Season’s Greetings from the Director

Thank you all very much for the opportunity to serve as new CJS director. Great thanks, also, to Robert Huey, Professor of Japanese Literature, our energetic leader for the past nine years. Every day the great staff of CJS in Moore Hall and the wealth of Japan expertise at UHM impress me. CJS has 37 faculty members in all departments, including our newest, Saeko Shibayama, in Japanese Literature. We also have 14 affiliate Japanese language instructors. UHM teaches 38 different courses (not sections) in Japanese language and 33 courses about Japan each semester. Over 100 undergraduate students attended the first meeting of the Japan Culture Club this fall. Over 120 graduate students have a research interest in Japan. The Japanese language teachers organized a spectacular Nippon Culture Day on November 1st for students from UHM and local high schools. Many of CJS’s 120 graduate students have a research interest in Japan. The Japan Culture Club, a student organization, was founded this fall. Over 100 undergraduate students attended the first meeting of the Japan Culture Club this fall. Over 120 graduate students have a research interest in Japan. The Japanese language teachers organized a spectacular Nippon Culture Day on November 1st for students from UHM and local high schools.

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CJS is grateful for our generous community actively fostering education about Japan and providing scholarships. Our Title VI National Resource Center for East Asia is the only one in the nation where “East Asia” means Japanese, Okinawan, Chinese, and Korean Studies. Concomitantly, our FLAS funding supports UHM students’ study of Japanese and Okinawan languages.

New research flourished at our November UHM-JSPS Symposium on Cold War Culture and Technology. Other fall visitors brought us research findings about the Senkaku Islands, family wellbeing, and imperial Tokyō. Students and faculty exchanged speedy research reports at Pecha-Kucha night. For the soul, CJS has helped support the arts this fall: films at HIFF, rakugo by UHM students and visiting Professor Kimie Oshima, and Hawai‘i photographer Daidō Moriyama.

Spring will bring exciting programs. Lonny Carlile’s Honors students will visit Hokkaidō and Okinawa thanks to a Japan Foundation grant. In February, artworks from UHM collections depicting the Ryūkyū and processions will be the focus of an art exhibit (Feb 7-22) and two days of talks (Feb 10-11). On March 10, Sunday, a Tohoku Recovery program will observe the second anniversary of 3/11, and on April 3-5, our SPAS graduate students will hold their annual conference. Please join these events.

Let us find ways we can extend knowledge of Japan further, especially under tight resources. Can we serve new parts of our own university and community, through technology, innovative courses, or partnerships? Our member faculty and students will continue to shine nationally and internationally if we put our resources to best use. I hope CJS can make a positive difference.

Are you ready for 2013, or Heisei 25, the Year of the Snake? Please bookmark the CJS website for news and also check the Center for Okinawan Studies website for Spring classes and events. Enjoy another year of synergy at UH Mānoa across our studies of Japan, Okinawa, Hawai‘i, Asia, and the Pacific.

Culture, Technology, and Transnationality in the Cold War Asia and Pacific

UH teamed with the Japan Society for the Promotion of Science to carry out a symposium entitled “Culture, Technology, and Transnationality in the Cold War Asia and Pacific” on November 15. Scholars from America and Japan (and one from New Zealand) shared ideas on the interchange of culture and information during the Cold War. Unconventional aspects of Cold War encounters and negotiations created a fuller picture of the numerous underrepresented or unconsidered pieces in play.

Dr. Mire Koikari, Associate Professor of Women’s Studies at UH, organized the content for the event. Consul General Shigeeda gave opening remarks, as did former CJS director Robert Huey and JSPS-San Francisco director Seishi Takeda.

Presentation Night powered by PechaKucha

On the evening of October 26, the Tokioka room had upwards of 50 CJS students, faculty, and community members in attendance. Both graduate students and faculty gave short lectures on topics covering how Japanese role-playing games (RPGs) are more than the sum of their parts, the key to the future of international relations in East Asia (mutual cosmopolitan commemoration accompanied by a critical reappropriation of the Tōkyō Judgment, of course), one-way sharing of culture by American home economists in post-war Okinawa, the sorry state of the Japanese Alpine Olympic Ski Team, ways of making Japanese Invisible Civil Society visible by examining gatherings, connectors and traces, and how Pure Land Buddhism revived Shingon Buddhism in the 12th century.

