

**Omiya: January – Lessons from MAYA:** Practical ideas for introducing, implementing, and sustaining autonomy in language classrooms

**By Mr. Eric M. Skier (Tokyo University of Pharmacy and Life Sciences)**

First, Mr. Skier summarized the definition of autonomy: to foster students' learning responsibility. Then, fielding questions throughout his presentation, he and the participants agreed that fostering autonomy is sometimes difficult to do due to institutional reluctance and common misunderstandings about autonomous language teaching methods. However, he shared with us a number of student-centered teaching approaches that were researched and written about in the LD SIG anthology *More Autonomy You Ask!* (he co-edited with Ms. Miki Kohyama). They included: (1) reflective journals, (2) peer-teaching, (3) collaborative shadowing, (4) extensive reading and listening, (5) class newsletters, and finally (6) self- and peer-evaluation. He concluded with a question and answer session that allowed all participants to share their thoughts and feelings about autonomy.

**Reported by Masa Tsuneyasu**