



J-CURRENT

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J-Current reports on the achievements and activities of UHM Japanese Studies faculty and students as well as Japan-related events, research, scholarships and overseas programs. Please send your news to:

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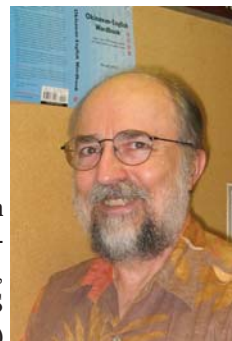
JAPAN FOUNDATION AWARDS THREE-YEAR GRANT FOR THE NEW CENTER FOR OKINAWAN STUDIES

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa has been awarded a three-year grant for its new Center for Okinawan Studies, which will initiate its programs within the School of Pacific and Asian Studies (SPAS) on July 1, 2008, by the Japan Foundation. The grant is part of the Japan Foundation's Institutional Project Support Program, which promotes "innovative projects in the field of Japanese studies" in the United States. Eight other institutions, such as the University of Colorado, have received similar awards in this round of grants.

The grant application was made by the Center for Japanese Studies on behalf of Okinawan Studies. Project proposals for the grant were reviewed and selected by the Center for Okinawan Studies Steering Committee, and include funding for a major conference in 2009, as well as research projects that will look at, among other the Okinawan diaspora in Hawai'i, the relations between communities in Okinawa and the U.S. military bases there, and traditional Okinawan performance. The award will also support the development of on-line Okinawan language learning materials, the translation of a key Okinawan history textbook into English, and other curriculum-related activities. The grant is for three years \$70,000 for the first year and the remainder to be determined later. Several of the projects will be done in cooperation with faculty at the University of the Ryukyus, which was awarded a five-year \$2.5 million grant from the Japanese Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology to examine the Okinawan diaspora world-wide.

PROFESSOR SERAFIM APPOINTED FOUNDING DIRECTOR

Dr. **Leon Serafim**
(Associate Professor of Japanese, EALL, and a CJS faculty member)



will be the founding Director of the Center for Okinawan Studies. His term of office will run from July 1, 2008 to June 30, 2009.

Dr. Serafim has an MA in Japanese from UHM (1976) and a Ph.D. in Linguistics from Yale in 1984. Serafim has been studying Ryukyuan languages since 1972, and actively pursuing research in Ryukyuan linguistics since 1975. With a long list of publications and conference presentations on the history and prehistory of Ryukyuan, Japanese, and their parent language, Proto-Japonic, he is recognized in Okinawa, Japan proper, the United States, and around the world as one of the top linguists working on Ryukyuan. He collaborated with Professor **Kyoko Hijirida** to develop the two-semester Okinawan Language and Culture course (EALL 471-472), and has also taught an Okinawan history course for the History Department several times in recent years.

Graduate Student Seminars



**Frances
Mammana**

Ms. **Frances Marguerite Mammana** (PhD Candidate in Theatre) presented a lecture entitled "Amorous Watermarks: Modes of Enticement in both Forbidden and Officially Endorsed *Kumiodori* Plays" on February 14, 2008, for the CJS Graduate Student Seminar series. Ms. Mammana detailed the depiction of love in several *kumiodori* plays. This form of drama was created in 1719 to

entertain Chinese envoys in attendance of the Ryukyuan kings' coronation ceremonies. Using examples from the plays, Ms. Mammana demonstrated how dynamics of love were imbued with water imagery and revealed the conflicts between sense of duty (filial piety, loyalty) and self fulfillment.

Mr. **Hirofumi Katsuno** (PhD Candidate, Anthropology)

gave a talk entitled "National Branding Japan: Nationalism, Cosmopolitanism, and the Humanoid Robots in Contemporary Japan," on April 10, 2008, for the CJS Graduate Student Seminar series. According to Mr. Katsuno who did research in Akihabara and Fukuoka, humanoid robot production is viewed as part of the national identity of Japanese. Japanese engineers argue that it is culturally unique to the Japanese and it dates back to "*karakuri ningyō*" or wind-up dolls in the Edo era. Mr. Katsuno examined Japan's government policy and enthusiasm for humanoid robots demonstrated by big corporations, engineering students and lay people, and found that at the turn of century, Japan had been shifting from technological nation building to nation building based on intellectual property.



**Hirofumi
Katsuno**

Students & Alumni News

GRADUATION

Jeffrey Maret (PhD, Anthropology) is graduating with a PhD in Anthropology in May, 2008. His doctoral dissertation is entitled "An Ethnography of Invisibility: Education & Special Needs Children in Japan" (Chair: Dr. Christine Yano).

