Changing of the Guard

Starting on August 1st, 2015, Dr. Lonny Carlile took over the position as Director for the Center for Japanese Studies. Associate Professor Carlile, who has been with the Center and the Asian Studies Program since 1994, is excited to serve as Director and in particular in increasing the local, national and international visibility of UHM’s Japanese Studies faculty and programs. We here at CJS would also like to express our gratitude for outgoing Director Dr. Mary McDonald. During her three-year tenure as Director, Dr. McDonald was a bright force who left a lasting impact on the Center during a fiscally difficult period. Dr. McDonald is planning to retire at the end of the 2015-16 and we wish her all the best in her new endeavors.

Florence Liu Macaulay Distinguished Lecture Series: Dr. Tess Morris-Suzuki and Japanese Social Alternatives

On February 10th Dr. Tess Morris-Suzuki of Australia National University visited the UH campus as the speaker for this year’s Florence Liu Macaulay Distinguished Lecture Series. Entitled “Peace in the Valley: A Century of Japanese Social Alternatives and their Inter-Asia Connections” Dr. Morris-Suzuki’s talk explored an alternative tradition of grassroots social thought and practice that has flourished in parts of Japan since the early twentieth century and continues to shape local social activism today. Specifically, Dr. Morris-Suzuki focused on the Chikuma River valley region of Nagano Prefecture, an area that has a particularly rich history of social movements that seek paths to “development from within”. She also made note of how the region’s deep local movements also have connections flowing (“like subterranean water-courses”) to and from Korea, China and other parts of Asia and beyond. Following this flow of ideas through time and space, Dr. Morris-Suzuki proposed rethinking the boundaries of “the political”, and to reexamine the ways in which social thought and action are from place to place and from generation to generation.

Panel Discussion on Historical Reconciliation in East Asia

On February 12 we were fortunate to collaborate with the Center for Korean Studies and host a highly distinguished panel when Dr. Tessa Morris-Suzuki (Aus. Nat’l Uni.), Dr. Bruce Cumings (Uni. of Chicago), Dr. Paula Harrell (Georgetown Uni.) and Dr. Manfred Henningsen (UHM) met on stage to discuss the problems and potentials of historical reconciliation in Northeast Asia. The panel was moderated by UHM’s Hagen Koo and explored how memories of war and conquest continue to disrupt inter- and intra- national relations in the region, in turn hampering constructive dialogue and positive cooperation between nations. In particular, Dr. Cumings reflected upon the philosophy of Nietzsche, and memory and the very nature of what reconciliation means as a foil of how to think about the issue in the Asia. Dr. Morris-Suzuki concisely presented the major historical stumbling blocks, including comments on President Park’s and Prime Minister Abe’s attempt to resolve the complicated issues surrounding “comfort women”. Dr. Henningsen then focused on how Japan may reconcile with its former wartime enemies as gestures of sincerity, specifically mentioning Chancellor Brandt kneels act of kneeling and laying a wreath for victims of the Holocaust in 1970. Finally, Dr. Harrell discussed the role that economic interdependence might play in helping to overcome historical animosities in the region.

The Department of East Asian Languages & Literatures organized a dramatization of the Man'yōshū featuring Keiko Matsuzaka, a well-known actress in Japan on October 30th. The Man'yōshū is a collection of ancient Japanese poems compiled in the latter half of the eighth century. Preceding the dramatic reading, Professor Makoto Ueno of Nara University, who wrote the dramatization, provided a brief introductory lecture, as well as Dr. Robert Huey, Professor of Japanese and Chair of EALL at UHM, who translated the script. In addition to Ms. Matsuzaka, the performance featured UH Manoa students, and together they presented a rich and unique visual performance, provided an innovative interpretation of the poems enjoyable for the audience.

Japan Culture Day at UHM

This year’s Nippon Culture Day, hosted by the Japanese Department at EALL, was a huge success. Over 750 students and guests enjoyed a day full of a wide variety of special events and activities including calligraphy, gift-wrapping, Okinawan Language, tea ceremony, and koto.

