Four UVM Students Honored by JNHS-CC

Four UVM graduates were honored as they were accepted to be members of the Japanese National Honor Society College Chapter (JNHS-CC)* for their outstanding achievement in learning Japanese language. The membership is extended to students who have at least a GPA of 3.5 in five or more Japanese language courses and an overall GPA of 3.0 for other courses. The four students are Caitlin Scott Hoffmann (Japanese Major), Anna Raine Walsh (Japanese Major), Sarah Siobhan Mangan (Japanese Minor), and Wei Ni (Japanese Minor).

This year is the first year that the Japanese Language Program made recommendations for qualified students to be honored as members of the JNHS-CC. Japanese language students at UVM are encouraged to learn Japanese well, and more of them are expected to become members of this honor society in the future.

*For more information about JNHS-CC, visit: www.aatj.org/jnhs/JNHS-CC.html

New Arabic House Program in 2010-2011

In the fall of 2009, Mr. Darius Jonathan, senior lecturer of Arabic, started to plan to set up an Arabic House, a residential learning program in the Global Village. This Arabic House Program at the Global Village will enable students who are studying Arabic or who are interested in Arabic culture to come together to organize and participate in extracurricular activities related to Arabic language and culture after class. This semester, the application for establishing the Arabic House Program was approved by the Global Village at the Living and Learning Center, and the Arabic House Program for AY 2010-2011 is now set up. It has two suites in the Living and Learning Center. It is open to first-year students who will start their college life at UVM this coming fall. Arabic language students are also encouraged to take these opportunities.
Student Reaction to Study Abroad in China

Since joining the Chinese program at UVM three years ago, I have received countless educational experiences that have changed my life profoundly. Everything from the satisfaction gained from the progression of my language skills to the seven months spent in Yunnan, China have helped define this experience. I felt slightly daunted at the prospect of having to choose from so many great things and conflicted with the idea of having to leave so many out. The thing I personally cherish the most is the study tour that most students go on before their semester abroad in Kunming.

Upon first arriving in Beijing, I was slightly intimidated by the cacophonous hustle and bustle of Chinese city life. Within a day I found this overwhelming feeling melt away only to reveal a new and exciting world that my classmates and I were eager to explore. Our trips to the Forbidden City, the Bund, the Terracotta Warriors and many others gave us a cultural template to use in our exploration of China.

This short week and a half, though only a fraction of the entire trip, was a defining moment for my education. Unlike Spanish or French where both can be practiced reasonably close to home in Vermont, to me Chinese seemed like it was from a world far away. I had never experienced a conversation where my partner on the other side wasn’t also fluent in English. This lack of conversational experience, mixed with the excitement of seeing China for the first time made my study tour stand out so predominantly in my life and educational experiences.

–By Mat White-Pifer (Junior)

Chinese Visiting Instructors

Visiting Chinese instructors from China have played a very important role in teaching Chinese language and culture at UVM.

Ms. Xiaohong Hou, from Beijing Central University of Finance and Economics, will continue to teach Chinese at UVM in AY 2010-2011. This summer, she will be teaching at the Chinese Summer School, Middlebury College.

Ms. Huili Sun, from Nanjing University of Informational Science and Technologies, has been teaching CHIN 001/002 and CHIN 201/202 for the last two academic years. At the end of this academic year, she will finish her two-year term at UVM and return to her own university in China. We will miss her.

Mr. Zhi Guo of Yunnan Normal University will return there after teaching CHIN 051/052 and CHIN 295/296 for one academic year at UVM. Many of his students will see him again this summer when studying abroad in Yunnan.

Japanese Learning beyond Classrooms

§ Ms. Kazuko Suzuki Carlson, senior lecturer of Japanese, is getting ready for her 5th faculty-led travel course. She and a group of students will travel to Japan from the middle of May for two weeks. The UVM students will spend a day interacting with students from the University of Aichi both in Japanese and English.

§ Last semester in November, professor Ikeda took members of his TAP class on Japanese Popular Culture, students from the Japanese House, and members of the Anime House on a field trip to Boston’s Museum of Fine Arts to attend a special discussion about and screening of the award-winning anime feature film “The Girl Who Leapt through Time.”

§ Sarah Mangan, Japanese minor and graduating senior, will be presenting her research paper titled “Gendered Memory: Innocence and Guilt in Japanese War Literature” at the UVM Student Research Conference on April 22, 2010. Sarah’s research, under the supervision of professor Ikeda, was also awarded an APLE award to support the gathering of research materials and to attend the Harvard Graduate Student Conference on East Asia in February 2010.
Faculty Members’ Activities

Kyle Ikeda, assistant professor of Japanese, is working on a book manuscript about the 2nd generation war fiction of Okinawan writer Medoruma Shun that analyzes representations of trauma and war memory. On March 27, 2010 at the Association for Asian Studies Annual Meeting in Philadelphia he presented the paper “Okinawan War Memory in the 21st Century: Clarifying the Conditions of Narration in ‘War Stories Told in Shima Kutuba’” and was an invited speaker and participant at the North American Coordinating Council on Japanese Library Resources’ Third Decade conference also held in Philadelphia in late March.

