

STUDYING ABROAD: MORE AFFORDABLE THAN YOU THINKby Sarita Rai (www.studyabroad.org)

Studying abroad is an essential component of higher education. More than ever, it is imperative for students from the U.S. – and especially students from Hawai'i – to understand today's globalized world, and subscribing to global citizenship is part of this goal. Students also need to successfully compete with cohorts who speak multiple languages, have lived in multiple international locations, and who are not only bicultural, but multicultural. Studying abroad through UHM provides this platform.

One of the most common misperceptions about studying abroad is that it is too expensive. In reality, for Western Undergraduate Exchange and nonresident students, it can actually be less expensive to spend a semester abroad on a **UHM Study Abroad Center (SAC)** program rather than attending regular day classes at UHM. For a cost comparison, please view this link: www.studyabroad.org/students/comparison-cost-attendance-uh-manoa-vs-studying-abroad/.



Students can use UHM financial aid and scholarships to help fund a UHM SAC program. UHM Financial Aid Services in QLCSS 112 offers a range of aid for students, including grants, scholarships, subsidized loans, unsubsidized loans, alternative loans, and parent loans. Pell Grant recipients are eligible for the Gilman Scholarship designated for study abroad.

Students should not automatically assume that studying abroad is unaffordable or unattainable. After doing the research and comparing numbers, they can decide for themselves, and stop by UHM SAC in Moore 115 to take the next step!

COMIC BOOK HERO: USAGI YOJIMBO! by Lois Kajiwara (www.uhm.hawaii.edu/international/)

A tough-as-adamantium masterless samurai rabbit for the main character in a successful *independent* comic book series? Who would have thought? Fortunately for his fans, **Stan Sakai**, the creator of Usagi Yojimbo, came up with that brilliant thought. Since its start in 1984, Usagi Yojimbo has grown by leaps and bounds. In fact, this year marks the 30th anniversary – truly amazing(!) – of Stan Sakai's world of Usagi Yojimbo. Popular in the U.S. as well as internationally, Usagi Yojimbo has been published in countries such as Spain, France, Poland, Germany, Italy, Finland, and Sweden.

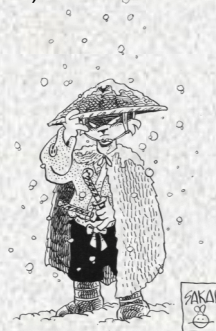
Set in early seventeenth century feudal Japan, this comic book series features anthropomorphic animals, instead of people, as the characters. The main character is Miyamoto Usagi (*usagi* means rabbit in Japanese), who is a student warrior on a pilgrimage, occasionally selling his services as a *yojimbo* (bodyguard). The character of Usagi is inspired by the famous Miyamoto Musashi, known for his innovative swordsmanship and for *The Book of Five Rings*.

Stan was born in Kyoto, Japan and moved to Hawai'i with his family when he was two years old. Growing up, he took an interest in comic books and Japanese samurai movies. Little did he know at that time that this combination would be very useful for his future. He graduated from UH Mānoa with a Fine Arts degree and moved to the mainland to make a living as an artist.

Stan is a four-time winner of the Eisner Award (the comic book industry's most prestigious award, with past winners including Frank Miller [*Sin City*, 300] and Alex Ross [*Kingdom Come*]), and has won numerous other awards including a Parents' Choice Award, an Inkpot Award, an American Library Association Award, and a National Cartoonists Society Division Award. A total of 29 Usagi Yojimbo books have been published so far. He has also worked with Stan Lee on the Spider-Man Sunday strips.

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COMIC BOOK HERO: USAGI YOJIMBO! (continued from page 1)


I had a chance to interview Stan recently:

Why did you choose to study at UH Mānoa?

I didn't want to go to a mainland school, so I chose UH Mānoa for the fine arts program.

What inspires you to draw and create art?

Well, I have no other skills (LOL), so I enjoy it. As an artist, I'm able to work at home, there's no commute, and I make my own hours.

Why did you choose a rabbit as your main character?

At first, I was planning to draw all humans but then I drew a rabbit with a *chonmage* (topknot). It was a unique but simple design.

Why do you think Usagi Yojimbo has lasted so long and is still going strong?

I have no idea! I've been told that I'm a writer who draws, rather than the other way around. (Note: Stan is both the artist and writer of Usagi). I think the writing keeps the fans interested.

How will this year's 30th anniversary be celebrated?

Hard cover editions will be published and I'll be traveling a lot!

What is the most satisfying thing about being the creator of Usagi Yojimbo?

The readership – having a core of loyal readers that have followed me through the years, but also gaining new readers.

How is it to work with Stan Lee (co-creator of Spider-Man, X-Men, Fantastic Four, Iron Man, Thor, and Hulk)?

I've known him for 30 years. One day, Stan Lee called me out of the blue and asked if I wanted to letter Spider-Man. Of course, I said yes! Stan Lee also wrote the introduction to one of my books. He's a really nice guy.

What is your fan base like?

Usagi has wide appeal. The fan base ranges from kids to grandparents.

Where have you traveled for your work?

Australia, Poland, Scandinavia, Spain, Japan, France, Croatia, and many other places.