This semester’s participants were Mr. Mattias van Ommen (MA student, Anthropology), Dr. Hirohisa Saito (Assistant Professor of Sociology), Dr. Mire Koikari (Associate Professor of Women’s Studies) Mr. Daniel Allen (MA student, Asian Studies), Dr. Patricia Steinhoff (Professor of Sociology) and Ms. Camille Mori (MA student, Religion), and master of ceremonies Mr. Stevie Suan. Stay tuned for our spring lineup!

CJS Seminar Series, Fall 2012

CJS had a busy yet successful semester. Among our various projects and events were three installments of our fall seminar series and a co-sponsored lecture about Japan.

Dr. Masaru Kohno, from Waseda University, kicked this semester’s seminar series off with “Japanese Politics after 3/11: Trends and Challenges” on August 30th. Dr. Kohno saw the divided politics of the Japanese Diet inhibiting political responses to the disasters of March 11, 2011. He questioned whether defections of Diet members from the Democratic Party, rising local political parties, and growing distrust among Japanese voters might influence the next National Diet elections.

On September 21, Dr. Yoichiro Sato, of Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, delivered a lecture on a hot-button issue, “The Senkakus, Okinotori, and The South China Sea—The Linkage among China’s Maritime Disputes and Japan’s Responses.” Dr. Sato explained the location and details of many of Japan’s outlying islands and outlined the competing interests of neighboring states regarding those locations. He showed how maritime border disputes were fueled by legal ambiguity regarding overlapping exclusive economic zones and carefully framed Japan’s position toward the South and East China Seas in terms of policy, natural resources and open access to shipping lanes.

Dr. Barbara Holthus, of the German Institute for Japanese Studies, addressed “Parental Well-being in Japan: A New Look at Gendered Families” on October 5th. Dr. Holthus offered evidence of the effect of economic tensions on well-being and highlighted the gender gap in the division of household labor. She pointed out that married men, on the whole, seem more satisfied than women, especially with regard to the division of household labor and childcare. Her research data, which she plans to explore more deeply, points to a persistent gender gap regarding household labor in both actual and idealized situations.

CJS, together with EALL and the Department of History, sponsored a talk by Dr. Jordan Sand of Georgetown University entitled “Tōkyō as an Imperial Capital” on November 9. Dr. Sand offered insight on the imperial and cosmopolitan aspects of Tōkyō in the colonial era by focusing on architecture and the construction of temporary triumphal arches, tourism, and everyday aspects of modernization and modernity such as satirical comic strips. His discussion expanded to the other Asian capital cities such as Seoul, where a prize cow was once raffled off to shoppers in the Washin Department Store.

We anticipate many more exciting events in the spring. Keep updated through our mailing list or by visiting our website.

Student Presentations, Publications and Announcements

Ryan Buyco (MA Student in Asian Studies) took part in a panel titled: “Gazes upon the Philippines as Cultural Space: Regional, Metropolis, and Alien” at the Ninth International Conference on the Philippines at Michigan State University. Contributing the "alien" perspective of the panel, Ryan presented a paper, "Ooka Shōhei’s Travels in the Philippines: A Postcolonial Reading."

Shinji Kojima (PhD Candidate in Sociology) presented a paper, titled "Why Do Temp Workers Work as Hard as They Do: Case of Japanese Factory Temps," at the American Sociological Association’s annual meeting, August 17-20, 2012 in Denver, Colorado. His paper was given the 2012 Distinguished Graduate Student Paper Award in the ASA Section on Labor and Labor Movements.

Masami Tsujita (Geography) completed and submitted her doctoral thesis, “The Samoan Aidscape: Situated Knowledge and Multiple Realities of Japan’s Foreign Aid to Samoa.”

On December 4, 9 UH students gained induction into the Japanese National Honor Society. Congratulations to Sheryl Lee, Danica Lim, Ryan Murphy, Rochelle Ohata, Diana Strehlow, James Tumelson, Julian Tamba, David Manalo, and Andrew Wilson!
The UHM Library is organizing a series of exciting events in partnership with Japan's National Museum of Japanese History (NMJH), the Center for Japanese Studies, Center for Okinawan Studies, the UHM Departments of History, Art & Art History, and Outreach College.

The series will kick off on February 7, 2013 with an art exhibit at the UH Commons Gallery entitled “Picturing the Ryūkyūs: Images of Okinawa in Japanese Artworks from the UH Sakamaki/Hawley Collection.” Dr. John Szostak and Mr. Travis Seifman (UHM graduate) are co-curating the exhibit featuring rare scrolls, books, and woodblock prints depicting various historical processions. Two of the scrolls were restored with the help of community supporters several years ago (see also J-Current Spring & Fall 2007 and Spring & Fall 2008). One scroll depicts the 1671 Ryūkyūan procession and is now on exhibit at the National Museum of Japanese History through December 9, 2012. The co-curators are designing the exhibit so four scrolls will be fully displayed for the first time. The art exhibit will run through February 22, 2013.