Fall CJS Seminars

On Tuesday, November 17th, Dr. William Cleary, Law Professor at Hiroshima Shudo University and visiting scholar in residence at UHM’s Richardson School of Law, related some of the complexities of child custody in the case of failed international marriages where one parent ‘abducts’ their children back to his or her home country. This is particularly a problem in the case of Japan, a nation without a legal concept of joint custody. Dr. Cleary sees the recent decision by Japan to join the Hague convention as a step in the right direction, but not a silver bullet, as it is exterior to Japan’s own legal system. He proposed a possible solution from within the system dealing with extraterritoriality and the ability to punish a Japanese national who commits a crime abroad, which has seemingly not yet been applied in custody issue cases.

On Friday, October 2, 2015, Dr. Yoshiko Okuyama, Associate Professor of Japanese Studies and Linguistics at UH Hilo, brought attention to not uncommon but commonly overlooked instances of Japanese mythology and folklore hidden in modern Japanese anime and animated films. The large audience appreciated the opportunity to learn to see Japanese culture and tradition at work in such a popular and widely-consumed medium.
EPIC Group Visits UH

Our Ehime Prefecture partners brought eight students from Matsuyama Higashi and Imabari Nishi High Schools in Ehime, Shikoku Japan, for a visit to UHM on October 15th as part of the EPIC Ehime-Hawaii High School Exchange Program. During the preceding week, students stayed with host families, visited the Ehime-Maru Memorial, local High Schools, Ehime Kenjinkai, and the Japanese Consulate. Each summer, Ehime Prefecture invites two UHM students to intern in the Ehime Prefecture International Center. Students introduced themselves in English, talked about their impressions of Hawaii and their future aspirations. Former EPIC interns Takayuki Tabo Nagase and Ashley Nakaoka took them on a tour on campus and met in the Tokioka room for Pocky and Hawaiian Sun. Joining in the welcoming of the Ehime Visitors were CJS Director Lonny Carlile and Associate Director Gay Satsuma.

CJS and EPIC Group members

Nikkei Identity & Leadership Symposium

On Saturday, November 21, 2015, the United Japanese Society of Hawaii held a Nikkei Identity & Leadership Symposium on the UHM campus. Attendees spent the morning learning about and deepening their understanding of Japanese cultural identity in America. Dr. Dennis Ogawa, Professor of American Studies at UHM, related his experience being born in a Japanese internment camp in California. Mr. Robbie Alm, community leader and President of the Collaborative Leaders Network, related insights learned working with the late Senator Inouye. Dr. Kyoko Hijirida, Emeritus Professor of Japanese Language at UHM, concluded the morning with an explanation of Japanese Business Etiquette, culminating in a role play with United Japanese Society of Hawaii President Cyrus Tamashiro and members Dean Asahina, Faye Shigemura and Francis Nakachi.

Photos: Professors Maruta and Takebe with Spencer Kimura; Professors Tokoro and Toya with Mark Levin.

[Nikkei Identity & Leadership Symposium]

[Clockwise] Dr. Hijirida (standing), UJSH Cyrus Tamashiro, Francis Nakachi, Faye Shigemura, Dean Asahina

The Law School welcomed a number of academic visitors from Japan during the month of November. Former Visiting Professor Takashi Maruta of Kansai Gakuin University and Fuku with Kyoto Prefectural University Professor Harumi Takebe to meet with lawyers, judges, and Richardson professors for a Japanese government-sponsored research project regarding destruction of evidence in civil litigation procedures. University of the Ryukyus Professor Yoshiharu Toya and Fukuoka University Professor Hiroto Tokoro also met lawyers, judges, and Richardson professors on a research project concerning labor-management relations. Former Visiting Professor Yasutomo Morigiwa, of Nagoya University, visited the law school and gave a presentation to the members of the International Section of the Hawai'i State Bar Association on "Professional Responsibility of the Lawyer and the Bar: Theory and Practice in Japan." Professor Morigiwa shared news of his recent appointment as a High End Foreign Expert at Renmin University of China Law School and his upcoming move to Meiji University in Tokyo.
On March 8th, UHM alum Dr. Christopher Bondy (Intl. Christian University) gave a talk on his research for his book *Voice, Silence and Self* (Harvard 2015), which centers on the *burakumin* community in Japan. In the talk, Dr. Bondy went into detail about the challenges he faced as a ‘student’ in two middle schools in Japan that had a noted *burakumin* student body. In particular, he mapped out two very different approaches each respective community has taken to not only situate their own identity in contemporary Japan but also to what degree to raise awareness of *burakumin* issues on a larger scale. Dr. Bondy received his MA from the Asian Studies in 1997 and his PhD in Sociology in 2005.

