Jaku’an Reopening Ceremony

Dr. Genshitsu Sen, Chadō Urasenke 15th Generation Grand Tea Master, donated Jaku’an Tea House and Seien Garden to UHM in 1972. In Fall 2014, over forty years later, Dr. Sen graciously sponsored the first major repairs to Jaku’an. Renovations completed, a reopening ceremony was held February 13, 2015.

After a Hawaiian blessing and chant, UHM Chancellor Robert Bley-Vroman personally thanked Dr. Sen for his continued support affording UHM students the unique opportunity to study the way of tea in an authentic setting for decades to come.

Hawaiʻi First Lady Dawn Ige attended the dedication along with Mrs. Michiko Shigeeda, wife of Consul General Toyoei Shigeeda.

The UH tea club capped the event in characteristic fashion with a tea ceremony.

Human Trafficking in Asia and the Pacific Symposium

UHM hosted a symposium on Human Trafficking in Asia and the Pacific on Friday, January 16, 2015. The symposium, organized by CJS Associate Director Gay Satsuma, examined human trafficking from multiple perspectives.

Four invited speakers gave presentations: Dr. Carole Petersen (Law), Attorney Clare Hanusz, Dr. Petrice Flowers (Political Science) and Dr. Julie Walsh (Center for Pacific Islands Studies). They examined sex workers in Hong Kong, entertainment workers in Japan, Thai farm workers in the United States, and American adoptions of Marshallese children. Discussion uncovered effects, limitations, and unintended consequences of policy designed to put a halt to human trafficking.

Moderators were Dr. Tarcisius Kabutaulaka (Pacific Islands Studies) and Dr. Nandita Sharma (Sociology).

3/11 Commemoration Event: “A2-B-C” Film

On March 11, 2015, the 4th Anniversary of Japan’s triple disaster, CJS screened the Hawaiʻi premier of documentary film “A2-B-C” directed by Ian Thomas Ash about the lingering effects of radiation on Tōhoku families in the wake of the disaster at Fukushima.

Dr. Shane Morita, faculty member at JABSOM, UH Cancer Center, and surgeon at The Queen’s Medical Center, spoke about the link between radiation and thyroid cancer. Mire Koikari, UHM Women’s Studies, introduced the film. Both were on hand afterward to answer audience questions, joined by Dr. Morita’s patient Take Kato, a thyroid cancer survivor.
EALL’s 17th Annual Japanese Poetry Contest

This year’s annual Japanese Poetry Contest saw 316 submissions by 183 students. Congratulations to the 42 winners, including Nathaniel Char who took home the Sen Sōshitsu Poetry Prize with this winning haiku:

強い風 うちなんちゅうよ 胸張って

The annual contest continues to fulfill its purpose of uniting sponsors in the community with the University of Hawai‘i by giving students the opportunity to write and appreciate Japanese poems.


Congratulations to Our 2015 MEXT Scholarship Awardees

(left to right) Mary McDonald, Daniel Allen, Consul General Shigeeda, Christian Bilgera, and Mary Hammond

On March 30, 2015, Consul General of Japan in Honolulu, Toyoei Shigeeda, awarded 2015 Monbukagakusho Research Student Scholarships to two UHM students.

Daniel Allen will conduct research in Tourism Studies at Hokkaido University from April 2015 to March 2017. Daniel’s research will contribute to his M.A. thesis in Asian Studies at UHM. Christian Bilgera will conduct research in Electrical Engineering at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology from April 2015 to March 2017. Christian completed his B.S. in Electrical Engineering at UHM and now seeks smarter power grid design in Japan.

Supporters at the ceremony included Deputy Consul General Maruyama, past MEXT awardee UHM faculty Susan Hirate and Lonny Carlile, and MEXT screening committee members Mary Hammond (Dean, EWC) and Mary McDonald (CJS).

UHM appreciates the Government of Japan’s generous awards of two research scholarships this year. Best wishes to Daniel and Christian!

Meiko Kuwako won the Perry-Ishigaki Chōkō Tanka Prize for her poem entitled ‘海月’ (kurage):

ゆらゆらと踊り続ける波の間に月に照らされ輝く海月

Steve Spielman won the Perry-Ishigaki Chōkō Haiku Prize with his poem ‘四年前’ (yonnen mae):

とおくから木の梁ながれかなしい日

Nikki Oka to Represent UHM at 2015 Japan-America Student Conference

This year’s JASC will take participants to Shimane, Tokyo, Kyōto, and Hiroshima, the home of my ancestors. My family’s humble beginnings can be traced back to Hiroshima where, per Japanese custom, my great-grandfather took on the surname of his childless neighbor so his neighbor’s name could continue to thrive. That surname, 岡（Oka), is the one that I carry with me today. I want to pay homage to the land of my ancestors and to my great-grandfather, who took that first brave step into the unknown and across the Pacific Ocean to make a better life for his family in Hawai‘i. I also want to learn more about the specific issues that Japan faces today and work with other like-minded individuals towards viable solutions to them, or at the very least, engage others in a discussion where each participant leaves feeling more knowledgeable and empowered by that knowledge.

