 이후에도 여러 해 계속하여 UKC를 후원하였다는 것입니다. UKC2008이 KETEP의 목적에 도움이 되었다는 좋은 평가가 나오게되어 산자부 소속인 KIAT에서 UKC2009를 후원하게 됩니다. 제가 회장 재직 때인 2008년 10월에 한국을 방문하여 장기적 fund-raising을 위한 노력을 하였습니다. 제25대 회장인 안세영 박사와 함께 한승수 국무총리를 만났고 산자부 고위공무원들도 만나 서로 도움이 되는 활동을 논의하였고 약속도 받았습니다. 이렇게 시작하였고 곧 이어 방문한 지청룡 차기회장이 매듭을 지은 것이 산자부 산하 기관인 KIAT 후원입니다. 이 platinum level의 KIAT 후원은 2009년 시작하여 여러 해 계속되었습니다. 결과적으로 샌디에이고에서 개최되었던 UKC2008은 질적으로나 양적으로 성공적인 국제학술대회 이었습니다.

UKC2008개회식에서 축사하는 이기준 과총회장

UKC2008 기간 중 기자회견. 왼쪽부터 이기준 과총회장, 서상기 국회의원 및 서남표 KAIST 총장

UKC2008 Sponsor Appreciation Banquet에 입장하는 이기준 과총회장 부부를 이강욱 회장, 지청룡 차기회장과 Esther Yang 부회장이 영접하고 있음

2008년 10월 23일 세계한민족과학기술자 공동협의회 총회에서 인사말 하는 이기준 과총회장

2008년 10월 세계한민족과학기술자공동협의회 총회가 동경에서 과총 주최로 개최되었습니다. 전 세계 한인과학기술자협회 대표들이 모여 과학기술 발전과 협력에 대하여 심도있게 논의하는 자리였습니다. 이기준 회장님의 지도력 덕택에 회의 진행과 결과가 모두 좋았습니다. 또한 그 때 개최되었던 Asia-Korea Conference도 성공적으로 개최되었습니다.

고 이기준 총장님께서는 한국 과학기술 발전과 교육에 큰 공헌을 하셨고 한미 과학기술 교류에도 큰 공헌을 하셨습니다. 후배들로부터 존경받는 교육자이시고 큰 어른이셨습니다. 2025년 말 갑작스런 비보에 마음이 아팠습니다. 고 이기준 총장님의 명복을 빕니다.

UKC2009에의 기여

38대 회장 지청룡

2008년 Lehman Brothers등 대기업들의 파산등 세계적인 경제 위기 가운데UKC2009을 준비하다보니 참으로 어려운점이 많았습니다. 특히 재정적 지원을 마련하는데 많은 난관이 있었습니다. 당시 과총회장님으로 활약하시며 과총에서의 지원자금을 획기적으로 확대 지원해 주시려 애써주시어 큰 도움이 되었습니다. 덕분에UKC2009의 모든행사를 성공적으로 잘 마무리 하였습니다.

UKC2009 개회식에서 이기준 과총회장과 파안대소함

세계한민족과술자공동협의회(AKC) 개회식

2009년 7월 중순에 UKC2009의 성공적 개최후 과총에서 곧이어 그해 8월 말에 중국 연변에서 재중과협 창립 20주년을 기념하는 세계한민족과술자공동협의회(AKC)를 개최하여 재미과협뿐아니라 유럽, 아시아 등 세계 각처에 자리잡고 있는 한국과학기술자협회가 함께하는 총회를 열었습니다.

그후 과총창립 50주년 기념사업 조직위원장으로 활동하시며 50주년 역사를 기록하는 정사이외에 "***이야기로 살펴본 과총 반백년 1966-2016, 지도에는 없는 길, 그러나 가야할 길***"이라는 기념야사도 발간하여 주시어 재미과기협의 50년사를 준비하는데 많은 도움이 되었습니다. 특히 과총창립 50주년 기념사업 조직위원님 몇분과 기념책자 편집위원장님과의 만남을 주선하여 주시어 2019년 7월 6일에 가졌던 비스테까모임은 재미과기협 50년사를 준비하는데 많은 도움을 주셨습니다. 이를 토대로 이태동안 각고의 준비끝에 2021년 12월에 발간된 재미과협의 50년사 "***KSEA 50 Years***" 일명 "***50년의 땀 100년의 꿈***"에 축하말씀을 적어 주셨지요.

지난 2025을사년 7월에 있었던 과총에서의 광복80주년 기념식에서 사모님과 함께 만나뵐 수 있어서 반갑고 감사했습니다.

하오나, 몇달 후 지난 11월 9일에 서거하시었다는 급작스런 소식을 접하고 마음의 허전함과 황량함으로 슬픔을 금치 못하였습니다. 다만 故 이기준 총장님과 함께할 수 있었던 귀한 시간과 전해 주신 지혜의 말씀들을 기억하오며 저역시 남은 여생을 참되게 살아겠다는 다짐과 함께 이글을 영전에 올립니다.

2019년 7월 6일 이기준 총장께서 마련해 주신 비스테까 모임에 과총 50주년 역사 편찬위원들께서 참가.
오른편부터 이승종 교수, 남궁은 편집위원장, 이기준 총장, 본인 지청룡 교수, 그리고 이우종 청운대 총장.

2025을사년 광복80주년 기념식에서 이기준 총장 부부와 지청룡 교수 부부

한국 과학기술계의 거목, 故 이기준 박사님을 기리며…

39대 회장 김재훈

한국과학기술단체총연합회 (이하 한국과총, KOFST) 회장을 역임하신 전 서울대 총장 이기준 박사님의 서거 비보를 접하고 깊은 슬픔에 잠깁니다. 한국 과학기술계의 거목이자 한미 과학기술 협력의 가교가 되어주신 박사님의 헌신은 후배 과학기술자들에게 영원한 이정표로 남을 것입니다. 이에 이기준 박사님을 추모하며 그 업적을 기려, 오랫동안 기억하고자 합니다.

故 이기준 서울대 총장님께서는 2008년부터 2010년까지 3년간 한국과총 (KOFST) 회장직을 역임하시며 저희 재미한인과학기술자협회 (이하 재미과기협, KSEA)의 최대 학술행사인 US-Korea Conference (UKC)와 35개 분야별 기술전문가그룹 Affiliated Professional Society (APS) 통하여 한미간의 과학기술 교류, 발전을 주도하셨고, 한국과총이 제공하는 다양한 한미과학기술 상호 계약 프로그램을 통하여 재미과학기술자협회의 운영과 재정을 실질적으로 후원하셨습니다. 특히, 한국과총 회장 재직 당시 KSEA회장이었던 저희들 (이강욱, 지청룡, 김재훈) 세 회장과 함께UKC 2008, UKC 2009, UKC 2010을 공동개최하시며 적극적으로 후원해주시고 한국 과학기술단체들이 적극적으로 참여하도록 도움을 주셨습니다.

한국과총 회장으로 재임하시는 동안 이기준 회장님께서는 재미한인과학기술자협회(KSEA)의 든든한 버팀목이자 후원자로서 단순한 협력을 넘어, 재미과기협의 성장을 위해 물심양면으로 지원을 아끼지 않으셨습니다. 지난 이야기이지만, 제가 차기회장으로서 한국과총을 방문하여 이기준 회장님과 UKC 2010공동개최를 논의하는 자리에서 여러 어려운 점을 상의드렸을 때 거의 모든 문제점을 대범하게 해결해주셨던 것이 특별히 기억에 남습니다. 실제로 한국과총이 한국정부내 과학기술교육부 산하기관임에도 불구하고, 타 부처 (지식경제부, 현 산업통상자원부) 와 공조하는 것을 흔쾌히 동의하셨고, 미국공군연구소 (U.S. AFOSR) 의 Nanostructured Materials and Nano electronics Workshop을 UKC 2010과 함께 개최하는 제안도 허용하셨습니다.

무엇보다도 KSEA의 운영과 UKC 2010 개최와 관련한 재정 후원 문제를 제기하면서 과총의 후원을 1.5배로 늘려달라고 요청했을때, 이기준 회장님이 충분히 고려해보겠다고 약속하시면서 실제로는2.5배 (연2억원에서 5억원으로) 대범하게 후원 수준을 올려주셨습니다. 또한 한국과총 회장으로서는 처음으로 한국과총의 의뢰로 재미과기협이 선정한 우수한 전문활동을 보여준 APS를 대상으로 한국과총이 직접 재정 후원을 하기도 했습니다. 아마 이것이 처음이자 마지막인것 같습니다.

또한, 대한무역투자진흥공사(KOTRA)가 해외과학기술자의 데이타베이스 (Database) 구축을 목표로 국회에서 예산을 배정받은 것을 이기준 회장님이 인지하시고, KOTRA가재미한인과학기술자협회와 협력하여 U.S. $100,000 규모의 공동 프로젝트를 추진하도록 KSEA를 도와주셨습니다.

이와같이 KSEA의 핵심 행사인 한미과학기술학술대회 (UKC 2008, UKC 2009, UKC 2010) 에서 보여주신 이기준 회장님의 열정은 각별했으며, 회장님의 적극적인 후원과 참여는 UKC가 명실상부한 글로벌 학술 교류의 장으로 도약하는 결정적인 계기가 되었습니다.

UKC 2010에서 재미과학기술자협회의 이기준 한국과총 회장께 감사패 증정

여담이지만 UKC 2010참석을 위하여 시애틀에 오셨을 때, UKC 2010준비로 바쁜 저를 대신하여 직접 만든 환영 플래카드 (Welcome Placard)를 들고 공항 입국 게이트에서 회장님 부부를 영접하여호텔까지 모시고, 나중에 다시 공항으로 모시면서 출국 환송인사를 했던 우리집 안사람을 무척이나 좋아하셨습니다. 그후 서울에서 만나뵐 때마다 시애틀에서 열린 UKC 2010을 자주 이야기하셨던 기억이 납니다.

이제 비록 회장님께서는 우리 곁을 떠나셨지만, 이기준 회장님의 뜻을 기리며 과학 기술을 통해 더 나은 세상을 만들고자 했던 그 고결한 의지는 후학들의 가슴 속에 영원히 기억될 것입니다.

한국과총 (KOFST)과 재미과기협 (KSEA) 을 통하여 회장님께서 뿌리신 씨앗들은 이제 거목이 되어 한미 양국의 과학기술 교류의 지평을 넓히고, 우리 재미과기협의 발전의 밑거름이 되었습니다.

존경하는 이기준 회장님, 그동안의 노고와 KSEA에대한 깊은 애정과 후원에 깊이 감사드리며, 부디 평안히 영면하시길 두손 모아 기도 드립니다.

2026 Election Announcement

The 2026 KSEA General Election holds significant importance as it involves the election of key positions such as the President-Elect, Vice Presidents, Auditor, and Technical Group Councilors. This election will be conducted using a secure e-voting system, providing a robust and protected platform for participation. The online voting period is scheduled to run from Monday, March 16 to Friday, April 10, 2026, ensuring an ample window for members to cast their votes electronically within this designated timeframe.

The following positions will be filled in this year's election:

- 56th President (2027-2028) - Deok-Ho Kim / Ohbong Kwon
- 55th Vice Presidents (2026-2027) 1st and 2nd - Harold Kim / Jin W. Choi / Joseph Kim
- Auditor (2026-2029) - IL Minn / Sang Hyuck Park
- Councilors (2026-2029)
- Technical Group A-1. Physics (2026-2029) - Ki-Yong Kim / Seongshik (Sean) Oh
- Technical Group A-2. Chemistry (2026-2029) - Bum Jung Kim / Kyu Young Han
- Technical Group A-3. Mathematics, Statistics, Geo/Atmospheric/Ocean Sciences (2026-2029)

  - Seongho Song / Younggon Bae
- Technical Group B-1. Health Sciences (Medical Science, Veterinary Medicine, Pharmaceutical Science, Public Health, Nursing, etc.) (2026-2029) - Soojin Yoo / Tae-Hyung Kim
- Technical Group B-2. Agricultural Sciences (Agriculture, Ecology, Food, Nutrition, etc.) (2026-2029)

  Si Hong Park / Yong Su Jin
- Technical Group C-2. Chemical, Textile, Energy, and Nuclear Engineering (2026-2029) - Hyun-Tae Hwang
- Technical Group C-3. Mechanical, Aerospace, and Naval Engineering (2026-2029)

  Martin ByungGuk Jun / Paul Yun
- Young Generation Representative (2026-2029) - Clara Kim / Kevin Kim
- Voting Method:Electronic voting via the Internet (e-voting)

This year's voting will be done by electronic means only. e-Voting announcement will be sent via e-mail on or after Monday, March 16, 2026. Voting Period:Monday, March 16, 2026 – **Friday, April 10, 2026**. KSEA Election Site will accept the e-Voting ballots during the voting period specified above. Any ballot cast after April 10, 11:59 PM (EDT), 2026 will be considered ineligible.

Voter Eligibility:

Members who have paid their dues at least once from May 1, 2024, to March 2, 2026, will receive an election ballot. This will be facilitated provided they have a valid email address that is accurately recorded in the membership system. As stipulated in the Election Policy, members without a valid email address on file will not be issued an election ballot.

E-Voting Procedure:

Election details will be dispatched via email on or after March 16, 2026. Eligible voters must access the KSEA Election Site using their KSEA ID and password to participate. Voter verification will necessitate a valid email address, phone number, and address. Following the election, results will be promptly announced on the website.

Election for the Technical Group Councilors

The technical group councilors will be selected by the related technical group members only during the e-voting. Please update your membership profile including your technical group before the election.

Potential Prizes to Yourself and Your Chapters:

- Six different chapters with at least 25 eligible votes (total $3,000 support):

  (a) $750 to the chapter with the highest voting RATE, $500 to the 2nd & $250 to the 3rd;

  (b) $750 to the chapter with the highest NUMBER of votes, $500 to the 2nd highest & $250 to the 3rd. A chapter can take only one prize from the voting rate or number.

- $50 Amazon gift card to 20 voters (Just by casting a vote, you will be entered a raffle)

The election result will be announced on the website on or after Saturday, April 11, 2026.

KSEA Election Committee

Deok-Ho Kim

(click name for the video statement)

Professor, Biomedical Engineering
Director, Global Biotechnology Innovation Center
The Johns Hopkins University

Dear Fellow KSEA Members,

I am deeply honored to be nominated as a candidate for President-Elect of KSEA. For over two decades, KSEA has been my professional home. I first joined as a graduate student, inspired by the mentorship and generosity of our senior members. Since then, I have had the privilege of serving in a variety of leadership roles, including Technical Group Director, Chapter President, Regional Conference Chair, UKC Program and Symposium Chair, and President of KBMES (KSEA APS). Through these experiences, I have grown alongside our organization and gained a deep appreciation for its mission, legacy, and future potential. Today, I am ready to help guide KSEA into its next phase of growth and impact.

The Vision: KSEA 2.0 – Building Bridges. Empowering Generations. Over the past 55 years, KSEA has built an extraordinary foundation of excellence, service, and community. Our conferences, youth programs, regional activities, and networking traditions have shaped generations of Korean-American scientists and engineers. This legacy reflects the dedication and sacrifice of those who came before us. In this new era, Korean-American STEM professionals are uniquely positioned as trusted bridges between the United States and Korea. Rapid advances in artificial intelligence, biotechnology, semiconductor technologies, and global supply chains are redefining international collaboration and technological leadership.

KSEA 2.0 represents a strategic shift— a natural evolution of our strengths. It builds upon the solid foundation established over five decades and advances it toward a more integrated and sustainable future:

- Expanding our successful event-driven programs into a year-round global innovation platform
- Deepening our valuable networking culture through structured leadership and mentorship ecosystems
- Strengthening our proven fundraising efforts with diversified, long-term institutional sustainability

If elected, I will focus on **four transformative priorities**:

1. **Position KSEA as the Premier U.S.–Korea Innovation Bridge**
   KSEA must serve as the central hub connecting academic researchers, industry leaders, entrepreneurs, and policymakers across the Pacific. I will strengthen:
   - Structured U.S.–Korea joint educational and research initiatives
   - Industry engagement and startup ecosystems
   - Strategic partnerships with U.S. federal agencies and Korean ministries
   - Global visibility of KSEA as a trusted innovation platform

   KSEA should not simply host conferences; we should shape innovation dialogue and enable cross-border impact.

2. **Build an Integrated Leadership and Membership Engine**
   Membership growth must be value-driven, not event-driven. Under KSEA 2.0, we will launch the KSEA Leadership Academy to provide:
   - Structured mentorship pipelines for students and postdoctoral fellows
   - Leadership development pathways for early-, mid-, and senior-career professionals, including entrepreneurship tracks
   - Stronger alignment and engagement between local chapters and specialized technical groups

   Through these efforts, we will create a cohesive leadership ecosystem that supports members at every stage of their professional journey.

3. **Establish Long-Term Financial Sustainability**
   Membership and finance remain fundamental challenges for nonprofit organizations, including KSEA. Drawing on my experience in large-scale grant acquisition, venture fundraising, and philanthropy, I will:
   - Diversify sponsorship sources across both U.S. and Korean industries.
   - Develop endowed and strategic funding programs
   - Modernize engagement and digital fundraising systems

   Sustainability requires strategic innovation, not incremental adjustments.

4. **Strengthen Intergenerational Synergy**
   KSEA's strength lies in its history and in the dedication of those who built it. At the same time, its future depends on the creativity and entrepreneurial spirit of the next generation. I am committed to integrating the wisdom and institutional memory of our senior members with the technological fluency and global mindset of our younger generation. Together, this synergy will propel KSEA forward. KSEA has world-class talent. We have powerful stories across generations. Now is the time to translate that strength into coordinated global impact.

We are entering an era in which global collaboration determines technological leadership. **KSEA is uniquely positioned to bridge two innovation superpowers - the United States and Korea.** With strategic vision and disciplined execution, we can elevate our collective influence to the new level.

I am committed to serving with integrity, transparency, and decisive execution. Together, we will build a stronger, more connected, and globally impactful KSEA — elevating our organization into the most influential Korean-American STEM community in the world.
Thank you for your trust and support.

Let us build the next chapter of KSEA, together!

EDUCATION

2010	Ph.D. in Biomedical Engineering Johns Hopkins University
2000	M.S. in Mechanical Engineering Seoul National University
1998	B.S. in Mechanical Engineering POSTECH

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022-Present	Professor, Dept. of Biomedical Engineering Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
2022-Present	Director, Johns Hopkins Global Biotechnology Innovation Center Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
2022-Present	Director, Center for Microphysiological Systems Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
2019-2022	Associate Professor, BME Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
2017-2019	Associate Professor, BIOE University of Washington, Seattle
2011-2017	Assistant Professor, BIOE University of Washington, Seattle
2010-2011	Assistant Research Professor, BME Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
2000-2005	Research Scientist, KIST, Seoul
2003-2004	Visiting Scholar, ETH-Zurich

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (SELECTED)

2024-Present	Scientific Advisor, Samsung Biologics
2024-Present	Scientific Advisor, Samsung Bioepis
2024-2025	BME Faculty Search Committee Chair Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore
2019	Track chair for Nano/Microtechnologies, BMES
2016-2018	EMBS Representative to the IEEE Nanotechnology Council
2015	Program Co-Chair, IEEE Conference on Nano/Molecular Medicine and Engineering
2015-Present	Co-Founder and Scientific Advisor, Curi Bio
2013-2019	Faculty Senate, University of Washington, Seattle
2013-Present	Senior Member, IEEE

Review Panel Member for NIH, NSF, DoD, AHA, ERC, HFSP, NRF (Singapore), Wellcome Trust, etc.

Editorial Board for 10+ Journals, including Adv. Biol., Aging Cell, Biomater. Res., Biomed. Microdevices, Exp. Biol. Med., Int. J. Nanomedicine, J. Biol. Eng., J. Tissue Eng., Sci. Rep., Theranostics, and VIEW.

Reviewer for Nature, Nat. Nanotechnol., Nat. Mater., Nat. Commun., Nat. Biomed. Eng., Sci. Signal., Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. U.S.A. (PNAS), Biomaterials, ACS Nano, Angew. Chem. Int. Ed., Lab Chip, multiple IEEE Trans. Journals, etc.

KSEA ACTIVITIES

2026	Conference Chair, KSEA DMV Regional Conference
2025-Present	Membership Director
2020/2026	STEP-UP Co-Chair
2025	UKC 2025, Program Co-Chair
2024	Technical Group Director (51th Admin)
2024-2025	Baltimore Chapter President
2023-Present	Honors & Award Committee Member
2023-2025	KBMES President (KSEA APS)
2023, 2024	UKC BME Symposium Chair
2022-2025	Technical Group (C-1) Councilor
2019	UKC IES Symposium Co-Chair
2019/2025/2026	Speaker/Mentor, SEED Workshop
2019-2023	KBMES Vice President (KSEA-APS)
2013	Program Chair, Northwest Regional Conference (NWRC)

AWARDS AND HONORS

2022	KSEA/KOFST Engineer of the Year Award
2021	Mid-Career Award, International Society of Biofabrication
2018	IEEE NANOMED Innovator Award
2015	Cellular/Molecular Bioengineering Young Innovator Award, BMES
2013	BMES Rising Star Award
2013	Young Investigator Grant (YIG) Award, KSEA
2012	National Scientist Development Award, American Heart Association
2011	Perkins Coie Award for Discovery
2010	Harold Weintraub Award
2009	Samsung HumanTech Thesis Award
2008	Fellowship, American Heart Association
2008	Best Presentation Award, YGTLC, San Diego
2005	Scientist of the Month Award, Korea Institute of Science and Technology (KIST)
1996	Hogil-Kim Memorial Fellowship, University of Birmingham, UK

Elected Fellowship: Society for Laboratory Automation and Screening (SLAS) (2012), American Heart Association (AHA) (2021), Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) (2022), and American Institute for Medical and Biological Engineering (AIMBE) (2024)

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP AND PUBLICATIONS

Internationally recognized leader in bioengineering, biomaterials, medical devices, mechanobiology, space biology, and stem cell and tissue engineering. Dr. Kim has authored over 200 peer-reviewed publications, cited more than 21,000 times (h-index: 75), and delivered 200+ invited and keynote lectures worldwide across academia, national laboratories, and industry. Beyond scholarly impact, he has organized over 40 international symposia and workshops and secured more than $50 million in competitive research funding from major federal agencies, including NIH, NSF, and DoD. He has mentored 30+ postdoctoral fellows, 15+ Ph.D. students, 20+ M.S. students, and 50+ undergraduate researchers, many of whom now hold leadership positions in academia, biotechnology, and entrepreneurship. As an inventor of 40+ patents, many licensed for commercialization, his work bridges fundamental discovery and translational innovation. His research leadership reflects sustained scientific excellence and a proven ability to build scalable, collaborative platforms that advance the global biomedical research and innovation ecosystem.

