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



It is my great pleasure to address once more the members of the Asian Studies community, a prestigious and active academic program. Asian Studies, with a long and distinguished history at Seton Hall University, is an essential component of our Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures. Since the last publication of the Asian Voice newsletter, we have had exciting new events while continuing with our well-known traditions. Last year, Professor Dongdong Chen was the recipient of the 2022 *Excellence in Teaching 21st-Century Skills* awarded by the College of Arts and Sciences and the University. This year, Professor Shigeru Osuka also received both the 2023 *Teacher of the Year* award from our college as well as from the University. Dr. Osuka was also granted a sabbatical for the fall 2023 semester. These professional recognitions highlight the excellence in teaching and research offered at Asian Studies for which I warmly congratulate my colleagues. As has been customary in the past, Dr. Osuka organized the highly successful and entertaining *Japan Week* which provided many informative and fun experiences for our students. Meanwhile, in April, Dr.

Chen organized, in conjunction with the *New Jersey Cultural Studies Foundation*, the Heritage Studies Day event. Congratulations and welcome back!

### *A Message from Message from New Director of the Global Learning Center*



I am delighted to have the privilege of working with the Asian Studies program and the Department of Languages, Literatures and Cultures in my capacity as Director of the Global Learning Center. Since I began with Seton Hall University in the Spring of 2022, I have especially enjoyed my interactions with the faculty and students of the Asian Studies program. I have worked closely with Professors Chen and Osuka, and I can attest to the excellence of their teaching ability based on the high performance I see from their students. I have been privileged to participate in two Japan Weeks, and I'm constantly amazed at the quality of the programming as well as the achievements of the students' receiving awards for their accomplishments in Japanese. I was also delighted this year to watch the Chinese language students perform for the Mind + Spirit exhibit opening, especially knowing that many of those singing had only been studying the language for one or two semesters. All the Asian Studies students should be very proud of themselves for what they are achieving here at the University in these courses. Your interest and dedication give me the utmost confidence that you will all continue to create

greatness in the years to come. I am grateful for the work I have already done with the Asian Studies professors, and I look forward to collaborating with them on even more Global Learning Center programming. Their caring approach to education is truly a valuable asset; those who study under them and work with them are lucky indeed, and I count myself as one of those fortunate people. My best to everyone in the program, and a wish for those who are interested to come and see for themselves what a wonderful program Asian Studies is here at Seton Hall.

### *A Message from the Director of Graduate Studies*



On May 20, 2023, Jenifer A Endoo and Thoby Jeanty proudly took part in the Graduate Commencement and Hooding Ceremony of College of Arts and Sciences. Jennifer, who is graduating with Honors in Asian Studies, has started her MBA journey at the Stillman School of Business. Meanwhile, Thoby, who has earned a dual master's degree from the School of Diplomacy and International Relations and Asian Studies, is now working at the Asia Society in New York City. Congratulations! Wishing you the very best in your future endeavors!





### ***Congratulations on Promotion with Tenure for Dr. Anne Giblin Gedacht***



In the late spring of 2023, the university approved Dr. Anne Giblin Gedacht’s application for promotion to Associate Professor with Tenure, effective September 1, 2023. She graduated from the University of Chicago with a BA in History/Asian Studies in 2003 and obtained her MA in 2008 and Ph.D. in 2015 from the University of Wisconsin at Madison. Dr. Giblin Gedacht specializes in the social and cultural history of modern Japan from 1852-1953. Her interests include Japanese migration, regional identity formation, ex-patriot identity, disaster studies, dark tourism, settler colonialism, nation-building, memory studies, and folklore studies. At Seton Hall, she teaches World History, Asian History, and Japanese History. Some of her favorite courses designed for Seton Hall include classes on Global Food History, "Medieval Monsters: A Japanese History," "Age of the Samurai," "Japan's Pacific Empire," and "Japan's Modern Myths and Monsters." She brings into the classroom her experience as a global citizen, having lived and worked in Japan, Indonesia, the Philippines, Israel, Singapore, and Brunei. Congratulations!

