

**DEDICATION | 賛辞****In Memory of Richard Silver**

Richard Anthony Silver passed away at Kyoto University Hospital in Kyoto, Japan on 16 March 2018. He fought against malignant lymphoma for six years and five months. He was 37. Richard was born on 19 July 1980 in Pembury Hospital, Kent, England to his parents, John Bevis Silver and Sally Silver. He was baptized at St. Michael's Church, Javis Brook, Crowborough. Richard was a chorister in the Westminster Abbey Choir School. He was awarded a music scholarship to Tonbridge School, Kent, where he became head of Hillside House. Richard graduated from the University of Sheffield with undergraduate and master's degrees in English Literature. After graduation, he moved to Japan in 2003 and started his teaching career at AEON. From 2007, he further pursued his teaching career at Ritsumeikan University while carrying out research for his PhD in the field of Applied Linguistics through Aston University in the UK. Richard was kind, considerate, patient and reliable. He loved reading, music, photography, drinking, and singing.

リチャード・アンソニー・シルバーは、2018年3月16日に京都大学病院で家族に見守られながら、37年間の生涯を閉じました。悪性リンパ腫を患い、約6年5ヶ月の間、治療と仕事を両立させました。1980年7月19日にイギリスのペンバリー病院で、父ジョン・シルバーと母サリー・シルバーの元に生まれ、クローブラの聖マイケルズ教会で洗礼を受けました。学生時代は、ウェストミンスター寺院合唱団の少年聖歌隊員で、ケントのトンブリッジスクールで音楽の奨学金を得ました。また、そのスクールの寮で学生代表を務めました。シェフィールド大学を卒業し、その後、2003年に来日しました。最初は英会話学校AEONで英語教師としての経験を積み、その後、2007年から立命館大学で更にキャリアを積み上げました。教壇に立つ一方で、イギリスのアストン大学の博士課程に所属し応用言語学の分野で研究していました。リチャードは、優しく、思慮深く、忍耐強く、そして信頼できる人でした。また、読書、音楽、写真、お酒、そして歌が大好きでした。

Richard introduced himself in the autumn of 2010 in Learning Learning 17(2) with these words:

**FROM LD SIG MEMBER RICHARD SILVER LD SIG のメンバー リチャード・シルバー**

Richard Silver has been living in Kyoto since 2003. He is currently working at Ritsumeikan University and Konan University's Hirao School of Management, teaching a range of English classes. A JALT member for the past 18 months he is also a



member of the Teachers Helping Teachers SIG as well as the Learner Development SIG. This autumn he will be presenting at JALT 2010 in Nagoya with his colleague Matt Coomber, and at KOTESOL in Seoul where he will lead a workshop on students leading presentations and discussions.

リチャード・シルバーは2003年から京都に住み、現在立命館大学及び甲南大学の平尾ビジネス学科で様々な英語のクラスを教えている。18ヶ月前からJALTに所属したTeachers Helping Teachers SIGとLearner Development SIGのメンバーでもある。

2010年名古屋において彼の同僚であるマッシュュークーンバとともに発表する予定である。また10月にソウルにおいてKOTESOLの学会に参加し、生徒自らがプレゼンテーションとディスカッションについてワークショップを行う予定である。

He made many friends in the Learner Development SIG. Here different SIG members share their memories of Rich.

## Remembering Rich

*Darren Elliott, Kay Irie, and Alison Stewart*

**Alison:** It is with great sadness that we learned of Rich Silver's passing in Kyoto on March 16th. The four of us, Rich, Kay, Darren and myself, worked together closely to organise the Realizing Autonomy conference in Nagoya in October 2011, and we wanted to share with LD SIG members this photograph taken at the party held at the end of that conference and our memories of Rich.



from left to right: Darren, Kay, Rich, Alison, 29th October 2011

**Kay:** I actually don't remember when or where I first met Rich or how he became involved in organizing the Realizing Autonomy. This picture was taken at the post conference party in Nagoya for the Realizing Autonomy conference in 2011. We had been organisers for this conference for the launch of the book Alison and I edited, the idea for which originally emerged out of the SIG get-togethers in Tokyo. Darren, one of the chapter authors, and Rich joined us in organizing the conference. Although Alison and I are based in Tokyo, Darren in Nagoya, and Rich in Kyoto, we worked well together. That was the first time I really met Rich and got to know him. He was incredibly easy to work with and so pleasant. The smile on our faces in the photo shows the success of the event and the relief! I've been doing a lot of conference organizing since then but that was the best team really and the one I had most fun with.

