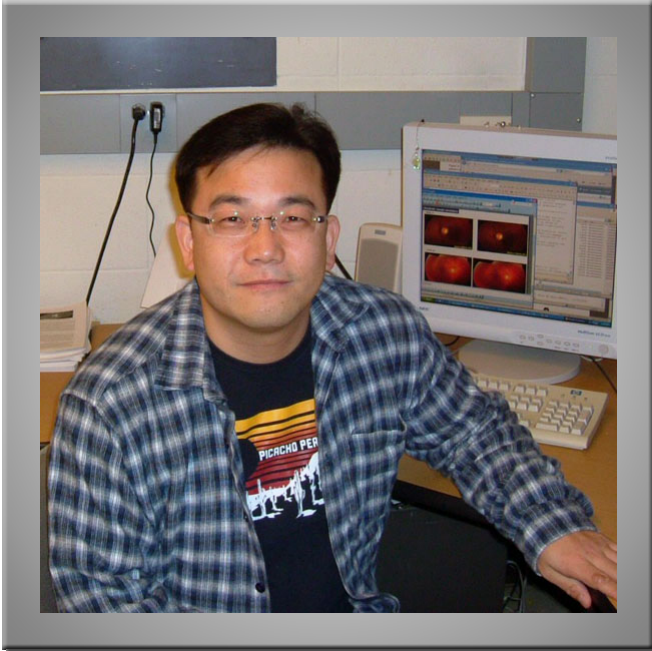


# Graduate Student Spotlight



*Sangyeol Lee*

**PhD - Biomedical Engineering**

*ME, Electrical and Computer Engineering -  
Kyungpook National University*

**Winner of 1st Place in the Math, Physical, &  
Engineering Sciences Division at the 2007  
James F. Jakobsen Graduate Conference**

**Please describe your thesis project in a short sentence.**

*Medical image processing algorithm development for ophthalmologic application*

**How did you decide to go to graduate school?**

*I had been working in a research institute with master's degree for five years in Korea, but I would feel short of my capability in the aspect of independent research and catching up with state-of-the-art technology. I wanted to train myself so I can be an independent researcher rather than a worker.*

**What made you decide to go to graduate school at Iowa?**

*To meet my research interest in medical image processing, Iowa was the best choice at the moment of application, and I confirmed that my decision was right during the last three years in Iowa. I cannot imagine better environment from other schools than the large and diverse group to consist of IIBI (The Iowa Institute for Biomedical Imaging) at Iowa. A lot of previous research products, high-computing system, and world-class faculty in medical imaging are always ready to answer my question.*

**How has being a graduate student at Iowa prepared you to achieve those goals?**

*Expecting and being prepared for the upcoming issues as early as possible has been my primary strategy at Iowa. I think it has been working here and will work for my future career.*

**What are your long-term goals beyond your graduate degree?**

*I think an independent researcher in the Engineering field should be able to foresee the future as like an astrologer, which seems pretty interesting and often adventurous. Wherever I work in the future, it is okay only if I can work with such a thrill of walking through a completely dark pathway to find even a small light which may help others coming after me.*

**You are a winner of one of the top awards at the Jakobsen Conference in a previous year. What did you enjoy most about the Jakobsen Conference experience?**

*During my presentation, I could meet many students from diverse departments. They gave me a lot of interesting questions and comments that I could not get from other conference which is for those who have similar background and research interests. The special events in the conference evening as well as free dinner were also awesome.*

**What are some of your interests outside of school?**

*How to make a good father and husband.*

**Are there any particular challenges you've faced as a graduate student at Iowa?**

*As an international student, it is always challenging to discuss research questions in English. Even though my advisor is the person who interprets my poor English in the world, I had to struggle with English all the time at Iowa.*

**Hometown:** Daegu, South Korea

**Advisor:** Joseph M. Reinhardt

**Do you have a particular mentor who has played an important role in the development of your thesis or your career trajectory?**

*I have been working for Dr. Abramoff in the Ophthalmology as a research assistant. But for his encouragement and amazing energy, I could not have done anything in Iowa. I also appreciate Professor Lim in BME who told me how to make my life and showed in person how to survive in a foreign country as a professional.*

**Please note any significant honors you've received .**

*The second place popular choice award, the 5th Engineering Research Open House, The University of Iowa, April, 2007, Honorable mention poster award, SPIE Conf. Medical Imaging, San Diego, CA, Feb. 2007, Defense science contribution award, Agency for Defense Development, South Korea, Aug. 2002, National defense science award (Bronze medal), Agency for Defense Development, South Korea, Aug. 2001*

