Director’s Message: UHM in Japan, March 2014

Chancellor Tom Apple and SPAS Dean R. Anderson Sutton visited UH Mānoa partners in Japan for five days in March. Lori Admiral, UH Foundation Associate Vice President for Development, and I accompanied the Chancellor's trip. Chancellor Apple thanked alumni, academic partners, and donors for their strong support of UH Mānoa. Kansai-area alumni and Kantō-area alumni groups each sponsored dinners to meet Chancellor Tom Apple for the first time. UH graduates saw exciting progress at Mānoa in the Chancellor’s illustrated update. We were proud to hear the wonderful work UHM graduates are doing in business and academia in Japan. Local touches at the gatherings included Konishiki and keiki hula.

Chancellor Apple visited Dr. Genshitsu Sen at Urasenke in Kyōto, the historical tea school, and thanked Dr. Sen for his generous support of tea studies and Japanese Studies in Hawai‘i. We were honored when Dr. Sen served us tea in one corner of Konnichian remaining in use during temporary closure for preservation.

In Tokyo, Chūō University President Fukuhara hosted us at Chūō’s original campus beside the Koishikawa Kōrakuen garden. Chūō is a new partner with a recently opened Pacific Office at UH Mānoa. CJS Faculty Member in Art History John Szostak joined our tour of Mitsui Fudōsan’s “Tokyo Midtown,” redeveloped site of the Defense Agency in Roppongi. Mitsui’s commitments to contemporary art and architecture have involved UHM Art Department students. Chancellor Apple also visited Uehiro Foundation in Tokyo to thank Secretary General Noboru Maruyama for support of Philosophy and Ethics at UH Mānoa. The historic Sanbancho location of Uehiro Foundation took us past the cherry blossoms budding outside the Imperial Palace.

Chancellor Apple, Dean Sutton, and Associate VP Admiral spent several days making similar visits in Korea before coming to Japan. I was grateful to Chancellor Apple and his team for their commitment to maintaining strong ties in East Asia. I was honored to join their Japan travels and thank alumni and supporters of UHM in Japan.

—Mary McDonald

Ehime Prefectural International Center Interns

Ehime Prefecture invites two UHM students to intern in their International Center each summer. Summer 2014 interns will be Kamalolo Koanui-Kong and Rochelle Ohata. Kamalolo is graduating from UHM in May 2014 with a BA in Hawaiian Language Studies and entering William S. Richardson School of Law in August. Rochelle will be entering her senior year as a Japanese Language major. She visited Ehime briefly as a junior high school student through the Japan America Society of Hawaii. JASH is the local organizer of this internship for UHM students. Our thanks go to Ehime Prefecture and JASH for these opportunities. Our best wishes go with Kamalolo and Rochelle for a wonderful summer on Shikoku. CJS Director Mary McDonald, Associate Director Gay Satsuma, Mathew Manako Tanaka (2012), and Maia Singhal (2013) met with 2014 EPIC interns on May 9, 2014.

For more information about the EPIC internship, see the Jobs & Internships section on the CJS website.
Adam Wesely, MA in Japanese literature from UHM, recently became a research student in Hokkaidō University’s department of Filmology and Cultural Studies of Representation under the Japanese government’s Monbukagakusho (MEXT) scholarship program. He will spend two years researching Hokkaidō (or Ezo) in Meiji and Taishō fiction, primarily in the texts of Kunikida Doppo and Arishima Takeo. As his focus is on the image of the northern periphery in the imagination of readers during the “modernization” of Japan, he will use primary resources from early Hokkaidō-related publications. Adam hopes to use his findings in a doctoral dissertation in the future.

David Nguyen, MA in Geography from UHM and PhD student in Urban and Regional Planning, became a research student at Tōhoku University in the Department of Civil Engineering and the International Research Institute of Disaster Science under a 2014 MEXT scholarship. He will spend three years researching comparative disaster planning in Japan and the United States. David is interested in tsunami and sea level rise mitigation strategies and recovery in Tōhoku and how these can be applied to other regions within Japan and internationally. David hopes the knowledge gained in Tōhoku will aid his dissertation back at UHM.

David Nguyen’s photos of evacuation instructions and view at Matsushima, one of Japan’s three “legendary” scenic places. Matsushima was damaged by the 3/11 tsunami, but compared to other places escaped relatively intact.

Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship recipients were honored in a ceremony held at the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu on Thursday, May 8. Congratulations to John Seymour, doctoral candidate and lecturer in Music Theory and Composition, and to Sakiko Yasuda, doctoral candidate in Public Health at the UHM John A. Burns School of Medicine. Mr. Seymour will study Music Composition in Japan with an emphasis on the court music of Gagaku at Sengoku Gakuen College of Music, Tokyo. Ms. Yasuda is conducting research at UHM on school-based intervention to improve the health of children.

Jennifer Takahashi won the Perry-Ishigaki Chōkō Tanka Prize and Christie Obatake won the Perry-Ishigaki Chōkō Haiku Prize.

The annual contest helps unite sponsors in the community with the University of Hawai‘i by offering students the opportunity to write and appreciate Japanese poems.
CJS Seminar Series

On Friday, February 7, 2014, David Arase, Professor of International Politics at the Johns Hopkins-Nanjing University Center for Chinese and American Studies at Nanjing University, lectured on “Sino-Japanese Relations Viewed in a Global Context.” He addressed the global implications of China as a major world power by laying out the interrelationships among regional players as well as their individual motivations, agendas, and possible future moves. Co-sponsored by the Center for Chinese Studies.

Lynne Nakano, Professor and Department Chair of Japanese Studies at the Chinese University of Hong Kong, related popular views of and alarm over the growing number of marriageable but marriageless women in Asia on Friday, February 21, 2014. In “Liberated or Leftover?” she reported her experience interviewing single women in three Asian cities: Beijing, Shanghai, and Tokyo. Dr. Nakano contends that Asian women are turning away from marriage because of discrimination faced on two fronts, a conservative marriage market and neoliberal capitalist economy, and embracing alternative values such as self-fulfillment and personal autonomy. Co-sponsors: the Center for Chinese Studies, Department of Anthropology, and Department of Women’s Studies.

On Friday, April 4, 2014, Shunichi Takekawa, Associate Professor in the College of Asia Pacific Studies at Ritsumeikan Asia Pacific University, elaborated upon the “Rivalry among Major Newspapers in Japan on the ‘Comfort Women’ Issue” which began in the early 1990s. Central to this media-political debate are understandings of coercion and the roles of organizations in the recruitment of so-called “comfort women.” Dr. Takekawa argued that reconciliation between competing ideological camps must start with a reconciliation among Japanese national newspapers. A spirited debate developed amongst attendees after the presentation on this delicate and multifaceted issue.

On Friday, April 11 2014, UHM Women’s Studies Professor Mire Koikari fortified lecture-goers with “LOVE! SPAM: Tastes and Tales of War, Foreign Occupation, and Luncheon Meat in Post-WWII Okinawa.” Originally brought over by the American Soldiers during WWII, SPAM has taken on a life of its own in Japan’s southernmost prefecture where it has become deeply ingrained not only in Okinawan cuisine, but in life as well. Professor Koikari explained how canned luncheon meat conveys stories of war and domesticity.

The Enduring Spirit of Tea

Dr. Genshitsu Sen lectured at UH Mānoa in February. He spoke to Professor Farris’s Way of Tea in Japanese History & Culture Class on February 10. He delivered a public talk on February 12 in the Tokioka Room, “Spirit of Tea and Peacefulness.” Chancellor Apple, Dean Sutton, Urasenke members, and students heard Dr. Sen apply the wa-kei-sei-jaku (harmony, respect, purity and tranquility) principles of tea to many human challenges.

Student News

Congratulations to two Japan-focused Asian Studies MA students who will be graduating in Spring 2014! Lynette Teruya is set to receive an MA in Asian Studies, Japan (Okinawa) focus. Her thesis is entitled, “Performing Okinawan: Bridging Cultures Through Music in a Diasporic Setting.” Maia Singhal will also be graduating. She researched nuance in Japanese language in two Plan B papers entitled, “Character in Translation: Subtitling English Films in Japanese” and “Nation and Language: The Development of Japanese National Identity Based on Kokugo.”

Four UHM students have won FLAS support for summer 2014 Japanese language study: Matthew Izor, Jonathan Pascual, Maura Stephens, and William Wainwright.

Ben Schrager, MA student in Geography, will return next fall from a year studying at the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies in Yokohama with support from a Title VI FLAS fellowship.

Five current law students will be studying Japanese Business Law at the Santa Clara Program in Tokyo this summer: Kevin Argote, Landon Kaneshiro, Kelsie Nakata, Lisa Sugai, and Lauren Sugai.
Distinguished Scholar Visits UH

Brett Walker, Professor of History at Montana State University, Bozeman and author of several books on Japan, was Dai Ho Chun Distinguished Lecturer in March. He presented two lectures at UHM, “Bio-cultural Diversity in the Anthropocene” and “An Environmental Study of Terrorism: 9/11, World Trade Center Dust, and the Global Nature of New York’s Toxic Bodies.” He also spoke to a graduate student seminar.