Ohbong Kwon

(Click Name for the Video Statement)

Associate Professor
Computer Engineering Technology
New York City College of Technology of CUNY

Dear Fellow KSEA Members,

I am truly honored to be nominated as a candidate for the 56th President of KSEA. I'm an Associate Professor in the Department of Computer Engineering Technology at New York City College of Technology, also known as City Tech, one of City University of New York (CUNY).

My KSEA journey began in Gainesville, Florida, during doctoral studies, but became more active after moving to New York in 2010. I learned KSEA activities as a member and as a leader of the Chapter Council and president, performing every angle of chapter work and events just like you. I fully understand and experienced KSEA members' roles and efforts to serve our children, members and communicate with a wide range of other organizations. This experience led me to serve twice as New York Metropolitan **Chapter President** and also represent all chapter presidents of KSEA as the **Chair of Presidents Council** (CPC). I recognize every detail and importance of small and large chapters and members' needs, the necessity of exchanging ideas at the regional conferences, thereby embedding the value of serving the broader community, Korean and Non-Korean entities and population.

In 2018, I expanded my involvement to the international level by serving as Local Co-chair for the US-Korea Conference (UKC) in New York, gaining significant knowledge in organizing large-scale national events. Since then, I have served in multiple roles for KSEA administration and UKCs, including the **Auditor in the 47th admin** and the **Program Chair at UKC2024**. I gave my heart, soul and never-ending dedication to serving KSEA members and guests in all national KSEA activities. Recently, you have elected me to serve you again as Vice President 1 in the 53rd administration. I wholeheartedly supported every chapter's activities across the USA, closely working with your chapter presidents and leadership. As **Vice President 1 of KSEA 53rd admin**, I focused on the core and skeleton of each chapter, nourishing growth in membership, serving our young generation and early career professionals, and continuing to advise the president and other leaders of KSEA to do more to make our local chapters become stronger and more influential to the communities of Korean Americans.

As a proud lifetime member of KSEA, I attribute my professional success and growth to the support and opportunities provided by KSEA. I am sure you feel the same. Close interaction with other KSEA members provided countless incentives in promoting, cultivating, and enhancing my professional development. I am now more than ever prepared to deeply commit myself to give back and further KSEA's mission to help all members and solidify the role of KSEA nationally.

With your vote, I am ready to give you my passion to serve KSEA members, advocating for the chapter's interests, and dedicating my time and energy to bring the best of KSEA to the members and their families.

I humbly ask for your vote. If I am elected President, I will focus on the following four, closely connected priorities.

Bridging Industry and Academia
- Balanced Ecosystem Expansion
- Synergy for Tangible Opportunities
- Industry-Focused Networking and Mentorship
- A Breeding Ground for Professional Advancement

Empowering the YG and YP Pipeline to Industry
- Career-Focused Pathway Strengthening
- Campus engagement and University-Industry bridge programs
- Mentorship and Collaborative Networking

Energizing Local Chapters (LC) and Technical Groups (TG)
- Core Synergy and Organizational Vitality
- Strategic Collaboration and Financial Support
- Next-Generation Recruitment through STEM programs

Supporting Affiliated Professional Societies (APS)
- Cross-Disciplinary Collaboration and Technical Synergy
- Knowledge Sharing and Multidisciplinary Platforms

Lastly, I believe science, engineering and technology are becoming an integrated melting pot. Brilliant ideas can come from anyone without a scientific background. I will deep dive to find opportunities to build quality relationships between members and non-members from multiple disciplines. Living in the era of AI and the 5th Industrial Revolution, I believe people's connection and sharing ideas will be the key to integrative science. I am ready to serve you as the next president-elect. My vast experience with KSEA, my empathy to serve members with a member-centered mindset, and my keen sense of context and dynamics of all corners of KSEA actions will help bring together members from diverse backgrounds into a more unified community. By connecting people, listening carefully to their needs, and building genuine trust, I will strive to cultivate a more vibrant, inclusive, and future-ready and high-impact KSEA.

I hope I have convinced you of your vote. Being able to serve you as the president-elect is an honor. I wish you the best health in the year 2026 and great prosperity in everything and all things you plan.

EDUCATION

2010 Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering
University of Florida
2000 M.S. in Electrical Engineering
Hanyang University
1998 B.S. in Electrical Engineering
Hanyang University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020-Present Associate Professor,
New York City College of Technology of CUNY
2012-2020 Assistant Professor
New York City College of Technology of CUNY
2011-2012 Substitute Assistant Professor
New York City College of Technology of CUNY
2010-2011 Adjunct Assistant Professor
New York City College of Technology of CUNY

KSEA HQ ACTIVITIES

2025-2026 Sponsorship Director 1, UKC 2026
2024-2025 NST Sponsor Forum, UKC 2025
2024-2025 Vice President 1
2023-2024 Program Chair, UKC 2024
2022-2023 Chair of Local Chapter Presidents Committee
2022-2023 Chair, UKC 2023 Computer Science and Information Technology Symposium (CIT)
2019-2022 Rules Committee
2018-2019 Auditor
2017-2018 Co-Chair, UKC 2018 Local Arrangement

KSEA LOCAL CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

2015-Present Member, NY Metropolitan Chapter Council
2022-2023 48th Chapter President, NY Metropolitan Chapter
2023 Chair, 32nd Northeast Regional Conference (NRC)
2022 Chair, KSEA NY Metro Chapter Math and Science Olympiad (KMSO)
2022 Chair, 31st Northeast Regional Conference (NRC)
2020 Chair, KSEA NY Metro Chapter Math and Science Olympiad (KMSO) Parents Program
2018-2019 44th Chapter President, NY Metropolitan Chapter
2019 Chair, 28th Northeast Regional Conference (NRC)
2018 Chair, KSEA NY Metro Chapter Math and Science Olympiad (KMSO)
2016-2018 Vice President, NY Metropolitan Chapter

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Certificate of Appreciation, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea, New York, May 2025 – For contribution to the Korean-American community in the fields of science and technology as KSEA VP

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP AND PUBLICATIONS

- Main Area of Research: Efficient implementation of DSP algorithm, highest possible performance using FPGAs in DSP design, and applied mathematics including optimization and statistical techniques
- 34 peer-reviewed publications and 1 book chapter

NORTABLE ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

In addition to teaching and research at City Tech, I actively contribute to departmental service. I currently serve as the CET-AAS program coordinator, providing leadership in curriculum implementation and student advisement, and as Chair of the Industry Advisory Commission, strengthening connections between the program and industry partners. I also participate in faculty governance as a member of the Department Appointment Committee, contributing to recruitment and evaluation activities.

Harold Kim

Professor
Physics
Georgia Institute of Technology

STATEMENT

I am deeply honored to be nominated as a candidate for the 55th Vice President of KSEA. My relationship with KSEA began when I was invited to speak at the Physics Technical Group symposium at UKC. That first experience introduced me not only to the broader KSEA community, but also to the close-knit network of Korean physicists in the United States. Through that meeting, I became involved with the Association of Korean Physicists in America (AKPA), and as a junior professor, I benefited greatly from the guidance and generosity of senior colleagues. What began as participation gradually grew into service.

Over the years, I have mainly served KSEA through TG activities at UKC. I have chaired sessions on many occasions, served as TG A1 Councilor since 2024, and twice participated as a SEED mentor, advising postdoctoral scholars and students.

My leadership experience has been shaped most significantly through AKPA, an organization with a long history dating back to 1979 and, in many respects, a smaller reflection of KSEA itself. I have served AKPA in several roles, including auditor, award committee chair, vice president, and president. In these roles, I came to understand the behind-the-scenes work required to sustain a professional organization: budgeting responsibly, coordinating volunteers, encouraging participation, and maintaining continuity across leadership transitions.

I have also volunteered as a problem writer for the National High School Physics Contest for the past five years. During my time in leadership, I strengthened my professional ties with colleagues in Korea. Most recently, in collaboration with the Korean Physical Society, I organized the two most recent "*Korea Night*" networking events during Global Physics Summit meetings.

If elected Vice President, I will build upon my past leadership experience with steady commitment and mutual trust. I view my role as supporting the scholarly activities of our members through careful and responsible leadership. I will work within the established framework of KSEA to ensure that resources are allocated efficiently and fairly. My priority will be to maximize benefits to members while minimizing unnecessary friction and fostering a spirit of cooperation and harmony across technical groups and regions.

Thank you for your consideration.

EDUCATION

2004	Ph.D. in Applied Physics, Stanford University
1997	B.S. in Physics, KAIST (Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology)

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2022-Present	Professor, School of Physics Georgia Institute of Technology
2022	Brain Pool Fellow, Sungkyunkwan University
2016-2022	Associate Professor, School of Physics Georgia Institute of Technology
2010-2016	Assistant Professor, School of Physics Georgia Institute of Technology
2005-2009	Postdoctoral Fellow, Molecular & Cellular Biology Harvard University

KSEA HQ ACTIVITIES

2024-Present	Councilor, TG A1
2025-2026	Member, Nomination Committee
2025-2026	Member, APS Committee

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2023-2025	President, Association of Korean Physicists in America (AKPA)

RESEARCH GRANTS AND MENTORSHIP

Recipient of federal research funding from the National Science Foundation (NSF) and the National Institutes of Health (NIH). Supervised 10 Ph.D. students, 2 postdoctoral researchers, and multiple undergraduate researchers.

Jin W. Choi

Professor
Electrical and Computer Engineering
Michigan Technological University

STATEMENT

It is an honor to be nominated for Vice President of the 55th administration of KSEA. If elected, I will work with the President and the administration to support in advancing KSEA's mission through strategic coordination and leadership. I will target to strengthen alignment among local chapters and technical groups by elevating their activities, cultivating collaboration, and building sustainable platforms for communication and shared initiatives, so that KSEA continues to grow as a cohesive and impactful community for Korean-American scientists and engineers.

EDUCATION

2001	Ph.D. in Electrical and Computer Engineering University of Cincinnati
1996	M.S. in Electrical Engineering Seoul National University
1994	B.S. in Electrical Engineering Seoul National University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022-Present	Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering (ECE), Michigan Technological University (MTU)
2022-2025	Department Chair of ECE, MTU
2017-2022	Professor of ECE Louisiana State University (LSU)
2010-2017	Associate Professor of ECE, LSU
2003-2010	Assistant Professor of ECE, LSU
2002-2003	Research Assistant Professor, ECE University of Cincinnati
2001-2002	Research Associate, University of Cincinnati

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2023-Present	President, Korean-American Society for Electrical and Electronics Engineers (KEEE)
2021-Present	Young Investigator Award Committee, Micro and Nano Engineering (Elsevier)
2019-Present	Special Issues Editor, Micro and Nano Engineering (Elsevier)
2017	Lead Symposium Organizer on Sensors, The 231st Electrochemical Society Meeting
2015-Present	Technical Committee, Wearable Biomedical Sensors and Systems, IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Society
2015-2021	International Program Committee, Micro Nano Engineering (MNE) Conferences
2014-2020	Young Investigator Award Committee, Microelectronic Engineering (Elsevier)
2013-2022	Associate Editor, Proceedings of IEEE Engineering in Medicine and Biology Conferences
2012-2013	Associate Editor, IEEE Transactions on Biomedical Engineering

KSEA ACTIVITIES

2025-2026	UKC 2026 Program Co-Chair
2025-2026	UKC 2026 Sponsor Forum Director
2024-2025	KSEA Webinar Director
2024-2025	KSEA Rules Committee Chair
2023-2024	KSEA Rules Committee Member
2025	UKC 2025 Technical Group (TG) C-6 Symposium Chair
2024	UKC 2024 TG C-6 Symposium Chair
2023	UKC 2023 TG C-6 Symposium Chair
2022-2025	KSEA Councilor, TG C-6
2010	UKC 2010 Technical Symposium Co-Chair

AWARDS AND HONORS

2022	Tau Beta Pi, Inducted to Eminent Engineer MTU Chapter
2019	Mark and Carolyn Campbell Guidry Professorship LSU (2019-2022)
2018	Longwell Instructor Excellence Award, LSU
2017-2018	Recognition at Inventorship Showcase, LSU
2015	Instructor Excellence Award, LSU
2009	Tiger Athletic Foundation Undergraduate Teaching Award, LSU
1999	Best Paper Award (Silver Prize, out of over 400 presented papers), Eurosensors XIII, The Hague, Netherlands
1997	Annual Journal Paper Award, Korean Institute of Electrical Engineers (KIEE), Seoul, Korea

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

- 11 granted US patents; 83 journal articles; 67 full-length conference manuscripts; 98 conference abstracts
- > 8,800 Google scholar citations (h-index = 41)
- Full list is available at: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=7xQ6_8gAAAAJ

Joseph Kim *(Click Name for the Video Statement)*

Professor and Department Chair
Civil Engineering & Construction Engineering Management
California State University Long Beach

STATEMENT

I am humbly honored to be nominated as a candidate for the 55th Vice President of KSEA. My approach to this role is guided by positive intention and humility, shaped by continuous service to KSEA since 2008. These service experiences have led me to four guiding principles that I will carry forward as VP.

First, I believe in being future-oriented rather than focused on the past. While I deeply respect KSEA's proud history, my efforts have always centered on preparing the organization for what lies ahead. Through my service as Executive Director of the 53rd Administration, UKC Sponsor Forum Director, and committee member of UKCs, and advisor of SWRC, I have learned that sustainable growth depends on embracing new challenges, engaging emerging generations, and adapting proactively to evolving professional and academic environments. As VP, I will prioritize initiatives that increase membership by delivering meaningful value to students, young professionals, academic and industry members, and global partners, while actively assisting the President in advancing a resilient and forward-looking KSEA.

Second, I emphasize contribution over rank. From serving as Southern California Chapter President to working behind the scenes, I have consistently focused on what KSEA needs rather than on titles or recognition. As VP, this philosophy will guide my efforts to support local chapters, strengthen Technical Groups and APS, and ensure collaboration across the organization as a dependable partner to the President and chapter leaders.

Third, I value work over praise, believing that meaningful progress is built through consistent and often unseen effort. My experience organizing UKC sessions, directing symposiums, and leading long-term projects has reinforced that impact comes from preparation, follow-through, and teamwork. I will focus on execution over visibility to achieve results that speak for themselves.

Finally, I serve KSEA with gratitude over personal success. Becoming a Lifetime Member in 2023 represents appreciation for a community that has shaped my growth for nearly two decades. With sincerity, respect, and humility, I will work to strengthen KSEA as a unified, inclusive, and service-driven organization.

EDUCATION

2006	Ph.D. in Civil Engineering, University of Florida
2002	M.E. in Civil Engineering, University of Florida
1998, 2000	B.E./M.E. in Architect Engineering, CBNU

APPOINTMENTS

2024-Present	Department Chair, CSULB
2019-Present	Professor, CSULB
2014-2019	Associate Professor, CSULB
2009-2014	Assistant Professor, CSULB
2006-2009	Assistant Professor, MWSU
1998-2001	Yurim/Dongin Constr. Co., Ltd.
1992-1994	Military Service, Korean Army

KSEA HQ ACTIVITIES

2025	Executive Director, KSEA 53rd Admin.
2024	KSEA Lifetime member as of Dec, 2023
2024	UKC Sponsor forum director
2024	KSEA Nomination committee member
2020	KOFST YG Program chair, 2020 UKC
2020	UKC Symposium director, 2020 UKC
2018-2020	KEIT Project director
2016-2019	Honors and Awards Committee (1 yr-Chair)
2017	KAST Project director
2016	Project director 6
2012	UKC Construction Management forum chair
2012	UKC Local organizer
2010	UKC Session chair
2009	UKC Session chair
2008-Present	KSEA paid regular member (not 2021)

KSEA LOCAL CHAPTER ACTIVITIES

2025	Advisor/moderator, 2025 KSEA 32nd SWRC
2024	Advisor/moderator, 2024 KSEA 31st SWRC
2022	Advisor, 2022 KSEA 30th SWRC
2016	General Chair, KSEA-SWRC, Long Beach, CA
2015-2016	SoCal Chapter President
2014-2015	SoCal Chapter President-Elect

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2025	Conference co-chair, ICOCE, Singapore
2024	Program Chair, ICOCE, Singapore
2024	Invited speaker, ICEEB, Korea
2006-Present	Peer reviewer for several technical journals in civil and construction research fields/NSF panel Member American Society of Civil Engineers, Construction Institute, American Council for Construction Education

PUBLICATIONS AND FUNDING

115 peer-reviewed papers and conference presentations Research funds from NSF TUES, CalTrans, MTI, CITT, Metropolitan Water District, COAST, FDOT

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025	UKC Poster Award
2021, 2020	US President's Volunteer Service Award
2016	KSEA Outstanding Chapter/Chapter President Award
2013	ICCEPM Best Paper Award
2011	ASCE ExCEEd New Faculty Excellence in Teaching Award
2010	ASCE ExCEED Fellow

IL Minn

Associate Professor
Radiology
UT Southwestern Medical Center

EDUCATION

2008	Ph.D. in Biochemistry, microbiology, and molecular biology The Pennsylvania State University
1998	M.S. in Biological Sciences Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
1996	B.S. in Biochemistry, Hanyang University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024-Present	Associate Professor University of Texas Southwestern Medical Center
2017-2024	Assistant Professor, Johns Hopkins University
2014-2017	Instructor, Johns Hopkins University
2012-2014	Research Associate, Johns Hopkins University

KSEA ACTIVITIES

2024-Present	Honors and Awards Committee (Chair, 2025-2026)
2024-Present	Rules Committee
2022-Present	Hanwha Math Olympiad Committee
2021-Present	Small and Medium Enterprise Committee
2024-2025	Chair, Non-Compete and Conflict of Interest Taskforce
2023-2025	Chair, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Symposium
2023-2025	Project Director, 52nd and 53rd Admins
2022-2025	TG-D2 Councilor
2022-2023	Executive Director, 51st Admin
2022	Executive Director, UKC 2022
2021-2025	STEP-UP: Co-chair (2021), Chair (2022), Advisor (2023, 2024), Organizer (2020, 2025)
2021	EC member, UKC 2021
2021	Organizer and Mentor, SEED 2021
2020-2024	Baltimore Chapter President
2020-2022	Entrepreneurship Director, 49th and 50th Admins

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2014-Present	Professional Societies: American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB), International Society for Stem Cell Biology (ISCR), American Association for Cancer Research (AACR), World Molecular Imaging Society (WMIS), Society for Nuclear Medicine and Molecular Imaging (SNMMI), American Society for Gene and Cell Therapy (ASGCT), Society for Immunotherapy of Cancer (SITC), American Society for Clinical Oncology (ASCO)
2016-2023	Conference organizer, reviewer, and interest group chair: World Molecular Imaging Society/World Molecular Imaging Congress
2015-Present	Consultant for SK Biopharmaceuticals, Century Therapeutics, C-Biomex Inc. Cancer Targeting Systems, Inc.
2015-Present	Peer Reviews for 30+ professional journals
2018-2020	Reviewer, Dutch Cancer Society/Grant review

AWARDS AND HONORS

2017, 2023	The Journal of Nuclear Medicine, Editors' choice award for the three best basic science articles
2020-2022	US President Service Award
2011-2012	Maryland Industrial Partnership (MIPS) Award
2019-2011	Postdoctoral Fellowship Award (MD Stem Cell Research Fund)
1996-1998	Full-ride scholarship for graduate study at KAIST
1996	Valedictorian of Hanyang University Graduating Class of 1996
1992-1996	Full-ride scholarship for undergraduate study at Hanyang University

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS/GRANTS/PATENTS

- 74 peer-reviewed research articles and 2 book chapters, h-index:37 and 4500+ citations
- 50+ invited talks/seminars/posters at national and international institutions or conferences
- 34 research grants from NIH, NCI, NIBIB, DoD, ARPA-H, State Governments as PI or Co-investigator, 4 Contract Research Agreements with Industry as PI
- 15 Patents or Pending Patents, licensed 5 inventions to industry

PUBLIC SERVICES

2019-2024	STEM lecture to students, October Sky
2016-2024	Member and interested group chair, Engineers and Scientists for Change (ESC)
2011-2012	President, Johns Hopkins Postdoctoral Association

ENTREPRENEIRIAL ACTIVITIES

2011-2015	Co-founder and CSO of Innovative Bios, LLC
2010	INNoVATE™ Graduate (1-year entrepreneur training program funded by NSF)

Sang Hyuck Park

Professor and Chair
Department of Chemistry
Georgia Gwinnett College

EDUCATION

2008	Ph.D. in Environmental Engineering Georgia Institute of Technology
2002	M.S. in Materials Science and Engineering Seoul National University
1996	B.S. in Fiber and Polymer Science Seoul National University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025-Present	Chair of Chemistry Department Georgia Gwinnett College
2022-Present	Professor of Chemistry, Georgia Gwinnett College
2017-2022	Associate Professor of Chemistry Georgia Gwinnett College
2010-2017	Assistant Professor of Chemistry Georgia Gwinnett College
2008-2010	Environmental Engineer Georgia Department of Natural Resources

KSEA ACTIVITIES

2024-2025	UKC 2025 Organizing Committee Member
2022-2025	UKC Steering Committee Member
2023-2024	KSEA GA Chapter President
2021-2023	KSEA GA Chapter Finance Director
2020	KSEA National Math & Science Competition GA Chapter Chair
2016-2017	KSEA (45th Admin) Scholarship Committee Chair
2015-2016	KSEA (44th Admin) Membership Director
2014-2015	KSEA (43rd Admin) Publication Director
2014 -2016	KSEA Scholarship Committee Member
2014 -2015	UKC 2015 Local Arrangement Chair
2014	KSEA Southeastern Regional Conference Chair
2013-2014	KSEA GA Chapter President
2011-2012	KSEA GA Chapter Vice President
2010-2011	KSEA GA Chapter Executive Director

KSEA AWARDS

2014	Outstanding Chapter & Chapter President Award

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS/GRANTS/PATENTS

The main areas of research are environmental and organic chemistry, with the following selected recent publications.

