

Korean Language Division

Candidate for Assistant Administrator: Jisu Kim

Interestingly enough, I became involved in the Korean Language Division by accident. I was asked by Ji Eun and Vania (listserv moderators and organizers of the first meeting) to keep the minutes at the first Korean Special Interest Group meeting in Seattle in 2005. Since that time, my involvement with the KLD has grown considerably. After that initial meeting in 2005, I was determined to make the KLD an official division of ATA, and I worked with our colleagues to draft bylaws and collect the required signatures that would eventually make the KLD a reality.

I was named Acting Assistant Administrator of the newly approved KLD at the 2006 ATA Conference in New Orleans. I had been working with our Administrator, Vania Hamm, and Steven Bammel, our Secretary/Treasurer, to recruit speakers for the ATA conference, select Nominating Committee members, and deliver a presentation to the East Asian Language joint educational session on behalf of the KLD.

Subsequently, I have been working as acting editor of Hangul Herald, the official newsletter of the Korean Language Division.

As someone who was actively involved in the conception and launch of the KLD, I have a strong interest in its future growth and development. My goals for our division include (1) making the KLD more visible to the general public while maintaining a strong presence within ATA; (2) continuing to recruit dynamic, engaging speakers to make conference presentations to the KLD membership; and (3) to provide basic information and support for new members and advanced training and professional development opportunities for our more experienced members.

Like my accidental step into the KLD, my entry into the interpreting world was also somewhat unexpected. Although I grew up in South Korea and later earned two advanced degrees in the United States, I spent four years in China and Japan before settling permanently in the U.S. After having been asked numerous times over the years to act informally as an interpreter, I realized that this was a career I could make my life, and I haven't looked back since.

I am confident that I can provide strong leadership for the KLD and am asking for your support in electing me Assistant Administrator of the Korean Language Division.

Jisu Kim