

Newsletter

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Top Asian Languages and Literatures Seniors Honored



On May 16, 2014, Pedro Teixeira (Japanese Major), Maureen Pavlik (Japanese Major), and Hanna Miyake (Chinese Major) were honored with the Peter Seybolt Academic Award at the College of Arts and Sciences Honors Ceremony. Pedro Teixeira was unable to attend the ceremony

because he had mandatory training and orientation for his Princeton in Japan Fellowship. The Peter Seybolt Award is given to top graduating seniors who major in an Asian language based on their academic performances. Asian Languages and Literatures faculty were proud for

them and happy to see that they were honored with this award at the time of their graduation from UVM. □

Prof. Kyle Ikeda (at the podium) is announcing the recipients of the award: Hanna Miyake (standing on the right) and Maureen Pavlik (standing on the left).

Dr. Kyle Ikeda Got Promotion with Tenure

Dr. Kyle Ikeda was promoted to the rank of Associate Professor with tenure effective in the fall of 2014. Dr. Ikeda was hired in the fall of 2008 after a national search.

Since he joined the Asian Languages and Literatures faculty, he has been teaching Japanese language, literature, and culture courses. He has been co-

directing the Japanese House Program and serving on the CAS Admission Committee. He has also been active in research and scholarship. He presented papers at national and international conferences. His scholarly research work has yielded three major peer-reviewed publications: two journal articles and one book entitled *Okinawan War Memory: Transgenerational Trauma and the War Fiction of Medoruma Shun*, published by Routledge, a reputable press in the field of Asian Studies. □



The Asian Languages and Literatures faculty and staff held a pot-luck party in early May to celebrate Dr. Ikeda's promotion. Dr. Ikeda is the fourth from the left in the second line.



A UVM Alumna and a Chinese language teacher at New Hampton School in New Hampshire, Meg Pechenick (first from right), with her students at a Chinese high school during their study tour in China.



UVM students participating in the 2014 Study Abroad Program in China are visiting the imperial palace, which is the Palace Museum now, in Beijing.



Students from UVM are learning the dragon dance from students at Yunnan University in China.



From left: Ms. Ueno, Mariah Donnellan, Charlotte Randall, Sam Porter, Nicole Jacobs and Maureen Pavlik at the 2014 Commencement.

The Path to Finding My Profession



I had already studied Chinese for a year when I arrived at UVM in 2002 as an undeclared freshman. Over the next couple of years, I continued to study Chinese and also enrolled in classes related to Asian art, history, and philosophy, making Asian Studies a natural choice for my major. I ended up double majoring in Anthropology, but I can easily say that Asian Studies has had a far greater impact on my life. After spending seven transformative months studying abroad in Kunming in 2004, I knew I wanted to return to China after graduation. In 2006, I moved with my fellow UVM alumnus and now

husband Dov Pechenick to Shenzhen, where we spent a year teaching English at a Chinese boarding school and traveling throughout China. During our travels we saw some incredible sights—from the beaches of Hainan to the ice sculptures of Harbin—and became obsessed with sampling every region's variation on hand pulled noodles (拉面).

Teaching English to Chinese high school students was unpredictable and hilarious. However, I realized during my year in Shenzhen that I preferred tutoring my fellow American English teachers in Chinese, so I returned to the U.S. in 2007 to pursue a Master's degree in Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language at the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS) in California. I spent two years pursuing my degree during the academic year and teaching Chinese with the Middlebury-Monterey Language Academy in the summer.

I graduated from MIIS in 2009 and returned to New England to be closer to family and friends. In 2010, I was fortunate to be offered a position at New Hampton School, a small boarding school in central New Hampshire. I'm now beginning my fifth year at New Hampton, teaching high school Chinese levels 1 through 5. My Chinese skills have enabled me to lead three study tours in China with my American students and to act as a liaison for teachers from Chinese schools who have visited our campus.

While I'm not sure when I will be returning to China next, there is no question that my experiences studying Chinese at UVM and abroad set me on the path to finding my profession. I could never have predicted in 2002 that the language classes I took as a freshman would form the basis of my career!

