

Curtis Kelly was awarded the **JALT Lifetime Achievement Award (JALT 特別功労賞)** in November of 2022. This is a copy of the nomination letter:

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The officers of the JALT Mind, Brain, and Education SIG would like to nominate Curtis Kelly for this award. He is our SIG's founder and also the founder of the SIG's flagship monthly publication, the MindBrainEd Think Tanks. He has made many contributions to JALT for over 40 years as an active member, a SIG Coordinator, and a JALT Executive Board Member. We believe he is thoroughly deserving of this award for his vision and research activities, his extensive list of publications, his skill as a speaker, and his generosity with his time for the many newcomers to the field he has encouraged and coached. Many of us within JALT owe so much to him: individual members and JALT as an organization have grown thanks to his efforts. Curtis is not only an innovator, but also an organizer, a nurturer and an inspiration to others who work with him.

Curtis has always claimed that his mission is to "reduce the suffering of the classroom" and he has gone about this in a variety of ways, such as creating engaging teaching materials, training teachers, and starting a new SIG devoted to applying brain science findings to improve language education. Although his doctorate studies were in education, he turned his attention to neuroscience because he saw the relevance of the findings of brain studies to language education and gathered a handful of others who were also aware of this gap in language teacher education.

Curtis is perhaps best-known for his best-selling EFL textbooks that are fun and effective and have never gone out of date. He has published with Cambridge, Cengage, Pearson, Macmillan, and other publishers.

At the same time, he has been deeply involved with teacher training and has always been among the first to apply useful new technology to teaching. His 2002 – 2003 Grant-in-Aid for Scientific Research (B), Japan Society for the Promotion of Science project was the development of a prototype e-learning site to train Japanese elementary school teachers to teach English to children. However, he has not limited his attention to young learners; a quick glance at his publications shows that he has written extensively on adult education and contributed many chapters to EFL training books published by Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, and Routledge.

Curtis has perhaps had most impact as a teacher trainer through his presentations. He is a master of the art of explaining complex issues by using simple illustrations, eliciting emotions, and deploying the perfect video clip. The six Best of JALT awards that he has received from different JALT chapters around Japan bear testimony to this. He represented JALT overseas when he was invited as a Featured Speaker at KOTESOL in 2013. In addition to the countless presentations has given in person, in recent times, he has given many more online for teachers who have little access to professional development, and his talks are free to all. Moreover, he follows up on members of the audience who respond to his talks and has brought many teachers and researchers from around the world into the BRAIN SIG fold through these outreach activities.

In addition to founding the BRAIN SIG, his concept of providing an online monthly easy-to-read magazine that shows how brain science findings can be applied to the language classroom has been an enormous success. The MindBrainED Think Tanks now have 2,000 subscribers from all around the world. The magazines have enabled a lot of people who are new to brain science and/or new to academia to contribute to a publication and have greatly increased the visibility of JALT as an organization because they are available free to anyone who wishes to subscribe. Curtis's strongly held belief in providing free access to professional development is a driving force in the BRAIN SIG. He has also shown by assembling the tireless Think Tank editorial team that he is a marvelous team builder. His willingness to devote time to work with all the contributors and help them produce a piece of writing they can be proud of is further testimony to his generosity of spirit. And he has enabled the BRAIN SIG to collaborate with many other JALT SIGs through joint Think Tank editions.

To summarize his prolific output in numbers, he has contributed to or written 35 books, has published over 100 papers and articles, and has given over 450 presentations at conferences. Curtis retired from his position as a university professor in March 2022, but he continues to spearhead the MindBrainEd Think Tank team and he continues to be the heart and soul of this SIG. We ask JALT to recognize and celebrate his invaluable contributions to our profession and to the JALT organization.