

KAERA Winter 2012 Newsletter

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Presidential Greetings

Dear Colleagues,

I am truly honored and humbled for the opportunity to serve as the President of KAERA. I feel so privileged to have worked with all three of the former presidents in my various capacities since the beginning of this organization. They were all great leaders, and I deeply appreciate their leadership and commitment to this organization. Also, during the past three years of service, I was most impressed by a number of our colleagues who stepped forward to serve as Board members, Executive members, committee members, annual meeting volunteers, conference presenters, and more. The success and growth of our organization we enjoy today are fruits of service and hard work they have provided.

KAERA is progressing to expand in its operational capacities and grow in its presence as a recognized organization. With this marvelous opportunity to serve, I will do my best to accomplish the strategic goals and missions I believe are important to our current and future members. Over the past several years, we have been designed and launched many interesting and important activities, including Michael B. Salwen Scholars Program (Dr. Okhee Lee), mentoring service (Dr. Dongbin Kim), KEDI-KAERA symposium, annual conference, to name a few. In addition to these important activities, we are also planning on undertaking some new initiatives this year, which are briefly described below.

Production of a Handbook

As the organization continues to grow and the number of activities/committees/initiatives increases, the current Board and Executive Group members set out to create a handbook, which will serve as a historical archive of our organizational efforts and provide detailed information about the procedures for the numerous initiatives KAERA is undertaking. This handbook is intended to make the organization more systematized and to facilitate transitions of Board and Executive members as they come to understand their role and formalized process for carrying out important activities. The handbook will be updated and reviewed each year by the Board and Executive Group members. The current Executive Group has already started working on

developing a draft of the handbook, which might include KAERA's missions, bylaws, governance, membership, committees, etc.

Fellowship through Social Media—Like our Facebook page!

Building up professional and personal networks among Korean American education researchers is very important, and various social network venues could be used to accomplish this goal. A Facebook group has already been created to promote the fellowship among the current and potential KAERA members. I would encourage all KAERA Facebook users to join the new KAERA Facebook group using the following url: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/kaera2000/>. Also, expansion to Twitter, LinkedIn, and YouTube in the near future may prove to be highly beneficial for broadening our membership.

Membership Outreach Committee

We need to focus on expanding our organization by reaching out to more graduate students and professionals. A new Membership Outreach Committee has been established for the purpose of seeking ways to increase public awareness and recruit potential members through various channels and networks. Dr. Mi-Hwa Park at Murray State University has graciously agreed to serve as the chair of the committee, and three other committee members include Dr. Yeon Sun Ro at University of Memphis, Dr. Jung-In Kim at University of Colorado Denver, and Eunhee Cho (a student member) at Texas A&M University.

Online Payment of Membership Dues

Several improvement plans have been put in place to vitalize the KAERA website, which I think is critical to the success of our organization. The communication director, Dr. Nam-Hwa Kang and the webmaster, Seungoh Paek, will take the lead to implement these initiatives. One of the plans is the utilization of an online payment. Beginning late this fall, members will have an option to pay their membership dues or donation using a credit card through a secure online payment service, PayPal, which will soon be available on the KAERA website. I can anticipate that this online payment service will provide members with great convenience in paying dues and will also promote donations.

IRS Tax Exempt Status

Previous presidents and Executive Groups have invested concerted efforts to ensure that KAERA operate as a tax-exempt organization. As a result, I am very pleased to inform that, effective of May 30, 2012, KAERA was approved by IRS as an 501(c)(6) entity. This means that our organization is exempt from federal income tax, which would allow room for financial flexibility. This is great news! However, with the 501(c)(6) status, individual donors cannot deduct their donations in their tax return. Another IRS category, 501(c)(3), would allow individual donors to be exempt from tax for their donations to the organization. So I think it is worth pursuing further the 501(c)(3) status because it eases the tax burden on our generous donors and also many other organizations similar to KAERA are classified in the 501(c)(3) category. Application for the 501(c)(3) status requires intensive work on revisiting our goals, missions, and activities to meet the IRS criteria. The current Board and Executive Group are in the process of developing a strategic plan that guides and informs the IRS application for the 501(c)(3) status.

