

Newsletter

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Presentation on Japan since the 3/11 Earthquake



Commemorating the 3 year Anniversary of the 3/11 Tohoku Earthquake, two speakers, Eric Johnston, Deputy Editor at the Japan Times Osaka, and Jason Bartashius, a St. Michael's College graduate and now a lecturer of

Japanese religions, were invited to present the situation Japan has been facing since the 3/11 Earthquake. Due to a big snowstorm, all the morning classes were cancelled on the day when this event was scheduled.

However, there was a good turnout and students had very informative discussions with the speakers after the lecture was over.

Mr. Eric Johnston and Mr. Jason Bartashius with students and faculty members.

Arabic Language Students Studying Abroad & at UVM

Arabic Language Table has been held weekly to provide students opportunities to interact with Arabic native speakers. Now, we have new friends to join us at our table – an

Arabic native speaking couple from Syria who were recently relocated to Burlington. They are volunteering to help Arabic students with reading,

conversation and also with their homework.

This spring Miss Maha Akka and Miss Mia are studying abroad at University of Jordan. Both them are studying Arabic language and taking classes on Middle Eastern politics and culture. They are having great time there and getting immersed into Jordanian and Standard Arabic. They made trips to Petra and other important historical sight in Jordan. Our advanced Arabic student Ben Lindstorm-Ives is studying Middle Eastern politics and Arabic language in the School of African and Oriental Studies (SOAS) at the University of London. He is delighted that SOAS which has an excellent collection of Arabic sources for his thesis on the Muslim Brotherhood under the regime of Jamal Abdel Nasser.





Japanese House hosted Mini Matsuri on Nov. 2, 2013, during which some students had a chance to be dressed in kimono.



Students are learning to make paper cranes with Ms. Kazuko Carlson during Mini Matsuri.



Alicia and Woodman of CHIN 052A are performing their "Olympic Skiing" during 2014 Annual Chinese Talent Show on April 2, 2014. Over 60 other students participated and performed.



Katrina, Matthew, and John of CHIN 001C are performing their "Musical Language" and singing "The Moon Represents My Heart" during the Chinese Talent Show.

I Plan to Go Back to China Again

Since graduating from UVM with a B.A. in Chinese and Asian Studies in 2010, I have made sure to spend as much time in China as possible. Some of the work I have done after UVM included serving as a field assistant for the San Diego Zoo, at Fanjingshan National Nature Reserve, tracking monkeys, and acting as a field guide and interpreter for a German scientist visiting that reserve. I also got to be somewhat of a local guide for a group of Chinese visitors to the southwestern U.S. as well, which was a lot of fun.

In late 2012, I had the honor of receiving a Fulbright grant to implement my own, self-tailored research project, which ended last November. At the start of this time, I was lucky to also receive a grant for additional language training with an educational travel company called CET, in Harbin. After this I went back to Yunnan to continue my exploration of the

province that started when I attended UVM's Chinese program's study abroad program there in 2008.

For my Fulbright project I investigated how hunting and traditional culture among a Lisu ethnic village guide local stances towards, and participation in wildlife conservation efforts. The project had lots of ups and downs, many, many difficulties, but in the end proved successful. I produced an investigative article on my findings and time in the village, and hopefully will be able to publish it somewhere soon.

After I finished the Fulbright portion of the past year and a half, I was able to continue traveling and working in that area, and I added more to my project. Outside of that, I played the drum-kit in a local Kunming punk/rockabilly (Punkabilly? Psychobilly?) band also through which I got to travel around China and meet lots of interesting folks, performing at

festivals, parties, and private gigs.

Through each of these experiences I was able to access places, explore different traditions, and meet and become good friends with people that I may never have without my Chinese language ability, and the familiarity with China gained from my time in Guizhou,



Fulbright, and of course UVM in many of its capacities. I plan to return to China in May to continue work with my band, though I am currently plotting my next career oriented move.

I hope that you enjoyed reading about my experiences and I look forward to checking in again with you sometime soon!

James Deane 董本

Reflections on My Chinese Studies

I began studying Chinese as a freshman at UVM in 2007. At the time, I had no real motivation for studying the language; the class simply filled one of my core major requirements. With no real language environment on campus to reinforce what I had learned in class, I felt as if my Chinese skills were getting nowhere. But after setting foot in China for my semester abroad (which turned into an entire year), the pieces began to fall into place. I came to realize the amazing breadth and beauty of the language and the fascinating history behind it. The more I learned, the more I understood the great importance of this language to the international community and the dynamic range of its application to the professional world.

Over the seven years after my first Chinese class, my language studies have taken me through

some of the remotest places on earth, from sipping tea with Tibetan nomads in the mountains of Qinghai to experiencing the Sunday livestock market in China's western-most city Kashgar. Chinese has helped me to collaborate with judges from China's Supreme People's Court, provide support to political prisoners in Xinjiang, and improve factory conditions for migrant workers in Guangdong.