- Betourney et al. Electrophilic aromatic fluorination of N-Arylacetamides: A computational and efficacy study. Journal of Fluorine Chemistry. 2025, 285-286, 110455.
- Lam et al. Synthesis and Characterization of 3-Methyl-1-(4-(trifluoromethyl)phenyl)indeno [1,2-c]pyrazol-4(1H)-one. Molbank. 2022, 4, M1483.
- Khan et al. Biodiesel Production from Waste Cooking Oil & Grease Using a Deep Eutectic Solvent: Characterization, Thermal Properties, and Blend Performance. ACS Omega, 2021, 6, 9204-9212.
- Sloop et al. Cyclodehydration and Baker-Venkataraman Rearrangement Methodologies for the Preparation of Fluorinated 4H-Chromones. Chemical Methodologies. 2020, 4, 554-564.
- Park et al. Biodiesel Production from Locally-Sourced Restaurant Waste Cooking Oil and Grease: Synthesis, Characterization and Performance Evaluation. ACS Omega, 2019, 4, 7775−7784.

Funded grants focused on the acquisition of chemistry equipment for undergraduate research include the following examples:

- NSF MRI: Acquisition of a Total Organic Carbon/Total Nitrogen Analyzer for Interdisciplinary Research and Teaching at Georgia Gwinnett College. Co-PI, 2018 (Award No. 1826920).
- NSF MRI: Track 1 Acquisition of an ICP-MS for Interdisciplinary Undergraduate Research. Senior Researcher, 2023 (Award No. 2317021).

Ki-Yong Kim

Professor
Physics
University of Maryland

EDUCATION

2003	Ph.D. in Physics University of Maryland, College Park
1995	B.S. in Physics Korea University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2008-Present	Assistant, Associate, Full Professor Department of Physics; Institute for Research in Electronics and Applied Physics, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland
2021-2023	Associate Director at Center for Relativistic Laser Science, Institute for Basic Science (IBS); Professor at Department of Physics and Photon Science, Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology (GIST), Gwangju
2004-2008	Director's Postdoctoral Fellow Center for Integrated Nanotechnologies, Los Alamos National Laboratory, Los Alamos, New Mexico
2003-2004	Postdoctoral Researcher Institute for Physical Sciences and Technology, University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES (SELECTED)

2024, 2025	ZEUS External Advisory Board, NSF ZEUS Laser Facility
2023	Panelist, Basic Research Needs Workshop on Laser Technology, Rockville, MD
2022	Local Organizing Committee, 9th Conference of the International Committee on Ultrahigh Intensity Lasers (ICUIL)
2018	Program Committee, 9th International Symposium on Ultrafast Phenomena and Terahertz Waves (ISUPTW)

KSEA ACTIVITIES (SELECTED)

2015-2020	Chair/co-chair, National Math and Science Competition (NMSC) by Washington Metro Chapter, KSEA, 2015 (co-chair), 2016 (chair), 2017–2020 (advisor)
2015-2020	Committee, National High School Physics Contest (NHSPC) by Association of Korean Physicists in America (AKPA) and KSEA
2018	Washington Metro Chapter President
2017	Local Committee Chair, SEED Workshop
2015, 2016	Washington Metro Chapter vice-President

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025	Optica Fellow
2014	Richard A. Ferrell Distinguished Faculty Fellowship
2014	NSF Faculty Early Career Development (Career) Award
2010	DOE Early Career Research Award
2007	Postdoctoral Distinguished Performance Award at Los Alamos National Laboratory
2004	Marshall N. Rosenbluth Outstanding Doctoral Thesis Award by American Physical Society (APS)

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

- M. Mirzaie, C. I. Hojbota, D. Y. Kim, V. B. Pathak, T. G. Pak, C. M. Kim, H. W. Lee, J. W. Yoon, S. K. Lee, Y. J. Rhee, M. Vranic, O. Amaro, K. Y. Kim, J. H. Sung, and C. H. Nam, All-optical nonlinear Compton scattering performed with a multi-petawatt laser, Nature Photonics **18**, 1212-1217 (2024).
- H. Kim, C. Kang, D. Jang, Y. Roh, S. H. Lee, J. W. Lee, J. H. Sung, S. K. Lee, and K. Y. Kim, Ionizing terahertz waves with 260 MV/cm from large-area optical rectification, Light Science and Applications **13**, 118 (2024).
- T. Pak, M. Rezaei-Pandari, S. B. Kim, G. Lee, D. H. Wi, C. I. Hojbota, M. Mirzaie, H. Kim, J. H. Sung, S. K. Lee, C. Kang, and K. Y. Kim, Multi-millijoule terahertz emission from laser-wakefield-accelerated electrons, Light Science and Applications **12**, 37 (2023).

Seongshik Oh

Professor
Physics and Astronomy
Rutgers, the State University of New Jersey, New Brunswick

EDUCATION

2003	Ph.D. in Physics, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, IL
1994	M.S. in Physics, Seoul National University
1992	B.S. in Physics, Seoul National University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018-Present	Professor, Rutgers University, New Brunswick, NJ
2013-2018	Associate Professor, Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ
2007-2013	Assistant Professor, Rutgers University New Brunswick, NJ
2004-2007	Postdoctoral Fellow, NIST, Boulder, CO
2003-2004	Postdoctoral Fellow, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, IL
1994-1997	Meteorologist (Lieutenant), ROK Air Force

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

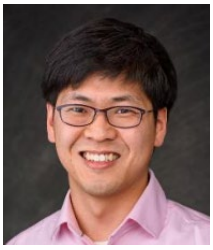
2025-Present	Chair Elect, American Physical Society, topical Group on Quantum Materials Synthesis (APS-GQMS)
2017-Present	Co-Director, Rutgers center for Quantum Materials Synthesis (cQMS)
2016-Present	Organized the annual Symposium on Quantum Materials Synthesis funded by Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation.
2023-2024	Vice Chair and founding member of APS-GQMS
2018	On-site review panelist for NSF MRSEC at Penn State University
2016	Materials Task Force for Rutgers University

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025	American Physical Society Fellow in GQMS
2017	Rutgers Patent Award
2014	EPiQS Materials Synthesis Investigator Award by Gordon and Betty Moore Foundation
2009	NSF Early CAREER Award
2006	NIST Outstanding Postdoctoral Poster Award
1997	Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholarship Award

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

- Yao X et al, "*Superconducting Fourfold, Fe(Te,Se) Film on Sixfold Magnetic MnTe via Hybrid Symmetry Epitaxy*", Nano Lett. 22(18):7522-7526 (2022).
- Yi HT et al, "*Enhanced Quantum Anomalous Hall Effect with an Active Capping Layer*", Nano Lett. 23(12):5673-5679 (2023).
- Salehi M et al, "*Quantum-Hall to Insulator Transition in Ultra-Low-Carrier-Density Topological Insulator Films and a Hidden Phase of the Zeroth Landau Level*", Adv Mater. 31(36):e1901091 (2019).
- Moon J et al, "*Solution to the Hole-Doping Problem and Tunable Quantum Hall Effect in Bi2Se3 Thin Films*", Nano Lett. 18(2):820-826 (2018).
- Brahlek M et al, "*Emergent Magnetism with Continuous Control in the Ultrahigh-Conductivity Layered Oxide $PdCoO_2$*", Nano Lett. 23(16):7279-7287 (2023).
- Salehi M et al, "*Finite-Size and Composition-Driven Topological Phase Transition in $(Bi_{1-x}In_x)_2Se_3$ Thin Films*", Nano Lett. 16(9):5528-32 (2019).
- Oh S, "*The complete quantum Hall trio*", Science. 340(6129):153-4 (2013).
- Brahlek M et al, "*Topological metal to band-insulator transition in $(Bi_{1-x}In_x)_2Se_3$ thin films*", Phys Rev Lett. 109(18):186403 (2012).
- Koirala N et al, "*Record Surface State Mobility and Quantum Hall Effect in Topological Insulator Thin Films via Interface Engineering*", Nano Lett. 15(12):8245-9 (2015).
- Martinis JM et al, "*Decoherence in Josephson qubits from dielectric loss*", Phys Rev Lett. 95(21):210503 (2005).



Bumjung Kim

Assistant Professor
Chemistry
New Jersey City University, Jersey City

EDUCATION

2011 Ph.D. in Chemistry
Columbia University, New York
2007 M.S. in Chemistry
Columbia University, New York
2006 B.S. in Chemistry
Hanyang University, Seoul

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2013-Present Assistant Professor
New Jersey City University, Jersey City
2011-2013 Postdoctoral Researcher
IBM TJ Watson Research Center, Yorktown Heights/ Energy Frontier Research Center (EFRC) of Columbia University, New York

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2016 Organic Electronics Session Host
ACS Middle Atlantic Regional Meeting Conference, Riverdale, NY

KSEA ACTIVITIES

2025 KSEA National Math and Science Competition (NMSC) Special lecture on Chemistry – "*Chemistry, the science of every matter*"

AWARDS AND HONORS

2024 ACS Project SEED outstanding mentor award

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

- Park, J.; Joo, S. H.; Kang, M.; Park, J. H.; Kim, B.; Kwak, S. K.; Ahn, S.; Kang, S. J., Effects of methoxy substituents in contorted polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons for pseudocapacitive charge storage, ACS Energy Letters, 2022, 7(12), 4142-4149.
- Hiszpanski, A. M.; Woll, A. R.; Kim, B.; Nuckolls, C.; Loo, Y. –L., Altering Polymorphic Accessibility of Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons with Fluorine Substitution, Chemistry of Materials, 2017, 29(10), 4311-4316.
- Kim, B.1; Chiu, C. –Y.1; Kang, S.; Kim, K. S.; Lee, G. -H.; Chen, Z.; Ahn, S.; Yager, K. G.; Ciston, J.; Nuckolls, C.; Schiros, T., Vertically grown nanowire crystals of dibenzotetrathienocoronene (DBTTC) on large-area graphene, RSC Advances, 2016, 6, 59582-59589. [1]These authors are equally contributed to this work.
- Kim, B.; Franklin A. D.; Nuckolls, C.; Heansch, W.; Tulevski, G. S., Achieving low-voltage thin-film transistors using carbon nanotubes. Applied Physics Letters, 2014, 105, 06311.
- Lee, C.-H.; Schiros, T.; Santos, E.J.G.; Kim, B.; Yager, K.G.; Kang, S.J.; Lee, S.; Yu, J.; Watanabe, K.; Taniguchi, T.; Hone, J.; Kaxiras, E.; Nuckolls, C.; Kim, P., Epitaxial Growth of Molecular Crystals on van der Waals Substrates for High-Performance Organic Electronics. *Advanced Materials*, **2014**, 26(18), 2812-2817.

Kyu Young Han

Associate Professor
CREOL, The College of Optics & Photonics
University of Central Florida

EDUCATION

2010	Ph.D. in Physical Chemistry Seoul National University
2004	B.S. in Chemistry Seoul National University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2022-Present	Associate Professor CREOL, University of Central Florida
2016-2022	Assistant Professor CREOL, University of Central Florida
2011-2015	Postdoctoral Fellow Howard Hughes Medical Institute University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign
2007-2010	International Research Fellow Max Planck Institute for Biophysical Chemistry, Göttingen, Germany
2004-2010	Graduate Student, Department of Chemistry Seoul National University

KSEA ACTIVITIES

2024-2025	UKC Chemistry, Chair CREOL, University of Central Florida
2016-Present	KSEA Member (Orlando Chapter)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2024-Present	NIH EBIT study session, member
2023	Education and Training in Optics & Photonics, Organizing committee
2022-2023	CLEO Short Course, Lecturer
2020-Present	NIH 4DN, Principal Investigator
2020-2021	Facebook AR/VR Europe, Consultant
2018-Present	ad hoc grant reviewer; Dutch Research Council, Czech Science Foundation, NIH RM1 study session, NSF review panel, NIH study session (ISD, EBIT, MSFB), DFG German Research Foundation
2017-Present	Advisory board, J Phys D
2016-Present	Member; SPIE, OSA, ACS

AWARDS AND HONORS

2023	Teaching Incentive Program Award, UCF
2020	NIH MIRA for Early-Stage Investigators
2020	Exploratory Research Award, UCF
2016	Outstanding Reviewer Award in JPhysD
2014	NSF CPLC 10k Pilot Projects Award
2008-2010	Max Planck Institute Fellowship
2007-2008	International Research Collaboration Fellowship

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP AND PUBLICATIONS

Main research areas: High-throughput super-resolution fluorescence microscopy, live-cell imaging, single-molecule bioassay, deep learning imaging and analysis, 4D Nucleome (structures, functions, dynamics), fluorescent tags and photophysics, subdiffraction 3D printing.

- 53 peer reviewed papers; 4 patents

- J. Kim, G.A. Hernandez-Gonzalez, N.C. Venkata, K.Y. Han & AS Belmont "*Nonrandom interchromatin trafficking through dynamic multiphase speckle connections*", bioRxiv (2025).
- S. Hasan, G.S. Kenath, M. Goswami, L. Yuan, J. Huang, Y. Lou, A.A. Karanastasis, H. Vijayamohanan, E.F. Palermo, K.Y. Han & C.K. Ullal "*Volumetric patterning of gels via super resolved interference lithography*", ACS Appl. Mater. Interfaces 17, 43512-43521 (2025).
- G. Lukinavicius, J. Alvelid, R. Gerasimaite, C. Rodilla-Ramirez, V.T. Nguyen, G. Vicidomini, F. Bottanelli, K.Y. Han and I. Testa, *"STED microscopy"*, Nature Review Methods Primers 4, 56 (2024)
- L.M. Wang, J. Kim & K.Y. Han, "*Multicolor 2.5D microscopy for fast volumetric single-molecule imaging with high sensitivity*", Nanophotonics 13, 3805-3814 (2024).
- V. Ebrahimi, T. Stephan, J. Kim, P. Carravilla, C. Eggeling, S. Jakobs & K.Y. Han, "*Deep learning enables fast, gentle STED microscopy*", Communications Biol. 6, 674 (2023).
- S.W. Hell, J. Engelhardt, M. Reuss, V. Westphal, C. Eggeling, G. Moneron, K.Y. Han, G. Vicidomini & K.I. Willig, "*STED microscopy with pulsed excitation, continuous stimulation, and gated registration of spontaneously emitted fluorescence light*", US2013256564. # Licensed to Leica Microsystems & Abberior Instruments.

Seongho Song

Professor and Head-elect
Statistics and Data Science
University of Cincinnati

EDUCATION

2005	Ph.D. in Statistics, University of Connecticut
1996	M.S. in Statistics, Pusan National University
1994	B.S. in Statistics, Pusan National University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025-Present	UPD & Head-elect, Statistics and Data Science University of Cincinnati
2019-Present	Professor, Statistics and Data Science University of Cincinnati
2011-2019	Associate Professor, Statistics and Data Science University of Cincinnati
2015-2011	Assistant Professor, Statistics and Data Science University of Cincinnati

KSEA ACTIVITIES

2025	Session Co-Chair, A3, UKC 2025
2024	Session presenter, A3, UKC 2024
2023	Session presenter, A3, UKC 2024
2010-Present	Participate in activities of KSEA OH-SW

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2016-Present	Associate Editor, Sankhya Series B
2018	Session Organizer and Chair, EAC-ISBA
2017	Session Organizer in New England Statistical Symposium
2010-Present	DSMB board member, CCHMC
2006	Session Chair in AMS Fall Central Section Meeting, Cincinnati, OH
2005	Session Chair in JSM

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025	Research Grant, Korea Inst. Ocean Science and Tech (KIOST), PI
2022	Research Grant, KIOST, PI
2019-2024	R01MH119814, NIMH, Co-PI
2012-2015	D12AP00005, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), Co-PI

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

- Palipana, A.K. et. al., "*Joint Modeling with Integrated Fractional Brownian Motion*", 80(1), Biometrics, 2024.
- Palipana, A.K., et. Al., "*Predicting individualized lung disease progression in lymphangioleiomyomatosis*", 163 (6), Chest, 2023
- Zhou, C.G, et. Al., "*Multilevel joint modelling of longitudinal and binary outcomes for hierarchically structured Data*", 42 (17), Statistical Methods in Medical Research, 2023
- Lee, S., et. Al., "*Assessment of MOF-801 synthesis for toluene adsorption by using design of experiment methodology*", Korean J. of Chemical Engineering, 2022
- Choi, J.H. and Song, S. "*Revisiting the PPP puzzle: Nominal exchange rate rigidity and region of inaction*", v. 78, Journal of International Financial Markets, Institutions & Money, 2022.
- Oh, S., et. al., "*Temporal dynamics in stimuli-response experimental design: further critical issues-systematic biases and isoform diversity*", 763(9), Scientific Reports, 2019
- Egan, A., et. al., "*Palatable food affects HPA axis responsivity and forebrain neurocircuitry in an estrous cycle-specific manner in female rats*", 384, Neuroscience, 2018.

Younggon Bae

Associate Professor
School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences
The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley

EDUCATION

2019	Ph.D. in Mathematics Education Michigan State University, MI
2010	M.S. in Mathematics, Yonsei University, Seoul
2008	B.S. in Mathematics, Yonsei University, Seoul

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025-Present	Associate Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
2019-2025	Assistant Professor, School of Mathematical and Statistical Sciences The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley
2010-2013	Lecturer, Department of Mathematics, Republic of Korea Naval Academy

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2024-Present	Korean Edutech Learning Science (KELS) Network Faculty Mentor
2025	ICMI East Asia Regional Conference on Mathematics Education (EARCOME-9), Topic Study Group 3, Co-Chair
2020-2021	AMTE STaR Fellow
2020-2021	MAA Project NExT Fellow

KSEA ACTIVITIES

2025-Present	Vice President, Texas Costal Bend Chapter
2022-Present	NMSC Chair, Texas Costal Bend Chapter

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

- Serbin, K. S., & Bae, Y. (2025) Teachers' perceptions of coherence and relevance of advanced mathematic for teaching secondary mathematics. International Journal of Research in Undergraduate Mathematics Education.
- Serbin, K. S., Bae, Y., & Espinosa, S. (2024). Graduate students' guided reinvention of the definitions of reducibles and irreducibles. The Journal of Mathematical Behavior, 76, 101188.
- Olusanya, A., Serbin, K. S., & Bae, Y. (2024). Graduate Students' Pedagogical Mathematical Practices Used in Approximations of Teaching Practice. The Journal of Mathematics Teacher Education.
- Lim, W., Yoon, H., Bae, Y., & Kwon, O. N. (2023). The development of sociomathematical norms in the transition to tertiary exam-oriented individualistic mathematics education in an East Asian context. Educational Studies in Mathematics, 113(1), 57-78.
- Engelbrecht, J., Kwon, O. N., Borba, M. C., Yoon, H., Bae, Y., & Lee, K. (2022). The impact of COVID-19 on the format and nature of academic conferences in mathematics education. ZDM-Mathematics Education, 55(1), 95-108.
- Satyam, V. R., Bae, Y., Smith III, J. P., & Levin, M., (2022). Affect graphing: Leveraging graphical representations in the study of students' affect in mathematics. Educational Studies in Mathematics, 110(3), 481-501.
- Yoon, H., Bae, Y., Lim, W., & Kwon, O. N. (2021). A story of the national calculus curriculum: How culture, research, and policy compete and compromise in shaping the calculus curriculum in South Korea. ZDM-Mathematics Education, 53(3), 663-677.