Shunichi Takekawa (PhD, Political Science) is graduating with a PhD in Political Science in May, 2008. His doctoral dissertation is entitled "Nationalism, Democracy and the Press in Postwar Japan: How *Asahi* and *Yomiuri* Frame News to Compete with Each Other" (Chair: Dr. Jim Dator).

AWARDS

James Jack (MA, Art & Art History) and **Pamela Runestad** (MA, Anthropology) were awarded the 2008-2009 Crown Prince Akihito Fellowship.

Gabriel Banks, who earned an MA in Asian Studies in December 2007, and

Amanda Gomes (MA, Asian Studies) received Monbukagakusho Research Scholarships. Mr. Banks is pursuing a master's degree at Tokyo University. Ms. Gomes will be a research student at Kyushu University.

Cade Bushnell (PhD, EALL) was awarded the Japan Foundation Doctoral Fellowship. Cade will spend one year at the University of Tsukuba, working on his PhD dissertation.

Shaun Kindred, who earned a BA in Japanese with a minor in Asian Studies in December of 2007, and **Kevin Duffy** (BA majoring in Japanese and Peace Studies) have been selected to participate in the internship program at the Ehime Prefectural International Center (EPIC) this summer. The program was started to strengthen and deepen ties and friendships between Hawaii and Ehime following the tragic sinking of the Ehime-maru in 2001.

Neal Akatsuka (BA, Anthropology) will be receiving a CJS scholarship to participate in the Japan-America

Student Conference this summer. The award was funded by the Japan-America Society of Hawaii and the Sen Soshitsu Way of Tea Center.

PUBLICATIONS

John Kupchik (PhD, Linguistics) "A comprehensive study of mwo, mö, mye, mey, po, pye, and pey syllables in the Eastern Old Japanese dialects," *University of Hawaii Working Papers in Linguistics* 38, no. 7 (2007): 1-33.

James Jack (MA, Art & Art History) A series of photographs entitled "Shadow Diary," *Kyoto Journal*, no. 69 (2008): 18-19.

Matthew W. Shores (PhD, EALL). "Travel and *Tabibanashi* in the Early Modern Period: Forming Japanese Geographic Identity," *Asian Theatre Journal* 25, no. 1 (2008): 101-121.

Jane Yamashiro (PhD, Sociology) contributed entries for "*hāfu*," "*issei*," "*nikkeijin*," "*nisei*," and "*sansei*" to *Encyclopedia of Race, Ethnicity and Society*, published in March 2008 by SAGE.

PRESENTATIONS

James Jack (MA, Art & Art History) presented a paper, "Representations of Japanese-ness: Examining the Reception of Early Photographic Works by Kunié Sugiura," at University of California Santa Cruz's Asia Pacific Americas Conference: Uprooting Area Studies, February 2, 2008.

Barbara Holthus (PhD, Sociology) organized the panel "Social Aspects of Low Fertility in Japan" and presented a paper, "Parents and Daycare: Constraints, Challenges, Limitations, Possibilities" at the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting in Atlanta, GA, April 3, 2008.

Brian Masshardt (PhD, Political Science) presented a paper, "Taking it to the Streets: Yasukuni Demonstrations during the Koizumi Years: A Study of Right-Wing and Left-Wing Interaction" at the AAS annual meeting in Atlanta, GA, April 5, 2008.

Sarah McClimon (PhD, Ethnomusicology) presented at two conferences: the SPAS Graduate Student Conference with the paper "Lingering Influences of the Japanese Occupation on Music of Palau" on March 12, 2008, and at the Music of War Conference, Stonehill College in Easton, MA, with the paper "Father You Were Brave: Gendered Images of Soldiers and Civilians in Japanese Military Songs" on April 19, 2008.

Junko Saito (PhD, EALL) presented a paper, "Revisiting Directive Usage by People of Authority: The Case of Japanese Male Superiors in a Workplace" at the 2008 American Association for Applied Linguistics conference in Washington DC, April 1, 2008. Her travel was funded by a CJS travel award.

Matthew W. Shores (PhD, EALL) presented a paper, "Center and Periphery in the Humor of the Edo Period: 'Tōkaidō Adventures' and Comic Travel Stories," for the Early Modern Japan Network Panel—Live from Edo, It's Saturday Night: Ticklish Tales of Text, Image, and Performance in Tokugawa Japan, at the AAS annual meeting in Atlanta, GA, April 3, 2008. He was a panel organizer. His travel was funded by a CJS travel award. This paper was also presented at the SPAS Graduate Student Conference, March 13, 2008. He also presented a paper, "Three Big Names in Modern Japanese Literature Who Turned to Rakugo for the Voice of a Literary Movement," at the East-West Center Graduate Student Conference, February 16, 2008.

