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Welcome from the Chair of the Department of Languages, Literatures, and Cultures



We have completed another successful semester. After one of the largest batch of cohorts graduated in May 2017, four new comers joined our Graduate Program in the fall. They are Li Kang, Pengxiu Sun, Chaoran Zheng, and Nicole M O'Connor. Three of the new students are from China. Around the same time, Brent G Findon, an undergraduate student majoring in Asian Studies and Diplomacy, went to study in Jilin University, China on the Chinese Government

Scholarship. A total of four Seton Hall Pirates received the Scholarship, studying at four different Chinese universities: some for one semester, some for a year, and still some for a master degree. Like in the past we again organized many events in the fall semester. The 5th K-12 Chinese-language Teachers Roundtable held on November 11 is a major one. Four Asian Studies alumni came to talk about AP Chinese, and shared their insights on the teaching of Chinese. Many current students in the Teaching Track participated in the program.

A Message from the Director of Graduate Studies



This fall had unseasonably warm weather in New Jersey and the SHU community are enjoying the colorful beautiful autumn nature. We welcome Dr. Yan Wang (Ph.D, Peking University; MA, Seton Hall University) to the Asian Studies Graduate Program. Dr. Wang specializes in Chinese Civilization, and teaching ASIA 6113 Philosophical - Spiritual Probing of China in this fall semester. He is a role model who grad-

uated from Seton Hall University, and pursuing excellent academic career. In the month of October, the Asian studies participated many activities at SHU International Month events including workshop, lectures, and foods tastings. We hope our students learn the first-hand information from the distinguished guest speakers. In order to prepare leadership in global communities, moreover, the Asian studies program is also encouraging students to attend a study abroad program in Asia while young addressee.

Remarks from the Undergraduate Advisor of the Asian Studies Program



Happy New Year! Wishing the Seton Hall Community a happy and healthy 2018, and good luck and good fortune in the Year of the Dog. 2017 has been busy, and I enjoyed my first full year as undergraduate program director, getting to know and advise the students and work with faculty in the program. I also had the opportunity to represent SHU as the College of Arts and Sciences – Wuhan University Scholar. I spent the month of July at Wuhan University's Center of Chinese Bamboo and Silk Manuscripts conducting research, and had the chance

to visit the ancient Chinese capital cities of Luoyang and Kaifeng. I will be giving a presentation on my experience in February if you are interested in hearing about it, and if you would like to have a summer abroad experience yourself, be sure to contact Dr. Osuka about the summer in Japan program, or Dr. Chen about the summer trip to Nanjing China. Both are excellent and affordable opportunities to put your language to use and earn credits while exploring Asian culture, so apply now. And look for plenty of other opportunities to learn more about Asian languages and cultures right here on campus in the New Year!

Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan by Gerald DeMattia



On Thursday, October 5th, a delegation from Japan visited Seton Hall University to give a presentation titled, Walk in U.S., Talk on Japan. The delegation was led by Tomohiko Taniguchi, whom is currently a professor at Keio University and a special advisor to Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s cabinet. Professor Tomohiko Taniguchi’s team of panelist included: Kazuo Okura, the president and co-founder of a New York based IT company, Koji Uenoyama, a Japanese sake sommelier, and Junko Uchigami, a former broadcaster, director, and reporter for several TV sta-

tions. The goal of the presentation was to discuss a variety of issues and further develop Japan - U.S. relations through people-to-people diplomacy.

Kazuo Okura discussed differences in Japanese and American business practices citing the Japanese tendency to avoid disagreement in the work place. An approach that can both helpful to productivity as well as detrimental. Gender issues were also addressed as Junko Uchigami cited American feminism as an inspiration for Japanese women looking to further their professional careers. Inviting more women into the workforce has been a corner stone of Prime Minister Shinzo Abe’s economic plan.

Professor Tomohiko Taniguchi addressed the most pertinent issue of the day, Japanese rearmament amidst rising military tensions throughout Asia. Taniguchi did not believe Japan could undertake such an effort, citing the rising cost of healthcare brought on by the greying of Japanese society as a major budgetary issue for officials in favor of rearming. Such circumstances highlight the continued importance of Japan and America’s relationship.

K-12 Chinese Language Teacher’s Roundtable by Yangbao Wang

How can teachers develop an effective Chinese-American tele-collaborative learning program with WeChat or Skype as well as prepare students for AP Chinese Exam from the readers’ perspectives? Experienced teachers presented and discussed these issues in the K-12 Chinese-Language Teachers Roundtable on November, 11th at Seton Hall University.

In this meeting, Dr. Han Luo, from Lafayette College, shared her research about using WeChat and Skype to build bridges among Chinese learners in the US and college students in China. Many American students feel frustrated when they cannot find native Chinese speakers to converse with, but Dr. Luo’s program provided an amazing chance for students of different areas to communicate or practice what they have learned.