Soojin Yoo

Associate Professor
Health and Human Performance
University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley

EDUCATION

2009 Ph.D. in Sport Pedagogy
University of Nevada
1997 M.S. in Exercise Physiology
Ewha Womans University
1993 B.S. in Exercise Science
Ewha Womans University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018-Present Associate Professor, Health and Human Performance, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley
2012-2018 Assistant Professor, Health and Human Performance, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley
2009-2011 Assistant Professor, Exercise Science University of Wisconsin, La Crosse
2002-2005 Exercise Program Director, Port St. Lucie, FL & Seoul
1995-2002 Clinical Exercise Physiologist/Clinical Exercise Program Director, Dept. of Physical Medicine and Rehabilitation, Samsung Medical Center

KSEA ACTIVITIES

2020-2025 KSEA- Texas Coastal Bend Chapter President
2025 UKC-B1 Technical Group Symposium Co-Chair
2023-2024 UKC-B1 Technical Group Committee
2022 UKC- MPS Technical Group Session Co-Chair

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2020-2021 President, International Organization for Health, Sports and Kinesiology
2020-Present Associate Editor, Journal of Health, Sports, and Kinesiology
2015-2020 Treasurer, Western Society for Kinesiology and Wellness

AWARDS AND HONORS

2022 U.S. President's Volunteer Service Award (Silver medal)
2022 Mid-Career Development Fellowship, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, College of Health Professions
2022 Faculty Excellence in Professional Service, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, College of Health Professions
2021 National Leadership Award, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, College of Health Professions
2020 Faculty Excellence in Professional Service, University of Texas, Rio Grande Valley, College of Health Professions
2017 Research Fellowship, the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, College of Health Affairs
2016 Excellent Research Paper Award, Asian Society for Adapted Physical Education Annual Conference
2015 Presidential Research Award, The Western Society of Wellness and Kinesiology

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP AND PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

- 08/2019-01/2019 Korea Ministry of Health and Welfare, Developing Scopes and Quality Evaluation Criteria of Health Information Advertising in Korea, Co-PI.
- 01/2017-01/2020 Korea Research Foundation, The Effect of Hippo-Therapy on Cardiopulmonary Function, Cognition and Physical Activity Behavior in Children and Adolescents with Cerebral Palsy, Co-PI.
- 12/2016-03/2017 Creative University Korea- Government, Global Leadership Winter Program on Addictive Behavior Rehabilitation and Health Promotion in the U.S. Co-PI.
- 05/2017-08/2017 Creative University Korea- Government, Global Leadership Program on Addictive Behavior Rehabilitation and Health Promotion in the U.S., Co-PI.
- 02/2022-08/2023 UTRGV- College of Health Professions Mid-Career Development Fellowship Project, PI
- 09/2022-08/2023 UTRGV- Internal Grant Project, Bonding Outcomes for Fathers with Children with Autism Spectrum Disorder Via Integrated Expressive Art-Physical Activity (IEAP) Program, Co-PI
- 09/2021-05/2023 Meadow Foundation, The Student Health and Success Initiative (SHASI) in South Texas, Co-PI
- 2020-Present American College of Sports Medicine-UTRGV Exercise is Medicine on Campus Project Director

Tae-Hyung Kim

Assistant Professor
Department of Pathology, School of Medicine
University of New Mexico

EDUCATION

2006-2011	Ph.D. in Department of Molecular Biomedical Sciences, North Carolina State University
2003-2005	M.S. in Department of Biochemistry and Molecular Biology, Seoul National University
1998-2002	B.S. in Department of Biological Sciences Sungkyunkwan University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2020-Present	Assistant Professor, UNM
2014-2020	Postdoc. UCLA
2012-2014	Postdoc. UNC Chapel Hill

KSEA ACTIVITIES

2025	UKC2025 Treasurer of the B1 TG
2024	UKC2024 Co-Chair of the B1 TG Symposium
2023	UKC2023 Chair of the B1 TG Symposium
2022	UKC2022 Co-Chair of the B1 TG Symposium
2009	UKC2009 YGTLC Local Director
2007-2009	Volunteer for local KSEA NC Chapter events including National Math and Science Competition and Career Workshop

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2020-Present	K-BioX Global Mentor in Cancer Biology
2023-2026	Chair of Communications Subcommittee in the Tumor Microenvironment Working Group of American Association for Cancer Research (AACR)

RESEARCH LEADERSHIP AND PUBLICATIONS

During my postdoctoral training at UCLA, I have discovered that the beta-adrenergic stress signaling can promote breast cancer cell invasion by increasing cell stiffness and contractility. In my laboratory at UNM, we recently reported that hyperglycemia also can regulate cell mechanics, such as stiffness and contractility, which promotes cell invasion. My works highlight that biochemical signals in the tumor microenvironment can promote cancer metastasis through modulating cell mechanics and these works provide novel therapeutic targets to suppress cancer metastasis.

2025	Tae-Hyung Kim* et al. iScience; 28(6):112676. * Co-corresponding author
2023	Mijung Oh, Skylar Batty, Nayan Banerjee, and Tae-Hyung Kim, Mol Biol Cell; 34(8):ar79.
2022	Jae-Eun Lee, Yein Chung, Siyeon Rhee*, and Tae-Hyung Kim*. BMB Rep; 55(9):429-438. * Co-corresponding author
2019	Tae-Hyung Kim et al. FASEB J.; 33(3):3997-4006.
2016	Tae-Hyung Kim et al. J Cell Sci; 129(24): 4563-75.
2016	Tae-Hyung Kim et al. Clin Transl Immunology; 5(5):e78.
2014	Tae-Hyung Kim et al. Oncotarget; 5(4):860-71.
2010	Tae-Hyung Kim et al. Cancer Res; 70(21):8507-16.
2008	Tae-Hyung Kim et al. Exp Mol Med; 40(3):294-303.

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025	Excellence in Research Awards – Junior Faculty UNM Health Sciences Center
2023	Fellowship, Metastatic Breast Cancer Research Conference (MBCRC) Advocate Researcher Program (MARP)
2023	Travel Award, Geographical Management of Cancer Health Disparities (GMaP) Region 3
2022	Fellowship, National Cancer Institute (NCI)-funded Transdisciplinary Research on Energetics and Cancer (TREC) Training Workshop by Yale Cancer Center
2020	Travel Award, 2020 Travel Award for poster presentation at the Biophysical Society Annual Meeting
2018	Scholarship, MOGAM Scholarship by Mogam Science Scholarship Foundation
2016	Travel Award, Postdoctoral fellows travel award from the American Society for Cell Biology (ASCB) Annual Meeting
2010	Oral Presentation 1st Place, Annual Symposium and North Carolina Regional Conference
2009-2010	Scholarship, Jimmy V-NC State University Cancer Therapeutics Training Program
2009	Scholarship, Korea US Science Cooperation Center (KUSCO) and Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA)
2009	Poster Presentation 2nd Place, Annual Research Forum, College of Veterinary Medicine, North Carolina State University

RESEARCH ACTIVITY AND GRANTS

2025-2030	NIH/NIGMS R35 MIRA ESI (1R35GM157045-01)
2023-2024	American Cancer Society Institutional Research Grants (ACS-IRG)
2021-2024	NIH/NIGMS, UNM Autophagy, Inflammation and Metabolism (AIM), Center of Biomedical
2021-2023	METAvivor Early Career Investigator Award

Si Hong Park

Associate Professor
Department of Food Science and Technology
Oregon State University

EDUCATION

2013	Ph.D. in Cellular and Molecular Biology Program University of Arkansas
2006	M.S. in Food Science and Biotechnology Kyung Hee University
2004	B.S. in Food Science and Biotechnology Kyung Hee University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2023-Present	Associate Professor, Oregon State University
2017-2023	Assistant Professor, Oregon State University
2013-2017	Post-doctoral associate, University of Arkansas
2009-2013	Graduate research assistant, University of Arkansas
2006-2008	Researcher, TaeKyung Nongsan R&D center, Nongshim group

KSEA ACTIVITIES

2025	Co-chair for FAN session at UKC (virtual)
2020	Oral presenter at UKC (virtual)
2018	Recipient for Young Investigator Grant (YIG)
2018	Oral presenter at UKC (Queens, NY)
2014	Participant for the Professional Development Workshop (Chicago, IL)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2019-Present	Associate editor in BMC Microbiology and Frontiers in Microbiology
2018-Present	Academic editor in PLoS ONE
2018-Present	Vice-president (2023), Korean-American Food Technologists Association (KAFTA), APS of KSEA
2006-2008	Researcher (TaeKyung Nongsan R&D center, Nongshim group)

AWARDS AND HONORS

2022	Scholarly Achievement Award, Korea Society of Food Science and Technology (KoSFoST)
2021	James and Mildred Oldfield/E.R. Jackman Team Award, Oregon State University (OSU)
2020	Larry Beuchat Young Researcher Award, International Association for Food Protection (IAFP)
2019	Distinguished New Professor of the Year from the Agricultural Executive Council, OSU

PUBLICATIONS

155 peer-reviewed papers, 2 book editors, and 9 book chapters

- Rackerby, B., Kim, E., Bobe, G., Dallas, D., Park, S.H.* Effects of whey protein isolate on the human gut microbiota and intestinal functions in older adults. Journal of Dairy Science, In press, 2026
- Thibodeau, A., Kim, E., Yang, S.M., Goddik, L., Kim, H.Y., Park, S.H.* The effects of milking and cleaning procedures on the quality and microbiome of raw goat milk. Foods, 14: 3563, 2025
- Hong, H.H., Kim, E., Yang, S.M., Lim, M.C., Kim, H.J., Yang, L., Kim H.Y., Park, S.H.* New insights into the stress response mechanisms of stress-resistant Listeria monocytogenes via multi-omics and cell morphological changes. Emerging Microbes and Infections, 14: 2564319, 2025
- Van De Grift, D., Kim, E., Yang, S.M., Thibodeau, A., Cruickshank, J., Goddik, L., Park, S.H.* Investigation of seasonal microbiome changes in raw milk between conventional and organic farming practices, Journal of Dairy Science, 108: 13165-13178, 2025
- Kim, E., Yang, S., Hong, H.H., Kim, H.J., Park, S.H.* A pangenome-informed portable qPCR microchip assay for detecting stress-resistant Listeria monocytogenes (LM-ResiChip), Food Control, 111492, 2025
- Hong, H.H., Kang, M.S., Haymowicz, A., Le, H.N.M., Kim, E., Yang, S.M., Ha, S.D., Kim, H.J., Park, S.H.* Genetic characterization and in silico serotyping 62 Salmonella enterica isolated from Korean poultry operation, BMC Genomics, 26: 166, 2025
- Angima, G., Qu, Y., Kim, E., Bobe, G., Dallas, D. Park, S.H.* Effects of galactooligosaccharides (GOS) on the gut microbiota in lactose intolerant individuals, LWT. 216: 117291 2025

Yong-Su Jin

Professor
Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition
University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)

EDUCATION

2002 Ph.D. in Food Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison
1998 M.S. in Food Science and Technology
Seoul National University
1996 B.S. in Food Science and Technology
Seoul National University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025-Present Director of Research – Future Foods, Illinois Advanced Research Centers in Singapore (Illinois ARCS), Singapore
2023-Present Visiting Professor, Department of Biochemistry, National University of Singapore, Singapore
2008-Present Assistant, Associate, and Professor, Department of Food Science and Human Nutrition, University of Illinois, Urbana Champaign
2006-2008 Assistant Professor, Sungkyunkwan University, Suwon
2002-2006 Postdoctoral Researcher, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

- Director, Illinois Center for Precision Fermentation, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
- Director of Research – Future Foods, Illinois Advanced Research Centers in Singapore (Illinois ARCS)
- Associate Editor, Microbial Cell Factories
- Editorial Board Member, Journal of Biotechnology, Current Opinion in Biotechnology
- Conference Chair, 2nd(2023), 3rd(2024) and 4th(2025) US-Korea Synthetic Biology Conference
- Member of the Board of Directors, Korea-U.S. Science Cooperation Center (2022-Present)

AWARDS AND HONORS

2022 Senior Faculty Award for Excellence in Research, College of ACES, UIUC
2021 University Scholar, UIUC
2019 Japan Society for the Promotion of Science (JSPS) Invitational Fellowship
2009 NCSA Faculty Fellow, National Center for Supercomputing Applications (NCSA)

PUBLICAITONS

Publication summary (Google Scholar Citations: 17,393, h-index: 69, i10-index 211) - A total of 245 publications in peer-reviewed journals including PNAS (3), Nature Communications (5), Nature Biotechnology (1), Chemical Engineering Journal (2), Biomaterials (1), Applied and Environmental Microbiology (17), Biotechnology and Bioengineering (18), Metabolic Engineering (12), Journal of Biotechnology (24), Applied Microbiology and Biotechnology (14), Bioresource Technology (14), Biotechnology for Biofuels (8), Enzyme and Microbial Technology (4), Current Opinion in Biotechnology (6), Biotechnology Journal (8), Trends in Biotechnology (2), Biotechnology Advances (3), ACS Synthetic Biology (7), Microbial Cell Factories (4), Food Microbiology (1), Green Chemistry (1), Viruses (1), Angew Chem Int Ed Engl (1), mSystems, and eLife (1)—Journal Name (number of published articles). Full publication list: https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=KvQfIDQAAAAJ&hl=en

Hyun-Tae Hwang

Associate Professor
Chemical and Materials Engineering
University of Kentucky

EDUCATION

2009	Ph.D. in Chemical Engineering University of Southern California
2001	M.S. in Chemical Engineering Korea University
1999	B.S. in Chemical Engineering Korea University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2021-Present	Associate Professor Chemical and Materials Engineering University of Kentucky
2015-2021	Assistant Professor Chemical and Materials Engineering University of Kentucky
2009-2015	Postdoctoral Researcher Chemical Engineering, Purdue University

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2026-Present	Councilor of KIChE (Korean Institute of Chemical Engineers)-US Chapter
2025-Present	President of KIChE (Korean Institute of Chemical Engineers)-US Chapter
2023-Present	Session Chairs/Co-chairs of UKC
2023-2024	Vice-President of KIChE-US Chapter
2017-Present	Executive Committee of Environmental Division of AIChE (American Institute of Chemical Engineers)
2016-2022	Executive Committee of KIChE-US Chapter
2016-Present	Session Chairs/Co-chairs of AIChE

KSEA ACTIVITIES

2023-2025	Chair, Technical Group C2, UKC
2025	"*Noncatalytic Solid-State Hydrolysis of Sodium Borohydride with Sodium Metaborate Hydrate*," UKC, Atlanta, GA
2023	"*Solid-State Hydrolysis of Sodium Borohydride and Sodium Metaborate Hydrate,*" UKC, Dallas, TX

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025-Present	PJC Board of Trustees Engineering Associate Professor
2024-Present	Lighthouse Beacon Foundation Scholar
2023-2024	Outstanding CME Professor University of Kentucky
2022-2023	Outstanding CME Professor University of Kentucky
2020-2021	Outstanding CME Professor University of Kentucky

RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS (SELECTED)

- Generation of Hydrogen by Thermal Hydrolysis of Sodium Borohydrides, International Application No. PCT/US2021/047599 (2021) – Has been named in the 23 Top Innovations for 2023 by IN-PART
- Hidayat, S., Hafyan, R.H., Quang, L.N., Seo, Y.K., Gadkari, S., Kim, J., Hwang, H.T., Zhou, X. and Kim, S.S., 2026. PET waste to terephthalic acid, biphenyl, and benzoic acid via dolomite catalytic fast pyrolysis in fluidized-bed reactor: Experimental and techno-economic analysis. Chemical Engineering Journal, 529, p.172849.
- Hidayat S., Han J., Jeon, J.R., Kim, J., Hwang, H.T., Zhou X. and Kim, S.S., 2025. Hydrodeoxygenation of bis (2-hydroxyethyl) terephthalate as a model compound of polyethylene terephthalate waste using spray pyrolysis synthesis of γ-Al2O3 supported Ni-Fe catalyst. Chemical Engineering Journal Advances, p.100832.
- Kim, G.J. and Hwang, H.T., 2021. Thermal hydrolysis of solid-state sodium borohydride for noncatalytic hydrogen generation. Chemical Engineering Journal, 424, p.130445.
- Hwang, H.T. and Varma, A., 2014. Hydrogen storage for fuel cell vehicles. Current Opinion in Chemical Engineering, 5, pp.42-48.
- Hwang, H.T., Qi, F., Yuan, C., Zhao, X., Ramkrishna, D., Liu, D. and Varma, A., 2014. Lipase-catalyzed process for biodiesel production: Protein engineering and lipase production. Biotechnology and Bioengineering, 111(4), pp.639-653.

Martin Byung-Guk Jun

Professor
Mechanical Engineering
Purdue University

EDUCATION

2005	Ph.D. in Mechanical Engineering University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign
2000	M.A.Sc. in Mechanical Enginnering The University of British Columbia
1998	B.A.Sc. in Mechanical Enginnering The University of British Columbia

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2024-Present	Director, CORIA, Purdue University
2022-Present	Professor, Mechanical Engineering Purdue University
2016-2022	Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering Purdue University
2013-2016	Associate Professor, Mechanical Engineering University of Victoria
2007-2013	Assistant Professor, Mechanical Engineering University of Victoria
2005-2007	Postdoctoral Associate Mechanical Engineering, UIUC

KSEA ACTIVITIES

UKC 2025	Chair for Distinguished Forum on Future Mobility and Manufacturing
UKC 2025	UKIS Director 2
UKC 2024	Chair for KITECH Forum: Korea-US Manufacturing AI Technology Innovation Forum
UKC 2023	Co-Chair for MAN Technical Group C-3
UKC 2023	Chair for Session I: MAKER-Manufacturing Alliance of Korean Engineers and Researchers
UKC 2023	Chair for KSEA Round Table Discussion for Advanced Manufacturing Technology
K-TAG	Machine and Materials Chapter Chair from 2018

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025	Seed for Success Acorn Award
2025	Best Paper Award, JMP
2024	IJPEM-GT Best Editor Award
2023	Most Impactful Faculty Inventors of Purdue
2023	MOTIE Minister Award
2023	Best Paper Award, ASEE Manufacturing
2023	Editor-in-Chief's Choice in IJPEM-ST
2023	Italian Machine Tool Technology Award
2022	Purdue COE Staff Team Excellence Award
2022	K-TAG Award, KIAT
2022	Associate Editor of the Year Award, JMP
2021	Best Paper Award at WCMNM
2019	ASME Fellow
2016	ICMTE Best Paper Award
2016	AKCSE Research Day Program Award
2015	KSMTE Damwoo Award
2012	CSME I.W. Smith Award
2011	SME Young Manufacturing Engineer Award

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2022-Present	Area Editor for SME Journal of Manufacturing Processes
2021-Present	Editor, International Journal of Precision Engineering and Manufacturing
2021-Present	Associate editor for ASME Open Journal of Engineering
2019-2022	Associate editor for SME Journal of Manufacturing Processes
ICOMM'18	President of 13th International Conference on Micro-Manufacturing

RESEARCH AND ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

- 200+ peer-reviewed publications
- 130+ presentations at national and international conferences
- Over $15M research funding from numerous federal, state, private, and global agencies including NSF, DOE, Air Force, KIAT, KEIT, TIPA, etc.

Paul Yun

Professor
Mathematics
El Camino College

EDUCATION

1993	B.A. in Mathematics, UC Berkeley
1997	M.A. in Mathematics, UCLA
1999	Ed.M. in Education, Harvard University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2012-Present	NASA/JPL Solar System Ambassador
1999-Present	Tenured professor of Mathematics El Camino College
2000-Present	Harvard University admission interviewer
2015-Present	Visiting scholar of Korea Astronomy and Space Science Institute
2019-2000	Visiting professor of Kyung Hee University
2000-2012	SAT, GRE, GMAT exam writer for ETS
2022	Korea Strategic Advisory Council Member for Science and Technology High Schools (2023-2027 대한민국 과학고 영재고 국가전략 자문위원)

PROFESSIONAL(NASA) ACTIVITIES

2020	Judge of Artemis Moon Pod Essay Contest
2019-2020	Judge of MARS 2020 "*Name the Rover*"
2019-2024	NASA Museum Alliance Korea Forum Administrator
2017	Voter of MARS 2020 three candidate landing sites
2016	NASA Recognition as NASA Solar System Ambassador of Year
2015	Proposer of Human Landing Site on the Surface of Mars

PUBLICATION

- NASA Landing Site/Exploration Zone for Human Mission on the Surface of Mars 2015 (https://www.nasa.gov/sites/default/files/atoms/files/yun_nasa_landing_site_ez_proposal_for_human_missions_1022_updated_tagged.pdf)
- Martian Dust Impact on Human Exploration (p.98-p.100) 2017 (https://www.lpi.usra.edu/lpi/contribution_docs/LPI-001966.pdf)
- NASA Planetary Science Division 2050 through Human Exploration 2017 (https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/V2050/pdf/8009.pdf)
- Sample Return in Preparation of Human Mission on the Surface of Mars 2018 (https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/marssamplereturn2018/pdf/6036.pdf, http://adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2018LPICo2071.6036Y)
- Search for Extant Life through Human Mission on the Surface of Mars 2018 (https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lifeonmars2019/pdf/5024.pdf)
- Lunar In Situ Resource Utilization (ISRU) and Commercialization 2019 (https://www.hou.usra.edu/meetings/lunarisru2019/pdf/5122.pdf)
- Mars Dust Analysis through Human Exploration 2022 (https://ui.adsabs.harvard.edu/abs/2022LPICo2657.6019Y/abstract)
- 우리가 우주에 가야하는 이유 "*Why we need to explore space*" (EBS Books) 2023 (https://www.yes24.com/Product/Goods/124586161)

Clara Kim

Oncology & Immunology
Medical Impact Lead
Boehringer Ingleheim

EDUCATION

2020 Doctor of Pharmacy (Pharm.D.)
University of North Carolina
Eshelman School of Pharmacy

2015 B.A. in Neuroscience
Vanderbilt University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

- Drive utilization of medical evidence to guide medical affairs strategy decisions
- Communicate complex scientific information to healthcare professionals
- Turn complex data and insights into clear, actionable strategic recommendations
- Lead cross-functional teams

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2025-Present Medical Impact Lead, Boehringer Ingelheim