### ***Petersheim Panel Presentation on Interactive Oral Practices in Language Acquisition***



On April 25, 2022, four Chinese language students participated in a panel addressing the topic of improving oral proficiency in the target language. This presentation was an intercultural panel discussion featured in Seton Hall’s 27<sup>th</sup> annual Petersheim Exposition and also included presentations from students of Russian and Spanish. The students of Chinese presented in this research exposition by sharing their experiences of language acquisition through the creation of podcasts. The panelists described the process of writing, recording, and editing a podcast in their target language, and they highlighted both the rewards and challenges of learning a language through podcasting. The students reported that podcasting increased their confidence in previously learned vocabulary, sentence structures and pronunciation. Most importantly, the students felt that the podcast format, though perhaps initially intimidating, allowed them to engage with the course material in a new and meaningful way that involved both creativity and conversational expression in Chinese. The presentation closed with an interactive question-and-answer session with students, faculty, and attendees that provided an opportunity for an intercultural exchange of learning experiences. Through this exposition, the panelists provided a student perspective on the creation of oral projects as a tool for language acquisition and promoted engagement in target language development for all learners.

(By Esther Williamson, Photo, a Doctor of Physical Therapy Student at Seton Hall University. She took Chinese courses in Fall 2020, Spring 2021, and Fall 2021.)

### ***The 50th Annual Conference of the Mid-Atlantic Regions Association of Asian Studies***

The 50th Annual Conference of Mid-Atlantic Regions Association of Asian Studies (MAR/AAS) was held at the University of Pennsylvania on October 1-2, 2022. Dr. Shigeru Osuka organized a panel, “Asian Religions in Contemporary American Society.” Two undergraduate students also presented: Zenen Rivera presented his research paper, *Three Asian Texts Analysis by the Digital Humanity*, and Stephany Salazar presented *Imagination and Psychological Powers of Tibetan Buddhism*. Dr. Osuka also invited his former graduate student, Dr. Thomas Radice (MA in Asian Studies from Seton Hall and Ph.D. in East Asian Studies from the University of Pennsylvania), as commenter. Dr. Radice is currently an associate professor in History at Southern Connecticut University. These two students presented their research paper on the study of Asian primary texts by utilizing Digital Humanity to analyze the texts. The panel was well attended and had many good questions and responses.



### *Experiencing Spirit + Matter in Two Cultural Perspectives*



by Emily Vaca

On January 23, 2023, the Walsh Gallery opened a new exhibit, which spoke about the role of spirituality within our society. A plethora of contemporary works were on display and allowed viewers to reflect on their own spiritual and personal development. In addition, on January 25th, a group of students, helped by Professor Dongdong Chen, sang songs in Mandarin during the opening of this wonderful exhibit. These songs were 新年快乐 (Xīn Nián Kuài Lè) *Happy New Year*, 恭喜恭喜 (Gōngxǐ Gōngxǐ) *Congratulations*, and 茉莉花 (Mòlì Huā) *Jasmine*. Visiting the exhibit allowed me to understand how spirituality is embedded in contemporary life, especially regarding Chinese and

American life. Being able to see such wonderful pieces of work connected me to an enriching experience. During this exhibit, I was able to converse with a Chinese native speaker, and this helped me grow more comfortable speaking in Mandarin. As a student in Introductory Chinese II and the project leader for this presentation, I found that the engagement in this event helped advance my Chinese learning, especially in regard to memorizing the lyrics of each song. A classmate of mine, Christian Lafond, said he “felt that being able to experience the exhibit helped my understanding of how lyrical Chinese can be.” Overall, I’m grateful for the opportunity to participate in the opening of the exhibit and thank everyone for coming out to see wondrous art and our performance.

### *Anime for the Nation: Imperial Nostalgia and Japanese Wartime Propaganda*



March 27, 2023, Anne Giblin Gedacht, History Department/Asian Studies program, examined the folktale Momotarō and investigated anime as Japanese nationalist propaganda with the feature-length film *Momotarō no Umiwashi* (1943). The themes covered included the power of propaganda and the usage of children’s folk cultures in mobilizing nationalist agendas during the Pacific War. She discussed war visual media like *Tetsuwan-Atom* (Astro Boy) to create a comparison with anime and manga ties to their respective contexts. The Beck rooms were filled with an interested audience and a very constructive Q&A session.

