

Newsletter

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Language Exchange Hour with USPP Students

Last summer, UVM, for the first time in its history, enrolled its first group of undergraduate students directly from China through the U.S.-Sino Pathway Program (USPP).

As USPP students are native Chinese speakers and all need to improve their spoken English proficiency, the Chinese Language Program, collaborated with the Office of International Education, has started the Language Partner Program, which is intended for UVM students of Chinese language and native Chinese speaking USPP students to meet once a week to chat in Chinese for 30 minutes and then in English for another 30 minutes.



The first Language Exchange Hour took place on September 22 at the Fireplace Lounge at the Living and Learning Center. In the following weeks of this semester, the Language Exchange Hour will be held at 7:30 pm every Tuesday at

Fireplace Lounge. Diana Sun, who is in charge of the Language Partner Program, can be contacted for more information. □

*For more information about USPP, visit: <http://www.uvm.edu/~intrnatl/uspp/?Page=uspp.html>

News from the Arabic Program

This fall the Arabic House has started. Members had their first middle-eastern cooking at the house organized by their RA Bayan. It was a lot of fun cooking and eating together. They hope to have more activities at the house. Please be alert that they may announce next event for all their friends on campus to come and share their delicious treats!

Last spring and summer, two of our Arabic students (Sidney Upchurch and Kate) went to Morocco to study abroad, and they are back to UVM safe and full of energy. They had successful and wonderful time in Morocco. They improved their spoken and written Modern Standard Arabic. We welcome them back and enjoy their stories about language and cultural experience.

Whitney Roth, another Arabic language student, got the Boren Scholarship and will be studying in Morocco from January 30 to July 26, 2011, doing a combination of intensive Arabic study as well as anthropology and religious studies.

We here at Asian languages and literatures want to congratulate Whitney Roth for her success, and we wish her the best in Morocco next year. □



Miss Fernanda Perez (English '09) teaches English in a beautiful island town in Japan.



UVM students taking the cultural trip to Japan are in front of Kiyomizu Temple in Kyoto



A sign made by Aichi University to welcome UVM students in May 2010.

Trading Knowledge in Japan

While in Japanese class in UVM we learned the story of Momo Taro, the child who travels to an island to fight demons. Now, after the long and nerve wrecking process that is applying to JET, I am teaching in a small island town called Shinkamigoto in Nagasaki Prefecture. Although I am not here to fight demons, living in an island that most Japanese people have not even heard of is a singular experience. People are friendly if you are willing to talk to them, and have a lot to teach about their hometown and its history. The dialect has its uniqueness as well; I have to keep my ears very open when I talk to older people to keep up with them.

I go to four schools, two middle schools and two elementary schools. The elementary schools are very fun because the children are less shy and hesitant to approach me. They do not mind yelling random English

words and asking me to play with them during recess. The middle schools on the other hand were quite a surprise. In one, the kids are outgoing and talkative and in the other I approach quiet kids who look away shyly when I ask them a question. It might take a while for them to become used to the new ALT, but I can sense a bit of progress every day. It helps a lot if you try to remember their favorite celebrities or sports, they will be more interested in talking. I have also made it my mission to learn all my students' names.

Working with Japanese English teachers is also a challenge sometimes. You might get one who would rather teach with no assistance. I completely understand them, so even though I feel frustrated at times, I try to bring activities to fit their lesson plan and to keep showing my desire to help the class.



In school, I have come to admire the fearlessness the kids show when playing with bugs and even petting chickens, and how hard they work at school, both in classes and their sports clubs. I came here to teach, but I learn every day. In that way JET has allowed me to have an adventure of sorts while learning about Japanese language, its culture and its people.

—By Fernanda Perez

(Fernanda Perez was an English major and had a Japanese minor and graduated from UVM in 2009)

Cultural Exchange Trip to Japan

Ms. Kazuko Carlson (Suzuki Sensei), senior lecturer of Japanese, conducted the 5th faculty-led trip to Japan for two weeks in May 2010.

A group of UVM students led by Suzuki left for Japan after the spring semester was over. This trip is a good opportunity for Japanese language students to be physically in Japan and to try the Japanese they

have learned and to experience the Japanese culture first-hand. Students who have taken the opportunity have always remembered the trip as an unforgettable experience.

As the highlight of this year's trip, the UVM students spent a day at Aichi University in the city of Toyohashi. Thanks to Aichi University's hospitality and their enthusiastic students

and staff, the UVM students taking the trip had a wonderful time learning about the campus life and the lifestyle of Japanese college students. □



Students at Aichi University

Faculty Members' Activities

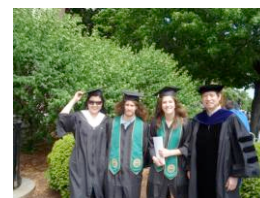
Kyle Ikeda is on research leave this semester. He is working on his book manuscript about the 2nd generation war fiction of Okinawan writer Medoruma Shun. For the last two summers, Professor Ikeda went to Okinawa in Japan to collect materials about the writer, and he is aiming to finish writing and editing the book manuscript as early as possible if not this semester.

Kazuko Carlson is planning to write an introductory Japanese textbook based on proficiency-focused pedagogical theories. She hopes to develop this textbook by incorporating interesting topics and useful cultural notes so as to meet the interests of her current and future students.

Diana Sun made a presentation on "Teaching

Beginning Students to Express Past Actions in Chinese Correctly" at the 8th International Conference on Chinese Pedagogy last summer in China.