In the following part, Ms. Liping Meng, the experienced Chinese teacher at Montville Township High School, presented her ideas about why and how to prepare students for AP Chinese Exam from lower levels. With students’ excellent work and refined guidelines, Ms. Meng impressed and benefited all participants.



From the perspectives of exam readers, Ms. Mali Ou, Ms. Peisong Xu, and Ms. Jennifer Wu also shared their invaluable experience about grading Story-writing, E-mail response, and Cultural Presentation in the AP Chinese Exam. By analyzing the scoring guidelines and showing authentic examples, these presenters familiarized listeners with how AP Chinese exam readers evaluate students, then provided helpful advice for both teachers and their students.

Chinese Calligraphy Workshop by Li Kang

As a part of the 2017 University International Celebration Month, the Chinese Program hosted two workshops on Chinese Calligraphy in University Center on Monday, Oct. 23, 2017. It attracted many students with different majors and cultural backgrounds. Professor Cynthia Fellows, the instructor of Introductory Chinese, gave a presentation about Chinese Calligraphy. She introduced the history of Calligraphy, from the Oracle Bones to Cursive Writing.

Chinese Teaching Assistants also demonstrated how to write Chinese calligraphy. Then, participants got their to write Chinese characters with writing brushes.

“English doesn’t have anything like stroke order,” Miten Patel, a second-year student from the Psychology Department, told me his feeling about writing with a brush instead of a pencil. He also said, “But when you get used to it, it will become interesting.”



Just like the motto of SHU: “Hazard Zet Forward”, it is not easy to learn a new culture. But if you move forward, it will become cool.”

Umami Tasting! By Raul Herrera



The Umami presentation, by Dr. Osuka, was about the basic umami tastes, normally described as “brothy” or “meaty”. He gave a wonderful presentation on umami from the Japanese perspective and how the Japanese incorporate umami into their food. Katsuobushi (dried bonito flakes) and kombu (edible kelp) are used in everyday Japanese food. Dr. Osuka presented the history of umami and making of katsuobushi.

After the presentation students were offered a chance to try various umami flavors. Three teaching assistants of the Asian Department along with Dr. Osuka and the Japanese language

teacher, Takamatsu-sensei, cooked steamed rice and handed out portions to the various attendants. The rice was served with katsuobushi and kombu to get a taste of umami.

The food-tasting also included the choice broth seaweed or kombu to go with the rice. Overall, the audience evidently enjoyed eating the umami-rich meal as many people asked for seconds. Within minutes, all the broth and rice (with katsuobushi and kombu) disappeared.

The event was a great way to experience the food culture of Japan.

Annyeonghaseyo! Let’s Learn Korean! By Natalie Dunaway

This fall semester saw the continuation of the Asian Studies Language Community-Korean classes! The class was once again hosted by graduate student, Ms. Hyejin Jeong.

The class gave students a fun and exciting opportunity to learn the basics of Korean speaking, reading, and writing. The class was hosted once a week, for an hour, and attendees learned fun, useful phrases,

the Korean alphabet, and even got to try a few traditional Korean dishes, all provided by Ms. Jeong. Overall, the class was a fantastic experience, and we will see if Ms. Jeong continue to offer the course in the coming semesters. Korean is growing rapidly in popularity in the language learning world, and perhaps one day we may see it added as an official course for students at Seton Hall University.



Distinguished Speaker at SHU on Second Language Learning by Yunfei Wang



On November 8, the Department of Languages, Literature and Culture at Seton Hall University welcomed, Dr. Silvina Montrul, a distinguished speaker from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Dr. Montrul

gave a lecture about the learning problems in first and second/bilingual acquisition: “Why can’t I be like a native speaker in my second language?”

In this lecture, Dr. Montrul gave an impressive presentation on second language learning, which suggests that language learners come equipped with a Universal Grammar and the computational processes required to perform the input. During the presentation, Dr. Montrul pointed out that the success of second language learning is related to a variety of factors, including age, knowledge of other language(s), amount and quality of input, and input processing mechanisms.

The lecture turned out to a success with full attendance in the Arts and Sciences Room 109. Pizza, refreshments, and coffee were served. Attendants commented on the great quality of the presentation.

“The lecture was very practical and interesting, I learned a lot!”— Li Kang, a first-year graduate student of Asian Studies in the Chinese teaching track said.

JET & AEON: English Teaching Opportunities in Japan by Raul Herrera

Two programs were the focus of a presentation on Thursday October 12, 2017. The Japan Exchange and Teaching (JET) program and AEON program, where a bachelor degree is required. Two representatives from the JET and AEON programs explained about the opportunities of teaching English in Japan.

JET is a government backed initiative that places native English speakers from the U.S into classrooms and government offices across Japan. Applicants are hired to teach English to Japanese students in both public or private schools as Assistant Language Teachers (ALTs) or work as interpreters/translators as Coordinators for International Relations (CIRs). AEON is a private company that provides English language classes to not only Japanese students but to Japanese adults and business people as well.