As an International Business and Finance dual major, I want to focus on the many relationships between America and Japan and learn more about leadership and my personal responsibilities, both globally and socially. I also believe my knowledge and passion for the Japanese language and culture will enrich my experience abroad as well as the experiences of others I meet.

JASC is based on a peer-to-peer collaborative learning model and I know I will not only benefit from this model but also bring a unique perspective to share. I am very thankful for this opportunity and will do my best to represent our University with pride and respect. がんばります！ –Nikki Oka (International Business & Finance)
Henoko Base Delegation

Four elected leaders from Okinawa spoke at UHM on April 27, 2015. National Diet member Keiko Itokazu, Nago Councilmember Kumiko Onaga, Chatan Councilmember Hideko Tamanaha, and Yomitan Councilmember Kikue Tsuhako oppose the relocation of U.S. Marine Corp Air Station Futenma to Henoko in Nago City. They view the shoreline runway as a detriment to environment, economy, and public safety. Okinawa’s representatives and Governor Onaga have repeated their opposition to Tokyo and Washington, but national government survey work for the airfield on the coral reef has begun. Audience members found local parallels in Okinawa’s struggles and asked how they could help. Thank you to sponsors Kamakakūokalani Center for Hawaiian Studies, Hawai‘i Peace and Justice, Oceania Rising, and Ukwan-shin Kabudan.

MEXT Research Update from Tohoku

I am currently on the Monbukagakusho Scholarship at the Tsunami Lab at Tohoku University’s Department of Civil Engineering. Currently I am studying community and private sector participation in government disaster management plans in coastal cities that rely on tourism. My goal is to do a comparison of the plans in the Tōhoku region, Okinawa, and Hawai‘i. During my time here, I’ve helped organize an Urban Planning conference on disasters and participated in the United Nation’s Conference on Worldwide Disaster Reduction. One of my articles, jointly funded by the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa and Tohoku University, has been accepted into Asia Pacific World. My article examines how the rational planning process used in Japan shapes and in some ways limits the ability of Miyako City in restoring its rail line. It is expected to debut in the Fall 2015 issue.

—David Nguyen, PhD student (Planning)

Honouliuli Internment Camp: Lessons Will Live On

U.S. Secretary of the Interior Sally Jewell (center) dedicated the Honouliuli National Monument on March 31, 2015, in ceremonies at the site and at the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i. She stressed that broad community support had encouraged President Obama’s February declaration. Dr. Joyce Chinen (right), Director of the UHM Center for Okinawan Studies and Professor of Sociology at UH West Oahu, researched Okinawan internees and POWs at Honouliuli in Social Process in Hawai‘i, Volume 45, 2014. UH West Oahu provides access to the rural site that will become the new national monument. Congratulations to the Japanese Cultural Center of Hawai‘i.

FLAS Recipient Spends Year at IUC in Yokohama

At IUC, I’ve not only been learning how to speak Japanese, but have also been learning more about yakuwarigo, how the language marks one’s social status, gender, age, etc., and have been working with a professor on looking at how pop culture uses this to convey information to its readers. It is incredibly interesting and I am really glad I had the opportunity to come out here to study and meet Japanese Studies graduate students from other areas of the US as well. The picture is of me at the summit of Mt. Yōtei in Hokkaidō, known as the Mt. Fuji of Ezo because of its resemblance.

—Kim Shonborn, MA student (Asian Studies)
Seidensticker Awards at SPAS Conference

The 2015 Seidensticker Prize for Best Paper on Japan went to Tomoki Kimura, PhD student in Japanese Literature, for his paper “Historicizing the Hinmin: Social Discourse and Fiction in Turn-of-the-Century Japan.” Second place was awarded to Jennifer Yoo, PhD student in Theatre & Dance, for “Thy Name is Woman: Performing the Feminine Ghost in Japanese Theatre and Cinema.”

The Seidensticker Prize is awarded annually for the best paper on Japan. It began in Spring 2000 to honor Professor Edward Seidensticker, scholar and translator of Japanese literature, who spent his retirement from Columbia in the UH Mānoa Japanese Studies community. Congratulations to this year’s winners!

Panel Discussion with Novelist Minae Mizumura

On Friday, April 24, UHM welcomed award-winning novelist Minae Mizumura for a reading and panel discussion celebrating the translation of her book Nihongo ga horobiru toki (“The Fall of Language in the Age of English”) into English.