Professor Ikeda is also on the 2010 New England Chinese Language Pedagogy Conference Organizing Committee to be held at UVM this November. He will be on research leave in the fall of 2010 to finish writing and revising his book manuscript about the 2nd generation war fiction of Okinawan writer Medoruma Shun.


In Feb. and March, Prof. Yin gave three lectures on Chinese culture to UVM staff members to help them to get ready to welcome USPP students from China during the next academic year.

On March 21, invited by Southern California Council of Chinese Schools, he went to Los Angles and gave a lecture and also conducted a workshop on teaching Chinese characters and Chinese tones.

On May 16, he will go to Portland State University in Oregon again to conduct a workshop on how Chinese language teachers may facilitate Chinese language teaching with computer technologies for the 2010 STARTALK K-12 Chinese Language Teacher Professional Development Training Program at Portland State University.

As the co-chair for the 8th International Conference on Collaborative Creativity and Media Success, Prof. Condry of MIT answers questions after his lecture “The Soul of Anime: Collaborative Creativity and Japan’s Media Success,” given to UVM students.

Prof. Yin is also on the 8th Annual Conference Committee of the Association for Asian Studies. He will be on research leave in the fall of 2010 to finish writing and revising his book manuscript about the 2nd generation war fiction of Okinawan writer Medoruma Shun.

Diana Sun, senior lecturer of Chinese, wrote a paper entitled “Helping Beginning Students to Express Past Actions Correctly” during the spring semester. The paper summarizes her experiences in teaching how the past time concept is expressed in Chinese. This paper has been accepted by the 8th International Conference on Chinese Pedagogy. She has just submitted her full paper and will make a presentation on it in Yunnan, China in late July of 2010.

She also acts as the co-director of the Chinese House Program at the Global Village. She has provided consultations and made funding requests for various House activities such as “Learning to cook home-style Chinese food”, “Moon Festival Celebration”, “Chinese Acrobatic Show” and “Lion Dance Workshop.”

She has also helped to arrange practicum opportunities for ALL students. With her recommendation, David Zhang and William Berry successfully completed the tasks of interpreting for the Shanghai Business Delegation invited by the Vermont Chamber of Commerce in early April.

Prof. Condry of MIT answers questions after his lecture “The Soul of Anime: Collaborative Creativity and Japan’s Media Success,” given to UVM students.
Chinese Extracurricular Activities

**Chinese Cuisine Time**

The Chinese House members in the spring semester continue to have their Chinese cuisine time every other two or three weeks. Ms. Sun, Ms. Hou, and Mr. Guo joined them. They have enjoyed having and learning how to cook some home-made dishes.

Members of the Chinese House with Chinese faculty members

**Chinese Tea Hour**

Some Chinese language students take advantage of the Chinese Tea Hour time and practiced their Chinese speaking skill with one or all of the Chinese visiting instructors, Ms. Huili Sun, Ms. Xiaohong Hou, and Mr. Zhi Guo, every Friday afternoon from 4:30 to 5:30 at the International Lounge (B180 Living & Learning Center).

**Chinese Talent Show**

On Thursday evening, April 8, Chinese language students gathered together at Lafayette 108 and enjoyed a three-and-a-half-hour long Chinese Talent Show. About 120 students performed 50 shows, including singing Chinese songs, playing Chinese violin and bamboo flutes, demonstrating Kung Fu, telling jokes and stories, performing dialogues and skits. All shows were performed in Chinese. Students were impressed by each other's Chinese language skills and talents. Students started to prepare for their shows about a month ago with the guidance of their Chinese language instructors.

Japanese Extracurricular Activities

**Japanese Chorus Group Organized at UVM**

Mutsumi Corson sensei helped to have a Japanese chorus group formed in November 2009 for the Japanese House members and students who love Japanese songs. There are about ten members now. They meet every other Friday and enjoy singing J-pop and anime theme songs. The instructor is Megumi Esselstrom, who is a certified music teacher.

**Japanese Conversation Hour**

Kazuko Suzuki Carlson sensei started the Japanese Conversation Hour to enhance students’ language fluency and session on Friday afternoon with the help of several devoted conversation leaders and an international student from Japan, while other students and leaders who are unable to attend the Friday session can meet at different time slots.

**Japanese Guest Speakers**

The Japanese Language Program hosted a talk in February by professional translator Alexander Smith, who has translated popular video games such as "Final Fantasy XII" and "Phoenix Wright: Ace Attorney."

The Japanese Language Program also helped coordinate talks by guest speaker Ian Condry, Associate Professor at MIT of Japanese Cultural Studies, who gave a lecture titled "The Soul of Anime: Collaborative Creativity and Japan’s Media Success Story" as part of UVM's Asian Studies’ Claire Lintilhac Seminar series on April 5, 2010. Fifteen students participated in a lunch-seminar with professor Condry to further discuss his research.