### *Christian Pilgrimage in Nagasaki, Japan*

On March 28, 2023, a special lecture on Christian Pilgrimage in Nagasaki Japan was held. Currently Japan has 25 UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including 20 Cultural Heritage sites and five Natural Heritage sites. Christianity was introduced to Hirado, Nagasaki, in 1550 and during the period when Christianity was banned (1612-1899), but the Christians practiced their faith on their own and maintained the community. The Hidden Christian sites in the Nagasaki Region include the Christian Pilgrimage routes; these are approximately 468 km and take about 30 days to complete. This pilgrimage route connects the World Heritage components and touches on a total of 35 sections in five areas that tell the history of each region. The Hidden Christian sites were registered by UNESCO in 2018. The program was supported by the Cultural Advancement and World Heritage Division, Nagasaki Prefectural Government & the Seton Hall University Catholic Studies Program.



Hidden Christian Sites in the Nagasaki Region

### *Annual Japanese Language Awards Ceremony*



On March 29, 2023, the Japanese Program honored its motivated and hardworking Japanese language learners. For the 2022-2023 academic year, 75 students studied Japanese language and culture, following demanding curriculums in one of the most internationally well-known programs. The students are expected to be future cultural ambassadors in the respective community, foster a peaceful global society, and continue to study Japanese as a lifelong learning pursuit. Congratulations to the 13 awardees! First Year Japanese: Vivian Dang (Freshman; Nursing), Ava DeVilbiss (Sophomore; Art Design), Minjee Hong (Freshman; Biology), Francis Jereos (Senior; Biology), Skye V. Jorn (Sophomore; Computer Sciences), Julianna Quiambao (Senior; Social and Behavioral Sciences), Sierra M Rogalsky (Freshman; Psychology), Kamari St. Paul (Sophomore; Pre-Science

Studies), Second Year Japanese: Lauryn Hill (Sophomore; Biology), Aleksey Samuylov (Junior; Art Design), Robert Villarini (Sophomore; Diplomacy and Intl Relations), Third Year Japanese: Ross S Bennett (Junior; English), Business Japanese: Zenen Rivera (Senior; Asian Studies/English). Awards were presented by Dr. Kaiser (Associate Dean of Arts & Science), Dr. Osuka (Japanese Program), Prof. Wilson (Director of Global Learning Center), and Dr. Balkun (Professor of English/Japan Week Committee).

### *Annual Japanese Digital Storytelling Awards Ceremony*



The Japanese Program has integrated technology into its language curriculum and encourages students to apply this technology whenever possible. Since 2009, the Japanese Program has emphasized the use of Digital Storytelling, which integrates essay writing and visual images into one movie. In recognition of students' hard work, dedication, and further commitment to their role in the global community, the Japanese Program honored ten students on March 29, 2023, during the Japan Week. The following are awardees: Gabriela Castillo (Sophomore; Computer Science), Farnsworth Hendrickson Jr. (Sophomore; Visual and Sound Media), Jade Holmes (Sophomore; Visual and Sound Media), Tasiah Mayfield (Sophomore; Music, Communication, and the Arts), Elijah Muhammad (Freshman; Art Design), Jessica Trinidad (Freshman; Nursing), Oluwayinka Akinde-

be (Sophomore; Diplomacy and International Relations), Max Arbelaez (Junior; Art Design), Lanise Brown (Senior; Chemistry), and Aaron Im (Junior; Diplomacy and International Relations). The Japanese Program honored the 2023 Japanese Digital Storytelling showcase at the 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Petersheim Academic Exposition on April 25, 2023.

### *Japanese National Honor Society - College Chapter*

The Japanese National Honor Society – College Chapter (JNHS –CC) recognizes and encourages scholastic achievement and excellence in the study of the Japanese language. Academic criteria for student membership in JNHS–CC are as follows: completion of five semester courses of Japanese language study (or their equivalent) at the college undergraduate level, a GPA of 3.5 in Japanese language courses; and an overall GPA of 3.0. The following seven students are the JNHS College Chapter Inductees in 2023: Quinton Becker (Senior; English), Ross Bennett (Junior; English), Aaron Im (Junior; Diplomacy and International Relations), Angel Lenoir (Junior; Environmental Studies), Zenen Rivera (Senior; Asian Studies/English), Navita Sivakumar (Junior; Biology), and Emily Van Auken (Junior; Diplomacy and International Relations).



