Dr. Gregory Smits (Associate Professor, Pennsylvania State University) summarized the history of the Kingdom of Ryukyu and discussed the functions and evolution of its royal authority in relation to the Chinese Court, the Tokugawa Shogunate, and the Satsuma Clan, at the School of Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Studies (SHAPS) Macaulay Lecture, held in the Center for Korean Studies Auditorium on April 13.

The Kingdom of Ryukyu emerged in the late fourteenth century and controlled the Ryukyu islands by the late fifteenth century. In 1609, the Satsuma Clan in Kyushu invaded Ryukyu and began to exercise a strong influence over the Ryukyu Kingdom. Still, the Kingdom maintained tributary relations with the Ming and Qing Dynasties in China. However, the Satsuma Clan tried to downplay its interference in Ryukyuan affairs, as both Satsuma and the Tokugawa Shogunate attempted to benefit from the Ryukyu’s connections with China.

According to Dr. Smits, the 500-year-old Ryukyuan royal authority was maintained through elements like ideology, religion, ritual and symbolism, and foreign relations. For example, as a function of their tributary relationship to China, the Ryukyuan kings were granted status equivalent to that of grandson of the Chinese Emperor, which facilitated the kingdom’s international trade with China as well as Southeast Asian countries. In addition, they maintained domestic control within the Islands through ritual and military power. Confucianism also played an important role in the governance of the Kingdom especially after the Manchu Qing replaced the Ming. Dr. Smits illustrated the shift of sources for the kingdom’s authority with paintings, maps and documents.
Dr. Smits is one of a handful of Western scholars who study Ryukyuan history. He also does work in pre-modern and modern Japanese history. He earned an MA in Asian Studies at UHM and a PhD in history at the University of Southern California. About sixty people from the on-campus as well as local community attended Dr. Smits’ lecture. This SHAPS Macaulay lecture was co-sponsored with the Center for Japanese Studies. Prior to the lecture, Ms. Rinda Yamashiro (PhD student in Sociology) and Ms. Megumi Chibana (senior undergraduate student, majoring in Ethnic Studies) performed the Ryukyuan dance, Kijyadefu, frequently performed as a prelude to an auspicious occasion. Both are students of a traditional Ryukyu dance school, Ryusei Honryu Yanagi no Senkou Kai, Toguchi Mitsuko Ryubu Kenkyujo.

**50 People Join Discussion on Okinawa-Related Issues**

A Discussion Panel on Okinawa’s Challenges in the 21st Century, sponsored by the Center for Japanese Studies, was held in the Tokioka Room (Moore 319) on April 11. Seven discussants as well as the audience exchanged views on a variety of issues related to Okinawa and its people, including U.S. military bases, war memories of WWII, politics, economy, culture, and language education, and the future of Okinawa. About fifty people attended.

The discussants were Dr. Gregory Smits (Associate Professor, Pennsylvania State University), the SHAPS Macaulay Lecturer for 2007, Mr. Robert Nakasone (East West Center, and founder of Worldwide Uchinanchu Business Association-International), Ms. Yukari Akamine (MA Candidate in Sociology; Obuchi Student Scholarship recipient), Mr. Kyle Ikeda (PhD Candidate in EALL), Dr. Joyce Chinen (Sociology, UHWO), Dr. Kyoko Hijirida (EALL, UHM), and Dr. Leon Sera (EALL, UHM), who was the moderator of the discussion panel.

As the Center for Japanese Studies moves forward to establish a Center for Okinawan Studies at UHM, the panel and audience provided valuable feedback for the planning.

### Recent Events

**Japanese OPI Workshop**

University of Hawai‘i’s National Resource Center-East Asia (NRCEA) funded a four-day American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Japanese Oral Proficiency Interview workshop from March 26 - 29 (during spring recess). Professor Kenichi Miura, Director of the Japanese Program at Franklin & Marshall College, was the invited trainer for the workshop. The participants were: UHM faculty members Kimi Kondo-Brown, Masami Lachmann, Kayoko Madsen, Miki Ogasawara, Kayoko Ross, Hiromi Uchida Kelley, UHM GAs Cade Bushnell and Waka Tominaga, and UHM graduate students Sakurako Suzuki and Yukiko Yamaguchi. With the completion of the workshop, the participants will be working toward OPI Tester certification, which is being funded by CJS (for graduate students) and LLL (for instructors). The workshop enlisted the assistance of twenty-three student and faculty volunteers from EALL and CJS (including Joel Cohn, Cade Bushnell, Susan Kuwabara, Morgan Lindberg, Loren Otake, Kerri Russell, Paul Starr) who served as interviewees for the workshop. The workshop is part of an NRCEA testing project that is headed by Dr. Kimi Kondo-Brown.