2022-2025 Sr. Manager/Associate Director – Oncology, Astellas Pharma

2022 Medical Science Liaison –Immunology, AbbVie

2020-2022 Postdoctoral Industry Fellow
Novartis Oncology/Rutgers University

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

2025 UNC PharmD Student
Preceptorship Program (Astellas)

2022 Rutgers PharmD Student
Preceptorship Program (Novartis)

2020-2022 Industry Pharmacist Organization
National Fellows Council

KSEA ACTIVITIES

2025-Present 54th Admin Next-Gen Director 1

2025-Present NC Chapter Symposium Director

2018-Present YG Committee

2025 YGTLC-Katalyst Chair

2024-2025 53rd Admin Next-Gen Director 2

2019-2025 YG National Board Chair/Advisor

2022-2023 51st Admin Branding Director

2021-2022 50th Admin Social Media Director

2020-2021 49th Admin Publication Director 4

2019-2020 48th Admin YG Director 2

2018-2019 YG National Board Chair

2018 YGTLC-Ygnite Networking Lead

2018, 2019, 2021 UKC-YGPF/FIRE Co-Chair

2017 YGTLC-Ygnite PR Team Lead

2017 UKC-YGPF Organizer

2016 YGTLC-Ygnite organizer

2015 Vanderbilt YG Group VP

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025 KSEA Young Generation Leadership Award presented by KOFST

Kevin Kim

Associate
SOCOTEC US

EDUCATION

2018 M.E. in Structural Engineering
The Cooper Union, New York, NY
2018 B.S. in Civil Engineering
The Cooper Union, New York, NY

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2018–Present Associate, SOCOTEC US, New York, NY

PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

- Building envelope & façade consulting (façade restoration, windows, roofing, waterproofing)
- Structural engineering support for existing buildings and retrofit scopes
- Field investigation, testing oversight, and constructability-driven recommendations
- Owner advisory: scope development, bid leveling, value engineering, and project execution support
- Cross-functional stakeholder coordination (owners, architects, contractors, agencies)

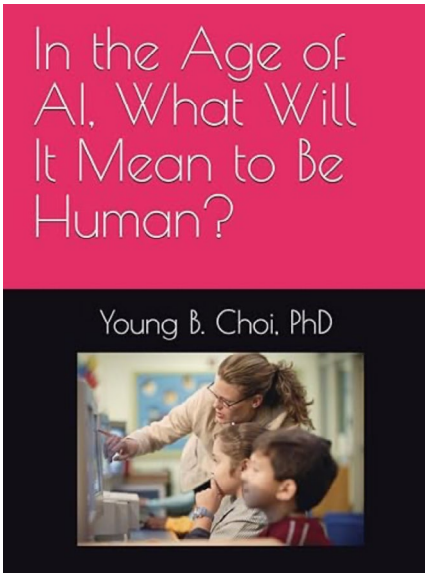
KSEA ACTIVITIES

2025 Chair, IMPACTs
2024-2025 Young Generation Director I, 53rd Administration
2024 Chair, IMPACTs
2022-2025 Councilor, KSEA NY Metropolitan Chapter
2022 Young Professional Director, KSEA NY Metropolitan Chapter
2021 Chapter Vice President, KSEA NY Metropolitan Chapter
2020 YG/YP Co-Chair, UKC YG/PF 2020
2019 Organizer, Ygnite
2019 Organizer, UKC
2019-Present Councilor, KSEA NY Metropolitan Chapter
2018–2021 Young Professional Director, KSEA NY Metropolitan Chapter
2016-Present Student Chapter President, KSEA Cooper Union

AWARDS AND HONORS

2025 KSEA Vision Award
2025 Licensed Professional Engineer, State of New York
2025 Panelist, Zak World of Façades

New Book Publication by Dr. Young Choi



In the Age of AI, What Will It Mean to Be Human? explores one of the most urgent questions of our time: how artificial intelligence is reshaping not only technology and work, but human identity itself. Moving beyond technical explanations, this book examines AI as a civilizational force that challenges how we think, create, lead, and govern.

The book argues that human competitiveness in the AI era will not come from speed or efficiency, but from judgment, ethical reasoning, creativity, and the ability to ask meaningful questions. It exposes the myth of algorithmic neutrality, revealing how power and values are embedded in AI systems, and shows why those who design prompts will increasingly shape the future.

Blending philosophy, policy, and practical insight, the book addresses creativity, labor, leadership, and governance in the age of automation. Practical appendices guide readers in writing thoughtful prompts and applying AI responsibly across 20 fields.

Ultimately, this book affirms a simple truth: AI may provide answers—but the questions, and the responsibility for them, remain human.

After studying Computer Science, Statistics, Computer Networking, and Telecommunications, Dr. Choi worked for ETRI (Electronics and Telecommunications Research Institute) and SERI (Systems Engineering Research Institute) in Korea as a Research Team Leader, Broadxent, Inc., a subsidiary of Singaporean multinational company CREATIVE Technology Ltd. as a Principal Engineer, Indian software consulting firm Birlasoft, Inc. as a Senior Systems Analyst, COMPAQ Computer Corporation (currently, Hewlett-Packard) as a Development Manager in Silicon Valley, California.

He also has been teaching and researching at James Madison University, The University of Missouri-Kansas City, Bloomsburg University of Pennsylvania, Kansas City Kansas Community College, KAIST, and Chonnam National University. Currently, he is a full Professor of Information Systems Technology and Cybersecurity, the Department of Engineering & Computer Science of Regent University in Virginia Beach, Virginia, since 2010 and a faculty member of the Institute for Cybersecurity of Regent University.

He has been a member of KSEA (Korean-American Scientists and Engineers) since 1991 and served as an Executive Committee member as Publication Director (four times) and Technical Councilor (two times) and numerous committee members, including Election, YG, and NMSC. He received a certificate of recognition for his dedicated service several times. He has been serving for KAUPA (Korean American University Professors Association) as President since January 2020.

South-Western Regional Conference 2026

The Korean American Scientists and Engineers Association – Southern California Chapter (KSEA-SC) hosted the 33rd annual South-Western Regional Conference (SWRC) on January 31, 2026, at the Titan Student Union, California State University, Fullerton (CSUF). The annual conference continued its tradition of fostering professional exchange, interdisciplinary collaboration, and community building among scientists, engineers, students, and industry leaders across Southern California.

The event commenced with opening remarks from Dr. Jae Hyeon Ryu, President of the 54th KSEA Administration, who highlighted the growing momentum of KSEA following the record-breaking success of UKC 2025 and the strengthened U.S.–Korea partnership in science and technology. Welcoming remarks were delivered by Dr. Celestina Barbosa-Leiker, Dean of the College of Health and Human Development at CSUF, and a congratulatory address followed from Dr. Sang June Oh, Interim Dean of the College of Engineering & Computer Science at CSUF.

Check-in volunteers from YG groups

Welcoming Remark by the Dean of the Health and Human Development, CSUF.

This year's conference featured an exceptional lineup of plenary and invited speakers representing diverse research domains. The morning session began with the plenary talk by Dr. Sang-Hee Lee, Professor of Anthropology at UC Riverside, titled 'Slow Life: Delayed Maturation and Longevity in Human Evolution.' The plenary was followed by invited lectures including Dr. Changhan David Lee (USC) on mitochondria and aging, Dr. Youngseo Kim (UCLA) on decision-making in smart mobility networks, and Dr. Mark Kim (California Baptist University), who presented emerging work in AI and human-machine systems.

Additional invited talks explored cutting-edge developments in engineering, health sciences, and advanced computational technologies. Dr. Seung-Jae Kim (CBU) discussed rehabilitation engineering and motor learning; Dr. David Daeyoung Lee (CSULB) presented on hypersonic guidance systems and AI–numerical method comparisons; and Dr. Hyun Don Yun (UC Irvine/VA Long Beach) gave an overview of NK-cell–based cancer research. The conference also included dynamic flash talks from emerging scholars, covering topics such as architectural automation, materials science, and biomedical innovations.

The student poster session, held during the morning and lunch hours, showcased innovative research from undergraduate and graduate students across multiple Southern California campuses. The interactive format encouraged dialogue between students, faculty, and industry professionals, strengthening STEM education and mentorship within the community.

The 2026 conference was organized by KSEA-SC leadership, including Chapter President Dr. Bo Y. Park (CSUF). Additional leadership included Vice President Dr. Jiae Lee (CSULB), President-Elect Dr. Helen Jung (California Baptist University), and General Director Dr. Dae Seok Eom (UC Irvine), along with membership and program support from the broader KSEA-SC Executive Committee.

Sponsorship and partnership support were provided by multiple organizations, including the Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Los Angeles and the Korea-US Science Cooperation Center (KUSCO). Their contributions made possible the diverse programming and student support initiatives during the conference.

With more than 130 attendees from faculty, researchers, engineers, students, and industry professionals, the 33rd SWRC successfully advanced KSEA-SC's mission of promoting scientific collaboration, professional development, and community engagement. The conference concluded with poster awards, a raffle drawing, and closing remarks recognizing the efforts of organizers, speakers, volunteers, and student participants. The event once again demonstrated the strength and vibrancy of the Korean-American STEM community in Southern California.

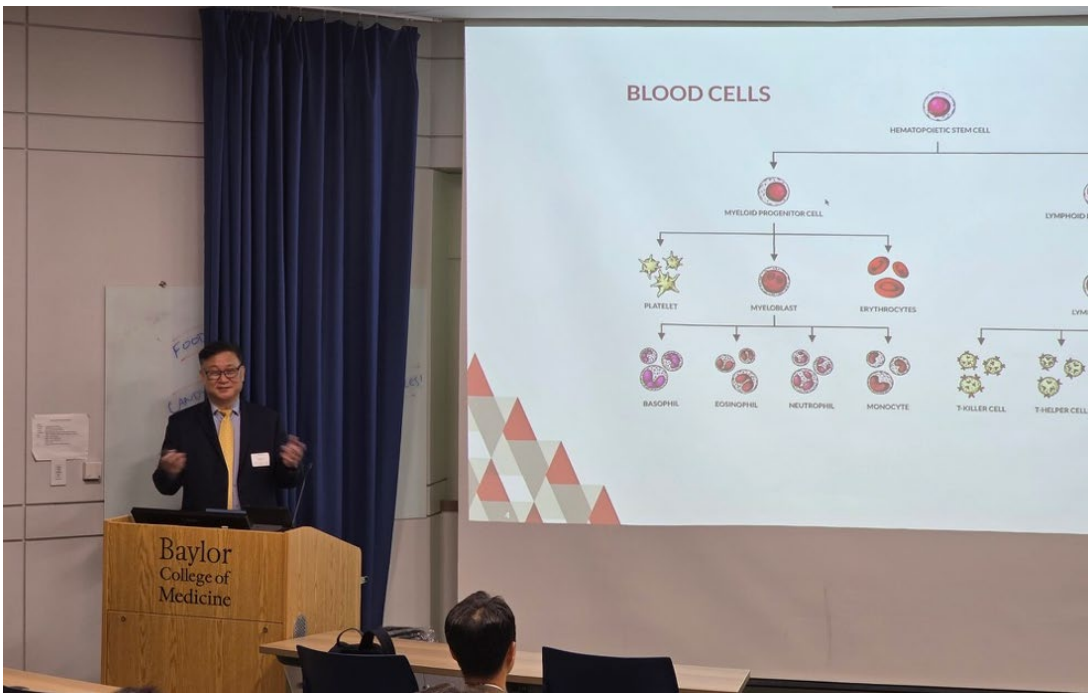
Group photo from the 2026 South-Western Regional Conference at Titan Student Union, California State University, Fullerton.

Western Gulf Coast Regional Conference (WGCRC) 2025

The 2025 KSEA Western Gulf Coast Regional Conference (WGCRC) was successfully held on Saturday, November 15, 2025, at Baylor College of Medicine. This year's conference offered a vibrant platform for Korean American scientists, engineers, and students across the Texas region to gather, exchange cutting-edge research ideas, and strengthen professional networks. More than 100 participants registered for the event, reflecting the growing interest and engagement within the community. From the moment attendees entered the venue, the atmosphere was filled with anticipation and intellectual energy, underscoring the thriving scientific landscape in the Western Gulf Coast region.

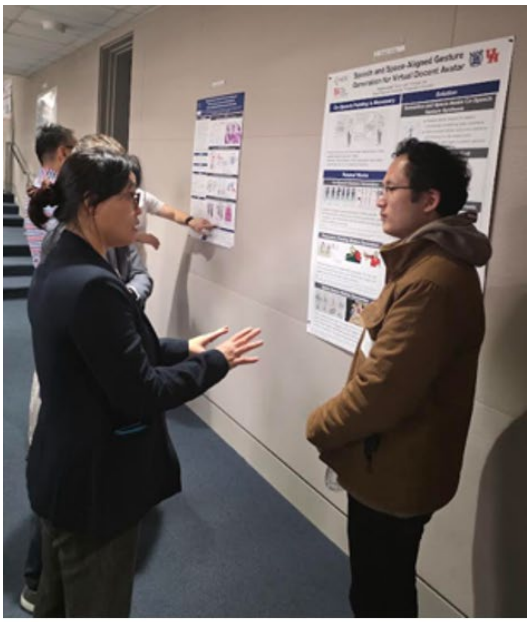
The conference opened with welcoming remarks from Dr. Jung Hwan Kim (UTHealth Houston), President of KSEA-ST. Dr. Kim and Conference Chair Dr. Crystal Shin (Baylor College of Medicine) expressed sincere appreciation for the attendees' participation and emphasized the importance of sustaining active scientific engagement and collaboration within the Korean American community. His remarks set a positive and forward-looking tone for the day's events, highlighting KSEA-ST's commitment to supporting both emerging and established researchers.

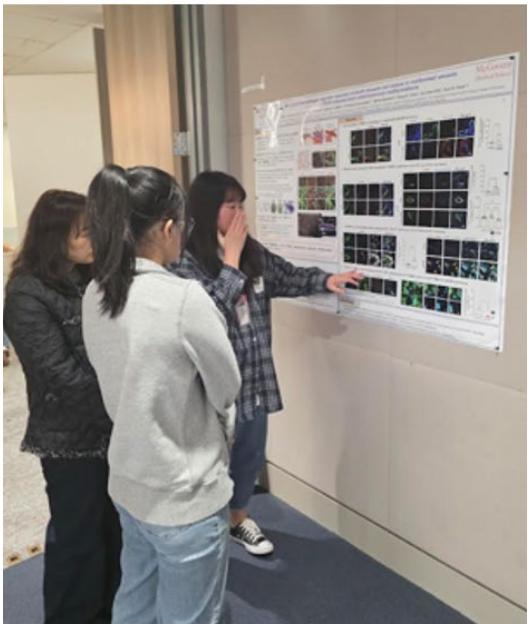
Following the opening address, Vice Consul General Intaek Choi, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in Houston delivered congratulatory remarks. In his speech, he acknowledged the growing impact of Korean scientists and engineers in the United States and introduced an upcoming bio forum designed to foster deeper collaboration between the Texas Medical Center and Korean biomedical institutions. This announcement was met with enthusiasm, signaling new opportunities for international academic and industry partnerships.



The scientific program began with the keynote lecture by Dr. Donghoon Yoon (Associate Professor at University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences; Full member of Winthrop P. Rockefeller Cancer Institute). Dr. Yoon delivered an insightful presentation titled “Can Dietary Calcium Consumption Prevent or Delay Myeloma Onset?” He presented his ongoing investigation of the pathophysiology of multiple myeloma (MM), a B cell cancer characterized by proliferation of malignant plasma cells in the bone marrow, presence of monoclonal serum immunoglobulin, and osteolytic lesions. He presented that MM causes severe lytic bone lesions by enhancing osteoclast activity/suppressing osteoblast activity and the factors of bone metabolism that may influence MM growth. The keynote session drew significant engagement, with numerous attendees expressing appreciation for the clarity and depth of Dr. Yoon’s presentation.

The conference featured an exciting poster session showcasing the work of graduate students and postdoctoral researchers. Presenters engaged in active scientific dialogue with faculty and fellow scientists, receiving thoughtful questions and constructive feedback. Many discussions extended well beyond the scheduled session time, demonstrating the high level of interest and collaborative spirit among participants.





Following the poster session, the panel “Career in Academia and Beyond,” moderated by Dr. Hyuntaek Oh (Baylor College of Medicine), featured insights from four early-stage faculty members: Dr. Junseok Park (Baylor College of Medicine), Dr. Hojong Yoon (MD Anderson), Dr. Dah-eun Chung (Baylor College of Medicine), and Dr. Daeun Shin (University of Houston). The speakers were early-stage faculty and discussed what makes a faculty applicant’s CV and online presence stand out, effective strategies for identifying and targeting faculty job postings, and when candidates should begin preparing key materials such as CVs, research statements, and teaching philosophies. They shared tips on crafting a strong job talk and explained how it differs from a dissertation defense or conference presentation. The panel also compared virtual and onsite interview experiences, offering preparation strategies for each format, and emphasized evaluating departmental culture and overall fit when considering offers. Additional topics included negotiating job packages respectfully, lessons learned from their own job searches, approaches to writing the first grant proposal, building meaningful collaborations, and developing effective mentorship practices while balancing career advancement.

The invited faculty lecture session brought together leading experts from multiple institutions to share advanced research across diverse scientific fields. These sessions broadened the scientific scope of the conference and provided attendees with valuable exposure to multidisciplinary research advancements.

The conference concluded with an awards ceremony recognizing outstanding poster presentations. Winners received certificates and prizes in acknowledgment of their contributions and excellence in scientific communication. A raffle event further contributed to the warm and engaging atmosphere, encouraging participation and community building. To close the official program, Dr. Junghwan Kim (UTHealth) delivered closing remarks, expressing gratitude

to the speakers, organizers, and attendees while emphasizing KSEA-ST's continued commitment to supporting scientific exchange and community development.

Following the formal sessions, attendees gathered for a happy hour at Kirby Ice House. This informal gathering provided an excellent opportunity for participants to continue their discussions in a relaxed setting, build new connections, and strengthen existing professional relationships. Conversations during this time ranged from collaborative research ideas to career advice, reflecting the conference's broader impact beyond its scientific agenda.

Overall, the 2025 WGCRC served as an invaluable forum for promoting collaboration, exchanging innovative ideas, and fostering personal and professional growth within the Korean American scientific community. The success of this year's conference underscores the importance of regional scientific networks, and KSEA-ST remains dedicated to supporting the advancement of Korean and Korean American scientists and engineers through continued programs, events, and collaborative initiatives.

2025 WGCRC Program Committee:

- **Crystal Shin (Baylor College of Medicine)**
- **Euijin Yang (Sam Houston State University)**
- **Eunhee Kim (UTHealth Houston)**
- **Suin Yi (Texas A&M University)**
- **Hyuntaek Oh (Baylor College of Medicine/Menninger)**
- **Kyuin Lee (University of Houston)**
- **Jooyeon Hwang (UTHealth Houston)**
- **JungHwan Kim (UTHealth Houston)**

KSEA-ST Staff:
Jihye Choi, Hyeseung Lee, Dasom Kim, Heeseon Kim, Sunu Kim, YeJin Kim

KOSCA Annual Meeting 2025

The 2025 Korean Society of Criminology in America (KOSCA) Annual Meeting was convened in Washington, D.C., in conjunction with American Society of Criminology (ASC) from November 12–15, with a full day of collaborative sessions on November 13. As an Affiliated Professional Society (APS) of the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA), KOSCA showcased another effort to strengthen interdisciplinary collaboration among Korean-American scholars. This year's annual meeting program blended cutting-edge technology themes, comparative justice issues, and emerging crime trends, reflecting KOSCA's expanding scope and partnerships.

Morning Session: Bridging Technology and Ethics

The morning began with the KOSCA-KICJ Joint Roundtable, titled "*Trust, Limits, Ethics of AI- Based Recidivism Prediction versus Traditional Assessment Tools: A Comparative Analysis.*" This session featured discussants from both organizations, including Dr. Yoori Seong and Dr. Jisun Choi (KICJ), and Dr. Kyung-Shick Choi, Dr. Hyesun Kim, Dr. Jae-Seung Lee, and Dr. Jiseun Sohn (KOSCA). The roundtable generated substantive dialogue among international scholars and practitioners, enabling a rich exchange of perspectives on artificial intelligence and its applications in predictive analysis—particularly in the development and evaluation of risk assessment tools designed to forecast recidivism. Participants examined not only the technological opportunities presented by these tools but also the ethical boundaries, accuracy limitations, transparency requirements, and cultural-context differences that shape their use in the United States and Korea.

The KOSCA–KICJ roundtable session on AI-based risk assessment and recidivism prediction.

Midday Program: Crime in the Digital Age

Following the roundtable, KOSCA hosted a focused panel titled "*Understanding Drug Crime, Crime Reduction, and Delinquency in the Digital Age*." This session provided an important platform for KOSCA outstanding student paper awardees to share research on cryptocurrency- enabled cybercrime, community-oriented policing in rapidly evolving technological environments, and theoretical perspectives on youth delinquency and life-course crime trajectories. The panel highlighted the growing intersections among technology, crime, and community safety, offering multidisciplinary insights from universities across the United States and reinforcing KOSCA's commitment to fostering emerging scholarship in the field.

Afternoon Gatherings: Building Community and Recognizing Excellence

The afternoon program shifted toward organizational development and member engagement, with a particular focus on student and job recruitment. The KOSCA Student Meeting brought together the KOSCA Student Division, representatives from KICJ, and industry partner Liner, an AI-powered research tool company. As KICJ and Liner aimed to connect with and recruit potential future students and collaborators, this session showcased KOSCA's commitment to mentoring the next generation of criminologists while introducing them to innovative research technologies and emerging career pathways.

[From left] President Dr. Woong Seok Jeong (Korean Institute of Criminology and Justice) and Max Chang (Liner).