UHM Professor Mari Yoshihara (American Studies) translated the book into English along with Juliet Winters Carpenter (Doshisha Women’s College of Liberal Arts). Both were panelists. Other panelists were Shoichi Iwasaki (EALL), Nathalie Segeral (Languages and Literatures of Europe and the Americas), and Brandy Nālani McDougall (American Studies).

The book’s questions about the role of national languages and literatures in a world dominated by English resonate strongly in Hawai‘i.

26th SPAS Graduate Student Conference

The School of Pacific and Asian Studies held its annual Graduate Student Conference March 18-20 at UHM. This year’s title: “Against the Current: Transforming Perspectives and Thought in Asia.” Dr. Rhacel Parrenas, Professor of Sociology at the University of Southern California presented the keynote address, “Rethinking Asian Women’s Migration—New Paradigms, Different Frameworks.”

A group of 40 promising young scholars from across the United States and Asia presented their Asia-related research on topics ranging from the historicization of Buddhist-Muslim Conflict in Myanmar to the effects of social networks on cognitive function among the elderly in Korea.

The SPAS Graduate Student Conference continues its uniquely interdisciplinary mission of sharing knowledge across disciplines and geographic areas of Asia. Big thanks to conference organizers Teresa Hodges (PhD student in EDEF) and Hilson Reidpath (MA student in EALL) for their efforts in bringing us yet another successful event.
2015 Summer EPIC Interns Leave for Ehime

Two UH students will serve as EPIC Interns in summer 2015 at the Ehime Prefecture International Center in Matsuyama, Ehime Prefecture. Ashley Nagaoka and Takayuki “Tabo” Nagase visited the Ehime Memorial in Kaka’ako Park together with Lenny Yajima, Japan America Society of Hawaii President, on Friday May 8, 2015.

Previous EPIC interns Manakō Tanaka (2012) and Rochelle Ohata (2014) also came to the Memorial to remember the tragedy and to wish Ashley and Tabo well in their mid-May departure for Ehime.

Meiji Jingū Intercultural Institute Visitors

Masahiro Satō, Director of Meiji Jingū Intercultural Institute and Moriyasu Itō, Priest at Meiji Jingū, visited CJS on May 6, 2015, together with Lenny Yajima, President, Japan America Society of Hawaii. Hawai’i was their last stop on a multi-country tour to introduce the activities of Meiji Shrine in promoting understandings of Shintō and the Meiji Emperor and Empress. Center for Japanese Studies faculty members were Mark McNally – History, Mire Koikari – Women’s Studies, Masato Ishida – Philosophy, Hanae Kramer – Communications, Robert Huey – Chair of East Asian Languages and Literatures, Lonny Carlile, Gay Satsuma, and Mary McDonald.

Mahalo to JTB Hawaii for Many Years of Scholarship Support

Lena Young, Corporate Director of Operations and Human Resources for JTB Hawaii visited the School of Pacific and Asian Studies on May 11, 2015. JTB Hawaii has been the generous sponsor of an annual scholarship for a student in Asian Studies since 1986, almost thirty years. SPAS Dean R. Anderson Sutton thanked Lena Young very much for JTB Hawaii’s support. As a graduate of UHM, Lena Young stressed that she remains eager to encourage other UH students and that JTB Hawaii always has job openings for UHM graduates. UH students can find two scholarships sponsored by JTB Hawaii Inc. in the scholarship database in STAR, www.star.hawaii.edu.

Two Okinawa University Presidents Deepen Three-Way Cooperation

Two Universities from Okinawa visited UH Mānoa on May 11, 2015. Leaders of the joint delegation were President Katsunori Yamazato of Meio University (front right) and President Hajime Oshiro and Executive Vice President Tomiko Hokama (front middle) from The University of the Ryukyus. In this photo, they were hosted at the UH Library by University Librarian Irene Herold (front left) to discuss joint progress on digitizing UHM’s Sakamaki-Hawley Collection. They met with UHM Chancellor Bley-Vroman in the afternoon and signed an expanded agreement with the UH System with UH System President David Lassner in the office of Governor David Ige on May 12, 2015.
New Asia Collection Multipurpose Room

An important goal of the Library is to connect resources to people. This goal, in fact, is not limited to materials in the Library. The Library is also a great venue at which to connect human resources. The Asia Collection Department and the Library are happy to provide one such venue designated “The Asia Multi-purpose Room.” The former Room 401 was officially opened as the Asia Multipurpose Room on April 24, 2015. Formerly, the room was used for storage and processing (see photo). Thanks to generous donations from the Library Innovation Fund, the Henry Luce Foundation, Joyce Wright Memorial Fund, and Sidney Stern Memorial Trust, it has been transformed into a place where people can gather, exchange information, class instructions, and connect to the world. There are 8 movable tables, 1 fixed small meeting table, 39 movable chairs, 1 Instructor PC laptop workstation, and 1 wall mounted LCD “smart monitor.”

