Announcement

Congratulations on CJS Scholarships and Fellowships Recipients

Center for Japanese Studies Fellowship
Kelly Hansen (PhD, EALL)
Cade Bushnell (PhD, Linguistics)
Shoko Baba (PhD, History)
Kaoru Villa (half year) (PhD, Music)
Jesse LeFebvre (half year) (PhD, Philosophy)
Tasaku Harada Graduate Scholarship in Japanese Studies
Kyle Ikeda (PhD, EALL)

John Fee Embre Scholarship
Jolyon Thomas (MA, Religion)

Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship
Aaron Kingsbury (PhD, Geography)
Jerome Klena (PhD, History)
Sarah Carle (MA, Music)
Leah Kalmanson (PhD, Philosophy)

William P Lebra Memorial Scholarship
Hirofumi Katsuno (PhD, Anthropology)

Sasaki Hanayo Graduate Merit Scholarship
Yoshitaka Miyake (PhD, Geography)

Minae and Miki Kajiyama Graduate Scholarship
Sarah McClimon (PhD, Music)

Summer Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship
Wei C. Chou (MA, Asian Studies)
Sarah McClimon (PhD, Music)
Scott Bullock (JD, Law)
Jason Bartahsius (MA, Religion)

Tasaku Harada Graduate Scholarship in Japanese Studies
Kyle Ikeda (PhD, EALL)

J-Current is also available in color on our website at www.hawaii.edu/cjs/newsletter.html

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With the establishment of the School of Hawaiian Knowledge, the School of Hawaiian, Asian and Pacific Studies (SHAPS) is now called the School of Pacific and Asian Studies (SPAS).

J-Current reports on the achievements and activities of UH Mānoa’s Japanese Studies faculty and students as well as Japan-related events, research, scholarships, and overseas programs. Submission deadline for the next issue is November 5, 2007. Please send to:

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OKINAWAN STUDIES CENTER
TO BE ESTABLISHED IN 2008

On June 21st, 2007, at a meeting with Okinawa Prefectural Governor Hirokazu Nakaima, and subsequent press conference, Governor Linda Lingle announced the establishment of a Center for Okinawan Studies (COS) at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa starting in Fiscal Year 2008. The State Legislature had earlier passed the University’s Biennium Budget (2007 - 2009), which included a budget request for COS. SPAS Dean Ned Shultz and CJS Director Robert Huey (EALL, UHM) attended Governor Lingle’s press conference and meeting in Okinawa and briefed local reporters.

This Center will be the first of its kind in the United States and will bring together existing resources on Okinawa and the Ryukyus under one unit. It will focus not only on traditional Ryukyuan culture, but on contemporary Okinawan and Okinawans abroad, as well. Already in the plans for the new Center are publications on Okinawa and the Ryukyus, including an expanded version of the Sakihara Okinawan-English dictionary, a conference in the fall of 2008, curriculum development projects to expand Okinawa-related course offerings at UH, and outreach activities. The COS proposal was spearheaded by the Center for Japanese Studies, UH Mānoa, with support from SPAS, key members in the community, Mr. Robert Nakasone and Mr. Edward Kuba, and several State Legislators, including Representatives Marcus Oshiro and Dwight Takamine, and Senators David Ige, Norma Sakamoto, and Jill Tokuda.

The Passing of a Friend

As this newsletter was going to press, we learned the sad news that Professor Edward Seidensticker, renowned scholar and translator of Japanese literature, passed away in Tokyo on August 26th. Our next newsletter will contain a more detailed retrospective.
This year marked the 35th anniversary of the Urasenke Hawai‘i Summer Seminar, which this year brought over 140 participants from Japan. The occasion was marked with several special events. On July 19th, Dr. Genshitsu Sen performed the ritual kencha tea offering to the spirits of the dead at Punchbowl National Cemetery. Over 200 guests, including Mayor Mufi Hanneman, Former Governor George Ariyoshi, and Consul-General and Mrs. Shigeko Iwata were in attendance, with Mrs. Jean Ariyoshi acting as Mistress of Ceremonies. After the ritual, Dr. Sen spoke movingly of his experiences in the war, noting that his fellow pilots’ final words before they left on their missions were always “Okaasani!” (“Mother!”).