Jane Yamashiro (PhD, Sociology) presented the keynote speech, "Thoughts on Conceptualizing Nikkei Studies," at a workshop entitled "日系からNikkeiへ: Searching for New Approaches to Nikkeijin Studies," at Sophia University, Tokyo, on February 16, 2008. The purpose of this workshop was to comparatively discuss the

development of Nikkei Studies in Japan and elsewhere. Her speech was included in the workshop proceedings published by Sophia University.

PERFORMANCE

Sarah McClimon (PhD, Ethnomusicology) performed "Soundprints," a duet for *koto* and clarinet by UH Professor Emeritus Neil McKay at the UH Contemporary Music Ensemble concert on February 28, 2008.

EMPLOYMENT

Kyle Ikeda, who graduated in December 2007 with a PhD in Japanese, will begin a tenure track position this Fall as an Assistant Professor of Japanese Language and Literature in the Department of Asian Languages and Literature at the University of Vermont in Burlington, VT.

L. Halliday Piel, who graduated in August 2007 with a PhD in History, will be an Assistant Professor in the Humanities and Interdisciplinary Studies Department at Lasell College in Newton, MA.

PUBLICATIONS

Kyle Ikeda's translation of "Mabuigumi" (1998) by Medoruma Shun was published as "Spirit Stuffing" in the issue of 40 of *Fiction International* (2007).

TWO FROM UHM STUDY IN KYOTO

From the Tea Center

Mr. **Sean Burke** (recent graduate of UHM, bachelor's degree in business and finance) and Mr. **Eric Boydston** (undergraduate student in English) will be studying in the Midorikai Program at the Urasenke Gakuen Professional College of *Chado* in Kyoto on the Soshitsu Sen Scholarship next academic year (2008-2009). The Midorikai Program, established in 1970, is a special class for non-Japanese students. The intensive year-long program features English-language or translated lectures with tea practice. The objective of the program is to introduce to students not only tea procedures but also the history and tradition of Japan and the role of *chanoyu* within this historical tradition. Over the years, over 400 students have participated in the program and students have come from thirty different countries. The program is one of the ways that Urasenke promotes world peace through *chanoyu*.

Faculty News

PUBLICATIONS

Mark Levin (Law)

"Hihanteki jinshu riron to Nihon hō: Wajin no jinshu tokken ni tsuite," *Horitsu Jihō* (February 2008): 992.
"Japan: Revolution on the Street," *Tabacco Control* no.17 (January 2008): 3-4.

"Tabako kisei suishin no torikumi o tataeru," *Kin'en Journal* (January/February 2008): 3-4

Yoshiko Dykstra (CJS Affiliate Scholar) added her translation of "Shogun and Samurai: Tales of Nobunaga, Hideyoshi and Ieyasu" in *Meishōgenkōroku* by Okanoya Shigezane (1835-1919) to *ScholarSpace*, the digital repository of University of Hawai'i at Mānoa (<http://scholarspace.manoa.hawaii.edu/>).

Toake Endoh (CJS Visiting Scholar)

"Nanbei ni watatta Nihonjin imin wa kimin dattanoka" (Were the Emigrants to South America Abandoned by Japan?), *Chūō Kōron* (May 2008): 242-252.

PRESENTATIONS

Patricia G. Steinhoff (Sociology) presented a paper, "Shifting Boundaries in Japan's Criminal Justice System," at public symposium in conjunction with a conference on Decoding Boundaries: The Koizumi Administration and Beyond, at White Rose East Asian Center, Sheffield University, UK, on March 15, 2008, and a paper, "Political Ties of Visible (Right) and Invisible (Left) Social Movements in Contemporary Japan," at the Association for Asian Studies annual meeting in Atlanta, GA, on April 5, 2008. She also gave

two public presentations entitled "Beikoku ni Okeru Nihon Kenkyuu: Kako, Genzai, Shourai," in Japanese to International House Seminar for Japanese Librarians and to National Diet Library Staff, on November 30 and December 1, 2007.