On September 3rd CJS, along with the Center for Okinawan Studies hosted Dr. Eitetsu Yamaguchi, historian and author of *Foreign Encounters in the Ryukyus* about the legacy of George H. Kerr. In his talk entitled “George H. Kerr—His Legacy and Okianwa”, Dr. Yamaguchi, who was an acquaintance of Okinawan historian George Kerr discussed the reasons why he wrote a history of Okinawa in English and how its legacy has been felt both in the West as well as in Okinawa. Among many personal accounts of his dealings with Kerr, Yamaguchi also discussed at length his feelings on both the history of Okinawa studies and the directions he hopes to see it headed in the future.

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Dr. Christopher Bondy returns to UH

On March 8th, UHM alum Dr. Christopher Bondy (Intl. Christian University) gave a talk on his research for his book *Voice, Silence and Self* (Harvard 2015), which centers on the *burakumin* community in Japan. In the talk, Dr. Bondy went into detail about the challenges he faced as a ‘student’ in two middle schools in Japan that had a noted *burakumin* student body. In particular, he mapped out two very different approaches each respective community has taken to not only situate their own identity in contemporary Japan but also to what degree to raise awareness of *burakumin* issues on a larger scale. Dr. Bondy received his MA from the Asian Studies in 1997 and his PhD in Sociology in 2005.

On September 10th Dr. Toshihiro Nakayama, Professor of American Politics and Foreign Policy at Keio University gave a talk on Japan-U.S. relations in consideration of the 70th anniversary after the end of World War II. Lecturing in a conversational mode, Prof. Nakayama reflected on the connections of history between the two countries and used personal experience, drawing especially on his time as a student in South Dakota living with a host family, as a window into the relationship between Japan and the U.S.

This lecture was co-sponsored with EWC and the Consulate General of Japan in Honolulu and was video recorded. It is viewable at: [https://vimeo.com/140019513](https://vimeo.com/140019513)
Panel on Harajuku Culture

The Museum Studies Graduate Certificate Program brought together a panel for “In & Out of Harajuku: Fashioning Culture and Identity” to discuss a range of issues associated with Harajuku’s subculture fashion. Inspired by the Honolulu Museum of Art’s exhibition “Harajuku: Tokyo Street Fashion”. Sara Oka, Textiles Curator and Exhibition Curator of the exhibit, spoke about the exhibit and her experience on the scene in Japan. Christine Yano, UHM Professor of Anthropology, noted scholar of Japanese “kawaii” culture was also in the panel and added some thoughts on the significance of the subculture. Angela Ni, Junior Graphic Designer, Honolulu Museum of Art; Co-Founder of JfashionHI, offered insider insight as a member of the Hawai‘i Lolita community. Akino Oshiro, UHM MA Sociology Student, Harajuku fashion enthusiast and Erika Enomoto, UHM art history student, intern and gallery docent at the exhibit also participated and spoke of their experiences and opinions on developments of the subculture’s fashion.

Dr. Harrell and ‘Asia for the Asians 2.0’

On March 4th, CJS, along with co-sponsor Center for Chinese Studies hosted Dr. Paula Harrell, Professor of History at Georgetown University. Dr. Harrell gave a talk entitled “Asia for the Asians 2.0: China, Japan and a New Framework for Regional Stability” which focused on the continued trend of warming signs in China-Japan relations and how new regional arrangements have shown that partnership between the two should strive for by both nations. Specifically Dr. Harrell discussed how China wants Japan to join the China-led Asian Infrastructure Bank (AIIB) and how Japan is receptive to China’s entry into the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP). Also, by bringing up examples such as geography, established trade interdependence, common environmental and energy problems, China’s shift to a service economy and Japan’s long experience in industrial and financial management, Dr. Harrell showed that there are a number of areas where a bilateral approach can be developed further.