Both programs are looking for hard-working, adaptable people with great communication skills who are capable of working and living in Japan, as explained by the two representative of JET and AEON program. They mentioned that knowledge of the Japanese language is not a

prerequisite skill as classes are taught in English; however, the applicant must have genuine interest in learning more about Japanese culture. For those interested, the JET program has an application window while the AEON accepts applications all year around.



Visiting Kamakura During SHU-Japan Exchange by Gerald DeMattia

This year's study abroad trip to Tokyo included a weekend excursion to the Kamakura, the ancient capital of Japan's first *Bakufu*, better known in as a samurai led government. The tour of the city, which is located a mere hour train ride away from Tokyo, involved a visit to the Kotokuin Temple grounds.

Kotokuin is one of the most historically important Buddhist temples in Japan's as it is home to the *Daibutsu* of Kamakura, one of the largest and oldest bronze statues dedicated to the image of the Amida Buddha. The Great Buddha of Kamakura was cast in 1252. The bronze figure was originally housed within a wooden temple; however, the wooden structures housing the statue were destroyed several times over by natural disasters. The last of which was a tsunami that made landfall in the Muromachi period. Since then, the bronze figure has stood in the open air of Kamakura.

The trip to Kamakura contrasted greatly with the modern entrapping's of Tokyo, acting as good reminder of the scope, age, and diversity of Japan's history.



Dreams of the Kings: A Jade Exhibit at the China Institute by Gerald DeMattia



This past semester, Seton Hall University's Dr. Rice conducted a course entitled, Foundation of Chinese Civilization. The class covered the earliest points of Chinese history, from the Neolithic period to just beyond the fall of the Han dynasty. Much of the class focused on discussing the traditions of China's ancient peoples. Including their obsession with Jade, a material believed to ensured immortality.

Coincidentally, the course coincided with an exhibit at New York's China Institute entitled: *Dreams of The Kings: A Jade Suit for Eternity, Treasures of The Han Dynasty from Xuzhou*. While the display included many Jade artifacts, the most extraordinary piece from the collection was a nearly two-thousand-year-old jade burial suit. The suit, fully restored, is made up several thousand pieces of jade sewn together by red thread. China's elite would dress the deceased in these jade suits to prepare for them for their journey through the afterlife

The Jade exhibition has since concluded; however, the China institute continues to be an excellent way to experience China's most valued cultural treasures.

China in My Eyes: A Study Abroad Experience by Samuel Stolle



This past summer I had the pleasure of going to China with Seton Hall University's SHU at Nanjing University study abroad program. Besides studying, there was of course lots exploration and plenty of chances to experience the unique nature Chinese culture.

Once in China, I was united with my Seton Hall classmates and able to see Beijing as well as climb the Great Wall. We spent most of our time in Nanjing, which I enjoyed. The city was easy to navigate and there was much to see and do outside of class. I spent a lot of time wandering Nanjing University's campus and the city's historical sites. At Nanjing University, I at-

tended three Chinese classes and a history class. My Chinese classmates came from all over the place; though, most were Anglophones like myself. The group also traveled to Xi'an to see the Terracotta Army and later went to Shanghai for our last few days.

Overall, China had much to offer, and I only saw and am able here to describe a tiny bit of all there is to see and do. I saw sights ancient and new, experienced the Great Fire-wall, ate well, and met many people throughout my stay. I would love to return. For those who may be interested in Seton Hall's program, this year's session runs from May 22 through June 22.

Summer Study Abroad at Sophia University, Tokyo by Allegra Berg

During summer of 2017 I attended the study abroad at Sophia University in Tokyo, Japan. Besides going to class and learning within a structured environment, students joined our professor and chaperone, Dr. Osuka, on weekend trips, as well as day trips, to experience the culture to our fullest potential. We visited Mount Fuji, local historic towns, many shrines and countless other places.

In addition to the school trips, I personally experienced the country and culture by visiting with local

friends that I had from the Tomodachi-Daiwa House Conference I had attended earlier in 2017 and as well as other friends I had made through language exchange apps. We all went out as a group and I got to experience society through the eyes of my generation and go to social events with them.

Overall the study abroad was a once in a life time experience and fantastic. I made so many friends, from all over the world, and hope to be able to return to Japan and Tokyo in the coming years.



A Message from the Editors

We hope you enjoyed the Fall 2017 edition of the Asian Voice. Any articles that were not included in this edition may be submitted for the Spring 2018 copy of the newsletter. Any Asia relevant events or news that students have coordinated with or participated in are welcome for submission, as articles are not solely limited to news or events held on the Seton Hall campus. This semester we would like to congratulate our recent graduates, and applaud their hard work and commitment to contributing to the field of Asian Studies. This past semester has been a very active academic semester for all Asian Studies students, and we sincerely hope you enjoyed this brief portrayal of SHU's Asian Studies Community.

Join the Asian Culture Association

If you wish to join the Asian Culture Association, please contact Trevor West at trevor.west@student.shu.edu
Dr. Dongdong Chen, advisor for the Asian Culture Association