**International Pragmatics Conference**

On March 26-28, the 17th International Conference on Pragmatics and Language Learning was held at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. Jointly sponsored by UH’s National Foreign Language Resource Center (NFLRC), National Resource Center East Asia (NRCEA), the College of
Languages, Linguistics and Literature, and the Department of Second Language Studies, the gathering featured two plenary addresses, two invited colloquia, two invited workshops, nearly 100 paper presentations, and 23 poster presentations, and attracted about 300 participants from around the world. The conference focused on how research into sociolinguistics and pragmatics (the way we use language when interacting with others) can be applied to the language learning classroom. The languages of East Asia were especially well-represented, and this conference may well prove to be an important watershed in East Asian language pedagogy. CJS faculty members played key roles, with Professor Dina Yoshimi one of the Co-chairs, and Professor Haruko Cook the Convener of one of the two invited Colloquia. See the following URL for more details:
http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/prodev/plll/

Abigail Friedman Speaks about Haiku and Diplomacy

On March 28, the Honorable Abigail Friedman, U.S. Consul-General in Quebec City, spoke about her experiences as a haiku poet and diplomat to a lunch-time gathering in downtown Honolulu, jointly sponsored by the Consulate-General of Japan in Honolulu, the Japan-America Society of Hawaii, and the Center for Japanese Studies. Consul-General Friedman, whose career has included stints in Paris, Bosnia, and Iraq, took up haiku as a hobby during her first posting to Japan. She has continued to compose ever since, captivated by the intrinsic value of the art, but also, as she told the audience, increasingly aware of the overlap between the skill-sets needed for poetry and those useful for diplomacy. She also gave brief readings from her book, The Haiku Apprentice (Stone Bridge Press, 2006).

Faculty News

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Patricia Steinhoff (Professor, Sociology):


PRESENTATIONS

Dr. Joel Cohn (Associate Professor, EALL) presented a paper, “What’s in a Translated Name, and What Isn’t (at Least in the Japanese Case),” at “Translation: Theory, Practice, Trope,” an international symposium at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, January 22.


Dr. Julie A. Iezzi (Associate Professor, Theatre and Dance) presented a paper, “Linking Sound and Movement in Kyōgen Dance,” on the panel “‘Yatona!’ or ‘Gotcha!’ Challenges of Translating Kyōgen from Stage to Page to Stage,” at the Association of Asian Studies Annual Meeting (Boston), March 22-25.

OTHERS

Dr. Patricia Steinhoff (Professor, Sociology) began a 3.5 month visiting professorship at the Institute of Social Science, University of Tokyo, on April 1. She is working on a book manuscript entitled Japan’s Invisible Civil Society. This appointment will fill the rest of her sabbatical, and she will be back in the sociology department for the fall semester.

An announcement in the winter issue of J-Current regarding Professor Petrice Flowers and an NHK program has apparently caused some misunderstanding. Dr. Flowers wishes us to clarify that she was not the main subject of this interview, but made just a brief appearance. We apologize for the error, which resulted from our editing Dr. Flowers’s original message to us.
After a year-long wait, a 296-year-old Ryukyu scroll from the Sakamaki/Hawley Collection was completely restored and welcomed back to the UHM Library on March 5, 2007. Digital images will be displayed at the National Museum of Japanese History, Sakura-City in Japan in early 2008 (see also related story in the Spring 2006 issue of the J-Current).

