

# Newsletter

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## Department of Asian Languages and Literatures

Many students who have studied a European language in the past know that learning an Asian language, a truly foreign language, can be quite challenging. Faculty members of the Department of Asian Languages and Literatures have been working hard to help students to face the challenge while taking other courses at UVM.

The Japanese Program, led by its director Ms. Mutsumi Corson, has changed to a new set of Japanese language textbooks to help students to learn Japanese with a more communicative and joyful approach.

The Chinese Program has started to use the new textbook, Practical Rhythmic Chinese, coauthored by Prof. John



Yin and Ms. Diana Sun, for its first-year and second-year Chinese language courses to improve the effectiveness of learning to speak with correct tones.

All language courses now have online materials for students to use before and after classes.

The Department this year has 23 students majoring in Japanese and 20 students majoring in Chinese. There are another 62 students who have chosen either Japanese or Chinese as their minor. □

## Arabic Courses Offered at UVM

In the spring of 2009, Mr. Darius Jonathan, senior lecturer of Arabic, started to offer Elementary Arabic Language Course to UVM students. More than 50 students registered to take the course. In the fall of

2009, Mr. Jonathan again offers two sections of Elementary Arabic Language Course and one section of Arabic language course at a little higher level.

In addition to Arabic language courses, he is

also teaching an Arabic culture course.

Last summer, with grant from CAS, he bought and brought back more than 100 Arabic language and literature books from Dubai and Cairo for UVM students. □

## New Visiting Lecturers from China



Chinese language textbooks, DVD's on Chinese culture, and classical Chinese literature books presented as gifts to UVM by Ms. Hou, a visiting Chinese lecturer, on behalf of the Chinese Language Council International. Chinese classical literature books will be cataloged and kept at the University Library for students to borrow.

This academic year, the Chinese Program has three visiting lecturers from China. Ms. Huili Sun of Nanjing University of Informational Science and Technologies, dispatched by the Chinese Language Council International, came to UVM in August 2008, and she will continue to teach Chinese at UVM for another academic year.

Ms. Xiaohong Hou and Mr. Zhi Guo came to UVM

about one week before the 2009-2010 academic year started. They joined the Chinese language faculty to teach Chinese language and help with extracurricular Chinese activities.

Ms. Hou graduated from Beijing Normal University with M.A. in Linguistics and Applied Linguistics in 2004. Before coming to UVM, she had been teaching at Beijing Central University of Finance and

Economics. She is the second teacher dispatched by the Chinese Language Council International.

Mr. Guo graduated from Beijing Language University with a Master degree in linguistics and applied linguistics in 2008. He has been a Chinese language teacher at Yunnan Normal University, where our study abroad program is located in China. □

## Faculty-Led Trip to Japan



On their way to their next destination in Japan on the bullet train

Ms. Kazuko Suzuki Carlson, senior lecturer of Japanese, has played a pivotal role in helping Japanese language students to go on a study tour to Japan in early summer to experience Japanese culture in person. She completed her fourth faculty-led trip to Japan last summer.

Students taking the trip spent two weeks in Japan. They traveled between big

cities in Japan by taking the bullet train. They visited a school and spent time with Japanese families during their trip.

Ms. Carlson is currently working on developing this course further by establishing a new partnership with the University of Aichi, where her students may be able to visit during the next study tour, May 17-30, 2010. □



Students enjoy visiting a Japanese family and having a traditional Japanese BBQ dinner.

## Study Abroad Program in China

Fourteen UVM students participated in the study abroad program at Yunnan Normal University in 2009.

Yunnan Normal University is situated in Kunming, the capital city of Yunnan Province in the southwest of China.

Kunming is known as the eternal spring city in China. Students enjoy the good weather while studying without being bothered by hot and humid weather people of other many places have to put up with in summer. □



At the Stone Forest in Yunnan, China

## Faculty Members' Activities

Kyle Ikeda, assistant professor of Japanese, was invited to participate in the Center for Okinawan Studies Conference at the University of Hawaii in March of 2009 to give a presentation about the current state of and future possibilities for Ryukyuan and Okinawan literary studies in North America. A revised version of that presentation appears as an article in the RYUKYUANIST, Nos 81-82 (Autumn 2008 – Winter 2009).

Last summer, he travelled to Okinawa to gather research material for his work on Okinawan war memory, and was able to meet with colleagues and scholars at the University of the Ryukyus and Okinawa International University. He presented his research on the challenges of translating poly-lingual texts at the New England Association for Asian Studies Conference at Brown University on October 3, 2009 and will be taking his

Japanese Popular Culture class, members of the Japan House, and students from the Anime House to the Cool Japan Project screening of "The Girl Who Leapt Through Time" at the Museum of Fine Arts in Boston in November.