### ***Origami Workshop by Professor Hiroko Ishikawa***



Professor Hiroko Ishikawa, Japanese Program, conducted an Origami workshop on March 30, 2023. Participants practiced how to make origami and understand origami as a tool of efficient educational and health/spiritual advancement in Japanese culture. As seen in the photo, over 50 participants enjoyed making origami. In this origami workshop, we used three sheets of paper to make a colorful box. It seemed difficult at first, but thanks to Ishikawa sensei's guidance, all the participants were able to understand the mechanism of origami and were able to make a box. We realized that origami, which has existed for a long time and can create 3D objects from a single sheet of paper, has something unique in this modern technological society. The meaning of origami comes from Oru (hold) and Kami (paper). It was stylized ceremonial origami and recreational origami, and only recreational origami is generally recognized as origami today. However, recreational origami is not only fun, but also recognizes the power of practicing innovative ideas, mental practice, and exercise of the nerve system by using finger sensitivity.

### ***Understanding Miso and Dashi Culture of Japan***



On March 30, 2023, Business Japanese students Aaron Im and Zenen Rivera explained different kinds of Miso and its nutritional effectiveness. Dr. Shigeru Osuka analyzed the current Japanese food boom in the US and the possibility of a future explosion of Miso and Dashi beyond food nationalism. First, participants enjoyed tasting four different types of Miso with cucumbers: Rice miso (*Kome miso*), Barley miso (*Mugi miso*), Soybean miso (*Mame miso*), and mixed miso (*Awase miso*). Participants learned that most miso is marketed for retail sale by color and generally categorized as white, yellow, red, or mixed in the US. The color of the miso gives an indication of the length of fermentation, the ratio of ingredients, and the depth of flavor. Lighter miso has a milder taste and darker miso is more concentrated. Many participants expressed that until this workshop, such differences were not identified, and no one considered so

many different types of Miso. Finally, all participants tasted many different types of Miso soups.

### ***Japanese Cuisines Workshop at Harusame Japanese Cuisine Restaurant***

A Japanese Cuisine workshop was held on March 31, 2023. At the workshop, faculty, staff, and students learned polite ways of drinking Japanese tea and eating Sushi. During Covid-19, people were isolated and avoided the opportunity to eat out as much. For about three years, face-to-face communication was not easy, as people were unable to go out to eat or do activities with friends due to the coronavirus pandemic. However, we liked applying this workshop as an opportunity to connect more people and engage in dynamic social activities. The workshop was conducted at Harusame Japanese Cuisine Restaurant in South Orange and connected people. Thirty people enjoyed delicious Japanese cuisine. Thanks to the JCC Fund and A&S Dean's Office for financial support for this event.



## Looking to Lead a Balanced Lifestyle



by Halima Koroma

On April 22, 2023, Seton Hall University in partnership with the New Jersey Chinese Cultural Studies Foundation hosted three high schools for the 15<sup>th</sup> Chinese Cultural Project Contest, which is part of the Heritage Studies Day event. Students from Columbia, Tenafly, and Verona High Schools presented their research findings on the topic, “How do Chinese and American Cultures Influence People’s Way to Stay Healthy?” By answering this complex question, students promoted their understanding and appreciation of both Chinese and American cultures. Being that these students were raised in predominantly American culture, they had to work through countless hours of research to come up with a cohesive answer and convince a panel of judges of their findings. However, having an answer to the prompt was not enough; students also crafted strong

visual presentations and performances in order to convey their findings. From start to finish, these students worked tirelessly for over four months and were selected as finalists to compete in this contest. Each group of students ultimately came to the same conclusion: “Chinese culture promotes a healthier lifestyle because they have incorporated healthy habits into their beliefs, diets, and activity.” With Columbia High School’s “Yin and Yang,” a group of five high school students appeared as a cohesive unit with their red Yin and Yang t-shirts and their uniform black pants to represent balance. Together, they used an engaging PowerPoint presentation, spoke in Mandarin Chinese during skit segments, and even performed a traditional Tai Chi dance to illustrate healthy forms of Chinese exercise. In the end, Columbia High School urged the audience to focus more on creating balance within their lifestyles, as found in Chinese Culture. In the end, Columbia High School emerged victorious and took home the first-place award of \$700 for their presentation.

