



Study Abroad SIG Newsletter

2020/09

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Upcoming Events

SA SIG Conference

September 26th

JALT International Conference

November 16-

November 23

Contact Us

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Dear SIG members,

I'm pleased to send you our second newsletter for 2020. This issue covers the Study Abroad (SA) SIG Conference schedule on Saturday, September 26, the annual officer reports, and the Annual General Meeting (AGM) agenda. A big thank you to the SA SIG officers and everyone involved in helping to put all this together, especially Masaki Seo, program chair and our host for the conference being held at Ibaraki University, and Simon Park, our newsletter editor.

I look forward to seeing you at the conference: in a presentation, a poster session, or one of the networking events we will be running on the day. We have many people discussing interesting topics related to study abroad. During these uncertain times, we have had major adjustments in our teaching roles with the switch to online learning. I hope you can glean new information for your students, and have a productive, positive experience with us.

As in previous years, the SA SIG Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held at our conference. The officer reports below detail their work done on behalf of the SIG in the past 12 months. A few of the officers are stepping down so let us know if you are interested in volunteering for any role, or perhaps shadowing one of us to learn about the tasks and become more involved. It is a great way to obtain experience, and career development.

Following the reports is a list of our AGM agenda items. We look forward to counting your vote, in addition to questions, comments, and suggestions regarding the SIG for the coming year.

My best,
Lyndell Nagashima
SA SIG Coordinator

SA SIG Conference

Study Abroad SIG Conference Schedule: Saturday, September 26, 2020

Link: <https://sites.google.com/view/sa-conference-2020/schedule>

Officer Reports

Publications Chair: Paul Bird

I assumed the position of Publications Chair in April 2020, having succeeded Robert Dilenschneider. In the lead up to April, I devoted much time assisting one of the authors in preparing his manuscript for the summer edition of the journal; later, I liaised with other officers about making improvements to the journal for the coming issues. My transition to the role has proven unexpectedly challenging, and I anticipate the need to codify and clarify the editorial process as we move towards the winter edition. I will outline my thoughts on these matters briefly at our AGM.

Treasurer: Karen Mattison

We started the fiscal year in April 2020 with 770,472 yen in the SA SIG account.

Expenses for the past five months have come to less than 5,000 yen for administrative expenses (postage and receipt booklets). Upcoming expenses for the SA SIG conference will cover conferencing tools. Upcoming expenses for the JALT conference will include the registration fee for one speaker and honorariums for both speakers at the SIG forum. Expenses for both conferences are expected to be about 50,000 yen in total.

Our revenues include a SIG Base Grant of 30,000 yen and a Member Grant of 760.10 yen for each SIG member. On April 1, the SA SIG had 110 members, which resulted in a Member Grant of 83,611 yen.

Current SA SIG balance is 879,994 yen.

I encourage members and officers to suggest ideas for how we can use our funds to support and promote the SA SIG.

Membership Chair: Russell Hubert

As Membership Chair, I maintain the list of current SIG members, welcome new members, and assist in sending out information. Additionally, I am a member of the editorial staff for the Journal of Study Abroad, and this year assisted in the transition to the new Publications Chair.

Since the 2019 AGM, we have had a monthly average of 118 members (September 2019-August 2020), and currently have 107 members. Member information indicates the following demographics:

Japanese: 31

Non-Japanese: 76

Female: 31

Male: 76
Japan-based: 105
Overseas: 2

Program Chair: Masaki Seo

With the collaboration of the Intercultural Communication in Education (ICLE) SIG, we organized the ICLE SIG & SA SIG Forum @ PanSIG2020, which was held online from June 20 to 21, 2020.

On Saturday, September 26, we will be organizing the JALT Study Abroad SIG Online Conference 2020. The schedule of the conference can be found here <<https://sites.google.com/view/sa-conference-2020/schedule>>. To register and for more information about the conference, please click on the online conference link below.

<https://sites.google.com/view/sa-conference-2020/home>

At the JALT 2020 Conference, which will be held online from November 16 to November 23, we will be hosting a forum on “Academic Partnerships: Intercultural Negotiation.” At this forum, Dr. Simon Humphries from Kansai University and Dr. Peter Y.H. Chen from National Taipei University will share their experience and answer questions regarding various issues that arise when negotiating overseas academic partnerships.

