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Welcome from the Chair of Languages, Literatures and Cultures



The academic year of 2016-2017 kicked off with a successful fall semester. First of all, three new faculty joined the department. They are Dr. Youssef Yacoubi, an expert in Arabic, Dr. Jeff Rice, a specialist in Chinese civilization and literature, and Dr. Anne Giblin Gedacht, a scholar in Japanese history. Also joining in the Asian Studies Program are 10 new graduate students, coming from China, Korea, as well as New Jersey. A welcome luncheon was held especially for them in a Japanese restaurant in South Orange. Starting in October, as a tradition, we em-

braced the International Celebration with exciting cultural events, ranging from Chinese and Japanese movies as part of the International Film Festival, to a Chinese Calligraphy Workshop, the K-12 Chinese-language Teachers Roundtable, and workshops on Japanese origami and pickles. Also in October, several faculty and students presented at 45th Annual MAR/AAS Conference held at Towson University. Finally, the Chinese Program succeeded in securing two full scholarships for SHU students to study in China, on annual basis, starting from 2017. Congratulations!

A Comment from the Director of Graduate Studies



Welcome to the Asian Studies Graduate Program. For the next three years, I will be the Director of the Graduate Program. First of all, I would like to welcome Dr. Jeffrey Rice (Ph.D. University of Pennsylvania). Congratulations to Dr. Dongdong Chen on becoming the Department Chair of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures. In October, two faculty members and 10 graduate students presented research papers at the 45th annual MAR/AAS conference at Towson

University in Maryland. This was an excellent opportunity to practice public presentations and prepare a strong resume for their future professional careers. Seton Hall University is a founding institutional member of MAR/AAS. In the coming year, the conference will be held at Drexel University in Philadelphia, PA. We hope many graduate students will participate in the conference. Hopefully, everyone is enjoying the year so far, and learning alongside inspiring professors and colleagues.

Remarks from the Undergraduate Advisor of Asian Studies



I'm excited to be the newest faculty member of the Asian Studies program at Seton Hall. As an undergraduate I went to the University of Chicago. After graduating, I moved to Taiwan to immerse myself in Chinese language and culture. What started out as a year or two abroad turned into four, after which I was fluent in Mandarin but just beginning to understand the history and culture of China. I then completed my Ph.D. at the University of Pennsylvania in 2013. I am interested in the medieval period of East Asia, and of China specifically. Centuries before the Ital-

ian renaissance, China experienced a renaissance of its own, with the growth of educational institutions, revivals in classical learning, and a cosmopolitan culture that was truly international. In the spring I will be teaching "Asian Literature in English Translation," in which we will be reading some of the most famous Chinese and Japanese stories such as *Journey to the West* and *The Tale of the Heike*. I will also be teaching "Traditional Asia." I hope that students who are interested in either will take advantage of the opportunity to include humanities outside of the European tradition in fulfilling their Core requirements.

A Message from the Editors

Welcome to the Fall 2016 edition of the Asian Voice. This semester we would like to welcome our new students and faculty members. This has been a very active academic semester for the Asian Studies students. This issue will present you with events the Asian studies students have coordinated with and participated in around campus. We hope you enjoy this brief portrayal of SHU's Asian Studies Community.



Origami Is Fun

During International Month 2016, the Japanese program hosted an interactive Origami event. With over 50 attendees, it started with a lecture by Professor Shigeru Osuka on the tradition of Origami, as well as its role in the future of solar technology. Then, participants were given sheets of origami paper and were shown a number of folding tutorials by Seton Hall's Japanese exchange student, Ms. Eri Kaneda. Some figures that Ms. Kaneda demonstrated

included an elephant, a dog and even Pikachu. From there, the TLTC's Mrs. Veronica Armour demonstrated an innovative way to combine traditional origami craft and modern technology by creating origami with an LED light. First, Mrs. Armour showed how to make a lotus flower. Then, she distributed LED lights and batteries for students to construct their own. The event was fun and exciting, and a fantastic opportunity to learn a traditional



My Semester In Japan: By Juliet Tina Figueora



I studied abroad at Sophia University in Tokyo from March to August 2016 and it was more remarkable than I could have ever imagined! Having the opportunity to further my education and language skills in the culture that I am basing my career in was incredible. There were a couple of bumps along the way that come with travelling alone in a foreign country, but because of them I came back to America a more experienced and confident scholar. I explored as much of Tokyo as I could, I joined Sophia University's club volleyball team, and travelled to

cities like Osaka, Kamakura, and Enoshima. Being at school in Tokyo and meeting so many people around the world has given me valuable life and language experience that I can take with me to graduate school. I made sure to get the phone numbers and social media accounts of all the friends I made while I was there. I still learn new things every day from my Japanese friends who I keep in touch with. I encourage anyone with an interest in Japan or Japanese to study abroad. It is an experience that cannot be replicated!