In April and September this year, she was invited by Vermont Department of Education to be a peer review panelist to review two applicants who were seeking a Vermont teaching license in the Chinese language. □



Amada Hower (2nd from the right) and James Dopp (3rd from the right) graduated in May 2010. Both of them are working in China now.

Darius Jonathan, senior lecturer of Arabic, was invited last March by International Institute of Education (IIE) on behalf of State Department to be a panelist for Arabic and North African Region for Boren Scholarship. Early this fall, IIE extended their invitation for him to continue as a panelist for the spring of 2011.

Currently, he is working on a textbook for beginning Arabic, the purpose of which is to introduce Arabic alphabets in a simple and systematic approach so as to meet the need of our students at UVM.

John Yin was invited to conduct a workshop on how Chinese language teachers may facilitate Chinese language teaching with computer technology for the 2010 STARTALK K-12 Chinese Language Teacher Training Program at Portland State University.

He also served as the co-chair for the 8th International Conference on Chinese Language Pedagogy, which was held in Kunming, China on July 24-26, 2010. (www.uvm.edu/~chinese/conference2010).

He acted as an editor-in-chief

working with other editors last summer and had the book entitled *Chinese as a Foreign Language Teaching Practice and Reflections* published by Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press in China in late July 2010.

In November, he will attend the 2010 ACTFL/Chinese Language Teachers Association Annual Meeting in Boston and will chair a panel and present a paper on computer-assisted Chinese vocabulary learning. □



The book compiled and edited by Prof. Yin et al is entitled *Chinese as a Foreign Language Teaching Practice and Reflections*. (ISBN: 978-7-5600-9809-8.)

Ms. Xiaohong Hou, visiting Chinese instructor, got a teaching position at the Chinese Language School, Middlebury College last summer. She taught second-year Chinese. Before coming to teach at UVM, Ms. Hou had been a Chinese lecturer at Central University of Finance and Economics in Beijing for five years. This semester, she teaches CHIN 001 and CHIN 201.

Mr. Peng Zhang is a new visiting Chinese instructor from Yunnan Normal University. He began to teach Chinese after he got his MA in Applied Linguistics in 2003. Being a Chinese lecturer at Yunnan Normal University, he was sent to teach Chinese in South Korea for two years and in Thailand for one semester. This is the first time that he came to teach in the U.S. He teaches CHIN 051 and 295.

Ms. Yingxuan Tian, a visiting Chinese instructor sponsored by Chinese Language Council joined the Chinese faculty at UVM from Tianjin Foreign Studies University in China this semester. Before coming to the U.S. for the first time, she had taught Chinese in China for 8 years. In addition to Chinese as a foreign language, her specialization is classical Chinese literature and culture. She teaches CHIN 001 and 295. □



UVM students on a study tour in Shanghai in May 2010. They visited 2010 Shanghai World Expo. This year, 15 students participated in the Study Abroad Program in China.

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Japanese Extracurricular Activities

The Japanese House

The Japanese House members have been having fun activities this semester. Each member is in charge of at least one activity/event this year. Jason Cole arranged an event called "Haiku Hike." The members went on a hike in the Centennial Woods in the early evening on September 25 and read their own haiku (short poems). More fun activities/events, such as Dango (rice cake) Making, Sushi Making, Movie Viewings, and Mini-Matsuri are being scheduled. More information will be posted in the Japanese Events

Calendar below:

<http://www.uvm.edu/~japanese/?Page=Calendar&agenda=Program.Japanese&displayformat=aslist&period=month>

Let's Sing J-POP.

Ms. Megumi Esselstrom, a music instructor, was invited to teach Japanese pop songs to Japanese language students at UVM. The first J-POP practice meeting was held on September 30 this semester, and they will meet at 6:00-7:00 pm every other Thursday at CM 216 L/L. Approximately fifteen students participated in J-POP. You are welcome to join them next time.



From the left: Samuel Michcon, Ken Murakami, Deidre LaCouture, Janelle Canosa, who spoke during the "Life In Japan Discussion Session."

"Life in Japan" Discussion

A discussion session on studying abroad in Japan was held on October 7. Four students who had studied abroad in Japan and Ms. Pamela Gardner of the OIE were invited to speak at the discussion session. Students who are interested in studying abroad in Japan got a chance to ask questions. □

Chinese Extracurricular Activities

Chinese Moon Festival

The Chinese Moon Festival occurred on Sept. 22 this year. Members of the Chinese House led by David Zhang and Xiaofeng Zheng organized a party at Fireplace Lounge.



Tasting moon cakes and making floating flower lanterns during the party celebrating the moon festival.

At the party, students tasted moon cakes and made some floating flower lanterns. They then went



Flower lanterns are set floating near University Heights during the moon festival.

outside to watch the moon and set the floating flower lanterns on water near University Heights.

Trip to Chinatown in Montreal

Chinese House members will embark on a trip to Chinatown in Montreal early in the morning on Oct. 9, 2010 and will return in the

evening of the same day. There will be two big vans, and only Chinese House members may participate due to the limited number of seats.

Chinese Tea Hour

Chinese Tea Hour, hosted by visiting Chinese instructors Ms. Hou, Mr. Zhang, and Ms. Tian, is every Friday from 4:00 to 5:00 pm at B180 L/L.

Conversational Chinese Online

From 7:30-8:30 pm every Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, students can use Skype to chat with a Chinese instructor online (Skype ID: uvm-chinese). □