



## TEVAL NEWS

News and announcements from the JALT Testing and Evaluation SIG

Volume 1: December 2015

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Welcome to the first issue of TEVAL NEWS. This informal newsletter will be published once or twice a year for the purpose of getting timely information about SIG activities or other events of interest to TEVAL members. We will continue to publish *SHIKEN*, our peer-reviewed journal, twice a year, with publication targets of June and November. TEVAL members who would like to submit an announcement to TEVAL NEWS can most easily send information by going to the TEVAL website at [teval.jalt.org](http://teval.jalt.org) and clicking the contact link. In addition to TEVAL NEWS, we continue to welcome submissions to *SHIKEN* on any language testing or assessment-related topic relevant to classroom practitioners.

Overall, it has been a productive year for TEVAL. Our membership has remained steady, we have managed to publish two issues of *SHIKEN*, and we conducted a successful workshop entitled “Easy Item Analysis” at the national JALT conference in Shizuoka. New officers were elected and projects were discussed at the annual general meeting. Please see the AGM meeting minutes below for details. In addition, an exciting project is now underway. JD Brown has agreed to edit and thematically organize 10 years of his *Statistics Corner* columns from *SHIKEN*, which TEVAL will publish in book format. We do not yet have a firm schedule for completion, but are aiming to have printed copies available for the 2016 JALT national conference. All new and current TEVAL members will receive a complimentary copy of the book.

Here’s hoping that 2015 was a great year for all TEVAL members, and looking forward to working with all of you again in 2016.

Jim Sick  
TEVAL Coordinator

### **PanSIG call for papers**

The 2016 PanSIG will be held this year at Meio University in Okinawa from May 20-22. Plenary speakers are Rod Ellis, Tim Murphey, and Joseph Falout. TEVAL will participate and is currently looking into providing a featured speaker. An official call for papers is expected shortly. Follow the JALT website for details.

### **Minutes of the 2015 TEVAL AGM**

**Treasurer report.** Treasurer Jeff Durand could not attend because of a medical condition, so Jim Sick reported in his place. The TEVAL SIG currently has a little less than one million yen in the bank. One reason for our current surplus is that we are no longer printing and mailing paper copies of *SHIKEN* to all members, and thus have had no expenses related to publishing. Another reason is that plans to sponsor a plenary speaker at the 2015 national JALT conference fell through. As an NPO, the SIG is expected to balance costs and revenue, and should not be seen as hoarding money. Discussions were held about ways TEVAL could productively use excess funds to benefit either the SIG or the JALT national organization.

**Membership report.** Jeff Hubbell, TEVAL Membership Chair, reported that membership numbers fluctuate from month to month as SIG memberships expire and get renewed. We have about 5 new members from last year. We have around 70 members on average throughout the year. The JALT Executive Newsletter reported that TEVAL had 58 members, as of October, 2015. Jeff has agreed to continue as membership chair, but because he is retired, he'd be happy if we can find a replacement during the coming year.

**Program report.** J. Lake will be replacing Ed Schaefer as TEVAL Program Chair. The SIG greatly appreciates all the time and effort Ed has contributed to the SIG during the past 7 years. J.D. Brown has been contacted and has agreed to be a featured speaker at the national conference in 2016. Interest has been expressed in having the TEVAL SIG suggest speakers and possibly co-sponsor events for JALT chapters and SIGs around Japan. There is also the possibility of teaming up with other organizations to promote the TEVAL SIG and language testing.

**Publications report.** Trevor Holster, publications chair, reported that the TEVAL SIG is on track to publish two issues of *SHIKEN* a year. The publication targets will correspond to the two times a year when teachers have time to prepare and submit manuscripts. If there is interest in a guest editor producing a special issue once a year then that would bring the total to three main issues a year.

Another possibility discussed was to have a more informal newsletter covering news and upcoming events to augment *SHIKEN*. In addition to *SHIKEN*, the TEVAL SIG will publish a book created from JD Brown's past *Statistics Corner* columns. It was decided at the AGM that SIG funds would be used to provide a complementary copy of the book to all new and current SIG members.

Trevor Holster will continue to serve as publications chair for the coming year. Bill Pellowe has also agreed to become the website coordinator.

### **TEVAL Annual General Meeting – List of attendees**

Jim Sick – Coordinator

Trevor Holster – Publications chair

J. Lake – Program chair

Jeff Hubbell – Membership chair

Bill Pellowe – Website manager

Michihiro Hirai – member

Roy Morris – member

Naoya Shibata – member

Delano Cannegieter – non-member

Yueh-Tzu Chiang – non-member, visiting from Taiwan