Haruko Cook (EALL) presented a paper, "Japanese Style Shifts as Resources for Identity Construction: A Case of University Professors in Academic Consultation," at the AAS annual meeting in Atlanta, GA, April 3, 2008. She also gave a lecture entitled "Japanese Style Shifts and Social Identities: The Case of JFL Learners and their Host Families," at the Donald Keene Center of Japanese Culture at Columbia University, on April 7, 2008.

John Szostak (Art and Art History), presented a paper, "Meiji Nihonga and Ruskin's Modern Painters: Reconciling Realism with Japanese Painting, 1900-1910," at the annual meeting of the Comité International d'Histoire de l'Art (CIHA) in Melbourne, Australia, on January 13, 2008.

AWARDS

Petrice Flowers (Political Science) was awarded a Fulbright nine-month research award for her project, "Expanding Protection: Increasing Coordination of Refugee and Anti-Trafficking Policies in Japan and Korea."

PERFORMANCE

Julie Iezzi (Theatre and Dance), on sabbatical in Kyoto for the 2007-08 academic year, performed the role of the wife in the kyōgen play *Inabado* as part of the offertory performances

at Heian Shrine in celebration of *Setsubun* (February 3). She will also be participating in the 80th anniversary of the Miyako Tokiwazu Kai, performing a bilingual version of the *tokiwazu* piece, *Meoto gitsune*, on July 20, 2008 at the Ichirikiya Tea House in Kyoto.

Selected Papers from CJK Pragmatics

The Center for Japanese Studies, the National Resource Center - East Asia, and the National Foreign Language Resource Center at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa are pleased to announce a jointly sponsored online publication: "Selected Papers from Pragmatics in the CJK Classroom: The State of the Art" (Dina R. Yoshimi and Haidan Wang, eds.). The publication can be accessed at: <http://nflrc.hawaii.edu/CJKProceedings/>

This publication presents research results and instructional innovations pertaining to teaching and learning the pragmatics of Chinese (Mandarin), Japanese, and Korean as foreign languages. Topics covered include the development of pragmatic competence by children and college-age students in foreign and second language settings, pragmatics-focused instruction on the mixed use of speech styles in JFL and KFL classrooms, as well as the explicit instruction of requests and of telling stories of personal experience to lower level JFL learners; the use of "aizuchi" by intermediate and advanced JFL learners in classroom and office hour settings; cross-linguistic comparisons of the speech act of apology and of leave-taking practices designed to inform CFL instruction for English-speaking learners; and designing pragmatics-focused CFL instructional activities for business professionals in a China-focused MBA program.

Grant Awarded for the Purchase of Ryukyu Shimpo Archive

From the Library

Hamilton Library was awarded over \$28,000 toward the purchase of 392 reels of the *Ryukyu Shimpo* 琉球新報 newspaper archives. Annually, the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources (NCC) selects Japanese language materials that are considered important to the field of Japanese studies in North America. The NCC award, combined with the CJS financial assistance, has enabled Hamilton Library to purchase these important Okinawa regional newspaper archives covering 1964 to 1989. Combined with the existing archival microfilm holdings, the Library will be able to provide the newspaper archives from 1945 to 1989, which will make the Library's *Ryukyu Shimpo* archival holdings the most comprehensive in North America. Since the focus of the new Center for Okinawan Studies is on modern Okinawa language and literature, performing arts, political issues, US-Japan (Okinawa) relations and transnational topics, the newspaper archives will be useful to researchers on post modern Okinawa. Hamilton Library is also a home of the world-renowned Sakamaki/Hawley Collection containing rare historical Okinawa/Ryukyu materials. <<http://www.hawaii.edu/asiaref/japan/special/sakamaki/index.htm>>.

Scroll Restoration Underway in Okinawa

The "Ryukyu Shisha Kin Oji Shusshi no Gyoretsu 琉球使者金武王子出仕之行列" scroll (circa 1671) was hand-delivered to the Okinawa Prefectural Museum & Art Museum and restoration is underway. On February 5, Ms. Paula Mochida, Interim



Examining the scroll. From left: Paula Mochida, Robert Huey, Satoshi Yonahara, Tokiko Bazzell, and Deborah Dunn (Hamilton Library)



Mochida, Interim University Librarian, and Yonahara, Vice Director of the Museum, ex-changing Memorandum of Understanding

University Librarian, executed a Memorandum of Understanding with Mr. Satoshi Yonahara, Vice Director of the Museum, at Hamilton Library. While Drs. Robert Huey, Gay Satsuma of CJS and Library staff were witnessing this, Mr. Yonahara examined the scroll thoroughly and officially accepted the scroll on behalf of the Museum. He safely arrived in Okinawa the next day. The restoration is tentatively scheduled for completion within 6 months.

