



OSAKA JALT proudly presents

Back to School 2013

Our 4th annual spring mini-conference to help start the
new year off right

Sunday, April 14, 2013

10:00 a.m. ~ 5:00 p.m.

Osaka Gakuin University, Building 13

All proceeds from this event will go to the *Minna no Te*
organization

to support those affected by the 3/11 disasters

2013 Osaka JALT Officers:

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Junko Omotedani,

Emi Rowan, Miyuki Kakuta, and

10:00 ~ 11:00 Plenary session:

Yuko Nishiyama & Stephen Dalton

Two years since 3/11: Where are we now in the healing process?

Two years have passed since 3/11, but the disaster continues for many. Both those struggling to remain in Tohoku and others who have evacuated have done their best to carry on, but challenges abound. **Yuko Nishiyama** will describe her path from housewife and mother in Fukushima to community activist in Kansai. Through her *Minna no Te* project she is reaching out to the local community to lend support to those most directly affected. **Stephen Dalton** will explain how his Service Learning class of foreign and Japanese students at OGU has assisted *Minna no Te* while also learning language and culture.

Yuko Nishiyama is a Fukushima native who lived for seven years in North America, earning a BA in linguistics from Iowa State University. After returning to Japan she worked in Sendai and Tokyo as a translator and manager of an English school. Shortly after 3/11 she evacuated with her daughter to Kansai, and soon founded *Minna no Te*, a group devoted to meeting the information and social needs of the 700+ evacuees now living in Kyoto. **Stephen Dalton** is an Associate Professor at Osaka Gakuin University where he teaches Japanese Economic History and Intercultural Communication to foreign exchange students, English to Japanese students, and Service Learning to both.

11:00 ~ 15:00

The I-Chat Experience: Authentic Language Learning using Customized Interactive Games and “Living English”

Stella Maxwell, Russell Sumitomo, Jessica Chua, Mark Pileggi, & Angela Vazquez

OGU's International Chat Lounge is a leading-edge hybrid language facility that uniquely combines “World English and Culture” utilizing customized language games and a comfortable “Living English” language acquisition area. Native English staff will demonstrate how to effectively facilitate meaningful discussions, skill-building games, and strategies to promote cultural events that boost student motivation to become more confident speakers of English. Stop by anytime between 11:00 and 15:00 to see for yourself what I-Chat is all about, and help yourself to a drink at the free drink bar.

11:00 ~ 17:00 - Poster displays & presentations

Posters displayed in 1st floor lobby throughout the day with **poster presentations 16:00 - 17:00**

Ryoko Aino - *Hato: onigiri for the homeless*

Hato is a volunteer group that makes onigiri for homeless people in Osaka several times a year. *Hato* was started by Matthew Walsh, an Osaka JALT member and officer who passed away in October, 2011. Ryoko Aino became the group's leader after his death. Stop by the poster to

find out more.

Aiko Chaen & Noriko Asada - *Free the Children Japan: Kids can change the world*

Free the Children Japan is an international organization where “children are helping children.” With “Kids can” as its motto, FTCJ empowers children to take actions and make a difference in the world. FTCJ is committed to free children living in poverty and educate children to free themselves from the idea that they are powerless to make a difference.

Gretchen Clark - *Braining up vocabulary study*

Using deliberate consolidation strategies to learn vocabulary is a quick and effective way to learn vocabulary, but which method is the most effective from a neuro-scientific perspective? This poster details how the use of word cards makes the most use of your brain and shows how it trumps other methods such as use of bilingual wordlists, written repetition, and even online flash card programs.

William R. Hogue - *First Year University Students Surveyed on IT*

Two classes of incoming first year students at a large private university were surveyed on their use of IT. Connected portable devices dominate. "Web 2.0" skills are lacking. Students' attitudes closely track their high school experience.

Julia Kimura, Aaron Bucky, & Mary Kawai - *Introduction to the General Union*

The General Union is a legally registered labor union headquartered in Osaka and organizes workers in the Kansai and Tokai regions. Membership is open to workers of any category or nationality, but the union primarily organizes foreign language teachers. This poster presentation will provide a brief description of the General Union, its membership, and rights and responsibilities that come with union membership.

Stuart McLean - *Preliminary results from JALT sponsored research investigating Japanese university students' vocabulary size*

This presentation shares preliminary results from research investigating the vocabulary size of various Japanese university student populations, grouped by hensachi, major and year. We are looking for instructors who wish to improve their teaching through knowing their students vocabulary size while assisting in research. The vocabulary size test is given through Survey Monkey on computers and smart phones. Trial: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/templetest>

Matthew Michaud -- *Recipe creation and output: Getting more out of the typical food unit*

In the first weeks of a new school year, it is beneficial to get students to do a creative project

where the end product is a short presentation. The poster will illustrate recipe creation, and how it can be used as a way of getting a new class motivated. Students would follow up a food unit leading to an exciting project through the use of creativity and imagination.

11:15 ~ 11:40

Yuko Nishiyama - Q & A

Further discussion regarding the plight of evacuees from Fukushima, others affected by 3/11, and related matters.