October 19th Workshop on Chinese Calligraphy: By Min Zhang

Calligraphy is a special art form, present in several cultures from around the world. Chinese calligraphy has a unique writing style from the Shang Dynasty, which continues today. In order to allow students an opportunity to learn about the culture and the writing style of Chinese calligraphy, Professor Dongdong Chen hosted a calligraphy workshop. She also invited Professor Xiaoqin Li, who teaches advanced Chinese at Seton Hall, and Liuqing Yang who is a graduate student of Asian Studies, to introduce Chinese calligraphy to the students. There

were many students who attended, and most were Americans who were interested in Chinese culture. Participants had the opportunity to write Chinese calligraphy. They also learned about the different writing styles between Chinese and English. At the end of this activity, Professor Xiaoqin Li and Liuqing Yang selected the top three students with the best calligraphy work. This event was great for students to learn a lot about Chinese calligraphy and it also spread knowledge of Chinese culture. All participants enjoyed the workshop.





Fall 2016 MAR/AAS Conference

From October 15th to the 17th, a several Seton Hall University students and professors attended the yearly Mid-Atlantic Regional Association for Asian Studies Conference at Towson University. Attendees included Professor Shigeru Osuka, Professor Michael Stone, Ms. Ching-Hong Lin, Ms. Min Zhang, Mr. Shangke Zhang, Ms. Vaughn Rodgers, Ms. Melissa B. Eady, Ms. Yuying Ren, Mr. Matthew Barros, Ms. Sunedara Davis, Ms. Gabrielle Thompson and Ms. Natalie Dunaway. Ms. Dunaway, Ms. Davis, Mr. Barros and Ms. Ren all presented an onomatopoeia project directed by Prof. Osuka. Other participants presented their own research. Paper titles included: “The Emerging Generation in Taiwan: ‘tian-ran-du’ and their songs” by ChingHong Lin; “In the Midst of History and Policy: Japan’s Aggressive Influence, Eco-

nomic & Policy Changes towards China” by Gabriel Thompson; “China Dream: A Dream of Chinese Revival Road” by Min Zhang; “The History of Chinese Cybersecurity: Current Effects on Chinese Society, Economy, and Foreign Relations” by Vaughn Rogers; “The Differences Between the Language Policies of America and Australia To-

wards Chinese Language” by Shangke Zhang; “The Fall of the Gentry and the Rise of the Famous: A Comparison of Postwar Land Reform in Japan, Mainland China and Taiwan” by Michael Stone; “Sakamoto Ryoma and China’s Reform Movement of 1898” by Yuying Ren.



Fall 2016 K-12 Chinese Teachers Roundtable: By ChingHong Lin



On October 29th, Seton Hall University and the New Jersey Chinese Cultural Studies Foundation (NJCCSF) sponsored the 4th Annual K-12 Chinese Language Teachers Roundtable program held at Seton

Hall University. Over sixty teachers and students from various public and private schools attended. They were joined by current graduate students and alumni from Seton Hall, as well as members of SHU's faculty, in-

cluding Professors Dongdong Chen and Edwin Leung. Ms. Shwu-Fen Lin, a Chinese Language Teacher at Princeton High School, NJ, gave a presentation about how to teach and conduct formative assessment, as well as the fun and useful tools she utilizes in class. She presented several wonderful works by her students such as videos, recordings and dramas. In the second session, Mr. Ted McGurrin, a Chinese Language Teacher at Bergenfield High School and his wife, Mrs. Yanfei McGurrin, the Chinese Language Teacher at Chatham High School in NJ, discussed using Google Docs/Google Sheets to create assessments, rubrics and performance tables. Overall, and the program presented innovative and helpful ways to create school forms and materials.