(Tokiko Y. Bazzell)

Recent Events



Dr. Hiramoto presenting her paper (left)

GENDER PROBLEMS IN JAPANESE LANGUAGE

On January 17, 2008, the symposium, "Gender Problems with some focus on Japanese-How to teach this gendered language?" was held at UH Mānoa. The symposium was sponsored by the Society for Gender Studies in Japanese and co-sponsored by the

Center for Japanese Studies and the Department of East Asian Languages and Literatures.

The symposium comprised a panel discussion on personal references and gender in Japanese and individual presentations. Panelists were Dr. **Katsue Reynolds** (EALL), Professor **Mizue Sasaki** (Musashino University, President of the Society), Mr. **Kunihiro Harada** (Nihon Hōsō Kyōkai), and Professor **Mayumi Usami** (Tokyo University of Foreign Studies).

(Continued on the Page 7)

CJS Seminars



Daniel Dolan

On February 7, 2008, Dr. **Daniel Dolan** (Professor of Business Communication at Tohoku University, Japan) talked about the problems of the use of high-volume loudspeakers in the public space in Japan. If you travel in Tokyo as well as other large cities, you may often be offended by the excessive sound that high-volume amplified loudspeakers create for commercial and political activities. Although many cities, including Sendai where Dr. Dolan did research, have ordinances that restrict the level of such public sound, the enforcement of ordinances is weak and most Japanese pedestrians are accustomed to it or simply ignore it. Dr. Dolan discussed such problems from three different perspectives, constitutional rights, public health, and public policy, and made policy recommendations. He also pointed out that although many citizens do nothing to prevent it, a trend of anti-loud speakers in the public space has been observed.

On March 6, 2008, Professor **Joy Jarman-Walsh** (Yasuda Women's University, Hiroshima, Japan) gave a talk entitled "The Last 10 Years in Hiroshima: An Observation of Change." Professor Jarman-Walsh has been an active community member in Hiroshima-City, seeing local business owners, networking with non-Japanese residents, and running a bilingual website to introduce Hiroshima's everyday life to people inside and outside Japan. In her talk, she first discussed how local businesses had changed in the last ten years, including the impact of the redevelopment of Hiroshima's downtown on them and the interaction between local people and foreigners through new types of restaurant businesses. She also talked about changes in the lives of women and the progressive policies of a local automobile company, Mazda, and introduced the role of foreigners in Hiroshima's peace movement.



Joy Jarman-Walsh

Dr. **Masami Tateno** (Professor at Nihon University, Japan) discussed "*Nihon Kanpō Igaku*" or the Japanese traditional medicine that has been influenced by the Chinese traditional medicine, on March 19, 2008. He pointed out the impact of Chinese medicine on Japanese medicine as well as the uniqueness of the Japanese medicine, focusing on a philosophy of each of them. He noted that both Chinese and Japanese accepted that *chi*, mind and body are supposed to be harmonious as a whole system and that prevention was



Masami Tateno

the best way to face diseases. However, he argued that the Japanese believed that directly attacking a disease was also necessary. He found this in the philosophy of Japanese medicine as discussed by Yoshimasu Todo. In this respect, he stressed, Japanese medicine was similar to Western medicine. Dr. Tateno teaches Japanese/Chinese philosophy and medicine at Nihon University.

The panel entitled "Insights on the Academic Job Search" was held on March 20, 2008, as a CJS Seminar. First, Dr. **Kyle Ikeda**, recent PhD in Japanese from UHM, introduced his experience of academic job hunting. He stressed that preparing for job hunting should start when a PhD student is still taking regular courses. He also discussed that a job applicant should not be discouraged by rejections. Dr. Ikeda will be starting a tenure-track position at the University of Vermont this fall. The second panelist, Dr. **Wayne Farris**, Soshitsu Sen



Kyle Ikeda



Wayne Farris

XV Distinguished Chair of Japanese Culture and History, stressed that there are many things in the job search process that the applicant cannot control, and that might result in failure. For a job talk, Dr. Farris recommended that the applicant choose the topic s/he is most familiar with, and project enthusiasm and energy in the presentation. He also cautioned job seekers to be polite, though not obsequious, to all they meet.