## Heritage Studies Day at Seton Hall on April 22, 2023



by Gabriella Robinson

On April 22, 2023, I interviewed Professor Chen, who organized the event, about her experience listening to the Roundtable discussion. She answered three questions that I posed to her about her experience. The Roundtable touched on multiple topics related to the AAPI curriculum, and it sounded like an interesting and valuable discussion. *Who were you most excited to listen to during the Roundtable discussion?* “There were four panelists, two professors and two New Jersey High School teachers. They are Dr. Anne GIBLIN Gedacht from Seton Hall University, Ms. Peisong Xu from Yale University, Ms. Mu You from West Essex High School and Ms. Mali Ou from Watchung Hills Regional High School. Each did a wonderful job and brought unique stories and perspectives to the discussion.” Professor Chen went on to talk about each panelist and their comments. Dr. Gedacht talked about the bills signed

by Gov. Murphy to integrate AAPI history into the K-12 curriculum and the hidden history of AAPI individuals in this country.” Professor Gedacht emphasized the importance of learning about AAPI history and unveiling the hidden history. Ms. Peisong Xu explained how she integrated Diversity, Equity, Inclusion in her Chinese class in order to not only create a safe and welcoming environment for her students, but also to raise their awareness to other ethnic groups. Ms. Mu You, talked about how she implemented the AAPI curriculum into her language class. Finally, Ms. Mali Ou brought up a case study she used for her students called the \$4 Professor. This case study is about how “Former Harvard Business School professor Benjamin Edelman learned the downsides of going viral on the Internet. A 2014 spat with the owner of a Brookline Chinese restaurant in which Edelman demanded redress for a \$4 overcharge on a takeout order prompted local and national coverage.” (Boston.com) Ms. Ou shared her experience in how she scaffolded her students of different proficiency levels to research and express themselves in Chinese regarding the case. The event was very successful and helped others to learn about different cultures and traditions, but also about the importance of the AAPI curriculum in schools and universities.

### *Meeting the Author Cathy Bao Bean and Celebrating Graduation*

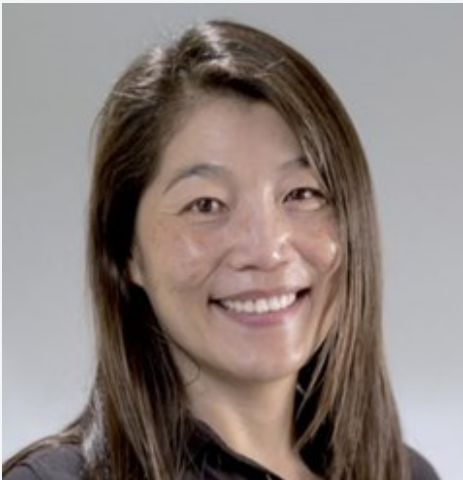


by Dongdong Chen

On May 3, 2023, students who were enrolled in Advanced Chinese and Readings in Modern Chinese had the opportunity to meet with Cathy Bao Bean, a Chinese American writer and educator who embodies the Chopsticks-Fork Principle. Mrs. Bean graciously shared her personal stories and enthusiastically answered students' questions. Two years ago, amidst the pandemic, Mrs. Bean delivered a talk to Chinese language learners through Zoom. During the session, she tackled thought-provoking questions, including the following: Can we teach-learn when dysfunctional stereotyping can morph into functional generalizing? When is being "two-faced" culturally advantageous? The students were thrilled to have the chance to interact with her face-to-face by engaging her with a variety of interesting questions. As

six students prepare to graduate this year, Mrs. Bean offered her invaluable life advice, encouraging them to embrace diverse cultures and seek out profound meanings. Among the graduates, one will attend Seton Hall Law School, one will dedicate her efforts to the doctoral component in Physical Therapy as part of the 3+3 program, one will pursue graduate studies, and another will embark on a career at the United Nations. Congratulations on the remarkable accomplishments and promising futures!

### *Fighting the Rise of AAPI Hate Crimes through Community Building and Academic Programming*



by Anne Giblin Gedacht

Since the start of the Pandemic in March 2020, the Asian American advocacy center *Stop AAPI Hate* has chronicled the occurrence of 11,500 reported hate incidents. On 11 April 2021, an attack on a spa in Atlanta killed eight people, including six Asian American women. This incident drew an unwanted spotlight on the unfortunate rise of hate crimes against Asian American populations in the United States since the start of the Global COVID Pandemic. In response to this rise in violence against the AAPI (Asian American Pacific Islander) Community, Seton Hall students and faculty organized a series of events to increase understanding of this ongoing problem. The University's Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee hosted a Community Healing and Reflection event on March 24, 2021; members of the Asian Studies program participated in a student-led Anti-Asian Violence Vigil and Roundtable Discussion on April 9, 2021; and Dr. Cindy I-Fen Chen (photo), Professor of History, UW-Madison, delivered an academic lecture during AAPI Heritage month on May 5, 2021. The talk by Dr. Cindy I-Fen Cheng, titled "Anti-Asian Sentiment Amid the COVID-19 Pandemic," provided an excellent forum for highlighting and explaining the rise of violence toward the Asian American community after the outbreak of the pandemic.

