

Dawon Kahng

(May 4, 1931-
May 13, 1992)

Electrical Engineer

Korean American

Place of Birth:

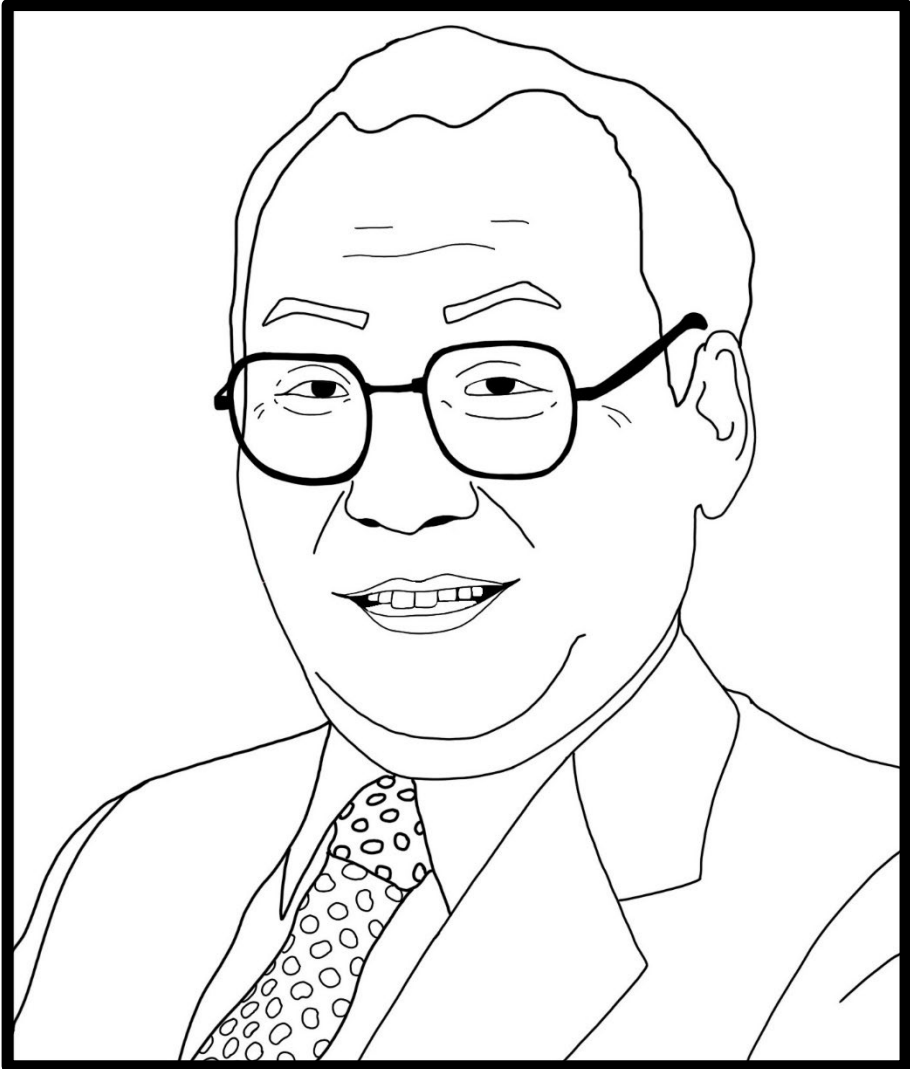
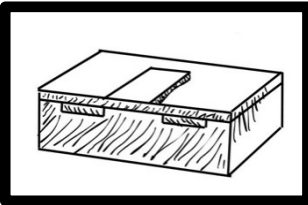
Seoul, South Korea
(formerly Keijō, Korea)

Place of Death:

New Brunswick,
New Jersey

Invention: MOSFET

(Metal-Oxide-
Semiconductor Field-
Effect Transistor)



Amelia Meaux Welch (SFSU 2024)

Dawon is a renowned researcher who pioneered the core technology of the semiconductor industry. He is the inventor of the first practical field-effect transistor (MOSFET), a patented device that controls electronic signals. Although the field-effect transistor theory existed for years, Dawon and his colleague, Martin Atalla, built the first working version in 1959-60. Today, it is the most widely used integrated circuit within the electronics industry. Dawon won many international awards for his achievements, such as the Stuart Ballantine Medal, and was inducted into the National Inventors Hall of Fame in 2009.