**Alison:** I first met Rich at a SIG get-together in Tokyo. His students had been making TV-style news programmes, which he showed us, and I was hugely impressed by the sophistication of the production and the confidence of his students. I remember thinking at the time: "How wonderful to have a teacher like Rich!" Not long after that, preparations started for the Realizing Autonomy conference in Nagoya. I can't remember how we decided to divide up the organisational work, but I do recall that Rich did the lion's share of the ground work: reviewing proposals and creating a schedule, writing up notes of our Skype meetings and keeping us all on track. On the day of the conference, Rich was there moving tables and chairs to clear space for presentations and posters

in the rooms, there at the registration desk dealing with latecomers to the conference--wherever an extra hand was needed. No fuss.

**Kay:** That's right. No fuss. That's Rich. So easy going and always giving a helping hand. One time I think it was at the LD SIG 20th Anniversary conference held at Gakushuin. I was sitting in the hallway exhausted and trying to count money. Then Rich came out of nowhere quietly sat down next to me and helped me. I felt so relieved and comforted just by that.

**Darren:** I think I'd agree with that, Kay. Rich was certainly a pleasure to work with. I'm not sure I got to meet him many times before the actual conference took place but he was so affable and calm, and instantly likeable. He was really popular with the student helpers as he took time to talk to them and acknowledge them as equals--a simple thing, but not something we can all do so genuinely. I've been looking back into my email archives at interactions with on SIG business, and he had a real positive, 'can-do' attitude to everything. I wish I'd had more time to talk to him in the years since that conference.

## Rich in wit

*Andy Barfield*

The first time I met Rich was at a JALT conference in Nagoya in 2010. We were both at the LD SIG AGM and then later we went along to the SIG dinner. As I remember, Alison, Hugh, Kay, Jim Ronald, Ellen were there too, among others, and Rich and Matt Coomber were just back from a conference in Korea, sparkling us all with their stories and good humour. That memory is a very bright one, and I see Rich smiling, laughing, having good conversations and discussions, full of charm, wit, and dry, sharp humour.

Rich contributed a great deal to the LD SIG by being involved in organising the Realizing Autonomy conference, researching learner autonomy issues, then later becoming co-coordinator, and helping to organise the LD20 anniversary conference. He was modest, so keen to learn - and so quick to learn too - with a reforming zeal, as well as a brilliant capacity for managing and dealing with issues in a fair, inclusive, and innovative way.

I enjoyed getting to know and working with Rich as co-coordinator - in the first year we talked a lot together, enthused about our work, and kept in contact regularly by email and phone. Through everything he was resolutely rational and courageous in dealing with his health and talking about that too. Rich was so brave and strong all the way. It is still difficult to believe that he has gone.

## Genuinely one of the nicest people I have ever met

*Katherine Thornton*

While we must have been in the same room numerous times at JALT & LD SIG events over the years, I first actually met Rich only a few years ago at an informal LD SIG dinner when then coordinators Alison Stewart & Fumiko Murase were down in Kansai for the JALT EBM.

The idea of a Kansai version of the Tokyo get-togethers was discussed, and while neither Rich or I ended up organising it (thanks go to Chris Fitzgerald & Anita Aden for getting it going), I was happy to get involved and got to know Rich better through the discussions and activities we did there, particularly the student conference that the group organised. He was a born organiser, quietly efficient and extremely competent, but with great humour and very easy to get on with - a real asset to the team.