Four public lectures, “Discovering Historical Parades and Processions from China, Korea, and Ryūkyū During Edo Period,” will be held on February 10, followed by a day-long symposium on February 11, “Interpreting Parades and Processions of Edo Japan: History, Culture, and Foreign Relations.” Dr. Mark McNally and Dr. John Szostak of UHM will be joined by Professors Gregory Smits (Pennsylvania State Univ.), Hiroshi Kurushima (Natl. Museum of Japanese History), Manabu Yokoyama (Notre Dame Seishin Univ.), and PhD student Travis Seifman (UC Santa Barbara). They will discuss historical processions and explore the cross-cultural dimensions associated with parades in early modern Japan.

All the events are free and open to the public. Pre-registration for the symposium is requested. Please visit the website for registration, speaker profiles, abstracts, schedules, and related events at: http://guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/symposium

Please contact Tokiko Y. Bazzell, Japan Studies Librarian, at 808-956-2315 or email japancol@hawaii.edu for further information.

The Fall 2012 semester has whizzed by. Briefly, here are some of the things that the Center for Okinawan Studies has done this semester: The Center for Okinawan Studies again participated in the Hawaii United Okinawa Association’s Okinawan Festival. COS also continued its lecture series this semester beginning with a talk by UHM Professor Emeritus Kyoko Hijirida and Mr. Grant “Sandaa” Murata about the Okinawan language. On September 18, the presentation titled “Shimakutuba nu Hi” was given to coincide with “Shimakutuba nu Hi” (Ryukyuan Language(s) Day) in Okinawa, which celebrates the native languages of Okinawa Prefecture. On November 14, Dr. Jayson Chun of UH West O’ahu gave a talk titled “Introduction to Okinawan Pop.” Finally, on November 16, COS co-sponsored a talk by Ryūdai Professor Katsunori Yamazato titled “The Resurgence of Okinawan Language Through Contemporary Okinawan Literature.”

Spring 2013 is looking exciting as well, please visit our website at: http://manoa.hawaii.edu/okinawa/wordpress/

CJS Joins in Welcoming New Consul-General of Japan

At a special luncheon at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawaii on November 20th, the Kizuna group of Japan-focused community organizations welcomed new Japanese Consul-General Toyoei Shigeeda and his wife, Michiko, to Honolulu. More than 100 people attended. Consul-General Shigeeda arrived in October from his previous post in Frankfurt, Germany, and visited UH on November 15 to welcome the participants of the JSPS-sponsored Symposium, “Culture, Technology, and Transnationality in the Cold War Asia and Pacific.”


UH Visit to Urasenke in Kyōto

Members of the Dr. Sōshitsu Sen International Way of Tea Center at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa visited Urasenke in beautiful Kyōto on November 19 and 20, 2012. Teachers and students of Chadō from Hawai‘i attended a memorial tea service honoring Sōtān, grandson of Sen no Rikyū. CJS Director Mary McDonald and Associate Director Gay Satsuma expressed thanks to Urasenke for teaching students at UH Mānoa and in Kyōto, and for sustaining the Jakuan tea house at UH Mānoa. UHM Urasenke tea instructor Yoshibumi Ogawa led participants through the cultural hearth of Chadō. UHM students in the group were Diane Chen, Rumiko Kawakami, and Talon Tengan.

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Changes in Kyōto

At a time when Kyōto’s famous maple trees are going through their seasonal color change from green to red, when tourists from around the world jam into tightly packed buses and trains headed to the mountains surrounding the city, I thought it would be appropriate to write about change. To most of us Kyōto conjures up images of geisha in full kimono sneaking from door to door in tiny back alleys, temples between shrines between thirty-story skyscrapers, cherry blossoms… Whatever one’s image of the city may be, its defining characteristic is traditionalness. While Kyōto is neither the oldest capital of Japan nor the only historical capital on the island of Honshū, somehow Japanese and foreigners alike look to Kyōto for all things traditional. One often hears Kyōto is so traditional that even the global fast-food giant McDonald’s felt it more strategic to change its famous red and yellow color scheme to brown to better match the wood-brown cityscape. By the look of things, yes, the city is still quite traditional in many senses. On the fringes, however, the city is changing.