Not only for entertainment, comics can also educate. Did you set out to educate your readers on Japanese culture?

Not at first, but I do a lot of research for the stories, so teachers have told me that they enjoy reading Usagi. I've spoken at various institutions including the College of William & Mary, Johns Hopkins University, and the Connecticut Historical Society.

How many years have you attended Comic-Con International?

I've been going for 35 years consecutively, and I've also been invited as a special guest to this year's Comic-Con.

A recent project that you worked on was the 47 Ronin five-issue miniseries. The story of the 47 Ronin, dating back to eighteenth century Japan, is still relevant today. Why does the 47 Ronin story interest you?

Because it is one of the most important and revered incidents in Japanese history. I first heard about it when I was in the third grade and it made quite an impression on me. To work on the miniseries, I took a one year hiatus from Usagi.

What is your favorite TV show, superhero, and local food?

The Amazing Race, Spider-Man, and laulau.

What advice would you give to our students?

Set flexible goals in life and when you attain those goals, make new goals.

What are your proudest professional and personal accomplishments?

The fact that I have been in the industry for so long that I am now regarded as the old-timer. I was also able to meet my heroes – Stan Lee, Jack Kirby, Neal Adams, and George Takei. Personally, I've been married for 36 years and have two children.



Cover art for 47 Ronin #1

Thinking back over the years, Stan fondly recalled a story about his decision to move to the mainland to work. Although uneasy about that decision, Stan's father changed his mind upon seeing the standing-room-only crowd at Stan's first book signing in Hawai'i. His father said, "Well, guess he's doing okay." Perhaps Stan himself is the most surprised at how things have turned out. Considered a living legend in his industry due to his many achievements, Stan's career has taken him on quite a journey...and there is more to come with the continuing adventures of Usagi Yojimbo!

SERVICE LEARNING AT HELP: LEARNING ENGLISH AND DOING GOOD

by Joel Weaver (www.manoa.hawaii.edu/eslhelp/wordpress/)

For the last five years, **Hawai'i English Language Program (HELP)** students were able to participate in Service Learning projects in the Honolulu community on a voluntary basis. Students have volunteered in afterschool programs, participated in beach cleanups, and helped serve food at homeless shelters. These students have enjoyed the experience of giving back to their adopted Hawai'i community and using their developing English skills in real-life situations.



In Fall 2013, HELP decided to make Service Learning a mandatory part of the curriculum for all students from beginning to advanced levels. In addition to the benefits noted above, we feel that Service Learning admirably addresses one of our program learning outcomes for personal and social responsibility as follows:

Students demonstrate personal development in becoming autonomous lifelong learners who engage in self-assessment, critical thinking, ethical reflection, cooperative and collaborative teamwork, and participation in activities with the larger community both on and off campus.

Through regular Service Learning opportunities and reflective sessions, students are using English in the "real world," while making a big difference in that world! For more information, please go to www.manoa.hawaii.edu/eslhelp/wordpress/?page_id=1295.

UP CLOSE & PERSONAL WITH JAMIE HIGA

Jamie Higa, a junior in Accounting, Finance, and Management Information Systems, studied abroad for one semester in London through the **Study Abroad Center**. Below, she shares some of her thoughts and experiences since her return to Hawai'i.

Were you happy with the university that you chose?

Absolutely! Roehampton University has the most picturesque campus I've ever seen. There are fountains, bridges, lakes with ducks, and forests that are the home of foxes and squirrels. It was so beautiful. I also appreciated that they provide a large amount of on-campus accommodations.

What was your favorite class?

My favorite class was called "Introduction to the London Stage." For this class, we went to see a bunch of theatre productions that were fantastic. My favorite show was *The Turn of the Screw*, which was a ghost/horror story. The actors and effects were amazing and I loved every moment of it.

What did you enjoy about studying abroad?

I loved the fact that I was able to travel so much. I was able to go to Scotland, Paris, Wales, and Rome. I also enjoyed meeting new people and making new friends.

Which places did you find interesting?

My favorite places include Stonehenge, Westminster Abbey, the London Eye, the Harry Potter Studio, Camden Market, castles, and...more castles! London at night is magical because everything lights up and it is awesome. The Harry Potter Walking Tour, which features spots where various scenes from the movies were filmed, was really cool.

What was one of the highlights of your stay in London?

One of the highlights was the snow! It was my first time to see snow and it was amazing! I went with a group of friends to Richmond Park and built my first snowman there.

How did you learn about the Study Abroad program?

I learned about the program through one of my professors, who was my Faculty Advisor during my stay in London.

What advice would you give to someone who is thinking about studying abroad?

If you have the resources, then I would strongly encourage you to study abroad. I can say that studying abroad was definitely one of the best spontaneous decisions that I've ever made.

What is the most important thing that you have learned about your experience?

I learned that you can't be afraid to get out into the world. Once you overcome that fear, you gain so much more confidence to achieve your dreams. Miriam Beard said, "Travel is more than the seeing of sights; it is a change that goes on, deep and permanent, in the ideas of living." After returning from London, I decided to apply for an internship, participate in student clubs, and volunteer – all of which I was hesitant to do before I went to London. By traveling halfway across the world, I really figured out who I am and what I want to do.



For more information, please contact:

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