

Toyohashi Chapter of the Japan Association for Language Teaching (JALT) presents:

# Adolescent Learner Development

with Junior and Senior High School SIG sponsorship

**Sunday, June 19<sup>th</sup> at Aichi University, Toyohashi,  
Building 5, Room 541**

JALT members - FREE

Non-members - ¥1000 (half day) ¥2000 (full day)

ALTs - ¥500 (half day) ¥1000 (full day)

## SCHEDULE AT A GLANCE

9:15 – 9:30 Registration

9:30 – 10:10 Local Presentation: Zane A. Ritchie & Aaron Fox

10:30 – 12:00 Junior & Senior High School SIG Sponsored Presentation: Albert McCann and William Matheny

12:00 – 1:30 Lunch break

(12:30 – 1:15 Poster Sessions & Displays)

1:30 – 3:00 Invited Speaker: Ellen Head

3:20 – 4:00 Round Table Discussion – “Teaching Adolescents”

4:00 Event Ends

## WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

**9:30 – 10:10 Zane A. Ritchie & Aaron Fox – “Incorporating CBI into EFL Textbooks”**

**Zane A. Ritchie** is a lecturer at Aichi University. His research interests include content-based language instruction, globalization issues, geopolitics of petroleum, computer-mediated learning, and pragmatics of internet communication.

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**Aaron Fox** currently lectures at Aichi University. His research interests lie in classroom technology, learner centered teaching methods and content based instruction. He can be reached at [aaronfox19@gmail.com](mailto:aaronfox19@gmail.com)

### **ABSTRACT**

Most EFL textbooks used in the Japanese context tend to focus on the top-down teaching approach. This presentation will examine two examples of using elements from thematic-content based instruction (CBI), as defined by Brinton, Snow, and Wesche (1989) as a vehicle for promoting student centered learning and increasing motivation. First, the presenters will critically examine typical EFL textbooks in the Japanese context. This will be followed by an examination of ways to implement elements of thematic-based CBI to compliment a specific textbook comparable in level to that of a typical high school text. Finally, student reactions to this approach and pedagogical implications will be discussed.

### **10:30 – 12:00 Albert McCann - “The Dejima-zation of English” & William Matheny – “Junior High EFL Students\*: Three Narratives”**

**Albert McCann** has been teaching at junior and senior high schools for the past 6 years. Currently, he teaches at Nanbu Junior High School as part of the Inuyama NET Program. His research interests include student motivation and global education.

### **ABSTRACT**

The harsh realities facing Japanese young people in the early 21st century will be examined. In particular, the focus will be on how a change resistant educational bureaucracy uses outdated teaching methods that limit the employment potential of Japanese students. A focus on rote learning, high stakes testing and formulaic drill work is directly responsible for the lack of creativity and initiative among the young. The result is a mismatch between the needs of companies and the preparation of the young.

**William Matheny** has served as a public school ALT in Aichi Prefecture since 1997 and has lived in Nagoya since 1990. Prior to work in secondary schools, he was in management with a language consulting enterprise and taught business English to adult students in the corporate arena. William ran summer workshops for JTEs in a 5-year program initiated by the Ministry of Education and writes for The School House, the Junior-Senior High SIG newsletter.

### **ABSTRACT**

How do adolescent EFL learners respond to contemporary approaches to instruction? How do the values of adolescent learners affect their attitudes toward language learning opportunities? Three narratives will be presented which offer answers to those questions. Two of the narratives focus on 2nd year

students in public junior high schools and will show some distinct contrasts. The third narrative is the story of a discovery and materials developed for 3rd year junior high lessons. The materials will be demonstrated and the student response to the presentation will be considered.

**12:30 – 1:15** There will be poster sessions and displays by local members in room 543.

**1:30 – 3:00 Ellen Head – “Communicating About Goals by Using ‘Can-do Lists’”**

**Ellen Head** has worked as an EFL teacher for over 20 years, the last ten of them in Japan. She now teaches at Kansai Gaidai University and she is an active member of the JALT Learner Development SIG. She has played an active role in contributing to the publications by the SIG, including their anthologies in 2004 and 2006, and editing their on-line newsletter, Learning Learning, in 2010-11. In her research and teaching, she is interested in finding structures which help students to be more independent learners both inside class and out.

**ABSTRACT**

This presentation will invite participants to think about how goals are set and communicated to students. One powerful tool for assisting students in setting goals is a “can-do list” or a list of things which students will potentially be able to do by the end of the course. Using such lists for students to self-evaluate at the start, middle and end of a course, can help to increase student motivation by letting them express their areas of strengths, weaknesses, and progress or lack of it. The presenter has used can do lists in classes for first and second year university students, including students with a very low level who did not like English initially. She has found that using the lists helped students to become more focused and motivated. By the end of the presentation, participants will be able to take home examples of can do lists for the four skills together with a fresh perspective on the goal-setting process and a set of principles for constructing and using their own can do lists in class.

**3:20 – 4:00 Round Table Discussion “Teaching Adolescents”**

This session will begin with a short presentation by Shinichi Sugiura of Toyohashi Nishi High School. He will talk about his self-developed materials for high school students. After that, discussion will be open to anyone who wishes to share ideas or experience of working with adolescent learners of English in Japan.