

ERC Newsletter

Issue No. 2

January 2011

The newsletter was supposed to be published quarterly, but everyone has been busy. We will show you just how busy with articles on our activities in this issue!

English Resource Center update

Beginning in June 2010, the ERC stopped using an old paper notebook system for checking books in and out. Instead, this was replaced with a barcode reader which makes the process much faster for students and more informative for staff. All that is needed to register is show your student or staff I.D. card to the ERC worker, and in one minute you can be registered to borrow materials!



About 100 easy-to-read non-fiction books were purchased in November 2010. These included subjects such as astronomy, animals, biographies, ecosystems, insects, physics, plants, and many more. Some books have only 1-2 sentences per page, while others look like a textbook or fiction novel. They are all helpful in learning new vocabulary and English grammar!

Weekly English lunch chats

Our lunch on Wednesday has continued to attract about 10 students every week. It is usually a lively time with everyone speaking English about any topic. We have

had first-grade undergraduates as well as PhD students and post-docs come. On one day we even had 6 countries represented: China, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, U.S.A. We have had a few activities this year, too. For Halloween, several students learned how to carve a pumpkin, and before winter break, people



chipped in to decorate our Christmas tree. And, one student (Mitsuru Sato) gave a 20-minute slide show about his 5-week vacation to India. Feel free to stop by for 10 minutes or the whole hour and improve your English speaking and listening abilities, as well as just have fun! For the Christmas season, the ERC displayed its Christmas tree which was decorated by lunch chat students.





ERC computers

We currently have 1 Mac and 3 Windows desktop computers linked to the Internet. They are not on the Chikudai server yet, but they can still be used for general purposes or with any of the audio disks and DVDs (we have headphones, too). The ERC room itself accommodates wireless computer operation, too, so bring your laptop PCs and get the password from our student workers.

GMO lecture at JICA

G.Hill added to the JICA curriculum in 2010 by teaching an all-day course on genetically modified organisms (GMOs). The trainees were from Cuba, Moldova, and Zambia, and although their primary goal was to learn about practical uses of farm machinery and soil testing, they were eager to learn the basics about GMO crop technology.

Paper on BSE submitted

Together with Professors M. Kadohira and M. Sawada of Obihiro University and S. Yoshida of Hokkaido University, G.Hill put together a draft of an article on BSE risk assessment in Japan. The proposed article for the journal *Risk Analysis* has the following running title: "Bridging the gap between BSE risk assessment and surveillance system in Japan: screening test versus consumers' knowledge of beef safety".

TOEIC on Chikudai campus

TOEIC is a standard English test that is given several times a year. The official tests are offered in Obihiro only twice a year, otherwise the closest test center is in Sapporo. Recently, though, ERC has collaborated with Mr. Sato in the student union (生協) to offer an unofficial version

of TOEIC on campus 2 more times per year. So far, 17 students have taken it here. It is cheaper (~¥4000), and even though the results cannot be used in company job placements, they still show students what their strong and weak points are. We encourage students to take this test early in their college life so they will know where they stand.

CALL room update

The CALL classroom (room 24) has 60 computers linked to the Internet, but it is not used frequently for classes. Until now it has been locked whenever a class is not in progress. The ERC has successfully lobbied to keep the CALL room open from 8:30 to 5:30 Monday to Friday. Now, students have more access to computers for homework and self-study. The schedule is posted on the classroom door, so if you want to use it, you can see when it is available.

D.Campbell has been holding meetings with vendors who provide the CALL room with software and hardware. His discussions have helped lead Chikudai to a better system for students and teachers. The new system will be installed over winter break and be in operation in January 2011.

Computer conference in Malaysia

For the second year in a row D.Campbell attended the Globalization and Localization in Computer-Assisted Language Learning (GloCALL) conference. This year's conference was held in Kota Kinabau, Sabah, Malaysia and it had the largest number of presenters and attendees in the conference's short history. He attended many interesting presentations and made a presentation on "Using web browsers as a language learning tool". His presentation topic was something he has also been trying to teach Chikudai students.