The beautiful 65’ long scroll was viewed and admired by its many supporters at a reception hosted by the Center for Japanese Studies and the Library. The scroll’s return united a diverse community of people from Japan, Okinawa, the US mainland, and Hawaii. Paula Mochida, Interim University Librarian, thanked everyone who helped in the success of this important project. Interim Chancellor, Denise Conan, reminded the guests of the Library’s recovery from the 2004 flash flood disaster and the importance of preserving historic materials. Dr. Robert Huey, Director of CJS, spoke of the importance of the scroll and similar projects and stated “…a project like this, which takes the best that technology has to offer, and puts it into the service of preserving what makes places like Okinawa special is so important. In this way, the University can also fulfill part of its mission and preserve and give broad access to a precious piece of traditional Okinawa…”

Among the distinguished guests were Mr. John Hawley and his wife Ms. Debra Rudolph, who journeyed all the way from Berkeley, California for this occasion. Since they last visited Hawai‘i in 1999, they have been bedrock supporters of the Sakamaki/Hawley Collection, including the scroll restoration project. John is the son of Frank Hawley and he shared his memories of how much his father cared for the materials that he so painstakingly collected.

The reception program concluded with a slide show of the scroll restoration process and talks by Dr. Manabu Yokoyama, Notre Dame Seishin University in Japan and Dr. Kosuke Harayama, National Museum of Japanese History, who hand delivered the scroll from Japan to Hawai‘i.

For more information on the Sakamaki/Hawley Collection, please visit the Library’s Japan Collection page: http://www.hawaii.edu/asiaref/japan/special/sakamaki/index.htm

(continued on page 5)
Special Tea Event at the Japanese Consulate

On March 9, Commander Atsushi Shibata, Commanding Officer of the Japanese submarine Michishio, and eleven officers of the Japanese Maritime Self-Defense Force, joined Rear Admiral Joseph Walsh, Commander of the Submarine Force, U.S. Pacific Fleet, and eleven other Pacific Fleet officers and spouses, for a lecture and tea ceremony demonstration at the residence of the Japanese Consul-General. Dr. Paul Varley (Professor Emeritus and former Sen Chair in Japanese History) spoke on the topic of “The Samurai and Tea.” This was followed by tea demonstration and seated tea ceremony (ryūrei) sponsored by the UH Way of Tea Center, under the direction of Mr. Yoshibumi Ogawa and Mr. Hiroyuki Ishikawa of Urasenke Hawaii.

Bridgewater State College

On March 16, members of the UH Tea Club, under the direction of Mr. Yoshibumi Ogawa of Urasenke Hawaii, gave a tea ceremony demonstration to students of Bridgewater State College (Massachusetts) at the Jaku-an teahouse. Students also had a chance to sample matcha and sweets themselves. Prior to the demonstration, Dr. Robert Huey (Director, CJS) gave a brief lecture outlining basic components of medieval Japanese aesthetics. The Bridgewater students were at UH on a Short Term Program sponsored by the School of Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Studies.

If you would like the Center to give demonstrations at local schools, or to host schools at the UHM campus, please contact Dr. Robert Huey or Dr. Gay Satsuma at the Center for Japanese Studies, University of Hawai‘i at 808-956-2665 or wayoftea@hawaii.edu.

9th Annual Japanese Poetry Contest

This year’s Japanese poetry contest, sponsored by the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures, and organized by Masami Lachmann and Misako Steverson, with the assistance of Grace Ray (all EALL Instructors), drew 274 entries from 178 student participants—the largest number in the history of the contest. Guest Judges, also from the EALL faculty, Dr. Stewart Curry, Dr. Nobuko Ochner, and Patrick Woo joined organizers Lachmann and Steverson to select winning entries in six categories.

Winner of the JPN 100 Levels Division: Jessica Cartright
Winner of the JPN 200 Levels Division: Neil Onizuka
Winner of the JPN 300 Levels Division: Keiko Adachi
Winner of the JPN 400 Levels Division: Eun Jung Chang

In addition, the Tanka Prize, funded by the EALL Japanese Literature faculty, was awarded to Takashi Miura, and the Sen Soshitsu Poetry Prize, funded by the Sen Soshitsu International Way of Tea Center in CJS, went to Ayaka Nishida.

For a complete list of winners and runners-up, along with their poems, please contact the EALL Department (eall@hawaii.edu, Tel 808-956-8940).

If you are in Tokyo on the first Monday of any month, please join the monthly meetings of the UH community. The gatherings, held in a variety of restaurants in Shibuya, are informal, usually over dinner and drinks, and provide an opportunity to meet with other students and faculty conducting research and studying in Japan. The 2007 dinner schedule is as follows: May 7, June 4, July 2, August 6, September 3, October 8, November 5, and December 3. For more information, contact Mr. Brian Masshardt (PhD student, Political Science) at bjmasshardt@mac.com.

