

Learner Development SIG News

May 2012–October 2012

学習者ディベロップメント研究部会近況報告

2012年5月~2012年10月LD SIG 委員会代表

Andy Barfield & Richard Silver

With just a few weeks before the JALT2012 Conference in Hamamatsu in October, we are happy to announce that Cory Koby in Sendai and Aiko Minematsu in Tokyo are this year's Learner Development SIG JALT Conference Grant Awardees. On behalf of the SIG we extend our congratulations to Aiko and Cory. We hope that many SIG members will have the chance to meet and talk with them at JALT2012.

In May Rob Moreau put the finishing touches to the updated version of the Learner Development SIG logo. This logo now adorns the SIG website (see <http://ld-sig.org/>) and has been used for the new paper banners used at different events to heighten the profile of the SIG. In the coming year, Rob hopes to consolidate and develop further publicity tools for the SIG, and he would very much like to hear from SIG members interested in working with him on this. Please contact Rob at <im AT MARK plum.plala.or.jp>.

The month of May also saw the SIG pass the annual audit of its financial activities. We'd like to thank Hiromi Furusawa for doing the SIG's treasury work with such aplomb for the last few years. Kay Irie, who was shadowing Hiromi in 2011, has now become the SIG treasurer. We wish Kay every success too. If you would like to help out by shadowing Kay's work as treasurer, please contact her at <kayirie AT MARK mac.com>. June and July were particularly active months for members of the SIG. In June the SIG put on a Learner Development Forum at three different conferences in Japan: the Nakasendo conference in Saitama, JALTCALL in Kobe, and the 2012 Pan-SIG in Hiroshima.

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These three different forums involved around 30 presenters in total. and we would like to offer our thanks to Rob Moreau, Darren Elliot, Jim Ronald, and Bill Mboutsiadis for organising these forums, as well as to the many presenters and participants for taking part. Many people involved with these forums were students of Nanci Graves at Teachers College Columbia in Tokyo. Nanci, as you will by now know, sadly passed away in early June, but her loss is somewhat mitigated by the fact that so many of her former students are brilliantly active in the learner autonomy field.

July saw the online release of the Realizing Autonomy Proceedings, edited by Kay Irie and Alison Stewart, and our thanks go to Alison and Kay and the many different contributors for their contributions. The SIG will be publishing the Proceedings in book form too, with a launch at JALT2012. Also in July, under the leadership of Masuko Miyahara and Alison Stewart, the SIG publications team was expanded, with Glenn Magee, Fumiko Murase, Monika Szirmai, and James Underwood coming on board to help with Learning Learning. We would like to thank Jackie Suginaga and Michael Mondejar for all their work on Learning Learning over the last year.

We know that many SIG members are giving individual and group presentations at JALT2012, and we wish you every success if you are. As the SIG moves towards JALT2012, members of the committee are already making plans for 2013, including a retreat in Tohoku in March and a 20th anniversary one-day conference in Tokyo in November next year. We warmly welcome your participation and continued involvement in the coming weeks and months.

On behalf of the Learner Development SIG committee, and with our very best wishes,

Andy Barfield & Richard Silver

LD SIG Co-Coordinator