--Meg (MacDonald) Pechenick 梅亦珠
UVM Class of 2006

Lesson4U English Language School in Japan



After completing my English degree at UVM in 2012, I accepted a teaching post at a private English language school in Ishikawa, Japan, where I've lived for the last two years. I've enjoyed continuing to study and teach the English language to students of all ages and levels, but I've also appreciated having the opportunity to continue studying Japanese. I knew from my study abroad experience at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo

during my third year of college, that despite having received a solid grounding in Japanese grammar from my time at UVM, one of the biggest frustrations for me had been simple illiteracy, that is to say, I couldn't read enough *kanji*. So, when I realized I would be moving to Japan for work, I knew I had one month to sit myself down and learn/re-learn around 3,000 Chinese characters. After moving to Japan, I continued to study by focusing on expanding my vocabulary during my free time before and after work, as well as making an active attempt to totally submerge myself in the Japanese language by making friends, reading books and of course, watching Japanese professional baseball. It soon became my goal to pass the highest level Japanese comprehension exam, the N1 Level Japanese Language Proficiency Test.

I'm happy to say that I was able to pass the exam at the end of last year, and that the effort has been worth it. More than passing a proficiency test, my studies have given me the ability to read and appreciate Japanese literature, in a way I once thought impossible. They have also however, given me the chance to create meaningful relationships with people I've met in Ishikawa, all of whom are proud of the fact I no longer speak standard Japanese, but have slipped into the Ishikawa dialect. Japanese study had always been enjoyable in its own right, but along with my work teaching English as a foreign language, it has also helped me realize and explore a passion for language, literature and linguistics, that I hope to continue by enrolling in graduate level studies focused on the development and history of the English language.

--Jacob Runner
UVM Class of 2012

Faculty Members' Activities

Darius Jonathan travelled to Cairo, Egypt to attend seminars on Arabic grammar last summer. This time, his visit at Cairo University and at Al-Azhar University was disruption free. He was able to visit many libraries and bookstores, looking for references and additional materials for teaching Arabic for non-native Arabic speakers. He is seeking the possibilities of sending students from UVM to American University at Cairo to participate in its Arabic program for international students.

Mutsumi Corson visited two Japanese universities, Aoyama Gakuin University and Meiji Gakuin University, last summer. She observed classes in both institutions and had meetings with contact persons to explore more educational exchange possibilities for UVM students in the future. Corson will continue to use Japanese graded readers in her new kanji character courses (*Kanji is Key I & II*). She attended a workshop on rewriting original stories to make them level

appropriate for Japanese language learners at the NOP Tadoku Supporters office in Tokyo. She has been developing Japanese reading materials.

Kazuko Carlson taught her summer course, Japanese for Daily Communication, and presented her project of networking with alumni for career advising at the Annual Conference by the Canadian Association for Japanese Language Education in August. She has been working on a short graded-reader

book through Tagengo Tadoku (Association of Extensive Reading Study for Foreign Language Acquisition). On November 15, she will offer the 2nd Light Up Nippon (Japan) event featuring the recovery efforts from Japan's 2011 great earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster with the generous support of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream company and the Japan Foundation.

Kyle Ikeda was promoted to Associate Professor of Japanese with Tenure effective from Fall 2014. In May, he participated in the "Bundan Snark" Japanese literature workshop at the University of Iowa, and in September presented a research paper at the Foundation for Endangered Languages conference in Okinawa on Ryukyuan

language in Okinawan literature. During the summer professor Ikeda offered a new course, *Contemporary and Popular Japanese Fiction* (WLIT 195) and this fall is teaching another new course, *War Memory and Trauma in Japanese Literature* (WLIT 195). He will also be supervising students in preparation for a Taiko performance next spring.

Natsumi Ueno is teaching 1st and 3rd year Japanese courses as well as a 5th year Japanese course, which is a new course offered at UVM, starting this semester. She is also serving as a faculty adviser for the Korea House at the Global Village in the Living and Learning Center and a cappella group called Zest at UVM. Last summer, she taught again at Princeton in Ishikawa,

a Japanese language program offered by Princeton University in Ishikawa, Japan every summer.

Ying Hu taught CHIN 001 and CHIN 002 last summer, during which she further revised the online listening workbook for the two courses. She is also revising the course packet for her fourth-year Chinese class. This academic year, she continues to serve as the faculty co-director of the Chinese House, and the organizer of the Chinese-English Language Partner Program. Hu presented a collaborative study, "Exploring Persuasive Writing Dynamics in Virtual Environments," at the Conference on Finding Common Ground: Social, Ecological and Cognitive Perspectives on Language Use, which was held at

the University of Connecticut in June. She has also been taking a graduate-level course on iBook Development since May, and she is doing a preliminary study on multimodal learning of conceptual vocabulary in advanced Chinese learning.

Diana Sun attended the 12th International Conference of Chinese Pedagogy held in Harbin, China in June and presented a paper entitled "Teaching Strategies for Small American Summer Programs in China." She accompanied the

students from UVM who were studying abroad at Yunnan University in China last summer and helped training local teachers on Chinese as a foreign language pedagogy. This academic year, she is taking a sabbatical leave to compile additional listening and speaking materials for American college students learning Chinese as a foreign language.