Japanese Pickle Event: A Taste of Culture

For International Month 2016, the Japanese program held an informative event on a pillar ingredient of Japanese cuisine: pickles, or *tsuke-mono*. Japanese pickles are seasonal, and vary in style, texture and taste, but are nonetheless a common occurrence in many Japanese dishes, as well as being a traditional ingredient in Japanese cooking. Prof. Shigeru Osuka began the event with a power point explaining the importance of pickles in Japanese cui-

sine, as well as the types of pickles served at the event. Over five types of pickles were provided, including: takuan, a crunchy pickle made from daikon radish, umeboushi, pickled plum (popularly known for its saltiness), and gobou, pickled burdock root. The event had over 40 participants. Everyone was able to enjoy each type of pickle offered, with a side of rice, Japanese sweets for dessert, and green tea.



Congratulations, Nina!



Nina joined the USCIS Office of Privacy on Monday, June 27th after spending a month in Beijing, China. Her desire to work with DHS-USCIS is fueled by her interest in international relations. Nina currently holds a Bachelor of Science in Finance from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania. She is completing a Dual Masters in Diplomacy and Asian Studies and will finish her studies this coming fall. Her academic interests include foreign policy, U.S.-China relations, and national security. Nina is studying Manda-

rin and is at the limited working proficiency level. In October 2016, Nina became a full time employee with the Department of Homeland Security, United States Citizenship and Immigration Services. She works with the Office of Privacy's Compliance division ensuring that the personal information and privacy of U.S. citizens and non-U.S. citizens are protected. It is her aspiration that the start of her career with Homeland Security will prepare her for a career in Diplomacy and the Foreign Service.

The Hir@gana Times Photo Contest Nomination: By Matt Barros

The Hir@gana Times Japanese language study magazine holds a monthly photo contest for Japan-themed photos. I entered a photo into the November contest, which was nominated for a win. The picture, titled "Right on Time" (「時間ぴったりだね」 or, "jikan pittari dane, is of a train pulling up to the platform of a train station while people casually wait to board. The blurred movement of the train makes for an interesting contrast with the stillness of the people waiting. I felt

this scene was a good depiction of an important part of daily life in Tokyo. I took the photo at Ikeburuo Station, while studying abroad at Sophia University during the summer of 2016. My photo was one of 20 nominated. On average, the contest receives between 150 and 200 entries submitted by people from several dozen countries around the world. Several of my pictures have been nominated or placed in past contests, and I am very happy to be nominated again.

(Photo By: Matt Barros)





Let's Make Dumplings! : By ChingHong Lin

Dumplings are a universal treat enjoyed in various forms around the world. On October 21st, the Chinese Interactive lab learned to make Chinese dumplings by themselves. As a Chinese teaching assistant, I prepared four different flavor fillings, such as pork with scallion and beef with Chinese cabbage, and two different skins. Students learned how to make dumplings into cute gold ingot or wonton shapes, then learned how to steam the dumplings right away. Whether you ate them dipped in soy sauce or dunked in your favorite broth, these hot, fresh dumplings were very tasty, even more so than we expected! Dumplings are a pillar of food culture in China, as they are the symbol of

fortune because of its shape. Additionally, they are the traditional food during Chinese New Year. It's the first time for all students to experience such an important staple of Chinese cuisine, and they even tried to use chopsticks as well. Learning the history and relevance of, as well as trying a food staple of another culture is a gateway for gaining insight and broadening one's worldview, and students had so much fun learning the dumpling recipes and how to make them. Ultimately, they learned more about Chinese customs and culture! There was even the opportunity for language practice and exchange. Students used their knowledge of Chinese to express their thoughts of the

dumplings. "Jiaozi haochi"(Chinese dumplings are tasty) and "women xihuan chi jiaozi"(we like eat dumplings) were a few comments and



Summer 2016 Japan Study Abroad: By Matt Barros

The SHU-Japan Exchange Program was held this past summer. From July 18th to August 14th, Dr. Shigeru Osuka took eight students to Japan, who attended Sophia University in Tokyo. Students were required to take two classes from an array of choices such as Japanese pop culture, history, modern society, and Japanese language. Outside of classes, Dr. Osuka arranged for the students to tour the popular sites of Tokyo, and experience the richness of Japanese culture and food. The group went to places such as Tsukiji Fish Market, Tokyo Sky Tree, Asakusa, Senso-ji Temple, and Ginza shopping district. An overnight bus tour to a traditional hot spring in Yamagata Prefecture was also included in the program's activities schedule. Along the way to the hot spring, the tour stopped at Ouchi-juku, a beautiful, traditional



style town preserved from Japan's popular Edo Period (1603-1867), in Fukushima Prefecture. While returning to Tokyo, the tour stopped at Risshaku-ji Temple, and later Matsushima in Miyagi Prefecture near Sendai where the students took a boat tour of Matsushima Bay. In

addition to group activities, the students also had plenty of time outside of classes to explore Tokyo on their own. Overall the trip was a great success, and the students were able to participate in cultural exchange, build their language skills and experience Japanese society first hand.