Arthur Lauritsen - *Using the True Stories series in a lesson*

The *True Stories* series is a collection of short stories that are geared for ESL students. In my lesson we will use one of my more successful lessons that taps into this resource. We will walk through the lesson and demonstrate how stories can be used effectively. Participants will play a central role in this hands-on presentation.

Harry Carley - *Improving ALT Opinion: Hi Friends, Eigo Friendly?*

As part of a larger research project the presenter asked for the opinions of ALTs across Japan regarding the use of the *Eigo Note* and *Hi Friends* text for 5th and 6th graders. Over 100 ALTs responded. The results of the survey will be given and discussed.

11:50 ~ 12:15

Stephen Dalton - *Service Learning: Improving English and Helping the Community*

Learn how a Service Learning program can improve students' confidence in English by assisting local community organizations. In 2012 Osaka Gakuin University offered a new class that paired each Japanese student with a *ryugakusei* partner to learn about global challenges. Each pair then volunteered to meet those challenges, assisting community groups such as elder care facilities and a Fukushima evacuee NPO.

Stuart McLean - *Improving ER research: time on task, and accurately measuring reading and comprehension*

"When we look at reading programs, reading textbooks and the role of extensive reading in classrooms around the world is remarkably small" Grabe (2009). This presentation highlights weaknesses of commonly cited ER research and suggests methods to increase ER research content, and internal and external validity, in the hope of improving future ER research and the standing of ER in EFL.

Harry Carley - *Blogging: The Write Tool?*

The presenter gave a survey to five English communication classes that used blogging as a part of blended learning in a Japanese university setting. The survey asked for students' agreement or disagreement to questions regarding blogging and language learning. This presentation will briefly introduce Edublog an internet learning tool, along with the results of the survey.

12:15 ~ 12:45 Lunch Break (Pick up pre-ordered bentos in lobby)

12:50 ~ 1:10

Kim Horne -- *Better than coffee brain & body energizer*

Learn some basic square dance steps and join together for some lively clappin', stompin' singin' and dancin'! Guaranteed to put a smile on your face, this dance is easy to teach to students AND teachers, from kindergarten on up!

13:15 ~ 14:00

Jason Bartashius -- *3/11: The Latest Chapter of the Filipina Migrant Experience in Japan*

Tohoku is suffering a job loss caused by the 3/11 disasters. In response, Cesar Santoyo launched Social Enterprise English Schools (SEELS), a micro-franchising initiative that trains Filipina migrants to be English instructors. This presentation examines the history of Filipina migration to Japan, the pre- and post-3/11 struggles of migrants, and the formation of SEELS.

**Stuart McLean, Nicholas Hogg, & Brandon Kramer -
*The effectiveness of Word Engine over an academic year***

This presentation describes the findings of a fully experimental study investigating the effectiveness of vocabulary learning through Word Engine, ER, Word Engine and ER combined, and grammar translation. Time on task for all groups was controlled through novel methods which other researchers may find useful. The results provide evidence of the efficaciousness of out-of-class deliberate vocabulary study.

Sylvain Bergeron - *Lesson Design Strategy within a Team-Teaching Approach*

Due to time restrictions, differences in approach or a lack of theoretical/practical teaching skills, team teaching partners can be at a loss when it comes to effectively co-creating and conducting oral communication lessons. As a potential solution, this presentation will introduce a proven method that can pave the way to a more effective and collaborative lesson design strategy.

**Sean Gay & Michael Iwane-Salovaara -
*Excel 101: Starting and Expert MS Excel Tips for Teachers***

The role of spreadsheets for grading is not new, however it is difficult to know where to begin to improve spreadsheet skills. Microsoft Excel 2010 may not be the best spreadsheet program, but it is the most commonly available. As such, this presentation seeks to walk beginners through basic spreadsheets while providing tips which experienced teachers can also find valuable.

14:10 ~ 14:35

Sayuri Kang - *Identity and Zainichi Koreans living in Japan*

How much do you know about Zainichi Koreans living in Japan? The presenter will discuss basic information including general history, common problems they may confront at school, and her personal experience as a Korean living in Japan. Concepts of collective identity and individual identity will also be discussed.

Brian Wojtowicz - *Lesson Activity Ideas and Assessment Procedures: A Reflection*

This presentation discusses positive and negative points about some lesson activities used last year in a Japanese university Communicative English class. Points of interest include pair work, group work, using presentations and discussion activities for assessment. Attendees will be encouraged to share similar or additional successful or unsuccessful teaching activity stories or ideas.

Amy Larson - *Basic Characteristics of English Writing*

Using a foreign language requires more than simply learning new vocabulary and grammar. People express themselves differently in different languages because of their cultures. Visual representations, in this presentation, English, can be employed to teach learners to present ideas in a way that is familiar to the reader and easy to understand.

James Rogers - *On how to create a paperless class with computer technology*

This presentation will discuss various ways in which teachers can use computer technology to make a paperless class. Not only are the methods discussed environmentally friendly, but they also save time and make for a more engaging classroom experience. This presentation will enable even novice computer users to take steps towards modernizing the way they administer their lessons.

