OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION TO KSEA AWARD


His contributions in the transportation engineering field are well recognized nationally and internationally. He received Achiev’t Award from Int. Soc. for Maint. & Rehab. of Trans. Infras (2017), KOFST President’s Award for US-Korea cooperation (2014), Special Awards from Korean Soc. of Road Eng., (2005, 2011), and Professor of the Year Award from Utah Engineers Council (1996).

During his tenure as the KSEA’s 40th president, he was extremely active in raising a significant amount of fund for KSEA. His record-setting fundraising paved way for the future financial security of KSEA. He successfully organized UKC2011 in Park City, Utah by inviting many distinguished speakers with excellent technical and social programs. In Dec. 2012, he also organized the 40th anniversary event at HQ by inviting all KSEA former presidents, NMSC/scholarship winners with their parents and keynote speakers.

Dr. Lee provided an exemplary leadership role as a committee chair in many committee activities. In 2005, he organized the First YGTLC in San Francisco as YG committee chair and dedicated himself to serving as an advisor for the next 10 years. While serving as Election Committee chair, he investigated an election fraud and presented the facts at the 44th Council meeting in 2015. This led KSEA to implement a more secure voting system.

Dr. Lee served as President of KOTAA, KSCEE and iSMARTi and is currently serving on the Board of Trustees of Seoul Institute of Technology. He has also served as a KSEA member for 30 years. His service for KSEA is well recognized.

ENGINEER OF THE YEAR AWARD

Professor Sohn is a Pegasus Professor (since ’16) and a Lockheed Martin Professor of Engineering (’18-’23) at the Department of Materials Science and Engineering at University of Central Florida (UCF). He received his B.S. in Mechanical Engineering (’91) and M.S. in Materials Science and Engineering (’93) from Worcester Polytechnic Institute (WPI). He earned his Ph.D. in Material Science and Engineering from Purdue University (’98). Prior to joining UCF as an Assistant Professor in 2001, he was a Post Doctoral Fellow at the University of Connecticut. At UCF, he was tenured and promoted to an associate professor and a full professor in 2006 and 2010, respectively.

Prof. Sohn’s research has been devoted into two major fields; one in 3D printing alloy development and the other in low-enriched uranium based metallic nuclear fuel alloy development. He is a highly productive, well-recognized researcher and an energetic educator. Professor Sohn published over 180 journal papers that resulted in remarkable numbers in citation. He received NSF CAREER award (’03) and a variety of research support from federal agencies including US ARMY Research Laboratory, US Office of Naval Research, US Department of Energy, US Idaho National Laboratory, National Science Foundation. The individual research funding credited is over $12M. He also supervised to completion 30 M.S. and 13 Ph.D. students in his career, including 2 who are now faculty members in the U.S.

Prof. Sohn has been actively involved and contributed to KSEA over 10 years. Some highlights of his contributions include Chapter president (Florida 2010), Executive Director (2011), Vice President (2014), Auditor (2017-2018: 46th & 47th), Rules Committee member (2012-2015), HAC member (2013-2015), and UKC 2019 Executive Director.
ENTREPRENEUR OF THE YEAR AWARD

Dr. Kim is the Chairman of the Board and the former President of EVS, Inc. located in Eden Prairie, Minnesota, since 1980. He received his BS and MS degrees in Aeronautical Engineering from Seoul National University and University of Minnesota, respectively. With his Ph.D. in Civil Engineering from University of Minnesota, he joined EVS as a consultant and later became the owner and President in 1984.

Under his visionary leadership since then, the company has expanded its markets from environmental to construction and eventually to renewable energy sector. EVS entered the Solar Market in late 2014 and further grew the company until the present when over half of EVS’s work has to do with engineering the Civil and Electrical designs for the U.S. Solar Market. Over the years, EVS has steadily grown into a notable engineering company in Minnesota by being involved in prestigious projects such as the Minnesota Vikings’ U.S. Bank Stadium, the University of Minnesota’s TCF Bank Stadium, and numerous light rail and highway transit projects. Also, EVS has already become a leading player in the U.S. solar energy engineering field.

Dr. Kim is a recipient of a number of awards and honors, including South Korean President Award as an Outstanding Entrepreneur (2014) and Entrepreneur of the Year (2010) by Metropolitan Economic Development Association in Minnesota. He has also been involved in various community and cultural activities. With over 40 years of entrepreneurial experience with various engineering projects, Dr. Kim is highly qualified to receive the Entrepreneur of the Year Award based on his accomplishments as a successful entrepreneur to the community and being a sustainable business leader over many years.

OUTSTANDING CHAPTER AND CHAPTER PRESIDENT AWARD

Chapter President, Dr. Sunkyu Park, currently serving as the second term President of North Carolina Chapter, leads the Chapter to increase its membership from 110 (2017), to 236 (2018), and 223 (2019).