Website Editor: Nicholas Bovee

Several months ago, I redesigned the SIG website (<https://sa-sig.weebly.com>). The website now has an “Announcements” section on the top page that is updated by posting information on the site's blog page. If required, I can set this up so that other officers are able to post information directly to the blog. I have set the old website URL (<http://www.jaltstudyabroadsig.org>) to automatically redirect to the new one. Although we unfortunately lost our old web address, our new one costs the SIG nothing to maintain. I have also organized the journal and newsletter archive, and have created a simple logo for the SIG.

As the Website Editor, I am in charge of updating information on the website. This typically involves adding information to “Announcements,” uploading journal issues, and creating links to external sites such as the conference website. Do let me know if you would like to see any additions or changes to the website.

I am also an administrator of the SIG's Facebook group. This role involves approving new members who have sent a membership request (I basically approve anyone that has submitted a reason for wanting to join and ignore requests that lack a reason). I have also remade the banner image for the Facebook group using the new logo and web address, and I've added a little image of an airplane. Cute!

Publicity Chair: Mike Matsuno

I have been the Publicity Chair for the Study Abroad SIG the last year. The responsibilities include updating the SA SIG website within JALT, SIG Facebook

page and sending out direct emails to SIG members related to international education, study abroad, and English teaching in study abroad preparation. I also have worked with the Program Chair to promote the Study Abroad SIG Conference. The position is to basically convey and promote any ongoing events/updates/trends/conferences in Japan and globally concerning international education strategies, challenges, and opportunities for teachers and students. I will be stepping down after this year's conference on September 26, 2020. If you are interested in this position, please let us know (<https://sa-sig.weebly.com/contact.html>) prior to the conference. I highly encourage anyone interested to volunteer for this position or any of the other officer positions. It will be good for your CV and your future networking.

Coordinator: Lyndell Nagashima

In the past 12 months, I have attended the JALT Executive Board Meetings held last November and this June. I then provided the meeting contents, discussions and decisions made by JALT Chapter and SIG officers, to our officers as they related to the SIG. Additionally, I assisted with our switch to an online conference format this year. Full credit goes to Masaki Seo, program chair, for his efforts to recruit Ibaraki University staff and students to ensure our annual conference went ahead. As the Coordinator, I have liaised with other SA SIG officers to fulfill our financial and publication responsibilities. My ultimate goal is to give back to you as a member and ensure you are gaining benefits as part of this community.

Study Abroad SIG

Annual General Meeting (AGM) Agenda

OFFICER ELECTIONS AND NOMINATIONS

Current Officers (*core officers)

Lyndell Nagashima: Coordinator*
Karen Mattison: Treasurer*
Paul Bird: Publications Chair*
Russell Hubert: Membership Chair*
Masaki Seo: Program Chair*
Mike Matsuno: Publicity Chair*
Nicolas Bovee: Website Editor
Newsletter Editor: Simon Park
Catherine Oki: Social Chair

Call for Volunteers - Open Officer Positions & Descriptions

***Publicity Chair**

The Publicity Chair shall foster and coordinate telecommunications (email, Internet) among Study Abroad SIG members and is responsible for the management of Study Abroad SIG's member listserv, Officers' group, and SIG website. The Chair shall also

make efforts to advertise Study Abroad SIG events in a timely manner in conjunction with the Program Chair.

***Treasurer**

The Treasurer shall keep all financial records and collect and disburse all funds of the Study Abroad SIG. She/he shall present an account of the financial status of the organization at the Study Abroad SIG Annual Meeting and submit regular financial reports to the National SIG Treasurer Liaison. The Treasurer shall prepare the financial documents for an internal audit to take place after the books have been closed at the end of each calendar year.

* The officer descriptions are also provided in Japanese in the SA SIG constitution. We welcome anyone interested in volunteering/shadowing as a SIG officer.

Old Business

An anonymous voting system for SA SIG members to elect SA SIG officers

New Business

1. 2020 JALT International Conference SA SIG Forum

Dr. Simon Humphries and Dr. Peter Y.H. Chen: “Academic Partnerships: Intercultural Negotiation”

2. 2021 SA SIG Conference

- date, location
- theme

3. 2021 Conference Forums

PanSIG Conference: [May](#)

2021JALT International Conference: [November](#)

*Dates to be posted on the SA SIG website and Facebook page in the coming months
topic suggestions/requests

4. SIG funds

- suggestions for use

5. Publications

- open year round for article submission

6. Call for journal peer reviewers

7. “Best of JALT” 2020 SA SIG nominations

Study Abroad SIG website link: <https://sa-sig.weebly.com>

Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/874744595974613/>