14:45 ~ 15:10

Steve McCarty - *Bilingualism for Language Teachers and Parents in Japan*

A taxonomy of bilingualism for language teaching, parenting, and research in Japan will be presented, divided into five levels: the individual (bilingual development), family (bilingual child-raising), societal (language policies, groups, etc.), school (bilingual education), and academic (disciplinary) level. Bilingualism thus has various meanings and is applicable to Japan in various ways. As happened at JALT 2012, a lively Q&A session is anticipated.

James Jensen - *Phoneme Acquisition Studies and the EFL Classroom*

This presentation considers phoneme acquisition studies and teaching in an EFL context. It will have three parts: 1) The historical development of the field 2) The importance of phonemes in English as a lingua franca communication 3) The methodologies that are the most

effective for modifying a foreign language learner's native phonemic architecture.

Amy Larson - *Unlocking the Limits of Children's Songs*

This presentation will introduce one method of using children's songs that can be adapted and expanded to fit the needs of your current lesson plan. This method can also be applied to certain games and other activities.

Craig Hagerman - *Developing Moodle modules*

This presentation explains the rationale and process of developing an original module to be used within the Moodle e-learning software platform to foster ESL reading fluency. The software allows students to work through a series of speed reading articles written within the first 1000 most frequently used words in English and tracks their reading speed and comprehension.

15:20 ~ 15:45

Cameron Romney - *Comparing Business English and General English textbooks*

Is there a distinctive methodology in Business English textbooks that is different than General English textbooks? Do BE textbooks use the same kinds of tasks and activities? An examination comparing the kinds of language learning tasks and activities in both BE and GE textbooks was conducted in order to determine if there is a unique pedagogy found in BE course books.

Misuzu Okada - *What does 'competence' mean?*

The Ministry of Education, Culture, Sport, Science and Technology (MEXT) emphasize the importance of communicative competence in the latest edition of the Course of Study. Moreover, MEXT states that communicative competence indicates four skills. However, 'competence' has some synonyms. Then what does 'competence' indicate theoretically? We need to reconsider its meaning from prior research studies.

Tony Silva - *First Impressions, Final Evaluations*

First impressions, the students' impressions of the teacher and the teacher's impressions of the students are formed on the first day. Can a teacher's first impressions predict students' performance and final grades?

Jeanette Dekker - *Fun with Reading*

When students are asked to read something it is often difficult to gauge how involved they are with the reading material, or whether or not they actually understand the text. This presentation will provide tips to help ensure students are actively involved, and will provide a variety of games and activities that can be used in a reading class.

16:00 ~ 16:25

Lisa Theisen - *Simple Speeches for the Start of the Semester*

In this presentation, the speaker will talk about how she teaches presentation skills to

first-year, first-semester university students. Points covered will include suggestions for simple, yet meaningful topics as well as explanations of how the objectives for each presentation build on and enhance the next presentation. Three basic-yet-effective presentation assignments will be explained.

Andrew Woollock - *Postmodern epistemology and notions of truth in the content classroom*

This presentation explores the notion of truth in the postmodern classroom. With particular reference to the teaching of sociological content in English, the author aims to deliver a personal hypothesis and working model that aligns to postmodern epistemology. How in post-modern andragogy the teacher can find alternative modes of delivery which place the subject at the center and not they.

Wes Lang - *Fun activities for practicing follow-up questions*

This presentation will focus on some practical and exciting activities to encourage high school and university students to ask follow-up questions. Oral Communication teachers will walk away with some ready-to-use materials for their future lessons.

16:35 ~ 17:00

Josh Wilson - *Build Engagement with Peer Interviews*

This session will demonstrate three types of peer interviews in content-focused courses to teach subject matter, assess progress, and keep student engagement high. Peer interviews are speed-dating style classroom organization schemes that require students to assume the roles of experts or interviewers while doing one of the following three activities: giving mini-presentations, preparing for assessment interviews, or mastering course content.

Matt Lucas & Myles Grogan - *Topic selection & writing fluency*

As part of a research study group, we replicated a procedure to investigate whether participant or teacher-generated topics affect fluency performance on free-writing tasks (Bonzo, 2008). Combining quantitative data with other instruments, we discovered a distinction may lie between measurable fluency and learner-perceived fluency. We also reflect upon how the research and teaching processes can interact.

Alison Kitzman - *What Students Prefer: Topics for Optimal Motivation*

Teachers have a variety of engaging English textbooks to choose from. However, motivating students remains elusive. This presentation will address the psychological needs of young adults, present the results of a 788-student survey-ranking of 20 topics, and will recommend how to manipulate less popular topics, which teachers may be required to teach, in order to optimally motivate young adult students.

17:00 ~ 17:30 Clean up & Exit

17:45 ~ ? Dinner party at La Festa Italian Restaurant

Thanks for your participation today! Please email us any feedback to osakajalt@yahoo.com . Best wishes and good luck in the new school year!

The Osaka JALT Team
www.osakajalt.org