To support the Ryukyu Scroll Restoration Project or for more information, please contact Tokiko Bazzell at UHM Library, 956-2315 or email tokiko@hawaii.edu. (Japan Specialist Librarian Tokiko Bazzell)
AWARDS

Jolyon Baraka Thomas (MA, Religion) received the Edward Seidensticker Award for his paper, “Twenty-first Century Spirituality in 20th Century Boys: New Religious Movements in Manga,” and Leah Kalmanson (PhD, Philosophy) received a Runner-Up Award for her paper, “Half Empty or Half Full? Watsuji Tetsuro and the Ethics of Emptiness,” at the SHAPS Graduate Student Conference, March 14-16.

Joshua Turner (BA, Japanese) will be receiving a CJS scholarship to participate in the Japan-America Student Conference this summer. The award was funded by the Sen Soshitsu Way of Tea Center.

Jane H. Yamashiro (PhD, Sociology) was awarded the Professor Misawa Honjo International Fellowship for 2007.

PUBLICATIONS

Jane H. Yamashiro (PhD, Sociology) had an article published in The Japan Times in Tokyo entitled “Rethinking the Japanese/Foreigner distinction” on March 22, 2007.

PRESENTATIONS

Paul Christensen (PhD, Anthropology) presented a paper, “(De)classified Drinking: Alcohol, Masculinity and Modern Japan,” at the 18th Japan Anthropology Workshop (Oslo, Norway), March 14-17.

Kyle Ikeda (PhD, EALL) presented a paper, “Unspoken War Memories, Un-recognized Signs, and Non-realist Representation: The Battle of Okinawa in Medoruma Shun’s ‘Droplets’,” at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting (Boston), March 22-25. He was also an invited panel member for the roundtable session, “Bridging Asian and Asian American Studies” (chaired by Dr. Christine Yano), at the AAS Annual Meeting.

Midori Ishida (PhD, SLS) presented a paper, “Engaging in Assessment Activities in Japanese as a Second Language: Longitudinal Changes and Usability of Developed Interactional Competence across Situations,” at the American Association for Applied Linguistics 2007 Annual Conference (Costa Mesa, CA), April 21-24. She also presented a paper, “Effects of Study-abroad on the Development of Interactional Competence,” at the 17th International Conference on Pragmatics and Language Learning, the University of Hawai’i at Mānoa, March 26-28.

Jolyon Baraka Thomas (MA, Religion) gave a public lecture entitled “Recreating Religion: Religious Manga Culture in Contemporary Japan” at Grinnell College (Grinnell, IA) on March 2, as part of the Alumni Scholar Program. He then delivered a paper, “Twenty-first Century Spirituality in 20th Century Boys: New Religious Movements in Manga,” at the Harvard East Asia Society Graduate Student Conference (Cambridge, MA), March 9-11. He also presented the same paper and participated in an off-site panel, presenting the paper, “The Taxonomy of Religious Manga: Subcategories and Themes within Religious Manga Culture,” at the SHAPS Graduate Student Conference, March 14-16.


OTHERS

Barbara Holthus (PhD, Sociology) received PhD in Japanese Studies at the University of Trier (Germany) in July 2006. As of March 1, 2007, she took up a 3-year position as a researcher at the German Institute for Japanese Studies in Tokyo. Her new research project focuses on Japanese child care facilities (hoikuen) as one factor in the declining birthrate in Japan.

Eric Setoguchi (MA, SLS) and Shu Chen (MA, EALL) have been selected for the Ehime Prefectural International Center (EPIC) Internship Program for this summer.

Update: Mark Ombrello (PhD, History) has been named as a recipient of the 2007-2008 Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship after Angela Thompson (JD, Law), who was announced as a recipient in our previous newsletter, declined it. Kaoru Villa (PhD, EALL) has also been added to the Prince Akihito award list.
Dr. John Campbell (Professor, University of Michigan) gave a talk titled, “The Welfare State and Long-Term Care in Japan: Problems, Achievements, Puzzles,” on March 8. Dr. Campbell discussed Japan’s welfare policies in general and its recently introduced Long-Term Care Insurance. He stressed that although Japan has long been seen as relying more on family care than a “western-style” welfare state, Japan’s welfare policy is quite normal among the developed countries in the most important respects. However, he pointed out that Japan’s Long-Term Care Insurance for the elderly was more generous and relied more on formal services than Germany’s similar plan that relied on cash allowances for the families.