Videoconference Lectures with Australia

This spring we were fortunate to have the unique opportunity to coordinate with Australia National University and Dr. Tessa Morris-Suzuki to view two talks in a lecture series at the university entitled ‘Reconciliation and the Memory of Conflicts in Asia and the Pacific’ via videoconference. A look into the way ideas may be disseminated in the future, UHM students and faculty were able to navigate a 20 hour time difference between Honolulu and Canberra and ‘participate’ in the lectures, even having the opportunity to ask questions to the lecturer directly. The two talks we participated in were Prof. Kimie Hara’s “The San Francisco System and its Legacies in the Asia-Pacific” and Prof. Hiroko Sakamoto’s “Learning Wisdom from our Bitter History: The 1903 ‘Human Race Pavilion’ Incident and the Second Sino-Japan War Cartoons”. Many thanks to Dr. Tessa Morris-Suzuki and Australia National University for coordinating this great opportunity.
EPIC Interns head off to Ehime

We are excited to announce this summer’s Ehime Prefectural International Center (EPIC) Interns. Yu Sasaki (Junior, majoring in Psychology and Japanese) and Jake Yasumori (Junior, majoring in Japanese) will head to Ehime on May 23rd to spend two and a half months where they will represent UHM as cultural ambassadors. They will spend the summer working at the Ehime Prefectural International Center, giving presentations on Hawaiian culture and language and visiting schools. The internship program was one of several Hawaii-Ehime programs started to foster friendship and good will after the Ehime-maru tragedy in 2001.

CJS Presents: Wiki Slideshows on Japan

One of our more popular offerings, Wiki Slideshows on Japan, features multiple fast-paced academic presentations intended to inform as well as entertain. It made a triumphant return on Friday, November 6th, after hibernating for two years.

With CJS’s Jordan Trader taking up the role of emcee, three UHM faculty and three graduate students were given ten minutes to present on a subject of their choosing. Dr. John Szostak, Associate Professor of Art History, analyzed Kobayashi Kiyochika’s satirical war prints. Dr. Hanae Kramer, Assistant Professor of Communications, presented on the prolific and humorously formulaic recording industry apparatus in early 20th century Japan. Dr. Donald Womack, Professor of Music, gave an aural overview of his compositions that feature traditional Japanese instruments used in new, innovative ways. Ms. Yuka Hasegawa, PhD candidate in Anthropology, related her experiences leading walking tours in Koganecho, part of a community development project in Yokohama aimed at turning around seedy neighborhoods through art and exploration. Mr. Hilson Reidpath, MA Student in East Asian Languages and Literatures, offered entertaining insights into the origins and effects of unique Okinawan names. Mr. Kalau Almony, also an EALL MA Student, gave a masterly technical analysis of the evolving norms of masculine and feminine speech using Yamazaki Nao-cola’s “Growing Conversation” as a source text.
Here is a note we received from 2015 Crown Prince Akihito Recipient Benjamin Schrager who is currently in Miyazaki.

I arrived in Miyazaki at the start of October with support from the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship to conduct two years of field research on chicken meat commodity chains. Since then, my Miyazaki life has gradually come together. I got a car, which is a boon both for everyday living and for travelling to far-flung chicken places.

So far, a surprising aspect of my research is the practice that is especially popular in Southern Kyushu of eating raw chicken meat, a delicacy called tori-sashi (鳥刺し). Of course, I had to sample lots of tori-sashi, including the plat-ter pictured from Gunkei in Miyazaki City. My enthusiasm for raw chicken was dampened after speaking with University of Miyazaki Professor Naoaki Misawa who studies Campylobacter, a source of foodborne disease in raw chicken meat and especially raw chicken liver.

With the holiday season approaching, I am preparing to make a reservation for one of KFC’s Premium Christmas Dinners, a “symbol of Christmas” according to the reservation pamphlet! With aloha from Miyazaki.

On February 5th, Michelle Daigle gave a moving personal account of her field research in Minamata, Kumamoto Prefecture, narrating the intricacies of developing relationships and trust with those who suffered from Minamata disease. By learning how to make kokeshi dolls from one of the Minamata disease patients, she was able to understand how patients’ identities were formed through their activism and storytell-ing. She conducted her doctoral research in Japan on an Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship for two years, 2011-2013. Her talk is the inaugu-ral Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship Lecture. The scholarship endeavors to promote the friendship between the U.S. and Japan.