This semester professor Ikeda is also supervising an undergraduate student, Sarah Mangan, with a research project on war memory in Japanese literature in preparation for the UVM Student Research Conference next spring. □



Prof. Ikeda (1<sup>st</sup> left) with students at the commencement in May 2009

John Jing-hua Yin, associate professor of Chinese, took a sabbatical leave in the spring of 2009 and published the book *Practical Rhythmic Chinese*, which he coauthored with Ms. Diana Sun.

In the summer and winter of 2008, Yin went to Beijing and made mp3 recordings for the book. An mp3 CD that accompanies the book was also published. This book and the mp3 CD are now used by the first-year and second-year Chinese language students.

At the 7<sup>th</sup> International

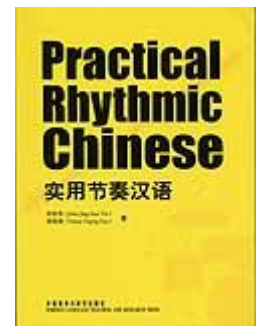
Conference on Chinese Language Pedagogy, which was held on August 1-3, 2009 in Guilin, China, he presented a paper on teaching Chinese tones by taking advantage of the melodious and rhythmic nature of the Chinese language, and his paper was chosen and included in the book entitled *Studies of Teaching Chinese as a Foreign Language in a Multidimensional Field of Vision*.

On Sept. 18, 2009, he was invited as a keynote speaker to speak at the 2009 Chinese Teaching Conference of

Confucius Institutes in US & Canada, which was held in Portland State University in Oregon.

Yin was elected by members of the Chinese Language Teachers Association (CLTA) to serve on the Board of Directors of CLTA as a result of an election in May of 2009.

He is currently acting as the chair of the organizing committee for the 8<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Chinese Language Pedagogy to be held in Kunming, China on July 24-26, 2010. □



Coauthored by John Yin and Diana Sun and published by Foreign Language Teaching and Research Press earlier in 2009

Mutsumi Corson, senior lecturer of Japanese and director of the Japanese Program, has been focusing on improving students' reading skills in upper level Japanese courses, especially on teaching kanji effectively. To learn more about Japanese Advanced Placement (AP) and articulation issues, she

attended the 23<sup>rd</sup> Conference of the Japanese Language Teachers Association of New England held at Amherst College in June. Last summer, she also visited several universities in Japan to look for a new school suitable to send more UVM students. □

Diana Yiqing Sun, senior

lecturer of Chinese, coauthored *Practical Rhythmic Chinese* with John Jing-hua Yin and attended the 7<sup>th</sup> International Conference on Chinese Pedagogy in Guilin, China on August 1-3, 2009. She made a presentation entitled "Using Rhythmic Verses to Acquire Accurate and Natural Chinese." □



During a study tour at Shanghai, China

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## Japanese Extracurricular Activities

10/30 (F) 11:30-12:45  
CM305, L/L.  
"Japanese Flower  
Arranging" workshop by  
Kimiko Yumoto  
(Kazuko.Suzuki@uvm.edu  
for registration; nominal  
fee collected at workshop)



Japanese Tea Ceremony  
Workshop

11/4 (W) 7:00-9:00 the  
Museum of Fine Arts in  
Boston.  
Film "The Girl Who Leapt  
Through Tim" Screening  
and Discussion with Prof.  
Ian Condry and Anime  
Scholar Susan Napier

11/13 (F) 11:30-12:30  
B180 International  
Lounge (B180), L/L.  
"Tea Ceremony"  
workshop by Mutsumi  
Corson.  
Tea and sweets served  
(Kazuko.Suzuki@  
uvm.edu for registration)

11/20 (F) 3:15-4:15  
CM302, L/L.  
"Calligraphy" workshop by  
Kazuko Suzuki  
(Kazuko.Suzuki@uvm.edu  
for registration)



Learning to write Kanji with  
a brush pen

## Chinese Extracurricular Activities

The schedule for Chinese  
extracurricular activities is  
available at  
[http://www.uvm.edu/~chinese/  
e/?Page=2009fall.htm](http://www.uvm.edu/~chinese/?Page=2009fall.htm)

Chinese Cuisine Time,  
which is open to Chinese  
House members only due to  
the limited space.



Making Chinese ravioli together

However, other activities  
such as the Chinese game  
nights are open to everyone.



Improving one's planning and  
strategic skills by playing Chinese  
chess and the go

All Chinese language  
students are encouraged to  
attend Chinese Tea Hour.  
Have a cup of tea over a  
conversation in Chinese with  
three visiting Chinese  
instructors from China: Ms.  
Huilin Sun, Ms. Xiaohong  
Hou, and Mr. Zhi Guo.

Time: Fridays at 4:00 pm -

5:00 pm (except for the fall  
break and Thanksgiving)

Place: International Lounge  
(B180 Living & Learning  
Center)



In September, 2009, Mr. Weihua  
Ma (left), a famous Chinese  
calligrapher, whose many  
calligraphic works have been  
collected and kept by the National  
Museum of China, wrote "Green  
Mountain Residence" for the  
Chinese House.