

In This Issue 今号について

You're looking at the Fall 2015 issue of *Learning Learning*, the Learner Development SIG's biannual online newsletter. November is an important time of the year for the JALT organization and our SIG. JALT's international conference is just a few short weeks away, when there will be many great opportunities to take part in workshops, listen to presentations, and talk with others about learner development. The LD SIG's Annual General Meeting will also be held at the conference, and we hope to see a big turnout from members as we will be voting on some important issues and discussing the future direction of the SIG.

The issue begins with an update from the SIG coordinators, Alison Stewart and Fumiko Murase, who, after leading the SIG through two years of growth in membership and a series of achievements, will be completing their tenure and handing the reins to new leaders. This is followed by reports from local get-togethers in Kansai, Hiroshima, and Tokyo.

The *Looking Forward* section contains a preview of LD SIG-related activities going on during the 4-day JALT2015 international conference, taking place in Shizuoka from November 20-23. It also has an introduction of events on offer from JASAL, the Japan Association of Self-Access Learning, going on in Shizuoka during JALT2015 off-site and in Tokyo the day before the Tokyo get-together's mini-conference.

This is followed by an interview with LD SIG co-sponsored featured speaker Alice

Chik in which she discusses a variety of topics with Alison Stewart, including her work on multimedia language learner histories. The interview includes a reference to a post by Darren Elliott about metaphors and English language learning on his blog, *The Lives of Teachers* (<http://www.livesofteachers.com/>). Darren has adapted the piece for *Learning Learning* and allowed us to reproduce it as a special *Feature Article*. Darren will be one of the editors of the inaugural issue of the LD SIG journal, which will have the theme of "Visualizing Learner Development."

I'd like to express my sincere gratitude to all of the volunteers who worked tirelessly to deliver content for this wonderful issue despite a very tight deadline and often little lead time. This issue would not have been possible without the patience and desktop publishing skills of Monika Szirmai, the help of the Get-together teams; Christopher Fitzgerald and Alison Stewart, who worked with Grant Report authors; Lee Arnold, who put together a wonderful guide to LD SIG-related activities at JALT2015; Yoko Sakurai for her editorial assistance and, with Michiko Imai, Japanese translation skills; Huw Davies for his work on the SIG's financial report in spite of uncertainties related to how the recent changes in the JALT organization's fee structure and membership will affect our coffers; and Hugh Nicoll for making sure this issue has a home on the LD SIG website.

After serving as editor on the last three regular issues, I will be changing roles with Alison Stewart after our AGM. Looking back on

the 18 months I've been associated with *Learning Learning*, I feel that I've gone from being a totally incompetent editor to a fairly competent one. I volunteered to edit because of a professional development goal I had set for myself. I wanted to improve my own writing and thought this could be accomplished through frequent, critical reading of unfinished papers which would allow me to not only offer feedback and suggested revisions but verbalize the reasons behind them thus providing ample opportunity to think about what makes for good writing. *Learning Learning* has allowed me to work with authors during the writing process, which has certainly helped me to develop a more critical eye and, perhaps equally important, more confidence about my own writing. If this desire to improve your own writing resonates with you, please consider volunteering for the *Learning Learning* team.

Hope to see you soon!



Mathew Porter
(on behalf of the Learning Learning team)

LDSIG Publications Available Online

Collaborative Learning in Learner Development

Published in 2014, and edited by Tim Ashwell, Masuko Miyahara, Steven Paydon and Alison Stewart. Twelve chapters offer a multifaceted and critical new look at the widely held assumption that people learn best in groups. Available [here](#).

Learner Development Working Papers: Different Cases, Different Interests

Published in 2014, and edited by Andy Barfield and Aiko Minematsu. Nine chapters offer multiple, and unexpected, critical perspectives on the learner development issues that it deals with. Available online [here](#) or in print [here](#).

Autonomy You Ask!

Published in 2003, and edited by Andy Barfield and Mike Nix. Sixteen chapters of Japan-based collaborative research explore learner and teacher autonomy within Japanese contexts. Available [here](#).

Learning Learning Archives

Issues of *Learning Learning* going all the way back to 1994 are now available in PDF format [here](#).

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