After just a couple of months I felt I'd known him for much longer - and certainly wished I had, as he invited me out to meet Ritsumeikan friends and helped me expand my circle of friends in Kyoto. That generosity of spirit is what has stayed with me. I didn't know Rich for very long but he was genuinely one of the nicest people I have ever met and I am thankful that our paths crossed, even for a short while.

## Remembering Richard Silver

*Ann Flanagan*

I met Richard, almost 11 years ago when he first started teaching at Ritsumeikan University, BKC Campus. He was interested in the Japan Super Science Fair (JSSF) that is still held annually at Ritsumeikan High School. He was also keen to learn more about the English program in the high school in hopes to build a stronger English program at the university.

Over the years, Richard and I have observed each other's classes and shared information about extensive reading and learner autonomy. He was also a valuable group member of the Kansai LD SIG Get-togethers. In 2016, he helped launch the 'Kansai to the World' Student Conference. I was always struck by his smiling, cheerful personality, and his interest in others, especially his generosity of spirit. For me, Richard was a mentor, a passionate teacher and a friend. I will greatly miss him.

## In memory of kind and fun Richard

*Oana Cusen*

In many ways it is hard for me to write about the professional Richard, the JALT Richard, because for me he was first and foremost a friend. Anyone that has ever worked with Richard in any capacity can attest to his dedication to the teaching profession and his achievements at a very young age. But I want to remember him as a person.

Richard was kind, good humored, and funny. I've actually thought hard about it but I can't remember him ever being in a bad mood. Knowing his struggles with his illness, that is truly remarkable.

I've always felt that Richard had a kind of special aura about him that just made people want to be in his presence. At JALT conferences and other events, he was always sort of a shoulder to cry on for me, as he always listened with his characteristic grin to me complaining about whatever

issue I was dealing with at the time. He always, without fail, made me feel better! JALT will never be the same without Richard.

## Memories of Richard: colleague, friend, inspiration

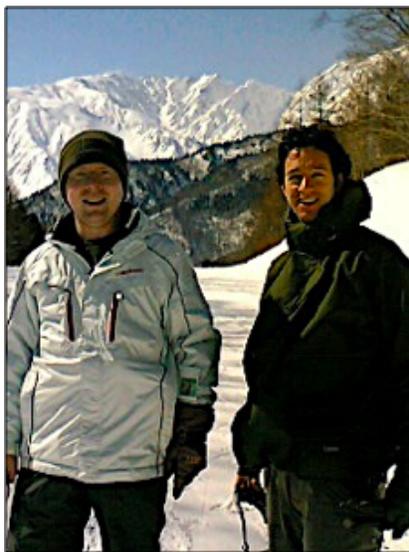
*Matt Coomber*

I first met Richard in 2005, not as a member of the LD SIG, nor even as a teacher, but when he joined a Japanese class that I was taking. However, after a week or two of lessons we realized that this was not the first time we had come into contact, and that until a few months earlier we had actually lived next door to one another for over a year without ever meeting! Through studying weekly together, we soon became friends, and in 2007 also colleagues, when we both began working part-time at Ritsumeikan University.

From then on our careers progressed together, and we became full-time contract teachers in 2008, and later gained tenured positions (although in this respect, as in many others, I rather lagged behind Richard!). In 2009, Richard encouraged me to get started on some research, and we joined JALT and made our presentation debut together at the Shizuoka national conference of that year. And in 2010 it was again at Richard's prompting that I joined the LD SIG and we attended the fun and stimulating dinner that Andy mentions.

Working closely with Richard, I came to admire him for his dedication, his enthusiasm, and his ability to juggle more plates than most people would ever dream of attempting. Even after he became sick, he packed so many things into his life and achieved so much, along the way inspiring countless students and colleagues to do their best to follow his example.

Through the years I was lucky enough to know him, Richard was not only my closest colleague, but also my closest friend, and I will always treasure the times we spent together, studying, skiing, drinking, and chatting. Without Richard's inspiration, my life would have been very different, and I will miss him deeply.



Matt and Richard in Nagano, 2009