The KOSCA Annual Meeting followed, providing transparency and strategic direction for the organization. Executive Director Dr. Jae-Seung Lee delivered opening remarks, while Program Chair Dr. Jiseun Sohn facilitated introductions and updates. Congratulatory messages from KICJ leadership (Dr. Woong Seok Jeong) and comprehensive committee reports showcased KOSCA's accomplishments over the past year.

Dr. Jiseun Sohn introducing the special guests at the KOSCA Annual Meeting.

Evening Celebration: Honoring Achievement

The conference concluded with the KOSCA Reception and Award Ceremony, generously sponsored by KSEA, recognizing outstanding contributions from student researchers, junior faculty, and dedicated executive board members. The celebration brought together distinguished guests from KICJ, the Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences (ACJS), Beauty Master, and Liner, creating an atmosphere of collegial celebration and mutual support. These awards not only honored individual excellence but also highlighted KOSCA's expanding network of institutional partnerships and its growing influence within mainstream criminology.

KOSCA students receiving research awards from Chairman Hyoung Gwon Park, the CEO of Beauty Masters.

KOSCA President Dr. Kyung-Shick Choi presenting a special contribution award to lifetime scholarship donor Mr. Hyoung Gwon Park, CEO of Beauty Masters.

Group photo at the end of the 2025 KOSCA Annual Meeting and Reception.

KOSCA’s programming contributed meaningfully to Korean and Korean American scholarly presence in the United States through roundtables, student panels, and the reception. As an APS of KSEA, KOSCA's presence at ASC demonstrated KSEA's mission to provide, in the areas of science, technology, and entrepreneurship, opportunities for international cooperation, career development, and community service, and expanded its positive influence on Korean communities in the United States.

KASSTA Space Science & Technology Workshop 2025

Reported by Eun-Suk Seo (KASSTA President)

Building on the success of the inaugural workshop held at Caltech in December 2024, the Korean-American AeroSpace Science and Technology Association (KASSTA), the Korean Space Science Society (KSSS), and NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL) jointly organized the second international workshop on Space Science and Technology in Jeju, Korea, from October 26 to 29, 2025. Strategically scheduled immediately before the 2025 KSSS Fall Academic Conference and its 43rd Regular General Meeting, the workshop was designed to maximize participation from Korean researchers and expand global engagement in key areas of aerospace science and technology—one of Korea's 12 National Strategic Technologies. A total of 112 scientists and engineers from Korea, the United States, Canada, Germany, and Japan attended—up from approximately 70 participants in 2024—reflecting growing international interest in strengthening research partnerships and technological development.

The workshop opened with registration, followed by an opening ceremony and welcome reception. During the ceremony, the President of KSSS presented Certificates of Appreciation to the President of KASSTA and the JPL representative, recognizing their leadership in advancing international cooperation. On the second day, participants presented current and planned research in the rapidly evolving field of space science and technology. The 24 presentations were grouped into four sessions: (1) Space Telescopes, (2) Astrophysics and Technology, (3) Space Exploration, (4) Heliophysics. Following the presentations, participants visited the Korea Aerospace Administration (KASA)'s Korea Space Weather Center (KSWC) for a technical tour, concluding the day with a group dinner. The third day featured 12 presentations in two sessions: (1) Space Weather, and (2) Space Situational Awareness (SSA), AI, and Quantum Technologies. These sessions were followed by six focus group discussions and two business meetings exploring concrete pathways for collaboration. The fourth day focused on defining missions for each discussion group, followed by presentations summarizing their outcomes. The workshop concluded with the closing ceremony. After lunch, many participants stayed for the KSSS Fall Meeting, where the President of KASSTA delivered a plenary lecture.

Broader Impacts and Strategic Significance

This workshop was a major step in strengthening the US-Korea cooperation in aerospace science and technology. As space becomes an increasingly competitive domain, leadership in advanced technologies brings global recognition and influence. The workshop highlighted how collaboration among leading institutions is essential to addressing emerging challenges and capitalizing on new opportunities. Key areas for future cooperation include space weather, lunar exploration, quantum and laser communication technologies, and astrophysics missions. As the partnership between the US and Korea deepens, both nations are expected to benefit from expanded participation in global space exploration projects and improved efficiency in mission development.

Supporting the Next Generation

The workshop also played a crucial role in cultivating future talent by offering young professionals, early-career researchers, and students opportunities to present their work and build networks. These experiences contribute to a more resilient and innovative scientific ecosystem in both countries. Discussions on initiatives such as KASA's L4 Project and lunar exploration will further align Korea's space strategy with international standards, enhancing global cooperation.

A Foundation for Continued Collaboration

The strategic relationships strengthened during the workshop provide a solid basis for new joint research and technology development. Collaborative discussions—spanning deep space networks, lunar missions, payload development, surface exploration, AI, and quantum technologies—are expected to boost technological competitiveness and support leadership in global space exploration.

Looking Ahead: Third Workshop in 2026

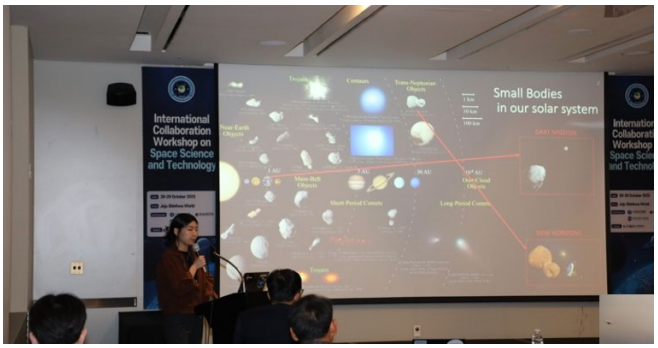
Following the success of this second workshop, KASSTA, KSSS, and JPL plan to hold the third workshop in the United States in October 2026, tentatively at the University of Maryland. Although organizers considered aligning the event with the 2026 US-Korea Conference (UKC) in Florida, scheduling conflicts with the COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Italy prompted a shift to alternative dates and locations. Visit https://kassta.ksea.org for updates.

This ongoing workshop series continues to foster strong partnerships, expand joint research opportunities, and support the shared goal of advancing global space science and technology.

Participant's Reflection on the Workshop

Reported by Yaeji Kim (Postdoctoral Researcher, Astronomy, University of Maryland)

Participating in the KOR–US International Collaboration Workshop was a deeply meaningful and energizing experience. From the welcome reception, seeing familiar faces and feeling the air of Jeju again warmly embracing me, I already sensed that this workshop would be special. Having the opportunity to participate as an invited speaker and share my work on numerical modeling in small bodies science – and to reflect on how this field can connect with future Korea-led space missions, such as large space telescope projects – was especially rewarding. It was personally fulfilling to think that my research area might help broaden future scientific directions for these missions, and I realized that, without this workshop, I might never have pushed myself to explore these ideas in this way.



One of the most impactful parts of the workshop was the panel discussion. I participated in the GD-01 Large Space Telescope session, and it was inspiring to sit alongside researchers with deep experience in U.S. space telescopes such as JWST and HST, as well as emerging leaders shaping Korea's next-generation UVOIR mission. Even though my role in the discussion was mostly to listen, the exchange of ideas – technical, scientific, and even philosophica – made me appreciate how essential these cross-generational and interdisciplinary conversations are. In particular, hearing researchers openly share their firsthand experiences – failures, limitations they encountered, and unexpected challenges they had to overcome – showed me how these stories themselves become valuable research assets when exchanged across communities. Simply being at that table was both humbling and deeply motivating.

Beyond the academic content, one of the most uplifting aspects of the workshop was the sense of personal connection and mentorship. As an early-career researcher navigating many questions about my career path and research direction, I was grateful to meet mentors who had already gone through similar stages. They generously shared not only their research insights but also their personal experiences navigating both the Korean and U.S. research environments – diverse perspectives that resonated deeply with me as I face my own uncertainties. Their encouragement helped me see my future path a little more clearly and made me appreciate that this workshop happened at exactly the right moment for me.

Lastly, one of the most memorable highlights of this workshop was that it took place in Jeju. The delicious food and the landscapes I had missed so much gave me the energy I needed at just the right moments whenever I felt tired or exhausted. I even found my phone filled with an unusually large number of photos of meals and scenery – something that rarely happens at other workshops. With these wonderful memories, I now return to the U.S. and have begun discussing potential collaboration opportunities with the researchers I met there, which is one of the most valuable outcomes I carry forward. I left the workshop feeling not only scientifically enriched but also personally encouraged, equipped with new ideas and new connections. And it made me wonder: where will I be in 2026 or 2027? How much will we have grown by the time we gather again at the next workshop?

SoCal K-Conference 2025

Reported by Jennifer Cho (KASSTA President)

지난 10월 18일 토요일, **LA 옥스포드 호텔(Oxford Hotel)**에서 “2025 SoCal K-Conference” 가 성황리에 개최되었습니다. 130여 명의 참석자들로 행사장은 만석, Full House 를 이뤘고, 뜨거운 관심과 참여 속에 성공적으로 막을 내렸습니다.

• 변화의 시대, 직업의 본질을 묻다

이번 컨퍼런스는 AI로 인한 산업 지형의 변화와 불확실한 국제정세 속에서의 직업의 본질적 변화를 함께 고민해보자는 취지로, 〈“True Shift” - 변화의 시대, 직업(業)의 본질을 다시 묻다〉 라는 주제로 진행되었습니다. 시대의 흐름을 날카롭게 짚어보는 주제답게, 참석자 모두가 “***지금 우리가 어디로 가야 하는가***”라는 질문에 깊이 공감하며 열정적인 연사들의 강연과 질의응답, 그리고 네트워킹의 장이 이어졌습니다.

• 완성도 높은 행사

이번 컨퍼런스는 많은 분들의 세심한 준비와 협력 덕분에 장소, 프로그램, 후원, 그리고 현장 운영까지 모든 면에서 원활하고 수준 높게 진행되었습니다. 포토그래퍼와 비디오그래퍼 등 여러 분야에서 커뮤니티 멤버들이 직접 재능을 나누어 주셔서 한층 더 생동감 있고 의미 있는 행사로 완성되었습니다. 또한 비자 문제로 아쉽게 참석이 불발된 손재권 대표님(JaeKwon Son)께서도 행사 전후로 꾸준히 소통하며 끝까지 큰 관심과 지원을 보내주셨습니다. 현장에는 함께하지 못하셨지만, 그 마음이 행사 전반에 깊은 힘이 되어 주었습니다.

• 감동을 전한 6인의 연사들

이번 컨퍼런스를 더욱 풍성하게 만들어주신 여섯 분의 연사님들께 깊은 감사의 말씀을 전합니다. 각자의 경험과 통찰을 바탕으로 “변화의 시대 속에서의 업(業)”을 다채롭게 풀어주셨습니다.

전계도(Gyedo Jeon) : 디즈니와 드림웍스 등 미국 메이저 스튜디오에서 테크니컬 디렉터로 일하며 쌓은 경험과 필요한 역량을 생생하게 공유

주용재 (Yongjae Chuh) : 투자금 없이 부트스트래핑으로 스타트업을 운영하며 배운 성장의 포인트를 진솔하게 전수

헨리 강 (Henry Kang) : AI 전문가로서 AI의 맹점과 그 속에서 드러나는 인간다움의 가치를 짚어낸 철학적 강연

김그륜 (Gryun Kim) : 직접 제작한 미니 영화 3편을 통해 AI 시대의 인간성과 예술의 본질을 표현한 파격적 프레젠테이션

김형일 (Hyungil Kim) : 웹툰 아메리카스 대표로서 한국과 미국의 직업관 차이, 그리고 ‘업’이 지니는 의미를 통찰력 있게 풀어낸 이야기

셀린 김 (DaHyeu Celine Kim) : K-pop Demon Hunters의 아트 디렉터로서 작품 속에 한국적 아름다움을 녹여낸 여정을 감동적으로 공유

모든 강연이 높은 완성도와 진정성을 보여주며 참가자들의 역시 “**내용이 너무 좋았다**”는 피드백을 주셨습니다.

- 패기 넘친 참가자 1분 자기소개 & 감사한 VIP

연사 세션 후 이어진 1분 자기소개 시간에서는 패기와 개성이 넘치는 참가자들의 소개가 이어지며 엘에이 커뮤니티 특유의 창의적 에너지가 가득했습니다. 또한 자리를 빛내주신 VIP 분들께도 진심으로 감사드립니다.

- 함께 만들어간 의미 있는 하루

이번 컨퍼런스는 SoCal K-Group의 커뮤니티 정신과 전문가 네트워크의 영향력을 높이 평가해 주신 여러 기관과 기업들의 후원으로 함께 만들어졌습니다.보내주신 관심과 성원에 깊이 감사드리며, 앞으로도 로컬 기업, 전문가 단체, 커뮤니티와 함께 성장하는 SoCal K-Group이 되겠습니다. 모두의 열정과 협력으로 완성된 뜻깊은 하루, 함께해주신 모든 분들께 진심으로 감사드립니다. SoCal K-Group, 그리고 우리 커뮤니티의 더 큰 성장을 기대해주세요!






Nevada Chapter Launches with Inaugural Meeting 2026

Reported by Jeongwon Park
Nevada chapter President

The Nevada Chapter of the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA) held its Inaugural Meeting and 2026 Nevada Interdisciplinary Research Symposium on March 7, 2026, at the Science & Engineering Building (SEB) Auditorium at the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV). The event marked a historic milestone for the Korean-American science and engineering community in Nevada, bringing together 31participants (25 KSEA members), including faculty members, researchers, students, and community leaders.

The gathering celebrated the establishment of the KSEA Nevada Chapter, which will officially be formed in 2026 to foster a strong professional network of scientists, engineers, faculty, and students across the state. The chapter aims to connect Nevada's Korean-American STEM community with the broader KSEA network and to promote collaboration among institutions within the Nevada System of Higher Education (NSHE).

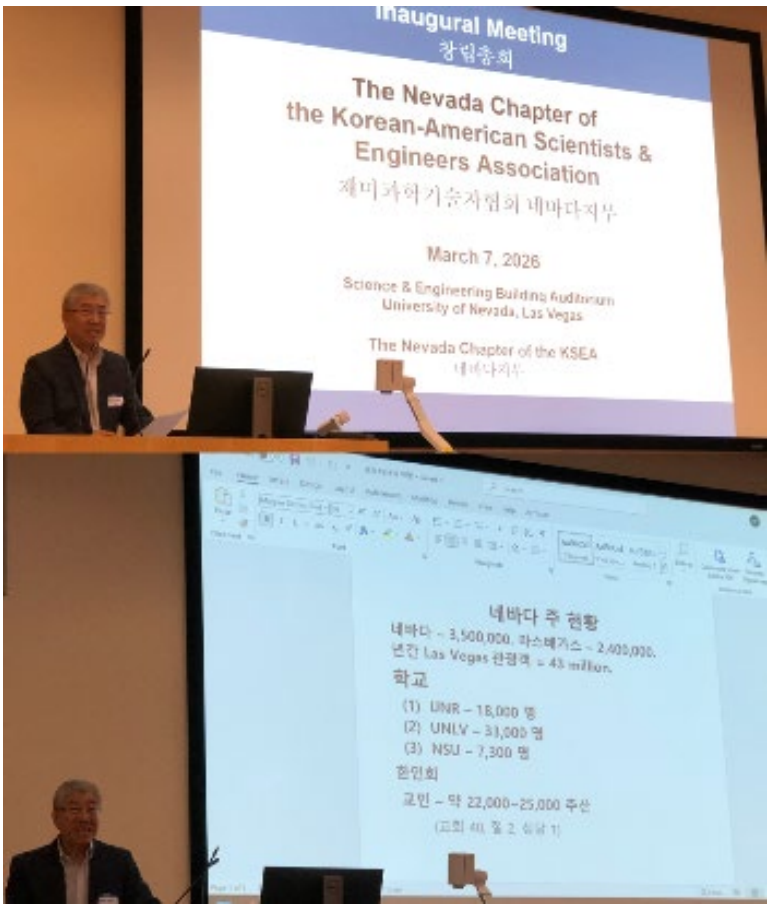
Building a Community of Scientists and Engineers in Nevada
Inaugural Meeting Organizing Committee: Drs. Mira Han, Mingon, Kang, Junyong Kang (UNLV), Drs. Jeongwon Park, Yeongkwon Son (DRI), Hokwon Cho (UNLV, Chair)

Nevada is home to a rapidly growing Korean-American community and an expanding innovation ecosystem. With major research universities such as the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV), University of Nevada, Reno (UNR), Desert Research Institute (DRI), and Nevada State University (NSU), along with community colleges and research institutions across NSHE, the state offers a strong foundation for scientific collaboration and talent development.

The KSEA Nevada Chapter will serve as a regional hub for networking, mentoring, interdisciplinary research collaboration, and professional development, connecting scholars, students, and industry professionals throughout Nevada and the broader KSEA community.

Opening Remarks and Chapter Vision
The inaugural meeting of the Nevada Chapter of the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA-NV) began with opening remarks by Professor Hokwon Cho, Chair of the Inaugural Committee. Professor Cho warmly welcomed participants and expressed his appreciation to the founding members and attendees who helped make the establishment of the Nevada Chapter possible.

In his remarks, Professor Cho reflected on the growth of the Korean academic community in Nevada. When he first joined the University of Nevada, Las Vegas (UNLV) in 1999, there were only about ten Korean faculty members and researchers on campus. Over the past two decades, however, the number of Korean scholars in Nevada has increased significantly, with more than fifty faculty members and researchers now active across institutions, particularly at UNLV and the University of Nevada, Reno (UNR). This remarkable growth created the momentum and the need for a formal organization to connect Korean-American scientists and engineers in the region.



Professor Cho emphasized that the establishment of the KSEA-NV Chapter marks an important milestone in building a strong, sustainable scientific network in Nevada. He highlighted the importance of creating a structured platform where researchers and scholars from diverse fields can exchange ideas, share research opportunities, and foster interdisciplinary collaboration. He also stressed that the chapter's success will depend on the active participation and cooperation of its members.

Following the opening remarks, the inaugural committee introduced the Nevada Chapter's vision and mission. The chapter aims to build a vibrant scientific and professional network that connects researchers, faculty members, students, and professionals across Las Vegas, Reno, and the surrounding areas. Through this network, the chapter seeks to promote academic collaboration, strengthen professional relationships, and support the advancement of Korean-American scientists and engineers.

The committee also presented the chapter's 2026 business plan and long-term development strategy for 2027–2028. The proposed plans focus on expanding membership, strengthening collaboration among universities and research institutions, and establishing programs that support students and early-career researchers. Key initiatives include organizing academic seminars and networking events, developing mentorship opportunities, and creating platforms for information sharing and collaboration.

Through these efforts, the Nevada Chapter of KSEA aims to serve as an important hub for scientific exchange, professional development, and community engagement, while contributing to

KSEA's broader mission of supporting Korean-American scientists and engineers.

Congratulatory Messages from KSEA Leaders
The inaugural meeting featured congratulatory messages from distinguished KSEA leaders who shared insights on the organization's mission and encouraged the development of the Nevada Chapter.

Guest speakers included:
- Dr. Ohbong Kwon (CUNY City Tech)
- Dr. Deok-Ho Kim (Johns Hopkins University)
- Dr. Clara Kim (Boehringer Ingelheim, KSEA Young Generation Director)

The speakers highlighted KSEA's global role in advancing science and engineering, supporting next-generation leaders, and promoting collaboration between academia and industry. They also expressed strong support for the Nevada Chapter's future contributions to the national KSEA network.

Interdisciplinary Research Symposium
The 2026 Nevada Interdisciplinary Research Symposium featured research presentations from faculty and community leaders across multiple disciplines.
Highlights included:
- Mingon Kang (UNLV) – Trustworthy AI for Interdisciplinary Biomedical Research
- Youngjin Cho (UNLV) – Effect-Wise Inference for Smoothing Spline ANOVA on Tensor-Product Sobolev Space
- Ji Yoo and Tina Lee (UNLV / NIHAN / 93x95NV) – Community and Student Pipeline to Nevada Healthcare
- Sungju Moon (Nevada State University) – The Case for Undergraduate Research at a Teaching-Focused University

A featured talk by Professor Jeongwon Park (University of Nevada, Reno) explored "Why Interdisciplinary Research is Shaping the Future of Science and Engineering." The presentation highlighted how emerging challenges—such as AI-driven automation, precision healthcare, and sustainable infrastructure—require cross-disciplinary collaboration to accelerate innovation and maximize societal impact.

Networking and Founding Member Introductions
Participants gathered for a commemorative photo session and a networking luncheon, creating opportunities for meaningful conversations among faculty, researchers, and students.
In the afternoon session, founding members introduced themselves by their research fields, including:
- Computer Science and Engineering
- Mechanical Engineering
- Bioengineering and Biomedical Sciences
- Chemistry and Biochemistry
- Mathematics and Statistics
- Hospitality and Business

Attendees also participated in brief "speed talks," sharing their research interests and exploring potential collaboration opportunities.

Official Declaration of the KSEA Nevada Chapter
At the conclusion of the meeting, participants celebrated the formal declaration establishing the KSEA Nevada Chapter. The announcement recognized the collective efforts of the founding members and affirmed the chapter's mission to:
- Foster collaboration among scientists and engineers in Nevada
- Support mentorship and professional development

- Promote interdisciplinary research and innovation
- Strengthen ties with the national and global KSEA community

The event concluded with closing remarks and a second commemorative group photo.

Looking Ahead

The launch of the KSEA Nevada Chapter represents a significant step forward for Nevada's growing scientific and engineering community. The chapter will play a key role in building connections across institutions, promoting interdisciplinary collaboration, and supporting future leaders in STEM.

The Nevada Chapter also looks forward to contributing to major KSEA initiatives, including preparations for the US–Korea Conference (UKC) 2027, expected to bring global scientific collaboration and engagement to Nevada.