Professor Walker’s visit, organized by the Colleges of Arts and Sciences, was made possible by a gift from the estate of Nancy Peluso, Henry J. Vaux Distinguished Professor of Forest Policy at UC Berkeley, was keynote speaker. The 2014 Seidensticker Prize for Best Paper on Japan went to Ju Hee Suk, student at Ewha Womans University, for “Two Apologies and Backlash in Asia: From ‘Murayama Statement to ‘Koizumi Statement.”’ Second place went to UHM Asian Studies MA student Kimberly Shonborn for “Queer Methods: The Changing Field of Research on Gay Women in Japan.”

SPAS Graduate Student Conference

The School of Pacific and Asian Studies held their annual Graduate Student Conference April 2-4 at UHM. This year’s title: Pushing Boundaries, Shifting Perspectives: Remapping Asia and the Pacific Through a Transnational Interdisciplinary Lens.

Nancy Peluso, Henry J. Vaux Distinguished Professor of Forest Policy at UC Berkeley, was keynote speaker. The 2014 Seidensticker Prize for Best Paper on Japan went to Ju Hee Suk, student at Ewha Womans University, for “Two Apologies and Backlash in Asia: From ‘Murayama Statement to ‘Koizumi Statement.”’ Second place went to UHM Asian Studies MA student Kimberly Shonborn for “Queer Methods: The Changing Field of Research on Gay Women in Japan.”

News From the Library

Since mid-February I have been serving as Japan Studies Support Librarian while Tokiko Bazzell is on sabbatical leave. I am also taking over for Masahide Yokomoto who served in the same capacity until December of last year. Masa returned to Japan in April. Tokiko will return to her post at the start of June.

We had a number of researchers from Japan visiting our special collections, some for tours of the collections and others spending several intensely focused days examining materials for a book or research project. It is always a pleasure to open the closed shelves to enthusiastic researchers and writers. We also had a visitor from Japan who, not finding exactly what she was looking for in either the Asian Collection or Hawaiian & Pacific Collection holdings, decided to pay a visit to the Government Documents & Maps Department of the library. She ended up spending several happy hours poring over old Honolulu maps related to her research. My feeling is that there is always something in the library of interest to the patron, but sometimes not in the location expected.

Asia Collection student assistant Heather Flemming has begun digitizing WWII Japanese materials, previously privately held, related to the Japanese and U.S. military for eventual posting into eVols (UHM digital collections). These items include pamphlets, identity cards, telecommunications reports, and maps. Ms. Flemming, who is pursuing an MA in Asian Studies, is becoming quite adept at reading pre-war Japanese kanji.

Our new book acquisitions include a broad range of subject matter. Here is a taste: Pour un vocabulaire de la spatialité Japonaise, Kawaii: Japan’s Culture of Cute, Classical World Literatures: Sino-Japanese and Greco-Roman Comparisons; A Military History of Japan: From the Age of the Samurai to the 21st century; Lost and Found: Recovering Regional Identity in Imperial Japan; Inequality in the Workplace: Labor Market Reform in Japan and Korea. For a more detailed list, please consult our UHM Library Japan Collection New Acquisitions homepage categorized by month at www.hawaii.edu/asiaref/japan/new_aqc/index.htm#2014.

We have had a major upgrade to JapanKnowledgeLib (formerly Japan Knowledge), which covers a vast number of online databases, including encyclopedias and dictionaries. The best way to get a feel for such resources is to try them out as you would a bicycle, input your favorite keyword and see what records you retrieve. As with any search, don’t forget that no online resource can crawl everything, and JapanKnowledgeLib is no exception. There are many other specialized databases to fill those gaps in the Japan Studies LibGuide available at guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/japan.

Another department has many Japanese items—the Government Documents and Maps Department. Many map sheets were lost in the 2004 Hamilton Library flood, but those that were salvaged were carefully cleaned and repaired by our Preservation department and by an outside contractor. Among those maps that benefited from this extra care are close to 3,000 sheets of gaibōzu (外邦図—Japanese imperial maps of foreign territories), as well as maps of Japan proper, often for military intelligence purposes. While our collection of gaibōzu is small in comparison to other institutions’ holdings, we have some unique sheets. After three years of part-time work identifying and cataloging them, I am happy to be approaching the home stretch. In Voyager, one can search for them by title, which frequently is the scale (“jūmanbun no ichi”) if you happen to know it, or do an advanced search by geographic subject (e.g., “Solomon Islands”), checking off “Japanese language” and “map” as filters.