A professor of History and the Asian American Studies program director at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, her first book, *Citizens of Asian America: Democracy and Race during the Cold War*, explored how Asian Americans shaped the credibility of U.S. democracy during the early Cold War years. Dr. Cheng spoke about how Asian American history operates in contemporary politics through xenophobia and bigotry. Her engaging talk addressed questions about why Asians in the U.S. confront undue suspicion and blame for the outbreak of COVID-19. Dr. Cheng provided the historical context for understanding the rise of anti-Asian sentiment through her examination of Asian stereotypes as portrayed in the media over time, specifically in film and advertisements. Moving forward, the Asian Studies Program at Seton Hall seeks to continue expanding our contributions to AAPI Heritage Studies. On Saturday, April 22, 2023, the Program co-hosted, along with the New Jersey Chinese Cultural Studies Foundation, "Heritage Studies Day" in Bethany Hall. Our own Dr. Dongdong Chen, who is also the Chairperson of the NJCCSF, brought finalists from three New Jersey high schools to campus to compete in the 15<sup>th</sup> Chinese Cultural Project Contest. The morning also featured a Roundtable on AAPI curriculum for the K-12 level that included Dr. Anne Giblin Gedacht (Seton Hall University), Ms. Mu You (West Essex HS), Ms. Mali Ou (Watchung Hills Regional HS), and Ms. Peisong Xu (Yale University).

### Recent Faculty Publication by Dr. Chen and Prof. Fellows

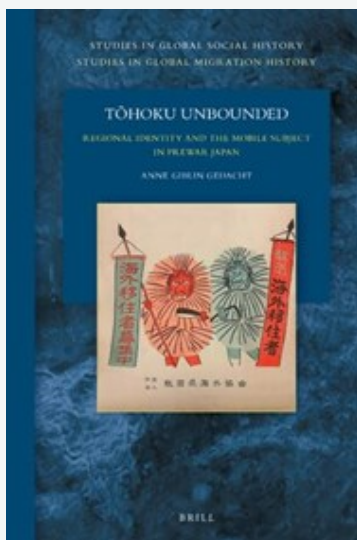


For foreigners to learn Chinese, they need to break through the "four strongholds": phonetics, Chinese characters, vocabulary, and grammar. Focusing on several difficulties in these aspects, this book provides 50 teaching activities, allowing students to experience Chinese, practice skills, and develop communication skills. **1. Master pinyin.** This chapter provides six teaching activities from the three aspects of syllable composition, syllable recognition and tone recognition to help students master Pinyin easily. **2. Conquer Chinese characters.** This chapter provides six teaching activities from the three aspects of internal logic of Chinese characters, memory of strokes order of Chinese characters and structural analysis of Chinese characters to help students learn to recognize, read and write Chinese characters. **3. Expand vocabulary.** This chapter starts with compound words, antonyms, synonyms, and idioms, and provides ten teaching activities to help students expand their vocabulary. **4. Understand grammar.** This chapter selects five language points that students are often confused about: quantifiers, adverbs, multiple attributives, complements and expressions of "tense" in Chinese. Each language point has two activities, a total of ten teaching activities. **5. Understand grammar.** The language points practiced in this chapter include interrogative sentences, existing sentences, linked sentences, complex sentences, "topic-comment" sentences, and subject-elliptical sentences. There are 14 teaching activities in total. 6. The four activities in this chapter make full use of modern information technology

to further develop students' listening, speaking, reading, and writing capabilities. The focus of the exercises in this chapter extends to develop from classroom language to real-life language.