With the enthusiasm and dedication of its founding members, the KSEA Nevada Chapter begins its journey as a vibrant platform for innovation, collaboration, and community building in science and engineering.

The 45th Austin Chapter Seminar

Reported by Hyuna Kim
Publication Director of KSEA Austin TX Chapter

The 45th KSEA Austin Chapter Seminar was held on February 13th, featuring an insightful and engaging talk by Dr. Sunghee Yoon from Erudio Bio titled "***Beyond ChatGPT***". The seminar provided attendees with a thorough look into the rapidly evolving world of artificial intelligence, from core concepts to recent breakthroughs, and explored why AI progress has accelerated so dramatically in recent years.

He guided the audience through the full AI landscape, connecting the technology stack to real-world drivers. He highlighted how advances in computer hardware and platform ecosystems are reshaping markets and fueling massive investment in AI startups. By sharing practical lessons from Silicon Valley's innovation culture and startup-building strategies, he bridged the gap between research and execution. Attendees also learned about AI's transformative impact in biotechnology and pathways for translating cutting-edge research into scalable products.

The seminar drew over 50 participants in person, and the room buzzed with energy during the lively Q&A session, where attendees eagerly discussed AI trends, asked probing questions, and shared their own insights. The dynamic discussions reflected both the community's curiosity and the relevance of the topics covered.

Overall, the 45th KSEA seminar successfully delivered a thought-provoking and forward-looking perspective on AI, leaving participants inspired and reinforcing KSEA's commitment to fostering knowledge-sharing and innovation within the Korean-American scientific community.

Interdisciplinary Research Teams Competition 2026

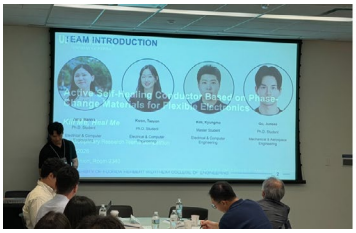
Reported by Jinho Park
Gainesville FL Chapter President

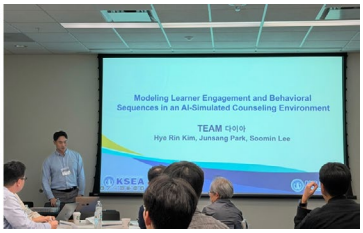
On February 27, 2026, the KSEA Gainesville FL chapter and UF KSEA successfully hosted the Interdisciplinary Research Teams Competition. The event highlighted the academic rigor and collaborative spirit of both graduate and undergraduate researchers, providing a platform for nine diverse teams to present their latest findings across various scientific and engineering disciplines.

The competition was specifically designed to bridge the gap between different academic levels and fields of study. By bringing On February 27, 2026, the KSEA Gainesville FL chapter and UF KSEA successfully hosted the Interdisciplinary Research Teams Competition. The event highlighted the academic rigor and collaborative spirit of both graduate and undergraduate researchers, providing a platform for nine diverse teams to present their latest findings across various scientific and engineering disciplines.

The competition was specifically designed to bridge the gap between different academic levels and fields of study. By bringing together students from various departments and majors, the event encouraged interdisciplinary knowledge-sharing. It provided a valuable opportunity for participants to refine their presentation skills and receive high-level feedback while gaining exposure to advanced research processes.

The event featured a fast-paced "***5-minute pitch***" format followed by a rigorous 2-minute Q&A session for each team. This structure challenged participants to explain complex research clearly and concisely, which is based a vital skill in today's professional scientific community. The nine teams (바나나숲, T.E.A.M, Elecmetal, Bio Girls, 럭스룸메즈, CEM, Kill Me Heal Me, InfoAds, and Diamond) presented a wide array of innovative projects that sparked deep engagement from the audience and judges.





A distinguished panel of four faculty members served as judges, providing expert evaluations and insightful questions that pushed the presenters to think from new perspectives. Following the presentations, the judges offered a collective summary and words of encouragement, emphasizing the importance of interdisciplinary collaboration in research.

Huge congratulations to our winners:

- 1st Place: T.E.A.M
- 2nd Place: 럭스룸메즈
- 3rd Place: Subway
- 4th Place: CEM
- 5th Place: Elecmetal

Beyond the competition, the event served as a vital networking opportunity, strengthening the community among Korean-American scientists and engineers at UF. This event highlighted KSEA's ongoing commitment to fostering academic excellence, mentorship, and the power of community in driving scientific innovation.

We would like to extend a sincere thank you to the judges for their time and expertise (Judges: Drs. Honggyu Kim (Materials Science & Engineering), Sunjae Kim (Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering), Yoonseok Lee (Physics), and Jaeyun Moon (Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering). We also want to give a huge thank you to all the volunteers (especially UF KSEA president Jiin Ryu, KSEA GFC FD Dr. Jinhee Kim, and the UF KSEA leadership team) who worked behind the scenes to ensure the event ran smoothly.

New Jersey Chapter Year Networking Party

The New Year gives us a heartfelt sense of renewal and encourages us to look higher and further ahead. The KSEA New Jersey Chapter deeply values the gathering of generations—sharing the history of Korean-American Scientists and Engineers, from 1971 to the present. This year, we were especially grateful to welcome NJCU exchange students and Rutgers University students, bridging two communities and expanding our collective perspective. It was a wonderful way to begin the New Year. The food was excellent, the conversations were meaningful, and our shared story points toward a bright and promising future.

Although I was not very familiar with KSEA before, this New Year's Gathering became a meaningful opportunity to meet and learn about many outstanding individuals active in diverse fields. It was a valuable time that broadened my perspective on the future and provided new inspiration. I believe this experience will serve as an important turning point in making the rest of my exchange student life more fulfilling. Thank you very much for creating this wonderful opportunity.

- Seo-yeon Ko

Department of Economics, Sejong University, NJCU

This was my second New Year's Networking Dinner Event and on behalf of Rutgers KSEA, I would like to thank all the members who helped arrange the opportunity for our eboard to meet so many amazing people. Hearing Professor Deokho Kim's presentation definitely grabbed so much of our attention; his pursuit in education after his family hardships and accomplishments inspired and moved me. The first speaker, Seong-yong's presentation delivered new information that I, as a student in healthcare, would've never put much thought into. His passion for marketing and discovering new hobbies gave me a new perspective in my daily life. Thank you all so much for the great memories and amazing food!

- Hyunseo (Cathy) Lee, Department of Cell Biology Neuroscience, Rutgers University

Thanks to the KSEA New Year's Gathering, I was able to create unforgettable memories during my exchange student experience. It was incredibly beneficial to meet and communicate with distinguished professors and local Korean students all in one place. Building on the positive energy and motivation I gained today, I will strive to make the most of the rest of my time in the U.S. Thank you once again for inviting me to such a meaningful event.

- Tae-hoon Jang, Department of Mechanical Engineering, Sejong University, NJCU

Attending the KSEA New Year's Gathering was a meaningful and enriching experience that allowed me to gain new perspectives on both my academic path and my future goals. Listening to individuals from diverse fields share their experiences and visions encouraged me to think more deeply about how I want to shape my own journey. As a sophomore, opportunities like this are especially valuable, as they help me feel connected and inspired even in a new environment. I am truly grateful to KSEA for hosting such a thoughtful and impactful event.

- Ginny Kim
Department of Biology, Rutgers University

The KSEA New Year's Gathering was a memorable event that highlighted the strength of community formed through shared identity and intellectual curiosity. It was inspiring to see people from different disciplines come together to exchange ideas and support one another's growth. Through conversations with professors and fellow students, I was able to reflect on my own aspirations and gain motivation to pursue them with greater confidence. I sincerely appreciate the effort that went into organizing such a meaningful gathering.

-Jacob Shin, Department of Computer Science and Mathematics, Rutgers University

Participating in the KSEA New Year's Gathering gave me the opportunity to step back and reflect on where I currently stand and where I hope to go in the future. Hearing real stories from individuals who are actively shaping their careers helped me realize the importance of setting clear goals while remaining open to growth and change. This experience added depth to my student life and left me with lasting motivation. Although I had to leave early, thank you for creating a space that fosters connection, learning, and self-reflection.

- Yeajee Choi, Department of Cell Biology Neuroscience, Rutgers University

It was an honor to be part of the KSEA New Year's Gathering. The event gave me an opportunity to reflect on what I will continue to fill the "blank spaces" of my life with, and whether I have truly been living as an independent thinker. By looking at my past and future self, I was able to rediscover who I am in the present. Just as KSEA brings together diverse fields to envision a new future, I too hope to grow into someone who contributes to society and makes a positive impact on the world. Thank you for providing the first stepping stone on that journey.

- Soo-hyun Kim, Department of Hotel & Tourism Management, Sejong University, NJCU

Thank you so much for inviting me to the KSEA New Year Party and giving me the opportunity to present—it truly made my day. As an exchange student in the U.S., it was a wonderful experience to meet fellow students studying locally and to hear firsthand stories from professors who are actively working here. I hope the KSEA NJ Chapter continues to grow and make a positive impact in New Jersey, where many Korean Americans reside. It would be amazing to see the chapter expand its connections beyond the U.S. and build bridges all the way to Korea.

- Seong-yong Song, Department of Hotel & Tourism Management, Sejong University, NJCU

Thank you very much for inviting me to the KSEA New Year Party. I truly enjoyed a meaningful and enjoyable time. Professor Deokho Kim's presentation was especially impressive—although the field was unfamiliar to me, his engaging explanation made it fascinating and easy to follow. It was also a great opportunity to interact with Rutgers students. Thank you for organizing such a wonderful event and taking such great care of us.

- Seo-yeon Kim Department of Logistics, Inha University, NJCU

The KSEA New Year's Gathering held on January 23, 2026, at Rutgers University was a truly special experience that allowed me to deeply feel a sense of community built upon two shared foundations: science and technology, and our Korean identity. Seeing participants from various fields freely share their visions in one place was both inspiring and impressive. Although my time as an exchange student may pass quickly, I hope to hold onto the energy I gained from this event and revisit it in the future—reflecting on what my vision and goals were at this meaningful moment in my life. Thank you sincerely for inviting me to such a valuable and memorable event.

- Jung-woo Kim, Department of Fine Arts (Painting), Sejong University, NJCU

The KSEA New Year's Gathering made me feel as though I was standing at the starting line of my exchange student journey. I hope this experience will not end as a simple memory, but instead become a moment that helps set the direction for designing my future life. Hearing from people who are forging their own paths across various fields encouraged me to reflect on my own standards and goals. Through this gathering, I hope to make more independent choices and continue building my own path forward.

- Beom-soo Park, Department of Korean Language & Literature, Inha University, NJCU

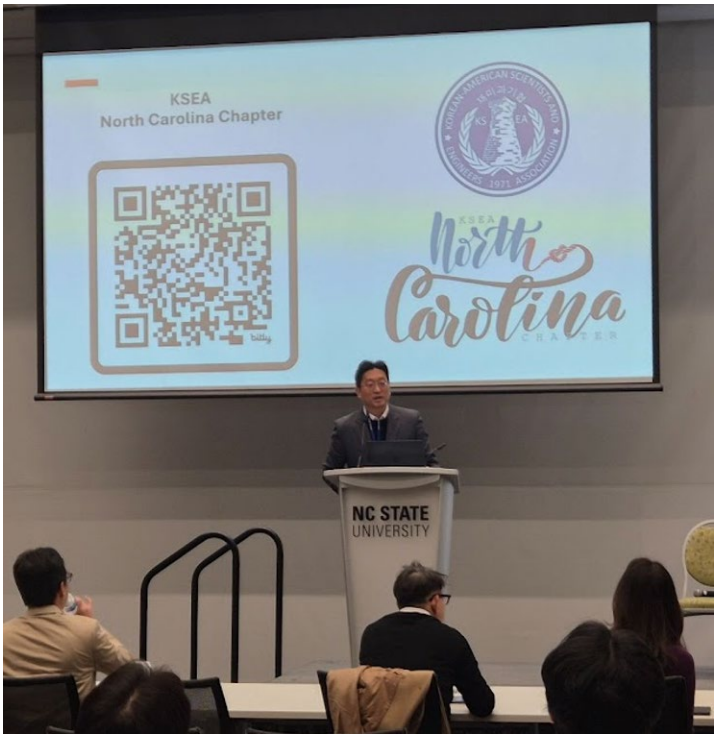
It was a great honor and a meaningful experience to attend the KSEA New Year's Gathering. Listening to advice and learning directly from professors and doctoral researchers who have built expertise and are actively contributing across various fields was truly inspiring. Interacting with Korean students studying at local universities was also memorable. Their clear vision for the future provided me with fresh motivation and encouragement. This valuable experience allowed me to reaffirm my direction during the remainder of my exchange program and to view the world with a broader perspective.

- Hye-rin Jeon
Department of Political Science & International Relations, Inha University, NJCU

The First North Carolina Chapter Industry Connections Symposium

On February 7, 2026, the KSEA North Carolina Chapter successfully launched its inaugural NC RTP Industry Connections Symposium, bringing together 14 mentors and approximately 70 students and postdoctoral scholars for a full day of industry insight, mentorship, and community building.

In 2026, the KSEA North Carolina Chapter proudly introduced a new annual initiative, the KSEA NC Chapter Symposium. Titled “NC RTP Industry Connections,” the inaugural event marked a significant milestone in the chapter’s efforts to strengthen ties among Korean American professionals, scholars, and students across the Research Triangle Park region. Designed as a recurring platform for interdisciplinary exchange, the symposium expanded beyond traditional science and engineering boundaries to include biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, analytics, finance, semiconductors, energy, government, and environmental health. The launch of this event reflects KSEA NC’s long term commitment to fostering a connected and forward looking professional ecosystem in North Carolina.



The program began with opening remarks from KSEA NC Chapter President Sung Ju Kim and Symposium Director Man Ki Yoon, who framed the day around mentorship, curiosity, and proactive engagement. Participants were encouraged to approach the symposium not as passive attendees but as active contributors who would drive discussions. The program overview outlined clear objectives, including connecting industry professionals with aspiring students, exposing participants to diverse career journeys, and creating a structured space for candid dialogue about industry pathways. The atmosphere in the room was energetic, signaling that the day would be both strategic and interactive.

The morning featured rapid mentor introduction sessions conducted in two parts, allowing all fourteen mentors to share five minute snapshots of their professional journeys. Representing thirteen leading organizations including Boehringer Ingelheim, Pfizer, Biogen, The Ritedose Corporation, Qualcomm, Wells Fargo, Syngenta, SAS, Net Power Inc., Renesas Electronics, the North Carolina Department of Transportation, and the National Institute of Environmental Health Sciences, the speakers reflected a broad cross section of the RTP professional landscape.

Each mentor briefly introduced their company, described their current role and scope of work, and shared the arc of their career path. The diversity of experience was striking. Early career professionals spoke about navigating first roles and skill development, mid career leaders reflected on strategic growth and cross functional responsibilities, and senior executives shared insights on leadership, resilience, and long term decision making. Rather than presenting linear success stories, mentors candidly discussed pivots, uncertainties, and lessons learned along the way. This transparency helped demystify industry trajectories and underscored that career progression is rarely a straight line.

The afternoon panel, titled "Building a Successful Industry Career," brought together representatives from technology, biotechnology, pharmaceuticals, analytics, finance, and semiconductor engineering. The discussion moved beyond high level inspiration to address concrete questions students frequently encounter during job searches. Panelists examined common application mistakes, strategies for strengthening resumes and interviews, and the realities of networking and referrals in competitive hiring markets.

The conversation also explored deeper career considerations, including transitions from academia to industry, differences between large corporations and startups, and the mindset shifts required when moving from research focused environments to performance driven business settings. Questions regarding visa sponsorship, permanent residency considerations, and the timing of industry transitions during or after graduate training were addressed with practical nuance. Panelists offered not only advice but also personal reflections on challenges they had navigated, providing participants with grounded perspectives on both opportunity and risk. The tone remained candid, balanced, and solution oriented throughout the session.

Following the panel, the symposium transitioned into a structured skills workshop format designed to translate discussion into actionable guidance. Participants rotated through thirty minute themed sessions at assigned mentor tables, ensuring exposure to multiple perspectives.

The first rotation focused on CV and interview skills, where mentors provided direct feedback on positioning research experience, articulating impact, and communicating transferable skills. Students engaged in focused exchanges about

storytelling, clarity, and aligning experience with employer expectations. Many student participants brought their CVs for mentors for review.

The second rotation centered on networking and career path navigation. Mentors shared strategies for identifying industry opportunities in the RTP region, approaching informational interviews, and cultivating long term professional relationships. The format encouraged small group dialogue, allowing students to ask targeted questions relevant to their individual fields and circumstances.

The final rotation opened the floor for free discussion and networking, creating space for deeper one on one conversations and relationship building.

Throughout lunch and the afternoon sessions, organic networking flourished. Free seating during lunch encouraged cross institutional interaction, while structured table assignments during workshops ensured balanced access to mentors across experience levels and industries. Conversations extended beyond technical qualifications to include leadership development, workplace culture, and long term career planning. The presence of mentors across sectors enabled participants to compare industry norms and broaden their understanding of regional opportunities. Contact information was exchanged, follow up meetings were discussed, and new mentor mentee relationships began to take shape.

The event also highlighted broader KSEA national initiatives and scholarship opportunities, reinforcing pathways for continued engagement within the organization. By integrating local programming with national resources, the symposium underscored the continuity between chapter level activity and KSEA's broader mission.

Post-event survey results demonstrate strong participant satisfaction and reinforce the program's effectiveness. Among twenty-six survey respondents, the average overall satisfaction score was 4.73 out of 5.

Program components received particularly strong evaluations. All respondents expressed satisfaction with the diversity and appropriateness of topics as well as with the venue and facilities. The mentor introduction session and event operations each received 96.2 percent positive ratings. Both the panel discussion and roundtable discussions achieved over 92 percent positive satisfaction. Additionally, 88.5 percent of respondents expressed satisfaction with the diversity of industries and career stages represented among mentors.

Importantly, future engagement indicators were strong. Nearly 89 percent of respondents indicated they would participate again in a similar symposium format, with 38.5 percent stating they would "**definitely attend.**" These findings confirm that the event not only met expectations but generated sustained interest in continued programming.

The success of the first KSEA NC Chapter Symposium represents more than a single well executed event. It signals the beginning of an annual platform dedicated to strengthening interdisciplinary collaboration and mentorship in North Carolina. By intentionally bridging academia, industry, government, and finance, the symposium established a blueprint for sustained community engagement. As KSEA NC continues to expand programming and deepen regional partnerships, the NC RTP Industry Connections Symposium is poised to become a cornerstone initiative that cultivates future leaders while reinforcing the collective strength of the Korean American professional community in the Research Triangle Park region.

New York Metropolitan Chapter “Young Scientists’ Night”

On Friday, October 24, 2025, from 6:00 PM to 9:30 PM, the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA) - New York Metropolitan Chapter (NY Metro Chapter) hosted the "Young Scientists' Night (YSN)" event in Manhattan, New York. The YSN has been the annual flagship event for the NY Metro Chapter since 2017, bringing together passionate and talented young scientists and engineers to network, share ideas, and exchange expertise. One of the purposes of this event was to attract new members, and it successfully recruited 49 new members and membership renewals. The event was a success, featuring a significant number of new members, as well as active participation from both graduate and undergraduate students this year. It also served as a great event to connect returning members with new members and encourage the re-engagement of previous members with KSEA.

The event concluded successfully with 104 participants from various institutions. Among the attendees, 69 held Doctoral Degrees, 26 were graduate students, and 9 were undergraduate students or held Bachelor’s Degrees. Furthermore, 18 of the attendees were from Columbia University, 4 from Stony Brook University, 7 from Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai, and 4 from New York University. In terms of academic backgrounds, 34 of the attendees were from Health/Medical fields, 3 from Physical Sciences, 7 from Math/Statistics, 6 from Engineering, 18 from Life Sciences, and 9 from Finance/ Business.

Upon arrival, attendees had time to network over a buffet-style dinner before the official start of the YSN event, which began with welcoming remarks from Dr. Hyunah Cho, President of the NY Metro Chapter. Distinguished guests included Sungsoo Kim from the Korean Consulate, who delivered opening remarks. Following, Kotra’s Director General, Rakgon Kim gave a welcoming remark and an introduction to Kotra. Sung Park, Attorney at Reed Smith briefly introduced Reed Smith, the venue for the event, as well as presenting his work on FDA law. The program featured guest speakers, including Dr. Kyungpyo So (AtoME Inc.), Dr. Annie Lee (Arbon Corp) and Kihwan Kim (DoctorHere Inc.), who shared their unique founding stories and experiences. Kotra speaker, Wooksang Park, provided attendees with knowledge about career development opportunities in Korea’s advanced industries, linking global talent with Korean innovation initiatives. The guest speakers also took time to answer participants' questions in an in-depth Q&A session. After the event, attendees had further opportunities to network privately. The event concluded with raffle prizes sponsored by KSEA NY Metro Chapter and KSEA HQ.

Participants enjoyed the guest talks and networking sessions, leading to much positive feedback. Moreover, the relationships formed during this event will contribute to the growth and development of the young generation and young professional group. Additionally, the connection between KSEA and the young generation from this event is expected to enhance and strengthen related KSEA events such as KSEA Math and Science Olympiad (KMSO), North Regional Conference (NRC), Y-gnite, US-Korea Conference (UKC), and others. The annual Young Scientist’s Night will continue to grow and improve, becoming an essential event for not only young generations and professionals in New York but also on the east coast and throughout the entire United States.