My most recent endeavor has brought me to New York University where I am undertaking a Master's Degree in Translation. Given the

extreme shortage of Chinese-English translators and interpreters who are native English speakers, I hope to be part of the new wave of professionals in the industry working with this language pair. Translation plays a role in virtually every aspect of our lives, from diplomatic exchanges to product instruction manuals, religious scriptures to international flight announcements, and national defense to professional sports. Fostering exchange between cultures is essential for promoting mutual understanding across borders, and I hope to be a part of the vehicle that navigates us to a more peaceful future. Chinese has allowed me to accomplish all of these things, and I am eager to continue pursuing the language and excited to see where it will take me next.

--Bret Newman 白新

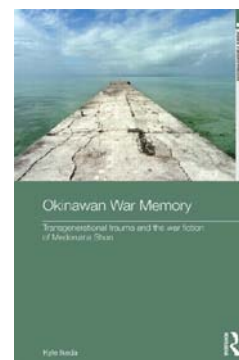
Faculty Members' Activities

Mutsumi Corson launched a set of new courses: JAPN 195/196 Kanji is Key I & II in Fall 2013 and in Spring 2014. She was awarded a Japanese Course Material Grant (\$1000) from the Japan Foundation, Los Angeles, in November 2013. She purchased 3 sets of Japanese Graded Readers (36 volumes in total) with this grant and has been using the books in her new kanji course and the Japanese Book Club which she hosts 3:00-4:00 every Wednesday.

Ying Hu has continued to develop and revise the online listening workbook for the first-year Chinese courses. She completed her first round of material editing for the fourth-year Chinese courses and will start the second round in summer by systemizing the genres of the texts and rewriting the exercises. In her CHIN196 course, students are finishing up their E-Portfolios to connect their Chinese learning experience with their academic and professional goals, explore more resources and strategies for their

future studies, and reflect on their Chinese learning from sociolinguistic perspectives (<http://uvmchineselearning.wordpress.com>). She will present a paper at the "Finding Common Ground: Social, Ecological and Cognitive Perspectives on Language Use" conference at the University of Connecticut in June 2014.

Kyle Ikeda's book, *Okinawan War Memory: Transgenerational Trauma and the War Fiction of Medoruma Shun*, was published by Routledge



The book cover of Prof. Kyle Ikeda's book, which was published by Routledge Press in Jan. 2014.

Press, in January 2014 (<http://www.routledge.com/books/details/9780415853958/>). In March, he presented his paper "Transgenerational War Memory in Murakami Haruki's *Wind-up Bird Chronicle*, Okuzumi Hikaru's 'The Stones Cry Out,' and Medoruma Shun's 'Tree of Butterflies'" at the Association for Asian Studies Conference 2014 in Philadelphia. In May, professor Ikeda will be participating in the Bundan Snark: Writing and Fighting in Modern Japan Workshop Conference at the University of Iowa. This summer he will be offering an online course on Contemporary and Popular Japanese Fiction (WLIT 195).

Darius Jonathan attended seminars on Arabic teaching and Grammar at Cairo University and Al-Azhar University. He had valuable communication with fellow participants at the seminar about their experience on teaching Arabic for non-native speakers of Arabic. He developed teaching materials for Elementary Arabic (ARBC 002), and his students are now using them.

Diana Sun presented a paper on "Using Rhythmic Verses to Avoid Tonal and Grammatical Errors" at the conference of the American Council for Teachers of Foreign Languages, held in Orlando, Florida in November 2013. Her paper on "Effective

Strategies to Teach American Students in Summer Programs in China" has been accepted and will be presented at the 12th International Conference on Chinese Language Pedagogy in Harbin, China in June 2014.

Kazuko Carlson presented "A Look at Various Methods Used by Faculty to Encourage Returned Students to Reflect on Their Experiences Abroad" as a panelist at the conference organized by the Association of International Education on October 23, 2013. She also presented at the Annual Conference of the Vermont Association of Japanese Teachers



Darius at a workshop on debating with Arabic language teachers from other countries in Qatar.

on "Methods of Teaching Business Japanese Culture and Providing Career Support for Japanese Language Students" on November 16, 2013 and "Study Abroad to Work Place: Faculty's Role to Help Students Prepare Work Abroad" at the New England Study Abroad Returnee Conference on February 22, 2014.