Professor Juliet Winters Carpenter (Department of English, Doshisha Women’s College or Liberal Arts, Kyoto) gave a talk titled, “From Mozart to the Movies: A Year in the Life of a Translator,” on March 13. Professor Carpenter has translated various Japanese books into English. In this talk, she discussed tips she had learned when recently translating five books, including a bilingual picture book for children, a poetry book, and a mystery book, in the last year. She discussed how she translated Japanese idioms and slang, and concepts based on Japanese culture into English expressions. She also stressed that a translator should know about potential readers and keep improving her native language for better translation.

Ms. Fumiko Mori Halloran (Bilingual Writer, Pen Name: Miki Fujita) gave a talk titled, “Long Nights Alone: A Tale of Romance in the Ancient Imperial Court in Kyoto,” on March 22. She discussed Heian literature and culture based on her first novel in English, Long Nights Alone, published for American readers last year. The novel is presented in the form of a diary by a young aristocratic woman in Kyoto during the Heian period, being inspired by The Gossamer Years (Kagerō Nikki), one of many masterpieces of Heian literature written by an aristocratic woman. Ms. Halloran is an experienced nonfiction writer in Japanese who won the prestigious Oya Soichi Best Nonfiction Award for one of her books, From the City of Washington (Washington no machi kara).

Dr. Gregory Smits (Associate Professor, Pennsylvania State University) gave a talk titled, “The 1855 Ansei Edo Earthquake as a Political Event” on April 12. The Ansei Earthquake occurred in 1855, during the so-called Bakumatsu era, and caused roughly 8,000 – 10,000 civilian casualties in Edo. The biggest earthquake since 1703 also produced various popular discourses through popular literature, prototype newspapers known as kawaraban, and catfish picture prints (namazu-e). Showing a variety of picture prints, Dr. Smits argued that the general consensus in the popular discourse was that the earthquake was an act of world-rectification (yo-naoshi), whereby the cosmic forces acted to correct a society that had become badly imbalanced. According to Dr. Smits, the Edo Bakufu or Tokugawa Shogunate had to handle public opinion to keep the order of the biggest city.

Dr. Keith Brown (Professor Emeritus of Anthropology, University of Pittsburgh) discussed women, wedding, and family in Japan based on his lifetime research in southern Iwate Prefecture, Mizusawa City and its surrounding area, on April 19. His talk titled “Weddings, Imperial Succession, and Culture Change in Japan” also touched on the recent Imperial household succession controversy. In his talk, Dr. Brown introduced the photos of the wedding ceremonies in 2004 and in 1962 within the same household and pointed out that crucial elements of the wedding ceremony for a Japanese household have remained intact over the forty years despite apparent superficial changes. He argued in his talk that globalization has had an impact on Japanese people, but that basic elements of Japanese culture have remained.
CJS MAILING LIST

If you would like to receive CJS announcements by e-mail, you can become a part of the CJS listserv by e-mailing the Center at cjs@hawaii.edu with a subject heading of “E-mail Flyer.” In the body of the message, please include your name, preferred title (Dr., Mr. Ms. etc.), your affiliation (faculty, student, community etc.) and regular (snail mail) contact address. If you prefer to receive the newsletter as hardcopy and flyers by e-mail, please indicate your preferences. If you know someone who would like to be on our mailing list, please let us know.

Note: This issue of JCurrent is available in color on our website at www.hawaii.edu/cjs/newsletter.html.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

CJS Graduate Student Travel Grant
August 1, 2007
Please note that submission guidelines have recently changed. For more information, visit www.hawaii.edu/cjs/funding.html.

Graduate Student Organization Grants and Awards
There is no application deadline for the GSO Grants and Awards, including travel grants. Applications are accepted on a rolling basis. Contact GSO at 956-8776 or visit www.hawaii.edu/gso/docs.html for more information.

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