Interested students in the Crown Prince Akihito Scholarship should visit scholarship’s website for information:
http://www.cpasfoundation.org

The School of Pacific and Asian Studies held their annual Graduate Student Conference March 18-20 at UHM. This year’s title: “Against the Current: Transforming Perspectives and Thought in Asia.” Dr. Ted Bestor, Reidschauer Institute Professor of Anthropology at Harvard University presented the keynote address, “What is Washoku?”. A group of 40 promising young scholars from across the United States and Asia presented their Asia-related research on topics ranging from 'The Buddhist Nature of Dogs in Soto Zen' to ‘Creating Mecca and Saints in the Southeastern Chinese Imagination. This year’s Seidensticker Award winners for best Japanese papers were Yuki Asahina (Japan’s New Right-Wing Movement as Alternative Politics: Why Did They Achieve Success?) and Keita Moore (No Island Unto Itself: Revisiting the Senkaku/Diaoyu Islands Dispute). The SPAS Graduate Student Conference continues its uniquely interdisciplinary mission of sharing knowledge across disciplines and geographic areas of Asia. Big thanks to conference organizers Adam Coldren (MA Student in Japanese Studies) and Marc Ferguson (MA student in Korean Studies) for their efforts in bringing us yet another successful event.
In Memoriam: Emeritus Japanese Studies Professor James Brandon

James Rodger Brandon, beloved husband, trailblazing scholar, inspiring director, mentor, teacher, translator, actor, and friend, passed away in Honolulu on Sept. 19, 2015, leaving a remarkable legacy in the world of Asian theatre studies, a discipline he pioneered and fertilized with numerous scholars and artists he so graciously and carefully nurtured over half a century. Born and raised in the small town of Mazomanie, Wisconsin, he joined the State Department Foreign Service after receiving his PhD from the University of Wisconsin in 1955, and spent six years in Java and Japan. He returned to the U.S. in 1961 and began teaching Asian theatre in the Department of Speech and Comparative Literature at Michigan State University, where he directed his first two Kabuki plays in English, Kanjineko and The Zen Substitute. He joined the University of Hawai‘i Department of Drama and Theatre as a full professor in 1968, and remained with U.H. until his retirement in 2000. During his 32 years with what became the Department of Theatre and Dance, he firmly established its unique Asian Theatre Program, co-founded the Asian Theatre Journal, served as Department Chair from 1985 to 1988, and brought international recognition to the department through his scholarship and large-scale English language Kabuki productions.

In his illustrious career, Brandon authored approximately 80 articles, book chapters, and reviews in addition to 20 books, displaying an amazing breadth as well as depth in geographic and artistic range. His books include standard texts in the field of Asian Theatre today, such as Theatre in Southeast Asia (1967), On Thrones of Gold: Three Javanese Shadow Plays (1970), and Kabuki: Five Classic Plays (1975). Groundbreaking research in Kabuki’s Forgotten War: 1931–1945 (2008) forced a reexamination of long-held “truths” about the fossilization of Kabuki in the 19th century; it was designated an Outstanding Academic Title for 2009 by the American Library Association’s Choice magazine for its excellence in scholarship and importance to the field. His creative endeavors include 22 productions at the University of Hawai‘i as translator, director, adaptor and/or playwright, and include national recognition from the American College Theatre Festival, commendations from the Hawai‘i State House of Representatives and Senate, and Pō’okela awards from the Hawai‘i State Theatre Council. His dedicated scholarship and artistic work brought him international recognition and accolades, including the Imperial Decoration of the Order of the Rising Sun with Gold Rays with Rosette from the Government of Japan, the John D. Rockefeller 3rd Award from the Asian Cultural Council for his exemplary contributions to the understanding and appreciation of Asian Theatre, a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Hawai‘i State Theatre Council in 1991, the UH Regents’ Medal for Outstanding Teaching, and a national award as Outstanding Teacher of the Year from the Association for Theatre in Higher Education.

