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Welcome to the Spring 2014 issue of Learning Learning, the Learner Development SIG’s (LD SIG) biannual online newsletter.

Since the last issue of our newsletter, the Learner Development SIG has come of age – or at least had our birthday party, with the truly wonderful Learner Development 20th Anniversary Conference. Is the SIG’s coming of age evident in this issue of Learning Learning? If maturity is measured by the extent to which a newsletter has grown up into something closer to an academic journal, then the answer from this issue would probably be no. But, then, the LD SIG is special! At the heart of this issue of Learning Learning there is no academic feature article, but there is a lot of heart to the newsletter! Read on and see what we mean…

The newsletter begins with an update on the latest news from the LD SIG from our SIG coordinators, Fumiko Murase and Alison Stewart. This is followed by reports from local get-togethers in Kansai, Tokyo and Hiroshima. Next, the Members’ Voices section introduces us to nine(!) new SIG members. Please take time to meet them through these pages.

The Special Feature, the heart of this issue, is the quietly impressive report of the Tohoku Outreach Weekend, put together by Andy Barfield, Sayuri Hasegawa, Rob Moreau, Ted O’Neill, and Mayumi Takizawa.

This is followed by essays from the recipients of grants from the LD SIG for 2013. Four of these were reflections on the conferences they attended: Tanja McCandie and Michael Sullivan on the Learner Development 20th Anniversary Conference, Caroline Ross and Aya Matsumoto on the JALT National Conference. The final essay is a paper by Michi Saki on the various challenges and opportunities for autonomous learner development offered by a class of Japanese and international students.

There is no actual “Looking Back” section: but we hope that you will find a lot worth looking back on through the grant awardees’ reflections. As for “Looking Forward”, there is a brief account of the LD SIG Forum at the PanSIG conference: well worth reading as a window onto the forum even if it is not actually looking forward by the time you read it! There is also information about the forum at the upcoming JALT CALL conference.

Learning Learning is a product of teamwork, representing the work of many people, in addition to the various contributors named above. We would like to thank the coordinators who helped prepare a lot of the content of this issue: Andy Barfield for Members’ Voices and the Tohoku Outreach report, and Christopher Fitzgerald for Grant Awardees’ essays.

We tried to increase the Japanese content of Learning Learning for this issue, and our thanks go first to Chika Hayashi, stepping in to coordinate this so professionally, and to all who willingly helped with the translation: Akiko Awa, Midori Kanmei, Tadashi Kashiwara, Tomoko Kawachi, Aiko Minematsu, Kayo Ozawa, Yukari Rutson-Griffiths, Yoshiko Tatsuta, and Chika herself. Once again, thank you!

Proofreading was largely undertaken by Hiroshima get-together regulars – many thanks to Robert Taferner, Simon Capper, Naomi Fujishima.
Greetings and News Updates

Our thanks go to James Underwood, our lead editor, especially for his help in getting us started and getting us finished! And finally, as his is the final stage in the whole process, we would like to thank Hugh Nicoll for the work of uploading this issue to the LD SIG website: not as simple a task as these few words may imply!

We are always looking for new members to join our team, so if you would be interested in becoming involved in Learning, please get in touch with us. Among the joys of editing has been the opportunity to take time over carefully reading each contribution, and working together with such a great team of people. Join us!

Best wishes,

Jim Ronald & Monika Szirmai
Co-editors, Spring 2014 issue.

Learner Development SIGによる『学習の学習』2014年春号オンライン版へのようこそ。

前回号から、Learner Development SIGは20周年記念大会を開催することができ、めでたく成人式を迎えました！今号には成人らしさが表れているでしょうか？学術雑誌らしくなることを成人の成熟と呼ぶなら、今回号は少し違うかもしれませんがLD SIGは特別です。学術的ではないかもしれませんが、情熱あふれる記事が満載です。

まずはコーディネーターのFumiko MuraseとAlison StewartがLD SIGの近況を報告します。次に関西、東京、広島の各地域からの報告があります。続いて「メンバーの声」のコーナーでは、なんと9人の新メンバー紹介があります。

特集記事はAndy Barfield, Sayuri Hasegawa, Rob Moreau, Ted O’Neil, Mayumi Takizawaによる東北訪問記です。

それから2013年LD SIG助成金受賞者のによるレポートです。4人の学会報告はTanja McCardleとMichael SullivanがLD 20周年記念大会です、Caroline RossとAya MatsumotoがJALT全国大会、Michael SullivanがLD 20周年記念大会です。そしてMichi Sakiが、日本人と外国人学生の混合クラスを通じて自立学習が発展していく上での様々な課題と機会についてレポートします。

今回は「ふりかえり（内省）」のページはありませんが、助成金受賞者の感想、省察を活用ください。今後に向けては、Pan SIG大会のLD SIGフォーラムについての短いお知らせがあります。JALT CALL大会の情報もあります。

『学習の学習』は多くの皆さんに参加してくださったチームワークの産物です。最新号のコーディネーターはAndy Barfieldが「メンバーの声」と東北訪問記、Christopher Fitzgeraldが助成金受賞者の報告です。

今回号ではChika Hayashiがコーディネーターとなって日本語の内容を増やしました。翻訳協力者としてご協力くださったAkiko Awa, Midori Kanmei, Tadashi Kashiwara, Tomoko Kawachi, Aiko Minematsu, Kayo Ozawa, Yukari Rutson-Griffiths, Yoshiko Tatsuta, Chika Hayashiに感謝し
Would you like to Join the Learning Learning Publications team?

Previously, Learning Learning was the result of two co-editors working collaboratively with their shadows but now we working in a team to co-produce the newsletter and we are always open to people who want to join the team.

If you are interested in any of the following positions please let me know,

James Underwood,  
Learning Learning coordinator,  
jamesmichaelunderwood@gmail.com

All these positions are open to everyone regardless of publication or teaching experience, teaching context, or nationality. The only stipulations are that you can agree to hold the position for at least a year (meaning that you will help with this year’s Fall issue 21(2) and next year’s Spring issue 22(1) and that you can recommend someone to shadow you.

- **Get-Together Report coordinator**: liaises with the get-together organisers (in Hiroshima, Kansai and Tokyo), to collate a report that reflects the LD SIG Get-Togethers as a whole.

- **LD SIG Grant Awardees Essay coordinator**: liaises with the grant awardees, to encourage and help them to publish their research essays in Learning Learning.

- **Reviews coordinator**: encourages potential contributors to send in reviews (of books, journal articles, materials or web resources relating to learner development) and works with them to publish their reviews in Learning Learning.

- **Looking Back report coordinator**: encourages contributors to report on past events related to learner development (which can take the form of conferences, forums, and workshops, both traditional and online) and works with them to publish their reports in Learning Learning.

- **Looking Forward report coordinator**: encourages contributors to report on future events related to learner development (which can take the form of conferences, forums, and workshops, both traditional and online) and works with them to publish their reports in Learning Learning.

- **Translators**: work together with the coordinators to write a one-paragraph summary of the contribution. This position is open to everyone who has sufficient ability in both English and Japanese to perform such a task and is not as a result limited to Japanese nationals.