Best wishes for a happy summer,

Meagan Calogeras
Japan Studies Support Librarian
Faculty Presentations, Publications and Announcements


William Wayne Farris, Professor of History, has been awarded a NEAC research grant by AAS for summer 2014. He was interviewed by the French journal “Guerre et histoire” regarding the origins of the bushi class. In addition, he has submitted two manuscripts to Oxford University Press and Routledge-Curzon.

Robert N. Huey, Professor of Japanese Literature, has been reappointed to the Ritsumeikan Art Research Center from August 2014 through July 2015. Before departing for Japan, she will conduct a workshop at the DIRECTORS WEST Conference in Pasadena, California in May on ways of using Japanese theatre techniques in experimental productions. She will also participate in the EDO NO KAKIKOTOBA workshop, a two week intensive workshop held in August at Emanuel College, Cambridge, UK, taught by Dr. Laura Moretti (Cambridge University) and Yamabe Susumu (Nishogakusha University). The intensive workshop will focus on reading primary Edo period handwritten documents.

Mark A. Levin, Professor of Law, was interviewed for expert comments in a recent article in The Wall Street Journal focusing on Japanese judicial administration and career education. Professor Levin also spoke in downtown Honolulu in April to members of the HSBA International Law Section, presenting on tobacco control policy in Japan and on a forthcoming article on criminal justice reform in Japan. The new article is to appear in translation in the June 2015 issue of the German Institute for Japanese Studies in Tokyo working on a new book about the Japanese Red Army and will give a presentation called “Three Myths about the Japanese Red Army.” She will be back in Japan in July for the International Sociological Association meetings in Yokohama to present a paper and chair a panel including several current and former sociology graduate students (Yoko Iida Wang, Shinji Kojima, Rinda Yamashiro Kayatanai, and postdoc Robin O’Day). Two other UHM sociology graduate students will present papers at ISA, Hiroki Igarashi and Penn Pantumshinchai.

John D. Szostak, Associate Professor of Art History, will soon go to Kōnan University in Kōbe as Year in Japan Resident Director, 2014-15.

Osamu Tada, Visiting Scholar at CJS, presented “Creating Okinawa as Paradise in Japan: The Honeymoon Boom and ‘the South’ Tourism in 1960-70s” at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference in Philadelphia on March 28, 2014. He also presented “From Hawaii to Okinawa: The Expansion of the Paradise Image and Tourism Beyond Time and Place” at the American Anthropological Association Annual Meeting held in Chicago on November 20, 2013. He will return to Hitotsubashi University in August.

Yuma Totani, Associate Professor of History, gave a presentation on “The Tokyo Trial and Its Impact in Japan” at the Inauguration of Fudan International Criminal Law Center (ICLC Fudan) & Symposium on Old Evidence Collection and War Crimes Trials in Asia on March 5-6, 2014 in Shanghai, China. She also presented “International Military Tribunals at Tokyo, 1946-1949” at a seminar on the Historical Origins of International Criminal Law on March 1-2, 2014, in Hong Kong.

which concluded successfully with twenty-one presentations (see www.hawaii.edu/religion/conference.html). Papers are now available on ScholarSpace. Select presentations will be broadcast on ‘Ōlelo’s website at www.olelo.org/live/.


Michel Mohr, Associate Professor of Religion, published Buddhism, Unitarianism, and the Meiji Competition for Universality in Harvard University Press’s East Asian Monographs. This volume is available in bookstores now. For details, please see www.hup.harvard.edu/catalog.php?isbn=9780674066946#. Prof. Mohr helped organize the March 2014 Numata Conference on the Historical Origins of International Criminal Law on March 1-2, 2014, in Hong Kong.
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.

Special Announcements

UHM has been selected to send two Kakehashi groups to Japan for 2-week study tours in Summer 2014. This program is fully funded by the Government of Japan to introduce students from many countries to Japan. CJS (L. Carlile) will accompany one trip, American Studies (D. Ogawa) will accompany the other. Each group will consist of 23 UHM undergraduate students.

Students have many great Japan-related courses to choose from for Summer and Fall 2014. For a comprehensive list, visit our website: www.hawaii.edu/cjs/?page_id=16

Center for Japanese Studies Graduate Student Travel Award
Next Quarterly Deadline: August 1, 2014.

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