On the following day, the first day of the Summer Seminar itself, the featured speaker was new Mānoa Chancellor Virginia Hinshaw, who gave an entertaining presentation on influenza (her area of academic expertise), pointing out the need for an international, cooperative approach to the new threats this disease is posing worldwide. The second day of the Seminar featured a talk by East West Fluuenza (her area of academic expertise), pointing out the need for an international, cooperative approach to the new threats this disease is posing worldwide. The second day of the Seminar featured a talk by East West

From the Tea Center
35th Anniversary of Summer Seminar

Center President Charles Morrison. On the third day, the Seminar convened at Kapi‘olani Community College, for two rare lecture-demonstrations also open to the public. (See below).

Sweets and Kaiseki Cooking Demos at KCC

CJS, in cooperation with Urasenke Foundation and Kapi‘olani Community College, sponsored two cooking demonstrations at KCC on Sunday, July 22nd. In back-to-back lecture-demonstrations, two famous chefs presented aspects of Japanese cooking rarely seen outside of Japan. Master chefs Mr. Tomizo Yamaguchi (assisted by Mr. Shoji Yamaguchi) of Suetoji Corporation, and Mr. Yoshikazu Tsuji (assisted by Mr. Haruhiko Taira) of Tujitome Corporation presented workshops in Japanese traditional sweets (kyogashi/wagashi) and tea ceremony cooking (kaiseki). Interpreter Ms. Maya Perry translated the lectures into English. Each demonstration had over eighty participants. We would like to especially thank Dr. Genshitsu Sen of Urasenke Foundation for his generous support of this community outreach activity.

Recent Events

Consort General Iwata Departeds

On July 11th, hundreds of well-wishers gathered at the Hilton Hawaiian Village to bid farewell to Japanese Consul General Shigeko Iwata and his wife, Yuko. The announcement that Consort General Iwata was to be transferred considerably earlier than the normal term caught everyone by surprise, though the sadness was somewhat mitigated by the knowledge that the move involved a promotion for Mr. Iwata to the rank of Ambassador to Kenya. The Consul General had been a warm and cordial friend to the community. Mrs. Iwata had been taking courses in the Architecture Program at UH, and had even participated as a student in last year’s Architecture Tour of Japan, which included a visit to Urasenke. (CJS, through the Soshitsu Sen International Way of Tea Center provided scholarships to several of the student participants on that tour.)

Faculty News

Dr. Victor Kobayashi Retires

From Hokkaido to Okinawa

Four CJS faculty members and a Japanese Studies undergraduate student assistant played leading roles in the 2007 Minority Serving Institutions (MSI) Tour between June 14th and July 8th. The tour was the final installment of a five-part series of Freemen Foundation-sponsored and Asian Studies Program-administered faculty development tours. Seven MSI faculty not only time-traveled metaphorically through Japan’s history starting with the ancient roots Ike Jingū to its postmodern manifestations in Tokyo’s contemporary art museums, but physically traversed from Hokkaido’s snow-covered Mt. Daisetsu to Okinawa Island’s southern tip. They also visited various minority group-related sites and received briefings from experts and community representatives, including officers of Mindan (representing Koreans in Japan), a Buraku activist at Osaka’s Liberty Museum, the director of an Okinawan Amerasian school, and a pair of Ainu language teachers and an Ainu elder in Hokkaido. Dr. Lonny Carlile (CJS/Asian Studies) took the lead in planning and implementing the tour with the assistance of UHJ junior Mr. Takashi Murata. CJS Director Robert Hurwitz was co-leader during the first half of the tour while Dr. Petrice Flowers (Political Science) co-led the second half. Professor Mark Levin (Law School) arranged meetings in Sapporo.

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New Mānoa Chancellor Hinshaw gives a presentation to Urasenke Seminar participants

Master chefs Yoshikazu Tsuji (left) and Tomizo Yamaguchi (right)