Dr. **Amanda Mayer Stinchecum**, independent scholar, gave a lecture entitled "*Bashōfu*, Japan's Mingei Movement, and the Creation of a new Okinawa during the Occupation Years (1945-1972)" on March 31, 2008 in the CJS Seminar Series. Dr. Stinchecum described how the founder of Japan's Folk Craft movement, Yanagi Sōetsu, promoted a specific image of *bashōfu* [cloth made from the fiber-banana in Okinawa] as symbolic of the "tropical country" and a southern island paradise since his first visit to Okinawa in the late 1930s. This image has not only influenced how Okinawa presents itself as a tourist destination but has influenced



Amanda Stinchecum

how Okinawans and Mainland Japanese see the islands throughout the occupation period.



Joshua Mostow

On April 17, 2008, Dr. **Joshua Mostow**, Professor of Japanese literature at the University of British Columbia, gave a presentation entitled "Illustrated Classical texts for Women in the Edo Period." Dr. Mostow examined the various kinds of texts women were given as part of their trousseau when entering into marriage, and discussed the tension between the strict Confucian morality which some in society wanted to enforce, and the need for urban women, of both warrior and townsmen classes, to master the literary arts that grew out of Heian classics such as *The Tales of Ise* and *The Tale of Genji*, which depicted a rather erotic world.

On April 18, 2008, Dr. **Christine Yano** (Professor of Anthropology) gave a talk entitled "Kitty Subversion: Turning Cute on its Head." One of the world's most popular fictional characters, *Hello Kitty*, originally representing Japan's cute or *kawaii* culture, is being subverted by a variety of people. A Japanese company, Sanrio, first introduced *Hello Kitty* and marketed it for female children in 1974. Soon after that, she entered the US market, and US celebrities have popularized her in the last decade. Today,



Christine Yano

she is trans-nationalized, a material object in in-between spaces, according to Dr. Yano. Asian lesbians uphold *Hello Kitty* as a symbol for their solidarity and resistance. Asian-American porno stars embrace her. Meanwhile, others express anti-*Hello Kitty* emotions. She appears as a tattoo on human bodies and decorates guns and sex toys. Sanrio also began to sell new products of *Hello Kitty* to adults. Dr. Yano points out that the fact she does not have a mouth would have multiple meanings.

Dr. **Patricia Steinhoff** (Professor of Sociology) discussed contemporary social movements by the left and the right in Japan for the CJS seminar series on April 24, 2008. The Japanese left is said to be defunct; however, Dr. Steinhoff finds a collection of social movements by the left and calls them "Japan's invisible civil society." Those who were in the New Left in the late 1960s are part of those movements, and they do not want state involvement. They have no national level organization, no professional staff, and no office. However, when they have a large conference or gathering, members with administrative and organization skills come together. Hence, they are invisible. In contrast, in recent years, conservatives have formed national-level organizations and have effectively co-opted the state for their political appeal. Two such organizations are the victim's rights movement and the North Korean kidnapping issue. Dr. Steinhoff stressed that Japan's civil society should be examined through social movements.



Patricia Steinhoff

(Continued from the Page 5) In addition, Ms. **Mariko Bohn** (PhD candidate at Stanford University), Dr. **Yumiko Ohara** (UH Hilo), Dr. **Mie Hiramoto** (Linguistics), and Mr. **Shawn Yacavone** (MA student, EALL) respectively presented papers on young women's magazines in prewar Japan, Japan's parliament discussion on the so-called comfort women issue, the Japanese translation of the film, *Gone with the Wind*, and the Japanese translations of the Bible.

REVITALIZING OKINAWAN LANGUAGE

Dr. **Shinsho Miyara**, SPAS Arthur Lynn Andrews' Chair and Professor at the University of the Ryukyus, presented the Andrews' Chair lecture entitled "Okinawan Language Revitalization" on March 17, 2008. Okinawan or *Uchināguchi* is the native language which is spoken on the main island of Okinawa and neighboring off-shore



Shinsho Miyara

islands. Owing to the measures of promoting the national language or so-called "standard" Japanese taken by the Japanese government, Okinawan is an endangered language together with the Ainu language. Dr. Miyara, in his lecture, provided a detailed analysis on the reasons why Okinawan is a language and not a dialect, and described the specific steps that are being taken to revitalize the Okinawan language. With the establishment of the Society of Okinawan Language Revitalization (SOLR) in 2000 and its advocacy, the movement has succeeded in highlighting its cause. A major step was taken in 2006 when the Okinawan Prefectural Government issued an ordinance on local language revitalization.

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 Awards

Next Deadline: August 1, 2008

The awards are for UHM graduate students who focus on Japan to present papers at conferences on the U.S. mainland and abroad. 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 the website, <http://gso.hawaii.edu>, for more information.

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