Dongdong Chen and Cynthia Fellows, *50 Activities for the International Chinese Classroom*. Beijing: Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press, 2019. (293 pp.) [ISBN 978-7521306590]

### Recent Faculty Publication by Dr. Giblin Gedacht

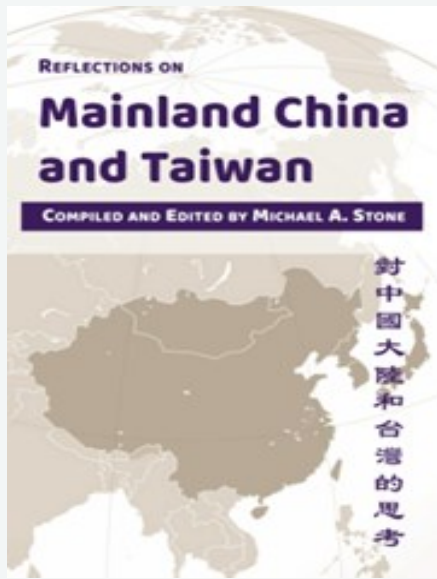


In 1870, a prominent samurai from Tōhoku sold his castle to become an agrarian colonist in Hokkaidō. Decades later, a man also from northeast Japan stows away on a boat to Canada and establishes a salmon roe business. By 1930, an investigative journalist travels to Brazil and writes a book that wins the first-ever Akutagawa Prize. In the 1940s, residents from the same area proclaimed that they should lead Imperial Japan in colonizing all of Asia. Across decades and oceans, these fractured narratives seem disparate, but show how mobility is central to the history of Japan's Tōhoku region, a place often stereotyped as a site of rural stasis and traditional immobility, thereby collapsing boundaries between local, national, and global studies of Japan. This book examines how multiple mobilities converge in Japan's supposed hinterland. Drawing on research from three continents, this monograph demonstrates that Tohoku's regional identity is inextricably intertwined with Pacific migrations.

Anne Giblin Gedacht, *Tōhoku Unbounded: Regional Identity and the Mobile Subject in Prewar Japan*. Leiden: Brill Academic Publishers, 2022. (265 pp) [ISBN 978-9004527942]



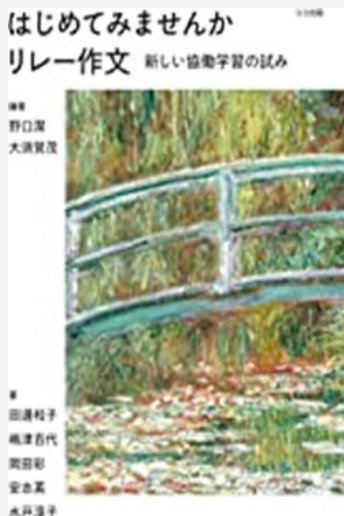
### Recent Faculty Publication by Prof. Stone



*Reflections on Mainland China and Taiwan* is a multi-disciplinary collection of research articles on East Asia by scholars from Seton Hall University's Asian Studies program. It encompasses a broad range of topics covering philosophy and religion, history, international relations, language, and culture. It includes a history of Seton Hall's Chinese program, one of the earliest such curricula in the United States. Two papers compare eastern and western philosophies while other articles examine the concept of the Mandate of Heaven and the role of shaman in Song China society. Three essays explore various topics concerning Taiwan. Treatises on modern Chinese history provide a profile of a Chinese feminist and revolutionary during the revolution against the imperial court and how Shanghai served as a refuge for Jews fleeing Europe during World War II. Another essay outlines the contemporary practice and the health benefits of practicing Yang Style Taijiquan. Readers will gain insight into various dimensions of Asian history and culture. This book is dedicated to Dr. Edwin Pak-wah Leung, who taught at Seton Hall for forty years.

Michael Stone, ed. *Reflections on Mainland China and Taiwan*. Santa Fe: Via Media Publishing Company, 2023. (236 pp.) [ISBN 979-8218188122]

### Recent Faculty Publication by Dr. Osuka



Relay Writing is an activity in which multiple (3-4) people write and connect the contents while composing to complete one story. After reading halfway written sentences and developing the learner's own sentences with respect to the partner's ideas and compositions, the Relay Writer passes the baton to the next person. From this series of activities, we can expect not only linguistic and educational effects, but also psychological, spiritual, social, and cultural effectiveness. This book is an introduction to such Relay Writing. It includes a "theory section" that shows the theoretical background and evaluation methods, and a "practice section" that introduces various practices from Beginner to Intermediate to Advanced writings. With this book in hand, why not try a new collaborative learning style? In the book, Dr. Osuka published two new articles on the topic: "Study on Relay Writing in a Global Society, A Case Study from the USA" (17-36 pp.) and "Objective Programming and Assessment Methods based on the 21st century Skills" (125-146 pp.). Both articles suggest new approaches for Japanese writing education.

