Acknowledgements: Waves of Gratitude

Andy Barfield & Mike Nix

Our first wave of gratitude goes to friends and colleagues of the Learner Development SIG for contributing such stimulating reader responses to *Autonomy You Askl*: Ana Maria Ferreira Barcelos (Brazil), Chitose Asaoka (Japan), Dick Allwright (UK), Sultan Erdoğan (Turkey/UK), Flávia Vieira (Portugal), Hayo Reinders (New Zealand), Helga Deeg (Germany), Julian Edge (UK), Kazuyoshi Sato (Japan), Keiko Sakui (New Zealand), Kevin Bodwell (United Arab Emirates), Mary Lee Field (USA), Nobuyuki Takaki (Japan), Richard Pemberton (Hong Kong), Richard Smith (UK), Sara Cotterall (New Zealand), and Sonthida Keyuravong (Thailand). Thank you, one and all.

Our second wave of thanks flows to Ellen Head and Michael Carroll for organizing and hosting the Anthology Retreat in June 2003 at Momoyama University near Osaka. Such were the care and hospitality you showed that even the food in the university cafeteria tasted good. Thanks also go to Steve Brown, the SIG's current coordinator, for helping set the Retreat up and sharing unflinching bonhomie from start to finish, and, to Hugh Nicoll, the SIG's past joint coordinator, for dancing the joy of life with us all. Hugh and Steve, together with Miyuki Usuki, joint co-ordinator in 2002, helped plan, organize, and host the first Anthology Retreat in October of that year at the Kobe YMCA on Mount Rokko, without which we would never have got going. Thank you, Miyuki, too.

We would also like to thank Miki Kohyama and Jodie Stephenson for arranging two Tokyo sessions at Teachers College Columbia in June and July 2003, and Steve Davies and Tim Stewart for making the face-to-face collaboration extend to Miyazaki in Kyushu.

Hugh Nicoll deserves our further thanks for drawing an engagingly concise chart of the courses that the SIG has been steaming these past 10 years. Hugh, you've also done (and please continue to do!) a fantastic job as the creative webpage master and email discussion list co-ordinator of *Autonomy You Ask!*

Working closely alongside Hugh has been Etsuko Shimo, who, apart from never missing deadlines (Etsuko, what's the secret?), has stayed quietly afloat with a huge amount of translation work for *Autonomy You Ask!*. Working buoyantly together, Etsuko, Emika Abe, and Akiko Takagi have equally kept the bilingual profile of the anthology sailing smoothly along: Otsukaresama deshita.

Apart from translation, publicity has also been shared by many members of the Anthology group. Eric Skier has been as heroic as his kendo dapper in arranging publicity through Teachers College Columbia. Stacey Vye has kept everyone bubbling with ideas, fliers, and enthusiasm. Joyce Cunningham and her colleague at *The Language Teacher*, Mariko Miyao, have been unstinting in their help with publicizing the anthology in JALT's monthly teachers' magazine.

Getting this publication ready for print would never have come close to getting underway without expert proofreading under very tight deadlines by Cath Malone, Denise Boyd, Hugh Nicoll, Jodie Stephenson, and Wade Carlton: Period. Here we would also like to send a surge of gratitude to Heidi Nachi Evans and Tim Stewart for skillfully formatting the whole bibliography in APA style—and, in doing so, giving new meaning to the concept of 'volunteering.' And our gratitude also goes to Steve Davies and Denise Boyd for writing the preface together.

In steering towards the end of these acknowledgements, we pay tribute to our layout and publishing supremo, Malcolm Swanson, for adding an impressively creative edge to *Autonomy You Ask!*: Malcolm and *Pukeko*, thank you for sharing your amazing talent and artistry. We would also like to thank Peter Mizuki for supplying some very welcome and exceedingly tasty coffee...mmm. And our gratitude also goes to the members of JALT's *SIG Dissolution Fund* for providing the Learner Development SIG with some much needed financial support, and Ian Gleadall of the Materials Writers SIG for tracking down and finding the ISBN number for this publication.

As we now drift towards the opening chapter of *Autonomy You Ask!*, there are three other very special people we would like to surf these waves of appreciation with. They are: Naoko Aoki, Phil Benson, and Tim Murphey, the Anthology's overview chapter contributors, who have glided over the waters within these pages with poise, balance, and ...metaphorical Barcardi. Thank you, Naoko, Phil, and Tim.

We would like to end our acknowledgements by expressing our thanks one more time to everybody—but this time, not just to you as individuals, but also as generously interdependent participants in creating *Autonomy You Ask!* We have all gone much further in this voyage than we ever imagined possible when we started. Thank you from both of us to all of you.

Long may the conversations continue!

Happy 10th Birthday, the Learner Development SIG!!