Master's student poster in Turkey

In July, Nahoko Nakagawa, a master's student in Agro-environmental Science, presented a poster on the "Biological Control against the diamondback moth using entomopathogenic fungi" at the Society of Invertebrate Pathology conference in Trabzon, Turkey. She said it was an interesting experience and she has some advice for other students who may be thinking about giving a poster at and an international conference. First, practice explaining the poster as much as you can and practice answering possible questions. Next, try to look at as many other posters as possible and try to ask some questions to the presenters. Readers take note: the ERC is a place where you can get help with your posters and presentations, not just proofreading.

Education conference in Sapporo

In September, Ryuichiro Maeda, M.Smith and D.Campbell made a presentation at the 60th Annual Universities in Tohoku and Hokkaido Regional General Education Meeting on academic internationalization. In their presentation "The Elusive Goal of Academic Internationalization", they introduced the work being doing in the ERC. Afterwards, many people expressed interest in learning more about the work and the programs we have. Several people mentioned that they would like to come and see the ERC because they would like to do something similar on their campuses.

OASERD 2010 and related conference

As usual, M.Smith took part in hosting the OASERD conference on campus this August. This year's theme was "ESD on infectious diseases and global environmental issues". Main speakers attended from Malaysia, the Philippines, and Thailand. G.Hill will proofread and copyedit the proceedings from this event.

Later in October, Kurazono sensei and M.Smith attended the 14th UNESCO-APEID International Conference on Education for Human Resource Development in Thailand where they presented a paper on OASERD: building capacity in infectious disease control for minimizing negative impacts on human resource development. On the same trip, they also visited the University of Malaysia, Sabah, where they both gave presentations at a Forum on Updates on Common Viral & Bacterial Infections sponsored by the School of Medicine. Meetings were also held with the faculty concerning future cooperation and research training.

My trip to JALT national

On November 20-22, G.Hill attended the national meeting of JALT (Japanese Association of Language Teaching) in Nagoya. In addition to talking to publishers about books, audio materials, and e-learning software, he watched presentations from native and non-native English teachers on topics related to writing, reading, and listening.

Visit to U.K.

In January, Nishikawa sensei and M.Smith visited the University of Reading and Cardiff University to meet with the faculty from the food and nutritional sciences-related faculties. Although the main objective was to collect information and materials regarding their graduate, there was also discussion of future cooperation between universities.

Two Trips to the Philippines

In March, M.Smith went to the Philippines with Joseph Maria Angels, an exchange student from the University of the Philippines currently studying here, to hold meetings with the faculty at the University of the Philippines Manila College of Public Health on strengthening

exchanges between the universities, especially at the graduate level. A local health center was also visited where graduate students do field training.

M.Smith accompanied Koaze sensei and Kishimoto sensei in August to the Philippines to conduct a 2-week International Cooperation Unit field research and training course that included 12 third-year students.

Tokachi Plaza presentation

In November, M.Sensei presented a seminar on The Eight Natural Laws of Health, as part of the Obihiro University of Agriculture and Veterinary Medicine Public Lecture Series.

Food Science meetings in Ireland

M.Smith attended the European Federation of Food Science and Technology annual meeting in Dublin, Ireland in November. While at the conference, he held a meeting with the faculty of University College Dublin School of Agriculture, Food Science & Veterinary Medicine. He also visited the Food Safety Authority of Ireland and a well-resourced organization called "safe food" where he was able to get valuable information and many materials related to food science and safety.

Proofreading Support by ERC

From July to December 2010, ERC teachers have proofread 12 scientific papers and posters for Chikudai teachers or students, plus other miscellaneous documents for staff. If you have a paper or poster that needs proofreading in English, please bring it to Ms. Masukawa in the Student Services section on first floor, and she will start the paperwork process.

Who is in the ERC?

Director	Ryuichiro Maeda
Full-time teachers	David Campbell Glen Hill Hisafumi Kusuda Marshall Smith Hirozumi Tokioka

Unofficial ERC members include the part-time English teachers: Mr. Yuki Kayano, Ms. Miyuki Kubota, and Ms. Mutsumi Shioda



Wednesday lunch chat group



Putting final touches on the ERC Christmas tree