NC chapter has been hosting NMSC every year with a large number of participants. During the last three terms, the NC Chapter has hosted various events and activities based on the needs from the chapter members. Notable events included the Industry visit, New student orientation, The triangle, and Faculty networking night etc. NC chapter actively raised funds locally excluding the support from HQ & KUSCO. The CP and other council members from the chapter attended more than 75% of Council meetings and UKC Activities.

NC Chapter has been maintaining 501c3 status. The chapter also has been promoting YG membership drives at University of North Carolina, Duke University, and North Carolina State University. Thus, NC Chapter is actively supporting YG activities through YG revitalization programs and cooperative programs with neighbor chapters. NC Chapter has not received the same award in the last 5 years.

Overall, NC Chapter and CP Dr. Sunkyu Park are well qualified for the award on the basis of the overall chapter activities and CP Park’s dedicated services to KSEA, particularly as an ED, FD, GD, and various committee members.
Outstanding Community Service Award

Dr. Jaewoo Jeong, Associate Professor at the Miami University, Ohio, served as the Chair of Math Committee to prepare for math problems for grades 4 – 11 from 2010 to 2019. He organized the committee to develop the problems, and made sure problems are properly prepared in a meticulous way and in time for NMSC each year. Such an outstanding service for 10 consecutive years is unprecedented.

As noted by the interim Mathematics Committee Chair in his nomination, Dr. Jeong’s relentless efforts in organizing the committee and conducting all necessary edits and reviews had made each year’s NMSC possible. In addition, he noted that Dr. Jeong personally reviewed and edited all 8 grade tests every single year and these tremendous efforts cannot be emulated by any other.

The committee strongly agrees that KSEA should recognize Dr. Jeong’s leadership and dedicated efforts that have impacted a total of 24,097 cumulative young elementary, middle and high school students over 10 years as the chair and 2 more years as a member of the Mathematics Committee.

Young Generation Leadership Award

Ryuhwa has been a technical project manager at Data Service Company since 2017. She received her MS from Electrical Engineering, University of Southern California, in 2016. She had worked for the Korean Studies Institute at USC as a web developer in 2015-2016. Ryuhwa has provided an outstanding YG leadership and voluntary services for KSEA admins for the last 4 years through various positions such as YGTLC Chair/Co-Chair/Organizer, UKC2018 YGPF Organizer, Publication Director in the 46th and 47th terms (2017-2019), YG Director in the 48th term and YG General Director in the 49th admin.

For YGTLC2020, Ryuhwa implemented the Start-up Competition among KSEA-YG participants along with self-funded Korean participants, which resulted in bridging the relationships between and amongst the US and Korean teams. She took the leadership in increasing the Gala participants by 25%, fundraising for the current and future conferences, and encouraging the co-chairs and organizers to make a harmonious team. She has also contributed to KSEA admins’ activities as Publication and YG Directors for a total of 4 terms. Her leadership for YG activities and her contribution to KSEA admins are well recognized.
KSEA announced one winner for the 2020 KSEA Young Investigator Grant. Winner will be awarded $10,000 honorarium and a grant certificate. Evaluation and selection was conducted by the KSEA Honors and Awards Committee and Technical Group councilors based on review of the submitted application from, technology development plan, reference letter and resume.

After a strict evaluation process by the Honors and Awards Committee, Dr. Joseph Kwon (Texas A&M University) has been selected as the final.

Dr. Joseph Kwon is an Assistant Professor of the Department of Chemical Engineering at the Texas A&M University. He received his B.S. in 2009 from Chemical Engineering at the University of Minnesota, M.S. in 2011 from Electrical Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania, and Ph.D. in 2015 from Chemical and Biomolecular Engineering at the University of California, Los Angeles. He joined the Texas A&M University as an assistant professor upon receiving his doctoral degree.

Professor Kwon’s research is in the area of developing process systems engineering models and frameworks for the analysis, control, and optimization of complex (chemical and biological) systems, especially in the field of oil and gas production. He has received over 1.9 million in external research funding, which includes 2 National Science Foundation, 3 Department of Energy, and 2 industry-funded projects. Professor Kwon is an associate editor of two international journals, and is handling two special issues of two other international journals. He has published 55 peer-reviewed journal articles and 29 peer-reviewed conference proceedings, which resulted in over 746 citations with h-index of 18.

With the KSEA Young Investigator Grant, Prof. Kwon will investigate on “Multiscale modeling of pulp digester for improved renewable resource efficiency.” The research goal of his proposal is to establish multiscale model of pulp digester to capture the evolution of both macroscopic and microscopic phenomena taking place in pulp digester.