Brandon attained iconic status in his own lifetime, yet remained humble in demeanor, genuinely interested in and encouraging of young scholars. Though he claimed to “never give advice,” his guidance as mentor, teacher, director, actor, role model, scholar and gentleman cultivated generations of Asian theatre scholars throughout the world, who will remember him with fondness and gratitude. James R. Brandon is survived by his loving wife of 54 years Reiko Mochinaga Brandon, and his niece Janet Wright. A memorial celebration of his life and achievements was held at the University of Hawai‘i’s Kennedy Theatre on Sunday, November 29.

Those who wish to share stories and remembrances may do so online at this website: jamesrbrandon.muchloved.com. For those who wish to do so, please send donations made out to UH FOUNDATION, with “Asian Theatre in memory of James R. Brandon” in the memo line, and mail them to: University of Hawai‘i Foundation, 2444 Dole Street, Bachman Hall 105, Honolulu, HI 96822

This text was originally published on the memorial website for Dr. Brandon mentioned above.
In Memoriam: Emeritus Japanese History Professor H. Paul Varley

It is with great sadness that we report the passing of a beloved colleague. H. Paul Varley, a towering figure in the field of premodern Japanese history and Sen Sōshitsu XV Distinguished Chair of Traditional Japanese Culture and History at UH Mānoa from its inauguration in 1994 until his retirement in 2004, passed away on December 15, 2015.

Paul was born on February 8, 1931, in Paterson, New Jersey. A US Army Veteran of the Korean War, Paul went on to receive a BS Degree from Lehigh University in 1952, an MA from Columbia University in 1961, and a PhD in History from Columbia University in 1964 and came to UHM for his first teaching position (1964-1965). Paul then taught in the Department of East Asian Languages and Culture at Columbia University from 1965 to 1993. During that time he established himself as this country’s foremost authority on medieval Japanese cultural history and compiled a distinguished body of publications.

Fortunately for UHM his retirement from Columbia as Professor Emeritus of Japanese History in 1994 did not mean the end of his career. Dr. Varley returned to UHM as the Sen Soshitsu XV Chair in 1994 and over the next 10 years taught courses such as Japanese Civilization (HIST 321/322), History of the Way of Tea (HIST 323), History of the Samurai (HIST 324), and Seminars in Japanese History (HIST 665B/C).


During his last years, Paul resided in New Jersey. He is survived by his wife, Betty Jane (Geiskopf) Varley, his daughter Sharyn Hennen, five grandchildren, and six great-grandchildren.

A Few Words From our Departing Graduate Assistant, Jordan Trader

In charge of compiling this little newsletter for the last several years, I have until now been able to excuse myself from openly contributing to its pages. Or, perhaps more honestly, and I was thinking I’d keep this secret but am presently taken by an urge to come clean so to speak, I never did anything of note. However, having departed Hawaii last month on some somewhat notable agenda, the time seems ripe to properly out myself as I wave to you all in an ambiguously fitting but nonetheless genuine gesture of aloha. Hello and goodbye, friends.

I came to the University of Hawaii at Manoa in 2011 to pursue a dual master’s degrees in Library & Information Science and Japanese Studies. My chief reasons for choosing UHM and Hawaii, a place I had never been, differed rather significantly from the pretentiously highfalutin ones I spun up in my application for admission, which out of embarrassment I dare not reprint here.

I presently find myself in Ibaraki, Japan, a happy recipient of a MEXT Research Student Scholarship to pursue evaluative research and the possible eventual PhD in Information Retrieval at the University of Tsukuba. It just occurred to me that my present position was secured with similarly bombastic reasons as appeared on my UHM application five and some odd years ago, and while I cannot be altogether sure if my tenure at UHM and knowledge acquired (presumably as if by osmosis) by its various esteemed faculty dissuaded an adequate portion of my former ignorance, I am inclined to believe there is not some alternative explanation. I would like to thank the Center for Japanese Studies for supporting me and for the kindness and various kindnesses bestowed upon me by its staff over the years. Kanto winters are cold and my hometown is even colder, so don’t be surprised to see my face in some lighter shade of pale on some upcoming winter day. I will be happy to see you. Thank you also to the Japanese government for allowing me the opportunity to continue my tortuous path to some fruitful end.
As it is getting colder in Yokohama each week, I recently wore my scarf for the first time in five years. Despite the fact that my laundry takes much longer now than when I was in Hawai‘i, I am happy to be attending the Inter-University Center for Japanese Language Studies (IUC) in Yokohama, where I am enrolled in the 10 month intensive program. The “intensive” part is definitely not a lie; I often spend most of my days preparing the classes, and it is hard to find time for other activities such as funding applications or sightseeing. However, this experience was exactly the kind of thing I was looking for as I get ready to embark on my dissertation field research, hopefully starting next Summer. Some of the aspects of Japanese language mastery which the program highlights are academic speaking, keigo, writing and conducting presentations, as well as a highly systematized Kanji method.