KAERA Representative in Korea

One of the key initiatives discussed by the previous Board was to appoint a KAERA representative in Korea (KRK). I am very proud to report that Dr. Mimi Bong at Korea University has agreed to serve as the KRK this year. The Board and Executive Group will work closely together with Dr. Bong to enhance communication between the members in US and Korea, to develop strategies for expansion of KAERA membership to scholars and professionals in Korea, and to collaboratively engage in transnational dialog in advancing our vision.

I look forward to working with all of you on all these interesting projects, and I am thrilled to be teamed with such wonderful colleagues to move forward in making difference!

Sincerely,

Won-Chan Lee
President
KAERA

2012 Michael B. Salwen Scholars Program

As part of its efforts to support the intellectual development of members, the KAERA Scholars Program Committee selected six scholars who demonstrated that: (a) their research and scholarship will contribute to the knowledge base in their fields and (b) their work will contribute to achieving the mission and goals of KAERA (see the KAERA website, www.k-aera.org). Congratulations to our first cohort of 2012 Michael B. Salwen Scholars Program Recipients!:

Ji Y. Hong
Sahoon Kim
Junghwan Kim
Soojin Oh
Yoon Soo Park
Minjung Ryu

We are now accepting applications for the 2013 year. Please visit the announcement page on our website <http://www.k-aera.org/announcement/> to download the application form and learn more about the submission process. The application deadline is December 15, 2012.

**CALL FOR APPLICATION FOR
KOREAN-AMERICAN EDUCATIONAL RESEARCHERS ASSOCIATION (KAERA)
MICHAEL B. SALWEN SCHOLARS PROGRAM**

APPLICATION DEADLINE: DECEMBER 15, 2012

Purpose

As part of its efforts to broaden membership, Korean-American Educational Research Association offers the Michael B. Salwen Scholars Program to support travel expenses for doctoral students, postdoctoral fellows, or junior faculty. It is more than a financial stipend. This Program intends to intellectually support the development of Scholars' research as well as professional mentoring and network opportunities. To help Scholars craft questions, strengthen theoretical frameworks, and improve research skills, Scholars are required to participate in the AERA/NCME conference and the KAERA meeting at which their scholarships will be recognized.

Scholarships

A maximum of seven awards are offered in the amount of \$700 each to defray expenses in attending the 2013 KAERA meeting as well as the 2013 AERA/NCME conference. Scholars will receive a stipend to be used for conference-related expenses, which may include the conference registration fee, air travel, hotel accommodations/lodging, and ground transportation.

Eligibility

An applicant should meet the following criteria:

1. Member of KAERA (i.e., applicants must have paid KAERA membership fee at the time of application submission);
2. Doctoral student or junior scholar within 6 years of completion of doctoral degree; and
3. Agreement to participate in the KAERA meeting and the AERA/NCME conference.

Application

Information about this KAERA Scholars Program, along with the application form, is available on the KAERA website (www.k-aera.org). Applicants must include the following in the application: (a) the application form, (b) a vita, and (c) a 2-4-page, double-spaced statement of research interests.

Please combine these three application materials into one Word or PDF file. Submit your document electronically to the Co-chairs of the KAERA Scholars Program Committee no later than December 15, 2012:

Professor Mikyong Minsun Kim (The George Washington University, kimmi@gwu.edu)

Professor Okhee Lee (New York University, olee@nyu.edu)

It is the responsibility of the applicant to ensure that the application is complete and that it has been received by the due date. Please prepare to submit within a reasonable timeframe to avoid the application not being received because of technical issues with e-mail communications. The Co-chairs will notify the applicant electronically when the application is received. Please keep the e-mail communication from the Co-chairs for your records.

Selection

The KAERA Scholars Program Committee will select Scholars based on the academic merits and financial needs of applicants. Selection will favor those who demonstrate that: (a) their research and scholarship will contribute to the knowledge base in their fields and (b) their work will contribute to achieving the mission and goals of KAERA (see the KAERA website, www.k-era.org). These points should be addressed in the statement of research interests. Selection will also favor those who will present their research at the 2013 AERA/NCME/KAERA conference.