Kiyoshi Noguchi and Shigeru Osuka, ed. *Relay Writing: New Approach for Collaborative Learning in Japanese*. Tokyo: Coco Publication, 2023. (222 pp.) [ISBN 978-4866760667]



## SHU-Japan Exchange Program Summer 2023



For the past 40 years, Seton Hall University and Sophia University in Tokyo have exchanged students in this four-week session. As part of the two schools' shared mission to broaden and deepen understanding between the countries, the SHU-Sophia University summer exchange program provides an excellent academic opportunities that introduces students to a broad range of issues in Japan and Asia. This summer from June 27-July 22, 2023, 12 students traveled to Japan, which allowed many opportunities to meet Japanese people and learn about their language, society, culture, religion, and history as well as to partake in numerous field trips. All participants also attended Sophia University Summer Session and earned 6 credits. The photo is taken at Kegon Waterfall in Nikko, Tochigi Prefecture. The Kegon waterfall is one of the most famous waterfalls in the world and 97 meters (318 ft) high. The SHU-Japan Exchange Program is one of the most memorable experiences in college life.

## Review of *Everything Everywhere All at Once* and Its Themes

by Michael Ettore

Last July 2022, I watched *Everything Everywhere All at Once*. I was excited to watch it because of the amount of acclaim it received from both critics and audiences. Nearly eight months later, at the 95<sup>th</sup> Academy Awards, the film had a historic night in which it won 7 Oscars, including Best Picture. The monumental success of the film has made me look back at my thoughts on it. *Everything Everywhere All at Once* is a very good movie – it features fun action scenes, a very creative premise, and was clearly made with passion. Looking back at *Everything Everywhere All at Once* after a few months of taking Chinese in school has made me appreciate the film and what it was going for more. First, I will go over everything that I liked about the film. *Everything Everywhere All at Once* is an extremely creative movie. The film's greatest strength is its multiverse concept, which is both very creative and is incorporated into the themes of regret and how our actions affect where we end up in life. This is seen with the "Alphaverse" concept in the film, in which characters are able to change their identity by doing a usually simple task, showing how just one basic action can alter one's destiny. The action scenes were fun to watch because of the film's creativity. The acting was also very good. The performances from all of the actors gave the film life and emotion. Michelle Yeoh, Ke Huy Quan, and Stephanie Hsu's performances were all especially great. However, *Everything Everywhere All at Once* was not without its flaws. Some of the humor did not work for me and it felt like the film was trying too hard to be funny when it did not need to be. The movie was also too maximalist. The sheer number of ideas as well as some of the action sequences could have been trimmed. Ultimately, the film did not justify its length. Despite these negatives, I still enjoyed the film a lot and would recommend it. I think it is something that older and younger audiences can connect to with its theme of generational conflict. I also want to touch on the themes of biculturalism in the film. Reading Cathy Bao Bean's memoirs in *The Chopstick Fork Principle* in my Chinese class has helped me gain a better understanding of the cultural divide that exists between Evelyn Wang and her daughter Joy. In the film, Evelyn, a first generation Chinese-American immigrant, struggles with her balancing both her Chinese identity and her American identity. Evelyn's more socially-conservative views that are influenced by her upbringing in China generates a great deal of conflict with Joy, as seen with the tensions between them concerning Joy's sexual identity and other life choices. Additionally, Joy is very much an American but does not have much of a Chinese identity, lacking the biculturalism of her mother. One of the main messages of *Everything Everywhere All at Once* is that despite the generational and cultural gaps that exist between immigrant families, it is the connections through that family that bridges these gaps. At the end of the film, Evelyn accepts Joy for who she is, but still retains her identity. People can overcome their differences, but must also stay true to themselves.



## A Message from the Editors

Since March 2020, Covid-19 has spread in the United States, and all classes were changed to online remote instruction for a long time. All campus activities were cancelled, too. Society has now experienced a pandemic that has never been experienced before. About three years have passed, and with the development of Covid-19 vaccines and therapeutic drugs, we have returned to the so-called after-pandemic society which allows us face-to-face classes and we have been returning to social activities with caution. This Asian Studies newsletter, Asian Voice, is a record for our program. It's our great honor to edit the Seton Hall's Asian Voice and we hope you enjoy it. Any articles that were not included in this edition may be submitted for the Spring 2024 copy of the newsletter. Any Asia relevant events 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. And we want to say thank you to everyone who helped and supported Asian Studies Program because it is your efforts and attributions that have helped us become one of the indispensable programs of the Seton Hall community! We are very pleased to be able to present this Asian Voice Newsletter.