

Gwangju Institute of Science and Technology

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GIST is a new paradigm for global science and technology education with the success of a GIST College graduate from the inaugural class of 2010

GIST (President Kiseon Kim) – GIST College graduate Sangjun Lee
from the inaugural class of 2010 has published a paper in the world-
renowned scientific journal Nature * as the first-author along with
Caltech Professor Yuki Oka as the corresponding author. After
graduating GIST College in 2014, Sangjun Lee attended graduate
school at Caltech.

The research undertaken by Sangjun Lee at Caltech has identified
nerve cells in the brain that controls sodium intake as well as the urge
to consume sodium. This research will help identify the biological
mechanisms of how chemical senses such as taste interact with the
brain by understanding the particular bio-mechanism.

Sangjun Lee said, "My experiences of participating in international
exchange programs at GIST College was a decisive factor that allowed
me to thrive as a successful student at Caltech. In my first year at
GIST College, I attended the UC Berkeley summer session, which

^{*} The paper entitled "Chemosensory modulation of neural circuits for sodium appetite" was published in *Nature* on March 27, 2019.

broadened my global perspectives. In my second year, I enrolled in an intensive short-term biology course offered by Caltech Professor Rob Phillips. Then, in my fourth year, I attended the GIST-Caltech Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (SURF) program, which allowed me to go to Caltech and work with many researchers in the United States."

• Sangjun Lee continues by saying, "My education at GIST College was the best preparation in allowing me successfully perform research at Caltech. GIST College emphasizes real-world research experiences instead of just relying on textbooks, and the intimate campus environment with a student faculty ratio of 10:1 allowed me develop strong relationships with my professors while participating in various student clubs and activities. The educational environment of GIST College creates an unparalleled opportunity to communicate and collaborate with others."

□ GIST Professor Steve K. Cho (School of Life Sciences) said, "Having mentored Sangjun Lee from when he first entered GIST College in 2010, I remember him as an impressive student who was passionate about studying life sciences. However, his academic potential really blossomed when he embraced the GIST educational philosophy of 3C1P: creativity, cooperation, communication, and problem-solving. Sangjun Lee is a perfect example of the excellent students and researchers that can be produced from GIST College's unique and globally inspired undergraduate program. I hope that GIST College can continue this tradition to produce such outstanding graduates as Sangjun Lee well into the foreseeable future."

□ Beginning with a master's and doctorate program in 1995, GIST started an undergraduate program fifteen years later in 2010. Despite this relatively short history, GIST College was able to distinguish itself from other Korean universities by successfully pursuing various international exchange programs with renowned universities from around the world, such as UC Berkeley.

- In particular, GIST, along with MIT, has been promoting substantial exchanges in the field of education and research with Caltech, which is the world's top university in the field of science and engineering. GIST College is the only university in Asia that participates and sends students to Caltech's SURF program. In 2012, Caltech President Jean-Lou Chameau visited GIST to sign an MoU, and he received an honorary doctorate from GIST.
- □ GIST has been ranked in the top 3 for the last four years in the QS World University Rankings for "citations per faculty," which demonstrates the academic ability and research capacity of an institution. GIST has also received high evaluation from the Ministry of Science and ICT in entrepreneurship support and entrepreneurship education. GIST was also ranked first in the entrepreneurial index for the second consecutive year.
 - GIST is striving to lead innovative economic growth for Gwangju and the Jeonnam region through the development of the 4th Industrial Revolution and artificial intelligence.

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