Skype connects the room to the world for live chats & discussions. At the opening ceremony on April 24, many of our library friends and donors gave remarks and shared fun moments together, among them were: Dr. Mary McDonald (CJS), Dr. Joyce Chinen (COS), Dr. Gay Satsuma (CJS), and Mr. Quillon Arkenstone (EALL). Please contact Tokiko Bazzell or any other Asia Collection librarian if you would like to use the Asia Multi-purpose Room.

—Tokiko Bazzell, Japan Studies Librarian
Japan Studies Collection Home
http://guides.library.manoa.hawaii.edu/japan
Faculty Presentations, Publications and Announcements


Robert N. Huey, Chair of EALL & Professor of Japanese Literature, presented “Who Would Compose a Japanese Poem in Beijing” for the panel “Reading Okinawan and Ryûkyûan Literature Within and Against the Japan-Okinawa-United States Paradigm” at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, March 27, 2015. He continues to serve on the Management Council of the University of the Ryukus and has joined the board of the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Foundation.

Julie A. Iezzi, Professor of Theatre and Dance, on sabbatical in Kyoto for the 2014-15 academic year, was invited to give two presentations in the spring. On April 14, she presented her current research in a talk entitled “Kamigata Kabuki in the Mid 18th Century—Turning, Lifting, Floating, Flying, and even Foreigners: Spectacle, Competition, and Namiki Shōza” to the Kyoto Asia Studies Group. A week later, on April 21, she gave a talk for the 2015 Directors Salon at Kyoto City University of Arts Research Centre for Japanese Traditional Music, entitled “Sono atari no mono de gozaru: Japanese Music and Theatre in Hawai’i.” Upcoming on July 5, she will be performing one of the oldest extant Tokiwazu narratives, Kumo no Ito, in a recital in Kyōto.

Mark A. Levin, Professor of Law, co-authored an article in Japanese with former Visiting Scholar Toru Enoki on marriage equality in state and federal constitutional law beginning from Hawai’i’s Baehr v. Leavitt decision through the Obergefell v. Hodges cases presented before the U.S. Supreme Court. The study appeared in the May 2015 Constitutional Law Symposium issue of Horitsu Jibo, Japan’s foremost academic law journal. This is one of the first articles on the U.S. legal movement towards marriage equality published in any Japanese law journal.


Student Presentations, Publications and Announcements

Heather Flemming completed her MA in Asian Studies, successfully defending two Plan B papers entitled, “The Amami Islands Region in Japan: A Review of the Existing English-Language Literature” and “The Ryûkyû Islands from a Sea Perspective: Trade, Trade Routes, and Political Involvement.” Her Committee was Lonny Carlisle (Asian Studies), Mary McDonald (Asian Studies), and Leonard Andaya (History).

Jason Mukai completed his MA in Asian Studies Fall 2014. His two Plan B papers are entitled “Japanese Village Transformation: Review of 1960s and 1970s Ethnography” and “Japanese Shifts in State Policy Towards Land: Meiji Restoration to Postwar Period.” His committee members were Mary McDonald (Asian Studies/Geography), Lonny Carlisle (Asian Studies), and Yuma Totani (History).

Mattias van Ommen, PhD student in Anthropology, has an article out in Japanese Studies: “Extracurricular Paths into Job Markets in Contemporary Japan: The Way of Both Pen and Soccer Ball.” Article and abstract can be found here: http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/10371397.2014.990435.

Laura Specker Sullivan will receive a PhD in Philosophy with a graduate certificate in Japanese Studies May 2015. Her dissertation is entitled “Justifying Ethical Claims Across Cultures: Global Bioethics and Informed Consent in the U.S. and Japan.” As a recipient of the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship, Laura spent the last two years in Japan as a visiting researcher in the Koko Research Center at Kyoto University. Beginning June 1, she will be a Neuroethics Fellow at the Center for Sensorimotor Neural Engineering at the University of Washington and affiliated with UW’s Department of Philosophy and the National Core for Neuroethics at the University of British Columbia.

Carl Gabrielson, who received an MA in Asian Studies from UHM in 2010, will begin a PhD program in East Asian Languages and Cultural Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara, as a recipient of the Eugene Costa-Robles Fellowship in September. From 2011, Carl has been working at Lakeland College Japan Campus, an American college in Shinjuku, managing the English for Academic Purposes program and teaching US-Japan Relations, an interdisciplinary Asian Studies course.
Special Announcements

Students have many great Japan-related course offerings to choose from during both Summer and Fall 2015. For a comprehensive list, visit our website at: www.hawaii.edu/cjs/?page_id=16

Center for Japanese Studies Graduate Student Travel Award
Quarterly Deadlines: 1st of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov.

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