

# The LLL SIG Newsletter

## The Pan-SIG 2011 Conference

*Joseph Dias (LLL SIG Program Chair)*

The Pan-SIG Conference is a collaborative effort of the Special Interest Groups within the Japan Association of Language Teachers (JALT). The theme of this year's conference is "paths to fluency." The conference is to be held on May 21st and 22nd, 2011 at Shinshu University, Matsumoto, Japan. Access the conference website for information about pre-registration, accommodation, methods of access, the program and plenary speakers:

<http://pansig.org/2011/>

Also, the city of Matsumoto has an excellent multilingual website introducing their fair city to the world at:

<http://welcome.city.matsumoto.nagano.jp/contents06+index.htm>

The conference attracted a large number of presentation proposals, approximately 150, from which several dozen were selected. In addition to the varied program of parallel sessions, three distinguished plenary speakers have been invited to speak about different aspects of fluency. John Read, of the University of Auckland, will address the delegates on the topic of the best ways of assessing lexical fluency, including the ability to use multiword vocabulary. Rob Waring, a professor at Notre Dame Seishin University, will speak about the value of building both receptive and productive fluency through such activities as Extensive Reading and Extensive Listening vs. 'one-point' teaching. Hideki Sakai, of Shinshu University's Dept. of Education, will review the concept of fluency and propose how it may be realized in foreign language activities, particularly in regard to the new Course of Study for Elementary Schools that will be put into effect from April of this year.

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Participating SIGs in this year's conference are the Business English (BE), Bilingualism (BL), Computer-Assisted Language Learning (CALL), Critical Thinking (CT), College and University Educators (CUE), Extensive Reading (ER), Framework and Language Portfolio (FLP), Global Issues in Language Education (GILE), Japanese as a Second Language (JSL), Junior and Senior High School (JSHS), Learner Development (LD), Lifelong Language Learning (LLL), Material Writers (MW), Other Language Educators (OLE), Professionalism, Administration and Leadership in Education (PALE), Pragmatics (PRAG), Study Abroad (SA), Task Based Learning (TBL), Teaching Children (TC), Teacher Education (TED), Testing and Evaluation (TEVAL) and Teachers Helping Teachers (THT) special interest groups (SIGs), together with the Shinshu Chapter of the Japan Association of Language Teachers.

It is hoped that as many members of the LLL-SIG as possible will be in attendance at the conference. Several presentations will specifically address concerns related to lifelong language learning and many more will raise issues that overlap with the interests of other SIGs.

Below is an example of one of our LLL-SIG sponsored presentations:

## **Reading for Life: The making of lifelong readers**

**Speakers: Gregory Strong & Joseph Dias**

Summary:

As most of our students now are digital natives who prefer YouTube to Hugo, Facebook to Fitzgerald, and Twitter to Twain, it's difficult to have them attend to texts longer than status

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updates. The speakers will discuss ways of inviting students to become lifelong learners by making reading relevant.

## Abstract:

The speakers will discuss the groundwork for a reading curriculum revision project in an English Department of a Japanese university by presenting the results of their investigation of current teaching practices, along with an exploration of all aspects of their students' reading: both in the L1 and L2, online and off, mobile and static, for pleasure and required, current and projected. The project has begun with a thorough needs analysis (Brown, 1995; Richards and Rogers, 2001) that involves focus groups, classroom observation, and the administration of online surveys to students, reading teachers, and upper division content course instructors. Particular attention will be focused on how reading instruction can be made relevant to digital natives and how the practice of reading in English can be made into a habit and carried beyond the temporal and physical confines of school life.

As of this writing, the schedule for the Pan-SIG has not been finalized. To see the full schedule, and other LLL-SIG-related offerings, please consult the following site from the middle of April: <http://pansig.org/2011/schedule.html>