

Dr. Jae Park Retires from OSU



After 28 years with the Coastal Oregon Marine Experiment Station and the Department of Food Science and Technology, Dr. Jae Park retired in December 2020. Dr. Park has devoted his entire professional career to surimi research and education. Since 1992, he has distinguished himself internationally as the renowned champion of surimi research, education, and technology transfer. Dr. Park founded the [OSU Surimi School](#) in Astoria in 1993, and he has since expanded this fish protein technology program globally, training over 6500 people from 45 different countries.

In addition to Dr. Park's tremendous reach through [Surimi School](#), he mentored and advised 34 graduate students, 4 postdoctoral researchers, and 15 visiting scholars while at OSU. In the Surimi School lineage, Dr. Park represents the second generation (students who trained directly with Dr. Tyre Lanier). Dr. Park's students are Generation 3, and Generations 4 and 5 are already well established in the world of surimi research (and probably already dreaming of training Generation 6!) It is safe to say that Dr. Park's surimi lineage is well placed to lead the industry and mentor future generations.

Dr. Park was honored with a number of awards throughout his career, including:

- Bor S. Luh International Award (2016): Institute of Food Technologists
- Seafood's 100 Most Powerful Executives (2012): Seafood Executive/IntraFish
- American Seafood Partnership Trophy (2011)
- Harold Macy Award (2011): MN IFT
- Briskey Award for Faculty Excellence (2009): OSU
- Award of Excellence of Scientific Paper (2008): Japanese Society of Fisheries Sciences
- IFT Fellow (2007): IFT
- International Service Award (1999-2000): OSU
- Oldfield Jackman Research Team Award (1996): OSU

With a great deal of covert help and secret planning from his family and colleagues, Dr. Park's surprise virtual retirement party took place late in December via Zoom. Although perhaps not the retirement fête anyone had envisioned pre-COVID, the format enabled over 100 people from all over the world to share memories and stories of Dr. Park, and to ensure that he was properly celebrated as he moves into the next phase of his life.

As you may have noticed, "retirement" is always relative in COMES. Dr. Park will remain in a part-time academic-wage position in order to continue fundraising for and planning [OSU Surimi School](#), as well as to shepherd his international [Surimi Schools](#) into the future. However, he does plan to make much more time for golf, and will no doubt continue to encourage everyone to make their own kimchi.