Natsumi Ueno had a presentation on the Japanese commercial video project, which was incorporated into the curriculum of the beginner level Japanese courses at UVM with Professor Ikeda, at the annual meeting of the Japanese Teacher Association of Vermont held at

Middlebury College in November 2013. She is currently helping her students to prepare for the 2nd Vermont Japanese Speech Contest. She also has been developing more authentic listening materials for her 1st year students and differentiated reading materials for her 3rd year students this semester. In Summer 2014, she will be teaching in a summer language program in Japan called Princeton in Ishikawa.

John Yin chaired a panel and presented a paper on "Develop Students' Chinese Grammatical Awareness and Tonal Accuracy

through Rhythmic Verses," presented at the ACTFL/CLTA Annual Meeting at Orlando, Florida in Nov. 2013. He is invited to give a keynote speech on "Special Features of the Chinese Language vs. Chinese Teaching Methodology" at the 2nd International Conference on Teaching Chinese as a Second Language at San Francisco on April 25-26, 2014. His paper "Teachers, Textbooks, and Teaching Methods: Issues and Coping Strategies" has been accepted by the 12th International Conference on Chinese Language Pedagogy, which is to be held in Harbin, China in June 2014. □



Chinese faculty members (Hu, Yin, Sun, and Bi) at the 2014 Chinese Speech Contest by 3rd, 4th, and 5th year Chinese Language Students on March 19, 2014.

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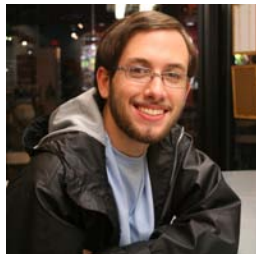
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Wonderful Japanese Language Learning Experience at UVM



Arriving at UVM in the fall of 2012, I was an undecided major with an interest in Japanese language and Asian Studies. Within the first week of classes, I was absolutely swept up by the tireless enthusiasm, dedication, and knowledge of the Japanese

faculty here at UVM. I became a Japanese major, and have since found studying this fascinating language alongside like-minded and excited friends to be a wonderful experience. The program focuses on natural speech and autonomous learning, and frequent classes and energetic classmates keep courses challenging and fun. There are many Japanese culture and language clubs at UVM as well, and opportunities for extracurricular study. Through the truly fantastic faculty, I have been inspired to see bilingualism as a goal for the future, and I am now

planning my junior year abroad at Aoyama Gakuin University in Tokyo, 2014-2015. In my experience, this is the real value of Japanese at UVM: the language is taught with fluency as a real, foreseeable goal. Here Japanese is seen as a skill, a skill professors are happy to help students attain. This, I have found, alongside the enthusiastic students and effective courses, to be truly inspirational. I am looking forward to my study abroad, and returning to UVM as a senior!

--Aaron Kane (sophomore)

Work at the Consulate General of Japan in Atlanta



When I signed up to take Japanese my first year at UVM, I was unaware of all of the great opportunities and experiences that my Japanese studies would allow me to achieve later on and even after graduating. During my third year at UVM, I was accepted into a two-semester study abroad program at Meiji Gakuin University in Tokyo. This

was a formative experience for me not only because it helped me improve my language skills through complete immersion, but it also enabled me to grow as an individual.

After my year abroad, I returned for my final year at UVM and began to consider various ways in which I could earn a living while using my Japanese language. I applied for many jobs and eventually I was lucky enough to accept a position at the Consulate General of Japan in Atlanta. I primarily work with the administrative section and the culture and information section, where much of my day is spent answering enquiries via phone and email, translating, and general maintenance of the Consulate's website. I am incredibly fortunate to be

working in an environment that allows me to utilize and expand upon my Japanese language skills acquired through my studies at UVM.

It has almost been a year since I started working for the consulate and I can happily say my business Japanese, specifically *keigo* has improved considerably. This job has also allowed me to experience and be a part of the various efforts to promote deeper mutual understanding and strengthen cultural, political, and economic ties between Japan and the five-states in our jurisdiction: Alabama, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Virginia.

Chandler Meyers
(2013 graduate, Japanese Major)

Other News about Asian Language Students

Congratulations to Jacob Runner (Class of 2012), currently residing in Japan, who passed the highest Level 1 of the Japanese Language Proficiency Test, and Chandler Meyers (Class of 2013) who passed Level 2. Graduating senior Pedro Teixeira will be defending his honor's thesis, "The Portrayal of Suicide in Postmodern Japanese

Literature and Popular Culture Media" on May 31. Pedro was accepted to the Princeton in Asia Fellowship, and will begin in the summer after graduating from UVM.

Congratulations to Audrey Jones and Stephanie Horn on being selected as finalists for the 5th Chinese Bridge Eastern USA Chinese Proficiency Competition for

College Students.

21 students participated in the Chinese Calligraphy Contest by writing up two Tang poems in Chinese characters.

41 students of Chinese and Chinese language partners had the Chinese New Year's Eve Dinner on Jan. 30.