John Yin took a group of 12 students to study abroad in China at Yunnan University last summer. This semester he teaches two

courses: Classical Chinese and China through Chinese Eyes. His paper "Teachers, Textbooks, and Teaching Methods: Issues and Coping Strategies," presented at the 12th International Conference on Chinese Language Pedagogy in July at Ha'erbin, China, is included in a published volume of selected papers entitled *The Challenges and Opportunities for Teachers of Chinese as a Foreign Language*. He has continued to serve as the newsletter editor for the Chinese Language Teachers Association and has had two issues out since May. □



From left: Prof. Yin, Clark Dickson, Lara Abbott, Amanda Kwong, Chris Dickinson, and Ms. Sun at the 2014 Commencement.



Pedro Teixeira is receiving the Peter Seybolt Academic Award in Prof. Ikeda's office with Ms. Ueno after he came back from Princeton orientation. In the spring semester, he also successfully defended his Honors Thesis "The Portrayal of Suicide in Postmodern Japanese Literature and Popular Culture Media."



Ms. Qian Dong, who taught Chinese at UVM in AY 2007-2008, has come back to UVM this academic year to teach Chinese as a replacement lecturer. Before coming back to UVM, she taught at the Institute of Oriental and African Studies, University of London for three years.

Department of Asian
Languages and Literatures
479 Main Street
Burlington, Vermont 05405

Phone: 802 656 5764
Fax: 802 656 8472
E-mail: all@uvm.edu

قسم اللغات الآسيوية وآدابها

亚洲语言文学系

アジア言語文学科

<http://www.uvm.edu/~all>

Program Events & News: Arabic/Chinese/Japanese

Arabic Table on Wednesday at 6:00 pm

Ben Lindstrom-Ives and Maha Akkeh studied abroad and have come back to UVM now. Ben Lindstrom-Ives, who went to Egypt and Jordan shared his experiences at the Arabic Table. The Arabic Table is held at Fireplace Lounge every Wednesday at 6:00pm by Andrew Lamoureux for students to practice speaking Arabic. Students who need help with their Arabic language homework may also come to find more advanced Arabic speaking students who can render help.

Chinese Program Extracurricular Activities

The Chinese-English Language Partner Program started another round and has helped 32

students find their language partners, while more applications are still coming in.

The Moon Festival Celebration Night was held on September 7. About 60 students participated. Students had moon cakes, learned the moon festival legend, and practiced the moon festival traditions such as poetry reading and river lantern folding.



The Chinese House had its first educational cooking event on September 21, and will have three more throughout the fall semester. House members will learn to cook sweet and sour pork ribs, twice-cooked pork,



stir-fried chicken with string beans, and dumplings. On September 30, Chinese House members taught other Global Village residents how to do Chinese traditional blow painting and paper cutting. In October, Chinese House will host a Chinese-English Karaoke Night at the Fireplace Lounge at L/L.

Invited Speaker Cathy Bao Bean, author of *The Chopsticks-Fork Principle, A Memoir and Manual*, will give a talk entitled "Living and Laughing by the Chopsticks-Fork Principle" to our students at Lafayette 207 at 3:00 pm- 4:30 pm on Friday, October 24, 2014.

Japanese Program Extracurricular Activities



A Japanese calligraphy workshop was conducted by Mrs. Carlson last summer.



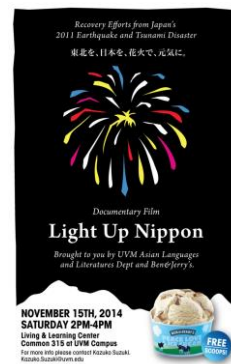
The Japanese Language Program held its first fall orientation meeting for Japanese Majors and Minors on September 11. The

Japanese faculty informed students of new courses and networking opportunities with alumni and returning students from abroad in Japan shared their experiences for students interested in study abroad in the future.



The Japanese program sponsored two **Taiko Workshops**, one in April and the other on October 1 with Burlington Taiko's Stuart Paton. Interested students will be practicing in preparation for a Taiko performance next spring

at the Japanese Cultural Festival to be held at St. Michael's College.



On November 15, Mrs. Carlson will host the 2nd **Light Up Nippon** (Japan) event featuring the recovery efforts from Japan's 2011 great earthquake, tsunami, and nuclear disaster with the generous support of Ben and Jerry's Ice Cream company and the Japan Foundation. □