KAERA Mentoring Service Update

KAERA is committed to assisting its members' academic and professional pursuits. To provide its members the opportunity to develop with the support of KAERA community, KAERA offers mentoring services for all educational researchers, particularly for graduate students and junior researchers/faculty members. For the year of 2012-2013, twenty-two KAERA members agreed to serve as a mentor and seek to share their professional expertise and experiences with potential mentees. KAERA strongly encourages its members to take advantage of this professional service and to use it as a springboard for forging future research collaborations and partnership with other KAERA members.

If you would like to have a mentor/mentee match up service, please visit KAERA website for mentee registration. Mentor/mentee match up service is open to all KAERA members. If you have any questions, please contact KAERA General Administrator and Mentoring Committee Chair, Dr. Dongbin Kim via email dbkim@ku.edu.

2012 KAERA Annual Conference

Workshop

As part of the annual conference, Korean-American Educational Researchers Association (KAERA) hosted the workshop and panel discussions during the week of the 2012 AERA meeting in Vancouver, Canada. The workshop consisted of a roundtable session led by three researchers who were selected to present their research during concurrently occurring and topically organized discussions. Roundtable session presenters include Jungin Kim (University of Colorado, Denver), Kawngjong Park (University of New Mexico), Seonsook Park (New Mexico Highlands University), and Eunjin Hwang (Southern Illinois University at Carbondale).

These roundtable discussions were followed by three panel discussions on critical issues relevant to graduate students, researchers, and junior faculty members. Panelists include Taewan Kim (President of Korean Education Development Institute), Jenny J. Lee (Associate professor, University of Arizona), Kyunghwa Lee (Associate professor, University of Georgia), Jaekyung Lee (Professor, SUNY Buffalo), Jihyun Kim (Doctoral Student, University of Maryland), Simon Kim (Professor, California State University, Long Beach), Soojin Oh (Doctoral Student, Harvard University), Grace Cho (Professor, California State University, Fullerton), Kwangsuk Yoon (Principal Research Scientist, AIR), Jaehoon Lim (Associate professor, University of North Carolina, Charlotte), and Namhwa Kang (Associate professor, Korea National University of Education).

We had a broad representation of graduate students, postdoctoral fellows, education researchers, junior and senior faculty members in attendance. KAERA believes that the conference/workshop session helped promote interdisciplinary conversations among Korean/Korean American researchers representing a wide range of backgrounds, institutions, and disciplines in the field of education. With this, KAERA aspires to build a strong community of Korean/Korean American education researchers and make a significant contribution to the field of education.

Business Meeting

The Korean-American Educational Researchers Association (KAERA) held the annual Business Meeting (Sunday, April 15, 2012 7PM-10PM) at the Vancouver convention Center, Room 202-203 during the week of the 2012 AERA convention. The business meeting began with an introductory welcome remark by Dr. Won-Chan Lee (University of Iowa, KAERA incoming President for 2012-2013) followed by an invited speech by Dr. Taewan Kim, President of Korean Educational Development Institute (KEDI), and a presidential address by Dr. Mikyung Minsun Kim (George Washington University, KAERA outgoing president). During the meeting, the KAERA's executive team shared a business report for the past academic year of 2011-2012 and presented six graduate student travel awards and six recognitions for those who made significant contribution to the organization. New KAERA members were introduced and welcomed as well. After the introduction of new KAERA executive leadership team, a brief member feedback session was led by Dr. Mikyung Minsun Kim. About 100 members from the United States and Korea attended the business meeting and subsequent reception and celebrated the continuing growth of the organization.

All the photos from the events can be viewed on our website: <http://www.k-aera.org/annual-meeting/gallery/>

Third Annual KAERA-KEDI Joint Symposium: An Interview with Dr. Won-Chan Lee

Soojin Oh: **What was the main theme of the joint symposium?**

Won-Chan Lee: This past joint symposium focused on behavior problems and school violence in U.S. and Korea.

Soojin Oh: **Who were the audience in attendance?**

Won-Chan Lee: Those in attendance represented a diverse range of professional affiliations across the field of educational research and practice in Korea. I definitely noticed many of the supporting staff from KEDI, KAERA representatives, university faculty and students, K-12 school-based practitioners, media personnel, and a few representatives from policy circles. More interestingly, KEDI broadcasted live streaming video to reach a broader audience. I'd be curious to know who our virtual audience were!