Living in Kyōto for a second time, I have come to realize that it is the traditional aspects that are becoming harder to find. Many of the non-traditional aspects of Kyōto are very much out in plain view. For example, in just the past two months, I have been to the Kyōto Reggae Festival, a Marc Chagall opening at The Museum of Kyōto, a Doshisha University-sponsored forum on hip-hop culture in Japan, and a hip-hop concert featuring New York rapper Lloyd Banks and the DJ group Heavy Hitters; it goes without saying, none of these events are deeply related to any aspect of traditional culture. On the other hand, it took a friend and me weeks to find a shop that still makes kiseru/煙管 or traditional Japanese Tobacco pipes.

To be fair, Kyōto still maintains a great amount of traditional culture that is not found elsewhere in Japan (Kyōto’s 2,000 temples and shrines alone attest to that, not to mention maiko-san). But, as the world grows smaller and globalization takes hold, traditionalness in Kyōto inherits and blends with new influences. Consider this: the actual residential population of the city is roughly 1.5 million people, but the city is said to attract over 50 million tourists every year. Numbers like this suggest that while it is economically profitable for the city to propagate its traditionalness, it is culturally unsustainable. From the moment Japan decided to bestow the traditional title on Kyōto, the city has become less and less so. With over 50 million tourists from around the world coming to Kyōto every year, change is inevitable. I believe that tradition and Kyōto will remain synonymous for the foreseeable future, but the idea of ‘tradition’ will surely change.

Faculty Presentations, Publications and Announcements

Helen Baroni, Associate Professor of Religion, published a book entitled Roshi: Correspondence between Robert Baker Aitken and His Distant Correspondents (SUNY Press, 2012) in October.

Lonny Carlile, Associate Professor of Asian Studies, has been awarded funding by the Japan Foundation to take his Spring 2013 Honors Seminar on “Monarchy, Modernity and Native Identity in the Asia-Pacific” to Hokkaido and Okinawa to visit sites relating to Okinawan and Ainu identity.

William Wayne Farris, Professor of History, coming off his Fulbright that lasted from 1 November 2010 through July 2011, completed a rough draft of a book manuscript on the history of the Japanese green tea industry entitled A Bowl For a Copper: A Commodity History of Japanese Green Tea.

Patricia Steinhoff, Professor of Sociology, wrote a book first published in Japanese in 1991 by Kawade Shobo Shinsha as Nibon Sekigunha: Nono Shokaiyakuteki Monogatari and reissued in 2003 by Iwanami Shoten as Shi e no Ideorogii: Nibon Sekigunha. It is now being translated into Korean and will be published in Korea early in 2013.

Gay Satsuma, Associate Director of the Center for Japanese Studies, gave a talk titled "From Yoshiwara to Koza City: Shifting Images of Prostitutes in Japanese Literature," at the International Association for Asia Pacific Studies 3rd Annual Conference at the Chinese University of Hong Kong on November 23.

John Szostak, Associate Professor of Japanese Art History, contributed an essay to the catalogue for the art exhibition "Kamisaka Sekka: Dawn of Modern Japanese Design" at the Art Gallery of New South Wales in Sydney, Australia. He also presented a paper at a symposium held in July at the gallery on Rinpa painting and design, in conjunction with the exhibition’s opening.

Yuma Totani, Associate Professor of History, is a recipient of the Frederic Burkhardt Residential Fellowship for 2012/2013. She is currently in residence at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (CASBS) at Stanford University working on a book manuscript, In the Shadow of the Tokyo Trial: The Allied War Crimes Prosecution in the Pacific Region, 1945-1951.
J-Current reports on the achievements and activities of UHM Japanese Studies faculty and students as well as Japan-related events, research, scholarships and overseas programs. Please direct your submissions to cjs@hawaii.edu.

To receive J-Current and other CJS announcements by e-mail, sign up for our email LISTSERV by contacting cjs@hawaii.edu. If you prefer to receive the newsletter as a hard copy and flyers by email, please indicate your preference. If you know someone who would like to be on our mailing list, please let us know.

Application Deadlines

Center for Japanese Studies Scholarships
Priority Deadline: February 1, 2013.
Submissions will be accepted through February 15.
The application is accessible through the UH STAR system at: https://www.star.hawaii.edu/

Center for Japanese Studies Graduate Student Travel Award
Next Quarterly Deadline: February 1, 2013.

Contact CJS at 956-2665 or visit http://www.hawaii.edu/cjs for more information