KSEA NY Metro Chapter Math and Science Olympiad (KMSO)

The KSEA NY Metropolitan Chapter Math and Science Olympiad (KMSO) is dedicated to promoting and nurturing curious young minds in their pursuit of intellectual challenge, helping them discover the joy of science and math, and providing them with mentoring and a sense of community. What makes this Olympiad even more special is that the volunteers are undergraduate students, graduate students, professional engineers, scientists, or professors who can share their experiences and knowledge in their respective fields. Students and parents are encouraged to take advantage of the opportunities provided by the Olympiad, such as speaking with volunteers and guest speakers who are more than willing to provide advice, tips, and words of encouragement.

This year marked the 32nd year of the KMSO. This event has grown through two decades of Korean American history in the tristate New York Community. We sincerely thank LG Electronics USA for over 25 years of dedication to and continuous support for KMSO. This is also supported by KSEA, Korea-US Science Cooperation Center (KUSCO), St. John's University, NYC Government, the Consulate General of Korea in New York, Mara Nanotech USA, KB Park CPA, Dental Lime, Ridge Rehab, and Good Align Foot and Ankle.

We held our event on November 22, 2025, at St. John's University in Queens, NY. A total of 148 students participated in the event chaired by Dr. Hyunah Cho.

Science competition

For science, there are 5 science competitions and 1 special competition group:

- Science Entry Level for Grades 2-3 titled "Frozen" supervised by Min Suk Kang, Hyemin Kim, Minjung Park
- Science General for Grades 4-5 titled "Invisible Builders" supervised by K. Stephen Suh, Ju-Hyun Lee
- Science Physics for Grades 6-7 titled "Energy Swap" supervised by Dong Seob Kim, Taemin Ha
- Science Chemistry for Grades 8-9 titled "Shining Hands" supervised by Junyong Choi
- Science Integrated Science for Grades 10-11 titled "Detective Science: Solving the Mysteries of the Human Body" supervised by HeaYeon Lee, Hoyang An, Young Tae Seo, Minhyeok Choi
- Special competition (Science Poster Presentation) for Grades 10-12 supervised by Chang-Yong Nam

Math competition

The math competition had eight groups of Grades 4-11 chaired by Dr. Jae Ki Lee. The competitions were supervised by Jae Ki Lee, Jounghye Rhi, Juhyun Kim, Jun Ho Shin, Kihoon Lee, Kwang Hyung Kim, Sae Woong Park, Sookyung Kim, Sungeun Choi, Whan Ki Lee

Parents Program

In the 2025 Parent's Program, Min Suk Kang provided parents with general information about parenting in the AI era. The topics that were discussed were “Parenting with Insight: what to know in the AI Era” and “From Trends to the Essence of Knowledge.” We would like parents to know how to parent in this new AI era and how to approach parenting such as what every student should know. In the panel discussions titled "From AI to Innovation: Understanding Tomorrow’s Technology" and “Vibe Coding: Learning to Create with AI”, we would like to give parents a better understanding of how AI is changing our future and how AI is helping us innovate.

Award ceremony

The KMSO 2025 Award ceremony was held on Saturday, December 6, 2025, in KSEA New York Metropolitan Chapter. It was held at the LG Electronics Campus with the support of LG Electronics USA. More than 50 students, 70 parents, and 30 KSEA New York Metropolitan Chapter volunteers attended and enjoyed the ceremony. Chulho Huh, Vice President, Corporate Marketing at LG Electronics, and Seongsoo Kim, Consul at Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in New York, gave congratulatory remarks. Sixty students were awarded merit awards (1st, 2nd, 3rd place, and Commendation), as well as special awards from LG Electronics, KSEA President, St. John’s University President, Consulate General of the Republic of Korea in New York, and Mayor of New York City.

Revives Lunar New Year Tradition

The KSEA NY Metro Chapter proudly hosted its 2026 Lunar New Year Celebration, reviving a cherished chapter tradition once known as "구정의 밤." The event brought together 99 participants, including undergraduate and graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, regular members, and senior members, for an evening that blended cultural heritage, professional networking, and community building.

Originally established in 1977, the NY Metro Chapter has played a significant leadership role within KSEA. In its early years, Lunar New Year gatherings were signature winter events that strengthened bonds among Korean-American scientists and engineers. The 2026 revival of this tradition symbolized both continuity and renewal, honoring the past while energizing the chapter for future growth.

A highlight of the evening was sharing traditional Korean dishes that hold special meaning during the Lunar New Year. Members gathered to enjoy tteokguk (rice cake soup)-a symbolic dish representing new beginnings and the gaining of wisdom in the new year-along with kimchi, japchae, and other beloved Korean foods. Celebrating together far from Korea created a warm and nostalgic atmosphere, reminding members of home while reinforcing a shared cultural identity within the scientific community. For many students and early-career researchers, the event offered a meaningful sense of belonging and connection.

The celebration also served as a highly successful membership drive. With participation across all career stages, the event welcomed new members and encouraged renewals from existing ones. Special membership incentives, including raffle prizes, helped drive strong engagement. The diverse attendance, spanning students, postdoctoral fellows, industry professionals, and senior leaders, demonstrated the strength of KSEA NY Metro Capter as a dynamic, multi-generational network.

During the program, chapter leadership introduced KSEA's mission of empowering members through lifelong networking, mentoring, and leadership development. Attendees were informed about major upcoming initiatives, including:

- Northeast Regional Conference (NRC) – March 14, 2026, at the DoubleTree Hotel in Fort Lee, NJ, under the theme “Science and Technology for Human Potential: Shaping Our World and Beyond.”
- Young Scientists’ Night (YSN)
- KSEA Math and Science Olympiad (KMSO) and Awards Ceremony
- National Mathematics & Science Competition (NMSC)
- Spring Picnic and other community engagement programs

More than a celebration, the Lunar New Year event reaffirmed the importance of in-person connection in strengthening professional and cultural ties. Senior members reflected on the chapter’s early history, while newer members expressed appreciation for a space where scientific ambition and cultural heritage could coexist.

The enthusiastic participation of 99 members underscored the chapter’s renewed momentum and the value of reviving meaningful traditions. By combining cultural celebration, networking, and strategic membership outreach, the 2026 Lunar New Year Celebration marked a strong beginning to the year ahead.

As KSEA continues to expand its national impact, the NY Metro Chapter remains committed to supporting HQ initiatives, cultivating future leaders, and fostering a vibrant, inclusive community.

Orlando Chapter Student Pilot Seminar 2026

Date: February 7, 2026
Location: Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University, Daytona Beach, FL

1. Executive Summary

The 2026 2nd Student Pilot Seminar, jointly hosted by KSEA Orlando, was a resounding success. The event brought together over 120 attendees, including aspiring student pilots, experienced airline captains and first officers, and dedicated volunteers. The seminar provided a unique platform for students to gain critical insights into professional pilot career paths, from building flight time to navigating life as an airline pilot.

A key highlight was the introduction of the KAPA (Korean American Pilot Association) Mentorship Program, establishing a long-term support system for the next generation of Korean-American pilots. The high turnout and enthusiastic engagement reflected the strong need for such mentorship and community-building within this niche field. Other speakers from various US flight schools shared their experience and their expectations when they hire their flight instructors.

2. Event Statistics & Demographics

The seminar saw a strong turnout, successfully connecting students with industry leaders.

- Total Attendees: Approximately 120
- Student Pilots: Approximately 110
- Speakers: 4 Experienced Pilots & Flight Institute Representatives
- Volunteers & Staff: 10

3. Agenda Highlights

The program was designed to address the most pressing questions for student pilots at various stages of their training.

- Building Time towards 1,500 Hours: Insightful sessions on the realities of being a Certified Flight Instructor (CFI) and the pathway through regional airlines (e.g., Republic Airways).
- Life as an Airline Pilot: A comprehensive look at careers in major passenger airlines (Korean Air, Delta) and the cargo sector (UPS), including a specialized track for helicopter pilots.
- Interactive Q&A and Networking: Dedicated time for students to ask direct questions and mingle with captains and first officers, fostering invaluable personal connections.
- KAPA (Korean American Pilot Association) Mentorship Program: Official introduction of the program, pairing students with experienced mentors to guide them through their career journey.

4. Distinguished Speakers & Panelists

We are deeply grateful to the following professionals who shared their time and expertise.

Speakers:

- Welcome and Introduction (5 min) – Jae Um
- Introduction of KSEA (5 min) – Yongho Sohn
- Dong Young Song, KAPA member, Skywest Pilot (30 min)
- Rashid Yahya, CEO, Pacific States Aviation (20 min) via Zoom
- James Hwang, Chief Flight Instructor, Bridgewater State University Flight Training Center (20 min)
- Charles Weigandt, Aviation Science Program Director/Chief Pilot, Austin Peay State University (20 min)
- Photo Time (5 min)
- Networking Time with food (60 min)

5. Student Demographics

The student attendee pool was comprised primarily of students from Florida-based aviation universities.

- Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (ERAU): The majority of student attendees were from the host institution.
- Florida Institute of Technology (FIT): A significant contingent of students traveled from FIT to attend.
- Other Institutions: Students from other flight schools and colleges also participated, demonstrating the event's wider appeal.

6. Key Takeaways & Future Impact

- Clarified Career Pathways: Students gained a realistic understanding of the timeline and challenges involved in moving from a student pilot to a major airline cockpit.
- Mentorship Established: The launch of the KAPA Mentorship Program is a lasting legacy of this seminar, promising ongoing support for students.
- Strengthened Community: The event successfully fostered a sense of community and shared purpose among Korean-American student pilots, who often face unique challenges.

7. Acknowledgment

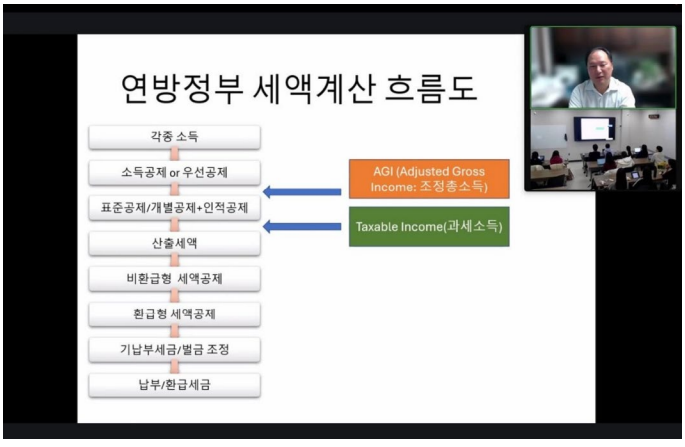
We extend our sincere appreciation to Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University & Florida Institute of Technology Korean Student Associations for providing the venue, our sponsors for their generous support, and the countless volunteers from KSEA Orlando and KAPA whose hard work made this event possible. Most importantly, thank you to the speakers and students for your passion and participation. We look forward to seeing you at future events.

Southern Virginia Chapter Fall Tax Seminar

Reported by Kihyeon Ahn
VT Southern Chapter President

On December 4th, 2025, the Southern Virginia Chapter of KSEA hosted a Tax Seminar featuring guest speaker Mr. Shinwook Yi, CPA, at Virginia Tech's Cheatham Hall, Room 134. The seminar was designed to help international students, visiting scholars, RAs/TAs, and prospective U.S. job seekers gain a practical and accessible understanding of the U.S. tax system. Mr. Yi opened the session by emphasizing that taxes are not merely annual paperwork but an essential part of financial planning for anyone living, studying, or working in the United States. He guided attendees through the fundamentals of U.S. taxation, including filing categories, residency status for tax purposes, deduction opportunities, and key strategies for maximizing tax returns. A central theme of the seminar was "understanding before filing." Mr. Yi explained that many taxpayers lose potential benefits simply because they are unaware of credits and deductions available to them, particularly international students and researchers. By presenting real-world examples and common scenarios encountered by F-1 and J-1 visa holders, he clarified how participants could navigate tax regulations more confidently and avoid common mistakes.

This year's seminar was conducted in a hybrid format, allowing participants to join either in person or online via Zoom. Because the guest speaker delivered his lecture remotely, attendees in the lecture hall engaged with the presentation through a live Zoom session projected on screen. This format made the event more accessible for those unable to travel to campus while still providing an interactive environment for those attending face-to-face. The in-person participants had the opportunity to ask detailed questions, discuss individual concerns, and exchange perspectives directly with Mr. Yi through the Zoom interface. The level of engagement remained high throughout, with students and researchers seeking clarification on fellowship taxation, state–federal filing differences, and tax implications for future employment in the U.S. Following the seminar, attendees enjoyed pizza and refreshments, which opened the door for casual networking among participants. Students, visiting scholars, and early-career professionals shared their experiences navigating U.S. taxes and discussed broader career questions, creating a supportive and collaborative atmosphere. This informal networking time further strengthened the sense of community within the SVA KSEA chapter. Given the strong engagement and positive feedback, the SVA KSEA chapter plans to continue offering practical seminars that support the academic and professional success of the Korean scientific community at Virginia Tech. Photos from the event will be shared along with this article.



Guest speaker Mr. Shinwook Yi, CPA, presenting the Tax Seminar remotely via Zoom.

Attendees listening to the seminar and participating in live discussion from the lecture hall.

Career Development Special Lecture

Reported by Kihyeon Ahn
VT Southern Chapter President

On January 21, 2026, the Southern Virginia Chapter of Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA) hosted the Career Development Special Lecture: Insights from the CEO of DongSung Chemical Co., Ltd. at Virginia Tech, Cheatham Hall, Room 134. This event marked the chapter's first guest lecture of 2026 Spring and was organized as part of its annual membership drive and career development programming.

The lecture welcomed a broad audience of undergraduate students, graduate students, and postdoctoral researchers, reflecting the diverse academic community at Virginia Tech. The event was designed to provide participants with practical and student-relevant career insights, particularly for those exploring future pathways in industry, academia, or leadership roles beyond traditional research positions.

The guest speaker, Manwoo Lee, CEO of DongSung Chemical Co., Ltd., shared his professional journey beginning as a chemical engineering major and evolving through technical, managerial, and executive roles. Drawing on his experience as a former senior executive at BASF in the Asia-Pacific region, Mr. Lee offered a real-world perspective on how technical expertise can be leveraged into broader leadership and strategic responsibilities within global corporations.

A central focus of the lecture was how students and early-career researchers can prepare for long-term career development while still in academic environments. Mr. Lee emphasized that while strong technical foundations are essential, career progression in industry often requires additional competencies such as communication, adaptability, and cross-functional collaboration. These insights resonated strongly with students who are currently balancing academic training with career planning.

Guest speaker Manwoo Lee, CEO of DongSung Chemical Co., Ltd., sharing career insights with undergraduate, graduate, and postdoctoral researchers

Group photo of participants following the Career Development Special Lecture with Manwoo Lee, CEO of DongSung Chemical Co., Ltd., hosted by KSEA Southern Virginia Chapter at Virginia Tech

The Q&A session further highlighted the educational value of the event. Undergraduate students asked about early preparation for industry roles, graduate students raised questions about transitioning from research-focused training to applied careers, and postdoctoral researchers sought advice on positioning themselves for leadership opportunities in industry. The discussion on “Industry vs. Academia” provided participants with a clearer framework for evaluating career options based on individual goals, interests, and long-term aspirations.

Following the lecture, attendees shared pizza and refreshments, creating an informal networking environment that encouraged open conversation among students, postdocs, and KSEA members. This post-lecture interaction allowed participants to reflect on the insights shared, exchange career perspectives, and strengthen connections within the KSEA Southern Virginia community.

Overall, the event delivered meaningful and practical guidance tailored to students and early-career researchers, reinforcing KSEA’s mission to support professional development beyond the classroom and laboratory. Building on the strong engagement and positive feedback, the Southern Virginia Chapter plans to continue hosting career-focused lectures that bridge academic training with real-world industry experience. Photos from the event will be shared along with this article.

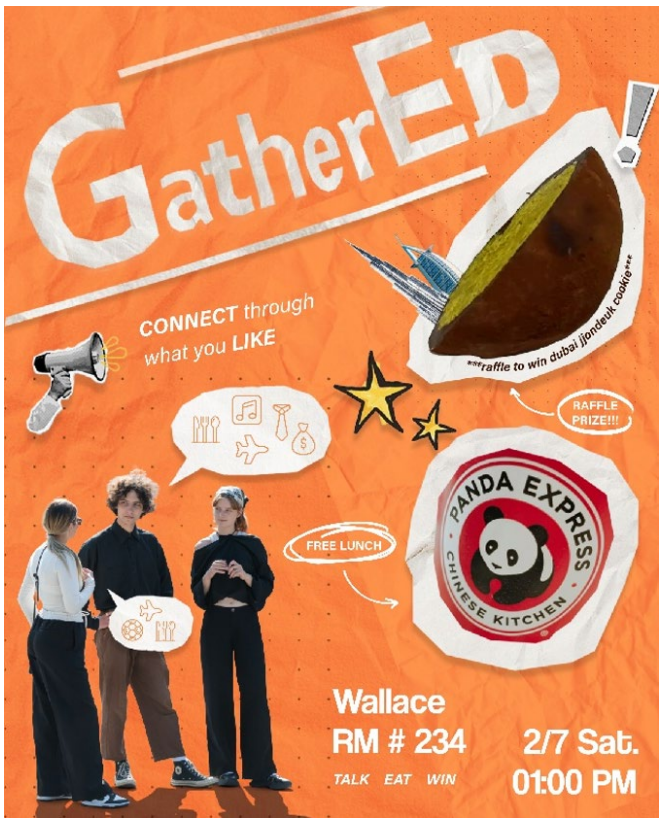
GatherED! – Social Networking Event

Reported by Kihyeon Ahn
VT Southern Chapter President

On February 7, 2026, the Southern Virginia Chapter of the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA) hosted GatherED! – a social networking event at Virginia Tech, Wallace Hall, Room 234. The event was organized as an opportunity to introduce KSEA and strengthen connections among students through an informal, interest-driven networking format.

The event began with an introduction to the KSEA Southern Virginia Chapter, including its mission, role, and objectives within the Virginia Tech community. Participants were also introduced to the chapter's recent and ongoing activities, highlighting KSEA's efforts in career development events, professional networking, and community-building initiatives. This session helped provide context for new participants and reinforced KSEA's presence as a student-led organization supporting academic and professional growth.

Following the introduction, the event transitioned into an interest-based networking session. During registration, participants selected their primary and secondary interests, which were used for group seating and team assignments. Interest categories included Career, Personal Finance, Sports, Movies/TV Shows/Music, Travel/Food, and Open Topics. This structure allowed attendees with similar interests to sit together and engage in conversations that felt relevant and approachable.



Promotional poster for GatherED! – Social Networking Event hosted by the KSEA Southern Virginia Chapter at Virginia Tech.

Attendees enjoying lunch provided by Panda Express while continuing informal networking conversations.

Within these groups, students actively shared experiences, ideas, and perspectives. Discussions ranged from career planning and personal finance strategies to hobbies, travel experiences, and everyday topics. The interest-based format helped reduce the pressure often associated with traditional networking events and encouraged more natural, peer-to-peer interaction.

Lunch was provided by Panda Express, and the networking continued in a relaxed, tea-time–style atmosphere. Participants enjoyed casual conversations over food, further strengthening connections formed earlier in the session. A small giveaway event featuring Dubai-style chewy cookies, a popular dessert from Korea, added to the warm and engaging atmosphere.

Overall, GatherED! successfully combined organizational introduction, community outreach, and social networking into a single cohesive event. The positive response highlighted the effectiveness of pairing KSEA chapter promotion with informal, interest-based interaction. Building on this experience, the KSEA Southern Virginia Chapter plans to continue hosting inclusive events that foster connection, conversation, and a strong sense of community among students.

Participants engaging in interest-based networking discussions during the GatherED! social event.

Introduction to the KSEA Southern Virginia Chapter delivered by Student President Kihyeon Ahn, outlining the chapter's mission and activities.

UT YG STEM Seminar Showcases

Reported by Yeijin Kim
(Vice President of UT YG group)

On November 13, 2025, the Korean-American Scientists and Engineers Association (KSEA) Austin Chapter's Young Generation (YG) group hosted a vibrant and successful UT STEM Seminar at the University of Texas at Austin. The event, held in NHB 1.720, brought together a dynamic audience of researchers, undergraduate and graduate students, and postdoctoral scholars, creating a fantastic platform for members to share their work and spark new collaborations.

The evening showcased the impressive talents of 12 students and postdoctoral researchers from across UT Austin. The topics spanned a wide array of cutting-edge research, including using closed-loop neurostimulation to treat cognitive decline, developing high-energy-density batteries for electric vehicles, using satellite constellation mission planning by optimization, and designing novel drugs for Triple Negative Breast Cancer. Each speaker did a wonderful job of making their complex research accessible, ensuring everyone in the diverse audience could walk away with new insights.

The 3-hour seminar was a huge success, drawing an enthusiastic crowd of over 40 attendees—a diverse mix of 4 undergraduates, around 35 graduate students, and 7 postdoctoral scholars. This blend of perspectives made for lively and enriching discussions. A hallmark of the seminar was its focus on interdisciplinary collaboration. Engaging Q&A sessions after each talk allowed attendees to exchange ideas, discuss challenges, and brainstorm solutions, opening the door for future partnerships. It was also a great experience for the presenters, who gained valuable feedback while practicing how to communicate their findings to a broader audience.

Beyond the fascinating science, the event reinforced the strong sense of community within our KSEA Austin Chapter. It was a perfect opportunity for networking and strengthening professional connections. Many attendees commented on how valuable it was to interact with peers from so many different fields.

As the evening wrapped up, it was clear the seminar had succeeded in fostering intellectual exchange and bridging academic silos. Participants left not only with new knowledge but also with new connections.

The Austin YG group is already planning to build on this momentum, so stay tuned for future events. This seminar was a testament to the power of collaboration in driving research forward, and we look forward to seeing the innovations that grow from the connections made here!