Soojin Oh: **What were some key concerns and issues regarding school violence and bullying that presenters from Korea raised during session?**

Won-Chan Lee: Though I am not the expert in these particular areas of research, I learned that bullying has been an ongoing issue that demands an urgent response for resolution. Issues related to school violence have escalated in recent years and many practitioners and policymakers alike are searching for urgent means to ensure safe emotional climate in classrooms. KEDI presenters also presented their analysis of student survey data and stressed the importance of having streamlined institutional support in place to promote positive school adjustment.

Soojin Oh: **What were some similarities and differences between issues raised by Korean researchers and presenters from the U.S.?**

Won-Chan Lee: During the panel following the series of presentations, we had an interesting conversation about what constitutes school violence and various ways to define and detect signs of bullying. Due to a wide-ranging collection of presentations, I did not expect these perspectives to reach points of convergence that can speak across findings presented by researchers from both Korea and U.S. However, the presenters along with the audience came to a resounding agreement that school violence cannot be addressed in isolation. This is not something schools should be left alone to deal with. Widespread prevalence of bullying in U.S. and Korea reflect deeper social ills of our times to some degree. This is a responsibility that demands authentic partnership and joint efforts amongst youth, parents, teachers, school administrators, neighbors, community organizations, government agencies, researchers, and policymakers.

Soojin Oh: **In your opinion, how has the ongoing collaboration between KEDI and KAERA served a critical role in advancing the mission of KAERA?**

Won-Chan Lee: Wow, where can I start? As Korean-American scholar primarily conducting research in U.S., I strongly feel that these annual symposia provide the necessary

foundation for forging and solidifying the trans-pacific connection between two worlds all our KAERA members belong to and identify with. It is a privilege to partake in such opportunities to participate in dissemination of knowledge that hopefully can ultimately serve our children. The symposium provided a unique opportunity for me to thrive as a scholar where I can bring my fullest self and learn how better I can be of service to my communities in U.S. and Korea.

Soojin Oh: **When will we announce the theme for the next year's symposium?**

Won-Chan Lee: Steering committee from KEDI has been primarily responsible for identify most urgent issues affect the educational system and schooling experiences of students in Korea. I believe we will touch base sometime in February to begin our conversation about the potential themes for the upcoming symposium and strategies for recruiting and assembling scholars whose areas of expertise can further contribute to translating rigorous research that can inform educational policy and practice to better serve young people in both U.S. and Korea.

Member Kudos and Announcements!

Awards

Junghwan Kim has received a Ph.D. in Adult Education at the Penn State and will be teaching graduate-level courses for doctoral students at his alma mater as an instructor. His dissertation title is "*Learning for social justice: A cultural historical activity theory analysis of community leadership empowerment in a Korean American community organization*". In June, his paper based on part of the dissertation study (Paper title: Empowering community leadership and learning for immigrant rights: A cultural-historical activity theory investigation of an urban Korean American community organization) received **Outstanding Graduate Student Research Award** at the 53rd Annual Adult Education Research Conference. Congratulations Dr. Kim on your new appointment and receiving the award!

Dr. Yeon Sun (Ellie) Ro is an assistant professor in Early Childhood Education at the University of Memphis. She received a distinguished dissertation award from Division G of 2012 AERA. Kudos to Dr. Ellie Ro!

Dr. Hosun Kang is an associate researcher in Science Education at University of Washington. She received a distinguished dissertation award from Division K of 2012 AERA. Congratulations on receiving this prestigious recognition!

Academic Appointment, Promotion, and Tenure

Dr. Grace Cho who is working at California State University, Fullerton was promoted to a full professor and will be chairing her department in the fall 2012. Congratulations!

Dr. Jae Hoon Lim who is working at the University of North Carolina, Charlotte was promoted to Associate Professor with tenure in July, 2012. Congratulations!

Dr. Yoonjung Choi accepted a new faculty position as an assistant professor of education at the University of Main at Farmington. She received a Ph.D. in Social Studies Education from Columbia University in Spring 2012. Congratulations!

Dr. Seungoh Paek accepted a new faculty position as an assistant professor of educational technology at the University of Hawaii. She received a Ph. D. from Columbia University in summer 2012. Congratulations!