(Photo by: Matt Barros)



The Best Years of My Life (So Far): By Trevor Swan



Until I moved to Japan on the Japan Exchange & Teaching (JET) Programme, I had always considered my college years to be the best of my life. While on the program, I spent from August 2013 to August 2016, as a coordinator for international relations with the Hiroshima prefectural government. When peo-

ple think of the JET Programme, most think its an English teaching program—as most JETs are assistant language teachers (which I hear is highly rewarding in the connections you make with children and families). Some are CIRs who mostly translate and interpret at desks. Over those years I translated tens of thousands of words including the governor's letters to the US ambassador, interpreted at events including port welcome ceremonies for some of the largest cruise ships in the world, and worked at large international events including the G7 Foreign Minister's meeting in Hiroshima. The opportunities I was exposed to as a JET were humbling and energizing. I found myself pushing my limits to explore neighboring countries, hike up Mt. Fuji, run a marathon, and have the honor of performing at a festival that had not been held in 200 years with a taiko team. Some coworkers and friends became like family. Inviting me to dinner, planting and harvesting rice, running races together.

When I needed a guarantor for my apartment in Tokyo, one cosigned for me saying I was like his son. It's hard to express how much those words meant to me. My experiences in Hiroshima led me to want to stay in Japan (if only a few more years). So, when CLAIR (a semi-governmental agency that directly manages the JET programme) gave notice that it was looking for new program coordinator's (or PCs), I applied and was hired. I began working at the Department of JET Programme Management this August. I was fortunate enough to staff portions of the 30th Anniversary Ceremony of the JET Programme where among VIPs like the Crown Prince, I got to take photos with Japan's No. 1 mascot, Kumamon! If you are considering applying for this program, or any other work abroad programs I highly encourage you to give it a try. It might change your life. I wish you the best of luck.

In Memoriam: Dr. Michael Kikuoka



Michael Tadashi Kikuoka, professor

emeritus, has been passed away peacefully in his home in Kingstone, NY on April 29, 2015. Dr. Kikuoka was part of the Seton Hall University community since 1962. Born in Tokyo in 1931, he received a Ph.D. in History from Hosei University. With more than 30 years of distinguished service to the Asian Studies Program at Seton Hall, Dr. Kikuoka has made great contributions to advance the diffusion of Japanese language and culture for American schoolteachers by initiating federally funded government programs for retaining secondary school teachers. In May 2001, Kikuoka was honored with a prestigious award from the Japanese govern-

ment, The Order of the Sacred Treasure, Gold Rays with Rosetta (Zuihosho Kun 4th) for his efforts toward establishing grass-roots contacts between the U.S. and Japan, for coordinating Japanese cultural events at Seton Hall University, and for the promotion of mutual understanding and friendship between the two countries. Dr. Kikuoka's outstanding career includes several international teaching fellowships and visiting professorships, as well as numerous publications, including *The Changkufeng Incident: A Study in Soviet-Japanese Conflict 1938* (University Press of America, 1988).



The Road Home: By Ian S. Murphy

Luo Yusheng (the narrator of the story) returns from the city to his home village in rural China, for his father's funeral. His mother, Zhao Di, is concerned with arranging for her husband's casket to be carried back to the village by hand, as part of the belief that his spirit would remember the way home. Unsure why this tradition is so important to his mother, Luo Yusheng remembers the story of when his parents first fell in love. His mother was immediately drawn to his father, Luo Changyu, when he first came to the small village to be a teacher.