Within the building where IUC is located, English is prohibited, and it is exactly this inability to safely retreat into expressing oneself through using a more familiar language which I feel helps me prepare for my field research, where similar situations are bound to arise. The staff is also highly professional and includes instructors who have backgrounds in academic fields such as anthropology, literature and history, so that students may focus on familiarizing themselves with Japanese literature in their respective fields. Despite being a long-time student of the language and passing JPLT 1 in 2010, I can confidently say that my Japanese has never been nearly as good as it is now, and I expect to improve more over the next semester. I hope that graduate students working on Japan will continue representing UH here at IUC.

- Mattias van Ommen, (PhD student, Anthropology)
Faculty Presentations, Publications and Announcements


Kimiko Kondo Brown, Professor of Japanese, was invited as a keynote speaker for two international seminars in 2015. The first was “Development of useful Japanese language tests: Theory, research, and practice” at The China Japanese Education Association Professional Development Seminar in Beijing, which was co-sponsored by Beijing Foreign Studies University and the Japan Foundation. She also gave a talk entitled “Japanese language maintenance and instruction in the U.S.” at the International Academic Seminar for Japanese Studies and Japanese Language Research Seminar in Kanagawa, which was co-sponsored by Tokai University and Hanyang University.

She also had two publications in 2015: “Growing up in Hawaii as Japanese heritage language speakers: Language, culture, and identity” in *Culture and Foreign Language Education: Insights from Research and Implications for the Practice* (Ed. W.M. Chan et al) as well as “Evaluation Capacity Building in College Language Programs” in *Innovation and Accountability in Foreign Language Program Evaluation* (Eds. J. Norris & N. Mills).

Theresa Greaney and Baybars Karacaovali of UHM received a $76K grant from the Japan Foundation’s Center for Global Partnership, and co-sponsoring grants from CJS and from Japan’s Ministry of Education, Culture, Sports, Science and Technology (MEXT) for a research project entitled "Trade, Growth and Economic Inequality in the Asia-Pacific Region". This project involved international conference meetings in Honolulu in January 2016, and in Tokyo (at Keio University) in May 2016, with publication of the conference papers to follow.


Two CJS faculty members contributed chapters in the new *Sage Handbook of Modern Japanese Studies* (Ed. James D. Babb), available as a e-book in Hamilton Library. David T. Johnson’s “Policing in Japan” is included, as is Mary McDonald’s “Geography’s Contributions to Japanese Studies”.


Student Presentations, Publications and Announcements

Christopher Smith, PhD student in EALL, published a review of *The Fall of Language in the Age of English*, by Minae Mizumura in *Japanese Studies* 35, no. 2.

David Coldren, MA student in Asian Studies, presented a paper, "Legacies of World War II: Yasukuni Shrine, the Hiroshima Peace Memorial, and War Memory in Japan," at the 19th Annual Harvard East Asian Society Graduate Conference in February.

Mattias van Ommen, PhD student in Anthropology, published an article in the journal *Games and Culture*, entitled "Guild Wars 2, the Frankfurt School and Dialectical Fairy Scenes: A Critical Approach Towards Massively Multiplayer Online Video Games".

Mattias was also awarded a Japan Foundation Fellowship for the upcoming year to support his dissertation research.
Special Announcements

Center for Japanese Studies Graduate Student Travel Award
Quarterly Deadlines: 1st of Feb., May, Aug., and Nov.

Contact CJS at 956-2665 or visit www.hawaii.edu/cjs for more information.

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 direct your submissions to cjs@hawaii.edu.

To receive J-Current and other CJS announcements by e-mail, sign up for our email LISTSERV by contacting cjs@hawaii.edu.

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