Their courtship began with shy looks, and quiet observation of one another. Right when the narrator's parents began to speak to each other, his father was whisked away to the city by the government, for several years. All this time, Zhao Di remained confident he would return. Realizing how important carrying his father's casket back is to his mother, Luo Yusheng makes the necessary arrangements for the funeral. Over one hundred people show up, most of them are Luo Changyu's former students. (Photo

By: Chi King. <https://www.flickr.com/photos/davelau/>)



My Year As an Intern-The Japan Society: By Sunedara Davis

My name is Sunedara Davis. Currently I am working towards obtaining my dual degree in Asian Studies and Diplomacy while interning with the Japan Society in NYC as a Business and Policy Intern. I am interested in maritime security issues and have strong beliefs that understanding another country's culture is the first step towards political reconciliation. Accordingly, I thought that the Japan Society was fitting for my dual degree studies. Since its incep-

tion in 1907, the Japan Society has desired to improve US-Japanese relations through intercultural dialog. It is truly a phenomenal institution, promoting cultural programs such as calligraphy lessons, gallery exhibitions, networking events, and political talks. In the future, I would like to work for the US government overseas. Being a foreign service officer or working in a US embassy aligns perfectly with my current career goals. The Japan society offers

many opportunities to research ongoing political issues in Japan and the US, while making timely events that bring experts and civilians together in more causal discussion settings. In working with the Japan Society, I believe that I have made the right internship choice. Moreover, I get to improve my professional networking skills when high ranking government officials from Japan and around the world come to share their expertise. The community based atmosphere there encourages people from many different careers to get together and talk. Since the positive work atmosphere provides a variety of learning experiences for interns, I eagerly encourage many Seton Hall students to consider interning for the Japan Society. My interpersonal communication, and multitasking skills have greatly improved since my time there, and I am pleased to say that I accepted an opportunity to extend my internship there another semester with appreciation of the generous support of the Japan Society.





A Trip to The China Institute



(Standing bodhisattva; Eastern Wei Dynasty (534-550); Collection of Shanxi Museum; Pic. taken at China Institute)

On October 6th, Dr. Rice and his students embarked on an evening field trip to Manhattan’s China Institute. The China Institute (established in the mid 1920’s) plays an important role in bridging communication and cultural exchange between the U.S. and China. The Institute showcases art, hosts events, and provides language lessons, among many other cultural events. The purpose of the visit was to see the Institute’s current gallery exhibition, “Art in the Time of Chaos: Masterworks from Six Dynasties China, 3rd-6th centu-

ries”. The exhibition featured pottery, bronzeware, and earthenware from several dynasties, including the Northern Wei and Qi, and Southern Dynasties. Carvings, and porcelain vessels retrieved from tombs are just a few examples of what the display featured. Students made notes and prepared memos for a final written analysis of the exhibitions’ content, with consideration to the course content students had been learning throughout the semester. The exhibition will be active until March 19th, 2017.

Asian Studies Welcome Luncheon Celebration: By Edward Chu

On September 21st, the Asian Studies program hosted a welcome luncheon at Harusame Japanese Restaurant. Undergraduate and graduate students met to celebrate the new professors, and welcome the new graduate and exchange students of the Asian Studies department. The event began with a warm greeting from Dr. Chen. Dr. Osuka then introduced the new professors to Asian Studies. Additionally, the introduction of current and new graduate students was a great way for us

to learn about their future goals and

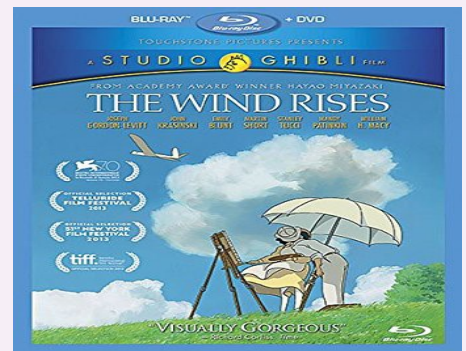
aspirations.



The Wind Rises (2013): Japanese Movie Night 2016

On October 25th, the Japanese department held a film screening for Seton Hall’s International Month. The film, *The Wind Rises*, is a heartfelt biopic inspired by the life of Jiro Horikoshi, the engineer who designed Japan’s Zero fighter plane used in the Second World War. The film is a beautiful representation of Hayao Miyazaki’s animation style,

which he is popularly noted for, and takes viewers on a journey through Horikoshi’s innovation and his talent for design, as well as his difficulty reconciling that his planes will be used for war. *The Wind Rises* was Miyazaki’s final film before entering retirement. The turnout to the movie night was great. Pizza and drinks were served.



Join the Asian Studies Association

If you wish to join the Asian Studies Association, please contact Maddie Scheifele at madeleine.scheifele@student.shu.edu or Dr. Dongdong Chen, advisor for the Asian Studies Association